SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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Div Recap: Action light throughout Americal AO

In sporadic fighting in the beginning of June in Sothern I Corps 175 enemy soldiers lost their lives to Americal soldiers. In the heaviest action of Operation Geneva Park Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, killed 3 NVA and found 1,000 pounds of rice. Elsewhere in Operation Fredrick Hill the 3rd Battalion encountered the heaviest action in the Division area of operation which resulted in the death of 12 enemy soldiers in a day's fighting. The lightest action in the Division occured in Operation Iron Mountain which accounted for 5 enemy killed in the past week.

GENEVA PARK

On Thursday afternoon, an element of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry saw 14 NVA with packs and weapons moving in an area 10 miles south of Chu Lai. The infantrymen unleashed a barrage of automatic weapons fire and swept through the area to find three dead NVA.

While maneuvering in an area 14 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City recently, Delta Company, sighted six VC with weapons, moving through a rice paddy.

The element opened fire to kill one enemy and a sweep of the area produced one AK-47 and a blood trail leading to the east.

Elsewhere, Charlie found 1,000 pounds of rice in an area 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

Continuing to search nearby hooches, the infantrymen found 600 pounds of potatoes hidden in baskets and barrels. The produce was delivered to a nearby LZ for later distribution to refugees.

An early cordon of a village 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City recently revealed to Company C, that one VC had been killed the previous day as they were reconning the site.

Maneuvering in an area 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry came upon five VC wearing black pajamas and

(continued on page 6)

Private First Class Sanchez steps gingerly through a mud puddle while operating with his unit. The 1st Battalion of the 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade was on a search and clear operation south of Chu Lai.

(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

"Polar Bears" under heavy fire 71st AHC lends a helping hand

CHU LAI (16th CAG IO) – 196th Infantry Brigade troops from Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry were under a massive ground attack near LZ Siberia and called for an immediate combat extraction.

Minutes later the 71st Assault Helicopter Company Rattlers (slicks) and Firebirds (gunships), commanded by Major Tommie James, were airborne and headed toward the hot LZ.

As the Rattlers and Firebirds began their approach into the area they began receiving small arms and .50 caliber machinegun fire from the surrounding tree line.

One of the Firebirds spotted the .50 caliber machinegun's position and immediately showered the area with large volumes of suppressive fire.

During the intense action, one Rattler was hit and went down in a small depression surrounded by the enemy.

Captain James E. Duke, Ft. Worth, Texas and Warrant Officer William M. Ellis, Downey, Calif., flew immediately to the wreckage and started a high overhead approach.

Unable to land at the crash site due to high trees and bushes, Captain Duke was forced to remain at a hover while the four crew members and three passengers of the downed craft were hoisted aboard.

Due to the heavy loaded condition of Captain Duke's helicopter, he was unable to hover high enough to turn his ship and was forced to take an uphill departure and fly over the known enemy positions.

As the rescue team cleared the enemy infested area, they received intense small arms and .50 caliber machinegun fire.

The seven soldiers were evacuated to the medical aid station at LZ West and were checked for any injuries.

With greater concern for their fellow man than their own personal safety, the crew of Rattler 219 acted courageously in the life saving extraction. With cool heads and professional competence, these brave men of the 71st Assault Helicopter Company brought great credit upon themselves and their company.

Col. John L. Insani new Americal Chief of Staff

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – On June 5th of this month Colonel John L. Insani took over the duties of Chief of Staff, of the Division. Colonel Insani replaced Colonel A. G. Hume, who will go to the G-3 Section at Long Binh while awaiting his recently announced promotion to Brigadier General.

Colonel Insani came to the Division from Long Binh, where he was acting as Chief of Doctrine Systems Training Advisor for Long Binh Post. Prior to this, the Colonel served in Germany in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, USAEUR.

In addition to a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland, Colonel Insani holds a Masters from George Washington University in Washington, where he studied International Affairs.

Colonel Insani's numerous awards earned since 1945 include the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Chargers collect 22 NVA

By PFC Richard Campbell

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade recently used infantry-armor tactics to perfection in a firefight 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Chargers" talk force killed 17 NVA, detained five more and confiscated eight weapons.

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, was sweeping along a river while the armored vehicles of F Troop, 17th Cavalry, blocked to either side. Shortly after the movement began, the Americans spotted a force of 20 to 30 NVA near the river.

"They saw us coming and tried to get away before we got any closer," related Sergeant Larry Carr, Boone, Iowa. However, the retreating enemy suddenly found themselves within 50 meters of F Troop's blocking position.

The cavalrymen opened up with automatic weapons fire. By the time the skirmish was over F Troop had killed eight enemy, detained five and confiscated four weapons. Eight fully loaded magazines and 10 Chinese Communist grenades were also found.

"It's amazing just how well our plan worked," remarked Private First Class James Brendel, Albers, Ill., riflemen with Comapny B. "We got them out of the vegatation along the river, and the tracks picked them right up."

As the task force continued to move, a track from F Troop crashed through a hedgerow, almost running over a hidden NVA. Rifle fire cut down the enemy as he tried to escape.

Still moving along the river, a platoon from Company B spotted four NVA.

"I opened up as soon as I sighted them," recalled Private First Class Frank Ratliff, Eden, N.C., pointman. "However, my weapon jammed after I fired the first shot."

Private Ratliff dropped to his knees to fix his M-16. The remainder of the platoon fired over his head, dropping three enemy.

"I'm glad the other gurs picked up the slack," said Private Ratliff, "because I was useless."

The reamining NVA ran from the village. First Lieutenant Leland Klein, Des Plaine, Ill., spotted one enemy headed toward the river bank. Lieutenant Klein ordered two men to flush the lone NVA from his hiding place.

The two infantrymen abandoned the thick vegetation alongside the river and moved through chest-high water.

