'... I had to quit'

GI junkie tells how he kicked heroin

By SP4 Thomas J. Neville

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV IO) – "Cold Turkey" meant more than a midnight snack during the Christmas holidays for an American soldier here. It meant 72 agonizing hours of withdrawing from heroin as part of the Army's drug Amnesty program.

The 22-year-old soldier decided to kick the habit on his own." I was on heroin for about two months...I found it difficult and finally reached a point when I knew I had to quit," he said during a recent interview.

By seeking help through the Army's new program at the 23rd Medical Battalion, the young addict was given complete amnesty from any form of prosecution, providing he abided by three basic rules. The requirements were:

1. The individual will have no drugs in his possession when he turns himself in.

2. He must not take any drugs while under the doctors care.

3. He must not take drugs after leaving the care of the doctor.

The articulate soldier, who will remain anonymous under the name Specialist X, granted this interview in hopes of informing others in the dangers of hard drugs.

How did he become addicted? "I had been smoking grass (marijuana) but I can't say grass led up to it. The heroin made being here (Vietnam) more bearable."

He admitted that his environment and friends had a lot to do with his taking drugs. His friends eventually convinced him to try hard drugs and he did so in hopes of escaping the reality of his situation. He realized the risks and the expense but the detriments were outweighed by what he called the "fantastic high," which heroin produces.

"I was shooting about seven c.c.'s per day, one c.c. each injection and it was riding me about 10 dollars a day." He added that on many occasions his friends would turn him on give the heroin free.

When asked how easy it was to obtain the drugs, Specialist X quipped, "It's as easy to buy as a pack of cigarettes." But he noted that there is tremendous risk involved in purchasing heroin here, especially from civilians. "It could be cut with anything from laundry detergent to poison."

There is also a hidden danger to drug users which stems from the use of hypodermic needles. Many times a user will not sterilize the needle before injecting himself and this could cause him to contact hepatitis.

After two months of addiction, the Chu Lai based serviceman began to realize that he would have to quit. "I realized I couldn't take it home with me...it's just too difficult to function." I heard about 'Amnesty' from a doctor but at first I thought it was just another Army program. I had to try it 'though and I learned that nothing is kept in my records."

When he applied for Amnesty a counsellor advised him to submit himself to 72-hours in a restricted ward at the 23rd Medical Battalion. The three days of "cold turkey" were painful and frustrating but it's the only way to kick it.

"When I came back it wasn't easy, because I had my friends to live with." However, he stated that he had then gone two weeks without touching drugs and "...it gets easier every day."

He offered a suggestion to other drug users to quit early before the habit becomes too great to handle. Since his withdrawal, he has been attending weekly "rap sessions" at the amnesty clinic. The discussions are aimed at helping the users solve the problems they face in readjusting to life without drugs.

After returning to duty, the ex-addict discovered that his friends treated him with mild contempt because he took part in the Amnesty Program. They felt that if he wanted to quit, he should have done it without admitting to the Army that he was a user.

But it was easy to rationalize that situation and his following comment proves that he did, "I'm off of drugs now and most of my friends are still taking them."

Asked how he would evaluate the Amnesty Program. he noted, "The program is good in that it enabled me to get out of my environment. It put me in a situation where I was a patient, restricted to a ward and I couldn't get drugs even if I wanted to.

"The program as a whole can do a lot more help than harm and while ON the program, it certainly can't hurt you."

As a footnote, Specialist X added, "The only drawback is that you only have one chance to declare for Amnesty– so it's up to the individual."

For this retired junkie, it's a whole new life ahead of him when he meets his DEROS in a few days.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3 No. 47 Chu Lai, Vietnam December 18, 1970

Orphan given new 'MOS'

By SP4 Lee Habich

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV IO) – In an honor guard ceremony before the members of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery, PFC Lou "Same Same Water Buffalo" ended his military career by becoming and honorary specialist four. (see related story, photos pages 4, 5).

Private First Class Lou, an 11-year-old Vietnamese orphan, was adopted by the unit about 18 months ago and is now beginning a new "mission." a midget, he is starting the first grade.

"PFC Lou 'Same Same Water Buffalo' is hereby promoted to specialist four in the MOS (military occupational speciality) of PS1, a first grader," read the orders. Upon completion of first grade, Lou will receive a new MOS, PS2, a second grader.

With a little help from Staff Sergeant Ernest Phelps, PFC Lou, a Vietnamese orphan adopted by the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery, reviews the unit during a recent ceremony in his honor. (Photo by SP4 Lee Habich).

Lou will be taking his TDY in the first grade class of the Van Coi orphanage, a Catholic School in An Tan. Although his duty assignment has been changed, he will keep his old residency. Staying in the hootch which he now shares with mess sergeant Ernest Phelps, Lou woll be escorted to and from school by jeep.

