SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION
Vol. 3 No. 11 Chu Lai, Vietnam March 20, 1970

A Mission Near Tam Ky Village Smashes Enemy

By SP4 Larry Granfield

LZ PROFESSIONAL – By reacting quickly to a sudden decrease of hostile activity in this area, men of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. completely disrupted the enemy's attempts to reorganize and resupply.

"It seemed rather strange that while a step-up in action was being reported in the rest of Vietnam, we were experiencing a lag," said LTC Peter J. Foss, (Farmingham, Mass.) commanding officer of the battalion.

"It was our suspicion that they had retreated into the jungles, hoping that we would relax in our efforts to root them out. Instead, we intensified the missions," he said.

While four companies searched the hilly, dense terrain surrounding this firebase, LTC Foss and MAJ John Y. Moore, (Chatham, Mass.) battalion operations officer, made an aerial reconnaissance flight. Initially, they found nothing. They decided to examine the Song Tram River, 13 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

"We paid particular attention to the points along the river where the jungle extended to the water's edge," said MAJ Moore.

"Finally, we spotted the footprints of an estimated company-size force through the clear water," he said.

Company C, accompanied by an element from the 4th Bn., 5th Rgt., 2nd ARVN Division, moved into the area. The Allied infantry force discovered a caches of 10 AK-44 rifles and one Browning Automatic Rifle.

The next day the first platoon of Company C spotted two Viet Cong supply runners and fired upon them. The Americans killed one VC and detained the other. The two runners were carrying five gallons of cooking oil and 20 pounds of salt.

The following afternoon the third platoon came upon 16 sleeping in a well-camouflaged field shelter.

"We walked to within 20 meters of the shelter," said PFC Richard J. Carter, (Akron, Ohio) "Then one of them woke up and yelled."

The Americans cut loose with a blaze of rifle and machinegun fire. Three NVA fell dead and three others were too badly wounded to escape. The stunned and bleeding surivivors fled into the thick undergrowth, leaving behind most of their equipment.

A search of the area produced 16 NVA rucksacks and first aid kits, three AK-47 automatic rifles, 100 rounds of ammunition, hand grenades and pith helmets.

Company C received a tracker dog team to pursue the enemy, and next morning rounded up their fifth detainee, another wounded NVA. The detainee said his unit had been in search of food when discovered by the Americans. More of his comrades were wounded but had escaped, he said.

"We sent the bad guys back to the drawing board," quipped 1Lt William Ambrose (Boston). "The next time they try to hide from us, it better be out of our territory." (196th Bde. IO)

VC Trail Company

Guard Ready

FSB SAN JUAN HILL – The sharp eyes and quick reaction of a Division soldier turned a VC surprise attack into a hasty retreat that cost the enemy four dead and two wounded. The action took place along the Song Bui Nhui six miles west of Duc Pho.

C Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., 11th Bde. was leaving its night defensive position while the second platoon remained behind as a rear security element. The platoon deployed along a frequently-used trail with PFC Larry Lowrance (Lebanon, Mo.) and two other men providing rear security.

Shortly after getting into position. PFC Lowrance spotted a group of VC rapidly approaching the rear of his platoon through the dense underbrush.

Realizing that there wasn't time to warn everyone of the danger to the rear, he prepared to stop the VC squad himself. When they were less than 15 meters away, PFC Lowrance opened up with his automatic rifle.

The infantrymen maintained superior firepower, defending the rest of their element.

Following the rear guard action and an explanation of the incident, the platoon counted four enemy dead and detained two wounded. Although the action was not planned so soon, Lowrance's quick thinking accomplished the mission.

Assassin—Plot Fails

By SP4 Toby Prodgers

FSB LIZ -- One night recently, an alert assistant hamlet security chief broke up an intricate VC sapper plan to assassiante him, and infiltrate a hamlet secured by 11th Bde. and Popular Force (PF) soldiers on Highway One, two miles north of Duc Pho.

His actions also brought about the detention of six VC, and he did it all with the old "hide the dummy in the bed" trick.

Mr. Vo Dinh Khoi, assistant security chief of Van Truong hamlet, where Company B. 1st Bn., 20th Inf. bases its pacification operations, was lying in bed in a house while two People's Self Defense Force (PSDF) soldiers were guarding the building.

Before Mr. Khoi dozed off, he heard someone enter the house and start talking to the two PSDFs. Pretending to be asleep, Mr. Khoi lay motionless and listened. The strange voice belonged to a VC sapper. The sapper told the two soldiers he was going to assassinate Mr. Khoi, using a hand grenade as the murder weapon and its sound as a signal to others of his group to begin their parts of a bigger operation.

The sound of the grenade's explosion would trigger a probe on the north side of the compound, while another group of sappers along the highway to the west were to begin infiltrating the perimeter.

Mr. Khoi heard the VC coerce the two PSDFs into collecting as many Allied weapons as they could find and steal.

Stealthily, Mr. Khoi slipped out of bed and used a bundle of clothes to simulate his sleeping form. From a hiding place, he watched the VC peek into the room to confirm that the bed was still occupied. The ruse worked. As the lone VC waited in the house for the pre-determined time to kill the hamlet leader, Mr. Khoi left the house to alert troops on the defensive perimeter around the hamlet.

Shortly afterward, a PSDF soldier reported hearing a faint noise in the wire paralleling the highway. Mr. Khoi directed fire into the area, dispersing the sappers gathered there.

Under questioning, the sapper confessed the details of the plot, naming and locating other participants in the foiled scheme. A pre-dawn strike by the 147th Popular Forces platoon rounded up five more conspirators. (11th Bde. IO)

Cobra Support

A Division Cobra gunship returns from a successful early morning mission. The gunship was supporting infantrymen in a recent operation two miles west of Tam Ky.
(Photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor)

Quick Reaction Saves Soldier

FSB LIZ – In a brief encounter with a small band of VC guerrillas just north of Duc Pho, an 11th Bde. soldier braved point-blank automatic rifle fire from a VC and put him out of action with the butt of his own empty weapon.

The action began in early morning recently when Company B's first squad, 3rd platoon was sweeping south of the Tra Cau River near PSB Bronco.

