Gunships of F Troop, 8th Cavalry teamed up to kill 15 enemy in the previous weeks action. (Photo by SSG L.E. Perkins)

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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Weekly recap

Division soldiers tally 114 enemy

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -- Last week saw 114 enemy fall to the guns of the Americal. In Operation Frederich Hill, the "Polar Bears" of Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry received 13 Hoi Chanh, of which six brought their families. Elsewhere in Operation Iron Mountain the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade accounted for 31 enemy killed. The lightest action occured in Operation Geneva Park as the "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade tallied eight enemy killed.

Operation Frederick Hill

Early in the week Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry killed two VC while on a sweep northwest of Tam Ky. Later they received 13 Hoi Chanh, 6 of them brough their families.

Recon platoon later in the week killed four VC in seperate incidents northwest of Tam Ky.

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry operating west of Tam Ky found several enemy caches during the week. Company A found 14 cases of .51 caliber ammo and 40 batteries early in the week.

Towards the end of the week the Recon platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry located a cache which yielded 900 .30 caliber machinegun rounds, 100 .51 caliber machinegun rounds, and 200 7.62mm rounds.

In the same area Company D later came across a trench line

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Soldier rescued after 18 hrs alone in bush

By PFC Guy Winkler

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Perhaps the luckiest man in the Division is Sergeant T. Talamoni, Santa Anna, Calif., who was stranded for 18 hours alone in "no man's land."

Sergeant Talamoni, a member of D Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Cavalry, Aero-Rifle Platoon (ARP), recently participated in a combined reconnaissance mission with F Troop, 8th Cavalry, ARP, in an insertion on a hill 10 miles south of Hiep Duc in support of the 196th Infantry Brigade. The general area south of Hiep Duc is frequently referred to as "no man's land" by Division soldiers.

At the time of the insertion, the plan was for two helicopters carrying ARPs to land on the hill simultaneously while a number of other gunships provide cover. The first helicopter, under a barrage of small arms fire, encountered difficulties with the limited space available for insertion and crashed on the hill after snagging a tree stump with the tail rotar. The second helicopter, with Sergeant Talamoni on board, was hovering a few feet off the ground when the ship was hit by enemy fire. The fire caused the helicopter to spin in an uncontrollable spiral which threw Sergeant Talamoni from the ship onto a log on the ground approximately 55 yards away from where the ship finally crashed. After Sergeant Talamoni hit the log on the side of the hill he slid to the bottom where he lay unconscious for about 30 minutes.

In the frenzy of enemy fire and not knowing that Sergeant Talamoni was missing from the rest of the crew near the two ships, the support helicopters dropped down to recover the ARPs from the hill where they

(continued on page 6)

Col. Richardson now at 198th

By 1LT Mark Tucker

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) – In a ceremony at LZ Bayonet, Colonel William Richardson, Arlington, Va., replaced Colonel Joseph G. Clemons as commanding officer of the 198th Infantry Brigade. Colonel Clemons leaves for assignment with Plans Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, USARPAC, in Hawaii.

Colonel Richardson, 41, joins the brigade from an assignment with the Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff in Washinton, D.C. Born in China, Colonel Richardson spent a previous tour in Vietnam in 1966-67 when he deployed to the Republic with the 9th Infantry Division and served as a battalion commander and G-3.

A 1951 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Colonel Richardson has also served two tours in Korea and several tours in CONUS, including one at West Point. He attended the Canadian Army Staff College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and received a masters degree from George Washington University.

Colonel Clemons, who graduated from the same 1951 West Point class, arrived in Vietnam last July and served as Support Command commander of the Division and Division Chief of Staff before assuming command of the "Brave and Bold" brigade last November. Prior to arriving in Vietnam, Colonel Clemons had served in Korea, Germany and had held several instructor positions in various CONUS service schools. He also attended the Army War College, the Air Command and Staff College and the United Strategic Intelligence School.

In his farewell remarks, Colonel Clemons said, "I want to thank the 'Regulars' of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, the 'Professionals' of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, and the 'Ready Rifles' of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry for their outstanding cooperation during the past eight months."

Colonel Clemons was presented the Legion of Merit by Major General A.E. Milloy, commanding general and the Vietnam Honor Medal, First Class by Colonel Nguyen Trong Luat, assistant commander of the 2nd ARVN Division.

In a recent ceremony held at LZ Bayonet, Major General A.E. Milloy presents Colonel Joseph G. Clemons with the Legion of Merit. Colonel Clemons is the out-going commander of the 198th Infantry Brigade.

(Photo by 198th Bde IO)

Air, arty, infantry combine to get 53

By 1LT. Michael Simmons

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – In a rock-throwing, grenade tossing battle 23 miles west of Tam Ky, infantry, artillery and helicopter gunships recently combined to kill 53 NVA.

Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, were conducting search and clear operations in the rugged jungle terrain of Hiep Duc Valley.

"We sent one company to clear the high ground to the north and another to clear the valley floor," said Major James M. Hallinan, Akron, Ohio, operations officer, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry.

Company B moved out to sweep the valley floor in the early morning hours and immediately became involved in what proved to be the biggest fire fight of the day.

"We started moving out of our night laager around 5:30 in the morning," said First Lieutenant Drake H. Erby, Milton, Wis., 2nd platoon leader. "The 3rd platoon was point, mine was second, and the 1st platoon was drag."

As the company moved across a small grassy opening, the point platoon began receiving rifle and machinegun fire from a treeline to the front. At the same time the 1st platoon, which was still in the night laager waiting for the other platoons to move across, began receiving heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire.

