



Pfc. Gary M. Nichols displays medical tools he uses to provide veterinary assistance to Vietnamese in Quang Ngai Province. (USA)

Student Veterinarian's Classroom Is Vietnam

DUC PHO, Vietnam (IO) — Pfc. Gary M. Nichols will never receive a blue ribbon, but he's starting one of the biggest 4-H projects in Vietnam.

Because of a technicality, the 25-year-old paratrooper is taking care of livestock in Quang Ngai Province instead of practicing veterinary medicine at home.

Nichols graduated from Kemper Military School and Junior College, Booneville, Mo., and enrolled in the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri. He missed one semester his senior year while working with a veterinarian, and was promptly drafted.

"All I need for my degree is small animal surgery and the practical work," Nichols says.

Since arriving in Vietnam last March, there's been a lot of practical work for the "vet." He was assigned to the civil affairs section, 2nd Bn. (Airborne), 502nd Inf., joining the battalion in the central highlands near Khanh Duong.

"I saw my first case of cholera there," he said, "and began fighting the disease, while at the same time trying to explain the danger to the people. It was a hectic month, but we made a lot of progress. I received serum

for all types of animal disease from USAID (United States Agency for International Development), and inoculated about 400 head of livestock in the Khan Duong Valley.

"The biggest problem was convincing the natives sick pigs should not be eaten. Their practice was to eat the sickly animals before they died. It wasn't easy explaining to them they were eating the disease and infection."

Once the practicing veterinarian (the natives call him 'Boc Si,' meaning 'doctor') convinced the villagers of the need for good health practices, he instituted a breeding program to improve their pork production.

When the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div., moved from Khanh Duong to their present location in Quang Ngai Province, Nichols found new challenges: brucellosis, hoof and mouth disease, and a type of animal dysentery.

"I've seen diseases that plagued the United States nearly 200 years ago," said Nichols, "and in school we studied them historically. Now I'm seeing what the textbooks described."

Because of his skill and success, Nichols has been transferred to the brigade civil affairs office and is now mapping plans for a gigantic undertaking in the province.

"We've got to build up the swine population," he said, "and practically start new with cattle breeding."

"With the assistance of USAID, we'll help the Vietnamese pour concrete slabs for brood pens, bring in American boars to improve the quality of pork, inoculate their cattle, and try to eliminate the rabies we've observed in some dogs. It's going to be a lot of hard work and require a lot of patience," he noted, "but it's a very important job."

Dog Becomes a Fighter When the Pressure's On

BONG SON, Vietnam (IO)—"I'd rather been shot than that dog. She saved my life twice that day," said Staff Sgt. Harry Coit, of the 1st Air Cav. Div.'s 5th Bn., 7th Cav.

Coit had his doubts about the scout dog named Krim which was working with his platoon during Operation Pershing.

He claimed it lacked drive and had passed several booby traps without giving an alert. Coit was even thinking of having the dog sent back for further training.

But Spec. 4 Michael Lister, the dog's handler, and Krim showed their value and left no doubt in Coit's mind that they were a valuable team.

A Co. was moving cautiously along a trail deep in the jungle 250 miles north of Saigon when

Krim gave her first alert. Upon investigation, the troopers found fresh enemy positions.

In the next 30 minutes, the dog and handler alerted the infantrymen eight more times.

Then Krim gave two strong alerts and Lister pointed them out. Just then, the enemy opened fire from one position and hurled a grenade from the other.

Lister saw the grenade coming through the air. He killed one enemy soldier. The rest withdrew.

After evacuating a wounded squad leader, A Co. went in pursuit.

After chasing the enemy for about an hour, Krim gave another strong alert but this time did not wait for her handler to

inform the infantrymen. She jumped into a bush where three enemy soldiers were waiting in ambush and fought the enemy until one shot her.

Medic Pfc. Gerald K. Robinson came up and gave the dog first aid. Krim had been shot through the nose but calmly let Robinson administer to her wounds.

Men of the company improvised a stretcher for the dog and gave her water out of their canteens. They knew that a lot of them were still alive because of the dog's alertness and courage.

Later, the men of the company sent a letter of thanks to Mrs. Betty Rowe, of Midland, Mich., who donated Krim.

F8E Pilot Ejects, And Just in Time

DA NANG, Vietnam (ISO)—"Get out quick!" This was the call Maj. Bruce A. Martin, 33, of Marine All-Weather Fighter Sq.-232 received when his F8E Crusader was hit by enemy ground fire just south of the demilitarized zone and he was forced to eject.