1Lt Russel Dandridge, (Rockville, Va.) leading the patrol, stopped his men for a short break and posted SP4 Abelardo Loya (Weslaco, Tex.) and PFC Donald Lunsford (Georgetown, Tex.) on the squad's left flank.

The two men moved off to the left down a small trail and broke through a dense hedgerow in the undergrowth. On the other side of the hedgerow they found four VC guerrillas who had just started eating their morning meal.

"We walked right up on them, and they were as surprised as we were," said Lunsoford. "They opened up on us from about 15 feet away and we immediately returned fire," he said.

"I fired and hit him in the right arm, and he dropped his rifle. Then he picked it up and started firing again," Loya said. "I pulled the trigger of my M-16, and it just 'clicked". I knew I was out of ammo, but he there was no place to go, so all I could do was keep moving toward him," he said.

Firing constantly, the VC hit Loya in the chest from five feet away, but the round smashed into two belts of M-60 machinegun ammo he was carrying and impacted against a bandolier of M-16 magazines he was wearing around his chest.

"He kept on firing, but I knew I had to keep moving at him. When I got close I knocked away his rifle and finished him with a couple of quick butt strokes to the head," he added.

After the skirmish, Loya and Lunsford policed up two enemy hand grenades, eight blasting caps, the VC's automatic rifle, and seven magazines of small arms ammunition.

Loya was treated for superficial wounds in the chest and then moved on with his squad to continue the mission. (11th Bde. I0)

Education Center Offers Four Basic Services

CHU LAI – Have you finished high school or college? If you have not, you may be interested in the educational opportunities available to you through the division Education Center at Chu Lai.

The Education Center offers four basic services: classes, correspondence courses, testing and counseling.

The center offers calsses on the elementary, high school and college level.

Five Terms Yearly

University of Maryland courses are given five times a year. Each term lasts eight weeks and classes meet two evenings a week, usually Monday-Thursday and Tuesday-Friday.

Each course carries three sememster hours credit transferable to practically any college.

During a one-year tour of Vietnam it is possible to acquire 15 semester hours of college credit, which a is half a year of college work.

Cost Is Low

It costs about $35.00 to start your first course with the University of Maryland. This amount includes a $10.00 registration fee (which is paid only once), $13.50 for tuition (in addition, the government pays $40.50) and the cost of textbooks which may vary from $5.00 to $20.00.

Enrollment in each of the five terms per year would cost a total of about $125.00, which is a fraction of the cost in any stateside college.

According to Mr. J.F. Cavanaugh, director of the Americal Education Center, the next term (term four) for the University of Maryland classes will begin at the end of this month. Registration will take place on March 23, and classes will begin on March 30.

Classes Named

Mr. Cavanaugh said that the four classes for term four will be: English Composition, Introduction to Social Science, Business Management and Organizational Theory, and Business Law.

Any high school graduate is eligible to enter the University of Maryland program. Also eligible are students who have passed the high school GED tests and achieved a score of 45 or more on each test or who have an average of 50 with no score below 40.

The center also offers instruction in the Vietnamese language. These classes are given two hours per night, three nights per week for a total of 20 hours of instruction.

Correspondence Courses

Through the center you may enroll in any of about 150 United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) correspondence courses on the high school or college level or in a technical field.

After completing the lessons which you send to USAFI-Madison, Wis. (where an instructor will correct, grade, and return them), you can take the end of course test at the center. In many cases you can get credit in the United States for these courses.

Enrollment in a USAFI correspondence course on the high school, college or technical level requires a $5.00 registration fee in the form of a money order, bank draft or certified check payable to the Treasurer of the United States (USAFI) in Madison, Wis.

Pay Only Once

The fee is required for the first course only. After completion of the first course you may be enrolled in two courses at the same time with no further payment of fees.

Pre-high school correspondence courses and spoken language courses for 25 countries are available without charge. The spoken language courses have records and tapes available on a loan basis.

Also, 46 colleges and universities offer hundreds of correspondence courses to military personnel through special arrangements with USAFI. The price of these courses may vary from $8.00 to $45.00 with the average course costing about $15.00.

The USAFI testing program allows you to achieve high school completion for all military purposes. You may also receive a diploma or an equivalency certificate from your local high school or state.

Through the Comprehensive College Tests you may earn 30 semester hours of credit recognized by many colleges and by the U.S. Army as one year of college.

Among the many other tests available to you through the Center are the American College Tests, the College Entrance Examination Boards, the Graduate Record Examination and the Law School Admission Test.

Counseling Services

The Center's counseling program can help you to establish your goals and plan a program for achieving tese goals. The counselor will examine your past record and help you set up a program which will fulfill your needs.

The Center counselors will also help to apply for the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School.

Religion And You

A Rejuvenator

By
Chaplain (CPT) Donald G. Wilson
196th Inf. Bde.

We have an opportunity this year while in Vietnam to make many positive advances in our lives.

These can be made in many areas--family relationships, vocational opportunities, ultimate personal goals, etc.

Our own spiritual relationship to God also can take on an added newness and excietment through mind rejuvenation. The key to all the above objectives lies in the stimulating and rejuvenating of the mind!

The mind can become stagnant due to failure or being filled with negative thoughts. Therefore, what it needs is a cleansing and restoration of challenging ideas with which to rejuvenate its potential!

The Bible is full of such "mind rejuvenators." One has only to discover them! They can be discovered as you read, looking for them.

No matter what passage you are reading or the length of it, there is one part of it that "stands out to you"--it leaps out at you! It may be only be three or four words that stare you in the face and draw your attention to them.

This is the "mind rejuvenator" you are looking for! This is God being relevant to you and it is the "Creative Work Of God" speaking to you in concreteness.

These phrases should be memorized or captured as your own, and placed into the mind's memory banks for future usage.

The mind normally paints a picture of its thoughts as a completed action. Therefore, when a challenging situation presents itself to you, God has equipped you with a ready response. You have been inwardly rejuvenated!

The Bible is full of "mind rejuvenators" which may be different for each person, but ever real in each discovery! Examples:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"

"Love never ends!"

"Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus!"

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me!"

I challenge you to find your own!

