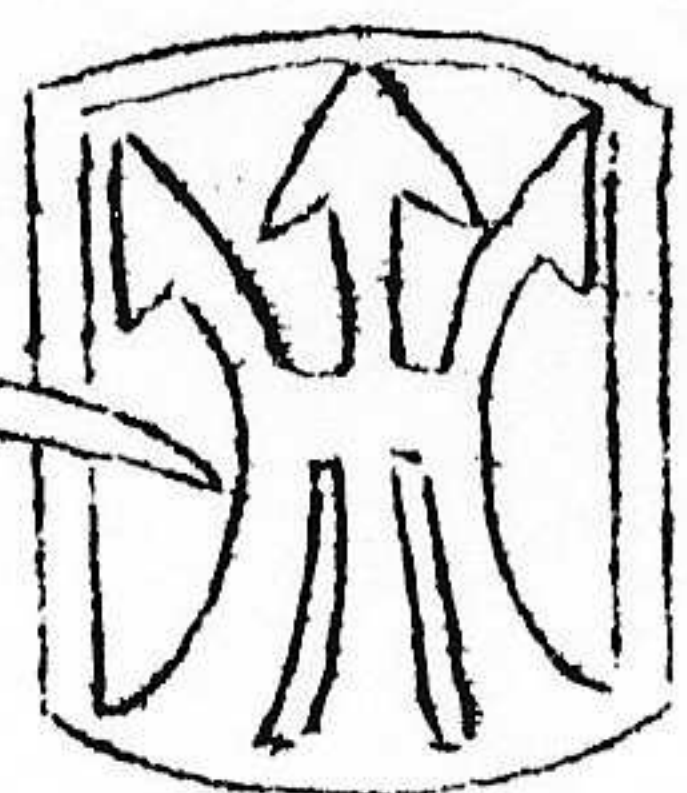


# 11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE



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VOLUME 1 NUMBER 10

APRIL 12, 1968

## MUSCATINE BATS 1000

Muscatine, a highly successful Americal operation of which the 11th Brigade is an important part, has pushed its enemy killed total to over 1,000 this week.

Operation Muscatine, which began December 19, 1967, was named after the home county in Iowa of Major General Samuel W. Koster, commanding general, Americal Division.

The 198th Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, first conducted search operations in this area. The 11th Brigade took control of the multi-battalion operation in January.

The 2nd ARVN Division has coordinated combat operations in Muscatine from inception. They have played a major part in all combat activity.

The most punishing operations undertaken by the brigade in Operation Muscatine's area involved three separate raids into the village and vicinity of My Lai, which cost the VC 276 killed.

## "OLD GUARD" UNCOVERS ENEMY MUNITIONS CACHE

"Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Brigade killed '74 enemy in operations throughout the Brigade area during the past week, detaining more than 100 suspects and capturing 155 enemy weapons.

The biggest weapons haul for the Brigade to date occurred Wednesday when enemy sniper fire and a captured NVA soldier led an "Old Guard" company commanded by CPT John A. Gonzales to a cache containing 121 Soviet, French and U.S. rifles and carbines, 12 submachine guns, a French 7.5mm anti-aircraft machine gun and a 60mm mortar. The cache also held 3,694 Chinese

Communist grenades, 3,500 rounds of small arms ammunition, 1,000 pounds of raw explosives, 290 Bangalore torpedoes, 321-60mm mortar rounds, 300 blasting caps, 277 B40 rocket rounds, 35 shaped charges, 16 satchel charges, 16 Chicom booby trapped soda can bombs, seven mines, two radios, two claymore mines and an Underwood typewriter, as well as NVA uniforms and enough medical supplies for an NVA regiment.

A Company of "Sykes Regulars" under CPT Ralph Clark uncovered another cache in the same area, containing 17-57mm recoilless rifle rounds, 10 B40 rounds, two 30 lb shaped charges and a ChiCom grenade.

Other units discovered smaller caches in the area and brought the day's total of captured weapons up to 139.

