Infantrymen prepare to board waiting helicopters. Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, were being airlifted into a suspected enemy position northwest of Tam Ky.
(Photo by PFC Richard Campbell)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Division Recap

Sharp increase enemy loses 154

In sporadic but heavy action the 'Chargers" in Operation Frederick Hill saw increased action as they killed 77 enemy soldiers and confiscated several weapons. Elsewhere in Operation Iron Mountain action also increased for the 'Jungle Warriors" as they tallied 39 of the enemy. Action for the "Brave and Bold" in Operation Geneva Park continued light and scattered as they accounted for nine enemy killed.

Frederick Hill

Action for "Legionnaires" of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry began with Alpha Company which engaged an NVA element in the triple canopy jungle west of Tam Ky. After an hour's firefight the enemy broke contact leaving behind four dead NVA.

Later in the week Company C, during a sweep and clear operation west of Tam Ky discovered a tunnel complex containing 30 AK-47 rounds and assorted NVA equipment.

Heaviest action occured in the "Legionnaires" area of operation when Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery stationed at Kham Duc airstrip

(continued on page 6)

Hiep Duc offensive

Thrust costs NVA 590

By 1Lt David Coffman

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) -- Division soldiers recently helped turn back a major NVA offensive in Hiep Duc Valley. In continual heavy action the Americans decimated elements of the 1st NVA Regiment, killing 590 in the span of two months.

This infantryman from the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry moves cautiously through tall grass near Hiep Duc. (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

"The enemy's primary aim was to set back and if possible destroy the pacification program in Hiep Duc District " said First Lieutenant John Hunsinger, St. Louis, a member of the 196th Infantry Brigade. "They also hoped to harass the surrounding firebases."

The enemy triggered their offensive by attacking LZ Siberia, secured by Company D, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, and Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery. The Americans drove off the enemy, killing 10.

Fighting the first day took place around the area of Hiep Duc District, 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Polar Bears" of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, killed 34 in a series a series of sharp firefights.

One of these firefights began when Company D came under heavy fire in an open rice paddy.

"They were well-entrenched in bunkers," said Sergeant Larry Griffin, Chicago, squad leader for Company D. "For a while we were pinned down."

"Firebird" gunships from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company responded to the infantry's call and raked the NVA positions. When the enemy retreated, the "Chargers" swept across the rice paddy and found seven NVA dead.

In the next few days elements of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, and 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry--both from the 196th Infantry Brigade--were airlifted into the battle area as fighting continued to rage. In a major ground action, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, repulsed an attack on its night laager, killing an NVA battalion commander and 18 of his men.

U.S. Air Force jets and Division helicopter gunships played havoc with the enemy. In two days the gunships of F Troop, 8th Cavalry, accounted for 61 enemy dead. In the two days following ARVN soldiers operating in the area found 76 more NVA killed by gunships and airstrikes.

At the end of six days of

(continued on page 6)

'Always First' find cache

By SP4 Peter R. Sorenson

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) -- Company A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry didn't just happen into a large rice cache during operations three miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. The "Always First" of the 11th Infantry Brigade were working on a highly educated guess. Revealed Lieutenant Colonel Roger A. Culbertson, Longview, Wash., battalion commander, "We have uncovered five to six tons of concealed rice and expect the total to reach ten tons. This rice has been taken from a VC controlled village. We had expected to find a cache, because we have often detained VC in this area with money and orders to buy rice from the villagers."

Colonel Culbertson went on to explain that the local farmers were allowed by law to have on hand at any one time a certain amount of rice described in a written permit. Hidden rice, regardless of quantity, is a violation of the law. Great quantities of hidden rice usually prove earmarked for VC agents and extortionist. On a mission of this nature one always operates with the local Vietnamese authorities. During this search the district chief has been present."

Reported Specialist Four Larry W. Bell, Ft. Smith, Ark., "We found rice all over the place...polished and unpolished. It was found in hay stacks, under hooch floors and in berms around the ville. Some hooches had three or four home-made 55 gallon metal drums of rice buried under their floors."

Finding the rice is fairly easy compared to recovering the valuable commodity. The intense summer heat complicates the already dirty and heavy labor of shoveling the buried drums half empty, lifting it and finally trucking the rice out of the ville to a collection point where it is bagged and awaits air transportation to Tu My refugee resettlement village.

The local VC have been hurt by the 11th Infantry Brigade action against his food stores. Defensive positions have been harrassed by incoming sniper rounds. Said Captain Alan G. Vitters, Long Island, N.Y., "Last night we had two 'lob bombs' thrown at us. The local VC are definitely upset at our discoveries."

Each day the men continue to reclaim the hidden rice. It is hard work but the men know that they are inflicting a heavy toll on the enemy without firing a shot.

Attention!

Would you like to become an information officer or specialist?

The Division Information Office currently has vacancies in both officer and enlisted grades for qualified personnel.

Qualifications for consideration are:

1. Prior journalistic experience.
2. Academic training or degree in journalism, photography, English, literature, history, international affairs, etc.
3. Availability for transfer within the division.

Personnel selected by the IO will be given OJT for MOS qualification. For more information contact Master Sergeant Turner Chu Lai 2414 or 3212.

OPERATION STARBURST is what is happening!

Kham Duc airstrip gets needed repair

By PFC Guy Winkler

KHAM DUC (AMERICAL IO) – Various elements of the Division are presently on a top priority mission to repair 5,000 feet of abandoned runway for use at Kham Duc, approximately seven miles east of Laos.

The runway, which was previously occupied by the 5th Special Forces in 1968, was abandoned in May of that year.

Today, A Company of the 26th Engineer Battalion along with men of the Seabee Construction element are working together to reconstruct the damaged runway and surrounding area. Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade and battery units from the 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery are providing security of the area.

In the middle of July the construction teams, infantry elements and artilley units were inserted at Khan Duc. "There was very little enemy opposition when we first arrived," says Lieutenant Colonel Alton H. Coleman, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry. "It was all just small arms and M-79 fire," he says.

With support elements surrounding the runway on the hills on all sides, the engineers and EOD teams began the task of removing booby trap mines from the strip. "We have found over 150 booby traps which had to be dug out of the runway," says Captain Aaron Evans, commanding officer of A Company, 26th Engineers. He says, "Our primary concern is to patch up the runway for the planes to land."

The companies that set up night defensive positions on the hills around the runway have found enemy caches in the vicinity of their locations.

