SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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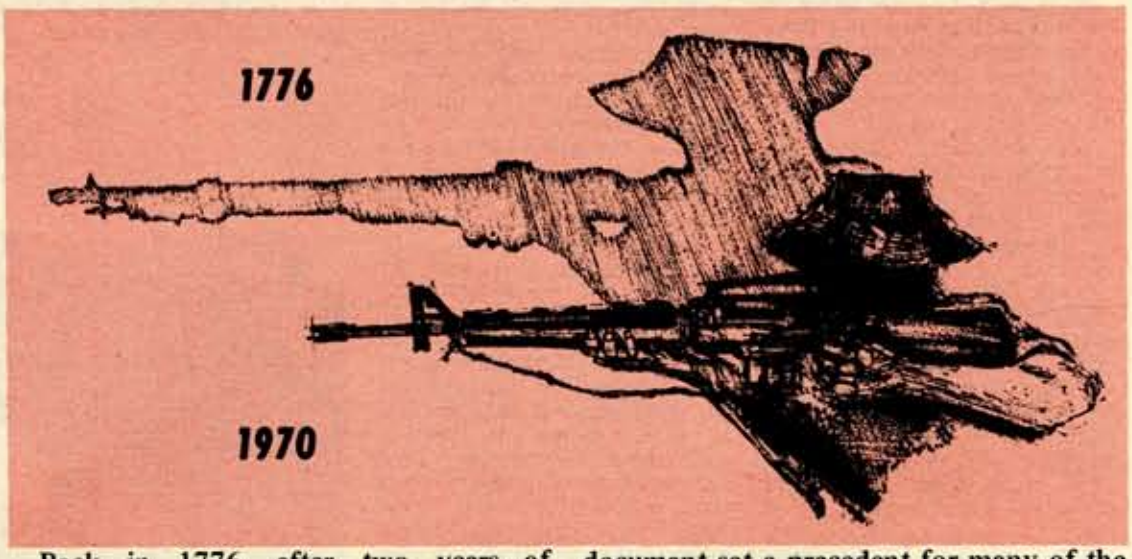
(Illustrations by Andrewjeski)

Two centuries ago, when men wore powdered wigs and ladies never showed a bit of ankle, life was very different form what it is today. As a matter of fact, very little of that society has been carried over to today's way of life. We have however one remnant of that life -- the Declaration of Independence. It is as impressive and meaningful a document this July 4 as it was on the Fourth of July, 1776.



Back in 1776, after two years of discontent with the rule of England's King George, a group of colonists, members of the Continental Congress, wrote and signed the Declaration of Independence. Although little more than a sheet of paper, this documant set a precedent for many of the nations of the world.

Fashions may change, but ideals do not. And while the powdered wigs have disappeared the Delaration of Independence beats as the heart of our nation.

Div Recap: Heavy action near Tam Ky

By SP4 Stephen Frazier

CHU LAI (AMERICAN I0) -- The soaring temperatures of Southern I Corps in June did not stop regulars from the Division's three brigades as they accounted for 184 soldiers killed.

Heaviest action remained in the area 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky in Operation Fredrick Hill. Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade operating in that area were accredited with 60 enemy soldiers killed. In operation Geneva Park the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry was lead to a sizeable ordance cache by a rallier. Elsewhere in Operation Iron Mountain action was sporadic as the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry and the 123rd Aviation Battalion teamed up for 7 enemy killed in a single action.

Frederick Hill

Friday found elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade in areas nine miles and twenty-one miles west of Tam Ky where they killed 3 NVA who sprang from a basecamp leaving a considerable cache behind, and uncovered an abandoned enemy basecamp in which 8 NVA were buried. Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery was credited with the 8 NVA killed.

Saturday morning lasted a long eight hours for elements of the 1st Battalion, 46the Infantry as they found an enemy base camp 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The infantrymen began taking fire as they neared the jungle-hidden complex, immediately retaliating with their own small arms fire. Six NVA were killed before it was decided support was needed. Helicopter gunships from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company strafed the enemy positions who in the meantime had unloaded a barrage of 25-30 mortar rounds on the exposed Americans.

The enemy throwing caution to the wind sprang from their entrenched positions and tried to encircle the Americans while the strafing continued. A Sabre gunship from Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry killed one NVA during this move. Blue Ghost gunships also in on the action spotted another large group of NVA moving towards the Americans. The choppers raked the area killing three more enemy as another airstrike silenced the mortars.

Meanwhile a sister element from the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry who was in the area was called on. They moved forward placing heavy fire on the area. Finally the NVA were silent. The sister element assaulted the camp finding 23 enemy soldiers killed. Three-fourths had been killed by small-arms fire. Twelve bunkers had been destroyed.

A PF patrol and an American advisor got together on Sunday evening to kill ten VC.

Sergeant Richard Anderson, Tacoma, Wash., from Echo Recon, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry played an instrumental part, serving as a forward observer he spotted two squads of VC. His reaction was to call in gunships, killing three. Later Sergeant Anderson and the PF were to come face to face with two other squads of VC.

"I am sure they were sappers, said Sergeant Anderson, because we discovered satchel charges, explosives, and a CHICOM grenade after they fled our fire."

Later in the day a forward element of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry found a cave full of rice yielding a total of one ton. Another one hundred pounds of polished rice was found nearby.

Later in the week an element of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, found a cache of fiften RPG warheads and boosters 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky. They were found in a poncho off the trail.

As the week closed an element of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, was credited with ten NVA killed from a fire-fight earlier in the week. An element

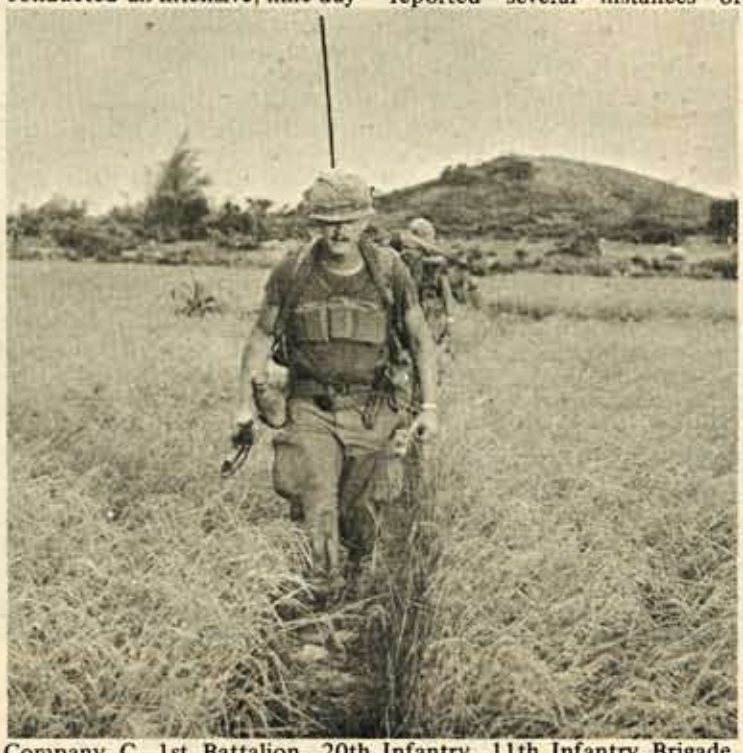
(continued on page 6)

48 ton rice cache found

By SP4 Tohy Prodgers

FSB LIZ (11th INF BDE I0) -- Operating under frequent harassment from VC snipers, a company of 11th Infantry Brigade soldiers recently uncovered one of the largest enemy rice caches ever found in the I Corps Tactical Zone. The men of Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry conducted an intensive, nine-day search operation that produced 97,500 pounds of enemy rice along the coastline, ten miles north of Duc Pho.