"We spotted some NVA in the woodline to the north and opened up on them," said Staff Sergeant Charlie Hall, Hookerton, N.C., 1st Platoon Sergeant. "As we were blasting them, someone also noticed two attempting to sneak up on our perimeter. We threw frags and

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Staff Sergeant George Gauthier, Jaffrey, N.H., seems to have the mascot of F Troop, 17th Cavalry, "over a barrel." The pet is affectionately named "Linda," and has been with the outfit for more than three years. Sergeant Gauthier took charge of Linda when he was here in 1967 and resumed those duties when he returned for another tour last November. (Photo by SP5 Richard Merritt)

F Trp 17th Cav gets business

By SP4 Thomas J. Neville

LZ HAWK HILL (AMERICAL IO) – There seems to be a lot of "monkey business" being conducted around F Troop, 17th Cavalry, here and word has it that it's been going on for more than three years now.

Staff Sergeant George Gauthier, Jaffrey, N.H., is the NCO in charge of the unit's monkey business. But his duties resemble those of a curator of a zoo more than an NCO. The troop he is primarily concerned with is a rusty-borwn and very temperamental primate known as "Linda."

No stranger to the Army and F Troop in particular, Linda has been stationed with the cavalry unit since 1967. According to Sergeant Gauthier, the monkey was found by members of a track crew when the unit moved from Tay Ninh to LZ Baldy three years ago.

"We built a little swimming pool for her on a brook at Baldy," recalled Sergeant Gauthier. "I just took charge of Linda that year until I finished mytour in October, 1968," he added.

Last November Sergeant Gauthier returned to Vietnam and when he reached F Troop he was surprised to see that Linda was still cavorting with the men. Even more amazing was the fact that Linda recognized her old friend. "I didn't think she would remember me, but she did," he beamed.

One chracteristic of Linda's species is the absence of a tail. That fact, spiced with a little jealousy, could be the reason why she doesn't get along with the dogs which roam around the base.

The men feed her vegetables and fruits but Linda's favorite delicacy is fruit cocktai, straight from a C-Ration can. She knows a good deal and everytime she wanders off into the countryside, she always returns--usually around meal time.

Sergeant Gauthier, who is in charge of the maintenance shop for the tracks, said that Linda enjoys the same social activities as the GIs. High on her list of fun things to do is beer drinking. However, the frisky lassie has been known to over-indulge, adding to her already unpredictable female temperament.

First Sergeant R.O. Warnum, Sheffield, Ala., said that he is having a brand new cage built for F Troop's mascot. He noted that Linda receives the best medical care also. "We just had her up to the dispensary for chest x-rays and fortunately they proved negative," he stated.

Men of F Troop will come and go and each new man will learn to accept Linda as a member of the unit. But the mischievious monkey isn't concerned with her DEROS. She has her "choice assignment" at LZ Hawk Hill.

Part 1 of a 3 part series

EM promotions explained

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – The Army's enlisted promotion system is designed to provide standard procedural and substantive guidelines which will ensure equal opportunity for advancement among all enlisted personnal. Introduced in August 1968, this system is designed to ensure the best qualified individual is promoted. To do this, there must be a high degree of uniformity in promotion procedures throughout the Army. Qualifications for promotion to a higher grade are the same no matter where you are assigned. Careful review of this article will help you determine your qualifications for promotion.

The rules for promotion of personnel just entering service are simple. After you complete basic and advanced training, you are administratively advanced to Private E-2 (normally upon completion of 4 months service for pay purposes.) You can expect to be promoted to Private First Class, E-3, four months later. However, an exception has been authorized by Department of the Army if you have been assigned to Vietnam upon completion of advanced training. This exception permits your commander to promote you from E-2 to E-3, if he considers you fully qualified, as soon as you arrive in Vietnam.

Candidates for promotion to the more senior grades, E-8 and E-9, are judged by identical standards and selected for promotion at Department of the Army. For now, let's concentrate on E-4 through E-7. Department of the Army determines each year how many soldiers it will need in each grade and MOS. It knows about how many it will lose through separation, retirement or promotion to a higher grade. The Army determines on the basis of this information how many men it can promote each month to reach the desired strength in each grade and MOS. This figure is the quota for promotions each month.

Promote The Best Qualified

Put yourself in Uncle Sam's shoes. Who would you select for promotion? Naturally, you'd promote the best-qualified man for the job!

The key factor in prmotion is known as merit, and merit is the backbone of the entire enlisted promotions system. The principle of the merit system is quite simple - promote the most qualified person. This is as it should be and is the standard for promotion in all walks of life.

Because merit plays such a large part in enlisted promotions, you might believe that promotions are rewards for outstanding performance. This is only partly true. The jobs performed by all personnel, regarless of grade, demand special skills, training and abilities. The noncommissioned officer must have a thorough

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Miss Dingley's lenghly epistles

By SP4 Matt Gryta

LZ CENTER (196th INF BDE IO) – Some people write letters, and some people write letters, but Miss Jerrie Dingley, of Browns Mills, N.J., produces hers by the yard. Sergeant Peter A. Gagnon, Lincoln, R.I., can roger that, that is if he's not too busy reading one of the lovely, Miss Dingley's lengthy epistles.

"Eighty-seven pages, 87 pages long," exclaimed the Radio Operator section chief for the Tactical Operations Center, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry.

That's the length of the first letter he received from his state-side pen pal shortly after he arrived in-country for his second tour of duty.

"She started writing it as soon as I left the states and just kept adding on to it until she got my mailing address over here," explained the 196th Infantry Brigade soldier.