Martin's flight had begun badly that afternoon when the wingman for the mission developed mechanical difficulties and was unable to take off.

Continuing alone, he reached the strike zone and contacted the forward air controller. The controller told him of the possibility of ground fire over the target area; and to follow two A4E Skyhawk jets of Marine Aircraft Group-12 in on the target.

As he pulled out of the second pass, the fire warning light went on. Martin radioed the controller and told him that he was heading out to sea.

Martin was being escorted by two Skyhawks when his instruments began registering hydraulic and power failures. One of the Skyhawk pilots radioed that a fire was burning at the jet's tail.

"I was just getting ready to punch out (eject) when the other Skyhawk piloted yelled 'get out quick' over the radio," Martin said.

"I didn't see my aircraft after that. I no sooner hit the water and climbed into my life raft, when there right over me was an Air Force HH3 'Jolly Green Giant' helicopter lowering his rescue harness."

He received only minor scratches.

Martin called one of the Skyhawk pilots later that evening and was told the jet blew up a few seconds after he had ejected.

Gen. Wells Heads 3rd Air Div.

S&S Guam Bureau

AGANA, Guam — Maj. Gen. Selmon W. Wells has assumed command of Andersen AFB's 3rd Air Div.

Wells succeeds Maj. Gen. William J. Crumm, among six U.S. airmen missing after the collision July 7 of two B52 jet bombers off the coast of South Vietnam.

As the commander, Wells is responsible for the management, operational control and employment of all Strategic Air Command forces in the Western Pacific, including the B52 bombing missions and air refueling operations in support of U.S. operations in Southeast Asia.

Wells' previous assignments include various staff and command assignments since 1944, Inspector General for the Strategic Air Command from July, 1960 to 1963, and vice commander for 8th Air Force in November, 1965.

In November, 1945, Wells was named assistant chief of staff for Intelligence, 5th Bomber Command, Japan, and then for 12th Air Force, March AFB, Calif., in 1946. He served as a bomb wing commander in 1955-56, and commanded SAC's largest air division from November, 1958, until July, 1960.



WELLS

Silver Star To Chaplain

S&S Vietnam Bureau

PHUOC VINH, Vietnam — An Army chaplain has been awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions in Operation Junction City.

Chaplain (Capt.) Rene Luedee, Catholic Chaplain to the 1st Bn., 26th Inf., 1st Inf. Div., distinguished himself last April 1, when his unit battled a Viet Cong regiment.

After firing 300 mortar rounds, the VC's 271st Regt. launched a massive ground attack on Charlie Company's sector of the defensive perimeter.

The VC penetrated the line and overran many of the American positions.

Luedee was in the thick of the fighting giving spiritual comfort to the wounded. He also assisted the medics in treating and carrying the wounded to safety.

The Big Red One chaplain remained on the battlefield until the enemy were driven back and all of the American wounded were evacuated.

Eliminate Smoky Wards

GIs Build Kitchen for Hospital

PLEIKU, Vietnam (IO) — A recent month-long construction project by the men of the 299th Eng. Bn. has resulted in a new "kitchen" for 100 patients of the Pleiku Province Hospital.

Coming to the aid of Sgt. I.C. H. W. Mann, noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the 447th Med. Det., Military Province Health Assistance Program, (MILPHAP), 20 enlisted men of the battalion's C Co. constructed the kitchen facility for the families of patients in the hospital. The 16-man MILPHAP team

advises and assists the Pleiku Province Hospital staff. One of the first things Mann discovered when he arrived here three months ago was that families of patients move into the hospital to provide for the care of their relative.

Because the 140-bed hospital does not have a kitchen of its own, the families provided the meals and, until recently, this cooking took place right in the wards.

The men of the company heard of the hospital's need and helped construct a 12-by-20-foot

building during their off-duty hours that would provide the "cooks" with a place to prepare their meals.

Under the direction of S.Sgt. James E. Longmire who supervised the volunteer's construction effort, the building was completed within a month.

As a result, mealtime no longer fills the hospital's eight wards with the stoves and smoke of the family cooks.

Viet Cong Take A Cut in Pay

CAMP EVANS, Vietnam (ISO) — A Marine patrol from the 2nd Bn., 4th Marine Regt., ambushed five Viet Cong soldiers. They killed four and captured 407,470 piasters, nearly \$3,500.

The money, in 500 piaster bills, was found on the body of one of the slain Communists.

"He must have been a paymaster," said Col. Roy H. Thompson, 4th Regt. commander. "If he was a collector, he wouldn't have so many large bills on his person."