

# Tet Brings Hope For Hue Citizens

By SPEC. 5 ALAN MAGARY

**CAMP EAGLE**—Last year's Tet celebration in Thua Thien province was marred by the horrors of war.

This year's lunar new year festivities were infinitely happier.

Around the Imperial City of Hue, Screaming Eagles and soldiers of the 1st Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, provided security against a possible enemy offensive—which never came—and inside the city there was happiness once again.

The Tay Loc Orphanage, for instance, inside the Hue Citadel was held by the Communists as a command post during the Tet offensive. In three weeks of street-by-street fighting to recapture the Citadel, Tay Loc Orphanage was almost completely destroyed.

It was rebuilt by Screaming Eagles. This was the particular project of the 501st Signal Bn. and during this year's holiday, the "Voice of the Eagle" gave a party for the children of Tay Loc. The children romped merrily with an enthusiasm that generated hope for continued progress in the new year.

Other Division units were equally active throughout Hue and Thua Thien province in helping the Vietnamese people celebrate Tet.

The Division band performed two-hour concerts at three locations during Tet's three days. One concert was at the bandstand near the Citadel flagpole—the same pole on which a Viet Cong flag flew just a year ago. Now, a Government flag whips in the breeze.

Fifty thousand newly minted coins were obtained from the Hue City bank and distributed to battalions. As individuals, the Screaming Eagles then took the coins in colorful Tet envelopes and distributed them to children. Symbolically, the presence of a shiny new coin is for good luck.

Mass halls too contributed to the Tet celebration. Surplus food was given to the 1st ARVN Division for distribution to widows and orphans of the brave Vietnamese soldiers who died defending their homeland.

The Division's chaplain fund provided 1,000 piasters for the ARVN soldiers to distribute to the widows and orphans of the men killed during Tet last year.

The Division's Civil Affairs section provided clothes and blankets for 500 villagers driven from Bang Lang village by the Viet Cong last year. Two thou-

sand pounds of soap, 1,400 pounds of candy, and many toys were distributed to support unit parties.

In addition to the 501st Signal party at Tay Loc Orphanage, Division Support Command threw a party at Nuoc Ngot Orphanage, and Division Artillery organized a celebration at Boi Anh Orphanage. The three brigades held 15 parties at schools and orphanages in their areas of operation.

There was more.

Each night of the Tet period, audio-visual teams from the Division Psyops detachment provided entertainment in or near ARVN and Popular and Regional Forces installations. Twenty-thousand special leaflets expressing the friendship and good wishes of the 101st to the people of Thua Thien were printed. Not designed to be dropped from aircraft, these holiday greetings were made for personal distribution by Screaming Eagles.

The Division also cooperated with the Government of Vietnam to fly officials from Saigon to

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## The Screaming Eagle



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101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION MEMORIAL CHAPEL DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE SCREAMING EAGLES WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

**CHAPEL DEDICATED**—The new 101st Airborne Division Memorial Chapel was dedicated recently by Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Francis L. Sampson, chief of chaplains, U.S. Army. The chapel, constructed by A Co., 326th Eng. Bn., seats approximately 100 persons. A plaque (top right) outside the door bears the dedication inscription. (Photo by Spec. 4 John Ranous)

# Gen. Sampson Dedicates New Chapel

(Capt.) Bruce M. Freyer, Jewish chaplain, XXIV Corps.

As Gen. Zais presented the chapel for dedication, he said, "This chapel is dedicated to the memory of those Screaming Eagles who died in combat. It is dedicated to men who saw their duty and simply performed it."

"To men who surely were aware of a way out, but preferred to stay in. To men who witnessed the weakness of others, who heard the cries of discouragement and despair and who rejected the safe for the honorable. To men proudly wearing the patch of the

Screaming Eagle, who were aware of the heritage of soldiering and sacrifice reflected therein.

"To these men, who knew fear and overcame it, who knew fatigue and ignored it, who knew discomfort and suffered it, who knew loneliness and accepted it, to these men who served themselves, their country and their God with lasting glory, I present this chapel for dedication."

In dedicating the chapel, Chaplain Sampson commended Gen. Zais and the Division for building "this physical manifestation of the affection you have for all the men who do now and have worn in the past the much-respected patch of the Screaming Eagle."

"I think it is on a day like this," Chaplain Sampson said, "that reflects our emotions and feelings so strongly for those that have gone before us—particularly companions we have known, for the friends who have been forged in the crucible of mutual suffering, mutual hardship and mutual sacrifice."

He pointed out that the military has a three-fold mission: to preserve peace, to provide national security and to implement American foreign policies and peace treaties as they pertain to nations that cannot repel aggression.

"It is in this sense we are here—to reestablish the peace that's been lost through the aggression and aggressiveness of a foreign power," he said.

Chaplain Sampson compared the military profession to that of the ministry, saying, "It is not just a career, indeed, it is more than a profession. It is a calling to protect the weak, to establish justice, preserve the peace and to insure the tranquility of the innocent."

He related a deep faith in

American youth, pointing out "their ability to carry responsibility on their young shoulders at times like this."

"This American soldier is a peculiar breed," he asserted, "and I think he has his unique qualities. First, his sense of humor to laugh when the chips are down; second, his capacity for kindness and charity and third, his deep religious faith."

The Army's chief chaplain said the willingness and readiness to share seem to be among the most attractive virtues of the American people, and, he said, "No segment represents this more than the American soldier."

"He exhibits this in thousands of different ways. One is to remember those who have gone before him; friends he has made, those he has admired and those who in the providence of God were not quite as fortunate in coming through fire as he did."

"He builds, wherever he is, a monument to his memory, as this chapel. And, he will do anything to make that edifice a fitting and suitable place to worship," he concluded.

Also taking part in the dedication service were the Division Band and the Division Chorus.

Following the service, Chaplain Sampson toured fire bases in the area and celebrated an evening mass at Fire Base Rakasan.

# Action Stays Scattered in AO; Troopers Net 72 Enemy Kills

**CAMP EAGLE**—Division Paratroopers encountered light and scattered contact with enemy forces in their areas of operations during the period from Feb. 7 to Feb. 20.

Screaming Eagles accounted for 72 enemy killed and 75 individual and crew-served weapons captured. Seven detainees were held and two rallies to the South Vietnamese Government were counted in the period.

In observance of the Tet holiday, Screaming Eagles remained in defensive positions reacting to scattered contacts netting 16 enemy killed.

The 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. in patrols northwest of Fire Base Sword, killed one enemy and discovered one enemy body in a grave. One Hoi Chanh rallier to the South Vietnamese Government turned himself and his weapon into the unit.

