

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



Ready To Strike.... Anywhere, Anytime

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7 January 1966

'Tropic Lightning' Div. Answers 'Call To Arms'

4000 Men Depart For Viet-Nam

The jungle and guerrilla warfare trained 3rd Bde, of Hawaii's own Tropic Lightning Division, departed for Viet-Nam last week in keeping with the 25th's motto, "Ready to Strike, Anywhere, Anytime."



The 25th Inf. Div. moved the 4,000-man task force to the war-torn area by sea and air transports.

The fresh troops sporting the division's arm patch bearing a bolt of lightning, is under the command of 46-year-old Col. Everette A. Stoutner. The 3rd Bde is the first major force of the 25th Division to be committed in Viet-Nam, although C Co., 65th Engr. Bn., has been on duty in RVN since August and some of the division's "Shotgunners" are still on duty there.

Colonel Stoutner, after arriving in Viet-Nam's central highlands, where infiltration by North Viet-Nameese forces has been the heaviest, said, "We've been waiting to come here for a long time," and "we're real glad to be here."

Brig. Gen. Charles A. Symrosky, who greeted the troops as they arrived in Viet-Nam via airlift, said the brigade's mission will be "to conduct offensive operations in the highlands." The general remarked, "These are fighting men in a real fighting situation."

The Brigade Task Force is composed of the 1st and 2nd Bns., 35th Inf. (Cacti); 1/14th Inf. (Golden Dragons); 2/9th Arty (Mighty Ninth); C Trp., (See 3rd Bde Page 4)



BATTLE BOUND - A 3rd Bde, 25th Inf. Div. convoy from Schofield Barracks moves along Kam Highway to embarkation point.

Pleiku Airstrip 'All Business' As Elements of 25th Division Land

PLEIKU, VIET-NAM (ARMY IO) - The huge C-141 Starlifter screeched to a halt at the New Pleiku Airfield. Its doors opened and 60 battle-clad and battle-ready soldiers leaped to the ground.

The first troops of the 3rd Bde, 25th "Tropic Lightning" Inf. Div. had arrived in Viet-Nam.

For World War II and Korean veterans of the 25th, it was like coming home again. The division has

over a thousand days of combat time on this side of the world.

Tanned from the beaches of Hawaii, where the division has been stationed since 1954, and lean from the months and years of tough jungle training, the men looked like the combat veterans they will become in the days ahead.

At the Pleiku Airstrip, there was no time for small talk—no time for stretching legs after the long Pacific flight. As Col. Everette A. Stoutner, brigade commander, loaded his men on deuce-and-a-halves for a quick trip to their new home, a barren patch of land on the base of small mountains a few miles from the airfield, a crew of men unloaded the mass of equipment the men brought with them.

Command and "pup" tents went up. Barbed wire barricades surrounded the encampment. In a few short minutes, mortars were pointing at the mountain and valley to the brigade's right.

Men stripped down to their green T-shirts and began digging the soldier's second best friend - his foxhole. His best friend, the rifle, was always within reach.

Pfc Prince Haynes, a supply clerk with A Co., S&T Bn., stopped digging for a minute to wipe the sweat from his eyes.

"Well, it's not as bad as I thought it would be," the Las Vegas soldier said. He thought a minute and added, "yet."

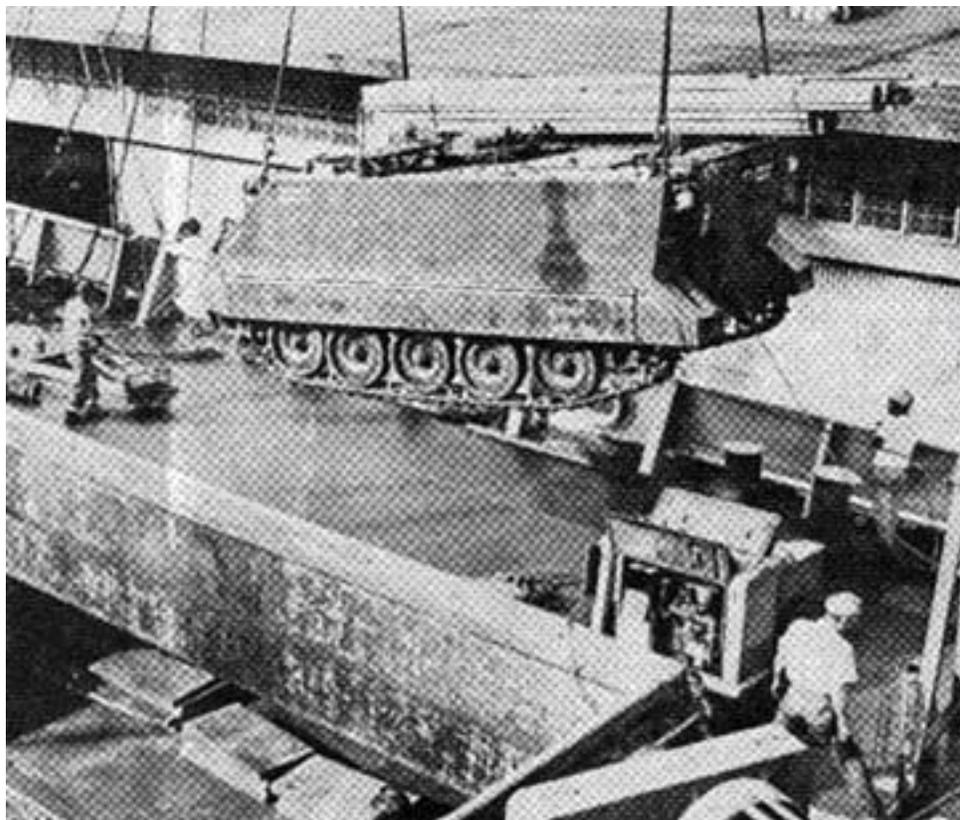
The man sharing Haynes' foxhole, Pfc Willie Goodloe, of Muscle Shoals, Ala., knew he had some exciting days ahead.

"Things are going to get worse," he said. "But we're ready. We know why we're here and we're well trained for the job facing us." He admitted that he missed his girl.

A young soldier from Neopit, Wisc., was standing guard at an entrance to the barbed wire camp. Pfc Francis Delabreau, B Co., 1/35th Inf., 25th Inf. Div., had missed Christmas in Hawaii. But it didn't seem to bother him. He looked like a man waiting for a fight.

More of the 3rd Bde is on its way to Viet-Nam. Some will come by ship, others by air. When they get here, they'll leave their camp at Pleiku and start hunting out the enemy in the surrounding highlands.

APC HOIST - An Armored Personnel carrier is loaded onto a transport after reaching embarkation point.



Advance elements of the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf. Div. Task Force prepare for movement in Staging Area . . . U.S. Army Photographs

Jungle Trained 3rd Bde Moves for Offensive Operations

3/4th Cav. (MacKenzie's Raiders); D Co., 65th Engr. Bn. (First In, Last Out); 3rd Provisional Support Bn. and small detachments from the 125th Sig. Bn., 25th MP Co. and the 25th MID.

The battle streamer laden troops of the Tropic Lightning Division returned to Schofield Barracks in September, 1954 after 12 years of war and occupation duty throughout the Pacific theatre, ranging from Guadalcanal through the Northern Solomons to the Philippines, then to Japan and Korea.

Today, soldiers of the division once again are adding to the 1,127 days the 25th Division has spent in combat in WW II and the Korean War.

The arrival of the 25th's 3rd Bde brings to nearly 185,000 the number of U.S. servicemen now operating in country.

The 3rd Bde was first organized June 24, 1917 and has been awarded one battle streamer.

The 14th Inf. was organized July 8, 1861. The 1st Bn. has earned 32 battle streamers from the Civil War to the Korean War.

The Brigade will be under the operational control of Maj. Gen. Stanley R. Larson, who said the Brigade's deployment "is further proof of the determination of the United States and the free world to assist the government and people of Viet-Nam in their fight against Communist aggression."



Armored Personnel Carriers hold and await order to embark transports at Pier area . . .

Equipment is boxed and collected for shipment . . .



Sea going vessels load Armor as well as troops and supplies at dockside . . .

Broncos Div. Boxing Champs For Third Successive Year

In an abbreviated season the 3rd Bde Broncos boxing team won the 25th Inf. Div. boxing title for the third year in succession and retained the Commanding General's Perpetual Trophy for the second straight year.

The Broncos coached by Sammy Baker won 33 out of 75 bouts for 186 points while the Warriors of the 2nd Bde finished second with 156 points.

DivArty finished third with 95 points followed by Spt Cmd/Troops with 90 points while 1st Bde could

muster only 82.

The Tournament of Champions scheduled for the end of December was cancelled due the departure for Viet-Nam of elements of the "Tropic Lightning" Division.

Although there were no champions crowned this year, I asked the 25th Division boxing coach, Duke Ellington, for the names of some of the boxers who impressed him the most throughout the season and those he thought could have made the USARPAC team.

According to Ellington, there were about 12 or 13 boxers who would have done well in the Tournament of Champions.

In the 112-pound class Allen Lewis looked real good while Carl Jackson, 119, looked to be the strongest in his class.

Lawrence Sayles, 125, and Harry Lanier, 132, also impressed Ellington while in the 139-pound class there were four fighters that could have taken the title, Rodesser Wall, Oscar Gillespie, James White and Israel Medina.

Ulysses Green, who could punch with either hand, was the best of the light middle-weights.

Robert Douglas looked to be the best of the 165-pound class while William Terry and Edward Smith had the edge in the light heavyweight class.

In the heavyweight division Clarence Boone and Louis Jackson seemed to be the best.

Ellington went on to say that this year's program was the best of the last three years in attendance and participation. Every card had over eleven bouts and the average was 15 or 16 per week which is about five more than any previous season.

Ellington added that some of the remaining boxers may be selected to compete in various meets on the Island.

28 January 1966



LIGHTNING INSPIRED - Maj. Gen. Fred C. Weyand, Tropic Lightning commander, offers words of encouragement to combat-clad men moments before their flight to the war-torn country of Viet-Nam.



SET FOR RECORD FLIGHT - A C-141 "Starlifter" awaits takeoff, fully loaded with men and equipment of the combat-bound 3rd Bde, on way to record setting operation "Blue Light."



LIGHTNING READIES TO STRIKE - With full combat gear Sp4 John Dewey, 3rd Bde, 25th Inf. Div. prepares to board a giant C-141 "Starlifter" at Hickam AFB enroute to combat duty in Viet-Nam.

OPERATION 'BLUE LIGHT'

When the first troops of the 3rd Bde, Tropic Lightning Division landed last month at New Pleiku Airfield, they represented the first of a 4,000-man brigade on its way from Schofield Barracks thanks to "Blue Light," the longest and biggest airlift of cargo and personnel to a combat area in military history.

For the past 25 days 200 tons of equipment and personnel of the 3rd Bde were transported daily to Pleiku, Viet-Nam, in a massive airlift by elements of the Military Airlift Command (MAC) at Hickam AFB.

"Blue Light" under the command of Brig. Gen. Herman Rumsey and his unit, the 61st Military Airlift Wing, saw a total of 225 missions flown and 9,290,000 pounds of cargo transported in C-133 "Cargomasters" and C-141 "Starlifters" to Pleiku headquarters of the central mountain region, 240 miles northeast of Saigon.

The entire operation was completed eight days ahead of the Tropic Lightning Division's required completion date and six days ahead of the MAC estimated completion date.

The operation channeled heavy mechanized equipment and tons of guns, ammunition, food and other supplies to Pleiku.

Gen. Howell M. Estes Jr., MAC commander, in a message to Maj. Gen. Fred C. Weyand, CG, 25th Inf. Div., said, "The record airlift of your 3rd Bde from Hawaii to Pleiku accomplished almost eight days before the Military Assistance Command Viet-Nam target is a tribute to the splendid cooperation and smooth working relationship of our respective units. All of us in MAC are deeply impressed with this latest evidence of Army/Air Force teamwork in furthering the mobility of our fighting forces. Please convey my personal appreciation to all those in the Tropic Lightning Division who made this achievement possible. It has been a great privilege to work with them."



ENROUTE TO VIETNAM - Tropic Lightning deuce-and-a-half pulls a 105mm howitzer into Hickam AFB enroute to the 61st Military Airlift Wing's "Blue Blazer" area where the equipment was loaded aboard waiting C-133 "Cargomasters" and C-141 "Starlifters" for their 6,000 mile flight to Pleiku, Viet-Nam.



COMMANDERS MEET - Gen. Howell M. Estes Jr., commander of the Military Airlift Command, is welcomed to Hickam AFB by Brig. Gen. Herman Rumsey, commander of the 61st Military Airlift Wing. General Estes had just returned from personally flying a "Starlifter" mission to RVN.

4 March 1966

Raiders Join Brigades

Nearly 400 men of two troops of 3rd Sqdn. 4th Cav., have arrived in Vietnam to boost division strength to nearly 9,000 men.

C Trp., under the command of Capt. Will E. Duffer, of Beth Page, Tenn., began arriving at Pleiku in mid-afternoon, February 20, after debarking from a Navy LST at Qui Nhon. Within 45 minutes, the cavalrymen had positioned their M-48A3 tanks around the perimeter of the 3rd Bde.

A Trp., meanwhile, unloaded its armored personnel carriers (APC) and tanks at Saigon Harbor February 21, after a seven-day voyage by LST from Okinawa. Commanded by Capt. Joseph R. Monihan, of Newburgh, N.Y., A Trp. joined 2nd Bde at Cu Chi.

Both cavalry reconnaissance troops departed from Hawaii in early January aboard the USNS SULTAN.

Prior to arriving in Vietnam, the two troops spent four weeks at Okinawa's Camp Hansen, where they received and processed nearly 30 new APCs and a number of new M-48A3 tanks.

Broncos

Combined elements of the 3rd Bde. and the 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN) killed two Viet Cong detained 18 suspects and captured 40 tons of rice, corn and peanuts in operation Garfield, a search-and-clear mission in northern Dar-lac Province.

The units also seized six 1903 Springfield rifles, one shotgun, 80 cooking pots and assorted field equipment.

The foodstuffs were distributed by the district chief to friendly villagers in the area where the units are presently operating.

11 March 1966

69TH ARMOR ARRIVES IN REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The more than 50 tanks from 1 /69th Armor landed at Saigon Harbor this week to become the first armored battalion committed to the Vietnam war.

Commanded by Lt. Col. R. J. Fairfield, Jr., of Minneapolis, Minn., 69th Armor left Hawaii in late January.

The battalion's 580 men had been on Okinawa since February 6 to add new M-48A3 diesel-powered tanks to its arsenal.

The battalion's headquarters, along with Headquarters, A and C Companies, will be assigned to the Cu Chi area. B Company will become part of 3d Bde. at Pleiku.

Until recently, the role of armor had been limited due to the natural terrain found in Vietnam. However, its successful use in such places as Plei Me and by 3/4 Cav. At Cu Chi, prompted 69th Armor's assignment here.

