SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION
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MG Baldwin new CG Milloy to XXIV Corps

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Major General A.E. Milloy left his duties as Americal Division Commanding General to serve as deputy commander of XXIV Corps, replacing Major General James L. Baldwin, who assumed command of the Americal during a recent exchange of commands.

General Milloy owns the distinction of being one of two general officers in the U.S. Army to have commanded two combat infantry divisions in Vietnam. He served as commanding general of the prestigious First Infantry Division until its redeployment in March, 1970. He then assumed command of the Americal and has now served more than 16 months as a combat division commander during his tour in Vietnam.

Under General Milloy the "Big Red One" was credited with crushing effective Viet Cong resistance north of Saigon in hard fighting in war zones "C" and "D", in the "Iron Triangle" and along the stretch of QL 13 known as "Thunder Road."

As Americal Division Commander, General Milloy dealt NVA forces two major setbacks in the First Military Region. Under his direction the Americal destroyed a major drive by two NVA regiments down the Que Son Valley in June of this year. The division accounted for more than 1,000 enemy kills in a series of battles around Hiep Duc.

In July, Major General Milloy coordinated a joint effort by American and ARVN forces, who assaulted and secured Kham Duc, a remote outpost which had been overrun and abandoned in 1968. Just 13 miles from the Laotian border, Kham Duc was used as a base for allied forces conducting a wide series of raids to interdict the NVA transportation network and destroy major NVA rear area installations.

A native of Hattiesburg, Miss., General Milloy is a distinguished combat veteran of three wars and a master parachutist. Now on his second tour in Vietnam, he earlier served as senior advisor to the 5th ARVN Division before taking command of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division during 1965-66.

General Baldwin's duties with the XXIV Corps included giving support to the logistics and administration of United States Forces assigned to the corps and working closely with and supervising units in remote districts of Military Region 1.

A native of Omaha, Neb., the 49-year-old general served with the Kansas National Guard during the early years of World War Two. In 1942 he attended Infantry Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Ga., and was commissioned a second lieutenant in November of that year.

He later participated in operations in the Ardennes, Rhineland and General European campaigns while assigned to the 9th Infantry Division. After attending Command and General Staff College in 1954-55, he was assigned to Korea as commander of the 1st Battalion, and G-1, 24th Infantry Division.

Following his return to the United States in 1957, he attended a graduate course in international affairs at Columbia University. From 1958-1961 General Baldwin was assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, Department of the Army, as staff officer in the International and Policy Planning Office. He later attended the National War College and until 1964 was military assistant to the secretary of the Army.

He commanded the Berlin Brigade from August, 1966 until October, 1967, when he returned to Washington for assignment with the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development and later the Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff.

General Baldwin who joined XXIV Corps last June, is married and the father of four children. His family lives in Arlington, Va.

MG A. E. Milloy

Ploy reveals suspects

By SGT Chuck Mordzinski

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – A carefully devised ruse, developed by a sergeant of the division's 11th Infantry Brigade, met with success recently by nabbing two hard core VC sympathizers in the act of hiding the "enemy".

While searching for rice caches, Sergeant Rick Hupp, Newark, Ohio, of Company A. 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, and his comrades passed through a small village where a poker-faced woman passively told them that she knew nothing of VC activities in the area. Her performance wasn't convincing enough to satisfy Sergeant Hupp and a lingering doubt remained with him as the men left the village.

He evaluated the situation and came up with an idea that later confirmed his suspicions. Hupp removed some VC clothing that the men had procured the day before and persuaded a PF to don the enemy attire. The next stop of the plan took place 20 minutes later when the PF soldier, disguised as a VC and carrying an M-2 carbine, wandered into the village and talked to the same woman.

He asked her if any U.S. soldiers were in the area and she replied, "Beaucoup G.I." In a worried voice, the allied soldier asked the woman if she could hide him from the American soldiers. The woman willingly led him to a concealed spider hole beneath the floor of her hut and told him to get inside. Minutes later, Hupp entered the village for the second time and asked the same questions. Again the woman denied knowledge of local insurgents.

Hupp then yelled, "La Dai," and the South Vietnamese soldier continued to play the role of a guerrilla by answering with, "Chieu Hoi!" He came out of the spider hole with raised hands, surrendering his weapon to Hupp. The woman never found out about the hoax until she was escorted to Mo Duc for a questioning session by Regional Forces soldiers.

Much to Hupp's delight, the trick worked again in another village a short distance away. The men of Alpha Company had a lot of chuckling to do that night over the incidents, and with any luck at all they'll continue to chuckle their way through the hamlets of Quang Ngai Province working their ruse.

Division recap

Action increases, 97 enemy killed

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -- Action picked up considerably as monsoon rains subsided in Southern First Military region during the past week. Americal soldiers accounted for a total of 97 enemy killed during a week of intermittent rain.

Iron Mountain

Early in the week, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry found over 2,300 pounds of rice in the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai City. The day's find brought 1st Bn., 20th Inf.'s total to 100,000 pounds of rice since September 1, 1970.

The next day, Charlie Company continued to deplete the enemy's rations when they found another 2,400 pounds of enemy rice. The rice was found burried in drums and was evacuated to FSB Bronco.

The same day, elements of Echo Recon, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, found two tons of unpolished rice in the lowlands south of Duc Pho. The rice was found in bags, bins and drums and evacuated to FSB Bronco.