The week began with reduced offensive action in the Duc Pho and Operation Muscatine areas, but picked up quickly by mid-week as several companies operating in the highlands west of Quang Ngai made contact with several main-force VC units reinforced with elements of the NVA.

(SUMMARY-Cont. on Page 3)



## RTO COUNTERS GRENADE WITH SPEED

Alertness and fast action by a radio-telephone operator chalked up two enemy kills and saved the life of a company commander during a search mission near LZ 12. The soldier is SGT Douglas Walsh, a member of C Company, 3rd of the 1st.

"Charlie" Company headquarters section, led by CPT Joe Rhinehart, while on patrol, came under intense automatic and small arms weapons fire as it approached the objective, a grove of trees containing three huts.

The men fired on two suspected guerillas wounding one of them. The HQ section and the six riflemen who accompanied them placed a hasty cordon around the grove, and Rhinehart, Walsh and another RTO and three riflemen moved into the grove to search the three huts.

(WALSH-Cont on Page 3)



# ★ ★ ★ COMMAND INFORMATION

Do you know what to do before leaving Vietnam? Save this article if you consider yourself short, so you will not have to spend one minute longer here than you have to.

Reassignment orders should reach you 45 to 60 days before your DEROS. Orders do get delayed though. If you don't have them within 30 days of that magical date, see your company clerk. He will check on their whereabouts.

You are authorized to take 66 pounds back to the states, plus an additional 134 pounds of baggage. This does not include hold baggage. The amount you are allowed to ship depends on rank. For instance, up to E-5 you are allowed 200 lbs; E-4 over four and all enlisted ranks above are authorized 400 lbs. Officers are authorized from 600 to 1,000 lbs depending upon grade.

Upon receiving your reassignment orders, report to your Hold Baggage area for crates. If you do your own packing you will need 8 copies of your orders; if the Hold Baggage station does it, they will need eleven. Your next move is to clear your unit and base camp. Get three copies of DA Form 137 (Installation Clearance Record) from your orderly room. All areas requiring clearance will be marked on this form. Officers, Warrant Officers and EM grades E-8 and E-9 may sign their own forms. All others will have the respective section supervisor sign them.

Have your shot record up to date. If it is not, your DEROS could be delayed.

After you have cleared your unit, report to the Placement/Returnee Processing office named on your report call orders. This is your shipping point back to the States. Do not report earlier than 24 hours or later than 12 hours before your departure flight.

Your uniform for returning to the U.S. will be short-sleeved khakis. When you get stateside you will be issued a set of greens to be worn either to your next duty station or home.

All personal weapons must be registered with the appropriate provost marshal and you must have an export license. This includes weapons taken home as war trophies, but not U.S. weapons captured from the enemy.

Your MFC will be changed into U.S. currency after you have been manifested for a flight.

Upon your arrival in the States you will be taken directly to the personnel center. You will be there for 6 to 24 hours of processing, including being fitted with your uniforms. This processing is only for enlisted men.

Start your outprocessing early--even before receiving your reassignment orders. Plan ahead--and be ready to go.



## PSYOP MAKES MUNITION HAUL IN MUSCATINE

If Operation Muscatine infantrymen uncover fewer booby-traps these days, a lot of credit will belong to PSYOP personnel working along Highway #1 north of Quang Ngai.

The five personnel, two Americans, two Kit Carson scouts and an interpreter, broadcast appeals for Vietnamese civilians to participate in the Volunteer Informant Program by turning in munitions to the team.

The team moved along the highway throughout the week and civilians piled an impressive array of potential booby-trap devices into the PSYOP jeep.

The collection included nine LAWS, 5200 assorted rounds of small arms and automatic weapons ammunition, 54 3.5 rocket rounds, 34 hand grenades, 33 M79 rounds, 12 artillery rounds, 25 60mm mortar rounds, eleven rifle grenades, eight 81mm mortar rounds, 10 pounds of TNT, three B40 rounds, a 106mm recoilless rifle round, one claymore and a field telephone.

The Vietnamese were given monetary rewards for their cooperation.

