11th Inf Bde stops sappers

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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By SP4 Mark Geiser

FSB 4-11 (11th INF BDE IO) – Without an enemy round being fired, "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade here recently nipped a midnight sapper attack in the bud, killing 10 VC soldiers and detaining two.

A large number of enemy weapons which included two rocket propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, two AK-47s, one AK-50, one 9mm pistol, 76 CHICOM grenades, 10 RPG rounds, 11 B-40 rockets, and one five-pound satchel charge were seized in the aborted attack on this 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry firebase.

Near midnight three enemy sappers had advanced through the perimeter wire when a fourth member of the party, with an RPG launcher slung over his shoulder, touched off a trip flare. "I looked in front of me and there were a dozen of them just frozen in place," recalled Specialist Four Jerry D. Parker, Hickory, N.C., of Company D.

With the enemy sighting, the bunker line opened up with rifle and machinegun fire. Hand grenade and claymore mine shrapnel showered the area. Constant illumination, intermingled with accurate mortar fire from the 81mm and 4.2 mortar sections, encircled the perimeter as the soldiers methodically dispatched the intruders in their sights.

After the ravaging fire subsided, the second platoon was called upon to make an on-line sweep of the area. As the infantrymen made their way to the wire, the bodies of two sappers armed with RPG launchers were discovered.

Uncovering no additional bodies or weapons, the search was discontinued until early morning.

Direct artillery fire from D Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery continued to suppress any further enemy activity. Two platoons from Company D continued their push outside the wire uncovering eight additional enemy bodies.

The attacking force had consisted of 14 enemy sappers and supporting riflemen.

According to Captain Harry G. Sheppard, Palmetto, Fla., commanding officer of Company D, "The sapper squad was extremely well armed."

Division Recap

Children reveal caches

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – In Operation Geneva Park several Vietnamese children lead troopers of H Troop, 17th Cavalry to an impressive cache of 96 mortar rounds, 60 mines, and a variety of other highly explosive ordnance. Elsewhere in Operation Fredrick Hill the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, accounted for three-fourths of the brigades 43 enemy killed for the week. In Operation Iron Mountain the 174th Aviation Company killed 34 NVA in a two day action.

Geneva Park

In an action eight miles north of Quang Ngai, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, received incoming mortar rounds, rifle-propelled grenades and small arms fire when an undetermined number of Viet Cong assaulted their night defensive position early Friday morning. The company repulsed the attack with small arms fire and 81mm mortars. Also on station were gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry, which supported the infantrymen in the battle. At first light the company swept the area and found 14 CHICOM grenades, one rifle, two rifle-propelled grenades, and one booby trap. The company also killed one sapper.

The following day, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, spotted four to five enemy soldiers carrying packs moving through the mountains 22 miles west of Quang Ngai. The company unleashed a heavy barrage of small arms fire to kill two. The infantrymen then swept through the area and discovered three burlap packs containing medical supplies, 34 cans of condensed milk, six time fuses and some rice.

Working in the same area, Alpha Company, came upon one Viet Cong killed and the capture of several miscellanious documents.

Elsewhere, several Vietnamese children turned over to H Troop, 17th Cavalry, an impressive cache of munitions. The total cache consisted of 96 mortar rounds, 60 mines, two 2.75 inch rockets, two 57mm recoiless rifle rounds, two rifle-propelled grenades, one CHICOM grenade, four artillery rounds and six fuses. H Troop, maneuvering in an area 12 miles northeast of Quang Ngai, destroyed the munitions.

Also, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry received three artillery rounds, one mine, one booby trap, one mortar round, and 60 small arms rounds from Vietnamese children in an area 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. The 39th Engineer Battalion, working with Alpha Company, received two artillery rounds, one fuse, and two mortar rounds from the children.

While maneuvering in an area 22 miles west of Quang Ngai in the early morning, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, encountered two to three NVA in green uniforms in the thickly vegetated mountainous terrain. The company responded with automatic weapons to kill one and capture one AK-47, two AK-47 magazines, 70 pounds of salt and several items of miscellaneous field gear.

In another action, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, while manuevering in an area 14 miles northeast of

(continued on page 6)

FSB DRAGON (AMERICAL IO) -- A combined team of Regional and Popular Forces, National Police Field Forces, and Recon, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry race to the helicopters for a dawn combat assault in the division's area of operations. (Photo by Captain T.N. Thrasher)

Uncover rice cache

By SP4 Toby Prodgers

FSB LIZ (11th INF BDE IO) – Rice is abundant in the fertile "515 valley" but "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade are making it scarce for VC and NVA rice carriers in Duc Pho District. A 1st Battalin, 20th Infantry element recently cleaned out an enemy supply cache and put two VC rice carriers out of the wholesale food business.

On a routine search of the hamlet according to Specialist 4 Stuart Robertson, Middletown, N.Y., the men were just poking around with their sticks and came across an 800 pound rice cache buried in the floor of one of the huts.

The men then intensified their search and found two tunnels, each with a good sized room, one of which contained an enemy hand grenade. Just to the left of the first dwelling they found a larger, half-ton stash of rice buried about two feet underground.

The platoon stayed in the area that night and moved back through the hamlet enroute to an ambush site to the west. On a trail leading to the hamlet, the men spotted two VC with packs and rice carrying bags. One of the enemy evaded during the ensuing contact but the other, carrying a hand grenade, was wounded and evacuated.