"After walking about 30 meters in the river," said Specialist Four Gary Guerra, Fresno, Calif., "we saw a group of bushes shaking."

Then they saw the silhouette of the partially-concealed NVA. Specialist Guerra sprayed the bushes with M-16 fire, and the shaking stopped. The hidden NVA was badly wounded.

"It was a long and tiring day," reflected Specialist Four Michael Fritts, Springfield, Ill. "The guys were really beat, but we all felt like we had accomplished something."

Aussie girls welcome you "Down Under"

CHU LAI (AMERICAL I0) – The seasons in Australia are exactly opposite from the seasons we are used to in the northern hemisphere, but the warmth and friendliness of these people below the equator is an exciting and worthwhile change of pace for 'the American on R&R.

Sydney, Australia's largest city, ranks as one of the most popular R&R sites today.

City of Fun

Anything the weary soldier desires waits for him here as all of this island continent is in his reach.

No matter where you decide to go or what you want to do, your R&R starts in Sydney.

After a short briefing at the R&R Center you will have the opportunity to browse around a local clothier who has set up a shop right there. He has a large stock of sweaters, slacks, shirts, sport coats, etc. And you can also rent clothing for a nominal fee and a small deposit.

Don't forget that you can wear civilian clothes on the airplane to and from Vietnam and you must wear this type of clothing while in Australia because no uniforms are allowed.

Many Many Hotels

The R&R Center has already made reservations at hotels throughout the Sydney area for you. All you do is pick a hotel in the vicinity you wish to stay and you will be given a reservation card for that establishment. There are 63 hotels or motels to chose from in the Sydney region.

Excellent hotels around Kings Cross such as the Carlton-Rex, Kings Cross Rex, or Crest for a single room run from $10.75 to $12.00 a night. Moderate accommodations at the Hampton Court or Whitehall hotel start at $7.50 a night for a single room.

Downtown Sydney abounds in modern places to stay like the Menzies, Wentworth, or Metropole from $8.00 to $12.00 a night, once again single rooms.

The beach areas near Sydney are only 15 minutes aways from the down-town-King Cross area.

Bondi, Brunte, and Coogee Beaches stretch along five miles of the Sydney coastline. Here rooms can be acquired on the beach or on beach access roads.

The Beach House or Travelodge Motel at Bondi cost from $8.00 to $9.00 a night for single quarters.

For a single room at either the Oceanic Hotel or Corban Motel at Coogee, you can expect to pay around $8.00 a night.

Many night clubs, restaurants and good hotels can be found at this resort area, 400 miles north of Sydney. You can surf, water ski, ride horseback or play golf at this east Australian riviera.

If you desire to visit Surfers' Paradise or any other place outside of Sydney, contact the Proscenia Agency for transportation and make sure to let the people at the R&R Center know your whereabouts.

No Problems City

Transportation in Sydney is very reasonable by taxi or bus. You will find that cab drivers are very cordial and willing to give you directions around the city.

If you plan on visiting any of the nightclubs, you may be required to order a meal during the course of the evening, so be prepared.

Figuring it liberally, a man can live the life of "Riley" for six days in Australia on $400 to $500. This price includes an excellent hotel, full night life and some shopping expenses. You can adjust your own finances from there.

Whether you are looking for a relaxing week in the country or a bustling time in the big city, you can't go wrong in the land "down under".

Most hotels and motels in the Sydney area have radio-TV and room services that cater to almost any whim.

World Hospitality

The Australian-American Association can arrange for you to spend a couple of days with an Australian family in one of the suburban or rural areas around Sydney. Some American families in the area have also volunteered this hospitality.

For the dance set, the discotheques in Sydney are the greatest. The Cheetah Room, Matin and Mandarin Clubs, and a swinging rock abode called the Other Place open their doors between 7:00 and 8:00 P.M. and don't shut down until 3:00 A.M. or later.

During the day, dress in Sydney is casual but after the sun sets, the many neon-lit streets all over this city are filled with Aussies sporting coats and ties.

During your initial briefing at the R&R Center a lovely hostess from the Proscenia Tour Agency will inform you about the many activities offered by this reputable concern.

A Diversity of Fun

During the summer months of December, January, and February city people leterally storm the Gold Coast of Australia in Queensland.

You think that the metropolitan mini skirts were something, wait until you see the bikinis at Surfers' Paradise on the Gold Coast.

Your appearance and its reflection

By MSG Bonesio

A company returns to its base camp following extended operations in the jungles, mountains and rice paddies of Vietnam.

The men are unshaven, physically and mentally weary, their clothing and equipment bear the stains of the terrain and the sweat of their efforts and toil.

Not visible but doubtlessly present in every one of these men is pride-in his unit and in himself. Each has done his job for the team and the unit has accomplished its mission. They have SOLDIERED!

These troopers have three goals in mind, clean up their gear and themselves, have a good hot meal, and relax.

With weapons and equipment cleaned and oiled, sporting fresh clothing after a shave and bath they have in effect "scraped the mud from the silver wreath of their CIB."

Third item, relaxing, will be up to individual; writing letters home, reading, viewing a movie, sacking out on a bunk, soaking up sun and water at a beach, or a few cold ones at the club.

Unfortunately, there are some people who are immature and believe that soldiering ceases upon coming out of the bush. They feel that they must adhere to the television or Hollywood version of the combat returnee as one who must "tear down" the local bar and "tear up" anyone who doesn't agree with his attitude or actions.

The individual who expresses distain for authority by deliberate failure to exercise military courtesy and is lax in personal appearance, disregarding uniform regulations, is placing a film of tarnish on "The Badge".

This same person thinks that upon his return to "the world" he must epitomize the combat veteran as one of sloppy appearance – bareheaded with his hat tucked through the shoulder epaulette, uniform coat unbuttoned, tie pulled loose with shirt unfastened at the collar.

