6th Support Battalion
articles and etc. found in the Americal Division
Veteran's Association data base.

Above is the 6th Support Battalion crest.

6th Support Battalion Articles and related materials compiled from the Americal Division Veteran's Association (ADVA) database.

ADVA Historian for 2023 comments. Compilation documents have been made for veterans who might not have computer skills to search the extensive files for materials about their unit.

This document was made for veterans of the 6th Support Battalion.

No issue of a 6th Support Battalion Newsletter has been located to date. Likewise, no unit yearbooks located for the 6th Support Battalion.

This unit provided support to Americal units of the 11th Bde operating in remote locations and traversing heavily mined roads to complete their mission. Thank you for your service, veterans of the 6th Support Battalion.

From the "Stanton Order of Battle" reference book. Composite Service Section:

Composite Service

6th Support Battalion (Infantry Brigade)

Arrived Vietnam: 19 December 1967
Departed Vietnam: 15 February 1969
Previous Station: Hawaii
Authorized Strength: 353 (1968)

The 6th Support Battalion was responsible for providing brigade-level supply, direct support and general support maintenance, medical service and miscellaneous services for all assigned or attached elements of the brigade. The battalion was organized with four lettered companies: A, administration; B, maintenance; C, supply and service; and D, medical, as well as a headquarters element. The battalion provided support for the 11th Infantry Brigade (Light) in Vietnam.

The 6th Support Battalion supported operations like Operation Muscatine in the 11th Inf. Bde. AO.

6th Support Bn Compilation of Vietnam Articles
From the May 1968 issue of the Americal Magazine:

Page 5 MEDCAP
A Day In The Life ....
By SP4 DEAN T. POHLAND
11th Inf. Bde.

Graphic - Doctor with stethoscope examining Vietnamese woman.

While there is no "typical day" in the life of a MEDCAP, the article which follows describes a few hours of "one day" in a MEDCAP conducted by the 11th Infantry Brigade.

When you visit the Duc Pho hospital, the base of the Medical-Civil Affairs Program (MEDCAP) of the 11th Infantry Brigade, several things become immediately and painfully apparent.

The first is the great need of the average Vietnamese citizen for the barest physical essentials: food, clothing, and the basics of medical care. Another is the feeling that you are on the stage. Each pair of eyes watches your every move, carefully, hopefully, and sometimes with a hint of fear.

The hospital's attempts at cleanliness as we know it are difficult to maintain. Chickens and dogs wander in and out of the wards and sterilization and antiseptic techniques are crude or nonexistent.

As soon as the MEDCAP team is set up, CPT Walter Erxleben, 11th Bde. surgeon, and a group of Headquarters and Headquarters Co. medics tend to the in-patients and seriously ill.

The first patient has a window cast on his lower leg and foot protecting a compound fracture and an external wound. The doctor examines the leg and then instructs the interpreter to tell the man, "Three more weeks and then all well again." The man smiles and nods his head.

The next patient is a teenager. He has a frightened look in his eyes, as if he knows what the doctor is going to say. His whole body is swollen almost beyond recognition and he can scarcely move his limbs. The doctor immediately diagnoses the case as a severe liver infection, producing the acute swelling.

"How long have you been like this?" the doctor asks. "Three months," the lad rasps. The doctor shakes his head as he prescribes treatment, through the interpreter, to the Vietnamese hospital orderlies. "It's always like this," he says. "Half of these cases wouldn't be this bad if the people would come to us right away. I just don't know what holds them back."

Graphic art - Crowd of happy Vietnamese surge in building to see the doctor.

The prime mission of the MEDCAP is to help the Vietnamese medical personnel raise the level of their preventive medicine and treatment, and then to create an awareness among the people of the availability of the program.

Because of the inroads of the infection and poor diet, penicillin, streptomycin, and other antibiotics, as well as vitamin deficiency tablets, are prescribed in almost every case. The MEDCAP teams also dispense large quantities of anti-bacterial soap, as worm diseases and skin disorders
are prevalent. Due to constant irritation and lack of medication, even simple rashes develop into serious illnesses.

The doctor then sees a woman whose shrapnel wound in the leg had healed but later became infected. As Dr. Exrleben lances the huge abscess, the woman, in obvious pain, does not utter a sound but merely hides her face.

When out-patients come for sick-call, a surging crowd soon develops and the problem becomes one of organization. The carnival atmosphere of the crush and the cries of "bac-si" (doctor) soon dissolve as the physician notices a young woman and her small child huddled together on his examining table. They are victims of a VC mortar attack the previous night. As he removes the hastily applied bandages from the wounds, the doctor emits an audible groan.

Without a word, one of the attending medics moves rapidly to prepare the ambulance jeep for a quick trip to the aid station at nearby Landing Zone Bronco, the 11th Bde. base camp.

The situation was critical but several days later both mother and child were out of danger. The quick action by a team of 11th Bde. surgeons and medics and the around-the-clock intensive care by U.S. and Vietnamese nurses saved their lives.

The next patient, a woman, has walked 20 miles from an outlying village with her seven-year-old child who has measles. During the examination, Dr. Erxleben dis-

covers a rare condition in which the child's heart is on the right side of the chest.

Further examination discloses a severe heart defect. The irregular beating of the child's heart is easily seen through his emaciated body, and his whole frame labors each time he takes a breath.

The doctor asks the mother if she can stay at the hospital for a few days, and she nods her head, but hope for the child's recovery is slim. Even though the corrective surgery would be comparatively simple, it would require a heart-lung machine and that kind of sophisticated equipment is just not available.

A man who had a bullet removed from his hand the day before returns for a check-up. The team is happy to see him back, for these people who return for further treatment, and can have their recovery charted, provide the only means for the team to check its progress.

MEDCAPS are carried out in all 11th Bde. battalions, under the direction of the Brigade Surgeon and the S-5 office. **In addition, C Co., (Medical) 6th Spt. Bn. supplies a dentist for weekly DENTCAP visits.**

It is hard to estimate the good that these teams do, but the comprehensive program undertaken by the "Jungle Warriors" is currently treating more than 200 patients every day.

Besides the DENTCAP specialty, the Brigade Surgeon also maintains a tuberculosis clinic, with records kept on each of the patients who comes in for daily treatment. In addition, the team conducts an amputee assistance program in conjunction with the artificial limb and rehabilitation clinic run by a Quaker volunteer group in Quang Ngai City.

One of the most vital non-combat programs engaged in by the 11th Inf. Bde., MEDCAP is winning an important battle in the struggle for the respect and support of the Vietnamese people. To save a life...to heal the addicted ...to comfort the ill...all are part of a day in the life of a MEDCAP team.

28Sep68-Americal soldiers express themselves through softball

Photo 1 - The umpire calls "strike three" the batter looks puzzled and the catcher holds the runner on base at Landing Zone Bronco (AMERICAL PHOTO)

Photo 2 - A redleg from the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery connects as his team battles with the 11th Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company team. (AMERICAL PHOTO)

CHU LAI (AMERICAL) -

Wherever Americans gather it seems baseball is bound to follow, and Vietnam is no exception.

Lately, evenings at Landing Zone Bronco have been ringing with the sounds of the national pastime, marking the beginnings of a full-fledged softball league at the 11th Brigade base camp.

The league is the brainchild of two Americal Division NCOs who realized the need for some exercise, found a place to play and decided to take the horse by the hide.

"A group of us started some pick-up games in a vacant field," Sergeant First Class William Cline, **Company C, 6th Support Battalion said**, "Others started coming around asking for games and pretty soon we had several teams playing just for the heck of it."

"The idea for a league," according to 1st Sergeant Charles Webb, also of Company C, "came when we realized how many people wanted to organize a softball program. Right now, we have about a dozen teams throughout the base camp with several more being organized."

What the teams lack in facilities or finesse they more than make up for it in spirit and enthusiasm.

"It's really a good thing," said Specialist 5 Bob Strickler of the Primo Aviation, Ltd. Tigers, undaunted even though they lost all their softball equipment when the Primo supply room went up in smoke, during a mortar attack a couple of months ago. "It gives us a chance to get out, get some exercise and meet some of the other people around here."

"It gives us a look at something, besides nuts and bolts," added Specialist 6 Lee Reeves, Primo technical inspector and manager of the Tigers.

League officials plan a playoff within the league, and a championship series to determine an overall winner.

"It's a unique league," says Webb. "Here games can be called not only because of rain and darkness, but also on account of incoming 60mm mortar rounds.

Dr. Raymond McLane, a veteran of the 6th Support Battalion's medical company provided these comments and photos after reading the previous article:

I have enjoyed reviewing those contemporaneous reports. There was one about the baseball league at Duc Pho that I can elaborate on.

There was a report about a morale boosting program at Duc Pho that we initiated. A baseball league. Credit was given to my ambulance platoon sergeant, SFC Kline for the idea. He did much more to make it happen in fact.

We took over the existing facility set up at Duc Pho by a brigade of the 4th Division detailed to Task Force Oregon to hold the Area of Operations that would be controlled by The Americal Division when it received its three separately trained brigades, the 11th, the 196th, and the 198th. Once we learned that we would not be relocating from this base camp, we set about improving our conditions. We replaced the tent poles with a wood frame including screened louvers for ventilation and a wood floor with a ramp connecting all the treatment areas. Eventually we were able to replace the tents entirely with corrugated metal roofing.

There was a large marsh immediately behind our Clearing Station tents and the neighboring Aviation group that separated us from the Medical Supply area. We had to drive around the whole encampment to resupply as did all our customers from the Infantry Battalions medical platoons. Plus, the marsh was heavily mosquito infested requiring periodic spraying.

There is a highly regarded system in the Army known as NCO channels. Things get done! My platoon sergeants, SFC Kline of Ambulance and SFC Brown of Clearing got together with their counterparts at Brigade Engineers and bet them a case of beer that they couldn't build a road across that marsh. The Engineers showed up with a bunch of dump trucks, a bulldozer, and a grader and knocked it off in an hour or two. As more cases of beer changed hands that marsh eventually was raised three feet and bypassed with a drainage ditch creating a large level field. Volleyball courts went up soon then a full-size baseball diamond with no outfield fences.

One of my medics, Sp4 Hopper, had been a minor league umpire before he was drafted. He invited any companies on stand down to put up a team to play the medics as well as rear area units able to get teams together. That became a league. We even had our own game T-shirts.

The last feature of that former swamp was a forty-foot-wide outdoor movie screen. Since we kept patients in our facility, we were entitled to recently

released films from Special Services and a large projector. You could play or see a game then enjoy a nice evening at the movies after dark. Guys brought lounge chairs and beers, a real treat after humping in the field. Occasionally the movie might be called as a result of an alert for added realism.

Here are two photos supplied from Dr. McClane of one of their inter-mural contests.

The May 29, 1968 Mortar Attack on LZ Bronco by Dr. McLane.

The medical company area was hit by a mortar attack in late May of 1968. I always remember it as 29 May as that was my oldest daughter's birthday, the first of the four I would miss that year and not something I ever had to do again.

The attack started without warning and I headed for the nearest bunker on hearing the bursts. It let up and I raced to the Admitting and Disposition to prepare to receive casualties. I found that my medics had evacuated the three patient wards to the large bunker during the initial attack. The only injuries sustained were some minor frag wounds to two previously wounded soldiers who were waiting for fixed wing evacuation in the morning. Two Purple Hearts in the same day!

Photos and more of the story continue on the following pages:

6th Support Battalion: Enemy attack 29MAY68 results in a missing a panel of corrugated Tin and added ventilation holes from the shrapnel. Photo from Dr. McLane a veteran of th 6th Support Battalion.

29MAY68 Mortar attack at LZ Bronco puts hole in floor. Photo from Dr. McLane of the Medical Company of the 6th Support Battalion.

(Photoshop software was used to highlight the hole in the floor caused by a mortar round)

A second round of mortar fire started in the nearby Aviation company area then in marching fashion moved toward our facility. I hit the bunker just before a round went through our recently completed tin roof and onto the floor where I had just been standing. I don't know how many rounds we received but there were a lot of holes. We didn't lose anyone in my company but the Signal outfit's hootch next to our Dental clinic got a direct hit killing one man (PFC Robert Huff of the 11th Bde HHC, MOS 36K20). My company orderly room got hit.

There is a back story. Among the patients we were holding was a group of young Vietnamese women with malaria. They were the staff of a brothel in a nearby village. The Battalion Surgeon of the 4/21 Infantry, Capt Marvin Ledbetter, had been tasked with controlling sexually transmitted infections and had been routinely examining and treating these ladies. He had developed a good relationship with the madam. When the whole lot came down with malaria, he brought them to us for treatment accompanied by the madam and her niece (protege.) Their presence made quite a stir with some of our guys wanting to visit and comfort them during their confinement. The ward-master, a Spc 6 who had attended Bob Jones University, stayed up around the clock to be sure there was no fraternization.

As the madam and her niece were not sick, Marv invited them to join us for a dinner at our hooch where we had a barbecue. We were relaxing after dinner when the mortar attack started. Marv had left prior to this when he was informed that First sergeant Webb was preparing memos to report to our Bn CO's of conduct unbecoming of an officer. I was left to carry/lead these two frightened ladies to our nearest bunker. I saw red sparks in the air around me.

29MAY68 Mortar attack hits the office of the 1st Sgt for the Medical Battalion of the 6th Support Battalion. Photo from Dr. McLane.

The sky seemed to be falling on the 1SGT's office on 29MAY68 LZ Bronco. Photo from: Dr. McLane.

In the aftermath we found the First Sgt's desk took a near direct hit destroying his typewriter and memos. All our records had puncture wounds. His energies were redirected toward preparing recommendations for the Combat Medical Badge to be awarded to everyone in the Medical Company, including the doctors.

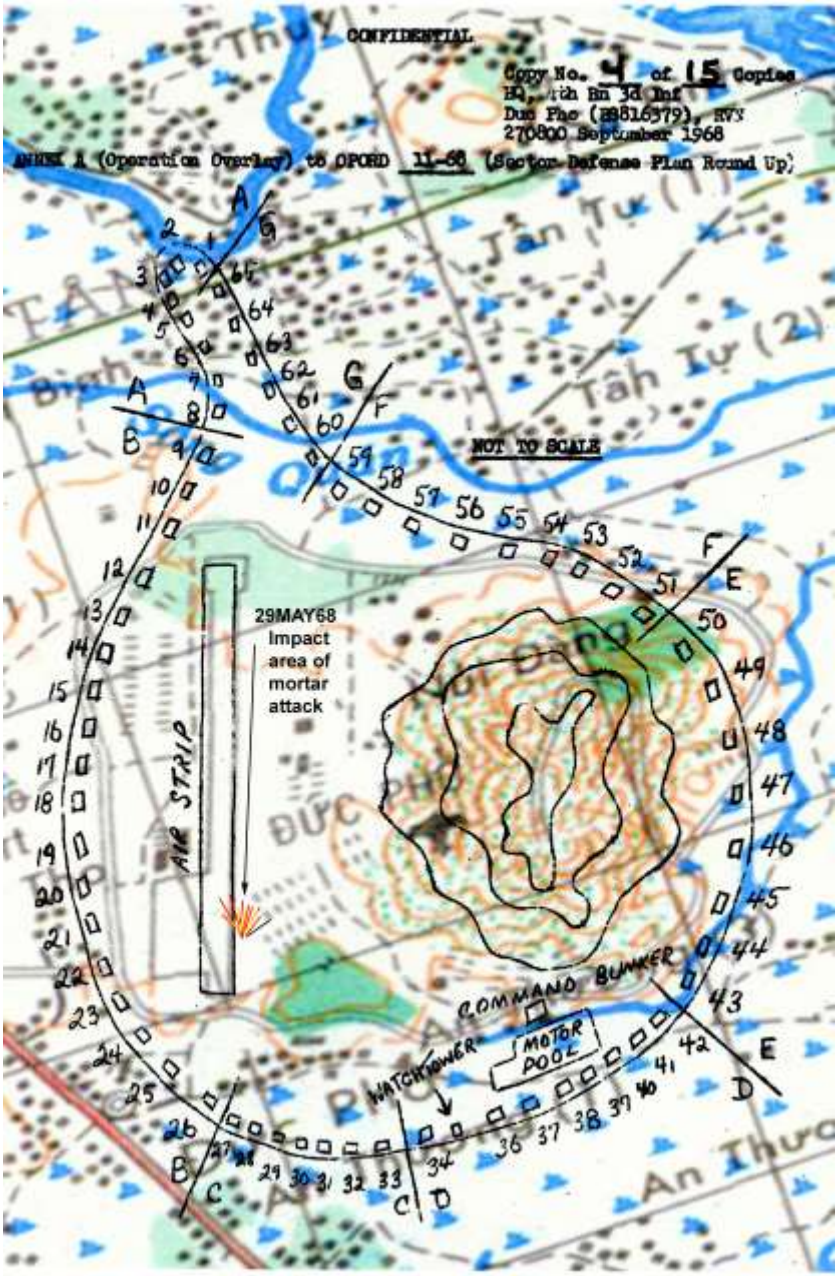
I have never since doubted any war movie's unlikely story.

Americal Division daily S2/S3 reporting of the mortar attack.

At 0140H near location BS812383 receiving heavy incoming fire. More details later.
At 0210-0207H mortar attack has stopped. Received over 100 X 82mm mortar rounds. Three seriously wounded were evacuated.
At 0220H still quiet, still on red alert. One bunker spotted a few VC who were engaged with mortar fire. No indication of a ground attack, damage and casualties unknown.
At 0245H going to yellow alert status. 13 WHA, 1 KHA, 2 Dust off ships shot up and 5 tents damaged or destroyed. A fire in tank farm is not under control at this time. At 0312H 1 UH-1D sustained major damage, 1 UH-1D sustained minor damage and 1 OH-23G sustained minor damage from the Bde Aviation. 1 UH-1D sustained minor damage (the C&C helicopter from the 174th Aviation Company. 2 UH-1D Dustoff helicopters sustained major damage and one other UH-1D reported sustaining damage. 2 1x01 type tents destroyed, 7 Tents destroyed, 6 field ambulances damaged, 1 x Bull Dozer damaged, 2 x front loaders damaged, 1 x A.F. medevac radio destroyed. A&D Facility Dental clinic, 1 x orderly room & 1x supply room damaged. Many trucks with flat tires. 3 billets were destroyed. Total casualties were 2 Killed due to hostile action, 7 wounded requiring medical evacuation and 34 wounded with minor wounds.'

At 1000H the 11th Bde reported the following.

A female VC detained this morning admitted she was part of a group of 15 VC that mortared LZ Bronco last night, they had 3 mortar tubes. 6 VC operated the mortar tubes, and the others provided security. The VC were not local types but uniformed VC. It appeared that the 6 VC who fired the mortars did not get out of the area as planned.



A map showing the mortar impact zone initially reported shown above.

The mortar used by the enemy was the 82mm size. Each warhead weighed over 5 lbs. They could be fired from nearly 2 miles away at a rate of fire of over 20 rounds per minute per mortar (...and there were 3 mortars used in the attack.). Rounds could have been falling into the compound at a rate of one per second. The kill radius of this mortar round is over 25 yards from the explosion. This means that if you put two well placed rounds on a football field it might kill or wound everyone on the field. Pretty devastating!

Materials obtained and transcribed from the National Archives by Charles Seketa formerly of 1/20th Inf. Bn.

NARRATIVE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

OPERATION SHOW LOW

1. GENERAL

a. 11th Brigade CP remained at DUC PHO. A liaison team from 11th Light Infantry Brigade was sent to 2nd ARVN Division to effect fire support coordination and to assist in general coordination between the two control headquarters.

b. Task Force Barker in the Eastern part of the Operation Muscatine AO which is directly adjacent to the 4-3 Inf AO provided the 4-3 Inf. With Co B 4-3 Inf. Which is normally OPCON to Task Force BARKER (-) continued Operation MUSCATINE during the conduct of Operation SHOW LOW.

c. The 1st Bn, 20th Inf. Located in the DUC PHO-MO DUC AO to the South of QUANG NGAI Provided 4-3 Inf. With Co A 1-20 Inf. OPCON. The 1-20th Inf continued all assigned missions and operations during the conduct of Operation SHOW LOW.

d. The 3rd Bn 1st Inf. had the mission of providing one rifle platoon as an immediate Reaction Force and the company minus to be committed, on order. Company D was assigned the mission of providing the reaction force. The immediate Reaction force was deployed to QUANG NGAI AIRFIELD with the Brigade Forward Support Element and Co D (-) remained at LZ Dragon (BS731528).

e. 6th Support Battalion deployed a forward support element to QUANG NGAI Airfield on 6 March 1968.

1. Phase I (D-2, 5 March 1968): 4-3 Inf commenced deployment of forces at 050700 March 1968 with Co A moving from LZ Sue (BS565877) to an NDP vic BS514803 and Co B conducting a Combat assault, commencing 050800 March 1968, from LZ UPTIGHT (BS725856) to LZ vic BS523815. Upon completion of combat assault, Co B secured and initials fire Support Base at BS523815 no later than 051000 March 1968. Co D moved from NDP, commence 050730 March 1968 and occupied LZ Sue (BS565877). D-6-11 Arty commences airlift from LZ Sue to initial forward fire support base at 051300 March 1968. . -E-1 Cav Plat and 3-C-26 Engr Plat (-) released to OPCON of 4-3 Inf. Upon entry of MUSCATINE AO and move to initial forward fire support base vic BS535805 and on order, move to and occupy NDP with Co A vic (BS514803).

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
4TH BATTALION 3D INFANTRY (THE OLD GUARD)
11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96217

21

February 1968

SUBJECT: Unit History (1967)

TO: Commanding Officer
4th Bn 3d Inf
ATTN: XIRD-PE

1. 13 March – 4 Officers and 16 Enlisted Men departed Schofield Bks as the Advance Party for Pohakuloa Training Area, island of Hawaii, and arrived at destination 1400 hours of the same day. Main party of Headquarters and Headquarters Company arrived on the 14th and 16th of March.
2. 19 April – 19 Officers and 192 Enlisted Men return from P.T.A.
3. 25 April – 1SG Richard McGinness is reassigned to HHC 11th Inf Bde.
SFC Robert L McDaniel assumes the duties of Acting First Sergeant.
4. 21 July – LTC Harold J Meyers is reassigned to Washington, D.C.
5. 22 July – LTC Alvin E Adkins assumes command of the Battalion.
6. 1 August – 18 Officers and 217 Enlisted Men depart Schofield Bks for the island of Molokai aboard the SS Cavalier and SS Tortuga, for training in beach assaults and counter-insurgency operations – Operation Coral Sands II.
7. 8 August – Return from Operations Coral Sand II.
8. **15 August – CPT Richard E. Six assumes command of HHC from CPT William R Daknis, who is reassigned to HHC, 6th Support Battalion.**
9. 16 August – 16 August – Brigade re-organization. Headquarters Company is divided into two separate companies. 3 Officers and 85 EM are reassigned to Co E, 4th Bn 3d Inf.
10. 17 August – 21 September – 16 Officers and 154 Enlisted Men participate in Brigade Field Training Exercise at the Kahuka Training Area on island of Oahu.
11. 1 November – SGM Edward L. Foster reassigned to Ft. Shafter, Hawaii.

A list of KIAs provided to the association for the 11th Bde.

Sixth Support Battalion

Headquarters Detatchment 6th Support Bn

Sp4 Moore, Kenneth D Mar 20 68 G 05 45 E 41

Company C 6th Support Battalion

Pfc Newberry, Larry G Sep 30 68 G 05 42 W 49

At 1210hrs on May 15, 1969 Charlie Company 4-3 Infantry 1st Platoon spotted approximately 15 NVA at BS605435 and engaged with small arms fire and artillery with results 1 US WHA, SP4 Thomas, Jerry and he was Dusted Off at 1240hrs. At 1420hrs Charlie Company was informed that SP4 Thomas Jerry was Dead on **Arrival at 6th Support on LZ Bronco.**

RODDIE LEE PERRY

SP4 - E4 - Army - Selective Service
11th Light Infantry Brigade

Length of service 1 years
His tour began on Oct 22, 1968
Casualty was on Jun 3, 1969
In QUANG NGAI, SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered

AVDF-CG **8 February 1968**

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

2. (U) Personnel. A consolidated Personnel Services Division, Adjutant General Section, was formed under the ROAD concept to service the newly activated Americal Division units. On 15 November 1967 the Personnel Services Divisions of the 196th and 198th Light Infantry Brigades, formerly separate commands, merged to form the nucleus of the new organization. On 25 December 1967 the Personnel Services Division of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade joined the merger to complete the organization.

