

# Screaming Eagles Clobber NVA Bn

QUANG TRI—Screaming Eagles of the 2nd Brigade stalked an NVA force for two days near here recently and lured the enemy into a day long battle which claimed more than 100 enemy dead.

The contact began at first light when an estimated NVA battalion attacked the combined perimeters of A and B Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf.

"They hit us with everything they had," said A Co. commander, Lt. Gregory F. Mills, North Miami Beach, Fla. "We were dug in and ready."

Developing maximum firepower with small arms, artillery and gunships, the paratroopers laced into the attacking enemy. The men of B Co. charged the attackers, met stiff resistance and pulled back to call in more artillery.

When the supporting fires lifted, B Co. moved in a second time and killed 25 NVA in extremely close fighting.

The enemy broke contact at sundown. An observation helicopter reported more than 100 bodies littered the battlefield.

"Judging from the weapons captured and the ferocity of his attack, I estimated the enemy force as two reinforced companies or a battalion," said Capt. Paul M. Pritchard, Vallejo, Calif., commander of B Co.

"We had been stalking them for two days," added battalion commander, Lt. Col. Bertram J. Bishop, Ft. Campbell, Ky.

"They made a costly mistake when they chose to attack." One paratrooper died in the fighting.

## The Screaming Eagle



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# 'O-Deuce' Charge Fells 17 Reds; Seven Troopers Cited for Valor



## Beak to Beak

Amidst the harshness of war, a fluffy baby chick finds a moment of warmth and security in the palm of Staff Sgt. Thomas R. Lamb, Fayetteville, N.C. Lamb found the chick as he and members of B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. conducted a MEDCAP visit to Bo Mua.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Michael Segar)

SONG BE—A company of paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division turned a reconnaissance mission into an assault on an NVA bunker complex near here recently, killing 17 and destroyed bunker rocket sites.

Seven of the "Strike Force" infantrymen from A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. were decorated for their actions by Maj. Gen. O.M. Barantti, division commander.

"The 1st Platoon was leading the way when two men were wounded by snipers," said the company commander, Capt.

Robert S. McGurk, Manlius, N.Y.

McGurk placed Lt. George R. Tillman, Mobile, Ala., in charge of the other three platoons and sent them ahead while he and the lead element waited for a medivac.

"We killed one of the snipers and captured his AK-47," McGurk said.

Meanwhile Tillman maneuvered the rest of the company across an open field. "I put the platoons on line when we reached a thickly vegetated ridge on the other side," he said.

The 4th Plat., taking the center position, approached the bunker complex head on.

"All of a sudden we were 20 meters from a bunker," said Sgt. Raymond Lynch, Nassau, N.Y., who led the point squad. "We hit the dirt and fired immediately."

"Our volume of fire was so heavy 'Charlie' must have thought we were a much larger force," Tillman recalled.

The point squad killed four and destroyed the bunker. NVA soldiers from ten other fortified positions fled down the ridge toward the 2nd Platoon.

Staff Sgt. Harrison Woods, Clarksville, Tenn., heard the enemy approaching. His men waited in prone positions.

"Some of them came as close as five meters from our positions," Woods added.

Woods accounted for three of the six NVA killed by his squad.

"The enemy scattered out," said the 2nd Platoon leader, Lt. Jose R. Morales, Brooklyn, N.Y., "We began receiving rounds from three directions. I told my men to fire only when they could hit something, so we wouldn't give away our positions."

After killing five more NVA, the 2nd Platoon began pulling back.

Enemy rockets started coming in from the rear. Gunships had arrived by this time, however, and they quickly silenced the rocket site.

The 3rd and 4th Platoons destroyed the bunker complex.

"We had to be back by night-fall," the company commander said. "This was only a reconnaissance mission."

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## Small Price

PHUOC VINH—A paratrooper from the 101st Airborne Division paid 18 cents to save a small boy from danger near here recently.

Staff Sgt. Richard Dickie, Hopkinsville, Ky., D Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn), 187th Inf. was on a road clearing operation when he tried to move a group of Vietnamese children out of the way.

The sergeant stopped short when a small boy displayed his new toy—an M-79 grenade round.

Dickie reached into his pocket for trading material and pulled out 20 plasters (about 18 cents). The child eagerly accepted the exchange and walked away.