On the evening of the Tet observance, the 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf. made two brief contacts accounting for two enemy killed and capturing one enemy, one crew-served and two individual weapons.

Small unit patrols were conducted throughout the area of operations, inhibiting enemy activities during the Tet holidays. Three 122mm rockets aimed at Hue were discovered southwest of the Imperial City.

The largest contacts in the two-week period were made in the rocket belt areas around Nui Khe.

Reconnaissance-in-force operations by the 2nd Bn., 501st Abn. Inf. netted 15 enemy killed and nine weapons captured.

A combined forces team in the 1st Brigade area of operations southeast of Hue engaged 10 enemy, killing five and capturing five enemy and their weap-

ons.

Paratroopers of the 2nd Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf. continued search and clear operations killing four enemy and capturing 21 weapons. The Strike Force troopers, while on patrol near Fire Base Brick, discovered 12 graves with enemy bodies killed by recent air strikes and captured 23 weapons.

In an early morning contact the 1st Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. killed two enemy on a patrol north and south of Highway 1.

Reconnaissance-in-force operations by the 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf. netted one enemy killed and one enemy captured along with four individual and four crew-served weapons north of Fire Base Katy.

A Hoi Chanh was taken by the 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. in a patrol northwest of Fire Base Sword.

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**STARTING OPERATIONS**—In a continuing push to take the night from the enemy, Paratroopers from A Co., 1st Bn., 501st Abn. Inf. leave their base camp to set up a night ambush position. (Photo by Pfc. Don Kelson)

# 'Lucky Eagle' Sez

By MAJ. GEN. MELVIN ZAIS  
Division Commander

As of this writing, TET has unfolded for the people of Thua Thien Province in its traditional form. It has been not only an occasion for the Vietnamese people to rest and enjoy themselves as a compensation for the many days of toil and hardship, but it has also been an opportunity for them to remember their ancestors, to maintain their graves, to pay visits to relatives and neighbors, to tighten the bonds of family and social relationships, and to forget the past conflicts and differences so as to welcome together a happy and hopeful New Year.

Last year the city of Hue and its environs was the scene of bloody, vicious and destructive fighting during TET. This year I drove through all the streets of Hue and saw thousands of people, dressed in their finest clothes, faces wreathed in smiles, celebrating their New Year with the same good spirit as we celebrate Christmas and New Years. The children were happy. They yelled O.K.! O.K.! O.K.! wherever I went and their parents smiled indulgently as they reached out and clamored for the small gifts which I was distributing as a symbol of our care, concern and interest.

They appreciate what we have done. They know what we are doing. They recognize the protection which they have been afforded this year. They see ample evidence of our efforts to help them rebuild and recover from the ravages of war.

It gave me a good feeling to see with my own eyes the tangible evidence of the contribution of the Troopers of the 101st Airborne Division. Surely we have not come here in vain. Our presence is understood, appreciated and essential to the emergence of a free and happy community. I know there are others who are more gifted in expressing themselves, but I simply want all you men to know that you have done a great service and you are continuing to do so in the only way you know how.

Airborne. All the Way!



ZAIS

## Army Makes Sense in Dollars

**CAMP EAGLE** — Toward the end of a tour and the long awaited DEROS, Paratroopers often overlook the financial benefits of Vietnam duty and the career advantages of reenlistment.

The primary advantage in terms of dollars and cents is that all pay and allowances for enlisted men are taxfree. Depending upon rank, an additional \$8 to \$22.50 a month is received for foreign-duty pay. Hostile-fire pay adds \$65 a month to the tax-free list.

Free postage, seven days R&R every 12 months and free air travel to any R&R city contribute to the benefits of a tour in Vietnam.

An extension of a tour for another six months adds 30 days of nonchargeable leave with transportation to any free world point.

Upon completion of a tour in Vietnam, any enlisted man can reenlist for the CONUS station of his choice.

The drill sergeant reenlistment program offers the Vietnam based enlisted man a stabilized tour of 18 months at the stateside training center of his choice. Promotion from E-5 to E-6 can be made without regard to time in grade or service. Eligibility lists for this fast promotion opportunity are made up from those drill sergeants with

four months of outstanding performance.

Complete details of the advantages of reenlisting in the Army are available from your unit career counselor.

### Pacification Work Cited

## Letter Praises Eagles' Efforts

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Division's combat and pacification efforts in the I Corps Tactical Zone have received commendations on several occasions. The following letter, mailed to Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, Division commander, from C. T. Cross, Deputy for CORDS/III MAP/ICZ, again commends the Division's efforts in I Corps.

"I wish to take this opportunity to commend you and the men of the 101st Abn. Div. for the outstanding manner in which the 101st is performing its mission, particularly in the field of pacification.

"The 101st Abn. Div. has been of immeasurable value to the pacification program in Thua Thien Province. Initially, your Division's mission was to engage and destroy the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army main force units. This mission was accomplished in a remarkably short period of time and then you turned your Division, together with Army of the Republic of Vietnam and provincial forces, to the problem of destroying VC local force units and eliminating the VC infrastructure.

"You have built a mutual spirit of cooperation between your Division and the Vietnamese forces which was typified by the Regional and Popular Forces operations in Quang Dien district where the recent kill ratio reached the point of only one friendly to 125 of the enemy. This striking success is directly attributable to the advice, training and material support of the Screaming Eagles.

"The 'soft' cordon operations in Vinh Loc and Phu Vang districts have resulted in the voluntary resettlement of thousands of Vietnamese in secure areas. These joint operations utilized all the provincial resources and, with a minimum of friendly fire power, have eliminated a large

number of VC and VCI with very few friendly casualties.

"Needless to say, the 101st Abn. Div. provided more than just combat troops for these pacification efforts. From the first days in Thua Thien, a close cooperation has existed between the provincial government, CORDS and the Division which has been responsive to the needs of the Vietnamese citizens. Civic action activities by Division personnel are too numerous to count but exist in MEDCAPS, self-help projects, construction of markets, schools, orphanages, dispensaries, roads and even include band concerts. During Typhoon Bess, the immediate response of your Division with food for the people of the flooded villages and hamlets was a superb blend of compassion and efficiency.

"The difficult task of dis-

tributing cement, roofing, and other refugee supplies throughout the province could not have been accomplished without your wholehearted assistance and the professional performance of your men.

"You and the men of the 101st can be justly proud of the Division and its members. The fighting ability of the Screaming Eagles, the professionalism displayed by your officers and men, and the earnest desire to help the people of Vietnam are constant and enduring evidence of both soldierly skills as well as the heart of the Screaming Eagles, all reflecting great credit on the U.S. Army.

