Two Americal Men Win Medal of Honor

Sergeant Lester A. Stone

Sergeant Lester R. Stone Jr., US52968380, United States Army, distinguished himself on 3 March 1969 while serving as a squad leader of the first platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 20th Inantry, 11 Infantry Brigade. On that date, the first platoon was on a combat patrol just west of Landing Zone Liz when it came under intense automatic weapons and grenade fire from a well concealed company size force of North Vietnamese Regulars. Observing the platoon machinegunner fall critically wounded, Sergeant Stone rushed into the open area to the side of his injured comrade. Utilizing the machinegun, Sergeant Stone remained in the exposed area to provide cover fire for the wounded soldier who was being pulled to safety by another member of the platoon. With enemy fire impacting all around him, Sergeant Stone encountered a malfunction in the machinegun preventing him from firing the weapon automatically. Displaying extraordinary courage under the most adverse conditions, Sergeant Stone repaired the weapon and continued to place effective suppressive fire on the enemy positions which enabled the rescue to be completed. In a desperate attempt to overrun his position, an enemy force left their cover and charged Sergeant Stone. Disregarding the danger involved Sergeant Stone rose to his knees and begain placing intense fire on the enemy at point blank range, killing six of the insurgents before falling mortally wounded. His actions of unsurpassed valor were a source of inspiration to his entire unit and he was responible for saving the lives of a number of his fellow soldiers. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of military profession and reflected great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Corporal Michael J. Crescenz

Corporal Michael J. Crescenz, US52815198 Company A, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division who displayed great courage when his unit engaged a large and well entrenched force of NVA regulars in the Republic of Vietnam. On Nui Chom at 0815 on 20 November 1968, the enemy opened fire with automatic weapons and machine guns on the advancing platoon killing their point man with the initial burst of fire and pinning down the lead squad. The advance of Company A was stopped at this point by a well fortified enemy. At this time Corporal Crescenz who was relatively safe in the middle of his platoon siezed the nearest machine gun and charged up the hill into the intense enemy fire with complete disregard for his own safety. The enemy was 100 yards from the American element when Corporal Crescenz moved upward toward the NVA bunkers. He assaulted the first enemy bunker and succeeded in killing two NVA and then assaulted the second bunker while dodging a hail of bullets. He entered the second position killing two more NVA. Courageously Corporal Crescenz still moved forward. Machine gun fire hit all around him as he resolutely continued up the hill, firing his M-60 machine gun. He succeeded in silencing the third bunker and killing two more of the enemy. The way was now thought to be clear for the advance of his fellow soldiers. However, intense enemy machine gun fire opened up from a previously unseen bunker. Realizing the danger to his comrades, Corporal Crescenz with his machine gun under his arm advanced on the fourth NVA position. The position poured heavy fire at him but he continued firing at the enemy. When he was about five meters from this bunker, he was mortally wounded by the NVA

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3, No. 16 | CHU LAI, VIETNAM | May 8, 1970

Division Recap

Troops discover caches

By SP4 Dennis L. Selby

Americal Division soldiers recently accounted for 163 enemy killed in the southern I Corps area. In the same seven day period, the men captured over a half ton of rice and 10-15 tons of salt.

Geneva Park

Elements of the 198th Infantry Brigade recently policed up a quantity of VC equipment in their area.

While on patrol nine miles northeast of Quang Ngai City, an element of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry picked up a VC suspect and held him for questioning. In the same vicinity, the patrol also found a cache that included five SKS carbines, one magazine, 400 rounds of small arms ammunition, two anti-personnel mines and one hand grenade.

Alpha Company also found a cache while on patrol nine miles north of Quang Ngai City. An elment of this company found a tunnel in which there was one pistol belt, 500 pounds of rice, a 30 pound shaped charge, four hand grenades and eight green and black uniforms. The patrol destroyed the tunnel and its contents.

An early morning encounter with Charley Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry in an area 19 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City cost the enemy three VC killed. The three kills were part of a force that was estimated at about 14. They were carrying 600 to 800 pounds of rice and weapons.

Iron Mountain

In the mountains six miles east of Duc Pho, soldiers of Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry discovered 10-15 tons of salt salted away. The cache was in a pit inside a well camouflaged hut.

Twenty-two NVA fell to rocket and gunfire of the 174th Aviation Company (assault

Continued on page six

Pay procedures announced

CHU LAI (Americal IO) – In accordance with USARV message dated April 15, 1970, the 1970 Military Pay raise will not be implemented until May 1970, but a supplemental payroll will be paid on May 10, 1970. The supplemental payroll will pay the retroactive portion from January 1 through April 30, 1970.

The supplemental payroll will be paid in cash by the unit Class A Agent, except for those personnel on the American Express Payroll who will be paid by check directly to American Express for desposit in the service member's account.

The regular May Military Pay Voucher will contain your regular military pay with the new pay rates. Payday for May will be on Friday, May 29, 1970.

Service members will be counseled on the pay increase and advised to consider the following methods for disposition of the retroactive portion and establishment of a systematic plan for future months.

a. Credit to Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Plan.
b. United States Savings Bonds.
c. Treasury Check to a financial institution.
d. Accrual of pay on the service member's pay voucher.

Troops uncover trail, discover base camp

By SP4 Louis D. Featherman

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE) – Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry on an operation 25 miles west of Chu Lai uncovered a battalion-size enemy base camp. The operation accounted for 7 enemy and the destruction of their camp.

The soldiers had been sweeping a heavily wooded mountainous area for over a week and found many signs of the enemy. Traveling along the streams and trails, the troopers came upon many recently-used camping sites, sleeping positions and small cultivated fields in the midst of heavy jungle.

"We were walking up a stream bed and the point man found a small trail leading in our general direction of travel." said 2nd Lieutenant Robert J. Franco, from Brooklyn, the platoon leader of the point element. Lieutenant Franco and a small element decided to check the trail out before moving out the entire company.

"We moved about two hundred yards up the trail," he continued. "From this point point we could see the top of the hill we were moving up and it was 100 yards away." The men moved up a little further and found a large hootch off to the left of the trail. At almost the same time three NVA came walking down the trail.

"My point man had already moved off the trail when they appeared." Lieutenant Franco recalled. "We both opened up at the same time. I hit one and he killed the other two." They captured an SKS and two AK-47s.

"One of the AKs was brand new." said Sergeant Gerhard Kork, Chicago. "It still had cosmoline on it." The rest of the company was called up and a platoon went on line to the top of the hill where they found the base camp.

