

# Screaming Eagles Maul Enemy

The Screaming



Eagle

## Crush Tet Attacks On Three Fronts

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Stars Flank Stars

Col. Lawrence L. Mowery, South Gate, Calif., commander of the 3rd Brigade (left), and Lt. Col. David E. Grange, Richmond Hill, N.Y., commander of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., flank Maj. M. Barsanti, after the division commander decorated them with Silver Stars and Air Medals with "V" for heroic actions near Bien Hoa recently. (U.S. Army Photo)

**BIEN HOA**—With lightning quick aggressiveness, paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division killed more than 200 enemy Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 as the Screaming Eagles crushed a Tet attack aimed at over-running the military installation here, the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and in the Song Be area of Operation San Angelo.

### 1st Bde Topples 70 Enemy

**SONG BE** — Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade launched Operation San Angelo here Jan. 18 and killed 70 enemy in two weeks of light to moderate contact.

Twenty-three enemy were killed in five separate contacts by members of B Troop, 2nd Sqdn. (Abn), 17th Cav., who also captured six AK-47's, two rocket launchers, one light machine gun and three pistols.

The cavalrymen killed 11 VC in a night ambush position and nine more were killed when paratroopers set up blocking positions south of Phuoc Binh.

The ambush force was led by Staff Sgt. Delbert Mulvaney, Bethany, Mo.

"We were about 10 meters off a trail when the VC came toward us," said Mulvaney. Sgt. John Norris, Bonham, Tex., triggered the claymore mine.

"When the claymore went off a Viet Cong jumped into my position," recalled Pfc. Edward Seeman, Oklahoma City. "I hit the VC with my grenade launcher and he fell back into the killing zone. I fired my claymore and followed up with grenades and M-16 fire."

Pfc. Walter Wiedner, Garden City, Mich., saw Seeman strike the enemy who jumped him. "I know he was killed," said Wiedner. "All the members of the team fired on him as he went (Continued on Back Page)

Screaming Eagles of the 2nd Bn. (Abn.), 506th Inf., commanded by Lt. Col. David E. Grange, Richmond Hill, N.Y., killed over 100 enemy in a seven-hour battle Jan. 31 which began when the "Currahees" conducted a combat assault from Phuoc Vinh to the division base camp here.

#### WEAPONS COUNT

Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division captured the following enemy weapons in contacts Jan. 31-Feb. 1:

- 36 AK-47 assault rifles
- 12 RPG-2 type bazookas
- 7 RPD light machine guns
- 5 M-2 carbines
- 3 RPG-7V type bazookas
- 2 K-50 sub-machine guns
- 2 Chinese-Communist machine guns
- 2 Heavy machine guns 12.7 mm
- 2 M-1 rifles
- 2 Chinese-Communist pistols
- 1 60 mm mortar
- 1 M-79 grenade launcher

One of the most dramatic battles was fought by members of the 3rd Platoon, Co. C, 1st Bn. (Abn.), 502nd Inf. when they responded to a Saigon request for reinforcements at the U.S. Embassy.

Maj. H. "Gus" Schwartz, Tacoma, Wash., Capt. John Speedy, Arlington, Va., commander of C Co., and platoon leader Lt. Robert Bell, Jacksonville, Fla., took a 25-man reaction force and made a combat assault on the roof of the embassy.

The platoon aided military police in searching and securing the embassy. The paratroopers were credited with killing nine of the 19 insurgents who entered the embassy courtyard.

The heaviest engagement here was fought between the 101st Airborne Division headquarters area and the Long Binh Post where paratroopers killed 100 enemy Jan. 31 and another 58 insurgents died Feb. 1 as the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 508th Inf. mopped-up resistance in the Bien Hoa area.

The attack began when Communist mortar and rocket fire struck the Bien Hoa Air Force Base at 3 a.m. Fifteen minutes later two or three mortar rounds fell on the division perimeter. Another round struck the roof of an administrative building, but failed to explode. The round penetrated the roof and struck a filing cabinet in the office.

Division commander, Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti flew repeatedly over the battlefield maintaining surveillance and directing the assault on the Communist forces. He frequently ordered his command helicopter close to the ground and placed machine gun fire on the attacking enemy. At least two VC kills were credited to the commander's platoon.

## Currahees Kill Over 150 Reds

**BIEN HOA** — Paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. killed more than 150 enemy in two days of bitter fighting with a sight of the division headquarters here as the Communists tried to overrun the Bien Hoa military installation.