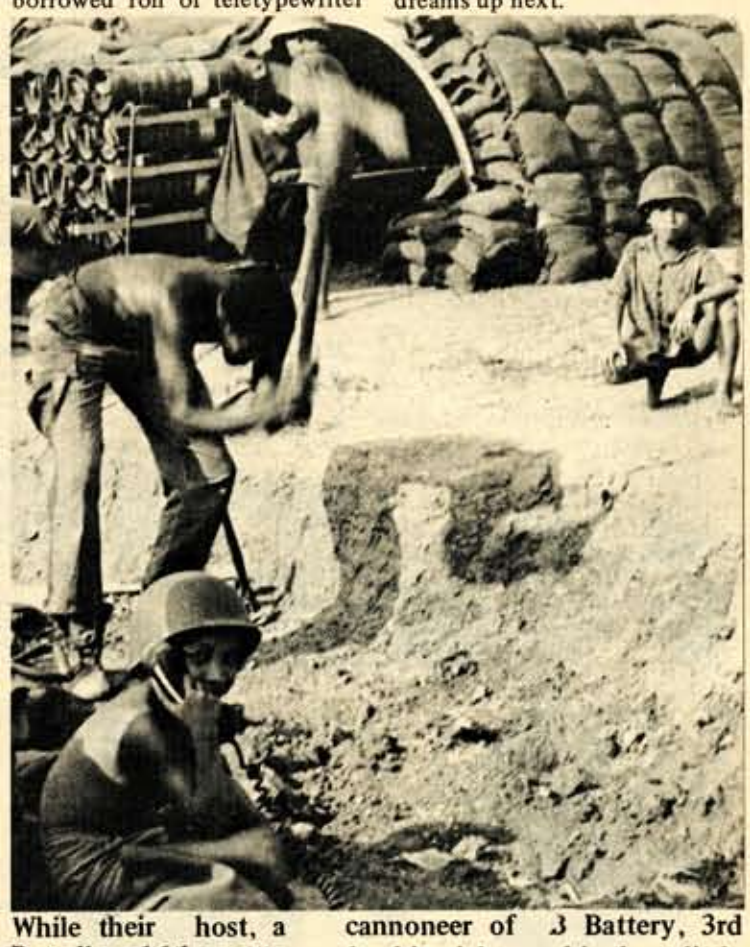
During lulls in her letter writing, Miss Dingley is a slaes clerk in the Main Post Exchange at Fort Dix, N.J.

In fact, that's where she and the young sergeant first met.

"I tried to beat her feat after I got that 87 page job," said Sergeant Gagnon. "Utilizing a borrowed roll of teletypewriter paper I managed to knock off a 13 foot letter.

"However, she came right back with one 37 feet long, composed of separate pieces of paper which she taped together and rolled into a scroll."

"I can't wait to see what she dreams up next."



While their host, a cannoneer of 3 Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery, plys his pick axe, his three little friends play soldiers. A 'toy soldier' quickly picked up the field phone and posed when he noticed the photographer trying to film their fantasies. (Photo by SP5 A.C. Barnett)

Gen Westmoreland visits Div

By MSG William Turner

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – General William C. Westmoreland, U.S. Army Chief of Staff made a brief visit to the Division headquarters recently on his Vietnam tour since becoming the Army Chief of Staff.

General Westmoreland arrived in the Division area at Hawk Hill, the home of the 196th Infantry Brigade where he was met by Major General A.E. Milloy, Commanding General and Colonel Edwin Kennedy, Commanding Officer of the 196th Infantry Brigade. Colonel Kennedy presented the four-star general with a briefing of his area and current operations.

Accompanying General Westmoreland on his visit to the Division was Sergeant Major T.F. King who represented Sergeant Major of the Army George Dunaway.

Sergeant Major King was greeted by Division Command Sergeant Major Fred E. Darling who introduced other senior NCOs at the headquarters during an informal meeting.

SOUTHERN CROSS AMERICAL DIVISION

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Major General A.E. Milloy . . . . . Commanding General
Major William F. Gabella . . . . . Information Officer
First Lieutenant Robert Pennington . . . . . Officer-in-charge
Specialist Four John Floyd Skosnik . . . . . Editor
Specialist Four Gary E. Jensen . . . . . Managing Editor
Specialist Four Dan Swezey . . . . . Production Editor

71 Q? That may be his MOS but this combat photographer, Staff Sergeant Lloyd E. Perkins, Franklin, La., from the Americal Information Office might as well be an 11-Bravo as he slogs his way through a stream near Duc Pho. The cameraman was on assignment with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade. (Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)

Dust-off crew has its ups and downs in 'Old 600'

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (AMERICAL IO) – The beds are unmade and C rations are stacked deep under the bunks. A big green dusty map is stapled in one corner under a light.

A helicopter out in front, patch-welded in several spots down the body where it took hits, is manned by a dust-off crew from the 236th Medical Detachment, Da Nang. Warrant Officer James Gregory likes to call it "Lucky Old 600"–the last three tail numbers. "Old 600" has been shot down once since WO Gregory became its commander, but it still flies, saving the lives of wounded 196th Infantry Brigade and South Vietnamese soldiers.

Like many other units, Gregory's crew is on call 24 hours a day.

"We cover areas all the way to Laos." He traced a line on the map that took in their flight area. There are three men in the crew–the pilot, a crew chief and a dust-off medic. "The best medics I've ever seen," insists WO Gregory.

When they leave for an emergency run, the crew carries only their personal weapons. They have all the facts about the pick-up, but they must follow closely directions from the ground element. WO Gregory trained five extra weeks as a chopper pilot, specializing in medical evacuations at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

"Last month we went right in on top of the bad guys." WO Gregory removed about 100 ARVNs in the western Division area of operation, near the beleaguered refugee camp of Hiep Duc. "Several runs were made without any smoke (signal smoke) to guide us in," said WO Gregory.

"Smoke would give the NVA an aiming point for their mortars and we couldn't give them that much time. Sometimes I came in a low level, 100 knots per hour, and people on the ground would give me hand signals.

"But then I flew over an enemy machinegun when I was returning with a load of wounded. A round hit the fuselage and we went down." The chopper fell into a small Popular Force camp about 24 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

"It was like a dead stick landing," said WO Gregory. No one was hurt.

The crew unloaded the wounded and stayed all night with the friendly unit.

