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20 Jan 1967

Col. Kingston, 1/35 CO, Awarded DSC

The Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest award for valor, was presented to Lt. Col. Robert C. Kingston, commanding officer of the 1st Bn., 35th Inf. "Cacti Green," 3rd Brigade Task Force.

The presentation was made by Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff, at a brief ceremony during his recent visit to Pleiku.

Col. Kingston was cited for valorous actions in Vietnam's central highlands while participating in Operation "Paul Revere IV."

On November 22, two of the "Cacti Green" companies made contact with the forward positions of an enemy North Vietnam Army (NVA) battalion. Col. Kingston immediately landed by helicopter and assumed control of ground operations.

The lead company was pinned down by intense automatic weapons fire that evening. Col. Kingston charged a wounded enemy soldier and wrestled a weapon from him. And while firing the captured weapon he led an assault on the enemy positions with such intensity that it forced them to flee.

Throughout the fierce, three-day battle, Col. Kingston exposed himself to hostile fire, encouraged his troops and directed air artillery support.

Pleiku Ceremonies SS Awarded to Four

The Silver Star, the Army's third highest award for valor, was awarded to four men of the 3rd Brigade Task Force for heroic actions in recent operations against the enemy in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

The presentations were made by Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, commander of all U.S. forces in Vietnam, and Maj. Gen. Arthur S. Collins, commander of the 4th Inf., during recent ceremonies held in Pleiku.

The four awards went to 1st Lt. Marcel A. Guidry, 1st Bn, 14th Inf.; SSgt. Gary M. Stickles, 1st Bn., 35th Inf.; PFC William F. Thornton, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., and PFC William H. Sanderson, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf.

Lt. Guidry

Lt. Guidry was cited for heroism and courageous devotion to duty while under intense enemy fire during a search and destroy mission in the central highlands of Vietnam.

Immediately upon coming under fire, Lt. Guidry aggressively organized his forces to maneuver against the well-entrenched enemy and set up a base of fire. When the din became too loud to communicate with his squad leaders, he ran from squad to squad through a hail of bullets to give

orders.

Late in the battle, the company commander was seriously wounded. As soon as he heard of this, the lieutenant took command of the company. He organized his platoons to withdraw and evacuate all casualties. When radio communications were lost, he braved oppressive fire to seek out the platoon leaders to give them instructions.

While leading an evacuation party Lt. Guidry was wounded by grenade fragments but refused to be evacuated. While wounded he led a maneuver force to destroy an enemy sniper hampering the evacuation and positioned his men to secure an adequate corridor for evacuation of other casualties.

Late that night after the fighting had ceased, Lt. Guidry organized the company into a defensive perimeter and only then accepted medical treatment.

Sgt. Stickles

Sgt. Stickles was cited for his extraordinary heroism against a numerically superior force of Viet Cong while serving as a squad leader during a search and destroy mission near Trang Duc.

Moving toward their objective, the lead platoon received intense enemy fire. In attempting to assist the beleaguered platoon, Sgt. Stickles' unit was engaged with a reinforced Viet Cong company and sustained several casualties. Aided by two members of his squad Sgt. Stickles, on three separate occasions, moved through the bullet-swept area to rescue a wounded comrade.

The wounded were then placed in a armored personnel carrier for evacuation and during the course of the action the carrier was hit by a Viet Cong anti-tank weapon and burst into flames. One man jumped from the vehicle afire with burning gasoline. Sgt. Stickles ran to his colleague, tackled him and smothered the flames. He then ran back to the burning vehicle, pulled out another wounded man that was trapped inside and carried him to safety. Although wounded in the process, Sgt. Stickles continued to lead his squad as they fought their way to a landing zone where the wounded were evacuated.

PFC Thornton

PFC Thornton was cited for heroism while serving as a medic with the 1st Bn., 35th Inf., during Operation "Paul Revere" in the Ia Drang River Valley.

When his unit was hit by intense hostile fire and sustained several casualties, PFC Thornton was called forward to administer first aid to two seriously wounded soldiers.

With complete disregard for his own safety, PFC Thornton crawled forward while exposed to oppressive enemy fire and successfully administered medical treatment to his stricken comrades.

On another occasion, PFC Thornton crawled within 15 feet of a fortified North Vietnamese Army position and evacuated a wounded soldier.

Throughout the fierce battle, his courage saved the lives of many soldiers and inspired his comrades to seize the initiative and rout the NVA force.

PFC Sanderson

PFC Sanderson was cited for heroism while serving as a medic with the 2/35th Infantry during Operation "Paul Revere III."

While moving toward its objective, PFC Sanderson's platoon was hit by intense hostile fire from a large fortified North Vietnamese Army force, and immediately the left flank security suffered four casualties.

With complete disregard for his own safety, PFC Sanderson moved through the bullet-swept area to render first aid fallen comrades. Finding the first three mortally wounded, he pressed on to the fourth to administer aid. While treating the wounded man, he was hit twice by sniper fire. Realizing he could not adequately administer first aid from that position, PFC Sanderson dragged his wounded comrade to a covered position and in the process was hit once again.

During the entire battle, PFC Sanderson, although in great pain, assisted the wounded. Through

his courageous efforts, he contributed immeasurably to the unit's success.

Lt. Col. Clinton Granger Assumes Command of 2/35th at Pleiku

Lt. Col. Clinton E. Granger Jr., of Champaign, Ill., assumed command of the 2nd Bn, 35th Inf., "Cacti Blue", at a recent change of command ceremony.

He replaces Lt. Col. Philip R. Feir, who commanded the "Cacti Blue" for the last eight months. Col. Feir departed to assume duties at the Office of Personnel Operations in Washington, D. C..

Col. Granger was previously the brigade deputy commander.

In January of 1996 he first arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to II Field Force, Vietnam, on the Secretary General's Staff. In August, he became the liaison officer and then went on to become the special assistant to the chief of staff.

During the Korean War, Col. Granger served with the 279th Inf. as a platoon leader and later became a company commander. He took part in the Korean Summer-Fall 1952, the 3rd Korean Winter and the Korean Summer-Fall 1953 campaigns.

From Sept. 1953 through June 1956, Col. Granger was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, with a variety of duties. These ranged from being a company commander with the 702nd Airborne Infantry Brigade to being assigned as liaison officer with the chief of staff for the 1st Armored Division.

Col. Granger is a graduate of the U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point, he has completed the basic and career courses at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., and he graduated from the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in 1962.

His decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge with one star and Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster.

In his farewell speech, Col. Feir made the following comments:

"Today it's my sad duty to relinquish command of such a great fighting maneuver battalion."

"To say that I do so with a great deal of reluctance would be the understatement of the New Year."

Following Col. Feir was the new Cacti Blue commander, who spoke briefly to the assembled battalion.

27 Feb 1967

VC Hospital Housed Top Facilities

"Outside of the extremely unsanitary condition they operate in, their medical facilities are surprisingly good," observed PFC James L. Brown, a member of the 1st Bn., 35th Inf., Reconnaissance Platoon, as they uncovered a VC underground hospital facility.

PFC Brown, a line medic, took professional interest in the hospital section of the cave complex his platoon was securing and exploring.

Among the items PFC Brown discovered in the natural caves were U.S.-manufactured penicillin syringes full of anti-tetanus serum from the Soviet Union and numerous medical pamphlets and instruction books in Vietnamese.

"We also found a stone slab that was evidently used as an operating table," said PFC Brown, "but the surgical instruments were gone."

6 March 1967

13 VC Slain Near Bong Son

Units of the 3rd Brigade Task Force and the 1st Cav. Div. (Airmobile), continued Operation "Pershing" north of Bong Son.

Military spokesmen reported 13 enemy killed during light, scattered actions in the operation area on

the plains, 20 km north-northwest of Bong Son.