The next day the platoon detained a total of 13 Vietnamese suspected of being involved in the enemy supply operations in the area.

The following day, the men moved to a larger hamlet 650 yards southwest and a search revealed almost two tons of rice.

Specialist Robertson explained that the VC had hidden much of the rice in five gallon tin cans camouflaged by a thin layer of dried potatoes.

General Zais leaves I Corps

By SP4 William Hayes

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – During a brief ceremony at Division headquarters, Lieutenant General Melvin Zais, Commanding General of XXIV Corps, delivered a farewell address to the officers and men of the largest division within his command.

After receiving thanks and best wishes from Major General A.E. Milloy, Commanding General of the Division, the departing XXIV Corps commander remarked on the characteristics of the soldiers of the Division.

"I admire the appearance of the young soldiers who are standing out there, often not really understanding why, but doing what they are asked to," he said.

General Zais, who began his Army career under the Thompson Act in 1937, was called to active duty in 1940. During WWII, he led the 3rd Battalion of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment from cadre training to combat in Italy, southern France, Belgium and Germany, including one night combat parachute drop into northern France.

In September, 1952 he was assigned to the U.S. Army Advisory Group, Turkey, where he trained a Turkish brigade as an infantry unit advisor. He accompanied that unit when it moved to the Korean conflict.

After several staff assignments for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and USAEUR, General Zais was promoted to Brigadier General in June of 1964 and was appointed Director of Enlisted Personnel, Office of Personnel Operations.

He was assigned as the Deputy CG, First Field Force, Vietnam in February 1966. Later, he served as Deputy CG, 1st Infantry Division.

Upon his return to CONUS in July of 1966, he served as the Director of Individual Training, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of Personnel, Department of the Army. He was promoted to Major General in May, 1967, and commanded the 101st Airborne Division from July, 1968 to May, 1969, when the unit was undergoing conversion to the airmobile structure. He became qualified as an Army aviator, and in June of 1969 he became Lieutenant General and assumed command of XXIV Corps, Hue-Phu Bai.

General Zais commanded XXIV Corps when it moved from Phu Bai to Danang during March, 1970 to relieve the III Marine Amphibious Force as the organization in charge of all American forces operating in I Corps tactical zone.

General Zais' next assignment is as Director of Operations, J-3, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

First Lieutenant Albert Lagasses, Bingham, Maine, working with Bravo Company, 26th Engineer Battalion moves out to talk to one of the D-7 bulldozer operators just outside the village of Van Thien. (Photo by SP4 J.B. Majerus)

Part 10 of a special R&R series

See Expo for R&R

The Ginza, night life, sight seeing and the terrific buys available on camera equipment and electronic equipment are all good reasons for you to take your R&R in Japan. But now there is an added attraction – EXPO'70 is now open to the public and the Army has two package tours for soldiers on R&R.

Your Japanese holiday begins when that Freedom Bird touches down at Yokota Airbase. From there it is off to Camp Zama and the R&R Center for quick in-processing.

The national currency in Japan is yen which has an exchange rate of 360 yen for one U.S. dollar. Greenbacks can be converted at the R&R Center, USO, Sand Club atop the Stars & Stripes Building or the Sanno Hotel. However be sure to save some dollars for PX purchases and dining at the Sands Club.

A shuttle bus service is provided from the R&R Center into 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.

"Progress and Harmony for Mankind," is the theme for EXPO'70, which is being held in Osaka through September 13, 1970. This is the first World Exposition ever held in the Orient. The Exposition includes 76 nations from all corners of the world and some 30 commercial and public corporations participating, in what is expected to be the largest World Exposition ever.

To all R&R personnel there are package tours being offered upon arrival at Camp Zama, R&R Center. The plans include: rooms, meals, and transportation.

At each exhibition you will be greeted by a lovely hostess from the sponsoring nation who will be more than willing to assist you in finding your way.

For more information on EXPO'70 write:

USA Personnel Center
Far East
Camp Zama, Japan
APO 96343

High point of malaria cases

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

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

There are two types of malaria, vivax and falciparum, in Vietnam. Of the two, vivax was until recently the most prevalent in this area. However, falciparum malaria are resistent to the chloroquine part of the chloroquine-primaquine weekly tablet. That is the big orange one that looks like it belongs in a vet's bag and has made the toilet paper people rich. On the brighter side of things the drug Dapson, has been found to work effectively against falciparum if it is taken daily – the little white pill.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Black market harmful

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Because economic competition from servicemen of Free world Forces has induced inflation and encouraged illegal currency transactions in the Republic of Vietnam, the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in cooperation with the Government of Vietnam, has issued strict regulations on the handling and circulation of money in the command.

The U.S. dollar is one of several international currencies that will buy goods in any market in the world. Therefore, many nations attempt to get U.S. money in order to buy on the world market. This is particularly true of communist nations which do not have normal trade relations with the free world. Free circulation of dollars would harm the U.S. or the host country. Consequently, in some overseas areas, MPC (Military Payment Certificates), or "scrip," are issued.

MPC is for use only in U.S. facilities and only authorized patrons of those facilities may possess MPC. However, many people in Vietnam want to gain illegal possession of the goods and services which can be purchased with MPC. They may try to bribe or "con" military personnel into buying items for them at the PX or they may want to convert the scrip into green dollares which they can take out of Vietnam.

