Soldiers Compete In Name Game

By SP4 Henri Gilpin

CHU LAI – Enola Gay, lady that she was, acheived her fame during the final months of WWII. She was the B-29 Strato-fortress that dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan.

The B-29 endeared with the title Enola Gay was not alone.

Nearly all the aircraft that flew in WWII carried the personal touch of its crew: a girl's name, a cartoon, a caricature, etc.

Those WWII aviators, in their attempt to add a little bit of home to their olive-drab aircraft, started a custom that has carried through to the present involvement in Vietnam.

A walk through any flight line in the 14 CAB will tell the story. Most of the aircraft carry the mark of their crews, names they have affectionately chosen to personalize their craft.

Some names tell a story, other immortalize a song or rock group and still others leave the onlooker with questioning stare.

White Lightning, a 132d ASHC Chinook, was named by a homesick Missourian. Rumor has it that the crew chief's father was involved in a little under-the-table bootlegging and the name White Lightning made him feel a little closer to home.

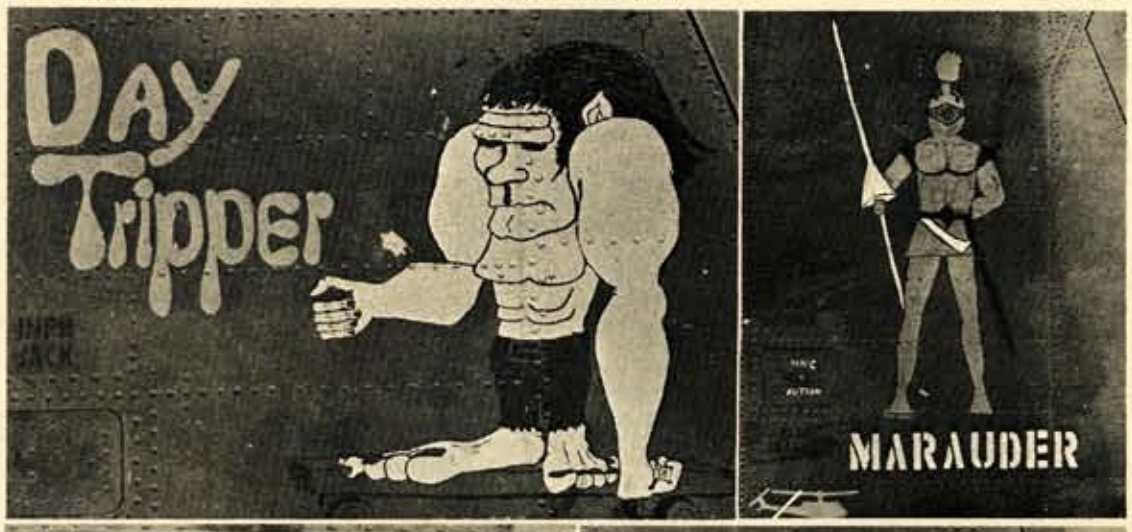
SP4 Edward Madarus, 132d ASHC crew chief, flys on a ship called the Virgin Hunter. He explained, "There's no special way the guys pick a name. They just put their heads together and throw names back and forth 'til they find one they all like."

One of the biggest inspirations seems to be today's rock music. Lady Will Power, Foxy Lady and Day Tripper can all be attributed to a popular song, and Iron Butterfly was borrowed from a fairly well known rock group.

Baby Sister, a 178th ASHC ship, has a little history behind its name. Crew chief SP5 Thomas Harmon (Dallas) named his first ship Big Sister. It was shot down. His next ship was called Little Sister. It made a hard landing a was shipped out for repairs. Big Sister and

(Continued on Page 6)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION
Vol. 3, No. 13 CHU LAI, VIETNAM April 17, 1970



Raid Market Place

FSB BRONCO – A National Police Field Force (NPFF) platoon recently carshed a VC market place 17 miles northwest of Duc Pho, confiscating a food supply large enough to feed an enemy company for a week. The unit also killed one VC and captured four during the raid.

Division advisor SSG Tom Martin (Riverhead, N.Y.) of the 29th Civil Affairs Co. explained, "The whole show was NPFF as the initial report came from an NPFF agent revealing that the VC were buying medicine, food, batteries and other supplies at the market place."

Martin, who works with the 11th Inf. Bde., supervises NPFF operations in the Mo Duc-Duc Pho area and is also responsible for the districts' safety programs.

As the dwelling was being encircled one VC leader burst through the door but a blaze of gunfire stopped his escape.

The four VC detainees later revealed that the market place had only been open for two weeks. At first they opened two hours a day but last week had felt safe enough to stay open all day.