Would you believe? A camouflage material bush hat with the Army Green uniform? The same uniform with trousers bloused above jungle boots? Childish, of course! Yet these are instances of uniform violations recorded on DR's by military policemen.

There is no excuse for personnel assigned to duties at a static headquarters area presenting an appearance far below par for the course. A combat trooper who does not have the basic comforts, showers, laundry, barbering service, is bound to feel resentment toward a rear area soldier who has these facilities available but does not utilize them.

Any soldier who appears in public with the attitude that slovenly dress, uncouth actions, and a foul mouth depict a combat veteran only demonstrates a lack of pride in himself and in his unit.

We can only assume this person has failed in his duties or has not produced during the unit's mission.

The next time you stand before a shaving mirror think for a moment and ask yourself these questions. Am I soldiering "all the way?"

Does my appearance, attitude or actions require corrective application brasso to remove tarnish from my "Badge"?

Viet tour-a lost year?

By Chaplain (LTC) James Shaw

You probably didn't want to come to Vietnam, but you're here. Perhaps you would like to erase this year from your life and blot from your mind everything between that tearful goodbye and that joyful reunion awaiting you. But it doesn't work that way. You can't subtract this year from your life. Man can't exist in suspended animation. He either grows physically, morally, and spiritually, or he deteriorates in these areas.

What are you doing with your year in Vietnam? It CAN be a profitable one for you. For one thing you can make some real friends. During combat there's no reason to wear a facade. You accept a man and appreciate him for what he is – with his strengths and his weaknesses. That's TRUE friendship – accepting a man for what he is and liking him in spite of his faults. Count the friends you have gained. Surely this is a plus, not a minus.

General Sherman termed war for what it is, "Hell." No man in his right mind enjoys it. But as terrible as it is, much worse is the person who cares only about himself, his own possessions, his own enjoyment and whose freedom is completely dependent on a "better man." By far the majority of men in Vietnam fit the "better man" description. Most are willing to serve their country and to thwart those who would oppress us and the freedoms we champion for mankind. Invariably these men go back home thinking a little more of our country, its flag, and the things it stands for. This is growth, too, in my book.

War leaves little time for relaxation and recuperation, but there is SOME time for it. How are you spending it? An R&R or leave spent constructively can bring life-long memories you can share with your loved ones. Good books can become as valuable as good friends. The vast majority of soldiers read more books in their year here than three years back in the States. Now if they are good books, you're talking about growth, not deterioration.

If you have gotten this far in this article the chances are you are one who is "growing" in Vietnam. I hope so. The other man will try to lose his year and escape from his problems with alcohol, grass, or worse; or perhaps he will retreat into a world of perverse gratification by prostituting his body and mind. This is deterioration no matter how the soldier rationalizes otherwise.

So it's a paradoxical year. We hate being away from our loved ones with a passion, but in spite of it we can grow. Then when we return home those clean sheets, hot baths, home cooking, American soil, and the warmth of our wife's or sweetheart's love will mean that much more. Here's to some good growing – right up to DEROS!

Buying a car?

Thinking of buying a car from the Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE)? If so, here are a few guidelines that may help you.

Once you have selected the new car an initial deposit in Military Payment Certificate or check, made payable to VRE, is required. Additional payments will be paid by check either to VRE or the automobile manufacturer.

Your initial deposit will be receipted by VRE. All other payments will be forwarded directly to the manufacturer or authorized representative by the VRE sales representative.

In case you change your mind about purchasing the car, remember that in order to obtain a refund you will have to initiate cancellation action on your order. However, the automobile manufacturer will determine, after deducting administrative cost if any, whether you receive a full or partial refund. The refund check will be made and mailed to you by Headquarters VRE Finance and Accounting Branch.

If you cancel your order after your departure from Vietnam, the refund will be initiated and processed through the automobile agency.

Beware of hoaxes

Numerous hoax calls to relatives of personnel serving in Vietnam have been reported. These hoax calls have caused considerable anguish and discomfort to the next of kin who are unaware of Department of Army notification procedures.

The hoax calls are malicious and relate primarily to false reports of death, missing in action, absence without leave, desertion, or other related matters concerning personnel status. The adverse and and traumatic impact on the unwary is obvious.

Spare Grief

Spare your relatives this grief! Advise them that they may be the recipient of such a contemptible call, and that any such telephone call concerning your status should be immediately recoginized as a hoax.

If your status requires notification to your loved ones, the Army does not use the telephone. Notification is made by a personally delivered message by Army representatives, where identity can immediately be verified.

The Army's Way

Also the Army might notify by a Western Union telegram which can be verified with the Western Union office from which it was received; or the Army forward correspondence directly from the Department of Army.

The purpose for notifying your next of kin determines what means are used.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Heip Duc rebuilds, twice in nine months

By SSG Tim Palmer

HIEP DUC (AMERICAL IO) – For the second time in less than nine months the villagers of Hiep Duc are faced with the problem of starting all over again.

On April 30th, coincident with a ground attack on nearby LZ Siberia and various other confrontations between Allied Forces and NVA troops throughout the Hiep Duc valley, three of the seven villages making up Hiep Duc were occupied by NVA Forces.

Official estimates placed the damage due to burning, explosion, etc.....at 20 per cent destruction in each of the three areas affected. Ten civilians were killed in the clash.

The invaders wanted to prove that they could, at any time, wrest the scenically beautiful valley from the hands of the local Regional and Popular Forces stationed at outposts nearby, and further show that even the strength of the Division's 196th Brigade, located on nearby LZ West, was not enough to deny them their whim.

They were mistaken!

Although gaining entrance to the village before local forces had time to react, the quick actions of the RF and PF soldiers limited greatly the effectiveness of the occupation.

The ten civilians killed included one village chief and one hamlet chief. Also, hundreds of homes were destroyed in the wake of the invasion and subsequent occupation. Whether the civilians were killed while resisting or merely assasinated for political reasons has not yet been determined.

