SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3, No. 19 | Chu Lai, Vietnam | May 29, 1970

Rangers invade camp

SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE I0) – An NVA base camp 32 miles northwest of Tam Ky is no place to be.

A Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) unit, Team Arkansas of Company G, 75th Ranger, did not exactly plan it that way but when they went out to gather intelligence they came to the right - or wrong - place.

"We knew that we might run into an enemy force," said Staff Sergeant Richard Keller of Eureka, Calif. "Our primary mission is to bring in an intelligence report on what we see. You just never know what you might find though." Sergeant Keller is the team's leader.

Working in the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operation, the small team was dropped seven miles north of Landing Zone Siberia the western most fire base of the Division.

The first landing zone proved hazardous.

"When we got down low enough, I saw several bunkers." Sergeant Keller shook his head. "A little lower and we could see NVA walking around. I shouted at the pilot to get us out of

(continued on page 6)

Medic saves Viet child

By SP4 Gerald Lamb

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE I0) – A small Vietnamese girl injured in a motorcycle accident owes her life to a "Charger" medic.

Specialist 5 Ramon Carter, Golden, Colo., is a medic with the liaison team from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry who "lives-in" with the villagers of Sone Hoa in the Que Son District 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Nguyen Thi Thu was playing in the dusty road in front of her home when a motorcyclist lost control and ran into her.

Specialist Carter was hurriedly summoned to the scene by worried neighbors.

"She was in pretty bad shape when I got to her," explained Specialist Carter. "There was a crowd standing around consoling the parents who thought she was already dead. I took a look at her and she was still breathing. I stopped the bleeding and bandaged her as best I could until a MEDEVAC chopper came in."

Little Nguyen is back home now with her family in Son Hoa. She is recuperating from her ordeal under the watchful eye and attention of her new friend – the medic.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96375

MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE

Traditionally, our nation will pause this Memorial Day, 30 May 1970, to pay tribute and reflect on the memories of those who have made the supreme sacrifice on the field of battle. It is a day which reminds us that the price of freedom has always been high. Here in Vietnam, as in wars past, thousands of American fighting men have selflessly given their last full measure of devotion to their country that others might live in peace as free men.

As we pay homage to the honored dead of this war and wars long past, we must be ever mindful that we bear a responsibility far beyond the mere commemoration of the sacrifice they have made for us the living. We must rededicate ourselves to the principles of freedom and the dignity of man for which they have fought and died. We must insure that we offer them not only our gratitude but fervently promise our enduring commitment to the preservation of our American heritage and way of life.

Frank T. Mildren

FRANK T. MILDREN
Lieutenant General, US Army
Deputy Commanding General

Division Recap: Americal troops kill 260 enemy

By SP4 J.B. Majerus

CHU LAI (AMERICAL I0) – In a week of activity throughout the Division's AO, Americal soldiers accounted for 260 enemy kills in early May.

Frederick Hill

One troop of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry while making a sweep in the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry's AO, 11 miles north west of Tam Ky found two VC who had been killed several days earlier. An RPG launcher was also found near the site.

On a reconnaissance-in-force operation, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry was working ten miles northwest of Tam Ky and found a sleeping VC in the bushes alongside the trail. Thinking the recon soldiers were a group of Prince Charmings, the sleeping VC woke and attempted to evade them. The results were one VC KIA and one captured SKS rifle.

In a previous operation, the 2nd of the 1st spotted and killed one VC as he moved through dense vegatation.

A Popular Forces platoon sighted 15 VC eight miles northwest of Tam Ky and called on the Echo Platoon mortars of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry. The mortarmen dropped a few rounds of HE down the tube and the PF troops reported one VC KIA and two more who were wounded and managed to escape.

On a remote hillside 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky, the Recon element of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, "Gimlets", killed a lone VC as he came out of hiding. In another action, the Recon soldiers encountered five VC. Reacting quickly the Gimlets opened fire, killing four immediately and wounding a fifth. They also confisticated an AK-47.

Bravo Company was in an night position 12 miles northwest of Tam Ky. In the quiet hours shortly after midnight they engaged and killed one VC.

Charlie Company teamed up with a Marine chopper crew and bagged six VC. The company was operating 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky when they came under small arms fire. Pinpointing the position, the men maneuvered to engaged the enemy at closer ranges. At about 30 yards they were pelted with CHICOM grenades.

The Marine gunship was in the vicinity and by following instructions, which the Army men kept simple, it rolled in on the enemy with rocket fire. Charlie then swept the area and found six dead VC and three AK-47 rifles.

The 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry was working the heavily veegated hills 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky when they engaged an estimated squad of VC. After a short lived firefight the "Professionals" picked up one AK-47 rifle.

The Professonials' Delta Company engaged five VC in a grassy clearing 14 miles southwest of Tam Ky. They routed the enemy and followed a blood trail which led to a dead VC.

The Recon platoon, while in their night defensive position, heard voices and movement only 35 to 45 yeards from their position. The infantrymen quickly and stealthy sprang to their fighting positions and by using their rifles and Claymores killed three NVA.

In a later operation the Professionals' Recon found a row of practice targets indicating that there were enemy soldiers in the area. The targets were the bullseye type, almost new, and the bullets that had been fired were way off center.

Minutes later, the soldiers saw nine NVA in the fading afternoon light. They slowed their approach and opened fire on the enemy. At least 25 figures rose from hiding and scrambled away. Moving in, the troops found nine NVA dead. Also taken in the action were two AK-47s, six NVA pistol belts, eight CHICOM grenades and a transistor radio. The action took place eight miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Infantrymen of the 4th Battalion' 31st Infantry, while searching a suspected enemy area 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky observed a lone VC evading from a hooch. M-16 fire quickly brought the enemy down.

Another element of the battalion killed two NVA outside their night laager position near Hiep Duc, 22 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Alpha Company came under mortar and small arms fire while in their day laager near a river 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Returning fire with a M-60 machinegun, the infantrymen killed three of the NVA. Later Alpha Company accounted for one enemy kill and one weapon captured while in their night defensive position. The company was hit with a heavy volume of mortar and small arms fire. Again they quickly responded and the "Polar Bears" killed one of the NVA attackers.