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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VA News In Review

The Veterans Administration announced recently that its annual report, a modified, streamlined, easier-to-read summary of its activities during the past fiscal year, has arrived from the printers.

Administrator of Veterans Affairs Donald E. Johnson said the report on VA activities on behalf of more than 27½ million of the nation's living veterans, their dependents, and survivors of deceased veterans has been divided into two publications.

One is a narrative description which will become the official report to Congress as required by law, and the other is a statistical supplement.

This year's narrative portion runs 75 pages, compared with last year's report which contained 375 pages, 144 of which carried 95 statistical tables.

Johnson said one reason the format of the annual report was modified is that most readers are interested only in the narrative portion, and are not interested in the detailed statistics.

The narrative section describes what the agency accomplished in performing its mission, including its "outreach" efforts to encourage veterans and servicemen to apply for benefits available to them.

The VA administrator also said the report discusses educational and housing assistance, health care, insurance coverage and administration and management.

Copies of the narrative section of the annual report are available for 40 cents each, from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402.

The new statistical supplement runs 79 pages. Price and other information will be announced when it is delivered from the printers about the middle of March.

Change Of Command Ceremony For Arty

CHU LAI – The division welcomed a new commander recently as COL Donald M. Dexter Jr. (Vienna, Va.) assumed command of Div. Arty.

He succeeds COL Leslie B. Hardy (Annandale, Va.) who has completed his tour and is going to his next assignment at the Pentagon.

The new Div. Arty. commander has just completed five months at USARV Headquarters where he held the position of Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3.

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, division commander, passed the Div. Arty. "Colors" between the old and new commander. Also in attendance were BG Edwin L. Powell and BG John W. Donaldson.

During the ceremony, MG Ramsey presented COL Hardy with a Legion of Merit (1st Oak Leaf Cluster) and the basic Air Medal with 11 Oak Leaf Clusters. COL Hardy was also the recipient of a Staff Medal and Technical First Class Service Medal. They were presented to him by COL Nguyen Trong Luat, deputy commander 2nd ARVN Div. (Div. Arty. IO)

THE NEW COMMANDER of Division Artillery, COL Donald M. Dexter, Jr., (right) stands ready to receive command of the unit during a recent change of command ceremony on Artillery Hill. MG Lloyd B. Ramsey (left) officiated as outgoing commander. COL Leslie B. Hardy passed command of the unit to his successor.

(U.S. Army Photo)

CacheFind Helps Viets

LZ HAWK HILL – A 196th Inf. Bde. civil affairs team used a recently-discovered rice cache to help 950 homeless Vietnamese refugees from the pain of hunger.

The project began when a defective stove exploded at Thang Binh Refugee Center 10 miles north of Tam Ky. Forty-foot flames raced through the bamboo and grass living structures.

"The fire started at 3:30 in the afternoon," said 1LT William Bacon (Roswell, N.M.), civil affairs officer, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. "By 5:00 p.m. dirt mounds and scorched pieces of tin were all that was left," added the officer.

The 29th Civil Affairs Co., working in the Thang Binh area, would require at least three days to gather supplies. The refugees, on the other hand, needed food immediately.

Five miles to the west F Trp., 17th Cav., working under the operational control of 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., had just uncovered 22,000 pounds of enemy rice.

"I heard about the fire at Thang Binh an hour and a half after the blaze occurred," said 1LT Bacon. "I arranged to have 8,000 pounds of F Trp.'s rice sent to the refugee center the following morning."

The next day a convoy of 2½ ton trucks rumbled down the rutted dirt road to Thang Binh. By 1:00 that afternoon the trucks had arrived at the refugee center with the desperately needed rice. Soon, smoke from hundred of cooking fires drifted over the rubble as rice pots were again filled.

Help came from other sources. The equivalent of American Boy Scouts, Buddhist Scouts from Thang Binh helped the refugees clear away the rubble.

"They helped put up temporary shelters made of tin and whatever else they could salvage," related Bacon.

The Government of Vietnam supplied construction material and the refugees were able to rebuild their living quarters. Things are now back to normal at Thang Binh, but the refugees have nor forgotten the help that came when it was needed.

"When people are in a bind like that, we try to help them out," said SGT Jim Callahan (Washington, N.J.)

Home In Tu My

Montagnards and Vietnamese work side by side to erect a new home in Tu My relocation village, seven miles west of Quang Ngai City. The village, which was established by the 11th Bde.'s 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., now offers a secure home to 5,000 persons.

(Photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor)

Orphans Given Packages

CHU LAI – Take one Division soldier, add one hundred orphans, season with a lot of concern and mix well with a great deal of interest at home and you have the beginning of a worthwhile project.

SP4 Robert D. Schofield (Hawthorne, Calif.) of B Co., 23rd Supply and Transport Bn., made a visit to the Tabitha Orphanage and School in An Tan, near Chu Lai last December. He saw more than 100 children in need of clothing, blankets, and sheets. They had no toys.

Unable to forget those children and the conditions at the orphanage, Schofield decided he had to do something for them. He wrote home and requested small blankets and other necessities which he planned to finance himself.

His mother, Mrs. Robert E. Schofield, was hesitant to undertake such a large project at first. In a letter to Chaplain (MAJ) Clinton E. Grenz, Division Support Command chaplain, "The task seemed impossible at first, but I didn't want to disappoint my son... he never does anything in a small way."

Mrs. Schofield used all media at her disposal; telephone, correspondence, and talking to friends. Things started happening.

Friends and relatives all over the United States began working to help fill the request of SP4 Schofield. Msgr. Patrick J. Redahan, pastor of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church at Hawthorne, sent a large donation of goods for the children of the orphanage.

Cooperation Established By Council

LZ WEST – An air of cooperation was established at the very beginning," said 1LT Michael Donohoe (Buffalo, N.Y.) civil affairs officer at the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Bde.

"Both sides had problems to solve and suggestions to offer," he said.

He expressed the mood of Hiep Duc District's first bi-weekly friendship council, held 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Hiep Duc's recently-elected public officials met with civil affairs workers from the 196th Bde. to discuss mutual problems and solutions.