Lieutenant Colonel Mebane Stafford, Province Senior Advisor for the area including Hiep Duc, stated, "The NVA failed with their overall mission, but the people of Hiep Duc paid a big price nonetheless."

The tactical plan used to retake Hiep Duc from the communists relied mainly on the utilization of ARVN troops linked with the Regional and Popular Forces. "The insertion of U.S. troops into the villages themselves was avoided," said Colonel Stafford, "as we wanted to make sure no villagers were mistaken for the enemy. We felt we could keep friendly casualties down to a minimum if we restricted our forces inside the ARVN, PF, and RF forces, leaving the Americans free to engage the various other enemy elements in the outlying areas."

Colonel Stafford was careful to point out that at no time were bombings, artillery or mortar used to support the house-to-house fighting which finally resulted in the ouster of the communists. "We wouldn't displace 6000 people by firing on the villages," he reported.

Today Hiep Duc is rebuilding - again.

The houses are going back up, and the people are reorganizing. Many are rebuilding for the second or third time, happier to stay where they are than to leave the beauty of their home.

A Vietnamese mother carries tin roofing material supplied by the Army to begin rebuilding her family home in Hiep Duc. The home was destroyed during the recent occupation of the village by NVA Forces. (Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)

Mo Duc graduation

By SP4 Toby Prodgers

MO DUC (11th INF BDE IO) – "I would like to congratulate you on the very fine appearance of your children and facilities here this morning. It brings back a lot of memories of when I was a school child," said Colonel K.B. Barlow, commanding officer of the 11th Infantry Brigade. Expressing his pleasure at having been invited to take part in the graduating exercises of the Duc My Village Primary School, seven miles north of Duc Pho, Colonel Barlow added that the 11th Infantry Brigade will continue to offer its assistance to the school in the future.

Also in attendance were Lieutenant Colonel Arthur F. Fischer commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry and Mr. Le Xuan Dich, the Quang Ngai Provinced Primary Education inspector.

The ceremony was highlighted by the colorful pageantry of the school's 400 students, age six to twelve, as they received their visitors with songs of greetings. After five years of study and a thorough year-end examination, the twelve-year olds received their diplomas and admission to high school.

For the past two years, the 1st Bn., 20th Inf. has taken a special interest in Duc My school, and with help from the 11th Brigade, has sponsored programs to improve its facilities and render educational assistance. For the day's graduation ceremony, the battalion supplied such gifts as portable radios and volleyball sets to the school's top graduates.

Said Colonel Fischer, "I sincerely hope that we can continue to do our part in furthering the education of these children who will one day be the leaders and citizens of the hamlets, the villages and the Republic."

Villagers dig the 'flicks'

By SGT. Jim Tannesen

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Civil affairs workers from the 196th Infantry Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, have found a way to penetrate the language barrier between American and local Vietnamese. The Americal Division soldiers travel from village to village showing movies. The movies range from Vietnamese documentaries to cartoons.

"Our main purpose is to pass on information to the villagers about their government's efforts both in the war and the pacification program," explained First Lieutenant William Bacon, Roswell, N.M., civil affairs officer of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry. "We also show general entertainment films."

Language is no barrier. The Vietnamese particularly enjoy the American cartoon films even though they cannot understand the narrative.

A typical evening begins as two civil affairs jeeps roll into the courtyard of a Binh An village elementary school.

It is too early for the movie; an impromptu game of catch begins the evening's activities. The "frisbee", a circular plastic disc, soars in flying saucer fashion from hand to hand. The game finally turns into a general free-for-all after which Lieutenant Bacon quickly retreats and signals for the movie to begin.

The crows has now grown to several hundred and ranges from the oldest Vietnamese to the smallest infant. As the projector begins to roll, people maneuver for the best position on the sandy courtyard. There is complete silence as color shots of Saigon are projected on the screen and the narrator explains current government policies and objectives.

"This kind of a program is good because there is a lot of personal contact between Vietnamese and Americans," says Bacon. "We get to know each other better."

Unbeatable combination in Nui Lac Son

By SGT Dave McKeon

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Pacification is not a meaningless cliche to the village of Nui Lac Son. At that remote hamlet 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky, pacification is an active program insuring safety and progress for its 8,000 people.

The village is situated just to the northwest of the 196th Infantry Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry home fire base, LZ Center. Vietnamese civilians, Popular Force units and U.S. military personnel work together to keep the fertile fields and plains surrounding Nui Lac Son free of infiltration.

"The major thrust of our work in pacifying the area has been to earn the trust and respect of the Vietnamese civilians, and to establish a working relationship with them in protecting themselves and their homes," said First Lieutenant Douglas Lyddon, Downers Grove,Ill.

As Civil Affairs Officer for the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, Lieutenant Lyddon heads a six man liaison team responsible for establishing and maintaining good relations with the indigenous population.

"Our liaison team lives in the village and coordinates American educational and medical aid to the civilian population," said Staff Sergeant Wayron Young, Buffalo.

"Many individual U.S. soldiers contribute the necessary funds to send a Vietnamese child to school," Sergeant Young said.

The liaison team coordinates medical attention for the villagers with the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry. Three times each week a medical team visits Nui Lac Son to treat any ailments free of cost. Medical evacuation by helicopter is also arranged for the more serious cases.

The American liaison team and the Vietnamese military personnel also work together in keeping the area secured. U.S. personnel accompany Vietnamese patrols as advisors and provide the necessary link to coordinate American artillery and indirect fire support should it be necessary.

The efforts of Americans and Vietnamese working together has paid off. The controlled fire zone has recently expanded to include another village. And the surrounding area, once heavily booby trapped and often harrassed by VC is now clear and being cultivated.