The "Currahees" of the 3rd Brigade were helicoptered here from Phuoc Vinh and were in contact with the enemy 27 minutes after arriving at the

Screaming Eagle division base camp.

"We started our sweep right outside the gate and killed 13 VC in the first few minutes," said Lt. Ronald H. Darnell, Chattanooga, Tenn., commander of A Co. "We were in continuous contact from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. that first day."

Darnell said every man out there was a hero. He told of a sergeant who

killed 13 Viet Cong as he charged across a dry rice paddy.

A medic had his web gear and equipment blown away by a grenade, but he never faltered.

Battalion commander, Lt. Col. David E. Grange, Richmond Hill, N.Y., praised his command for their victory in defeating the insurgent force.

"They were magnificent," he said. "Truly magnificent!"

### Gen. Westmoreland:

## ...All The Enemy Were Killed

**SAIGON** — One of the most dramatic battles of the Tet holiday witnessed a platoon of paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division conducting a combat assault on the roof of the U.S. Embassy here to reinforce Marines and Military Police in repelling an enemy attack.

The paratroopers from C Co. 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. were credited with nine of the 19 insurgents killed on the embassy grounds.

Maj. Hillel Schwartz, Tacoma, Wash., assistant division intelligence officer, led the airborne security mission aided by Capt. John Speedy, Arlington, Va., C Co., commander, and platoon leader Robert Bell, Jacksonville, Fla.

After landing on the embassy roof, Schwartz left one man as security and another as a guide for Bell and his platoon who were enroute.

He instructed Speedy to insure that the platoon search every room and cubicle, post security on each floor and establish a perimeter in the courtyard.

Schwartz then entered the 6th floor of the embassy, where he walked inside the elevator and pushed the button for non-stop

descent to the first floor.

With his M-16 rifle poised, he stepped out, opened the door of the embassy proper and saw bullet holes "all over the place."

"I found a marine sergeant and told him I had assumed control," he said.

"There's a lot of people out there," the sergeant answered, gesturing with his weapon toward the courtyard. He did not know how many.

Schwartz slipped through the door into the courtyard, where he saw MP's pursuing Viet Cong dressed in civilian clothes and carrying AK-47 assault rifles.

"A VC on my left opened fire from a consulate house," he said. "Then a window opened on the top floor and a man yelled he didn't have a weapon."

"An MP heaved a .45 automatic up to him and I pitched him a few hand grenades. The MP also managed to get a protective mask up to the window and the rest of us started throwing tear gas into the room where we saw the VC flee."

Schwartz and two MP's entered the building.

"We heard firing upstairs," he said. "An AK fired a burst and then two shots from

a .45."

Reaching the second floor landing, the three soldiers saw the VC dying. The man who had been tossed the weapon stood in the hallway, pistol in hand.

"Boy," the man said, "am I glad to see you."

Schwartz returned to the courtyard. "There were dead VC all over the place," he recalled.

He instructed the MP's to secure the consulate house, place two guards on each VC body and bring captured documents and weapons to his command post in the main entrance of the embassy.

Additional guards from the paratrooper platoon began to secure the area.

"General Westmoreland arrived and I accompanied him in an inspection of the courtyard," Schwartz said. "Nineteen bodies littered the ground."

Later Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker arrived and told Schwartz he was pleased with the way the mission had been accomplished.

Schwartz turned the security over to a Marine captain and walked into the embassy



# TAKE THE SCENIC JUNGLE ROUTE SAFE and SECURE



**CURRAHEE**

Controlled by the  
2<sup>nd</sup> BN 506<sup>th</sup> INF  
3<sup>rd</sup> BDE



## Currahee Cleared

Troopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. erect a road sign announcing the opening of a stretch of Highway 1A north of Phuoc Vinh they cleared during a recent operation. The section had been closed to traffic since 1964. (U.S. Army Photo)

# Screaming Eagle Briefings

## Find Rice Store

Elements of the 2nd Bn., 501st Inf. (Abn), uncovered 2,800 pounds of unpolished rice here recently when the paratroopers surprised a Viet Cong resupply force near the 3rd Brigade base camp.

Two gunships, accompanying Co. D and the battalion reconnaissance platoon, fired upon some Viet Cong near the cache before the paratroopers arrived. In moments the troopers searched the area and discovered 30 caliber ammunition, one AK-47 assault rifle, in addition to items of clothing and personal belongings.