Their luck held. None of the infantrymen were critically wounded and they were able to leave the next day on another chopper. "Old 600" was retrieved later and repaired.

"You can get a good idea of how a mission is executed by looking over a mission sheet," said Specialist Four Charles Harris, Macclesfield, N.C., crew medic. Mission sheets are submitted by the aircraft commander after each flight.

Private First Class Thomas Day of Canby, Ore., is the crew chief. He makes minor repairs and oils up the machinery between flights. Recently a hostile bullet burrowed into the floor of the chopper about a foot from where Private Day crouched to return fire.

"That's the second time the ship has been hit in the same place," noted Private Day. "I'm going to start sitting somewhere elese."

C, 4-31 nets 4 NVA

By SP4 Gerald Lamb

LZ WEST (196th INF BDE IO) – An NVA supply element chose the wrong route recently when they walked into the night laager of a 196th Infantry Brigade Company.

A group of 15 NVA were headed toward Hiep Duc 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky carrying rice and three of their wounded on stretchers.

C Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry was in a night laager on the road east of Hiep Duc.

"Suddenly a trip flare went off on the road and we saw them silhouetted against the light," said Specialist Four Kenneth Schrader, Olean, N.Y.

The infantrymen blew their claymore mines and opened up with M-60 machinegun fire from the perimeter.

A squad went out to check the area and found the bodies of three NVA and an AK-47 rifle.

"On the way back to the perimeter we heard a low moaning in some bushes," said Specialist Schrader.

A wounded NVA was flushed from his hiding place. Before being evacuated for treatment, he related that he had been in a combat unit and had asked to be transferred to become a rice carrier.

The unit's mission that night had been to resupply enemy forces in the Hiep Duc area and take the wounded to a hospital located somewhere on Nui Chom mountain to the north.

Part 4 of series

ARC's Joann Weesner

By SP4 William Hayes

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – On her first trip away from home, Joann Weesner came a long way–halfway around the world. After receiving her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Southern Florida at her home town, Tampa, Joann began looking around for more than just a job.

She found what she was looking for as a Doughnut Dolly for the American Red Cross.

"You don't just sign up for a job, but for a way of life for one year," she explained, "and I love my job, it's fantastic."

When Joann talks about her job, her enthusiasm is evident. Her dialogue is even more animated than vital. Her eyes grow a little wider than normal and sparkle just a bit more.

"I can't believe all that's happened since I've been in Vietnam," she admits.

The Americal Division is not her first assignment. Since she arrived in country almost nine months ago, she's worked at several locations, enjoying a variety of experiences and situations. There's one she recalls especially.

"Two of us were in a Montagnard village in another area, visiting the soldiers assigned there as an advisory team. We were getting along fine with the fellas right there in the village, but whenever we turned around to look for some of the viallagers, all we could find was a disappearing form melting into the brush or a pair of eyes peeking out from a doorway or corner of a hut."

"I guess I was the first blonde, blue-eyed woman they had ever seen."

Always willing to make a new friend, the girls got together a plan to break the ice with the villagers. Picking an open area in plain view of the hiding villagers, the girls opened up a few packets of pre-sweetened beverage powder.

"We began liking our fingers and dipping them into the powder. After a few tastes of the stuff, our tongues were purple and green from the food coloring," she laughed.

"We kept on eating the powder, giggling and making faces at each other, and before long, one of the old women of the village came out of a hut to join our game."

More villagers timidly approached the group, and within minutes, the whole village was on easy terms with the girls in spite of the language barrier.

When she's out in the area of operations visiting the men wherever they are, she often shows up at the nearest mess hall around meal time to serve the soldiers passing through the line. She's apparently appreciated.

Serving at meal time is sidelight for Joann–she does it when she can, but her main job is to get together with a group of men to present a program to entertain soldiers where they work and help them relax. The girls bring the recreation to the men because the limited recreational facilities at Chu Lai are inaccessible to many forward area soldiers.

If her spirits drop, she knows it's important to get back on the ball quickly.

"I groove on life, and that's all I need to pull me me out of the dumps," she explains.

"If you're depressed or down, you've got to take care of it right away."

Often, men she meets ask her why she's here, doing the work she's involved with.

"Back home, I kept hearing about Vietnam on radio and TV, and reading about it on the front page and editorial pages, but I wanted to see for myself."

She admits that the Red Cross offers a nice package for girls who become Doughnut Dollies; travel, new places, and unique experiences.

"Sure, you have the 'bennies,' but that's a small part of it," whe points out.

Everyday, for a whole year, she deals with people.

"I think the neatest thing going is people," she explains.

And one of the neatest people going has to be Joann.

Something is fishy

By SP4 Gerald Lamb

SON HOA (196th INF BDE IO) -- Inhabitants of this pacification outpost have noticed something fishy in their area, but they don't mind a bit. Civil affairs workers from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, are helping their Vietnamese allies build a fish hatchery here.

"We decided on the hatchery because it would add a good, high-protein food to the diet and provide a highly marketable product," said First Lieutenant Michael Donohoe, Alamo, Calif.

Staff Sergeant Malcolm Johnson, Tillar, Ark., is in charge of setting up the project and showing the people how to operate and maintain it.

"My father owns a fish hatchery, so I have been raising fish all my life," said Sergeant Johnson.

The first problem to be faced is building a pond and securing it.

"We plan to dig a dual purpose ditch from a nearby creek to fill the pond and irrigate the rice paddies in the area," said Lieutenant Donohoe.

The people of Son Hoa now buy their fish at the Que Son market about five miles away.

The hatchery will be stocked with Tilapia, a rapid reproducing, high-protein food fish common all over Asia.

"Initially the fish they raise will be used as a food supply, but once a surplus is established, they can be sold at the Que Son market," said Johnson.