## Rakkasan Heroics

# Two Rescued from Swirling River

By Spec. 4 Douglas R. Harrell

PHUOC VINH—Every Screaming Eagle in the platoon knew it wasn't going to be an ordinary day. The sun was brighter, hotter. Jungle humidity added to the weight of their rucksacks. Sweat stained their web equipment and their eyes smarted from rivulets of perspiration coursing down their faces.

For what seemed like an eternity, the paratroopers of the 2nd Plat., D Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn), 187th Inf. pushed toward their objective beyond the Song Be River.

The platoon radio crackled.

Company commander Capt. Paul Bucha, Chicago, asked: "Are you still in water up to your neck?"

"Negative," replied platoon leader Lt. Jeffrey L. Wishik, Montgomery, Ala. "Right now the water is only in my boots. All we've done is go from swamp to trees and back into the swamp again."

Ahead the platoon could see sunlight reflecting on the fast waters of the Son Be.

The river was nearly 100 yards wide. It had to be crossed. A machine gun security team

went first to protect the men who would use the line to cross the river.

Cpl. Warren G. Walkabout, from Oklahoma City, was among the first to cross. Before climbing up the bank, the Cherokee Indian looked back. He saw a paratrooper who had tired quickly. The man groped wildly for the rope. He failed to find the safety line and disappeared beneath the surface.

Walkabout dived into the water. Squad Leader Sgt. Glen G. Geileheart, Stillwater, Minn., followed. They reached their drowning buddy and the two

leaders denied the water's bid for their friend's life.

Moments later, as the half-drowned man was cared for, the safety line snapped. Another paratrooper, holding the rope with one hand and pushing a poncho raft with the other, lost his grip. He bobbed in the swirling, muddy water.

Sensing the man's desperation, Wishik dived into the water and pulled the thrashing trooper to safety.

Re-assembled now on far shore, the paratroopers rested and moved on.

The objective was still ahead.

# Screaming Eagles Assist 2,000 Cong Than Refugees

BIEN HOA—Screaming Eagle paratroopers delivered 13 tons of food to 2,000 Vietnamese refugees in Cong Than District, recently devastated by Viet Cong.

"We're showing the people that we back them with human aid and concern as well as fire-power," said Maj. Paul S. Moscovic, Canonsburg, Pa., division civil affairs officer.

The major added, "This is part of the overall program of providing assistance when and where it is most needed."

The distribution included 18,000 pounds of rice from a 100-ton Viet Cong cache captured by division troopers.

Maj. George S. Kuffel, Kalamazoo, Mich., senior district advisor, visited Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, division commander and thanked him for the assistance.

"The Viet Cong destroyed 274 homes in the area," Kuffel said. "They also extensively damaged bridges, schools and pagodas."

When the homes were destroyed, most family food supplies were lost, Kuffel said.

In addition to the rice, the Cong Than homeless were given 4,824 pounds of rolled oats, 2,900 pounds of flour, 2,633 pounds of cooking oil and 300 pounds of powdered milk.

The rice alone was sufficient to feed the refugees for over a week.



## Hurt Healer

Spec. 4 Walford Palmatory, Benthon, Md., applies bandages to the injured foot of a village miss near Phuoc Vinh during MEDCAP operations of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. The young medic treated numerous villagers during a day-long mercy mission. (Photo by Spec. 4 Charles Smith)

## Commander's Corner

MG O.M. Barsanti



I am encouraged by the emphasis commanders are demonstrating toward maintenance of equipment at all echelons of command. Preventive maintenance is as important as good tactics. Without equipment that works under all conditions—the mission fails.

One area of concern to me is the effectiveness of individual riflemen. If the rifle is in top shape, and the rifleman uses it in a professional manner, the effect on the enemy is devastating, our casualties are minimized and success is achieved.

To correct what appears to be questionable marksmanship, I have directed a two-hour refresher training program for personnel armed with the M-16. Each soldier in this division will zero and fire familiarization with the weapon. Zero will be re-confirmed at least every two weeks.

There has been a tendency to use too much tracer ammunition in the M-16. Argument for using tracers contends the riflemen can better adjust his fire on the target. However, if your weapon is properly zeroed, and if you aim, you know you are on target, regardless of the ammunition. Moreover, excessive use of tracer ammunition can clog the M-16 gas port, contributing toward a malfunction. Accordingly, I have directed that tracer ammunition in M-16 magazines be confined to one tracer round for each four rounds of ball ammunition.