Capt. Bobbie Lay, Henrietta, Okla., battalion intelligence officer, said "Evidently there was a group of Viet Cong out there probably acting as a resupply source for a larger size enemy unit."

## Mule Talks

Paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. have a valuable mascot named "Francis, The Talking Mule."

The "mule" is a ½-ton utility vehicle worth \$38,000.

The high-priced "beast of burden" carries radio equipment used for communications between brigade and battalion command posts.

"In ideal atmospheric conditions, Francis can receive radio

messages from great distances," said Spec. 5 Bob Hubernak, Houston, Tex.

Hubernak and the other men from the battalion communications platoon give Francis his talking capability.

A horse, or rather a mule shoe hangs on the side of the vehicle for good luck.

## Predicts Future

After his monumental effort against Lew Alcindor and UCLA, the University of Houston's Elvin Hayes sat on top of the college basketball world.

Deep in a Vietnamese jungle 9,000 miles away, Elvin's brother-in-law, Capt. Aloysius Greenhouse, Marksville, La., chuckled: "He'll probably hold out for a bigger bonus from the pros!"

Greenhouse heard about the game during a search and destroy mission against a suspected Viet Cong base camp northwest of here. He commands D Co., 1st Bn. (Abn.), 502nd Inf. of the 2nd Brigade.

"When I met my wife Bunny, Elvin was still in high school," Capt. Greenhouse said. "One day she brought me home to meet her 'little brother.'"

Hayes stands 6'9".

"Elvin was never a shrinking violet," Greenhouse added. "When he was just a kid he predicted he would be an All-American, and he was right."

## Hamlet Aided

Civil affairs teams from the 101st Airborne Division's artillery headquarters are helping the residents of Dai An hamlet remodel their school and civic headquarters.

"We have painted the school and office and helped repair the roofs," said Capt. Gerald B. Forreast, Harrison, Maine. "Our next job is to construct a gate for the schoolyard and help the citizens pour a cement floor in the hamlet office."

Civic improvement projects are accomplished primarily by the hamlet residents with supplies and technical assistance furnished by members of the division artillery.

## Link with Home

Troopers at Song Be will soon be able to place phone calls to the states by short-wave radio and the Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS).

Master Sgt. Bobby P. Younker, Fayetteville, Pa., said, "The biggest problem constructing a MARS station in the field is getting the 25-foot tower up. When the station is complete it will be mobile and can be moved to wherever the troops are located."

## Commander's Corner



By MG O. M. BARSANTI

Two months ago, when I told General Westmoreland that the 101st Airborne Division was here and ready for combat, we embarked on several missions and accomplished them in a professional manner.

Your in-country training was rapid, but thorough. Your eagerness to search out and destroy the enemy has earned the 101st Airborne Division proud honors. You have fought and defeated the enemy day and night in the jungle, rice paddies—even at the doorstep of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. You are becoming experts in night and day ambushes.

However, previous victories in combat must not cause you to become so confident you forget the basic fundamentals that paved your victory—all around security, maximum use of cover and concealment, avoiding the tendency to bunch up, and taking immaculate care of individual and crew-served weapons.

If you ignore any one of these maxims, you not only fail your individual responsibility, but your responsibility to your unit. This means the other men in the unit who depend on you for security, strength, and ultimate success that comes from disciplined, professional teamwork.

The most important attribute of a soldier is constant vigilance, to be always ready for and capable of responding correctly to any given situation—the first time.

Success in combat requires confidence in yourself, your weapons and your fellow soldiers. Abuse or ignore any one of these requirements, and the mission fails.

Take advantage of lessons learned. Critique each operation, no matter how small. Stress the techniques you are proving to be successful.

Stay alert and continue to demonstrate that the 101st Airborne Division is indeed capable of victory in any mission.

# 3rd Bde Trio Cited for Valor By M.G. Barsanti

PHUOC VINH — Three 101st Airborne Division paratroopers were decorated for valor here recently when division commander Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti pinned the medals on an officer and two non-commissioned officers of the 3rd Brigade's "Phantom Force."

Capt. Fred Crepeau, Orlando, Fla., and Sgt. Larry Hall, Lancaster, Calif., received Silver Stars. The Bronze Star for Valor was presented to Staff Sgt. Fred Bailey, Clarksville, Tenn.