This is a reminder to keep your steel pots on out in the bush. It betters your chance of getting home and of getting your picture in the Southern Cross and other publications. (Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)

A day's wor

Photos by PFC Jame

Soldiers of C Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry (regulars), 198th Infantry Brigade, cross a rice paddy while on a patrol 20 miles south of Chu Lai.

Charlie Company "Regulars" move out through rice
the Van Thien area 20 miles south of Chu Lai.

A Charlie Company "Regular" prepares to explode articles brought in under the V.I.P. Program at Van Thien, 20 miles south of Chu Lai.

A Charlie Company "Regular" keeps a close watch on a resupply

k with Charlie Company 'Regulars'

N. Dunn, 523rd Sig. Bn.

addies in search of the enemy. The patrol was working in

Men of Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, cross a river in search of enemy movement in the Van Thien area.

ird as it makes its descent at Van Thien.

Charlie Company "Regulars" enjoy a good hot meal and rest after a hard day of work at Van Thien.

Scattered clashes mark weekly action

(continued from page 1)
which contained 1000 AK-44 rounds and 4 CHICOM grenades.

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed 18 in brief encounters throughout the week.

The Recon platoon tallied three dead VC when they fired on the enemy 11 miles west of Tam Ky.

Later in the week Recon again made contact in two seperate engagements killing six enemy.

The "Professionals" of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry killed five enemy soldiers in the thick triple canopy jungle southwest of Tam Ky.

Gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry killed 12 enemy while flying visual reconnaissance missions in support of the brigade.

Operation Iron Mountain

Early in the week Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry accounted for one VC killed in the early morning hours while working near the Song Tra Khuc River northwest of Duc Pho. Later in the day they picked up another three VC killed with claymore mines.

The same day elements of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed two VC and confiscated one AK-47 rifle.

The next day Company D, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry engaged four VC who were spotted by the element's Kit Carson Scout. In the following hit and run fire fight one of the enemy was killed. The action occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

In an evening engagement with fire VC, Company D, accounted for two of the enemy killed. Three packs and four grenades were confiscated in the action which occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

Working in the lawlands southeast of Duc Pho, Company D, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry uncovered a .51 caliber machinegun.

Company A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry and E Troop, 1st Cavalry accounted for two VC killed while working together on the Song Tra Khue River northwest of Duc Pho.

Company A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry uncovered a 10-ton rice cache near the Song Tra Khuc River northwest of Duc Pho. The rice was found in 55 gallon drums and baskets in a small ville.

"Sharks" of the 174th Aviation Company sighted and engaged two NVA on the Song Ve River northwest of Duc Pho. One of the enemy was killed when they attempted to swim the river, the other evaded into heavy vegetation.

Company A, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry uncovered a two and one-half rice cache while working near the Song Ve River northwest of Duc Pho. The rice was found in numerous hooches, most of it in 55 gallon drums and some in large baskets.

Company D, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry had a heavy day of action working adjacent to the South China Sea north of Duc Pho. The element initially killed one VC and one NVA, detaining two enemy soldiers and confiscating one AK-47. Later, on information supplied by a Vietnamese National, the element learned that two VC were scheduled to arrive at his ville. The company engaged and killed both VC when their Kit Carson Scout spotted them approaching.

Recon engaged a seven to nine man VC squad in the foothills west of Duc Pho. The ensuing fire fight resulted in four enemy killed, two automatic weapons, one AK-47, one Carbine, and four grenades confiscated.

Company B killed one VC in an early morning engagement with an undetermined size enemy force. Four of the enemy were detained in the action which occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

Company C engaged and killed one VC while working in the mountains northwest of Duc Pho. One pack, assorted medical supplies, 10 pounds of rice, and NVA canteen, and a knife were confiscated following the action.

Operation Geneva Park

In an area northwest of Quang Ngai, several Vietnamese revealed to Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry the location in which two enemy weapons were concealed. The infantrymen searched the area to find two carbines.

Elsewhere, Delta Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry while maneuvering in the mountainous terrain west of Quang Ngai, spotted five NVA evading in the thick vegetation. The company swept through the area to find a small basecamp revealing signs of recent activity. Found within the complex was one pistol belt, one CHICOM grenade two fully loaded AK-47 magazines, two canteens, 100 pounds of salt, 50 pounds of rice and other miscellaneous items.

The next day in an area northeast of Quang Ngai, two Vietnamese led Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry to the location of three booby traps. The infantrymen searched the area to find and destroy the munitions.

Elsewhere, Delta Company, received two booby traps from Vietnamese children. The company, maneuvering in an area northeast of Quang Ngai, destroyed the booby traps.

In an area southwest of Chu Lai, Alpha Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, killed one NVA as the enemy approached their location. Captured in the action were four CHICOM grenades, one fragmentation grenade and one pair of field glasses.

On the same day Delta Company while maneuvering in an area west of Quang Ngai, discovered two freshly dug graves. The enemy kills were attributed to a previous contact of the company.

In another action northwest of Quang Ngai, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, while maneuvering in mountainous terrain, found one NVA body. The kill was attributed to enemy contact the company experienced the previous day. Found near the body were one AK-47, three fully loaded AK ammunition clips, two CHICOM grenades, one pair of field glasses and other miscellaneous items.

Late in the week gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry received several rounds of small arms fire in an area northwest of Quang Ngai. The pilot spotted two Viet Cong wearing black pajamas in a bombed out shelter on the ground below and fired on the enemy with automatic weapons to kill both.

Later, in the same general area, the pilot observed another Viet Cong in a black uniform running along a trail and opened fire to kill him.

In an area southeast of Chu Lai, Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, while on a routine patrol, spotted one Viet Cong moving through sparsely vegetated terrain. The infantrymen engaged the enemy with small arms fire to kill him.