Warlords of Company B, 123rd Aviation observed one NVA with an SKS evading north in the mountains west of Duc Pho. The LOH engaged and killed the enemy. When

(continued on page 6)

Riflemen of Company C, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, cross a rice paddy on a recent march to the banks of the Tra Bong River, 14 miles south of Chu Lai. (Photo by SP5 H. Wells, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Packs stop bullets

FSB 4-11 (11th INF BDE IO) – Sergeant Glen A. Wittenborn, Campbell Hill, Ill., didn't mind finding a tube of toothpaste and a smoke grenade broken up in his rucksack after a firefight near Fire Support Base 4-11 recently.

Similarly, his companion's in Company C, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry of the division's 11th Infantry Brigade also discovered bits and pieces of items in their rucksacks.

Enemy bullets had ripped into their packs during a firefight west of Quang Ngai after the unit had stopped for a break.

First Lieutenant Samuel E. Grashio, Spokano, Wash., said that at first the rounds seemed to strike everywhere, but after the initial burst, the enemy concentrated fire on those who had not gained cover.

After the encounter, Wittenborn traced the path of an AK-47 round through his rucksack to where it finally stopped between his field slippers.

Private First Class George W. Berry, Memphis, Tenn., the platoon's RTO, found a round wedged next to a hand grenade it had pierced in his pack.

The unit's Kit Carson Scout also found two bullet holes in his rucksack.

All three agreed that it was lucky they didn't have time to drop their rucksacks.

Lieutenant Grashio felt luck was with him too. His boot had been grazed by a bullet.

Congressional inquiries explained

By PFC Ron Cryderman

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Do you know what a congressional inquiry is and how to go about applying for one?

It was recently discovered that most men do not understand what a congressional inquiry is or how it works.

If an individual has a complaint and writes his congressman, the congressman refers the complaint to the Army's Legislative Liaison in Washington D.C. If the individual is in Vietnam, the Army then forwards the letter to USARV for an investigation. A locator system at USARV determines the man's unit and sends the letter on.

The Special Correspondence section of AG handles the letters and forwards them to the individuals company where action has to be taken on the problem within fifteen days. This then completes the circle of steps that take the letter from the sender and then back to him again.

First Lieutenant Mark D. Rose, chief of the special correspondence branch explained that the most common complaints are those dealing with promotions, medical complaints and men wanting to be assigned to the rear after what they feel is too long a period in the field.

"The men who write their congressmen seem to believe that they are dealing with a cure all," Lieutenant Rose said. "They feel that by writing their congressmen they can bring enough pressure on the army to solve their problem, when in fact they cannot. A congressional is nothing more than an indorced complaint letting a unit know one of their men has a problem."

Lieutenant Colonel James M. Eubands, Americal Adjutant General, believes that the inquiry system is being misused. "Anyone with a founded complaint can write their congressman, but they could get faster action with usually better results if he were to go through his chain of command to begin with. Congressional inquiries should only be used as a last resort."

The time taken for an inquiry to get from the orginator to his congressman and back to his unit is usually two months, but often takes longer.

Colonel Eubanks also commented that AG uses untold amounts of time an money to handle congressionals that could have been solved by going through the chain of command or by the I.G. If a man is in the field and connot get in to his company, he can simply write to his unit and get the same results as if he were there himself, and thus still go through the chain of command.

"My suggestion," said Colonel Eubanks, "would be to try solving the problem through the chain of command. If they cannot find a solution, then the individual should reevaluate his problem and decide if his complaint is really valid. If it is justified, then a congressional inquiry is the route to take."

High above the mountains of the division's 196th Infantry Brigade AO a Chinook tows a disabled slick back to their basecamp for repairs. The smaller aircraft was grounded on LZ Siberia as a result of mechanical problems.

SFC Fink finally finis

By SP4 Guy Winkler

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Do you want to go to Hawaii for R&R, but haven't got the money? Withdraw it from your Soldier's Saving Account through the division finance office.

Only for R&R to Hawaii or for emergency reasons upon your CO's approval can a withdrawal be made from your account.

The reason Hawaii is the only place acceptable for withdrawing from your account is because the U.S. Government is trying to keep the flow of gold reserve within the boundaries of the United States.

Other programs that the finance office offers is a 10 per cent interest of savings deposits, five per cent of Savings Bonds and five per cent or checking accounts that don't fall below a $100 balance. In addition, a soldier is allowed to let his money from pay day, at the end of each month, be carried forward to accumulate on to his present account.

"Besides handling the 24,000 pay records of personnel assigned to the division," says Lieutenant Colonel J.M. Gasper, division finance offier, "the finance office also pays non-divisional soldiers; those people attached to the division such as First Logistics personnel, Medical and Signal Corps." The office also sends over 6,000 allotment checks per month to dependents.

"Due to the large number of people in the division and the time required to handle financial matters, pay increases for promotions of the middle of the month will not be reflected on that month's pay," says Colonel Gasper, "but rather reflected in the following month."

Although the finance office cannot make loans, a statement can be prepared to allow a soldier to draw money from his account of a "zero" balance without a Commander's Certificate.

In preparing statements to depositors from the American Express Bank, a newly installed computer now makes it possible for depositors to receive statements every month instead of two months. The postings are put in a computer in Hong Kong which relays the information desired to prepare the statements.

The division finance office is open from 7:00 a.m. to 6: p.m. everyday to assist people. It will also open any time after-hours for emergencies.