Later in the day, they were sweeping an area near Hiep Duc, 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky

(continued on page 6)

Sergeant First Class Roger Logget, Jackson, Mich., keeps a wary eye as his unit provides security for a Vietnamese village. He is holding a Light Anti-Tank Weapon (LAW) which is also effective against troops in concealed positions. He is with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry. (Photo by SP4 Gerard Paulin)

Part VII of a special series on R&R sites

Dreams come true in billion lights city

If Toyko is your choice for R&R, be prepared for an experience you will never forget. The world's largest city offers something for everyone.

Upon your arrival at Yokota Airbase, you are met by your R&R representives. After collecting your baggage, it's off to Camp Zama the R&R Center.

The national currency is yen having an exchange rate of 360 yen to the dollar. Greenbacks can be converted at the R&R Center, USO, Sands Club atop the Stars and Stripes Building and at the Sanno Hotel. SAve some U.S. currency for PX purchases and dining at the Sands Club.

The R&R Center has a list of recommended hotels for you during your visit. Make sure you have accommodations before leaving Camp Zama since it may be difficult for you to find a room on your own.

Hotel prices range from $5 to $12 for a single room with bath and from $7 to $18 for a double room. Highly recommended hotels are the Shiba Park, Dai Ichi and the Fairmont which overlooks the Imperial Palace moat near Yasukuni Shrine. Camp Zama also offers fine accommodations.

A shuttle bus service is provided from the R&R Center into to Tokyo; the ride takes about an hour.

Once you are settled in your room, one of your first stops should be the Tokyo USO. The staff at the USO offers valuable assistance in planning tours in and around Tokyo, as well as information for Japanese sporting events and English speaking movies.

The two most convenient modes of travel are the taxi and subway system. Both are inexpensive and efficient but you certainly miss something by always taking the subway. A truly professional cab driver is an expert at testing your blood pressure as he throws caution to the winds and drives wildly through Tokyo's humanity clogged streets with other taxi drivers who are just as crazy as yours.

For a stunning view of the city, take a ride to the top of the Tokyo Tower. From the observation platform you will have a panoramic view of Tokyo as it reaches out in all directions.

Another stop should be the Ginza, hub of Tokyo's shopping and entertainment center. A walk through the area may begin as a sight seeing tour but passing up the many shopping bargains is hard to do and soon the sight seeing is forgotten and instead becomes quite a shopping spree. Don't fret, all visitors to the Ginza are engulfed by its magnitude.

Once you tear yourself away from the Ginza, be sure to visit the Meiji Shrine located adjacent to the Harajuku station Yamate train line. The shrine complex contains a lovely Japanese garden and a mueseum containing the artifacts of Emperor Meiji.

Shopping is of course one of the main attractions to a Tokyo visit. Some of the best buys are in camera and stero equipment as well as silk, pearls, wood block prints and many more artistic items.

New NCO promotion policy

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – The Army has announced a new non-commissioned officer promotion policy which is aimed at permitting men to move into the higher NCO grades much faster.

Under the new plan E-6s can advance to E-7 with only three years time-in-grade and regardless of time in service. Under old regulations a staff sergeant, regardless of his ability, had to have seven years of service before he was eligible for E-7.

Army officials noted that the latest E-8 promotion board recently dropped the secondary zone of consideration for outstanding men from the 11 years of service to ten years and the next E-9 board will take in those with only 13 years of service.

Although the main purpose of the E-7 change is to recognize the ability of many squad leaders who have performed well under combat conditions in Vietnam, the Army said the new policy effects all outstanding E-6s world wide.

Army officials also expect the change to have an effect on the retention of many outstanding NCOs. Hundreds of young men who made E-6 in their first year or two in the Army hit a dead end under the old regulations with no chance of competing for the higher grades for many years.

"Enlisted promotion policies adopted as a result of the rapid expansion of the Army to meet operational commitments in Vietnam have resulted in the promotion of outstanding young soldiers, particularly in the combat arms, to grade E-6 much earlier than the prescribed norm," and Army message to commands said recently.

In the interest of equity and control, and in order to maintain the integrity of a continuously improving enlisted promotion system this increased opportunity will apply to all who meet the new criteria.

Army Sounding Board needs Americal ideas

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – The Army reports an overwhelming response to its Sounding Board program established to review suggestions on combat clothing and equipment.

"Mail postmarked from installations around the world is arriving daily at Ft. Benning, Ga., where the letters are processed," Board President Lieutenant Colonel Steve Himic reports.

"The response has been overwhelming and the quality of the suggestions indicates our soldiers are really behind the program," he said.

Many of the letters are from men who are stationed in the Republic of Vietnam. One soldier suggested the Army issue and extra set of inserts for the jungle boot.

Other ideas include: A new cleaning rod for the M-16 rifle, abestos gloves with flexible fingers for artillery and tank gunners.

"These and other suggestions are in the hands of experts who are checking to see if any of the ideas are already under consideration," Colonel Himic said.

"They are just a few samples of what the Sounding Board wants to hear from every soldier who fells that he has an idea or suggestion, he added.

The Infantry Agency of the Army Combat Developments Command at Ft. Belvoir, Va. will act on suggestions from the field. Any Americal soldier who feels that he has an idea or suggestion that would help should send the suggestion to:

The Army Sounding Board
USACDC Infantry Agency
Ft. Benning, Ga. 31905

Anyone from El Paso?

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Been looking for something to stop that empty feeling at mail call? The States National Bank of El Paso, Tex. may have just the thing to cure your ills.

Each week they are compiling a local newsletter and mailing it to anyone stationed in the Republic of Vietnam. The newsletter is not a solicitation and no one will call at your bunker and try to sell you something. But it does have some interesting and timely news for men in the El Paso area.

If you want some of the hometown news, Write to:

The Hometown News
c/o State National Bank
P.O. Box 1072
El Paso, Texas
79999

Don't forget the SSAN

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – From the first day in the Army, we have all been told to use the correct return address on letters and packages. The reason for this is rather simple – many people use the return address on the envelope when they write to men in the service.

The correct return address should include you name, rank and social security number and, of course, your unit and the proper APO. The item that is most often dropped is the social security number.

Mail clerks are now required to return any mail that does not have the correct return address to the sender for the necessary corrections. Mail that does not have the social security number will definitely be returned.

In addition to including the number on your return address, if you are writing to your buddy or a nurse in Long Binh, their social security numbers will have to be part of their address. The Army needs the number since much of the mail flow is now controlled by computers.

School benefit hike for vets

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – For those of you who are planning to either continue or start an educational program, the recent increases in the GI Bill should help ease the financial strain of going to school.