Initially, Company C had been "combat assaulted" two miles east of the village of Mo Duc, on information that a large unit of VC was operating in the area. Engineers from the 26th Engineering Battalion had reported several instances of enemy sniper fire and mortar fire as well as a number of booby traps.



Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, moves in line through a rice paddy in a search operation south of Chu Lai which yielded 97,500 pounds of rice.

(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

Company C swept through the flat, open rice paddies, interspersed with hegerows, mangrowve swamps, and small, oasis-type hamlets. A short range patrol from the mortar platoon was sent out to check one of these hamlets.

A routine search failed to yield any significant results until Sergeants James E. Balcarczyk, Lackawanna, N.Y., and Alan P. Denucci, North St. Paul, Minn., entered an old church, fallen into disuse. Once inside, the two men discovered rice hidden in coffin-like boxes. Intensifying their search, they came up with almost two and a half tons of the enemy food staple and sparked a company-size search operation that was to last for the next nine days. Searching all four small hamlets, the company found hidden caches in virtually every hut.

"At first we found simple caches hidden under woodpiles, haystacks, and in bunkers. As time went on, though, we found them buried in gardens with fertilizer spread over the rice. It'd be in the pig pens too, under the mud, straw, and dirt. Ninety percent of it was in plastic bags," explained Staff Sergeant John G. Moore, Oxford, Ala.

In one instance, a man put a stick through the floor of one of the hooches and exposed a subfloor full of rice. Up to two layers of caches were found in some of the hooches.

(continued on page 6)

You only hurt the one you love

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – You think you are pretty cool! You have a lot of fun in addition to a wild reputation in the local "ville" or at your last R&R site. Before you go back to visit that pretty little girl there are some things you should know about the less pleasurable things you may get from her.

She may look great to you, but she may be infected with gonorrhea or syphilis. These are serious types of venereal disease.

Syphilis is the more severe of the two and can result in serious consequences. Gonorrhea is by far the more common, both here in Vietnam and back in the "world."

You've heard about the symptoms of gonorrhea. They appear a few days after that night of pleasure. You go out to the latrine one evening and suddenly it feels like you're trying to urinate white phosphorus. Now you realize that your "girlfriend" wasn't as clean as you thought. Along with the burning pain there may be a yellow discharge from the penis. This means an infection has developed which could scar your urine tubes and lead to chronic kidney infection later in life.

When a girl has gonorrhea there may be no symptoms. She won't know she has it and therefore won't seek medical treatment, but still she will be able to pass it on to you.

When a female has symptoms they are the same as those experienced by males. She may also get an infection in her abdomen. This infection could cause her to lose a child or cause her not to be able to conceive children for the rest of her life. This is the danger that you present to your wife when you catch venereal disease and transmit it to her.

Syphilis is a disease that can stay with you the rest of you life or it can cause death. The first symptoms of syphilis occur about three weeks after sexual contact. An ulcer develops on your penis or on other areas of the body exposed during sexual contact. The ulcer is small, not painful and disappears after about two or three weeks. One or two months after the first syphilis ulcer is gone you will develop different kinds of rashes on your skin. The rashes will not be located on the areas of genital contact but will appear on all areas of your body, especially your face, palms and soles of your feet.

These rashes will disappear after a few weeks and will not recur. The rashes are the last easily observed symptom of syphilis. If you do not have the disease diagnosed and treated during this period you will probably not notice it until it has done irreparable damage to your body. That is why it's important for you to report all sores or rashes on your penis or other parts of your body which fail to heal. If syphilis is not cured during this initial phase the symptoms will disappear and it will continue to develop unnoticed. When the final symptoms occur, usually years later, it will be too late. These final symptoms may include heart disease, bursting of the large arteries of the body, deterioration of the brain, deterioration of the bones, small or large areas of dead tissue in such areas as the lungs or liver and the death of children conceived by mothers who have syphilis.

Now you know something about the consequences of gonorrhea and syphilis. But what about treatment? You've probably heard rumors about the incurable "black syphilis" and that its unfortunate victims are banished for life to a small island. Some soldiers think any form of venereal disease can be cured with a couple of shots. The truth lies somewhere between these two extremes.

More than a third of the people who are treated for gonorrhea have to be treated again and sometimes with several different types of antibiotics before they are cured. There is no way of predicting how long it will take to cure gonorrhea. It could take several months.

Syphilis can be treated fairly effectively with two doses of penicillin. The danger with syphilis is that if it is not detected in its early stages it may never be discovered until it has done permanent damage.

How can you keep from getting venereal disease in the first place? The best way is simply to resist temptation. There is no sure way short of abstention. If you just can't stay away from the girls, then use a condom and wash the genital area immediately after sexual contact. Do not use "safe pills" or "no-sweat pills" (penicillin or other antibiotic pills). These pills are not very effective in preventing veneral disease but they do help in developing increasingly resistant strains of veneral disease which are very difficult to cure.

You may think you have been cured, but later the disease could reappear after you have left Vietnam. If you have gone home to your wife or visited her on R&R you may pass it on to her. She will know she got it from you and worse yet, the disease may not produce any symptoms but develop to the point where she will lose a child or not be able to have children.

Now you know the chances you are taking.

Breaking through a hedgerow is an armored personnel carrier from F Troop, 17th Cavalry. The cavalrymen are in an area 25 miles north of Tam Ky searching a suspected VC population. (Photo by SP4 Gerald Paulin)

'No man can stand alone'

By Chaplain (MAJ)
Norbert H. Bykowski

It wasn't a hoax, and I would hesitate to say it was a money making scheme, but a lot of people were taken. Man never seems to learn, and I suspect in a few years we will go through the same appeal to man's vanity and with the same disastrous results. I will admit that I fell for it, am falling, and will keep at it until I am successful. There must be some kind of "Do It Yourself" project that I can not only complete, but do well.

My paint by numbers canvas looked like a reject from a kinder-garten art class. So maybe woodworking was my bag, until I discovered that I can't saw a piece of wood straight and my nails go in crooked, when and if they go in. The automatic camera which guarantees perfect pictures met its match in me. Even after following directions minutely, my pictures were too bright on a dull day, and blurry when there was no action. This is not to concede that I am totally without talent, but I just haven't found too many things I can do well, or sometimes even at all.

If the prupose of God in permitting me to suffer so many failures is to teach me humility, He is doing a good job because I have discovered that there are many areas in which I am naturally incompetent. So I'm honest, if not humble and admit that God just hasn't given me certain talents, and that if I want to live a full life, to live happily, some facets of my life must be in the hands of others. Once you get over your feeling of inadequacy, and face the facts of life, life takes on a glow, and becomes much more enjoyable. You don't become frustrated when your model doesn't look like the picture on the box cover. Your hands don't always look like an advertisement for band-air because the knife or wrench slipped. Best of all, ready made products usually work, and work as they are supposed to.

From my catalogue of failures (and I know I don't stand alone) two factors become apparent. The saying that no man is an island, no man can stand alone is valid. I need people because I can't cut it by myself. If I wanted to be stubborn, I could exist by myself, but who wants that when life offers so much more. As Barbara Streisand said–People who need people are the luckiest people in the world. Also, every man needs humility, not in the sense of an inferiority complex, nor as a cheap play to your admiration, but as an honest appraisal of himself and his abilities. God obviously has given some people many talents, some few, but everyone some. It is using what we have that achieves inner peace and stature with God.

Lord, without you, I am nothing, and with you, I'm only as good as you want me to be. With what I have, with what I am, teach me to be content.

Combat zone duty exemptions

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Amoung the problems you as a soldier will face during your tour in Vietnam is complying with U.S. customs laws.