Infantrymen take a break in a thick wooded area while on a patrol. Their unit, Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, was searching for enemy hideouts during the recent heavy fighting in Hiep Duc Valley. (Photo by SP4 Gerald Lamb)

1st-46th collects 53

(continued from page 1)
killed them both."

As the 1st platoon continued to fire suppressive fire, the 3rd platoon continued to receive sniper fire and incoming mortar rounds. The 2nd platoon spotted some communication wires on the ground and cut them. The mortar rounds temporarily stopped. The 2nd platoon then moved up to take point and was ordered to secure a defensive position from which an assault on the dug in NVA could be made.

"We dug in faster than I ever imagined it could be done," said Lieutenant Erby. By this time the 3rd platoon had joined the 2nd and only the 1st platoon remained to cross the open area.

Gunships from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company and F Troop, 8th Cavalry, were called in to work out on a ridgeline in hopes of destroying the NVA mortar emplacements. The Cavalry gunships killed three NVA. Artillery was also pounding the enemy position as the 1st platoon began to move from the old night laager.

"We moved out by fire and movement and spotted the bunkers," said Sergeant Hall.

The ensuing battle was a grenade-tossing, bunker to bunker battle, as the infantrymen moved into destroy the NVA.

As the bitter struggle progressed, the 1st platoon found they had expended all their hand grenades. One squad each from the 2nd platoon and 3rd platoons collected all the available grenades and moved to aid the 1st platoon.

With the arrival of reinforcements and more grenades the "Professionals" continued the assault.

"It was a bunker to bunker, hole to hole fight," said Lieutenant Erby. "We would toss a grenade into a bunker and it would come flying back out. So we resorted to first throwing in a rock to confuse the enemy and then immediately tossing in a grenade. It worked."

The infantrymen finally knocked out the last bunker. In the search of the area that followed, they found that there had been a total of 14 heavily fortified bunkers connected by a trenchline. Twenty-nine dead NVA were counted by the Americans.

"Evidently the NVA had planned to ambush us as we moved out," said Lieutenant Erby, "but we moved before they were ready and caught them flat-footed."

Company B then moved to the high ground and later spotted a large number of NVA in the open. A Firebird from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company was called in and killed 10 of the enemy.

Charlie Company, clearing the high ground, had received heavy mortar fire the entire morning. However, the men continued to support Company B. As a result four NVA died from Charlie Company's intense barrage of rifle and machinegun fire.

Two days later soldiers of the 6th Regiment, 2nd ARVN Division swept the site of Company B's contact. The ARVN soldiers found six additional NVA killed by artillery from Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery.

There were several reasons for the success of the operation, but one in particular stood out.

"It was an all-out effort on everyone's part," said Sergeant Dale Phelps, Van Neuys, Calif., Company B, "It was realy fantastic how everyone worked together."

Sgt Talamoni luckiest man

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were taken to nearby Tien Phouc for medical evacuation.

When he regained consciousness, Sergeant Talamoni said, "I could see nothing but LOH's (Light Observation Helicopters) firing on enemy positions. And I couldn't see anyone from the downed helicopters we were on. I thought I would try to move back to the helicopter to get a smoke grenade to signal for help, but at that time the LOHs were running out of fuel and had to leave to refuel. I knew Charlie was somewhere around so I moved 65 yards to the south so the enemy couldn't get me. Right away, I dug a foxhole."

With a broken left leg and right arm, Sergeant Talamoni, armed with nothing but a bayonet, dragged himself farther from the enemy where he dug a foxhole to conceal himself.

Sergeant Talamoni continues, "I lay in the foxhole and I couldn't see anything...it was getting dark. I lay there until about 9:00 p.m. when I heard movement...some one was talking. It was the VC moving west. They were about 25 yards from where I was, but they couldn't see me because I was in the foxhole with some rocks over the top."

After the VC left the vicinity of his foxhole, he slept until about five the next morning. "I crawled back to the helicopter to get some smoke grenades. My legs were no use at all...I couldn't use them. But there was no smoke whatsoever. If I stayed there, Charlie would find me so I mved 55 yards west so if the LOHs came, they could spot me in the area." About 7:30 two LOHs from the 1st Battalion, 1st Cavalry did come. Sergeant Talamoni, who still had his lighter in his pocket built a small fire for the observation choppers to spot. They saw it and radioed an eight man rescue Huey, helicopter, which let the rescue team down to set up a defensive position while a MEDEVAC helicopter was called in.

If the rescue helicopters, by some chance, couldn't spot him, he said that he was anticipating to move to a landing zone eight miles away from where he had recently been. "I tied two sticks around my leg," Sergeant Talamoni said, "I figured that I could make it in about 12 hours."

When asked what he did when he was finally safe, Sergeant Talamoni said, "I was praying to God."

In 1964 Sergeant Talamoni went to Ranger School at Ft. Benning, Ga. TThe training that he received definitely payed off. "I learned quite a few things," he said, "I can survive, I don't need water or food for a long time, I know I can survive."

Thanks to the dedication of the courageous rescue group, Sergeant Talamoni is alive and safe and deeply grateful to his friends of Company D, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

Army promotion system outlined

(continued from page 2)

knowledge of what it takes to be a good NCO. Most of all, he must be able to lead other people. The specialists in these grades must be what their title says - experts in a technical field.

Promotions are not intended to be made merely as a reward for jobs well done, but rather to recognize the outstanding individual who has demonstrated that he can perform effectively at the next higher grade level and better than any other individual available.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

You say you are in a promotable status? Good. Now let's examine the regulation and determine how you compare against the eligibility and selection criteria.

There are several requirements you must meet to be eligible for selection for promotion. Some of these requirement can be waived. The waiver provisions are used to permit personnel who demonstrate exceptionally outstanding performance and high potential for leadership or increased ability in their field the opportunity to be considered for rapid promotion.