Units continued to locate and destroy caves and tunnels and other enemy hiding places. An element of the 1st Cav. Div. received several rounds of enemy small arms fire while on perimeter guard at English Airfield. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown.

Since Operation Pershing began on February 12, 235 enemy have been killed, 260 persons detained, and 83 individual and five crew-served weapons seized. Strike pilots have flown 185 sorties in support of the combined ground-air operation. Friendly casualties were reported as light.

Other actions in the Central Highland Region of Vietnam, uncovered an enemy arms and equipment cache in a native hut. The find occurred when a company of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, a part of Operation "Sam Houston," swept through an area of Kontum Province, 57 km west of Pleiku City.

The cache included three 60mm mortars, four light machine guns and large quantities of assorted ammunition and equipment. No friendly casualties were reported.

1/35th Lieutenant Wins Silver Star

1st Lt. William H. Dalehite, of the 1st Bn., 35th Inf., "Cacti Green" was presented the Silver Star by Maj. Gen. John Norton, commander of the 1st . Air Cav. Div., at an awards ceremony held at the battalion's forward command post last week.

The Army's third highest award for valor was awarded Lt. Dalehite for heroism while serving with the Cacti Green on Operation "Paul Revere IV" in the mountainous regions near the Cambodian border.

While operating on a search and destroy mission, Lt. Dalehite immediately organized, maintained and directed an assault on the enemy.

In order to properly organize his assault, he exposed himself to the heavy automatic rifle fire from the trees to his front and from the bunkers.

Discovering that two of his men were wounded and lying in an exposed position, Lt. Dalehite took immediate action.

He personally led the platoon medic to the two wounded men and covered their position in the process. Immediately after the wounded had been secured, Lt. Dalehite renewed his platoon's attack at the center position from which the heaviest enemy fire was coming.

13 March 1967

Gomit Pied Piper Strikes 'Em Clean

The Pied Piper struck in the resettlement hamlet of Gomit recently, but this time he brought all the children back, safe, sound and clean.

Capt. Kenneth Barton, civil affairs officer for the division's 1st Bn., 35th Inf., was trying a new tactic to improve personal hygiene in the tiny refugee camp near the 3rd Bde.'s forward command post.

On this visit to the camp, Capt. Barton took soap and candy in his pockets and a trick up his sleeve. He gave each child a bar of soap and told the group to follow him. He walked straight to the nearest water hole and began washing his hands and face. The children quickly caught on and followed suit.

Capt. Barton helped the smaller children with the unfamiliar joys of washing, and soon there was nothing but glistening skin in the water hole. As each child emerged and dried, he received a piece of candy as a reward.

Capt. Barton, who was as wet as any of the children, and most probably had more fun, said "The

kids really needed the soap - they had a lot of sores."

Capt. Barton feels the "Pied Piper" tactic was a success and plans to use it in the future to get all the people - young and old - to become interested in keeping themselves clean.

20 March 1967

NVA Soldier Surrenders to 1 /35th, Becomes 'Pershing's' 11th Chieu Hoi

A North Vietnamese Army soldier (NVA) carrying an automatic weapon recently became the 11th "Chieu Hoi" returnee to surrender himself to the division's 1st Bn., 35th Inf., since the beginning of Operation "Pershing."

The incident occurred as the men of Co. C were making a helicopter assault during the operation. As the choppers were making their landing approach, Maj. Garold L. Tippen, battalion operation officer, noticed a person in an open clearing attempting to attract the attention of the helicopter pilots. Maj. Tippen decided to go down for a better look.

A closer look at the man revealed he had a weapon in his possession but his continued efforts to get their attention led them to believe he wanted to give himself up.

Maj. Tippen said, "I knew that we could probably obtain important information from this man so I decided to take a chance and pick him up. The clearing was almost too small for the helicopter to get in," Maj. Tippen said.

The returnee later admitted to being an NVA and supplied the battalion intelligence section with information about the location of a mortar crew that was set up near the area where he was found. The NVA went on to say he had become discouraged with the war effort being made by the North and wanted to stop fighting.

3 Apr 1967

'Cacti Green' Score on Operation 'Pershing'

The 1st Bn., 35th Inf., "Cacti Green," in conjunction with elements of the 1st Air Cav, conducted the most successful search and destroy maneuver thus far in Operation "Pershing," killing 84 NVA and seizing 34 weapons.

Col. James G. Shanahan, the brigade commander and combat veteran of two previous wars, praised the battalion's action. "The execution of the 'Hammer and Anvil' operation was a tactical masterpiece," he said.

A reconnaissance helicopter from Trp. C of the 9th Cav. initiated the contact when it spotted a man enter a bunker near Hoa Tan. When the chopper landed to pick up the man for questioning, it received enemy fire, and a platoon of cavalymen were brought in.

Trps A and B from 2nd of the 5th Cav. and Cos. A and C of the "Cacti Green" were placed on key terrain to block the escape of the enemy force while Co. B maneuvered to sweep the area.

In applying the "Hammer and Anvil" operation with Co. B as the hammer, the "Cacti Green" launched an attack that overwhelmed the enemy.

With darkness approaching, the lack of visibility forced Co. B to withdraw, and establish blocking positions. All during the night, artillery and air strikes continued to "hammer" the village. More than 600 rounds of artillery landed on the village during the operation.

At daylight, Co. B moved in again, but encountered only sniper fire. A complete sweep of the village was made and 80 villagers were evacuated for questioning. A police of the battlefield revealed 84 NVA bodies and indications that many more had been dragged away.

Maj. James Moore, Jr., the "Cacti Green" commander, praised the aggressive fighting spirit of the "Cacti Green" and constant support from Trp. C of the 9th Cav.

Maj. Moore stated that a battalion size force had probably been put out of action, and all the men of the "Cacti Green" are to be congratulated on their outstanding accomplishment.

Stephen Peck

Sp4 Stephen Peck was a very unique individual and the men of Co. B, 1st Bn., 35th Inf., will miss him. Specialist Peck had courage; not the kind of courage that comes on all of a sudden when the going gets rough, but the kind of courage that keeps a man smiling over every miserable, thankless mile of the daily march from tedium to apathy and back again.

Specialist Peck's brand of courage was contagious. He infected everyone he met with his hope, his self-assurance, his lust for life. All these things he put into a poem that he liked to recite for his friends:

Do you fear the force of the wind,
Go face them and fight them,
Be savage again!
Go cold and hungry like the wolf;
Go wade in the streams like the crane.
The palms of your hands will thicken,
The cheeks of your face will tan.
You'll grow ragged and weary and swarthy,
But you'll walk like a man.

Stephen Peck was a young man, a poet and a soldier, and now he is dead, the victim of a sniper's bullet near Pleiku recently.

His life was neither bathed in riches, steeped in fame nor covered with glory, but he still walked like a man.



10 April 1967

'Cacti Blue' Men Kill 61 NVA On Operation 'Sam Houston'

The 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., "Cacti Blue," under the operational control of the 4th Inf. Div., encountered two North Vietnamese Army (NVA) battalions west of the Se San River near Plei Djereng, while participating in Operation "Sam Houston."

Their action was the second major contact made by elements of the 3rd Bde. Task Force in the last two weeks.

The incident occurred when Co. A of the Cacti Blue battalion left their base camp on a southwestern course to investigate a recent B-52 air strike.

About 9:30 a.m. the 1st Plt. made contact with NVA snipers hiding in trees and fortified bunkers. They shot one NVA and in turn were pinned down by automatic weapon fire from the bunker position. The 3rd Plt. maneuvered left and also made contact, but was not able to penetrate the enemy defense. Artillery was called in by Co. A, but it remained pinned down by the NVA.

Two other companies were helilifted to nearby landing zones in order to assist the besieged company. At 10:30 p.m. contact with the enemy began to dwindle and artillery fire was called in once again to block their retreating movement.