"There were 25 to 30 hootches with cots and a tunnel complex which led to underground rooms." stated Lieutenant Franco. "We also found 30 pigs and a pot of tea that was still hot."

The sweeping platoon killed four more NVA attempting to escape from the camp. Searching the area, the men found a trail leading down a small saddle and up another small hill.

"We found another small camp with nine hootches. There were OPs (observation posts) set up in the trees." continued Lieutenant Franco. "We found markings on two of the hootches saying 'Phong 2' and 'Phong 4'. Our interpreter said that this meant the same as our S-2 and S-4 (intelligence and logistics). This is why we think it is a battalion headquarters and base camp."

In the same area Charlie Company found another small base camp and a cache of medical supplies and deprived the enemy of more valuable resources deep within his own backyard.

'Brave and Bold' close NVA school

QUANG NGAI (Americal IO) – An NVA schoolroom in the jungle? That's exactly what 198th Infantry Brigade troopers from 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry found this week while they were on operations in the Bien Lach area, ten miles north of Quang Ngai City.

The first platoon of Delta Company, led by Second Lieutenant Robert Newton, Burlington, Iowa, was walking point for the company in a routine movement through the area. The discovery of one dead NVA soldier, killed by fire from Cobra gunships which had been working the area earlier, led to a more complete search.

While the rest of the company provided security, the lead platoon swept the surrounding area and discovered a complex of recently built and well constructed hootches.

"The largest of these appeared to be some kind of a school room", commented Staff Sergeant Roger Leggett, Jackson, Mich.

Sergeant Legget went on to say that the building housed desks, chairs, even a portable blackoard which had been wiped clean. Also there were numerous writing materials including more than 50 pieces of chalk in the 8 x 14 foot structure.

"It was plainly designed to provide classes and instructions to incoming NVA." he continued.

A subsequent find produced NVA lesson plans on the use of the Russian built AK-47 rifle along with papers and charts relating to the placements and materials necessary to set up booby traps.

In addition to the school room, the "Brave and Bold" infantryman from Delta Company, following the lead of Platoon Sergeant Ben Bentley, New Orleans, uncovered rice caches in the immediate area totaling over two tons and smaller supplies of potatoes and beets.

In another search of the area, the second platoon, led by First Lieutenant Charles Winwood, Irwin, Penn., found another cache of rice bringing the daily total to over two tons.

A continued search of the hootches surrounding the school room also produced results. Loosening false walls within the hootches, the men uncovered still more quantities of rice.

The entire area was heavily booby trapped. On several trails leading into and out of the complex, several explosive devices were destroyed. They ranged in size from the hand grenade to the 155 arty round.

Part IV of a special series on R&R sites

Relaxation, nightlife await you in Hong Kong

To most people, Hong Kong brings thoughts of the mysterious Orient, Old Charlie Chan movies and fishing junks. Once they have been there, however, most people have a different idea of this British Crown Colony.

Hong Kong is, perhaps, the most beautiful, fascinating and cosmopolitan city in the East. As such it offers to the visitor a mixture of sights, sounds and tastes that has no equal anywhere else in the world.

The two and a half hour flight from Vietnam is a most enjoyable change of pace for the combat soldier. It is highlighted by a superb meal and the first decent cup of coffee in a long time – this appears to be a dream come true.

Airports officials in Hong Kong are concerned with getting you on your way to fire days of pleasure so customs checks are fast and efficient.

Buses at the airport will take you to the R&R Center on the Kowloon side of the colony where pretty young hostesses greet you at the door with a cold glass of beer.

Good Accommodations

R&R Hotel reservations are made for you months in advance at any one of more than 15 hotels in the Hong Kong Kowloon area. Before leaving the R&R Ceneter, you will be presented with a choise of hotels that vary in price from $4 to $11 a night. These hotels have been approved for their clean, Western facilities.

The economy minded person might like to check into the Shamrock Hotel. Middle of the road prices will get you an excellent room by any stateside standards: the President, Empress or Park all offer outstanding accommodations for $7 to $9 a night. Where else can you walk into a top notch Hilton Hotel but in Hong Kong for $10.50 a night.

While you are at the R&R Center you will be allowed to convert $100 American to $600 Hong Kong dollars. The rest of your money can be exchanged at locale banking facilities and there only. All of the authorized exchanges are listed in the R&R brochures.

Once you have had a bath and a good night's sleep, the many sights of Hong Kong are there to greet your amazed eyes.

Ride to the Top

One will have to agree, not all the sights of Hong Kong center around Kowloon's Nathan Road. A five minute ride, costing only ten cents, across the bay to the Hong Kong side of the colony on the Star Ferry will bring you close to the bottom of the famous Victoria Peak. The cable-car ride to the peak is a thrill in itself. When you've reached the top you can see for hundreds of miles in any direction with the sprawling city below you.

A tour of the new territories can be arranged by any of the local tour agencies. On this interesting journey, you'll pass the re-settlement areas where refugees from the Communist China Mainland have decided to start anew. As your trip progresses, you'll find unspoiled beaches and virgin fields passing your window. The climax to your trip is sure to be at the northern-most border of Hong Kong where the panoramic view at the Lok Ma Chan police post includes a look beyond the Bamboo Curtain into Communist China.

Shopping Paradise

Because Hong Kong is a free port, items from all over the world are sold at the lowest prices anywhere.

Stereo and camera equipment is sold at hundreds of street shops throughout Hong Kong. Some of the best hand-made clothing featuring materials of any kind are sold at this Far Eastern business hub.

Whether you are looking for any of these items, carvings, watches perfumes, leather, good china ware or 10,000 other curios, check out the prices of the China Fleet Club located on the Hong Kong side before you buy. Also, customs will require you show them a comprehensive Certificate of Origin (CCO) on any Chinese made objects. Ask for it when you make your purchases.

No visit to Hong Kong is complete without trying Chinese food. There are four basic styles of Chinese cooking in Hong Kong to choose from, each represent a different geographical area.

Cantonese food is perhaps best known for its shark's fin and bird nest soup. Then there's Szechuanese, a style favored by those who like highly spices foods. Third is Pekinese, the type closest to Western cooking made famous by its Peking Duck. Finally there is Shanghai, a must for anyone who likes seafood.

By all means, don't let the thought of old Charlie Chan keep you from this place where ancient Chinese and modern Western worlds meet to form Hong Kong.

