SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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Ole St. Nick In Siberia

Christmas at LZ Siberia, a lonely outpost of the divisions' 196th Bde., was brightened by the visit of Santa Claus, and Patches Musgrove, correspondent for the Jacksonville (Fla) Tribune. The visit was part of a hopping hadj to each firebase in the division AO.

(Photo By PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)

Joint Operation Is Success

FSB LIZ — The integration of American and ARVN forces seems to be past the experiment stage in the division. Recently Co. C, 1-20th, 11th Bde, and the 2d Company, 3d Bn., 4th ARVN Regt. worked together in smoothly conducted operations six miles northwest of Duc Pho that demonstrated the effectiveness and compatibility of joint allied forces.

The Americans and ARVN's interchanged their elements to produce an approximately 50-50 breakdown of forces. They conducted a sweep through the 515 Valley, destroying the enemy fortifications, eliminating enemy supply sources, and removing possible centers of enemy operations there. The two forces set up ambushes together, conducted patrols, and pulled guard together.

Tactically, the allied operations worked out well with each outfit respecting the methods and techniques of the other. Commo was no real problem as hand and radio signals proved to be effective as well as words and phrases common to each nationality.

The operations also turned out to be a profitable teaching exercise. The ARVNs demonstrated to the Americans the field expedient method of cooking pigs and chicken, and how to live off what food sources were available.

"We've learned to respect these people. They do some things differently than we do, but you wouldn't think of arguing with an ARVN Lieutenant who has been fighting this war all his life," related CPT James J. Donovan (South Orange, N.J.).

"Mostly we've learned about the Vietnamese themselves. They're an aggressive, well-trained, and disciplined group, and we're happy to be working with them," he added.

Operationally, the integrated team was much more effective force than either working unit alone. The Americans brought to the operation the necessary artillery and air support as well as a systematic resupply. The Vietnamese proved invaluable on PSYOPS missions, being able to accurately and fully explain the purpose of the pacification missions and exactly what is expected of them in the area.

The ARVNs also supplied their keen sense of detecting the enemy and their ability to ferret out VC and VCS from the civilian population.

SSG Nguyen Hoa, acting as interpreter for both forces, offered an illuminating comment on the joint operation: "We're doing everything together here and it's good to see how well everyone gets along. And everyone is learning."

Starting Third

11th Bde. Celebrates Second Year In Nam

FSB BRONCO — Two years ago this month, the 11th Infantry Brigade arrived in Vietnam, fufilling its mission as the U.S. Army Pacific Reserve, "To move by sea or air and fight anywhere, anytime."

The landing coincided with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the 11th Bde. at Camp Forrest, Ga. in December, 1917. The brigade colors were first unfurled in battle in the Alsace and Meuse-Argonne campaigns of 1918. In 1938 the unit was de-activated and remained so for 28 years. In 1966 the 11th Bde. was again activated at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

As the Hawaii-based unit disembarked from the USNS General Gordon at Qui Nhon on December 19, 1967, "Hanoi Hannah" welcomed the brigade to I Corps. The North Vietnamese propagandist predicted that the "Jungle Warriors" would be destroyed as they moved by convoy to a basecamp near Duc Pho. A few mis-aimed sniper rounds were the only results of the prophecy.

The "Jungle Warriors" then commanded by BG Andy Lipscomb, joined the division and were assigned the responsibility for the Duc Pho — Mo Duc area of operations in Quang Ngai Province. In January 1968, the 198th Bde. and the 3rd Bde., 4th Inf. Division who had been conducting Operation Muscatine in this area were redeployed.

The brigade soon discovered that it inherited one of the most geographically diverse and tactically difficult areas of the country. Contact flared in the damp, sandy coastal lowlands as well as in the rugged mountains and thick jungle to the west. The enemy was well-established, for the province had been a traditional Communist stronghold for years. The enemy traveled in both small terror-squads as well as well-equipped NVA regiments.

Operations such as "Norfolk Victory" and "Champagne Grove" soon succeeded in blocking the enemy infiltration and supply routes, destroying basecamps and generally denying the enemy the foothold he previously had.

The largest and most successful of these early operations "Vernon Lake II" began in November of 1968 and was concluded in February of the following year. Conducted in a region of massive VC/NVA resistance and consolidation activities, Vernon Lake II resulted in 456 enemy dead, large quantities of ordnance captured, and 81 enemy basecamps, including two regimental-sized, destroyed.

When the tactical situation permits, the accent is on pacification. Tu My Village, five miles west of Quang Ngai City, was recently established by the brigade's 3-1st to accommodate displaced persons. Nearly 5,000 displaced Vietnamese and Montagnards have found a home there. Last month, the 1-20th rescued 127 villagers from a flooded hamlet, feeding and guiding them until the floodwaters receded.