The next morning Co. A conducted a sweep of the NVA base camp and Capt. Luis Barcena,

company commander, found that the NVA had managed to escape during the night. A search of the battlefield yielded a total of 61 enemy bodies, numerous small arms and assorted equipment.

The extensive bunker system uncovered by the Cacti Blue was actually interlocking base camps with handrails connecting the bunkers so the NVA could move from one bunker to the other without straying outside the perimeter.

Col. Clinton E. Granger, battalion commander, who was on the ground through most of the fighting said afterward: "The 18-hour battle took place in some of the roughest jungle terrain in Vietnam and was characterized by vicious close fighting. All the men - infantry, artillery and gun ships - did a terrific job."

1 May 1967

**ONLY HER
HAIRDRESSER** - Red
Cross representative
Shelley Stimson just wanted
to cool off, but is subjected
to full "Cacti Blue" wash
treatment including
shampoo. She was visiting
the 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. which
is on Operation
"Pershing." (Photo by 1st
Lt. Peter Wascher)



VC Hit CP

Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 35th Inf. and the 2nd Bn., 9th Arty. had the scare of their lives when a Viet Cong mine detonated in the center of their forward command post.

Although the command-detonated mine blew a hole five feet deep and 10 feet wide and sent shrapnel flying throughout the CP, scratches and bruises were the only injuries taken.

Men of Alpha Btry., 2nd Bn., 9th Arty., who were bunked on top of the bomb, had been called to their posts for a fire mission seconds before the explosion occurred.

The 250-pound bomb and 105mm rounds - believed to be U.S. ammunition which failed to explode when it was dropped into a nearby VC stronghold a week earlier - had been buried prior to the "Cacti Green's" arrival in the landing zone.

MSgt. Francis G. Corcoran, who traced the wire leading from the bomb to where it had been detonated, said the VC had taken great pains to conceal the wire and bombs.

14 Girls Saved

Quick action by medic Larry A. Flanagan saved the lives of 14 teen-age girls in My Tho village who were wounded when a combination grenade-claymore mine booby trap was accidentally tripped.

PFC Flanagan, in the village with the Civil Affairs Team of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Inf. Div., was summoned by a panting ARVN soldier.

When Flanagan and 2nd Lt. John D. Reynolds, the civil affairs officer, arrived, they found four children dead and another 15 seriously wounded.

Flanagan set to work. When he had used all his tourniquets and blood expander, the ARVNs offered their belts and clothing for use as tourniquets.

8 May 1967

RTO Receives Silver Star

BONG SON - Two weeks after he earned it, SP4 John M. Mucci of Chelsea, Mass., received the Silver Star in a brief ceremony at the 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div., base camp.

MG Leland Cagwin pinned the award on the 20-yr-old team leader's jacket and congratulated him for his courage and gallantry in action.

Mucci was radio-telephone operator for the company commander of Charlie Company when his unit made contact with a North Vietnamese reinforced battalion west of Pleiku.

The company commander was seriously wounded early in the fight, and Mucci pulled his stricken commander to cover and provided him with medical treatment and protective fire. He established and maintained radio contact with the battalion commander and kept him informed of the tactical situation during the ensuing battle.

On several attempts by the NVA to overrun their position, Mucci personally engaged the enemy with hand grenade and rifle fire.

15 May 1967

3rd Bde. Kills 45 VC in Operation 'Oregon'

DUK PHO - In the first seven hours of Task Force "Oregon," the 3rd Bde. Task Force, 25th Inf. Div. killed 45 Viet Cong in a battle on the coast near here.

Thirty VC were killed by 1st Bn., 35th Inf., "Cacti Green" automatic weapons fire, and 15 more by artillery fire thrown into the area.

Five U.S. soldiers were injured, none seriously.

The "Bronco" Brigade, after completing Operation "Pershing" south of Bong Son and after participating in the final two days of Operation "Lejeune," closed in on the Duc Pho area by air and sea April 19 to begin Oregon.

The brigade's sea assault was the first of Task Force Oregon. It initiated one of the rare sea resupply routes (Qui Nhon to Duc Pho) established by the Army during the Vietnam War.

Earlier, on April 16, the 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. was the first element of the 25th Div. to battle VC in Duc Pho District, killing 43 and suffering only one slightly wounded U.S. casualty.

District intelligence sources estimate the population around Duc Pho District to be 75 per cent Communist, an indication that Duc Pho should occupy U.S. forces for quite awhile.

Oregon is being conducted near Duc Pho in I Corps area. MG William B. Rosson is commanding general of the Task Force.

LZ Shoupe Built Over VC Tunnel

DUC PHO - Alpha Company, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. has been under constant enemy fire from all sides and potentially from below ever since they landed in LZ Shoupe a week ago.

It was discovered Wednesday, two days after Co. A had been at Shoupe, that Shoupe itself is located on top of a vacated VC tunnel complex. Five entrances to the tunnel were discovered, one of which was outside the perimeter.

Cpt Luis Barcena, of Miami, Fla., has made constant use of air and artillery fires to act on numerous sightings of VC in this area where 75 per cent of the population is VC. Twelve Viet Cong were killed by direct hits from 105 mm rounds and two more direct hits on bunkers caused secondary explosions, destroying VC stored ammunition, as artillery fire was brought in on a presumed vacated VC base camp Thursday.

The "Cacti Blue" have made themselves right at home as they now utilize the bunkers built by the VC around the complex for their own defensive use.

Basic Skills Re-taught

DUC PHO - Always trying to improve their "batting average" the 1st Bn., 35th Inf. has started a small unit combat leader course.

"We plan on having one class every month in an effort to re-emphasize the basic skills of the infantry and to train future fire team leaders," said MAJ James E. Moore Jr., the "Cacti Green" commander. "The enthusiasm demonstrated by the students indicates to me that they appreciate the course and think it's valuable."

Students selected for these classes have been in combat situations and are judged to be squad leader material.

SP4 Jerry L. Young from Baltimore, part-time point man for Co. B, thinks "These classes are helpful; they refresh my memory on procedures that can win battles and save lives."

Another student, Eugene T. Harris Jr., from Glenolden, Pa., a rifleman in Co. A, said, "I have learned some practical things I was never taught in A.I.T. and I'm going to pass on all this information to the other members of my unit."

Most of the classes are a review of skills the soldiers had learned in either basic training or Advanced Individual Training. Courses include: map reading, ambushes, immediate reaction drills, identification of booby traps, combat assaults and extraction procedures. In addition, other classes, such as forward observing procedures (F.O.), introduce new skills which were not covered in stateside training.

Operation Over Lightning Wraps Up 'Pershing'

DUC PHO - After 66 days of ceaseless patrolling in sand, rice paddies, jungle and up 60-degree-inclined slopes in 106-degree heat, the 3rd Bde. Task Force, 25th Inf. Div. wrapped up Operation "Pershing" at noon on April 19.

"Pershing" was not the brigade's longest operation, nor did it include the heaviest fighting the brigade has been in. "Pershing" did however, see the 3rd Bde. clear the NVA and VC from northern Binh Dinh Province, an area the enemy had been able to call home for a decade, in eight weeks time.

"Tropic Lightning" represented by two battalions, had the biggest area of operation for the longest time of any similar sized unit on "Pershing".

The "Cacti Green" concentrated on the Nui Mieu and Crescent areas, but, according to their liaison

officer to brigade, 1LT Lawrence Connor, they managed to also patrol in and around Nui Gop Trat Mountain and the 506 Valley. On March 6 and 7 they engaged elements of an NVA battalion at Hoa Tan in the northern Crescent area, killing 81 in what was the brigade's largest battle during "Pershing".

The 1st Bn., 14th Inf. continued to patrol and control the lower Soui Ca as they had during "Thayer II." The "Golden Dragons" emphasized ambush and deception tactics. CPT Scott's "Can B Done" Company heli-assaulted into LZ "Corral" in February where they engaged an NVA company which could not be persuaded to stay and fight. It is believed to have been the battalion's biggest engagement of "Pershing".