As well as can be determined, Lou became a member of the 16th Arty when he wandered into B Battery, then in Thien Phuoc, in June, 1969. Sick and homeless, Lou stayed with Sergeant Burroughs, a member of number five gun section, who nursed him back to health. Lou's parents were never located and he has been with the 16th Artillery ever since.

About a year ago the little soldier came to Chu Lai and, according to executive officer Major Jack R. Alsop, has become quite a celebrity with the men. He corresponds with grade school children who have come to know of him through the veterans. Among other things, Lou is a proficient typist.

On a first name basis with just about everyone in the unit, Lou has no problem finagling his way into the company clubs. According to one anecdote, Lou was sitting at a table with a few of the fellows savoring his root beer when a particularly attractive Vietnamese bar girl caught his eye.

In a good natured effort to win over the girl, he offered the club manager three papasans, two mamasans, a dog, two cats and a couple of mongooses.

79 enemy soldiers die in light action

By SP4 Dave Goodrich

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV IO) – Action was light this week, which ended with 79 enemy killed and large amounts of rice and munitions captured. In action south of Chu Lai, the "Ready Rifles" of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 198th Brigade accounted for 11 enemy killed in one action as part of Operation Geneva Park.

Frederick Hill

The men of the 196th Infantry Brigade accounted for 40 enemy killed and captured a large amount of food and munitions during the week.

In operations east-northeast of Tam Ky the soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry recovered 7,000 pounds of corn, 2,700 pounds of rice, 508 Chicom (Chinese Communist) grenades, 140 pounds of plastic explosives, six Chicom light-machine guns, 14 122mm rockets, 52 60mm mortar rounds, 12 105mm artillery rounds, two complete 82mm mortar tubes, two 82mm mortar rounds, 17 75mm recoiless rifle rounds, three SKS rifles, six AK-47 rifles, 1,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, two 9mm pistols and 800 blasting caps.

Members of Company A of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry came in contact with five enemy soldiers while on patrol northeast of Tam Ky, resulting in three NVA and two VC dead, and two AK-47 rifles and one 9mm pistol captured.

Later in the week, Company A of the "Polar Bears" accounted for three more dead NVA, capturing three AK-47s and eight Chicom grenades.

Soldiers of the 3rd Platoon, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, upon entering a structure area, observed three NVA evading to their front. They killed one of them and chased another into a spider hole. The "Gimlets" called for him to come out, and when he refused they tossed a grenade into the hole. Upon search of the hole they found three dead NVA And 150 pounds of rice.

Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed two NVA attempting to set up a booby trap west of Tam Ky.

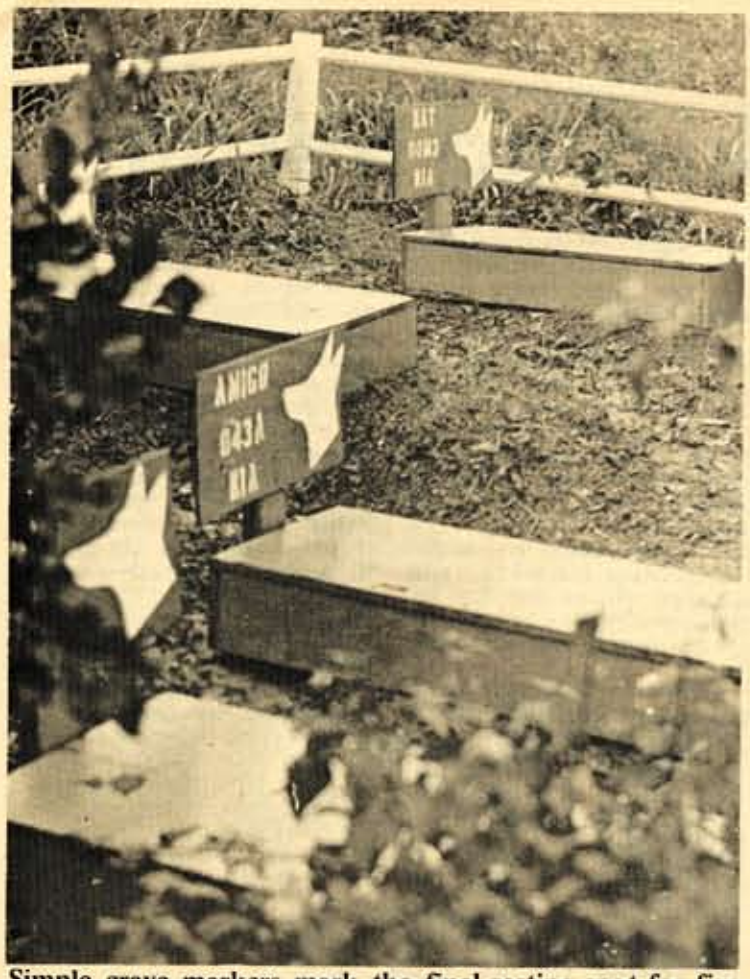
Iron Mountain

The 11th Infantry Brigade was credited with 21 enemy kills. In the most significant action, Shark gunships of the 174th Aviation spotted five VC in the mountains Northwest of Duc Pho. The gunships engaged the VC with miniguns, resulting in five dead VC.