The rates for single veterans or servicemen still on active duty have been hiked to $175 per month. The rate for a veteran with one dependent is $205 and the veteran with two dependents may receive $230 per month.

Another provision of the law permits a pre-seperation plan for servicemen enrolled in Project Transition. The Transition plan authorizes servicemen within 180 days of seperation to attend secondary and preparatory schools during duty hours. The law authorizes the Veterans Administration to pay Transition students up to $175 per month for tution, fees and book expenses. All of this does not apply for the serviceman who is over here – but it is a good thing to remember for those of you who will have time to pull when you return to CONUS.

One of the other expanded benefits of the law will liberalize the yardstick for measuring "full time" study. The old GI Bill describes full time institutional training as at least 14 semester hours while under the new law the requirement has been reduced to 12 hours.

The allowances for vocational rehabilitation training have also been raised. It has now been increased $135 for single men, $181 for those with one dependent and $201 for those who have two dependents. The rate for each additional dependent is six dollars.

The new law also permits the payment of $50 per month for tutor services for up to nine months for men failing college courses. This portion of the law refers only to those who are actually failing.

The law also allows for veterans to draw education help from more than one government agency at a time.

New GI Bill Benefits

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — Here are highlights of the educational benefits added to the GI Bill in a law signed by President Nixon:

Monthly Payments	Old	New
Single veteran, or serviceman on active duty	$130	$175
Veteran with one dependent	$155	$205
Veteran with two dependents	$175	$230
Each additional dependent	$10	$13
Orphans, widows	$130	$175

Tutor Assistance
Tutor assistance for students failing college studies—Up to $50 monthly for nine months will be paid but only to failing students, not those who simply want to raise their marks.

Pre-Separation Education Plan
Permits payment up to $175 monthly for tuition, fees and book expenses in a special pre-separation education plan for servicemen working toward a high school diploma or attending courses to prepare for college. The plan is open to men with less than 180-days' active duty remaining and the payments are not counted against other GI Bill entitlements.

Vocational Rehabilitation Training
Increases full time vocational rehabilitation training to $135 per month for single men, $181 for those with one dependent and $210 for men with two dependents with $6 for each additional dependent.

Lower Minimum Hours
Permits payment of full GI Bill allowances to veterans taking as few as 12 semester hours per week (14 was previous minimum). This applies only at colleges which consider 12 hours "full-time study."

Other
Permits veterans to draw education help from more than one government agency at one time.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized periodic publication of the Americal Division Information Office for the Division units in the Republic of Vietnam. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Editor. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division APO 96374. Tel: Chu Lai 3212. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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

11th Brigade chaplains have "Awareness of need"

By 1LT J.P. Collins Jr.

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – The five chaplains of the 11th Infantry Brigade have an unusual church. It covers an area of nearly 2,000 square miles, its steeples are mountains and when the sun hits the paddies just right, its floors shine like those of the finest cathedral. Its alters are often hedgerows; its pews C-rations cartons.

The church is not haunted by the proverbial church mouse but by VC and NVA soldiers.

The congregation? Well not exactly the best dressed. Some are shirtless, many are unshaven and all are dusty or muddy according to the season. The Chaplains, four Prostestant and one Catholic, prefer helicopters to miracles when it comes to making their appointed rounds. They go unarmed in a land where firearms are more numerous that books. They preach "peace on earth" in the midst of war. They see death not at the bedside of an aged parishioner in a super-sterile hospital but in the field and on the blood soaked tables of small evacuation hospitals.

What motivates a priest or minister to forego the social niceities, safety and the relative comforts of civilian ministry?

"Let's say it's an awareness of a need," explains Chaplain (Major) Gordon B. Hanson, Fargo, N.D. "Men from our homes and churches come here so we must follow them."

Chaplain Hanson, whose eldest son is presently receiving basic training at Ft. Polk, La., was ordained at Luther Theological Seminary located in St. Paul, Minn. During his college and seminary years he followed the wheat harvest from "Texas to the Dakotas" as a combine operator.

He likes the variety of the military ministry. "The clergyman's product is people. In the Army I've had the opportunity to serve a wide variety of people in many places." During his 11 years as a Chaplain he has served, "A small isolated base in Turkey total population of 500 and spent three years in Japan."

Chaplain Hanson feels that "The men over hear here are more open because all the facade of civilian life is gone." He also notices a corresponding increase in devotion in the field.

As the only Catholic Chaplain in the brigade, Chaplain (Captain) John E. Watterson, Newport, R.I. has his work cut out for him. Despite the size of his "parish", he is able to visit each company every two weeks.

A large jolly man who occassionally tips a beer with the troops, Chaplain Watterson was ordained in Lyon, Belgium. There he acquired a certain fluency in French. "I had very little choice in the matter since all the courses were taught in French," he explains.

Serving his second tour in Vietnam, the first an 18 month stint with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and the 8th Transportation Group, Chaplain Waterson's field sessions are usually followed by a short bull session. "I try to fill them in on what's happening elsewhere in the area of operations," he explains.

Chaplain (Major) Verne A. Slighter, Hamburg, N.Y., is known as a man to be feared on the ping-pong tables of this fire support base. The athletic Methodist minister, and one time college ping-pong champ is also an avid golfer, bowler and bridge player.

He was recently wounded while spending the night in a company defensive position of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry. "I heard three CHICOM grenades go off and was wounded by the third," he said simply. "An incident like that makes a man realize how close to death he can be. Values become important to him. He'll listen to what you have to say more attentively."

Also on his second Vietnam tour, Chaplain Slighter enjoys the opportunity the military ministry offers to work with young people.

Chaplain (Captain) Eugene W. Scott, Trenton, Mo., always carries four Claymore mine bags with him when he goes to the field. "No there aren't any mines in them," he quickly points out, "just some Bible literature and my and my portable alter kit."

"You know, for those guys in the field even taking their boots off is a luxury," he said with concern.

Chaplain (Major) George E. Ormsbee, Salem, Mo., a newcomer to the brigade spent the first nine months of his tour with the redeployed 82nd Airborne and 1st Infantry Division. "I've seen a lot of territory," he understates.

He finds certain advantages in conducting field services. "Our here in the field, anywhere from six to 25 men will attend a given service. That's an ideal size congregation; it lets the chaplain give the men very personal service."

"What are so few among so many?" is a question that might well be asked of these five chaplains. The origianl question was answered two thousand years ago when five fishes and a few loaves of bread were multiplied to feed a throng of over 5,000. In the same sense, the five chaplains of the 11th Brigade miltiply their efforts and energies to serve the more than 5,000 soldiers under their spiritual care.