Co. D, 65th Engrs. accomplished a "first" in "Pershing" in opening Highway 506, a dirt road that cuts through the hostile 506 Valley. They were consistently harassed by enemy sniper fire, mines and once by an NVA platoon. Their attempt marked the third engineer try to open the road.

On "Pershing" the brigade mixed civic action and military tactics more deliberately and conscientiously than ever before. Coordination was made with ARVN units and district on a daily basis. Before a U.S. unit moved out of an area, co-ordination was made with the ARVNs, so control of the area would not slip and so projects could maintain their momentum.

Close Call **Luck About to Change – Hopefully**

DUC PHO - SGT James A.Hull, five-time recipient of the Purple Heart, has had his share of ups and downs. He had received four Purple Hearts for actions in Korea, and three weeks after he arrived in Vietnam he was in the hospital with malaria.

He returned to his unit, Co. B, 1st Bn., 35th Inf. (the same Battalion he was with in Korea) only to trip a Viet Cong boobytrap. Wounds from the shrapnel sent him back to the hospital where he was, presented his fifth Purple Heart.

Resolved to give a little instead of take so much, SGT Hull went back to his unit for a third time. A week later, as he sat behind a clump of brush reading a letter, three laughing North Vietnamese Army regulars, who were obviously returning from a fishing trip, approached him.

Hull opened up and brought them to the ground with a burst from his M-16.

His latest incident was with a 150-pound test fishing line found tied to a bridge.

"This isn't anything but a fishing cord," Hull said as he brushed against the line.

Nothing happened.

After four minutes of tracing the line, Co. B came to the other end and a hand grenade attached to a 500 pound bomb.

With a sigh of relief because he hadn't tripped the boobytrap, Hull said "Maybe my luck is about to change!"

29 May 1967

3rd Bde., 25th Infantry Division = 1 Year

DUC PHO - On May 10 the 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div. completed its 365th consecutive day of combat operations. In 12 months the Bronco Bde., which has the motto "None Better," has never left the field of combat.

They have sloshed through rice paddies, climbed forested, precipitous mountains, waded rivers and endured torrential rain, mosquitoes, rotor-blasted dust, monsoon mud and unbearable heat over the past 52 weeks.

Since May 10, 1966, they have participated in 129 battalion-size and 16 brigade-size assaults. They have fought the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong in seven different operations ranging from Kontum to Darlac on the Cambodian Border and from Qui Nhon to Duc Pho on the South China Sea.

They have battled in the swampy, densely vegetated Ia Drang Valley, in the triple-canopied, virgin forests north of Plei Djereng, where sunlight never reaches the forest floor and on the sands of the hot South China Sea coast.

They have waded through rice paddies from Qui Nhon to Duc Pho and repeatedly searched caves in the mountains, sniper holes and trenches in the villages along the way.

Before Operation "Baker" began on April 22, the Bronco Bde. had rid Vietnam of 2196 North Vietnamese Army regulars and Viet Cong by confirmed body count and captured 1437 of their weapons for one of the best weapon-to-body count records in Vietnam. Since the beginning of Operation Baker they have added another 234 enemy killed in action to their already impressive record.

From May to October - except for a three week period in August - they were the only U.S. force between five North Vietnamese Army regiments and their objectives around Pleiku. They made numerous contacts with enemy units of battalion size or larger in that four month period of "Paul Revere," each time sending the NVA scurrying west to escape.

In October, while still on Revere, the brigade displaced north to Plei Djereng where the NVA were reported to be massing in the mountains. Five times the brigade made contact with enemy battalions. Twice they overran NVA regimental base camps, earning the highest weapons captured count to confirmed body count recorded as of that time.

Two hundred and thirty days and 1466 dead NVA later Paul Revere came to a close, concluding the longest single operation in U.S. Army history.

The brigade started the new year in a new area of operation.

Without returning to base camp for a rest or standdown, the 3rd Bde. of the "Tropic Lightning" Div. moved over 100 miles on Highways 19 and 1 to Phu Cat leaving one battalion still fighting in Pleiku Province. There the brigade joined the 1st Cav. Div. (Airmobile) on Operation "Thayer II" to force the NVA out of the rich coastal ricelands.

By constant patrolling they sufficiently agitated the Viet Cong so that the enemy had to focus his efforts on staying alive. The enemy lost the offensive and his operation deteriorated.

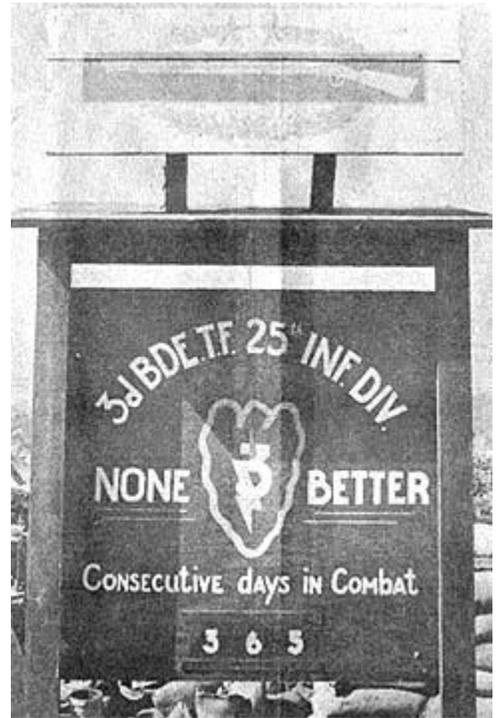
In addition, the Bronco Bde. located the Communist Binh Dinh provincial headquarters, seizing NVA weapons, ammunition, flags, hospital administrative supplies and large amounts of documents that proved highly useful intelligence sources.

In February, the 3rd Bde. Task Force attacked north and Operation "Pershing" began, a continuance of the same programs in another more vital, more strongly VC-held area. Especially in the Crescent Valley, an area rich in rice and salt, the enemy was reluctant to leave. He attacked in battalion strength at the Village of Hoa Tan, but scurried into the mountains the next morning leaving 81 dead comrades, numerous machine guns, anti-tank rocket launchers and rifles behind.

On April 19 the brigade massed an air and sea lift and jumped deep into Viet Cong territory. They landed at Duc Pho and began operations immediately, this time on Operation "Le Juene."

The commanding general of the 1st Cav. Div. attested to the 3rd Bde.'s effectiveness in a message which read in part:

"Through the inspiring leadership of its officers and non-commissioned officers, and the resolute determination of its courageous soldiers, the 3rd Bde., 25th Div. has received laurels not normally



awarded units of this size and has clearly merited the retention of its motto, 'None Better'."

Still on Operation Baker, the brigade is now part of the multi-brigade Task Force Oregon.

This brigade of the 25th Inf. Div. is unique in Vietnam. It fought as a separate brigade under the operational control of I Field Forces, the 4th Inf. Div., 1st Cav. Div. and Task Force Oregon but never under the 25th Div.

Its overall reenlistment rate of 54 per cent for April tops any other in Vietnam. Also from January thru April, 100 per cent of the Bde.'s Regular Army personnel eligible for reenlistment have reenlisted and stayed in Vietnam to fight with the unit.

Throughout the previous operations in which the 3rd Bde. Task Force has participated over the past year, they have maintained one of the best enemy-to-friendly loss ratios of any unit in Vietnam.

COL James G. Shanahan, the brigade commander, and a veteran of three wars, who was with the 25th Div. as a platoon leader and a company commander during World War II, and a battalion commander in the Korean War, believes the last year has been a profitable one for his brigade.

"We've fought and defeated the enemy throughout the highlands and for 150 miles along the South China Sea. I think the situation has vastly improved, partially because of the brigade's gallant efforts. We have proven to ourselves everyday for the last 365 that we can defeat the enemy in battle and it appears we may be convincing him of that fact also.