Order of Battle for quarter ending January 1968:

4. 11th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE
HHC, 11th Lt Inf Bde
3d Bn, 1st Inf
4th Bn, 3d Inf
1st Bn, 20th Inf
6th Bn, 11th Arty
6th Spt Bn
Trp E, 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav
90th Chem Det
415th Radio Research Det
52d MI Det
11th Sig Plat
31st Public Information Det

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1968.
(RCS-CSFOR-65)(RI)(U)

(3) USARV General Order 4101, 25 August 68, reassigned the 48th Public Information Detachment to the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, APO 96448.

(4) USARPAC General Order 459, 30 August 68, reorganized the 27th Chemical Detachment under MTOE 03-500 EP02 P00168 effective 54 September 68.

(5) USARPAC General Order 488, 5 September 68, reorganized the 258th Personnel Service Company under MTOE 29-247TPo1 P00168 effective 20 September 1968:

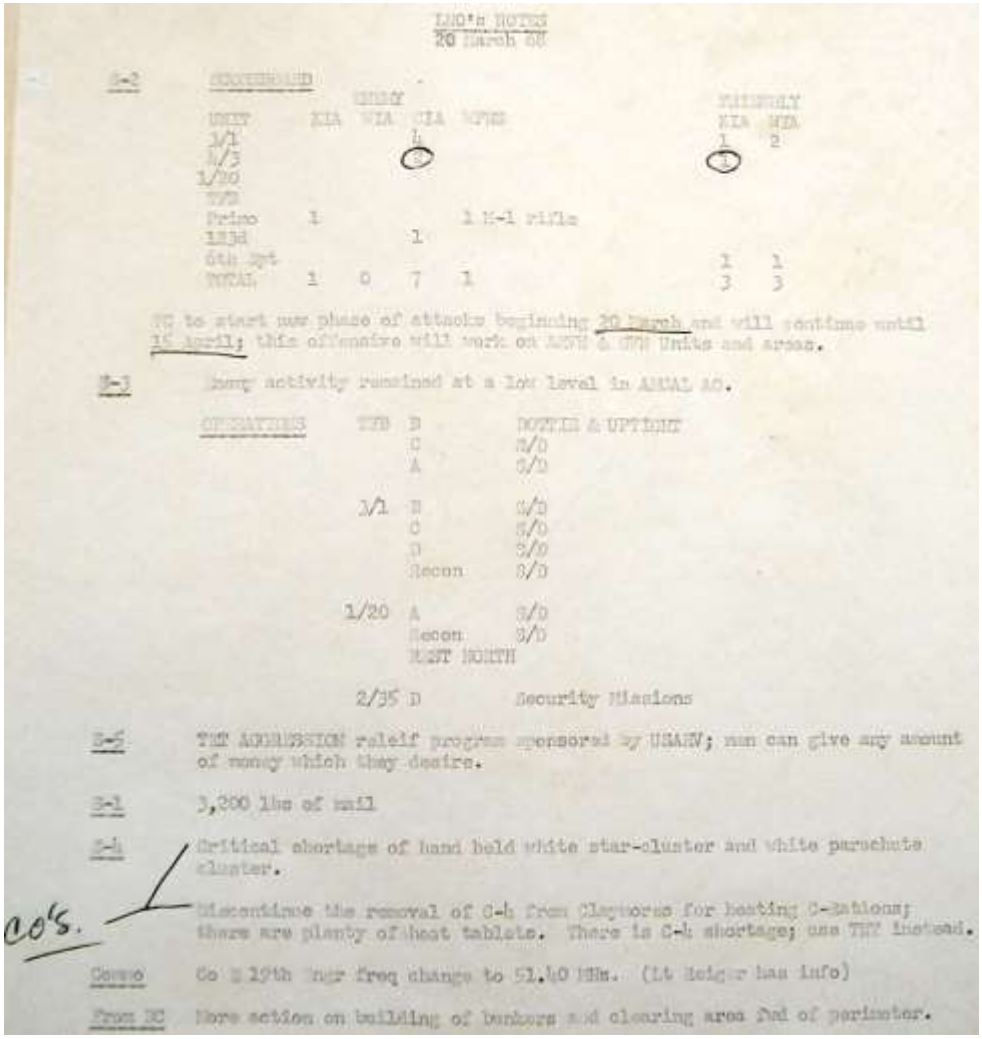
(a) Company B, 6th Support Battalion.

(b) Company B, 8th Support Battalion.

(c) Company B, 9th Support Battalion.

There are many incidents involving the 6th Support Battalion in the Division and 11th Infantry Bde battalion S2/S3 reports. However, most of this reporting is only viewable or printable and would require great efforts to locate these incidents. L Hines.

This came from a 4/3rd Infantry S2/S3 report. indicates 3 KIA and 3 WIA from the 6th Spt.



LNO's NOTES
20 March 68

S-2 SCOUTBOARD

UNIT	ENEMY KIA	ENEMY WIA	ENEMY CIA	ENEMY WPNS	FRIENDLY KIA	FRIENDLY WIA
3/1			4		1	2
4/3			2		1	
1/20						
TFB						
Primo	1			1 M-1 rifle		
1B3d			1			
6th Spt					1	1
TOTAL	1	0	7	1	3	3

TC to start new phase of attacks beginning 20 March and will continue until 15 April; this offensive will work on AMVN & GVN Units and areas.

S-3 Enemy activity remained at a low level in ANUAL AO.

OPERATIONS			
	TFB	B	DOTTIE & UPTIGHT
		C	S/D
		A	S/D
	3/1	B	S/D
		C	S/D
		D	S/D
		Recon	S/D
	1/20	A	S/D
		Recon	S/D
		REST NORTH	
	2/35	D	Security Missions

S-5 TET AGGRESSION releif program sponsored by USARV; men can give any amount of money which they desire.

S-1 3,200 lbs of mail

S-4 Critical shortage of hand held white star-cluster and white parachute cluster.

CO's. Discontinue the removal of C-4 from Claymores for heating C-Rations; there are plenty of heat tablets. There is C-4 shortage; use TNT instead.

Comms Co B 19th Engr freq change to 51.40 MHz. (Lt Reiger has info)

From BC More action on building of bunkers and clearing area fwd of perimeter.

LNO NOTES
10 Apr 68

S-2:

	ENEMY				FRIENDLY	
	KIA	WIA	CIA	WPNS	KHA	WHA
4-3	4		1	134		
3-1	2		6	1		
1-20	4		2	3		
TOTALS	10	0	9	138	0	0

Weather will continue to be the same with haze and cloudiness. Visibility 3-5 miles.

S-3:

3-1: Co A - Security of Bronco
Co B - Combat sweep to north
Co C - Combat sweep east to coast
Co D - Combat sweep east and north
Recon - Night patrols southwest of Liz

1-20: Co A - Combat sweep*
Co B - Combat sweep*
Co C - Combat sweep*
Co D - Combat sweep*
Recon - Security*

*Operation Norfolk Victory

S-1: 3,745 lbs of mail

S-4: Two LTCs, 1 Maj, 1 SP5 - Info team from USARV Hqs on M-16 rifle. Will be in area 11 Apr 68 and visit 6th Spt Bn and two fire support bases around LZ Bronco.

COL Henderson: Div Cmdr concerned with all the M-16 teams that are coming around. Insure that every individual knows what TLA is and uses it. Weapons are to be inspected daily by an officer.

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG

(AR 220-346)

PAGE NO 6 | NO OF PAGES

ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION: S-2/S-3 1-3 Inf

LOCATION: CAMBODIA

PERIOD COVERED — FROM: HOUR 0001, DATE 2 Jan 68 — TO: HOUR 2400, DATE 2 Jan 68

ITEM NO	TIME IN	TIME OUT	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS
63	1733	(C)	Recon Plat informs Bn TOC they are departing present location.	S, Log	
64	(C)	1748	Called all units (4-3) in regard to firing.	S, Log	
65	(C)	1751	Called 6th Sp: in regard to firing.	S, Log	

TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY: JOHN P McCAW CPT, Inf

SIGNATURE: John P. McCaw

5 Jan 68

ITEM	IN	OUT	MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ETC.	ACTION
	(U)	0001	Opened Journal	
1	0045	(C)	FM: Co A,B,&D SITREP Neg.	Log
2	(C)	0047	Conf Call: All front line units SITREP Neg.	Log
3	0055	(C)	6th Engr SITREP Neg.	Log
4	0057	(C)	6th Spt rptd 6 to 8 pers running after tripping flare appx 30 to 40m fwd of Bkr 59 vic ~~387377~~ 54.	Bde, Log
5	0120	(C)	Bde TOC reported this TOC to inform all units to be esp watchful due to known enemy probing in our perimeter. Keep calm and take enemy under fire when positively identified.	Units, Log
6	0130	(C)	6th Engr rpts mvmnt L rear of Bkr for past hour. Also heard rifle fire. Neg results w/searchlight. Req Illum vic 827364. One rd approved.	Bde, Log
7				
7	0153	(C)	FM: Co A&B SITREP Neg.	Log, Bde
8	0155	(C)	6th Engr SITREP Neg.	Log, Bde
9	0156	(C)	FM: Co D SITREP Neg.	Log, Bde
10	0158	(C)	E Trp SITREP Neg.	Log, Bde
11	0248	(C)	FM: A&D Co SITREP Neg.	Log, Bde
12	0251	(C)	FM: All Bunkers SITREP Neg.	Log
13	0257	(C)	FM: E Trp reports their 6-6 element (APC vic Bkr 52) obs 3 pers 25m fwd of pos (coord 853366). Fired upon pers w/.50 cal.	Bde, Log
14	(C)	0257	Conf Call: All front line units w/above exception (Item 13) SITREP Neg.	Log
15	0320	(C)	Co C rptd movement 300m fwd of pos vic 843360 Req 1 rd Illum. Approved.	Bde, Log
16	0344	(C)	FM: Co A&D SITREP Neg.	Log
17	0348	(C)	E Trp SITREP Neg.	Log
18	0350	(C)	Conf Call: All front line units SITREP Neg.	Log
19	0358	(C)	4.2" Mort (Co E 4/3) ceased H&I firing.	Log

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346)	PAGE NO 10

ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION	LOCATION	PERIOD FROM HOUR	DATE
S2/S3 Hqs, 11th Lt Inf Bde	DUC PHO BRONCO LZ (812383)	0001	25 Aug 68

ITEM NO	TIME IN	METHOD OUT	INCIDENTS MESSAGES ORDERS ETC	ACTION TAKEN
93.	1815		REF ITEM # 81. Results of C/3-1 contact	Notified S2, S3
			during the day 3 US KHA and 9 US WHA.	and D TOC.
94.	1815		C/3-1, 1810 hrs, 537753: Captured 2 wpns	Notified S2, S3
			AK-47's and engaged and killed 6 VC.	and D TOC.
95.	1845		Lt Reed, MACV, Quang Ngai, 2nd ARVN locat-	
			ions 1/6 654730, 2/4 is in heavy contact at the following coords: 600625. MAT #5	
			at coords 672753 is under heavy 50 cal fire have requested Aero Scouts. Also	
			4/6 and 6th Regt CP will be down to Quang Ngai tomorrow.	
96.	1900		**6th Spt: All 6th Spt personnel have been**	Notified S3.
			evac'd from Ha Thanh and returned to BRONCO. All equipment has been evac'd and dropped	
			at MINH LONG.	
97.	1910		MACV DUC PHO, possible mortar psns, 785380	Notified 1-20
			and 784377.	Radar and Arty.
98.	1931		3/1 forward; C co is receiving incoming	Notified S2 S3
			mortars, returning fire at this time	D-Toc
99.	2000		All stations: Neg SITREP	
100.		2000	11th Bde: Neg SITREP to Americal D TOC	
101.	2021		5/46: C 22 in position at F-JQAVZT – 667715	Notified S3
102.	2030		3/1: Request Airstrike at 544753 – 4 strikes	Notified S3 and
			w/NAPALM.	S3-A.

TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OF OFFICIAL ON DUTY	SIGNATURE
DAVID L. HAYEMAN, CPT, CMCL	**David L Heyman**

(ADVA transcription)

By SP4 DEAN POHLAND
11th Inf. Bde.

LZ BRONCO -- Wherever Americans gather it seems baseball is bound to follow, and Vietnam is no exception.

Lately, evening here have been ringing with the sounds of the national pastime, marking the beginning of a fullfledged softball league at the 11th Inf. Bde. base camp.

The league is the brainchild of two Americal NCOs who realized the need for some exercise, found a place to play and decided to take the horse by the hide.

Pick-up Games

"A group of us started some pick-up games in a vacant field," said SFC William Cline of Glen Cove, N.Y., in Co. C, 6th Support Bn. "Others started coming around asking for games and pretty soon we had several teams playing just the heck of it."

"The idea for a league," according to 1SGT Charles Webb from Tacoma, Wash., also of Co. C, "came when we realized how many people wanted to organize a softball program. Right now, we have about a dozen teams throughout the base camp, with several more being organized."

Equipment Lost

What the teams lack in facilities they more than make up in spirit and enthusiasm. This is especially true of the "Tigers" of Primo Aviation, Ltd. because they lost all their equipment when the Primo supply room went up in smoke during a mortar attack a couple of months ago.

League officials plan a play-off within the league and a championship series to determine an overall winner.

"It's a unique league," said Webb. "Here, games can be called not only because of rain and darkness, but also on account of incoming mortar rounds."

New Leaders Join Division

CHU LAI--Eight new senior officers have recently joined the Americal Division. Five a members of the 11th Inf. Bde., while three are serving with the 198th.

The new battalion commanders of the "Jungle Warriors" are LTC Talbott Barnard, 6th Bn., 11th Arty.,; LTC Henry Lowder, 3rd Bn., 1st Inf.; LTC William D. Quinn, Jr., 1st Bn., 20th Inf.; **LTC Ralph H. Ruche, 6th Spt. Bn.**; and LTC Albert L. Russell, Jr., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf.

The new "Brave and Bold" leaders are: LTC Reed E. Davis, Jr., XO, of the 198th; LTC Edward A. Kelly, Jr., CO, 1st Bn., 14th Arty.; and LTC William C. Stinson, CO, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. Both Colonel Kelly and Colonel Stinson are on their second tours in Vietnam.

3 Battalions Have New Commanders

Three Americal battalions have had changes of command recently.

LTC Sinclair L. Meiner has assumed command of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.; LTC A.J. Dombrowsky takes command of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 6th Inf.; **and LTC Richard M. Raunswinder will command the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 6th Spt. Bn.**

LTC Meiner replaces LTC Robert B. Nelson; LTC Robert B. Nelson; LTC Dombrowsky replaces LTC William D. Kelley; and LTC Raunswinder replaces LTC Ralph R. Rusche.

Captured Medical Supplies
Benefit Province Hospital

QUANG NGAI CITY--Captured enemy medical facilities are being put to good use in the Quang Ngai Province Hospital thanks to efforts of the 11th Inf. Bde.

The majority of the enemy medical facilities have been found in an area 25 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City by elements of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf. and the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. participating in Operation Vernon Lake II.

Doctors Find Use

The problem if what to do with all the captured supplies and equipment was solved by two "Jungle Warrior" doctors.

After carefully inspecting the drugs and equipment for serviceability, Bde. **Surgeon CPT Edward N. Davis (Walhalia, S.C.) and CPT Michael B. Lester (Houston, Tex.,), XO of C Co., 6th Spt. Bn., hit upon the idea of donating the items to the Quang Ngai Hospital.**

Abandon in Haste

In their haste to vacate the area ahead of the "Jungle Warriors," the VC and NVA have been forced to leave large quantities of medical equipment and supplies. The majority of the captured drugs and instruments had been manufactured in communist nations.

A sample of the captured items included a Czech-made microscope, a blood pressure gauge, sterilizer, surgical kits, needles, syringes, survival kits, plasma, and a variety of drugs and pills. Related photo found on following page:

Photo

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES captured in Operation Vernon Lake II are delivered to the helipad at Quang Ngai Province Hospital by an 11th Inf. Bde. doctor, CPT Michael B. Lester. (Photo by 1LT Frederick A. PeLeate, 11th Inf. Bde.)

Caption: MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES captured in Operation Vernon Lake II are delivered to the helipad at Quang Ngai Province Hospital by an 11th Inf. Bde. doctor, CPT Michael B. Lester. (Photo by 1LT Frederick Al PeLeate, 11th Inf. Bde.) **(Note: Medevac helicopter shown in the background)**

11th Bde. MEDCAPS
Surpass Old Record

DUC PHO--The 11th Inf. Bde.'s MEDCAP set a record for the month of January as its medical teams treated a total of 9,670 Vietnamese patients, eclipsing its previous record of 6,244 set in June 1968.

The brigade MEDCAP is directed by Doctor (CPT) Edward N. Davis (Walhalla, S.C.), the brigade surgeon.

The largest in the brigade, the Duc Pho hospital program is administered by Doctor (CPT) Thomas A. Nims (Troy, Ohio).

Making The Rounds

CPT Nims, the surgeon for the brigade HHC, spends six busy days a week helping Vietnamese patients in and around the village of Duc Pho.

His rounds include the hospital, the jail, the brigade POW camp, and the **6th Spt. Hosp.** on LZ Bronco. He and his medical teams see about 250 patients per day.

"Our primary goal is to teach the Vietnamese how to take care of themselves," CPT Nims said.

Effective Hospital Program

One part of the MEDCAP that CPT Nims is particularly proud of is the hospital in Duc Pho, where the program is run by a Vietnamese male nurse, Mr. Ga.

"Mr. Ga was school-trained in Saigon," the captain related. "He is very dedicated and handles his duties just as a doctor would. In the past couple of months he has made a lot of progress."

CPT Davis described the HHC MEDCAP as "the most successful in the brigade."

Expert Qualifications of NCO, EM Earn Them Second Lieutenant Bars

CHU LAI - An NCO from the 198th Inf. Bde. and an EM from the 11th Inf. Bde. recently achieved an award that is difficult to attain and a real tribute to their leadership qualifications.

Former SSG Daryl Brooks, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., 198th Bde., and former PFC John Allen, HHC, 2nd Bde., 25th Inf. Div., and now of the 11th Bde., both received direct commissions as second lieutenants.

Excellent Qualifications

2LT Brooks explained "shock" as his first reaction when he heard news of his commission. But the new lieutenant is certainly qualified for this distinction.

A thoroughly schooled soldier, he attended the 4th Armored Div. NCO Academy in Germany; completed the USAREUR (United States Army In Europe) course at the Mines and Demolition School, also in Germany; then, still with the 4th Armored, he graduated with the top squad of soldiers from MISPC (Mechanized Infantry Special Proficiency Course.)

Officer Experience

Being an officer is nothing new to LT Brooks, who acted as liaison officer for his unit in Germany.

He also held positions as platoon and squad leader, as well as S-2 and S-3 operations sergeant.

During one of the most exciting parts of his varied career, the lieutenant in 1964 acted as an aggressor on the 98-day Operation Polar Strike, originating at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, which took him to subarctic conditions.

A Leader in Vietnam

Assigned to the 198th's 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., he became a plt. sergeant, platoon leader, and later, acting 1st Sergeant, leading soldiers on operations in the highly-contested southern AO.

Becoming an officer has not changed LT Brook's outlook on his leadership role in Vietnam.

"I'll definitely be back here," he said. "I like leading troops."

2LT Allen graduated with a masters degree from the University of Rochester in 1966, and afterwards was employed as an internal auditor for the General Foods Corp. in New York City.

In September 1967, LT Allen was drafted into the Army and arrived in Vietnam as a PFC in May 1968 and applied for a direct commission in July 1968.

Thoroughly Screened

LT Allen was highly recommended for the appointment by his company commander and was interviewed for approximately three hours by a review board at division level.

The board critically examined such criteria as educational background and military record, personality stability, and over-all leadership potential.

The lieutenant now is assigned to HHD, **6th Spt. Bn.,** as the Asst. Bde. Supply Officer for the 11th Bde.

After finishing his tour in Vietnam, LT Allen will be assigned to Ft. Lee Quartermaster School and intends to make the Army his career.

27May68 Southern Cross

11th Brigade Sponsors Fair For Townsfolk

By PFC LARRY MOLLNER 11th Inf. Bde.

DUC PHO- The citizens of Duc Pho set aside their Oriental customs and turned out one Sunday for an old-fashioned County Fair complete with surrey and music presented by the 11th Inf. Bde. civil affairs section.

The fair was organized to give the Vietnamese a chance to receive medical treatment in a central area, to gain good will and to promote the activities of the South Vietnamese government.

The festivities began with the brigade band playing "Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey" and other American favorites.

Although the rain made it a little uncomfortable, Tony Gaye, of the brigade's intelligence detachment, sat on the wet ground and people gathered around him to hear him play the guitar and sing American folk songs.

"I enjoy playing for the people. They don't have to understand the words to get the feeling from the melody," Gaye commented.

As Gaye entertained, Vietnamese interpreters passed out candy and a letter to the Viet Cong from Prime Minister Nguyen Van Loc, which urged the enemy to cooperate with the government so the fighting could end soon.

The most popular attraction at the fair was the medical units set up by brigade medics.

"We gave thorough medical aid to about 70 townspeople, If they needed further treatment, we urged them to come to the Duc Pho hospital," said Sgt. Jack Wallace.

A ride in the 6th Spt. Bn. surrey was the fair's biggest attraction for the children.

"The surrey was constructed by the men of Co. B, from an old mechanical mule they found in a junk yard. The kids got a big thrill out of riding over the bumps in it," WO Carlen Rhodes, the surrey driver said.

From the Pacific Stars & Stripes articles:
07Sept68
Landing Zone Bronco
Softball Big at Chu Lai

CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special)
-Wherever Americans go, the national game is bound to follow. And Vietnam is no exception.

Lately, Landing Zone Bronco has been ringing with similar sounds of the national pastime. It's not exactly baseball but a full-fledged softball league is under way at the 11th Brigade base camp.

The league is the brainchild of two Americal Div. NCOs who realized the need for some exercise, found a place to play and decided to take the horse by the hide.

"A group of us started some pickup games in a vacant field." said SFC William Cline of Glen Cove, N.Y., **C Co., 6th Support Bn**. "Others started coming around asking for games and pretty soon we had several teams playing just for the heck of it."

"The idea for a league," according to 1st Sgt. Charles Webb of Tacoma, Wash., also of C. Co., "came when we realized how many people wanted to organize a softball program. Right now, we have about a dozen teams throughout the base camp with several more being organized."

What the teams lack in facilities or finesse, they more than make up for in spirit and enthusiasm.

"It's really a great thing," said SP5 Bob Stickler of South Bend, Ind., of the Primo Aviation Ltd. Tigers, undaunted even though they lost all their softball equipment when the Primo supply room went up in smoke during a mortar attack a couple of months ago.

"It gives us a chance to get out, get some exercise and meet some of the other people around here."

"It gives us a look at something besides nuts and bolts," added SP6 Lee Reeves of Forrest City, Ark., Primo Technical inspector and manager of the Tigers.

League officials plan a play-off within the league and a championship series to determine an overall winner.

"It's a unique league," said Webb, "Here, games can be called not only because of rain and darkness, but also on account of incoming 60mm mortar rounds."

A 4/3rd Old Guard Newsletter from November 1968.

Page 3 - **AROUND the BN**

SGT James R. Davis of Second Platoon, Delta Company was shocked to read in a letter from his parents back home that he is wanted by the FBI - for desertion. SGT Davis, who is just completing a one year's tour of Vietnam, acted quickly in clearing up the apparent case of mistaken identity. "I put a full year out there in the field," he said, "I would certainly hate for that time not to count."

SP4 Eddie Walker, a medic in Headquarters Company, is convinced that the Army is keeping an eye on him. SP4 walker's CO from AIT, CPT Lurch, has just recently been assigned to the **6th Support Battalion**, Duc Pho. SP4 Walker assumed that CPT Lurch's assignment to the same base camp, LZ Bronco was just a coincidence; but, when CPT Simpson, the new Battalion S3-Air, arrived in the unit he became convinced that someone was keeping tabs on him. CPT Simpson was SP4 Walker's basic training Company Commander.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

rjm
SPECIAL ORDERS
31 March 1968
NUMBER 91 E X T R A C T

21. TC 311. UP para 7-20 AR 600-200 & DA Msg 774677 dtd 21 Jul 66 fol indiv
APT to PERM GR indic.

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (E-3)

STEPHENS, JAMES E RAXXXXXXXX (SSAN XXX-XX-XXXX) SP5 E5 HHD 6th Spt Bn
Awd: P76Y20
Wd: P70A10
Auth: Para 2-20b(6) AR 600-200
Eff date: 16 Mar 68

From the Americal Division Public Information Office Americal Division book prepared in July 1970:

23rd admin

In September, 1943 Headquarters Special Troops, Americal Division was formed to be activated for service in the Pacific Theater against the enemy forces. This was the origin of the unit later to be designated the 23rd Administration Company. With the reduction of forces following the end of the war, the 23rd Infantry Division, Americal was inactivated.