Chaplains from the 11th Infantry Brigade, Chaplain (Captain) John E. Watterson and Chaplain (Major) Gordon B. Hanson conduct memorial service for an Americal soldier.
(Photo by 1LT J.P. Collins Jr.)

Final part

Confucianism still felt

By SP4 Dan Swezey

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – In the traditional Vietnamese system of government the emperor's position was hereditary. Government positions below the emperor, however, were occupied by the men who were chosen by merit. In the same way that our President chooses his cabinet members on the basis of their qualifications, the Vietnamese emperor chose his advisors, provincial governors and other government workers on the basis of their qualifications rather than by hereditary rights or family ties.

There is a big difference between our system and the old Vietnamese system for choosing government workers. Our President chooses his Secretary of State on the basis of his knowledge of foreign affairs and his economic advisors on the basis of their knowledge of economics. The Vietnamese emperor chose all of his government workers, regardless of their jobs, on the basis of their knowledge of the Confucian classics.

Because the civil service examinations tested only Confucianism, it completely dominated Vietnamese education. The Vietnamese valued education very highly since it was through education that could obtain a position in government and thus advance socially. However, for the Vietnamese, education meant knowing the Confucian classics and nothing else. For them all knowledge that was of any value was contained in the four classics. Furthermore, Confucianism itself emphasized that all true knowledge was to be found by studying the wisdom of the "sage kings" of the past.

The result of this "backward looking" attitude and the belief that all knowledge that was of any important was contained in the Confucian classics was a very stable and conservative society.

Even with this great stability, Confucianism prevented Vietnam from being able to meet the challenage of Western influence. The Confucian emperors and civil servents who governed Vietnam during the nineteenth century failed to see the importance of Western science and technology.

The Vietnamese rulers became increasingly hostile to the French Catholic missionaries who began entering Vietnam in large numbers during the nineteenth century.

Catholicism threatened the traditional Confucian order. By the mid-nineteenth century, the rulers of Vietnam felt that not only Catholicism but everything Western was a threat to Vietnamese society. The Vietnamese tried to close Vietnam to the West and preserve Vietnam as a Confucianist society.

The result was the conquest of Vietnam by France. With the French conquest came the forceable introduction of Western culture and the decline of Confucianism. With the rise of Vietnamese nationalism in the twentieth century, Confucianism as a philosophy has been discredited. Modern Vietnamese intellectuals have attacked Confucianism as being a major obstacle to the modernization of Vietnam.

The Confucianist "backward looking" attitude cannot satisfy present day Vietnam with its twentieth century concepts of economic and technoligical progress. Still the influence of Confucianism is deeply felt to this day. The honoring of one's ancestors is still an important part of Vietnamese family life. The Vietnamese peasent continues to feel that the family is more important than the individual. To a large extent, morality continues to be controlled by the individual's fear of dishonoring his family and ancestors. The Confucian respect for education remains although the Vietnamese concept of education is no longer restricted to the Confucian classics. While Confucianism as a philosophy has nearly died, as a way of life it continues to be important in present day Vietnam.

Specialist 4 Joseph Coppola, Dover, N.J., checks over a 17 foot long letter from home. He has received a wide assortment of letters from his sister in the last five months. Others include an over-size post card and a 10 foot scroll. Specialist Coppola is assigned to HHC and Band.
(Photo by SSG Vern Kaiser)

Helicopters from the Division come in for a landing in an open area ten miles northwest of Chu Lai. The choppers are making a combat air assault with 198th Infan Battalion, 46th Infantry. The infantrymen were making a sweep of the area.

A mission with the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry

Running down from the mountains surrounding the area being swept, were numerous small streams. Quite often the shallow streams are the easiest way to travel since the brush and undergrowth is so thick.

Pushing through the marshy area in knee-high elephant grass search. Once on the ground the men become their own beasts everything they need to accomplish their mission.

One of the soldiers offers a helping hand to a bu paddy.

ry Brigade's 5th

Specialist 5 Steven J. Tschannen, Aurord, I11., of the 57th Scout Dog Platoon and his dog, Nick, work their way along the side of a rice paddy. Scout dog teams work with the infantry on the search and clear missions and have been instrumental in uncovering caches and booby traps.

the men continued their
of burden and must carry

Photography by Specialist 4 Herbert Brady 523rd Sig Bn

dy mired down in the muck and mud of the rice

Sergeant First Class Jose Maralis Casas, Brooklyn, wades through knee deep water on the operation. He is a platoon sergeant with the 5th of the 46th and is probably looking for the local NCO club.

Recap: cache found

(continued from page 1)

when the company engaged a lone VC moving toward the woodline.

"He got away but we got his AK-47 and pack," said Specialist 4 James Logue, Clayton, N.J.

While searching a hooch area, Delta Company located some enemy ammunition hidden in a hut. They found 14 82mm mortar rounds. Civilians in the area said that there had been three mortar tubes set up at that location.

While searching another hooch area in the same general location, the Polar Bears found three to five thousand pounds of rice hidden in five different caches.

Charlie Company discovered a bunker complex containing four 82mm mortar rounds, one RPG round, three cases of shotgun shells and one box of .51 caliber rounds. Also in the area were bodies of three NVA killed by air strikes.

In a lightening plunge F Troop, 17th Cavalry chased an NVA mortar squad in a running exchange of gunfire killing 14 of the enemy and detaining four.

Captain Roscoe Cartwright, Cincinatti, Ohio, F Troop Commander, received the order to move the cavalry from LZ Hawk Hill to a swamp near the coast, about five miles north of Tam Ky. "We moved 16 miles in barely over an hour," said Captain Cartwright. Their objective was only a mile from the ocean near the VC infested Barrier Island.

When the tracks rumbled in, they were immediately hit by RPG and small arms fire. They smashed back; forcing the enemy into cover. Turning south they made another sweep. The men found 14 dead NVA and detained four suspects before they could escape. Confiscated weapons included nine AK-47s with 300 rounds of ammo, a 9mm Soviet made pistol, 5 packs and 25 CHICOM grenades.

F Troop, 17th Cavalry, working under the operational control of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry killed four VC and detained six more and one NVA while working 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Iron Mountain

The heaviest action in the 11th Infantry Brigade took place in the mountains overlooking the Song Ve River as "Primo" aviation engaged and killed nine NVA.

