

(Copy from C 4/31st Inf. Bn. veteran James B. Simms with the assistance of Mike Crutcher a veteran of E & HHC, 1/5 Cav, 1969-70 1st Cav Div. May 2014.)
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The "CHARGER" (Mounted knight with 196th crest on his shield.)
196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEP)

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Flood Victims receive help from "chargers"

The brigade contributed more than three-and one-half tons of mung beans captured during Operation ATTLEBORO to the Tay Ninh Regional USAID (United States Aid to International Development). The beans were given by the brigade to help the recent flood victims of the Mekong Delta.

The hard green beans, which the Vietnamese cook with sugar and make into a soup, was sent to the villagers for re-seeding purposes.

USAID representative Dale Pfeiffer, acted as a liaison for the Army in transporting the beans from the "Charger" brigade.

Together with the beans, 103-metric tons of peanuts were also flown to the villagers hit by the flood.

In a letter addressed to Brigadier General Richard T. Knowles, commanding general, Le Pao Minh, the assistant administrative chief of the Tay Ninh Province, wrote: "We just received ?,???,5?5 pounds bags of green beans from the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. to give to the flood victims of southwestern Vietnam. This exceptionally good deed not only increased the friendship between the US Forces and Vietnam, but also showed your sympathy for the victims of the catastrophe.

GEN Wheeler

visits 196th

forward c.p.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Earle G. Wheeler visited the brigade's forward command post during Operation CEDAR FALLS recently.

Brigade commander, Brigadier General Richard T. Knowles, welcomed General Wheeler, Lieutenant General Jonathon O. Seaman, II Field Force Commander, and Major General Fred C. Weyand, 25th Infantry Division Commander.

General Knowles briefed the party on the brigade's role in Operation CEDAR FALLS and showed them a display of captured VC rice and war materials.

HELP STOP THE GOLD FLOW, JOIN IN THE UNIFORM SERVICES SAVINGS DEPOSIT PROGRAM.

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156th Signal

treats kids

on nui ba den

Nui Ba Den is the outstanding terrain feature of Tay Ninh Province. It looms 3200 feet over the surrounding jungle and rice paddies.

Seven hundred years ago there was a beautiful young girl whose name translated means Black. She was to become a Buddhist nun. Her parents wanted her to marry a wealthy politician and arranged a wedding.

The day before the wedding she ran away from home to join the Buddhists in a monastery on the mountain. The girl was killed by a tiger on the mountain slopes. This how the mountain got its name Nui Ba Den or in English, "The Black Virgin".

Today Detachment A324 of the U.S. Army Special Forces "CIDG" occupy a fortified camp on the summit of "The Black Virgin" mountain.

The 156th Signal Platoon attached to the brigade at Tay Ninh decided to bring a little cheer to the mountain outpost. Men of the 156th brought a "Huey-load" of toys and gifts for the

children of the CIDG troops and cheerfully passed out the presents to the eager throng of youngsters. Children too small to carry all their gifts were aided by their mothers.

At times it was hard to tell who was having a better time, the children or the "Chargers" 156th Signal Platoon.

reaction force stands ready at tay ninh

Just 18-minutes after an alert is called from brigade S-3 to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, a reaction force stands ready for action, in full-field-gear.

Not only is the quick action of assembling the platoon size force impressive, so is the fact that the force is made up of squads from different sections within the company.

Headed by 1Lt Arthur F. Gulden (West Field, N.J.) the squads of MP's clerks, signal personnel, and post exchange workers, "are ready to move anywhere around the perimeter on call," said PSG Harry J. Wagner (Fitchberg, Mass.)

Quick reaction is the order and two vehicles are readily available for transporting the troops to any needed area, with fire power provided by three M-60 machine guns.

When called, the alert force comes directly off their job, don their equipment organize an instant reaction force, all in 18-minutes time.

"Considering where some people are located when an alert is given, I feel this is very good time, and it is impressive to see the quick action taken by the men," said Lt. Gulden.

"THE CHARGER"

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General's cooks keep busy schedule when brigade moves to the field

In the field, even at the forward command post, the hours are long and the work is hard. Men are expected to perform their duties with the accuracy of precision machines. Like machines, men must be refueled to insure continuous performance. The job of refueling these human machines belongs to the mess sergeant, and while in the field this is no easy task.

Recently, during Operation CEDAR FALLS, at the forward command post of the brigade, Staff Sergeant Joseph A. Outing (Pascataway, N.J.) and his two man crew set up their kitchen and prepared to serve the officers of the brigade staff. Before taking over the supervision of the Officer's Mess, Sergeant Outing had a long list of credits received during his 18-years of service. Among his awards is a letter of commendation from former Secretary of the Army, Wilber Brucker.