In both combat and pacification efforts, it has been two years in which the 11th Bde. has earned the title "Jungle Warriors." As COL Hugh F.T. Hoffman Jr., commanding officer of the brigade noted: "Today, two years after the landing at Qui Nhon, the 11th Bde. through countless acts of unselfish heroism, has made the southern tip of I Corps a relatively secure area."

NVA Dropped In Their Tracks

FSB SAN JUAN HILL — Nine members of the division's 11th Bde recently caught three NVA by surprise in a stay-behind ambush five miles northwest of Duc Pho.

The men had deployed themselves in the thickets surrounding the NDP and bided their time. The stage was set.

Soon five NVA slipped inside the perimeter, their eyes scanning over dike and hedgerows for the slightest pretext of a fight. But they were satisfied. PFC Alton Carr (Jackson, Miss.) was patiently hiding in his lair when he was startled by the voices of the enemy not ten meters away. He looked across at his buddy and both in agreement, went into action. They opened up. The five NVA separated into two groups and made a dash for their lives down the hill.

It was then PFC Ron Owan (Waliko, Hawaii) and PFC James Smith (Long Beach, Calif.) took off in pursuit of one group. On the run, they fired and succeeded in dropping one NVA. Three others left their sandals in the wake of their panic. The chatter of the division infantrymen M-16s brought down two more bringing the total to three NVA killed (11th IO)

Your Personal Investments

May a soldier invest in the stock market?

Or participate in fund-raising campaigns of non-profit welfare organizations?

May a soldier write a letter to his Congressman?

The answer to these questions is "Yes", but a resounding "No" may be the response to the other questions regarding a soldiers' official duties and his private interests.

Army Regulation 600-50, Standards of Conduct for Department of the Army personnel, establishes the basic policy regarding confict of interest.

For the great majority of servicemen, there are no restrictions concerning how they spend their money. They may invest in stocks or bonds as any other citizen. However, when any of these activities relate to their obligations to the government certain limitations are prescribed.

The underlying principle is the prohibition of any conduct or financial interest which would place the serviceman's interest in conflict with those of the United States, particularly those related to their duties and responsibilities as servicemen. Even though a technical conflict described in law and regulations may not exist, servicemen must avoid even the appearance of such conduct which might reduce public confidence in its military personnel.

All servicemen and government employees must consider whether their duties may conflict with any private financial interests. Post commanders, senior staff officers, claims officers and contracting officers are obvious examples of persons who might benefit from their decisions in favor of a company in which they have investments. Not so obvious, however, is the example of the sergeant in a post contracting office responsible for maintaining records of transactions, negotiations, and whose wife owns a small firm which supplies that post. The sergeant is in a postion to tell his wife the prices of her competitors, allowing her to submit the lowest proposal and thereby profit from his position. Another example is the steward of an Officers open mess who owns or orders supplies from his company and has the opportunity to influence the return on his investment.

In these examples, the opportunity exists to use a government position of trust for private gain. The appearance of conflict of interest is present and should be avoided.

Anyone who believes there may be a conflict of interest between his investments or business interests and his duty to the government should bring the matter to the attention of his supervisor or commander. The commander, in arriving at his decision, will seek advice from the staff judge advocate.

These rules are simply a restatement of the old saying that one cannot serve two masters. One or the other is going to suffer. It is unusual case when one does not know he is in a compromising position. It is this situation to give their entire allegiance to the United States of America. When the serviceman's interests conflict with those of the government, government's interests must be first.

Although every unit commander is required to inform his troops about standards of conduct when they enter active duty and at east semi-annually thereafter, soldiers may need advice more frequently on an individual basis concerning related matters. The commanding officer, with guidance from the ARs and SJA can provide that assistance. (Command Fact Sheet)

VIETNAM-STYLE

The Preamble

The preamble to a constitution expresses the realizations and desires of a country. It binds in finest rhetoric the people to the government, and government to the people. Its purpose is to introduce the following chapters and articles of the constitution; to give their technicalities a direction, and meaning. Without it, the framework that is the constitution and its scores upon scores of words is just as it appears, nothing but a framework. Here in a blend of western and Eastern goals, is the preamble to the Vietnamese constitution:

Preamble

"Confident that the patriotism, indomitable will, and unyielding traditions of the people will assure a radiant future for our country.

"Conscious that after many years of foreign domination followed by the division of our territory, dictatorship and war, the people of Vietnam must take responsibility before history to perpetuate those hardy traditions and at the same time welcome progressive ideas in order to establish a republican from of government of the people, by the people and for the people whose purpose is to unite the nation, unite the territory, and assure independence, freedom and democracy with justice and altruism for the present and future generations.

"We, 117 Deputies of the National Constituent Assembly representing the people of Vietnam after debate, approve this constitution."

KNOW WHAT?