Finance at your service

By SP4 Larry Cates

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Spending 365 days in Vietnam is quite an accomplishment, but how about spending 1,365 days here?

Most American troops in Vietnam feel their year is an eternity. Sergeant First Class James L. Fink, Manson City, Ill., of the 196th Infantry Brigade, spent more than three and one half years in this eternity. Surprisingly enough, his final comment on leaving was, "I'll be back!"

Although not directly involved in combat in his job as Personnel Services NCO of 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, Sergeant Fink was concerned about the welfare of the men in the field. "Those men are doing an outstanding job and I wanted to be able to help them in any I could," said Sergeant Fink. "Maybe that's the reason I haven't minded staying here for over three years. I have been doing something that I believed in."

Sergeant Fink's efforts while in Vietnam have not gone unnoticed as he has received many awards, including the Bronze Star with five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with eight Battle Stars and the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters.

During his time here his only breaks were four R&Rs at Bangkok. "The seven day work week is a grind," said Fink.

But going home for good is the best part of any man's tour here. "It was a way of life for a long time," said the sergeant, "and in a way I'm going to miss it, but I wouldn't trade going home for anything."

It takes a lot of self-motivation to stay beyond the regular tour and Sergeant Fink is one man who certainly has it.

"Sure, I could have gone back to the States after one year," he admitted, "but I felt that my job was here. Now after three and a half years I'm going home, knowing I did my part."

Recon patrol nets 4 VC

By SP4 Kenneth Perry

FSB 4-11 (11th INF BDE IO) – An Eagle Flight made by ready members of a division recon platoon resulted in four VC killed and one captured southwest of Quang Ngai City recently.

The platoon, from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, was inserted near a hamlet after after gunships from the 174th Aviation Company had engaged an armed VC evading to the south.

Sergeant Patrick A. Pickett, Glendale, Ore., said that during their sweep of the contact area, his squad intercepted three VC carrying packs and weapons.

It was fortunate for Sergeant Milton Booty, Zachary, La., that the engagement was brief and decisive. Not more than 10 meters away from him, Booty said, lay one of the VC with a Chicom grenade clutched in hand.

One VC was caught while trying to change clothes by Sergeant Donald E. Bradshaw, Winston, Ore. Bradshaw noted that the would-be quick change artist turned out to be a local VC hamlet chief.

Commo chief gets surprise

By SGT Chuck Merdzinski

LZ SNOOPY (11th INF BDE IO) – A standard Army field radio provided a big surprise for a sergeant at LZ Snoopy in the division's 11th Infantry Brigade.

While using the battalion's command frequency, Staff Sergeant Henry Striplin, Clarksdale, Miss., of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, was interrupted in the middle of a transmission and thought that someone was attempting to jam the radio channel. The battalion communications chief said he got the surprise of his life.

"At first, I thought somebody was trying to block the command net," said Striplin. "After talking for a minute, I told him to identify himself and he said to call Camp Red Cloud. I told him that the only Camp Red Cloud that I knew of was in Korea. Then, he shocked me and said, 'That's where I am.' He sounded as clear as if we were talking in the same room."

"The normal range of the radio can be increased when atmospheric conditions are ideal," explained Striplin. "The incident occurred the day prior to the reported typhoon that struck near Chu Lai. The powerful winds most likely removed the static electricity from the air and opened the channel."

11th Bde nets bear

FSB SAN JUAN (11th INF BDE IO) – A small element of a division 11th Infantry Brigade unit spent some restless moments recently because of an equally restless bear.

Although it was only a 150 pound parcel of fur stomping in the bushes, the squad from Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry prepared themselves for an encounter with VC or NVA.

"The men began a recon by fire as the swishing sound in the bushes came nearer to their position," said Staff Sergeant James Hayes, Rocky Point, N.C., who also noted that no friendlies were nearby.

Darkness prevented a survey of the area and the men waited for daylight. In the morning, one bear, KIA, was found.

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Surgeon saves newborn child

By PFC John P. Szaynowski

LZ MARY ANN (196th INF BDE IIO) -- The constant drumming of the rain on the shelter's roof accompanied the chanting of Vietnamese women and the urgent prompting of the American Army doctor for the pregnant woman to "push, push" her baby into being.

The heavy rains had delayed the arrival of the medavac helicopter and, thus, denied access to suitable medical facilities for the delivery. After delivery was completed, it became clear the baby was not breathing.

Only a few hours before, Captain Gerlad S. Wiviott, Milwaukee, field surgeon for the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, learned of the Vietnamese woman's troubled pregnancy on one of his frequent visits to the village of New Hau Duc, a resettlement area west of Tam Ky. Specialist Four Kevin Smith, Rochester, N.Y., a medic from the battalion stationed in the community, informed Captain Wiviott that the woman had been in protracted labor for the past two days.

"I examined the pregnant woman and saw that she was going to have a difficult delivery," related Captain Wiviott, "so I decided to have her 'dusted off' to the hospital in Chu Lai."

The woman was taken to a small shelter near the helicopter pad to wait for the medevac. Continual rains delayed the arrival of the helicopter. The inclement weather, however, did not postpone the baby's birth. The mid-wife who had accompanied the woman conducted the delivery, assisted by the doctor. Specialist Smith, a Navy medic and a male nurse from MACV carried necessary medical equipment and supplies from the aid station to the shelter.