## 007 PROMOTED?

On the current "Major's List" is James Bond, 04071198. Branch: Military Intelligence, of course--Army Digest.

Brigade Commander  
Information Officer  
TRIDENT OIC  
News Chief  
Editor

Staff Reporters: SP5 James Ford, SP4's Dean Pohland Kevin Howe and PFC's Kenneth Ainslie and Lawrence Mollner

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COL ORAN K. HENDERSON  
1LT JOHN W. MOODY  
2LT ARTHUR J. DUNN  
SFC JOHN STONICH  
SP5 JAY A. ROBERTS



3rd. Inf. figured prominently in that day's action and "Old Guardsmen" accounted for the largest number of enemy kills during the entire week of operations.

Two notable successes were scored by 4/3's Recon Platoon led by SSC Marvin A. Dean, which killed one enemy and apprehended three suspects Sunday, then went on to account for seven more enemy in a "stay behind" ambush eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai.

CPT Gonzalez' company in contact with a large NVA force and killed seven more enemy, including one NVA, and another "Old Guard" company commanded by CPT John R. Sam killed two VC six miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

Four VC were killed and five suspects detained Monday when the Headquarters section of a 3/1 company under CPT Joe Rhinehart engaged an unknown sized force of VC six miles northwest of Duc Pho and a platoon of the same company led by 2LT James Fowler killed an enemy and took three suspects into custody in same area.

AFCs of Troop E, 1st, commanded by CPT Perry Alexander, killed a man wearing a green uniform and captured his 7.62mm semiautomatic pistol during a sweep six miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

## AIR CONTROL TEAM DIRECTS FLYING TRAFFIC

The principal mode of transportation in Vietnam is by air. Keeping the many types of aircraft flying is effected through the coordinated efforts of many different units, and one of the least known except by the pilots they aid are the Air Traffic Controllers.

It is the responsibility of this small but highly trained group of men to sort out the hundreds of aircraft plying the skies over Vietnam and to direct each of them safely to its destination.

Detachment F, 1st Platoon of the 125th Air Traffic Control Company (ATC) handles all traffic in the Duc Pho area. The unit is under the operational control of the 1st Aviation Brigade at Bien Hoa, and is attached directly to the 11th Brigade, working closely with the 11th's Aviation Section.

In addition to units stationed at all fixed wing air strips in the republic, each of the four platoons of the 125th maintains one forward control team on a standby basis which can be dispatched to any area at a moments notice.

A little old mine marker north of Quang Ngai is going out of business, at least until he can come up with a new set of tools of his trade.

Men from Delta company, 4th of the 3rd, under CPT Gonzalez, discovered a well-stocked hut during a recent sweep of an area northwest of Quang Ngai.

The "Old Guard" soldiers found a tool kit containing an axe, hammer, needle nose pliers, two wrenches, a screw driver, assorted nuts and bolts, a Pepsi can, an ammo box, commo wire and two 175mm rounds; all of the equipment, except the tool kit, was destroyed.

"Basically, our mission is to operate and maintain all systems necessary for the safe conduct of air traffic in an area," says SSG Donnie G. Wright, NCOIC of Detachment F. "In our case it involves a Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) system, a Non-directional Radio Homing Beacon and the air field control tower."

The homing beacon is maintained around the clock, broadcasting an identification signal to all planes in air routes through the Duc Pho area. It allows the pilots to get an accurate position check at any time of the day or night, even though they may not be landing here.

"The GCA system is a little more complicated," Sergeant Wright says. "Through the use of radar and other avionics equipment, we can talk an airplane from a point over 40 miles out right to the end of our runway."

"Using different patterns on our radar scope," explained SP4 Steven Jetter, one of the men qualified to operate the GCA system, "we can instruct the pilots as to terrain features within the radius of our equipment, as well (ATC Cont on page 4)

### 4/3 EVICTS MINE MAKER

TO (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

As the CPT turned the corner of one of the huts, Walsh, who was right behind him looked up.