The Primo choppers and the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry teamed up to kill three VC and one NVA in the foothills seven miles south of Duc Pho. The Recon element also netted three VC detainees, three carbines and two automatic rifles.

Delta Company of the 4th Battalion accounted for one VC KIA and the capture of his weapon.

Alpha Company killed two NVA and captured their AKs, 20 60mm mortar rounds and one 60mm base plate. The action took place in the lowlands five miles south of Duc Pho.

The "Shark" gunships of the 174th Aviation Company teamed up with D Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery to kill four VC.

Delta Battery also responded to a call from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry who had spotted 12 VC and an estimated company of NVA in the lowlands 22 miles northeast of Duc Pho. Artillery stopped five of the NVA and two VC dead in their tracks.

Alpha Company of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry killed one NVA who walked into their position. One 9mm pistol was confiscated in the action 18 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

In the only defensive action in the Americal AO, elements of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry defending Fire Support Base 4-11 smashed two six man VC sapper squads involved in an early morning attack on the hill. Of the 12 sappers, ten were killed, one wounded and one detained.

Alerted by a trip flare, set off by a sapper sneaking inside the perimeter, the men killed five and wounded one of the sappers who attacked at 12:30 a.m.

Two hours later, five sappers were killed and one detained when they attacked from the northwest. Confiscated were six satchel charges, two AK-47s, one AK-50 and three RPG launchers with ten rounds.

Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry accounted for one VC dead. Later Bravo killed four VC and had one rally in action that took place in the foothills three miles north of Duc Pho.

Firing from FSB 4-11, the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery reached out and killed 22 NVA who were seen moving the foothills 22 miles northeast of Duc Pho.

"Warlords" of the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for two NVA killed and three civilians detained in the mountains northwest of Duc Pho.

Other units of the 11th Infantry Brigade killed a total of 22 enemy in scattered action throughout their AO.

Geneva Park

In the 198th Infantry Brigade's area, a gunship from the Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry saw one VC coming out of a tunnel. The pilot engaged the fleeing enemy and then called for Echo Recon of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry to sweep the area.

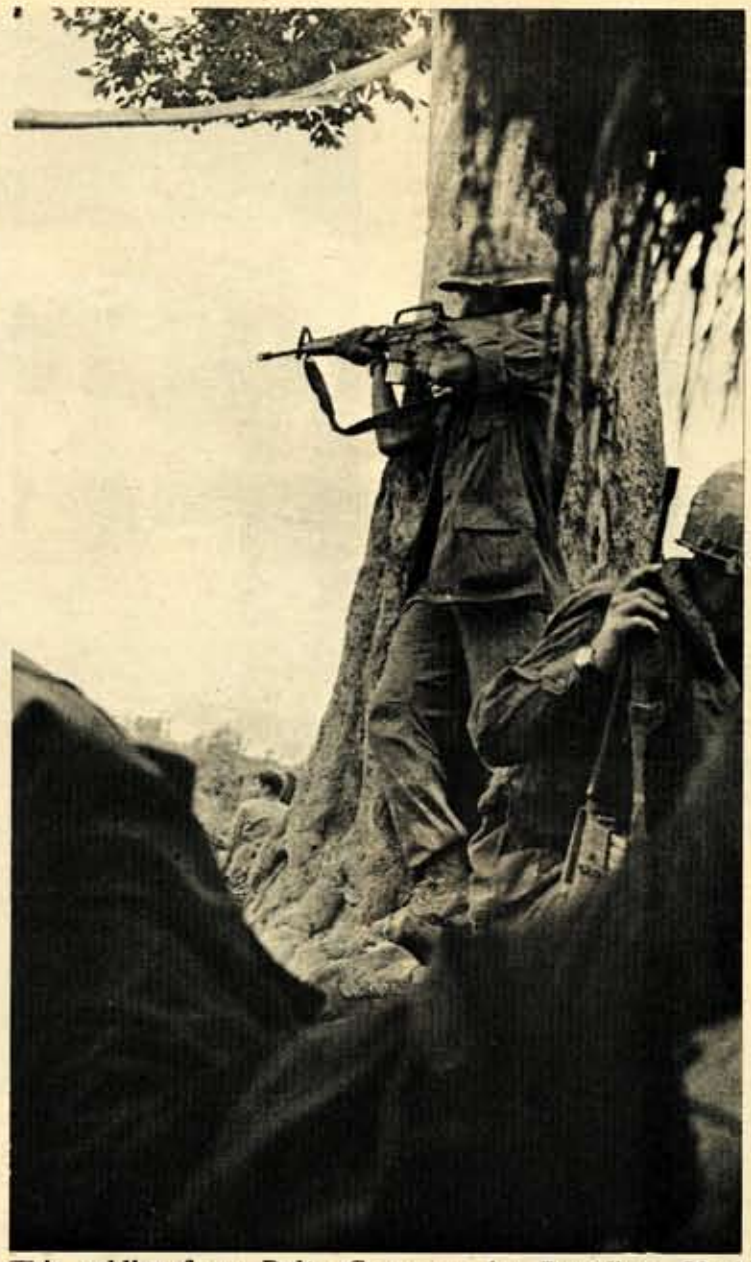
As they approached the area the infantrymen were greeted with a barrage of small arms fire and a brief but violent conclict ensued.

When the recon element swept the area they found three dead VC and a cache. It included an AK-47, four B-40 rockets, one RPG launcher, eight CHICOM grenades, 50 small arms rounds, three pistol belts and 400 pounds of rice.

A "mad minute" by Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry produced a blood trail, one AK with several rounds and one sandal.

In other action ten miles south of Chu Lai, a "Sabre" pilot from F Troop, 8th Cavalry sighted one VC hiding in a heavily vegetated area. The pilot engaged and killed him.

A gunship of Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry supporting Bravo Company of the 3rd Battalion, 46th Infantry observed a tunnel and fired several rockets. A search of the area revealed one dead VC and scattered pieces of a new uniform.



This soldier from Delta Company 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry aims his M-16 towards a suspected enemy position. (Photo by SP4 Gerard Paulin)

Rangers evade foe

(continued from page 1)

there. Neither we nor the NVA fired, I guess we were both too stunned."

The Huey helicopter moved about a mile north and sat down with the LRRP team. The men soon found a trail marked with foot prints and walked parallel to it for about a half mile. Then they heard voices.

The NVA saw the infantrymen almost as soon as the Rangers spotted them. A volley of fire killed five NVA and wounded two. The Rangers said later there were 17 enemy in the small clearing. The NVA hid and blazed back with AK-47 and SKS rifle fire.