In 1954 the unit was activated and designated as the 23rd Replacement Company, and began operation on December 2, 1954 at Coroyal in the Canal Zone. The 23rd served there for almost a year and a half before being deactivated in April 1956. The unit has been awarded a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered October 17, 1944 to July 4, 1945.

The 23rd Administration Company, Americal Division, came to Vietnam as Company A, 6th Support Battalion, 11th Infantry Brigade, serving with Task Force Oregon. When the Americal Division was reactivated in September, 1967, a cry went out for administrative assistance for what was to be the largest division in the Republic of Vietnam. **On December 8, 1967, Company A, 6th Support Battalion, 11th Infantry Brigade was reconstituted and redesignated the 23rd Administration Company, Americal Division, and immediately took control of all the personnel that man all the eight different special staff sections at Division Headquarters.**

Vietnam *(Exerpts taken from the 1-20 Organization website)*
The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, "Sykes' Regulars", was reactivated at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on 1 July 1966 and assigned to the 11th Infantry Brigade. In May 1967, "Sykes' Regulars" began amphibious training in preparation for Operation Coral Sands II, a joint forces amphibious operation to be conducted on the island of Molokai during the period of 1-10 August.

Immediately upon return to Schofield Barracks, "Sykes' Regulars" began preparation for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam. In August of 1967, the Battalion was reorganized into a Light Infantry configuration. The organization of Delta and Echo Company would go into effect on the 15th of August.

Charlie Company 1st 20th Infantry was selected to provide security for the main body of the advance party. The advance party departed Hawaii by aircraft for the Republic of Vietnam on a phased schedule. The small group was sent on 28 November. On 4 December 1967 when the remainder advance party with personnel and equipment were airlifted to Da Nang (Personnel) and (Equipment) to Chu Lai and subsequently airlifted to Duc Pho. On 6 December 1967, the advance party moved to LZ Carenten to establish a temporary base camp next to LZ Bronco.

The main body of the battalion moved with the remainder of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade to Republic of Vietnam. The 11th Light Infantry Brigade shipped-out with 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry, 4th Battalion 3rd Infantry, 1st Battalion 20th Infantry, 6th Battalion 11th Artillery and 6th Support Battalion aboard the USS Gordon and USS Weigel, debarking at Qui Nhon on 19 and 22 December 1967. The 4th Battalion 21st Infantry remained in Hawaii to finish their training and will join the rest of the Brigade in April, 1968. The 1st Battalion 20th Infantry and rest of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade traveled by convoy to LZ Carentan, 65-Miles north. While at LZ Carentan, the battalion participated in an in-country training program in search and destroy operations, ambush techniques, destruction of fortifications and food caches, helicopter orientation, and combat assault training. " Sykes' Regulars" then moved to its rear area at LZ Bronco and began combat operations in the Duc Pho Operation Champaign and later in Muscatine AO's. On January 2, 1968 The 1st Battalion 20th Light Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade had moved into and taken over the southern most Area of Operation from the 3rd Brigade 4th Infantry Division and began Combat Operations in Vietnam.

e. The Americal Division CMMI Team conducted 22 courtesy and 15 record inspections (12 receiving satisfactory rating) during the period 1 Nov 68 to 31 Jan 69. The 723d Maint Bn and the **6th Spt Bn** conducted 102 roadside spot inspections during this same period.

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1969.

5. (U) Surgeon.

a. Organization. With the addition of four new preventive medicine technicians (91S), the Surgeon's Office acquired a new capability for inspecting and instructing in Preventive Medicine.

b. Preventive Medicine:

(1) Malaria continued to be the most significant disease problem in the division, though rates were lower than during the previous reporting period. The February rate was 48 cases per 1000 per year compared to 19 for February 1968, 31 cases per 1000 per year in March, compared to 50 in April 1968. The percent of vivax cases continued to be high, between 60-75%.

(2) One hundred and eight-eight (188) individuals were trained in six Field Sanitation team classes during the three month period.

(3) Fourteen (14) aerial insecticide spray missions were conducted in the Americal AO during the report period.

c. Others:

(1) On 15 February 1969, the entire division was reorganized under the ROAD configuration. **The medical company of each of the three former brigade support battalions was transferred to the 23d Medical Battalion as B, C, and D Companies.** The 23d Medical Battalion, as expanded, remains under the command of LTC Henry A. Robinson, Jr, who also serves as the Division Surgeon.

(Note the above paragraph relates to the disappearance of the 6th Support Battalion from service in Vietnam. It was apparently the Americal Division's reorganization that eliminated the 6th Support Battalion from the rolls). ***(Historian Comment: This is the same order that eliminated my former unit, the 406th TC and creating E/723rd Maint. Bn. The reason for the reorganization in this case was that E/723rd Maint. Bn. could provide direct support to the 123rd Cbt Aviation Battalion while the 406th TC was not allowed. For example 406th could not repair or replace blades in the T-53 turbine engines, but E/723rd Maint. Battalion could. Instead of waiting for a complete new engine, a few hours of work allowed the engine to be available to keep the helicopters operational. Perhaps there was a similar reason for this reorganization?)***

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1969.

b. Upon receipt of USARPAC GO 113, 10 February 1969, the following units were inactivated and assets transferred as indicated:

(1) **6th,** 8th, and 9th **Support Battalions** of the Separate Infantry Brigades.

(a) Medical Companies of the Support Battalions were transferred to the 23d Medical Battalion.

(b) Supply Platoons of the Maintenance and Supply Companies were transferred to the 23d S&T Battalion.

(c) Maintenance and Parts Platoons and Company Headquarters of Maintenance and Supply Companies were transferred to the 723rd Maintenance Battalion to form three Forward Support Companies.

(2) The 11th, 49th, and 156th Signal Center Platoons were transferred to the 523d Signal Battalion and became the Forward Area Signal Center Platoons of that unit.

(3) The 406th TC Detachment and the 449th Signal Detachment became elements of the Transportation Maintenance Co of the 723d Maintenance Battalion.

(4) The 258th Personnel Services Company assets were transferred to the 23d Administration Company.

c. Infantry Battalions and Direct Support Artillery Battalions were reassigned from Separate Brigades to the Americal Division as required by the ROAD concept.

d. The following units were activated:

(1) Three Medical Companies in the 23d Medical Battalion.

(2) Three Forward Support Companies and a Transportation Aircraft Maintenance Company in the 723d Maintenance Battalion (E Co).

(3) A forward Communications Company in the 523d Signal Battalion.

From the "Always First" a publication of the 3/1st Inf. Bn.

BRONCO TRIBUNE

Vol. 2. No 12 February 21, 1969 Page 1

MEDITATIONS

(A contribution from the Battalion Chaplain, CPT RONALD W. BENZING)

"Operation Morale Booster" turned out to be a real success, according to Chaplain RONALD W. BENZING, the Battalion Chaplain. The idea was put into action on Wed, 19 Feb, when Company D arrived at LZ Cork after 35 days of humping in the mountains.

"We started with Co D because this was the first time we have been able to get everything coordinated," said Chaplain Benzing. "The idea struck myself and SP4 JAMES ADAMS, my assistant, only two days before Co D was to arrive on Cork."

They coordinated with 1SG ARLAND L. WHEELER and SSG MICHAEL AMOS of Co D to get clean clothes, mail, and class VI up to Cork. Then SP4 Adams had a talk with SSG HICKS of 6th Support to provide enough ice cream for 130 men.

Three flavors were given for the project, amounting to 16 gallons. Ice, too—150 pounds were donated—and a chest in which to keep the Class VI.

Messages floated across the skies via MARS grams. Nearly 50 were sent that day for the loved ones back home. From the Division Chaplain's Office at Chu Lai, came necessities such as powder, deodorant, tooth brushes, soap, 95 paper back books, and all those little things too often taken for granted.

"Southeast International Heliport" was the collecting point. At 1300 Hours, these "goodies" were flown by hook to LZ Cork. What a surprise! The men received their clothes, toilet articles, mail, MARS grams, ice cream, cold drinks, and paperback books with much fervor. CPT JOHN S. WALKER, the Company Commander, expressed his gratitude in behalf of his men.

With frozen stomachs, sweet smelling bodies, clean clothes, and big smiles one could conclude that "Operation Morale Booster" was a great success.

Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Echo, your turns are coming!

O L D G U A R D

Vol. 1. No. 17 APO SF 96217 November 9, 1968

SP4 Eddie Walker, a medic in Headquarters Company, is convinced that the Army is keeping an eye on him. SP4 walker's CO from AIT, CPT Lurch, has just recently been assigned to the **6th Support Battalion**, Duc Pho. SP4 Walker assumed that CPT Lurch's assignment to the same base camp, LZ Bronco was just a coincidence; but, when CPT Simpson, the new Battalion S3-Air, arrived in the unit he became convinced that someone was keeping tabs on him. CPT Simpson was SP4 Walker's basic training Company Commander.

Assuming Operational Control

Headquarters and Headquarter Company
January 8, 1968

Rear Area: Battalion Rear continued their Mission of general support for the battalion and continued their Security Mission for LZ Bronco. At 2138hrs 6th support spotted movement bunker 55, 56 spotted tunnel entrance behind bunker 55. Tunnel has not been used will keep under surveillance. At 2300hrs 6th Support sighted 3 men, 60 meters to left front at BS844375, taken under fife and no further movements. 6th Support found tunnel behind bunker 71, well concealed will check thoroughly tomorrow. At 2348hrs 6th Support reports position sighting of individual vicinity BS843374 Illumination fired, with negative sightings.

Headquarters and Headquarter Company
August 27, 1968

Rear Area: Battalion Rear continued their Mission of general support for the battalion and continued their Security Mission for LZ Bronco. At 0905hrs 6th Support called and requested a mine sweep team check out the area in front of bunker 18 where the wire had been torn down. Charlie 26 Engineer will send a mine sweep team to 6th Support. At 2315hrs Base Defense reports that Dog in Bunker 53 was alerting, proceeded to fire 81mm H & I in area following small river and tree line in grids BS817396 and BS820394 using concentration #15 as point of origin Also LT Howard in Foxtrot Command Post would adjust fire. LT Howard's adjustment was drop 100, second round was fired and point of impact was inside of perimeter on artillery hill between the Quad 50 and Bunker 63 and there was no damage or injuries from the round, the 81mm gun crew was from Alpha Company 1-20 Infantry.

11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
TRIDENT
VOLUME 1 NUMBER 13 APRIL 26, 1968 Page 1 -

SALVAGERS FLOCK TO DOWNED BIRD

The misfortune of a downed aircraft recently brought to our attention the efficiency of support units operating in the Republic of Vietnam.

Immediately after investigators finished probing the wreckage of the C-123 "Provider" which crashed on takeoff from the Duc Pho air strip, a team of salvage specialists descended on the downed aircraft.

The 9-man Air Force unit is part of the 315th Construction, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (CAMS) of the 315th Air Commando Wing stationed at Phan Rang. Their job, according to Air Force Senior Master Sergeant T. Bogacki, NCOIC of the group, is to clear the wreckage if it is blocking or rendering unsafe any existing facilities, and then strip the plane of all useful parts.

Since no two situations are exactly alike, the on site teams must "play it by ear" says Tech Sergeant Bob Higgins, sheet metal specialist of the team. In most cases time and location do not permit the use of special tools or equipment.

"In this case though," Sergeant Higgins continued, "we had excellent cooperation from the 11th Brigade which allowed us to salvage maximum equipment from the plane in a very short time." Units of C Co., 26th Engineers, B Co, **6th Support Battalion**, and the brigade Aviation Section volunteered equipment and operators to help move the plane and remove bulky parts.

Once the salvageable items are removed from the wreckage, they are flown to the Air Force maintenance facility at Phan Rang where they are overhauled and inspected. Because we were able to remove the equipment so quickly and without damage," says Sergeant Higgins, "planes were flying using parts from this one within a couple of days."

When all usable parts are taken from the plane, the hulk becomes the problem of the Army.

"Duc Pho seems to be the place where all the old planes come to die," offered Major Fred Smith, Brigade Aviation Officer. In addition to the C-123, an Army Bird Dog" and a "Huey" were disabled at the same time. "I've got two possibilities in mind for the '123'," said Major Smith. "I'll either use it as a hooch for myself, or donate it to the brigade to use as a library."

11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
TRIDENT
VOLUME 2 NUMBER 8 **AUGUST 23, 1968**

G R A N D O L E O P R Y A S M A S H

A four-man version of the Grand Ole Opry of Nashville, Tennessee fame has organized at LZ Bronco and is pounding out the sounds of foot stomping country and western music.

The music comes from the "On-Timers," a troupe of part-time musicians in the 11th Infantry Brigade.

The "On-Timers" began as a makeshift team, according to SP4 Dave Makela, diesel mechanic in **B Company, 6th Support Battalion**, and base guitar player for the group. "We played with any instruments we could scrounge in the brigade area," he said. This included Duc Pho guitars and a base fiddle from the brigade band. Then Special Services in Chu Lai provided electric guitars and amplifiers and the group was ready for some real entertainment.

The music they play is country and western. Some of it they write themselves to fit situations here in Vietnam. Their theme song, "Roll on Big Jimmy," was written by SSG Danny Kissinger, the group's organizer and leader as well as rhythm guitar player, and PFC Bobby Newman, lead guitar player and lead singer. Both musicians are members of the **6th Battalion, 11th Artillery.** SSG Kissinger is battalion liaison to brigade and PFC Newman works with the battalion maintenance section.

The fourth member of the group, SSG Richard Drew, is the drummer and backup singer. Also from the **6th of the 11th**, he is the HSB supply sergeant.

The group plays for a variety of get-togethers. We play at officer and enlisted clubs, firebases, for large groups or just about anywhere the brigade can use a country and western band," says Makela. This has included short-timer parties, stand downs, birthday parties and just friendly gatherings.

Country and western music is old hat to all of the "On Timers." Kissinger has initiated such bands wherever he was stationed. While in Hawaii with the brigade, he organized the "Western'se," a country-and-western group which recorded ten songs on the Nashville-based "Dart" label. Before that he had a band going in Korea and in the United States, where he played during off-duty hours.

Newman played with the "Westerne'se" for a short time in Hawaii, and has contracted to play with the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville after his Army days. Drew has been in the country and western business for over 15 years, playing with the numerous bands in the United States and at his other duty assignments. The bass player, Makela, gained most of his experience in the classical field, playing in various orchestras in the Great Lakes area. But his beat is "on time," and he is a natural for country rock.

Early this week, the "On-Timers" ran into a problem that only their MOS could solve. While setting up at the **1st Bn, 20th Inf** "Tiki" Club, the generators gave out. So before they could connect their new electric equipment, Makela and Newman had to make a few minor repairs on the generators. And the band played on and a good time was had by all.

11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
TRIDENT
"JUNGLE WARRIORS"
VOLUME 2 NUMBER 24 DECEMBER 13, 1968

E N E M Y M E D I C A L C A C H E S
F O U N D N E A R Q U A N G N G A I

The "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Brigade have become proficient in uncovering enemy medical facilities. The majority of these facilities have been found in an area 25 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City by elements of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry**, and the **4th Battalion, 21st Infantry**, participating in Operation Vernon Lake II.

In their haste to vacate the area ahead of the 11th Brigade Infantrymen, the VC and NVA have been forced to leave large quantities of medical equipment and supplies behind. The majority of the captured drugs and instruments had been manufactured in communist nations and transported from North Vietnam.

During late November, B Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, uncovered two sizeable hospital complexes complete with wards, operating rooms, and classrooms. A sample of the captured items included a Czech made microscope, a blood pressure gauge, a five gallon sterilizer, surgical kits, needles, syringes, survival kits, 17 bottles of plasma and a variety of drugs and pills. The battalion's reconnaissance platoon found a complex containing 100 bed sheets, four cots, four hammocks, nine pairs of surgical gloves and 29 nurse's uniforms. D Company of the same battalion captured four large cans of assorted medical supplies in a small four hut complex.

Also in late November, **B Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry**, rounded up ten pounds of sodium illutinate 150 first aid kits and 15 bottles of malaria pills. On December 5th, A Company "Gimlets" found one of the largest hospital complexes in terms of size. It contained 18 well-constructed huts and has been in operation for some time.

The unit's commander, 1LT Thomas L. Smith said his 1st platoon was chasing three VC when they discovered the hospital. He went on to say that the surgical room was in a very high state of cleanliness and an odor of medicine was distinct. Two wounded VC, a male and a female, were left behind as the enemy was again forced to leave hurriedly.

The problem of what to do with all the captured medical supplies and equipment was solved by two 11th Brigade doctors. The Brigade Surgeon, CPT Edward N. Davis (Walhalla, S.C.), and CPT Michael B. Lester (Houston, Tex.), executive officer of **C Company, 6th Support Battalion**, carefully inspected the drugs and equipment for serviceability. The usable items were crated up and flown to Quang Ngai City where they were donated to the province hospital on behalf of the 11th Brigade.

11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
TRIDENT
"JUNGLE WARRIORS"

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 26 DECEMBER 27, 1968 Page 4

PEOPLE OF DUC PHO
PRESENT FOLK OPERA

The people of Duc Pho expressed their thanks to soldiers of the 11th Brigade with a folk opera at the **Co "C" Med, 6th Support Battalion** hospital Christmas eve day.

The 29-member group of Duc Pho school children presented a series of folk songs and dances that depicted the planting and harvesting of rice. Included in the performance was a Vietnamese-style Elvis Presley, complete with wiggling and wailing.

Organized over two months ago, the troupe was originally formed in Duc Pho to entertain local ARVN units, but was asked to perform for Americans in the area also. The children are scheduled to appear at LZ Thunder and LZ Liz later on. So far their efforts have been very entertaining to hundreds of people and they will continue to perform.

EM TO 2LT IN ONE DAY FOR LT ALLEN

A Direct Commission as an officer in the United States Army is an extremely difficult award for an enlisted man to acquire.

Such an award depends solely upon an individual's personal leadership qualities, educational background, and his possession of those personality characteristics that make him officer material.

2LT John Allen possesses these leadership qualifications and was recently awarded a direct commission as a 2LT.

LT Allen was graduated with a masters degree from the University of Rochester in 1966. He was employed as an internal auditor for the General Foods Corporation in New York City.

In September of 1967, LT Allen was drafted into the Army and took his basic training at Ft. Dix New Jersey. He arrived in Vietnam as a PFC in May of 1968 and was assigned to the H.H.Co. 2d Bde. 25th Infantry. In July of 1968 he applied for a direct commission as a 2nd LT.

LT. Allen was highly recommended for the appointment by his company commander and was interviewed for approximately three hours by a review board at division level.

The board critically examined such things as his educational background and military record, his personality stability, and his over-all leadership potential. Being well-pleased with his qualifications, the review board awarded LT Allen his commission.

2LT Allen is now assigned to **H.H.D. 6th Support Battalion** as the Assistant Brigade Supply Officer for the 11th Brigade.

Upon finishing his tour in Vietnam, LT Allen will be assigned to the Ft. Lee Quarter Master School and will make the Army his career.

The following operation orders for the 4/3rd Infantry Battalion included instructions for B Company 6th Support Battalion to follow while transporting soldiers from the Carentan-Duc Pho area northward to a Marine Fire Support Base on Highway 1. (Historian Comment: The Marine Fire Support base was very close the well known FSB Dottie).

FILE

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OPORD 1-68

References: Maps, S Vietnam 1:50,000: Sheets, Binh Son (6739I); Quang Ngai (6739II); Son Ha (6739III); Tra Bong (6739IV).

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A; Road Movement Table

1. SITUATION.

a. Enemy forces: Current INTSUM.

b. Friendly forces:

(1) 11th Bde remains in present AO.

(2) 3-1 Inf continues operations in assigned AO.

(3) 1-20 Inf relieves 4-3 Inf from present committments in assigned AO.

c. Attachments and detachments: Co B 6th Spt Bn provides transportation for motor movement.

2. MISSION.

4-3 Inf w/ B battery, 6-11 Arty move by motor and air commencing H hour Jan 68 to assembly area vic 3d Marine Provisional Artillery (BT 630852) and to LZ SUE (BT 565877).

3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept of operation: 4-3 Inf moves by motor and air in 3 march units and 6 CH-47 helicopter chalks; first march unit SP H-hour 10 Jan and last march unit closing new area by H+3 hours and 35 min. Co B 4-3 Inf moves by CH-47 helicopter from LZ Living End (BS 849372) to LZ Sue, PZ time

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OPT HEMAFIX TOTAL 37 Vehicles

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TRA. Artillery fire support from LZ Liz and LZ Dragon on call. Two (2) gunships from 174th Aviation Co provide air cover for march units.

b. March unit 1.

c. March unit 2.

d. March unit 3.

[redacted]

(11) Annex D, Route Overlay.

(12) Annex C, Air Movement Table.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

a. Supply.

(1) Class I.

(a) 2 meals carried by convoy personnel.

(b) 7 meals per man (140 men) helilifted to Fire Base Sue NLT H+4.

(2) Class II & IV: Minimum essential equipment. Sandbags in trains available D+1.

(3) Class III: Vehicles fuel prior to H-2. Refuel location assembly area vic coord 650052.

(4) Class V.

(a) Co B carries double basic load.

(b) Remaining Units and Bn ASP carry present loads.

(5) Water.

(a) 3 quarts carried by all individuals.

(b) 2000 gallons in trains.

(c) 500 gallons helilifted to LZ Sue NLT H+5.

b. Transportation.

(1) Troop lift, organic and Co D, 6th Spt Bn 34 each 2½ tons w/1½ ton trailers (cargo)(water).

(2) Cargo lift, organic and Co D, 6th Spt Bn 11 each 2½ tons w/1½ ton trailers (cargo).

(3) Bn maintenance mechanic in last 2½ ton vehicle, 3d march unit.

(4) HHC 4-3 Inf furnish truck guides for attached transportation at 100800 H Jan 68 at 4-3 Inf motor pool area.

c. Miscellaneous.

(1) PZ Co D in LZ Living End.

(2) CH-47 helicopter (31 men or 7000 lbs cargo) after 0700 H Jan 68.

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL.

a. Signal:

(1) Current SOI in effect.

(2) Communications checks NLT 100830 H Jan 68 with Hallmark 65.

b. Command: Serial commander moves initially with march unit 2.

Acknowledge:

ADKINS
LTC

Annexes: A - Road Movement Table
B - Route Overlay
C - Air Movement Table

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ANNEX A (Road Movement Table) to OPORD 1-68

References: Maps, S Vietnam 1:50,000: Sheets, Binh Son (6739I); Quang Ngai (6739II); Son Ha (6739III); Tra Bong (6739IV).