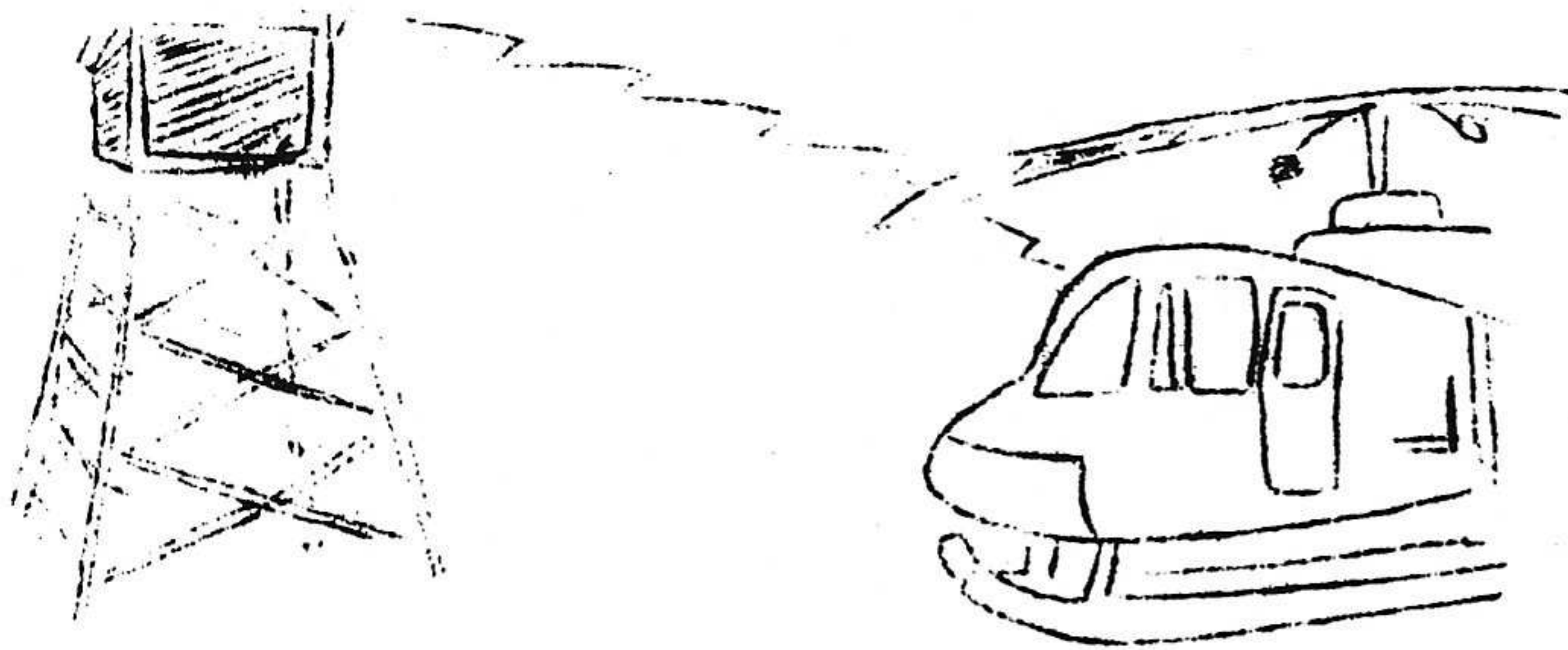
"I saw the men in the rafters," Walsh later recounted, "and one of them was shaking with fright. As I looked, one of them popped a grenade and rolled it in the rafter."

The grenade hit the ground six inches behind Rhinehart's heels. Walsh rushed forward, shoved his company commander to the ground, turned and tried to push the other soldiers behind him away as he hit the ground. The blast wounded the patrol's second RTO and blew the hand-set off his radio.

The two V.C. followed up their first blast with four more grenades, and came out of the hut spraying the area with automatic weapons fire. Walsh opened up on the fleeing guerillas as two enemy grenades exploded ten meters from his position and enemy fire hit a soldier next to him.