Earlier in the week, the men of Company A, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry extracted about 2,600 pounds of unpolished rice to Brigade S-5.

In two separate actions, "Warlords" of the 174th Aviation accounted for two additional enemy killed in action. Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry killed

(Continued Page 6)



Simple grave markers mark the final resting spot for five members of the 48th Scout Dog Platoon, based at Hawk Hill. The K-9 Corps members all were killed in action while supporting division soldiers. (Photo by PFC Don Newton).

4-legged heroes R.I.P.

By SP4 Don Newton

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Enclosed by a white picket fence and surrounded by an isolated patch of scanty trees and shrubbery rests the remains of five warriors. The graveyard commemorates canine members of the 48th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog).

Dressed in greenery, the tiny plot of ground appears a lone jewel in a setting of bleached red clay which dominates the rest of Hawk Hill. Commonplace surroundings of sandbags, bunkers, barbed wire and olive drab further define this relatively unique section of serenity.

"Scout dog handlers built the cemetery," explained First Lieutenant Robert E. Allen, Boston, scout dog platoon leader. "When one of our dogs dies, there's no question that he'll be brought back here for burial."

As indicated by the small number of graveyards here, the vast majority of scout dogs complete their tour unscathed. For those that don't a war story usually lives with each epitaph, although the inscription only lists the German Shepherd's name and serial number.

"Rex" died March 6, 1970, while working with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry. Rex alerted in front of a tunnel in a hilly area west of Tam Ky. After a grenade was tossed in the hole, dog and handler crawled into the tunnel for results. A VC at the base of the tunnel completed his last kill by shooting Rex with an AK-47 rifle.

"Chooch" died April 28, 1970, while working off leash with Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry. Chooch attacked an NVA point man just as the enemy and dog handler came face to face in a clearing southwest of Tam Ky. Chooch caught an enemy bullet, saving his master's life. A short burst from the handler's M-16 rifle killed the NVA.

"Kat" died April 30, 1970, while working with Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry. The German Shepherd was struck down by .30 calibre fire when he alerted on an enemy machine gun position, situated on the side of a hill southwest of Tam Ky.

"Royal" also died in action while working with Company D, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, on September 27, 1970. The fifth grave marker recalls that "Amigo" died in June, 1970, from a rare blood disease.

"Four of the five dogs were killed walking point," said Lieutenant Allen. "That's where our dogs are commonly utilized because of the keen sense of small.

"Scout dogs are noted for their ability to detect the enemy by way of airborne scent. Then they give silent warning."

Lieutenant Allen explained that the silent warning from dog to handler may vary with each team. A sudden poise or show of tension by the animal represents an alert.

Months of daily companionship develops a bond between man and dog. The bond grows understandably closer when they experience combat together.

This interdependence may account for some of the pride represented in the sign which is posted not far from the cemetery at the entrance to the 48th Scout Dogs. It reads, "Hell on Paws."

New 196th Bde CO plans to keep pressure onCharlie

By SP4 Tom Mano

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th INF BDE IO) – "The best way to keep people from getting hurt is to maintain pressure on the enemy. If you take the initiative, you'll end up on top."

These are the words of a new commander in the division Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade will see this attitude reflected in their work for the next 12 months.

Colonel William S. Hathaway of Portsmouth, VA., recently took command from Colonel Edwin L. Kennedy of Gulfport, Miss., who was reassigned to the U.S. Army Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Ga.

This is the colonel's second tour in Vietnam. From January 1966 to January 1967 he served as battalion commander for the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry. He finds two major differences between the Vietnam then and the Vietnam now.

"Firstly, all of the GVN (Government of Vietnam) forces have greatly improved," he said. "The PFs and RFs (local forces) and the 2nd ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) Division have progressed considerably compared with the units I observed in the South in 1966."

"The second difference is that down South in 1966 the enemy initiated the action, but now it's quite the reverse," said the colonel. "Here in this province we don't have a constant threat from large scale VC or NVA units."

This causes a transfer of more responsibility to smaller unit commanders," he continued. "These commanders have to have a higher degree of initiative and be better motivated."

"They can't afford to try to avoid contact," said Colonel Hathaway. "If they do, they'll get slack and defensive which is just what the VC wants."

Speaking of his predecessor, the new commander said, "Colonel Kennedy had a real good feel for what had to be done. He had an organization going that doesn't need any changes. Why mess with a winning team?"

Colonel Hathaway also had high praise for his staff officers. "They're here because they're professionally motivated; they know their jobs and perform them enthusiastically," the colonel added.