The cooperation, trust, and mutual friendship between Vietnamese and Americans in Nui Lac Son CFZ is an unbeatable combination in thwarting VC harassment and terrorism.

Having found a stream near their firebase, these Division soldiers from Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery scrub off the grime accumulated from the countless firemissions and chopper sandstorms. They were joined in their 'tub' by a group of boys who couldn't resist the temptation offered by the soap and cool water. (Photo by SP5 A.C. Barnett)

'Old Glory' waves defiance from the hilltop

Much needed supplies ar

Siberia; hon

Story by 1Lt. Steven Gailer
Photos by SP4 A.C. Barnett

Constant vigil is maintained by artillerymen

Artillerymen put another

e delivered by Chinooks

FADAC puts them where they count

ne of Charlie Battery, 3rd Bn, 82nd Arty

in Charlie's hip pocket

LZ SIBERIA (DIV ARTY IO) – On a hilltop overlooking the Song Tran River, this Division firebase is aptly named.

LZ Siberia is the home of Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery. It may not have comforts like hot and cold running water, televisions or swimming pools; but the connoneers make the most of what they have and call Siberia home.

The artillerymen must rely on helicopters to bring them everything they need from mail to projectiles for their howitzers. An aviator bringing in supplies can always be sure that a group of smiling faces will greet his chopper, all more than willing to lend a helping hand to unload whatever treasures might be aboard.

The mission of Charlie Battery is to provide direct support for the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade. With muscles straining and sweat rolling down their backs, the artillerymen pump out the rounds twenty-four hours a day. These seemingly tireless young cannoneers have made their battery one of the most active direct support units in Vietnam.

The enemy is not happy that artillery is perched atop this hill. On several occasions, they have launched concerted attacks against the outpost. Charlie Battery cannoneers have proven equal to all challenges. Manning well fortified bunker positions along with the infantrymen, firing self-illumination, and lowering their howitzer tubes for direct fire, the artillerymen have developed defenses that assure that many of the enemy will never go on another attack.

For the men stationed on LZ Siberia, a year is a very full 365 days. When the tour finally ends, they can look back and know that the discomforts they have endured have caused immeasurable damage to the enemy in what he likes to refer to as "his territory".

Cannoneers readying another round for Charlie

Rocket attack thwarted by 198th Infantrymen

By SP4 Louis Featherman

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) – Quick and decisive action by 198th Infantry Brigade soldiers enabled them to find and capture a large number of enemy rockets and abort a massive rocket attack on Chu Lai.

Men of Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry combat-assualted into the enemy's rocket launching site and found 43 rockets ready to fire. The "Brave and Bold" infantrymen had moved into the site, five miles southwest of Chu Lai in response to an early morning rocket attack on Chu Lai.

"After the initial rockets were fired at 6 A.M., we went up in the command and control helicopter and started a visual reconnaissance of the suspected launch site area," said Lieutenant Colonel Melvin C. Snyder, Falls Church, Va., commander of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry. "At 7 a.m., while we were still reconning the area, they started shooting rockets again." Colonel Snyder called for helicopter gunships.

"I then called for a platoon of Charlie Company to be combat-assaulted into the launch site," continued the Colonel. The platoon, led by Staff Sergeant James Goss, Monroe, Mich., met resistance as it attempted to land.

"We received AK-47 fire from a woodline as we came into the rocket site," said Sergeant Goss. The helicopters returned fire and landed in a different landing zone nearby." After observing the enemy evading, the assaulting troops then secured the site and found the unfired rockets.

"We found 40 or so rockets lined up in a row," said Sergeant Goss. "They were camouflaged with brush and they were all set up on bipods made of stickes, and they were armed and ready to fire. We disarmed them by shorting out the wires connecting them to the firing device."

Another element of Charlie Company surprised four enemy troops in the area while patrolling later in the morning.

"We were 150 meters from the rocket site when we came to a deep, narrow gully," said First Lieutenant Michael S. Mesich, Milwaukee, Wis., a platoon leader. "My M-79 man (grenadier) opened up and then we called up our machine gun but we didn't get them." The patrol pursued the enemy up the gully, but were unable to apprehend them. In their haste, the VC left behind four packs containing a large supply of batteries used to fire the rockets, a hand generator also used as a firing device, numerous personal items and food.

These soldiers from the 198th Infantry Brigade load captured enemy rockets onto a helicopter five miles west of Chu Lai. The rockets were part of 43 captured by the infantrymen. (Photo by SP4 Louis D. Feathermman)

In she goes as this trooper struggles to load one of the captured rockets into the chopper. The men spotted the site in time to prevent any of these rounds impacting in Chu Lai. Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry was the unit credited with thrwarting the enemy's plans. (Photo by SP4 Louis D. Feathermman)

Evening attack closes school

By SP4 Larry Granfield

LZ PROFESSIONAL (196th INF BDE IO) – A daring maneuver by a small 196th Infantry Brigade patrol brought an NVA sapper class to an abrupt end 11 miles southwest of Tam Ky. The soldiers crawled 200 yards over open ground and totally surprised the enemy, killing 11 and capturing several weapons.

The patrol, from the reconnaissance platoon, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, was operating in a rugged highland forest near this firebase.

"We had just moved into our night defensive position," recalled machinegunner Specialist Four John E. Henderson, Andersonville, Tenn., "When I heard faint Vietnamese voices filtering through the trees."

The patrol members grabbed their weapons and cautiously closed in on the source of the suspicious noises.

"The voices got louder and louder," said Specialist Four Daniel C. Bomgren, medic, St. Paul, Minn., "until we came to a rice paddy. We saw the NVA gathered under some trees on the other side."

An important decision had to be made. The precoccupied enemy presented a perfect opportunity for a surprise attack, but the "Professionals" would have to cross a large space of open ground to get within hand grenade range.