Part I

Confucius' idea shaped by crisis

By SP4 Dan Swezey

Prior to the French colonial era, Vietnamese society could be characterized as a Confucian society. Even today after more that 100 years of exposure to Western ideas, Confucianism continues to influence the thoughts and behavior of most Vietnamese.

Just what is Confucianism? How did Vietnam become Confucianist and why is it so important?

Confucius lived from 551 to 479 B.C. A man of education from the lower aristocracy, he spent his life trying to attain high political office. Although he never achieved the position he wanted, he probably held petty posts as a young man and later in life seems to have been given a higher but only honorary post. Much of his life was spent wandering from state to state teaching his ideas on government to various kings.

Confucius lived during a time of political crisis. The feudal Chou dynasty, which was founded in 1122 B.C., had given China several hundred years of peace and stability. By the time of Confucius' birth, however, the House of Chou had lost its authority. Feudal lords who had been loyal to the King of Chou now defied central authority and called themselves kings. China was entering the period called the "Waring States" which was characterized by constant warfare among scores of small states all attempting to dominate the whole of China.

Confucius, along with most other Chinese philosophers of his time, was concerned primarily with political problems.

Confucius looked back upon the early Chou dynasty and the mythical "golden age" that had existed long before the Chou as periods of wisdom and perfection. Confucius felt that political stability could only be achieved by returning to the ways of the ancient "sage kings."

Confucius never claimed to be an innovator. He proclaimed himself to be a transmitter of the wisdom of the past. He claimed that the anarchy of his time could be corrected by returning to the political and social order that had supposedly been established by King Wen and the Duke of Chou, the founders of the Chou dynasty.

It is here that we can see one of the major differences between traditional East Asian (including Vietnamese) thinking and Western thinking. For the Westerner, the perfect age is represented by the "Kingdom of God" and is expected to come the future as an age of technological perfection. Thus, Christianity and then the the future as an age of technoligical perfection. Thus, Christianity and then the rise of science have caused Europeans and Americans to be a "forward looking" people.

For the Chinese and Vietnamese, the age of perfection was in the past. The goal of man was not to prepare for the future but to return to the past. This "backward looking" attitude survived in Vietnam right up until the early part of this century.

premiums reduced

WASHINGTON (ANF) – Insurance rate reductions up to 35% in two classes of National Service Life Insurance policies have been announced by Donald E. Johnson administrator of Veterans Affairs.

Premiums on life insurance policies bearing prefix "J" (not "JR" or "JS") will be reduced an average of 18 per cent as a result of increased interest earnings in this insurance fund.

Premium reductions averaging 35 per cent will be made on policies bearing prefixes "V", "RS" and "W"

Mr. Johnson stressed that since veterans will be notified of the premium reductions, it is not necessary to contact the Veterans Administration.

Religion and you

Prodigal Son Story

By Chaplain (MAJ) Verne A. Slighter

3rd Bn–1st Inf

The Story of the Prodiagal Son is one that has many parallels for our modern day and is relevant to many young men serving in Vietnam and other "far Countries" of the world. The prodigal son in the Bible, like many young men in the armed forces was a likable young chap. He was not bad, or evil, or even delinquent. The worst that could probably be said about him was that he had no sense of values. He asked for that portion of the estate that fell to him as if it were manna from heaven. He did not seem to realize that his old father had spent a life of hard work accumulating such wealth. And thus when he got into the far country he was quite unprepared for its flattery and seduction, with the result that little by little the rowdies and the Saigon-tea girls and the pimps got everything away from his while he lived loosely.

A very similar situation is faced by many a young soldier in Vietnam with a pocket full of money. No one is ready for life, with all its complex struggles, until he has a sense of values and can tell the difference between goods and what is good, between wealth and riches, between happiness and thrills, between sensation and satisfaction, between merit and applause.

Relatively few prodigals are vicious. Most of them are very attractive people. Most of them have good intentions, but all of them lack perspective. He who has no sense of values will always be a wanderer in some "far country" while the folks back home sit in anxious helplessness. A sense of values is something that no man can give to another, but Christ has given us the clue to setting our perspective in order. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well.

Prep School taking applications

If you want to further your leadership ability, you can now make plans to attend the United States Military Academy Preparatory School. Attendance at the Preparatory School will prepare you for the United States Military Academy and a subsequent career as a Regular Army Officer.

The knowledge that you are gaining under combat conditions will be a valuable and enduring addition to the Army in the years to come. The caliber and dedication of our soldiers in Vietnam indicates that many potential students can be found within our ranks.

Approximately 300 Army personnel will be able to attend the Preparatory School for the 1970-71 class beginning in August 1970. Qualified personnel may submit applications as outlined in AR 351-12 to the Commandant, USMA Preparatory School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, 22060, until June 30 for the class beginning August, 1970.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized periodic publication of the Americal Division Information Office for the Division in the Republic of Vietnam. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of 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.

Major General A.E. Milloy . . . . . Commanding General
Major John T. Pauli . . . . . Information Officer
Second Lieutenant Robert Pennington . . . . . .Officer-in-Charge
Specialist Four John F. Skosnik . . . . . Editor
Specialist Four Dan Swezey . . . . . Managing Editor
Specialist Four Stephen G. Frazier . . . . . Production Editor

196th liaison team makes Son Hoa a happier village

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ WEST (196th INF BDE IO) – The sun glares down on Son Hoa as Vietnamese pause in shady patches along the dusty street to shift their loads of bamboo stalks and mop the sweat from their eyes.

Sergeant John Duque, San Antonio, stands in front of his mud hut near the village gate.

"I've always wanted to do something like this, ever since I came in-country." he muses. "Now that I'm here, I'm running like a chicken with my head cut off. We are getting 400 refugees in during the next few weeks and it is all I can do to get metal roofing."

Life never was this helter-skelter for him back on LZ West, base for the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry of the 196th Brigade. Until mid-December he was a mortar platoon sergeant there. Sergeant Duque learned that the battalion commander was looking for volunteers for a liaison team to live in Son Hoa, a village four miles north of the fire support base. Son Hoa is tucked beneath Hill 441, a Viet Cong beehive.

"The villagers were constantly being raided by the VC." explained Sergeant Duque. "They needed security and a lot more help then they were getting."

Sergeant Frederick Martin, Omaha and Specialist 4 Raymond Carter, Denver, stepped forward with him. Sergeant Martin had spent 11 months as a rifleman; Specialist Carter, a medic, was new in-country when he volunteered for Son Hoa.