Delta Company of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry have found fifteen 60mm mortar rounds, ten CHICOM greandes and 200 AK-47 rounds. Alpha Company, third platoon found 1,420 rounds of .51 caliber ammo, 40 batteries, two bunkers for sleeping and two grenades. The 26th Engineers found a tunned complex with sleeping positions, three ruck sacks with 30 pounds of fish.

Working under the blazing sun at Kham Duc, these engineers repair the holes in the runway after enemy booby traps were dug out. The Kham Duc runway was recently reoccupied by the Division after its abandonment in 1968. (Photo by PFC Guy Winkler)

Doughnut Dolly

Our Jo Jenkins

By SP4 Ed Breidenbach

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – "I couldn't squeeze into two or three years what I've experienced here in the past 10 months," explained Doughnut Dolly Jo Jenkins, "Vietnam is a most rewarding experience."

Jo is the new program director for the Red Cross here. She was formerly with the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the 4th Infantry Division as program director. She claims Chu Lai is the "most beautiful and most pleasant."

She especially liked An Khe saying, "It was very flexible, you have a constant awareness of where you are because the division moves around every two weeks." She moved right along with the unit too, moving close to the Cambodian border when the division went there.

Two months before getting her B.S. in Exercise Physiology from Winthrop College, she saw an advertisement on the bulletin board at school. She sent in for some information about the Red Cross program then joined after the summer was over.

Jo enjoys the work very much and noted, "You learn more about Americans here than in America. There isn't the misunderstanding between man and woman, because the communication is a lot freer here. You sort of relate on the same plane."

Being the organizer of all programing for the Dollys here she has some big frustrations. "Sometimes there are good weeks where everything goes smooth and all the girls get out, then there are some where nothing fits at all. That's bad, but we work around it."

Not liking routine, Jo plans to go to Europe, buy a car and travel around for a while, "to get my mind ready for going back home."

Part 1 of an R&R series

Start R&R on a good note

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Have you ever dreamed of being snuggled in a plush hotel on a tropical island with pockets full of money and nothing to do but eat, drink, and relax?

If the dream comes true, you are either a jet-set VIP doing your usual thing, or a jet-sent soldier on a five-day R&R tour in one of six exotic cities living it up.

Want to get away from it all? If you have been in Vietnam three months or longer, you are eligible for R&R. Chose one of six pleasure seeking location; Bangkok, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Sydney, Taipei and Tokyo.

Continuing Series

But you are not ready yet! The SOUTHERN CROSS will help you plan for those glorious five days. Each week this newpaper will highlight one of the sights.

In taking advantage of R&R you must submit an application through your company orderly room at least one month in advance of the date you desire.

Servicemen assigned here are entitled to one out-of-country R&R during a one-year tour. Those who extend 90 days or more may take a second R&R, and are eligible any time subsequent to the date extension is approved. A seven-day leave to any of the R&R sites also is available to servicemen in Vietnam.

The uniform must be worn to and from R&R departure sites. Civilian clothing is mandatory after arrival at most sites and is recommended for all.

Financial arrangements should be made well in advance. MPC used in Vietnam is not valid elsewhere and must be changed into U.S. currency before departure.

Shots-shot record, ID Card, identification tags and orders are required in order to board the aircraft. Shots must be up-to-date and cholera immunization administered at least five days before departure.

Smallpox vaccinations must be taken at least two weeks in advance. Those going to Bangkok must have received a cholera shot within four months; all other locations will accept cholera shots taken within the previous six months.

Safeguard Luggage

Baggage–a maximum of 66 pounds applies to all R&R sites. A copy of R&R orders should be placed in each piece of luggage to help safeguard against loss.

Personnel at R&R centers provide detailed information, change currency, arrange tours, and obtain reduced-price hotel reservations.

If you carefully choose a site which offeres the type of recreation you seek, and if you plan your trip beforehand, R&R can be a once in a lifetime event you'll never forget.

198th's guitar playing chaplain

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

TRA BINH (198th INF BDE IO) – With a guitar slung over his shoulder instead of a rifle, and carrying a bag containing religious articles, books, and sheet music, the chaplain dismounted the helicopter. Later in the day, using an altar made of discarded ammo boxes and improvising a bunker for a pew, Chaplain (Captain) Phillip A. Nichols, Kalispell, Mont., 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, began his service, with a song.

"I first learned to play the guitar when I was in junior high school in Alaska," Chaplain Nichols said. "I played it there in my father's church and later, when I had a curch in Idaho, I incorporated the guitar in my service there."

The men of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, responded enthusiastically as the caplain strummed his guitar and led the chorus. After the introductory song, the service continued in the more conventional way with prayer, readings, and meditation.

"The service is basically the same," Chaplain Nichols said. "But the songs lend an added interest. Most of the music is religious or folk–like Peter, Paul and Mary tunes or things by Ralph Carmichael, the composer of contemporary religious music–and I think it helps create an intimacy which benefits the service. I used to use a cassette tape player to provide music, but with the guitar the service is more personal and informal."

After the service, the chaplain and the men he visits enjoy sitting around talking, exchanging news and passing the guitar and trading songs.

In the morning, Chaplain Nichols boarded another helicopter, his guitar slung over his shoulder, and flew elsewhere to conduct another contemporary dialogue with another company.

Chaplain Eugene W. Scott, Trenton, Mo., an 11th Infantry Brigade chaplain celebrated the sacrament of baptism in the Song Tra Cau River two miles northwest of Duc Pho. The initiate is one of many initiated in this manner by the chaplain. (Photo by SGT John L. Smith)

SOUTHERN CROSS AMERICAL DIVISION

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Ty Cobb's grandson in 11th Inf Bde

By SP4 Thomas J. Neville

FSB BRONCO (AMERICAL IO) – Long before psychology became a formal part of the curriculum of high school and colleges, one of the greatest baseball players of all times was utilizing that science to get hits and steal bases.

Ty Cobb reigned sypreme among American League batters for 12 years between 1907-1919. His name is still etched in the American League record books under the categories of "most years leading league in batting; most career hits and most runs."

In 1962 Ty Cobb died, but the legendary figure is well-remembered by a man stationed here at the 11th Infantry Brigade's Fire Support Base Bronco. Private First Class Charles Lombard Cobb is the grandson of the immortal Ty Cobb and he shared some of his memories of his grandfather during a recent interview here.

"Ty Cobb was a big man and was always real calm and easy going," reflected the younger Cobb. Private Cobb, who lives in Daytona Beach, Fla., emphasized, "One reason why Ty Cobb made a name for himself was that he used psychology."

