SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3 No. 33 | Chu Lai, Vietnam | September 4, 1970

Kham Duc airstrip retaken by ARVNs and Americans

By SP5 A. C. Barnett

KHAM DUC (DIVARTY IO) – Two years and two months to the day since Kham Duc was lost to an NVA Division, this Special Forces advised CIDG camp was retaken by the same Division units that played a central role in that withdrawal of allied forces.

In May of 1968, an entire NVA Division surrounded Kham Duc, overran the outposts, and from the high ground around the airstrip began an intense motar and recoilless rifle barrage. The camp was defenseless and a contingency plan to evacuate all personnel was quickly put into action.

In what has been called "one of the most harrowing evacuation efforts of the Vietnam war," the Americal Division sent an infantry battalion and a battery of artillery to hold back the enemy until the evacuation could be completed. The plan called for the approximately 1500 persons in the camp to be flown out in a two day period.

Under cover of more than 150 airstrikes by both US and Vietnamese aircraft from units as far away as Cam Ranh Bay, Tuy Hoa, and Thailand, the heroic airlift was accomplished in only six hours.

The successful evacuation, however, did not have the flavor of an offensive victory, so when Kham Duc was reclaimed from the enemy, the privilege belonged to the men that were ordered to fight and withdraw.

More than two thousand ARVNs moved into the ridgeline during the first few days of the recent operation to secure the highground around the camp.

In the valley below, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, was inserted around the airstrip where they quickly cleared the lowland area.

(continued on page 6)

After firing this 105mm, a soldier of Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, prepares to reload as quickly as possible. The crew chief will then give further instructions. (Photo by SP5 Rush Wood)

Div gets 193

'Night Hawks' net 49 in heavy action

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -- Action increased sharply in Southern I Military Region as Division units accounted for 193 enemy killed. Highlighting the week's action in Operation Geneva Park, "Night Hawk" and gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry killed 26 NVA north of the Quang Ngai River. Despite a week of light action, soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade in Operation Frederick Hill tallied 33 enemy dead and discovered an enemy hospital. Elsewhere gunships of the 71st Aviation Battalion were kept busy the past week as the "Night Hawks" accounted for 23 enemy killed in Operation Iron Mountain.

Geneva Park

In mid-week, "Night Hawk" ships accompanied by gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry, conducting aerial patrols over the southern section of the 198th Infantry Brigade's AO with their powerful search lights, spotted a large number of NVA congregated on the ground below near the Quang Ngai River. After taking light machinegun fire, the pilots and gunners from F Troop went to work killing 26 enemy. The kills were credited to Operation Geneva Park.

Early in the week, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, working south of Chu Lai, moved out early in the morning to cordon and search a village. The cavalrymen, using textbook-like tactics, trapped several Viet Cong killing three of them. Captured in the action were six CHICOM grenades two AK-47 rifles, three AK-47 magazines and a carbine with two magazines.

Early the next day incoming mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and satchel charges erupted the early morning calm at LZ Fat City, west of Chu Lai, as sappers, firing automatic weapons, attempted to assualt the firebase. The artillerymen located at the LZ and infantrymen from C Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry returned the fire with automatic weapons and mortars and called in gunships and flareships. At first light the defenders swept the area to find one VC dead, four satchel charges, and nine CHICOM grenades.

Along the coast northeast of Quang Ngai, naval guns fired on an undetermined number of Viet Cong. Aerial observers from Division Artilllery later flew over the area to confirm eight VC had

(continued on page 6)

PFC "Charlie" Duck, the mascot of C Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery shuffles through the paperwork on the first sergeant's dest. The popular duck pretty much has freedom of his ways about the battery area. (Photo by PFC Ron Mumford)

198th 'Regulars' kill five VC

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) – Infantrymen of the 198th Infantry Brigade and gunships from the 116th Assault Aviation Company maneuvered swiftly to kill five Viet Cong as the enemy attempted to evade in a running battle northeast of Quang Ngai City recently.

"They took us under fire as soon as we hit the landing zone," said First Lieutenant Winston W. Moody, Houston, Texas, a platoon leader with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry. "We quickly repulsed the attack with small arms and machinegun fire and the enemy evaded into a village.

Lieutenant Moody split his platoon into two elements and moved them forward to search the village. After moving several yards through rice paddies, a squad leader with Lieutenant Moody's elements discovered a blood trail.

"We followed the blood trail to a hooch," said Lieutenant Moody, "and my squad leader spotted two Viet Cong hiding within the structure. We told out interpreter to tell the VC to come out but they refused and we fired several rounds into the hooch in which they were hiding."

The squad leader, Specialist Four Dean R. Wood, Central City, Iowa, then moved towards the structure and tossed in a grenade.

"Just as soon as he tossed the grenade the VC kicked it out the door and it exploded. We moved off again and fired several rounds of machinegun and small arms fire into their location."

The infantrymen again moved toward the hooch and inside found the two Viet Cong dead. The platoon then moved northeast toward higher ground where they had observed several more Viet Cong evading.

"As we moved toward the hilly terrain, we heard the gunships firing automatic weapons and rockets ahead of us," Lieutenant Moody said. "Other Viet Cong had tried to evade from the village as we moved through and the gunships spotted them and opened fire."