"We low-crawled about 200 yards across the paddy until we were close enough to lob grenades on them" said point man Specialist Four David Placenci, Auborn, Ind. "After flanking their position, I threw a hand grenade to signal the others to open up."

The ensuing barrage of friendly fire dropped nine of the enemy in their tracks; the other crawled and staggered into the dense undergrowth, completely stunned by the unexpected visit. The tiny force seized two AK-47 rifles then pulled back because of limited visibility.

The following morning, the Professionals swept the contact area which revealed two more enemy dead, three individual weapons, one 9mm pistol, 22 Chinese Communist grenades, a complete booby trap kit, and an elaborate sapper training site, complete with barbed wire and an accuracy range for throwing satchel charges into simulated bunkers.

After the weapons and equipment were extracted by helicopter, the men found time to laugh about the incident.

Quipped Specialist Four Richard Beasley, Mechanicsville, Va., "That instructor better concentrate on defense rather than attacking for awhile."

Recap: Action light in Div. AO

(continued from page 1)

carrying packs and weapons. The company engaged the enemy with automatic weapons to kill two of them in the thickly vegetated area.

FREDRICK HILL

The 196th Infantry Brigade encountered the heaviest enemy activity in the Division's area of operation.

A squad of VC strolled into view of an Echo Recon platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry mortar team set up on an observation post northwest of Tam Ky recently. "We could see at least 15 of them," said Private First Class Charles Boswell, Omaha, Neb. "We opened up and saw the rounds drop right on top of them." Five were confirmed killed in the brief action.

B Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, while on a search and clear mission 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky recently found 300 pounds of rice and 100 pounds of corn in an empty hooch.

Late one afternoon, a team of Firebird gunships from the 71st Aviation Company, working nine miles northwest of Tam Ky, fired on twenty to thirty VC. The gunship's action brought death to five of the enemy.

Alpha Co., 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry while on a recon-in-force mission 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky, recently uncovered a substantial ammo cache while checking a tunnel complex in the dense highlands.

The find included 155 CHICOM grenades, 9 RPG rounds, 600 AK-47 rounds, six unknown-type Communist explosives, one carbine, four flares and one box of detonating fuses.

A Viet Cong grenade factory was uncovered recently by Alpha Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. while they were on a sweep in an area 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Found in the area were 60 pounds of explosive, six blasting caps and a diagram explaining how a grenade is made. Later, small arms fire killed one VC in the area. He was carrying two packs of rice and personal items when killed.

For the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, one day was profitable and busy as the infantrymen killed 12 enemy soldiers, and suffered no friendly casualties.

Early morning found Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry operating 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Gimlets" encountered a lone NVA with a pack. Engaging him with small arms fire, Delta killed him and confiscated the pack.

In a late morning action, Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry operating in the same area, engaged and killed one VC. A short time later, the infantrymen observed and engaged 10-12 NVA soldiers. The NVA fled into the thick vegetation.

B Company, not to be out-maneuvered, quickly surrounded and pinned down the enemy. Soon, however, the "Bushmasters" received five to six incoming mortar rounds and small arms fire. Undaunted, they held their ground and directed artillery fire mission from B Battery, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., along with gunships on the location. Four NVA were confirmed killed in the action.

Meanwhile Bravo Company received two more incoming mortar rounds from the new enemy position. Six more NVA were confirmed in the action.

IRON MOUNTAIN

The lightest action in the division area occurred in the 11th Infantry Brigade in the first week of June.

Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed one VC and one NVA on the Suoi Nga Man River four miles wouth of Duc Pho recently.

Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry accounted for three VC killed by claymore mines in the mountains 15 miles west of Duc Pho. One carbine, 30 pounds of rice, and 20 pounds of salt were confiscated in the brief action.

The absentee ballot vote and you

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Under Public Law 296-84, The Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955, the Secretary of Defense, as Presidential designee, co-ordinated a Federal voting assistance program designed to help persons vote by absentee ballot when their duty or service requires them to be away from their legal voting places at election time. The Federal Voting Assistance Act sets up recommended procedures for absentee voting by specified categories of people as guidance for the states. But each state makes its own voting laws and these vary from state to state.

Barbara Hillary, April Playboy's Playmate of the Month reminds us that "Good government starts at the bottom, and to begin your 1970 voting by obtaining an absentee ballot for your state's primay election."
(Photo courtesy Playboy Magazine)

A special application form is printed and distributed by the U.S. Government through the General Services Administration for use by persons covered under the Act. This is the Federal Post Card Application for Absentee Ballot.

Using the FPCA

The FPCA may be used to apply for an absentee ballot and registration if the state or territory so authorizes. Standards of acceptance and procedure vary from state to state. Filling out an FPCA and sending it to the proper officials of a person's home state does not always entitle that person to absentee registration or voting privileges. In some states it does; in others, the FPCA serves as a request for the state's own forms which must be filled out and returned before final action is taken on the request.

In a few states, one FPCA serves for all elections in that calendar year. But one FPCA may never be used for more than one person.

General Rules

In addition to abiding by the state's individual requirements for using the FPCA, these geveral rules are to be followed:

- Print by hand or use a typewriter to fill in the post card.
- Be sure all requested information is supplied and be sure it is written clearly and legibly.
- Show the name of the applicant twiceonce printed or typed and once in the applicant's own handwriting. Anyone may fill out the card, but only the person who is to be registered or receive the ballot may write his name on line 9, unless the state specifies otherwise.
- Street and number or rural route of place of residence are called for on the FPCA. It is also essential that an applicant include the name of his home county. This helps state officials speed action on the application.
- Military and Government addresses, particularly in abbreviated forms, are often confusing to civilians. The addresses should be printed or typed clearly and completely, so that no letter or number will be misread or address misunderstood.
- Applicant's legal voting residence must be a place where he actually lived not just a residence of record. But no more than one such address may be given. If applicant has had more than one address in a State, give only the last, most current, address.
- Many States require that the FPCA be certified. Members of the Armed Forces should have this done by a commissioned officer unless the state specified that a noncommissioned or warrant officer's attestation is also acceptable.
- Before addressing the FPCA, check the state's mailing instructions. In some cases, the card is to be addressed to the state election official (who then sends it on to the proper local official); in other cases it is to be addressed to a local official, such as country clerk or auditor, or to an election board.
- Mail the FPCA as early as the state permits. No postage is required.
- If application for ballot or registration is made by letter instead of by FPCA, the same information required on the FPCA should be given. It is advisable to have this form of application subscribed and sworn to by a commissioned officer or authorized civilian. Otherwise it may be returned for proper attestation.