As the platoon began moving the prisoners to the safety of a hill, enemy sniper fire broke out. Using the radio, Martin called for artillery support. Twenty rounds of high explosives silenced the snipers and destroyed the VC supermarket. (11th Bde. IO)

Chaplains Orate Sermons In Field

CHU LAI – With a gun pit as a cathedral and a portable tape recorder as an organ, two Division chaplains brought the religious spirit of Easter to artillerymen on 14 forward firebases.

Chaplain (MAJ) Douglas J. Nelson (Houston Tex.) and Chaplain (CPT) Carl L. D'Agostino (Cleveland, Ohio), both chaplains of Div. Arty., planned to reach as many of the forward firebases as possible during the Holy Week that ended with Easter.

The chaplains hitched rides with aviators from Div. Arty., and they carried their church with them on the helicopter.

Once at the firebase, they would make use of whatever facility was available. The services took place in dayrooms, in messhalls, and even in a gun pit.

The ceremony was no different from any worship service. The service included a sermon, communion, and even group singing. The music was provided by a tape recorder that Chaplain Nelson had pruchased the week before.

In eight days, the chaplains visited 14 direbases in addition to performance of normal duties in the Chu Lai area. They held 44 services during the period, and on one particular day the chaplains combined efforts to hold 16 services.

"I've never done anything quite like this before," said Chaplain Nelson, the protestant chaplain who is on his second Vietnam tour. "The response we received from the men made all the effort worthwhile."

For the almost 1,000 men who attended the services, next Easter will be happier. Most of them will be in familiar surroundings with loved ones.

But the memory of the Easter service on a lonely firebase in a war-torn country, provided by two dedicated men of God, may linger in the memory for a long time to come. (Div. Arty. IO)

BG Atteberry: Amcal ADC

CHU LAI – During a recent brief ceremony at Division headquarters, BG Roy L. Atteberry was designated as assistant division commander, support.

His most recent assignment was at Headquarters, U.S. Army Combat Developments Command. On a previous tour in Vietnam, GEN Atteberry commanded the 1st Infantry Division Artillery. He began his command of the unit when it was still assigned in the States.

During that same tour, he was assigned Chief of Surface, Plans and Operations Division, Headquarters, MACV.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy, GEN Atteberry has done graduate work in International Relations at Georgetown University.

He holds the Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters.

Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

Pfc Robert E. Chambers, 196th Bde; 1LT Ronald L. Coleman, 196th Bde; PSG Ulysses S. Freeman, 11th Bde; SGT James C. Gagliano, 198th Bde; PSG Johnny F. Garlac, 196th Bde; PFC Steven R. Hall, 196th Bde; CPT Klien S. Harrison, 196th Bde; SSG Richard A. Kern, 196th Bde; SP4 Bernard M. Krupa, 1st-1st Cav; PFC Leonard L. Lord, 196th Bde; SP4 Luther H. Lutz, 11th Bde; CPL Christopher T. Martin, 196th Bde; PFC Juan D. Mercado, 11th Bde; PFC James E. Merriman, 196th Bde; SSG John D. Miller, 1st-1st Cav; 1LT Lyle E. Pirnie, 1st-1st Cav; SGT Tony D. Slagle, 196th Bde; 2LT Robert Tynan, 196th Bde; CPT John A. Whittecar, 196th Bde; CPT Keith L. Young, 196th Bde;

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

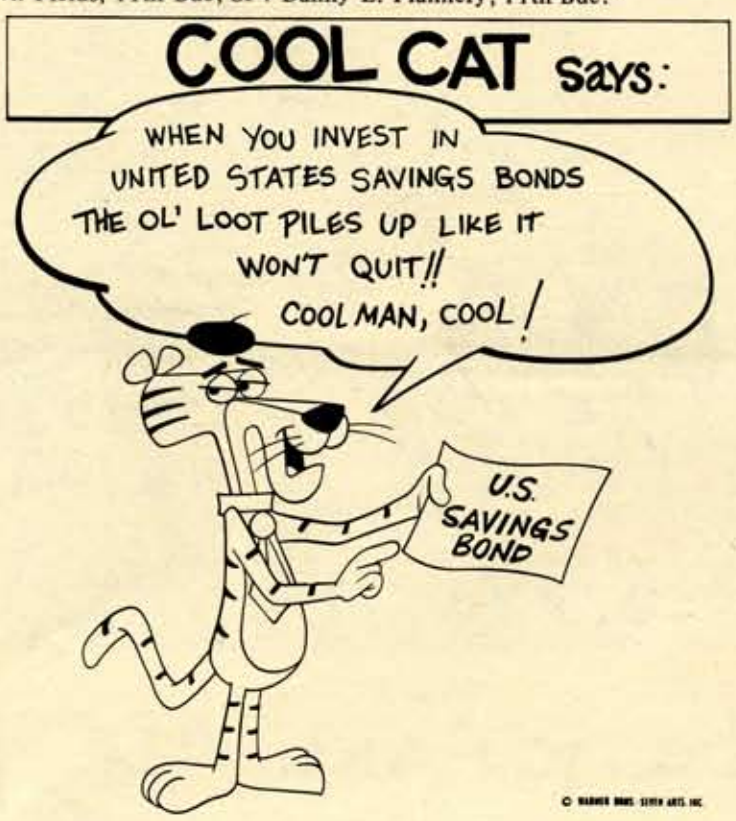
MAJ Virgil E. Blevins (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPT Earl Ingram (2nd OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WOL Lynn Kasmierowski, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WOL James J. Morgan, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; MAJ Reginald A. Neuwien Jr (1st OLC), 123rd Avn Bn; CW2 Robert L. Parsons, 123rd Avn Bn; MAJ William M. Price (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; LTC Jerry L. Teague, 14th Cbt Avn Bn.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