The M-48A3 medium tank mounts a 90mm gun as its main battle armament. Its auxiliary equipment includes a 50 cal, cupola mounted machinegun and a 7.62mm-coaxial-mounted machine gun.

Organized July 15, 1940, 69th Armor fought in both World War II and Korea and has earned 23 battle streamers.

It joined the division in 1957, succeeding 39th Tank Bn. as the division's armored unit.

Upon his arrival in Saigon, Colonel Fairfield said, "The role of this battalion, i.e., 'support the advance of the infantry elements of the 25th Infantry Division,' can and will be accomplished by this battalion. I can cite the accomplishments of this division's tank battalion in Korea as proof. The capabilities of the battalion will greatly assist the 25th Infantry Division in seizing the initiative from the enemy in our areas of commitment.

VIET CONG "AGENT" GETS HIS DUE

The artillery was responsible for the first enemy casualty on operation Garfield.

Garfield, a search-and-clear operation conducted by 3d Bde, was in its second day when contact was made with the enemy.

Lt. Col. Saul Jackson, commanding officer of 2/9th Arty., was in his command post about ten miles north of the brigade CP at Ban Me Thuot.

The constant firing of the 105mm howitzers outside the CP and an especially dark night had enabled the culprit to sneak unnoticed right through the perimeter defenses.

He had crept right into Colonel Jackson's tent and was crawling between the cots of the battalion commander and his executive officer, Maj. Paul Lenhart, when the colonel spotted him out of the corner of his eye.

Jackson slowly inched his hand toward the .45 which was holstered on the opposite side of his cot from the unsuspecting enemy.

Before the culprit could strike, the colonel had reached his weapon. As the unwanted visitor raised up he caught the full blast of the Colt. It almost tore his head off.

"He's a nasty-looking little SOB," said Colonel Jackson as he reached down to examine the remains of the three-foot-long pit viper still writhing between the cots.

Broncos Give Help

Third Bde. good will projects moved into high gear in Pleiku Province in February as civic action teams fanned out to offer help and assistance to the Vietnamese people near the Broncos' base camp.

Troops from D Co., 65th Engr. Bn., have completed the first wing on the provincial hospital at Cheu-Hoi.

Ceremonies are expected to mark the official opening of the structure, one of the few

hospitals in rural Vietnam.

Classes offering English instruction to elementary school students at Plei-Brel school have been held, on a twice-weekly basis. The brigade is hopeful of obtaining school officials' approval to conduct the classes daily.

Additionally, the school's teacher has been receiving English lessons and high school students are being encouraged to study.

Over 1,400 patients were treated in one week during regular and semi-regular medical visits made in four villages around the brigade's headquarters.

One suspected case of smallpox was treated in Plei-Brel. The patient was moving around again in seven days.

18 March 1966

BRIGADES MOVE TO STRIKE AT VIET CONG

On two successive days this week, 3d Bde. ran into stiff resistance in operation Garfield in Darlac Province, recording 56 dead Viet Cong Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tuesday, the brigade encountered a reinforced Viet Cong platoon about 35 miles north of Ban Me Thuot. Twenty VC were killed in the action. That morning, in the same general area, an unknown size enemy force lost three when brigade elements engaged in a 20-minute firefight. The Viet Cong broke contact.

The following day another 33 VC were killed when they met advancing infantrymen in platoon size. By mid-afternoon, the VC began grouping and enemy strength was raised to the size of a reinforced rifle company. The enemy tried to withdraw to the south to break contact.

Air and artillery support was being used. Three UH-1D helicopters were downed by enemy ground fire, but all were later extracted.

Enemy dead for the operation now stands at 67.

Meanwhile, 2nd Bde moved from Cu Chi to Sao Trai, a small village 25 miles north of Saigon, to begin operation Honolulu this week. First day action found 1/5th (Mech.) moved in their armored personnel carriers while 1/27th was airlifted to their objective area by helicopter.

Early contact on Tuesday uncovered a Viet Cong main force estimated to be of battalion strength. The VC quickly began to fragment their forces, however, to avoid being pinned between advancing brigade soldiers and the Oriental River.

Extensive weapons and ammunition had been captured in the first three days of action including a number of Chinese weapons, grenades and anti-tank rockets.

By yesterday (Thursday), eight Viet Cong had been killed, with another 20 possibles.

GENERAL VISITS 3RD

General John K. Waters, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Army, Pacific, on a tour of many Army Installations in Vietnam, visited 3d Bde, Monday to inspect the brigade's facilities and living area.

Greeted by Co. Everette A. Stoutner, brigade CO, General Waters visited the Broncos' tactical operations center, where the Army's top commander in the Pacific was briefed on the brigade activities which have occurred since the unit arrived in Vietnam last December.

The general cut the ribbon (a piece of engineer tape) to mark the opening of "Victor's Haven," the newly constructed support platoon's NCO Club.

Inside, General Waters opened the club with a toast to the brigade's men, most of whom were still in Darlac Province in operation Garfield.

General Waters, in visiting A Co., 2/35th, viewed the unit's fire direction control and ammunition storage bunkers. He also inspected the brigade's perimeter.

ENGINEERS BUILD HIGHWAY NETWORK

While most of 3d Bde. was engaged in operation Garfield, the force left at the Pleiku base camp was busy making a field a home.

D Co., 65th Engr. Bn., under the supervision of 1Lt. Len Gregor, was paving the camp's road network, a job which began before the brigade arrived in late December. It has proceeded from dirt tracks plowed through scrub brush to the present network of graded, oiled roads.

The work now has moved into the gravel and sand phase. Lieutenant Gregor and his crew are hauling rough, unsorted gravel from an abandoned quarry about four miles from the base camp. The dump trucks and heavy equipment, operating on a 12-hour-a-day schedule, quarry the gravel and haul it to the road, where it is dumped, graded and smoothed.

The main supply route to Pleiku airport is close to completion. Once the gravel is down, a mixture of sand, oil and asphalt is applied, giving the "Broncos" a highway that will hold up well in the coming monsoon season.

After the main road has been paved, work will continue on the rest of the base camp road system.

Meanwhile, the engineers have been supervising Vietnamese engineers and construction workers in the installation of a 100 kw. electric generator for the base camp. The new generator will provide power for brigade headquarters, hospital and other units on "the hill."

D Co., 725th Maint. Bn., was keeping busy with a communications modernization program. Taking advantage of the lull afforded by a nearly empty camp, the maintenance men were installing new transistorized radios in all of the brigade vehicles.

Eighteen conex containers full of radios were received by the brigade just a few days before Garfield began.

Ezra Huston, a civilian electronics specialist from Department of the Army, was present to instruct the installation crews on proper techniques and to give classes on maintenance and operation of the new units.

Before Garfield began, the portable radios were distributed to all units and installation of vehicle-mounted radios began.

Once work was completed at base camp, the installation crews packed up the remaining new radios and were airlifted to the brigade forward command post near Ban Me Thuot, where the rest of the brigade's new radios were installed.

Elsewhere at the base camp, 41st Civil Affairs Team, attached to the brigade, was busy conducting daily sick calls in local villages and working on completion of a new hospital in Pleiku.

When the operation Garfield soldiers return to their base camp, they will find their home in the wilds more of a home and less wild.

25 March 1966

GARFIELD ENTERS FOURTH WEEK

OPERATION GARFIELD

Meanwhile, 3d Brigade encountered an unknown sized enemy force early Sunday, killing 18 VC and capturing one in operation Garfield in Darlac Province north of Ban Me Thuot.

The brigade has accounted for more than 90 Viet Cong dead since Garfield began early this month.

During the operation, the Air Force has flown a total of 254 air strikes in support of brigade ground action.

CAPTURED MED SUPPLIES GO TO VIET VILLAGERS

There are mornings when it just doesn't pay to crawl out of your tunnel.

Take, for instance, the Viet Cong in Northern Darlac Province, where 3d Bde. has been conducting operation Garfield.

When advancing infantrymen from 1/35th Inf. found a still warm communist field hospital, they discovered it had been evacuated so quickly that large quantities of medical supplies were left behind. It was only a matter of how long it took to see what they had

before the "Tropic Lightning" soldiers dispatched doctors and medical corpsmen, with the newly acquired supplies, into the Viet Cong harassed hamlets to begin treating the villagers.

Armed with the captured medicine, Brigade Surgeon Dr.(Capt.) William R. Gardner, of Jacksonville, Fla., and his staff launched an extensive medical care program for Montagnard villagers around the brigade's Buon Brieng command post.

Amazed by the high grade of the captured drugs, Doctor Gardner said, "The packaging is not as neat as ours, but the quality and purity seem very good."

Among the quantities of penicillin, streptomycin, chloroquine, sulfa and morphine, the soldiers discovered large amounts of caffeine and strychnine, two stimulants used by the Viet Cong to drive their fighters beyond their normal capacities.

Some drugs bore labels indicating they were made in France, North Vietnam and Japan, while others were from Red China and the Soviet Union.

As if the drugs weren't enough, the brigade also captured a number of surgical instruments, which, of course, have been added to the medics' disease-fighting "arsenal."

With the medical treatment program in full swing, the villagers in Darlac Province can thank their unfriendly, neighborhood terrorist for becoming the friendly, neighborhood druggist.

THIRD'S P.X.: MARKET WITH BRANCHES

If a small boy with a very big appetite wanted a gigantic stomach-ache, 3d Bde could accommodate -- provided the youngster had the cash to pay for 37,000 rolls of wild cherry Lifesavers.

But it would take a man the size of Paul Bunyan with a set of whiskers like Bluebeard's to use the \$11,000 worth of razor blades the brigade's post exchange (PX) officer, 2Lt. Larry A. Kaiser, has stocked.

The PX business at Pleiku is big business. So big, in fact, has it become that the exchange is thought to be the largest field PX in Vietnam, stocking an average of \$250,000 of merchandise, which has been bought, begged or borrowed from virtually any source.

Lieutenant Kaiser, lamenting the usual resupply problem said, "We have been in operation here for over two months and have received only one shipment of merchandise we ordered and that was worth less than \$1,000.

"We know when Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), and supply sources at Qui Nhon have stock sitting around and we send out our trucks to pick it up.

"In the case of Qui Nhon, brigade elements secure national highway 19 from the port city to the base camp near Pleiku to make sure the merchandise arrives safely. These troops," he added wryly, "somehow don't seem to mind when it's for the PX supplies."

Those supplies have begun to find their way into the hands of the brigade's men through a series of "sub-exchanges," which were set up to offer quicker service.

Within 48 hours after Col. Everette A. Stoutner, brigade commander, offhandedly remarked it would be nice to have battalion PX annexes, Lieutenant Kaiser had set up two annexes. "The only reason we didn't get the other five started," he said, "was because the units were busy on field operations. But they'll be ready by payday."

The new annexes greatly enlarge the PX's capacity, which had been limited to two wooden-frame tents, five general purpose storage tents and two conex containers to hold perishable items.

While canned beer and soft drinks are hardly perishable, hot and dusty Pleiku makes them number one on the PX's best-seller list. On one typical resupply day, the exchange received more than \$40,000 worth of refreshments. Within twelve hours after it had been unloaded, the stock of drinks had been inventoried and delivered to the brigade's units.

"Our goal is to give the man in the foxhole anything he wants at anytime -- day or night," the lieutenant remarked.

And he and his staff of five men try valiantly to do just that. Initial problems of furnishing writing materials for 4,000 men were overcome when the exchange received a supply of \$7,000 worth of stationery. Another \$3,000 shipment of chewing gum fattened the PX's inventory still more.

Not content with the already grand operation, the PX staff is planning to construct larger, permanent buildings for housing and storing merchandise; mobile battalion annexes to

provide the units on maneuver with cigarettes, soft drinks and some foods included in the stock. Also in the wind is a mail order service for hard-to-get items.

"Service to the troops," insist 3d Bde's PX employees, is fine, but they prefer to think that "The family who buys at the PX together stays together."

3,000 WATCH ANN-MARGRET WOWS BRONCOS

Her arrival in Vietnam hardly rivaled the visit of a political, diplomatic or military leader for security preparations. Indeed, it was as well publicized as -- possibly even more than -- the tour made by Playboy's Jo Collins several months ago.

Since her advance press was good, more than 3,000 soldiers from 3d Bde. turned out with howling airmen and Special Forces troops to welcome Ann-Margret to Pleiku last week.

The co-star of several movies, including "Cincinnati Kid," "Viva Las Vegas" and "Made in Paris," came onto the lowboy trailer "stage" wearing a transparent, flesh-colored blouse, black leotards and calf-high boots.

During her 20-minute portion of the United Services Organization (USO) show, the starlet danced and sang four songs. She sat on the edge of the stage and cut loose with "More," and then stood up to belt out "Frankie and Johnnie," swinging her red ponytail for emphasis.

As a morale booster, Ann got Pfc. Timothy I. Milne, of Battle Creek, Mich., a member of Co. D, 65th Engr. Bn., on stage to dance.

Traveling with the actress, Johnny Rivers, artist of several hit records, supplied backing, with Mickey Jones on drums and Chuck Day on guitar.

Before the star went onto the stage, Rivers and Co. entertained the watching audience with music and gags. Rivers sang several of his records, including "High on the Mountain of Love" and his hit of "Memphis."

Autograph hunters managed to get their chance when they mobbed the stage following the show to get precious signatures from Ann-Margret and Rivers and his musicians.

The show left Pleiku for another performance at Nha Trang.

1 April 1966

Elements of the 25th Infantry Third Brigade Smashes VC Ambush Force

It was an old, unhappy story with an unfamiliar, happy ending. It happened last week in Darlac Province, about 50 miles south of Pleiku, where 3d Bde was conducting operation Garfield.

Lieutenant Pat Lenz was leading the 3d Platoon, A Co., 1/35th Inf in pursuit of a mortar party, which had shelled the battalion base camp earlier that day.

About noon, one of the men in the platoon found some telephone wire running up a stream bed. Lt. Lenz took his men up the stream. Carefully following the wire, it was not until too late that the platoon detected the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) company. The platoon found itself choked and heavily outnumbered in the middle of an ambush.

Lt. Lenz, who had already been shot in the thigh, and his platoon sergeant, Staff Sergeant Warren Jones, immediately led a counter attack on the entrenched communists.

Checking his map for a good landing zone (LZ) for evacuation helicopters, the platoon leader called for assistance. But the platoon had to fight its way through enemy positions to get the 200 yards to the LZ.

As the fighting raged on the ground, an Air Force forward air controller arrived on the scene in his small "bird dog" observation plane. He had no communication with the platoon but soon had Air Force A1-E Skyraiders bombing the communists, forcing them to fall back. So close was the fighting that the Skyraiders were dropping their bomb loads and rockets within 75 yards of the Americans.