"As I urged the woman, at the height of her labor, to push down on her stomach, a group of women off to the side began to chant. They made a clicking sound which rose and fell in volume as the labor pains fluctuated," recalled Captain Wiviott.

"The baby was not breathing after the mid-wife delivered it, and she didn't know what to do. So I took the baby from her and tried to remove the obstruction to the baby's breathing. I used a rubber tube as an aspirator to extract the blocking material from the baby's throat and lungs," continued Wiviott. "I alternately administered aspiration and artificial respiration until the baby began to breathe on its own."

A short while later the weather cleared enough to allow the medevac helicopter to arrive.

The baby girl will live due to the timely and competent medical attention given by Captain Wiviott.

The men of Company C, 26th Engineers, strain as they lift the heavy steel beams of a bridge into place. The 26th Engineers, who support the division's 11th Infantry Brigade, were told to build a bridge "ASAP". In four hours they stapled together a 25 foot washed out link of vital roadway of Highway One north of Duc Pho. Civilians and convoys stood by as the engineers set to work at 10 a.m. By 2 p.m. traffic was moving over a 38 foot dry span bridge.

(Photo by PFC Dale Wilson)

Children reveal cache

By SP4 Guy Winkler

LZ HAWK HILL (AMERICAL IO) – "It pays to be nice to kids."

That's what Lieutenant Colonel Crosbie E. Saint, commanding officer for the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry had to say after Vietnamese children turned over a large cache of explosives.

While operating about two miles northwest of Tam Ky recently, B Troop, 1st Sqdrn., 1st Cav., maneuvered to high land in anticipation of a possible typhoon threatening the coastal lowlands.

"As soon as we pulled into the high ground, the kids started bringing the ammo in to us," said Captain Carlos A. Poveda, commanding officer of B Troop. "There must have been a hundred of them in one long line bringing it to us one item at a time," he said.

After a while, the men of the unit decided to follow the kids to see where they were finding the ammo.

As Sergeant Jim Kycer made his way through some brush toward the source, a Vietnamese child yelled frantically and grabbed him by the arm. Kycer looked down to where the child was pointing and to his bewilderment discovered a trip wire entangled with vines which was connected to a hidden booby trap. The grateful soldier literally showered the child with monetary rewards.

When we found the place, it was like an assembly line to carry the stuff out of there," said First Lieutenant Dennis Holsel. "After we got it all out and the anti-personnel mines dug up, it was blown up," he said.

The children disclosed the location of 321 rounds of 60mm mortars, 89 rounds of 81mm mortars, 138 recoiless rounds, 43 anti-personnel mines, eight claymores, eight assorted hand grenades, 50 artillery fuses, three 105mm rounds, one 4.2 inch round, four M-79 rounds, one 40-pound anti-tank mine, three blocks of one-quarter pound nitro starch, one RPG, one M-72 LAW and 10 home-made grenades. The ammo was estimated to have been there for six months.

Faulty Chicom thwarts assassin

By SGT Chuck Merdzinski

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – A recent attempt to kill a Vietnamese interpreter and three members of a division intelligence team was foiled when a Chicom grenade failed to explode after being tossed into a parked jeep on Highway One, approximately one mile north of Duc Pho.

First Lieutenant Donald Quinn, Johnstown, Colo., First Lieutenant Roger Jordheim, Bismark, N.D., Specialist Five James Lightfoot, Gahanna, Ohio, and Pham Van Thein from the 11th Brigade's 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry were waiting near a village on Highway One to observe a medcap mission at the time of the indicent. The officers were outside near the rear of the vehicle while Specialist Lightfoot, the driver and Van Thein remained inside.

A 12-year-old insurgent boldly walked to the rear of the jeep and flipped a grenade into the back seat directly beneath Van Thein. The fuse of the Chicom grenade failed to fully detonate the charge within the shell of the ordnance and resulted in a low order explosion.

The two officers, who had their backs to the jeep dropped to the prone position when they heard the popping sound of the fuse. Van Thein grabbed an M-16 and pursued the fleeing youth and his accomplice. Van Thein fired several warning shots over the heads of the youths before taking careful aim to stop the would-be assassin with a round that grazed his leg.

The insurgent was evacuated to the 91st Evacuation hospital for treatment of his minor wound and then taken to Quang Ngai City for questioning by South Vietnamese authorities.

Popular Force soldiers from Duc Pho apprehended the other youth during a search that afternoon. The youths are believed to be members of a group of children that have been trained by local VC guerrillas to inflict casualties on U.S. and South Vietnamese forces.

An elated Vietnamese girl smiles broadly as she comforts her new companion, a doll presented to her by division artillerymen. (Photo by SP5 Rush Wood)

Life returns to Son Hoa

By SP4 Robert A. Spangler

HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – The hamlet of Phu Binh is a story of past, present, and future history. During a Communist offensive in August, 1969, the entire village of Son Hoa had to be evacuated and its residents were forced back to secure areas such as Da Nang and Tam Ky.

Son Hoa consist of three hamlets: Phu Coc, Phu Binh, and An Son. Several months after the Communist offensive, the hamlet of Phu Coc was resettled with the help of several platoons of Popular Forces and a liaison team from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade.

Recently the Popular Forces in the area have improved, strengthened, and expanded to the extent that the hamlet of Phu Binh has been resettled after its residents have existed as refugees for over a year in other areas.