"I commend you for a job superbly accomplished. I can see only greater glory for the Division as we continue our battle to preserve this country's right to freedom."

### Notes From the Div SGM

By CSM ROBERT A. YOUNG  
Division Sergeant Major

Careless discharge of firearms is a matter of extreme concern and importance to the commanding general and commanders at all echelons of command in the Division. Each individual must practice daily safety measures when handling weapons and explosives to prevent careless destruction of lives and property.

Numerous accidents occur while weapons are being cleaned. Other accidents occur because of careless handling of weapons. When a new soldier joins the unit, each leader must instill confidence and knowledge in the proper method of safe handling and utilization of firearms. These are daily routine to the "old pro" and must become a safe way of life for the new arrival.

We must all pause for a daily reminder of unsafe acts that might take the life of one of our "troopers." Accidental gunshot wounds are such a careless waste of American manpower, resulting in loss of life or limb all too frequently throughout the Division.



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## Eagle Briefs . . .

**MAJ. GEN. Ngo Quang Truong**, 1st Army of the Republic of Vietnam Division, commanding general, has commended the Division for the part it played in making last year a successful year in Thuan Thien Province.

In a special letter, the general said, "With your help, we not only defeated the enemy at every turn, but have been able to rid our area of responsibility of the Communist aggressors and provide security for the people of Quang Tri and Thua Thien Province to a degree never reached heretofore. As a result of the sacrifices you have made, the Vietnamese people in the 11th DTA will be able to celebrate this traditional day in safety. Without your help this would not have been possible."

**SIMULTANEOUS** wearing of the Pathfinder and Parachutist Badges has been authorized. Previous policy precluded wear of both badges at the same time. When the two are worn side by side on the pocket flap, the Parachutist Badge takes precedence and is to be placed on the wearer's right.

**A TRAUMATIC** disorder known as "rucksack paralysis" has resulted in one to six months' hospitalization for some Infantrymen. The disorder is directly related to the wearing of an overloaded or heavily loaded aluminum-frame rucksack for long periods. The affliction can be avoided by not overloading the rucksack and taking periodic rest breaks during patrols.



MISSION COMPLETED — A Cobra gunship returning to its base camp for resupply after completing a fire mission in support of a Division unit.

# Cobra Strike Proves Lethal to Hiding VC

By SPEC. 5 MICHAEL GARCIA

**CAMP EAGLE**—As slender fingers of dawn shoot skyward behind Nui Khe mountain, the gray stillness of Camp Eagle's morning is ruptured by the painful whine of powerful turbines and the hissing slap of glistening, churning rotor blades.

Radios crackle with the order of the day, "Snake one, this is Control. You are cleared for takeoff to the northwest—winds are 340 degrees at six knots." With engines screaming at full power, two slender Cobra gunships thunder skyward, rolling slowly in unison as a new day dances across the sparkling, dew-covered bodies of the deadly reptiles.

The Cobras belong to D Trp., 2nd Sqd., 17th Cav. Each of the spiny snakes is armed with 78 rockets (2.75 inch), a 7.62mm mini-gun and a 40mm cannon.

The two Cobras work in conjunction with two Cayuse light observation helicopters, which act as scouts and low level reconnaissance for the gunships. A Huey circles above with the mission of command and control. The C&C ship usually is piloted by Maj. Robert L. Wolf, D Trp. commander. He directs the action and locates targets through a map marked with the latest intelligence data.

The Division acquired the gunships among hundreds of new

helicopters last year when it switched from an Airborne to an airmobile concept.

The D Trp. gunship fleet has one of the highest body counts among Screaming Eagle helicopter units, and to date, it has not lost a Cobra to enemy fire. Although the scout choppers and gunships engage the enemy at close range, they rarely have taken significant hits.

All the D Trp. pilots undergo extensive training both in the states and upon arrival in country. It has paid valuable dividends. A scout ship recently received 20 hits from an enemy machine gun, and the pilot was able to retain control of his ship and return safely to base.

When enemy fire is encountered, the scouts mark the location with a smoke grenade and move out so the Cobras can engage the target. The Snakes make passes from several different directions, firing rockets and more than 3,000 mini-gun rounds per minute.

If, in the opinion of the commander, the situation calls for ground troops in the area, a 55-man aero-rifle Infantry platoon is standing by on 24-hour alert. The platoon can be air-assaulted into any part of the Division's area of operations and may be engaging the enemy within minutes after the alert order.

Maj. Wolf describes his company as a team. "Unless everyone works together we cannot carry out our mission," he says.

## Short Wait For Ambush

**CAMP EAGLE** — Following a squad leader's hunch, an element of B Co., 3rd Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. killed four Viet Cong near Phan Thiet.

Staff Sgt. William H. Benton, Cincinnati, was maneuvering his squad on a mission east of Phan Thiet when he walked into a sparsely populated hamlet. "There couldn't have been more than 30 or 40 people living there," he said, "but they had food supplies to feed a hundred."

Following his squad leader's hunch, Lt. Raymond Fletcher, West Point, N.Y., platoon leader, gave him the go-ahead for a night ambush. Taking six volunteers, Benton set up on a well-travelled trail.

"He wasn't set up more than 15 minutes when things started popping," Fletcher said.

Ten VC walked directly into the kill zone, laughing and smoking. Confused by the Currahee ambush, the enemy fell easily to the Paratroopers' fire.

"Two had crawled off and four lay dead," Benton recalled. "We collected their weapons and returned to the platoon."

# Soldier Falls Down on Job, Finds Cache

**CAMP EAGLE** — A platoon leader accidentally fell down on the job and ended up finding a sizable cache of enemy arms and equipment.

Operating in the mountains west of Camp Evans, C Co., 2nd

## Soldier Gets Hot Welcome

**CAMP EAGLE**—Darkness had just settled over the Rakkasans' night defensive position when the quiet of the evening was broken by the sounds of hostile fire.

For Pfc. Larry Peterson, Luverne, Minn., it was his first firefight. He had joined the 2nd Platoon of B Co., 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf. only hours earlier.

During a lull in the firefight, Staff Sgt. Anthony Reade, Toronto, platoon sergeant, moved from position to position, checking on his men. Crawling past Peterson's position, he paused and called over his shoulder, "Hey, Peterson. Welcome to Vietnam!"