These black market dollars can end up as payments for communist weapons and supplies. U.S. dollars are gathered here and elsewhere, smuggled to places like Hong Kong and funneled into Red China or other communist countries. In effect, the dollars you place into the black market in Vietnam could pay for the weapon the enemy uses to kill you or your buddies. It makes no difference whether you put green dollars or MPC in illegal hands; the effect is the same.

MPC may be converted to piasters only at authorized conversion facilities such as military disbursing offices, military banking facilities, USOs and cashiers in many officer and enlisted messes and clubs.

Piasters cannot be converted to MPC but they may be converted to dollars if the person involved is being medically evacuated. For other emergency reasons, individuals may convert up to $60 when departing RVN. Upon departure on normal PCS, amounts up to $20 may be converted.

There is a $200 per month limit per person on the amount of MPC that can be converted to U.S. dollar instruments (postal money orders, treasury checks, etc.). This limit also applies to MPC deposited to band accounts or the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program (USSDP). Deposits made to the USSDP simultaneously with receipt of pay, allowances and bonuses will not be subject to the $200 per month limitation. Only the case deposits come under the $200 limit.

Exception to this limit will be authorized when an individual is departing RVN (R&R, leave, PCS, etc.), or a bona fide personal emergency requires purchase of dollar instruments in excess of $200. Any time an exception to the $200 limit is authorized, an individual must obtain a certificate from his commander/supervisor that the MPC in excess of $200 were legally acquired.

If a Vietnamese or other non-American asks you to change his MPC into piasters don't do it. You would be dealing in the black market. Local Vietnamese Nationals or other residents of the Republic of Vietnam are strictly forbidden by Vietnamese law to possess any foreign currency, including U.S. currency, MPC, dollar instruments or personal checks drawn in U.S. dollars.

Sheridan Armored Assault Vehicles from H Troop, 17th Cavalry cross the Song Diem River during Operation Nantucket Beach. The 198th Infantry Brigade was conducting its operation about 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. (Photo by SGT Thomas C. Elmer)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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

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Combat Cent. trains Viets

By SSG Tim Palmer

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Recently the Division held graduation ceremonies for a class of the RF/PF Leadership Orientation Course. The occasion marked the first anniversary of the course which has graduated over 470 Vietnamese officers from its ranks.

Initiated on May 19, 1969, the program is designed to train junior officers in the Vietnamese Territorial Forces and was conceived jointly by Americal and South Vietnamese officials. At the ceremonies the key speaker was I Corps Commander General Lam, one of the foundation builders of what has come to be a highly successful and prestigous program open to junior officers from both Popular and Regular Forces commands.

Lieutenant Ronald Coleman, commanding officer of the Combat Center, deeply involved with the operations of the course explained, "these men are already junior officers when they get here, previously trained in Saigon, and all have had practical field experience and know what it is all about first hand."

Asked what the specific purpose of the course was then, considering that the trainees are already seasoned veterans, Lieutenant Coleman continued, "Although the men have already been out in the field putting their knowledge to work, this course both furthers their grasp of military tactics and operations, and prepares them more fully for instructing still other combat leaders when they return to their various units in the provinces."

The men themselves, selected at the province level for attendance at the fourteen day school, are enthusiastic, devoted soldiers with ambitions of both assuming their own commands in the provinces, and also passing along much of what they learn in Chu Lai to their subordinates. As a requirement, each applicant is tested thoroughly for aptitude and potential in advance of nomination.

The course, combining simulated tactical field operations with classroom work, is designed to further orient the junior leaders to the combined operations as conducted at province level. Additionally it instills American maneuver tactics into their own training background, allowing for still more latitude in what will ultimately result in the trainee's command decisions in field situations.

Perhaps more than any one individual, Sergeant Jerry Rakowitz, Poteet, Texas is responsible for the success and continuation of the program. Sergeant Rakowitz has been working with the course since its beginning over a year ago.

From all indications it appears that Sergeant Rakowitz's work has not been in vain. The young men graduating were proud examples of a highly successful program in combined American and Vietnamese operations.

Two members of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade cautiously move through heavy vegetation. The company was on operations near LZ Siberia. (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig Bn.)

Need cough drops?

By SGT Dave McKeon

IZ CENTER (196th INF BDE IO) – A single cough cost four NVA their lives 12 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

A small patrol from the reconnaissance platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, was recently cutting through dense vegetation along the side of a mountain.

"Eventually we came across a freshly broken trail," said Private First Class Floyd Sloan, Wheelwright, Ky., point man on that day.

The "Chargers" followed the trail for several hundred yards. Suddenly the platoon leader, First Lieutenant Dennis Leopold, Elgin, Ill., halted the patrol. A faint coughing sound was heard up ahead.

Private Sloan and three others went ahead to look. Peering through the brush, they saw between 15 and 20 NVA.

"When they saw us," recalled Private Sloan, "they all scrambled for their weapons."

The infantrymen openedup with M-16 rifles, cutting down four NVA before the enemy could reach cover.

The small patrol withdrew into the jungle, leaving their dazed enemy behind.

Five men keep the Chargers going

By SGT Bob Nordyke

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Five men loading over 20 tons of supplies a day in 100 degree temperatures and under 100 mile per hour winds keep one battalion of the 196th Infantry Brigade supplied with vital necessities.

This team and two similar ones based on LZ Hawk Hill are the vital link between the brigade and three of its forward infantry battalions.