The problem is somewhat simplified, however, if you remember that there are four exemptions from customs duties available to soldiers serving in Vietnam: official exemption, tourist exemption, gift exemption and combat zone exemption.

Under the official exemption, any person employed by the U.S. Government who returns to the states under government orders at the close of an extended overseas assignment, may be allowed free entry of his personal and household effects. In using the offical exemption, bona fide gifts, regardless of their value, that you have purchased for family and friends are considered items of personal use.

Articles claimed to be covered by the exemption must have been in your physical possession at your overseas station. This rules out, for example, receiving the exemption for an automoblile bought in Germany for U.S. delivery while you're stationed in Vietnam. The exemption can also be used to cover articles and personal effects shipped prior to your return. But to cover these items, the items must be accompanied by a copy of the government orders issued prior to the shipment of the goods.

In using the tourist exemption, all persons who are returning residents are permitted duty free entry of certain items if that person has been out of the U.S. for at least 48 hours and has not used the tourist exemption during the previsous 30 days.

You may import duty free up to $100 worth of merchandise, figured at regular retail prices, that you've bought while overseas, if the articles are intended for personal use. Bona fide gifts are included in the tourist exemption.

However, purchases must accompany the traveler to be claimed under this exemption. Items sent prior to departure are not included under this law. This exemption may be used when returning to the U.S. on leave, but only if you have not claimed the tourist exemption for the previous 30 days.

The gift exemption applies only to items you send while overseas. Under the exemption, any person in the states may receive gifts duty free from overseas, but only if the total value of gifts received in any one day does not exceed $10. The exemption is governed by the amount received in any one day, and therefore, you may send gifts under $10 in value to more than one person on any one day.

In claiming combat zone exemptions, soldiers are authorized to send bona fide gifts tax and duty free up to a limit of $50. The $50 exemption applies only if the items were bought in or through authorized agencies of the U.S. Armed Forces. Articles purchased on the local market are not included in this exemption.

The first $50 in retail value of any mailing will be admitted free of duty regardless of the total retail value of all articles in the mailing. The outer wrapping of such gifts must carry the statement: "Bona fide gifts–$50 exemption claimed under PL 89-368."

This exemption applies to military personnel assigned to a combat zone, or while they are in a foreign country under the R&R program, as medical patients, on TDY, or while in transit to and from the combat zone assignment.

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NVA loses 135 in Nghia Hanh attack

By SP4 Peter R. Sorensen

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE I0) – A recent enemy drive against Nghia Hanh, CIDG Camp, has cost the NVA 135 dead. The implacement, five miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, was the object of a regimental-size offensive which, if successful, would have left Quang Ngai City open to attack. The enemy move was to coincide with a similar attack upon Hiep Duc to the north.

The 174th and 176th Aviation Companies (Assault Helicopter) and the 4th ARVN Regiment combined to stop the NVA and dictate a bloody retreat back into the mountains.

Prior knowledge of the enemy's intentions, through military intelligence, could do little to stem the fury and force of the NVA mortar and ground attacks. "When we got on station it was hard to tell who was in possession of Nghia Hanh. Soldiers of the 4th ARVN Regiment who were air-lifted in earlier, were in heavy contact," stated Warrant Officer Jarvis D. Gambrell, Port Arthur, Texas, of the 174th Aviation Company.

Said First Lieutenant Joseph R. Brandt, Newton, Iowa, also of the 174th, "We came under heavy enemy ground fire...three or four .51 caliber machineguns and some .30 calibers.

Heavy ground fighting by the 4th ARVN Regiment and inspired flying by the gunships, neutralized the enemy action against Nghia Hanh. The NVA were forced to assume a defensive stance. NVA elements attempted to flee south to their sanctuary in Song Ve River Valley; they were fixed and destroyed by gunships and reaction forces of ARVN infantrymen delivered by "Dolphin" utility ships of the 174th Aviation Company.

The "coup de grace" was dealt the enemy offensive on the western ridge of the Song Ve River Vallery corridor. Second Lieutenant John I. O'Sullivan, Brooklyn, N.Y., 174th gunship pilot, described the action: "The gunship pilots are familiar with the western and eastern mountain chains which rise up from the Song Ve. A 'Shark' gunship passed over the western ridge and noticed that it wasn't as 'bald' or as open as usual. From the base at the southern side-to the top-to the base at the northern side was a row of bushes that weren't there normally. A second pass of the area revealed an AK-47 attached to one of the limbs. What the pilot identified was a camouflaged, 800 yard, relief column of enemy soldiers headed for Nghia Hanh."

Major Fredirck G. Blackburn, Kansas City, Mo., commander of the 174th Aviation Company, flying the Air Mission Control ship cleared the grid and turned the gunships loose on the trail. Lieutenant Colonel Le Ba Khieu, commander of the 4th ARVN Regiment, realizing the enemy situation organized a reaction force which was combat assaulted at last light right on top of the now smoldering trail.

Commented WO Gambrell, "The 4th ARVN Regiment is an outstanding unit. We like working for them, because we know they are busting for us. They got in there and were all over the NVA."

On the command level, Major Blackburn had these words of praise, "The cooperation between the 4th ARVN Regiment and the 174th Aviation Company has always been excellent. Colonel Khien is an outstanding military leader. During this operation he was highly flexible in his decisions which were calculated a step ahead of the enemy situation."

The South Vietnamese element while sweeping the battlefield credited the 174th Aviation Company with the destruction of a command post. The 4th ARVN Regiment has confirmed that 135 NVA died in their attempt to raze Nghia Hanh. Seventeen kills were credited to the 176th Aviation Company and 38 to the "Shark" gunships of the 174th Aviation Company.

A grim postscript to the action occurred a day and a half later when an American force in the Song Ve River Valley detained an NVA who identified himself as a regimental cook. He reported that he was ordered to wait in the valley for the element's return from the Nghia Hanh mission–thus far, no one had returned.

An 11th Brigade grenadier makes his way through a soggy rice field. The man, a member of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, was part of a company sweep in the flatlands near Highway One. (Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)

Blueprint for development

By SGT Bob Nordyke

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE I0) – Transportation has been known historically as a unifying influence for a nation. Recognizing this, the 196th Infantry Brigade's pacification program includes a blueprint for the development of highways in Vietnam.

One of the most recent road building projects in Vietnam has been undertaken by combat engineers attached to the brigade.

The project is a dry weather, coastal road from Tam Ky north to Thang Binh with three access roads to Highway 1, South Vietnam's busiest road. The new road will help bring some of the remote, outlying areas under the wing of the Government of Vietnam.

"The new road will help realize three facets of the Vietnamese pacification program," said Captain James Adams, Pittsburgh, assistant intelligence officer. "These are security, economic, and political goals."

The road, Captain Adams explained will increase the security of the area, allowing easier troop movement should rapid mobilization be necessary.

It will also be an economic boost to the country, providing access to markets for the scattered, rural villages along the coast.

Work on the new road began the first of June, with Company A, 26th Engineer Battalion rafting heavy equipment across the Tam Ky River and improving an existing road from Tam Ky to the coast four miles away.

"The road from Tam Ky to the beach doesn't present too much of a problem," said First Lieutenant Ron Grantham, San Francisco, "about all we have to do is fill some holes and grade it."

The real work comes when the engineers turn north toward Thang Binh, laying the 20 foot wide avenue that will allow passage of any military vehicle the allies have in Vietnam.

The heavy work, done mainly with bulldozers and five ton trucks, covers the flat, coastal area, checkered with soggy, terraced rice paddies, occasionally broken with tree lines, that lie adjacent to Barrier Island and paralled to Highway 1.

"Now the transporation routes are no more than 'Honda' trails when they are that much," continued Lieutenant Grantham.