In order that weapons, properly zeroed, may function correctly at all times, I have directed that all weapons and magazines will be cleaned daily, and that squad and platoon leaders are to conduct inspections to insure proper care is rendered. Each man must carry cleaning materials and use them.

Commanders at all echelons are responsible to make spot checks to insure weapons, magazines and ammunition are clean and serviceable at all times. I regard this a most important duty that cannot be over-emphasized.

Take care of your weapon, and it will take care of you.

# Eagle Patch Holds Special Meaning

BIEN HOA — The Screaming Eagle insignia worn by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division here has a special significance to the Vietnamese people according to Maj. Nguyen Van Trong, division liaison officer.

"When the eagle appears, it means peace, happiness and good harvest," Maj. Trong explained as he recounted the ancient oriental belief.

In addition to his liaison duties between ARVN units and the division, Maj. Trong commands the ARVN interpreters attached to the 101st.

"Already I've given much advice to intelligence and civil affairs officers here and their staffs," he said.

Maj. Trong speaks with experience of the Communist threat to his country. Born between Hanoi and the DMZ, he fled from North Vietnam after his country was partitioned in 1954.

"The Communists killed my father and I was held captive in 1947 for a year," he said. "They did it because we were Catholic and nationalists."

Maj. Trong, a veteran of 17 years service, has held many significant military assignments in command and counter-intelligence and was a district chief in Quang Ngai Province.

# Troopers Prove Persistent Foes on Search Mission

CU CHI—In a rice paddy five miles east of here, paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade proved Screaming Eagles are persistent foes.

Five Viet Cong were reported sighted early one morning in a rice paddy. Gunships and helicopter paratroopers of D Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn.), 501st Inf. took off immediately to engage the insurgent force.

When the paratroopers arrived, they found the VC had fled, leaving pistol belts, litter, flashlights and rucksacks at the scene. Nearby, the airborne soldiers found a kettle of simmering food.

The search was about to be abandoned when gunships spotted three VC in another rice paddy 500 yards away.

Again the paratroopers air-assaulted. This time they found 2,500 pounds of rice and sundry cooking equipment. The enemy had fled.

Airborne and enroute to their

base camp again, VC were reported in another paddy.

The choppers circled back and the paratroopers leaped from the ships, weapons blazing.

"Fire a long burst into that hedgerow," commanded Lt. William D. Lofton, Locksburg, Ark. Spec. 4 Howard McMichael, Riedsville, N.C., opened fire.

Searching the area, the paratroopers found two VC sprawled in the paddy.

## Assault...

(Continued From Page 1)

Tillman and Woods were awarded Silver Stars for their heroism.

Receiving Bronze Stars for valor were Lynch; Morales; Staff Sgt. James L. Gabbard, Hobbs, N.M.; Spec. 5 Richard C. Brown, Uncasville, Conn.; and Pfc. Juan J. Caraballo, Brooklyn, N.Y.



## Milk Man

Staff Sgt. Richard M. Burt, Warren, Pa., distributes fresh milk to children of Bo Mua village. Burt is a civil affairs NCO for the 3rd Brigade's 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. (Photo by Spec. 4 Michael Sugar)

# Chow Cans M-60 Jams Says Gunner

PHUOC VINH—Spec. 3 Richard Runke, East Rutherford, N.J., a helicopter door gunner in A Co., 101st Avn. Bn., knows a can of C-rations will keep a soldier alive in more ways than one.

"I attach a can of C-rations to the bracket on the side of the M-60 machine gun," said Runke. "This prevents rounds jamming in the feed tray."

The paratrooper uses the machine gun to support ground troops of the 101st Airborne Division.

"After a day is completed I just open up the can and enjoy the contents," he said.



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# LRRPs Ambush VC Column; Capture Rocket Launcher

PHAN RANG—The dense jungle loomed menacingly on each side of the trail. The men of the 1st Brigade's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) were alert for enemy ambush positions. Quietly, they moved down the narrow path.

Suddenly the point man, Staff Sgt. Lester E. Hite, St. Louis, dropped to his hands and knees. The rest of the column repeated his movement. Where once a string of men had stretched down the trail, no one could be seen. Camouflaged fatigues blended into the dark green foliage.

The late afternoon sun filtered through the heavy jungle, barely audible, footsteps could be heard on the trail ahead.

Hite removed his rucksack, inching his way forward, he saw the point element of the enemy squad.