"You can't put up with a person who doesn't do his job over here, because there are lives at stake," continued Colonel Hathaway. "I can safely say that this is not a worry I have about any of my staff officers."

During his career in the U.S. Army Col. Hathaway has served in Italy, Austria, Germany, Japan, Korea, Greece and Vietnam.

His credentials more than justify his ability to assume command of the 196th Infantry Brigade. He has served in combat as a platoon leader, company commander and battalion commander.

In 1960 he attained the elite stature of master parachutist. In 1968 he completed the resident course at the Navy War College.

Some of the awards the colonel has received are two purple hearts, the combat infantry badge (2nd award) and three silver stars.

Before coming to the 196th Infantry Brigade Colonel Hathaway served as the commanding officer of the 82nd Airborne's Support Command. The transition has brought about a new goal for the colonel.

"Our goal here is to do as much as we can in the successful prosecution of combat effort to leave the GVN in a better and stronger position when we withdraw," he concluded.

Log-jam broken

By SP4 Lee Habich

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV IO) – In a mere seven hour operation, the 23rd Infantry Division Transportation Office recently relocated 444 men in the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry.

The once time-consuming procedure of troop and cargo manifeating, always one of tranportation's biggest headaches, is being completely renovated in the division through the introduction of a computerized system.

According to Major Edward M. Badniuk, transportation officer, computerization of the transportation operation is now standard operating porcedure. In effect since the first of November, the necessity of a computerized system became obvious during the reopening of Kham Duc. During that operation five million pounds of ammunition and equipment were flown in as part of combat service support.

"The UNIVAC 1005 computer enables maximum utilization of fixed wing aircraft," Badniuk points out.

The optimum use of cargo space and the minimization of the time required to allocate and manifest the cargo are the primary advantages of the new computerized system.

In cases of troop movement the new procedure reduces waiting time for involved troops as well as eliminating time consuming paperwork.

Because Division Transportation cannot be certain of the number and type of planes that are going to be deployed to them by the Traffic Management Agency until shortly before they arrive, all available cargo space must be used. For this reason the speed and accuracy with which the computerized system lends itself makes it particularly advantageous.

To expedite any foreseeable operation, the cargo loading plans of each unit in the division are prepunched and centrally located. Within moments of notification movement coordination can be established.

The effectiveness of the new system was immediately apparent during the trial period when the average quantity of cargo flown on each aricraft increased 800 pounds. In view of its flexibility, computer programming is likely to continue as a means of minimizing one of the army's costliest operations--transportation.

Fighting boredom on a forward firebase is shown by these budding pugilists, Specialist Four William R. Chatman, Columbus, Ohio, left, and Sergeant Ricki R. Riordan, Louisville, Ky. The men are based at LZ Stinson with Echo Company, 1st-52nd Infantry. (Photo By SP4 Terry Williamson).

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Perilous flight for life ends happily

By SP4 Terry Williamson

LZ STINSON (198th INF BDE IO) – A field expedient operation, the skilled hands of a battalion surgeon, and a hair-raising flight for life all combined recently to save the life of an infantryman in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry.

Working south of Chu Lai, Charlie Company came under heavy small arms fire from a group of Viet Cong and a soldier of the "Ready Rifles" received a severe wound in the neck. From the first cry of "Medic," an unbelievable series of events were put together to save the man's life.

Private First Class Dennis Johnson, Barbarton, Ohio, the company medic, crossed an open area under intense fire to see what he could do for the wounded soldier. He found that a bullet had entered through the left side of the neck and gone through the back side of the tongue and larynx. The patient was bleeding badly from the mouth and more importantly, he could not breathe.

Taking a surgical knife from his medic's bag, Johnson made a small incision in the throat of the gasping victim in order to clear an airway for the oxygen he so desperately needed.

"The trachietemy did more for saving the man's life than anything else," said Captain Randolph G. Emerson, El Toro, Calif., a battalion surgeon for 1st-52nd. "It was done just right, and we knew that if we could just get him to a hospital, he could make it as long as he was getting air."

A call for a medical evacuation helicopter was made by the company and was intercepted by First Lieutenant Marcelle Medina, Glendale, Ariz., an aerial observer for 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery. He and Captain Emerson jumped into a waiting helicopter at LZ Stinson and decided to make it into a make-shift dustoff.

Meanwhile PFC Johnson was keeping the incision he had made open with his fingers while waiting for the aerial aid. His patient was now getting air but was still bleeding heavily.

The flight for life got off to a shakey start. The helicopter took several rounds of AK-47 rifle fire and the pilot skillfully maneuvered his aircraft to miss one tree, but the tail section grazed another tree to the left. The bird continued to rise, however, and continued its mission. However, the craft's radio had been knocked out by one of the rifle rounds.

While streaking toward Chu Lai at a speed of 120 knots, Captain Emerson continued holding the surgical incision open with his fingers so that air could enter the body. The bleeding had not completely stopped but the patient was still breathing.