## Heebie Jeebies

### 'Ghost' Avoids Mortar

**CAMP EAGLE** — It looked like the explosion was right next to him, but Spec. 4 Mike Booth, Seattle, Wash., received only a case of the "heebie jeebies" and a "shaky disposition," according to the platoon medic.

Booth and eight other men of A Co., 2nd Bn., 501st Abn. Inf., were sweeping across a barren mountain ridge southeast of Hue when they were hit by heavy mortar and small-arms fire.

Moving swiftly for cover and a firing position, Booth became aware of the blinding flash of a mortar — then nothing. Twenty minutes later he awoke to find himself lying on the mountain-side with his platoon medic bending over him, adjusting a pulse counter.

"It was really strange," he recalled. "I didn't feel hurt anywhere, but I felt a little dizzy. I

Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. had tried for four days to surround an enemy force.

While searching an abandoned hut at a small clearing, Lt. James Burton leaned against a wall. It suddenly gave way under his weight, revealing an enemy field telephone with communications wire leading into the nearby woods.

Meanwhile, in the brush outside the hut, Spec. 4 David Rose, Spokane, Wash., found a new RPD machine gun, a mortar base plate and numerous RPG rounds.

After completing the search, Burton and his platoon followed the commo wire 125 meters to a two-story building that housed an elaborate sleeping and eating complex.

"I've never seen anything like that hooch before," Burton said. "They even had a latrine in the back."

An opening in a group of large rocks behind the hut led to a cave. Pfc. Ralph Keeling, Omaha, Neb., Burton's radio-telephone operator, said, "The lieutenant turned and told me he had spotted three rifles and to

be ready to go in firing."

Burton and Keeling fired a burst and then moved into the cave. Instead of the enemy, however, the two men found themselves in the middle of another barracks — complete with bunks, tables, chairs and a rifle rack.

Spotting another room further in the cave, the two men withdrew for help.

Outside, platoon members had found another entrance to the enemy hideout. This time, Burton led Sgt. Larry Bozier, Rawlins, Wyo., Spec. 4 Bruce Sanders, St. Paul, Minn., and Pfc.

Roger Harris, Los Angeles, into the cave.

"We went back not knowing what to expect," Burton said. "Suddenly, we found ourselves standing in a North Vietnamese Army storeroom filled with equipment."

Included in the find were 24 SKS rifles, three RPDs, one RPG rocket launcher, two Bangalore torpedoes, thirty 60mm mortar rounds and 30 RPG rounds. Large quantities of AK-47 and RPD ammunition were also found, along with NVA uniforms, medical aid kits and documents.



TEAMWORK—Spec. 4 Jack Bynum, Pensacola, Fla., helps Pfc. Mario Joseph Sernali, San Jose, Calif., while on a reconnaissance-in-force operation north of Hue. The two Paratroopers are from the recon platoon of the 1st Bn., 501st Abn. Inf. (Photo by Pfc. Don Kelson)

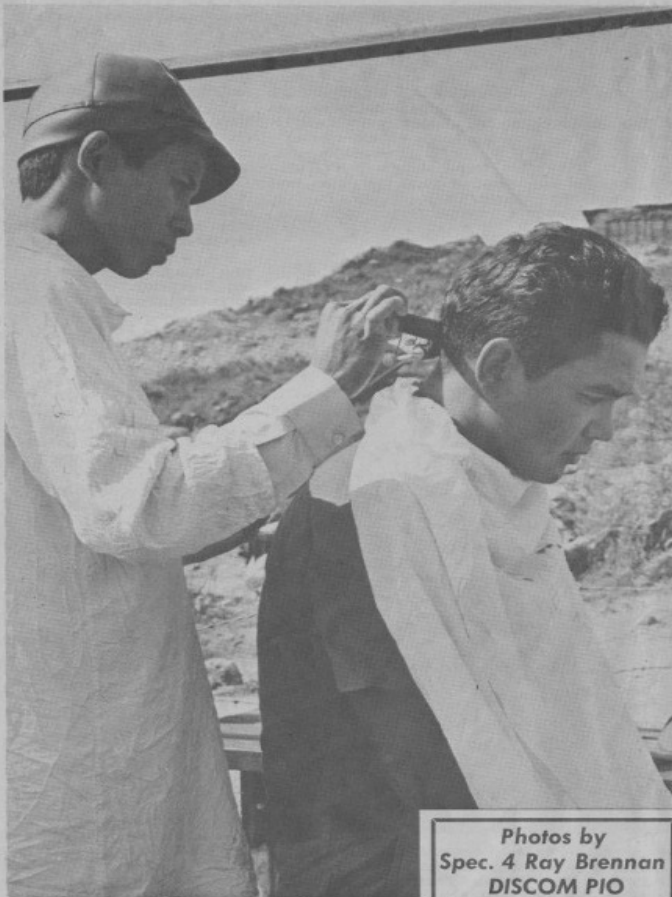


Paratroopers arrive for rendezvous with super contact team—resupply in the field.



Spec. 4 Michael Crisp (left) and Spec. 5 D

## **DISCOM Mobiliz**



Photos by  
Spec. 4 Ray Brennan  
DISCOM PIO

Paratrooper receives haircut from a Vietnamese barber.



New clothing is issued during the resupply mission.



David Gatling repair M-16 barrel.



Worn parts are replaced in the unit's field radio.

## es *Field Services*



Spec. 4 Crisp checks an M-60 machine gun for faulty parts.



Also part of the stand-down—fluoride treatment for the Paratroopers' teeth.

## Air Traffic Control At JFK Can't Top LZ Sally Schedule

**CAMP EAGLE**—"Sally control, Wombat 57, over."

"Wombat 57, Sally control, over."

"Sally control, 57, approaching five miles south, request landing POL, over."

"Roger 57, land from south, wind 270 at 10, altimeter 2,997, report left base, over."

"57, roger, out."

John F. Kennedy International Airport? No, it's the air traffic control tower at LZ Sally. The atmosphere is different, but the pressure is the same. Operated by men of the 160th Avn. Gp. and 2nd Brigade headquarters, the tower handles an average of 600 air movements a day.

Their job is no less difficult than what a controller at JFK does. But only one man at LZ Sally keeps track of the traffic

on and around the airstrip and 13 helicopter pads.

"The figures work out to an average of one movement every 80 seconds," said Spec. 4 Richard L. Alkove, Denver. "Most of the traffic, however, is bunched around the meal hours, and each movement requires several radio transmissions. There are lots of times when many movements are going on at once, and that makes things really come alive."

Adding to the problem of keeping the air space safe, the controller must also check the runway to see if it is clear.