The village of Son Hoa is now two-thirds resettled. Credit for the success of Son Hoa has to be given to an aggressive village chief, Hoang Van Ngoc; an extremely brave Popular Forces unit; and a liaison team of three Americans from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry.

Specialist Four Bruce Hansum, Platte, S.D., a member of the liaison team said, "I feel a real sense of accomplishment here. We have been this village grow from burned out ruins into the most progressive village in the entire area. All the credit has to go to the village chief and the PFs."

Specialist Four Les Ainsworth, Cedarville, Ark., medcap medic for the liaison team, stated, "We have about 2,000 medcaps per month now that we have two hamlets to served, and I look for a large increase as soon as our third hamlet is resettled."

Since Son Hoa has been resettled a school house has been built by the villagers under the direction of the village in addition to a sizable, modern pig raising facility and a large fish pond. The pig pens and fish pond will be used both to provide a source of food for villagers as well as aiding the local economy.

Specialist Four Daryl Hassenbroek, Iona, Minn., liaison team member, explained

(cont'd on centerfold)

st areas in Vietnam, villagers carry products to and from hamlets on their backs. As this fellow's ssion indicates, it's all a matter of leverage.

When the load becomes too heavy villagers utilize bicycles to lighten are bringing home banana tree trunks.

Son Hoa builds f

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the importance of their "grass roots pacification." "If this end isn't successful then all of our fighting is in vain. If the villagers and hamlets can't stand, if civilian defense groups don't function properly and Popular Forces and Regional Forces can't defend their respective areas, then our whole program will fall apart when we pull out."

"When you see how these people hate anyone who attempts to destroy their homes and property it makes you realize what we're fighting for in the bush," Hassebroek said. He went on to explain that he was a former combat medic and couldn't fully understand the war and our reasons for being here until he began working with the Vietnamese people themselves.

"Shortly after I was assigned here we were attacked one night by NVA sappers. Our PFs got on line with flash lights and assaulted the sappers killing all of them. If anyone is willing to fight like that to defend their

Story and Photos by SP4 Robert A. Spangler

nger refugees, villagers freely travel the roads between hamlets hey were driven away from over a year ago.

The age old craft of basketweaving continues today in the village of Son Hoa.

A Son Hoa villager prepares to cart The thatch is sold to nearby villages Son Hoa.

the burden. These two Son Hoa residents

Once harvested, the peanuts have to be sorted. This woman pitches in to help complete the task.

Peanuts are a major food source in Son Hoa as well as a source of income for vilalgers in the area.

Using their hands as well as antiquated tools these villagers cultivate the soil near the village of Son Hoa.

for future

homes from Communist aggression then I'm willing to go hand in hand with them," said Hassebroek.

The three man liaison team handles medcaps, dustoffs, artillery clearances, and attempts to help the village chief secure needed materials for village projects.

The success of Son Hoa and other hamlets just like it will determine the future of Vietnam. If Son Hoa is any indication of the future, then Vietnam has a bright future ahead of it.

hatching to the market place. as well as to the residents of

Villagers slice the meat from the banana tree. The banana meat, once prepared, can be eaten as well as used to make banana wine.

Twin attack kills 17

By SP4 Lee P Habich

LZ STINSON (AMERICAL IO) – In a recent combined operation about two miles northeast of LZ Stinson, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, zeroed in on what authorities believe to be the weapons company of the 48th VC Regiment, resulting in the death of 17 enemy.

Coming across a fresh VC grave in the middle of thick vegetation, the men decided to check out the area. Cutting their way through the vine-entangled, dense jungle terrain, the infantrymen stopped to take a breather near a small steam.

While resting they heard talking and laughing from around the bend in the steam. Three men immediately slithered forward to see what lurked beyond the treeline.

When the men returned with reports of 30 to 35 VC gathered around a cave complex about 500 meters up the stream, Captain Lee Basnar, Lyndonville, Vt., called in gunships.

"We obviouly came in the back door and caught them with their pants down. They were so certain that GIs wouldn't approach from this direction, they didn't even have observers posted," Basnar later reflected.

In an effort to block the available escape paths, the weapons platoon moved to the west, the first platoon deployee to the south, the third platoon to the east and nearby Alpha Company came in from the north.

After the gunships came in, the security, afforded by the caves was soon evident. When Charlie Company started to move, the enemy greeted them with a volley of rifle and machine gun fire. Gunships were again requested.

Afterward the men cautiously approached the cave complex. Hidden beneath a natural bamboo thatch canopy was a boulder formation with mumerous crevices and spider holes.

The well-concealed rock formation with its moss lined walls and vine covered passageways offered its occupants an ideal sanctuary. The nearby stream provided water. Judging from the amount of equipment found in the crevices the site apparently was an often visited VC arms depot.

Having secured the area, the GIs set up camp about 700 yards from the arsenal and initiated a through search of the crevices. Charlie Company took three days to search through the rocks, uncovering many weapons stored there.

In addition to the 17 dead VC scattered throughout the area, the men of Charlie Company uncovered two AK-47s, one rocket propelled grenade launcher with rounds, eight Chicom grenades, seven grenade launchers, one Russian made machine gun with two drums of magazines, one U.S. 60mm mortar with tripod, one French 60mm mortar with tripod and assorted small arms supplies.