SP4 Tommy B. Baxter, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP4 Thomas Verkozen, 123rd Avn Bn.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PFC Misael Alvarado (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 John H. Ansley, 196th Bde; SP4 Charles J. Arcoletti, 198th Bde; PFC Jimmy T. Asher, 196th Bde; 1LT Dennis A. Clark, 196th Bde; SP4 Carl E. Cook, 196th Bde; PFC Robert E. Dancel, 11th Bde; SGT Barry D. Daniels, 196th Bde; SP4 Terry L. Delio, 11th Bde; PFC Clifford Deskins (1st OLC) 198th Bde; SP4 Dee W. Dye, 11th Bde; PFC John H. Fields, 11th Bde; SP4 Danny E. Flannery, 11th Bde;



The Marijuana User: These smokers use cigarettes, often called "sticks," "grass" or "pot." Marijuana produces a variety of immediate mental and physical effects which become more pronounced with chronic use. Marijuana is particularly hazardous.

While under its influence, concepts of time and space can be radically distorted and response to an emergency is unpredictable. This difference becomes very important when marijuana user operates a car, plane, or any motorized machine.

A recent report of the New Yord County Medical Society noted that habitual use of marijuana can cause criminal acts, violence, and insanity. Marijuana may also cause sudden psychotic episodes or impulsive behavior in reaction to fear or panic.

Dr. P. Chapple, a noted British physician, concluded that repetitious use of this drug could develop a taste or drug intoxication, cause eventual habitual use and graduation to more potent drugs--even heroin--and narcotic addiction.

The Heroin User: Heroin, often called "horse" or "H," becomes severely addictive both psychologically and physically. An addict cannot function normally without it and the body undergoes severe reactions when deprived of the drug. A person "hooked" on heroin quickly loses interest in his job, his family and even living. All he cares about is the dilemma caused by the high cost of illicit heroin and his need for increasingly larger doses.

Because heroin is an expensive habit the addict often turns to theft and other sorts of crime, thereby spreading harmful results into the community at large. Addicts can die from overdosage when the supplies contain more than the customary low percentage.

(Addict deaths from overdosage at a rate of one a day have been reported in New York City.)

The LSD User: LSD, nicknamed "acid" is a very potent hallucinogenic drug. Its use distorts sight, sound and sensation to produce an existence apart from reality. An LSD "trip" is not always pleasant. Sometimes the distoriton of the senses produces a feeling of terror.

Bizarre behavior in public, panic, fear, and homicidal and suicidal urges have been reported. Psychotic states have also been induced through the use of this drug. Fatigue, tension, and recurrent hallucinations may continue long after an experience with LSD.

Psychological changes caused by the drug can stay for indefinite periods. One single dose of LSD nay trigger mental illness and can cause genetic injury.

The Depressant User: Depressants (sedatives-barbiturates) are no less. dangerous than "acid," "pot" or "horse" when misused. Barbiturates also create a physical dependence which is more difficult to escape from than narcotics.

If supplies are suddenly discontinued, severe pain, convulsions, delirium and even death may occur.

The Stimulant User: Stimulants can be equally dangerous to the body, if abused. The main danger of these amphetamine drugs, often called "bennies" or "pep pills," is the possibility of mental illness.

As with barbiturates, increasingly larger doses are required to produce results. But larger dosage frequently creates paranoia

Religion And You

True Friendship

Chaplain (MAJ) Clyde J. Wood
11th Inf. Bde.