The road-building in this terrain involves building up these paths on the high ridge of the land, up grading them, widening them, and leveling them.

"The surface will be of latterite, like the roads on Hawk Hill. It's a residual soil of decayed rock that gets extremely hard in dry weather and makes a good solid surface," explained Lieutenant Grantham.

The finished road will complete another phase of pacification, knitting some of the northern provinces of Vietnam closer together with over 35 miles of new highway.

Arty Rounds without shrapnel

By 1Lt. J.P. Collins Jr.

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – The 105mm round exploded 90 yards above a small VC encampment and sent the enemy scurrying for foxholes and makeshift bunkers. They waited for the artillery bombardment, but it never came. Instead they were deluged with leaflets. The message was not lost on them: "This could have been a high explosive round. Next time it will be. Chieu Hoi before it is too late."

It may sound like macabre humor but it's actually a highly effective technique of psychological warfare. Here the 105mm howitzer, a proven tactical weapon, is frequently employed to dispense leaflets rather than shrapnel.

"Each round holds about 900 leaflets," explained First Lieutenant Robert T. Cossaboom, Peoria, Ill., 11th Infantry Brigade psychological operations officer, "and can saturate an area 75 by 50 yards."

A standard 105mm smoke round with the smoke cartridge removed carries the leaflet payload. The leaflets are rolled up "bankroll" fashion, secured with tape and placed in the hollowed-out interior of the round.

"A variable time fuze detonates the round about 100 yards over the target," continued Lieutenant Cossaboom. "The leaflets are then forced to the rear knocking out the backplate."

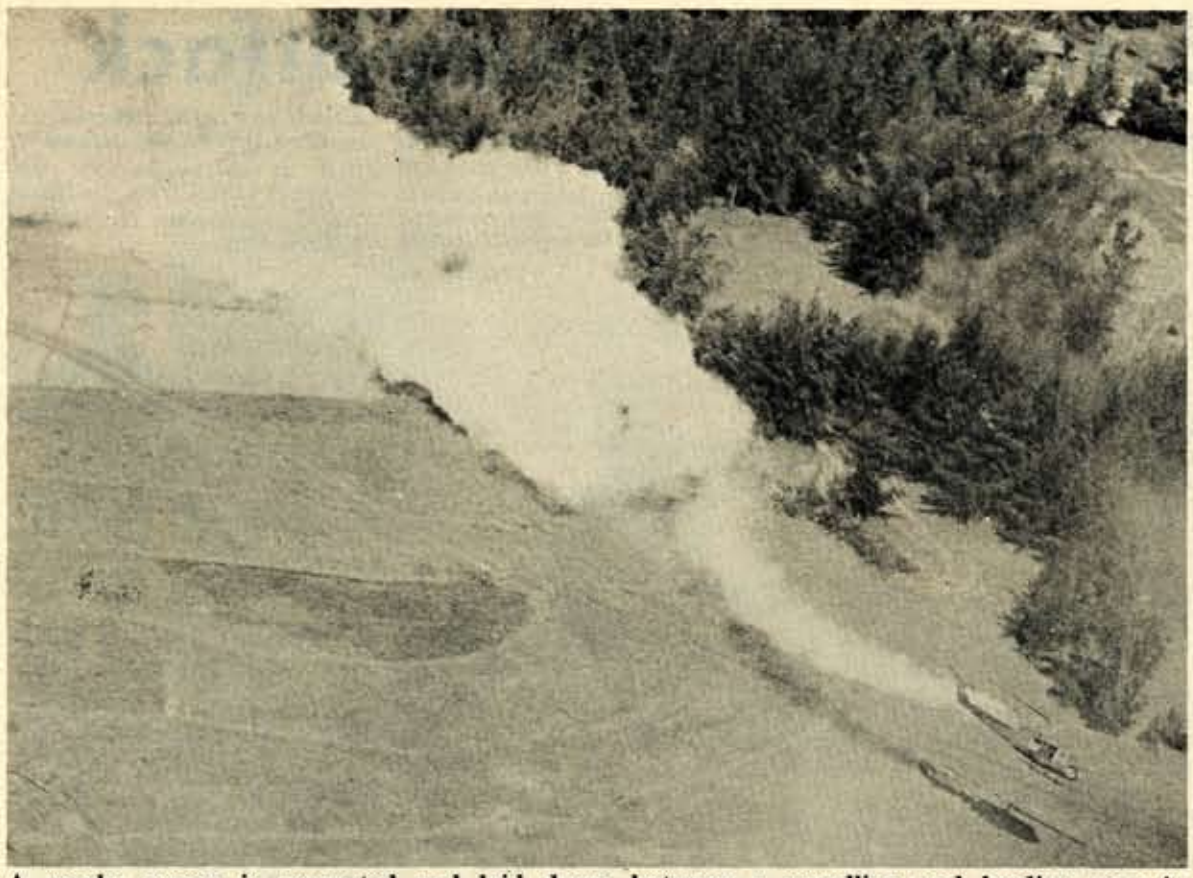
"The advantage of the leaflet rounds are mainly accuracy and speed," stated Major Robert L. McLaughlin, Providence, R.I., 11th Brigade S-5. "We can pinpoint a grid and hit it in seconds. Weather doesn't affect the mission so they really come into their own during the moonsoon season when the flying weather prevents leaflet drops."

Large scale leaflet operations are conducted with a C-47 "Skytrain" which can crop 28,000 leaflets-covering three grid squares in a single operation.

Asked what is the smallest size enemy unit the leaflet round be employed against, Major McLaughlin replied, "A single man. If we know a sniper is working in a certain area it's worth it if we can convince him to rally."

The 105mm leaflet round appears to support Marshall McLuhan's contention that the "medium is the message."

Cannoneers stand clear as their 155mm howitzer recoils with brute force, filling the cloudless afternoon sky with thunder. The men of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery are supporting Division operations south of Quang Ngai City. (Photo by PFC Robert J. Smith)



A smoke screen is generated and laid down between a woodline and landing zone in preparation for a combat assault three miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. "Smokey" a specially equipped utility ship is provided by the 174th Aviation Company.

A "Dolphin" utility ship of the 174th Aviation Company (Assault H the cover of smoke during a combat assault three miles northeast of D

A line of Dolphins and choppers from the 71st Aviation Company as they prepare to set down on the landing zone. A thousand men from the 4th ARVN Division were deliveried to 24 landing zones. High above the LZ, a Shark provides security.

A Dolphin delivers its wave of "Jungle Warriors" from the 11th Infantry Brigade during a combat assault three miles northeast of Duc Pho.

The Shark

use moo

Story and photos by

FSB Bronco (11th INF BDE IO) – In a sense, the "Shark" gunship platoon of the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) is an anachronism. While their helicopters and weaponry are '70s vintage, the battle techniques of a guerrilla war are reminiscent of the 1914 skies over France. When a thin-Skinned Shark banks and rolls in to engage the enemy, it is subject to the same anti-aircraft and small arms fire that was thrown at the Spad bi-plane.

There is still a certain romance to piloting the flying machines. The hectic and often dangerous schedule includes lively comraderie at a club and a white sheeted bed at night rather than a soggy Vietnamese rice paddy or muddy European trench. The young pilots' gung ho enthusiasm is still tempered by their experienced professionalism. Five miles east of Quang Ngai City, two Shark heavy fire teams alternate flying security for a combat assualt of the 4th ARVN Regiment. The waves of men are ferried into 24 landing zones (LZs) by a dozen "Dolphin" utility ships.

Gunships without a "hot" landing zone are like an infantryman without a P-38 can-opener. They prepare the LZs and patiently cover the sky train of utility ships. They wait. The two gunship pilots are in constant communication.