He related an anecdote which epitomizes the nature of Ty and the tactics he used on the ballfield. As the 1919 season was drawing to a close, Ty and "Shoeless" Joe Jackson were in hot contention to win the batting title.

Their respective teams were involved in a four-game series and it was evident that whichever man got the most hits in those four games would claim the crown. The individual competition was heightened by the fact that Ty Cobb and Jackson were close personal friends.

But Ty Cobb proved that friendship took a backseat to professional competition. The younger Cobb related, "At the start of the first game "Shoeless" Joe approached my grandfather and as a friendly gesture asked, how 'ya doing. But Ty turned away, giving his friend the cold shoulder."

Ty knew that he was working on Jackson's mind but Jackson was befuddled. As a result "Shoeless" Joe went into an immediate batting slump and Cobb collected enough hits to insure the crown. Near thy end of the last game, with the title wrapped up, Cobb approached his friend and gave him a friendly "Hi."

One of Ty Cobb's best assets was his ability to study and memorize everything about all of the players he played against. He was especially keen at scrutinizing all the moves of pitchers and consequently he emerged as a deadly base stealer.

Private Cobb tells another tale, which provides insight into his grandfather's amusing character. "At one of the old-timers games at Cooperstown, N.Y., Ty Cobb was about to take his place in the batter's box.

"He leaned over and whispered to catcher Mickey Corcoran that he's better move back a little because 'I'm a little older now, and may lose my bat.'"

Corcoran took Cobb's advice and Ty quickly laid down a perfect bunt, reaching first base because Corcoran was too far out of position to field the ball.

As Private Cobb relaxed from his duties atop a lonely hill near the South China seacoast, he reminisced about a more "personal" association he had with his grandfather.

"I was pitching in a little league game in Florida one day and all of a sudden the public address system announced that Ty Cobb was attending the game. I didn't know he had come from California to see my play and I was pretty embarrassed.

"I clammed up right away but during the game I managed to get two or three hits. I felt pretty good after the game when Ty Cobb told me I did real well and that he was very proud of me.

Sports seem to run in the Cobb family. Charles' father Ty Cobb II was a past winner of the Georgia State Tennis Title in singles competition. Ty Cobb III, who is older than Charles, played high school football.

Although Private Cobb is the grandson of one of baseball's greatest players, he admits that he is a football fan more than baseball.

He batted .300 when playing for Seabreeze High School in Daytona but shifted to football when he went to Georgia Tech in 1964. He played three years on Georgia's grid team.

One of Charles' ambitions when he returns to the States is to visit the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Using one of the more popular Vietnamese cliches' to describe Ty Cobb, Private Cobb said, "He was Number One."

A crew member of the "Huey" rescue ship connects a sling to the main rotor socket of a disabled LOH. The LOH rotor blade was previously removed to facilitate air-removal to Chu Lai. (Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)

39th Engineers build new road

By PFC Guy Winkler

LZ DOTTIE (AMERICAL IO) – A large road construction project in I Corps has just been completed by Bravo and Charlie Companies, 39th Engineer Battalion.

The road, which stretches 12 miles from Highway One to the Batangan Peninsula, now makes it possible for military and civilian vehicle transportation through the once enemy infested territory.

The territory approximately seven miles down the new road from highway One was once believed to be enemy headquarters of the 48th Local Force Battalion operating at Loc Son according to Captain Harry O. Taylor, commanding officer for Bravo Company. This area, known as the Athletic Field, has since been cleared by infantry support units of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade along with a company of RF/PF support.

First Sergeant Perry Davis said that the Athletic Field presented a hazard to the construction of the road. However, contact in the area has anniliated the threat of enemy interference.

"We're forcing the VC out to the ocean," Captain Taylor muses.

The units did experience numerous road mine obstacles on the project. With two mine detectors and a combat engineer vehicle, they found over 15 mines.

The units have also found caches of rice, clothes and peanuts along the road.

After the completion of a day's work on the new road, the night defensive position infantry unit would move right along with the work crew to provide security during the night.

The 39th Engineer Battalion's motto, incidently, is "Drive On."

3rd-18th Artillery remodels Cindy

By SP4 Ed Breidenbach

LZ CINDY (AMERICAL IO) – "Hey pal, watch slapping that tar around, it doesn't come off so easy."

"Why worry about my tar man, you seem to be doing the job on yourself well enough with that red paint."

And so goes the bickering and playful quabbling while members of A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery, repaint and rebuild gun pits and living areas. On one particular pit a coat of bright red paint is going on the ends of charge containers, water barrels and everything paintable. The olive drab monster in the middle really jumps out in sharp contrast.

"This place has turned into a firehouse," one member of a gun section noted, "all these little things keep us busy in between fire missions."

One major change during all the remodeling is the change of names on all the big guns. The two 175mm longs which ram their wallop over 20 miles if need be and the two eight inch tubes that lob explosives around 10 miles are being named the "Ace of Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts and Spades."

Painting the new names on the gun is big business. Each section is taking lots of time so as to do the finest job. This is part of the rivalry which goes on between all four sections. Shouting and boasting that one gun is better than another constantly bounce from the spotless pits.

But overall battery pride is shown by page 18 of the July issue of the Americal magazine that is proudly tacked on walls, ceilings and building posts.

Rivalry doesn't end at the pits edge. Emotions and tensions run high during the famous Tra Bong Valley Volleyball Championships. One charged player commented, "They arean't as bad as they used to be as far as bloodshed goes. At one time we had jungle rules - it often got pretty wild - because anything was legal."

Often during the day the men are called upon to 'put fire' on a target or provide support for the three infantry brigades in the Division.

After the deisel engines have quieted and the rumble and echo up and down the valley from the tremendous blast has stopped, life returns to. . . the paint can.

Thundering its ferocity, this 175mm gun of Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery roars at the enemy. Not given to idle chatter this big gun has just delivered a 147 pound high explosive message. (Photo by PFC Roger C. Hurlbutt)

Vehicles of the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion move along the Tra Bong Road in a convoy delivering supplies to the Special Force advised Civilian Irregular Defense Group camp. The road had not been used in over a year.

Men of the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion i
embarking on a convoy delivering supplies over the Tr
Forces advised CIDG camp.

Story and photos by S
Barnett and SP4 Louis Fa

On the return trip a wrecker with the convoy moves into position to give a disabled vehicle a lift back to Chu Lai.

Watching the endless parade, these local Vietnamese s
interest. The convoy on the way to Tra Bong had 116 veh

On the road to Tra Bong

By SP5 A.C. Barnett

CHU LAI (DIVARTY IO) – A convoy is like a roller coaster. It has only one direction, forward-and one speed, fast. You buy a ticket to ride the roller coaster but on a convoy the price you pay may be your life.