"We had a problem with people walking across the airstrip," said Spec. 4 Ward C. Weaver, Graham, Wash., a flight controller. Weaver pointed to a yellow crosswalk on the airstrip. "That helped reduce the problem, but we still have to watch."

Besides keeping the air traffic around the base camp moving, controllers provide pilots with weather information, which is updated hourly.

In the event of hostile fire around the landing zone, the controllers provide service to aircraft as a warning control center, alerting all aircraft in the area to the incoming or outgoing projectiles.

"The job gets hectic at times," Alkove said, "but I feel satisfied with every day that goes by without an accident."

## Anaconda Is FB's Better Mouse Trap

**CAMP EAGLE** — Two Paratroopers from the 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf. believe they have found the fabled better mouse trap.

The discovery, a six-foot anaconda snake, literally came to Sgt. James H. Coats, Ontario, Calif. and Spec. 4 Steven C. Smith, Page, N.D.

"On occasion our fire base has unwelcome visitors, besides Viet Cong — mostly rats, and one or two anaconda snakes," Smith explained. The snakes belong to the constrictor family, whose diet consists of small animals.

"When we found out the snake was non-poisonous, we decided it might not be a bad idea to keep him around," Smith said.

"We still have VC, but a lot fewer rodents," Coats related. "Maybe we could patent the idea and start a campaign to put an anaconda in every bunker," he mused.

## Logs 1,500 Jumps

### O-Deuce RTO Is Top Sports Chutist

**CAMP EAGLE** — A top U.S. free-style parachutist is now serving with the Screaming Eagles.

With more than 1,500 jumps since 1963, Pfc. Timothy Saltonstall, 26, Boston, works as the second platoon radio-telephone operator with C Co., 2nd Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf.

Saltonstall was the National Style Champion in 1965 and ranked second overall in style and accuracy in the contest held in Orange, Mass., by the National U.S. Parachute Association.

The following year, Saltonstall



**CRANE STRAIN**—With a Sky Crane chopper doing the heavy work, Paratroopers from the 3rd Brigade guide a water tower support to its new resting place on a hill at Camp Evans. (Photo by Sgt. Jerry Ghearing)

## Division Makes a Spectacle

**CAMP EAGLE** — Screaming Eagles requiring glasses don't have to wait for them in the field. The Optometry Clinic of A Co., 326th Med. Bn. can make replacement prescription spectacles in five minutes.

The "just like stateside" service is performed by two optometrists and two optometry technicians in the 1st Brigade clinic at Camp Eagle.

"A man can't function in the field without his glasses," emphasized Capt. Jim Soumbeniotis, Ely, Nev. "We handle all Division Paratroopers' requests for single-vision, clear-glass spectacles."

Since the clinic was built last October, more than 1,000 prescriptions a month have been processed and delivered to the soldiers in the field.

Besides replacing glasses, the clinic also processes requests for prescription sunglasses.

"We issue more than 400 pairs of sunglasses a month from our supply unit in Cam Ranh Bay. Sunglasses are almost a necessity in the blinding light of Vietnam," noted Spec. 5 Allan Crohn, New York, an optometry technician.

Examining facilities are also available. "If a Paratrooper is having any difficulty with his glasses or vision, he should make an appointment to come in for an examination," Soumbeniotis added.

Capt. Jack Potter, Peoria, Ill., also visits a field examination station every Tuesday and Wednesday at LZ Sally to help guide the vision problem.

## 'LRRPs' Renamed 'Rangers'

**CAMP EAGLE** — Officially, they're "LRRPs" no longer. Now, they're Rangers.

The Division's long range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) company, formerly Co. F, 58th Inf., has been redesignated Co. L (Ranger), 75th Inf. The new "Rangers" are the historical heirs of the famous "Merrill's Marauders" of World War II fame.

The redesignation was ordered last month by Army Chief of Staff Gen. William C. Westmoreland, to be retroactive Jan. 1. The Screaming Eagle LRRP company became a Ranger unit in a ceremony Feb. 13.

The 75th Inf. traces its origins to the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), an all-volunteer unit organized in the China-Burma-India theatre Oct. 3, 1943, and trained for long-range penetration behind enemy lines in a Japanese-held Burma. Commanded by Brig. Gen. Frank D. Merrill, the unit's 2,997 officers and men became popularly known as "Merrill's Marauders."

From February to May 1944, the operations of the Marauders were closely coordinated with those of the Chinese army in a drive to recover northern Burma and clear the way for the construction of the Ledo Road. The Marauders were foot soldiers who marched and fought through jungles and over mountains. In five major and 30 minor engagements, they met and defeated the veteran soldiers of the Japanese 18th Division, always operating in the rear of the Japanese.

The climax of the Marauders' operations was the capture of Myitkyina Air Field, the only all-weather strip in northern Burma. The 5307th Composite Unit was consolidated with and redesignated the 475th Inf. in August 1944 and continued operations in the CBI theater. The 475th Inf. was inactivated in July 1945 and in 1954, reactivated as the 75th Inf.

As the company's name is changed to Co. L (Ranger), 75th Inf., so the name "LRRP" becomes "Ranger." The use of the

and spent four years with Air Force Corp., Ithaca, N.Y., a private firm that operates on the Eastern seaboard.

Commenting about his five months of duty as an RTO, the Strike Force trooper said, "The radio is a real lifesaver in a fire-fight, but you never get time to fire your own rifle with the radio on your back."

name had its origin in the French and Indian War when natives of New Hampshire were recruited by Robert Rogers and utilized as the chief scouting arm of the British against the French and Indians. It was only later that the Rangers were used in a more offensive role. The term is being returned to the role it was intended to signify — intelligence gathering.

It was thought that all LRRP companies should belong to a parent regiment that had a history of special missions. With the exception of the Airborne units, the Ranger Battalions (1st through 6th), 1st Special Service Force (The Devil's Brigade) and Merrill's Marauders were the only ones considered.

Today's Special Forces absorbed the heraldry of the Ranger battalions and 1st Special Service Force, leaving the famed 5307th Composite Unit.

The redesignation affects 15 Army LRRP units. Excepted are a National Guard unit that recently arrived in Vietnam and Co. E, 30th Inf., school troops at the Ft. Benning Ranger School.