The supply teams daily unload tons of supplies arriving by truck convoy from Chu Lai, transferring them to nylon and rope nets that will be hooked to giant Chinook helicopters and carried to the fire bases.

According to First Lieutenant Harris Rowzie, Baton Rouge, La., assistant S-4 officer, an example of a single day's workload for one helicopter is 27 tons of ammunition, 4,200 gallons of water, three conexes of foodstuffs, and miscellaneous loads of wood, beer and soda.

With maximum loads of 8,000 pounds per helicopter this adds up to a long day for the soldiers working on the chopper pad. And the working conditions are not the best with the intense heat and the blades of the helicopter whipping dirt and gravel wildly through the air.

From first light to dusk, the pad is a hub of activity. Men unloading trucks, sorting and organizing supplies, dragging Gulliver-sized nets, netting the cargo, careful to make sure nothing falls out in mid-air and the load will ride straight through the air, coordinating the Chinooks, and finally hooking the nets up to the helicopters.

"It's a long day, but luckily we don't have to pull any guard at night," said Specialist Four Robert Anzinger, St. Mary's, Pa.

With unrestrained respect, Lieutenant Rowzie explained further, "Those people are doing an outstanding job, with long, hard hours. When they hook stuff up, they're standing under a 100 mile per hour wind and this is nine or ten times a day."

Besides loading supplies the men are responsible for keeping the pad clean, a constant police call under those circumstances, and organizing the cargo by unit.

A CH-47, "Hercules" is seen against grey skies above LZ Hawk Hill, as it lifts off with supplies for the troopers of the 196th Infantry Brigade. (Photo by SP4 Gerard Paulin)

B Co. protects Viets

By SSG Tim Palmer

LZ LIZ (AMERICAL IO) – About halfway between LZ Liz and Duc Pho, spread out along nine kilometers of Highway 1, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry operates.

Situated right on the busy road in enclosed strongholds, the 11th Brigade company of "Sykes Regulars", perform their two-fold mission; pacification and security of the people living in the area, and search and clear missions of enemy troops in that area.

Working exclusively on combined operations with various elements of the territorial forces, both regional and popular, the commander of Bravo Company, Captain Arthur E. Parker, Cape Cod, Mass., sums up their contribution to the people's security thusly; "We depend on each other here." Captain Parker was referring to the military cooperation between his troops and the Vietnamese "blackshirts" with whom they live and work.

Sergeant Edward Lovelace, San Bernadino, Calif., a veteran of almost nine months with Bravo Company's mission said, "One of the great things about our work here is that we are out on missions similar to any maneuver company in the daytime, and often at night, we always have a home to return to." By this Sergeant Lovelace refers to the quarters which Bravo Company shares with both the Vietnamese civilians and the territorial military at each of the roadside compounds. "Living right in with the people like this has been very interesting and informative for us," continued Sergeant Lovelace. "It also gives the villagers a strong sense of security to know we are right in there with them when darkness falls."

In addition to working the area already mentioned, the company has just recently undertaken still another task, coordinating the construction of an entire new village for the relocation of previously displaced fishermen from the seaside area.

Speaking of the relationship between the Vietnamese and the American soldiers living with them at the various roadside locations, Captain Parker said, "the people have accepted us very warmly. In return, my men have gone out of their way to understand their customs and generally honor the fact that it is their home that we are sharing."

Still another aspect of the trooper's presence in the village is the medical attention which is always available to the civilian population. Specialist Four Vic Koncikowski, Buffalo, N.Y., is the company medic and stations himself with the CP group at the largest of the six compound villages.

When asked about the medical assistance provided to the villagers he said, "It's much like the Peace Corps here. The people come into my aid station anytime, day or night, asking for help with colds, sores, cuts, aches, just about everything. I keep a running log of Vietnamese patients attended daily and it averages about fifteen people."

Additionally, the company and platoon medics stationed along the road are prepared to treat combat-inflicted wounds as well. If the civilians are injured during night time attacks, just like any American or Vietnamese soldier, they are treated.

"We ordinarily medevac the civilians by ambulance, as we are right on the road," explained Specialist Koncikowski, "but in cases of life or limb we call in a dustoff chopper just as we would for one of our own casualties."

The people of Duc Pho District have come not only to rely on Bravo Company but also to love them.

Americal so

CHU LAI (AMERICAL I0) – The Americal soldier today fills a variety of complicated military jobs. The Vietnam War has brought forth a great effort on the part of the men who are stationed in Vietnam.

The infantryman performs his duties in much the same manner that his World War II counterpart did when the Division was fighting its way across the Pacific to Japan. Similar but in some ways different. The fighting today in Vietnam is based on small scale actions with companies often the largest unit involved. This has placed a greater responsiblity for success of the mission on the individual – each man's action is vital in the brief but violent fire fights.

Artillery units at fire support bases support infantry units in the jungles and coastal areas of the Americal AO.

A heavy laden radio-telephone operator surveys the "Rice Bowl" area near Duc Pho as he treads his way down the narrow trail. The 11th Infantry Brigade soldier of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry was participating in a company size sweep of the rice fertile terrain.
(Photo by SP4 Ron Adams)

A crew chief completes a pre-flight check of machi
twin engine plane is capable of speeds in the 250
explosives and white smoke rockets which enable
jet bombers.