"Vietnam has been saved from the NVA. The enemy seems to be fighting a retrograde action with an occasional well planned but desperate attempt to regain lost control.

"The job has just begun, but the threat is diminished. The tide has turned and there is no longer the question, 'Will South Vietnam be free?' but rather the question is, 'When?'"



SEARCHING EYES - A patrol from Co. A, 1st Bn., 14th Inf., reconns an area near an NVA rest camp in Pleiku province during Operation "Paul Revere III" (Photo by SP4 Dale Sutphin)

OUT AND AT 'EM - A machine-gunner in Co. C, 1st Bn., 35th Inf., heads for fortifications as his helicopter is setting down during a combat assault. The action took place during a search and destroy operation in Binh Dinh province. (Photo by SP4 John Rolfe)





OUT ON PATROL - Men of Co. C, 1st Bn., 35th Inf., keep a watchful eye on Operation "Pershing" in an area where 81 NVA soldiers were killed the day before. **(Photo by PFC Robert Metz)**

COMIN' DOWN - A Vietnamese youngster picks a coconut for his buddy in the recon platoon, 1st Bn., 35th Inf. The two became friends during Operation "Pershing" when the men were near Van Thiet. **(Photo by PFC Eric Schmidt)**



5 June 1967

35th Infantry Platoon Chow, Called Short

DUC PHO - "This underbrush is so thick, we have to cut our way through to move," the squad leader's voice spoke over the radio.

CPT Jacky A. Burr of Tulsa, Okla., picked up the horn. "Keep pushing," he said.

The 3rd Plt. of Co. A, 1st Bn., 35th Inf. had just stopped for a rest and some chow when they heard automatic weapons fire and M-79 grenade rounds going off on a hill directly to their front. The 1st Plt. had made contact with elements of the NVA.

Chow was called short, and Burr moved his men out to aid the forward platoon.

They were faced with the task of moving through dense vegetation up the finger of the mountain just to the west of the action.

A noon-day sun spread its heat over the entire area; sweat blurred vision; thorns tore at the skin. Often the men had to crawl through the brush to avoid becoming entangled as they moved

steadily upward.

Word came over the radio that contact had been broken and that a recon group sent out had discovered a large cache of polished rice, six illuminating 60-mm mortar rounds and various pieces of NVA field equipment.

Burr halted his platoon while he continued to receive reports on the findings and reports of numerous sightings of enemy positions and enemy in the open.

Soon it was to become a job for the artillery - "an. artilleryman's field day," as Burr phrased it.

Then the 1st Plt. radioed that they saw three NVA soldiers bathing in a nearby stream with at least five more men in the immediate area. He called in artillery fires. Direct hits were reported by gunships surveying the area.

The 3rd Plt. then proceeded to an LZ to set up for the night. Their next day's work was all cut out for them: policing up the battlefield and bagging the twenty-six tons of polished rice they had uncovered for transport to the Duc Pho refugee

A Losing Battle **Hoi Chanh Tell of Hard Times, Why Return**

DUC PHO - "We are fighting a losing battle! We can't get any rest! We are short of food and our leaders have not kept any of their promises to us! We are tired of being hunted down like animals!"

These are but a few of the reasons given by Hoi Chanh in the Duc Pho area escaping from Viet Cong control and rallying to the GVN.

Another important reason, and the one pointed to with pride by 1LT Louis Beck, leader of the 245th Psyops Co. team attached to the 3rd Bde. Task Force, 25th Inf. Div., has been the success of psychological warfare on the Communists.

"I heard you talking from airplanes and read the leaflets you've dropped," explained many of the returnees.

The leaflets dropped contain statements and pictures of other "Hoi Chanh" ralliers and show them the power of Allied forces.

Among the leaflets dropped are "National Safe Conduct Passes" which allow dissatisfied enemy soldiers to "Chieu Hoi" or safely turn themselves in to free world units.

Communist cadres have issued strong warnings to their men not to be caught with any government information in their possession.

Despite this, the enemy troops have become avid readers of the leaflets according to Hoi Chanh. Rewards are given as incentives for information regarding the whereabouts of enemy mines and booby traps and for turning in weapons.

For the past 15 years the Duc Pho District of Quang Ngai Province has been a free movement area for NVA and VC.

Suddenly the tide has turned and the enemy is no longer free to roam and terrorize the villagers.

One former VC squad leader, now a returnee, stated, "I was in a firefight this morning just before dawn and for every round I fired, twenty men fired back at me. With odds like that I knew I never could win."

Since the 3rd Bde. closed the Duc Pho area on April 19, more than 120 Hoi Chanh have rallied. Thirty-three returned in a two day period, one of which was an NVA political officer who stated, "I am returning to the GVN because I can no longer lie to my people. I tell them we are winning and we lose.

"I tell them food, clothing and medicine are coming but it never arrives for them or me. Your men seem to have a will to win because they have something to fight with and for."

The Psyops team has taken many such returnees and given them the things which the Communists

fail to give.

They are taken to the Chieu Hoi center in Quang Ngai. There the government relocates them and, if necessary, educates them in a trade so they will become useful citizens of Vietnam.

When asked how he felt about the sudden influx of returnees, Beck replied, "For every Chieu Hoi that comes in I know our work has not been in vain, and we are doing a good job of reaching the people. This is a never ending job yet it is one where there is real satisfaction.

"We realize that Psyops alone cannot do the job but with the help of combat forces and civic action teams, we will eventually achieve our goal which is to display an interest in a free government for the people.

19 June 1967



SHOT THROUGH THE POT! - On his first day with Co. C, 1st Bn., 35th Inf., 3rd Bde. Task Force, 25th Inf. Div., PFC Robert L. Fields of Lakeland, Fla., received the closest call of his life.

Fields was attacking a hedgerow when he was hit. The bullet entered the front of his helmet and came out through the top, slightly grazing his head.

"I was ready to throw my pot away, but now I'm a believer," said Fields.

He said that he knew a bullet could penetrate a steel helmet, but didn't realize till now the protection it actually gives the infantryman.

"If it had not been for the deflection this pot caused, the top of my head would have been blown off," exclaimed Fields. **(Photo by SP4 Robert Metz)**

3rd Bde Men Aid Duc Pho

DUC PHO - "The need is there," says CPT Carroll P. Osgood Jr. of West Hartford, Conn.

Osgood, battalion surgeon of 1st Bn., 35th Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div., conducts daily medical treatments at the Duc Pho Village hospital.

This is the only civilian hospital in the area which has a population of 70,000. To complicate the problem there are no Vietnamese or USAID doctors in the area. The people of Duc Pho had been deprived of medical treatment by the VC until liberation came by way of American troops.

"The general health of the population is quite poor," comments Osgood, "but we are definitely helping some people."

To improve the health and treat as many patients as possible, the captain has scheduled certain days for specific ailments. Making daily trips to the hospital, Osgood treats 50 patients a day.

The building is small and can house 20 bed patients. There are two wards, one for pediatrics and one for the sick and injured. Several projects are under way to restore the plumbing and spruce up the wards, but supplies are hard to get.

"Our facilities are limited but we can treat people with malaria, some infectious diseases, and common parasites, but seriously ill patients have to be evacuated to Quang Ngai," Osgood explains.

Do Hau Luong, the local pharmacist, helps the captain communicate with the patients. There are five Vietnamese practical nurses and one midwife who work at the hospital. Of course medics are good at helping conduct the sick call.

Duc Pho hospital is just getting started, but with help it will get the things it needs like lab equipment, antibiotics, antiseptics, intravenous fluid, scissors, forceps, bandages and even paint. A cry for help has been heard, Osgood needs help to answer it.

As he says, "It is my profession. I enjoy it and we are definitely helping these people."