Sgt. Ray Martinez, Los Angeles, crawled forward with his M-40 machine gun. The Viet Cong point man noticed the movement and shouldered his rifle. Quickly Hite fired a burst from his M-16. Martinez immediately raked the area with machine gun fire.

As the volume of fire increased, Hite saw an insurgent aim a rocket launcher.

"That was a pretty nervous moment for me," said Hite. "We started firing with everything we had. We couldn't allow them to fire that damn thing."

Spec. 4 Jack McGill, Los Angeles, moved alongside Martinez and Hite.

"We crawled forward to throw grenades," said McGill. "But that bamboo made the going slow."

The paratroopers pitched grenades into the enemy positions. In return, a VC tossed a grenade toward Hite, Martinez and McGill.

"Grenade!" yelled Hite. The explosion shattered the staccato beat of the automatic weapons. Shrapnel ripped through the area. Hite felt hot metal cut his back.

"It knocked me over, but I didn't have time to think about it," he said.

The VC abandoned the heavy rocket launcher and fled. The LRRPs moved into the enemy positions, found the rocket launcher and two rockets.

"We didn't find any bodies, but that rocket launcher won't be used to hit any of our companies," said Hite.

## Sharp-Eyed Sgt Sees Thru NVA

QUANG TRI — Second Brigade paratrooper Joseph K. Korosec, Cleveland, proved that clothes do indeed make the man.

Staff Sgt. Korosec was manning the daylight perimeter of A Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., near here when an unarmed man approached the American.

He wore brown khakis, the same uniform worn by North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars. Korosec detained him and summoned an interpreter.

"He said he was a South Vietnamese civilian," said Korosec, "but he had no identification." The man explained that he was very poor and had taken the clothes from a dead soldier.

"He's lying," Korosec said. "Watch his eyes. He won't look straight at you. Those clothes are his and he's an NVA."

When these words were translated the man sighed and admitted that he was an NVA and the clothes were his after all. He soon began talking freely to the Americans about NVA weapons and operations in the area.

"His morale was pretty low,"

Korosec said. "He had been in South Vietnam for about a month and his outfit had been hit hard twice by the Americans."

The detainee said he had lost his weapon and did not want to fight any more. "I just want to go home," he said.

## Phew!

PHUOC VINH — Seven hundred-fifty pounds of potential trouble turned up at the division artillery fire support base south of here recently.

Spec. 4 Charles Millender, Pittsburgh, Pa., D Co., 168th Combat Engineers, was bulldozing a ditch for B Btry., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 319th Arty. when several paratroopers yelled at him to stop.

"I had uncovered a 750-pound bomb," Millender said. "It had wire leading from it to the tree line several hundred meters away."

"If it had exploded where we found it, the bomb would have taken the battery ammo dump and most of the fire base with it," said SFC Freddie Mahone, Annapolis, Md.



## Smoked Jumper

Patrol leader Sgt. John L. Decker, Atwater, Calif., emerges from a pall of smoke during search and destroy operations near Phuoc Vinh. Decker is a member of A Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 508th Inf. (Photo by Spec. 4 Charles Smith)

## VC KO'd by Redleg's Punch

PHUOC VINH — A "Redleg" medic treated the blistered hands of an ammunition gun crew here after they had pounded Viet Cong positions with 23 tons of explosives in a grueling two and one half hour fire mission recently.

Maneuver elements of the 3rd Brigade discovered a complex of 72 bunkers and called on B Btry., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 319th Arty. to soften the stubborn enemy.

SFC. George M. Markman, Hopkinsville, Ky., chief of firing battery, set a demanding pace as he yelled out the missions.

Ammunition Staff Sgt. Isaiah Phillips, Bryan, Tex., and his three-man crew rushed ammunition to the howltzers. Mess sergeant Juan R. Garcia, Denver, joined in helping the ammunition handlers.

Soon every available man was working feverishly to meet the tempo established by Markman. Battery commander, Capt. Heilmuth J. Heneman, Wichita, Kan., ran to No. 2 gun and joined his men in passing ammunition.

A medic, Spec. 4 Willard Guierrez, Joliet, Ill., darted from gun to gun, examining the blistered hands of the crews.

After more than 1,400 rounds had been hurled into the enemy position, the forward observer radioed: "Enemy positions destroyed cease fire. End of mission."