"The smoke-ship did alright this time; right between the treeline and LZ," commented Captain Stephen S. Riddle, Weaverville, N.C.

"Darn wind makes it hard not to smoke the flight. That lead ship is too low. She'll get there before us if she doesn't pull up," replied First Lieutenant John I. O'Sullivan, Brooklyn, N.Y.

For three hours the gunships make the flight back and forth between staging areas and landing zones. The teams alternate stops at Quang Ngai City for fuel, re-armament and a short C-ration picnic.

Returning to station, the gunships cruise the site of the last combat assualt of the day. They gain altitude to over-see the put-down of utility ships and ARVN infantry. Captain Riddle stretches in his front seat as darkness falls.

The Air Mission Control ship comes on the horn: "CA complete. LZ hot. I repeat hot."

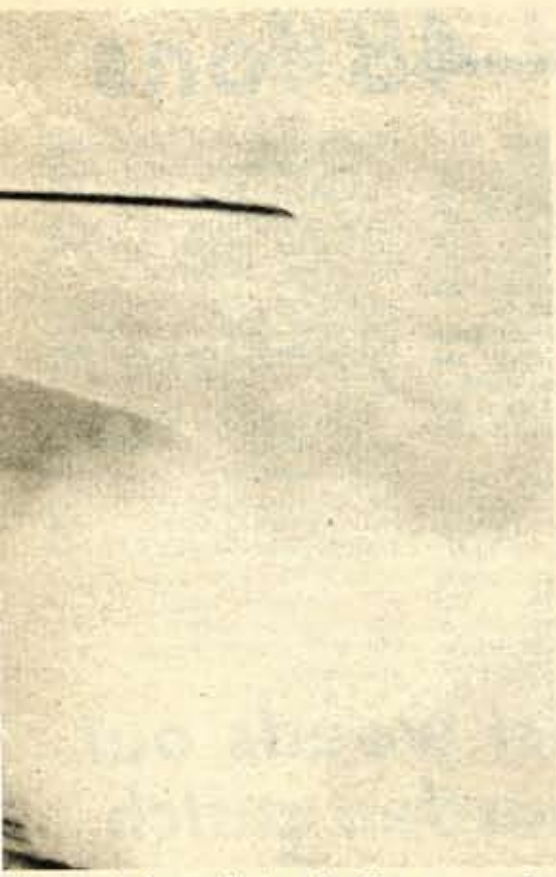
"Let's go get them," called Captain Riddle as he banked and descended to the left.

"I've got four or five on the run in uniforms with weapons," announced Lieutenant O'Sullivan as he dove into a hedgerowed saddle.

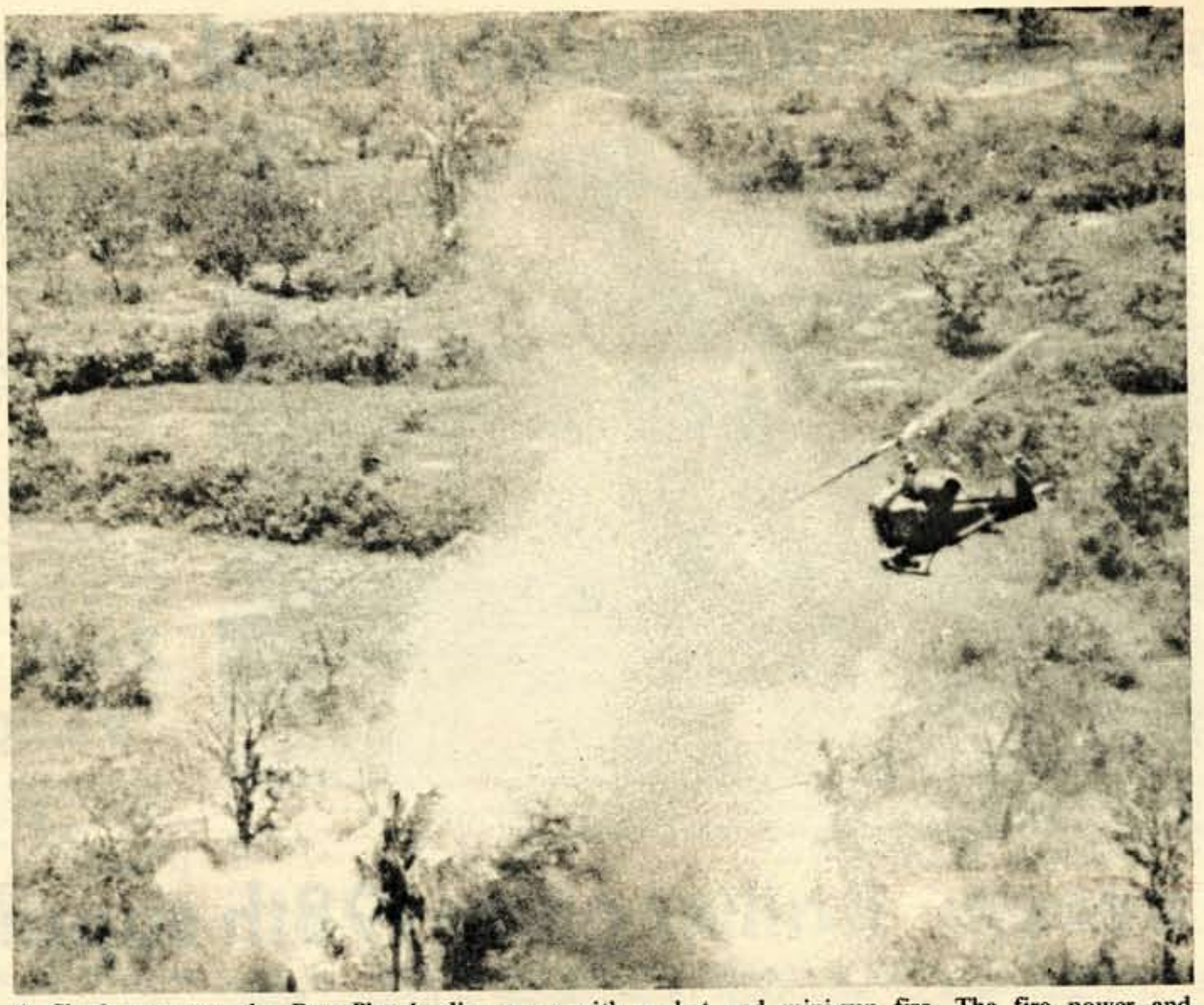
Rockets, mini-guns and M-60 machine guns poured fire into the area. Lieutenant O'Sullivan pulls out to the sound of exploding rockets and the sight of black bellowing smoke.

"We've covered a couple with mini-gun. We've taken hits."

Captain Riddle follows in by descending quickly with the down-ward motion of a ferris wheel. An NVA frantically runs for a hedgerow and dives into it. The Shark abruptly swings back and forth as the ship is lined up for a rocket run. Captain Riddle sights the aiming reticle.



elicopters) descends to a landing zone under
c Pho.



A Shark prepares the Duc Pho landing zone with rocket and mini-gun fire. The fire power and maneuverability of the Huey helicopters makes them ideal tactical weapons for supporting the ground pounders.

KS

dern equipment in grand old style

SP4 Peter R. Sorenson

Like two fire-crackers in a trash can, the rockets leap forward from their pods sending red hot ignition wire fragments flying into the cabin. The door gunners open up with a steady stream of M-60 fire for flank security at this critical moment. Through the windshield two black mushrooms explode on the target.

Two more sets of two rockets are sent on their way before the Shark jerks upward out of its dive. It circles to the right to continue the deadly two Shark pinwheel.

Captain Riddle comes on the intercom and acknowledges what all had heard, "Where did we take the hits?"