The friendship council is the latest episode in the district's turbulent recent history. Overrun by Communists in 1965, Hiep Duc was reclaimed by the Allies in February of 1969. During August of the same year, 196th Bde. soldiers combined with ARVN and 7th Marine Div. forces to repel an NVA offensive directed at the district. Hiep Duc remained untouched in spite of the enemy push to overrun the pacification program showcase, while 1,000 NVA and VC lost their lives.

Two months later government officials were elected for the first time in four years. After training in Vung Tau and Tam Ky, the officials returned to work for the district, and to set up the first council meeting at a Popular Forces outpost overlooking the village.

"The people are very anxious to build a school in the district," said 1LT Donohoe, "We explained how to go about doing it and how to requisition materials." (196th Bde. IO)

Medals For Valor

Three PFs Earn Awards

LZ WEST – In a recent ceremony at Hiep Duc district, 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky, three Vietnamese PF infantrymen received awards for valor from their Americal Division allies.

The Vietnamese received two Bronze Stars and an Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for their bravery during the battle of Hiep Duc Valley last August.

During that battle, 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers combined with Vietnamese forces and elements of the 7th Marine Division to repel massive enemy assaults directed at the district's refugee center.

COL James M. Lee, (Wilmington, N.C.) commanding officer of the 196th Bde., pinned the medals on the three infantrymen.

The ceremony, held on the district's soccer field, attracted several hundred spectators from nearby villages.

To open the ceremony, COL Lee reviewed the soldiers. The national anthems of the Republic of Vietnam and the United States were played by the Division band.

"We are pleased to see the continuing success and growth of the pacification efforts in Hiep Duc. It is our hope that all the fighting will be over in the near future," COL Lee said.

LTC Kenneth L. Shaers, (Spokane) commanding officer, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., expressed his battalion's appreciation for the Vietnamese forces.

The PFs are aided by the 4th Bn., 31st Inf. in providing security for Hiep Duc District.

After the Vietnamese received their decorations, the band began to play as the spectators moved in to congratulate the soldiers. (196th Bde. IO)

Going To Market

Though this RF trooper is fond of C rations, he finds that freshly roast duck pleases his palate more on a recent operation six miles west of Tam Ky.

(Photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor)

Arty Unit Teaches PF Troops

BINH SON – In the continuing Vietnamization process, a division artilleryman instructed PF soldiers in the complicated art of calling in artillery fire.

CPT Leroy Zimmerman (Orangeburg, S.C.), commander of A Btry., 1st Bn., 14th Arty., spent three days teaching the PF troops the basic knowledge needed by a forward observer (FO). For his efforts, he was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Included in the instruction was map reading, use of a compass and the proper radio procedure for calling in request for fire.

In order to explain what type of rounds are most effective in a given situation, CPT Zimmerman described the various projectiles and the effect that each would have upon impact. Demonstration rounds were fired to visually reenforce what had been described.

Two of the most important phases of the instruction involved shooting defensive targets and illumination for night laager positions. Both of these artillery techniques are utilized to strengthen the night defenses of the scattered infantry and artillery units.

Now more familiar with FO procedures, the PFs feel confident that their call for fire will be understood, bringing them quick and accurate fire support from the Division Artillery. (Div. Arty. IO)