Despite the air attack, the NVA troops were in their final assault when the helicopters dropped into the landing zone. A company's first platoon, under the command of Lieutenant Richard Coleman, was assaulting the attackers before the choppers had fully touched down.

The fresh platoon launched a counterattack against the communists, pushing the enemy back from the LZ. The intense firing damaged several of the 'copters before they

managed to get off the ground.

The first platoon's artillery forward observer made quick calculations and, while the remainder of his platoon continued the assault, called howitzer fire almost on top of the American position. The communists began to withdraw.

It was only moments before A Company's 2d platoon joined the fight, hitting the NVA troops from still another position. The platoon, commanded by Lieutenant James Kelsey, linked with the first platoon and began to sweep across enemy positions.

Men who had received minor wounds were helping their more seriously injured buddies back to the helicopters. Others were carrying additional ammunition to the advancing troops. Many of the "Tropic Lightning" soldiers continued to fight in spite of their wounds.

One of the men, his right hand wrapped in bandages and bleeding from fragment wounds, crawled up to an enemy bunker and threw in a grenade, with his good left hand.

The main body of the communists, realizing that the odds had changed, broke and ran for the jungle, leaving a small holding force behind. Two hours later, A Company troops finished wiping out the holding force, which had returned to the enemy's previously prepared positions.

Into the fight moved B Co., 1/35th Inf., which set up blocking positions in front of the retreating NVA company. Although the communists had scattered in all directions, several groups ran directly into B Company's waiting traps.

When the dust cleared, the Americans found 36 dead the staggering Communists left behind. A captured North Vietnamese soldier later said that more than 100 of his comrades had been wounded in the exchange.

While it wasn't necessarily the kind of tactics taught in manuals, it was a classical reminder to the communists that they have stopped writing the rule books in Vietnam.

8 April 1966

Third Brigade Greet CG on First Visit

Maj.Gen. Fred C. Weyand, division CG, arrived at Pleiku last week for his first official visit to the 3d Bde. since assuming command of the division in Vietnam.

General Weyand, who received extensive tours and briefings of the brigade and its operations since its arrival here last December, had previously visited the Pleiku area in the middle of January when the division was still in Hawaii.

The general was greeted upon his arrival by Colonel Everette A. Stoutter, 3d Bde. commander, at the Pleiku airstrip. In addition to the round-robin tour of the Brigade, General Weyand received a complete rundown on Operation Garfield, which terminated on March 25th.

He was also shown a sample of the weapons and materials, including drugs and medical supplies, captured during the recently completed operation.

During the morning, General Weyand was briefed by Maj. Herbert Evans, of 3d Spt. Bn. (Provisional), Capt. Charles Bernitt, B Co., 725th Maint. Bn., and Lt. Col. George Scott, 2/35th CO. Colonel Scott gave a briefing on the present road clearing operation on Highway 19 from his command post at Mang Yang Pass.

In the afternoon, General Weyand went to Duc Co, where he was greeted by the brigade staff.

The 25th Division commander was also greeted during his Pleiku visit by Maj. Gen. Harry Kinard, 1st Cav. Div. commander, who arrived midway through a series of briefings on recent brigade operations.

General Weyand was helilifted to the 1/14th Inf. operations area for his return to Cu Chi.

15 April 1966

THE INNOCENT SUFFER . . . THE GUILTY GO FREE

**"We fight to great disadvantage when we fight those who have nothing to lose."
-- GUICCIARDINI**

The wan, empty faces of the homeless, and hungry are the mask that has become war. The blank stares of innocent villagers in Vietnam differ only because they are victims of a brutality often inflicted by their Viet Cong neighbors.

On operation Garfield, 3rd Brigade's recent action conducted in northern Darlac Province, an entire Montagnard village became involved in the war. The involvement was hardly pleasant, nor was it invited.

It occurred on two horror-filled days when a brigade civic action team entered the village of Ban Dung to talk to the people to learn of any Viet Cong activity in the area and to establish medical visits.

As the team left the village the trouble began when small arms fire ripped out from a nearby stand of woods. The shots were just the opening round of a stiff firefight between the Viet Cong and the outnumbered "Broncos."

A call for help quickly brought reinforcements pouring into the area on the heels of artillery barrages dumped on enemy positions. As the fighting continued, Captain John F. Fielding, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry intelligence officer, noticed a number of guerrillas running through the village setting fire to the tinder dry houses.

The next several days turned Ban Dung into a virtual inferno. As most of the villagers fled to the mountains, the VC continued to occupy positions around the village. Losing interest in the burned out ruins of the village, the enemy abandoned their positions within two days, leaving behind them 350 homeless Montagnard villagers.

Realizing it would be impossible to rebuild his village before the approaching rainy season, Ban Dung's chief went to Buon Brieng, three miles to the east, and requested permission of the village chief there to move the 27 stranded villagers into Buon Brieng. Permission quickly granted, the sun hadn't yet dropped behind the highland hills before the first of the refugees were moving into their new homes.

Captain Thomas Lyerly, brigade civil affairs officer, enlisted the help of Darlac Province headquarters in Ban Me Thuot in getting the refugees relocated. The province chief directed the district chief to provide a team of civil servants to aid in registering the people, advising them on planting new crops, and providing them with replacements for the food and livestock which were destroyed by the Viet Cong.

For the next three days, long lines of refugees streamed into Buon Brieng, carrying on their backs all their belongings - all they could salvage from their burned and blasted homes.

Buon Brieng villagers had vacated several of the long thatched-roofed houses. As the refugees entered the village, they were taken directly to their new homes, raised houses which can accommodate as many as 30 people in their 800 square feet of floor space.

As settlement of the refugees continued, Air Force and Army planes landed at the crude dirt runway near the village. They came from the province headquarters carrying food and materials to aid in relocation of the refugees.

A brigade team took two truckloads of materials to Buon Brieng for the new residents, including 1,000 sheets of aluminum roofing, 3,500 pounds of wheat, 100 blankets, 50 two-gallon tins of cooking oil, boxes of soap and assorted items of clothing.

Medical teams, headed by Brigade Surgeon Captain William R. Gardiner, began making daily visits to the village to treat the many refugees who had been wounded in the fierce fighting at Ban Dung. The more seriously wounded were evacuated to the Army Special Forces hospital at Pleiku 50 miles to the north.

Days later, flying over the village, one could see several shiny-roofed, new structures and several more in various stages of completion.

But these villagers were luckier than many. Frequently, the Viet Cong put in an appearance, do their dirty work and disappear. And there are no Americans nearby to pick up the pieces, the pieces of innocent lives shattered by war.

Third Brigade Returns Home

After almost seven continuous, dusty weeks of combat operations, the 3d Bde., "Broncos" have returned to their Pleiku base camp.

Following a massive airlift of most of the brigade south to Ban Me Thuot on February 25, the men of the brigade fought to the north and west on operation Garfield.

When Garfield ended on March 24, the brigade's base was located at Buon Brieng, a small Montagnard outpost 60 miles north of Ban Me Thuot. Without a break, the brigade joined 1st Cav. Div. for operation Lincoln on March 25 and the "Tropic Lightning" soldiers continued to strike at the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese.

On March 31, the brigade again shifted its base north. The new base of operations was a Special Forces camp, 100 road miles northwest of Buon Brieng at Duc Co, five miles from the Cambodian border.

The moves from Ban Me Thuot to Buon Brieng to Duc Co were made by road, marking the first time highway 14, the north-south route through central Vietnam, had been opened by U.S. forces.

During the two consecutive operations, the Broncos repeatedly struck the communists, leaving behind 103 North Vietnamese and eight Viet Cong dead in Garfield. Air and artillery strikes in support of brigade operations accounted for another 20 North Vietnamese killed.

Twelve Viet Cong were captured and 78 suspects were detained by the brigade during Garfield.

The brigade also posted one of the highest captured weapons to body-count ratios to date in the war. A total of 65 weapons were taken, including 47 small arms; 16 automatic weapons; one American M-79 grenade launcher; and one 75mm recoilless rifle.

Large quantities of ammunition were captured during Garfield. This included 102 hand grenades, 38 B-40 rockets, 1,200 12.7mm rounds, 27,000 small arms rounds, and three Claymore mines.

A complete field hospital was also captured, resulting in over 100 pounds of drugs and a large assortment of surgical instruments being captured.

A total of 400 uniforms, 234 rucksacks, 11 telephones, a switchboard and 150 pounds of documents and photographs were also seized. Three hundred enemy structures were destroyed during the operation.

After "Lincoln," Colonel Everette A. Stoutner, 3d Bde. CO said, "I think the greatest benefit to us on this operation was the fine experience we gained working with the battle-tested 1st Cav. Div.

Civic action projects were conducted by all brigade elements during both operations. Notable among these were several bridges constructed to different villages, donations of food, clothing and other items. Regular sick calls were held for local residents in the brigade's areas of operation.

22April 1966



Senator John G. Tower (R-Tex.) (in civilian clothes) shakes hands with Major Herbert Evans, commanding officer, 3rd Support Battalion (Provisional), during the senator's visit with 3rd Brigade. Behind the senator is Colonel Everette A. Stoutner, deputy brigade task force commander.



Gen. Walker Commands Third Brigade

Brigadier General Glenn D. Walker last week became commander of the 3rd Brigade Task Force in ceremonies at Pleiku.

General Walker, who is also the assistant division commander/maneuver, assumes command of the task force from Colonel Everette A. Stoutner, who is now deputy task force commander.

Following a 13-gun salute fired by a battery of 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, Col. Stoutner turned over the brigade colors to General Walker.

After a brief speech to the assembled officers and men of the brigade, the general was guest of honor at a reception for the officers at the brigade mess.

WATER FIGHT AT PLEIKU WELL

All's well that ends well - between 30 and 50 feet down and eight feet in diameter. Just ask the men of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry at Pleiku. They'll tell you.

They'll also tell you that they were far from all wet when they decided to become the division's only company-sized unit to have its own well.

After the company became situated at the "Broncos" base camp, they soon found that it was no swimming party to come in from a long, hot day and discover dry shower heads sneering at them in the shower point.

So Staff Sergeant Raymond D. Schablik, whose wife resides at Schofield Barracks, and Corporal Donald L. Maxwell, of Summer, Wash., got their collective divining rods together and decided digging was the only answer.

Streaming over to see Lieutenant Colonel George A. Scott, "Cacti Blue" battalion commander, the two got quick approval for their proposed idea and the project was on.

"We made a map study of the surrounding streams and came to the conclusion that we could hit the water table at between 30 and 50 feet," Sgt. Schablik said.

Then the picks and shovels were pulled from boxes and a six-man crew began to dig a hole eight feet across with an end that may as well have been bottomless.

Periodically, they came across shelves of hard dirt containing moisture. "Sometimes you could even squeeze the water out of some of it with your hands," Sgt. Schablik

remarked. It was enough to keep the picks and shovels swinging with gusto.

But, as with many undertakings in taming Vietnam, the project was still unfinished when water began gushing into the well.

Next a pump was needed to get the water into storage drums. Even that problem was solved when the company pooled resources and purchased an electric pump, which arrived last week.

"Now all we need is electricity to run the pump," Sgt, Schablik said. To the rescue will be the brigade's repair and utilities unit, which is scheduled to install a 100 kilowatt generator.

"Dustoff": Angels of Mercy

They go by the code name "Dustoff." They are the flying ambulances whose speed and response have carried thousands of wounded Americans from jungle battlegrounds to field hospitals in Vietnam.

Two of these "angels of mercy" supported the 3rd Brigade in the recently concluded operations Garfield and Lincoln.

The Dustoff choppers were ready to go at any hour to assist any element of the brigade.

Captain Ronald F. Hopkins, 2nd Platoon, 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), was the pilot of one of the two ships. He and his crew of four, usually based with the rest of the 2nd Platoon near Pleiku, were on call 24 hours a day in the brigade's field hospital. It was there that the requests for medical evacuation came on either the command radio network or the special dustoff network.

The radio operator would jot down the necessary information, and as the last of the data were coming in, Capt. Hopkins was already warming up his chopper.

More often than not, Dustoff will respond to a call even when conditions are at their worst. Frequently the calls for help come at the height of a firefight with the communists.

Capt. Hopkins said, "Sometimes we feel that the VC are aiming directly at the big red cross on the side of our choppers, but they're probably shooting at any helicopter they see. At any rate, they do not respect the red cross at all."

Once the casualties have been recovered, it is Dustoff's job to get them to a medical facility - fast.

Seriously wounded are frequently evacuated directly to a complete medical facility, such as 8th Field Hospital in Nha Trang.

Less serious casualties are taken to the 3rd Bde. hospital at the forward command post. As the Dustoff 'copter approaches the CP, Capt. Hopkins radios the hospital to report on the number and condition of the wounded.

By the time the chopper touches down, ambulances and attendants are waiting to take the casualties to the hospital.

It's often a long day for the Dustoff crews. They know the job they are doing is a vital one. It is with nothing but admiration that the "Tropic Lightning" soldiers look at the men who "dust off."

29 Apr 1966

3rd Brigade Fetes Montagnards

Bearing gifts of soap and candy, members of 3rd Brigade recently moved into Dak Ri Lang, a remote Montagnard village about 65 miles northwest of Pleiku, to show the villagers there how Americans battle the "other war."

Based five miles east of the village on operation Longfellow, the reconnaissance platoon from Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, mounted their gun jeeps for the trip.

Other jeeps from the battalion carried not guns but supplies for the villagers. One bore the cases of soap and candies contributed by Zonta International Club, of Meriden, Conn., while another was laden with medical supplies.

After a 20-minute ride, the group pulled up outside the village. Security guards moved into position and Captain John F. Field, battalion intelligence officer, from Cromwell, Conn., entered the village.

Battalion Surgeon Captain Jack P. Baldwin and his assistants immediately set up shop. Through interpreters they explained they were there to help the sick and diseased villagers. In an hour, the medics had treated more than 30 villagers, who were suffering with anything from infected sores to mild pneumonia. Treatment ranged from swabbing with soap solution to massive doses of penicillin.

PFC Joseph H. Peavey, of Bangor, Me., and Specialist Five Alford B. Childres, whose family is living in Korea during his tour in Vietnam, handed out vitamin pills to the crowd.

Meanwhile, Capt. Fielding asked his interpreters to have the village chiefs gather the rest of the more than 350 Montagnards in the village square, where he distributed gifts of soap and candy to the assembled villagers.

According to Capt. Baldwin, the disease and infection rate in the village would be halved if the people had soap available and used it regularly.

Captain Jack P. Baldwin, Battalion surgeon, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, examines a young Montagnard in the village of Dak Ri Lang, 65 miles northwest of Pleiku.



6 May 1966

Punji Stakes Take Toll

"Dustoff," code word for medical evacuation by helicopter, crackled over a Jeep mounted radio. "Total of ten," the voice said.

And the medics of Company B, 25th Medical Battalion, commanded by Captain Edward Denison began readying the receiving tent at the field hospital for the arrival of the wounded. Every piece of equipment that might be needed was prepared.