Crepeau, who received the Silver Star and three Bronze Stars in two previous tours with Special Forces and the 173rd Airborne Brigade, was cited for rescuing a wounded paratrooper and braving enemy fire to direct air and artillery strikes against fortified enemy positions.

tions.

Hall, a medic, though wounded in the leg, refused to be evacuated.

"He dashed 50 meters through a hail of enemy fire to treat wounded men," recalled Lt. Floyd Davis, Auburn, Ala. "When the medivac chopper landed, Hall refused to leave, insisting he must remain with his platoon. He had to be physically placed on the helicopter and ordered out of the area."

Bailey, serving as a platoon sergeant, was exposed to enemy fire and booby traps while directing his platoon in a recent mission. By his personal courage and bravery he insured their assigned mission was accomplished.

The three were the first paratroopers cited for valor in the 3rd Brigade since arriving in Vietnam.

# Computer Pulls Quick Check

BIEN HOA — The computer does not make the Army any less human, claims WO Earl F. Roberts, Wickenburg, Ariz., data processing chief for the 101st Airborne Division.

"It's merely a tool that works for man," he said as he stood in a maze of machines and IBM cards.

"Speed is the big advantage," he explained. "These machines, for instance, could screen all the division's riflemen in an hour. To do this by hand would take all day and probably be less accurate."

Each man in the division is represented by three IBM cards. One shows his status, another his qualifications. A third card tells when he is due for such things as physical examinations and service awards.

"Most of the information is taken from morning reports and special orders," WO Roberts said.

The data is converted into computer language by a manual key punch. A second machine insures that the holes in the cards are compatible.

From here the cards are run

through a sorter, which can file them alphabetically or numerically.

A machine called a coliator can mix the files according to more than one factor, such as age and rank.

Still another machine specializes in translating the holes back into English.

The computer itself—a Univac 1005 II—can produce a written report at the rate of 800 lines a minute. The only thing holding it back is the fact that it must wait for man to tell it what to do.

The  
**Screaming Eagle**



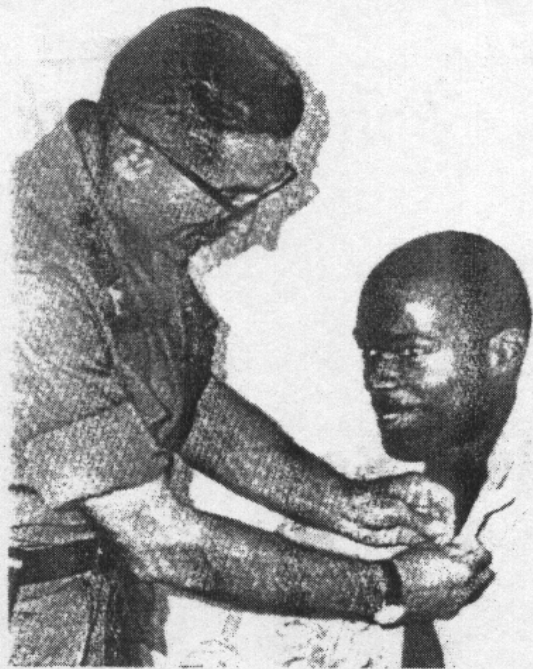
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# 187th Infantry Ambushes NVA Battalion Commander



## Gallantry Cited

Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, decorates Pfc. Dwight J. Taylor, Salisbury, Md., with the Silver Star at the 93rd Evacuation Hospital. Taylor received the medal citing his role in a recent B Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn), 187th Infantry action which killed an enemy battalion commander. Taylor, a machine gunner, sustained minor wounds in the action.

(USA Photo by Spec. 4 Roger Downs)

PHUOC VINH — A North Vietnamese Army battalion commander and his bodyguard were killed recently in an ambush by 3rd Brigade paratroopers about seven miles from here.

"They were talking, laughing, joking and were very close together," said Lt. James R. Helmly, Savannah, Ga., leader of the rifle platoon which sprang the ambush after a night-long wait.

Lt. Col. Lam Hiep, an NVA battalion commander and Viet Cong political figure in the II Corps area north of Saigon, and a bodyguard armed with an AK-47 automatic rifle were cut down by a 20-second burst of machine gun fire. A third enemy soldier escaped.

The ambush force — three squads from B Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn), 187th Inf. — thought the trio comprised nothing more than an NVA forward observer team until the bodies were examined.

Hiep, apparently on a reconnaissance mission, was carrying an attache case which contained documents and other valuables, according to Helmly.