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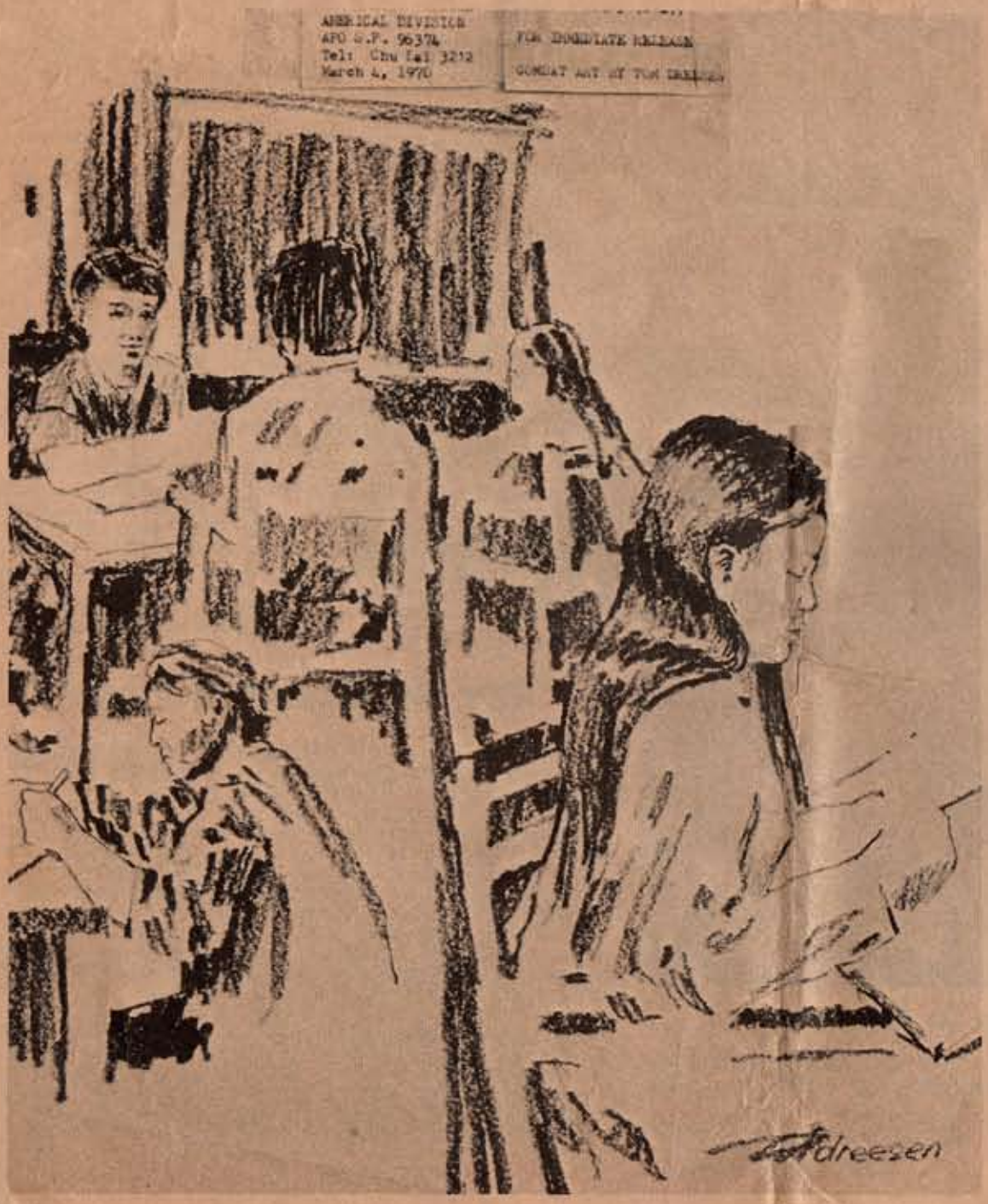
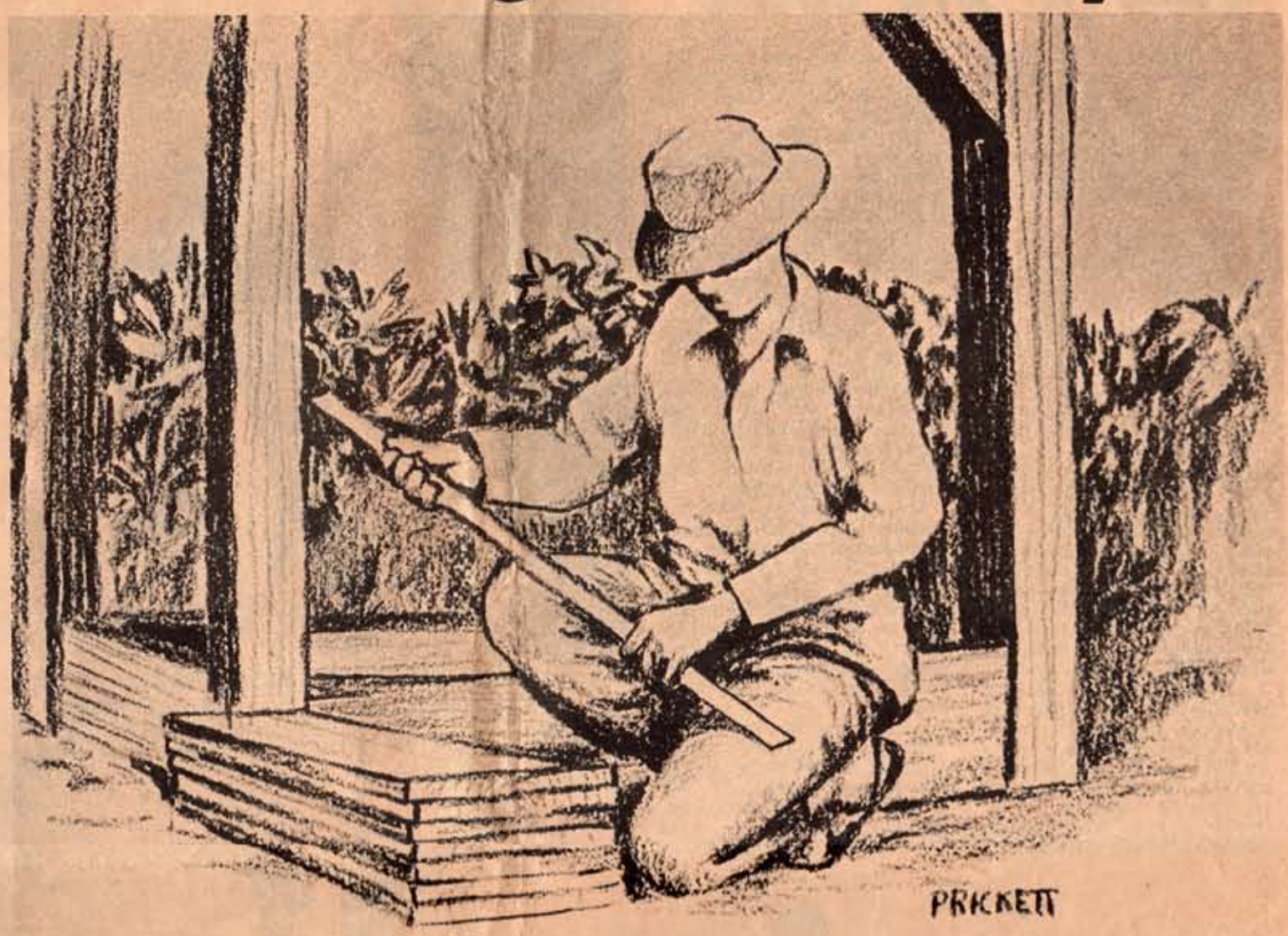