RED CROSS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Emergency Leaves. Whenever it is necessary for a serviceman to return home because of serious illness, death, or other emergencies in his immediate family, financial assistance is made available. The amount provided is that necessary to supplement the serviceman's funds in providing round trip fare by appropriate means of transportation and subsistence while on leave, if needed. Assistance is usually given in the form of a loan (always without interest), on which repayment is made by salary allotments in accordance with the serviceman's ability to repay. If repayment would result in undue hardship, a grant is made instead of a loan. Sometimes a combination grant and loan is made.

Your Red Cross field director can give other assistance, too. He can help when you need counseling on personal and family problems, emergency communications and reporting service, health and welfare reports, or other services.

BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

WHERE YOU BANK OR WORK

Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PFC Larry Banish, 196th Bde; SP4 Thomas O. Brown, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP5 Carlos E. Cancel, 198 Bde; PFC John S. Driggers, 11th Bde; LTC Robert Fernandez, 11th Bde; PFC Glyn E. Haynie, 11th Bde; MAJ Wilbur C. Hogan III, 26th Engr Bn; SP4 James S. Upton, 198th Bde; PFC Andy J. Urquidez, 198th Bde.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

WO1 James L. Ackels, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPT James J. Adams, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CW2 Richard C. Cichowski (2nd OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Byron H. Disney, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 John E. Elliot, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 James W. Evanson, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Jerry M. Hart, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; 1LT Gary E. Hickman, 123rd Avn Bn; WO1 Steven E. Hill, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Eric S. Kilmer, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Marion T. Knoles, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPT Russell Lay, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Frederick T. Morreall, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; 2LT John I. O'Sullivan (3rd OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; MAJ Wilford A. Phelps, 11th Bde; WO1 Arthur K. Sheppard, 123rd Avn Bn; CPT Theodore J. Shuisen, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CW2 Francis M. Tolle Jr, 14th Cbt Avn Bn.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

MAJ George E. Batcheler, 11th Bde; PFC Donald E. Biesecker, 11th Bde.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

SP4 George W. Anthony, 11th Bde; SSG George Beach (2nd OLC), Co G (Ranger), 75th Inf; PFC Robert P. Bleier, 196th Bde; PFC Charles R. Boruff, 196th Bde; SGT Steven R. Castile, Co G (Ranger), 75th Inf; 1LT Robert N. Chestnut, 1st Cav; SP4 John C. Elcock, 198th Bde; SP4 Juan F. Flores, 196th Bde; SP4 James J. Goodson II, Co G (Ranger), 75th Inf; 1LT William S. Haynes Jr, 11th Arty; SP4 David G. Heiner (1st OLC), 11th Bde; CPT Darrell T. Henderson, 123rd Avn Bn; 2LT Kenneth L. Kemmish, 196th Bde; CPL Robert P. Mack, 11th Bde; PFC Roger D. Quinn, 11th Bde; SP4 David W. Samolinski, 26th Engr Bn; MAJ Richard F. Smith, 196th Bde; 1LT Albert J. Weller (1st OLC), 82nd Arty; CPT John M. Wicke, 196th Bde; SSG James A. Wilson Jr (2nd OLC), 196th Bde.

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PFC Rolland A. Beglau, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP5 Ernest C. Coffia (3rd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Douglas A. Doers (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; 1LT Mark E. Fisher (3rd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Gerald W. Forbes (27th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; 1LT Thomas H. Gates (3rd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPT David Grieger (30th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Lee A. Hyden (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; PFC Richard M. Learned, 123rd Avn Bn; CPT James G. Mikesell, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; PFC Vincent Milotta Jr, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Michael Pickles (3rd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; PFC Vernon S. Roach (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPT Jerry L. Simpson (2nd Awd), 11th Arty; SP4 Richard S. Turja (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP4 Henry C. Van Horn Jr, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP5 Lawrence E. Whalen (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PFC Thomas R. Casteel, 196th Bde; SP4 Thomas J. Gatie, 196th Bde; SGT Robert D. Heavel, 123rd Avn Bn; 1LT Darrell T. Henderson, 123rd Avn Bn; PFC Gerald J. Hort, 198th Bde; PFC Billy D. Northcott, 11th Bde; SGT Donald R. Rahm, 55th Arty; 1LT Billy R. Robbins, 635th MID; SP5 John P. Siciliano Jr (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SGT Bruce W. Wilson, Co G (Ranger), 75th Inf.

Shots: The Ticket Home

There are many arguments that could be advanced about why you should keep your shot record up to date. The most important one to most guys is that you can't get on a Freedom Bird to go any place without having all your shots up to date.

But there are other equally good reasons why the smart soldier keeps up with his shots according to 44th Brigade physicians. The first is that the chief means of staying healthy in Vietnam is by practicing personal preventive medicine. Sure, shots won't make you bulletproof, but remember that diseases account for more than half of all hospital admissions here in Vietnam. So it's only logical that if you avoid getting sick during your tour here, you stand the best chance of staying out of the hospital.