1. Average Speed: 20 MPH

2. Catch up Speed: 25 MPH

3. Halts: None

4. Route GUARD:

   a. LZ CARENTAN BRIDGE, BEACH ROAD (BS 848363) (Start Point)

   b. DUC PHO (BS 807378) (Highway 1)

   c. XUAN YEN TAY (2) (BS 624854) (Release Point)

5. Critical Points:

   a. Start point all march units: Bridge (BS 848363)

   b. Intersection of Beach Road and Highway 1 (BS 807378)

   c. Release point all march units: Intersection of Highway 1 and road leading to marshalling area (3d Provisional Marine Battery Fire Base) (BS 624854)

6. March Units:

SERIAL OR MARCH UNIT	DATE	ORGANIZATION AND COMMANDER (Serial Cmdr LTC ADKINS)	NO OF VEHICLES	SP	RP	REMARKS
March Unit 1	10 Jan	Co C	8 (2½ T) 1 (¼ T)	H hr	H + 3 hrs	
		B Btry 6-11 Arty	13 (2½ T) 2 (3/4T) 3 (¼ T)			
		Comd Grp Co E (-) (Recon Plat & G.S. Sec)	3 (¼ T) 3 (2½ T) 3 (¼ T)			
			1 FIA			
		CPT Hendrix	TOTAL 37 Vehicles			

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SERIAL OR MARCH UNIT	DATE	ORGANIZATION AND COMMANDER	NO OF VEHICLES	SP	RP	REMARKS
March Unit 2	10 Jan	Co D	8 (2½ T)	H-hr + 15 min	H + 3 hrs 15 mins	
		HHC (-) (Med Plat (-), Comm Plat Bn Hqs Sec (-)	1 (2½ T) 1 (FLA) 4 (¼ T)			Includes Arty LNO ¼ T
		Bn Tms	11 (2½ T) 2 (¼ T)			
		CPT Six	TOTAL 27 Vehicles			
March Unit 3	10 Jan	Co A	8 (2½ T) 1 (¼ T)	H Hr + 30 mins	H + 3 Hrs 30 mins	
		Hvy Mort Plat	6 (3/4T) 1 (FLA)			
		CPT Campbell	TOTAL 16 Vehicles			

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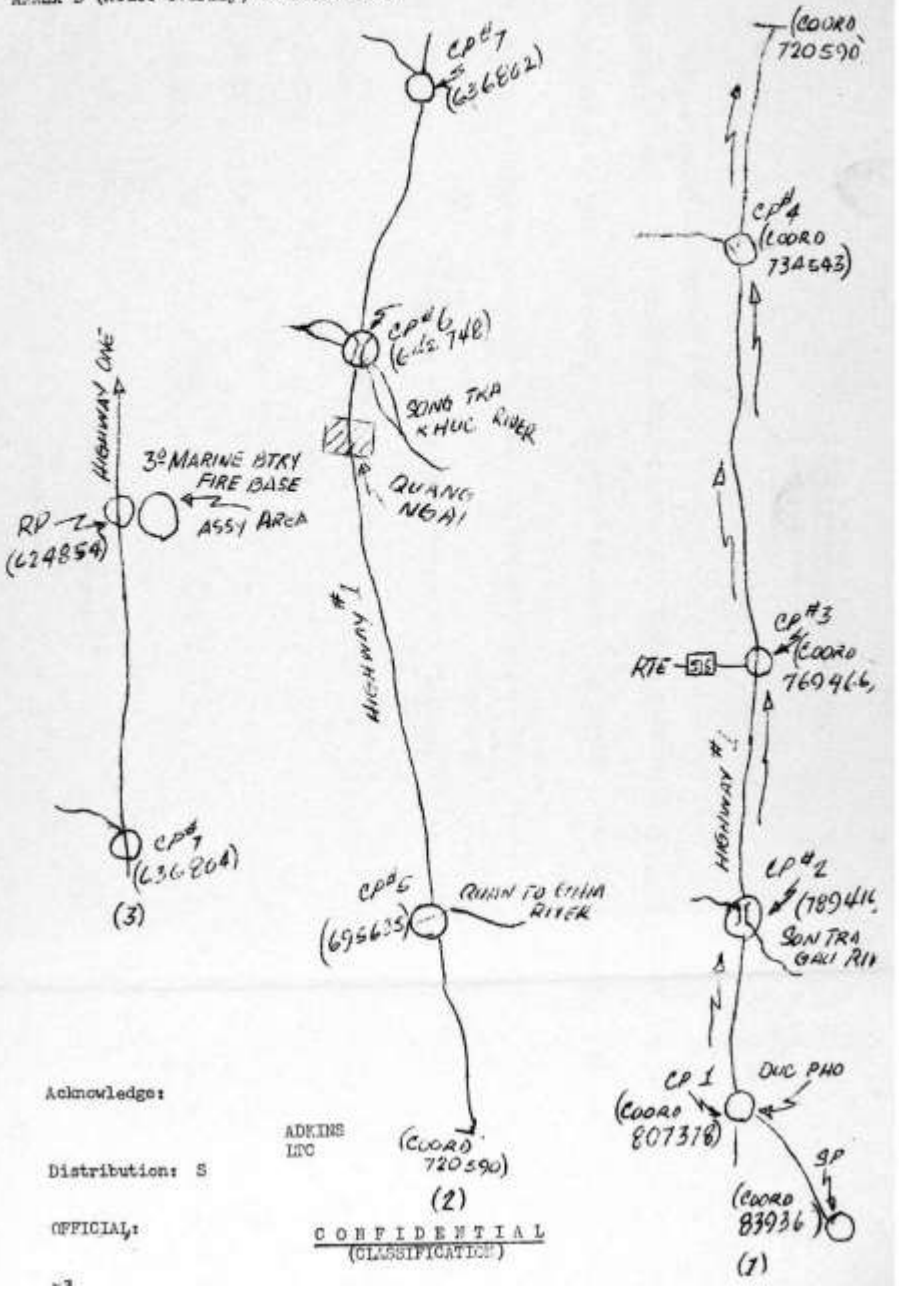
ANNEX B (Route Overlay) to OPORD 1-68



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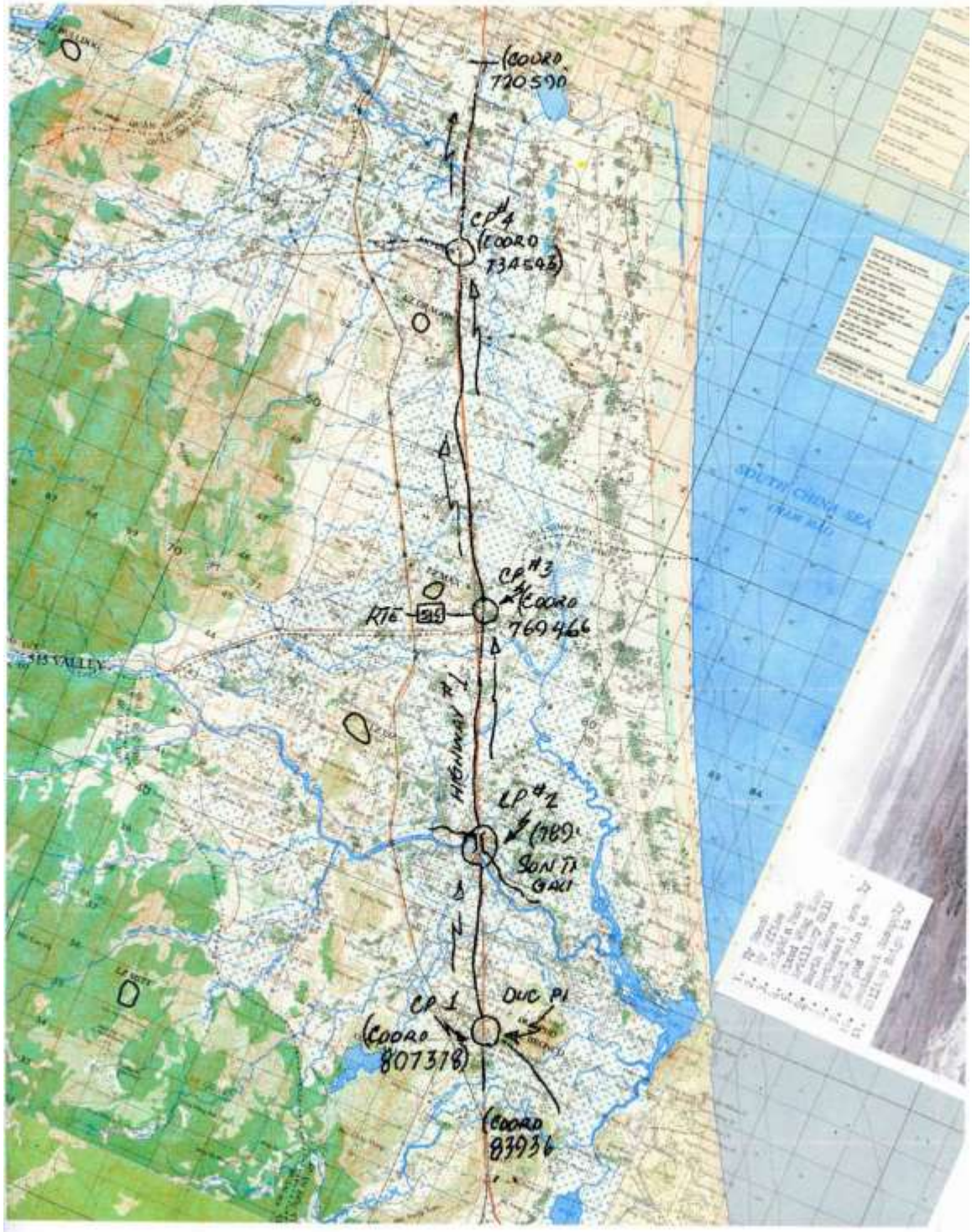
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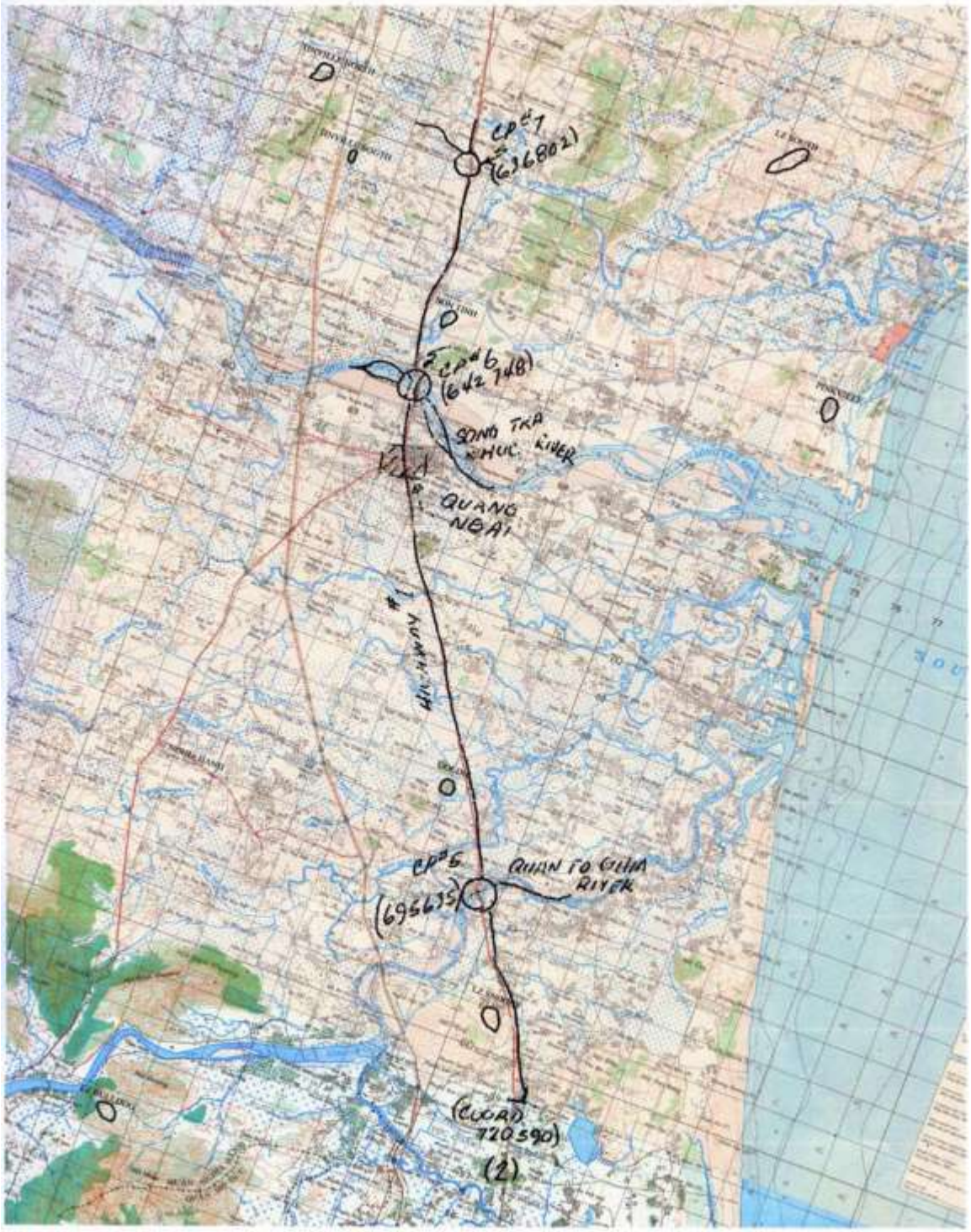
SOUTH CHINA SEA
515 VALLEY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CP#6
(642748)
SONG TRA
KHUC RIVER
QUANG
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(COORD
720590)
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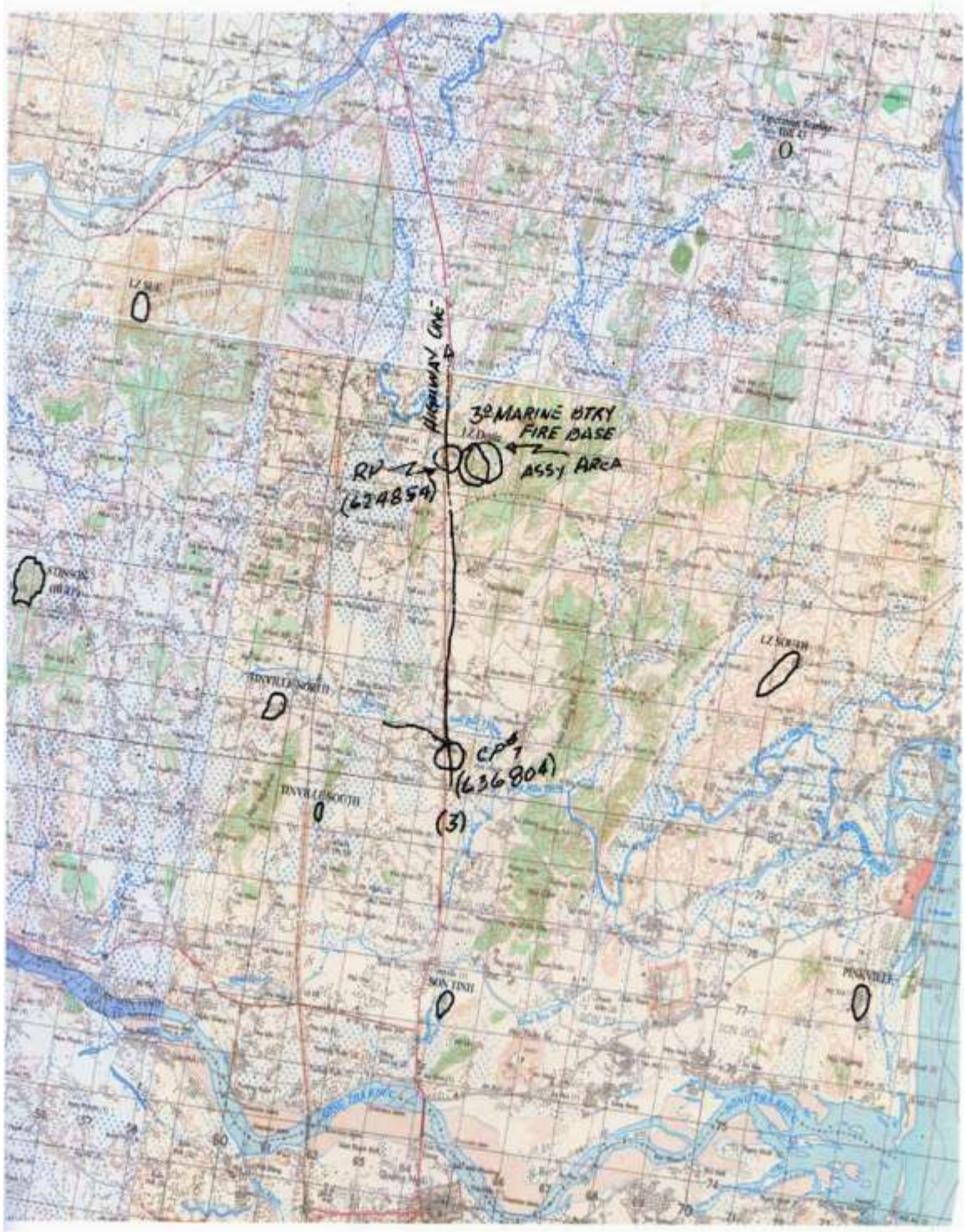

HIGHWAY ONE
3d MARINE BTRY
FIRE BASE
ASSY AREA
RP
(624854)
CP#7
(636804)
(3)
LZ SOUTH
TINVILLE NORTH
TINVILLE SOUTH
SON TINH
PINKVILLE

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ANNEX C (Air Movement Table) to OPORD 1-68

AMFTC Cpt Michles B 4-3 SEQUENTIAL AIRLIFT SCHEDULE MISSION COORDINATOR Cpt Henderson 11th Inf Bde

ITEM	UNIT	PZ TIME	PZ COORD	PZ CONTACT	LZ TIME	LZ COORD	LZ CONTACT	LZ PREP TYPE	PREP TIME	A/C REQ	PAX
1	B 4-3	100700 H	BS849372	Hallmark B6 51.60	100725 H	BS565877	2-35 Inf Air/Ground Frequency	N/A	N/A	1	31
2	B 4-3	100750 H	"	Hallmark B5 51.60	100815 H	"	Hallmark B6 51.60	"	"	1	32
				(10 min refueling time)							
3	B 4-3	100850 H	"	"	100915 H	"	"	"	"	1	31
4	B 4-3	100940 H	"	"	101005 H	"	"	"	"	1	31
				(10 min refueling time)							
5	B 4-3	101040 H	"	"	101105 H	"	"	"	"	7000 lbs ext. cgo	—
6	B 4-3	101130 H	"	"	101155 H	"	"	"	"	7000 lbs ext. cgo	

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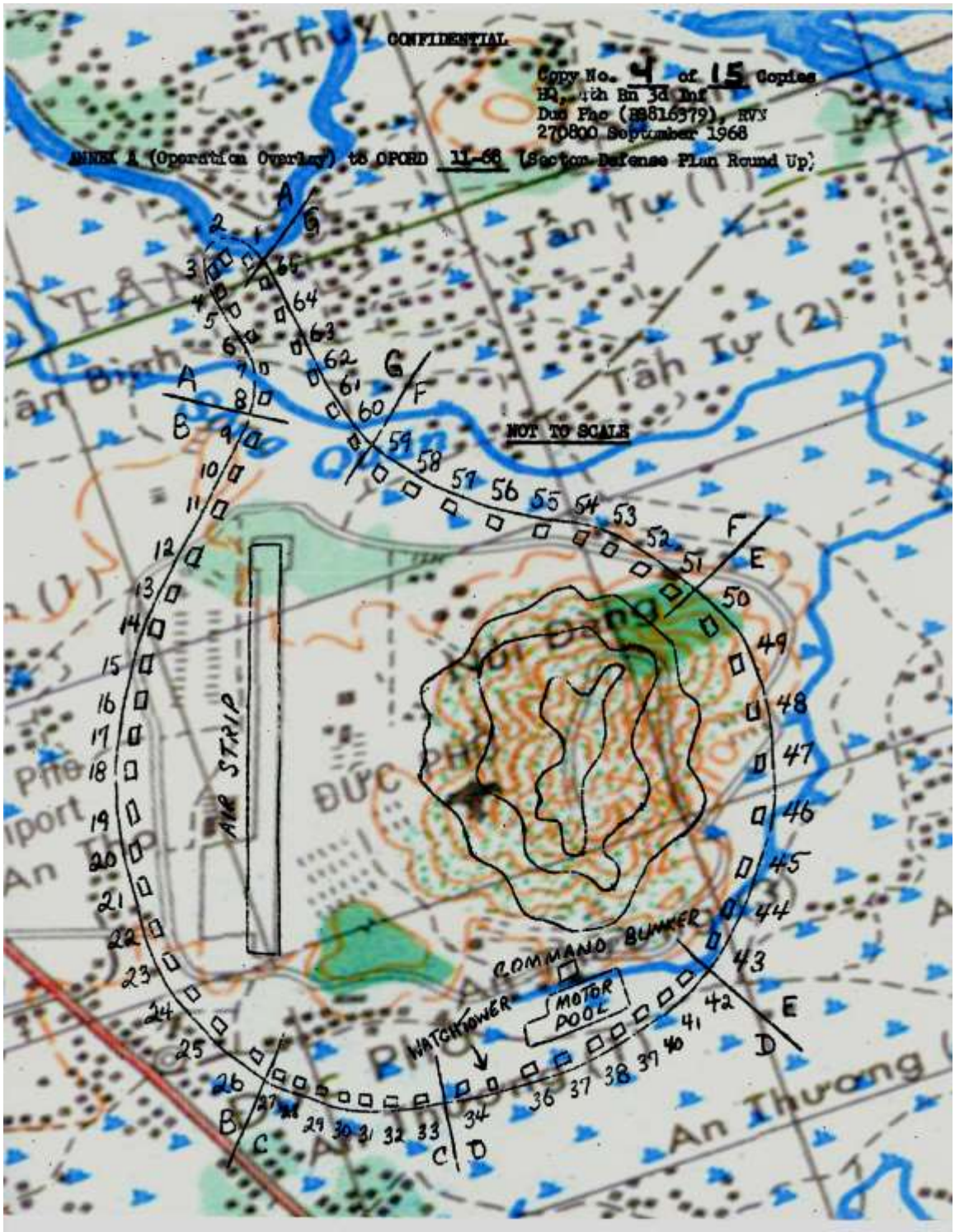
On the following page is the base defense plan provided to the 6th Support Battalion and other units of the 11th Inf. Bde. The map on this page may help reference the location of the bunkers referenced in the base defense plan.



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Duc Pho (BS816379), RVN
270800 September 1968

OPORD 11 -68 (Sector Defense Plan Round Up)

References:

a. Maps, Vietnam 1:50,000; Series L7014; Sheets 6738I, 6738II, 6738III and 6838IV.

b. 11th Light Infantry Brigade OPORD 5-68 (Base Defense Plan Defiance)

Task Organization - No Change from 11th Bde OPORD 5-68 (Base Defense Plan Defiance).

1. Situation:

a. Enemy Forces: Current Intsum

b. Friendly Forces:

(1) 1-20 Inf (Rear) secure Sector E, occupy bunkers 43-50

(2) 3-1 Inf (Rear) secure Sector C, occupy bunkers 27-33

(3) 6th Spt Bn FSA (OPCON), E Troop 1st Cav (OPCON) secure Sector B, occupy bunkers 9-26

(4) 6-11 Arty (-) secure Sector G, occupy bunkers 60-65

(5) 11th Bde HHC secure Sector F, occupy bunkers 51-59

(6) 4-21 Inf (Rear) secure Sector A, occupy bunkers 1-8

(7) Wpns B/4-3, 11th Sig (-) (OPCON) secure Sector H, occupy bunkers in Sector.

c. Attachments and Detachments:

(1) One Wpns Platoon (81MM Mortar) detached to OPCON of Bronco Base Security Officer.

2. Mission:

a. Defend assigned sector and critical installations therein.

b. Assume OPCON of all forces assigned to the sector for defense.

c. Construct, maintain and occupy fortified fighting positions and observation towers along the perimeter within assigned sector during specified hours.

d. Coordinate and supervise the defense and local security measures of all forces assigned to the sector.

e. Coordinate defensive measures with adjacent sectors.

f. Insure availability of protective bunkers for all personnel billeted in assigned sector and/or unit area.

g. Establish and maintain radio and wire communication between all bunkers in sector and with the Base Defense Control Center.

h. Provide a RRF consisting of not less than one officer and 40 EM to reinforce/relieve/counterattack any part of the Bronco Base perimeter within 15 minutes as directed by the Base Defense Officer.

i. Be prepared to assume command and control of Bde reaction forces as designated by the Base Defense Officer to conduct and counterattacks as directed.

j. Be prepared to release RRF to Bde Control on order.

k. Be prepared to execute counterattack plans as directed. (Annexes C, D, and E, Counterattack plans Boston, Newark and Portland, to 11th Bde OPORD 15-67, Base Defense Plan Defiance)

3. Execution:

a. Concept of Operation: Annex A Operation Overlay

(1) Maneuver: Bn (Rear) defends Sector D of Bronco Base perimeter, occupies perimeter bunkers 34, 36 thru 42 utilizing three men in each, with one M-60 MG in each 4th bunker, during the hours of darkness (1800 - 0630). Posts one OP in the watchtower, vicinity bunker 35, during daylight hours (0630 - 1830), mans two interior guard posts, one stationary in motor pool and one roving through trains area as directed in HHC guard instructions. Command bunker located inside the trains area will monitor all bunker operations between the hours of 1830 - 0600 daily and maintain contact with 11th Bde Security Officer utilizing radio and wire communications as appropriate. HHC monitor operations of OP from 0630 - 1800 hours.