etnam Seen Through Artistic Eyes



UPON SEEING A PEASANT CHILD

ory of ancient land lost
deep tragedy of war-hurt,
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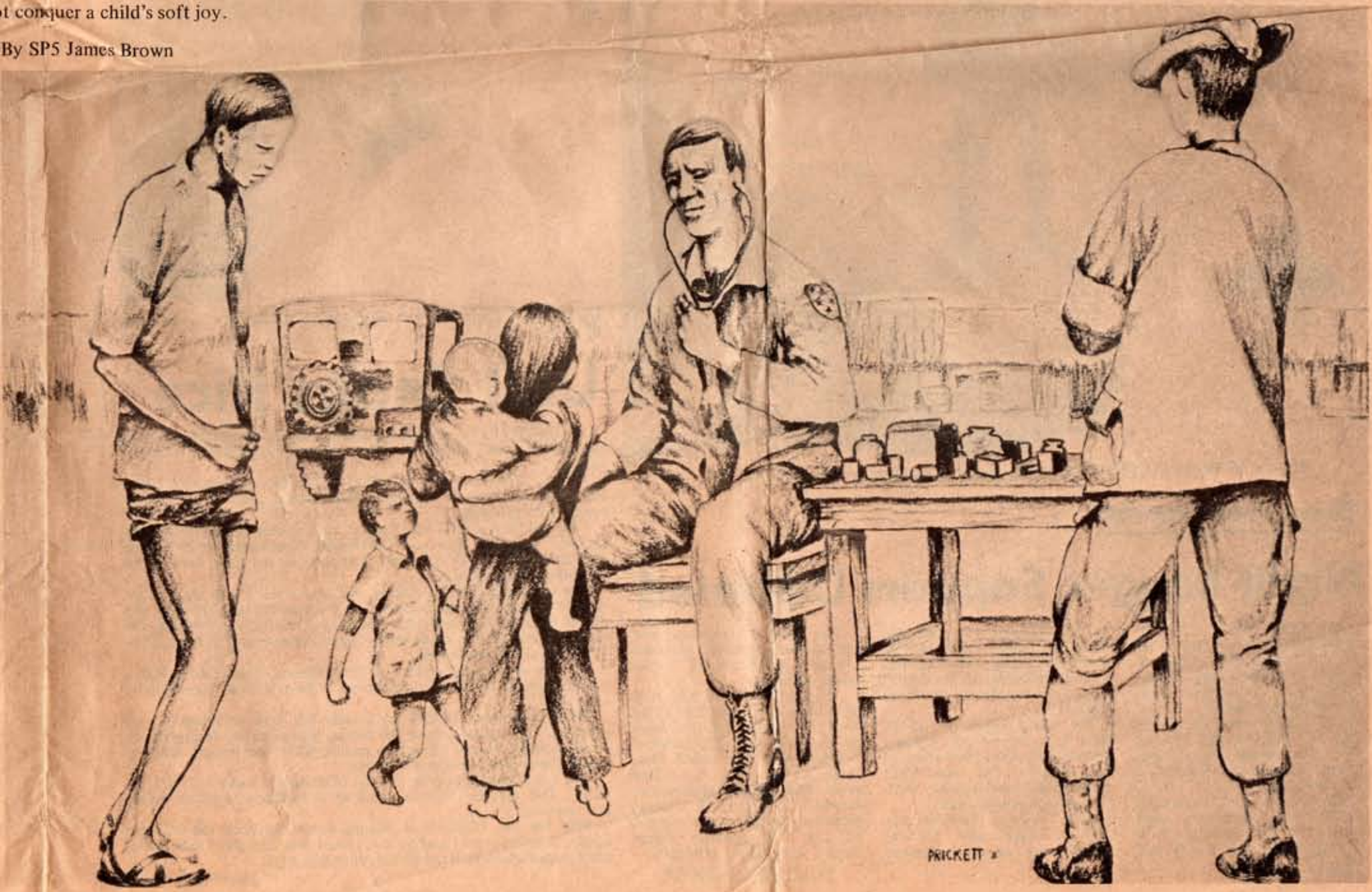
By SP5 James Brown



Frogmen Help Inf. Uncover Big Cache

FSB BRONCO – In response to numerous radar sightings along the coast of the South China Sea, the 11th Inf. Bde. recently called in two Navy frogmen from Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)-12, which is presently based in Da Nang.

"Our radar has picked up personnel and metallic movement at the mouth of the Song Tra Cau, one mile northeast of Duc Pho. The spottings seem to disappear, leading us to believe that there are numerous caves and tunnels in the area," reported CPT Joseph P. Phillip (Philadelphia), 11th Inf. Bde. chemical officer.

An aerial recon of the area revealed the possibility of many caves and hiding places and the need of a ground search.

The shoreline infantrymen from C Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf., along with a "Primo" LOH from the brigade's aviation section and a "Dolphin" utility helicopter from the 174th Avn. Co. secured the area while the divers conducted their search.

Aviation Boatswain Handler Second Class Larry Molina (Los Angeles) and Quartermaster Second Class David James (Los Angeles), both members of UDT-12, found themselves out of water as often as in the murky inlet as their day-long venture took them through caves and tunnels and into the numerous nooks and crannies which abound on the rough landscape.

The men's labors produced one sampan, seven round basket boats, six oars, 14 large nylon fishing nets, 120 pounds of rice and 40 pounds of fish.

"This area is one big storage place. The VC had to have been here three to six hours before our arrival. The fish we found were fresh and in one bag we found a large crab still alive," said James.

At times the men disappeared, armed only with a .45 cal. automatic pistol and a flashlight, head first into cracks in the rock handing out enemy food supplies and fishing gear.

Diver Larry Melino commented after the completion of the search, "We enjoyed being tunnel rats and wish that we could stay longer on this operation." Pointing to his sweat band he added, "That's not sea water. It's sweat--nervous energy. You never know what you'll find in one of those holes."

At day's end the frogmen and "Jungle Warriors" were extracted by helicopter, leaving behind some hungry VC. Not only had food been confiscated, but more important, its means of production. (11th Bde. IO)

Combat In Review

AN AGILE INFANTRYMAN scrambles along the rocks in the Song Tra Cau.

Story & Photos By
SP4 Peter Sorensen
11th Bde. IO

WETSUIT-CLAD DIVER squeezes between rocks, seeking VC food caches.

NAVY DIVERS GATHER fishing equipment hidden between large rocks.

Dawn Attack Repelled

Night Laager Sappers Defeated

LZ HAWK HILL – "AK-47 rounds going over my head woke me up," said SGT James P. Hansen (ST. Louis Park, Minn.). "Chicom grenades were dropping everywhere."

For the next hour, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., of the 196tInf. Bde. was locked in a bitter struggle against an estimated 15 enemy sappers.

The enemy had apparently reached the company's night laager after painstaking effort. Moving slowly, the enemy had crawled through wet grass and down a gully, until shortly before dawn they waited silently behind embankment 10 meters away from the nearest American position.

The sharp crack of AK-47 rifles and bursts of Chicom grenades signalled the start of the attack. The Americans responded immediately with rifle and machinegun fire.

One sapper vaulted the five-foot embankment. He was at the edge of the perimeter

The VC broke from his cover, ran across the creek bed and dropped down behind a rice paddy dike.

"The motor squad had only one round left," said SP4 Craig, "but they dropped it right down on that VC from 200 meters."

Continuing their search from there, the men of A Co. counted seven dead enemy sappers, two AK-47 rifles and 15 Chicom grenades. However, the menory of that last, hidden sapper stayed with them. (196th IO)

Unit Snags Rice

LZ HAWK HILL – Division soldiers recently uncovered a 22,000 pound rice cache, one of the largest ever discovered in Southern I Corps.