**ROCKABYE PARATROOPER**—An intense dislike of rodents led Spec. 5 Richard Jones, Camden, N.J., to construct this elevated cot at Fire Base Jack. Jones, a member of A Co., 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf., was helping secure the small base camp near Hue. (Photo by Sgt. Jerry Ghearing)



**DUFFEL SHUFFLE**—Gunny sacks weren't available, so Tay Loc orphans used soldiers' duffel bags to run sack races. They were celebrating the Tet holidays with Screaming Eagles of the 501st Sig. Bn. (Photo by Spec. 5 David Lovelace)

**Tet Marks Completion**

**Sig. Bn. Helps Renovate Orphanage**

**CAMP EAGLE** — It could have been happening anywhere in the free world. But it wasn't. The youngsters playing tug-of-war and having races and exchanging gifts with soldiers were from the Tay Loc Orphanage inside the Hue Citadel.

It was their Tet lunar new year's party given by men of the 501st Sig. Bn. In their spare time, Paratroopers from the signal battalion over the past year have rebuilt the orphanage. It was almost destroyed during the Tet offensive last year.

It was like a different world. The fear that was visible across the same young faces a year before wasn't there. They were jubilant in a shy sort of way.

Two enlisted men were credited by the signal battalion with most of the effort that made the reconstruction possible. Spec. 5 Alan Robertson, Waukegan, Ill., and Pfc. Bruce Saltman, Freeport, N.Y., had spent most of their free time at the orphanage since last December. Together they've built slides, merry-go-rounds, teeter-totters, a high bar

and a bike rack. Other signal men pitched in to rebuild three buildings.

Lt. Jim Fogle, Largo, Fla., battalion civil affairs officer, noted having to coax the youngsters into participating in most of the party activities. "Once they'd get the hang of it though," he added, "we got out of their way."

The 501st mess personnel, used to serving hungry American troops, needed time to adjust to the less hefty appetites of the Vietnamese youngsters, to whom the lunch was served.

"After about 20 were served, I went into the dining area and nobody was eating!" Fogle said. "They were just sitting there, doing nothing. I ran to the interpreter and asked what was wrong. He said it was customary to wait until everybody is served. It was a relief to find that out."

When all were settled, they sang a Vietnamese chant that sounded like a thanksgiving prayer.

After chow, the youngsters as-

sembled outside in front of the flagpole, where a gift-exchanging celebration was held. Fogle and the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Larkin B. Vance, La Mirada, Calif., were presented what they called "abstract modern paintings — really beautiful."

Fogle had noticed one of the paintings on a previous visit and offered "as much as 1,200 piasters" for it. They refused and "I figured it simply wasn't for sale."

Then they presented him with the very painting he had tried to buy. "It really floored me," he said.

The youngsters were reluctant when it came time to play games. They didn't know what the Airborne soldiers wanted them to do.

"We had to pair them off on both sides of a line and get them to start pulling the long piece of rope," Fogle said. "We got a couple to do it at first, then when they all realized what the object was, they just about trampled us taking sides. About

50 of them dragged 40 others across the line."

The same was true for the sack races. "We didn't have gunny sacks, so we used duffel bags. They really had a ball," Fogle added.

One of the nuns, Sister Minh Dieu, said the children would have a prosperous year because "they have gotten off to such a good start."

**No Plague In Future For 2,400**

**CAMP EAGLE** — It was time for a plague shot, and the people were just a little touchy about the situation. Vietnamese children and adults began to take off their shirts, waiting nervously for the medic to perform his service.

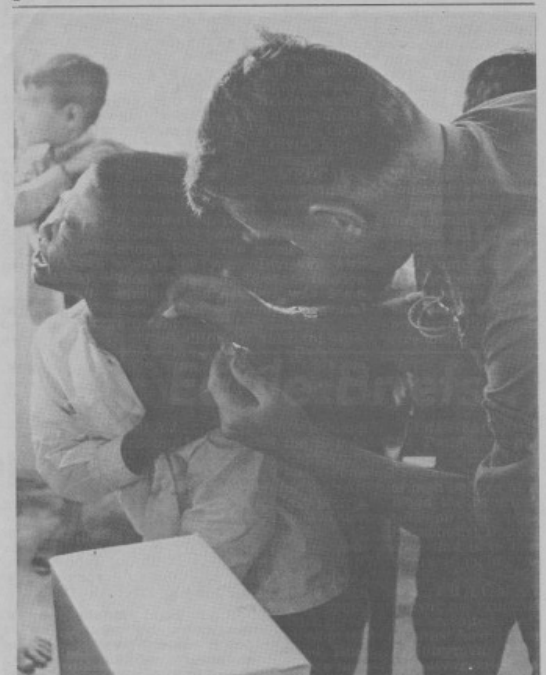
Eight medics, under the direction of Capt. Orval Paisley, 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. surgeon, spent two days at Lang Co village near Da Nang.

Their patients, more than 2,400 of them, waited in long lines for the shots. The people trusted the medics. Many times the medicine had cured and prevented illness. The shots were for plague, a disease that had wiped out a village of its size two years ago.

"The people need the shots because of the many rats in the area. It's good to see these people happy and glad to see us, knowing they're going to be treated well," says Spec. 6 Terry A. Beever, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Thousands of persons stop at Lang Co on their way south to Da Nang. All the rice crops go through there, and all the American and Vietnamese convoys stop there on their journeys down Highway 1.

More than 7,700 persons have been treated for various illnesses since the 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. moved to the area early last October. There are five dispensaries in the Phu Loc district which treat minor cases.



**OUCH!!!!**—Taking shots is dreadful everywhere, but this young Vietnamese boy braves it anyway. Administering the injection is Spec. 6 Terry A. Beever, Niagara Falls, N.Y., a medic from the 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. This shot was one of more than 2,400 plague shots given by one of the Division's MEDCAP teams. (Photo by Spec. 4 John Stuart)