Tying the bandoliers of ammunition around their waists and adjusting the straps on their protective maskes, the men congregated around their trucks. At this point their mission was classified as secret.

Convoys are big business. A lot of mens lives, valuable vehicles and essential supplies are at stake. Exposed on narrow treacherous roads for long periods of time these metal chains cannot stop to fight, they must shake off any attack and push on. Security elements are assigned specific sectors where they can repel any enemy that attempts to attack the main body. No detail must be overlooked.

For the past four days 27 armor-plated tracked vehicles from H Troop, 17th Cavalry, had swarmed over a desolate 17 mile stretch of road. Part of the 198th Infantry Brigade these mighty Sheridan tanks and their assistants the scrappy 'A' Cavs had swept the road, a road that had not been cleared for over a year and favorite location for enemy mines.

In their trucks the men waited for the final word from the convoy commander who was in radio contact with H Troop. At last it came and 116 starters wound up their engines, 116 emergency brakes were released, almost 300 men struggled into their flak jackets and steel helments. As the convoy moved out the main gate the metallic snap of weapons being loaded broke the constant rumble of the straining engines.

The real business at hand only became serious again when they traded the smooth highway for the rutted dusty trail, leading due west to Tra Bong.

The first track and several trucks were met everywhere by excited children and curious adults. The parade seemed endless. The last vehicle of the chain went almost unnoticed, the people had had entirely enough of the dust and diesel fumes.

Watching the helicopters reconning their flanks and seeing the infantrymen scrambling out of their holes to take pictures the men of the convoy began to feel uneasy. Why the heavy air support? Why the unusual interest by the infantrymen? The reason was soon revealed. A Sheridan tank completely destroyed lay smoldering on its side, the turret 20 yards away on the other side of the road. Drivers and guards became very aware of the meager protection provided by the sandbags under their feet.

After more than four hours on the road the convoy entered Tra Bong the half-way point and old tensions were exchanged for new pressures.

The trucks with artillery ammo peeled off and headed to the storage area of Alpha Battery. Other vehicles sped to the Caribou runway where they disgorged their tons of asphalt to the waiting engineers. More than ten tons of rice for the local Vietnamese were haned over to the authorities.

The MPs waived the lead vehicles back to the road. The run home.

Mission completed successfully; another convoy safely home. The artillery will continue to fire, the Caribou will continue to fly, and the hungry villagers will be fed.

But how do you measure a convoy? The logistics people must record the number of miles, and vehicles, tons of payload and casualties, but the real yardstick is comprised of sweatbands, duty nostrils, heartbeats and hot sodas. The heros, as always, unseen, are the men of H Troop, who made it possible and paid the price.

spect their weapons before
Bong Road to the Special

P5 A.C.
eatherman

A gunship provides security for vehicles of the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion on the recent convoy. The 1st Battalion, 52 Infantry and H Troop 17th Cavalry, both of the 198th Infantry Brigade, assisted in securing the road.

on became tired and lost
cles in it and over 300 men.

A jeep and a V-11 armored vehicle provide ground security for the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion on the convoy to Tra Bong Special Forces advised CIDG camp. The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry and H Troop, 17th Cavalry assisted in securing the road which had not been used in over a year.

1st-82nd Arty repels sappers, kill 16

(continued from page 1)

received rocket, mortar and ground attack. Sappers were spotted in the wire and inside the perimeter by the artillerymen who quickly opened up on the enemy with fierce barrage of fire.

A later search of the area revealed 16 sappers killed by artillerymen. Also found in the search were 50 CHICOM grenades, nine RPG rounds and five AK-50's.

Later that morning Bravo Company, while on a sweep of a suspected enemy mortar position found six bunkers containing 19 82mm mortar rounds and four cases of charges.

About the same time a Recon platoon killed two more NVA with small arms fire during a sweep near the airstrip. Captured in the action was one 82mm mortar tube and 21 rounds for it.

The "Gimlets" of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, killed 13 of the enemy in the weeks action. Eight of the kills came in as many actions with elements of the battalion.

More action occured when eight NVA were struck down in action involving two 196th Infantry Brigade LOH's, Hornet gunship helicopters and Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery.

Alpha Company later found a small cache southwest of Tam Ky containing 600 rounds of .51 caliber ammunition, 300 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 100 pull-release detonating devices for booby traps and 20 B-40 rocket adapters.

Iron Mountain

In increased action throughout the week "Sykes' Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry accounted for nine enemy killed.

Early in the week C Company engaged an estimated nine VC, while on a patrol in the lowlands north of Duc Pho. After the ensuing firefight the company turned up two VC killed, two AK-47 rifles and 15 CHICOM grenades.

The next day Charlie Company after receiving sniper fire engaged six VC in the same vicinity and this time accounted for one of the enemy.

During the week Bravo Company teamed up with gunships to kill four VC of an unknown size enemy force in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

In light sporadic action for the week the "Gimlets" of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry accounted for seven enemy and uncovered an NVA basecamp composed of six huts.

While on a routine patrol near the coast of the South China Sea south of Duc Pho Recon killed two VC. One of the enemy was killed in the initial engagement and the other evaded to a tunnel and was killed there when the element blew the tunnel.

Later in the week, while working in the hills south of Duc Pho a Short Range Reconnaissance Patrol from Company B engaged and killed three VC.

In daily sporadic contacts during the week the "Always First" of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry tallied 10 VC killed and found a sizeable cache

In the middle of the week Charlie Company while working with Popular Force 118 discovered a 60mm mortar round cache in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. The mid-morning find contained 20 rounds which were in a camouflaged hole covered with bamboo.

The same day Delta Company engaged an enemy sampan on the Song Tra Khuc River northwest of Duc Pho. Six VC were killed as a result of the engagement.

Geneva Park

The "Professionals" of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry accounted for six of the nine enemy killed in light daily contacts.

In mid-week Bravo Company working in an area west of Chu Lai, engaged three VC carrying weapons. The infantrymen swept the area and found two Viet Cong killed.

Alpha and Delta Companies accounted for the "Professionals" other kills in as many contacts during the week.

In a light week of action the "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry found numerous explosive devices and had Vietnamese children turn over one 57mm and one 75mm recoiless rifle round and one mine.

While on a patrol in an area southeast of Chu Lai, Alpha Company discovered two VC bodies. The two kills were attributed to a contact Alpha Company had late the previous week.