What are the requirements for immunizations? To begin with all U.S. military personnel must receive the following immunizations at the indicated intervals. Plague and cholera every six months; smallpox annually; typhoid and typhus every three years and yellow fever every ten years. Gamma Globulin is not a requirement but may be given as a preventive measure against hepatitis in accordance with local regulations.

So when going on R&R, TDY or making that long-awaited return to the world, all service members should check through their local dispensaries at least a week prior to departure to make certain their shots are up to date. And the really smart troop stays on top of the situation all of the time. (44th MED BDE IO)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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AS THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS an ARVN artilleryman prepares to track the weather balloon with his theodolite. Working with the division the ARVN's have recently completed the first course in Artillery Ballistic Meteorology provided by division 'Metro' teams. (Photo By SSG James R. Sweet, Div. Arty IO)

Metro Mentors

ARVNs Learn Meteorology From American Counterparts

By SP5 A.C. Barnett

ARTILLERY HILL — Releasing air filled weather balloons and tracking their flights with a theodolite and compiling the data with slide rules, charts and graphs, is the job of five ARVN artillerymen who form a new and elite element in the 2d ARVN Div. Artillery.

Artillery ballistic meteorology or "metro", is vital to artillery the world over. The changing temperatures, densities and wind velocities in the atmosphere can effect a projectile enough to not only cause it to miss the target but possibly impact near 'friendly forces'.

Metro data has been provided for the ARVN artillery by their division counterparts. With the long range concept of having the ARVN artillery completely independent, a course in basic 'metro' was implemented at the 3d Bn., 18th Artillery at Artillery Hill near Chu Lai.

Having taken into consideration the complexity of both the equipment and computations, the first class was scheduled to last eight weeks. The major problem was expected to be the language barrier as few interpreters have had the opportunity to study the precise scientific terms unique to this field.

"At first it appeared that the ability to communicate exact meanings was a very serious problem," said SSG James R. Sweet (Pittsburgh, Pa.) "but the one officer in the class 2LT Dinh Van Thu, proved to be an exceptional interpreter and the overall willingness of the men dispelled any misgivings we first experienced."

In just 18 days the men had successfully mastered the intricacies of the course.

"For the first week it was all hard work," said CWO Hally P. Wood, (Wichita Falls, Tex.) the officer in charge of the training, "but then we discovered one of the students, SGT Vo Van Gia could play a guitar and when we took a break we all relaxed to both American and Vietnamese songs. It became very rewarding personal experience for everyone, as well as an academic accomplishment."

Presented with a diploma stating their achievement by LTC William F. Stifford Jr., (El Dorado, Kan.) CO of the 3-18th Arty., the new 'grads', departed for Quang Ngai where they will set up their own "metro" unit, adding a new capability to an already impressive repertoire. The ARVN Artillery is rapidly becoming one of the most modern and effective in the world. (Div. Arty. IO)

Refugees Given Aid

THUAN AN—"They come down out of the hills owning no more than what is on their backs," explained 1LT Spencer M. Baba (Bethesda, Md.). "They have no land and live mostly by odd jobs."

The peasant refugees come to the refugee center at Tam Ky seeking help which is provided by a joint military-civilian pacification effort. Here several American college students, including a group belonging to the United World Missions, and the infantrymen of the 2-1st Infantry work together to better the lot of the Vietnamese refugee.

"Over 50 refugees are making cups, mugs, and water pipes," claims Dennis Metzer (North Manchester, Ind.), a former American college student, who now teaches bamboo handicraft to the refugees.

There are sewing classes to teach the people to make clothes for themselves and other refugees along with a school, a mission and an orphanage.

Not all the refugees are adults. The orphanage shelters and feeds the homeless children. Some of these children are finding out for the first time what it means to be free from hunger, and they are quick to show their enthusiasm.

"We turn down the side road," says PFC Lester Joubert (New Orleans, La.) from the Civil Affairs section of 2-1st Inf., "and by the time we get to the orphanage, there are 100 kids around us."

One of the recent activities at the orphanage was a Christmas party for the children. D Co., 2-1st brought the toys; the orphanage staff provided the tree, and everyone joined in the Christmas spirit.

Reverend Dang-Ngoc Cang, Superintendent of Mission Activities explained that the idea behind the center is to help the refugees become self-sufficient.

"It's the only way," 1LT Baba said. "We are not going to be here forever." (196th IO)

As The Band Played On...

QUANG NGAI—The Second Republic of Vietnam Army Division Band played host to the Americal Div. Band here honoring the patron Saint of Music, Sister Cecilia.

After an awards ceremony, both the Vietnamese and Division bandsmen entertained the many guests among which were BG Nguyen Van Toan, 2nd ARVN Div commander and COL K.B. Barlow, Division's Support Command commander.