Hoi Chanh Joins Uncle

Duc Pho - A touch of irony from the battlefield. This was demonstrated recently when the leader of a Popular Forces platoon was found to be the uncle of a survivor of a Viet Cong platoon.

The RF platoon was operating north of Duc Pho when contact was made with the VC platoon. A heated battle ensued and only three VC survived.

The next morning one of the survivors, To Tach, turned himself in to Co. A, 1st Bn., 35th Inf.

The Hoi Chanh related that he was warned by his father that the PF had increased operations in the area. Disregarding the warnings, To Tach remained with his platoon.

Quite frightened, To Tach explained, "I am a VC, but I want to return to my government. I have been a VC for two years, free to roam as I pleased. Then suddenly everything changes. I have been hunted day and night with little or no time to rest."

Taken by chopper to the 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div., at Duc Pho for interrogation, he learned that his uncle was the Popular Forces leader.

When asked what he plans to do now that his government has received him, he replied, "I want to join my uncle's platoon!"

Cavalry Trooper Wins Silver Star For Action

Duc Pho - Under heavy fire from two squads of Viet Cong, a downed crew from a UH-1B reconnaissance helicopter from Trp. B, 1st Sqdn., 9th Air Cav., owe their lives to the courage and quick action of Charles R. Cole Jr., the chopper's door gunner.

For his action, SP4 Cole received the Silver Star, our nation's third highest award for valor, presented by MG William B. Rosson, commanding general of Task Force Oregon, in a ceremony at the tactical command post of the 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.

Cole's ship was shot down during a low level reconnaissance mission near Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province.

The aircraft, on impact, broke into four pieces and caught fire engulfing the crew in smoke and flames. The 20-year-old SP4 helped the pilot from the burning wreckage before the crew was separated by the smoke.

Endangering himself Cole began an unrelenting search for the rest of the crew. He located his wounded crew chief about five feet from the chopper and dragged him to safety.

In an effort to secure protection for the wounded man the young West Virginian ran across an open field under a hail of enemy fire to grab an M-79 grenade launcher from the burning craft.

Organizing a defensive position behind a rice paddy dike he held off the VC for 15 minutes before more aircraft arrived to rescue the crew.

26 June 1967

Cacti Men Kill Thirty NVA

DUC PHO - The sudden flash and sharp crack of enemy mortar explosions shattered the silence. The incoming rounds signalled the beginning of a three-hour night battle which many men of the Recon Plt and Co B of the 2nd Bn, 35th Inf, will long remember.

The "Cacti" had been sweeping an area where there had been recent clashes with units of an NVA battalion. It was late afternoon when the infantrymen set up their perimeter for the night. Ambushes were set along enemy routes.

At 2:30 the first mortar rounds landed and contact was made for the third time in three days. The NVA hit the Cacti with everything they had. It was estimated 100 to 150 rounds of 60mm and 82mm mortar and recoilless rifle were fired at the infantrymen. The enemy then assaulted, supported by two machine guns, attempting to penetrate the perimeter.

Artillery immediately began to pound the charging enemy and was lifted only long enough for the gunships and "Spooky" to have their chance.

"My platoon was on ambush when the first rounds landed," said 2LT Walter Twyford. "We moved back to the perimeter as fast as we could. The men on the perimeter were running low on ammo when we arrived after slicing through the enemy on the way in."

The recon platoon, also on ambush, moved back to reinforce the perimeter.

Dug in behind rice paddy dikes, the Cacti fought to hold off the furious assault by the NVA unit. The enemy charge carried them close enough to throw grenades over the paddy dikes. Gunships from the 1st of the 9th Air Cav with flawless accuracy delivered their ordnance within 20 meters of the infantrymen driving back the enemy assault.

With the enemy momentum broken the Cacti swept the enemy back.

Daybreak revealed a battlefield littered with bodies of NVA. A total of 30 NVA were killed and three captured. Sixteen weapons were captured including a 57mm recoilless rifle and three light machine guns.

CPT Addicted To Grenades

DUC PHO - "I thought I'd had it when I saw him throw that grenade!" exclaimed CPT Kenneth Barton, commander of Co B, 1st Bn, 35th Inf.

However, luck allowed Barton to walk away from the grenade explosion with only a small cut above his eyes while his web gear was ripped to shreds and his weapon smashed.

Bravo company, part of the 3rd Bde Task Force, 25th Inf Div. was on a search and destroy mission northwest of Duc Pho when the patrol came under heavy enemy fire.

As Barton maneuvered his company, one VC ran into a nearby bunker. Before Barton could reach it, the VC ran out and threw a grenade near the trio before being cut down. The explosion tore the captain's pistol belt in half, ripped open his ammo pouch and canteens and smashed the hand guard of his weapon.

Cloth Weaving Cut Short By Loom Find

DUC PHO - The enemy's first mistake was firing at the armored personnel carriers. Returning the fire, the 2nd Plt, Trp C, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav attached to the 3rd Bde Task Force, 25th Inf Div, instantly killed two Viet Cong and wounded another.

The VC made a quick retreat into the small hamlet of Ban An. Chasing the running enemy, CPT Ronald W. Penn, troop commander, directed his men to search the hamlet.

It was a surprise when the search produced something other than hiding enemy. Almost all of the

mud buildings concealed a textile machine. Twenty-nine mechanical looms in all.

After receiving the report of the large find, LTC Clinton E. Granger, commander of the 2nd Bn, 35th Inf, requested a Chinook helicopter to evacuate the machinery. The looms were taken by the 3rd Brigade Task Force troops to district headquarters for later distribution to the villagers of Duc Pho.

Confiscation of the machinery not only will prevent VC in Duc Pho District from getting new issues of combat uniforms, but also will provide a new industry for the friendly Duc Pho villagers.

Day-Long Fight Nets 76

DUC PHO - "It was Denino's French that helped us find the VC hideout," said 2LT Michael J. Pulaski as he unfolded the story of the night and day battle.

Co A, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf, fought what was estimated to be at least a reinforced company of Viet Cong.

Earlier on the previous day, 1LT John Denino led his platoon on a sweep through a small hamlet where he interrogated a French-speaking Vietnamese. The men of the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, learned that a large force of VC were hiding in the hamlet of Thiet Truong, just a few hundred meters away.

"I set out my listening post at 11:30, and about an hour later we were hit by about a dozen Cong. We fought them off and then relocated our landing zone."

It was shortly after one in the morning when they hit again. This time it was really heavy. The enemy came as close as 20 to 25 meters and hit with hand grenades, recoilless rifles and automatic weapons.

"For the next three and a half hours," Pulaski continued, "we blew our Claymore mines, hurled grenades and emptied magazines of ammo to fight off the enemy.

"With both medics wounded, SP4 Wesley Fox, a forward observer, took over as medic. It wasn't until four o'clock that morning that the cavalry arrived with their armored personnel carriers to secure the LZ.

"We really had the VC on the run when the artillery, air strikes and gun ships swarmed in on his position. Fighting continued throughout the day and we killed 76 VC and captured 22 weapons.

"All my men did a great job. PFC William Davis, an RTO, knew that his commo was useless at this point, so he began distributing ammunition.

"There was SP4 Bobby Day, a rifleman, who took over as machine gunner under intense enemy fire.

"May 20 will long be remembered by all of us. I'm proud of the job done by these "Gaotimen," Pulaski concluded.

'Blue Team' Collides With NVA Bn

DUC PHO - It was the "Blue Team," a platoon of air cavalymen, from the 1st Sqdn, 9th Air Cav, who first collided with units of an estimated NVA battalion.

They had been inserted shortly after noon to check out a suspected enemy position. The choppers had barely lifted off when they were hit from all directions.

The "Blues" held their own but were running low on ammo and being pressed by the NVA when the 1st Plt, Co B, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf, was airlifted into the battle.