"A big unit came up behind us," related Sergeant Keller. "Sergeant Henderson came slipping through the brush from the OP and I told him to get on the radio."

The other men kept up a fierce raking fire. A small observation aircraft was the first to come to their aid. It flew low over the trees sniping at the enemy force which had now grown quite large. Later gunships rolled in on the NVA.

"We were lucky to get out of there," said Sergeant Keller. "Well, we definitely found out what Division wanted to know."

Artymen foil attack on Bayonet

By SP4 Richard Esposito

LZ BAYONET WEST (DIVARTY IO) – Alert bunker guards and a swift moving reaction force helped to thwart a recent enemy attack at this fire base.

In the early morning hours, mortar rounds began impacting inside the perimeter of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery. At the time all of the bunkers were on 100% alert and a reaction force from Headquarters Battery was standing by when the attack was initiated.

Within minutes the reaction force, led by 1st Lieutenant Marcus D. Minton, Fairmont, N.C. was moving along a dirt road to the bunker line. As they passed some large boulders, they began taking fire.

When two of the enemy were spotted on the southeast side of the perimeter, the cannoneers went into action. With the howitzer sections firing illumination rounds and hand flares popping all over the area, night was transformed into day. A steady stream of hot lead and red tracers completely covered the perimeter as the men in defensive positions opened fire.

A sweep of the area the next morning revealed three enemy killed and numerous weapons, including a loaded RPG launcher, abandoned by the enemy.

A Sheridan Assault Vehicle of Alpha Troop 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry sits outside a village 20 miles north of Chu Lai. The Troop was operating with elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade. (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

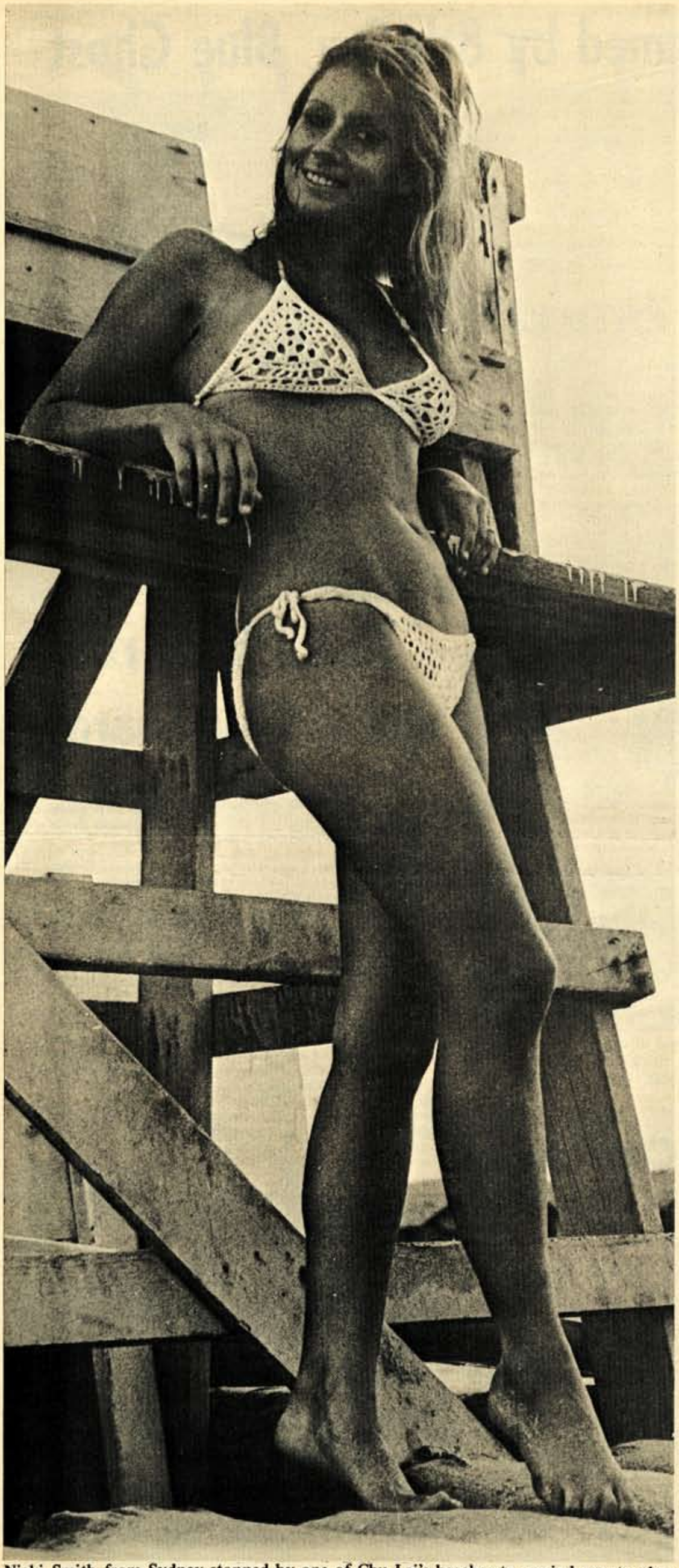
Dog uncovers cache

LZ HAWK HILL (DISCOM IO) – A mine dog team from the 63rd Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker) operating with the 196th Infantry Brigade located more than half a ton of explosives the Viet Cong were using to make booby traps.

Three 250 pound bombs, an eight inch, a 105mm and a 155mm artillery round were detected during an early morning reconnaissance search and clear mission five miles northeast of Hawk Hill.

Private First Class Walter Bland, La Junta, Calif. and his dog George uncovered most of the munitions in a bunker complex. One of the bombs was detected in tall grass a short distance from the underground hide-away.

One VC and two NVA were killed when the dog team and their support elements spotted them approaching a village seven miles north east of Hawk Hill.



Nicki Smith from Sydney stopped by one of Chu Lai's beaches to remind you to obey the local water safety rules. Especially the one that tells you not to go swimming with a flak jacket on. (Photo by JO2 J.R. Stevens, MCB-7)

Have problems? Call on FAST

By SSG Tim Palmer

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – "Organized to provide timely augmentation of existing administrative and service support to maneuver elements at forward base areas."

This high sounding pharseology is lifted directly from the operation plan of one of the Division's latest efforts to reach the men in the field with services that all too often are not available there.