When the helicopters landed minutes later, several stretcher bearers were waiting to help their patients get to the admissions tent.

All ten men had leg injuries.

"Punji stakes! All over the LZ (landing zone) there were hundreds of them," one of the wounded men said.

The ten soldiers were participating in 3rd Brigade's operation Longfellow in the northeastern portion of Pleiku Province.

According to a squad leader, who was one of the walking wounded, "We were going into an LZ to set up security for the next wave of choppers. When we landed on the road, everyone moved off the road into the brush. That's when we hit the stakes."

Another squad leader from the same company said, "One of the men in my squad was behind me and I heard him yell, Medic! I turned around and started back to see what was wrong when a sharp pain stabbed my leg. When looked down, I saw blood both on my leg and on a dirty piece of bamboo sticking up about a foot out of the ground."

The brigade intelligence officer, Captain Ron Rabin, was at the scene of the incident later and explained, "The stakes were relatively old. They had been put in the area anywhere from two weeks to a year ago."

The medics and doctors at the field hospital treated all the men by cleaning out the wounds, applying medicines, bandaging and giving injections to prevent tetanus.

The soldiers were in the hospital at the 3rd Brigade forward command post for less than

an hour before being evacuated to the rear area for further observation and treatment. It was a telling reminder that not all enemies in Vietnam carry weapons.

20 May 1966

Lt. Col. Feir Becomes 2/35th Commander

Lieutenant Colonel Philip R. Feir assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, in change-of-command ceremonies at Pleiku.

Men of the "Cacti Blue," one of the three maneuver battalions of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, stood in formation as the outgoing commander, Lieutenant Colonel George A. Scott, of Mobile, Ala., gave his farewell talk.

Col. Scott has commanded 2/35th since August 1964. In his parting comments, he recalled many events the battalion had taken part in over the last 23 months, including jungle training at Schofield Barracks, preparation for deployment, movement to Vietnam and four months of fighting Viet Cong.

The incoming commander, formerly 3rd Bde. executive officer, accepted the colors and his new command from Col. Scott and spoke to his men for the first time. He remarked on the outstanding record of the 2/35th and emphasized his pride in becoming a part of the battalion.

Guests at the ceremony included Major General Fred C. Weyand, division commander, and Brigadier General Glenn D. Walker, brigade task force commander.

Col. Scott is being assigned to I Field Forces, Vietnam, headquarters at Nha Trang, in the G-3 section.



NEW CO - Lt. Col. Philip R. Feir assumes command of 2nd Bn., 35th Infantry, from Lt. Col. George A. Scott in ceremonies conducted at 3rd Brigade. Battalion Sergeant Major William R. Franklin looks on. (Photo by Sutphin)

65th ENGRS. PAUSE IN REPAIR WORK

Company D, 65th Engineer Battalion, set out on operation Longfellow to repair bridges between Pleiku and the village of Dak To. They made it all right - but it took awhile.

As they advanced along Highway 14 to prepare roads for convoys of the 3rd Brigade, the men were approached by a French missionary asking for assistance in building houses in a nearby Montagnard village.

The engineers quickly went to work using power saws and cut more than 200 trees for logs, which were used as stilts and framework. They stayed to help the villagers erect their homes.

On another occasion, they found themselves under sniper fire and were pinned down for nearly two and one-half hours before forcing the enemy to break contact.

Despite the "spur-of-the-moment" activities, the engineers managed to repair a total of more than 60 bridges, large and small, on the stretch of road between the two Vietnamese towns.

3rd Bde. Routs VC Agents

A reign of terror ended last week for more than 120 Montagnard villagers in Kontum Province.

Several months ago, three Viet Cong, armed with submachine guns, entered the village of Dak Lak, 30 miles northwest of Kontum. In short order, the three machine guns became the law of Dak Lak.

From that time the VC - Mok, Mar, and Luk - virtually held the villagers prisoner. All farming and work was done "under the gun." All production beyond the minimum needs of the villagers went to caches for later use by VC forces operating in the area.

The villagers were powerless to stand up against their captors. Dak Lak is located in the midst of the most rugged terrain in Vietnam's Central Highlands. Government forces rarely enter the area. American forces had never been in the area - until last week.

About 3 a.m. the three VC were jolted out of their drowsy watchfulness by a booming voice which seemed to come from all around them.

"VC, throw down your arms . . . villagers move east to Highway 14 and south to Dak To refugee center," came the voice from the sky. A Vietnamese language tape was being played over the powerful loudspeakers mounted in an American C-47 aircraft. Mok, Mar and Luk were visibly shaken, according to later reports of the villagers.

The captors were further shaken on the next night when artillery rounds began falling around the village at varying intervals.

Elements of the division's 3rd Brigade had moved into the town of Tan Carib, a few miles to the south. The Americans scheduled artillery fires throughout the night into likely targets in the Viet Cong-infested mountains.

When the villagers awoke the following morning, Mok, Mar and Luk were nowhere to be seen. A quick check found them to be gone, along with their three submachine guns.

Wasting no time, the residents of Dak Lak packed all they could carry and set out for the highway, 15 miles to the east. They did not know what they would find there. They only hoped that it would be better than what they were leaving.

The Montagnards moved to the road, then south to the Dak To resettlement center. There, protected by Vietnamese Army units, a 50-man government reception team met them and began the task of resettling them.

The villagers were provided temporary quarters, enough rice to eat until they were able to establish their crops, and medical assistance. The government then assisted them with the advice and materials for construction of a new home near Dak To. There they will be able to live in relative freedom from Viet Cong terrorist actions.

The 120 Montagnards from Dak Lak were part of more than 1,500 refugees brought into the resettlement center during operation Longfellow. Third Bde. and 24th Special Tactical Zone (ARVN) troops worked hand-in-hand to help the homeless Montagnards to get to Dak To. American and Vietnamese government personnel will now work together to see that these people are no longer harassed by the likes of Mok Mar and Luk.

McDonough Becomes CO of Co. A, 2/35th

Captain James McDonough, of Portland, Maine, became the new commander of Company 'A', 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, in ceremonies last week at the 3rd Brigade's base camp.

The previous commander, Captain James E. Barnes, of Oklahoma City, Okla., is the new battalion adjutant. He has been commanding officer of Company 'A' for eight months and has led his men on several operations against the Viet Cong since the brigade arrived in Vietnam last December.

A parting "aloha" to Capt. Barnes and a welcoming one to Capt. McDonough were given by the men of the company, who threw an authentic Hawaiian luau. The luau was complete with a pig on a spit and one baked in the ground in a traditional Polynesian imu.

27 May 1966

25th Inf. Div.: From Hawaii to South Vietnam

The "Tropic Lightning" division has been in a state of flux since early in December when the order for deployment was given. Since that time the division has undergone a complete change, a change which took a strong, well-trained unit, broke it into several parts, then rebuilt it in a new location and a new situation.

First to move was the 3rd Brigade Task Force. In conjunction with the Air Force, the Broncos participated in the largest, longest, and fastest (for number of troops involved) airlift on record. Operation Bluelight saw the 4,000-man task force carried from Hawaii to Pleiku, Vietnam, in less than a month.

When the last arrivals landed in the highlands they found a tent frame city well on its way to completion. A perimeter had been thrown up and operations against the Viet Cong had already begun.

In mid-January, the first brigade-sized operation, dubbed Taylor, began. This was followed in rapid succession by Garfield, Lincoln, Longfellow, and the current operation Paul Revere.

Major General Stanley R. Larsen, commanding general, I Field Force, Vietnam, summed up the performance of the 3rd of the 25th last week while talking to Brigadier General Glenn D. Walker, task force commander. Said General Larsen, "You haven't begun . . . you've arrived!"

Not long after 3rd Bde. began its deployment by air, the 2nd Brigade Task Force set out by sea. The final destination, Cu Chi, was reached on January 25. Cu Chi and the area around it were considered Viet Cong property prior to the brigade's arrival.

Not so fortunate as the Broncos, who met light initial resistance moving into Pleiku, 2nd Bde. had to fight for every square foot of land needed for the base camp. Fight it did and as it fought, it built. The base expanded from a tight ring, where VC snipers were apt to pop up anywhere, to an 800,000 square yard city as secure as any area in V-N.

Operations Honolulu, Circle Pines, Kahuku, Kahala, Del Ray, Kolchak I, and many more stand as monuments to 2nd Bde. tenacity.

While the brigade was conducting those operations, the Cu Chi base spread out with the arrival of Division Troops, division headquarters, and Support Command. Most recently, the 1st Brigade Task Force arrived, quickly getting its feet on the ground and now the first combined 1st and 2nd Brigade operation, Wahiawa, has begun.

3 June 1966

69th Armor Moves to Pleiku

The "Black Panthers" of 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, have joined 3rd Brigade at Pleiku.

The initial elements, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, arrived and off-loaded at Qui Nhon. From the port, the company headed for a staging area some 30 miles northwest of Qui Nhon, where they spent two days.

Company C arrived and rendezvoused with the headquarters at the staging area. Company A followed shortly thereafter. The armor battalion then moved to the 3rd

Bde. base camp at Pleiku.

The unit, reassigned from Cu Chi, where it supported 2nd Brigade, is under the command of Lieutenant Colonel R. J. Fairfield Jr., who commanded Company A, of the 'old' 89th Armor (forerunner of the 69th) in Korea.

The Bronze Star holder led the battalion in one major operation, "Circle Pines," in the Cu Chi area during its three and one-half months there.

Companies and platoons of the battalion were utilized by 2nd Bde. in several other operations, such as Kahuku Kaena, and Maili.

The 1st of the 69th is the only Army armored battalion thus far committed to the conflict in Vietnam. It gives the division's 3rd Bde. a group of tanks and armored personnel carriers that, if placed side by side and end to end, would completely blanket a football field.

The more than 500 soldiers of the battalion joined Company B, which had been separated from its parent unit in February, when it was assigned to the 3rd Bde. Task Force.

The tank unit will be used in the central highlands, an area of plateaus, rolling hills and rugged mountains.



STEEL MONSTERS - A tank from Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, off-loads from the gaping jaws of an LST at the Qui Nhon port. The entire armor battalion is now assigned to the 3rd Brigade Task Force.

2/35TH TACKLES TWO JOBS

Members of the 3rd Brigade, on operation Paul Revere, recently turned a search-and-destroy mission into constructive effort for friendly Montagnards.

On May 18, elements of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, were helilifted on a search-and-destroy mission a few miles from the brigade's base camp.

At 7:30 a.m., nine choppers waited at the landing strip to take an estimated 55 men to the village of Plei Kla, a relatively short distance away.

Shortly after the helicopters landed, the members of the "Tropic Lightning" Division moved into action. The company encircled the village and search parties rounded up the 350 Montagnard inhabitants. Then came the task of searching for enemy weapons and supplies.

The search party moved swiftly through the huts, combing every inch, but found nothing. Their mission then became one of winning the support of the government cause. A sick call was conducted by Captain Alford Tabatsky, battalion surgeon.

As Capt. Tabatsky treated the women for goiters and the children for lack of vitamins, the men of 2/35th passed out cigarettes to the adults and candy to the children.

A helicopter landed on the outskirts of the village and the men began outfitting the tribesmen with supplies contributed in the division's Operation "Helping Hand."

A tribal tradition stopped the Montagnard, from removing their own clothing, but they were only too delighted to wear the colorful gifts over it.

10 June 1966

Governor Visits Third Brigade

The forward area of the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Task Force is an unlikely place to find a state governor but that's exactly what one would have found recently. Visiting the "Bronco" Brigade was Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton.

The governor arrived early in the morning and was met by the commanding general of the task force, Brigadier General Glenn D. Walker. After being briefed on Operation "Paul Revere," the governor toured the forward base camp.

A highlight of the tour came when Governor Scranton wrote, "This is from Pennsylvania" and signed Governor William Scranton on a 105mm howitzer round. Moments later the governor fired the round into hostile territory.

After completing his tour the governor, accompanied by General Walker, climbed aboard a helicopter and took off for an inspection tour of the Special Forces camp at Plei Mel. There he was briefed by the camp commander and then went to Pleiku.

The governor said that the "possibilities and potentialities of this particular group are as fine as any I've seen. I am very impressed and I think that General Walker has a great crew."

VIP VISITS -
Pennsylvania
Governor
William
Scranton,
accompanied
by Brigadier
General Glenn
D. Walker, 3rd
Brigade Task
Force
commander,
leaves tent
after being
briefed on
Operation "Paul
Revere." (Photo
by Newman)



2/9th Artillery Facelifts To Form Five Batteries

Stretching rations is a relatively simple task. Stretching thousands of pounds of cold, howitzer steel is another matter. But that was the job facing Lieutenant Colonel Saul A. Jackson, commander of 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery.

Brigadier General Glenn D. Walker, 3rd Brigade Task Force commander, had told Col. Jackson to "provide artillery coverage for the area of operations as well as the base camp area."

The problem of creating five artillery batteries from the usual three arose when 3rd Bde. began Operation "Paul Revere" southwest of Pleiku. It became necessary to alter the face of the battalion's three batteries, each having six 105mm howitzers, plus personnel and equipment.

Col. Jackson and Major William H. Schneider, the "Mighty Ninth" operations officer,

resolved the problem by moving two howitzers from each of the organic batteries. This left the three original batteries with four howitzers each and gave the brigade five 105mm howitzer firing batteries for support.

The facelifting now leaves 3rd Bde. with a highly maneuverable artillery force capable of defending the Pleiku base camp while still supporting field operations.

17 June 1966



PRISONER - Members of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry's reconnaissance platoon tie the hands of a captured Vietnamese soldier before putting him aboard a helicopter, during Operation "Paul Revere." (Photo by Nelson)

"Dustoff" Quick to Save Lives

"Dustoff coming in!" The radio call spurs the men of Company B, 25th Medical Battalion, 3rd Brigade, to prepare for the reception of patients.

On Operation "Paul Revere," elements of the task force met heavy contact with what they now know to have been a North Vietnamese regiment.

"Every wounded man who reached our hospital alive, reached the next higher echelon alive thanks to the finest doctors I have ever worked with," said Captain William Gardner, the "Bronco" Bde. surgeon.

All patients suffering head or eye injuries were immediately evacuated to Pleiku or Qui Nhon. Other patients requiring major surgery are evacuated either to Pleiku or An Khe.

"A seriously wounded man can be on an operating table in Pleiku within a half hour after he reaches us," stated Edward Denison, the Company B commander.

"Although we have full surgical facilities, we don't use them unless it is a dire emergency," Capt. Gardner pointed out.

"We hold all patients we feel we can get back to duty within a week. All others we evacuate," Capt. Denison said. The company holds an average of 30-35 patients per day.

The doctors voiced great respect and admiration for the dustoff pilots and medics.

"They have lost two choppers during this operation while attempting to extract wounded soldiers from the battle areas," Capt. Gardner emphasized. "They also had a medic shot in both legs."