A howitzer of the 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery fires in support of Americal soldiers of the 198th Infantry Brigade who are operating 15 miles to the southwest of Chu Lai.
(SP4 Gerard Paulin, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

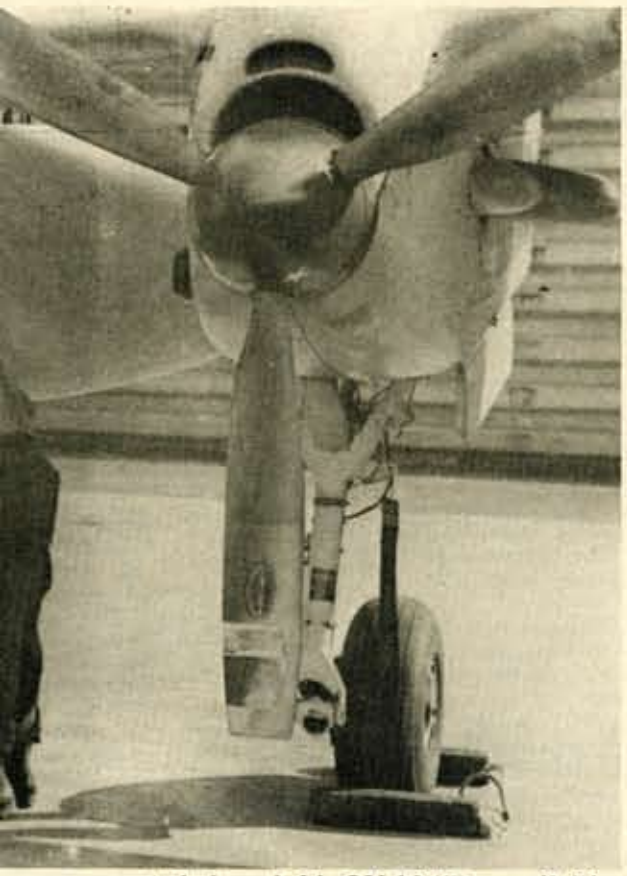
"Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade load part of a
miles south of Chu Lai. The finders, Charlie Company, 1st B
could be distributed to Vietnamese Families.

diers complete a variety of missions

Their weapons range from the 4.2 mortar to the huge 8 inch gun that the "Redlegs" can bring against the enemy.

In addition to arty support, the line troops can count on support from the air. And in this AO that support can come from either the Army, Air Force, Navy or Marine air units. The pilots fly planes from the B-52 bomber to small single engine planes that look like they belong to another time.

There are jobs done by the Americal soldier, clerks, MPs, medics, mechanics and a wide variety of others. The working conditions are not always the best; swirling dust clouds in the summer, clinging mud clutching at every boot during the rainy season and always the sun wilting everything beneath it. But each man does his job every day for a year.



e guns mounted abroad this OV-10 "Bronco". The
niles per hour range and is armed with both high
ne Forward Air Controllers to mark targets for the
(Photo by CPT T.N. Thrasher)

Construction of everything from hooches to bridges is handled for the Division by the 26th Engineer Battalion. This engineer is working to reconstruct worn portions of this old bridge.
(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

ice cache they found in the floor of an abandoned hooch 20
talion, 20th Infantry sacked and evacuated the rice so that it
(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Specialist 4 William Thomas, Barlow, Fla., protects his ears as a round leaves the tube of this 4.2 mortar. Specialist Thomas is with the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry of the 198th Infantry Brigade.
(Photo by SP4 Gerard Paulin, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Viet children lead men to caches

(continued from page 1)

Quang Ngai, came upon four Viet Cong carrying packs and weapons maneuvering in the low coastal plain. The company engaged the enemy with small arms fire to kill one. Also captured was one pack.

In an area 15 miles southeast of Chu Lai, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, found one .51 caliber ammunition box hidden under some hedges. The box contained two fragmentation grenades, one 60 volt battery, one green NVA uniform, documents, and other miscellaneous items.

Elsewhere, incoming mortar rounds, rifle-propelled grenades and CHICOM grenades pounded the night defensive position of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry eight miles north of Quang Ngai. The infantrymen repulsed the sapper attack with a heavy barrage of small arms fire, grenades and 81mm mortars. Gunships were called on station to saturate the outer perimeter as flareships maintained intensive illumination. The infantrymen swept the area later to find several CHICOM grenades and rifle-propelled grenades scattered about the perimeter.

In an area 22 miles southwest of Chu Lai, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, discovered one freshly dug grave. The NVA kill was attributed to the contact the unit had the previous day.

Elsewhere, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, found signs of recent enemy activity in an area 12 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. At the location the infantrymen found 13 cans of mackeral, four three-pound bags of rice and one butchered calf.

Late Wednesday evening, a large cache was discovered when a rallier led Echo Recon, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, to the site, 15 miles northwest of Chu Lai. The cache, hidden in a camouflaged hooch, consisted of nine AK-47s, one rifle, one carbine, 31-60mm mortar rounds, five rifle-propelled grenades, five sticks of dynamite, one CHICOM grenade, 18-60mm mortar fuses, three containers of TNT, four 10-pound shape charges, one fuse setter and two magazines.

Fredrick Hill

Significant action took place when elements from from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed 12 enemy soldiers while suffering no losses.

Early that morning D Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry found itself operating in the thick vegetation 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Gimlets" encountered a lone NVA with a pack. The engagement and death of this lone NVA soldier triggered what was to be a black day for the hard-luck enemy.

Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, operatg in the same area engaged and killed one Viet Cong, and then moments later sweeping through another woodline observed and engaged 10-12 NVA. The stumbling NVA fled into the closest vegetation. Bravo Company, not to be out manuevered, quickly surrounded and pinned down the enemy. Soon, however, the "Bushmasters" received five to six incoming mortar rounds. Undaunted they held their ground and called for support from Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, along with gunships. Four enemy kills were confirmed.

As they were checking out the "kill zone" they began taking rounds from another enemy position. Again they called in artillery and were rewarded with a secondary explosion. Six more NVA were confiremed killed.

A search of a village turned up the weeks only rice cache five miles northwest of Tam Ky. One-half ton of rice was confiscated by Bravo "Legionnaires", 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, two hundred pounds of which was polished and hidden in huge ceramic pots in a tunnel.

Support from F Troop, 8th Cavalry and F Troop, 17th Cavalry, accounted for two enemy killed, both in searches of tunnel complexes.

Iron Mountain

The Recon platoon of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged two VC in the early morning hours and picked up an SKS at the site of the engagement. Pursuing a blood trail until early afternoon, the recon element spotted three VC and killed one. The action took place in the mountains six miles southwest of Duc Pho. Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, wounded and detained two VC while working in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed one VC. The kill came in the foothills seven miles south of Duc Pho. Recon 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry accounted for one VC killed with claymores in the mountains six miles south of Duc Pho. In action lasting two days, Sharks of the 174th Aviation Company killed 34 NVA while flying in support of the 4th ARVN Regiment. The action which took place near Nghia Hanh, 18 miles northwest of Duc Pho, netted one enemy light machine gun, two .51 caliber enemy machine guns and an AK-47.

A Kit Carson scout working with the ARVN said the enemy force was the remains of his battalion, or about two companies.

Recon, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged an undetermined number of NVA with supporting artillery fire from B battery, 6th Artillery. The artillery barrages continued throughout the evening and a morning check of the area by the Recon element turned up two dead NVA and one AK-47. The action took place in the mountains seven miles southwest of Duc Pho.

Company B engaged three NVA in the early morning hours when they set off a trip flare in front of the company's NDP. Small arms fire and hand grenades thrown from the company's defensive position accounted for one NVA killed. One pistol was confiscated in the action, which occurred in the foothills six miles west of Duc Pho.

Company A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, while working along Song Tra Khuc (Tra Khuc River) 25 miles northwest of Duc Pho, engaged and killed one VC across the river. A short time later, Alpha engaged three NVA on the opposite bank, killing two. Bravo and Delta Companies, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry engaged eight VC, killing two. One pistol was confiscated by Company B in the action, which occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry engaged two VC in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho. One of the enemy was killed, and one was wounded and detained.

The detained VC was carrying a pressure-type firing device.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry observed and engaged two VC when the enemy came out of the jungle in the lowlands 16 miles north of Duc Pho. Both enemy soldiers were killed in the action.

The Recon platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry was led to an arms cache by a Hoi Chanh. The cache consisted of two heavy automatic weapons, two carbines, one SKS and a CHICOM submachine gun. The weapons, were located in a cave 22 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Company D observed two VC evading and engaged them, killing one and wounding one. The action took place in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, moves across plowed ground in an open field, while on a recent operation 15 miles south of Chu Lai
(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Pig problem tackled

By SP4 Larry Granfield

LZ PROFESSIONAL (196th INF BDE IO) – The scene was reminiscent of a "greased pig" contest at any American country fair...uproarious laughter as squealing porkers scrambled in every direction from the out stretched arms of pursuing soldiers.

The curious event began when Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, patrolling the highlands 15 miles wouthwest of Tam Ky, approached a large enemy shelter nestled among a clump of shade trees.

"We can't see any people, but there are a lot of pigs and chickens running around down here," radioed Private First Class Allen Wulff, Salem, D.C., to the headquarters element.

"Set up security and make a sweep," came the reply from commanding officer, First Lieutenant William J. Ambrose, Boston, "and don't step on any booby traps."

Minutes later it was evident that the only things the "Chargers" had to worry about stepping on were 150 frightened pigs and 50 chickens. It presented a puzzling situation.

"We moved in prepared to fight VC, not a bunch of squawking chickens," said Specialist Four John p. Sehnitz, Beaumont, Tex. "What are we going to do with all of them? We can't leave them here for the VC."

Down came another order from Lieutenant Ambrose. "Get the pig team ready," he said dryly. "We are going to have some fun."

The next two hours were filled with comedy as some men were seen racing after darting animals, others holding large mail bags open to receive the squirming pigs and chickens when they were caught, and still others directing the loading of the extraction helicopters and trying to explain to the bewildered pilots.

When the last chopper lifted off with its unusual payload, bound for the Vietnamese refugee camp in Tien Phuoc, the men sat down for a much needed breather. Summing up the situation, Sergeant Lee Varoz, Dez, N.M., point man, commented, "It may sound crazy, but I think I would rather fight the enemy than catch pigs. I'm pooped."

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Specialist 4 Mitchell Burnstein, Chicago, of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 198th Brigade, keeps a sharp watch. His unit was clearing a village recently 25 miles south of Chu Lai.
(Photo by SP4 Gerald Paulin, 523rd Sig Bn)

JENNIFER LIANO, Playboy's Playmate of the Month in May.
(Photo courtesy Playboy Magazine)

Compassionate reassignments

CHU LAI (AMERICAL I0) – Located on the ground floor of the Pentagon is a seven-man panel that might well be considered the "heart" of the U.S. Army.