In a period of one hour Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry found a 250 pound bomb, two tunnels, a small basecamp, and killed one VC in an area northwest of Chu Lai.

The bomb was found shortly before the "Professionals" reached the site of the tunnel complex at late morning. The unit requested an EOD team to blow the bomb.

Within minutes, Bravo killed one VC carrying a rifle. The carbine was evacuated to an LZ. A short time later, the company found a small basecamp containing two hooches, a blacksmith shop with tools and several bunkers.

Guided by a cannoneer a CH-54 Crane lowers a 155mm howitzer to its new fire base beside the camp's airstrip. Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery was airlifted into Kham Duc the first day of the operation. (Photo by SP5 A.C. Barnett)

3d-21st grabs med cache

By SGT Dave McKeon

LZ CENTER (196th INF BDE IO) – NVA medics in the 196th Infantry Brigade's area have probably postponed a lot of operations lately. Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, took enemy scalpels, forceps, bone saws and medical texts in a surprise supply grab northwest of Tam Ky.

The second platoon of Delta Company found the secret enemy cache when they veered onto a path perpendicular to the main route.

"The patch had some thick brush growing over it in some spots and we had to push our way through it," said Specialist Four Howard Taylor, Harrisburg, Pa.

Not far down the path the infantrymen saw a hooch built of new straw.

"The bamboo uprights supporting the roof were still green," noted Specialist Four Michael Dorman, Pittsburgh, second platoon medic.

As they approached the hooch, the pointman saw an SKS rifle leaning upright inside the hooch.

"We thought it was booby-trapped because it was just leaning there, right out in the open," continued "Doc" Dorman. "So we made a field expedient grappling hook out of shoestring and pulled the rifle out of the hooch from a safe distance. Nothing happened."

Seeing no one around, the infantrymen search the hooch for enemy equipment.

Said Private First Class Dave Farris, Dearborn, Mich., "Next to the rifle was an aluminum case approximately 18x8x8 inches–right out in plain sight."

The case contained a 120 piece sterling silver surgical kit, sporting chrome plated forceps, scalpels, bone saws, bandage scissors and other complimentary medical equipment, including textbooks.

All seized surgical equipment and documents were extracted to LZ Center for further examination.

NVA loses heavy in Hiep Duc thrust

(continued from page 1)

fighting the Americans had killed 255 NVA. Of the ground units the 4th Battalion 31st Infantry, had inflicted the most damage, killing 62.

"At this stage a compartive lull followed as the NVA began to operate in smaller units," said Lieutenant Hunsinger.

Tension mounted during the next month. The action consisted of isolated skirmishes punctuated by heavy firefights.

In one of the bitterest engagements, Company D, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, combined with Troops A and C, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, to kill 15 NVA in an afternoon of firefighting. Two weeks later, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, supported by Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, killed 18 NVA.

Then the "lull" ceased as the NVA launched a second offensive. Elements of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, came into heavy contact near LZ West. Three companies from the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, were flown into the area in an operation which was to climax one and one half months of fierce combat. For four days the "Chargers" searched for the main NVA force, killing 16 enemy in the process. On the fifth day they found what they were after.

Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, were conducting search and clear missions through the rugged jungle terrain. Company C was moving along the high ground while Company B searched the valley floor.

As Company B moved across a small, grassy opening, the point platoon began receiving heavy fire from an enemy bunker complex. The infantrymen fired back while gunships strafed the NVA from above. Then Company B assaulted.

"We used fire and movement," said Staff Sergeant Charlie Hall, Hookertown, N.C., Company B. "It was a bunker to bunker, hole to hole fight." In the next four hours, Company B killed 33 NVA.

On the same day, Company C hit another NVA force well entrenched in bunkers and spider holes. In the fight that followed Company C laid down a heavy barrage of fire and called in gunships, artillery and airstrikes.

In the following weeks the action lessened. The allies continued to take a toll of the enemy, but it was evident that the main NVA forces had withdrawn. The enemy had paid a high price for its entry into Hiep Duc Valley. The Refugee Center was still very much in existence, and the Vietnamese had already rebuilt the postion previously destroyed by the enemy.

Three Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, infantrymen bag but a fraction of the ten ton rice cache uncovered during operations northwest of Quang Ngai City. The rice is being shipped to Tu My refugee resettlement village. (Photo by SP4 Peter R. Sorensen)

'Chargers' use Che Guevara tactics

By 1Lt Michael Simmons

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – A technique often used by such guerillas as Che Guevara in South America and the Viet Cong in Vietnam is now being successfully employed by the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Former VC and NVA have eagerly returned to the guerilla concepts of psychological persuasion. But the rules have changed, and their patrols are headed by American infantrymen.

"The armed propaganda teams are composed of 10 to 20 former NVA or VC who have rallied to the GVN," said First Lieutenant William Lyle, Merritt Island, Fla., psychological operations officer of the brigade. "Their mission is to persuade members of the VC infrastructure local VC to give themselves up."

The propaganda teams operate from Tam Ky. Whenever the psychological operations officer feels they are needed, a request is sent to the Tam Ky Chieu Hoi Center and from there to the Province Chief who controls the propaganda teams.

The teams operate in conjunction with American forces.

"They enter the villages and talk with the people to gather information," said Lieutenant Lyle. "All the Americans do is to extablish security around the village."

The team members, who may train as long as six months in Tam Ky, put the villagers at ease. They know the customs intimately. Often they point to themselves as examples of how well ralliers are treated by Americans and the South Vietnamese government.

"One of the best things about the teams," said Lieutenant Lyle, 'is that the people of the villages can talk and identify with them. It makes for better communications."