The following Division bandsmen received awards from the ARVN. CWO Murat, Technical Medal, 1st Class; SP4 Hank V. Kindell (Tampa, Fla.), Technical Medal, 2nd Class; SGT Robert White (Chattanooga, Tenn.), commendation certificate, division level; SP4 Jerry Tyler (Atlanta, Ga.) and SP4 David Matlock (St. Petersburg, Fla.), recovered the commendation certificate Brigade level; SSG John Stauffer (Bakersfield, Calif.), and SSG John Arbaugh (Harrisburg, Pa.) commendation certificate, regiment level.

Colonel Barlow presented the 2nd ARVN Div bandmaster CWO Nguyen Van Giap with the Army Commendation Medal. (Spt. Cmd. IO)

Won Your Heart.....

Vietnamese children smile shyly at the division photographer in a village just outside Chu Lai.
(Photo By PFC Gerard Paulin 523rd Sig. Bn.)

A Gratitude Granted to Adopted Parents

BINH SON — U.S. and South Vietnamese religious and military officials gathered recently in this district headquarters 12 miles north of Quang Ngai for the formal dedication of Binh Son Orphanage. The dedication ceremony was a form of the orphanage's expression of thanks to its benefactors, which included soldiers of the division's 5-46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde.

A few months ago the 5-46th unofficially "adopted" the Catholic charitable institution, and its men have been voluntarily contributing portions of their monthly pay toward its support. The total contribution to date is around 150,000 piasters. In December the men made their largest contribution which added $400 to the total.

The orphanage is home to 60 children, and provides them an education of primary through high school. Another 20 children from four hamlets in the Binh Son area come to the orphanage daily to attend school. A new wing has been added to the institution, which gives additional space for living quarters and classrooms. Officials hope to add a second story to the new wing in the future.

Added to the academic courses of the school are homemaking classes for the girls and industrial arts subject for the boys.

But on the morning of the dedication there no classes were held. The children dressed neatly in their school clothes or bedecked in colorful costumes performed skits, songs and dances that were a colorful part of the dedication ceremonies.

After the youngsters' show, the local priest, a representative of the Bishop of Qui Nhon and assistant to the Quang Ngai Province Chief addressed the mixed U.S.-Vietnamese audience, which included a number of soldiers from the 5-46th. Sister Giseelle of the orphanage also spoke to the group, thanking the guests for their attendance, and saying, "Your presence is a source of great encouragement, not only for us — the faculty members—but most especially to the children."

Looking back, she recalled, "Three years ago our hope was to build an orphanage. Since our financial situation was not too bright, the prospect of realizing this. . .project, which entailed financial and spiritual sacrifices, seemed futile. The Department Of Social Action (GVN), believing in the sincerity of our desire to educate the less fortunate children in order that they become not only good children but (also) good citizens, permitted us to open our orphanage and gave us much support."

"In answer to our appeal, Reverend Father of Redemptorist, the Chief of Quang Ngai Province, the director of Social Action, the civilian. . .defense force, and many American frends joined in giving us the much needed support. . .To all our benefactors, on behalf of the faculty members, (and) the children of this orphanage . . . kindly allow . . . me to express our profound gratitude. Without your assistance this humble orphanage would not be standing as it is today."

Directing a remark to the U.S. soldiers present, she said, "we are very glad to see a service group working with tremendous success in helping the poor, the forgotten, and (the) needy of this war-torn country. May our lord be always with you and your families for opening your hearts to the destitute."

Citing a desire to enlarge the orphanage to care for more children, she concluded, "To all benefactors, I ask of you, kindly continue your humanitarian work. Thank you very much. God bless you."

A Day In The Field With 198th Inf.

Bde. Soldiers

Photos By PFC Gerard Paulin
523rd Signal Bn.

Allied Forces Cordon Enemy

ARVN Forces Bring Smoke On VC Battalion

LZ HAWK HILL — In bitter fighting near Barrier Island, 13 miles north of Tam Ky, ARVN soldiers severely crippled an estimated Viet Cong battalion. The 5th Regt., 2nd ARVN Div. killed 160 of the enemy and captured 133 prisoners.

The battle started when the ARVN unit, probing east toward the Truong Giang River, came into heavy contact with Viet Cong units. Though there were American forces in the area, the Vietnamese wanted to go after the enemy themselves.

"They felt it was their operation," said LTC Robert E. Walls (Washington, D.C.), senior advisor to the 5th ARVN Regt. "The Americans, therefore, assumed a supporting role."

During the early stages of the contact LTC Tham Tha Vinh, insured that his enemy would not escape. He positioned the 3rd Bn., 5th ARVN Regt. to the east as a blocking force. The regiment's Recon Co. guarded the south, while F Trp., 17th Cav., and A Co., 2-1st Inf. — both from the Americal Div. — blocked the northwest route of escape. Korean Marines blocked to the northeast.

Eventually mauled by air strikes and continual pressure from the allied forces, the enemy tried to withdraw. But by this time they were trapped.

LTC Vinh had been quietly massing his armor to the south, and now, with his antagonists battered and weary from two days of fighting, he unleashed 3rd Trp., 4th Armored Cav. Sqdn. upon the enemy.