These men, all field grade officers experienced in handling troops and their problems, make up the panel of the Compassionate Review Branch. This is a segment of the Enlisted Personnel Directorate, Office of Personnel Operations.

The mission of the panel is to review and consider applications for compassionate reassignment.

Applications for a compassionate reassignment may be submitted under the provisions of paragraph 22, AR 614-6.

Compassionate Review Branch officials stress that in every instance an individual's application for compassionate reassignment must be submitted through the Army's chain of command.

Every request is a "special case" to the Compassionate Review Branch. Each case is carefully considered on its own merits, and a decision is rendered accordingly. Decisions are not affected in any way by the number of vacancies existing at the Army installation to which a soldier applies for compassionate reassignment.

Applications must be accompanied by evidence that the following conditions exist:

- An unusual family problem which can be alleviated only by the soldier's assignment to a particular geographical location.
- The problem neither existed nor was reasonably forseeable at the time of latest entry on active duty.
- The problem is such that it cannot be alleviated by leave (including emergency leave if the soldier is overseas), correspondence, power of attorney or another person.

If the request for reassignment is based on medical problems which place an unusual and severe hardship on the individual or his family, the evidence supporting the request is referred to the Office of the Surgeon General.

Examples of problems which normally warrant special consideration are those resulting from: recent death of the applicant's spouse or child; recent divorce when the soldier has been awarded custody of the children; or a recent severe psychotic episode whereby the affected person has been or is scheduled to be institutionalized.

Requests based solely upon threatened separation, divorce action or psychoneurosis resutling from family separation incident to military requirements do not merit compassionate reassignment. In addition, normal pregnancy, threatened miscarriage, breech birth, caesarean section or RH incompatibility of the spouse will not be considered as the sole basis for reassignment.

If a possible compassionate reassignment situation arises while a soldier is on leave, he should contact the personnel officer at the nearest military installation.

Automated war

CHU LAI (AMERICAL I0) – The servicemen of the future will fight on a more automated battlefield, Army Chief of Staff General William Westmoreland has predicted.

He told members of the Association of the United States Army that on the battlefield of the future, enemy forces will be located, tracked and targeted almost instantaneously through the use of data links, computer assisted intelligence evaluation, and automated fire control.

He said, "With first round kill probabilities approaching certainty and with surveillance devices that can continually track the enemy, the need for large forces to fix the opposition physically will be less important."

General Westmoreland explained that based on our total battlefield experience and our proven technological capability, he foresees a new battlefield array....

--Battlefields or combat areas that are under 24 hour real or near real time surveillance of all types.

--Battlefields on which we can destroy anything we locate through instant communications and the almost instantaneous application of highly lethal firepower.

--A continuing need for highly mobile combat forces to assist in fixing and destroying the enemy.

He said, "The changed battlefield will dictate that the supporting logistics system will also undergo change."

--I see the forward end of the logistics system with mobility equal to the supporting force.

--I see the elimination of many intermediate support echelons and the use of inventory-in-motion techniques.

--I see some Army forces supported by air-in some instances directly from bases in the continental United States.

In both combat and support forces of the future, I see a continuing need for our traditionally highly skilled, well-motivated individual soldier, the soldier who has always responded in time of crisis, and the soldier who will accept and meet the challenge of the future.

To achieve this concept of our future Army, we have established at the Department of Army Staff level, a Systems Manager, Brigadier General Bill Fulton, to coordinate all Army activities in this field. We have done this because of problem complexity. We are dealing with systems that are fundamental to the Army–its doctrine, its organizations, and its equipment. We are on the threshold for the first time in achieving maximum utilization of both our firepower and our mobility.

To complement the systems management, we are establishing at Fort Hood, Texas, a test facility through which new equipment, new organizations and new techniques can be subjected to experimentation, adaption, evaluation and integration. This facility will be headed by Major General Jack Norton who will report to the Project Director Lieutenant General Bev Powell, III Corps Commander and Commanding General Fort Hood.

This infantryman of the Division's 196th Infantry Brigade balances on a rice dike as he moves near Tien Phuoc. He is providing security for artillery ordnance ready for airlift to New Hau Duc. (Photo by SP4 Bill Hayes)

1st-46th kills seven in Dragoon Valley

SP4 Larry Grandfield

LZ PROFESSIONAL (196th INF BDE IO) -- A reconnaissance team from the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry engaged an estimated NVA platoon killing seven and capturing four weapons.

The action took place in the dreaded "Dragon Valley", sixteen miles northwest of Tam Ky, an area covered with tangled brush where the temperatures rise well over 100 degrees.

"We knew we were in for some action," recalled Private First Class Bobby Cunningham, Lincoln, Ala. "There were fresh signs of enemy activity everywhere – well traveled trails, newly cut branches and the distinct smell of Vietnamese cooking."

It was not long before the suspicions were confirmed. Moving cautiously through the thick jungle, the small patrol broke onto an open trail and immediately detected the voices of 20 to 30 enemy approximately 80 yards away.

"At this point we split into two squads," stated Sergeant Algia Motley, Prattville, Ala. "Half of the patrol, including our Vietnamese interpreter, Staff Sergeant Trong Tran Thieu, were to approach the enemy hideout. The rest stayed behind as a as a reactionary force."