Residence Requirements For Absentee

The state, city, or country in which a person lived before entering the military or Federal service usually is considered his legal residence for voting purposes unless he later establishes residence elsewhere. Time spent in such service counts in meeting total residency requirements. For example, if a state requires a minimum residence of 2 years and a person lived in a state for one year and served in the Armed Forces for one year, he will have fulfilled the state's two year' residency requirement.

Registration

Many states permit registration by absentee process, and some will register a qualified voter when they accept a voted absentee ballot. In others, a voter must be registered before applying for a ballot. In still others persons applying for registration or absentee ballots, must have initially registered in person in their home county. Procedures vary from state to state and must be understood and followed exactly on an individual basis.

In some states registration is permanent. Where such permanent registration laws are in effect, a person is not required to re-register for each election so long as he meets certain requirements. In general, the requirements are that the applicant vote regularly and does not legally change his name or move away from the area (such as precinct or district) where registered.

Most states permit monors to apply for registration if they will be of legal voting age by the date of the election.

Application for registration would always be made as early as the state permits, especially in cases where registration must be completed before application may be made for the absentee ballot.

Voting By Absentee Ballot

When a ballot is received from a state, the envelope containing the ballot should not be opened until instructions on the enevelope have been read. This is important because some states require that the envelope be opened in the presence of a commissioned officer, notary public, or other authorized person. If there are no instructions on the outside of the envelope, it may be opened as any other mail.

States usually include full instructions inside the ballot envelope with the ballot form as a guide to persons voting by absentee process. Voting officers should help personnel follow these instructions or advise them in case no instructions have been sent by the state.

In accordance with Federal law and Armed Forces regulations, no commissioned, warrant, petty, or noncommissioned officer or any civilian serving as a voting officer will attempt to influence any person as to his choice of candidate. The actual marking of the ballot-the voting must be done secretly. This is required by law.

Combined effort in clearing Barrier Is.

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Barrier Island is a 30 mile finger of sand, swamps and glistening beaches. About halfway down its length, the island is cut by a district border line. Here, in the 1950's the French battled Viet Cong hordes that ranged out from a series of ridges rippling along either side of the Truong Giang, a broad half-salt river that sets the island off from the mainland.

In recent months, infantrymen, cavalrymen and engineer units of the 196th Infantry Brigade, in conjuction with Vietnamese ARVN elements, have totaled over 1,000 kills in hard-fought clearing operations moving up the island.

As a result, the enemy's capability to strike American and Vietnamese forces and to harass local villagers has been crippled.

"They have been avoiding direct contact," said Captain James E. Adams Bridgeville, Pa., "and have used bombs, mines and booby traps." Captain Adams is assistant intelligence officer for the 196th Inf. Bde.

The clearing operations began in February. With an infantry company providing security, bulldozers from the 9th Marine Engineers initiated the attack.

The giant machines leveled the tree-shrouded dykes from which enemy forces fought for so long.

Although some of the dozers hit booby traps, the tracks took all the impact and the drivers were not hurt.

"Along with the systematic clearing, we are continually assisting the Vietnamese Government in setting up refugee areas and Popular Force outsposts on the island," said Captain Loren Hohman, Topeka, Kans., assistant operations officer for the 196th.

By late April most enemy forces had retreated farther into the island in an attempt to escape the Allied juggernaut. The Vietnamese Air Force pounded the VC retreats with air strikes and the bulldozers continued to clear the Truong Giang.

The strangulation hold the Viet Cong once held on the scattered farming and fishing communities was broken.

"Barrier Island should never again be the threat it once was." said Captain Adams. "Our combined efforts have made enemy movement in the area much more hazardous."

Army commanders feel certain the extensive clearing project will effectively subdue the enemy that sniped at the French and harassed the Americans. This time the Allies plan to evict the VC permanently.

Cordon yields rice cache

By SP4 Ron Adams

FSB DEBBIE (11th INF BDE IO) – Working with ARVN soldiers and American armor, elements from the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry of the 11th Brigade recently placed a cordon around two hamlets five miles south of Duc Pho, detaining six VC, one NVA, and confiscating 7,300 pounds of rice.

"Company D executed a combat assault into the 'Rice Bowl' area, and immediately placed a cordon around two small hamlets suspected to be VC controlled," explained Lieutenant Brian DeMary, Beaumont, Tex., Recon Platoon Leader. "Our platoon was then dropped into the area with a dozen ARVN soldiers to centralize the civilians and conduct a thorough interrogation."

"We detained several individuals as they emerged from tunnels," commented Private First Class Cornelio Carrasco

Recon Platon Sergeant Bob Davidson, Kansas City, Mo., added, "All the caches were buried approximately a foot underground."

The hard day's work slowly came to an end as the 11th Brigade infantrymen and cavalrymen of E troop loaded their finidngs, mounted the heavy iron horses, and headed for home.

A hard pillow

By SP4 Louis D. Featherman

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE) – Sometimes the only way to find a booby trap is to use one's head. A Division soldier did just that on a recent operation 14 miles northwest of Chu Lai.