The pilot was taking a direct route to the hospital, but when he arrived over Chu Lai he encountered one more problem–the airport.

The mercy flight was unable to contact the ground control center because of the loss in radio communications, but the pilot decided to cross the airfield in order to save several precious minutes of flying time. A light fixed wing spotter plane appeared out of nowhere and the pilot of the chopper dipped straight down, missing a collision by only a few feet. Within seconds, the makeshift medevac reached the hospital.

"The few minutes we saved by going across the airfield gave the doctors at the hospital some pretty precious minutes to work on our patient," said Captain Emerson.

When the helicopter landed, Captain Emerson accompanied his patient until a metal tube could be inserted into the small hole in the throat. Doctors operated almost immediately and the patient was sent back to the states in good condition.

Sorry, no kayaks here

By SP4 James Tabata

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – Maneuvering through rice paddies and triple canopy jungle is quite a change for Specialist Four Les Bechdel of State College, Penn., who is used to sliding in all directions over raging rapids and dodging boulders and waves in a kayak.

Bechdel, the four-time national White Water Canoeing and Kayaking champion, is a member of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry of the 11th Brigade.

His national credits were earned in 1966 and 1968 when he won the two-man canoeing championship, and in 1967, for both the two-man canoe and the one-man kayak. Also in 1967, he represented the U.S. in the World Championships at Lipno, Czechoslovakia, and placed 34th in a field of 134.

Bechdel appeared in the June 1970 SPORTS ILLUSTRATED as a result of competition at Bourg St. Maurice, France, where he placed 21st out of 128.

The champion, who at the age of 15 was the youngest competitor ever to participate in the World Whitewater Championships at Sittal, Austria in 1963, vividly describes the sport: "It is as if you dropped a skiing slalom into the middle of a river bed, letting the snow melt into a raging rapid full of hidden boulders, crashing waves, whirlpools and tricky cross currents."

He explained the object of white water slalom is to paddle between sets of poles that hang from wires stretched over a set of rapids. Two poles constitute a gate with as many as 30 gates on a slalom course.

"The gates are placed so that the canoe or kayak must go sideways, forward or backward through the rapids," he said. "If you touch any of the gates a certain amount of penalty points is added to your total running time."

Competitors try to make a clean run and keep the ship upright, while at the same time racing against the clock.

Bechdel said it is a relatively young sport developed in Europe after the Second World War. The sport reached America in the early 1950s and the first United States race was held on the Brandywine River in Delaware in 1958.

In between competition and world travel, Bechdel managed to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Penn State University.

He's enthusiastic about the sport and feels it is one of the fastest growing in America. "What's more," he says, "It has been accepted by the Olympic Federation for the Olympics to be held in Munich, West Germany in the fall of 1972. Tha will give me less than a year to prepare and get on the United States team from the time I ETS."

1-20th troops still sniff out the rice

By Sp4 Gregory Wright

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – Is some special talent required to find enemy rice? Possibly not, but if so, it would appear that the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry of the 11th Infantry Brigade is gifted with a number of extremely talented people.

These "Jungle Warriors" have discovered a total of 108,005 pounds of the enemy's primary foodstuff since the first of September. This total is growing steadily as the men of 1/20 continue to turn up rice caches at an amazing rate.

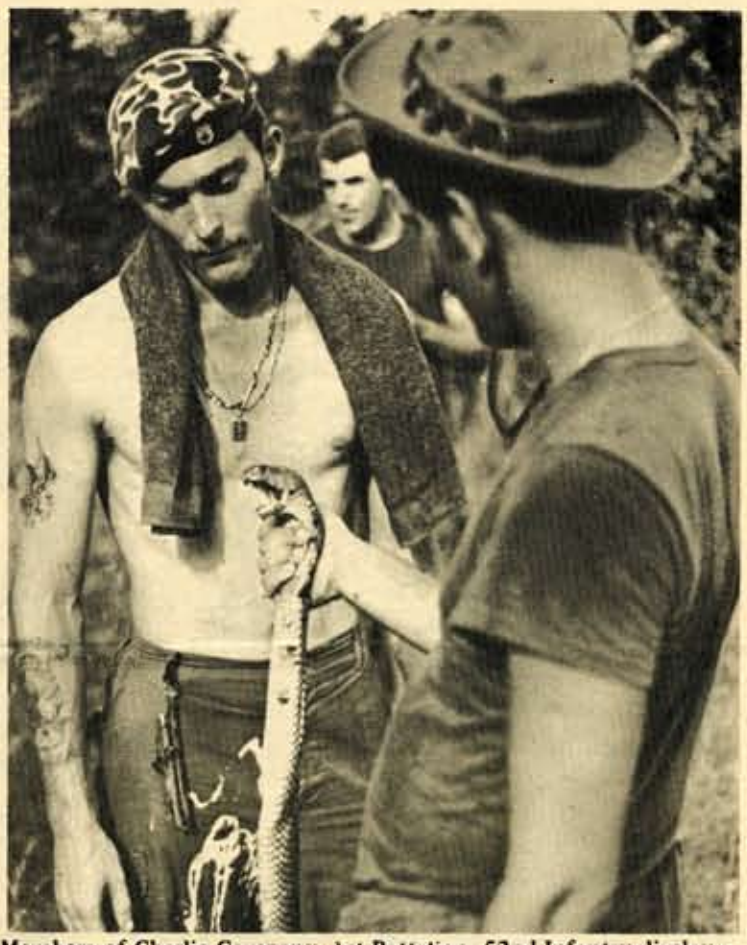
The continued success this battalion enjoys in finding the caches may be a puzzle to some, but according to Captain Michael L. Berland, Vienna, Va., S-5, it's all rather simple.