"We spread out and began sweeping the more thickly vegetated area," said Lieutenant Moody. "We had only moved a few more yards when we found two more bodies lying in the thick brush."

Second part of an R&R series

Fun and relaxation beckon on Hawaii's beaches

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Hawaii, our 50th state is by far the most popular R&R site for the married man and also rates as a top notch Polynesian retreat for the single soldier.

MACV in cooperation with several commercial airlines offer a special round-trip rate of $165 (plus tax) for wives flying from the West Coast to meet their husbands of R&R.

Very little is required to insure your wife's meeting you in Hawaii. To start, remember those military reduced fares you used to get back in the states? Your family is entitled to the same benefits as long as you send at least three copies of your R&R orders along with DD Form 1580 to that loved one back home. With these papers and your wife's dependent ID Card, she can get a reduced fare ticket from home to the West Coast as well as from the mainland to Hawaii.

New comers to this South Sea paradise re called "Malininis" and the old timers are referred to as "Kamaainas." A warm or close friend to these islanders is known as "Aikanes."

Captain James Cook discovered Hawaii in 1778 and considered the islands a garden of Eden. The inhabitants of each island to this day strive to keep their island's pride. Each one of these islands has their own lei, and of course the traditional aloha means both welcome and farewell.

You will receive a Special Privilege Card good for reduced rates on everything from hotel rates to buying a pair of shoes at certain establishments while you are in Hawaii.

Hotel prices start reasonably for people on R&R in Hawaii, for instance: The Reef and Park Shore Hotels are near Waikiki and modestly priced at around $70 a week for two. Extremely pleasant accommodations may be had at either the Reef Towers, Kalakauan, or Hawaiian Village Hotels for $82 to $125 a week, double occupancy.

One of the more exclusive Honolulu area hotels is the Halekulani. The Halekulani caters to the older set and works on a European basis (no meals). For two, the hotel runs about $200 a week.

While strolling around Honolulu, go to the top of the famous Aloha Tower and see a beautiful panoramic view of downtown Honolulu.

In this land of everlasting warmth, colorful festivals are celebrated at least once a day on one of the islands.

Places of interest outside of Honolulu are Pearl Harbor, the Dole Pineapple Farms, and of course the many beaches that serve as stomping grounds for many bikini-clad young beauties the year around.

Forty miles north of Waikiki is a new Polynesian Cultural Center at Laie, where six authentic lived-in native villages from Samoa, New Zealand, Fiji, Tahiti, Tonga and old Hawaii are reproduced. The center is open daily except Sunday.

Air transportation between the islands is frequent.

Specialist Harris gives new life

By 1Lt James P. Collins Jr.

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – These children are a common sight in the villages and on the roads, their empty trouser legs and shirt sleeves flapping in the wind. Sympathy and pity for these young amputees is widespread, corrective action is more rare. Fortunately, every once in awhile, someone like Specialist Six Robert Harris, Atlanta, who isn't satisfied with mere pity comes along.

In six months with a detachment of the 29th Civil Affairs Company, working with the 11th Infantry Brigade, Specialist Harris came in contact with dozens of youngsters who had lost limbs to mines and booby-traps. He decided to do something about it and began searching for a medical facility, able and willing to fit the children with artificial limbs.

His inquiries ended in the large provincial city of Quang Ngai, on the doorstep of the Quaker Service Prosthetics Center there. True to the credo inscribed on the gatepost outside, which reads, in part, "We seek to alleviate human suffering and serve those in need," the Quakers agreed to supply artificial limbs and therapy free of charge to anyone Specialist Harris would bring to the facility.

Each child would require three trips to the center, he was told; an initial interview and measurement visit, a practice session with temporary limb, and a final fitting. He immediately scheduled weekly trips to the center for young amputees in the Duc Pho area. In the months since, twenty-five children have been fitted with artificial limbs through his efforts.

One morning a week you'll notice them waiting on Highway One for Specialist Harris' three-quarter ton truck, with their bamboo canes and pinned-up sleeves. If it's their first visit they are usually withdrawn and apprehensive, those going for their final fitting are invariably smiling. Most get a send-off from families and relatives, a few wait alone.

Specialist Harris, who speaks Vietnamese well enough to teach English at the orphanage, puts them at ease during the 25 mile journey to Quang Ngai. Once at the Quaker center, the children are interviewed by a young Vietnamese, himself an amputee, and then examined by the doctor. Following construction of the artificial limbs or brace, the physical therapist, prosthetist, and doctor collaborate in training the young patient to use it. The staff is composed of seven American and two Britist volunteers who work without pay.

The limbs are fabricated in the prosthetics shop by twenty Vietnamese craftsmen who have been trained by the Quakers. They have been instructed in the full process of measuring, casting and construction of both legs and arms.

According to the therapists at the center the Vietnamese amputees don't seem to suffer the psychological traumas associated with loss of a limb in the Western World.

When Specialist Harris brings a child home from the final fitting, it is the signal for an impromptu gathering of villagers who view with awe the child's new-found ability to walk or shake hands. No longer and outcast, the youngster is a celebrity of sorts, with the prospect of a useful and nearly-normal life.