"When they were about 15 meters away, our machinegun-

ner, Pfc. Dwight J. Taylor, Salisbury, Md., opened up," Helmly said.

The paratroopers lay silent in their positions for more than ten hours before the ambush was triggered by the sight of the laughing, talking soldiers.

Facing down the trail on each end of the ambush was a claymore mine aimed to cut down any elements traveling to the front or rear of the main force.

"I don't know how the third

man got away," said Staff Sgt. Charles C. Sanders, Evansville, Ind., a squad leader with the ambush force.

"He ran right out of his sandals. We were firing all around him, and about 25 meters down the trail we found his right sandal. But he got away," Sanders said.

The ambush was not without cost. One U.S. paratrooper died in the brief encounter. Another was wounded.

## New ADC Arrives To Lead Support

BIEN HOA — Brig. Gen. Richard J. Allen, Byron, Ga., newly assigned assistant division commander for support operations, is no stranger to the 101st Airborne Division.

Allen served with the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, as a company commander, regimental operations officer, battalion commander and regimental executive officer during World War II.

The master parachutist participated in the airborne assaults into France and Holland and fought throughout Europe with the Screaming Eagles.

Following World War II, Allen was the regimental operations officer and a battalion commander for the 187th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 11th Airborne Division, in Japan and later at Fort Campbell.

For 13 months during 1963-64,

he commanded the 506th Infantry Battle Group which became the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell.

## Leaflets Guide The Way

PHUOC VINH — A trail of "Chieu Hoi" leaflets advertising the "open arms" program for Viet Cong defectors recently led a 101st Airborne Division ambush patrol to safety following a fire fight near here.

An element of the 3rd Brigade's A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 595th Inf. moved to set up night ambush positions along the Song Be River.

"We heard the Viet Cong talking and digging holes before we reached the river bank," said Sgt. Thomas A. Jones, Detroit.

The paratroopers deployed and machine gunner Pfc. Robert Drayton, Fort Pierce, Fla., opened fire.

"I fired about 100 rounds and saw two VC fall before they started firing back with AK-47's," Drayton said. "The enemy fire intensified and Jones ordered us into a tight defensive position."

Some of the paratroopers sustained wounds in the contact and Jones decided to go to the battalion fire base and get reinforcements.

Insuring his men were in the most secure position available, Jones slipped into the darkness toward the fire base.

"I noticed Chieu Hoi leaflets our forces had dropped in the area earlier and decided to use them to mark my trail back to the men," Jones recalled. "I picked up the leaflets and posted them on trees every 25 or 30 meters."

Moments before Jones returned, enemy fire forced the paratrooper patrol to withdraw to a better position. Pfc. John Tate, Hart, Mich., took charge and said he used the leaflets Jones had posted to guide the force to safer ground.

Thirty minutes later, Jones returned with a platoon of paratroopers to reinforce his patrol. Quickly they bandaged their wounded and evacuated them to safety.

## Platoon Sweeps VC Base

PHUOC VINH — "There are suspected Viet Cong positions near the rubber plantation you are to sweep," was the briefing received by Platoon Leader Lt. Douglas L. MacClung of Red Bluff, Calif.

Before the day was over, he and his squad from C Co., 3rd Bn., 187th Inf. (Abn), were to find this was an understatement.

The squad of paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd brigade proceeded through a rubber plantation along the Song Be River, south of their base camp at Phuoc Vinh.

As the "Rakkasans" crossed a creek, they began following a trail that was more often used than the ones they had been following. The men tensed slightly and clicked their M-16's to a semi-automatic fire position.

Suddenly the trail widened into a clearing and exposed a hut from which a small figure darted into the thick jungle. The paratroopers were unable to fire in time.

"Careful examination revealed a ten-foot tunnel that was six-feet deep and capable of holding a fire team of five men," MacClung said.

Spurred on by this discovery, the "Rakkasans" moved down the trail. Two hundred meters farther, another fresh trail branched into it. The squad held up while point men Pfc. Thomas J. Terry, Uniontown, Ky., and Pfc. Robert F. Ballard, Houston, Tex., went to investigate.

The two soldiers got the surprise of their lives as they rounded a bend in the trail. Less than 50 meters in front of them sat a lone Viet Cong in the process of cleaning his carbine. As they fired, he bolted for the safety of the dense jungle.