"As we approached the landing zone I could see it was plenty hot," said 2LT Walter Twyford, the platoon leader. "My chopper was hit and missed the LZ by 200 meters. We were all able to make it in and link up with the fighting cavalymen though."

The bitter fighting continued and an attempt to overrun the American positions was repelled before more help arrived. The remainder of Co B and the 2/35th's recon platoon joined the fighting along with two platoons of armored personnel carriers from the 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav.

With the APC's and infantrymen battling side-by-side, the NVA lines were shattered.

"We really had the VC on the run," said Twyford. "Forced from the trenches he couldn't find enough holes to hide in. As we moved through the area we started receiving fire from the rear. Many were in spider holes and we had to sweep back through the area."

Darkness fell and contact continued throughout the night. The infantrymen of the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, now had a new danger to contend with as the NVA began firing mortar and recoilless rifle rounds into the perimeter.

"When the mortar rounds began to fall I was too busy to be scared," said SGT Kenneth J. Hills of the 3/4 Cav. Hills had fired 50-60 magazines of M-16 rounds, a case of M-79 grenades, and 3000 rounds of 50-caliber machine gun ammo.

Aided by air strikes, artillery and "Spooky," the "Cacti" and 3/4 Cav routed the NVA. A search of the battlefield the next day turned up 87 Communists killed by body count and numerous weapons including a 60mm mortar, recoilless rifle and machine gun.

FIRE AND DUCK -

Shielded by the dense vegetation, a trooper of Co B, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf fires on a VC emplacement. The 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div unit is working in Quang Ngai Province. **(Photo by PFC Paul Halverson)**



17 July 1967

COL Shanahan Leaves 3rd Bde, 25th

DUC PHO - COL James G. Shanahan, commanding officer of the 3rd Bde Task Force, 25th Inf Div, said farewell to the officers and men of the command in a ceremony at the Bde's Tactical Command Post recently at Duc Pho.

Shanahan has commanded the "Bronco" brigade since Oct. 20, 1966 and is leaving to assume the duties of deputy chief of staff of personnel at the Pentagon.

The Legion of Merit (first oak leaf cluster) and the Silver Star (first oak leaf cluster) were presented to Shanahan by MG William R. Peers, 4th Inf Div commander.

Speaking to representatives of units within the Brigade, COL Shanahan praised the Broncos on the enviable record they have established.

COL Shanahan is far from a stranger to the "Tropic Lightning" Division. Twice before he has commanded units of the 25th Inf Div in combat. In July of 1944 he was assigned to the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, serving first as a rifle platoon leader and later a company commander.

In Korea, Shanahan commanded the 1st Bn, 38th Inf, and participated in the Korean Summer-Fall, the 3rd Korean Winter and the Korean Summer 1953 Campaigns.

COL Shanahan's other assignments include one year as chief of the Royal Arabian Guard in Saudi Arabia; three years as operations and training staff officer for the U.S. Continental Army Command

with the Marines at the Marine Corps School, Quantico, Va.; three years as instructor at the Infantry School in the Leadership and Tactics Departments; and three years in the Strategic Operations Division, J-3, Joint Chief of Staff, Washington, D.C.

In July 1966, COL Shanahan became the deputy chief of staff of I Field Forces, Vietnam. In September he was assigned to the Bde as the deputy commander until taking over command on Oct. 20.

He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the National War College.

His other decorations include: two Bronze Stars for Valor, four Bronze Stars for Merit, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart, Air Medal with eight clusters, Combat Infantryman's Badge with two stars, the Vietnamese National Order of Valor and two Vietnamese Gallantry Crosses.

COL Shanahan's wife Patricia, their daughter Kathleen, and five sons, James, David, Mark, Edward and John, reside in Alexandria, Va.

Running Water For VC

DUC PHO - While on a search and destroy mission, Co A, 1st Bn, 35th Inf, 3rd Bde Task Force, 25th Inf Div, spotted what appeared to be two camouflaged huts on the side of a hill. A closer investigation revealed a large tunnel complex.

The complex was very well equipped including a bathing area, mess hall and sleeping quarters for a company-size force.

The bathing area had running water which was piped down from the mountains in bamboo troughs.

A unique alarm system had been constructed which could signal intrusion from any direction. Tiny wires running to points on the perimeter would sound a gong if tripped.

As one soldier stated, "The place must have been an R&R center for VC."

Draft Increased

WASHINGTON (ANF) - The Department of Defense has requested the Selective Service System to provide 29,000 inductees to the U.S. Army in August 1967.

This request, the highest call during 1967, supports previously planned and announced force levels and will assure a timely flow of replacements for men completing their terms of service.

The August draft call is 9,100 above the July request, which was the previous monthly high for 1967.

Sing Along Hoi Chanh

DUC PHO - It's sing-along time as the Quang Ngai cultural-drama team makes its appearance in the Duc Pho area.

Sponsored by JUSPAO (Joint United States Public Affairs Office), the troupe travels about the countryside of Quang Ngai Province singing folk songs of happy Hoi Chanh.

The songs tell of former Viet Cong soldiers who have returned to the government of Vietnam and are now reunited with their families and enjoying peaceful and productive lives.

Working closely with American and Vietnamese fighting units, the cultural-drama team moved into areas known to be VC-infested. They teach the people their songs and conduct sing-alongs in an effort to win over the families of VC who in turn will influence Communists hiding in the area.

In addition to stories about former Hoi Chanh, the songs also include instructions on how to return to the government and the advantages, such as training programs, available to those who return.

24 July 1967

New 3rd Bde CO

DUC PHO - COL George E. Wear has assumed command of the 3rd Bde Task Force, 25th Inf Div, succeeding COL James G. Shanahan who has returned to the States.

Upon assuming command, Wear praised the men and said he considered it a great honor to have the opportunity to command the brigade.

A 1944 graduate of West Point, the colonel began his military career as a rifle platoon leader in World War II. He served as a company commander and battalion commander during the Korean War.

He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Armed Forces War College, Army War College, and holds a master of science degree in International Affairs from George Washington University.

"I will do everything within my power to provide the guidance and leadership at the top that every brigade deserves and must have," COL Wear said during the ceremony.

Guest speaker was MG William R. Peers, commanding general of the 4th Inf Div. MG Peers welcomed the new commander and said, "He (COL Wear) comes to us and to your brigade with all the credentials and with a high degree of professionalism."

Bobzien 2/9 CO

DUC PHO - LTC Gerald B. Bobzien has assumed command of the 2nd Bn, 9th Arty, during a ceremony at the tactical command post of the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div. He succeeds COL Bruce Holbrook.

In accepting his new post the colonel stated, "If I had been offered my choice of any battalion in Vietnam I would have chosen the 'Mighty Ninth' based on my previous experience with it and based on the 3rd Bde's record in Washington."

During the year preceding COL Bobzien's assumption of command, the battalion made 151 battery displacements by helicopter, a record in the U.S. Army.

Nurse Trails Future Hubby To Vietnam

DUC PHO - Life is not a honeymoon in Vietnam, but it may lead to one for 1LT Carl F. Stout and 1LT Mary P. Reis.

On completion of their tours in Vietnam, the two Army officers plan to be married.

Most soldiers here are troubled because they are halfway around the world from their sweethearts, but you can even be troubled by being 40 miles apart assures Stout.

Stout is an artillery forward observer in the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, near Duc Pho, while Mary is serving in the Army Nurse Corps at the 2nd Surg Hosp in Chu Lai. Since arriving in Vietnam last December, the two have been able to see each other three times.

The artillery lieutenant and his fiancée met in the officer's club at Fort Ord, Calif. About the time their romance began to flourish he received orders for Vietnam. The pretty nurse then volunteered for duty in Vietnam also.

On June 5, during a break in a fire mission, Stout received a delayed happy birthday message from his future wife over the radio. After receiving the message, everyone on the net broke in with more birthday greetings for the surprised F.O.