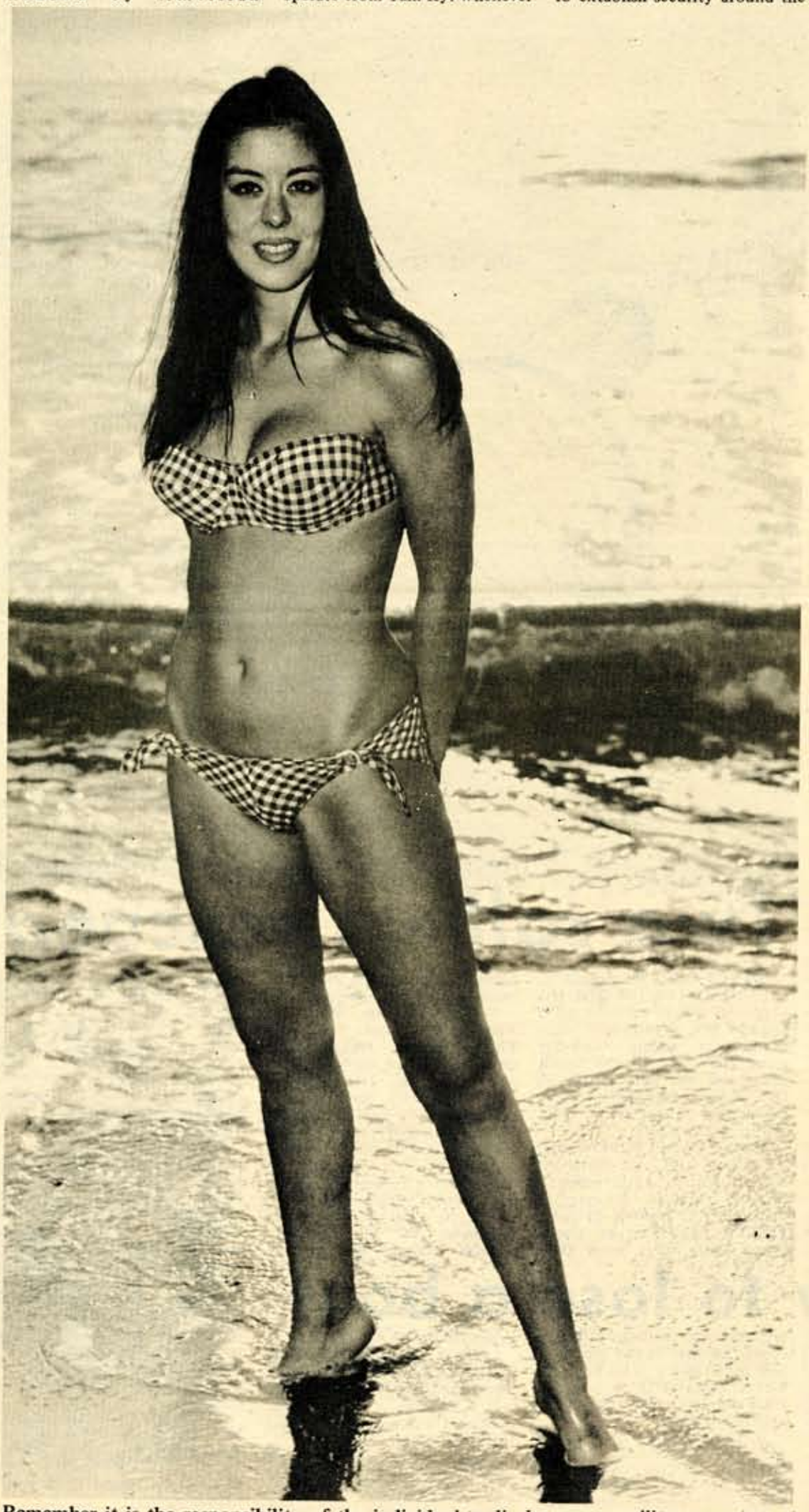
The concept of armed propaganda teams is relatively new but is working out well. Teams were successfully used recently in Hiep Duc Valley, 21 miles west of Tam Ky.

Company D, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, escorted an armed propaganda team to the village of Som Binh. The Americans established security around the suspect village and the quiet spoken propaganda team enter the village.

After entering the village, members of the team began politely conversing with the welcoming villagers. They spoke with all ages: old men, old women, even children, softly asking questions and urging those with knowledge of the VC or their activities to tell all.

When they left the village and returned to their headquarters, the team had learned some important tactical information about VC operations in the area.

"This was the first time we had tried using the armed propaganda teams in our area of operations," said First Lieutenant Mike Donohoe, Almo, Calif., civil affairs offier, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry. "We were well satisfied with the results and plan to use the teams more often."



Remember it is the responsibility of the individual to display proper military courtesy at all times. He should also be in full uniform at all times and show respect to his superiors and peers to establish a sense of mutual respect and unit esprit de corps.

AMB mechanized keeper of records

By PFC Guy Winkler

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Split-second computers and highly mechanized machines are the surroundings for personnel attached to Chu Lai's Administrative Machine Branch (AMB).

Every single change in each individual's 201 military record file in the Division is recorded through a highly specialized card system at AMB.

Initial data is collected concerning each individual by the Personnel Service Divisions and Companies (PSD/PSC) as each individual in processed. Three cards; a status card, qualification card and suspense card are prepared on each person. But this is just initial data, it is still necessary to collect all changes; which average two changes per individual per month, occuring while the individual is a member of the unit.

The Personnel Management Accounting Card Process (PERMACAP) system is designed to provide timely and accurate information to both the United States Army Personnel Information System throught area data processing activities and the PSD/PSC, the organization staff, and the units of the organization.

The AMB in Chu Lai operates on a 24-hour basis and data processes more than 25,000 people. The branch is staffed with 27 skilled personnel.

An operator for AMB has a 74 series MOS or six weeks training. A programmer has 12 weeks of instruction and a repairman, 36 weeks. Sergeant First Class Larry E. Gamble, machine accounting supervisor, says, "All of the personnel working at AMB in Chu Lai are highly trained individuals with either the Army Service School or from civilian experiences." He says, "These fields include systems analysts who design and implement what to do, machine operators who run all the punchcard equipment, console operators who run the 1005 computer, customer engineers who maintain all the equipment, data analysts who code all of the input documents and keypunchers who punch all input into the punchcards."