There are no provisions for waivers to grade E-8 and E-9. Waiver provisions apply separately for time in pay grade and time in service. Waiver for one half time in pay grade is permissible except for promotion to grade E-8 and E-9; maximum waiver for time in service is shown below:

Grade	Time in Service waivable
E-7	3 years
E-6	2 years
E-5	6 months

Commanders of units stationed in the Republic of Vietnam may also promote a small number of personnel to grades E-4 through E-6 without regard to time in grade and time in service. These promotions are to recognize the soldier who has demonstrated unusual potential and outstanding performance. This number cannot exceed 4% of the authorized E-4 or E-5 grades and 2% of the E-6 grades.

E-8 and E-9 must have at least 8 and 10 years of cumulative enlisted serivce creditable in the computation of his basic pay for promotion to the grades of E-8 and E-9, respectively. Prior service as an officer is not creditable for this purpose.

Time in grade and time in service eligibity requirements for promotion to grade E-7 are expanded for an indifinite period. A soldier is now eligible if he has three years in grade. This time is not waivable.

Promotion status: This cannot be waived. You are not in a promotable status and will not be promoted if you are:

Carried as absent without leave, in confinement, in desertion, absent in the hands of civil authrorities, in arrest, or sick (not in line of duty) on the unit morning report.

Awaiting or undergoing reclassification for inefficiency or disciplinary reasons. Within 60 days of voluntary retirement except that an individual who has occupied a position vacancy of a higher pay grade for a period of 90 days or more may be promoted one grade, if otherwise eligible, but not higher than E-6.

Recommendation: You must be recommended by the unit commander or your supervisor. This cannot be waived.

Award of MOS Code: you must be fully qualified for the award of the MOS in which the promotion is to be made. This cannot be waived.

Promotion Qualification Score: Not required in the Republic of Vietnam.

Proper pay grade: You must be serving in the pay grade next below that in which promotion is to be made.

Physical Qualification: You must be physically able to perform all the duties of the MOS and grade to which promotion is to be made. This may be waived.

Education: You must have completed the eighth grade, or the GED equivalent, for promotion to pay grade E-5. You must have a high school diploma, or the GED equivalent, for promotion to pay grades above E-5. This may be waived.

Position Vacancy: A position vacancy means there is an opening within the promotion authority's command in the grade and MOS for which you are being considered or there is one projected within 60 days.

Once you have been able to meet all of these requirements, with waivers if required, you are eligible for promotion. It is a this point that your commander can consider making a recommendation.

Our pin-up Miss Lynda White would like to remind you of the up-coming primary elections in September. You may obtain absentee ballots by completing and mailing the Federal Post Card Application (Standard Form 76, revised 1968). For further information on your state's primary consult your unit voting officer. (USMC Photo)

Somebody cares at Division Finance

By SGT Chuck Merdzinski

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE I0) – A Division finance officer with a unique idea has initiated an on-the-spot financial service for infantrymen in the field. It is a mobile operation that enables the combat soldier, who normally would have had to wait for a trip to the rear, to begin or cancel allotments, alleviate pay problems and handle other financial matters, all in his day laager position.

"The man out front is our main concern and he's the most important person to us," said Lieutenant Colonel William Cate, the Division finance officer. Last fall Lieutenant Colonel Robert Wilson, former commander of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, asked Colonel Cate if he could send someone out to the field to cash checks and give financial advice. Colonel Cate continued, "The only time they could get proper assistance was usually once every two months when they came to the rear for a stand-down; then they'd normally let it slide because they'd be more concerned with relaxing, seeing floor shows and having a few beers, which is natural."

After his first trip, Colonel Cate decided to start a financial assistance program for infantrymen in the field. It began with a two brigade test in January and has since spread to every battalion, fire support base and artillery battery in the entire division.

The "finance in a suitcase program" has been well accepted in the division. "The company commanders like the program because their men are being taken care of plus they don't have to send men to the rear for help, which keeps up foxhole strength," said Colonel Cate.

"I sure was thankful for the help I got when I was out in the bush near Iron Mountain," said Specialist Four William Brockington, Richmond, Va. "I was shocked when I saw the Division Finance Officer get off the chopper. I didn't think a finance officer of his rank would come out here."

"I feel that by being in the field part of the time and seeing the end product of things that we do at finance, I can detect problem areas and take corrective action. This way I have my finger on the pulse of our operation and it makes our overall service more effective," continued Colonel Cate.

"The message on our Christmas pay vouchers last year was 'somebody cares,'" concluded Colonel Cate. "It's not just a slogan; we mean it and try to make it so."

A mine dog from the 63rd Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker), completes the pyramid jump during a physical training exercise. The pyramid is one of eight obstacles the dogs go through twice daily.
(Photo by SSG Vern Kaiser)

Allied team hits VC

By CPT David W. Owens

CHU LAI (F TRP 8th CAV IO) – While large body counts and the discovery of huge ammo and weapon caches monopolize the headlines of the newspapers in the states and overseas, it is the small isolated actions that are determining the course of the war in Vietnam.

These small, often vicious confrontations are relatively unpublicized. Nonetheless they are the bread and butter operations of a war like that being fought in Vietnam, the type of unglamorous tedious operations that will eventually break the enemy's back.

Typical of this type of isolated action was a visual reconnaissance recently conducted by F Troop, 8th Cavalry, "Blue Ghost," in the northernmost part of the 196th Infantry Brigade area of operations about seven miles east of LZ Ross. Intelligence indicated that a VC company was active in the area.

Also working in the immediate area was an element of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and a platoon of Marines.

When the Blue Ghost team of one light observation helicopter (LOH), two Cobras, and three slicks full of the air Cavalry troop's organic aero-rifle platoon arrived on station and identified the friendly locations and became aware of their intentions, it immediately became obvious to the team leader, Captain Bruce Rolfe, that with just a little coordination between the armored cavalry, Marines and the addition of the Blue Ghost assets, the stage could be set for a classic small scale operation. With the Marines blocking to the north along a river, the cavalry pouncing from the east, and the southern and western boundaries of the area to be searched delineated by rivers, the setting was perfect.