Forward Area Support Team, better known as FAST, is a combination of specialists from several distinct areas, each of which is important to the field soldier. The specialist are centrally located in Chu Lai much too far away for casual patronage by those on the line.

Whether a man needs a new ID card, a can of lighter fluid, an up-dated insurance form or an M-16 firing pin, all are available when a FAST team visits.

Boarding early morning choppers, loaded down with boxes of records, files, typewriters, adding machines and last but not least, PX merchandise the men from FAST set out for the field almost daily.

The three areas concentrated upon for a normal FAST visit are Personnel (AG), Maintenance and PX. The latter, although most popular with the troops by far, is not nearly as important as the first two in the long run.

"One of the most important thing in a man's file in DA Form 41," commented Warrant Officer 2 James Culp, Radford, N.C., during a recent FAST team visit to Landing Zone Liz an 11th Infantry Brigade fire support base. "This form, the Emergency Data Card, describes the disposition of a man's accrued pay and allowances should he be missing and stipulates a beneficiary."

"Additionally," stated WO Culp, who is in charge of the team's personnel section, "we come prepared with a man's complete records before visiting the forward areas." So if he wants to revise his Serviceman's Group Life Insurance as a result of marriage or take care of anything related to his personnel needs, we're prepared to help him."

Common requests are for new ID cards and dog tags, items that are easily and understandably lost in the boonies.

"One of our most frequent requests is for the replacement of lost ID cards," mentioned Specialist 4 David Doughman, Des Monies, Iowa. He is a permanent member of the FAST though assigned to Personnel Management. "I come prepared with a Polaroid camera for the pictures so that we can wrap the whole thing up at once."

Another attachment to what usually turns out to be about a 12 man crew is the man from the APO. He sells money orders and often teams up with the PX representive to get orders sent through for those tape recorders or new cameras. "I usually sell anywhere from $800 to a $1,000 worth of money orders in a month," said Private First Class David Bies, Dubuque, Iowa. "Often times more than that depending on what day of the month it is," he added, referring to the easily understood trend towards increased sales at the beginning of the month, right after payday, with decreasing sales as the month - and the money - runs out.

The maintenance section is provided by two men from the 723rd Maintenance Battalion out of Chu Lai. Their duties are to inspect and repair, on the spot, individual weapons and protective masks.

"The problems we find with M-16s are usually small ones," commented Specialist 5 Larry Kinder, Fletcher, Ohio, who is another permanent member of the FAST although assigned to the 723rd Maintenance Battalion.

As for the mobile PX, this section is the station that generates the most smiles from the troopers. "We take along watches, cameras, radios, magazines - everything we know from experience the infantrymen want," says Specialist 4 George Dobson, Charlotte, S,C. Also the traveling PX stocks many smaller items that ordinarily aren't available at the forward areas such as lighter fluid, ball-point pens and postcards. They have PACEX catalogues available so that the men can place orders for such things as stereocomponents, TV sets, etc. One more stop in the money line and they are in business.

The FAST crew is coordinated by Captain Howard L. Wagner, Bolton, Texas., who assembles the personnel from each of the above mentioned areas for the frequent missions.

"We'll go to any of the forward areas at the request of the unit commander," says Captain Wagner whose team averages about 18 one day stops per month. "We've been to them all," he added.

"For those men interested this program is a very good idea," said Captain Wagner. "Although we've never gotten the level or participation we would like to see at a firebase, especially at the records, the program helps to boost morale and add the creature comforts when the men are on the hill. This is a program we need."

Got a light?

By SP4 Toby Prodgers

FSB LIZ (11th INF BDE IO) – Specialist 4 James Peterson, Bloomington, Minn., of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry never expected to see the pack of cigarettes again.

The soldier lost them, case and all, while his platoon was reacting to help an 11th Brigade LRRP team that was in contact with an NVA force.

A week later the platoon was patrolling the thickly vegatated area near where Specialist Peterson had lost his "weeds". They spotted two armed VC and engaged them, killing one and wounding the other.

Confiscated in the action was an automatic rifle, a carbine and Peterson's cigarettes less a couple the VC had helped himself to.

"They were funky," remarked Specialist Peterson.

Enemy hedgerow trimmed by 8th Cav, Blue Ghost

By SGT Robert Nordyke

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – "We were told we were going to confirm a body count but it did not turn out that way," said First Lieutenant Kenneth Ruesch, Medford, Wisc.

It was early afternoon when the second platoon of Charley Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry received word that they were being flown off Observation Post Legionnaire, nine miles northwest of Tam Ky, to assist the infantry platoon of F Troop, 8th Cavalry. The Blue Ghost Cobra guships had observed an unknown size enemy force about 3,000 yards from the observation post. The Cobra raked the area with automatic weapons fire.

Soon the infantrymen were on the ground about 110 yards from the Blues.