"We got about two or three rounds in the left rocket pod. One tube is down, replied Crew Chief Specialist 4 Ernest T. Johns, Brandon, Fla.

During the next half hour, the gunships alternated angles of attack destroyed a bunker and caused a seconary explosion and laid suppressive fire for the advancing ground troops.

Air Mission Control: "Shark 6, you are released – fine job. That secondary may have been a mine. You may stay on station if you want to see what the ARVN get into."

"I was hoping he would say that," remarked Captain Riddle.

The two gunships reconned a large area surrounding the scene of contact.

"Hey - there's a big hole down there," said Specialist Johns.

The door-gunner waved and poinited the spot out to the ARVN. On the second pass, he threw a smoke grenade. On the third pass a waving ARVN pointed to a uniformed NVA they had pulled out of the hole.

Wearily heading home above Highway One, the two ships bantered back and forth about the day's action.

"We took a couple of rounds in the shin bubble. Guess who got his third Purple Heart?" said Lieutenant O'Sullivan.

"You?" came back the answer from Captain Riddle.

"Yea, took a little shrapnel in the leg."

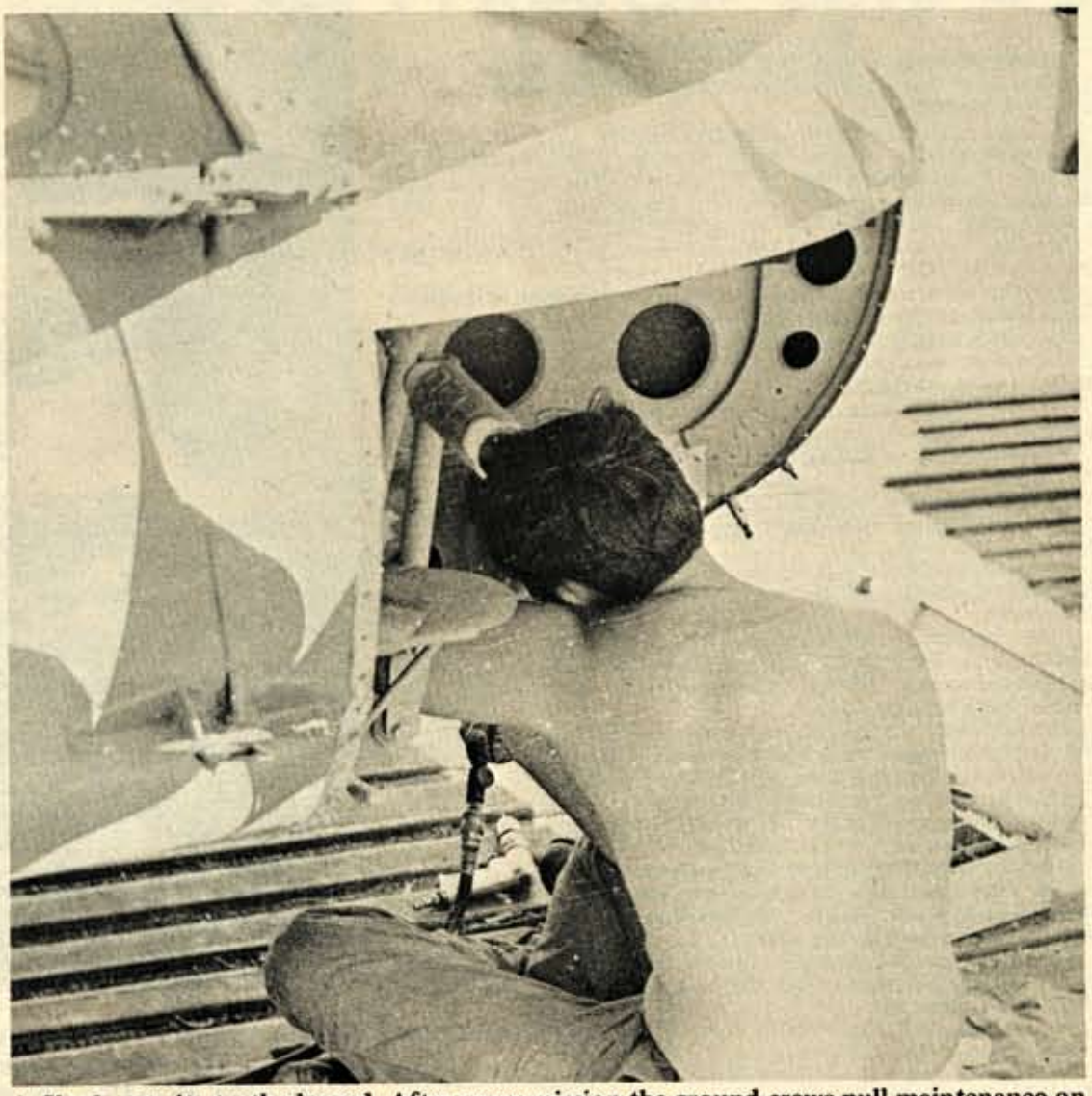
A red glow fills the cock pit from the instrument panel. Captain Riddle stretches again. Door gunner Specialist 5 Fred G. Vandiver, Riverside, Calif. props his foot on a door and adjusts himself on his hard flat armored seat pad.

The village smells of livestock and dinner fires drifts through the cabin. In a few minutes the city like lights of the perimeter, Fire Support Base Bronco is on the horizon.

The end of the mission; the end of the day? Hardly. Maintenance must be administered to the aircraft. The pilots checking in at operations, are notified that a visual recon of the "Rice Bowl" has been ordered. A team of gunships must also recon the Bronco perimeter.

A night, maybe a restless night, will pass. "On call" requires that their 24 hour day be punctuated by scrambles.

If they could wear streaming white silk scarves, they would – for the Lafayette Escadrille is here.



A Shark gets its teeth cleaned. After every mission the ground crews pull maintenance on the choppers. It is their skill and care that gives the pilot a sound ship to fly against the enemy the Shark its bite.

Sykes' Regulars find rice--48 tons

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, load sacks of rice onto a helicopter which was part of the cache found 2 miles east of Mo Duc. The rice cache was distributed to Vietnamese families. (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

(continued from page 1)

The night of the first find, the third platoon was setting up outside one of the hamlets for security, when Specialist Four James M. McCord, Holly Hill, Fla., hit a 300 pound cache while digging out a foxhole.

Later, First Lieutenant John P. Grice, Jackson, Miss., the mortar platoon leader struck a 1,300-pound cache when he stepped outside to dig a field latrine.

Two days after the search operation began, a Chinook, hovering above a load of rice to be extracted, took a heavy volume of enemy machinegun and automatic weapons fire from one of the nearby swamps.

"Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) were called in and hit the enemy position with rockets. Immediately after the aerial bombardment the first and second platoons moved into the swamp, destroying bunkers marked by a Light Observation Helicopter hovering overhead. During the contact, the men killed one VC and detained 11 others.

Much of the rice was reserved for distribution to civilians in the area and the rest was sent to Mo Duc for wider distribution throughout Quang Ngai Province. The enemy's failure to retain his mammoth rice supply will almost certainly have its effect on the main force NVA and VC Infantry Brigade's area of operation.

2nd, 1st weeds out VC garden patch

By PFC Richard Campbell

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) -- A reconnaissance platoon recently crashed a Viet Cong garden party, nine miles northwest of Tam Ky. In the ensuing struggle, the 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers killed seven enemy and captured two weapons.

Echo Recon, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, was cutting its way through thick vegetation. Specialist Four Larry Hardin, Steger, Ill., the pointman, heard voices. He dropped his pack and crawled forward to investigate.