All three men are proud of the community. Line companies stopping over in Son Hoa make an immaculate police call when they leave; Sergeant Duque demands it.

The team's services have helped to make Son Hoa a healthier, safer, more prosperous settlement. When the soldiers first arrived, the villagers could hardly support themselves. There were no trained troops in the village and enemy rice raids were common.

"They villager's were ready to pack up and leave." said Sergeant Duque. "They would have given up in another month."

The Americans set up a quick support schedule. First, they arranged for a MEDCAP team to visit Son Hoa each Day. They became friends with the village-chief and won his support for their mission.

Building materials -- wood, roofing and wire -- were flown in by helicopter to provide home for the families who had from the foothills sloping down to Hill 441 to the village. After a month physical improvements could be seen and Sergeant Duque began to build up an intelligence system that eventually cut VC infiltration to zero.

"Now we are receiving people from other areas." said Sergeant Martin. "The largest number ever will be arriving next month."

Angry Viet Cong tried to nip the development of Son Hoa recently. Hit from three sides the Popular Forces soldiers huddled in foxholes as enemy rounds slashed the banana grove in the village center.

"Artillery saved us." recalled Sergeant Duque. "Most of the villagers had dug holes to crawl into when rounds came in so everything left in the open was VC. We sent them back up the hill and they have not been back since."

If they ever do come back it may be to rally to the Government of Vietnam. More and more ralliers have been received at the building where the liaison team lives.

23rd Med Bn trains Vietnamese nurses

By SSG Vern Kaiser

CHU LAI (DISCOM IO) – When it comes to helping the Vietnamese people to help themselves, the 23rd Medical Battalion is one of the busiest units in the Division.

In addition to their normal workload, the Battalion is involved almost every week in either a MEDCAP, OPCAP or DENTCAP. Also, for the past eight months, they have been assisting the 2nd ARVN Division with on-the-job training for medical personnel.

Their latest program involved training Vietnamese girls to becomes nurses. This program began at the request of the Village Chief of Ky Xuan Island.

Four young girls, ages eighteen to nineteen, from the Island began their ten week course of intensive study in late January. The purpose of the training was to equip the nurses so they could provide medical assistance to the inhabitants of the island. The ten week course was geared to teach the basics in general medical treatment and preventive medicine.

For the first five weeks, all four nurses trained at Headquarters and Company A under the direction of physicians, medical operation assistants and wardmasters. Training included the cleaning and dressing of wounds and utilizing proper sterile techniques. They also learned to take temperature, blood pressure, administer injections, draw blood samples, dispense medicines and assist in surgical procedures.

In the second phase of the training, two of the nurses were sent to the Battalion's Delta Company at LZ Mud in order to gain experience in their nurses duties. All four have assisted in the emergency room.

Doctor (CPT) Stephen Coats, Troy, Mo., remarked, "The nurses have performed in an outstanding manner. I believe that the experience the nurses have gained during their training has been most profitable."

When asked about the language problem, Sergeant First Class Keith A. Jack, Cassviles, Wis., Battalion Civil Affairs NCOIC said, "During the class room sessions we had a translator. During the other instruction periods or on-the-job application, medical personnel would point to what was to be done and the girls seemed to understand. By the end of the course, most of the girls were learning English which made it easier to teach them."

After the graduation ceremony, Miss Luong Thi Tam said, "We are very grateful for this opportunity to learn nurses' duties and will try to live up to the 23rd Medical Battalion

ARVN and Recon unit hit bunkers

FSB DEBBIE (11th INF BDE IO) – In a recent day-long operation four miles south of Duc Pho, an 11th Infantry Brigade Recon Platoon working with Republic of Vietnam soldiers destroyed four underground bunker complexes, killing four VC. The unit also captured three communist weapons, and uncovered a VC flag, ammunition, food, clothing and medical supplies.

First Lieutenant Brian Demary, Beaumont, Tex., Recon Platoon Leader, 4th Battalion, 21 Infantry, used part of his element as a blocking force while the remainder swept through hedgerows and hooches, led by the ARVN troops. "The Vietnamese were unbelievable," commented Lieutenant DeMary, "they knew where to search, how to search and when to search."

"One of the soldiers, Nguyen Duc Trung, spotted a tunnel opening and warned us to stay back," said Sergeant Paul Dobey, Hampton, Va., "Then the tunnel opened and a grenade rolled at my feet, but fortunately the pin hadn't been pulled." The enemy soldier was killed as he tried to escape from a rear exit.

Specialist Four James McDonald, Peoria, Ill., added, "The Vietnamese uncovered two other tunnels, which turned out to be reinforced bunkers, They placed a claymore and two blocks of C-4 at the entrances, blew the tunnels, and searched them out." Specialist McDonal commented that the Vietnamese were very calm about their work, took their time, and searched throughly.

As the operation continued, Private First Class Terry Gieselman, San Antonio, discovered another tunnel-bunker while probing a hedgerow. "After blowing it," said Specialist Gieselman, "We found assorted supplies, including medicines, fish and rice."

As the long, hot day was finally coming to an end for the combined team, several more VC were spotted near a hooch. The men engaged them, killing one and wounding two.

Three nation patrol , Vietnamization success

FSB BRONCO (DIV IO) – The initial mission of the newly formed 4th ARVN Regiment's Long Range Patrol (IRP) was a three nation affair. With two teams on the first mission were "Red Death" rangers from Company G (Ranger), 75th Infantry, attached to the 11th Infantry Brigade and an Australian interpreter.

The mission was intended to familiarize the ARVN with the methods of the Division's IRP operations. It begain as the two teams were inserted northwest of Duc Pho. Vietnamese rangers, all graduates of the MACV Recondo School at Nha Trang, comprised the main body of the team.

"The ARVN team did an outstanding job, showed remarkable poise and confidence and had an excellent knowledge of ranger tactics." said Staff Sergeant E. Roy Ring, Yakima, Wash. "Essentially our job was to advise and to call in gunships if the need arose." he concluded.

As the second team was being inserted, they observed cultivated rice paddies, a dam across a pond and a well used trail. "The ARVN team leader moved us to the top of a hill for our observation mission. We spotted eight very well equipped NVA moving during the day." said Sergeant Larry Tracy, Redding, Calif.

That night the team spotted campfires. "The ARVN were alert throughout the night." explained Sergeant Tracy. They knew something could happen and they never let their guard down."

The next day a platoon of NVA was spotted moving on-line towards the team's position. "They were well equipped and were camouflaged with brush to cover themselves. They were the real McCoys." Sergeant Tracy continued.