With the mess sergeant in the field is SP5 Datlof Sarbok (Columbia, S.C) the first cook who has had the opportunity of serving General Westmoreland on many occasions, both in the states and during his visits to the brigade.

The third member of the crew is SP4 Leonard H. Roberts (Gulfport, Mass.) who is the latest addition to the team.

A day in the field begins early for the cooks, and it isn't unusual to find them washing the last pan late at night. When asked what the biggest problem they encountered in the field the sergeant replied, "All of our supplies come to us by convoy and at times we are forced to substitute a meal at the last minute due to the delays sometimes caused by rough roads and enemy mines."

With the members of the staff constantly on the move, and unexpected guests stopping in, Sergeant Outing and his cooks keep a busy schedule. Regardless of all the hard work, the cooks enjoy it and take pride in the delicious meals they prepare. Their reward is knowing that they serve the best meals in Vietnam and the countless compliments they receive from those they serve.

Troop F SGT.

Lives Right

SGT. George C. Edsell (Norristown, Pa.), must be living right.

Twice he has been in the jaws of death and has emerged practically unscathed. The first time, he was with his unit, Troop F, 17th Cav., on a reconnaissance mission near the base of the 3200-foot "Black Virgin" mountain near Tay Ninh.

As Sgt. Edsell's scout jeep moved along a dirt road close to the mountain, automatic fire poured in on the patrol. One round smashed into the Sgt's rifle spraying fragments and wounding him slightly. The rifle had blocked the bullet preventing it from doing any serious damage.

Luck or whatever, stepped in again for Sgt. Edsell during he brigade's Operation CEDAR FALLS. this time, a Troop F platoon was guarding a culvert that had been blown up by the VC twice a month for the past year.

Crawling close to the platoon's position a VC threw a grenade into the perimeter. One of the grenades landed a few feet to Sgt. Edsell's front wounding two men.

SP4 Robert J. Garner (Milwaukee, Wisc.) heard the grenade hit and threw the Sgt. to the ground. Fragments whistled near the St's head but, miraculously, his steel helmet lying a foot from his head stopped the deadly shrapnel. Sgt. Edsell mused, "If it wasn't for this steel pot and Specialist Gardner's quick reaction, I could have been killed.

Looking at his chewed up steel pot, he considers himself one of the luckiest men in the brigade.

"chargers" run medcaps during operation cedar falls

During Operation CEDAR FALLS, the brigade established a forward command post near the village of Trung Lap. As is true with most villagers in Vietnam, the people of Trung Lap do not receive complete medical treatment because there is no resident doctor. So naturally when Captain Richard J. Rose (Jamaica, L.I., N.Y.) and his three-man team from the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. arrived in Trung Lap, they did a land office business.

For three straight days Dr. Rose and his men treated the villagers in the small Trung Lap Civic building. By the end of the third day 350 patients had been seen.

One of the more serious cases involved was an infant with pneumonia in both lungs. The child improved with penicillin treatment.

A woman was carried in with multiple scalp lacerations and contusions. Dr. Rose treated her and had he evacuated to Saigon where she could receive more definitive care.

That afternoon a ten-year old boy came in with yellow paller and severe anemia. Dr. Rose gave the boy's mother instructions on having the ailing child admitted to the province hospital.

The next morning during the MEDCAP, a 14-year-old boy stumbled into the dispensary with a severe abdominal wound incurred twelve hours before. He was anemic from loss of blood and would have died shortly without medical care. An Army helicopter carried the wounded boy to Cu Chi for treatment.

Dr. Rose and his MEDCAP team hope to return in two or three months to lend a hand in the new dispensary being built in Trung Lap in conjunction with the Trung Hoa Ranger training Center.

Says Dr. Rose, "We are just skimming the surface here, but a start has to be made somewhere and this is as good a beginning as any." *****

Ground Surveillance Radar protects troop f perimeter

A VC moves stealthily along a woodline. Suddenly mortars drop in and a VC falls. Being so far from the American's perimeter, how was he detected or killed?

The unlucky VC was the victim of ground surveillance radar, which can detect movement at great distances. A trained operator can pinpoint movement as he sweeps the perimeter with the radar. Range and azimuth data enable weapons to be brought to bear on the enemy's location.

Friendly patrols can have their front and rear protected by the ground surveillance team. Rain and fog do not interfere with the radar's effectiveness.

Unique is Troop F, 17th Cavalry's five-man ground surveillance radar team equipped with two radar sets.

After the team makes sure of the noise source and its location, this information is

sent to the Troop F command post. The team goes wherever the Troop goes and is an important factor in overall night defense.

fire and crash rescue squad stays alert for aerial accidents

Day after day, fixed wing aircraft touch-down on the mile-long air strip at the brigade base camp. The many Army helicopters add a constant influx of air traffic. Perhaps the most alert over these aerial activities is the Fire and Crash Rescue Squad.