The dustoff unit supporting the 3rd Bde is the Pleiku platoon of the 498th Helicopter Air Ambulance Company.

"This dustoff system is the major reason that this war has such a low mortality rate. Lower than any other war. There is less than two per cent mortality after the casualty reaches the first medical facility," Capt. Gardner noted.

Third War Worst Says Inf. Sergeant

Platoon Sergeant Konelio Pele is now fighting his third war and he says this one is worse than any other. Having, seen much action with his unit, Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, during Operation "Paul Revere," he speaks from experience.

In describing some of the differences between this and his other two wars, Pele observed, "In the other wars you knew where the front line was, in this one they hit you from everywhere. You face the front, send out a patrol, and get hit from the rear. You turn to the rear and fight the people behind you, and you get hit from the front. You've got to sit right there in the middle."

According to the sergeant, "The main thing when you take the patrol out is to tell your people what they're supposed to do if you get hit from both ways. You've got to split your squad so that half fight to the front and half to the rear."

On Operation "Paul Revere" While Men In Field...

The "Tropic Lightning" 3rd Brigade Task Force continues to sweep the area west-southwest of Pleiku on Operation "Paul Revere."

Since the operation began more than a month ago elements of the brigade have accounted for 279 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong killed. Air strikes in support of the operation have netted 43 more enemy dead. Thirty soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army have been captured in action and four "Chieu hoi" have come over to the government.

Most of the action occurred during an encounter 2 1/2 weeks ago which saw men of the task force in heavy engagement with what was later estimated to be a North Vietnamese regiment. The Communists broke contact and withdrew to the west. Contact has been light since that time.

A total of 68 small arms and 49 automatic weapons have been captured by the "Broncos" in addition to large quantities of ammunition, rice, barley and salt.

Three hundred ninety-eight huts, 42 bunkers and 17 tree-houses have been destroyed.

The 3rd Bde. Has suffered light casualties overall during the fighting, but several small units have had moderate casualties.

Rain Howitzer Fire on NV Army

The 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, boasts of one of the most charged batteries in Vietnam.

During the 3rd Brigade's recent heavy contact with the North Vietnamese Army units, additional firepower was needed. As a result, Battery A, of the "Mighty Ninth," was brought into action.

During one afternoon and night they expended more than 1,500 rounds. Because of the heavy enemy fire coming in on the infantry companies, the battery fired for 24 hours without a break. All the while small arms and mortar fire were falling on the battery.

The action recently took place on Operation "Paul Revere." First Lieutenant Richard Higgins, who was commanding the battery at the time, had this praise for his men: "It really made me proud to see the men in this battery because they were up shooting their howitzers to save those other men (infantrymen) at the same time the mortar rounds were landing in this area."



FIRE! - Charlie Battery fires at 'Charlie.' 105mm howitzers of Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, are fired on Operation Paul Revere. (Photo by Sutphin)



CONGRATULATIONS - General William C. Westmoreland, commander of all American forces in Vietnam, congratulates men of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, for an outstanding job done during a battle which overwhelmed elements of the North Vietnamese Army during the 3rd brigade's Operation "Paul Revere." (Photo by Nelson)



CAPTURED - General Westmoreland looks at a 12.7mm anti-aircraft weapon captured by the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, forces during the same operation southwest of Pleiku. With General Westmoreland is Brigadier General Glenn D. Walker, the 3rd Brigade Task Force commander. (Photo by Nelson)

Gen. Westmoreland Lauds 2/35th Feat

Taking a page from the Viet Cong manual, 3rd Brigade has added five North Vietnamese anti-aircraft guns to its arsenal.

But, as Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, found, stealing "ack-ack" guns from the Communists isn't quite like filching oranges on the block; the guns almost stayed with their original owners.

The company, in the middle of Operation "Paul Revere," was airlifted into a landing zone which turned out to be a hornets' nest. Before the choppers could set down, the first wave received heavy enemy fire. Company B returned fire and immediately counterattacked the enemy stronghold.

Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Philip Feir had this assessment of the combat assault, "We feel very fortunate to have gotten them (the assault force) into the landing zone at all because we rounded up five 12.7mm anti-aircraft weapons in the landing zone. As a matter of fact, we were able to get into those positions in two cases before the

North Vietnamese Army soldiers could get into the weapons area themselves."

Col. Feir pointed out that these were the first anti-aircraft weapons that the 3rd Bde. Task Force has captured.

SPT. BATTALION DELIVERS GOODS

Supplying 5,400 people with the basic necessities and required services is no easy job, encompassing everything from treating wounds to delivering steaks for supper. It is the responsibility of the 3rd Support Battalion (Provisional), which supplies logistical support to the 3rd Brigade Task Force. The battalion keeps the brigade and its equipment functioning with personnel drawn from support elements within the division. Because 3rd Bde. operates as a separate unit it was desirable to combine the support elements to form a smaller version of the brigade-size division Support Command.

Modern data processing methods recently went into use at the brigade, using a key punch system for requisitioning items.

Cards are punched at Pleiku and sent to Qui Nhon for processing. From Qui Nhon they are sent out to the appropriate supply agency.

The battalion, through its Qui Nhon liaison office, requisitions all supplies directly from the Army depot there. Supplies are trucked into Pleiku and then shipped to the field, where a forward support element is maintained.

In order to do its job, the battalion stocks approximately 15,000 different items ranging from whole blood to tank engines along with a ten-day supply of automotive gas and diesel fuel to run the engines. Also in stock are A, B, and C rations.

24 June 1966



BIG PUNCH - Archie Moore, former world light heavyweight boxing champion, fires a 105mm howitzer of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, during his visit to 3rd Brigade. At Moore's right is Major Paul E. Lenhart, executive officer of the "Mighty Ninth." (Photo by Sutphin)

One-Round Tour Archie Moore Hits Third Brigade

The "Broncos" of 3rd Brigade had a ringside seat for a visit last week by former world light heavyweight champion Archie Moore.

After a briefing on the brigade's Operation "Paul Revere," the former champion, who visited division headquarters at Cu Chi week before last, was given a guided tour of the rear base camp by Major Paul E. Lenhart, executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 9th

Artillery, and Major Quitman M. Wright, escort officer for U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

A highlight of the tour came when Moore visited Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, where he fired two 105mm howitzer rounds into hostile territory.

Afterwards he visited the brigade mess area, touring both the officers and enlisted mess halls. Moore later visited Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, where he was welcomed by Captain Robert Ord, the company commander. Accompanied by Capt. Ord, the boxer toured the mess area and a fire direction control bunker.

Following that he toured Company A and the 3rd Support Battalion (Provisional).

After the tour of the base camp, Moore, accompanied by Maj. Wright and Sergeant Major Norman Dube went to the base camp of 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery. He later returned to II Corps headquarters at Pleiku.

Moore's visit to the "Bronco" Brigade base camp was part of a four-week personal appearance tour of military installations throughout Vietnam.

Hot Food in the Field **'Flying Cooks' KO C-Rations**

Specialist Four Lynn J. Woodard, of St. Clair, Mich., is a "flying cook," one of a unique group of men who air lift at least one hot meal a day to companies in the field on operations.

Woodard, a cook for 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, is now catering for 3rd Brigade's Operation "Paul Revere."

There are no cooking facilities in the field, so food must be prepared at the rear area base camp and air lifted to the men. This is the occupation of the 'flying cooks' and to the man who must face a diet of C-rations, the 'flying cooks' are a welcome sight.

Each morning the cooks take the empty insulated containers from the command post and load them on to helicopters to be taken to the battalion's rear location.

"At the rear command post we have a consolidated mess hall," Woodard said. "Once I get there with the empty, dirty equipment the KPs wash the cans."

By this time, the hot food is usually ready. It's loaded into the containers and tagged to insure that each container gets to the right unit.

The men of the "Cacti Green" don't miss their sweets either. Woodard hustles to the bakery and checks to make sure each company gets its share including anything from donuts to cakes.

After everything is gathered together, the food and utensils are taken to the helipad, loaded and flown to the forward command post.

"It may sound as if there isn't much to it," Specialist Woodard said. "But there have been times when I've gotten into some ticklish predicaments."

"One time the company I was to feed that night was supposed to be heli-lifted into a new position."

He was notified by the logistics officer that he was to hit the landing zone before his company, even though a platoon from another company was there and supposedly had the area secure.

"When I got to the landing zone," he said, "I saw the platoon just getting there. If I'd been there five minutes earlier, I would have been all by myself on a hot landing zone."



REMOTE CHOW - Specialist Four Lynn J. Woodard, a "flying cook" of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry "Cacti Green," stacks some insulated containers prior to loading them onto a helicopter on Operation "Paul Revere." (Photo by Blue)

Light Contact, Then VC Hit Third Brigade

After several weeks of light contact, elements of 3rd Brigade suddenly found themselves in a pitched battle with a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regiment last week southwest of Pleiku.

During the action, the 2nd Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry was trying to push back an NVA attack on the east edge of a landing zone.

As the men swept the area, they were picked at by snipers hidden throughout the heavily wooded area surrounding the landing zone.

"We didn't know where the snipers were," said Specialist Four Kenneth R. Harpold of Indianapolis, Ind., a fire team leader in the 2nd Platoon.

"There was one sniper that particularly bothered us." Harpold continued. "We began looking for him."

"PFC James Hyatt, who was right behind me, had a Chinese submachine gun he had captured and I had a 12-gauge shotgun. We both opened fire on the sniper."

"But he didn't fall like we expected him to do. It turned out that he was tied to the tree. We left him up there, planning to come back later and cut him down. When we did come back to get him he was gone. Apparently, some of the other NVA soldiers had come and taken him away," Harpold remarked of the enemy's passion for conducting combat police calls."

Dead Cong Makes Day For PFC

PFC Paul V. Banther, of McDonald, Tenn., a 20-yearold member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, was the point man on a patrol during Operation "Paul Revere."

"About 900 feet from the company command post, we crossed a stream and were moving up a trail," he said. "I looked along the trail and saw a VC stand up from behind a machine gun. There were two more behind him, running away.

"I turned around and yelled to the others in the platoon."

"Thinking I had my M-16 on automatic, I kneeled down and began firing. I only got off about four or five rounds. I didn't think I had a chance of hitting any of them because I really couldn't see them too well; there was high grass between them and me," Banther explained.

"Later," he continued, "an artillery forward observer, who was posted nearby, told me I had hit one of them."

"My platoon sergeant came up to me and said, "Don't worry. We're going to make a hero out of you yet!"

HEAVILY ARMED VIET CONG WAVES AND SURRENDERS

The experience was similar to driving through a red light and having the policeman on the corner smile congenially.

The difference was that Sergeants James A. Meisner, of Phoenix, Ariz., and John C. Alton, of Vincennes, Ind., were on patrol during 3rd Brigade's Operation "Paul Revere."

Part of a reinforced squad patrol was going to set up a night ambush. Meisner said, "We had just gotten outside the perimeter and were getting the patrol set up when Sergeant Alton and I saw a North Vietnamese Army soldier sitting in a hammock."

"We motioned for him to get out of the hammock and then signaled for him to put up his hands," Meisner continued.

"When we motioned for him to raise his hands," Alton said, still shaking his head in disbelief, "he waved back at us !"

His face didn't show any fright, but his knees were knocking like dry bones," Meisner observed. "It looked as if his legs were doing the watusi but his body wouldn't cooperate."

When the captive stopped waving, the two noncommissioned officers searched him. He was armed with four hand grenades, but there was no sign of a rifle. He offered no resistance.

"After blindfolding him, we sent him back to the perimeter with two other men in our patrol," Meisner said. "He was turned over to the perimeter guards there."

It was found during interrogation that the NVA soldier had been lost from his unit for four days and had not eaten anything in that time.

He told the interrogators that he wanted to give himself up but was afraid to approach the perimeter because he thought he would be shot.

1 July 1966

Transition at 3rd Brigade



EXCHANGE - Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Kingston (right) accepts the colors of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, from Lieutenant Colonel Edward F. Callanan in change of command ceremonies held at 3rd Brigade last week. Colonel Callanan will be the new brigade executive officer. (Photo by Martens)

COL KINGSTON TAKES COLORS OF 1/35TH INF.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Kingston, of North Easton, Mass., assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry "Cacti Green" in change-of-command ceremonies at Pleiku.

The battalion heard outgoing commander Lieutenant Colonel Edward F. Callanan of Middletown, N.Y., express his appreciation for the hard work and loyal support of the battalion.

After accepting the battalion colors, Col. Kingston stated it was a privilege and a pleasure to accept command of the "Cacti Green." He said the battalion would continue the job and to react to the ever-changing situations.

Col. Callanan has become the 3rd Brigade executive officer.

Soup, Nuts, Potatoes **What They Talk About In 2/35th Bunkers**

Each night at every military camp in Vietnam soldiers man the defensive perimeters. Silent, watchful men, they wait in guard bunkers to take their turns on the perimeter - some sleeping, some reading, some talking. What do they talk about? The topics range from, as the expression goes, soup to nuts.

And the men of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, are great talkers. Although soup was not discussed, mashed potatoes were. One of the men in the bunker worked as a cook, and the others wanted to know who was responsible for preparing the mashed potatoes.

The cook shrugged off the responsibility, but said that he'd ask the man who did fix the potatoes to put in more salt.

Nuts, per se, were not brought up either, except in reference to the exploits of some fellow members of the company. These exploits included capers in the States as well as those on the battlefield.

There was the inevitable talk about what each man was going to do when he got back to the States after his tour in Vietnam. Everyone mentioned how great his girl friend was or, in the case of married men, how great their wives and children, were. One man couldn't wait to return to see his new son, born shortly after he arrived in Vietnam.

Some talked about the new car they would buy after returning home.

Outside the bunker, not far away, small arms fire was heard. "Joe's on the line tonight, probably got another shadow," one of them said. "Who did you say makes the mashed potatoes?"

8 July 1966

For Gallantry **Two Get Viet Medals In Pleiku Ceremonies**

A veteran of three wars, Sergeant First Class Kanelio Pele, and a soldier of 14 months, PFC Philippe E. Saunier, were awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star and Vietnamese Medal of Honor during Heroes Day activities at the Vietnamese II Corps Headquarters recently.

A native of American Samoa, Sgt. Pele distinguished himself by single-handedly killing two members of an enemy machine gun crew and forcing the other two North Vietnamese Army soldiers to flee.

Under heavy enemy fire, he carried the machine gun and ammunition, weighing nearly 200 pounds, back to the company area.

Upon reaching his unit area, he realized a wounded man was still at the ambush site. He moved across several hundred yards of open terrain, found the soldier and carried him back to the company position, again receiving enemy fire.

PFC Saunier, of Delcambre, La., was also honored for his action during the fierce battle at landing zone 10 Alpha.

Saunier was a member of an 81mm mortar crew when Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, came under heavy mortar fire and intense ground fire.