Contest

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – The Freedoms Foundation is now holding its annual letter writing contest. This year's topic is "Freedom – Privilege or Obligation?" The contest is open to all active duty service members, national guardsmen, reservists, and advanced ROTC cadets. Monetary awards include $1,000 for each of the top two entrants. Send entries, not exceeding 500 words, to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481, by 1 November.

Infantrymen from the 198th Infantry Brigade struggle through knee-deep mud on a recent operation. The men are members of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry working west of Chu Lai.

(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

These soldiers from the 26th Engineer Battalion, display teamwork to repair a worn section of this bridge. (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Doughnut Dollies

Rosanne Sturtevant likes people

By SP4 Ed Breidenbach

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – "GIs are the neatest guys going." There it is in the words of Doughnut Dolly Rosanne Sturtevant, and she is a cute one.

Beaming one of the biggest smiles you'll ever see in the Americal, Rosanne has been touring various LZs for four months now.

She found out about the job through an article in her hometown Cleveland newspaper, "It was a story about a girl who was over here and it really inspired me, I went to the Red Cross, had a very frank informative talk with the man there who really told it like it was and joined up the same day."

After a BA in Sociology from John Carroll University, Rosanne was tired of school. "I want to learn about the world and people are the world," she said, "and this seemed to be the place to best meet them. Why it's wonderful, I meet about 200 people per day."

"The thing that really makes me feel good and gives me the feeling of accomplishment is when someone smiles," Rosanne explained. One look at her smiling happy face and a person can't help but smile.

To Rosanne this is a wonderful tour, "We are treated like queens wherever we go."

One thing that many of the girls have noticed in their travels to the various firebases is that some of the guys are ashamed of the way they look and the situation they are in. Rosanne said, "It must be part of American pride, but they shouldn't be ashamed. We know how they feel and we want them to feel at home as much as possible."

Rosanne claims she picked up some of her friendliness from her family. There are nine children. "We were taught to get along with one another."

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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

Major General A.E. Milloy . . . . . Commanding General
Major William F. Gabella . . . . . Information Officer
First Lieutnant Joe Walker . . . . . Officer-in-charge
Specialist Four Gary E. Jensen . . . . . Editor
Specialist Four Dan Swezey . . . . . Production Editor

Kit Carsons are lifesavers

By PFC Don Newton

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Sixty to 70 Kit Carson Scouts work the 196th Infantry Brigade's area. Mr. Kieth Donahe, Milwaukie, Ore., who maintains this strength level and administers the scouts at this firebase, says he would trust any of his Scouts with his life.

His faith remains rooted in over six months of daily contact with Kit Carson Scouts.

"At one time these men worked for the NVA or VC, and that means they're great for spotting the enemy and his booby traps," explained Mr. Donahe, a member of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Warrant Officer Rudolf P. Abendroth, El Paso, Texas, officer in charge of the program, feels Kit Carson Scouts are invaluable if their training is correctly used. "Kit Carson Scouts should not be considered just another gun," said WO Abendroth. "They'll do a job on the enemy if their skills are properly utilized."

Here in the Division these Scouts undergo three weeks of training and are then sent back to work in the area in which they are familiar. Their training includes studies in English and a wide range of field tactics.

Nguyen Dac, former Viet Cong and now Kit Carson Scout, is one of the many outstanding individuals Mr. Donahe cited for bravery and skill.

"Dac received a Bronze Star earlier this year for bravery in the Hiep Duc district," said Mr. Donahe. "After receiving a severe stomach wound, he crawled over 25 yards, so he could suppress the enemy's fire."

On that occasion Dac was walking point on a patrol for Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, when an ambush opened up on both sides.

Dac fell wounded, and so did the second man who carried an M-79. While enemy fire kept the rest of the platoon pinned down Dac Crawled back to the M-79 and gave cover fire for his unit to advance.

Nguyen Dac remained hospitalized for several months. Doctors doubted that he would return to the field.

Upon release from the hospital he was given a less strenuous job as aerial scout for the 16th Aviation Group in Chu Lai. But within a short time Dac Traded his new assignment for his former "number one" job. Currently Dac works Kit Carson Scout for the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry.

Trinh Thu, an ex-NVA now assigned to 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry had four years of college in Hanoi, speaks and reads two Chinese dialects fluently. A good man to have on our side.

Thu, like Dac, takes his job seriously. He was recently wounded in action near LZ Siberia and was sent to Chu Lai for recovery.

One of the old-time Kit Carson scouts for the brigade is Danh Mula who graduated from the first training program held in Chu Lai.

After working three years with F troop, 17th Cavalry, Mula's talents were transfered to Chu Lai, where he served as an instructor at the Kit Carson Scout training center.

Mula worked his new job easily, but he requested to be transferred back to the field as did Dac--back to the "number one" job.

Mr. Donahe commonly refers to the Kit Carson Scouts as his friends.

A few weeks ago the 196th Infantry Brigade soldier helped gather and transport lumber to a village just south of Da Nang for one of the Scouts. The Kit Carson's home had been burned to the ground by NVA, leaving his family stranded.

"It's the least I could do," explained Mr. Donahe. "After all, Kit Carson Scouts save American lives."