"The voices were coming from the other side of a hedgerow," said Specialist Hardin. "I couldn't see them because the bushes were too thick, so I motioned for our Kit Carson Scout to join me."

The two laid low in the brush for ten minutes, listening to voices no more than ten yards away, then they rejoined the others in their unit.

The scout, a former NVA who had rallied to the "Chargers" told the recon platoon leader that the people were definitely Viet Cong who were farming in order to provide food for an enemy force.

It was time to move in. The recon unit crashed through the hedgerow and came face to face with 15 enemy.

"I dropped two before they even knew what hit them," added Specialist Hardin, "and we killed five more as they scattered."

The garden, a supply point for an NVA battalion, was more than 100 yards square. It was divided into several sections, in which rice, potatoes, peppers, and tomatoes were grown.

A search of the area following the contact uncovered a large bunker at one end of the garden that was used to secure the garden during the day and night. The fleeing Viet Cong had left behind one SKS rifle, one AK-47 rifle, 10 pounds of rice and three packs containing personal gear. Before leaving the area, the men destroyed the bunker.

Shortly before encountering the VC, the soldiers had come upon a deserted, battalion-sized bunker complex.

"The complex looked abandoned for a couple months," reported Staff Sergeant Lindsay Jenkins, Auburn, Ala. "It had good access to water and was only about 200 yards from the garden we uncovered."

Six bunkers were connected by deep trenches, and there were three-man fighting positions surrounding the entire area. Empty shells, some cooking utensils and old clothing were also found.

Recap: Rallier gives 198th supplies

(continued from page 1)

of ARVN soldiers found the bodies and accredited the kills to the Americans. The action took place 23 miles west of Tam Ky.

Iron Mount

In Operation Iron Mountain action contact was regular, each day elements of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry killed one to two enemy soldiers but sightings and engagements never revealed more than one to five enemy soldiers to be dealt with.

In an unusual incident the S-2 section of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry was credited with one VC killed and one grenade confiscated as they worked eight miles south of Duc Pho.

Later in the week, Sharks of the 174th Aviation Company engaged and killed one VC in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho. The VC was carrying assorted medical supplies.

Wednesday morning saw 11th Infantry Brigade troopers from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry and the 123 Aviation Battalion killed seven enemy soldiers along the Tra Khuc River 25 miles northwest of Duc Pho. It was the heaviest action of the week.

Geneva Park

Daily light contact and the finding of a few caches seemed to be the daily itinerary for the 198th Infantry Brigade units. Except for one isolated incident soldiers of the 198th fought no more than one to five enemy soldiers in each engagement.

On Friday a large cache was discovered when a rallier led Echo Recon, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry to the site 15 miles northeast of Chu Lai.

An element of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry while on a sweep 15 miles southeast of Chu Lai found a three by seven foot bunker which produced five NVA field packs, two canteens and 15 CHICOM grenades.

Do unto thyself . .

By SGT Bob Nordyke

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) -- One good turn deserves another so it was recently for an operation near Barrier Island 12 miles north of Tam Ky.

A crew from a 196th Infantry Brigade Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) stopped Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry from walking into a VC ambush. The favor was soon returned when the company rescued the three man LOH crew after it had been forced to land with an AK-47 roun in the tail rotor.

Working the flat sparsely vegetated area, Bravo Company had requested the LOH to fly in front of their sweep.

Early in the afternoon, the LOH's M-60 machine gunner spotted a Vietnamese near a rice paddy dike crouched in some tree roots.

"I kept watching him but could not fire because there were some Popular Forces working the area," said gunner Sergeant Leonard Marshall of Mears, Mich.

He observed the lone enemy soldier as Barvo Company neared his position.

"I saw him move and he had a string of CHICOM grenades," he continued.

Then he started to bring his AK-47 up to shoot at the company's point man. I killed him when the point man was only four or five feet away."

The ambush the VC had set was ruined, so the enemy opened up on the LOH from a hooch only 10 yeards from the would be VC ambusher.

"Fire was coming from all over the area," related Specialist 4 Buster Gandy, Ft. Worth, Texas, the LOH crew chief on the left side of the helicopter. "Two VC came to the door of the hooch. I got both of them with my M-16."

The LOH took several hits and was forced to return to LZ Hawk Hill. Seventeen holes were counted in the chopper's hull. In a few minutes the entire crew changed LOHs and were back to the fight.

"The VC had moved about a 100 yards," said Sergeant Marshall, but their fire was still heavy." It was also lucky. One round hit the LOH's tail rotor and forced it to the ground.

It was now the infantry's turn to do a good deed.

"We went down in a little open area surrounded by a six foot dike," said Specialist Gandy. "B Company got to us in about ten minutes but it seemd like six years."

The helicopter crew then got a little taste of ground combat. They stayed with the company for three hours continuing the sweep under heavy sniper fire.

Just before dusk, the infantry company lined up with F Troop, 17th Cavalry.

"We finally got out of there about 6:30," explained Sergeant Marshall. "We caught a helicopter flying for F Troop and got back to Hawk Hill intact."

An unidentified sergeant from Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry blindfolds a Viet Cong suspect detained near Heip Duc. The detainee was later air-lifted to LZ West for interrogation. (Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)

How 'bout a dip!

This lovely fair-haired miss from New Zealand, Miss Rae Tobeck, relaxes near a Chu Lai beach. The blonde lovely discarded her flak jacket at the photographers request, but she urges us all to wear them when out in the field, as she does. That extra margin of safety makes your chances of getting back home again a lot better, she says.

(Photo by SSG L.E. Perkins)

A combined team of Regional and Popular Forces, National Police Field Forces, and the Recon Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry stand quietly watching the helicopters come to pick them for a dawn combat assault. (Photo by CPT T.N. Thrasher)

Seabees drill for Jungle Warriors

By SP4 Peter R. Sorensen

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – The Navy's Mobile Construction Battalion-7 is turning the 11th Infantry Brigade's fire support bases into oases. For the past month the "Seabees" have been drilling water wells on the "Jungle Warriors" firebases to equip them with a self-sufficient water supply.

"The biggest problem has been getting the drill into the location of a proposed well. Our commander in Chu Lai looks a site over after receiving a job order, but getting the equipment into postiion can be difficult," siad Equipment Operator Second Class George W. Stewart from Pine Bank, Pa.

Equipment Operator Third Class C.A. Foster, Richwood, W. Va., added, "The granite rock in this area is hard to drill. Also, it is hard to judge the depth when you are working with granite."

"Water is not that hard to find in Vietnam, especially in the north. The trick is to find it where you want it. Vietnam is funny in that you don't find water in a good looking site, but you do find it in some of the most unlikely spots," continued Operator Stewart.

"The equipment we install is worth $14,000. It pumps the water out of the well, clorinates it automatically and filters sediment in a 3,000 gallon tank before storing it into other 3,000 gallon tanks," said Utilityman John Kreider, Joy, Pa.

Utilityman Berry Helherington, Doylestown, Pa., commented, "When a well is in full operation there are 9,000 gallons of water on hand."

"We sank an 88 foot well at FSB 4-11. At first it pumped five gallons a minute. Now it pumps between ten and 15 gallons a minute which is plenty of water for a firebase," added Operator Stewart.

Thus far, FSBs Dottie, 4-11 and Liz have their own wells. It is planned that all the firebases in the 11th Infantry Brigade's area have a self-sufficient water capacity. When the unusual drilling rig appears on a firebase, the inevitable crowd of on-lookers appear with the inevitable question "What are ya drilling for – oil?"

But the men of MCB-7 know that they are seeking something more precious than oil.

Tells it like it is . . . . . .

Why are drugs being abused these days?