(2) Supporting fires: Annex B, (Fire Support) to 11th Bde OPORD 5-68 (Base Defense Plan Defiance).

(3) Interior Protective Bunkers: Annex F, (Trains Area Overlay)

b. Co A (Rear)

(1) Provide personnel for bunker guard as required.

(2) Provide not less than 5 fully equipped personnel to Bn Ready Reaction Force. All personnel to include personnel assigned to RRF will assemble in personnel protective bunker A during alert condition RED. RRF personnel will be designated and briefed each evening.

c. Co B (Rear)

(1) Provide personnel for bunker guard as required.

(2) Provide not less than 5 fully equipped personnel to Bn Ready Reaction Force. All personnel to include personnel assigned to RRF will assemble in personnel protective bunker A during alert condition RED. RRF personnel will be designated and briefed each evening.

d. Co C (Rear)

(1) Provide personnel for bunker guard as required.

(2) Provide not less than 5 fully equipped personnel to Bn Ready Reaction Force. All personnel to include personnel assigned to RRF will assemble in personnel protective bunker C during alert condition RED. RRF personnel will be designated and briefed each evening.

e. Co D (Rear)

(1) Provide personnel for bunker guard as required.

(2) Provide not less than 5 fully equipped personnel to Bn Ready Reaction Force. All personnel to include personnel assigned to RRF will assemble in personnel protective bunker C during alert condition RED. RRF personnel will be designated and briefed each evening.

f. Co E

(1) Provide personnel for bunker guard as required.

(2) Provide not less than 4 fully equipped personnel as security for guards for Command Bunker during alert condition RED. All personnel except shell rep team will assemble in protective bunker A.

(3) Train and maintain one shell rep team for trains area and locate in Command Bunker during DEFCON RED alert conditions.

g. HIC

(1) Provide not less than twenty (20) fully equipped personnel to Bn Reserve Force to protective bunker B . All others assemble in protective bunkers A and C during condition RED. Reserve Force personnel will be appointed and informed each evening.

(2) Establish and maintain guard rosters as appropriate for bunker and interior guards.

(3) Establish detailed guard SOP Regulations to comply with provisions listed herein.

(4) Provide personnel for bunker and interior guard as required.

(5) Insure that all bunkers are maintained in a high state of repair at all times.

(6) Insure that the required basic load of ammunition is kept on hand at all times and in a high state of maintenance.

(7) Insure that the Officer and SGT of the Guard receives daily briefing.

(8) Insure that expended ammunition is replaced in the basic load each morning.

(9) Provide and control interior guard as directed.

(10) Insure that each bunker has a permanent range card and an azimuth determination device and firing stakes to align principal direction and sectors of fire.

(11) Insure that all guards test fire their weapons once per week at the 11th Bde Test Fire Area, vicinity of bunker 49. Clearance must be obtained from 11th Bde TOC. Firing will be under supervision of a noncommissioned officer.

(12) Insure that a sweep is made once weekly in coordination with Bde TOC to the front of sector D not to exceed 300 meters distant from the perimeter wire.

(13) All perimeter guards will have protective masks in their possession while on guard. All other personnel will have protective masks readily available at all times.

(14) Insure that the perimeter guard is inspected twice before midnight and twice after (once prior to darkness and once after daylight).

(15) Establish and maintain a sector CP located to the rear of perimeter bunkers.

(16) Insure that all transient personnel remaining overnight at LZ Bronco are briefed on alert proceedures and location of protective bunkers.

h. Coordinating instructions:

(1) Perimeter bunkers will be occupied between 1830 and 0630.

(2) Observation tower, vicinity of Shower Point, will be manned daily from 0630 to 1830.

(3) Bunkers A and C are the designated assembly areas for the RRF. S4, S1 and PSO are commanders of bunkers A, C, and B respectively. Bunker commanders will insure accountability of all RRF personnel and insure that they are properly equipped.

(4) RRF will move by vehicle or foot to relieve or reinforce the perimeter or counterattack to restore the perimeter on order.

(5) In the event of penetration in sector, personnel will remain in assigned bunkers and provide maximum fire support into the penetrated area. The RRF will assemble and react as directed.

(6) Black Out conditions will prevail during DEFCON RED alert.

(7) Trip flares and M18A1 (claymore) mines and anti-intrusion devices will be employed to the fullest extent possible near perimeter bunkers. M18A1 mines will be recovered daily.

(8) Fire coordination lines are sector boundaries. Fires outside Sector D must be coordinated with Base Defense TOC.

(9) Test fire will not be conducted from bunkers. Test fire for all guard personnel will be conducted at 11th Bde Test Fire Area, vicinity of bunker 49, under supervision of a noncommissioned officer. Coordination will be made with 11th Bde TOC.

(10) RRF personnel will be fully equipped to include protective masks and basic load of ammunition. Four (4) each fragmentation hand grenades for each RRF individual will be maintained and controlled by bunker commanders and issued only if RRF is called out.

(11) Bunker commanders will draw and control twenty (20) each additional fragmentation hand grenades to be issued and used only for defense of bunkers in event of penetration by hostile forces.

(12) Personnel will remain confined to protective bunkers during alert condition RED, except RRF personnel if alerted. Local defenses will be set up around protective bunkers if the sector is penetrated by hostile forces.

(13) Magazines will not be inserted into weapons until bunkers are physically occupied. Rounds will not be chambered until the individual has reason to fire the weapon.

(14) Curfew for all personnel on or visiting LZ Bronco is from 1830 to 0630, except for personnel participating in tactical operations.

(15) Commanders will brief all personnel on contents of this order.

(16) The senior man in perimeter bunkers will be designated bunker commander.

(17) One man will remain outside perimeter bunker at all times and will periodically change locations.

(18) SGT of the Guard will personally clear each man's weapon prior to being released from guard or departing assigned bunkers.

(19) Effective for planning on receipt, execution on order.

4. Administration and Logistics:

a. Administration:

(1) Guard roster will be kept by HHC for interior and bunker guard.

(2) Officer of Guard roster will be maintained by S-1.

b. Logistics:

(1) Expended ammunition will be replenished each morning by HHC to insure that the prescribed basic load will be available for guard at the beginning of each night.

(2) SGT/Officer of the Guard will be provided a 1/4 ton or 3/4 ton vehicle for guard use each night. Vehicle will be designated from battalion resources.

c. Medical:

(1) One fully equipped medic will be placed in each personnel protective and command bunker during RED alert conditions.

(2) Two fully equipped medics will be on standby with 4 stretchers and 2 bearers at the Control Bunker during RED alert conditions.

(3) The Bn (Rear) Aid Station will be located in Bunker D during RED alert conditions.

(4) Insure an immediate medical coverage and evacuation capability is maintained for personnel occupying perimeter bunkers.

5. Command and Signal:

a. Signal:

Current SOI in effect.

b. Command:

(1) CP (Rear) located in Command Bunker directly behind maintenance shop.

(2) CO, HHC is designated Sector D commander.

(3) S4 is designated RRF commander.

(4) Bn XO is designated trains area commander and will supervise all activities relevant to sector defense.

ACKNOWLEDGE

RUSSELL
LTC

ANNEXES:
A. Operation Overlay (Schematic)
B. Alert/Defense Conditions
C. Rules of Engagement
D. Ammunition Basic Load
E. Signal
F. Trains Area Overlay (Schematic)

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ANNEX B (Alert/Reference Conditions) to OPORD 11-68 (Sector Defense Order Round Up)

1. The purpose of this Annex is to provide guidelines for conduct of trains units during alert conditions. The sector commander (CO, HHC) is responsible for informing all personnel and bunkers of alert conditions, and for the execution of required actions during RED, YELLOW, or GREEN alert. Alert conditions will be announced in the following manner:

a. RED - Continuous Siren emission for two minutes.

b. YELLOW - Telephonic/radio

c. GREEN - Telephonic/radio

2. Alert conditions will normally be announced by the 11th Bde Base Defense Control Center (BDCC). The senior commander may announce a higher alert condition than that announced by BDCC if desired.

3. During daylight hours (0630 - 1830) normal security precautions will be taken unless an alert condition higher than GREEN has been announced. Surveillance tower, vicinity Shower Point, will be manned by one individual who will remain constantly alert observing the perimeter at all times especially during periods of limited visibility. Suspicious actions of indigenous personnel will be reported to the sector commander who will contact the 11th Bde Provost Marshal's Office for investigation or appropriate action.

4. Alert conditions and actions to be taken are defined as:

a. Alert Condition GREEN:

(1) This is the normal alert condition during the hours of darkness. This is a condition where security precautions other than normal are appropriate, such as manning perimeter bunkers. This condition may be implemented during daylight hours if warranted.

(2) Actions:

(a) During daylight hours personnel conduct normal activities. Off post activities will be in accordance with 11th Bde Regulations and Directives concerning "off limits" areas.

(b) Occupy all perimeter defensive positions. Emplace trip flares, claymore mines, and initiate all required defensive measures.

(c) Establish communications.

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(d) All personnel manning perimeter bunkers will be equipped as required.

(e) Implement all other defensive measures deemed appropriate.

b. Alert Condition YELLOW:

(1) This condition will be declared when intelligence indicates a need for active defensive measures to prepare the base area against imminent enemy attack, enemy attack within a few hours time period, or less, or when a subordinate unit fire base is under ground, rocket or mortar attack.

(2) Actions:

(a) Execute all actions required for condition GREEN.

(b) Hamlets and villages are off limits except for executing tactical operations.

(c) All movement within the sector/base area will be held to a minimum.

(d) Maximum effort will be applied to the preparation of defensive positions and all activities will be suspended except those required to support combat operations.

(e) Perimeter personnel will remain 100% alert.

c. Alert Condition RED:

(1) This condition will be declared when LZ Bronco is receiving hostile fire or when a ground attack has been initiated against the base.

(2) Actions:

(a) Execute all actions required for GREEN and YELLOW alert conditions

(b) Movement of any nature will be only in case of emergency.

(c) All personnel secure equipment and ammunition as required and report to assigned bunkers.

(d) Command bunker conduct communications check with BDCC immediately and one additional check each hour thereafter.

(e) RRF will assemble in dosignated bunkers prepared to conduct combat operations within fifteen minutes of initial notification.

(f) Personnel will engage targets inside the sector area only in self defense or for protection of property. Every effort will be made to positively identify a target before engagement.

(g) Prepare to destroy documents and equipment. Execute plans only if capture is imminent.

d. Sector will receive changes to RED alert condition by radio or land line.

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ANNEX C (Rules of Engagement) to OPORD 11-68 (Sector Defense Order Round Up)

1. General:

Rules of Engagement, as set forth herein, are prescribed to minimize non-combat personnel and property losses which may occur during military action against hostile forces. Commanders will ensure that all personnel assigned to defensive positions within the base area are instructed on and comply with the cited rules.

2. Rules of Engagement:

a. During the hours of darkness the following procedures are prescribed:

(1) Challenge in English and Vietnamese (Dung Lai).

(2) If the person challenged makes an overt attempt to avoid apprehension, opens fire, or commits any hostile act endangering life, the challenger may engage the target.

(3) Illumination prior to firing is authorized.

b. During daylight hours the sequence of engagement is the same as paragraph (1) and (2) above. However, suspicious personnel loitering or working inside or near the perimeter barrier will be investigated by the Provost Marshal. Warning shots will not be fired at individuals under these circumstances except in self defense or when the person observed has unquestionably committed an overt hostile act.

c. Personnel occupying defensive positions may insert loaded magazines in their weapons. Rounds will not be chambered nor grenades loaded in launchers until contact with the enemy is imminent.

d. The Sector commander will order chambering and firing of ammunition.

e. Firing of Fougassers and E8 CS dispensers will be cleared with BTOC (except as a last means of self defense).

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3. Weapons Employment: Weapons will be fired in the following priority by personnel occupying perimeter positions.

a. Rifles

b. M79 grenade launchers

c. Light Machine Gun (M-60)

d. E8 CS dispensers

e. Fougasse

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ANNEX D (Ammunition Basic Load) to OPORD 11-68 (Sector Defense Order Round Up)

1. The following basic load of ammunition will be issued to personnel manning perimeter bunkers and RRF personnel.

a. Per individual - Two fragmentation hand grenades

b. Per rifleman - 600 rounds

c. Per automatic rifleman - 600 rounds

d. Per machine gun - 2000 rounds

e. Per weapon - 30 M-79 rounds

f. Per bunker:

(1) Five trip flares

(2) Five hand flares

(3) Two WP grenades

(4) Three CS grenades

(5) Four each M18A1 Claymore mines

(6) One each E8 CS dispensers

2. Ammunition basic loads will be inventoried daily and replenished as required by the SGT of the Guard.

3. Ammunition will be stored in protective containers and secured at a centrally located area. Ammunition will be inspected daily for serviceability and required maintenance. Unserviceable ammunition will be disposed of in accordance with appropriate directives. The Headquarters Commandant will insure that this is accomplished.

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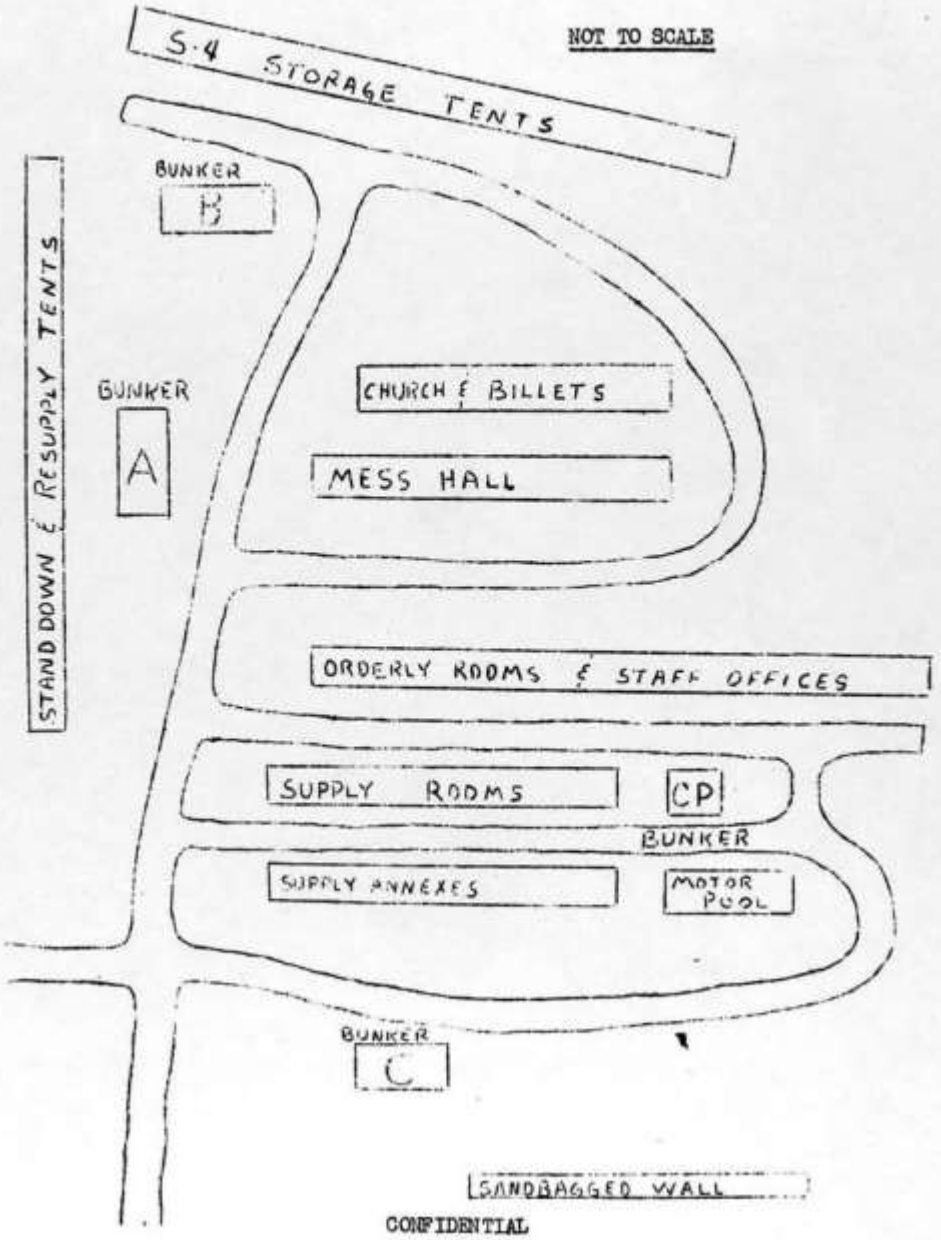
ANNEX F (Trains Area Overlay) to OPORD 11-68 (Sector Defense Plan Round Up)



Excerpts from a Letter received from a former company commander of the 6th Support Battalion.

I joined the BN in July 1966 in Hawaii, and when we went into Vietnam, I was the CO of the B Co. I am still in contact with the CO of C (Med).

Let me point out that the ABCD designations went out when the 11th was redesignated LIGHT INF. The new companies were A = Admin, B = Supply and Maintenance, and C = Medical.

I was on the 4 Dec 1967 advance party. By the way, the CO of C 1/20 mentioned below was Ernie Medina who will be better remembered as Lt Calley's CO.

Larry Henry
LTC USA (ret)
Life Member Americal Assoc

Historian Note: I found little in the Americal Division Veteran's Association data that I have accumulated for over 40 years to date in regards to the 6th Support Battalion. However, I was able to discern that the men lost from this unit usually died from booby traps. So these men were risking their lives more than one might expect for a support unit.

Since I was hard-pressed to present much for the men who served in this unit I requested the following reflection on the services of officers who served in the 6th Support Battalion with the 11th Infantry Brigade. The following are from the responses I received in the year 2023:

11th Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Andy Lipscomb, congratulates Larry Henry on his promotion to Major as his commanding officer, LTC Ralph Rushe looks on. Photo taken on first day of Tet, January 31, 1968.

6th Support Battalion, 11th Infantry Brigade
1966-1968 by Retired LTC Larry Henry

I arrived in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on 1 June 1966 about the same time the 11th Brigade was raised from the books having been last on duty in WWI. I was a Captain with 6 years on active duty. I was accompanied by my wife and two small girls ages 3 and 4. My assignment was Assistant Brigade Supply Officer. I might mention that the Battalion Commander was LTC Ralph Rusche who was to hold the position for 2 ½ years – most unusual.

The 6th Support Battalion was responsible for providing brigade-level supply, direct support and general support maintenance, medical service and miscellaneous services for all assigned or attached elements of the brigade. The battalion was organized with four lettered companies:

A. Administration; provided personal administration for the entire Brigade.
B. Maintenance; provided 2d level maintenance of all equipment from side arms to tanks, repair parts to those units that had mechanics; and maintained the maintenance float (duplicates of rolling stock which would be loaned out when a major item was in for repair.
C. Supply and Transportation; provided all supplies used by the brigade including ammunition, food, and personal equipment; provided a fleet of trucks to move personnel and supplies.
D. Medical; provided 2d level medical care including doctors, a dentist, an X-Ray machine, and a surgeon.

HHC. Headquarters element.

We were told the original Army plan was that we were to be the 6th Infantry Division hence the 6th Support name.

Two major staff elements under the Battalion Commander were the Brigade Supply Office (BSO) and the Brigade Maintenance Office (BMO). The BSO was headed by a Major with a Captain (me) and about 20 NCO's. The BMO was similar but with fewer people. The BSO processed requisitions for all items other than repair parts; those were processed in the maintenance company. Let me remind the reader that all medical items were ordered and handled only by medical units.

I worked as the Assistant Brigade Supply Officer for about nine months then I was "drafted" to head a forward element of the Support Bn in support of the Brigade training on the Pohakuloa training area which is on Mauna Loa (the eruptions are on Mauna Kea). This is a huge area on the big island of Hawaii. The men and equipment were transported by air to Hilo and convoyed up a twisting 2 lane road to the Pohakaloa training area located about 6000 feet up on Mauna Kea, an extinct volcano. Tanks and other large items were transported by sea-going barges, unloaded at Kawaihae, convoyed across the fields of the Parker Ranch, which looked like west Texas at a 45-degree angle, and up the mountain to Pohakaloa. The tanks had to be refueled to make the climb they used about 700 gallons in that trip. We lived and worked in WWII Quonset huts. The chaplain who was with us said that just as he was starting Good Friday services, the earth shook and the rivets in the old chapel rattled. He took it as inspiration!

When the training ended, after about two months, I was tapped to be the commander of C Company. I protested as loud as I dared because I had a brief stint as a Tank Company Commander during my Armor detail and a full year in Korat, Thailand, as Commander of the 590th QM Company (Direct Support) and the 515th Airborne (Riggers) in Thailand. I was also the airfield commander until the Airforce moved in halfway thru my tour. I stressed that I had my command time – give it to someone else – but that did not work.

We were now in the summer of 1967 (we did not yet know we were to ship out by the end of the year – we learned that in the fall). The Army now decided to swap out the M14's for the new AR 16s, requiring retraining everyone. We were able to borrow M-16s from the Hawaii National Guard unit, the WWII famous 442 regiment, so we could get everyone retrained. How the guard ranked ahead of us for issued M-16s I never learned. More Army logic. They also changed our TO&E from Infantry to Light Infantry.

The battalion was now organized with three lettered companies:
A. Administration;
B. Medical;
C. Supply and Maintenance;
HHC. Headquarters element.

I remained the CO of the new C Company which now numbered about 150 men including 5 Warrant Officers and 7 lieutenants. We turned in equipment, tanks, and trucks and requisitioned new equipment, repeating the previous years' work. We were to have transportation support from 1st Logistics Command so that was why our trucks were taken away from us. Bluntly, we cheated and failed to turn in many trucks from the 6th and other Battalions. I am rather sure this was never known by the "Colonels". It turned out to be one of the smarter things we lower ranks did. In my entire year, as far as I can remember, we never received trucking help, or escort guns, from anyone; not 1st Log or DISCOM. If we got it from the port of Qui Nhon, we hauled it ourselves. We requested help many times because we were always many tons behind but never got it.

One of the other anomalies was that we were given a computer mounted in a truck with expandable sides and good AC. We did not have any software to run on it or did anyone ever suggest why we had it. It was in the TO&E of the Light Infantry!

Having said that, I will concede that 1st Log did a good job with special cargo such as petroleum, mess hall rations, both requiring special trucks we did not have, and some ammunition.

Sometime in all this – I can't remember the order of these thing any longer – I was sent with a small group sent to Bangkok, to participate in a SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) paper exercise. We were there two or three weeks. The group included Col Oren Henderson, LTC Ralph Rusche, and others.

As another example of poor planning, the medics waited until the last days to give us our required shots. My company was lined up, had a red line drawn on each arm and got a shot above and below each arm and then had to drop our pants and get one in the rear.

The move to Vietnam was to be in three groups, an advance party, a ship move of the main body and one battalion which had not completed training which would come later. The advance party was two passenger plane loads and a couple of cargo planes. One passenger plane was for one infantry company so we would have protection on the ground - Ernie Medina's company was selected because they had won a Brigade wide competition for

the “Best Company” (He would later achieve infamy because of the events at My Lai)**.** I will point out that my company was second place and suggest that there was little chance that a support company could win first! The second passenger plane was for the Brigade Commander and Primary Staff, Battalion Command groups, and me with several of my key NCO’s so we could get the supply lines established.

The advance party left the first Saturday in December. We watched the Army-Navy Game at the officer’s club during breakfast (Hawaii remember). The plane left that night. It took forever to get to Vietnam. We landed in Duc Pho in late afternoon and bummed beds with the 4th Division. We also had to beg for ammunition for our weapons.

We set up our tents on the PSP the Marines had left at Carentan and went to work. We spread out and visited the Depot at Qui Nhon, 1st Log Local HQ in Qui Nhon and made contact with Americal DISCOM.

This additional story about LTC Larry Henry was provided by Dr. McLane: At LZ Carentan we received nightly harassing fire while we camped there as the advance party waiting for the rest of the brigade to arrive. Usually just a few shots to keep us up all night. One evening Larry was sitting up in his bed under a mosquito net writing letters home. He took a break and stretched out just before a rifle bullet went through his tent and his mosquito net from foot to toe leaving a small hole about a foot above the mattress.

The ships arrived in Vietnam on 19 December 1967. Whoever was in charge of the convoy did not control anything. Anyone who could get behind the wheel was permitted to drive north. When they reached Carentan, it seemed that many of them tried to see how much damage they could do to the trucks, jeeps, etc. My maintenance people had an immediate workload that was unnecessary. We had a ‘Mess Hall’ meal on Christmas! We had been eating ‘Cs’ for three weeks.