He remained at his position and continued to rain mortar rounds on the enemy.



LAUDED - Lieutenant General Nguyen Huu Co, Vietnam deputy prime minister and minister for war and reconstruction, presents the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star to PFC Philippe E. Saunier, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, at Heroes Day ceremonies at II Corps Headquarters, Pleiku. (Photo by Martens)

Small-Unit Tactics Pay Off

One thing that American troops have learned from the war is that it can't be fought conventionally. What seems to characterize the fighting in this conflict is the reliance on small-unit tactics.

There is perhaps nobody as qualified to discuss the utilization of small units as a company commander.

First Lieutenant Thomas H. Snyder, St. Joseph, Mo., is the executive officer of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry. The day before the company was to begin an operation, the company commander became ill and Lt. Snyder became acting commander. He learned first hand the importance of the small unit.

Explaining the use of the tactic, Lt. Snyder said, "It is extremely hard for even a company to move through the terrain in Vietnam and really expect to make some sort of contact because a large force is easy to detect and easy to evade."

"I think most contact occurs when a small platoon or squad-size unit is used."

Lt. Snyder explained why small patrols have proved effective.

"When a small patrol is sent out it gets artillery concentrations, armor to support it, radios, good communications, and medical supplies."

"In one instance our reconnaissance platoon went out on an operation and hit a little bigger force than was anticipated. Within about five minutes there were four Thunderchiefs in the air, bombing positions in front of them, and about 150 rounds of artillery being thrown at the enemy."

3/4 Cav. Gets VC Pony

Gone are the days when the cavalry took to the field mounted on their fiery steeds. Recently, however, a moment of that history was relived when Captain W.E. Cunningham, of the Special Forces detachment at Duc Co, presented a pony to C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry,

This is a very special pony because, prior to May 29, it was the property of a North

Vietnamese colonel.

On May 28, Trp. C, under the command of Captain W. E. Duffer, was attached to 3rd Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, operating in an enemy-infested area north of Duc Co. Contact with the North Vietnamese was heavy, and at dark the enemy elements withdrew to the west side of the village of Plei Brens.

The following morning the cavalymen surrounded the village and in went Capt. Cunningham and his Special Forces strike force to search the village.

During the search, the captain discovered a black pony.

Interrogation of the village chief revealed that a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) colonel had left the pony, saying that the villagers were to care for it until he returned.

Realizing that the pony would make a better mascot for Capt. Duffer's cavalry troops than transportation for the NVA colonel, Capt. Cunningham confiscated the pony. In the animal's place Capt. Cunningham left a note for the colonel that the pony could be claimed by him or his friends if they would appear in person at the Duc Co Special Forces camp, Pleiku Province.

Then, thanks to a helping hand from the 52nd Aviation Battalion, the pony was helilifted to Duc Co where it made its temporary home for the next three weeks, leisurely grazing around the camp under the ever watchful eyes of the "Green Berets."

Finally, the reunion day arrived. Trp. C was once again committed to action in the Duc Co area. As the troopers rolled into Duc Co, dust clouds billowing, they were delighted to see their mascot awaiting their arrival. With the cavalry troopers and strikers cheering, the little pony passed in review for its new unit, the U.S. Cavalry.

There has been no word from the upstaged NVA colonel.

HEY, HOSS ! -
Specialist Four James
H. Nail Jr., Duck Hill,
Miss., a member of
Troop C, 3rd
Squadron, 4th
Cavalry, at 3rd
Brigade rides the
troop's mascot after
picking up the
mail. (Photo by
Sutphin)



15 July 1967

1/35th Kills 62 NVA Troops

What started out as a routine day recently for the reconnaissance platoon, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, ended in a day of fierce encounters with the North Vietnamese Army (NVA).

The battalion was operating in an area near the Ia Drang River, 40 miles southwest of Pleiku. Various outposts had been set up through out the area of operation.

One outpost spotted three to five North Vietnamese. After further observation, the enemy was seen in increasing numbers.

A quick radio call brought in a barrage of 4.2mm mortars, followed by artillery and air strikes.

Although the fire power had accounted for 15 dead, the enemy was so close to the observation post that the balance of the recon platoon was called in to help them withdraw.

Upon arriving, the platoon saw four enemy soldiers and decided to pursue them.

They advanced 150 yards before being pinned down by a volley of small arms and

automatic weapons fire from an estimated battalion-size force.

Again artillery and air strikes were called, but the enemy force could not be dislodged. Company A, less one platoon, was quickly brought in for reinforcement.

Parts of Company C, with an attached platoon of Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, advanced into the flank. They hit the enemy and fighting became so intense that tanks were engaged at point-blank range.

Before additional units could be brought in to seal off the area, the NVA broke contact and moved into the woods.

Sixty-two NVA were killed on the ground, plus an additional 15 killed by air, for a total of 77. Nine automatic weapons, 27 small arms, four crew-served weapons, anti-tank rocket launchers and 83 hand grenades were captured.

Lt. Larry Connors Big Hero In The Battle Of 10 Alfa

Call it what you want - courage, bravery, heroism or just plain guts - 2nd Lieutenant Larry Connors has it.

Lt. Connors is the leader of the third platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry. He has only been with them a month but in that time he made his mark.

It was on May 29 that Lt. Connors swung into action. His company and another were in the midst of a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) "hornet's nest" at a landing zone known as 10 Alpha.

Facing the two companies was an NVA regiment, spraying a constant curtain of lead above the soldiers' heads. Lt. Connors' men were taking their share of wounds.

Noticing some of his wounded men were in exposed positions and had to be carried to safety, the lieutenant darted in front of his platoon's line of fire to bring the men back.

After the NVA soldiers broke contact, Lt. Connors' platoon was searching the battle area when suddenly a communist machine gun opened fire, pinning down the platoon. The only way out was to knock out the machine gun.

He tried working his way around the emplacement, only to be wounded in the head. His company commander, Captain Anthony Bisantz, urged the lieutenant to "stay put" until the medical evacuation choppers could get him.

Lt. Connors decided to go back to his platoon anyway. With blood streaming down his face, he continued to lead his men against the NVA.

Moments after the platoon leader had rejoined his men, an NVA soldier popped up in the chest-high saw grass and lobbed a hand grenade at the American.

Though the grenade exploded only a few feet from him Lt. Connors escaped injury.

Lt. Connors was more enraged than shocked. He shouted and threw a grenade back. The NVA soldier paid with his life.

The battle raged on and others of the lieutenant's men were being hit. The platoon sergeant was seriously wounded and the lieutenant ran to him and stayed until the medic arrived to help.

Finally Capt. Bisantz got Lt. Connors on a med-evac helicopter. But the moment the captain had turned away, Lt. Connors jumped off and tried to go back to his men. The captain had to get some men to put Lt. Connors on the chopper forcibly. This time he stayed.

Lt. Connors was evacuated to the hospital at Qui Nhon where doctors found another wound in the lieutenant's side, one he hadn't mentioned. The doctors say he will be, all right.

Sergeant Noble Hyde, a squad leader in Lt. Connors, platoon, spoke for the rest of the men. "He stayed with us all the time. We couldn't have had a better platoon leader. He acted like a combat veteran."

22 July 1966

Ace in the Hole

Twelve unusual decks of playing cards for use in psychological warfare against the Viet Cong have been delivered to the division by Rep. John J. Gilligan of Ohio.

A casual glance at the decks would turn up nothing unusual, but closer inspection would show them to be unique - all 52 cards are aces of spades.

Rep. Gilligan delivered the cards on behalf of Allison Stanley of the U.S. Playing Card Company, Cincinnati, who had heard that the Viet Cong are superstitious of the ace of spades.

Men of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, at Pleiku used the black aces for the first time last April, posting them conspicuously in their areas of operation.

Since then their supply of cards has been replenished.

29 July 1966

3 Units Change Command

Lt. Col. Nicholas At 3/13th Artillery

Lt. Col. Billy B. Nicholas of Little Rock, Ark., assumed command of 3rd Bn., 13th Arty., last week during ceremonies in the battalion area. He succeeds Lt. Col. Aaron E. Walker of Allen, Okla., who has become Div. Arty. executive officer.

Once the battalion colors had been passed, Col. Nicholas, formerly director of the Division Fire Support Element, spoke to the men.

"On assuming command, I have a feeling of honor, pride and humility," he said. "Honor for being selected to lead such a fine unit, pride for becoming a member of 'The Clan,' and humility because I have seen this battalion perform in an outstanding manner under Col. Walker."

Col. Nicholas is a 1957 graduate of Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree.

Lt. Col. Holbrook At 2/9th Artillery

Lt. Col. Bruce Holbrook has assumed command of 2nd Bn., 9th Arty., in recent change-of-command ceremonies.

The men of the artillery battalion, supporting the 3rd Brigade Task Force, stood in formation as the outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Saul A. Jackson, presented the battalion colors to Col. Holbrook.

Col. Jackson had commanded the artillery battalion since August 1965. He is now assigned to the G-3 section of I Field Force, Vietnam, in Nha Trang.

Col. Holbrook previously worked with the Department of the Army Military Personnel Management Team, Western Area, at the Presidio of San Francisco.

New Commanders



Lt. Col. Billy B. Nickolas holds colors of 3/13th Arty. after assuming command of the unit at Cu Chi. (Photo by Williams)

Lt. Col. Saul A. Jackson (left), hands the colors of 2nd Bn., 9th Arty., to Lt. Col. Bruce Holbrook at 3rd Bde. (Photo by Sutphin)



GOLDEN DRAGON CO - Lt. Col. William E. Davis has assumed command of 2nd Bn., 14th Inf., in ceremonies at Cu Chi. Here, his predecessor, Lt. Col. John M. Schultz, and Battalion Sgt. Maj. Jerame J. Szafranski pins on the "Golden Dragon" crest, marking Col. Davis' assumption of command. The 38-year-old Col. Davis had formerly been division logistics and supply (G-4) officer. Col. Schultz has been assigned to Headquarters, II Field Force, Vietnam. (Photo by Pardue)

5 August 1966

Pleiku Is Their Playground **A Top Recon Platoon**

Reconnaissance platoons earn their keep in any war and the recon platoon of the 1st Bn., 35th Inf., is no exception.

Serving as the eyes and ears of their battalion, the platoon probes insecure areas and sets ambushes. During one recent patrol, the platoon encountered a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) battalion and took the brunt of its force until the rest of the 1/35th arrived.

Although the platoon suffered moderate casualties, the NVA unit was eventually turned inside out and scattered.

The platoon is often sent to scout terrain surrounding the battalion headquarters, about 20 miles southwest of Pleiku.

As well as the usual problem of encountering NVA troops, members of the recon platoon contend with "jungle rot" of the feet during long patrols.

Despite the hazards, 13 members of the original recon platoon, which arrived in January, still serve in the group.

With six months of intensive specialized training in Hawaii and another six months of combat experience, the 13 help train replacements while attending to their regular duties.

"New men learn fast here," said Lt. Patrick M. Ward, who took command of the platoon recently after six months duty as a tank platoon leader at Cu Chi.

"Before long they fall in step with the more experienced members of the 1/35th's recon platoon."

19 Aug 1966

C/S Presents Awards

Bronco Capt., SP5 Receive Silver Stars



Capt. James R. Maisano and SP5 Roy Bean were awarded Silver Stars Medals, the Army's third highest award for valor, by Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Army chief of staff in recent ceremonies at 3rd Bde.

Gen. Johnson was visiting the forward command post on an assessment tour of Vietnam.

Capt. Maisano's award was for gallantry in action while serving as commanding officer of Co. B., 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., during a heliborne assault.

Immediately upon deployment from the aircraft on the initial lift into the landing zone, his unit was partially pinned down by intense enemy fire. By successfully controlling his maneuver element and building fire superiority, Capt. Maisano overcame the initial Viet Cong resistance.

He then organized and maintained assaults to re-open the landing zone and allow the remainder of the unit to be landed. Although the company perimeter was repeatedly attacked by successive waves of more than two battalions of enemy troops, he held his sector.



Specialist Bean was awarded his Silver Star for service as a medic with Co. C, 1st Bn., 69th Armor, while the unit was on a search-and-destroy mission.

The company entered a small rice paddy between two dense wood lines and was attacked by an estimated reinforced company, which was using automatic weapons and grenades at point-blank range from well-fortified bunkers and tunnels. The tank commander of the lead tank was severely wounded from the initial burst of fire. Ignoring the intense automatic weapons fire directed at the tank, Specialist Bean ran to the beleaguered tank, administered first aid to the wounded officer, removed him from the tank and, while shielding him with his own body, helped him to the aid station for evacuation.

26 August 1966

3rd Bde., ROK Units Blast 172 V.C.

A 23-man 3rd Brigade tank platoon and a Republic of Korea (ROK) rifle company killed 172 North Vietnamese (NVA) soldiers recently in a fiery six-hour, night-time battle near Pleiku.

It was one of the bloodiest battles of the three-month-old Operation "Paul Revere."

The 1st Plt., Co. B, 1st Bn., 69th Armor, was positioned five miles south-southwest of Duc Co in support of the ROK 9th Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Cav. Reg., when the action broke out.

At about 11:15 pm. a ROK infantry lieutenant reported hearing digging and movement to the east of the unit's command post (CP) area.

Illumination rounds from the company's mortar section revealed five NVA scurrying for cover. That was the beginning of the six-hour battle that raged on a knoll in the middle of the jungle.

The five tanks of the first platoon and ROK soldiers began reconnaissance by fire throughout the eastern side of the unit's outer perimeter. They drew return fire immediately.

"I figured they were wanting to get in as close as possible before they tried anything," said 2nd Lt. Charles E. Markham of Canyon, Tex., the armor platoon leader. "We just hit them first."

The enemy was only about 150 yards from the ROK CP area when the fighting began. The NVA elements, estimated by platoon members to be numbering seven or eight, were scattered throughout the area to the east. They fired 60mm mortars and recoilless rifles into the allied camp.

In the woodline to the south of the CP, NVA automatic weapons began firing at the tanks.

"All the tank commanders kept their heads up and did an excellent job despite the heavy fire directed at them," Lt. Markham said.

Many of the tanks took hits as bullets from the machine-guns ricocheted from the turrets,

fenders and hulks.

"There was an enemy soldier in a tree with a light machine gun," the platoon leader said, "and he kept firing at the tank commanders' heads as they looked out the turrets."

"Needless to say, he wasn't there very long after we fired our 90mm high explosive rounds into the tree," the lieutenant said.

Artillery from the 3rd Brigade Task Force supported the allied force all during the night by pouring artillery rounds onto the NVA positions and to the enemy's rear. The NVA had nowhere to go.

"There was no mass attack on our position," Lt. Markham said. "There were only a lot of groups of eight or so."

"We were able to see the people all night long thanks to the illumination dropped by the flare ships in our area, and the illumination rounds fired by the ROK mortars."

"We didn't have more than 15 or 20 seconds of darkness at any one time after the battle started," the platoon leader explained.