"The rice is here," he says, "and our men know how to find it. The stuff has been stored in a variety of containers ranging from small cans to fifty gallon drums, usually wrapped in plastic and buried. But regardless of how or where it's hidden, we can find it."

Captain Berland reports that 1/20 found 268,085 pounds of VC rice during the last harvest season, a period lasting from 1 April untill 4 June. Considering the amount already discovered since the beginning of the present season it is likely that the old record will soon be broken.

"Two of the main routes from the mountains to the lowlands are situated in our AO," continued Captain Berland. "The enemy tends to place his caches near these avenues of travel for convenience in picking up food when he needs it. Fortunately, this arrangement is sometimes convenient for us also."

A C Model gunship from the 23rd Infantry Division launches a rocket during a mission over the First Military Region. (Photo by PFC James Dunn, 523rd Sig Bn).



Members of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry display a "war trophy" in the form of a seven-foot king cobra snake, which the men spotted during a patrol southeast of Chu Lai. It took several rounds of M-16 fire to kill the reptile. (Photo by PFC Stephen M. Befeld, 523rd Sig Bn).

Stubborn serpent succumbs

By SGT Louis Miller

LZ STINSON (198th INF BDE IO) – Infantrymen from the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade received a seven foot surprise recently while on a mission in a heavily vegetated area southeast of Chu Lai.

The surprise was a seven-foot King Cobra who just decided to drop in on a patrol from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry.

The element from the "Ready Rifles" was maneuvering when the pointman, Specialist Four John Griffin, Baxley, Ga., noticed the large snake fall out of a tree just a few feet ahead of him.

"The snake surprised me," said Specialist Griffin as though that statement would surprise us. "It was so large and only a short distance from me, so I shot at it and hit it in the tail."

But that did little more than anger the snake who rallied from its wound, moved into a raised position, and began to advance on the patrol.

"When it came towards us, I put my rifle on automatic and fired a burst from only a few meters away," said Specialist Griffin. "The snake was so big I couldn't easily miss him at that distance."

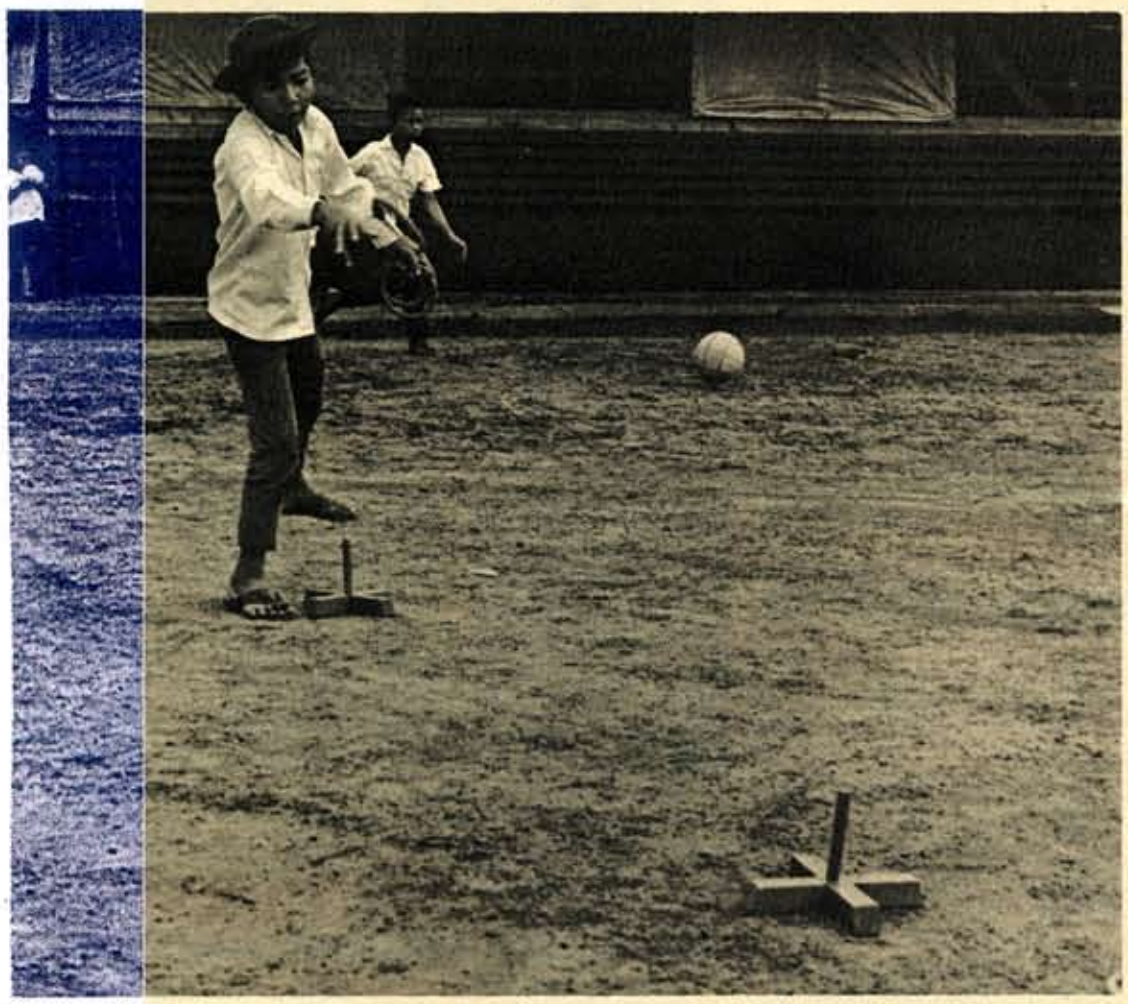
"The rounds tore up the snake quite a bit, but he was still moving around," Griffing recalled. "We weren't about to examine it closely until we were sure it was dead."