The four man crew at the base camp is from the Saigon based 7th Engineer detachment and is just one of many such units in South Vietnam. Each of the crew is capable of assuming any of the jobs held by [by] the team such as crew chief, driver, hand linesman, and tanker-driver.

With two, 2 1/2-ton trucks which carry about 100 gallons of foam each, the crew can handle, in addition to their primary duties, such other emergencies as structural fuel yard fires, and ammunition fires.

Sergeant Harold A. Henderson (Mountain Home, Ark.) NCOIC of the crew said, "Each man has many capabilities and must know how to operate all the equipment in case someone is injured or is needed for some other task."

The men are SP4 Bobby D. Ellis (Pelham, Ga.), PFC Mike E. Simmons (Lima, Ohio) and PFC Elbert D. Litsey (Lima, Ohio).

Although on 24-hour call, the crew is especially alert on windy and rainy days. "Dust causes a lot of accidents, as the visibility is lowered considerably, the same situation exists on rainy days," related Henderson.

When an aircraft crashes, there are many things the crew must be ready for. Donning canvas shirts, pants and rubber boots, as working attire, they approach the downed aircraft with caution, for there may be ammunition aboard as in the case of the Army's "Huey" gunships. The first thing done by the firefighters is to get all the personnel out of the craft.

Foam is used most commonly to extinguish a fire however, water, soda and acid are sometimes used.

The four man crew covers the base camp area, and the cross-trained crew agreed that the most dangerous job would be the possibility of an ammunition yard fire.

No. "20" lucky for 2/1st Sgt.

For SFC John C. Hunt of Lowell, Mass., the number 20 seems to come in years.

During Operation ATTLEBORO, Sgt. Hunt was serving with the 2d Bn., 1st Inf., and just two days after completing twenty years of Army service, Hunt was wounded on that operation.

The extent of his injuries had the doctors pondering odds. Miraculously, the sergeant defied the odds, and three weeks later was his old self again.

His improved condition might well be credited to a get well card he received. Not an ordinary get well card, but a particular card which was signed by every living member of his senior class...of twenty years ago.

In this case, the card really did what it infers-a speedy recovery. At least Hunt thinks so.

Gimlets find vc camp

The patrol had barely gotten into the woods when their attention was caught by a grass hut, just off the trail on the left. Looking closer, they noticed a grenade, booby-trapped, hanging on a tree. A little further was a punji pit and then spider holes.

This was the beginning of a busy morning for the two squads of Company B, 3d Bn., 21st Inf. Their mission was to patrol 3,000 meters through the Ho Bo Woods, in an area where the company had set up security for Battery B, 3d Bn., 82d Artillery. Barely 200 meters into the thick jungle, they found enough to keep them busy all morning.

The two squads had walked right into a VC camp, fortified with two large bunkers, numerous tunnels and spider holes scattered throughout the area. Artillery preparation for the patrol had driven the Cong away, but they had left quite a bit behind.

PSG Holland Estep (Norwood, Ohio) led the men on a search of the camp and they were rewarded by capturing over 1000 rounds of new ammunition, assorted cooking utensils, clothes, and many documents, in addition to other items. By noon, the squads gathered up the valuable items to return to the command post. To make the job complete, SP4 Larry Grover, (Saginaw, Mich.) used the versatile C-4 explosive to advantage, blowing the two bunkers to pieces.

Tips on Celebrating TET

NOTE: Second in a series of articles on TET. Next week "Visiting in a Vietnamese home."

TET, the Vietnamese holidays of holidays, combines reverence for ancestors, celebration of the New Year and welcome to Spring.

TET, like Easter, is based on the lunar calendar. This year it comes 9-12 February.

TET is a fine time to make friends among the Vietnamese people, but a knowledge of what to expect and what is proper to do and what not to do.

The exchange of greetings and gifts is a part of the TET observance just as it is for us at Christmas time. Appropriate cards are on sale. Greetings should arrive before TET since any arriving later might be considered insincere.

Gifts to adults are not necessary, though a bouquet of red flowers, would be appropriate for the wife of the family.

For children up to 15-years-old, a TET gift of special significance is a small sum of money in a small red envelope. The envelopes are usually available in shops.

Some gifts, such as medicines, vitamins, sharp objects, and anything not new is taboo.

An appropriate greeting for the season is "Cung Chuc Tan Xuan," Many wishes for a new spring."

TET brings many changes in normal activities. everyone wants to start the New Year with new clothes so there will be a rush on tailor shops. As a result, Americans will find it takes longer to get tailoring done, and if not urgently needed, should postpone tailoring until after the holidays.

Besides spending money for new clothes, the Vietnamese also buy food for special feasts, flowers, gifts, and other items. It's an expensive season for them.