Fusing a round for firing, this man from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, prepares to load a 105mm gun.
(Photo by SP4 Wiseman)

Infantryman begins new life

By SGT Robert Daniels

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – Specialist Four Mike Halty's R&R to Hawaii was more than a reunion with his wife. It was also the beginning of a new way of life for the 11th Infantry Brigade infantryman. He became a citizen of the United States.

Specialist Halty was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, and came to the United States in 1950 when his father obtained a position at Ohio State University as professor of Dramatics. Later, Mike accompanied his parents to Paris and Switzerland before returning to Uruguay where he spent the next seven years completing his elementary and junior high school education. In 1962 the Haltys returned to the United States to settle in the Los Angeles area.

Specialist Halty completed his high school education in Los Angeles in 1968 and later that year was married to an American citizen. With an occupation in the police department in mind, Mike applied for his citizenship papers only to be presented with his draft notice the very next day.

Specialist Halty came to Vietnam as an infantryman with Company A, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry. Here he had his second chance to become a citizen when he learned that MACV arranges R&Rs to Hawaii to obtain citizenship.

May 8th was a day in the life of Mike which not only reunited him with his wife but also gave him the right to be called an "American." "My wife and work, that is my life, and the United States is where I want to live that life," said Specialist Halty.

What they are doing up there

By SGT Bill Lake

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – "I wonder what that Birddog is doing up there?" is a frequent question asked by 11th Infantry Brigade soldiers. To the pilots of the second platoon, 21st Aviation Company who fly the O-1 Birddogs, "what they are doing up there" is a multiple and valuable mission for the 11th Infantry Brigade.

"Our basic mission is to provide aerial reconnaissance and target acquisition," explained Captain Morries Boyd, Livermore, Calif. "Most of the targets we spot are targets of opportunity which we engage and adjust artillery on."

In addition to artillery, the Birddogs coordinate and adjust tactical airstrikes. However, their job is not over when the jets have dropped their bombs and headed home. "We carry out all Bomb Damage Assessment (BDA) missions," stated WO1 Robert Baze, Oklahoma City. "This consists of observing damage done by jetstrikes and B-52 strikes and assertaining the effectiveness of the strikes."

For the six pilots who fly in rotation for the 11th Infantry Brigade the job doesn't always include the excitement of jet strikes and artillery fire missions. "Coordinating dust-offs is a task we assist in when we can, and we spend nights flying radio replay for Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) missions once in awhile," added Captain Boyd.

Whenever a line company is engaged in a fire-fight the Birddog is a permanent fixture over the action. "We can arrange to have a Birddog over the area of contact for 24 hours if necessary," explained Captain Boyd. "Our job here is to work in conjunction with gunships and artillery and we can have an airstrike on the scene in very little time."

"The Birddogs are an invaluable asset to the 11th Brigade," said First Lieutenant Cardell Hunter, Washington, D.C., of the brigade intelligence staff. "They are an integral link in the chain of of support for the man on the ground and they always give timely information on enemy activity and suspected enemy locations," concluded Lieutenant Hunter.

Bronco Mall opens for business

By SGT Bill Lake

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – Construction is over and the crowds are now strolling about the new "mall" on this firebase. The rectangular mall, composed of shops and service stores, provides the 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" with many of the conveniences of back home shopping centers.

Walking around the mall, the customers will discover that portraits made from photographs are available or a selection from a number of different tapestries. If need be he can have his watch or camera repaired.

Looking for new clothes for R&R? A quick trip into the tailor shop offers a wide selection of suit tyles and over 2000 variations of fabric designs. Alterations on the finished suit are also part of the service.

Patches, tags, and monograms can all be made and sewn on quickly with three sewing machines there is no waiting.

The customer at the mall will find an engraving shop which also makes up gift plaques, cups and plates, all with many samples to choose from. At the gift shop he can pick from an assortment of jewelry boxes, art objects, sandals, statuettes, dolls. watch bands, belts, guitars and many others.

If he hasn't found what he needs yet, the PX might be the place to go with its constant assortment of necessities and luxury items. Or he may just decide to relax in a barber's chair or visit the steam bath which sports 20 units.

Such are the facilities and services the "Jungle Warriors" will find touring the new mall. And after a hard day's shopping he may decide to grab a hot dog or hamburger and cold soda.

Hovering above the runway which was recently reoccupied by the Division at Kham Duc, this CH-54 "sky crane" replenishes supplies to the men working on the strip.
(Photo by SP5 A. C. Barnett)

An infantryman of the Delta Company "Professionals" of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, silently awaits further orders to move out and continue the mission.

"Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade's 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, and troopers fro 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, descend a small hill at the foot of LZ West near Hiep Duc.

Photos by SP4 Herbert Brady 523rd Sig. Bn.

A medic works on a wounded soldier from the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, as his buddies provide cover.

Infantrymen from Delta Company, 1st Battalion through the dense bush in order to follow the arr 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry near Hiep Duc.

