

Charlie Finds Hot Meal — And Pays

CAMP EVANS - An enemy "midnight snack" turned into a fiasco recently when troopers from Co. C, 3rd Bn. (Ambl.) 187th Inf. intercepted an enemy rice-carrying party outside a hamlet, 20 miles northwest of Hue.

The 30-man enemy force had come down from the foothills for resupply and a short midnight snack before heading back to join their comrades in the mountains.

However, the enemy group had not reckoned on the presence of Screaming Eagles from Co. C. As the rice laborers left the village, they walked right into one of the company's night defensive positions.

"We waited until they were almost on us and then opened up," said Sgt. Maxie Bell, Lakeland, Fla., a 3/187 platoon sergeant.

"At first we thought that, in their confusion, they were going to overrun our position, but then they turned and ran."

The alert "Charlie" Company troopers killed three NVA regulars and captured three more of the enemy party in the brief firefight.

The following day, a cordon and search of the hamlet rounded up an additional eight suspected Viet Cong for questioning.

Possibly the most important result of the night's action was the elimination of a Viet Cong district level cadreman, who was killed in the exchange. Prisoners later confirmed that the



BONUS TIME--There were just too many candidates for this week's pinup, so you are getting the benefit of the doubt--all of them. In case you're wondering, these six Goldiggers are off to Christmas dinner after performing in the Bob Hope Show. They had

a ladder to help them get into the deuce-and-a-half. Since you probably won't, exercise caution so you can get to your destination intact, just like these lovelies did.

(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jack Kaaua)

result of the night's action was the elimination of a Viet Cong district level cadreman, who was killed in the exchange. Prisoners later confirmed that the cadreman had been attempting to buy rice from the villagers for the NVA. He was reported to have offered an overvalued price for the rice because the NVA were running short of supplies.

"We knew the enemy was in desperate need of rice," said Staff Sgt. Charles A. Hillestad, Denver, Colo., battalion S2 sergeant. "The recent action has confirmed this information."

Saint Nick's Bn. Brings Christmas To Phu Loc

PHU LOC DISTRICT - Christmas this year brought an extra treat to 1500 children in this district, south of Hue, thanks to the efforts of the men of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.) 327th Inf. The troops participated in a holiday gift program initiated by the battalion S5 (civil affairs) officer, Lt. Bart DiGiovanni, Brooklyn, N.Y.

During the past two months, soldiers of the 101st have been saving candy, soap, toothpaste and brushes from their sundry packages, gift packages from home and C-rations.

On the day before Christmas, the boxes were taken to the various villages of Phu Loc to be distributed by a local church. Nuoc Ngot received 700 boxes of gifts, Cau Hai 500 and 300 were given to the district headquarters for distribution.

To top off the Christmas activities, a Medcap team from the battalion headquarters went to the village of Cau Hai to perform medical services.

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1st Bde. Trains PF Soldiers

CAMP EAGLE - A newly-initiated Mobile Training Team (MTT) program in Huong Thuy District, south of Hue, is helping Vietnamese Popular Force (PF) soldiers progress steadily toward primary responsibility for the pacification and defense of their home ground.

Each of three battalions in the 1st Brigade is supplying a six-man team for the project. The teams are training one PF platoon at a time in the use of organic infantry

weapons and the tactics of patrolling and ambushing.

An MTT team is defined by Lt. Ron Mooneyhan, Tampa, Fla., a team leader, as a group of U.S. soldiers who work as advisors within an assigned district. Once the training cycle has been completed, the team moves on to another PF platoon. When all the platoons in the area have been trained, the team may be assigned to a new district.

"A complete training cycle takes 12 days," says Lt. Mooneyhan. "While one member of the team gives a lesson, another demonstrates the actual technique involved. Once the class has been completed, the PF's undergo a period of practical application. The classes are given with the help of an interpreter."

The Vietnamese soldiers have been attentive and are rapidly picking up the techniques taught by the 101st soldiers. "These people are the first line of defense for their villages," explained Lt. Mooneyhan. "They know their responsibility. Their response to the training has been excellent."



SKIN TREATMENT--Spec. 4 Hershal Neal, Casper, Wyo., treats a young Vietnamese for a skin infection. Neal, a medic from A Co., 3rd Bn. (Ambl.) 187th Inf. is part of an eight man team that has been working in Uu Thuong hamlet, located just north of Camp Evans, teaching the Vietnamese proper hygiene and how to defend themselves.

(U.S. Army photo by Lt. Ivan Pinnell)

Education Pays Off - To a Degree

CAMP EVANS - When Spec. 4 Don Pullano, a 101st trooper from Liverpool, N.Y., heard movement on the perimeter of his reconnaissance element's position, he was quick to ask his artillery support to stand by for action.

Investigating the noise, the Co. B, 1st Bn. (Ambl.) 506th Inf. soldier spotted the intruder.

Pullano called the artillery and told them a Tukie-Tukie bird had made all the noise. Thinking this might be a code name for a fire mission, the

artillery radio operator asked for a clearer transmission.

Confident in his knowledge of wildlife, Pullano holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology. He explained to the confused party at the other end of the line that a Tukie-Tukie is a rare tropical parrot.

The stunned artilleryman really didn't believe the second call, but acknowledged the transmission and prepared for a long evening, thinking he had a real bird on the other end of the line.