The ARVN team leader moved the team along the pre-planned escape and evasion route. Specialist 5 Robert W. Wells, Detroit, the radio-telephone operator, called for extraction and gunship support.

Vietnamization is not an empty in the Division's area of operations as this three nation reconnaissance team has proved.

Hiep Duc builds school

LZ WEST (196th INF BDE IO) – Another step towards making Hiep Duc District a thriving community has been taken. At this remote outpost of pacification 22 miles west of Tam Ky, seven school houses were recently completed.

Vietnamese district leaders expressed a desire for schoolhouses at the first meeting of the friendship council with civil affairs workers from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infanty.

Because delays were expected in getting needed materials through province channels, the district chief decided to begin constuction immediately using the materials at hand.

One three room and six one room schoolhouses were built. Desks and seats were fashioned from empty ammunition boxes donated by the civil affairs team of the battalion. School kits provided by CARE are expected to be used in the classrooms.

"Six teachers approved by the province officials will be instructing the classes." said 1st Lieutenant Michael Donohoe, Buffalo, N.Y. "In addition, the MEDCAP team from the battalion will give lessons on sanitation and personal hygiene."

These Vietnamese children are awaiting the beginning of their classes. More and more children are becoming enrolled in schools as their home areas become more secure.

A Day's Activities On Hwy 1 With The 23d Military P

An MP checks an accident

Halting a con

Photos By
SSG L.E. Pe

Searching for contraband

Leaving no pl

olice Company

oy

CHU LAI (Americal IO) – One of the Division's most varied and challenging jobs is carried on by the 23rd Military Police Company.

A few of the many tasks of the 23rd MP Co. include the patrolling of roads, the escorting of convoys, the detention and processing of enemy detainees and the control of civilians leaving and entering Division military installations.

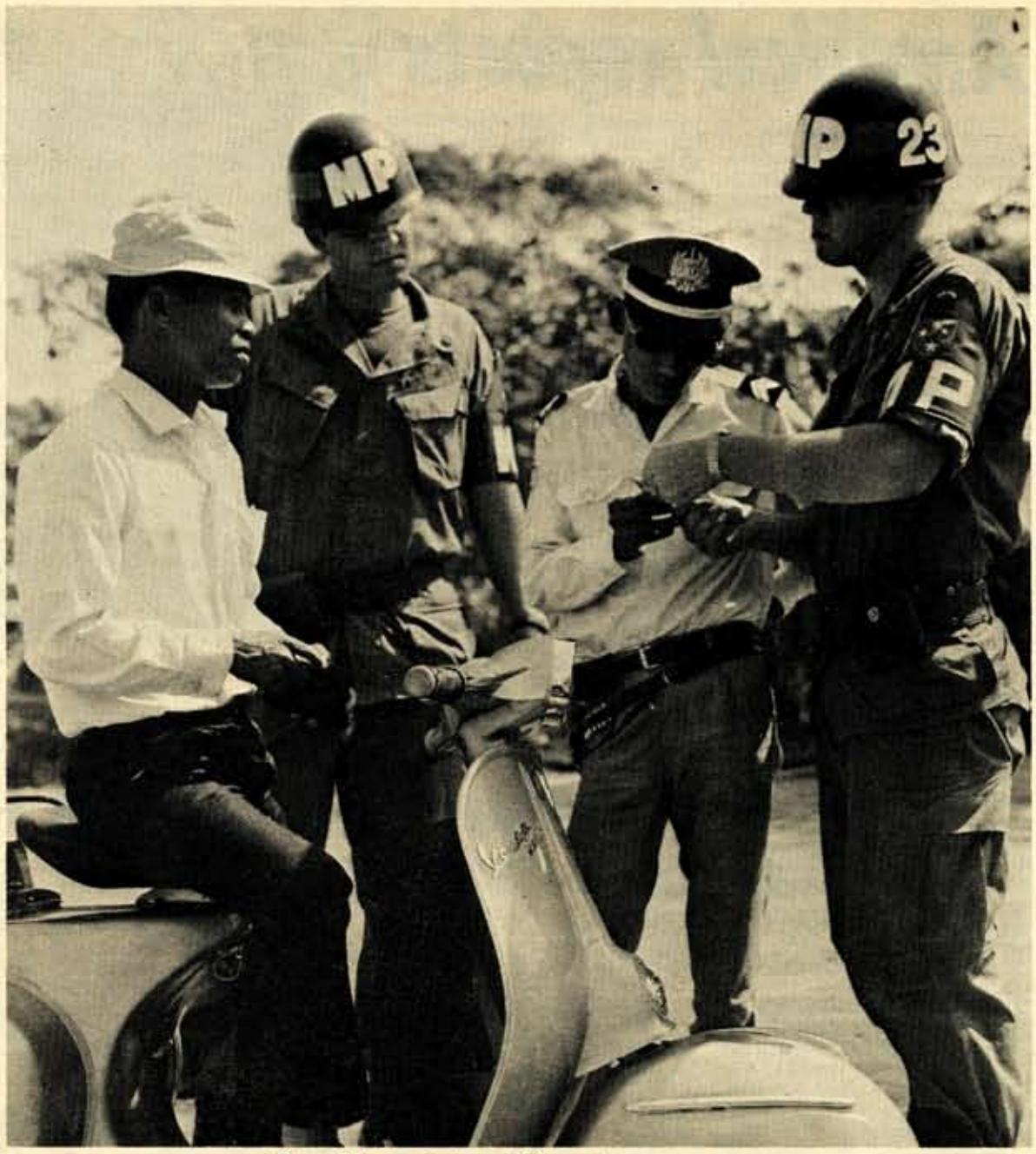
For escorting convoys, the MPs use V-100 armored cars and gun jeeps which are mounted with M-60 machineguns. According to Captain Garrett J. Cumpson, 23rd MP Co. executive officer, the MPs travel 400 to 500 miles a week with convoys, usually without incident.

In addition to patrolling roads, the MPs also patrol the towns and villages along Highway 1 and near Division bases. In these patrols the MPs work closely with the Vietnamese National Police.

Another important responsibility of the MPs is to control the movement of civilians in and out of Division installations. Each civilian must be searched and have his identification papers checked before entering or leaving a U.S. military installation. MPs process about 5,000 Vietnamese civilians through the gates of Chu Lai everyday.