F Trp., 17th Cav., working with the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. near Hawk Hill, discovered the 11-ton cache while moving towards a suspected enemy structure area.

"We had seen several Viet Cong in an area near Hawk Hill the day before," said CPT Roscoe J. Cartwright (Cincinnati), commanding officer of F Trp. "We didn't go after them at the time, because we had other commitments."

The suspected enemy complex was on a small hill to their front. As the cavalrymen drew closer, they observed that the hill was dotted with bunkers and living quarters. Artillery was called in; the tracks waited on line as the shells ripped the enemy structures. Then F Trp. resumed its advance.

"As we went up the hill," said SP4 Duane Zentner (Mott, N.D.), machinegunner of the command track," we saw loose rice scattered all around."

CPT Cartwright decided to search the area thoroughly, and deployed the tracks around the hill in a semi-circle, facing out to cover possible routes of enemy attack, while the troop's infantry squads dismounted to search the area.

"We found rice everywhere," said SGT Robert Landman (Orange, Calif.), first platoon. "It was piled up in bunkers, 55-gallon drums and trenches."

With the hot tropical sun beating down on them, the infantry squads went to work, loading the 11-ton rice haul onto helicopters for transportation to Hawk Hill. (196th Bde. IO)

"Beach safety may not seem very important to you, but the rules for conduct on Chu Lai shores are for your protection. Commanders responsible for opening or closing beaches do so after considering factors of weather, strength of currents, undertow, power of wave action, and any other factors that might affect the safety of swimmers. Don't assume that a beach in your are is closed because someone likes to watch you sweat."

It Pays To Know All Your Medical Bennies

SAIGON (USARV) – Any soldier worth his R&R is on the lookout for "Bennies." Bennies are those little extras that turn up in the most unexpected places and make life more enjoyable.

What a benny is depends upon what where you are at the time. Pinups are bennies just about any place. At Fort Paradise, back in the World, Saturday breakfast is a benny. Nobody works on Saturday, so you could sleep 'til noon.

But breakfast is paid for and money is a benny. Therefore breakfast is a benny.

So every Saturday morning, the CQ wakes up more than half the company, and they trot down to the mess hall chanting, "Breakfast is bennies," and after breakfast they crawl back into the sack.

But there are bennies and there are bennies. Some of the best beenies are offered in the Uniformed Services Health Benefits Program.

Under this program, you and your dependents can receive all sorts of medical services for a fraction of their normal costs. A knowledge of what is included in this program is particularly important to your family while you are overseas and unable to take charge of an emergency situation.

In any event, you should be aware of what sorts of services you can obtain through this medical program because it saves YOU money.

If you have been on active duty for more than 30 days, your dependents are eligible for health care under the program. Also qualified are retired active duty soldiers and reservists who are entitled to retired, retainer or equivalent pay, their dependents, and the dependents of deceased active duty or reserve soldiers.

"Dependent" is a broad term and needs to be defined to determine what persons are eligible for these benifits.

Wives and unremarried widows are eligible, along with husbands and unremarried widowers who were dependent on their Army wives for more than half their support because of a mental or physical incapacity.

Also eligible are unmarried legitimate children, adopted children and stepchildren, provided they are under 21, or, of 21 or older, they are incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity which existed before they turned 21.

Children must also be dependent on the service parent for more than half support or have been so at the time of the parent's death.

The age limit for dependent children is raised to 23 if the child is a full-time student at an accredited institution of highter learning and is dependent on his service parent for more than half his support.

While dependent parents and parents-in-law are not eligible for civilian care benefits under the program, they may continue to receive space-available attention in military facilities. Furthermore, parents must be–or must have been at the time of the service member's death–dependent for more than half their support and must be residing in a dwelling provided or maintained by you.

Persons claiming dependency must furnish proof .

DOD Directs Equality

The following is a statement by the Secretary of Defense concerning equal opportunity and treatment in the Armed Foreces.

The President's executive order of July 26, 1948 directed the abolishment of racial segregation in the Armed Forces and required equality of opportunity and treatment without regard to race, color, creed or national origin.

Substantial progress has been made in removing racial discrimination. No sector in American life has achieved the measure of equal opportunity and treatment that has been realized in the Armed Forces. The dedicated leadership of countless numbers of men and women in the military services has made this progress possible. I congratulate them.

Much still remains to be done, and it is to this task of removing every vestige of discrimination that I give my personal commitment. This can be achieved only by ensuring that complete equality of opportunity and treatment is not denied to any member of the Armed Forces because of race, color, religion, national origin or any other irrelevant factor.

This equality must be granted in training, education, assignment and promotion, including the opportunity to assume the highest positions of trust and responsibility. I encourage each member of the Armed Forces to utilize to the maximum the opportunities available for his development.

We must maintain harmonious, cooperative working relationships among military personnel so as to maintain high morale, military effectiveness and combat readiness.

I urge all personnel to reject divisive and fragmenting forces and influences in our society which seek to diminish the intergrity, unity and strength of our Armed Forces. We must not permit the irrelevancies of race and color, nor any other factor to divide and weaken us.

It is the responsibility of every member of the military services from the newest inductee to the highest commissioned officer to accept other members on the basis of their individual worth and to assist in extending to all facets and activities of military life--on and off base, on and off duty--the spirit of mutual trust and respect which is manifest when our forces are in combat.

I call upon every installation and unit commander to provide the leadership.

'Blues' Inserted

A "Blue Ghost" helicopter of F Trp., 8th Cav. heads for a safe altitude after inserting men of the unit's aero-rifle platoon on a recent mission 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. (Photo by SP4 J. B. Majerus)

The Infantry Magazine Subscription Open

An exclusive interview with noted military writer BG S. L. A. Marshall highlights the forthcoming March-April issue of Infantry, a magazine published at the U.S. Army Infantry School.

In the interview, BG Marshall answers questions about airmobile operations, small arms in Vietnam, intelligence, camouflage doctrine, and sums up the effectiveness of infantry operations in Vietnam.