Finally the cobra stopped moving and the patrol swept the area. Results: One seven-foot snake, pretty ugly and very dangerous, ripped apart by several M-16 rounds, killed in action.

Singer, dancer, all-around great entertainer—and the prettiest gift counsellor you ever saw. It's TV star Joey Heatherton urging you to give Savings Bonds for Christmas .

Two nuns from the Van Coi Catholic Orphanage in An Tan sharpen their soccer kicks during a fun-filled afternoon with 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery at Chu Lai.

A Vietnamese youngster gets into the spirit of competi to bat the tether ball during a hard fought game agains the 3rd of the 16th Arty. The canoneers hosted about a Thanksgiving Day feast.



One of the 80 youngsters feted to a Thanksgiving Day feast and games by the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery displays his prowess with the ring toss.

—— Just having a b

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV IO) – Praising the Lord and passing the turkey, the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery, celebrated Thanksgiving this year by hosting 80 children from the nearby Van Coi Catholic Orphanage to a holiday feast with all the trimmings.

The dinner, lasting well into the afternoon, included shrimp cocktail, mashed potatoes, dressing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, assorted fruits and nuts and, of course, "Buchou" – turkey. After dinner the children took home bags stuffed with oranges, apples and candy.

When the youngsters arrived at the arty mess hall they bashfully formed small company area and some active outdoor games. Tether ball, catch and ring toss led the list of activities with a GI-Vietnamese variation of soccer following close behind.

The occassion was spurred by the recent enrollment of Lou, a Vietnamese orphan, into the first grade class of the orphanage. Lou, an 11-year-old midget, wandered into B Battery about 18 months ago. When the soldiers were unable to locate his family, Lou was adopted by the unit.

Since Lou began school, the battalion has unofficially made helping the orphanage its pet project.

Honorary Specialist Four Lou, the 11-year-old orphan being sponsored by the men of the 3rd of the 16th Arty gets ready to hit a tether ball. A midget, Lou is being sent to school by the battalion.

Receiving a little pre-game strategy from one of the men of the 3rd of ball during a Thanksgiving Day festival.

tion as he sets
t a member of
80 orphans to

The expression on this orphan's face clearly tells that his aim was just a bit off. His fan club members in background grimace when his ring toss goes array.

ball!

groups, dwarfed in the shadows of the big deuce and a halfs which brought them. After some coaching by the soldiers, the children were escorted two by two through the chow line, where they received generous helpings of the holiday feast.

With their heads barely protruding above the tables in the big dining room, the children wasted no time in the business at hand–"chowing down." Amid intermittent smiles and hushed whispering, the orphans did their best to finish their plates. Few did.

The children and the GIs then got together outside for a tour of the

the 16th Arty, "SP4 Lou" gets set to swat the tether

Story and photos by SP4 Lee Habich

The distaff members of the Catholic orphanage in An Tan displayed the Vietnamese version of the game of marbles. This lassie concentrates on form during an afternoon of fun and games.