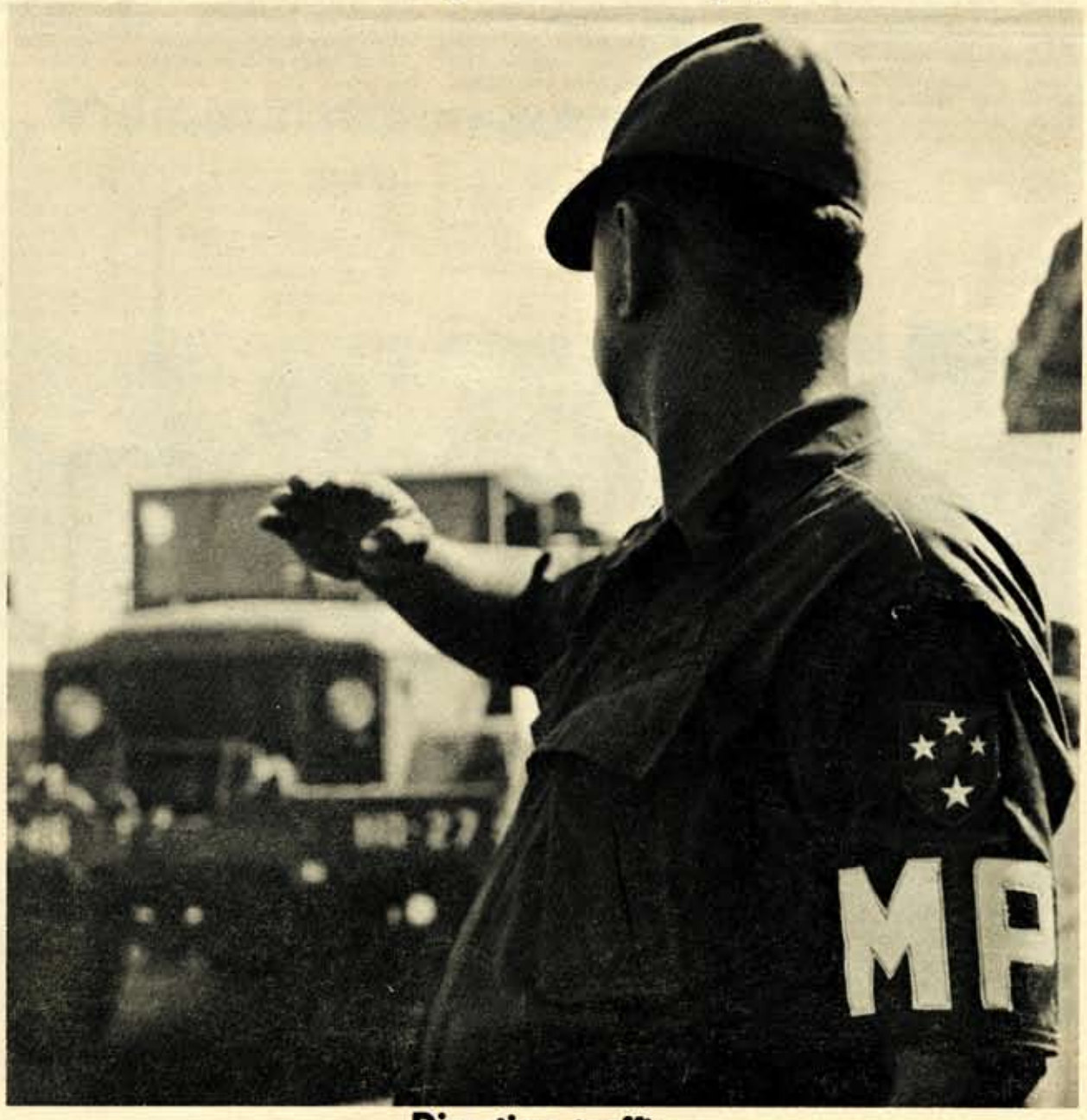
In spite of the size of the Division and the extent of its area of operations, the 23rd MP Co. is only an average size company. When asked how one company of MPs manages to serve the needs of the Army's largest division, Captain Cumpson replied, "It keeps us hopping."

kins



Checking identification papers

e unchecked



Directing traffic

Americal reports

continued from page one

Helicopter) as "Shark" gunships turned a routine combat assault into a two hour air-ground battle.

While the company's "Dolphin" utility ships were lifting in one battalion of the 4th ARVN Regiment and a rifle company of the 3rd Battalion, 1st into landing zones 20 miles northwest of Duc Pho, a heavy fire-team of gunships spotted fresh .51 caliber gun emplacements, bunkers and structures thought to be a rice collection point.

"While we were marking the enemy positions with smoke grenades we spotted movement. We saw, engaged and killed three NVA who were trying to evade along a river." recalled Captain Stephen S. Riddle, Weaverville, N.C.

"Our rocket fire must have hit a command post because a company element of confused NVA split into large groups and ran in all directions."

It was then that the gunships were able to take full advantage of their lethal firepower.

Elsewhere "Warlords" of the 123rd Avaiation Battalion and Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry combined forces to kill three NVA and one VC near the Song Giano River 16 miles northwest of Duc Pho. One enemy rifle was confisticated in the brief action.

Recon, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, National Police Field Force and "Shark" gunships recently teamed up to kill 15 VC while detaining ten of the enemy.

Three AK-47s and three SKS rifles were captured in the action which took place in the lowlands six miles north of Duc Pho.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aviation Company also accounted for three VC killed during an insertion. According to Warrant Officer James A. Reich, Wilmington, N.C., "We were circling overhead while the lift ships were inserting. Suddenly a VC with a pack and weapon was spotted running toward a mountain and dove into a bush. So we started firing up the area pretty good." Three VC soldiers were found killed by the gunships.

Frederick Hill

In the hills 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky Delta Company had one VC inadvertantly walk into their day laager position. The 18 year old wanderer had wounds in both hands and legs from an earlier contact with Delta's second platoon. He was evacuated to Hawk Hill.

A combined VC/NVA unit fared badly in the 196th Infantry Brigade's AO following a run-in with F Troop, 17th Cavalry.

The enemy unit was moving near the Tien Phuoc Road six miles south-west of Tam Ky when the cavalry troops suprised them. They opened up with a .50 caliber machine gun killing two VC and three NVA soldiers.

Mud is no obstacle to the determined tanks from F Troop, 17th Cavalry. They just have to get some solid approach and it is off again in search of the VC. The armor unit was on a sweep 25 miles north of Tam Ky in search of the enemy.