Specialist Four Tracy W. Austin, Birmingham, Ala., and his comrades from Alpha Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade had moved into a night defensive position and settled down for what they hoped would be a quiet night.

"I was pulling radio watch from welve until one," recalled Specialist Austing a radio telephone operator for the company command post (CP). "When I came off duty it was still very hot and the mosquitos were out in full force and I was restless." Specialist Austin looked around for a place to lie down and found one next to the CP radios.

"I laid down, put my head back and then I felt something hard under my head so I reached back to move it and I felt three prongs of a booby trap pressure device. It scared me half to death."

"The CO was pretty shook up, too," said Specialist Austin. "He called for the Kit Carson Scout, a former enemy soldier now working for the allied troops, an expert on mines and booby traps, to disarm it." The scout dug up the device and found that it was attached to an artillery round. It was also discovered that one of the three prongs on the pressure device was bent.

"I don't know if I bent the prong when I lay back on it or not," commented Spedialist Austin. "I was just lucky that it didn't go off, it would have messed up a lot of people."

A fine cutting edge

CHU LAI (16th CAG IO) – Trying to find action is the every day job of "Delta Troop", but sometimes action finds the troopers instead. Recently the Sabre's went on a mission for the Division in an area 30 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. On this particular day, it was not difficult to spot the enemy.

While working in an assigned area, four of the six choppers on station took fire. A massive complex of defensive positions and structures could be seen. It was decided that the only way to handle the situation was to call in the Air Force to put bomb strikes on the area.

The following day, Sabre's returned to the same area to conduct a bombing analysis with two of their choppers and their Aero-Rifle Platoon, the "Blues". They were on station only about five minutes when action took place. Sabre 13, one of the little brids took heavy enemy fire. Noticing he had numerous holes in his fuel cells, his radios, and a wounded observer, Sabre 13 decided to head back to Chu Lai with the wounded man.

However, the fuel pouring from his ship forced him to land. Sabre 71, the snake gunship was the first to notice one of his team mates was missing. A quick look around enabled him to pick up a smoke signal from the crew of the downed aircraft. Immediately rolling in with suppressive fire, Sabre 71 and his wing man, 76, set the scene for insertion of the "Blues".

With a rescue operation now in full swing, the Sabre's extracted both crew and aircraft in less than an hour and a half. Said Sabre 71, "Just another day in the life of a Sabre, that fine cutting edge!"

Division helicopters flying high above the mountains 30 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, are carrying troopers of the aero-rifle platoon the "Blues".

(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

Tells it like it is . . . . .

What is meant by drug culture?

A drug culture or subculture is a group of people whose lives are committed to drugs. The members of any subculture may congregate in a particular geographic area, such as the Haight-Ashbury district in San Francisco.

Marihuana is almost invariably smoked in such communities, but hallucinogens, sedatives, stimulants and narcotics are also used. It has been demonstrated that these subcultures are transient in nature; only a minority of the members remain for more than a year.

Where are most durg users located?

The location of users varies with the drug in question. Until recently, almost all heroin use was confined to males in urban ghettos. Now this pattern is changing. A few young people in suburban areas use heroin. Marihuana formerly was seen primaily in disadvantaged areas, in certain Mexican-American communities, and in some groups of jazz musicians and similar persons. Today, marihuana smokers and users of hallucinogens are found among middle and upper class young people and other groups. Barbiturates and amphetamines were once abused primarily by middle and upper class adults. Now, many youngsters of all classes are misusing them. The important thing to keep in mind is that drug use patterns are changing rapidly in the United States.

Why do dependency produing drugs have such a wide range of effects upon different users?

The effects of mind-altering substances are related to the expectations of the user, the setting in which the use takes place, and the potency of the drug. Mind-altering substances can have vastly different effects upon different people because such drugs release individual underlying personality traits that are ordinarily covered up. Internal controls are diminished or eliminated; one person may become angry, another amorous, a third happy, others disoriented, confused, or depressed, and so on.

Miss Four Deuce 1970

SP4 Robert Daniels

FSB SAN JUAN HILL (11th INF BDE IO) – Who says you need Bert Parks to stage a beauty contest? A mortar platoon for the 11th Infantry Brigade recently proved that you don't evn need real flesh and blood contestants when they elected "Miss Four Deuce of 1970".

The contest, which was the brain child of Staff Sergeant Wilfred Linde, Cristobal, Canal Zone, Panama, was judged by photographs of the contestants. Sergeant Linde is the platoon sergeant for the 4.2 Mortar Platoon for the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry. Single men of the unit nominated their girl friends and fiancees by pinning their pictures on the bulletin board. The married men served as judges. Their choice?

Miss Carol Nigh of Kewaskun, Wisc. was the girl who won the hearts and minds of the married men. She received a letter of congratulations and a dozen red roses along with her title. Her sponser was Private First Class Francis Theusch, also of Kewaskum, who had to take a rain check on the customary congratulatory kiss.

Miss Nigh is the President of the Kewaskum High School Student Council and after having been chosen as Miss Four Deuce she decided to do something for the men. At the next session of the Student Councial she presented the idea of setting up correspondence between San Juan Hill and the High School girls. Miss Nigh then asked for a list of the men who are on San Juan Hill. It wasn't long after she received the list that the high school girls at Kewaskum began to send letters and packages to the men of the mortar platoon.

In addition to the girls, the V.F.W. and other community clubs began to send packages and letters. Sergeant Linde said, "I never thought that the idea would blossom into anything like this.

Sergeant Robert Rau, Covington, La., and Specialist Four Crispin Salis, Laredo, Tex., who recently returned to the States plan to visit their pen pals from Kewaskum High.

Private First Class Ricky Saddoris, Des Moines, Iowa, received a package and a letter from a Kewaskun High girl and had just started writing her when three more girls began to write him.

"I am going to see one of the girls when I return to the 'World' but I have not decided which one to visit yet."