Within minutes the eight soldiers had drawn within 25 yards of the enemy's encampment and moved on line in a flanking position.

"Our interpreter told the people they were surrounded and that they sould give up," said grenadier, Private First Class Willie Massey, Chicago. "However only one surrendered."

The NVA ran for their weapons. The squad opened fire. During the ensuing battle, the broiling air was filled with streaking bullets while grenade explosions rocked the ground.

After 15 minutes of fighting, seven enemy had been killed and the rest driven into the triple canopy jungle leaving many blood trails.

"When the shooting subsided we withdrew to our rallying point to call in artillery and gunships on the fleeing communists," related machinegunner, Private First Class John Coleman, Dallas. The rallier was extracted at this time.

After pounding the area with air and artillery support, the team moved back into the clearing to collect enemy weapons.

Do drug abusers take more than one drug at a time?
People who abuse one drug tend to take all sorts of drugs. Some of them say they are looking for a new "high." Some will take any drug to get outside themselves. Some play chemical roulette by taking everything, including unidentified pills.

What about "Patent Medicines"?
Certain over-the-counter medicines have been taken in excess and have been used to "turn on." Certain cough syrups and the stay-awake and to-sleep preparations are sold without prescription and may cause dependence. Paregoric (camphorated tincture of opium), which is available in some states without a prescription, is also being abused.

Another way in which patent medicines may contribute to the drug abuse problem is their manner of advertisement in the mass media. Children and adolescents hearing such commercials may become conditioned to believe that taking drugs for minor emotional difficulties is all right. To promote the belief that taking a drug will deal with the difficulties of everyday life is undesirable.

Can the effects of drug abuse be passed on to the unborn?
Some babies born to heroin-addicted mothers have shown withdrawal symptoms. Not enough is known about the genetic effects of other drugs. Taking drugs without careful medical supervision during pregnancy is extremely risky.

Unit improved by reunion

By 1Lt David Coffman

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – An chance reunion of two Army veterans has brought about a striking improvement in the maintenance program of a 196th Infantry Brigade cavalry troop.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard M. Meyer, Dupont, Wash., and First Sergeant R. O. Varnum, Sheffield, Ala., had previously served together with the same squadron in the states–Colonel Meyer as squadron commander and Sergeant Varnum as a troop first sergeant.

As executive officer of the "Chargers" Colonel Meyer was concerned about lowering the deadline rate of F Troop, 17th Cavalry, the brigade's cavalry troop. At about the same time Sergeant Varnum arrived at F Troop to serve as first sergeant.

"We drew up a program similar to the one which our squadron had used in the states," says Sergeant Varnum. "We had seen what this program could do."

The program is simple in outline but complex in execution. Basically, it consists of pulling a platoon out of the field every three months for a week's maintenance.

"It serves as a quarterly service for the tracks," says Sergeant Varnum. "Each month we bring one platoon out of the field."

On the first day of the scheduled service the vehicles are off-loaded and cleaned. Quarterly services begin in the afternoon and continue–in conjunction with other activities–throughout the week. As the week progresses, the ammunition is inventoried and rotated. A complete inventory of the platoon hand receipt is taken and all radio equipment is checked.

"The program is doing a lot of good," says Specialist Four Leslie Roe, Walcott, Iowa, 2nd Platoon. "After our week on the hill I had a lot more confidence in my track and its weapons."

The week is not entirely devoted to maintenance. The clothing and field gear of each soldier are checked for serviceability. Clothing forms are updated. There is also an opportunity for each individual to check his finance record and Form 20.

Before going back to the field, the platoon moves out on a road march. Each weapon is test-fired.

The success of F Troop's program is reflected in the cold, black and white figures of the Brigade's deadline report. Before they started the program, F Troop had as many as 15 tracked vehicles on deadline. The figure subsequently shrunk to two.

"People think that programs instituted in the states have no application over here," says First Sergeant Vernum. "I think we showed that isn't necessarily true."

Polar Bears hit foe's mortar pit

By SP4 Gerald Lamb

LZ WEST (196th INF BDE IO) – In a sharp encounter 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky, 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers killed three NVA and silenced a mortar position which had been harassing a nearby firebase.

During a battle against a large NVA force in Hiep Duc Valley, Landing Zone (LZ) Siberia, fire support base of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, was being sporadically hit by mortar fire.

"We were humping up to Siberia to be lifted across the river," said First Sergeant James Brown, Eatontown, N.J., Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, "when the rounds started coming in again."

They had swept through an area west of the base on the previous day and found a recently used enemy mortar position on a nearby hill.

"The NVA were back in the same abandoned position we had found the day before," said Specialist Four Lou Efta, Red Lake Falls, Minn.

The infantrymen dropped their rucksacks and moved up the hill cautiously. The enemy tried to evade, moving down the other side.

"They had snipers waiting for us," said Sergeant Brown. "We advanced on them using the tall elephant grass as cover."

Spotting a group of NVA at the foot of the hill, the M-60 machinegunner opened up, killing three. Suddenly the air was laced with .51 caliber machinegun fire. The infantrymen dug in and called in an air strike. Then the enemy was silent.

Chaplain (CPT) Eugene W. Scott reads from the Bible in a Sunday church service in the field for men of Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade. The unit was on an operation 15 miles south of Chu Lai.
(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady 523rd Sig. Bn.)