Alpha Troop,

The "Professionals" of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade move closely behind this armored personnel carrier from Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

1st-46th and 1st-1st Cav team up

46th Infantry, fight their way
ored personnel carrier from the

The men from the Delta Company 'Professionals" of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, follow close to this armored personnel carrier for all the protection they can possibly get. The tracks are from Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

4th-21st uncovers more than 8 tons of rice

(continued from page 1)

been killed by the fire originating from the ships in the South China Sea.

The next day, Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, picked up a rallier and killed two VC in two separate incidents. The "Ready Rifles" engaged several VC evading southwest of Chu Lai and brought down one as another rallied. About thirty minutes later, Recon killed another VC and captured an AK-47, two banana clips, two CHICOM grenades and a poncho.

Later in the week while working northwest of Quang Ngai, Delta Company killed one VC and later found a hooch. The hooch contained 350 pounds of rice and 350 pounds of potatoes.

Delta Company of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry also found a small cache of 1000 pounds of rice hidden in crocks and metal containers, southeast of Chu Lai.

Frederick Hill

In mid-week activity the "Gimlets" of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed six enemy in a single day as a result of four contacts in thickly vegetated area west of Tam Ky.

Four of the kills resulted when the enemy walked into well comouflaged defensive positions set up by the "Gimlets."

Company C received credit for the first of these four kills. The Reconaissance platoon scored in a similar manner when they struck down three more NVA a short time later.

The fifth and sixth dead NVA for that day was credited to Company A. In that engagement the enemy was spotted trying to escape into a woodline west of Tam Ky, when the company blanketed him with small arms fire.

"Gimlets" momentum continued to increase. Near the week's end Company A found a large enemy structure west of Tam Ky with a tunnel system, shortly after killing an NVA in the same area. The tunnels, which were used as a hospital, contained a large quantity of medical supplies plus 750 pounds of rice.

Success again marked the Recon platoon when they wrapped up a busy week with three NVA killed. The incident occurred when the enemy walked into Recon's defensive position set up west of Tam Ky.

The "Legionnaires" of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, also registered several enemy dead.

Two of the kills resulted from cleverly placed defensive positions set up in the triple canopy jungles west of Tam Ky. "Charlie" lost once to the Recon platoon, and again that afternoon to Company B. A search of the area by Company B revealed six enemy bunkers.

Company D concluded a week of enemy contact when they fired on several VC who were walking down a trail in the dense jungles near Kham Duc. Firebird gunships flew in to assist in the firefight which resulted in four VC killed.

The "polar Bears" of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, proved themselves homebreakers when Company A found an enemy bunker complex large enough to accomodate two platoons. The approximately seven week-old complex contained seven bunkers.

Also in that area Company D found eight Viet Cong suspects--four female adults and four children hiding in their hooch. The infantrymen caught two of the females as they were attempting to hide a small amount of military equipment.

Iron Mountain

Early in the week while working in a river valley northwest of Duc Pho. "Night Hawks" of the 71st Aviation Battalion received fire from two NVA in a sampan. Return fire from the gunships accounted for both enemy killed. The sampan was destroyed following the actuin. Later in the evening the "Night Hawks" received small arms and .51 caliber fire from two directions. Fourteen NVA were found dead following the action which saw two hooches destroyed.

Later in the week while working in the same area "Night Hawks" engaged by an undetermined size enemy force as they moved along the river. Braving small arms and .30 caliber machinegun fire, the gunships accounted for seven enemy.

While conducting a search and clear mission in the lowlands south of Duc Pho, Company A, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry discovered a rice and potatoe cache near two huts. The rice was in 11-55 gallon drums and the potates were in four 55 gallon drums. An intensified search of the area turned up eight more tons of rice.

Rain or shine, this infantryman from the 198th Infantry Brigade will be assured of an uninterrupted cat-nap thanks to his makeshift roof. The soldier is from Delta Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry which was waiting for a resupply chopper.
(Photo by SGT Thomas C. Elmer)

Professionals close classes

By PFC Richard Campbell

KHAM DUC (196th INF BDE IO) – Recent discoveries by infantrymen should hamper enemy anti-aircraft capabilities here for some time. Operating in dense, triple canopy jungle 55 miles southwest of Da Nang, soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, discovered an NVA base camp used for conducting anti-aircraft classes and subsequently confiscated over 3600 rounds of .30 caliber and .51 caliber ammunition.

Company A started the discoveries. Cutting through thick, dry brush, the infantrymen came upon two enemy bunkers. As the Americans searched further, the area's use became apparent.

"About 75 yards from those first two bunekrs was a .51 caliber machinegun pit," recalled Specialist Four John Haze, Galt, Calif., "and inside the pit were 14 cases of new .51 caliber ammo. The bunkers were fresh and probably had been used recently."

The infantrymen discovered another .51 caliber pit, an 82mm mortar pit and a mess area with bowls, cooking utensils and a small amount of rice. The camp also contained several sleeping bunkers.

Continuing their search, the men of Alpha Company discovered a classroom area. Four model of American UH-1H Huey helicopters were found there.

"They were carved out of wood and had small tin blades in the top," said Specialist Haze. "It could appear that the classes conducted at this camp covered helicopter flying formations."

Company A's discoveries did not stop there. Later in the evening they discovered 150 rounds of .51 caliber linked together. The following day they found a weapons cache which contained a .30 caliber anti-aircraft gun.