(Photo by SP4 Gerald Paulin)

Panther and friends report to Americal

CHU LAI (DISCOM IO) – Cautiously approaching and sniffing the can, "Panther" sat down. It was a clue to his handler that the can may be booby-trapped.

An explosive charge was prepared to destroy the can and its contents. After the initial detonation, a secondary explosion occurred. Once again the newest addition to the Division had made the right decision.

"Panther" and another German shepard recently arrived in the Division to be assigned to the 63rd Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker). Also two tunnel dogs were assigned here from the 60th Mine and Tunnel dog platoon.

All four dogs initially spent a year at Fort Gordon, Ga., before coming to the Republic of Vietnam.

First Lieutenant Christian Benton, Kittaning, Pa., IPCT leader remarked, "In addition to knowing what to expect here in Southern I Corps, it is a great advantage to have dogs that are familiar with situations that are uncommon to this area. One never knows when the enemy may deploy a technique used in another section of the country."

The mine and tunnel dogs have developed the fine senses of the german shepard. Their vision, smell and hearing is much keener than that of a human.

Both kinds of dogs can detect trip wires. They can see them, sometimes smell them and even hear them as they vibrate in the wind. Beyong this point there is a distinction between the jobs that they perform.

The tunnel dog is utilized in areas suspected to contain underground passages, or when a unit finds an opening into a sunken complex and they want to quickly seal off all other entrances.

Mine dogs locate enemy devices, above and below ground. They can also be used to check an area for "dud" rounds

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery extract a casing from their 105mm howitzer during a fire mission at LZ Hawk Hill. The artillery men were supporting ground forces of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

Face to face encounter quick reaction nets VC

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) – Quite often the only effective way to confront a problem is face-to-face. Sergeant Miley D. Bailey Jr., Panama City, Fla. knows the feeling well.

Sergeant Bailey, a member of the Recon platoon, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, was on a search and clear mission with his comrades eight miles south of Quang Ngai. While checking out a supposedly deserted village, one of the soldiers spotted a small enemy force moving toward their flank. Aware that there was no covering the immediate area, the men reacted quickly and dropped to the ground near one of the hootches.

"After everyone got down," recounted First Lieutenant James F. Walsh, Fredricksburg, Va., the platoon leader. "Sergeant Bailey stood up and yelled 'Dung Lai' (stop) when they were about four feet away. I couldn't believe he was doing it, but I was glad when we started shooting first."

Sergeant Bailey fired his M-79 grenade launcher and hit the lead man at point-blank range wounding him. Realizing that his M-79 was almost useless at close range, he grabbed the rifle of a fellow soldier and fired at the evading enemy. He then chased them into a small gully and the rest of the platoon quickly followed his example.

"Everyone was pretty great," continued Lieutenant Walsh. "Some of the enemy tried to escape but my men were not about to let them. We got them all and we didn't take a scratch." Sergeant Bailey personally killed or wounded all four of the enemy.

For his part in the engagement, Sergeant Bailey was presented the Silver Star by Brigadier General Edwin L. Powell, Assistant Division Commander.

You could make our girl above happy by reading what's below

Malaria has been a significant hinderance to American military operations throughout the 20th Century. It was most serious health encountered by American troops during World War II. Today, in Vietnam, it still remains as the greatest threat to American troops.

In the Americal Division approximately 75% of all personnel admitted to the hospital are there because of disease. A fifth of those men are there because of malaria. Most of them are there because of their own laziness or stupidity.

There are two types of malaria, vivax and falciparum, in Vietnam. Of the two, vivax was until recently the most prevalent in this area. However, faciparum, which is generally the more severe form, has assumed a greater importance recently for two reasons.

First, it is this strain which is prevalent among the NVA troops, and even tho there aren't any NVA in South Vietnam according to their propaganda, you and I know different. Their influx has meant that this strain has spread widely.

Second, certain strains of faciparum malaria are resistent to the chloroquine part of the chloroquine-primaquine weekly tablet. That's the big orange one that looks like it belongs in a vet's bag and has made the toilet paper people rich. On the brighter side of things the drug Dapsone, has been found to work effectively against falciparum it's taken daily – the little white pill.

That's the extent modern medicine can help you in your personal fight against malaria. Take the white pill daily; the orange one weekly . There are some fairly easy things you yourself can do to help win your personal war against the mosquito. And don't doubt that it is a war because malaria can kill.

The inside of tents, bunkers and hootches can be sprayed with the bug bomb that is available through supply channels. The spray is pretty potent stuff and will do a good job within confined areas.

In addition to the spray, there is the repellent that is applied to exposed areas of the skin. It should also be applied to areas where the clothing is tight fitting; the elbows and knees for example. The repellent does not last forever and should be re-applied every two to six hours. Remember sweat can "wash" it off.

Whenever possible mosquito netting should be used over sleeping areas. Very effective protection can be had with this simple expedident. Care should be taken to secure the net so that it can not be kicked open during the night.

Out in the bush it becomes rather difficult to use some of these precautions. There simply aren't any bunks to hang the netting from and tactical reasons may preclude the use of repellents. But there are still some precautions that can be taken.

The mosquitos are most active during the hours around dusk and dawn. At these times, sleeves should be rolled down and trousers bloused. Head nets can also be worn without affecting the job that has to be done. And if you should find yourself sitting out on a trail at this time, the collar can be turned up and the clothing buttoned.

Off hours are spent in school at FSB Bronco

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – The "midnight oil" has been burning in the education center of this firebase where the men of the 11th Infantry Brigade are receiving remedial classes in mathematics and English. The program is designed to aid the students in attaining a passing score on the General Educational Development (GED) tests.

A sufficiently high score on the GED test confers the equivalent of a high school diploma that is recognized by both the Army and most state education boards. The GED tests the educational proficiency in the areas of English, social studies, literature, general science and mathematics.

The mathematics class is taught by Major Richard A Foster Jr., Fieldale, Va., the brigade signal officer and the English classes are taught by Staff Sergeant Frederick M. Hamel, Denver, of the brigade S-1.

"This is the first time that these classes have been offered and if they are successful they will be offered again. It would be even more beneficial if we could teach the other three subjects on the GED." said Major Foster.

Sergeant Hamel added," Both these classes will run for five weeks, two nights a week for two hours a night." He holds a law degree from the University of Colorado and is a member of the Colorado Bar Association.

Major Foster, who has a degree in education from the University of Omaha and a masters degree from Boston University is very enthusiastic about the project and his new teaching position. "I enjoy it very much. It is what I plan to do after I retire."