Taken by surprise, the VC first wavered, then broke. Soon they were in headlong retreat; the bitterly fought contest had become a rout.

The ARVN soldiers pressed on. When the bewildered enemy found their retreat blocked by the Truong Giang River, they began to surrender in droves. Helicopters were brought in to evacuate the prisoners.

"They were so eager to give themselves up," said LTC Wallis, "that they fought to get on the choppers."

However, some still continued to resist and evade.

"At this point it was a matter of waiting the enemy out," said CPT Charles E. Wilhelm (Villa Rica, Ga.). "The ARVNs kept the enemy surrounded and sent in small patrols from day to day."

These patrols continued to harass the Viet Cong, and the toll of enemy killed and captured steadily rose. By the time the 5th Regt. left the area, the VC battalion was thoroughly decimated.

"People wonder how Vietnamization of the war is going," said COL James M. Lee (Wilmington, N.C.), commanding officer of the 196th Inf. Bde. "I think this operation speaks for itself." (196th IO)

Combat In Review

Monday Morning Blues

Odds Against VC Near Quang Ngai

LZ STINSON—For the VC operating near this 198th Bde. firebase it was 'one of those days' when nothing goes right. For the division infantrymen on an early morning patrol eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai City it was a day to be talked about and remembered.

The 1st platoon of A Co., 1-52nd Inf. ate a hurried breakfast, and started working their way down the hill heading east on what they hoped would be an uneventful patrol.

Their hopes were shattered when the sound of an AK-47 broke the silence.

"As soon as the sniper opened up, I moved to the other side of the trail and crouched low," said PFC John A. Potter (Oakfield, N.Y). "When he fired the second burst, I felt the impact of the round as it hit my bandolier setting off five rounds in one of my magazines."

Unharmed, except for a small scratch, Potter and the rest of the patrol swept through the area, set up a perimeter and sent out a small recon force. After traveling about 50 meters another sniper began firing and forced the squad-sized element to seek cover until the rest of the platoon could join them.

"I set my machinegun position on the trail", said PFC Tony L. Roba (Selby, S.D.). "When I started to leave, somebody yelled at me. I turned and noticed a big plume of smoke puffing out of the ground."

Roba didn't realize it right away but he had just stepped on a "bouncing betty" mine that hadn't jumped out of the ground like it was supposed to.

After silencing the second sniper the patrol moved out and about 15 minutes later began taking sniper rounds from the rear. The platoon medic, SP4 Richard Zartman (Springfield, Ohio) spun around to see where the fire was coming from when one of the snipers rounds ripped into his bandolier setting it afire. Zartman ripped the bandolier off and hit the ground.

With the whole patrol a bit shaken but unhurt, they completed their mission and returned to the firebase to look back on "one of the days". (198th IO)

Vill Greets Cav. 'Doc's'

CHU LAI — After a week and a half of village sweeps, it's good to get a change of pace and move through a quiet village.

In a ten day period, the Aerorifle platoon of D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. had been inserted into three VC villages where they destroyed 400 pounds of rice, captured numerous documents, a .45 caliber pistol, twelve detainees, and killed eighteen of the enemy.

On this particular day, however, the Americal soldiers got a different reception when they were inserted. Instead of being shot at, they were mobbed by the village children. The infantrymen made a thorough search of the village, but instead of turning up any enemy documents or equipment, they found people in need of medical attention.

SP4 David A. Leschien (Ambridge, Penn.), the platoon medic, was probably the busiest man in the platoon as he administered first aid and medication to those in need.

Just before leaving, the soldiers found a young boy who was seriously ill. The command and control helicopter was called in and the young boy and his father were extracted to a U.S. medical facility. (1 - 1st Cav. IO)

Safety Record

CHU LAI—The 132d Assault Support Helicopter Company recently flew its 16,500th Hour of accident free combat flying time, in support of the Americal Division. This constitutes 18 months of operation in Vietnam.

The 132d has received USARV 5,000 Hour Award and has space available for the 10,000 and 15,000 Hour Awards when they arrive. The 132d was also awarded the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion Safety Award for the month of October.

The Unit Safety Officer, CW3 Robert V. Dobbs (Donthan, Ala.), is justifiably proud of the unit's outstanding performance in comparison with USARV's overall statistics and the large effort shown by Hercules personnel to keep their ships flying safely. (132d IO)

Careful Aim

An infantryman of the Division's 196th Bde. returns fire on an enemy sniper during a search and clear operation 15 miles northwest of Chu Lai. The soldier is a member of C Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. (U.S. Army Photo)

Arty. Teams With 1-46 Inf.

'Airborne' Howitzers Hit NVA

LZ HAWK HILL—Guns from two artillery batteries were airlifted to a 300 meter hill in the heart of New Hau Duc Valley, 13 miles south of Tien Phuoc, to provide assistance to U.S. soldiers of the 196th Bde., Popular Forces (PF), and ARVN forces in their mission of suppressing the enemy in the area.