The true meaning of friendship comes to a focal point among soldiers in combat. I've seen a whole company of men where everyone was a real buddy. All superficial differences such as location of birth and color of skin are forgotten.

Interdependence may be one of the causes. I do not feel, however, that it answers all the reasons why men cast aside lifetime biases.

Proximity to one another could also be an answer. We see that we are more alike than we have been willing to admit. Yet most of us know that often, just being close is not always good for harmony and goodwill even among soldiers.

What then is the fortifying factor that brings about cooperation and the togetherness that belongs to a unit of fighting men? I think it is the acceptance of individuals. Even the isolet is brought into the inner circle and made to feel a part of the group. Differences have to be ironed out, but these are done acceptably. There is a bond of genuine friendship that may be hard to understand for others, and may even be unnoticeable to them, yet it does exist. It can be discovered by observing when contact is made with the enemy, or an accident happens.

Jesus summed up the epitome of friendship when He said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Time after time this test is passed.

First Of A Ten Part Series On R&R Sites

Start Off Your R&R On The Right Foot

CHU LAI – Have you ever dreamed of being snuggled in a plush hotel on a tropical island with pockets full of money and nothing to do but eat, drink, and relax?

If the dream comes true, you are either a jet-set VIP doing your usual thing, or a jet-sent soldier on a five-day R&R tour in one of nine exotic cities living it up.

Want to get away from it all? If you have been in Vietnam three months or longer, you are eligible for R&R. Choose one of nine pleasure-seeking locations: Bangkok, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei and Tokyo.

Continuing Series

But you are not ready yet! The SOUTHERN CROSS will help you plan for those glorious five days. Each week this newspaper will highlight one of the sights.

In taking advantage of R&R you must submit an application through your company orderly room at least one month in advance of the date you desire.

Servicemen assigned here are entitled to one out-of-country R&R during a one-year tour. Those who extend 90 days or more may take a second R&R, and are eligible any time subsequent to the date extension is approved. A seven-day leave to any of the R&R sites also is available to servicemen in Vietnam.

The uniform must be worn to and from R&R departure sites. Civilian clothing is mandatory after arrival at most sites and is recommended for all.

Uniforms may be worn on the ground only in Hawaii and Camp Zama, Japan. Civilian clothing may be rented or bought at all R&R locations.

Financial arrangements should be made well in advance. MPC used in Vietnam is not valid elsewhere and must be changed into U.S. currency before departure.

Plan Ahead

Shots–shot record, ID Card, identification tags and orders are required in order to board the aircraft. Shots must be up-to-date and cholera immunization administered at least five days before departure.

Smallpox vaccinations must be taken at least two weeks in advance. Those going to Bangkok must have received a cholera shot within four months; all other locations will accept cholera shots taken within the previous six months.

Safeguard Luggage

Baggage–a maximum of 66 pounds applies to all R&R sites. A copy of R&R orders should be placed in each piece of luggage to help safeguard against loss.

Personnel at R&R centers provide detailed information, change currency, arrange tours, and obtain reduced-price hotel reservations.

If you carefully choose a site which offers the type of recreation you seek, and if you plan your trip beforehand, R&R can be a once-in-a-lifetime event you'll never forget.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized periodic publication of the Americal Division Information Office for division units in the Republic of Vietnam. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division, APO 96374. Tel: Chu Lai 2414. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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385 Orphans Presented Clothing By Soldiers

By SP4 Mark Geiser

FSB 4-11–A gift of 500 pounds of clothing from a Division soldier has brightened the lives of 385 orphans in Quang Ngai City.

The gifts were the result of an idea of SP4 Kelly Drabus (Harvey, N.D.) a supply clerk with the 3d Bn., 1st Inf., 11th Inf. Bde.

SP4 Drabus wrote to civic organizations in his home town describing the orphanage's need for clothing and they responded generously. Boy Scouts from the soldier's hometown collected the clothes through a door to door program. The wives of the Jaycees packaged the clothes and collected the money for the postage.

When the clothes arrived Drabus accompanied by 1LT David Smith, (Mesa, Arz.) 3d Bn., 1st Inf. civil affairs officer, and interpreter SSG Nguyen Ly made the trip to the orphanage.

Children of all ages met the trio as they climbed from the two gift-laden jeeps. They helped the men as they carried the 31 packages to the courtyard, encircled by the buildings which house the orphans. After the children had gathered, the packages were opened.

The bright eyes and smiling faces of the children were outward signs of what the clothing meant to them. Many walked around modeling the brightly-colored dresses or pairs of blue jeans.

When asked what his main reason was for seeking the clothing, Drabus responded, "I had always wanted to help the children out in some way. It is my way of making life a little better for orphans."