9 September 1966

2/35th Squad Kills 7 NVA Near Pleiku

A squad from Co. C, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., killed seven North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers in a bloody three-hour fire fight recently near Pleiku.

The squad from the third platoon was on a search-and-destroy mission on Highway 19 when contact was made with an estimated NVA platoon.

The NVA were emplaced on the north side of the highway in concealed positions for the mid-afternoon attack.

The point man of the unit spotted one NVA soldier alongside the road and fired at him. The enemy withdrew to the west. Immediately, the remainder of the third platoon moved up and joined the squad as it swept the area.

When contact was reestablished, Capt. Bob Ord, company commander, moved his other two platoons up to join the fight. Air strikes and artillery were called in along with two platoons from Co. B, 1st Bn., 69th Armor.

The 69th Armor provided firepower while the company swept the enemy positions.

After three hours of fighting, seven enemy were found dead with heavy blood trails in the area. Friendly casualties were light.

The action was far from over, however.

The dead NVA bodies were left in the area as Co. A, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., waited in ambush for the enemy to return.

The following night, an NVA reinforced platoon reentered the area. Five NVA were killed in the initial contact.

Sp4 Scott Holds on To Precious Poncho

Ponchos are a useful item in Vietnam, especially during the monsoon season, and it's not too hard to understand a soldier's reluctance to give his up.

Sp4 Benjamin Scott of Co. A., 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., is a particularly determined man when it comes to holding on to his equipment. Recently he was on a two-man security team, part of an ambush, and almost didn't see his poncho again.

One man slept while the other kept watch. Specialist Scott was sleeping underneath his poncho when suddenly he awoke as someone attempted to pull it off him.

The someone turned out to be an enemy soldier who was searching the area for the bodies of dead North Vietnamese. Thinking that a dead NVA might be under the poncho, he started to remove it.

Both of them let out a scream and Specialist Scott, unable to reach his weapon, jumped up and grabbed the enemy soldier. Several moments of hand-to-hand combat followed until the other American came up and shot the NVA.

The enemy force in the area was an estimated reinforced platoon, and it was soon in a fire fight with the ambush. Patrol. During the action, Specialist Scott held on to his poncho.

Evicted Python Has Orderly New Home

"Charlie," a member of HHC, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., is so happy to see people come into his orderly room that he could just squeeze them to death.

And he is just the one who could do it because "Charlie" is an eight-foot, 30-pound python. He was purchased by one of the men in the company as a pet but the other men made sure both were homeless.

There just wasn't room enough in one hootch for Charlie and the other men so Charlie and his master were elected to go.

When 1st Sgt. William W. Jones heard that he had a man without a home and a wayward snake to boot, he came up with an idea to kill two birds with one snake.

If Sgt. Jones took the snake, the owner could go back to living in his old dwelling, and Sgt. Jones could put Charlie in his overcrowded orderly room, thus keeping the flow of traffic down.

Now all three are happy. The former snake owner is back in his hootch, the first sergeant has a quiet orderly room, and Charlie has a home.

16 Sept 1966

PFC's Pack Annihilated

When the going gets rough a soldier wants to travel as lightly as possible. PFC David C. Harvey, a member of the 3rd Plt., Co. A, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., is no exception.

The Young riflemen had carried his gear in an North Vietnamese Army (NVA) pack he had picked up from a dead enemy soldier.

Recently his platoon made contact with the NVA and he dropped his pack in the heat of the action.

Another member of Pvt. Harvey's platoon approached shortly afterwards and saw the NVA pack lying on the ground. Not knowing whether there was an enemy soldier attached to it, he proceeded to riddle it full of holes.

After the fight, Pvt. Harvey returned for his pack only to discover that he had more lead in it than gear. Sorry about that.

Col. Clark Cmds. 1/69th

Lt. Col. Clyde O. Clark of Sweet Grass, Mont., took command of the first Bn., 69th Armor, recently at the 3rd Brigade Task Force base camp of Pleiku.

Col. Clark was handed the colors of the unit by the former commander, Lt. Col, R.J. Fairfield, the new deputy chief of staff, I Field Force.

Col. Clark came to the 3rd Bde. from Fort Hood, Tex., where he commanded the 2nd Bn., 13th Armor, 1st Armor Division.

A graduate of the U,S, Army Command and General Staff College; the Armored School and the Army Strategic Intelligence School, Col. Clark holds a Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering from the University of Omaha.

The 41-year-old commander of the first medium tank battalion committed to Vietnam, holds the Bronze Star Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.



HONOR -
SFC
Konello
Pele (1) of
HHC, 3rd
Brigade
Task
Force,
receives
the Silver
Star from
Admiral
U.S. Grant
Sharp,
CINCPAC,
during the
admiral's
visit to the
brigade's
forward
command
post.

Admiral Presents SFC With Silver Star Medal

SFC Konello Pele received the Silver Star Medal, the United States Army's third highest award for valor, from Admiral U.S. Grant Sharp, the Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Pacific Forces, in a recent ceremony.

Sgt. Pele, a veteran of three wars, was cited for his actions on May 29, while serving as a platoon sergeant on an operation to secure a vital landing zone.

According to his citation, he "singlehandedly charged a Viet Cong machine gun emplacement, killed two of the crew members and caused the remaining insurgents to flee.

"After covering the evacuation of the dead and wounded, he carried an enemy machine gun and ammunition through a bullet-swept area to a friendly position. Sgt. Pele moved several hundred meters across open terrain to carry a fallen comrade to friendly lines."

Sgt. Pele already holds the Vietnamese Medal of Honor, Bronze Star with 'V' Device and Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star.

14 Oct 1966

3rd Bde. Gets New Cmdr.

Col. James G. Shanahan of Syracuse, N.Y., has become the new deputy commander of 3rd Brigade Task Force at Pleiku.

He replaces Col. Everette A. Stoutner, the new Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, II Field Force, Vietnam.

Col. Shanahan previously served with the "Tropic Lightning" Division from 1944 to 1947. During that time, the colonel was assigned to the G-2 (Intelligence and Security) Section of the 35th Inf. Regt.

During the Korean conflict, Col. Shanahan served with the 38th Inf. Regt. and participated in the Korea Summer-Fall 1953 Campaign.

After his overseas tour, the colonel successfully completed courses at the Command and General Staff College and National War College.

The 46-year-old colonel is the recipient of the Silver Star, the Bronze Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

21 Oct 1966

Cpl. 'Takes 5' on Nest of Viper - Result: Another Snake Story

Cpl. John F. Crowe, having prepared his defensive position, tossed his helmet on the ground and sat down to "take five."

Unknown to him, his helmet landed on a nest of Malayan pit viper eggs.

Before the communications repairman of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf, 3rd Bde., realized what had happened an adult pit viper was within striking distance of his right leg.

To make things even worse, the snake crawled into the soldier's lap. Cpl. Crowe didn't move a muscle, except his jaw when he cried out "Help!"

SSgt James R. Minton heard the cries and rushed over to see what the problem was.

When he came close enough to see the snake, he stopped in his tracks.

Walking slowly so as not to excite the snake, SSgt. Minton grabbed the snake and attempted to cut its head off. He was unsuccessful and in the process was bitten on the thumb.

Now, he was the one who needed help!

He was evacuated to the 18th Surgical Hospital at Pleiku and treated, but the snake was still on Cpl. Crowe's lap. It was angry and aware of impending danger.

The snake began moving up the corporal's body and came to rest on the man's chest; then it reared back and glared into his eyes.

"Shoot it! Somebody shoot it!"

"I can't," came a voice from beside Cpl. Crowe. "I'll hit you."

"I don't care! Shoot it! Now!" Cpl. Crowe shouted.

Bang! Bang!

The first shot grazed the viper's head; the second threw parts of the snake 20 feet away.

"Thanks a lot," Cpl. Crowe said.

He, for all his fears, walked away from the incident unscathed, physically anyway.

Lt. Saves PFC From King Cobra

The enemy isn't the only hazard in Vietnam. PFC Earl Lee Huff of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., tangled with a king cobra recently and won.

While providing flank security for a search-and-destroy patrol during Operation "Paul Revere," PFC Huff saw movement to his right rear. Whirling to meet what he expected to be a Viet Cong, he saw a king cobra coiled to strike.

He lunged with his rifle butt to ward off the snake's attack and came down about the middle of the seven-foot cobra's body. With his feet far behind him and his hands on the muzzle of his M-16, this left more than three feet of the snake's body free to lunge at him, which it did.

All PFC Huff could do was yell, "Help!" - which he did.

His platoon leader, 1st Lt. Ramon T. Pulliam, rushed to the flank to see the serpent thrashing out at Huff in an arc which was missing the rifleman by inches.

Lt. Pulliam fired once, severely wounding the snake and at the same time hitting PFC Huff's rifle butt.

The snake dragged itself half-way into a hole, and when the men of "Charlie" Company dragged the snake out of its pit, it came out in two pieces.

PFC Huff, Lt. Pulliam and the rest of "Charlie" Company then resumed the somewhat less spectacular job of hunting the enemy.



SURE SHOT - PFC Earl Lee Huff was providing security on a patrol when he was attacked by a king cobra. 1st Lt Ramon T. Pulliam shot the snake and PFC Huff's M-16 just as it was about to strike.

PFC's Heroism Wins Silver Star

PFC George E. Butler received the Silver Star from Brig. Gen. Glenn D. Walker, commander, during ceremonies at Pleiku.

C Trp., 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav., was called out for formation where the guidon bearer and mascot horse stood side-by-side.

After the award ceremony, Gen. Walker gathered the men around him and said, "Silver Stars are not just given away. It's our country's third highest award for valor and I am more than proud to present it to PFC Butler."

"There has never been an occasion when this unit has been called upon to do a job, and hasn't performed it to the best of its ability."

The citation stated that on July 3, while participating in Operation "Paul Revere," Butler was serving as a machine-gunner aboard an armored personnel carrier (APC) when attacked by a North Vietnam Army force using anti-tank weapons and mortars.

While returning the hostile fire with his M-60 machine gun, Butler received serious wounds in his side and stomach.

He continued to fight until an anti-tank rocket set his APC ablaze.

Butler dismounted the vehicle, with his M-60 providing cover fire, enabling others of the patrol to move from the killing zone. Then, ignoring his personal safety, he half-carried and half-dragged a wounded infantry company commander to safety.

STAR - PFC George E. Butler receives the Silver Star from Brig. Gen. Glenn D. Walker during ceremonies at Pleiku. (Photo by PFC John Newman)



28 Oct 1966

3rd Bde. Has New Cmdr. - And Record

Mark for Sustained Combat Shattered

The 3rd Brigade Task Force set a United States Army record for the number of days in sustained combat last week by slipping past the old mark of 165 days during Operation "Paul Revere."

Paul Revere went into its 166th day of sustained operation October 23 in the central highlands around Pleiku.

The operation began May 10 under the direction and command of Brig. Gen. Glenn D. Walker, now assistant commander of the 4th Infantry Division.

Col. James G. Shanahan, the new brigade commander who took over as Paul Revere entered phase four, served with the 25th Infantry Division when the 25th set the old mark in World War II during the liberation of the Philippines.

Operation Paul Revere has accounted for more than 1000 enemy killed. Hundreds of small arms, automatic and crew-served weapons and thousands of rounds of various caliber ammunition have been captured. Tons of rice and other food products as well as medical supplies have also been denied the enemy.

The 3rd Brigade has been used to maintain surveillance along the Cambodian border and destroy possible crossing sites. This has both disrupted and prevented the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) from conducting major combat efforts in the central highlands.

FIRING - A mortar section from the weapons platoon of HHC, 1st Bn., 35th Inf., a part of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, fire saturation into a landing zone for the battalion's recon platoon. (Photo by Sp5 Dennis P. Martens)



Col. Shanahan Replaces Gen. Walker

Col. James G Shanahan of Syracuse, N.Y., assumed command of the 3rd Brigade Task Force in change-of-command ceremonies October 20 at Pleiku.

Col. Shanahan replaces Brig. Gen. Glenn D. Walker, who departed to assume the position of Assistant Division Commander of the 4th Infantry Division.

Col. Shanahan joined the 3rd Brigade September 1 and served as deputy commander prior to assuming command. Prior to his assignment to the 3rd Brigade Task Force, he was Deputy Chief of Staff of I Field Forces, Vietnam.

He previously served with the "Tropic Lightning" division in the Pacific Theater from 1944 to 1947, during which time he was platoon leader, a company commander, an assistant S-4 (supply) and an assistant S-3 (operations) of the 25th Infantry Regiment.

While assigned to the 35th Infantry, he participated in the Luzon and Northern Solomons campaigns at which time the 25th set an Army record for the longest time in the field

under sustained combat operations. That record was broken by the 3rd Brigade last week on Operation "Paul Revere."

Col. Shanahan received his U.S. Army Reserve commission in May 1942 and his regular Army commission in 1946.

His decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, four Bronze Stars for Valor, two bronze Stars for merit, Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

CHANGE -
Brig. Gen.
Glenn D.
Walker
hands the
flag of 3rd
Brigade
Task Force
to new
commander,
Col. James
G.
Shanahan,
in
ceremonies
at Pleiku.



Gen. Walker Departs

Brig. Gen. Glenn D. Walker leaves the 3rd Brigade Task Force to become deputy commander of the 4th Infantry Division at Pleiku.

Gen. Walker was the 25th Infantry Assistant Division Commander-Maneuver in Hawaii prior to his arrival in Vietnam in February 1966. He took command of the 3rd Brigade in April.

4 Nov 1966



UP HIGH - Sgt.
Clifford R.
Totten, Co. B,
1st Bn., 35th
Inf., received
the United
States'
second
highest
award for
valor, the
Distinguished
Service
Cross, from
the Army's
Vice Chief
of Staff,
Gen.
Creighton W.
Abrams.

Sgt. Calls Artillery On His Own Position

The Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest award for valor, was presented recently to Sgt. Clifford R. Totten by Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

Gen. Abrams presented the award on his visit to the 3rd Brigade Task Force at Pleiku.

Sgt. Totten was cited for showing exceptional heroism against the Viet Cong July 3 near Thang Duc in the Vietnam's central highlands.

Two squads from the 3rd Platoon of Co. B, 1st Bn, 35th Inf were on a search and destroy mission when they ran into a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) company-size ambush.

After the platoon leader was critically wounded, Sgt. Totten, the patrol's forward observer, realizing he was the ranking man, organized a tight defensive perimeter.

When his men's ammunition was expended, he and PFC Isaac B. Quick exposed themselves to enemy fire as they collected ammunition from the battlefield.

Later, seeing that he was about to be overrun himself, he called in a three-hour long barrage of artillery fire on his own position.

"It was beautiful," Sgt Totten said, "We caught them standing up!"

Suddenly, all was quiet.

"We thought they had pulled out," the sergeant pointed out.

Fifteen minutes later, the roar of armored personnel carriers (APCs) pierced the silence.