With packs on their backs, B Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Brigade, moves out on patrol about nine miles northeast of LZ Dottie.
(Photo by PFC James Dunn, 523rd Sig Bn)

Action picks up as rainstorms subside

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preparing to land, the LOH received enemy fire. The LOH again engaged the enemy killing three NVA.

Later that night, elements of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, observed 48 NVA with packs and weapons in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. The Infantrymen engaged the area with small arms fire and later with "Shark" gunships. Sweeping the area, the infantrymen found one NVA flashlight.

Frederick Hill

Early this week two enemy were killed by elements of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, northwest of Tam Ky. They killed one VC they spotted moving outside their night laager position shortly before daybreak. A second enemy was accounted for during a midmorning search of a hootch area when they flushed one NVA out of hiding and killed him with small arms fire. Captured were one Chicom grenade and one rucksack containing a small assortment of tools and personal items.

Later the same day the "Charlie Tigers" uncovered a large tunnel complex during operation on a thickly vegetated hillside. The tunnel, estimated to be large enough to hide a company element, contained one freshly oiled 31 caliber machine gun, 57 recoiless rifle rounds, three boxes of 51 caliber rounds and 200-31 caliber rounds.

Also this week Company C, 3rd Battalion 21st Infantry, while securing a landing zone west of Tam Ky spotted one NVA 20 meters to their front. They engaged and killed the enemy with small arms fire. Thirty rounds of AK-47 ammunition were recovered with an AK-47 rifle and rucksack.

Later in the week, Charlie Company moved into a base camp and observed two enemy evading east. The "Gimlets" engaged them with small arms fire resulting in one VC and one NVA killed. One NVA pistol belt and one pack containing medical supplies were recovered in the action.

Company B, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., while on patrol west of Tam Ky found three VC graves. The VC were believed killed by small arms fire.

Geneva Park

The "Professionals" of 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry accounted for nine enemy killed, six in a single encounter. They also found a small food cache. Echo Recon engaged and killed the six enemy while patrolling near the Ky Tra Valley northwest of Chu Lai. Captured in the action were one AK-47, two AK-47 magazines, one handgrenade and two packs.

Charley Company, 5th Bn., 46th Inf., engaged and killed two VC northwest of Chu Lai. Later the company sent five detainees to Chu Lai.

Bravo Company, 5th Bn., 46th Inf., engaged and killed a VC in a brief firefight northwest of Chu Lai.

The "Ready Rifles" of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, killed six VC and detained seven during the week. A large amount of hand grenades, rice and other items were taken in the actions.

Conducting two after dark raids on small hamlets south of Chu Lai, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, killed four VC and detained seven. Taken in the encounters were one rifle, 20 Chicom grenades, five packs, and 150 pounds of rice.

Alpha Company, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., employing the same after dark technique later in the week, killed two enemy soldiers and detained one in a small hamlet northwest of Quang Ngai City.

The "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, accounted for four enemy killed and two weapons taken in action southeast of Chu Lai. Early in the week a Recon team enganed and killed three VC in three separate encounters. Later, Bravo Company engaged and killed a single VC while on patrol.

In a day laager position, Delta Company, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., had a child show them the location of a large metal cylinder containing an unknown type explosive. The containers and explosive were destroyed.

Silhouetted against the evening sky near Hiep Duc, these soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry stand near their armored personnel carrier to prepare for a night defensive position.
(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig Bn)

'Towering' NVA was easy target

By SGT Chuck Merdzinski

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – A six-man patrol from Recon, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade recently engaged an NVA squad four miles north of here and killed the largest insurgent reported by the "Sykes' Regulars" in a year.

The men were beginning a three-day reconnaissance mission to survey an area in which the enemy was suspected to be operating. The patrol was navigating in thick brush 150 meters from a main trail when the pointman, Sergeant Jim Erhardt, Ellington, Mo., spotted three enemy soldiers wearing blue uniforms and carrying rucksacks 40 meters away.

While the men quickly spread to an on-line formation, Private First Class Ed Kapusta, Philadelphia, Pa., and Sergeant Rocco Cipriano, Yonkers, N.Y., spotted two more NVA soldiers to their right standing in thick brush. Once the men were in position, Sergeant Erhardt shouted, "Dung Lai!" and the insurgents instinctively dispersed, forcing the U.S. element to take offensive action.

"We opened up with our M-16s on full automatic," explained Kapusta. "The main body of our element heard the racket from a distance and thought that we were an enemy regiment. We were able to put out a lot of fire power because everyone had a 40-round banana clip in their rifles."

The foliage was extremely dense for the men to effectively engage the insurgents, but they managed to wound two with their initial burst of fire. Cipriano and Kapusta pursued the two insurgents that they had spotted previously, while Erhardt, Sergeant Tom Day, Lapier, Mich., Sergeant Ray Campbell, Portsmouth, Va., and Private First Class Larry Pike, Ft. Bragg, Calif., attempted to track the other three enemy soldiers moving to the west toward the mountains.

"We had to move slowly because there could have been an ambush waiting for us," said Cipriano. "After moving 100 meters, we spotted them moving across an old rice paddy, so we thought it would be safe to chase them. One of them seemed to be limping."

The other men had lost contact with the NVA trio that was originally spotted, and joined Cirpriano and Kapusta. The six recon soldiers pursued the NVA for 500 meters before firing their weapons. Just as one of the NVA began to enter a woodline at the base of the mountains, Kapusta took deadly aim and downed him with a long shot.