According to 1LT Smith, "Our battalion has been very close to the orphanage since we began working in the area. We are able to give them almost 80 per cent of the support they require. The orphanage is also helping us out.

Sister Martha, who oversees the Catholic orphanage, stated, "These gifts and those which you have given before are greatly appreciated. Your help makes caring for the orphans much easier." (11th Bde. IO)

A Shot In The Dark—NVA Nailed

FSB LIZ – A squad of 11th Bde. and Regional Forces (RF) soldiers recently killed two NVA in a confused night encounter which followed a verbal exchange with one of the enemy.

A squad from Company B, 1st Bn., 20th Inf. and an element of RF soldiers ha. just arrived

Ten armed NVA soldiers suddenly appeared on the other side of the bamboo and one of them faced SSG James Shaner (Spencerville, Ohio).

"They were outfitted so completely that I thought at first they were the RFs

As SSG Shaner carefully readied his M-16 to meet the challenge of the NVA's AK-47, the enemy soldier asked if he was also NVA.

As they moved back, the Allies opened fire, killing two of the NVA. The men confiscated an enemy carbine.

Medcap Team Treats Viets

LZ HAWK HILL – They treat over 500 Vietnamese patients a month. Their duties have ranged from curing routine skin ailments to saving the life of a mother in childbirth.

"They" are the members of the mobile Medcap (Medical Civil Action Program) team of 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., Americal Div.

The Medcap team includes a doctor, a clinical technician and two medics. The team performs medical services for the small villages surrounding this firebase.

On a typical working day the team is invited to Binh An, seven miles northwest of Tam Ky, by the village chief. 1LT William Bacon (Roswell, N.M.), civil affairs officer, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., journeys to the village and surveys the many thatch-covered hooches that line the street.

1LT Bacon decides that the white masonry meeting hall in the center of the village would be the best place to house the team.

Frequently, the ailment is not so routine. Late one day the team was holding a Medcap in a small, bare building. A woman had just given birth to a baby in the hooch next door.

The team rushed next door and found the woman near death from loss of blood during childbirth. One of the doctors felt the woman's pulse; it was almost nonexistent. Quickly he gave her a blood expander, then drew and watched.

"Her pulse began to rise," recalled 1LT Walker. "We knew she was going to live."

Medical evac. helicopters–dust-offs–are available to the medical team. "If a person needs immediate help we can have him to the hospital within minutes," claims Walker. "During one Medcap, a woman was bitten in the eye by a snake. We called in the dust-off ship and flew her straight to Da Nang."

For less serious cases the patients are referred to the South Vietnamese hospital in Tam Ky.

27th Surgical Hospital Celebrates

Dedication In A Vital Function

Twenty-five years ago, the 27th Surgical Hospital and the Americal Division served in the 6th U.S. Army in the jungles of the Pacific Theater during WWII.

For the past two years, the 27th Surg. Hospital has been serving the men who wear the Southern Cross on their shoulders again, this time in the northernmost region of South Vietnam.

This week marks the second anniversary of the hospital in Chu Lai. The hospital was built by the Seabees in early 1968 and was ready for the 27th when it arrived at Chu Lai from Ft. Lewis, Wash.

During the two years in Chu Lai, it has treated more than 15,000 patients. The 27th not only responds to the needs of the Americal Division and other U.S. services, but treats Vietnamese civilian patients as well. More than half the hospital's patients are Vietnamese.

According to LTC George W. Ford, commanding officer of the hospital, the Vietnamese come mainly from the Tam Ky and Quang Ngai provincial hospitals to undergo surgery or receive medical care. The Vietnamese patients usually return to their local hospital to recuperate.

"The primary function of the hospital is surgery," LTC Ford said, "but we have other services too. We have our own dentist and out-patient ward and Red Cross recreational facilities for the recovering patients. We also have outstanding medical treatment available."

The hospital also has a chapel, PX, and lots of pretty nurses headed by LTC Muriel J. Ransone. An Americal Division liaison soldier is attached to the 27th to take care of the personal needs of the division patients such as mail delivery, PX services and sending money orders home.