Other units began to get into the act. On the same day that A Company discovered their anti-aircraft gun, mortarmen from Company E, found 500 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition. On the following day the ballation's Recon platoon found 1000 rounds of .51 caliber and .30 caliber, bringing the total to 3,680 rounds.

Stalking tactic backfires on enemy

By SGT Robert Daniels

FSB SAN JUAN HILL (11th INF BDE IO) – Two NVA sappers from the 403 Sapper Battalion stakling a unit of the 11th Infantry Brigade recently made the mistake of walking into an ambush six miles southwest of Duc Pho. The third platoon of Company A, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry was set up on a ridgeline overlooking a major resupply route when the two sappers walked into their perimeter defenses.

"The two NVA must have been tracking us because they were heavily armed and were looking for signs of our presence," said First Lieutenant Gene O. Phillipson, Whitehall, Wis., third platoon leader. "The previous day we killed seven enemy soldiers and I think these two had been sent to hunt us down."

"We were sitting there real quiet when we heard a noise and the brush started cracking," explained Lieutenant Phillipson. "I glanced over at the next position and saw the men tense, their weapons were pointed toward the sound and one had his claymore detonating device in hand."

The two NVA were within 15 feet of the perimeter when the platoon opened up. Taken completely by surprise, they dropped their weapons.

The squad immediately took off in pursuit of the now fleeing NVA. They had gone about 100 meters when they saw an NVA lying in the brush. As the infantrymen approached the area they saw the NVA move and when he did they opened up killing him. Another 20 meters into the brush revealed the second NVA and a quick burst of automatic weapons fire brought to two the number of sappers killed.

A search of the bodies revealed an AK-47, an AK-50, plus two sacks of CHICOM grenades.

A mortarman of Company E, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry "hangs one" during a fire support mission for soldiers operating near LZ Stinson, southwest of Chu Lai.
(Photo by SP4 Gerard Paulin, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Light resistance met

(continued from page 1)

Cannoneers from D Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, and A Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery, were next and within twenty minutes of their arrival the two batteries of howitzers were ready to deliver their devastating support.

This time it was the NVAs turn to withdraw, and while resistance was encountered by the first elements of both the ARVNs and Americans, it was only a very scattered and ineffective effort, a cover for the enemy retreat.

The 26th Engineer Battalion, after destroying over 400 booby traps seeded in the black-top airstrip, had the job of restoring the surface which was pockmarked by a dozen bomb craters.

Just four days after the first assault, a C-130 landed on the repaired runway, the first of 30 sorties that day.

An impressive victory, accomplished by Vietnamese and American forces, working together in the air and on the ground. The NVA had beaten a hasty retreat, inflicting only very light casualties and paying heavily for them. But to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry and the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery it was a special victory, a victory exactly two years and two months overdue--they had been to Kham Duc before.

'Say again, over!'

Ahn Yung Hee has proven to us that the girls of Korea are a beautiful sight. It's just our luck that we caught her as she was visiting the Americal in Chu Lai. The "Yung" lady is a member of the "Golden Star", an entertainment group touring Vietnam.

(Photo by 1Lt Robert Pennington)

C Co, 23rd Med deals in seconds

By SGT Bob Nordyke

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – The men of C Company, 23rd Medical Battalion, 196th Infantry Brigade, operate on a paradoxical relationship with time. Hours pass, unaccounted for as one day merges with another. Yet certain minutes and seconds are counted with singular importance--those involved in life/death situations.

The cycles of the clock speed, slow--accelerate and ease down again...

First Lieutenant Roger Coffin is acutely aware of these fluctuations of time. His job, in Army rhetoric, is Brigade Medical Operations Officer. More accurately, Lieutenant Coffin is an efficiency expert, a dealer in minutes and seconds.

"I am a liaison between the doctors and the RTO's," explains Lieutenant Coffin. When a dust-off is coming in, I have to know how many doctors and what we need to have ready on the chopper-pad the instant the bird lands. We may need litters, a resusitator, or whole blood; I'm responsible for making sure we immediately have adequate supplies and personnel to cover the situation."

Lieutenant Coffin is also a traffic controller. When casualties are ready to be evacuated to Chu Lai or Da Nang, he sees that they are loaded on the helicopter by priority. Done properly, it saves minutes and lives.

"The most serious patients go on the chopper last," says Lieutenant Coffin. "That way, they get off first in Chu Lai and are treated first."

The mission of C Company is stated simply in its motto--"We Strive To Save Lives." It is superficially, an obvious statement of purpose, but its operation is rather unique in Vietnam. Technically, C Company's home is not a hospital, but a clearing station, where vital, skilled emergency treatment is given, enabling serious combat casualties to make it alive to the large hospitals in Chu Lai and Da Nang.

Captain Jerry Rodgers is one of two physicians assigned to C Company.

"We are in position here to save a lot of lives." explains "Doc" Rodgers. "Here, close to the forward area, we can give casualties emergency treatment to stabilize the patients so they get to the hospital alive.

Captain Rodgers is a tall good-natured Texan from Dallas who is skilled, efficient, and respected. He knows what time means to a wounded soldier. Medic Specialist Four James Claywell, Texas City, Texas, has often worked with him.