The point men held their positions as the rest of their squad ran up to meet them. They searched the area and found a more elaborate bunker system concealing pistol belt, eight

hand grenades, several clips of 7.62 rifle ammunition, 300 pounds of rice and two 60-millimeter mortar rounds.

One of the bunkers contained a table with cooking utensils and appeared to be a crude mess hall. They found 300 pounds of rice, three bombs and an old French carbine.

Again the squad of paratroopers proceeded along the trail and came upon what MacClung described as a battalion-sized base camp.

"There was a bunker 50 meters long, ten meters wide and eight feet deep," MacClung said. "There were also three staff bunkers around the large one."

The squad quickly searched the smaller staff bunkers and grabbed all the documents they could find.

"Then," laughed MacClung, "we got out of there but fast, before a large number of occupants returned."



## Waist Deep

Sgt. Pepito Rivera, (left) Brooklyn, moves to aid fellow paratroopers Spec. 4 Theodore J. Maslo, Chicago, and Pfc. Frank Major, Curundu, C.Z., crossing a swamp southeast of Phuoc Vinh. Waiting to help is Spec. 4 Louis E. Davis, Brooklyn. All are members of C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf.

(USA Photo by Spec. 4 Charles Smith)



# Vietnamese Sgt Explains Phuoc Vinh Landmark

By SP4 Dean Phillips  
**PHUOC VINH** — When paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's Third Brigade arrived to set up their base camp here, the Screaming Eagles were curious about the bust of Maj. Nguyen Minh Mang which stands in the courtyard of the MACV compound.

The paratroopers' curiosity led them to ARVN Sgt. Nguyen Ba Giao, who has served many years here and now is attached to the brigade.

"In 1960, Maj. Mang was appointed province chief of Binh Duong Province. He quickly won the admiration and respect of both villager and soldier. Through their association, Maj. Mang and Sgt. Giao became very close friends.

"Very early on the morning of Aug. 2, 1962, a Viet Cong regiment launched an attack against our location here."

Surviving the initial assault, Maj. Mang, Sgt. Giao and three other soldiers ran to the tower

of the headquarters building and with three machine guns fought off wave after wave of attacking enemy.

As the battle raged, the five soldiers in the tower could see the Communists slaughtering the villagers, women and children included.

"Maj. Mang realized our situation and knew he had to call for help," Sgt. Giao continued. "We all knew he could not cross the court yard alive. I pleaded with him not to go."

"Somehow, he managed to reach the telephone and completed the call to Saigon, but as he raced back across the court yard, he was cut down by a score of Viet Cong gunners. The VC beheaded our major and left his body on the steps of the building."

Sgt. Giao said the battle lasted 40 hours and the sight of their leader's body inspired them to fight harder.

"Finally, South Vietnamese Rangers, summoned by Maj.

Mang, broke through and drove off the Viet Cong," the sergeant concluded.

Since that day, Sgt. Giao has been fighting to avenge the death of his commander. He has worked with several MACV and Special Forces teams and the 1st Infantry Division.

"Sgt. Giao has been wounded six times and decorated with many medals," said Capt. David Brewster, Arkansas City, Kan., senior MACV adviser to Phu Giao District.



## M-M-M-M Good!

A Vietnamese boy uses a knife for a spoon as he digs into a meal of chicken and rice. The meal, one of several varieties issued to combat troops of the 101st Airborne Division, was given the lad by a paratrooper from the 3rd Brigade's 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. during pre-Tet sweeps near Binh My.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Michael Sugar)

## Black Angels Zap 14 In First Combat Try

**BIEN HOA**—The "Black Angels" of Co. B fire teams A and B of the 101st Airborne Division's aviation battalion killed 14 VC in their first week of combat support since arriving in Vietnam.

## Chaplain Aids New Mother

**BIEN HOA**—A routine drive from Cu Chi to the 101st Airborne Division base camp here turned out to be a startling experience for division artillery chaplain (Maj.) Billy W. Libby, Dumas, Tex., recently.

"My driver and I passed the Cu Chi bridge which was guarded by MP's," said Libby. "About four miles down the road we saw a Vietnamese vehicle had broken down along side the road."

Libby noticed a young Vietnamese woman lying beside the car and he ordered his driver, Pfc. Benjamin Torres, Montebello, Calif., to stop.

The woman was in child birth. "As soon as I saw what was happening, I sent Torres back to the MP's to request a medevac," said the chaplain. "By this time some older women delivered the newborn baby boy and began cleaning him."