The next four of five hours were characterized by hard work periodically punctuated by sharp but brief exchanges of fire, as Blue Ghost screened between the cavalry, Marines, and river boundaries.

Hard work all right. It could even be hazardous to your health.

By the time the sweep was completed, it had accounted for six VC and a modest numer of weapons and ammunition captured. Not very impressive when compared to the statistics coming out of Cambodia or the results of the fighting at Hiep Duc, but for the VC company operating in that particular area, it represented a setback.

This type of small, productive action is being reinacted every day, often more than once a day, over the entire length and breadth of the Division's AO by various Americal and Allied units.

Sergeant Warren L. Foster, Mobile, Ala., climbs from a tunnel after searching it for VC on a search mission near Que Son. Sergeant Foster is a member of the Aero-Rifle Platoon, "Blueghosts," F Troop, 8th Cavalry.
(Photo by SSG L.E. Perkins)

Cav charge routs enemy

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – A lightening-like charge through tangled jungle and dry rice paddies into the midst of an NVA mortar platoon recently netted a 196th Infantry Brigade cavalry troop 16 enemy killed, four prisoners and numerous weapons and ammunition.

Reacting to intelligence reports on the location of an estimated NVA mortar platoon, F Troop, 17th Cavalry, received orders to move to a sandy, brush covered coastal area five miles north of Tam Ky.

"We moved 16 miles in barely over an hour," said Captain Roscoe Cartwright, Cincinnati, F Troop commander.

Working with helicopter gunships from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company, F Troop approached the suspected enemy location and as they deployed into assault position immediately began receiving rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire.

"We saw two NVA trying to escape as we entered the woodline and opened up on them," said Sergeant William Liggio, Queens, N.Y. As the two enemy soldiers fell the cavalrymen continued the charge.

The enemy had tried to fight from the low level sand dunes and brushed jungle but the intensive fire from the gunships and cavalry troop had cut them down.

As the tracks entered the woodline the second time they encountered little enemy resistance and began counting dead enemy soldiers.

Confiscated weapons included nine AK-47 rifles, 300 rounds of small arms ammunition, a Soviet pistol, five packs, and 25 CHICOM grenades.

Tells it like it is . . . . . .

What are the best counseling procedures to use for drug abusers?

In general, the counselor whose approach is punitive is unlikely to succeed. Channels of communication must be opened, and the patient must acquire some measure of trust in the counselor. By listening to the drug abuser's story, the counselor should not give the impression that he is condoning the behavior because he is listening without judging. He must try to understand what the drug means to the patient, and then determine what non-drug alternatives are available.

Group therapy is often successful. Many treatment programs are very effectively using ex-abusers as part of their counseling staffs. Naturally, the skill of the therapist is an important element in achieving success, but the most important factor is the desire of the user to stop using.

Is it possible to obtain medical help without incurring legal penalties?

A certified physician or psychologist can generally assure patients that discussion of drug abuse problems will be kept confidential. Practically all enforcement agencies cooperate with the person who wants help.

Cayuse spells tough

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – They have a rippling buzz that you can't mistake. A Cayuse is about one-third the mass of a Huey UH-1H. Pilots and crew members here at the 196th Infantry Brigade Aviation Section have zipped these small crafts into nests of NVA in recent operations, posing a new threat to the enemy. Never meant to join in heavy combat, these little ships have suddenly found themselves caught in more and more lead-filled episodes over Quang Tin Province.

"We always flew air reconnaissance, cover for convoys and resupply," said Warrant Officer Dave Marchant of Arlington, Tex., as he discussed the toughness of the LOH. "Now, a lot of routine hops have turned hot."

"It was my first day out," Captain Ted Brodzinski, Brookhaven, Pa., commander of the 196th Aviation Section, continued with an example. "The mission sent us over Barrier Island. We were to check out the results of an artillery mission that had previously been fired."

The pilot's bubble of the LOH made a fair target as it skimmed by at 50-foot altitude.

A .30 caliber round smashed through the bubble, cut a hole in the door frame, and exited a half-inch below Captain Brodzinski's hand. "My first day out," repeated Captain Brodzinski.

After that it got hotter.

On an aerial recon a few weeks later, with a Popular Force (PF) platoon five miles northwest of Tam Ky, another Brigade LOH zoomed along ahead of the search. Specialist Five Bob Nutini, Hancock, Mich., was the craft's machinegunner.

"I saw a VC running from the PF," said Specialist Nutini, "and I did him a job. I watched him go down, but we couldn't get in close to check." A spatter of rifle fire flashed up at the small chopper and it withdrew after directing artillery fire on the enemy. "It was an ambush," in his opinion.

Ambush or no, the crews from Aviation continued to set an unusually brisk fighting pace for an air support unit carrying relatively light arms. Two other gunners killed three NVA in a close-range exchange of fire on hostile Barrier Island. Before long, 10 enemy had fallen to the aviators' guns.

Entering sizzling firefights is a good example of what can happen when LOH crews are flown in all types of operations. While enemy mortar shells whizzed by, WO Marchant pulled half an exhausted infantry company from a peak about 20 miles west of Tam Ky. A LOH only seats four, including the pilot, but all the bigger ships were tied up. After eleven months in Vietnam WO Marchant reviewed his experiences.

"The only time I was hit, it was so small I didn't know about it until the end of the day," he said. Another pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Carlos Quinteros, Tampa, Fla., received hits in his aircraft on three consecutive days but still flies the same airways.

It looks as if the ubiquitous Cayuse will share a larger and larger slice of thy support action–all the support action. A door gunner who fought on Barrier Island capsuled their ultimate mission aptly: "It was us or them."