'I was helping 'Doc' Rodgers with a guy who was hurt pretty bad, Specialist Claywell recalls. "He needed a traecheotomy which is a pretty difficult operation. 'Doc' Rodgers just made a couple of moves, made the incision and had the guy fixed up. He was so fast it was unbelieveable."

Serving in a role where speed is of vital importance, the Medevac choppers are essential. Besides the two dust-off choppers permanently stationed at the clearing station, helicopters from 236th Dust-Off in Da Nang and Phu Bai help cover C Company's area.

"Every bit of time possible is saved with two birds here," explains Lieutenant Coffin. "Most casualties can be picked up, brought here, treated, stabilized, and ready for evacuation within 45 minutes."

C Company has time for the routine too. Seven Vietnamese women file in the rear of the emergency room, their children perched precariously on their hips. A young mother with two infants lowers her brood to the cement floor. Backgrounded by a wall of shelves filled with medical supplies, she sits, waited on by a doctor and two medics. The children are crying, trying to hide in the arms of their mother afraid of the strange surroundings, the Americans. The doctor talks quietly, reassuringly.

The medical staff has learned the Vietnamese phrases they need, "sit up, lie back down, where do you hurt."

One of the medics comes forward with two boxes of licorice. The children reach instinctively, their fear suppressed. The doctor cleans, treats, and bandages the child's head wound with no further trouble.

Time is slowing...a rapid talking soldier limps to the front desk, holding his medical records. His fatigue pants rolled high on his legs, exposing a heavily bandaged knee.

"What happened?" He laughed quickly, "Boils."

At the desk, a medic known as "Airborne" is handling a clerk's job. The medics at C Company are stretched thin. The eight hour shifts they now work may have to be extended to 12 hours. There is a 30-bed ward to be attended, daily sick calls, and lab work. The medics are performing other Military Occupational Specialties (MOS)--on the job training. Three work as radio operators, one is the pharmacist at the hospital, others are working as lab technicians, clinical technicians, and x-ray technicians; the hospital has all these facilities.

Eight men are with C Company from F Troop, 17th Cavalry. They all volunteered for three weeks training at the hospital to go back to their unit as medics. Private First Class Calvin Hutson, Muenster, Texas, is one of the volunteers. His reason for volunteering is an understatement of the attitude of most of the medics at C Company 23rd Med. "They just needed medics," he says, "so I said OK."

Recently, an Annual General Inspection found out exactly how unexpectedly time can shift gears at 23rd Med. Their inspection was interrupted by a mass casualty situation.

The inspecting officers were no longer checkers, graders; they had to help carry litters, supplies--they saw the doctors and the medics do what they do best, save lives. When the pace slowed and the wounded had been treated, there was no doubt in anyone's mind about passing the inspection.

The hours are long, whether screaming by in minutes of emergency or dully dragging by in the routine. But pride and confidence in their own ability to perform their mission has become second nature to the doctors and medics of C Company, 23rd Med.

The talk of hooking supplies to the huge Chinook helicopters requires agility and quick moves. Here, an artilleryman of Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery leaps to the ground after securing the load to the hook. (Photo by SP5 A. C. Barnett)

Soldier sees bullets hitting at his feet

By SGT Robert Daniels

FSB SAN JUAN HILL (11th INF BDE IO) – A pointman of the 11th Infantry Brigade recently found out what it is like to confront an NVA at 10 yards and have his weapon misfire.

Private First Class Larry D. Toman, Reed City, Mich., Company A, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, was walking point for the third platoon on a reconnaissance patrol six miles southwest of Duc Pho. 'We had just entered the woodline when we heard a warning shot,' said Private Toman.

The platoon moved forward another 30 yeards into the woodline. Private Toman, walking up a natural stone step to higher ground, looked up to see an NVA with an AK-47 looking back at him.

"As soon as I saw him I pulled the trigger and had a misfire. When he pulled his trigger I could see smoke coming out of his barrel and I could just feel the bullets hitting me," related Private Toman. He immediately dove into some brush with bullets impacting at his feet and the ominous sound of the AK-47 firing away on full automatic.

Sergeant Maurice LaRock, Forest Dale, Vt., was walking behind him. When the NVA opened up he dove for cover and returned fire, but the NVA had already jumped back into the brush. Looking for more cover, Private Toman dove behind an advancing machinegunner who was then able to cover the area where the NVA had disappeared.

Private Toman never knew how close he had come to being hit until he found a clean hole through his ruck sack.

"It took me a long time to build up enough confidence to walk point because of the stories they told us in advanced infantry training about a face-to-face meeting with NVA soldiers. Now I know what they were talking about."

Tells it like it is . . .

Do heavy users of marihuana sutfer physical withdrawall symptoms like the narcotic addict?

No. Sudden withdrawal may provoke restlessness and anxiety in a few persons who daily smoke large amounts of hashish, but true withdrawal symptoms as seen in the heroin addict do not develop.

What are the psychological effects of marihuana?