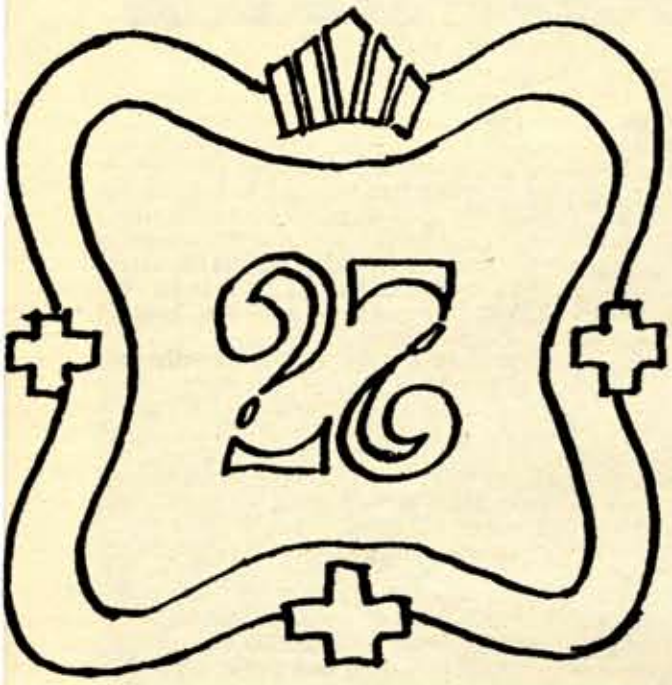
The 27th is not a part of the division, but is a unit of the 67th Medical Group in Da Nang.

"But after our long association with the Americal, we feel we are a real part of the division," said LTC Ford, whose right shoulder displays the Americal Southern Cross. (AMERICAL I0)

Life Is Sometimes A Gift

Laughter Cures As Well

Second Year In Chu Lai



Photos By
SP4 J. B. Majerus

Therapy And Entertainment

Little Things Are Tender

Hit But Unhurt

Grenade Stops Round

LZ BAYONET – It is not every day that a soldier is shot at and hit without experiencing some pain. But it happened recently to PFC James A. Renze (Erie, Pa.) while walking point for his platoon in the 198th Bde. area of operations.

While maneuvering on a search and clear operation seven miles south of Chu Lai, Company A of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. suddenly encountered four NVA soldiers armed with AK-47s and a .30 caliber machinegun.

PFC Renze spotted the enemy first and managed to spray them with a short burst from his rifle before leaping off the trail to safety. However, he was not fast enough to avoid being hit.

He had taken a round which almost relieved him of his belt--if not his life. A round had partially severed his pistol belt and lodged in an M-26 fragmentation grenade secured on his ammo pouch.

The grenade did not explode and neither did PFC Renze. He just grew weak when he realized what had happened. Maybe it was just another day to most American soldiers, but Renze said it was, "nothing like any other day in Vietnam." (198th Bde. IO)

Name Game–

(Continued from page 1)

Little Sister gone, he had no recourse but to name his third, and yes, last ship Baby Sister.

SP5 John Martin (Cleveland), fight engineer with 178 ASHC, came up with the name Turnabout for his ship. He related, "I just got sick of the usual names. I wanted something opposite, turned around. Couldn't think of anything really original so I just called it Turnabout."

One ship received its affectionate title after being grounded quite a few times for mechanical failures. The crew very appropriately named it The Rag.

Most of the names are accompanied by complimentary drawings and illustrations painted on the craft by the crews with various degrees of artistry and detail. (14th CAB IO)

Combat In Review

Moving Out

With the coming of a new day a tank from the Division's F Trp., 17th Cav. prepares to leave its night laager. The cavalrymen are on a sweep for VC in an area 25 miles north of Tam Ky.
(Photo By SP4 Gerald Paulin, 523d Sig. Bn.)

Taking A Break

Silhouetted by the afternoon sun, members of the Division's F Trp. 17th Cav. take a break during a recent search and clear mission 25 miles north of Tam Ky.
(Photo By SP4 Gerald Paulin, 523d Sig. Bn.)

Chargers Claim Laundry

LZ WEST – Laundry day recently turned out to be disastrous for a squad of VC.

The enemy were washing their clothes in a river 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky when a unit from D Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. surprised them.

Kills 2 NVA

FSB BRONCO – The sun's rays danced across the river in the narrow valley as an NVA patrol moved quietly along the river bank. Sitting across the river a Division Recon team from G Co., 75th Inf. (Ranger), tensely watched their movements.

Reeling from the fire the NVA collapsed into the underbrush. Two enemy soldiers died in the fire-fight and an AK-47 was confiscated.

"We were looking for a place to cross the river to get back to our day laager, when we spotted 11 VC on a sandy beach on the opposite side," said SP4 Gary Drake (Carleton, Mich.).

The Division infantrymen set up a hasty position behind a sand dune. After the initial burst of M-16 rifle and M-60 machinegun fire, five of the enemy lay dead.

"We left a squad to cover while the rest of us swam the river to search them out," SP4 Drake.