Drug abuse is not a new phenomenon. Varying forms of drug abuse have been present for years in America and other countries. There are many reasons for the current epidemic of drug misuse. Very broadly, drug abuse can be described as an effort by individuals to feel different than they do. Many drugs temporarily allow their users to evade frustrations, to lessen depression and feelings of alienation or to escape from themselves. Such misuse of drugs, of course, does not produce any improvement in the individual or society. Rather it is a flight from problems.

Where does one go if he is becoming or is dependent on drugs?

If the user wants help, one's family, a friend or minister could be asked to help find the best resource in the community. The family doctor, mental health professional or in the Army, an NCO or officer. The most important thing though is to realize you need help and seek it.

It's a junk Army

By SP4 Toby Prodgers

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – A platoon of soldiers was recently involved in a night combat assault operation and sustained one casualty – a mild case of seasickness.

For weeks the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry of the 11th Infantry Brigade had unsuccessfully attempted to clear a highly mobile VC force which was working on the coastline north of Duc Pho. The VC had been hiding along the Strip and posed a harassing threat to the "Sykes' Regulars" of the 20th Infantry Battalion's ,acification operations in the area. Ground sweeps and patrols, as well as helicopter airlifts into the beach area, failed to produce any significant results.

So the battalion tried a new tactic. Working in conjunction with MACV in Quang Ngai City, two Vietnamese junks were acquired and during the hours of darkness, the reconnaissance platoon boarded the two small, creaking vessels and set sail for the Gaza Strip twenty miles to the south.

For three hours, Sykes' Regulars navigated the choppy waters of the South China Seas in the tiny craft.

It was during their silent passage on the high seas that Sergeant Peter Smith, from Orange, Conn., became sick and proved to be more of a soldier than a seaman.

In the eight day operation that followed the beach landing, the platoon killed six of the scattered VC force.

Aid thru power of attorney

Occasions arise when it is necessary to have someone act as your agent to handle a particular piece of business. This is done by giving your power of attorney.

A power of attorney is a legal document by which you, the donor, give to someone else, called the attorney-in-fact or the donee, the authority to act as agent or attorney.

Consult your local legal assistance offices for full information on a power of attorney.

Henriette

The officers' lady

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) – One unit from the 198th Infantry Brigade recently brought home "the bacon" after a mission near Chu Lai. "The bacon" was Henrietta, a sow, and now the mascot of H Troop, 17th Cavalry.

It wasn't exactly a "pig" deal the way First Lieutenant Stanley L. Bulger, McGee, Miss., executive officer of H Troop explained. "We are often called the "Hog Troop" by other units in the 198th Brigade because we frequently return very dirty from a mission. Therefore, we chose a pig as our mascot."

The sow was willing; she evidently was tired of being a "grunt" and now enjoys the life of the cavalry. She sleeps under Lieutenant Bulger's bed, dines on favorites like rice and beans – and even eats pork when the troops have it. Furthermore Hentietta enjoys being the center of attraction and, so far, has not shown up on the duty roster.

Her name hasn't always been Henrietta. "At first we called her our 'DEROS pig', said the Lieutenant, because we were going to feast on ham and eggs when some of us DEROSed. Now that she has become such a morale boster, she would be hard on the stomach."

Sergeant Earl C. Snyder Jr. from Plainville, Conn. explained that the enlisted men called her the "the officer's Lady for a while. But then we decided that Henrietta would be more appropriate."

Henrietta may or may not be showering the troop with good luck but she certainly is wallowing in it. And that's better than what she used to wallow in.

Part 1

Doughnut Dollies

By SP4 William Hayes

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – On a remore firebase, anticipant heads turn to the direction of a distant throb of a helicopter rotor. Within minutes, the aircraft makes its final approach to the landing pad and touches down. Instead of green-fatigued men, two girls in blue dresses step down from the chopper.

One offers a greeting to the men as soon as the slick's departure makes conversation possible again. The other chats with individuals or small groups as she heads for a place to sit down and spend an hour with the men.

As she passes near, many have the feeling they've seen her before. She may look like the girl next door, a friend back home, or maybe somebody's kid sister. Maybe it's just because of her warm smile and friendly greeting.

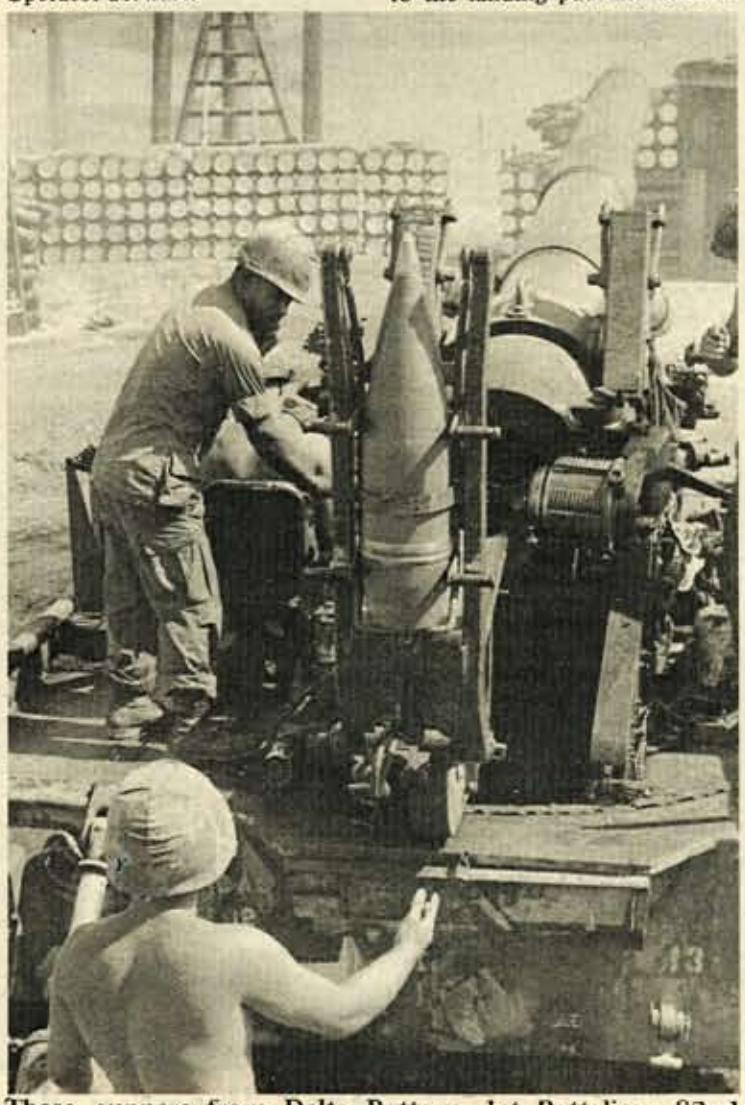
She's here in Vietnam, often on forward LZs and fire support bases. She's here because she wants to be here – she asked to come. She works for the American Red Cross. She's a Doughnut Dolly.

Being a Doughnut Dolly calls for a lot. The job is demanding. There's a gruelling schedule that sends each girl to the field as often as five times a week. The girls carry all their materials with them, they don't have anyone to lug their gear for them. They wouldn't have it any other way.

Every girl that works as a Doughnut Dolly is a college graduate between 21 and 25. Before she's accepted for an overseas assignment, she's screened by Red Cross personnel in Washington, D.C.

When the girls come to the Red Cross, they're ready to go to Korea or Vietnam after two weeks of orientation. It's a quick move from the campus or stateside business office to Chu Lai, but the girls make the transition well.

Starting next week, the Southern Cross will feature interviews with each of the Doughnut Dollies working in the area.



These gunners from Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery team up to prepare this 8 inch gun for another mission. The men are stationed at Landing Zone Dottie. (Photo by SP4 Gerard Paulin)