Advisory Team Helps Duc Pho

DUC PHO - The sign over the door reads, "We have done so much with so little, we can now do anything with nothing."

In the short seven months that CPT Peter R. Bankson has served as subsector advisor in Duc Pho District, the community has undergone a considerable change. Once firmly in the grip of the Viet Cong, Duc Pho has gained its freedom and is rapidly learning the ways of democracy.

Working hand-in-hand with the district chief, Bankson's five-man MACV advisory team has helped the village get on its feet. Schools, refugee camps and private homes are rapidly going up. As many as 30 to 40 homes are built a week.

Improving the small police force was a real feat. It was the first Vietnamese law in many parts of the district in years.

"Security was definitely our biggest problem," reflected Bankson. "Before the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, moved into the area it was next to impossible to reach the local villages and hamlets. Each time we ventured out of the compound we faced the possibility of attack by VC in the area."

Now with the security provided by the infantrymen, the team has been able to expand its operation in helping the Vietnamese.

Staying in the background, the team assists the district chief in his plans to improve the people's lives through the teaching of modern farming techniques and self-government.

The sign over the door of the MACV compound will soon be changed to "We've done it!"

Viet Cong To See Red

DUC PHO - While operating in the Duc Pho area the 3rd Bde Task Force has made several unusual discoveries. The latest was 30 red scarves.

While on a search and destroy mission northwest of Duc Pho the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, found 30 red scarves hidden in a small village. The curious platoon leader, 1LT John McRae, called for an interpreter.

The interpreter explained to the infantrymen that the VC wear these scarves on their arms during mass attacks so that they can identify their men.

On 1 August 1967, the 3d Bde, 25th Infantry Division was reassigned to the 4th Infantry Division. To pick on news of the units of the 3d Bde, go to the Ivy Leaves section of the website.



HELPING HAND - A soldier from the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, slices raw sugar for these Vietnamese women. The 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, is lending a hand to the villagers in the Duc Pho area. (Photo by PFC Eric Schmidt)

7 Aug 1967

'Birddog' And Crew Lifted Out

DUC PHO - Barely 20 minutes after their forced landing, the two-man crew of an Army O-1, fixed-wing observer plane was scooped up by a rescue helicopter and the airplane secured by ground forces.

SFC John C. Stamper, the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div's chief intelligence NCO, and the aircraft's pilot, LT Duncan, had taken off early in the morning on an aerial recon mission along the coast of the South China Sea north of Due Pho.

Duncan was awaiting the completion of an air strike so he could return and Stamper could assess the damage when suddenly the O-1 "Birddog" suddenly developed engine trouble.

"It wasn't more than two minutes after he notified me of the trouble that we had to make a forced landing on the beach," said Stamper.

"Before we were forced to land we notified the ground troops of our situation and approximate location. After setting down we didn't have to wait long as a chopper arrived quickly to lift us out," the intelligence sergeant added.

Infantrymen from the 2/35th and tracks from the 2/34th Armor arrived within 20 minutes to protect the aircraft.

'Liz' Overlooks Coastal Plains

DUC PHO - High on a pinnacle overlooking the coastal plains north of Duc Pho is "Liz" International Airport. "Liz" is the helipad at the forward tactical command post of the 3rd Bn, 35th Inf.

The observation tower on top of the mountain reminded someone of an airport control tower and thus the idea for "Liz" International was born. Affectionately, the men christened the airport in honor of LTC Clinton E. Granger's wife, Elizabeth.

The ingenuity of the Army GI is well known and produces unbelievable feats of construction with nothing.

All the essential parts of an airport are incorporated into "Liz." The landing strip is PSP (perforated steel planking) which reduces the sandblast when a helicopter lands. The control tower is elevated fifteen feet and equipped with radios and an operator to guide the approaching aircraft. No airport is complete without a terminal; so, the base of the tower was sandbagged and a briefing room for the commander was installed. To top off the tower, "Liz" flies a wind sock made from bright red Vietnamese silk to give the wind direction to the pilots.

Trip Wire Doesn't Trip

DUC PHO - SP4 Joe Ramos stepped on a trip wire attached to a five-inch naval round and 10 pounds of TNT and lived to tell about it.

"My foot had not quite touched the ground when I noticed I had stepped on the wire, so I froze," Ramos related.

Alert squad members came to his aid and an EOD team was called. The team informed Ramos that if the wire had moved another sixteenth of an inch the round would have exploded.

Ramos was with Co A, 1st Bn, 35th Inf, south of Doc Pho when the incident occurred.

14 Aug 1967

2 Hoi Chanh, 2 Rifles Less

DUC PHO - There will be two less weapons shooting at the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, because of two Hoi Chanh.

Recently the two former Viet Cong surrendered themselves to the Duc Pho District Headquarters. They said they each had a weapon and were willing to lead American troops to where the rifles were hidden.

With the assistance of an interpreter, the ralliers led Co A, 1/35th, directly to the cache. The infantrymen uncovered two MOS 36 bolt action rifles.

Enemy Trapped

DUC PHO - The night began like an ordinary night for the Recon Plt. of the 1st Bn 35th Inf.

Late in the night, two unsuspecting Viet Cong were spotted moving toward the well-hidden ambush. Anxious moments passed until the enemy was trapped. The infantrymen opened fire and instantly killed the two guerrillas. A search of the area produced two pistols and several documents.

"Cacti" Kill 8

DUC PHO - A small breather hole in the side of a rice paddy dike was the first sign "Charlie" was in the area. LT Homer Krout II, platoon leader of the Recon Plt, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf, immediately established a perimeter and began searching the area.

Conducting an early morning combat assault, the Recon Plt was following an agent who said he could lead them to a tunnel complex.

Arriving at the location it appeared that the agent was mistaken. "At first we couldn't find anything. Then one of my men saw the breather hole,"

The Recon men began to enlarge the hole. Suddenly, four grenades were hurled from the tunnel. Diving for cover, no one was injured. The ensuing fight resulted in eight enemy killed and four weapons captured.

Next, the Vietnamese agent reported that he knew where another tunnel was located. "We arrived in the area but were unable to find a tunnel," stated Krout. "We were ready to give up the hunt when

the Vietnamese agent became suspicious of a basket with bamboo shoots growing from it. He moved the basket and revealed the entrance to a tunnel." A search of the area revealed an empty tunnel.

As the choppers were coming in, two VC sprang from a spider hole next to the LZ. Throwing grenades at the infantrymen they attempted to escape across a rice paddy. Surprised, the infantrymen whirled around and ended the escape attempt.



Duc Pho - A 106mm recoilless rifle, protecting LZ Liz, forward fire base of the 2nd Bn, 35th Inf. unleashes another round at a suspected enemy location on the coastal plain north of Duc Pho. **(Photo by PFC Peter Daly)**

Booby-trap Factory Discovered

DUC PHO - Infantrymen of the "Tropic Lightning" 3rd Bde, conducting search and destroy operations southwest of Duc Pho captured what was believed to be a small booby trap factory.

The VC working in the small shop were evidently surprised by the U.S. soldiers and abandoned the area and their equipment to avoid contact.

The "Cacti" of the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, were searching an area of constant enemy activity when a concealed trail leading into heavy underbrush was located. LT Roger G. Ladd, the platoon leader, ordered his men to search along the trail. The infantrymen did not go far when they found a small "hootch" and the necessary equipment to construct booby traps and grenades. The find included fuses for grenades, a container full of small pieces of metal to be used as shrapnel, gun powder, commo wire and 18 rounds of .30 cal. ammo.

Also found were parts of weapons, two tons of rice, documents and maps, and a sight for an anti-aircraft weapon.

Although the enemy had fled the area, the confiscation of the bobby trap material may well be more important.

Booby traps, planted with devious ingenuity, have plagued the infantrymen since arriving in Duc Pho.