The students, who attend the classes strictly on a volunteer basis, were given a mathematics and English apptitude test before the program began. At its conclusion they will again be tested and this final score will determine the progress that was made during the class.

The ultimate test will come when the GEDs are administered.

We have all "pulled" maintenance at one time or another but for this mechanic of HHS Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery it seems to be a question of who, or what, is pulling whom. (Photo by PFC Robert J. Smith)

1/46 gets new CO

LZ PROFESSIONAL (196th INF BDE IO) – Once again this fire base shimmered with the sparkle of chrome helmets and starched fatigues as the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry welcomed its new commanding officer.

The battalion's colors were proudly accepted by Lieutenant Colonel Richard F. Carvell, Hughes W. Va., from Lieutenant Colonel Peter J. Foss, Farmington, Mass.

At the ceremony Colonel Foss received the Legion of Merit and the second through fourth Oak Leaf Clusters for the Air Medal.

Colonel Carvell previously served as the executive officer. 198th Infantry Brigade. His decorations include the Bronze Star with "V" Device and First Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Korean Service Medal. Colonel Carvell is a graduate of the University of Nebraska.

Col Culbertson to command 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry

DUC PHO (AMERICAL IO) – In ceremonies here Lieutenant Colonel Roger A. Culbertson, Longview, Wash., assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry of the 11th Infantry Brigade from Lieutenant Colonel Leslie J. Stottle.

Colonel Stottle will be the Division's G-3.

Major General A.E. Milloy, Americal Commander, took the colors from Colonel Stottle and passed them to Colonel Culbertson. Then General Milloy congratulated the battalion and its commander for its achievements since coming to Vietnam.

In his final words to the men. Colonel Stottle said, "I have served with pleasure as your commander."

Colonel Culbertson was the G-4 of the Big Red One during his first six months of this tour in Vietnam. He said to the men in his command, "I have heard nothing but good about the battalion since I arrived here. We will continue the mission and make our unit even better."

Serving in Vietnam for his second tour, Colonel Culbertson has attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and has been an instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Ga.

NVA's AK jams, he tries grenade toss

DAI LOC (Americal IO) – Sometimes it takes more than just a good position and the element of surprise to make a successful ambush. Often it requires a certain patience to wait for your enemy and it takes a certain tenacity to come to grips with a determined foe.

Members of the Division's 198th Infantry Brigade found this out first-hand when a recent night ambush put them in the position of trading hand grenades with an NVA unit at a distance of 20 feet.

The reconnaissance platoon of Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry had moved into their pre-selected position on a trail 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai and settled down to wait. Straining every sense to the limit, the men of the ambushing force waited through the night and into the morning.

"At 4:30, we heard voices," said Staff Sergeant Daryl Guffey, Thermopolis, Wyo., the platoon sergeant. "The flank security let their point man pass until he came even with us."

At this point, Sgt. Guffey and his men fired their Claymore anti-personnel mines and their personal weapons at what appeared to be a well-organized and well-dispersed force of 10-20 NVA regulars. When the ambush ceased fire, Sgt. Guffey took a few men and moved up to check the area. He and Sgt. Dale Witmer, Perria Heights, Ill., moved toward a hedgerow.

"We were about 10 feet from the hedgerow,.' said Sgt. Guffey, "When an NVA looked over the top, fired his AK-47 and threw a grenade at us. This didn't stop Sgt. Witmer, who ran right over him while I opened up to cover him."

At that moment, an NVA soldier trained his weapon on Sgt. Guffey from 15 feet away and pulled the trigger. The weapon jammed. In desperation, the enemy soldier began hurling grenades at the two sergeants.

"That made five of us pinned down 20 feet from the NVA throwing grenades at us," continued Sgt. Guffey. "We started throwing grenades back, but we threw so many that we ran out and had to go back for more. Eventually, they stopped firing and we moved in to check the place out."

Five NVA soldiers lay dead at the ambush site, and with them were found three AK-47s with 12 magazines, a loaded rocket-propelled grenade launcher (RPG-2) with two other rounds, two bangalore torpedoes, 100 rounds of AK ammunition.

But the action wasn't over for the night. Intense automatic weapons fire erupted from all sides of their position. The infantrymen returned fire and directed a gunship into the area. The enemy fire bacame so intense that the rescue chopper could not land for 20 minutes.

Mortarmen almost foiled by own trap

By SP4 Ron Adams

FSB DEBBIE (11th INF BDE IO) – When an 11th Brigade mortar platoon found a large black snake in their area, they thought they had a natural rat trap. Until they discovered their trap was a cobra.

"We set out a number of large traps." commented First Lieutenant Inguar-Erich Lantzky, Elberan, N.J., platoon leader for the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry. "Our average had been about four kills a day."

He explained that the mortar men though the rat problem would be licked when a large back snake began appearing around the area.

"At first the snake frightened the men," Lieutenant Lantzky said, "But I convinced them not to kill it. Since most snakes are predators of rodents, I thought this would eliminate our problem."

As Specialist 4 Hendric Bakker, Aurek, Colo., lay reading a book in his bunk, the long black monster slithered up to join him. "It scared the daylights out of me," exclaimed Specialist Bakker, "And I was out of that area before my feet hit the ground with the serpentine intruder right behind me."

The snake then visited Private First Class John Wright, Satellite Beach, Fla., "His head popped up from behind an ammo box with both sides fanning out and I knew he wasn't after rats." remarked Private Wright.

He tried to pin the snake down with a board but the cobra was to strong and broke free.

"We caught him again and this time I wasn't taking any chances. I grabbed my rifle and blew his head off." said Private First Class Harold Anderson, Whittleville, Tenn. Private Anderson added that the big snake was definitely a tough one. "It took a couple of shots before he finally died."

A quick check in a reference book confirmed that the snake was indeed a cobra.

Tells it like it is------ ------Barbiturates

Barbiturates are sedatives prescribed to induce sleep and for their calming effect. Both psychological and physical dependence can develop from heavy use, particularly when abusers inject the chemicals intravenously.

Slang Names

Red birds, yellow jackets, downs or downers, blue heavens and goofballs.

Main Effects

Small amounts make the user relaxed and often sociable and good-humored. Belligerence and depression are frequent with major use, often similar to drunkeness.

Possible Dangers

Sedation, coma or death from respiratory failure can follow intentional or accidental overdoes. The user forgets how much he has taken. Alcohol and barbiturates together are deadly.