The infantrymen began receiving fire as soon as they reached the opposite bank. After returning fire, they maneuvered up to the woodline and found four more bodies and two very scared VC with an empty SKS rifle. (196th Bde. IO)

Division armor from F Trp., 17th Cav. move onto line and prepare to sweep into a woodline. The cavalrymen are on a search and clear mission 25 miles north of Tam Ky.

Scouts Sniff Enemy

LZ HAWK HILL – Old King is a hard-core combat veteran. He has been here since 1968 and has been wounded five times. He is also one of the more outstanding canine members of the 48th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) of the 196th Inf. Bde.

King's job, along with the platoon's other scout dogs is to support the infantry tactical units by giving early silent warning of ambushes, snipers, and enemy approach. His primary means of accomplishing this is his nose.

"Our dogs act upon airborne scents," Lt Robert E. Allen (Boston) says, "as opposed to tracker dogs which work upon ground scents such as blood trails left by a wounded enemy."

Before being shipped to Vietnam, both handler and dog receive intensive stateside training. Dogs destined to be "on leash" are put through a 12-week course. Upon completion, the handler may go to Vietnam while the dog remains behind to repeat the course a minimum of two more times.

A dog trained to work in the field without a leash meets his permanent handler at Ft. Benning, Ga. There, they both attend a 20-week course designed to give the dog the additional capability of working unleashed from his handler.

Upon completion, both handler and dog are shipped to Vietnam, where they remain together for the duration of the handler's tour.

When working off the leash, the dog responds to whistle commands and hand and arm signals from his handler. One such dog is Bullet.

"The terrain pretty well dictates whether or not I use Bullet on leash or off leash," says SGT Dennis H. Wittman, (KauKauna, Wis.) "If the terrain is open so I can see him and he can see me, then I use him off the leash. If the vegetation is very dense, then I have to use the leash."

The handler's main job is to constantly watch his dog for an alert.

The weather also affects the dogs' sense of smell as does dense vegetation.

Since scout dogs primarily detect and react to airborne scents, they are most often used on point. But this is not always the case.

"The handler must always be aware of the wind direction so he can use and place the dog to the best advantage," LT Allen points out. "If the unit is moving with the wind, it might be more advantageous to place the team near the rear of the element."

He added that the handler should always brief the platoon leader and company commander on the dog's capabilities and methods of operation, and stressed that it is important that these persons listen to the handler's suggestions.

"Our dogs are well trained and know their jobs," he said, "but they must be used within their capabilities."

If Old King could talk, he'd probably agree. (196th Bde. IO)

Armed Forces Day To Honor Soldiers

Armed Forces Day will be observed May 16 this year, with the same concept--"Report to the Nation" and theme--"Forces for Freedom"--as last year.

This year's observance marks the 20th anniversary of Armed Forces Day. A proclamation issued by president Harry Truman in February 1950 established the first Armed Forces Day as a time to "display the flag . . . and participate in exercises expressive of our recognition of the skill, gallantry, and uncompromising devotion to duty characteristic of the Armed Forces in the carrying out of their missions."

In his Armed Forces Day message President Nixon stated, "It is my great pleasure to salute the courage and devotion of the men and women of our Military Services and their families on Armed Forces Day 1970.

"They perform the demanding and often grim tasks of our forces for freedom as resolutely as their forebears have done, earning our gratitude for their quiet performance of difficult duties.

"Our servicemen and women shoulder the burden of defense as one of the responsibilities of citizenship in this free country.

Having participated in protecting our rights and having met oppression on the battlegrounds of the world, they are able to appreciate and savor the blessings of citizenship in the country they serve. Therefore, on Armed Forces Day they report to the Nation on their contributions to keeping America Free."

Concerning Armed Forces Day, Secretary of Defense Melving Laird said, "In peace and in war, at home and abroad, the men and women of the Armed Forces have served their country with distinction and courage.

"The men and women who today wear a military uniform have earned the respect and admiration of the American people. In bitter combat in Vietnam, on lonely sentry duty in Korea, in countless other outposts around the world and our important installations at home.

196th Infantry Brigade Adopted By Kalamazoo

LZ HAWK HILL – The 196th Inf. Bde. of the Americal Division has a new stateside home. The people of Kalamazoo, Michigan have offcially adopted the "Chargers" largely as a result of the efforts of a native son--Mr. Jim Stowell, the brigade's Red Cross representative.

Mr. Stowell, a retired U.S. Army major, is hardly a newcomer to Vietnam having served two prior tours while in the service.

In September, just prior to his leaving for Vietnam, Stowell and Mr. Mike Coffey discussed the idea of a project to help U.S. soldiers in Vietnam, especially those serving in the field. This was the beginning of the 196th. Bde.'s adoption.