**AWARDS and DECORATIONS**

- SILVER STAR**  
 Capt. James M. Hayes, 2/502 Inf.; Lt. James A. Huffman, 2/50 Inf.; Lt. T'Odin C. Leshikar Jr., 2/501 Inf.; Lt. Terry A. Ruth, 3/187 Inf. (posthumous); Lt. Charles M. Turville, 2/501 Inf.; CWO Charles W. Parison, 101st Avn. Bn.; 1st Sgt. Alexander F. Mako, 1/501 Inf.; Staff Sgt. Charles Frisby, 2/501 Inf.; Staff Sgt. Harold H. Pohnmann, 2/505 Inf.; Sgt. John F. Brown Jr., 1/506 Inf.; Sgt. Steven Czepurny, Co. L (ranger) 75th Inf.; Sgt. Michael D. Reiff Co. L (ranger) 75th Inf. (posthumous); Spec. 5 Arthur 3/187 Inf.; Spec. 5 David Martinez, 3/187 Inf.; Spec. 4 James R. Macon, Co. L (ranger) 75th Inf.; Spec. 4 Riley S. Cox, Co. L (ranger) 75th Inf.; Spec. 4 Michael Eberl, 1/327 Inf.; Spec. 4 Arthur J. Herlinghouse Co. L (ranger) 75th Inf. (posthumous); Spec. 4 Terrance J. Kenney, 2/502 Inf. (posthumous); Spec. 4 John P. Mestry, 1/327 Inf. (posthumous); Spec. 4 Richard D. Stevens, 3/187 Inf. (posthumous); Spec. 4 David P. Thomas, 2/501 Inf.; Spec. 4 Arthur Williams Jr., 2/501 Inf. (posthumous); Pfc. Marvin Smith, 2/501 Inf.; Pfc. Grover L. Sullivan, 3/187 Inf. (posthumous).
- DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**  
 Lt. Col. David E. Harrison Jr., Hqs., 2nd Bde.; Maj. Joseph A. Drew, 4/77 Arly.; Maj. Peter M. Fry, 160 Avn. Co.; Maj. Paul G. Neal, 4/77 Arly.; CWO Arthur J. Negrette, Hqs., 1st Bde. (1st O.L.C.); CWO Paul W. Wheeler, 101st Avn. Bn.; WO Michael J. Lina, Hqs., 3rd Bde.; WO Richard L. Hoffman, Hqs., 1st Bde.; Spec. 4 Charles D. Bortlett, 101st Asst. Hq. Bn.
- BRONZE STAR WITH "V"**  
 1st Sgt. Guy L. Tomlinson, Hqs., 1st Bde.; Spec. 4 Gary A. Lindner, 58th LRP; Pfc. Robert E. Lockey, 2/320 Arly. (1st O.L.C.) (posthumous).
- 1st Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.**  
 Spec. 4 Cardano J. Gonzales.
- 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.**  
 Lt. Steven E. Good, Lt. Mark B. Shaw, Sgt. Raymond E. Charles, Spec. 4 Cruz F. Buxo, Spec. 4 Larry Clements, Spec. 4 Leroy C. Wolfe.
- 2nd Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf.**  
 Capt. Cecil P. Kimberling (1st O.L.C.), Capt. William McKinney, Lt. David D. Dillon, Lt. Robert D. Harrison, Spec. 4 Glynn Harmon, Spec. 4 Tom B. Howard, Pfc. James Defendericus.
- 3rd Bn., 506th Abn. Inf.**  
 Lt. Milton A. Menivar, Lt. Steven W. Simpson, Spec. 4 Kenneth W. Messell (1st O.L.C.) (posthumous).
- 2nd Bn., 501st Abn. Inf.**  
 Capt. Myran K. Rice Jr., Lt. John E. Frick, Lt. T'Odin C. Leshikar Jr., Lt. Robert H. Woolley Jr., Staff Sgt. Edward J. Pelti Jr. (1st O.L.C.), Sgt. John M. Findly, Sgt. Danny F. Hinton, Sgt. Michael P. Myers, Sgt. Donald K. Probert Jr. (1st O.L.C.), Sgt. James C. Rachell, Sgt. Charles G. Reynolds (1st O.L.C.), Spec. 4 Shelton L. Eccleston, Spec. 4 Tommie M. Hill (1st O.L.C.), Spec. 4 Charles R. Marks, Spec. 4 Lemgin A. Platrowski, Spec. 4 Curtis Worsley Jr., Pfc. James T. Hill, Pfc. David L. Koster.
- 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf.**  
 Sgt. Eugene L. Overton, (1st O.L.C.), Sgt. Terry Sherman (1st O.L.C.), Col. Robert Johnson, Spec. 4 Terrance D. Sherman.
- 2nd Bn., 506th Abn. Inf.**  
 Pfc. Sgt. Marvin Edge.
- 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf.**  
 Lt. James C. Alsdachlan (1st O.L.C.), Lt. Charles A. McAnarry, SFC. Billy Talkington, Sgt. Adriano Cadot, Sgt. Roy B. Griffin, (1st O.L.C.), Spec. 5 Victor N. Edwards, Spec. 4 Dwane Anderson, Spec. 4 Michael Hughes (1st O.L.C.), Spec. 4 Kenneth E. Lambert, Spec. 4 Rick L. Fields (1st O.L.C.), Spec. 4 James Nally, Spec. 4 James T. Nazer III, Spec. 4 Charles Nichols, Spec. 4 David A. Silyer, Pfc. Michael Complicio.

## 'A Hard Day's Night' for Charlie

## Paratroopers Sweep Enemy Logistics Route

**CAMP EAGLE** — A Communist supply route turned into a nightmare for 16 North Vietnamese Army soldiers when Paratroopers launched an operation into the mountains northwest of Hue.

While sweeping through a deserted village in the foothills, Screaming Eagles of D Co., 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf. found a long-suspected enemy supply route extending from the rice-covered plains high into the mountains.

Sandal prints, fresh cooking fires and two documents caches verified that the path was used constantly by Viet Cong trying to supply North Vietnamese Army troops hiding in the mountains farther west.

After the route had been discovered, the Paratroopers left the foothills and began to search up the mountain path.

"I had just crossed a small stream intersecting the trail when I heard somebody whistling," recalled Spec. 4 Patric Ronhausen, St. Louis, Mo., point man. "I signaled for the slack man to stop, then crouched and waited. A few seconds later, three NVA with AK-47s popped out from some bushes less than 15 feet away. They spotted me, but it was too late."

"Judging from all the canteens they were carrying, they

must have been going down for water. I was sure if we ambushed the stream we would get a few more," said Lt. David B. Land, Tallahassee, Fla., commanding officer.

Shortly after midnight, a radio crackled at the company command post. Spec. 4 John Neutcher, Green Bay, Wis., called in from his ambush position to report movement to his left front.

"I couldn't make out any definite figures, but they sure were making a lot of noise," he said.

"As soon as we were sure they were in our kill zone we sprang the ambush with a claymore and started throwing grenades," Spec. 4 Juan Garcia, Brownsville, Tex., added.

The next morning the Paratroopers found six dead NVA and six AK-47s less than 20 feet from the stream.

With the sun barely two hours old, the company was again on the trail, pushing deeper into the enemy-infested jungle. "Most of the day we didn't find a sign of any kind. Then in late afternoon, the point platoon, about 500 meters ahead of the rest of the company, radioed that their rear security had spotted four NVA slip onto the trail headed in our direction," Land said.

The Screaming Eagles quickly set up an ambush and waited.