The major purpose of the seven day operation was to find the location of certain strongholds held by the 3rd Regt., 2nd NVA Div. It was also believed that the enemy had caches of rice and ammunition stored in secret bunkers.

LOWERING ONE OF the 155mm howitzers to a hilltop in New Hau Duc Valley is a CH-54 Sky Crane. The move enabled B Btry., 3-16 Arty. to provide support for allied forces who were sweeping the area. (Photo by PFC Thomas A. Budarz, Divarty IO)

"There had been no U.S. troops in the area for over six months and we couldn't successfully complete the mission without assistance from the artillery," said LTC Peter Foss (Litchfield, Minn.), commanding officer of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf.

The needed artillery firepower was provided by airlifting three 105mm howitzers from A Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty. at Hawk Hill and two 155mm howitzers from B Btry., 3rd Bn., 16th Arty. at Tien Phuoc.

Twenty-four hours a day, artillerymen and infantrymen worked hand in hand. The infantry scoured the mountain and lowland terrain for suspected enemy hideouts, while the artillery pounded key target locations. For seven days the deafening sounds of the big guns echoed throughout the valley.

In one instance an element from the 1-46th Inf. engaged an unknown size force and blocked off the enemy in a mountain pass as they attempted to infiltrate the valley. Immediately the howitzers were called into action resulting in five NVA killed.

The completed operation was termed a success — thanks to both the precise coordination and teamwork of the artillery and infantry. (196th IO)

"Are you hot, delirious, red, dry, almost unconscious and on the verge of having convulsions? Well don't blame me, as these are really some of the recognizable symptoms of heat stroke—a most serious heat injury. The heat is one of the facts of life here in Vietnam, and it can be a heavy toll if you are not careful. So play it cool fellas and remember, the best way to keep yourself from becoming a heat stroke victim is to be sure you drink enough water, take extra salt, and don't snuggle up too close to me".

Welcomed With Open Arms

VC Soldier Learns 'Rallying'—Uptight

LZ HAWK HILL — Tran Ngoc Tyen is from a hamlet in the village of Binh Lanh. Until recently he had been a member of the Viet Cong.

While with the VC he had several times read leaflets dropped from the air by Americans, urging him and others to "rally" to the GVN. The leaflets asserted that the only legitimate government in South Vietnam was that of the GVN. They said that should he rally, he would be welcomed with open arms. He could look forward to a good job and a better way of life.

Of course, his leaders said that these were all lies. They insisted that all who rallied were tortured and eventually killed. Yet Tuyen wondered, for some of the leaflets had been signed by his former comrades.

Then Tuyen got a letter from a friend of his at Binh Lanh. The letter urged Tuyen to rally. The friend was a man that Tuyen trusted.

And so, on an overcast afternoon Tran Ngoc Tuyen rallied to the GVN.

Tuyen is one of the hundreds of former VC who have rallied in the area of operations of the 196th Inf. Bde.

VC working in the 196th Bde. AO have many reasons to rally. They are short on food, ammunition and medical supplies. Many are cut off from their families. Nearly all remember the resounding defeat at Heip Duc which their NVA comrades suffered in August.

The 196th Bde. PSYOPS worker helped them take the big steps.

"We focus on the positive aspects of rallying to the government," says CPT William H. Marty (Santa Cruz, Calif.), PSYOPS Officer for the 196th Bde. "We emphasize that the GVN is the only lawful government in South Vietnam, and that those who rally will have a better life ahead of them."

Two ways that PSYOPS workers communicate this message are by leaflets and broadcasts. The leaflets are periodically dropped from the air over suspected Viet Cong areas. The broadcasts are made from the brigades LOH. Nicknamed the "Early Word" LOH, this aircraft is equipped with a loudspeaker system.

"The message transmitted is nothing more than the truth," says CPT Marty. "However, because of VC propaganda PSYOPS workers must establish credibility. Pictures of the ralliers, or "Hoi Chanhs" as they are called, appear on the leaflets. Hoi Chanhs also make broadcasts."

"VC are much more likely to believe what is said," declares CPT Marty, "when it comes from one of their former members."

The system is working.

The day after he rallied Tuyen broadcasted a message to his hamlet. The next day another hamlet guerilla named Nguyen Vien came over to the GVN.

Knowledge Through Books

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey takes a look at one of the many books available for your reading pleasure at the air-conditioned division library. The facility, located at Chu Lai, is operated by Special Services.

Radar Beams Detect Enemy Infiltration

By SP4 Cres Vellucci

CHU LAI — Blades swirling and body swaying, a chopper briefly touches earth, deposits two men and quickly lifts off a remote mountain top in southern I Corps.

This isn't a ground assault by American troopers, but the importance attached to the mission of these two men may be of even greater scope.