By custom Vietnamese workers expect to receive a TET bonus. Following that custom U.S. forces will pay their Vietnamese employees a month's salary. Individuals should pay their employees a similar bonus.

The cost of services, transportation and tips, will increase during TET to compensate those who are working while the rest of Vietnam is on a holiday.

Stay Alert.....

Stay Alive

DRIVE SAFELY!

3/21st Nets 6 in

village sweep

The area surrounding the village of Trung Lap has long been a VC sanctuary, at least until the brigade moved into the area on Operation CEDAR FALLS.

During the operation, the job of flushing the VC from a multitude of tunnels that honeycombed one of the villages in the area was given to the brigade's C Company, 3d Bn., 21st Inf. "Gimlets." The job would be a painstaking one requiring great caution and patience.

With the aid of a Chieu Hoi and a mechanized platoon from the 4th Bn., 23d Inf., the company moved out towards its objective.

Headed by LTC Charles K. Nulson, (Cornwall, N.Y.) battalion commander and Captain Ward G. Bizzell, (Cleveland, Miss.) company commander, Charlie Company convoyed up a dusty road to the suspected VC haven. Leaving the trucks, they immediately took security positions on both sides of the road. Quickly they swept through the village looking for any Cong that hadn't escaped to their hiding places.

The Chieu Hoi went to work pointing out areas where tunnels and trenches could be found. All morning long, tunnels, trenches and spider holes were discovered.

The spider holes were well concealed and small. With the assistance of the Chieu Hoi, the mission was much easier. As the "Gimlets" approached the mole-like holes, they were met with bursts of enemy fire. Immediately returning fire, two VC trying to escape in the confusion were killed. A search of he tunnel revealed a third VC body.

Continuing the search of the area, the "Gimlets" found three more bodies, raising the count to six for the "Tiger" company.

Health security

The Military Medical Benefits Amendment of 1966 are major steps in providing medical care for military personnel and their families at civilian facilities.

When a military family is assigned to a remote area or the service member is separated from his family due to overseas assignment, it is often necessary to rely on civilian medical sources if sickness or accident strikes.

Knowledge that large medical bills will not deplete the family savings and that adequate medical care is available for his family is vital to a serviceman's peace of mind.

The 1966 program brings this assurance. It expands the existing civilian medical program for dependents of active duty personnel and, for the first time, extends civilian care to retirees, their dependents and eligible dependents of deceased military personnel.

Benefits for most dependents of active duty personnel went into effect Oct 1 and benefits for all other eligible under the program begin Jan. 1, 1967.

For you, the man in uniform, the medical Benefits Amendment of 1966 provide necessary health care at minimal personal expense for your family when government medical facilities are not available.

You can expect to hear a great deal more about the new medical benefits.

To keep your personal affairs in good order, make sure that you retain complete information on the new program so that you and your dependents can fully understand its benefits. (GRAPHIC ART: Drawing of a mother and child visiting a hospital.)

TROOP F 106's

blast VC

from caves

Nui Ba Den, "The Black Virgin" mountain thrusts its jungle - covered head 3,200 feet above the flat terrain of Tay Ninh. Although the U.S. Army Special Forces maintain a fortified camp on the mountain summit, the slopes are VC dominated.

Recently, elements of the brigade again challenged the VC's hold on the "Black Virgin". Recoilless rifles of Troop F, 17th Cav., brought fire on suspected VC cave positions on the mountainside. SP4 Brian C. Barker (Tacoma, Wash.), gunner on a 106mm recoilless rifle, put his first shot into the mouth of a cave. "I didn't think anybody was in there," he recalled.

Later that day, CIDG forces began searching the caves. As it turned out, Barker's shot had entered the cave, killing two VC hiding in it and smashing their weapons.

In commemoration of his "lucky shot", Barker painted two small VC silhouettes on the tube of his recoilless rifle. Considering the size of the weapon, there is room for quite a few more.

TROOP F sergeant receives

vietnamese cross of gallantry

Troop F, 17th Cavalry carries out a variety of missions while operating with the brigade. During a recent operation, a Troop F scout squad killed four VC kidnappers.

Staff Sergeant Peter N. Rosie (Ayer, Mass.), a scout squad leader with troop F, received intelligence reports that a Vietnamese civilian had been abducted by VC terrorists in the hamlet of Ap May Dang.

While moving toward the village, the squad came under heavy automatic weapons fire.

Returning a murderous shield of fire, the Troop F cavalrymen immediately cut down four VC. Under intense fire, Sgt. Rosie crawled along a ditch and captured four VC claymore mines. His squad continued to pour deadly fire on the enemy keeping them pinned down until artillery gunships and additional troops could be brought in.

For his actions Sgt. Rosie received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.