Carentan was between the famous Highway 1 and the Ocean, near a town called Duc Pho. There had been a small airstrip put down some time in the past but because of settling and pot holes it was good only for helicopters and my rapidly growing supply dump (We had submitted the requisitions while still in Hawaii for about 100 tons of basic, commonly used items).

One of the weird things we had to deal with was that there was no place to buy anything. If we got anything it was either issued by the Army or sent by mail from someone back home. The Army provided cigars, cigarettes, candy, writing paper, etc. free. A couple of things not provided were soft drinks and booze. The Brigade decreed that there would be only one hard liquor sales operation and that hey would control it but if lower-level commanders wanted to make beer and soft drinks available to the troops they would have to figure it out themselves. Fine with us. There are also no people allocated by the Army planners to run the operations for these which we built out of necessity.

All beer and soft drinks were sold for cash only, and only in pallet load lots, at the depots. You paid cash and you hauled it away. You could buy what they had but if something was not selling well they forced you to buy it. One example was that someone, either dumb or rich from bribes, had stocked up on Crown beer – Korean I think – and it was hated by all because it tasted like (Bleep). The rule they put in place to get rid of it was that for every 10 cases of beer bought – one had to be Crown. We always wanted to meet the jerk who had bought the Crown in the first place.

To set up our business, I met with my Officers and NCOs who were on the advance party and laid out the plan that the 1SG and I had devised. I asked them for a loan of cash to start our operation. The 1SG would keep the books and I would guarantee the safety of the money. We came up with enough cash to buy a flatbed truck load before the main body arrived. We also set the selling price high enough to get our funds out in a couple of months – 25 cents for beer or soft drink. Later I formed a council of men to advise on this enterprise and they decided to keep the price at a profit-making level. You have no idea how much 250 guys can drink in soft drinks (and beer). Within two months we had bought a movie projector (we could get movies every day but couldn't get a projector but once a week). We sent $2000 with the company clerk, Raul Melendez, on his R&R to Australia to buy a projector. Next, we bought a popcorn machine and served free popcorn every evening when things were quiet. I tried to buy a pool table but we never were able to work out how to ship it in. With the amount of money made in the 9-10 months before someone at division took over the funds, the company had also bought fine stereos for both the NCO and EM clubs and every tape/record that was hot. With all of that money available it was obvious that someone should take control and audit these things!

Soon after our arrival into Vietnam, A Company was detached and relocated to Chu Lai, leaving the 6th Spt Bn with only two companies, B Company (Medical) and C Company (Supply and Maintenance). This was a hardship on C Company because the Brigade assigned perimeter guard responsibly by Battalion. We could never quite convince them that the 6th was only one company since medical personnel; do not do that sort of thing.

We moved into LZ Bronco in January. The 4th Division troops who had been in the area my company took over went out of their way to make life difficult for us. For example, they cut all of the electrical wiring in the buildings into 3-to-5-foot sections. We had to rewire the camp. They had left a huge pile of large poles, like you would see holding wire along a road. When they came back a couple of weeks later to pick up the poles; I informed them that we had already put them all to use. We set up what we needed for our new wiring and cut the rest for bunkers. I explained the reason to the Lieutenant who then went home with empty trucks.

Things settled in very well, the supply system started smoothly. We started what would be a routine of convoys down to Qui Nhon, unload any backhaul, load up, sleep and drive back to LZ Bronco the next day. This way we ran three convoys a week – Sunday we rested and pulled maintenance on the trucks!

I was promoted to Major in late January 1968 and the Communist were so upset that they launched the Tet Offensive to disrupt my promotion party. We counted 100 mortar strikes in the company area – which was basically the entire west side of the runway in LZ Bronco. I still use one of the tailfins as a paperweight. My company was very lucky, we had one man with a knee injury. He had reported just one day before to be my company supply sergeant but was medevac'd and never came back. We lost equipment and had other damage but that was OK. Since we had arrived during one of the so-called, cease fires over the Christmas period, we had been exposed to only harassing fire and an occasional mortar. That ended! My convoys to and from Qui Nhon were shot up and I lost some trucks and the windshield out of my jeep. I never had the official figures but Tet '68 hurt the 11th Brigade. We were in country about a month and we were almost all green. Tet cured that.

I also bent some supply rules to obtain extra machine guns. I had to defend a perimeter sector of over 2 miles and with the two machine guns authorized

we could not achieve overlapping fire. Since the A company was moved to Chu Lai (pronounced "Chew Lie") and B Co "(Medics) do not pull guard duty, my company was the only one in the Battalion to pull guard! By the time we moved into LZ Bronco, I was ready. I had a SSG who had been in the Rangers, wounded in a previous assignment and could not be in Infantry. He and I were the only ones who knew how to "lay in" the machineguns. My sector was the only one never penetrated while I was in command.

As long as I'm off telling stories let me get in another or two. In the advance briefings we received while still in Hawaii, we were told that water would be a major problem for us; not just getting it but moving and storing it. It so happened that I had signed out, from the Post motor pool, and old fire engine pumper, which we were using to wash vehicles (It couldn't be transferred to us because we had to remain as envisioned by the army planners with respect to the table of organization and equipment (TO&E). That's the list of items and people that 'they' say we needed to do our job.

I had my maintenance guys repaint it in camouflage motif and we shipped it to RVN with the rest of our trucks. I had thought that when someone figured out that I had taken it to RVN we could do a property transfer, in lieu of my going to jail, but no one ever came looking for it! Once in RVN we obtained tanks from old water trailers out of the salvage yards, mounted them on tall stands or "Conex" containers, filled them with the pumper and had instant showers with water which had been warmed by the sun. When it died, we remounted the pump and tank on a new multi-fuel frame and its life continued.

I had seen an advertisement in a Honolulu paper giving "a cash bonus for your old refrigerator when you buy a new one". I called him and ask what he was going to do with all of the old refrigerators. He decided he could help us and solve a problem at the same time. He gave us all that we could haul away. When we finished cannibalizing and repairing, we had about 20 operational refrigerators which we hid (laid horizontal under canvas like other supplies) on our trucks for the trip to RVN. We had cold cokes and beer. (My company had over 100 vehicles and all were shipped loaded and covered!). The Battalion commander, LT C Rusche made me give the HHD some of the refrigerators. I had already given the Medics several.
We needed cement pads for our maintenance area in the worst way. The guys were trying to support a unit in combat while working under very bad conditions – one of which was mud. We had brought with us all company

property we owned – that is property which is bought with PX profits not tax dollars. In that stuff was power lawn mower – we didn't have grass within miles of LZ Bronco. One of my early visits to the depot I arranged to trade the mower to a transportation truck company for some help in hijacking a load of cement (I also arranged the loan of a mixer from the depot). Here's how it went down.
The property guards at the ship unloading, I noticed, were checking loads out by reading the bumper markings on the tractor not those on the trailer. The Trans accomplice arranged for one his tractors to put one of my trailers in the loading sequence, haul it through the checker and out of sight, unhook and go about his business. We hooked up our tractor and headed north. We had the entire load mixed and poured within two days so that if caught – we couldn't give it back. We were never caught by the depot. The Battalion CO caught me when we were almost finished and took the last few bags for his hooch.

After about a month, I was moved to Qui Nhon for about two months. We had found it advantageous to keep an officer and a couple of NCOs at the depot full time to expedite supplies. Some critics said we were thieves. The problem was that the depot had a large number of supplies that they had "lost". When the ships were unloaded, the supplies were placed in the depot and the location was then supposed to be entered into the computer to keep track. This did not seem to work well. It was so bad that depot management set up a reward system. If my unit had a request in for a certain amount of an item, and the depot had no record of such an item, we would be rewarded a finder's fee of at least half the requested amount we found in the depot. So that we could hunt, we were given passes allowing us roam the stock piles and search for stock numbers we needed.

We also made friends and deals where we could. Since we had two sergeants on the team, we always made sure one was black and one was white. Whatever it took to help our unit.

The depot was the first place that supply requests were computerized. Units like the 11th Brigade sent in paper requests and they were 'converted' by depot staff into computerized data.

Following a few weeks at Qui Nhon, I was moved back to Duc Pho as the Brigade Supply Officer. The war heated up considerably during the summer for the 11th Brigade. We had lost several officers from the staff and I was

moved to the Brigade Operations Staff to be the primary Tactical Operations Center (TOC) Duty Officer. In other words, I was in charge of the war for the 11th Brigade on a minute-by-minute basis. The TOC was in a hole in the small mountain which was in the center of LZ Bronco, my shift was the primary combat period for at least 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Two captains split the other, less intense 12 hours, but they had part time jobs in another office too.

I spent my time talking on the radio to units in active contact, LRPS, Fighter pilots, and Americal Division Operations. My job was to keep track of what was going on in the area of operations (AO), keep the situation map posted up to date, keep my log up to date, control convoys passing along our section of Highway #1, control the artillery support, order B-52 strikes, and allocate the other resources we had such as gun ships and infantry reserves. In my spare time I would be harassing Division for allocations from their Artillery and Air Support. The times when I was out of touch with the CO, XO and S3, I just went ahead and made decisions on my own – that's why I was there.

I was at last sent back to my 'real' job as Brigade Supply Officer since the previous officer had been moved up to Battalion HQ. Unfortunately, I was now medevac'd to Camp Zama, Japan where I spent the next 6 weeks or so. I was finally able to return to LZ Bronco and finish my year in the BSO.

The Infantry Battalions left the executive officers (XO) in the LZ Bronco so they could coordinate with my office and keep track of the supplies they were given. A battalion could burn up a lot of ammunition, food, and need equipment repair. The XOs worked hard at their jobs. One of the ones I met was Colin Powell.

I departed Vietnam in time to arrive at the Orlando, FL, airfield and be reunited with my family on Thanksgiving Day 1968.

Another officer from the 6th Support Battalion, LTC David R. Kinkade provided his reflections on service in the 6th Support Battalion.

6th Support Battalion, 11th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division
Duc Pho, Vietnam 1968 – 1969
By David R. Kinkade (LTC QM)
April 27, 2023

This writing is an addendum to the previous document written by Larry F. Henry.

I first met Larry Henry when we were in the QM basic courses at Ft. Lee, VA in the summer of 1960. Both were ROTC 2nd Lieutenants. Over the years our paths crossed, and we knew each other's family. Thus, it was interesting that of approximately 500,000 troops we had in Vietnam, I would be his replacement as Brigade Supply Officer (BSO) with the 6th Support Battalion at Duc Pho in Vietnam. He was the seasoned veteran, and I was the "funny new guy".

Larry's and my times in Hawaii and Vietnam could have not been more different. In 1966-67 I was managing the officer and NCO clubs at HQ US Army Pacific at Ft. Shafter (think Honolulu) and Larry was at Schofield Barracks (think pineapple fields) working to help organize, equip and train an Infantry Brigade for imminent combat in Vietnam. While I was working only 40 to 60 hours a week and going home to my family every evening, Larry was "with the troops" – including long days training in the "jungle" of Pohakuloa Training Area on the big island of Hawaii. Essentially, Larry was on a partial unaccompanied tour while still in Hawaii.

Some of our supply challenges in the 6th Spt. Bn.:

- Items arrived in Vietnam usually in cardboard boxes or in thin plywood boxes. Thus, after a few weeks on the docks at the ports or in the large depots, the cardboard would disintegrate and leave the item to the elements (sun & heavy rain), with no identification. The plywood might withstand some of the weather, but the writing on the containers would disappear – thus all became "mystery boxes".
- The most sought-after items were 500 gal. "blivits" to carry either water or gas, by helicopter, to the field units. Heavy-duty slings for carrying them and other

loads were special, too. Our depot-based teams worked diligently every day looking.

- Gas powered electric generators were not on the authorized list of supplies for combat units; thus acquiring power for bunker-line security lights was a major issue.
- It seemed that at a high level in the US they decided to "facilitate" supply by tasking CONUS depot managers to ship whatever items they thought the combat units needed. However, some of us thought they were sending "stuff" excess to their needs just to "clear their accounts". Of course these excess items filled critical supply containers and ships.
- Supplies mainly arrived via the local roads – the daily convoys were a dangerous trip and would only take place after the roads had been checked for mines, etc.

Other unique, locally improvised techniques:

- When combat units were moving to the field, almost always by helicopter, we would send "bunker kits" sling-loaded under a Chinook. This kit had metal one-half culverts, timbers and sandbags.
- When a unit had been in the field for a few weeks, we sent a "clothing & field gear" filled Conex container, also under a Chinook.

After Larry's flight home on the "freedom bird", I soon realized that the NCOs and their men had the routine supply process well in hand, and didn't need a Major supervising or getting in the way. So my routine became attending the daily operations briefings to anticipate troop movements and actions to have the required support ready. (Having commanded two infantry companies in Korea helped my perspective.) I also visited the units and essentially walked around all over the base. Spending time in the TOC (tactical operations center) also helped my forward-looking perspective.

Other random thoughts:

- The living space Larry gave to me was essentially a small room dug about 6'underground with a cot in it.
- Our jungle boots had a black leather toe, which by directive was to be polished every day. The sleeves of our jungle fatigue jackets had to have the sleeves rolled up – like those of General Westmoreland.
- Officers flying in "courier" helicopters were discouraged from carrying rifles, even over combat areas. (A small suitcase will hold a disassembled CAR-15 rifle and 10 magazines.)
- Helicopter pilots sat on seats of steel plates. Passengers sat on canvas seats. (The back panels of three old flak jackets, sown into a cover like a cushion at a football game, make flying much more relaxing.) I was ridiculed for a few days, then realized our CO had one, too.

- Having my own flying helmet made it possible to communicate with the helicopter pilots on courier flights. (And helpful in "encouraging" the pilot to provide medivac assistance on one occasion.)
- Our officers' mess prohibited carrying weapons into the dining area. In what looked like a cloak room had hooks to hang pistol belts – just like in a western movie. (Note that in Iraq our forces were required to carry "one weapon & one magazine" into the dining facility.)
- LTC Richard Raunswinder was our Bn CO – and moved to Chu Lai to be CO of the 23rd S&T Bn. when the 6th Spt. Bn was disbanded. He was attending ICAF at Ft. McNair when he died of a heart attack in 1970. (He was a great guy and a good friend.) Major Chalbert Burchett was our XO.
- I observed the petroleum storage tanks burn after an attack on the base. Spectacular!
- I remember entering the back of a fixed-wing aircraft (C-123 or Caribou) that had a spraying attachment on the wings, and a liquid (Agent Orange) sloshing around on the floor.
- We had daily delivery of milk and fresh food via C-130's on the single PSP runway – only during the day.
- As a separate brigade our 11th LIB had its own aviation unit "Primo Aviation" named after the Hawaiian beer.
- Somehow the brigade had acquired a WWII half-track with quad-50's – that was positioned on the very top of the hill, and provided 360º fire support.
- On one occasion the Air Force's C-130 gunship "Puff the Magic Dragon" strafed just off our base perimeter. The noise was a loud purring-roar and the tracers looked like a stream of red water from a fire hose.
- I could hear the bombing B-52's in the distance making the sound of rolling thunder.
- Our battalion headquarters area had a prominently-positioned official US Post Office mail box, which we used, that somehow was smuggled from Hawaii.
- A few years before this writing I picked up a rumor that the Brigade Commander's trailer house had fallen into a Vietcong tunnel – thus likely demonstrating that the bad guys were spending their days underground inside our base camp.
- (Larry – there's a rumor a real fire truck also made the trip. Rumor only?)

Reviewing my old personnel files I find these assignments:

- 6811 06 HHD 6th SPT BN APO 96374 (Brigade Supply Officer)
- 6905 04 23 S&T BN HHC CHU LAI (Asst. Div. Supply Officer)
- 6908 17 HH CO USA GAR MYER FT (Club Officer)

I assume from this that our 6th Spt. Bn. was disbanded in May 1969 – though I remained at Duc Pho for about a month to coordinate the transfer of responsibility for logistical support.

(While on R&R in Hawaii I received a call asking me to cut short my tour, after completing the minimum time, and take over the Officers' Club at Ft. Myer, VA. The prior occupant had died of a heart attack in the office, and the

Chief of Staff's annual Commander's Conference was imminent. I had previously met, and organized a special function for, both the General and Mrs. Westmoreland while in Hawaii. She was wearing a bathrobe the first time I met her in Hawaii – which was a great opening line when I saw her again at Ft. Myer.)

Final thoughts:

- Probably my fondest memory is being awakened in the middle of the night (while with the 23rd S&T Bn. in Chu Lai) by my CO and told, "Dave, the 101st is sending a brigade to Tam Ky (an abandoned air strip about 60 miles north of Chu Lai). Get your butt on the next helicopter. Find out what they need and get it for them." And he walked out of the tent.
- It was an honor and a privilege to work and support such fine soldiers as we had – giving "their all" for an effort we even now aren't sure was worth it. Being able to "do what was necessary" to support them was special. (Details aren't important, because 20-20 hindsight from others would probably cause repercussions even now.)
- Results wise – probably the best year of my life.

Addendum #1

6th Support Battalion, 11th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division
Duc Pho, Vietnam 1968 – 1969
By David R. Kinkade (LTC QM)
July 3, 2023

These two paragraphs might be added at the end of my prior comments:

Prior reports reference Lt. John Allen who was directly commissioned in Vietnam. After his transfer from the 101st, he was assigned to work with me as my Assistant Brigade Supply Officer. He was an excellent officer; never failed to excel at any assigned, or unassigned, task. His only problem was being a rather small Quartermaster 2nd LT, and wearing his well-earned CIB, Silver Star and Purple Heart, he was continually being hassled everywhere, even by NCO's – example: "Lieutenant, you can't just buy medals in the PX to wear".

Reference the outdoor movies: I was speaking with our Brigade Chaplain – he saw the outdoor movies being shown and walked over to see what was playing. He only got about 20 yards away when he quickly returned and said, "those aren't movies their mothers sent"

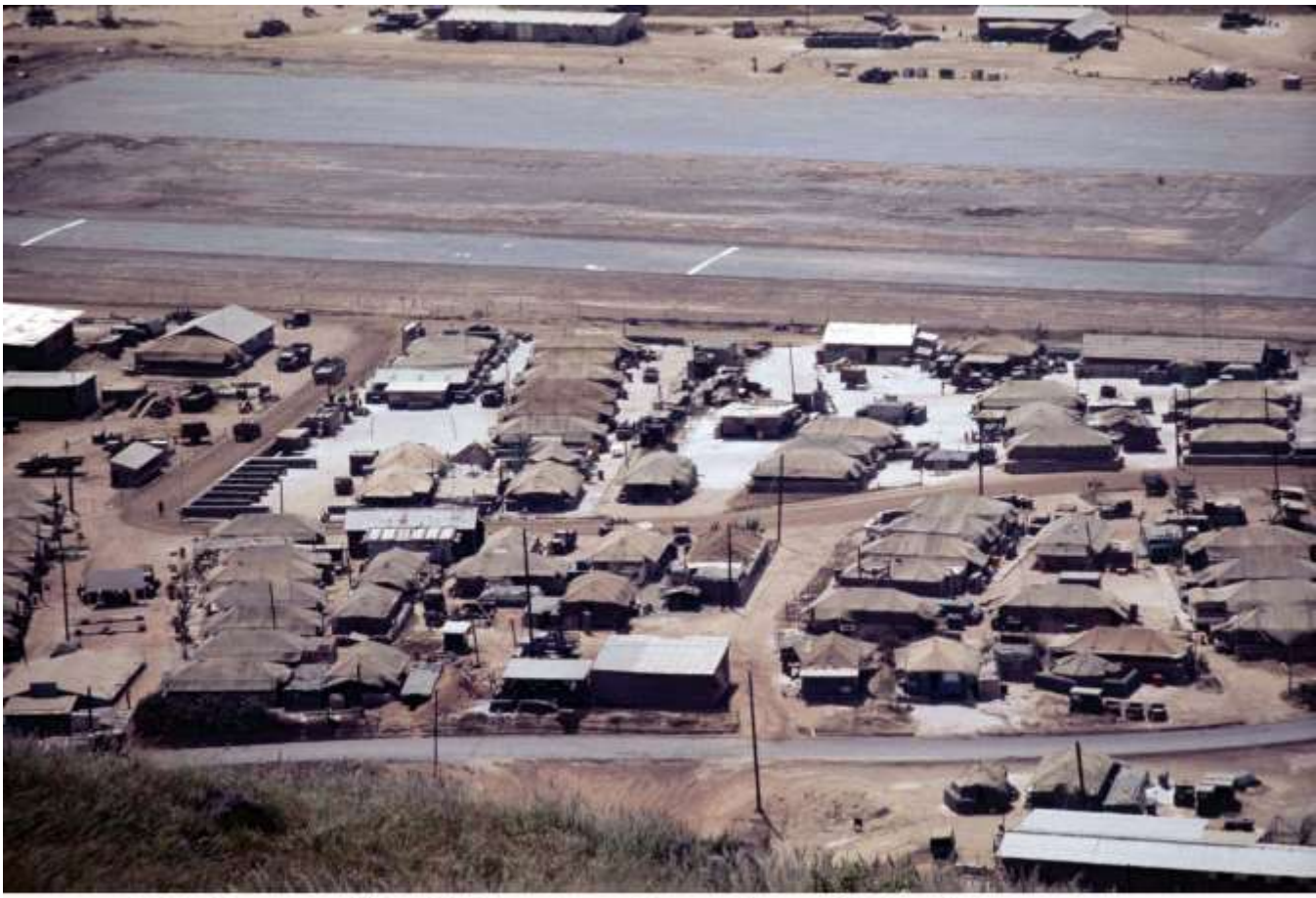
* * * * *

Also attached are a few photos I found in my stuff. The comments below are keyed to the (#) following the 6th Spt Bn name on each photo. Not all needed to be included in the history report.

Photos:

6th Suport Battalion photo of LZ Bronco by Dr. Kinkade

(1) LZ Bronco – Home of 11th LIB. It was a small mountain, with all the attached units essentially surrounding the base of the hill. 6th Spt Bn was assigned to the sector near the single-lane PSP runway. The runway could accommodate aircraft as large as a C-130.



6th Support Battalion Headquarters at Duc Pho

(2) HQ area of the 6th Spt Bn.

6th Support Bn.: LTC Raunswinder and Major Kinkade

(3) LTC Richard. N. Raunswinder, CO 6th Spt Bn presenting mid-tour award to MAJ David Kinkade, Brigade Supply Officer

6th Support Battalion: Maj. David Kinkade and LT Rick Sternoff.

(4) MAJ David Kinkade and 1LT Rick Sternoff. Rick was our full-time representative in the Qui Nhon Army Depot to locate ("procure") items essential to the 11th Brigade's mission. He and his sergeant would find critical items (e.g. 500-gal water/fuel bladders or slings for helicopter loads), load them on a truck, and only then submit the required paperwork. Cardboard boxes ruined by the rains or plywood boxes with the markings "erased" by the sun and rain made for a lot of guessing – which they became expert at.

6th Support Battalion: CPT John Crouch and 1st SGT

(5) CPT John Crouch, CO, B Company, 6th Spt Bn and his 1st Sgt. Their trucks were out lifeline, running the highway every day. An excellent team.

6th Support Battalion photo of Sam Hai (Charlie Brown) by Dr. Kinkade.

(6) Small US Navy port south of Duc Pho were small LSN's could dock. Its small size and location made it difficult to defend. Heavier materials (barrels of petroleum products) were shipped here for us to retrieve.

6th Support Bn. Fuel Storage Fire

(7) Obviously the Vietcong were able to successfully attack our large petroleum tanks in LZ Bronco.

6th Support Battalion: Close Air Support, photo Kinkade

(8) Close-in air support pointing out the location of large Vietcong tunnels near our outer perimeter. I had been advised of the event in advance so I was present to take the photo.

6th Support Battalion: Cobra helicopter recovery.

(9) Cobra being recovered by the Americal Division's CH-47. The efficacy of this was mentioned earlier in this 6th Spt Bn history.

This was received from Dr. Raymond McLane a veteran of the 6th Support Battalion's Medical Company. (It is likely to be published as a future article for the Americal Division Veteran's Association quarterly "Journal" in late 2023 or early 2024.

Raymond E McLane Capt. M.C.
CO Company C, Medical 6th Support Battalion. 11th Light Infantry Brigade Nov 1967 July 1968
Brigade Surgeon August 1968 Nov 1968.