The two "intrepid" troops are skilled radar technicians sent out by the 547th Signal Detachment to repair a vital component in a radar set that helps defend a large area from mortar and rocket attack.

The radar sites, located in strategic positions from DaNang to Sa Huynh, feature highly-sensitive and finely-tuned equipment with a unique purpose.

Fantastic as it may seem, these sites can locate an enemy rocket or mortar round in flight, plot its launching position and direct artillery against the enemy.

This is a far cry from the days of World War II, when just about the only way to detect an enemy's launching site was to cup your hand behind your ear and listen.

To perform its mission nowadays, the delicate equipment must be maintained in top condition. Here lies the mission of the 547th.

One of only a few radar repair contact teams to provide direct support in Vietnam, the unit works on Americal radar sites. The six man detachment is commanded by CWO Joseph H. Bernadino.

Remarking that his team runs the gamut, from climbing mountain tops to replacing delicate instruments, Bernadino noted, "just reaching some of the sites is a big job." He added that his men, who make some 20 "housecalls" monthly, "can reach certain sites only by chopper."

The 547th maintains its own shop supply and most necessary parts, but if an occasion arises where a vital component is in need, there isn't much of a wait.

Almost any needed item can easily be "red balled" through DaNang Support Command supply channels and, a short time later, be functioning in a radar set high atop a mountain.

The radar, which has a range of about 10,000 meters by nearly 500 meters, can almost guarantee that no rocket or mortar can enter its sector without being detected.

In fact, the system is so thorough that radar technicians have picked up everything from raindrops to rain-soaked birds. In other words, U.S. gunners have a modified "Big Brother" looking out for them.

It takes just one "intruder" and the enemy can expect, within a short time, U.S. artillery "calling" on them.

Activated at Ft. Sill, Okla. and deployed to Vietnam in mid-1968, the 547th has another small but important function.

It is responsible for the direct maintenance support of three meteorology radar sites in southern I Corps. One site is manned by a detachment from the 101st Airborne Div. and two by the Americal Div.

This miniaturized world of transitors and circuits and the men who keep them beeping, buzzing, and blinking is capable of saving untold numbers of American lives or just plain predicting when you are going to get your feet wet. (The Northern Log)

MR. JIM STOWELL certainly played Santa for many of the 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers during the Christmas season. He is seen here embarking for LZ West, loaded down with gifts.

Weighted Down With Goodies

ARC Rep. Visits 196th Units

LZ HAWK HILL — Emerging from a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH), a weighty canvas sack on his back is Mr. Jim Slowell. Among the sundry items he packs are playing cards, soap, shaving gear, paperbacks, stationary, and "short-timer" calenders.

Visiting the fire support bases is one of Stowell's prime functions as American Red Cross representative to the 196th Inf. Bde.

"I try to visit the landing zones at least once a week," said the Spring Lake, North Carolina native. "It's much more convenient for the men if I visit them where they live and work."

His efforts are certainly appreciated by the servicemen. "Mr. Stowell's presence alone at LZ Center is a morale booster for all of us," admitted SGT David McKeon (Glencove, N.Y.), former infantryman with the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. "He seems to realize our basic problems and anxieties."

Sometimes inclement weather puts a damper on Stowell's house calls. "During the monsoons, I was stuck at LZ West for four days," recalled Stowell. "However when the battalion sergeant major put my name on the guard roster, I decided it was time to leave."

During one month, Stowell's LZ Hawk Hill office helped over 220 servicemen with their personal problems. In addition, the office handled 217 telegrams and received 27 emergency leave requests.

"We don't have too many quiet moments here," admits SP4 Tom Wayne (Decatur, Ill.), a former rifleman who now works as Stowell's assistant. "However, the work we do is helping the men out in the field and that's what counts."

It's A 'Gas Of A Job'

LZ CRUNCH—Just about everywhere you go throughout the division's area of operations, you run into 23rd Supply and Transport (S&T) Bn. personnel doing a job that very seldom gets noticed. Thirteen men at Hawk Hill, 18 men at Duc Pho, eight men at Quang Ngai and so on.

There is also a small detachment at this remote site — two men from A Co., who are doing a much needed job in support of aviation operations. Their primary mission is to refuel transit aircraft, and they do this around the clock.

The two men, SP4 Vicente Mendez (Gila Bend, Ariz.) and PVT William O. Wright (Bennington, Vt.) are directly responsible for four helicopters refuelling pads, a diesel and mogas point and the emergency resupply of combat rations.

"We're not Kennedy International Airport, but we do a booming business," said Mendez.

Initially, the refuelling point was in support of 11th Inf. Bde. operations. At present, it also supports Division Arty. and Special Forces operations in the Minh Long district.

Whether it's north, south, east, or west if the Americal Div. has troops there, the Support Command's 23rd S&T Bn. will be there with a supply point. (Spt. Cmd. IO)