As the sweat-soaked artillery men leaned on sandbags to catch their breath, Guierrez treated their blistered and cut hands.

Hours later when the tired infantrymen returned to the base camp, a young, tall paratrooper walked over to No. 1 gun crew. He reached across the sand-

bags and shook hands with cannoner Pfc. Bertram King, Detroit. Neither spoke. They didn't have to.

## Ants Prompt Boonie Strip

PHUOC VINH — The world's fastest strip-tease does not take place in Las Vegas, Reno, or Hollywood — it happens about once a day in the jungles of Vietnam.

One of the latest stars of the "Boondecks Revue" was Spec. 4 Douglas R. Harrell, Carrollton, Tex. The audience was small — it included only the members of his squad, an element of D Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn), 187th Inf.

"Boy, was he ever great!" said one of his buddies.

A radio-telephone operator on a patrol mission, Harrell was keeping a careful eye on the flanks of the small column. He did not notice a leaf covered with large, red ants until it touched him.

Within seconds, his 26-pound radio came off his back. His fatigue shirt followed in short order. He continued on with the show as his buddies watched in laughter.

"They bite worse than bees sting," Harrell observed later.



## Fire Mission

Pfc. James L. Washington (left), Detroit, waits to slam a 100 round in the breech of the howitzer fired by Spec. 4 Daniel C. Brewster, Kankakee, Ill., while Pfc. James A. Selton, Nashville, Tenn., readies another round. The gun crew are members of the 181st Airborne Division's B Btry., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 319th Arty. (Photo by Sgt. Donald Coley)



## Safety Check

Making a last minute check before take-off, Air Force Capt. Dean Jones, Colorado Springs, Colo., prepares to fly another mission in support of the 1st Brigade. Jones is a Forward Air Control (FAC) pilot attached to the Screaming Eagles. (Photo by Pfc. Robert Mosey)

## Noses Stuff

# 'Bird Dog' Hounds Enemy

PHAN RANG—Helicopter gunships, with machine guns and rockets blazing, strafed the dense jungle to the left of a winding trail. On the right, F-100 Sabre jets executed lethal bomb runs.

Elements of the 1st Brigade had called for air strikes against the Viet Cong.

Circling above the action was a single engine aircraft. Busy at the controls was Capt. Dean H. Jones, Colorado Springs, Colo., an Air Force forward air control (FAC) pilot.

Jones had marked the enemy location with white phosphorous (WP) rockets. His instructions were barked over the radio: "Your runs are from east to west. Helicopters peel left, jets to the right. The target is all yours. Go to it."

Jones gained altitude and watched the strikes below. As the helicopters and jets made their last passes, he nosed the little aircraft toward the ground and a second target. He flipped a switch and pulled a trigger mechanism. The aircraft shuddered as a rocket, mounted under the wing, streaked for the jungle below. The gunships and jets, with the target clearly marked, came screaming in on the enemy positions.

Three passes later, the armed air support sped back to their bases. The FAC pilot took one last look, banked his aircraft and started home. A "many thanks" crackled over the radio from paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. on the ground.

To Jones, the mission was routine. He's been in Vietnam 11 months and can't begin to estimate the number of air strikes he's directed. He loves working with the jets and can't wait for the day he'll return to the high-speed cockpit.

"It's all in a day's work," Jones said. "Sometimes I direct air strikes, sometimes I adjust artillery fire and occasionally I fly reconnaissance for truck convoys, checking ambush sites."

Jones knows his job. With more

than 700 combat hours in the air, he's experienced at marking targets.

"The aircraft carries four WP rockets under each wing," he says. "FAC pilots love to test their marksmanship. We also

## FAC Pilot Corrals VC Trio

PHUOC VINH—Three members of a Viet Cong company tried to out-run a forward air controller (FAC) and two Air Force F-100 jets near here recently and failed.

Capt. Richard Salazar, Phoenix, Ariz., FAC pilot with the 3rd Brigade, monitored a radio message reporting a Viet Cong company had been spotted by a helicopter crew.

"I realized the location wasn't far from my position and flew over to investigate," said the FAC. "I saw four gunships hovering over a wooded area along a trail."

"The enemy force dashed for cover when they realized the choppers had spotted them," Salazar continued. "The choppers turned out of the area and I rolled in and fired two rockets to mark the target."

Two F-100's on station took their cue and began the bomb run.