Stowell first encountered the Red Cross' logistical problem when he reported to his new duty station in Chu Lai. The Red Cross girls there, the "donut dollies," reported a lack of supplies. When asked what they needed, they answered: anything and everything.

From Chu Lai, Stowell was further assigned to the 196th located at LZ Hawk Hill seven miles north of Tam Ky. Upon arrival, Stowell immediately encountered the same problems.

On his first trips to the troops in the field, Stowell found he simply didn't have enough goods to meet the needs of the men.

Informing his brother of the situtation, the idea they had discussed in September began taking shape.

From Hawk Hill, Stowell went looking for items the troops could use, extending his search from Chu Lai to Da Nang. He knew the troop reduction would leave extra Red Cross ditty bags filled with many useful items.

At the 95th Evac. Hospital in Da Nang, he found what he'd been looking for; enough ditty bags to completely fill his office. He later "appropriated" 500 more goodie-filled bags from Chu Lai.

Still, he needed more items. "There is never too much," explained Stowell, "I can't say I had so much I didn't know what to do with it; I just had a temporary storage problem."

In Kalamazoo, the original idea was turning into a community project. Stowell's brother, also a Vietnam veteran, had introduced the idea to the Kalamazoo chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The idea rapidly took hold and word of it wnet around town. A community project supporting men in Vietnam was editorially endorsed by the local newspaper and the city council.

Finally, the United Vieteran's Council of Kalamazoo, led by chairman Chris Armenis, Michigan's 1969 Vieteran of the Year, decided to sponsor the campaign. The people of Kalamazoo had officially adopted the 196th Inf. Bde.

Today, Stowell's tiny horseshoe-shaped office is a maze of shelves filled with anything and everything. Boxes began arriving from Kalamazoo the first of March, containing items Stowell had reported the troops needed-washcoths, soap dishes, combs, pens, paper, cans of peanuts, current magazines, even greeting cards.

"It grew out of an idea and a need," said Stowell.

Fingering a keychain complete with a thunderbird medallion, Stowell explained, "I can use anything anybody's got to give. If anyone wants to do something to help, they should be able to do their thing, and I'm here to see it gets done."

He goes to the field twice a week and hopes to go more frequently. He now has a clerk, SP4 Joseph Rizzo (Watertown, Mass.), trained to help with the paperwork, which should allow him more time to visit the men in the field.

Stowell has also enlisted the aid of the brigade chaplains. When they journey to the field, he sends a duffle bag of goods with them.

Stowell is a family man and doesn't anticipate a fourth tour. His wife and five children ranging in ages 12-9, live in Spring Lake, N.C., near Ft. Bragg where he was last stationed.

Stowell's work with the Red Cross is not confined to supplying the troops from his "country" store of goods. He handles an excess of 300 cases a month concerning health, welfare, disrupted communications home, and emergency messages. He offers counselling on anything, assists commanders on morale of the troops, and advises them of general problems the men have.

When Stowell leaves Vietnam in October, it won't mean a severing of Kalamazoo's ties with the 196th. The town's 95,000 people have pledged their support of the unit. They intend to continue that support until the "Chargers" return home. (196th Bde IO)

A Water Safety Course Presented In Chu Lai

RED CROSS INSTRUCTOR, Jon Ekstrand, demonstrates mouth to mouth artificial respiration. The "victim" has been covered lightly with sand to preserve his body heat and help prevent shock.

CHU LAI – Fifteen U.S. servicemen recently completed 50 hours of training to become authorized Red Cross water safety instructors.

The new water safety instructors will man beaches and military pools along the South China Sea area of Chu Lai, where the Americal Division Headquarters makes its present home.

Included were three men from the U.S. Marine Corps; one from the U.S. Navy; and the balance from the Americal Division.

The course consisted of five hours of training a day in the pool and in the ocean. Students were required to learn and demonstrate life saving, teaching, and swimming skills, surf and rip tide rescues. Joh Ekstrand, director of Red Cross safety programs in Southeast Asia, instructed the course.

The water safety instructors will serve as lifeguards and train other military personnel as lifeguards. Ekstrand said plans are underway to initiate a beginners swimming course which will be taught by the new instructors to military personnel in the Americal Division.

The Red Cross and the Americal Special Service Office are increasing efforts to train qualified lifeguards for the various authorized swimming areas along the ocean front recreation facilities.

Photos By James Caccavo
Story By Hidegarde Herfurth
American Red Cross

STUDENTS LEARN to use a torpedo buoy to rescue someone from the surf.

RESCUER BRACES HIMSELF to avoid losing his surf board as he goes through the surf.

STUDENTS PRACTICE bringing the victim back to shore after rescuing him .

STUDENTS RUN into the surf with a torpedo buoy.