"He was the biggest enemy soldier that we've ever seen," exclaimed Cipriano. "He had a thick black goatee and was about five-foot-eleven and a lean 185 pounds."

"I wouldn't have wanted to try any hand-to-hand with him," joked Kapusta.

The men returned to the location where they first sighted the insurgents and found six NVA rucksacks containing equipment.

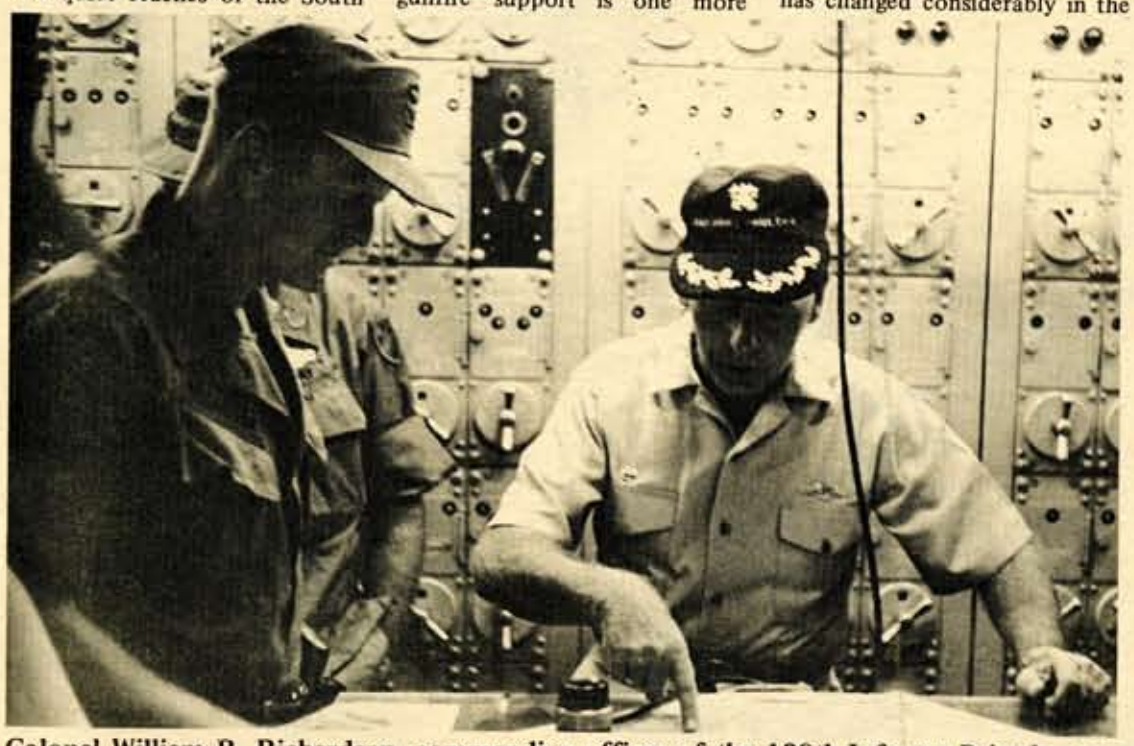
Sensual Stella Stevens is our choice this week to enhance the appearance of the Southern Cross. We think Miss Stevens, who recently appeared in the flick "The Ballad of Cable Hogue" in division "movie houses", is the hottest thing to pass our desk since the announcement of Christmas drops. And if you weren't among the chosen few to get a drop, just look at Stella's alluring face and weep 'till DEROS. (Photo Courtesy Columbia Pictures).

Navy gives div extra firepower

By SP4 Terry Williamson

CHU LAI (198th INF BDE IO) – Every once in a while, a loud rumble can be heard from the quiet reaches of the South China Sea. This menacing sound is another trouble sign for enemy soldiers in the division's area of operations for Naval gunfire support is one more effective means of supplying infantrymen in the field with heavy support.

The mission of Naval gunfire has changed considerably in the last three years but it still provides all Allied Forces with massive firepower. Before artillery had been fully employed in Vietnam, it was found necessary to line the entire coast with heavy cruisers capable of delivering fire support. The large amount of artillery has caused a reduction in the need of such extensive off shore support, but the capability of the huge guns is not forgotten.



Colonel William R. Richardson, commanding officer of the 198th Infantry Brigade, goes over a map with Navy Captain Hugh C. Knott, commanding officer of the USS Saint Paul, in the operations area of the ship. (Photo by 1LT Mark Tucker)

For a brigade to obtain Naval gunfire support, the Naval Liaison Officer at division must be contacted. The liaison officer for the division is Lieutenant (jg) Danny M. Dixon, El Cagon, Calif.

"I give the brigades all the information they need concerning our operations." Lieutenant Dixon said. "I can set up a firing schedule with them, and tell them how soon they can expect a ship to work in their area."

"Even though we are limited in our support operations, we've been quite successful with the missions we have fired in this area," Lieutenant Dixon said. "We also provide our own aerial observer who does much of the adjusting that is necessary. So we are in a pretty good position to see just how effective we've been in a particular area."

Recently, Colonel William R. Richardson, Arlington, Va., commanding officer of the 198th Infantry Brigade, visited the USS Saint Paul, a heavy cruiser stationed off the coast of Chu Lai, and presented a plaque to Captain Hugh C. Knott, Columbus, Ohio, skipper of the ship, in appreciation for the support the ship has furnished. While on board, Colonel Richardson was given a tour of the ship and watched a fire mission unfold as the big eight inch guns went to work.