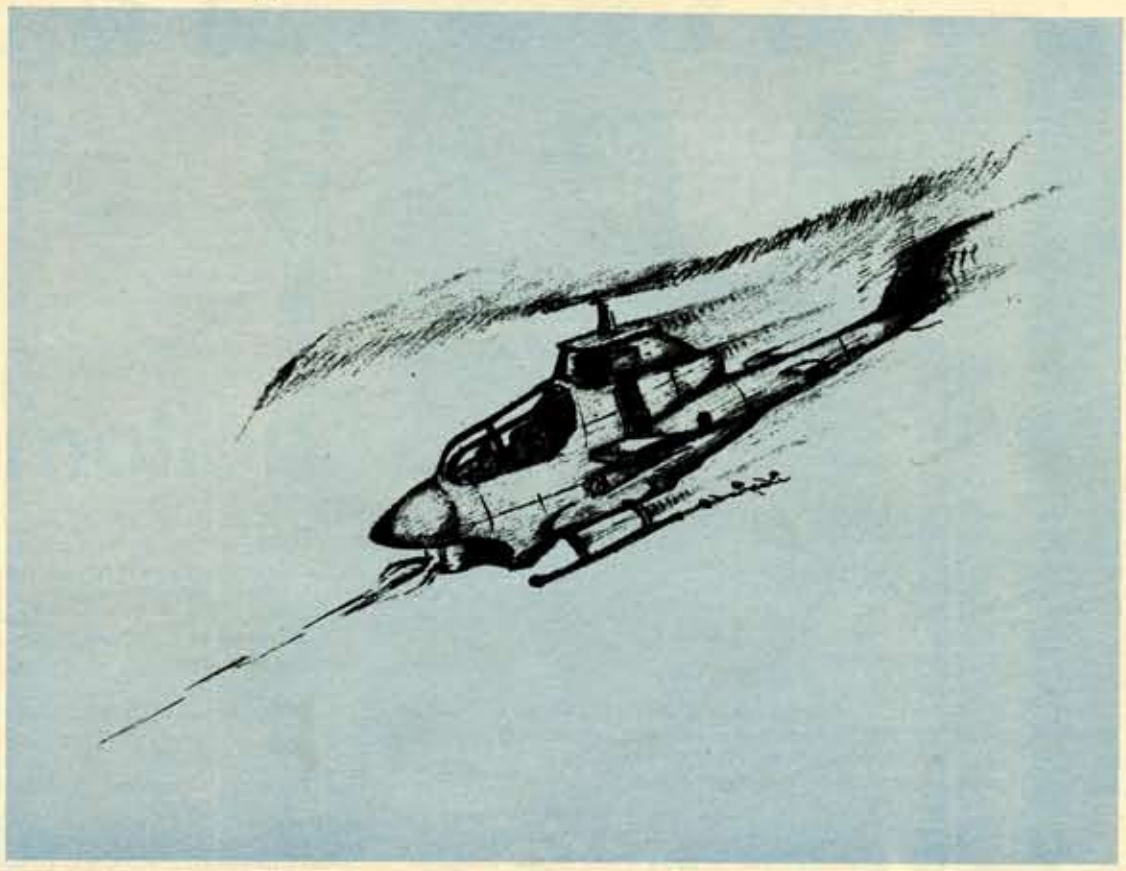
Moving through the heavy brush, Company C linked up with the Blues and coordinated plans to sweep the area where the gunships had fired upon the enemy.

With the second platoon of Charley Company on the left flank and the Blues on the right, the men moved ahead to a hedgerow about ten yards to their front.

There was movement in the dense vegetation immediately. Two NVA soldiers attempting to evade west thru the thicket were killed with small arms fire.

Two more enemy soldiers were found lying dead nearly invisible in the high grass. Another NVA was almost overlooked, but an alert squad leader from Charley Company spotted him hidding in the hedgerow. When the squad leader spoke, asking the NVA to surrender, the enemy moved from his concealed position and started toward the sergeant. Fortuniately another soldier noted the quick movement the NVA made as he got to his feet. He fired and the enemy died holding the grenade he attempted to throw.

The last NVA flushed out decided the odds were against him and gave himself up. With the two enemy killed which the gunships had confirmed earlier, the final score was seven enemy killed and one captured. Also taken in the operation were several pounds of rice, NVA uniforms, rucksacks and several CHICOM grenades.



With a modified quarter-ton truck leading the way this section of the convoy moves out on the road. Despite the tremendous amount of supplies carried by helicopters, the old-fashioned truck convoy is still the best means of moving some types of supplies.
(U.S. Army Photo)

Tien Phouc road opened by Chargers

By 1LT David Coffman

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Winding through the enemy infested flatlands like a giant snake, Tien Phuoc Road has been in the past one of the most treacherous roads in Vietnam. But times have changed and now the road is open thanks to the efforts of American and Vietnamese soldiers.

"We needed to transport large quantities of equipment from Tam Ky to Tien Phuoc," said Captain Loren Hohman, Topeka, Kan. assistant operations officer for the Chargers. "A lot of it was too heavy to transport by air."

The answer to this problem was to open Tien Phuoc Road. The 14 mile stretch running from Tam Ky to Tien Phuoc would be the focus of an extensive combined effort in the next few days.

The 9th Marine Engineer Battalion repaired a half - mile stretch of road running east from Tien Phuoc. Company D, 26th Engineer Battalion, had the difficult task of repairing the remainder of the road and sweeping it for mines.

"They finished the job in two days," said Captain Hohman. "Considering all they had to do this was very fast."

At 9:30 in the morning, sixty vehicles moved out of Tam Ky. F Troop, 17th Cavalry moved along with the trucks providing security.

Kicking up clouds of dust, the convoy moved along the road without incident. The vehicles reached Tien Phuoc in an hour and a half, were off-loaded, and returned to Tam Ky.

"Units have had trouble operating on this road before," said Major Luther P. Kallam, operations officer for the 196th Infantry Brigade. "Our success in opening the road was due to several units who were able to work together effectively.

On the recent opening of the Tien Tien Phuoc Road, infantrymen from the 196th Infantry Brigade were posted at strategic points to prevent enemy reaction to the convoy.
(U.S. Army Photo)

VC 'navy' attacked

By SP4 Gerald Lamb

LZ WEST (196th INF BDE IO) – A platoon from Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry accounted for 11 Viet Cong in two incidents.

The action began when the platoon came across three sampans floating lazily besides a river bank. The men were searching for Viet Cong hideouts along the Song Thu Ben River 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

"There were several hooches in the area near the sampans," said Specialist 4 Jackie Brown, Old Hickory, Tenn. "We decided to watch and see what happened."

The "Charger" infantrymen moved into the area under the cover of darkness and set up a position.

"Just before dawn we saw ten VC coming out of the hooches toward the river," explained Specialist Brown.

Opening up with M-60 machine gun and M-16 rifle fire, the Chargers killed seven on the surprised VC. Two packs containing food and clothing were confiscated.

Later in the morning, as the platoon was moving to join up with the rest of the company, they came across a second group of enemy.

"We were in a wooded area," said Private First Class Ken Hoksbergen from Tracey, Iowa. "The point element was getting ready to cross a rice paddy when they spotted nine VC coming toward us."

The men quickly moved into position along the woodline and opened fire leaving four VC dead. Four packs containing clothing and personal items were confiscated.

Talent contest coming

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -- An I Corps Entertainment Contest has been announced by Headquarters, XXIV Corps. The contest will be open to all ranks and branches of service. On June 6 at 2 p.m. there will be a performance of all contestents at the Freedom Hill Movie Theater.

There are six possible categories an individual may compete under. They are: Vocal solo, vocal group, individual specialist (comic, dancer, etc.) and group speciality (singer/instrumental, singer/dancer).

Awards will be given for first and second place in each of the categories. Talented men who desire to participate will be placed on TDY for at least five days with the USA Support Command, Special Services at Da Nang by their unit commanders. The five day TDY will give the competitors time to rehearse for three days.

On June 7, the actual contest will take place at the 80th General Support Group Movie Theatre at 7:30 p.m.