I was assigned to the Medical Company of the 6th Support Battalion on my arrival at Schofield Barracks after completing the Basic Medical Officers Course of the Medical Field Service School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The company was then Company B under the original organization. We were commanded by Capt. Walter Rose, MSC as is customary in medical organizations in training. Once the unit was scheduled for deployment it came under the command of the senior Medical Officer, me.

I had been commissioned from ROTC in the MSC at Notre Dame but was delayed in call to active duty until after completing Medical School (on my own dime, by the way) and a one-year rotating internship in St Petersburg, Florida. The other medical officers were all drafted. Although we all attended the same class of about 1000 doctors, dentists, and veterinarians, I was senior due to my prior inactive service.

Our Brigade Surgeon, Capt. Harvey Freedman, was the only other doc with a service obligation. He had taken his internship at Tripler so was commissioned in the MC a year earlier and was present in Hawaii when the 11th Brigade formed. He left Viet Nam in August for a residency at Mayo Clinic in ENT and probably still had some payback time to serve.

The rest of us except for one, Capt. Colby had extended our status as "obligated volunteer 2" to obv3 after receiving orders for Hawaii. The actual assignments did not mention the brigade or Infantry at all. We each discovered that we had had the same experience when we met for the first time in the airport lounge in San Francisco. We were called in to be advised that somehow, we had received orders for Hawaii but "Hawaii accompanied by family, household goods, and car is a three-year tour, while we were only obligated for two years." We were advised that many other two year tours were available such as one year at Ft Polk, and one

year in Viet Nam, one year at Ft Leornard Wood and one year in Viet Nam, etc, etc. "Where do I sign" said all but one. I was most impressed as I got to know the officers and NCOs in the 6th Support Battalion by the level of expertise and experience that prevailed in that outfit. I understood that our medical mission was to take care of the health-related needs of the men of all ranks but came to see how all the rest of their needs were provided for by other parts of the battalion and how whenever the mission changed from the original description, creativity and adaptability were immediately displayed.

While we were training and filling our ranks with new medics, we were operating on the doctrine of Echelon of Care which dictated our organization and equipment. We were preparing to win the Korean Conflict. We were expected to set up a Clearing Station close behind the lines of the Infantry Battalions and pick up casualties at the battalion Aid Stations with our fleet of cracker box {3/4 ton} ambulances, stabilizing those casualties at the Clearing station who could expect to return to duty in a three-day period or transferring the others to Evacuation hospitals further to the rear. To this end my medics practiced erecting a cluster of GP large tents in rapid order and equipping them with folding cots and necessary medical supplies. Then for added realism we relocated to another area as the Infantry moved. We even did this in the dark in the mountains of Hawaii. Then we took them back to the quad so we could set them up again to clean them for storage.

Oddly enough, the helicopter in Viet Nam had already changed the transportation of casualties from the field to the hospital. While we were at Schofield and Pahakaloa training areas, my medics never offloaded a helicopter or learned to safely approach with a litter. The only obvious suggestion that things would be different than the school solution is that my ambulance platoon never received any cracker boxes.

As Company commander I flew to Duc Pho with the Advance Party and camped at LZ Carentan waiting for the main body to arrive. The convoy with the brigade's equipment and supplies arrived before the troops so we Captains unloaded the deuce and a half with trailers onto the PSP. LTC Rusche the 6th Support Battalion CO directed traffic.

Once we were moved into the existing facility and it became apparent that no moves were contemplated, we began adapting. We received casualties directly from the field.

The battalion aid stations were in their rear areas serving as dispensaries. The ambulance platoon was used as additional medics to staff the wards and as our engineers constantly improving our facility eventually replacing the tent-poles with wood frames and floors and finally with corrugated metal roofing.
The field portable dental chair, a folding wood one with support for a belt drive old style drill was replaced by a pneumatic high-speed drill, powered by its dedicated air compressor and housed for its protection in a climate controlled sandbagged Duc Pho Dental Clinic guarded at all hours by our vigilant dental officer, Maj. Gauthier.
We had been equipped with a prototype polaroid X-ray machine while we were in Hawaii. It failed twice and teams came out to tinker with it for a week or two each time. When it failed on its first use at Duc Pho, we were surprised that no one came to fix it!
By this time LTC Rusche had established his shopping team in Qui Nhon. I should mention that he had repurposed my jeep to that team since I would not have to go scouting for suitable locations to move my Clearing Station. I got to visit it a couple of times with ensuing adventures. We requested a real X-ray machine which arrived on the next Santa Claus run (er, convoy)
SFC Kline the ambulance platoon sergeant had built a covered ramp connecting the wards and A&D, so he added an Xray and dark room space. We requested lead sheeting and that came up on the next load.
Our operation included medical supply for all our supported units. All those supplies came from the medical supply depot at Qui Nhon. When we were hit with a minor flu outbreak the Ward masters requested a supply of Kleenex individual cartons for bedside use but a clerical error in the request for a gross of them resulted in a gross of cases of full-size Kleenex boxes arriving in its own truck and trailer with the next convoy. We had to erect an extra GP medium tent just for the Kleenex.
Our Battalion Commander was a Quartermaster Corps officer. He seemed to live by a personal creed of never having to say “We ain’t got any” to the Infantry. He told me one time that the intelligence presentation at the daily briefing had mentioned that they had several female Viet Cong prisoners, and they were concerned as they were having menstrual periods and no way to care for them. The colonel said he asked them if they had contacted our medical supply. We did have peri pads in stock for possible use in wound care. Some folks used them for weapon cleaning I

heard.
In effect we did operate as a clearing station. Since evacuation hospitals were in Qui Nhon and Chu Lai, each about a hundred miles away, we had two Medevac helicopters attached to us who responded to the field and brought them to our facility for stabilization. We most often were able to prepare casualties for transfer by fixed wing keeping our helicopters available for immediate response. We had a casualty response team from the Air Force who could call in a transport aircraft and configure it with straps to support multiple litters. The team had radios to communicate with a casualty control center which directed them to the most available receiving hospital. The team which included a flight nurse as well as medics would provide continuing care during transport.
Since the other two brigades in the Americal Division were much closer to Chu Lai I am not sure whether they received casualties directly or were overflown.
One of the AF team was a Nurse Anesthetist. As they were only detailing males to the field the need for flight nurse has priority. I had two doctors in the clearing platoon who had been drafted after two years of surgical residency, Capt. Warren Roosth and Capt. Sam Hill. That was one of the options under the Berry Plan to delay call to active duty for doctors in training.
We built a very nice operating room and fully equipped it. We had a field portable gasoline fired sterilizing autoclave bunkered next to it. We had no shortage of experienced surgical personnel. First Sergeant Webb had been chief OR tech at Walter Reed. The Spec 6s had all had extensive hospital service and we had Sp5 surgical techs. I had assumed the role of anesthetist until we found our AF guy was eager to help.
We did mainly minor surgery for US personnel. Stabilizing procedures were usually done on arrival on the litter in the Admitting and Disposition ward. I personally put in chest tubes and clipped off dangling feet many times.
Once while I was inserting a chest tube, a hand reached under my raised arm to pat the soldier on the head and reassure him, he was going to be all right. I struck my elbow back into someone's chest behind me, yelling "Get the fuck out of my sterile field!" General Lipscomb, the brigade commander apologized and backed away.
We did find cases for my surgeons in the civilian population on our medcaps to the village dispensary and on wounded civilians brought to us.

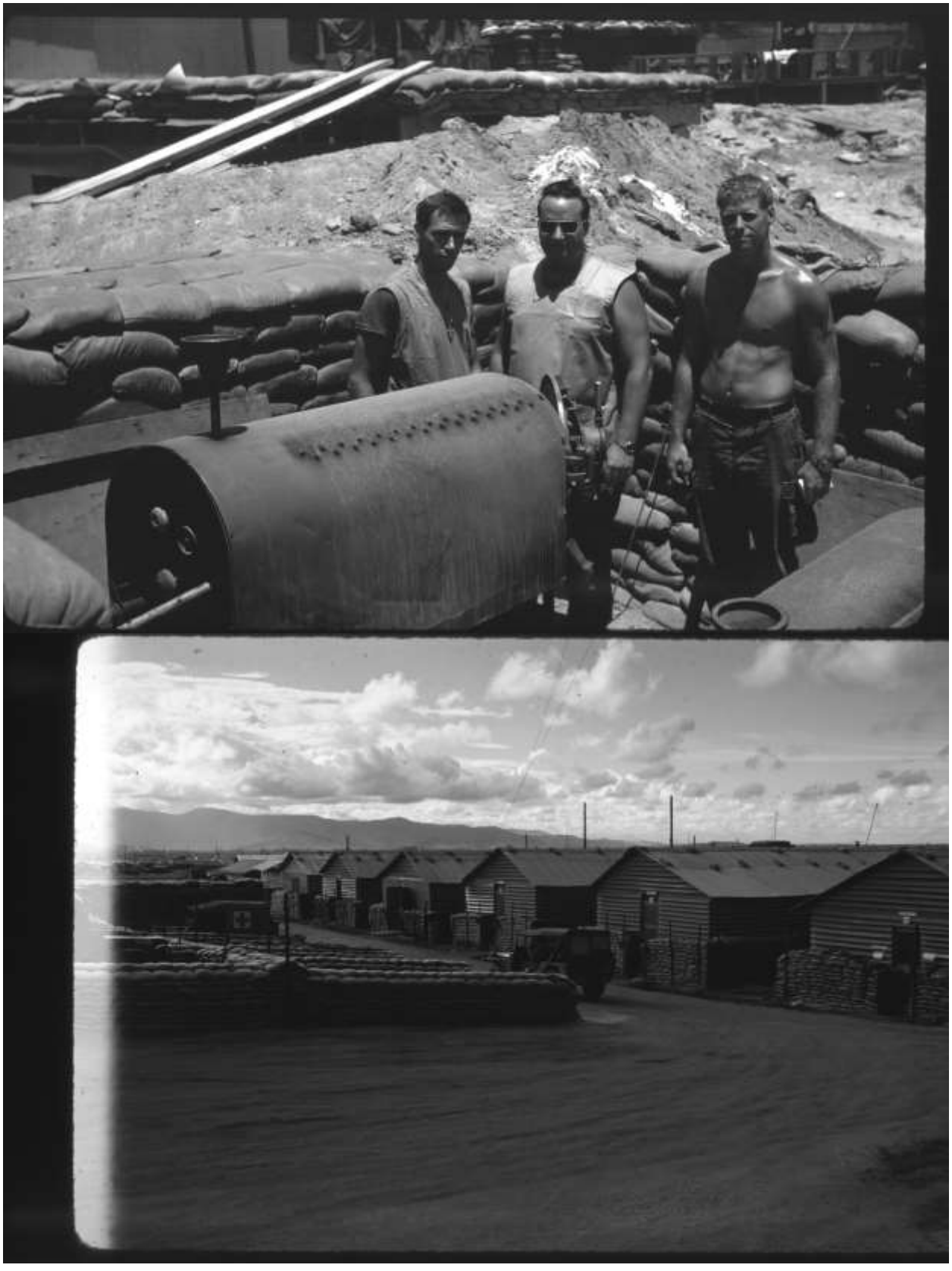
The Division Surgeon came to visit us. He had supervisory status, but we were not under his command. I think at that time that only the Medical Battalion headquarters company was under his command as the brigades still had support battalions.

The colonel was a board-certified Ob-Gyn surgeon. When he completed his residency and passed his boards he applied for Airborne and was top in jump school class. He was getting command time and may have been heading for a star. When we first saw him and noted his specialty, he said something to the effect that if he never saw another pussy in the line of duty it would be soon enough. However, after we built our OR he said that he would come to see us on call if we lined him up a hysterectomy.

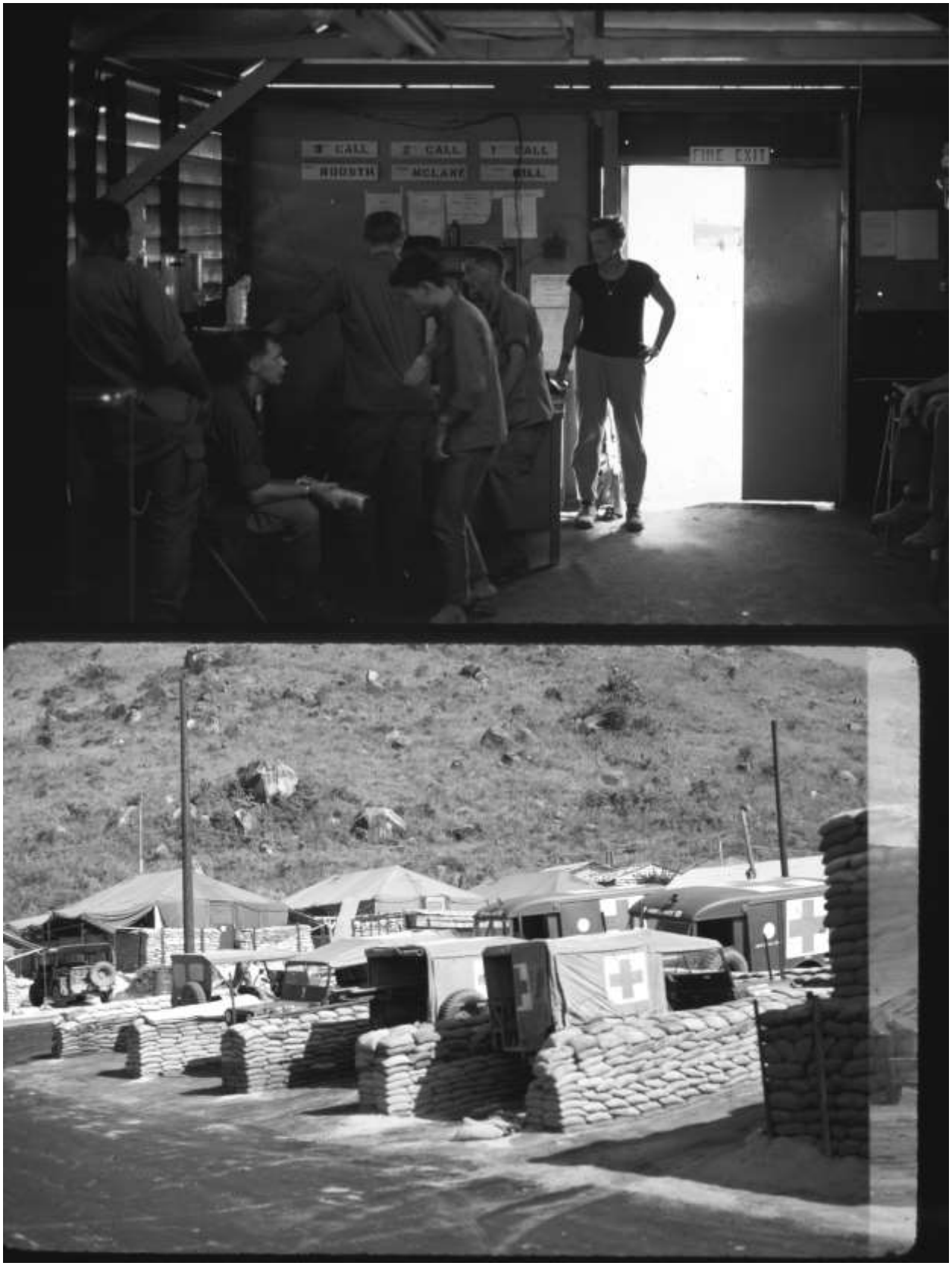
The medical officers all lived in a GP medium tent with a wood frame and floor resembling the swamp in MASH. When Harvey Freedman rotated, I became Brigade Surgeon and moved into his tent/office/private quarters and inherited his jeep and driver. I was surprised to find he had a private bunker dug under his bed. No running just roll out and under.

I should add that I could have gone home at the same time as Harvey. Personnel had come to those of us who had extended for Hawaii to concede they hadn't kept their end of the deal. As I hadn't been looking for my next job and that I didn't see how I could just leave the medics I had brought to this place I didn't take the opportunity. I finished the tour and went back to my wife and four kids who had accepted the Army's offer to stay in on post housing at Schofield Barracks while I was overseas. We had a couple of weeks in TLA on Waikiki while clearing post before flying to Indiana for Christmas. Then we spent the next eight months at Fort Gordon, Ga working in dispensaries and the ED of the station hospital. Seeing what I could expect for the rest of my Army career, I served out my time and left the Army the day that Woodstock began, 15 Aug 69. We celebrated with one last visit to the commissary store and Px at MacDill AFB, Tampa Florida where I used what I had learned in service to create a career in the just beginning field of Emergency Medicine. I helped develop EMS, promoted a trauma center, and a medical helicopter service stressing scene response in my community modeled after what I had seen working. I think of my days in the Army every day and the privilege to have worked with such great men.

Photos from Dr. Raymond McLane that accompanied his story:



BRIGADE SURGEON


FIRE EXIT

In the January – February 1992 issue of the Americal Division Veterans' Association Newsletter the first part of a two part series about the 6th Support Battalion was published.

This was written by Ret. LTC Larry Henry.

6th Support Battalion, 11th Infantry Brigade (Light). (page 15)

In the early summer of 1966, I had a soft, fun job as the Foreign Liaison Officer at Fort Lee Virginia when I received an alert for assignment to Alaska. That was a real surprise since the ware was heating up in Vietnam and it seemed that everyone who got orders was told "Vietnam". My wife and I had made grand plans to buy a new olds Cruiser and drive to Alaska.

In about a month the assignments officer called again. It was almost as much a surprise as the first call. Something like "The bad news is you're not going to Alaska; the good news is that you're going to Hawaii; the bad news is that you're not going to stay there long". We had about three weeks to pack and be in Schofield Barracks where I was the 5th or 6th officer assigned to the 6th Support Battalion, of the just activated 11th Infantry Brigade. The entire Brigade was still under 200 men. my assignment, in July 1967, was as the Assistant Brigade Supply Officer.

We had arrived late at night in Honolulu, exhausted because of the hassles of traveling from Virginia, by way of Anne's parents' home in New Jersey, during an airline strike and with screwed up port call orders and two very small girls. Some on-the-stick sponsor, whose name is now forgotten had stocked our refrigerator, made the beds, and left me a note that I was to report to work the FIRST thing in the morning. I didn't get a day off for almost 2 months. I discovered that forming up a unit from scratch is really a challenge! The rounding out and provisioning of the 11th Brigade was very hard work but there is nothing of interest to report on that part of the assignment here.

After the units were filled up reasonably well with men and material; the unit training began. Some very intense portions could not be done on Oahu but were possible on the big island, Hawaii for about three months to support the training.

The men and equipment were transported by air to Hilo and convoyed up a twisting 2 lane road to the Pohakaloa training area located about 6000 feet up on Mauna Kea, an extinct volcano. Tanks and other large items were transported by sea-going barges, unloaded at Kawaihae, convoyed across the fields of the Parker Ranch, which looked like west Texas at a 45 degree angle, and up the mountain to Pohakaloa. The tanks had to be refueled to make the climb they used about 700 gallons in that trip.

A few months prior to our departure for RVN, DA decided to reorganize the 11th. It made the usual Army sense, we had completed the training cycles, with no time to do them over, and were fully outfitted so why send us into combat that well prepared. What they wanted now was "light" infantry. The major changes were in reduced equipment and increased infantrymen. We gained a fourth Infantry Battalion – the 4/21st was added to the 3/1, 4/3 and 1/20 – and the Cav Troop lost their tanks and were issued APCs. All units went to new TO&E/s which followed the same theme.

The Support Battalion had been organized as:

HHD Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
Co A Administration Company
Co B Medical Company
Co C Supply & Transportation.
Co D Maintenance

After the reorganization it was:

Co A Administration Company
Co B Supply and Maintenance (Combining the former HHD, C and D Companies)
Co C Medical Company

Simultaneously with the reorganization, I was given command of the new Company B. Shaking that down into a manageable unit in a few short months was a significant task – but we did it because of the outstanding team of NCOs, officers and men in the company. I shipped over a company of about 250 men and 7 officers (6 were 2d LTs) and 5 warrant officers. One warrant and two sergeants had been in combat before (CWO Dan McElligott had a previous tour on the MACV staff which he claimed was the first time a warrant officer was permanently assigned to Vietnam; 1SGT Elmer Wormel had two combat jumps in Korea; and SSG Cook had been a Ranger

advisor in RVN) and I was the only officer with combat arms training.

Side Note:

I liked SSG Cook and needed his skills but since he had only been back from Vietnam a few months he could not be ordered to go with us. Commanders were told that, once we were in Vietnam, we would be able to promote to fill vacancies and not be required to wait on allocations from Washington. SSG Cook was in an SFC's job and I promised him that if he would volunteer to go with us, I would promote him as soon as possible. He did and I kept my word.

The 11th departed Hawaii in December 1967, with the 4/21 left behind to complete training. We had two 707's and one C-140 for the advance party. Everyone and everything else went by ship. The advance party consisted of one infantry company, to provide us local area defense, and the other necessary people to se t up our support with the military infrastructure in RVN. We had a forklift, trucks and jeeps on the C-130 I can't quite remember how many but I had fought hard to keep my forklift and trucks on the list. The infantry company, which was given the honor because it had been selected as the best in the Brigade was commanded by CPT Ernie Medina, who would later achieve infamy because of the events at My Lai.

The advance party arrived in the temporary base camp, Carentan, about Dec. 4. It was between the famous Highway 1 and the Ocean, near a town called Duc Pho. There had been a small airstrip put down some time in the past but because of settling and pot holes it was good only for helicopters and my rapidly growing supply dump (We had submitted the requisitions while still in Hawaii for about 100 tons of basic, commonly used items).

One of the weird things we had to deal with was that there was no place to buy anything. If we got anything it was either issued by the Army or sent by mail from someone back home. The Army provided cigars, cigarettes, candy, writing paper, etc. free. A couple of things not provided were soft drinks and booze. The Brigade decreed that there would be only one hard liquor sales operation and that hey would control it but if lower level commanders wanted to

make beer and soft drinks available to the troops they would have to figure it out themselves. Fine with us. There are also no people allocated by the Army planners to run the operations for these which we built out of necessity.

All beer and soft drinks were sold for cash only, and only in pallet load lots, at the depots. You paid cash and you hauled it away. You could buy what they had but if something was not selling well they forced you to buy it. One example was that someone, either dumb or rich from bribes, had stocked up on Crown beer – Korean I think – and it was hated by all because it tasted like (Bleep). The rule they put in place to get rid of it was that for every 10 cases of beer bought – one had to be Crown. We always wanted to meet the jerk who had bought the Crown in the first place.

To set up our business, I met with my Officers and NCOs who were on the advance party and laid out the plan that the 1SG and I had devised. I asked them for a loan of cash to start our operation. The 1SG would keep the books and I would guarantee the safety of the money. We came up with enough cash to buy a flat bed truck load before the main body arrived. We also set the selling price high enough to get our funds out in a couple of months – 25 cents for beer or soft drinks. Later I formed a council of men to advise on this enterprise and they decided to keep the price at a profit making level. You have no idea how much 250 guys can drink in soft drinks (and beer). Within two months we had bought a movie projector (we could get movies every day but didn't get a projector but once a week). We sent $2000 with the company clerk, Raul Melendez, on his R&R to Australia to buy a projector. Next we bought a popcorn machine and served free popcorn every evening when things were quiet. I tried to buy a pool table but we never were able to work out how to ship it in. With the amount of money made in the 9-10 months before someone at division took over the funds, the company had also bought fine stereos for both the NCO and EM clubs and every tape/record that was hot. With all of that money available it was obvious that someone should take control and audit these things!

The main body closed in on Dec. 24 (1967). My ration unit, under the SSG Cook discussed earlier, had done its' work well because we all had a full turkey dinner on Christmas.

Within a month, we moved about 2 miles into the permanent base camp called LZ Bronco on the edge of Duc Pho, located on Highway 1 between Quang Ngai and Qui Nhon (about 30 miles to Quang Ngai and 75 miles to Qui Nhon). In February, I think it was, we officially became part of the Americal Division.

Just after we moved into LZ Bronco, the world exploded in the form of the Tet Offensive of 1968. For me it happened in the middle of my promotion party (to Major).

11th Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Andy Lipscomb, congratulates Larry Henry on his promotion to Major as his commanding officer, LTC Ralph Rushe looks on. Photo taken on first day of Tet, January 31, 1968.

Over 100 mortar rounds landed in my company area alone that first night. Since we had arrived during one of the so-called, cease fires over the Christmas period, we had been exposed to only harassing fire and an occasional mortar. That ended! My convoys to and from Qui Nhon were shot up and I lost some trucks and the windshield out of my jeep. I never had the official figures but Tet '68 hurt the 11th Brigade. We were in country about a month and we were almost all green. Tet cured that.