Minutes later a helicopter arrived from the Second Brigade's base camp and carried the mother and her new son to a Cu Chi field hospital.

Eleven of the kills came while supporting ground operations of the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 187th Inf. in War Zone D.

"We got a call when another supporting aviation unit's gunships expended their ammunition and the men on the ground needed continuous support," said WO Clyde O. Wilburn, Birmingham, Ala. "We were on target ten minutes later. The infantry troops told us the next day we were credited with 11 kills."

In another action, the "Black Angels" were called to help repel an enemy attack against an ARVN Ranger camp north-east of here.

"Our gunships blasted the target area for 30 minutes," said WO William E. Whitaker, Fayetteville, N.C. "We raced over to the Song Be airfield, refueled, armed and resumed the attack. That was the shortest amount of ground time I've experienced. The crews were outstanding."

Ground observers confirmed three VC killed by the "Black Angel" gunners and reported large pools of blood around the ranger camp.

WO Leon P. Morris, Maquoketa, Iowa, praised his crew chief and door gunners for their professional zeal and teamwork.

Spec. 4 William Burress, Granite City, Ill., is WO Morris' crew chief and Specs. 4 Charles D. Bartlett, Rockland, Mass., and George C. Gaston, Akron, Ohio, are the gunners.

## 1st Bde Officer Receives \$100 Suggestion Award

**PHAN RANG**—As a project officer for the M-73 Anti-Tank Weapon (LAW), Capt. Peter S. Reinhart, Hazelton, Pa., felt a change could improve the weapon. He submitted his idea under the Suggestion Awards program and waited. That was in March, 1965.

In January, 1968, Reinhart, now commanding Headquarters Co. of the 1st Brigade, received

a \$100 Suggestion Award Certificate and a Letter of Commendation from the United States Army Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Ga. His suggestion had been accepted and utilized on the weapon.

"I was surprised," said Reinhart. "It had been more than two-and-a-half years. I had almost forgotten about it."

Reinhart's idea, s t e m m e d

## District Honors 101st In Pre-Tet Festival

**CONG THANH**—With scores of Republic of Vietnam flags flying and garlands of flowers decorating the courtyard here, officials of this Bien Hoa district capital paid tribute to the 101st Airborne Division during a recent pre-Tet festival and saluted the Screaming Eagles for their benevolence in aiding this district of 23,000 persons.

Captain Vu Van Tuyen, ARVN district chief, told an audience of 500 that his district faced the new year with confidence of progress because of the many joint activities pursued by the Vietnamese and the American airborne division.

On behalf of Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti, commander of the

101st Airborne Division, a gift was presented to Capt. Van Tuyen by division civil affairs officer Lt. Col. Roy K. Williams, Fletcher, Okla.

In his address, Capt. Van Tuyen recounted the joy associated with the observance of Tet, but noted the pleasure of the occasion was diminished by the war which has denied the Vietnamese people the total family reunion inherent in the holiday's tradition. He said he shares with all Vietnamese the hope for peace in this new year.

The festival was highlighted with a fireworks display and dinner. Entertainment was provided by elementary school children of the district who presented Vietnamese holiday songs.

from the need for a range determination device for the newly-developed weapon. Utilizing Stadia lines which are found on most other anti-tank weapons, he developed the device which was eventually adopted on the M-72.

"We needed a means by which to determine range beyond the maximum effective range of the weapon," Reinhart explained. "After conducting a series of tests we decided that Stadia lines were the answer."

## San Angelo...

(Continued From Page 1)

down."

In the second major contact, cavalrymen commanded by Lt. Grady Robinson, Overland, Ohio, used armored personnel carriers to block enemy escape routes from Phuoc Binh, a village under attack by VC forces.

South Vietnamese soldiers of the 31st Ranger Bn. pushed the enemy toward Robinson's blocking position. Air and artillery fire were called in. The enemy broke into small groups in an effort to evade.

Operation San Angelo is the 23th major action for the 1st Brigade since arriving in Vietnam July 29, 1965, and their first return to III Corps since late 1965.



## For Better Smiles...

Lt. William V. McTaggart, Sleatsburg, N.Y., presents tooth paste and brushes and instructions for better dental care to residents of the village of Kwan Ho. The officer is one of many paratroopers from the 326th Medical Bn. (Abn) conducting daily MEDCAP visits in Bien Hoa Province.

(Photo by Spec. 5 Leonard Hekel)