"As the second rocket exploded, three VC jumped out from the bushes and started running down the middle of the trail," said Salazar. "For a moment they ignored the gunships and jets, but after running about 150 meters, they realized they couldn't outrun the jets."

The three insurgents dived for the bushes again and a 750-pound bomb exploded less than 25 meters away.

Salazar confirmed the three enemy kills.

carry smoke grenades. Occasionally we'll drop them out the window to mark a target.

The most important skill for a FAC pilot is reading maps quickly and accurately, according to Jones.

"You've got to know the enemy location and where the friendly's are," he says. "One poorly marked target can make those paratroopers on the ground extremely nervous."

But reading maps isn't all that Jones does in the air. He flies the light aircraft in tight, 360-degree turns with his knees and feet while maintaining radio contact with three elements—troops on the ground, helicopters and the jets.

His eyes flick to the map and then back to the jungle below. Everything is done with speed and accuracy. Lives on the ground depend on it.

Jones is married and the father of three children. He says he is anxious to return to them

and the jets. "The 'Bird-dog' is great and the job is important," said Jones. "But once you've piloted jets you want to stay with them."

## Neighbors Meet

Though they lived two blocks apart, Staff Sgt. John Jurinsky, 23, Worcester, Mass., never met his platoon leader. Lt. James R. Bondard, 25, until the officer reported to the 1st Brigade's base camp at Phan Rang.

"I never expected to meet anyone from home, much less someone who lived on the same street," said Bondard, commander of the 3rd Platoon, A Co. 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf.

"We have visited some of the same hangouts," said Jurinsky, winner of two Bronze Stars for Heroism and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

# Strike Force Springs Twilight Ambush On Lone 'Charlie'

PHAN RANG—An ambush set by paratroopers of the 1st Brigade recently accounted for a Viet Cong kill during Operation San Angelo west of here.

Pfc. Graham Mills, Portsmouth, Va., killed the enemy as A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. sprung the ambush.

"We weren't expecting anyone right away, so I opened my bedroll," said Mills. "The sun had just set and night birds

provided the only noise."

The Screaming Eagle element had set an ambush along an intersection of trails where the Viet Cong had located a mortar two nights before.

"It was twilight when the VC came down the trail," said Staff Sgt. Harrison Woods, Clarksville, Tenn. "I told Mills to keep him in sight but to hold his fire. If there were more enemy following, we didn't want to alert them to our position."

Mills watched the enemy walk into the killing zone.

The VC knelt suddenly and raised his rifle to a firing position," said Lt. Leonard Anderson Jr., Bauxite, Ark. "That's when Mills fired."

The paratroopers waited. The jungle remained quiet. The enemy had been alone.

Mills and another paratrooper moved into the ambush site and recovered one AK-47 rifle and four magazines of ammunition.

## New Trooper Arrives from San Angelo

PHAN RANG—An eager replacement (finished "Proficiency Training" at the 1st Brigade's camp here and boarded an aircraft for Song Be, the brigade's forward command post.

The trooper, Pfc. Raul Agüero, felt right at home. A native of San Angelo, Tex., Agüero soon would be participating in Operation San Angelo, a search and destroy operation north of Song Be.

According to Agüero, his home town has a population of 62,000 and is located in western Texas. It also boasts of a Medal of Honor winner from World War II.

"I don't think I can reach that level," said Agüero. "but I'm here to do my job."

Agüero was assigned to C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

## Personalize Boots, Belts

Regulations require all footwear, headgear and belts to be marked with the individual's name and service number.

Details are spelled out in 101st Airborne Division Circular 748-1, dated 8 February 1968.

# Screaming Eagle Briefings

## Double Citing

One highly decorated lieutenant in the 3rd Brigade received a cluster to his Silver Star and was promoted to captain in the same week recently.

Capt. Fred P. Crepeau, Orlando, Fla., was presented his second Silver Star by Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, division commander, for rescuing a wounded Phantom Force paratrooper under enemy fire.

Three days later, Col. Lawrence L. Mowery, South Gate, Calif., brigade commander, presented Crepeau with his captain's bars.

## Half Century NCO

MSgt. James E. Blake, Hopkinsville, Ky., believes he's the oldest enlisted man in the 101st Airborne Division.

"I entered the Army March 12, 1942, and haven't lost a day of service," said the 51-year-old division food supervisor.

Blake says he welcomes any challengers.