Captain Knott explained that there are some humorous moments in the fire missions when the different terminology used by the two services comes into conflict.

"Sometimes artillery aerial observers adjust our missions," Captain Knott said, "and they're not used to our terms. Once, when one of these observers was calling in a mission to us, we asked him if he wanted 'Three guns, three salvos, fire for effect'. The Army man, used to artillery talk, thought it over and said, 'Yea, that sounds like what I want.'"

But although the language may be different, the message is the same.

Tells it like it is . . .

Is Marihuana less harmful than alcohol?

The results of intoxication by both drugs can be harmful.

We know that alcohol is a dangerous drug physically, psychologically or socially for millions of people. There is no firm evidence that marihuana would be less harmful if used consistently. In countries where alcohol is forbidden by religious taboo, skid rows based on marihuana exist. The "rumhead" and the "pothead" are both unenviable creatures.

If alcohol is legal, why not marihuana?

It would seem more logical to deal with our millions of alcoholics than to add another mind-altering chemical to our existing problem. Whether another intoxicant should be accepted into the culture is the question.

Only during the past three years has the sophisticated, scientific study of marihuana been underway. It would seem prudent to await the results of ongoing and planned studies before treating marihuana as we do alcohol.

Does marihuana have any medical uses?

Marihuana has no approved medical use in the U.S. Some researchers are attempting to determine whether THC may have appetite-enhancing anticonvulsant, or antidepressant capabilities.

Is there anything in marihuana that leads to the use of other drugs?

There is nothing in marihuana itself that produces a need to use other drugs. Most marihuana smokers do not progress to stronger substances. Some do. Surveys supported by the National Institute of Mental Health show that the "pothead" does tend to experiment with other drugs. Hashish is frequently tried, and large numbers of "potheads" later use strong hallucinogens, amphetamines, and, occasionally, barbiturates. Some try opium and heroin.

In one college survey, one per cent of the "potheads" became addicted to opium or heroin. In surveys of heroin addicts, 85 per cent had previously tried marihuana, but a still larger percentage had used alcohol before heroin.

Big bullet is fatal

By WO1 Gary A. Krehbiel

CHU LAI (16th CAG IO) – Warrant Officer Doyle J. Miner of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was the pilot of Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry's $110,000 "bullet" which proved to be deadly for one NVA soldier.

The "bullet" was actually a LOH which Miner was flying on a visual reconnaissance mission southwest of Tam Ky for the division.

Miner was scouting around a hilltop when he came uunder heavy enemy fire and was shot down. The chopper crashed and rolled onto its side.

After pulling himself and the crew free of the aircraft, he noticed an enemy soldier crushed beneath the LOH. Two squads of "Blues", the gound platoon assigned to Delta, 1st Sqdrn., 1st Cav., were inserted to evacuate the air crew.

In addition, they killed three more NVA, detained one and confiscated a .30 caliber tripod-mounted machinegun and one AK-47 rifle. The downed aircraft was destroyed in place.

Crew members of the USS Saint Paul watch as a helicopter carrying Colonel William R. Richardson, commanding officer of the 198th Infantry Brigade, begins to land on the deck. (Photo by 1LT Mark Tucker)

Crew chief trained horses

By SP4 Tom Mano

HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Horsesoldiers in Vietnam? Not even. But a crew-chief door gunner here comes about as close as a man in Vietnam could come.

Specialist Four Daniel E. Hart, Winterhaven, Fla., who flys LOHs for the aviation section of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Infantry Brigade, has ridden quarterhorses since he was 10 years old.

"I've completely trained 10 or 11 horses and a couple more just piddling," said the soldier. "Though some horses take years to train, the last two Palamino mares I trained only took about eight months."

The first step in training horses parallels any quality leader's task. "Initially you have to win his confidence," remarked Hart. "Then after halter-breaking him, you put the horse on a lunge line. This rope shows the horse that your hand gestures require certain actions of him."

Then the hardest part of training begins. The tainer has to instruct the horse in turning and leading. The horse "leads" when he walks a specified distance in front of the walker. This is an essential point-getter for "halted" horses at charity horse shows and auctions.

Training horses can be as dangerous as flying in LOHs says Hart. "Definitely yes I've been kicked. You have to be real careful. A good horse won't kick you, but most of the younguns will try," he said.

"One time I had a horse try to kill me. It was a four-year-old thoroughbred-quaterhorse that I bought from the King Ranch in Texas," said Hart.

"While a vet was lancing a boil on Easter's leg, I held a 'Flying W' on him," recounted Hart. The "Flying W" is a rope attached to the horse's legs which when pulled causes the horse to fall flat. "This is done in a sandy area so he won't hurt himself," Hart added.

"The stallion got loose from the 'Flying W' and reared on his hind legs," continued Hart. "If I hadn't immediately rushed over a nearby fence, he would have come down and smashed my skull."

Hart's ambition when he leaves Vietnam is to try to qualify for the Army polo team at Ft. Myer, Va. He would like to train and ride the polo ponies. The training would be a little different, because polo ponies are smaller than quarterhorses. They are also gaited which means they move their right front foot at the same time as their right back foot.

Hart has never played polo professionally, but "my buddies and I used to mess around," he said. "I'm really looking forward to it."