Mr. Charles Black, associate editor of the Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer and a veteran of five visits to Vietnam, offers a provocative think piece, "OK, So We Learned A Lesson. ."

Problems of small units along the Korean DMZ are analyzed by COL William R. Guthrie, a recent brigade commander in Korea who currently heads the Infantry School's Nonresident Instruction Department.

CPT Robert R. Radcliff, presently with MAAG, Iran, has written as exceptional piece about how to ambush the would-be ambushers in "Platoon," an account of an infantry unit in Vietnam.

COL John T. Carley, Director of Instruction at the Infantry School, passes along the advice given him by a veteran NCO as Carley assumed command of a brigade in the 1st Inf. Div., "Don't Make No Mistakes."

Other feature articles include "Combat Pathfinders," "OCS Today," and "Terrorizing the Terrorist," in addition to Infantry Magazine's regular features.

Subscriptions to Infantry Magazine may be obtained for units or individuals by sending a check or mony order for $4.75 to Infantry Magazine, U.S. Army Infantry School, Box 2005, Ft. Benning, Ga. 31905

Governor Promotes EM To Colonel

LZ HAWK HILL – Most battalions have one lieutenant colonel, but the 2nd Bn. of the 1st Inf. has two. One commands the battalion. The other runs Co. E resupply.

SP4 Phillip Taylor got his promotion from the governor's mansion in his home state of Georgia.

"I wrote our governor a letter just to let him know I though he was doing a fine job," said the Ringold, Ga. native with a grin. "I really wasn't bucking for a promotion," he said.

The governor must have been impressed. Exercising powers given him as the "commander-in-chief of the army and navy and militia thereof," Gov. Lester Maddox (or a member of his staff) awarded Taylor thee field grade commission.

Deep in the legal archives of the state of Georgia, there must be a statute empowering the governor to commission officers in the military forces of the state.

The next of the document instructed Taylor to obey the lawful orders of his superior officers and the governor, and charged him with the responsibility of leading the enlisted men and junior officers of his command.

Echo Company's only lieutenant colonel is finishing his second Vietnam tour and is on his way back to the States.

"What does Taylor think of his new rank? (196th IO)

Morning Combat Assault

Three Division helicopters fly through the early-morning mist to the LZ for a recent combat assault west of Tam Ky. (Photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor)

Oink-Oink's Outprocess

Hawaiian Troops Give Luau

By SP4 Ron Adams

FSB BRONCO – Even in Vietnam, three Hawaiian soldiers and one two-hundred pound pig means a luau.

The exotic feast for soldiers of the 11th Inf. Bde. had its origin in the rice paddies five miles west of Duc Pho. While on patrol there in July, SGT Fletcher Zufelt (Renton, Wash.) spotted "what looked like a small rat, but was actually an abandoned baby pig."

Zufelt slipped the tiny creature into his pocket and carried it back to the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. rear area.

For 1SG George Almeida (Maui, Hawaii) it was a "luau at first sight" when he was introduced to "Oink-Oink". Almeida and PSG Andrew Kalama, also of Hawaii, immediately had visions of succulent roast pig, Hawaiian-style.

During the next 7 months Oink-Oink so thrived under the care of one of the unit's

Gandall bid Oink-Oink a fond "aloha" and prepared the pig on a large silver platter with all the trimmings.

The three Hawaiians had worked together to produce a bona fide luau to the delight of the men of the battalion.

During "Oink-Oink's short-timer's party," the guests joined in festive Hawaiian songs in keeping with the gala mood shared by everyone--everyone except Oink-Oink, that is. (11th Bde. IO)

A Soldier's Second Time Around

CHU LAI – One of the first things you notice about SFC Henry F. Howard (Valiant, Okla.) is that he wears the Americal's Southern Cross patch on both shoulders of his jungle fatugues.

Second tour of Vietnam? Nope. SFC Howard was with the Americal Division during World War II, more than 26 years ago on Guadalcanal.

A twinkle of the past reflected off his eyed eyes as he looked at the wall in the comfort of the office he now occupies at the 14th Combat Aviation as NCOIC of the S-2 section.

"I went on some of the scariest patrols you've ever seen back then and I never got hit," he remembered, as the walls in front of him became transparent. He was there, back in the jungle of the South Pacific Theater, living the experience again.

Howard, a veteran of nearly 27 years in the Army, experienced his first combat action on Guadalcanal with the Americal in February 1943, before most of the men serving in Vietnam were born.

"I was really lucky on some of those days. I came this close to getting hit a number of times." His eyes closed a little as if to better focus on the memory and he held his thumb and forefinger about an inch apart to show how close he came to falling prey to enemy fire.

He was assigned to D Co., 183 182nd Inf. as an 81mm mortarman. The stay on Guadalcanal was short but by no means his last confrontation with the Japanese. With the Americal, he trudged from island to island in the push to stop the enemy. The Fiji Islands after the "Canal", then to Bougainville in the nothern Solomon Islands and eventually the Philippines toward the end of 1944.

A subtle smile sparked the edge of his lips as the story unwound in his mind.

"I think the invasion of the Philippines stands out as the biggest moment in the war as far as I'm concerned. We made a beach assault under fire..."

"I had been promoted to sergeant prior to our landing in the Philippines and I was working as a communications sergeant in small patrols. Our job was to clear out the remaining pockets of enemy."

From the Philippines, Howard and the division moved in for the final invasion and occupation of Japan in September 1945. He left for the States and a discharge three weeks later after spending two and a half years with the Americal.

The reels of memory appeared to have run out as his eyes refocused on the typewriter in front of him. But his eyebrows lifted as one more thought crossed his history-filled mind.

"You know, we took a lot of casualties on Guadalcanal, but it was malaria that really hurt us. When we pulled out almost 90 per cent of our company was laid up with it."

He received his discharge in October, 1945 and because of the job scarcity decided to reenlist the following year.

"There were seven million of us looking for jobs after the war and there just weren't enough to go around. The Army offered me a good job and I decided to make it a career."

He filled a number of positions in the ensuing years but his fondest memories came from working with basic trainees.

"I worked with basic trainees for many years. I really enjoyed working with those youngsters."

In January, 1970, he found himself reassigned to the division he had left 25 years ago.