The psychological effects of marihuana are variable. They include distortions of hearing, vision and sense of time. Thought becomes dream-like. The belief that one is thinking better is not unusual. Performance may be hampered or unchanged. Illusions (misinterpretation of sensations) are often reported, but hallucination (experiencing non-existent sensations) and delusions (false beliefs) are rare. Unfounded suspicion may occur, and this may be accompanied by anxiety. More often the feeling is one of a passive euphoria or 'high." The individual tends to withdraw into himself. Occasionally, uncontrollabel laughter or crying may occur.

What kind of emotional problems can the marihuana user have?

Anxiety reactions and panic states have been noted. Accidents have occurred due to impaired judgment and time-space distortions. The user, especially if he is inexperienced, may become excessively suspicious of people and take action that leads to injury. A toxic psychosis consisting of mental confusion, loss of contact with reality, and memory disturbances has been recorded.

The effects of prolonged use are not scientifically known. In those countries where cannabis use has been traditional, excessive amounts are claimed to induce loss of motivation, apathy, memory difficulties and loss of mental acuity. Reports of psychotic breakdowns from the extended use of marihuana are frequently found in the medical literature of the Near and Middle East, but these require further scientific investigation.

Does the heavy use of marihuana affect the personality development of the young person?

It can. By making marihuana use a career, the young person avoids normal life stresses and the problems that are an intrinsic part of growing up. He therefore misses the opportunity to mature to his full physical and mental potential.

PSYOPS nets enemy munitions

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) – A psychological operations (PSYOPS) program encouraging Vietnamese civilians to turn over munitions they find paid off recently when several 198th Infantry Brigade units received a large amount of enemy weapons and ammunition.

"We conducted several operations in the area where the munitions were turned in," said First Lieutenant Richard H. Greenhagen, Massapequa, N.Y., assistant civil affairs officer. "We flew several night broadcasts using loud speakers, several daytime leaflet drops, and we also used special tapes to broadcast the messages."

Shortly after the PSYOPS missions were flown, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, maneuvering on a search and clear operation along the Tra Bong Road, ten miles south of Chu Lai, began receiving the munitions from the Vietnamese children.

"At first we received only a few mortar rounds from the children," said Private First Class Stephen Hickey, Flushing, Mich. "Then they spread the word and we began receiving all kinds of munitions. This continued for two days."

The total cache turned in by the children consisted of 96 mortar rounds 60 Bouncing Betty mines, two 2.75 inch rockets, two 57mm recoiless rifle rounds, two rifle-propelled grenades, one CHICOM grenade, four artillery rounds and six mortar fuses.

Also working in the same area and benefiting from the broadcasts and leaflet drops was Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, which received four artillery rounds, one anti-personnel mine, one booby trap and one mortar round. The 39th Engineer Battalion working with the company received two artillery rounds and two mortar rounds.

Old Guard gets VC

By SGT Robert Daniels

FSB SAN JUAN HILL (11th INF BDE IO) – A surprise meeting at a trail junction netted Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry one VC while working nine miles northwest of Duc Pho. The 11th Infantry Brigade unit was caught by surprise but not off guard.

The third platoon was securing a trail junction and preparing an ambush when Private First Class Jose Salichs, Brooklyn, N.Y., security man, heard three VC talking.

Said Private Salichs, "I was pulling security for the men setting out claymores when I heard some VC talking and saw them through the brush. They were headed right for the trail junction so I turned to warn the men. They didn't hear me so I opened up."

The platoon immediately hit the ground and as they did, Staff Sergeant James E. Hayes, Rocky Point, N.C., opened up in support of Private Salichs. One VC was killed instantly, but his two cohorts managed to evade back down the trail.

A search of the dead VC turned up two AK-47 magazines and six CHICOM hand grenades.

A 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry soldier of the 11th Infantry Brigade provides rear security for a small patrol in a narrow valley southwest of Duc Pho. (Photo by SGT Robert Daniels)

Quick reaction stops five VC

By SGT Chuck Merdzinski

FSB LIZ (11th INF BDE IO) – Reacting to information received from a detained VC, a combined team of Regional Force (RF) and Popular Force (PF) and Division soldiers recently killed one VC infrastructure official and detained four others in an operation six miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Captain Donald Beavers, Van Nuys, Calif., intelligence officer for the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, received information that a VC official was scheduled to be at a hamlet two miles northwest of FSB Liz. Within minutes he was on his way to the Duc Pho Military Assistance Command headquarters to request support from RF and PF soldiers in identifying and pin-pointing the location of a house in the village of Tam Phong.

With help from the RF and PF assured, two platoons of Company A, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, moved west of the target area to act as a blocking force. Then the second platoon of Company B along with the RF and PF and MACV advisors moved west from QL1.

Soon after the sweep began, the men of Company B spotted and wounded one VC female evading. She was a nurse carrying medical supplies. Shortly after the VC was medevaced, the PF captured two more VC trying to escape.

As the sweep team neared the objective, the RF spotted the VC infrastructure official evading and killed him while detaining another.

First Lieutenant Charles Murray, Ft. Worth, Tex., platoon leader of Company B's second platoon commented, "My men like to work with the Vietnamese on operations like this. They always walk point and can identify the people we are looking for."

"It was a successful operation because we were able to react within hours after the initial information and before the VC realized we were after him," concluded Captain Beavers.