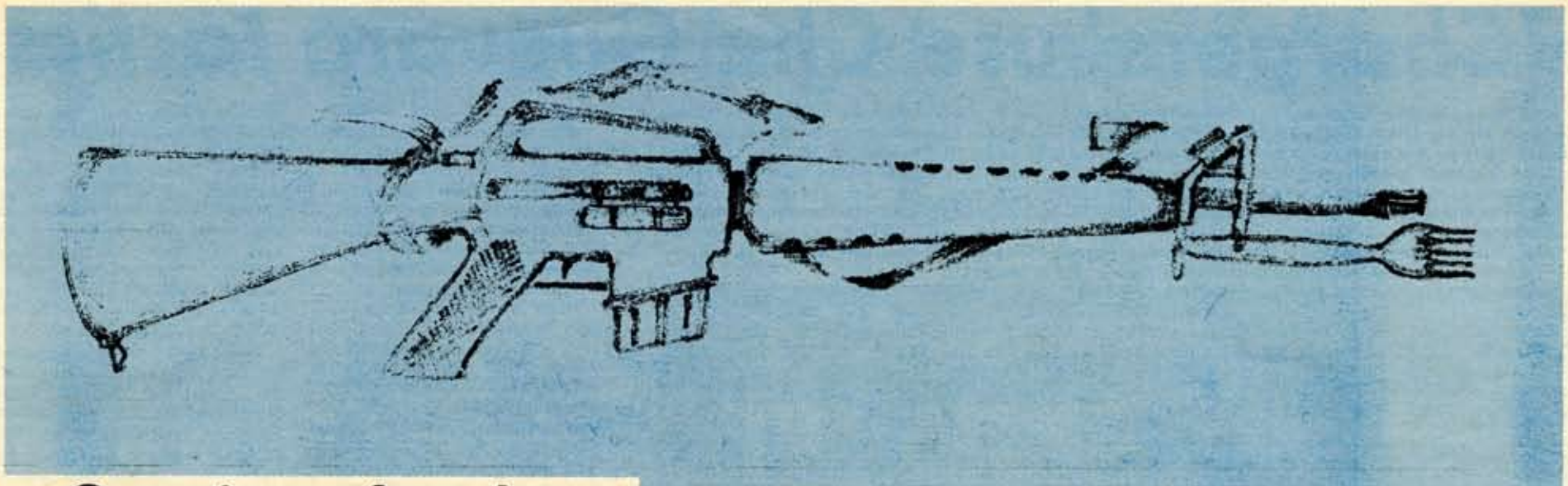
Each morning the AMB collects information from the morning report of personnel record changes and sends the prepared card through a 600 card per minute UNIVAC 1005 machine to "match-up" with the individuals stored card. The necessary update is transferred to the card and the new information is then stored in the memory bank of the machine. The additional information is then relayed to USARV for updating and from USARV to the Department of the Army in Washington, D.C.

Chief Warrent Officer Neil A. Tyler who is in charge of AMB operations for Chu Lai says, "Our primary mission is to provide PERMACAP data processing service for the Division." He adds, "In addition we provide Americal data to the USARV data center to update the Department of the Army's tape file.

With the information collected at AMB, a personnel information roster is prepared twice a month to provide the unit commander and personnel officers with the information they need to manage the manpower they have available. It inckudes each position in their unit paragraph line number, giving the authorized grade, MOS and number of men. It also includes who holds each position giving his name, grade, social security number, primary MOS, detailed MOS, date of rank, and date of loss. The report also gives information as to whether the unit is over or under strength for each paragraph line number.

Specialist Seven James Hubbard, systems analyst, says that although the machines at AMB are of a most intricate design, "The data must be double checked to ensure the validity of the information." That's why a "verifier" machine is used in keypunching the data. The verifier takes the cards that are already punched and repunches the exact information. If the information does not correspond, the verifier stops the card and the error is corrected.

Besides the UNIVAC 1005 machine, AMB utilizes the IBM 84 sorter which handles 2,000 cards per minute and an IBM 188 collator which matches cards at 13,000 cards per minute, and an IBM 519 reproducer. The building which houses the machines is air conditioned because the 1005 machine can not function above 80 degrees Farenheit.



C-rations for the rice paddy gourmet

By SP4 Thomas J. Neville

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Did you ever wonder what the "C" in C-ration means? Hold on to your steel pots guys...the C's represent the "Crowned Culmination of Combat Culinary."

That's a mouthful in itself--but a little research has borne that statement true. All of you bush-weary GIs who grudgingly peel off the lids of C's, spoon a few mouthfuls at chow time then spend your after-dinner hours complaining, while your gastric juices work overtime, are in for a rude awakening.

C-rations, when prepared properly, can offer a tantalizing taste treat to the man in the field. Simply by following the easy recipes in the "Charlie Ration Cookbook," you too can become a Rice Paddy Gourmet.

The cookbook was specially prepared by the makers of TABASCO brand pepper sauce and each recipe is based on the contents in those little olive drab cans, which are "humped" daily by the fighting man in the field.

For those leg soldiers who enjoy guests for dinner, the "Fox Hole Dinner for Two" is recommended. Your menu should list this delight as Turkey and Chicken Poulette. To prepare, melt butter, or oil or fat (if available) add flour and stir until smooth. Then add milk and continue to cook until sauce begins to thicken.

Next, add cheese spread and cook until the cheese melts and sauce is even. Empty cans of turkey load and chicken noodles into the cheese sauce.

Season with Tabasco, salt and pepper to taste and continue cooking. Cover poulette with crumbled crackers and serve piping hot.

For the non-garish man who isn't concerned with fancy cuisine, try the Tin Can Casserole. First melt butter, oil or fat and saute onions in it. Add the cheese from the B-2 unit and wait unitil it is melted and well blended.

After adding the crackers, return to tine can or other cooking utensil. Then combine a can of franks and beans with the beefsteak and potatoes to this mixture and the correct seasoning (if available) and add a dash of Tabasco just before eating. Fresh vegetables can be obtained during a sojourn through a village.

Here's another preview from the unique cookbook and this one should surpass what your mother-in-law forces on you when you complain of a cold. It's called Patrol Chicken Soup. Again we begin by melting butter, oil or fat. Then saute onions and add flour. Stir until smooth and thich and gradually add the hot chicken stock until soup is well blended and thickened.

Add Tabasco, salt and pepper and serve immediately with broken pieces of crackers.