(WALSH Cont. on page 4)





(ATC Cont. from page 3)  
 s cloud formations and the attitude of the aircraft with respect to the glide path to our runway."

The control tower is the key to all these operations. "Each air movement in the Duc Tho area must be requested or reported through the control tower," says SF5 David Ennis, part of the four-man ATC tower team. More than 400 aircraft per day are directed by the Duc Tho control tower.

"Sometimes it gets a little hectic," Ennis concedes, "but after awhile the procedures and techniques become more or less automatic. Being confronted with all the different situations and the responsibility of all those lives and costly equipment is a challenge that makes

the job interesting," Ennis says. "You've got to be able to think fast and then talk fast."

The air traffic controller relays to pilots all take off and landing instructions, in addition to weather reports and information on other traffic in the area.

The GCA system and control tower are operational during daylight hours, but are on call at any time to supply radar and controller support for incoming aircraft.

Qualified Army personnel selected for ATC school attend a 17 week course at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss. They are trained in meteorology, air navigation aids, airport rules and regulations, GCA systems and control tower operation.

\*\*\* BRIGADE PRESENTS AWARD \*\*\*

SILVER STARS: 2LT Donald R. Boyle, A 3/1; SGT Douglas L. Walsh, C 3/1.

BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR: SF4 Richard A. Schmidt, A 1/20; SF5 Jay B. Wright, A 1/20; SP4 Frederick R. Newman, C 3/1.

BRONZE STAR FOR ACHIEVEMENT: CPT Michael D. Haynes, HHC 3/1; CPT Harry J. Rhinehart, C 3/1.

FURFLE HEART: PFC Robert W. Stewart, B 3/1; LTC James A. Franklin, HHC 3/1; CPT Virgil L. Nix, HHC 3/1; 2LT James E. Laird, C 3/1; SSG Victor R. Gamacho, TRF E, 1st Cav; PFC Dan Atkins Jr., D 3/1; PFC Gary J. Ugolini, TRF E; PVT Willie S. Tillman, B 3/1; PVT Winfield O. Knight, TRF E; SGT Roger M. Chandler, E 3/1; SGT Daniel L. Collins, B 3/1; SP4 Billy D. Cutsinger, C 3/1; SF4 Frederick R. Newman, C 3/1; SP4 Alberto Rodriguez, HHC 3/1; PFC Harold Burris, C 3/1; PFC Larry C. Fage, E 3/1.

## ERROR NOTED

In the story covering the week's activities of units in the brigade published in last week's edition of the "Trident" under the title "V.C AID STATION RAIDED BY 3/1 IN WEEK'S ACTION," the story erroneously referred to CPT William Riggs' company as a unit of 4th Bn. 3d Inf.

CPT Riggs' company is part of 3d Bn, 1st Inf, and credit for the company's exploit in killing four VC, capturing six weapons and destroying a tunnel complex containing ammunition, booby traps and other ordnance, should go to 3d of the 1st.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

The editorial staff of this publication solicits news copy from all units. The Editor reserves the right to edit all copy forwarded for publication. Units or individuals desiring assistance or guidance in preparing news stories are requested to contact the Brigade Information Office.

## ABRAMS APPOINTED

President Johnson announced Wednesday that GEN. William W. Abrams will succeed GEN William C. Westmoreland as Commander in Chief of U.S. Military Forces in Vietnam.

GEN Westmoreland is leaving Vietnam in April to become Army Chief of Staff. GEN Abrams, presently MACV deputy commander, has worked primarily with ARVN forces in the past year.

NOOPY

I WISH I COULD GET SOMEONE TO RELEASE FROM MY INNER TENSIONS.

OF COURSE IF I EVER DID BITE SOMEONE, I CAN JUST SAY I WASN'T WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.

THERE'D BE YELLING AND SCREAMING AND PEOPLE CHASING ME I DON'T THINK I COULD STAND IT.

I GUESS I'D BE BETTER OFF JUST LEARNING TO LIVE WITH MY INNER TENSIONS.