The ambush was triggered 20 minutes later and three NVA fell. A fourth — trailing behind his buddies — slipped back into the jungle and disappeared.

A few moments later several shots rang out up the trail. The first platoon had nailed the elusive one.

As the ensuing night drifted into morning, no further in-

cidents were encountered. "At dawn, we had started to take in our claymores when somebody spotted movement down the trail," Garcia said.

The Paratroopers slipped back into their ambush positions. "We waited for about a half hour and when nobody came we got up again. That's when I saw three NVA squatting in front of my

claymore," Garcia said. A loud explosion shattered the morning air. "They never knew what hit them," he added.

The company was picked up the third day and choppered back to the plains.

"If the NVA start using that route again we'll go back up there, but I kinda doubt they will," Land said.



**ASSAULT MISSION**—Paratroopers from the 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. combat assault into a landing zone in mountainous triple canopy jungle near Hue. (Photo by Spec. 4 Larry Peterson)

## Pants, Chili Sauce Are Resupply Gifts

**CAMP EAGLE** — "I hope my new pants are on that bird. It's kinda drafty around here at night."

"I could sure groove on some chili sauce."

No matter where they are, Paratroopers get resupplied at least every five days. From force of habit, weary soldiers scan the heavens on the fifth day, searching for a descending helicopter.

"Wonder if the CP will keep all the filter cigarettes again."

"I'd better get some mail this trip, or I'm not writing to that

woman any more."

After a week in the field with the 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf., rucksacks have dwindled, trousers are torn, cigarettes are gone. The bird finally looms over the trees, bringing answers to those problems as well as necessary ammunition and C-Rations.

When the chopper completes its descent, designated men dash forward to unload it. In a matter of seconds, the bird slowly rises again and disappears over the treeline amid more comments.

"How come Johnson gets all the mail? What's the story?" grumbles a tired Paratrooper. A happier voice yells out, "Joe got another Care Package. We eat tonight!"

The pants are put on, mail, C-Rations, sundry packs and cigarettes are distributed, and preparations are made to move out again in search of Charlie.

And to wait for another bird. In less than a week, another container of chili sauce will brighten another day.

## Clucking Blasted

**CAMP EAGLE** — Sounds of the farm met 3rd Brigade Paratroopers on a two-day reconnaissance mission in the mountains east of the Laos border.

"The sound seemed to follow us everywhere," Sgt. David J. Gay, New London, Conn., said. "That bothered me because I'd heard rumors that the Viet Cong carry live chickens with them for food."

The Vietnam zoologist hoped he might catch the enemy off guard feeding his chickens. Gay pulled his men back from their forward positions and called in artillery on the vacated area.

"Our guns blasted the area for 15 minutes," the 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. Paratrooper said. "The next day we found empty bunkers, blood trails and chicken feathers all over the place."

"I sure would like to repeat that fire mission," Gay said. As a fellow Paratrooper asked the inevitable "Why?" Gay replied in his best Clint Eastwood drawl, "For a few feathers more!"

## NVA Watches Trail, So...

## Tag Game Rules Reversed

**CAMP EAGLE** — "If somebody's trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your own tracks, and ambush the folks that aim to ambush you."

These words, standing orders for the famed French and Indian War unit known as Rogers' Rangers, proved fruitful for men of B Co., 2nd Bn., 501st Abn. Inf., when they met head on with North Vietnamese Army regulars in the mountains south of Hue.

The Paratroopers were pursuing the enemy through the dense jungles making contact daily—mostly with trail watchers. The 2nd Brigade troopers realized

that since they were trailing the NVA, it was quite possible that the NVA were trailing them. The company commander then decided to use some trail watchers of his own.

The morning after the unit received its resupply, the Paratroopers appeared to move out in the usual fashion. Unknown to the enemy following the Infantrymen, the 1st platoon left the main column and circled back to the landing zone from which they had been resupplied. An ambush was set up, and the men waited silently.

The night passed slowly but as the morning light appeared, two NVA soldiers entered the "deserted landing zone."

"We blew a couple of claymores," said Sgt. Thomas

McCourt, Philadelphia. "We found one of the NVA dead and a blood trail leading off into the jungle. We followed the blood, but lost the trail when it led to a stream."

"He apparently didn't have too much with him, judging from what he left behind," Pfc. Edward M. Hackenberg, Mifflinburg, Pa., said. "All he had in the pouch he dropped were some medical supplies and two AK-47 magazines."

The platoon left the area to rejoin the rest of the company, marching in single file "far enough apart so one shot won't go through two men," — according to another of Rogers' Rangers standing orders.

## Quiet Tet

(Continued From Page 1)  
ARVN, RF and PF bases in Thua Thien and Quang Tri for Tet visits to the Vietnamese troops in the field.

Above all, there were the smiles on the faces of the children at the schools and orphanages. "It reminds me a lot of Christmas," said one Paratrooper. "Giving the coins made me feel like Santa Claus, and the kids approached the holiday with a familiar warmth and eagerness."

After the Tet celebration, Paratroopers with memories going back to last year could think of how different it was, how much happier it was. Smiles should always replace the pain of war, and Screaming Eagles have shown both in fighting to free the people and in being generous at Tet, how it can be done.

## No Slack Changes Locale

**CAMP EAGLE** — Changing scenery from the slopes of the mountains to the flat coastal plains near Da Nang has brought a different type of combat operation to Paratroopers of the 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.

After eight months in the mountains, the operations of the "No Slack" battalion have changed to working closely with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, Regional and Popular Forces.

During the first four months in the new area, the Paratroopers grew accustomed to the rice paddies and flat terrain. Instead

of seeing only the faces of the North Vietnamese Army soldiers in the mountains, they became friendly with the Vietnamese villagers in the hamlets.

Spec. 4 Marion Elza, London, Ky., summarized the atmosphere as being "different. I like this type of terrain much better than climbing the hills. In the mountains you don't see anybody but soldiers. Here it's a little like a vacation, it's better."

The Paratroopers prepare numerous defensive ambushes against enemy infiltrators. The hills surrounding the plains on the South China Sea are pa-

trolled daily by aerial reconnaissance and Infantry reconnaissance forces.

Operations thus far have yielded 97 enemy killed, four crew-served and 78 individual weapons captured.

Three nearby fire bases support the Screaming Eagles in guarding vital bridges along Highway 1: Thua Lau, Nuoc Ngot and Co bridges.

Besides defense of the area, the battalion has become active in the civic action programs and has provided the materials for villagers to build better shelter and adequate defensive positions.