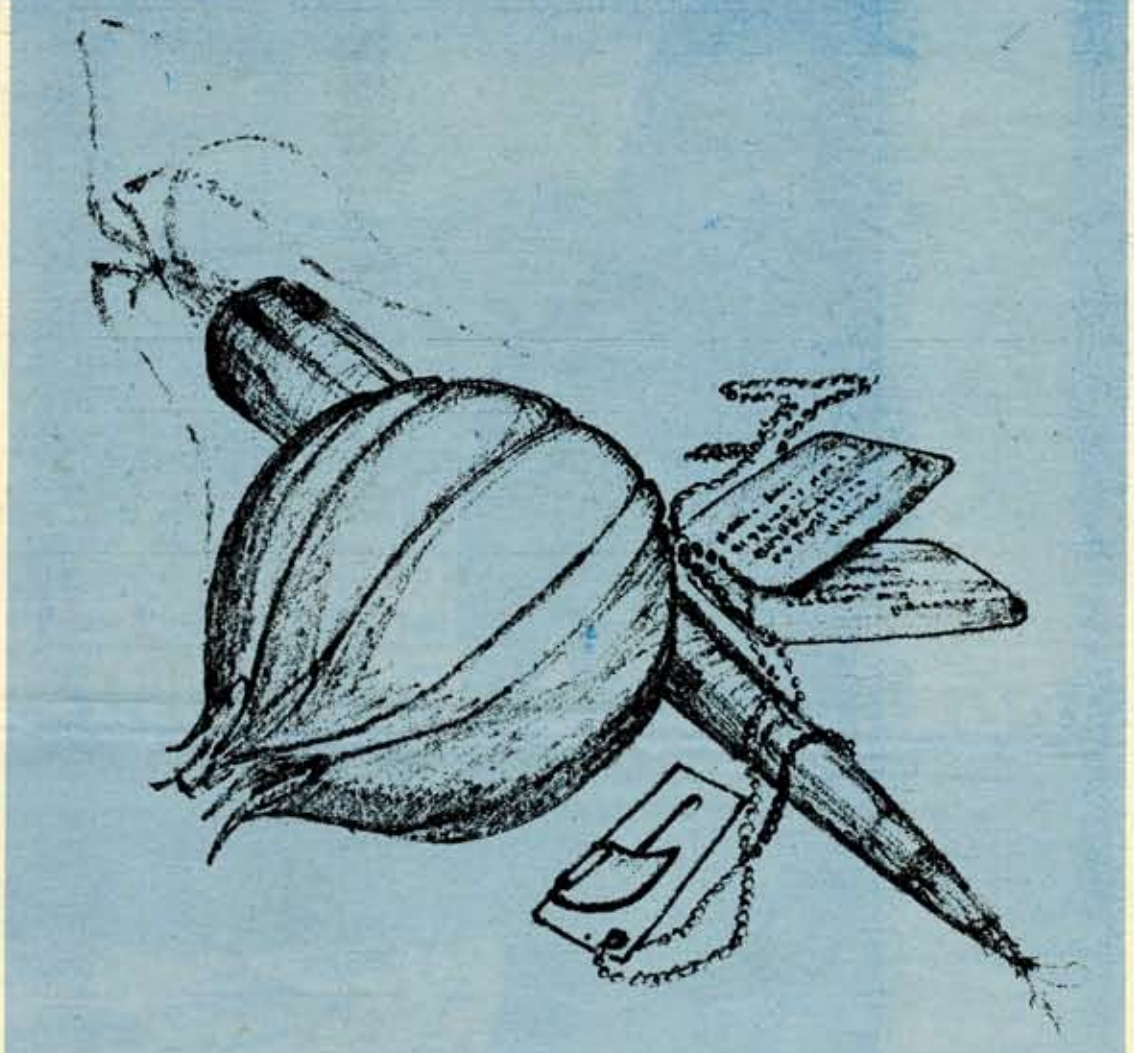
If you happen to have a potatoe or two in one of your fatigue pockets, cut into small peices and cook in the chicken stock mixture until pieces completely disintegrate. Add milk to the thickened mixture and voila–you have Combat Zone Vichyssoise.

There are many other recipes offered in the cookbook, with such mouth-watering names as "Breast of Chicken 'Under Bullets,'" "Battlefield Fufu," "Combat Zone Burgoe," "Guard Relief Benedict" and "Rice Paddy Shrimp."

All it takes is a little imagination, you and your buddy's C-rations and anything else you can scroung from the local environs of Vietnam.

To receive a free copy of the cookbook, write to the Mciihenny Company, Dept. CRB, Avery Island, La., 70513.

When you receive it, take off your steel pot, loosen your collar and start concocting. You may even enjoy it so much that you'll never want to leave the field.



Illustrations by SP4 Joel Andrewjeski

Two ralliers rescued

By SGT Chuck Merdzinski

FSB LIZ (11th INF BDE IO) – A staff officer recently led a squad of infantrymen into dangerous enemy territory, along the coast of the South China Sea ten miles north of Duc Pho, to rescue two members of the VC infrastructure from almost certain death.

Captain Donald T. Beavers II, Van Nyes, Calif., 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, received information that two VC wanted to rally. The VC asked that an armed force rescue them from their hiding places because they were being hunted by their comrades.

Captain Beavers and two Vietnamese officials from Duc Pho District Headquarters immediately flew out to the area and joined the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry's reconnaisance platoon, led by First Lieutenant Warren Waterbury, Ashland, Ky. Lieutenant Waterbury provided a squad size element to accompany Captain Beavers to the location of the two ralliers.

Enroute the men spotted numerous VC but carefully avoided contact due to the mission. They reached the location of the first man and signaled their presence with three rifle shots. The hiding man, a member of the Province Propaganda Cadre, had concealed himself in a mangrove swamp. He reproted that five VC had just come withing 50 yards of his location.

Captain Beavers then asked the man for the position of the second rallier. "We moved out swiftly because time was growing short," he said. Continuing, "As we neared the area the rallier signaled us that we were approaching a heavily booby trapped area. We cautiously navigated the area and just as we were approaching the second man's hiding place we spotted five VC soldiers. We engaged and maneuvered against them, driving them from the area."

"When we found the second VC he asked us to take his family along because he said the VC would kill all of them if we left them behind," remarked Captain Beaver.

The men obtained a Russian-made AK-50 folding stock rifle and numerous hand grenades from the two ralliers.

The wrong way to lose a boot

By SP4 Terry L. Williamson

LZ STINSON (198th INF BDE IO) – A soldier can survive without a canteen or even a boot, but it's how you lose these items that can bother you. At least it bothered one soldier from the 198th Infantry Brigade.

Private First Class Keith E. Beach, Ekalaka, Mont., an infantryman with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, recently lost his canteen and the sole of one boot to enemy machinegun fire.

While walking point in the mountains west of Quang Ngai City, Private Beach entered a clearing when he heard the enemy machinegun blurt out its surprise. His canteen was immediately relieved from his pistol belt by a zipping round from the automatic weapon.

Private Beach, returning fire at the suspected enemy position, hit the ground and began rolling toward a tree to escape the barrage of bullets. But, just seconds away from the safety of cover, another round ripped a hole in the instep of his boot. He looked down at the hole in his boot and continued firing at the enemy position.

In the tradition of all good pointmen, Private Beach continued walking point for his unit when the enemy fire had lifted, and found the location of his attackers. The enemy had fled from the torrent of machinegun and M-79 grenade fire that Bravo Company had expended on the area.

"It was only after the whole thing was over that I realized what happened," Private Beach said. "It was a shame too, because I had worn those boots for a long time."

Private Beach did not come out of the incident completely unscratched however. He received one bright blue bruise on the instep of his right foot to remind him it could have been worse had it not been sole-y for his boot.