Side Notes:

In the light infantry concept, the Army decreed, the support unit didn't need an organic transportation unit – so I lost my truck platoon in the re-organization. As soon as we saw the set up in RVN, I gathered up all remaining trucks, stretched the truth to order some extras, and recreated my truck platoon. Even with that we were always some 100 tons behind in movement capability. So much for the Army planners!

I also bent some supply rules to obtain extra machine guns. I had to defend a perimeter sector of over 2 miles and with the few machine guns authorized we could not achieve overlapping fire. By the time we moved into LZ Bronco, I was ready. My sector was the only one never penetrated while I was in command.
************TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE***(March – April 1992)**********

6th SUPPORT Battalion 11 LIB
(Conclusion of story by Ret. LTC Larry Henry)

As long as I'm off telling stories let me get in another or two. In the advance briefings we received while still in Hawaii, we were told that water would be a major problem for us; not just getting it but moving and storing it. It so happened that I had signed out, from the Post motor pool, and old fire engine pumper, which we were using to wash vehicles (It couldn't be transferred to us because we had to remain as envisioned by the army planners with respect to the table of organization and equipment (TO&E). That's the list of items and people that 'they' say we needed to do our job.

I had my maintenance guys repaint it in camouflage motif and we shipped it to RVN with the rest of our trucks. I had thought that when some one figured out that I had taken it to RVN we could do a property transfer, in lieu of my going to jail, but no one ever came looking for it! Once in RVN we obtained tanks from old water trailers out of the salvage yards, mounted them on tall stands, and had instant showers which we re-supplied with the pumper! When it died, we remounted the pump and tank on a new multifuel frame and its life continued.

I had seen an advertisement in a Honolulu paper giving "a cash bonus for your old refrigerator when you buy a new one". I called him and ask what he was going to do with all of the old refrigerators. He decided he could help us and solve a problem at the same time. He gave us all that we could haul away. When we finished cannibalizing and repairing, we had about 20 operational refrigerators which we hid on our trucks for the trip to RVN. We had cold cokes and beer. (My company had over 100 vehicles and all were shipped loaded and covered!). The Battalion

commander, LT C Rusche made me give the HHD some of the refrigerators.

After Tet cooled a bit, I was transferred to the Battalion staff and sent to Qui Nhon to be a material readiness expediter (MRE). That turned out to be a code name for lobbyist, con artist, or even thief. The MRE's job was to get things his unit needed – by whatever means it took. The depots were overwhelmed with the amount of material being shipped in from the states and under staffed to deal with the mountain of paperwork resulting from the flow of requisitions, etc. Automation was just beginning and mainly amounted to punched card processing. Things were so bad in inventory control that the managers set a finders fee on depot items. It worked like this; I need a quantity of item XYZ. The depot records said they had none. If I found some in the yards, I could get my existing requisitions filled for up to 25-50% or more of the 'found' stock – depending on the 'market' price of that item that day. As a result of this the MRE's, every unit had them on site, toured the yards after every ship was unloaded = or watched the unloading if possible.

The 11th always had a team on site which consisted of an officer and two NCOs, one white and one black, while the names changed over the year I was in the Brigade the basic set up never did. When we needed to persuade an action person to fill our requisitions first or to give the use of some trucks, we always
used the team member most likely to succeed. We felt our success rate was better than other units and one reason was this "division of labor".

Another Story:

When I was still the CO of B company we needed cement pads for our maintenance area in the worst way. The guys were trying to support a unit in combat while working under very bad conditions – one of which was mud. We had brought with us all company property we owned – that is property which is bought with PX profits not tax dollars. In that stuff was power lawn mower – we didn't have grass within miles of LZ Bronco. One of my early visits to the depot I arranged to trade the mower to a transportation truck company for some help in hijacking a load of cement (I also arranged the loan of a mixer from the depot). Here's how it went down.

The property guards at the ship unloading, I noticed, were checking loads out by reading the bumper markings on the tractor not those on the trailer. The Trans accomplice arranged for one his tractors to put one of my trailers in the loading sequence, haul it through the checker and out of sight, unhook and go about his business. We hooked up our tractor and headed north. We had the entire load mixed and poured within two days so that if caught – we couldn't give it back. We were never caught by the depot. The Battalion caught me when we were almost finished and took the last few bags for his hooch.

Following a few weeks at Qui Nhon, I was moved back to Duc Pho as the Brigade Supply Officer. The war heated up considerably during the summer for the 11th Brigade. We had lost several officers from the staff and I was moved to the Brigade Operations Staff to be the primary Tactical Operations Center (TOC) Duty Officer. In other words I was in charge of the war for the 11th Brigade on a minute by minute basis. The TOC was in a hole in the small mountain which was in the center of LZ Bronco, my shift was the primary combat period for at least 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Two captains split the other, less intense 12 hours, but they had part time jobs in another office too.

I spent my time talking on the radio to units in active contact, LRPS, Fighter pilots, and Americal Division Operations. My job was to keep track of what was going on in the area of operations (AO), keep the situation map posted up to date, keep my log up to date, control convoys passing along our section of Highway #1, control the artillery support, order B-52 strikes, and allocate the other resources we had such as gun ships and infantry reserves. In my spare time I would be harrassing Division for allocations from their Artillery and Air Support. The times when I was out of touch with the CO, XO and S3, I just went ahead and made decisions on my own – that's why I was there.

TO BE CONTINUED – Maybe!

An item published in the May/June 1990 Americal (ADVA) Newsletter.

6th SUPPORT BN

Dear Vietnam Editor:

IN April 1967 I was assigned to the 6th Support Battalion, 11th LIB at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii. In December 1967 the 11th LIB was assigned to duty in Vietnam. Exact dates are forgotten, but in December 1967 the Brigade was transported to Pearl Harbor, pier 26, where we boarded the U.S.N.S. General Wiegal for our ocean cruise to Vietnam. I believe the General Wiegel was a merchant Marine Ship.

Enclosed with my dues are copies of two newspapers which were printed aboard the Wiegel and given to the troops. The name of the paper was the "Trident". If it's possible to print any of the "Trident" in the Newsletter, I'm sure many would find the material interesting reading. In the event the papers can't be printed I can make copies for anyone who would like to write to me.

While in Vietnam I was a REMF on LZ Bronco at Duc Pho. After leaving country in August 1968.I left many friends whom I would enjoy hearing from. CW2 Carl Rhodes, Jimmy Young, Jerry Cooper, and Joe Pekella are just a few of them. If anyone knows any of these men and how I might contact them please let me know.

To all those involved with the Americal Newsletter I say 'Keep up the good work," you're doing a great job.

Again, I'm looking forward to hearing from anyone stationed with me during my tour in Vietnam – December 1967 through August 1968.

Dan T. Bates.

(Historian Note: Over 50 issues of the 11th Bde Trident have been located and digital images are available to be shared by thumb drive).

This item was published in the ADVA Newsletter by a 6th Support Battalion veteran:

6th Support Battalion 11th LIB

I used to belong to the ADVA way back in the seventies but after suffering flashbacks of Vietnam I let my membership run out. However, I rejoined again in January 1994.

Since then I have really enjoyed being part of the Association again and I do enjoy the Newsletters.

I was in Duc Pho, which was LZ Bronco, Chu Lai, LZ Baldy, and the Minh Long River Valley. A lot of years have passed and I've blocked out a lot. Would appreciate any help members may be able to give in filling me in on the blank spots.

Am I entitled to the Combat Infantryman Badge? *(Historian Comment: Only soldiers with the Infantry MOS are authorized to receive a combat infantryman badge after it is documented that they have been engaged by enemy forces).*

Letter submitted by Bob Cragle....Duc Pho 68-69.

This item appeared in the January – February 1991 ADVA "Americal Newsletter".

Members;

Dwight Fanshaw wants members of the 6th Support Bn. 11th LIB to contact him for the purpose of organizing a reunion. Right now he's researching old orders for names/addresses but we all know how tough that can be. In his correspondence with the newsletter, Dwight wrote" I served as Battalion S1 Clerk from July 68 to March 1969 when the battalion was deactivated and the Americal division was reorganized to conform to the R.O.A.D. concept and the Americal support command was formed. I then served as Brigade S1 Clerk in Chu Lai at HHD and Band, Support Command. Interested members can contact Dwight at the below Address:

An item published in the ADVA quarterly "Journal".

Dear editor,

I just received my copy of the revised Americal Division History. I was surprised to read the paragraph in the 23rd Admin" section concerning the establishment of administration support for the Division Headquarters, that Company A, 6th Support Battalion of the 11th Infantry Brigade had been in country supporting Task Force Oregon and was the predecessor of the new 23rd Administration Company, when it was activated on December 8, 1967.

I arrived in Chu Lai with the 198th Infantry Brigade Advance Party on October 9, 1967. I was the brigade AG assigned to Company A, 9th Support Battalion. We soon learned that the Americal Division intended to reassign and merge the admin support units of the three separate brigades (11th , 196th and 198th) to the Division headquarters to form a new administration company in support of the Division headquarters.

The Americal division Information Office Release No. 1-68-89, "1967 Americal Division Progress," contains the following information:

"To provide for the orderly transition of records and personnel, four base elements were organized under a provisional concept, including the 23rd Administration Company, Headquarters and Headquarters and Band Support Command; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 23rd Division Artillery; and the 23rd Military Police Company."

The release went on to say that on December 8, the 23rd Administration Company was among the units activated and concurrently inactivated were Company A, 8th Support Battalion (196th Brigade) and Company A, 9th Support Battalion (198th Brigade). Company A, 6th Support Battalion, 11th Infantry Brigade is not mentioned in this release.

The 258th Personnel Services Company (PSC) was deployed to Chu Lai from Fort Hood in June 1967 to provide support to Task Force Oregon. It remained in place to support the Americal Division. Upon the reorganization of the 196th and 198th Brigade personnel merged with those of the 258th PSC. I was assigned as the Chief of a new Personnel Services Division (PSD) and Captain Ned Shivar who was commander of the 258th PSC, became the deputy chief. Upon the merger the PSD had 11 officers and 200 enlisted men.

In a letter dated January 11, 1968 I wrote "We have another Brigade now – the 11th from Hawaii, and their AG

section was integrated into the Americal Division headquarters. So now I have 11 officers and 220 men in my PSD, quite a huge operation."

The 23rd Administration Company was formed with the joint assets of the three former separate brigades.

That letter is in my book "We Wrote Letters Then" – letters sent and received from 1967 – 1968. 2015 Lulu Publishing

Bill Walker. Wwalker7395@yahoo.com

Historian Comments: A request has been made to obtain a history for the 6th Support Battalion from the National Archives. At this point a short history of the unit for 1967 has been ordered and expected to arrive sometime in 2023. I hope to incorporate this document into this compilation when it arrives. The first request was specific to certain dates and actions that might be of interest to the 6th Support Battalion Veterans. Since nothing was found in the archives from this search, a second request was made to identify anything at all for the unit's service in Vietnam from December 1967-February 1969.

This was the response from the latest request processed by the National Archives (5/1/2023):

We reviewed the box for the 6th Support Battalion (Box 14) in RG 472. The only additional file found was fifteen pages of Lessons Learned for February - April 1968. A quote is attached for these.

In 1987 and 1988 the Department of the Army transferred to the National Archives the bulk of its Vietnam-era records, particularly records of Army units and headquarters operating in Southeast Asia. The National Archives allocated most of these records to the Records of the United States Forces in Southeast Asia, 1950-1975 (Record Group 472) although some series of Vietnam-era records were allocated to other record groups, including several series of the Vietnam War Crimes Working Group, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, which were assigned to Records of the Army Staff (Record Group 319). These particular series were arranged, boxed, and foldered in 1989 (box labels read "HM-1989"), the period when most of the Army Vietnam records were processed. As the records were processed and reviewed for declassification, the National Archives made them available for public access over the course of the 1990s.

Three record groups were searched for your request:

(1) Records of U.S. Forces in Southeast Asia (RG 472)
(2) Records of U.S. Army, Pacific (RG 550)
(3) Records of the Army Staff (RG 319)

No additional records for the unit documenting your period of interest (December 1967 - February 1969) were found.

The records in our custody do not represent the entire body of records created by the Army during the Vietnam War. **They only reflect what the Army transferred to our custody.** There are many gaps in the records. Some units have numerous files, while other units have little or no records.

Sincerely,
Lyman Reid Textual Reference Archives II Branch (RR2RR)
National Archives at College Park, MD

RR2RR 23-38638

Note: This is the transcription of the B Company 6th Support Battalion Operation Report and Lessons Learned for the quarter ending April 1968. This document was found at the National Archives in Suitland, MD. The location of this documented at the "Archives" is:

RG 472 USARV
A1 1668 6th Spt Bn (Lessons Learned Feb-Apr 68) tabbed Box 14
Location: 270/36/1/7

In transcribing the document several minor typos were corrected. A copy of the original document was made which retains typos and is available from the Americal Division Veteran's Association Vietnam era historian in digital format (legal size paper image).

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COMPANY B, 6TH SUPPORT BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY BATTALION
AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96217

XISB-B
27 April 1968

SUBJECT: Historical Activities

Commanding Officer
6th Support Battalion
11th Light Infantry Brigade
Americal Division
APO SF 96217

1. In compliance with 11th LIB Regulation 870-2, dated 14 April 1968, the enclosed summary of Historical Activities is submitted.

2. Many of the Lessons Learned of minor or inconsequential in nature by themselves have been deleted, although coupled with others have netted considerable benefits and progress

(Signature of James H. Griffin)
JAMES H GRIFFIN
CPT, ORD
Commanding

1 Incl
as

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
BN MAINT SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68
LESSONS LEARNED

1. Normal scheduled and seasonal scheduled maintenance has been carried on with this section throughout the past quarter. During above period a large number of vehicles have incurred damage to beds and tailgates while being loaded by Rough Terrain Forklifts both at depot locations and within the organizational storage locations.

SOLUTION OR RECOMMENDATION: A qualified welder (MOS 44C20) would be of considerable benefit to the TO&E of this section. Since most of the damages were of comparatively minor in nature and should an individual of this MOS be assigned vehicles would not be required to be turned into the support facility for repair.

2. A continual shortage of hot patches and inner tubes has been experienced throughout this period of reporting for all vehicles.

SOLUTION OR RECOMMENDATION: Controlled utilization of tires and inner tubes from salvaged vehicles may be a partial answer in order to alleviate the above shortage.

3. Numerous vehicle records were either completely lost or misplaced for excessive periods throughout this initial quarter in country. The major fault was due to arelessness or indifference reflected by the operator.

SOLUTION OR RECOMMENDATION: To preclude the above situation DA Form 2408-1 was implemented and presently utilized to dispatch and control battalion vehicles.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
CLASS I STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED

Class I operations has sustained a great deal of practical experience throughout this reporting period with the present troop support of approximately 5800 per day for all food and Sundry Packs.

The heavy mission which this section carries necessitates consistent back up support for fast moving items such as bread, milk and ice. Some difficulty in obtaining ice on a daily basis has periodically been encountered and still exists. Class coordination between the BSO and the Qui Nhon Support Command has alleviated some of the more acute problems and from progressive experience the Class I area is continuing to improve through modifications and closer coordination between the supporting FSA and Company B (M&S).

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
CLASS II&IV STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED

The Class II and IV Section of TO&E 29-247T is presently not authorized a Rough Terrain Forklift of any type. Quite often this section is required to load, offload, move and transport supply items from vehicles or airhead support facilities. Instances have arose within this reporting period necessitating this section to offload as much as 325 cargotons in a single afternoon. At present there is an estimated 5000 tons within the Class I & IV yard of this brigade. Many factors have come about indicating the need for fast and efficient handling of a bulk of Class II & IV supplies using as few as five to seven trained personnel to accomplish the mission.

RECOMMENDATION OR SOLUTION: 1 each 6000 pound Rough Terrain Forklift and 1 each 10000 pound Rough Terrain Forklift be authorized within the Class II and IV yard. To alleviate acute need for rough terrain support within this section the necessary support has been taken from Class I, Class II and Technical Supply Sections. Often, however, the mission within these sections was hindered due to the loss of this equipment for the duration required within Class II & IV. The heavy lift needs within all units of the brigade impose a constant demand for the forklift support. Often the maintenance and supply is hampered or put off in some areas to render this assistance. Class II & IV, by being authorized these two additional lifts, could fulfill this support gap.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
CLASS III STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED

Operations of this section have been broadened considerably within this reporting period to include the separate types of refueling methods. This section assumed the mission of providing small fixed wing aircraft with fuel at LZ Bronco. This added mission necessitated training of personnel to handle MOGAS as well as refueling instruction on the various types of aircraft supported. A second mission gained through a recent operation was support and refuel helicopters in a mobile situation with the augmentation of a 5000 gallon tanker the section became adept at refueling up to four UH1 helicopters simultaneously.

SOLUTIONS OR PROBLEMS: Training and experience gained in this section throughout this reporting period has been extremely fruitful in putting to test new methods and ideas. The necessity for this section to have a minimum of one 5000 gallon tanker in addition to the equipment now authorized has been acutely prevalent in day to day operations while supporting this brigade.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
SHOP OFFICE
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED

During the month of February the maintenance element of this unit, while providing maintenance support to units of the 11th LIB, found it necessary to contribute many man-hours of time and labor toward the improvement of work areas in the various shops. Some of these improvements consisted of construction of foundations and structures to provide the best work areas, redevelopment and landscaping of the entire work area, and the process of arranging the various shops in a manner which would be more conveniently available to the customer. All of these efforts were made to provide the customer with the fastest and most efficient program of maintenance support possible.

By formulating and thoroughly discussing these plans well in advance of the movement into the new location, the time consuming problems of relocation and rearrangement of the work shops were eliminated, thereby enabling the different sections to apply more time and effort toward providing better customer support. These shops were initially set up in the most expedient manner possible to eliminate the necessity of temporarily closing the shop. Improvements were made in these areas as quickly as time and the work load would permit. To reach the standards now maintained and those standards desired is a never ending task of constant improvement to be accomplished by all personnel within the support activity. These efforts are well rewarded when complete customer satisfaction is attained.

RECOMMENDATIONS OR SOLUTIONS: Some of the problems encountered and noticed within the Shop Office are:

1. The inability to foresee and prepare for the need for support of some non-standard equipment, thereby creating a shortage of appropriate publications, and in some cases, the tools necessary for the repair of this equipment.

2. Lack of complete information, prior to the deployment of the unit, in some of the problem areas of obtaining parts. Prior knowledge would possibly have enabled the deployment of this unit with a
fair stockage of these hard-to-get parts. In comparison with other support units within this area, this unit was deployed well prepared for whatever problem areas could have been foreseeably expected.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
ELECTRONICS SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED
DUST AND HEAT

Our main problem is dust and heat. Some of our test equipment such as the AN/USM-26 frequency meter, will not function properly because of the dust and heat. As a partial solution we sandbagged the maintenance shelters. Although this does not eliminate the problem, it does lower the temperature about 10 degrees in the shelters.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
ELECTRONICS SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68
BACKLOG RELIEVED
LESSONS LEARNED

A large backlog was built up during December and January. This backlog was cleared up primarily due to the results of liaison visits to electronics shops in other brigades within the Division and supporting units. These visits helped to establish close cooperation between shops and resulted in an exchange of technical information that has been invaluable.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
MECH MAINT SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED
REFRIGERATOR UNITS

The Brigade has several refrigeration and air-conditioning units but we are not authorized a refrigeration repairman. Rather than continue evacuating all refrigeration units which are brought to us for repair, a cross training program was started with another unit which did have refrigeration repair capabilities. As a result, fewer jobs are evacuated and less time is required to get the refrigeration units back in operation.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
SERVICE & EVAC SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED
WRECKER MISSION

Many wrecker missions have been given to us which were unnecessary. For instance, a wrecker is not needed to pull a jeep out of a muddy area. To prevent the misuse of this valuable piece of equipment, we now require any unit requesting wrecker assistance to give a complete description of the situation. This has prevented the misuse of our wreckers and kept them available for more critical missions.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
SERVICE & EVAC SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED
METAL BODY WORK

Our body work, which includes glass and radiator repair, has been a booming business here in Vietnam. There is too much work for the one metal body repairman which the TO&E authorizes. Personnel in other slots have been cross-trained in glass work and radiator repair. By doing this, we have cut down our backlog considerably.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
SERVICE & EVAC SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED
WATER TRAILERS

Many water trailers have been job ordered for the repair of mounting bolts which have stripped threads. The reoccurrence of this has been presented to a large extent by re-tapping the bolt hole to the next larger size (5/8”to 3/4”) and rethreading it with a course thread rather than the fine thread which was originally used.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
TECH SUPPLY SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED

The activities of the Tech Supply Section have been routine over the past quarter. We have learned that supply actions are slow and priorities must be high to obtain any supply action what so ever. Due to transportation difficulties all requisitions to must be posted early to allow for elapsed time from the initiation of the requisition to its actual submission.

Our repair parts problems are mostly items with a high usage factor and in critical supply, or items where we have had no usage factor to establish stockage quantities accurately. Requisition objectives are adjusted as we become aware of change in usage in certain items.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN

LESSONS LEARNED

GENERAL

One area which should be closely looked into is the need which TO&E 29-247T has for a transport capability. Presently no provisions are in effect for the Light Infantry Brigade to organically support forward supply elements or organic units with an internal transport capability.

A constant requirement exists for vehicles to convoy Class II & IV supplies, transport Class III POL supplies and package products, relocate or establish F.S.E. facilities for major operations including resupply of Class V, move a complete combat element of a battalion, back-haul retrograde, support other units of the division in transportation or provide for unforeseen vehicle needs, such as reaction forces or other brigade requirements.

SOLUTION AND RECOMMENDATION: A 22 vehicle Transportation Platoon has been set up within the 6th Spt Bn utilizing organic vehicles of the various sections within the Maintenance & Supply Company. Drivers were created by taking them away from all sections, thereby stripping the company to a bare minimum of personnel. Should five Stake & Platform trailers w/5 ton trucks with trailers be authorized with drivers and a transportation Sgt, the largest single problem existing with this company would be resolved. The physical practicality of detaching a divisional platoon is not sound because operational and physical control would fall with the Maint & Supply Company Commander, thereby leaving such a unit isolated due to the distance involved.

COMPANY B (M&S), 6TH SPT BN
CLASS V SECTION
1 FEB 68 – 30 APR 68

LESSONS LEARNED

Experimental Class V items have been allocated to the brigade on three different occasions in the last reporting period. Only once has this allocation been fulfilled through the Americal Division.

SOLUTION OR RECOMMENDATION: When USARV makes distribution, the brigade allocation be shipped to Chu Lai and trans-shipment be arranged and coordinated between the Division Ammunition Officer and the Brigade Ammunition Officer.

Specific items of Class V utilized by the Engineer elements within this brigade, i.e. 22 cartridge for power actuated tool, have been on requisition since December 1967. No status has been received although follow up action has been initiated on a reoccurring basis by Brigade Ammo Personnel.

SOLUTION OR RECOMMENDATION: Americal investigate and notify this brigade the supply and shipping status of this type items when demands occur since they are mission essential.

lname	fname	mname	rank	pp	grade	mos	incident	casdate	event	utm	bn
MOORE	KENNETH	DEE	SP4		E4	65A10	03/20/1968	20-Mar-68	BOOBY TRAP IN **6TH SPT BN AREA,** 3 KM SE OF DUC PHO 19680320	BS841363	6TH S
NEWBERRY	LARRY	GENE	CPL	+	E3	91A10	09/30/1968	30-Sep-68	B/T 105MM ROUND ON PATROL 5 KM EAST OF MO DUC AFLD 19680930	BS783534	6TH S

Two KIAs were recorded for the **6th Support Battalion**. They are listed above.

The locations of these incidents can be marked on a map using the grid coordinates provided above.

Kenneth Moore: Division TOC report entry #51 20 Mar 68: 1752H 11th, 6th SPT, vic BS841363 at 1630H men had gone to test fire weapons. Area was booby trapped with either 81mm mortar round or 105mm round. Command detonated. Result: 2 US KHA, 1 WHA requiring medical evacuation. Wires found to substantiate command detonation.

Larry Newberry: Division TOC report 30 Sep 68: Entry #26. 11th Bde A/3/1st BS783533 at 0805H. Command and control helicopter spotted VC evading, A Co moved in engaged VC. 1 US tripped 105mm boobytrap, result 1 US KHA, 4 U.S. wounded requiring medevac.