Then the NVA opened up.

It was during this attack that Sgt Totten was wounded in the arm by fragments from an enemy grenade.

The NVA opened upon the APCs with anti-tank rockets. Two of the personnel carriers were ablaze in a matter of minutes.

The other personnel carriers provided cover fire with 50 caliber machine guns, while the remainder of the patrol climbed inside.

"I couldn't carry my radio and weapon both - my arm was numb - so my machine gunner fired a burst into the radio to keep the enemy from using it," Sgt. Trotters said. "It was sputtering and flashing as we withdrew."

"I discarded all my empty web gear so I could move quickly and raced for the APC. I got in the last one."

"Looking back we saw a most satisfying sight: Air Force C-47's with gattling guns spraying the enemy."

11 Nov 1966

A's, B's, and C's **2/35th Teaches Cong**

The 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., got little rest here recently as elements of the battalion made contact with North Vietnam Army (NVA) Regulars on three consecutive days.

Co. B engaged an estimated platoon of a NVA reconnaissance element while patrolling outside the battalion perimeter on the first of the three days.

A heated fire fight killed four and wounded one NVA before air strikes and artillery forced the enemy to withdraw.

On the second day, Co. C set up a one-night campsite during a search and destroy mission and was hit by two companies of the North Vietnamese. The enemy's infantry assault was scattered by three batteries of supporting American artillery.

An Air Force AC-47 "Puff, the Magic Dragon" helped the "Tropic Lightning" soldiers carry sporadic fighting into the night.

While "Charlie" Company was counting more than nine North Vietnamese bodies the next morning, Co A moved in to assist and ran into a small enemy force. "Alpha" Company plowed through the NVAs killing one and capturing another.

Days before, Co. A had killed four of an estimated NVA squad and captured several

miles of communication wire and a 7.62 mm Maxim machine gun.

18 Nov 1966

2/9 Scares V.C. for 150,000th Time

Col. James G. Shanahan, 3rd Brigade Task Force commander, recently fired the 150,000th round for the 2nd Bn, 9th Arty, in support of ground operations in the central highlands of Vietnam.

The event came exactly 300 days after Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, commander of all U.S. forces in Vietnam, fired the "Mighty Ninth's" first round on January 2.

That round was the first to be fired in combat by any artillery unit of the 25th Infantry Division since the Korean Conflict.

The artillerymen have averaged 500 rounds a day for the 300-day period.

The 3rd Brigade Task Force recently broke the record for a sustained combat operation by a U.S. Army unit. The record breaker came when Operation "Paul Revere" entered its 166th day.

Batteries A and B of the Mighty Ninth have been in the field continuously since the Record breaking Operation Paul Revere began May 16. Battery C has been in base camp for only six days.

In the field, the battalion has made more than 100 battalion-size air mobile moves since arriving in country.

Lt. Col. Bruce Holbrook, battalion commander, says that as far as he's concerned this is the finest 105mm artillery battalion he's ever seen. According to Col. Holbrook the major artillery innovation over here has been the use of the 6400 mil firing chart 360 degrees which enables the batteries to shoot rapidly in any direction. Technical fire direction is conducted at the battery level with tactical fire direction control at the battalion level.

There are three line batteries and a headquarters and service battery organic to the battalion but it has normally controlled the fires of from nine to 11 batteries. For a short period in July they controlled the fire of 13 batteries. The 150,000 round total, however, was fired only by those batteries organic to the Mighty Ninth.

25 Nov 1966

1/35th Finds Cong Food, Aid Supplies

Co B, 1st Bn, 35th Inf, deprived the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) of large amounts of medical and food supplies during a recent four-day mission.

While on patrol during the first day, elements of the "Cacti Green" came upon a Vietnamese hut. The 3rd platoon moved in to search and secure the area. In the process, they were confronted by two NVA soldiers. A firefight resulted in which both enemy were killed.

After the action, the platoon made a thorough search of the area. The infantrymen discovered a cave containing nine cases of medical supplies (595 bottles of penicillin, 2000cc of dried blood plasma, and two bottles of morphine) 400 pounds of salt and various enemy documents.

Two days later part of the 1st platoon was patrolling the perimeter of their base case camp while the remainder moved ahead. Minutes after they had taken cover, two NVA soldiers came down the path.

Shots rang out, fatally wounding one while the other escaped.

Hearing the shots, the rest of the platoon rushed to the scene. They checked the dead enemy and found two weapons and two packs of rice.

The reconnaissance platoon of HHC, working in the same area, joined with the 1st platoon and the units went after the escaping soldiers.

A 400-yard sweep of the area was made before the escapee could be found. Although he was still armed with two grenades he was apprehended, disarmed and questioned.

The prisoner stated that there were seven other NVA troopers in his group. After the

first contact was made they had separated.

2 Dec 1966

West of Pleiku ***1/35 in 2-Hr. Fight***

Nine North Vietnam Army (NVA) soldiers killed and three tons of rice destroyed was the result of a clash with the enemy in the central highlands, 50 miles west of Pleiku, by members of the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, "Cacti Green".

In a two-hour battle the North Vietnam regulars were routed from a long-time NVA supply depot in the mountainous jungle area, and when the fighting ended, a devastating blow had been dealt their supply line by the 25th Division's 3rd Brigade.

On November 3 a captured NVA soldier was brought to the campsites of the Reconnaissance Platoon. After extensive questioning the prisoner promised to lead the unit to a rice cache which he said was guarded by 13 NVA soldiers. The Recon Platoon immediately began what he described as only a short walk to the rice to check out the prisoner's story.

After being enroute for several hours it was clearly evident that the destination was more than a short walk. The prisoner was questioned again. This time he changed his story and said there was a rice cache all right, but only 200 yards from it was a 40-man NVA fortification.

The 2nd Platoon of Alpha Company was called in to reinforce the Recon Platoon. After their arrival the combined force moved in on the position. The NVA guards spotted their approach and opened fire.

With the NVA fortification definitely located, artillery was called in on the position. At the same time the Co A element moved around to the left of the position, and elements of the Recon Platoon moved to the rice cache and destroyed the estimated three tons of rice.



AID - Four men of the 3rd Brigade Task Force rush a wounded comrade to medical facilities at the brigade's forward command post. The soldier was wounded in the field only 12 minutes before the photo was taken, attesting to the speed and efficiency of helicopter medical evacuation

9 Dec 1966

1/35th Guns Down 24 Cong in Week's Action

North Vietnamese units operating in the 1st Bn., 35th Inf., area have found the going increasingly tough. Within the last week the battalion has accounted for 24 enemy

soldiers killed and another five captured.

The battalion made contact with the enemy every day last week. Friendly casualties were extremely light. In addition to the enemy killed, the "Cacti Green" captured an impressive array of weapons, ammunition and other equipment.

Lt. Col. Robert Kingston, battalion commander, said that wherever his units go, there are signs that large enemy units have pulled out of the area shortly before.

Co A, Co B and the Reconnaissance Platoon along with Co. B of the 1st Bn, 22nd Inf, have teamed up with artillery and air strikes to keep "Charlie" on the move.

They have found many blood trails and a great deal of enemy equipment, all of which, according to Col. Kingston indicated that the NVA units were trying to abandon the area.

One "Cacti Green" officer emphasized that they are now running into the enemy's main units, recon platoons and infantry squads, as well as support elements. On November 25 they came across a huge bunker complex of more than 200 bunkers.

23 Dec 1966

Grenades Do It **NVA Bunker Blasted**

"It's miraculous, nobody's hit." That was Lt. Frank White's answer to his company commander after the lieutenant and two men from his platoon had been pinned down for 50 minutes only 15 feet from a North Vietnamese Army machine gun firing from a bunker.

Lt. White, 23, Bronx, N.Y., is platoon leader of Co B, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf. Along with his radio-telephone operator PFC Edward Crawford, 19, of Shelton, Wash., and PFC Alva Wilson of Lake City, S.C., a rifleman, Lt. White had gone some 30 yards in front of the platoon to check out the bunker.

The trio was only 15 feet from the emplacement when the machine gun opened up on them and they were unable to turn back.

During the 50 minutes that they were pinned down about one thousand rounds were fired at them. The rounds landed all around them but miraculously no one was hit.

The company commander called Lt. White and asked him where he wanted air strikes to hit. The platoon leader replied, "About 65 yards from where I am." Four jets came in but the air strike failed to knock out the enemy bunker. PFC Wilson's grenade launcher wouldn't effectively demolish the bunker either.

Lt. White told the two men to cover him so that he could hit the bunker. PFC Wilson said. "No, I'll get it with a grenade," and charged the bunker under protective fire from the other two men. He hurled two hand grenades into the bunker, knocking it out."



THE LIVING AIN'T EASY - Men of the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, "Cacti Green" take time out during a lull in the fighting to get some fishing done from an improvised bridge near Pleiku. (Photo by Sgt. Michael N. Horowitz)

Charlie Snubs Sergeant; Sergeant Snubs Charlie

In Vietnam, you expect the unexpected. Sgt. Larry Styden, 20, of Gurnee, Ill., therefore, was ready for anything as his squad and the rest of the 3rd Platoon from Co B, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf, was moving on line through suspected enemy territory.

After taking ten steps through the dense vegetation he found himself about six feet from two North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers and proceeded to end their Army career with a 20-round blast from his rifle. Then he dove behind a tree.

When he was behind the tree he stuck his head out and yelled, "Charlie, Charlie, you still have a chance to surrender."

Almost before he finished speaking a 40-round burst from an NVA machine gun hit the tree. Several splinters hit Sgt. Styden, but that was the extent of his injuries.

As soon as Sgt. Styden had pulled back to the line, Sp4 Thomas Coleman, 20, of Scottsburg, Va., moved over to the platoon leader and waited for the command to fire his machine gun.

When he was ready to fire he raised himself off the ground and called out "Charlie don't start no stuff and there won't be no stuff." Then a machine gun burst hit three inches above his head. He dropped down and fired a 250-round burst killing one NVA.

The fire fight went on for three more hours before the enemy broke contact. Both Sgt. Styden and Sp4 Coleman decided after the encounter that they weren't going to be on speaking terms with "Charlie" anymore.

Ky Awards Two Commanders at Pleiku



A Day for the Broncos

Premier Ky pins Vietnam's highest award on. Col. James G. Shanahan (l), and Lt. Col. Gilbert Proctor (r).

Col. James G. Shanahan, commander of the division's 3rd Brigade, received the Gallantry Cross with Palm, Vietnamese National Order 5th Class, the highest award presented by the South Vietnamese government to a foreign soldier.

Also presented the award was Lt. Col. Gilbert Proctor Jr., commander of the 1st Bn, 14th Inf., Golden Dragons, serving in the 3rd Brigade Task Force.

Premier Nguyen Cao Ky presented the two awards to Col. Shanahan and Col. Proctor in

a formal ceremony at the division's 3rd Brigade Task Force forward command post. The awards were given for their outstanding command and control of their respective units and their gallant service and significant contribution to South Vietnamese success against the North Vietnamese Army in the central highlands during Operation "Paul Revere IV".

Speaking as a fighter and not as a politician, Premier Ky said that with his halting English, he could never express his gratitude to the American soldiers for their tremendous sacrifice.

"I want to meet soldiers from all allied nations fighting this war more often," he said. "It is a great thing you are doing for the Vietnamese people, for America, and for history," he concluded.

3rd Brigade Accomplishes Mission...

On December 10, 1965, the 25th Infantry Division, then stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, received the order to deploy to Vietnam.

On December 24, while the main force of the division prepared to move out by sea, Air Force Military Airlift Command planes began transporting the 3rd Bde's more than 2000 tons of men and equipment to the northern province of Pleiku located in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

Commanded by Col. Everette A. Stoutner, the 3rd Bde. established a foothold in this unfriendly terrain and created a blocking force against Viet Cong personnel and supplies infiltrating south along the Ho Cut Minh Trail and the Cambodian border. Their primary mission was to destroy any possible crossing sites along the frontier and disrupt any attempts by the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) to conduct major combat efforts in the Central Highlands.

During the next two months, the 3rd Bde began to open supply routes to its base camp of operations. Their objective was accomplished through Operations "Kamehameha" and "Taylor," which opened up the communist controlled Highway 19 allowing the much-needed supplies and equipment to reach them from the coastal port city of Qui Nhon.

Continuous clashes with Viet Cong and NVA units marked the passing of the next few months. Operation "Garfield," which began on February 25, netted 111 dead communists, 12 captured and a total of 78 suspects detained before it was terminated on March 24.

"Helping Hand" Civic Action programs were begun by the division in connection with their combat operations. In Pleiku, the 3rd Bde brought aid and relief to the primitive and war impoverished Montagnard tribesmen in the form of food, clothing, tools, medicine and the best available medical care that the Army could offer.

Weapons

The Montagnard people were introduced to modern weapons and were given instructions in their use so as to be able to protect their lands and their families against the invaders from the north.

Brig. Gen. Glenn D. Walker took command of the brigade in April.

On May 10, the 3rd Bde launched the first phase of what was to become the longest sustained combat action in the Vietnam war and in the history of the U.S. Army - Operation "Paul Revere."

The brigade commenced sweeping the Ia Drang Valley receiving only light resistance during the first few weeks of Paul Revere I. However, several clashes with units of the NVA in the later part of July began building an enemy death toll that climbed to a total of 56 dead and 68 captured when Phase I ended on July 31.



Given A Mission



The Victims of War



Evacuating the Wounded



Searching for Charlie



A Letter From Home



Awaiting the Enemy



Reinforcements



Suspects Detained

...Locate and Destroy the Viet Cong

Not limited to its own resources, the 3rd Bde Task Force teamed up with the 1st Cav Div., (Airmobile) and on August 1, the second phase of Operation Paul Revere began.

Encounters

Repeated and fierce encounters with NVA units marked this phase of the operation. Fighting raged through various areas of the Central Highland region. Hundreds of the enemy were killed, countless small arms, automatic weapons and crew served weapons and ammunition were captured. Tons of rice and other food products as well as medical supplies were denied the enemy.

Operation Paul Revere II, phased into Paul Revere III and in mid-September as Phase III came to an end, the Viet Cong's monsoon offensive had been deterred with a great loss of men, equipment and morale in their ranks.

On October 20 as Phase IV of Paul Revere swung into full gear, Col. James G. Shanahan assumed command of the 3rd Bde from Gen Walker who became the assistant division commander of the 4th Inf. Div. Under the guidance of a new commander the "Broncos" continued to battle with the communist forces attempting to filter into the the south. Now in its 73 day, Phase IV has accounted for more than 964 enemy dead, 87 captured and 104 suspects detained.

Paul Revere goes into its 234th day today.



Search for and Destroy the V.C.



A Pause in the Jungle



A Captured Viet Cong



Battlefield Rescue



The Bonds of Friendship



Receiving Medical Help



The Search Never Ends



VC Rice Cache



Entertainment