Nighthawks fly by night

By PFC Ron Cryderman

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV IO) – The Night Hawk team spots the campfire.

The helicopter makes a pass using the starlight scope to spot any enemy. On the second pass the spotlight comes on. Ten rounds come buzzing up from the campfire toward the chopper.

"We're receiving fire", says the crew chief. The aircraft commander gives the order to open fire from the left side of the ship. With a bright flash the minigun spits out bullets at a speed of four thousand rounds per minute.

No further fire is received from the ground and no further movement is sighted where the campfire once burned.

This is a common scene for the Night Hawks of the 23rd Infantry Division and can be expected at any time during their nightly sweeps, seeking "unfriendly" movement.

Night Hawk teams in Chu Lai are part of the Blue Ghost Aviation section, F Troop, 8th Cav, and are literally a 'fly by night' organization.

The specially equipped UH-1 helicopters travel in specified areas throughout the 23rd Infantry Division beginning at dusk and spend five hours of flying time in search of enemy movement.

A Night Hawk team consists of two helicopters, a Night Hawk ship and a Chase ship. These teams enter a "box" or an area within certain coordinates to make their sweeps.

The Night Hawk ship carries 1,300 pounds of special equipment, bringing it's weight from 7,500 pounds up to 8,800 pounds. The equipment consists of a starlight scope and a fifty thousand candle-power spotlight, plus a minigun, a 50 caliber machine gun and an M-60 machinegun.

Traveling at an average speed of 50 miles per hour at an altitude of 500 feet, the Night Hawk ship works an area in circular patterns, scanning the ground with the starlight scope.

The Chase ship travels at an altitude of 1,500 feet and is used for rescue in the event that the Night Hawk ship goes down. It also watches for ground movement and assists in calling in artillery if needed.

Night Hawks came to the 23rd Infantry Division last January when four UH-1 helicopters were outfitted for the new operation. The first mission was flown in February.

At present five officers and 12 enlisted personnel are assigned to Night Hawk.

Chief Warrant Officer J. Petrucci, Fanwood, N.J., one of the founders of Night Hawk, feels that the operations have more than proved their value to the 23rd Infantry Division.

"Action for the Night Hawks has slowed down lately due to the monsoon, but in better weather these ships have proved to be a valuable asset". CW2 Petrucci asserted that 178 confirmed kills have been attributed to the Night Hawks since the beginning of their operations.

By SP4 Joel Andrewjeski

Ready Rifles net 14 KIA

(Continued from page 1)

three NVA after hearing movement to their front.

Earlier in the week, Company A and Company C of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry were each credited with a KIA in two separate actions.

Various elements of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry accounted for seven enemy KIA, and found about 1,000 pounds of unpolished rice during the week.

Geneva Park

Action was generally light during the week for infantrymen in the 198th Infantry Brigade as 18 enemy soldiers were killed in Operation Geneva Park, including a major action south of Chu Lai in which 11 Viet Cong fell. Numerous weapons and rice caches were confiscated.

The heaviest action was recorded in the area of operation of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry as the "Ready Rifles" accounted for 14 enemy kills. Eleven enemy were killed and seven weapons captured in one action south of Chu Lai.

The "Ready Rifles" after being inserted into a suspected enemy location, immediately engaged two VC, killing them when they attempted to hide in a bunker.

Company D of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry were then inserted into another enemy sector, killing two of the enemy after engaging a group of Viet Cong. While sweeping the area of contact, the "Ready Rifles" managed to kill six more enemy soldiers with the aid of gunships. Earlier in the week, the battalion found 700 pounds of unpolished rice, and destroyed it.

While on a patrol south of Chu Lai, Company C of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry killed two enemy soldiers with small arms fire. The "Ready Rifles" captured a wounded Viet Cong soldier while sweeping the area of contact.

Earlier in the week, Company C found 22 crocks containing about 2,200 pounds of rice. They also found 32 pounds of tobacco, two cans filled with explosives and eight magazines.

While on patrol, Company B of the "Ready Rifles" discovered an abandoned base camp in a thickly vegetated area, along with a well-used trail leading to several military structures in the rear of the camp. All of the structures were destroyed.

Echo Recon of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry killed one VC trying to evade while the company was searching a village.

Action was light for the infantrymen of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, as the "Regulars" killed two Viet Cong, and captured several enemy munitions southeast of Chu Lai.

Company D, of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry killed one Viet Cong when he tried to evade from a small hamlet southeast of Chu Lai. Late in the week, Company D captured a VC who had several blasting caps in his pockets.

While on patrol, Company C of the Regulars engaged a group of VC, killing one.

Two NVA soldiers were killed by the men of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry in the Ky TR Valley, rounding out the battalion action of the week.

1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry had slightly increased action last week in the Pennsylvania Square area of operations as the "Blackhawks" encountered light enemy resistance.

Troop C found an enemy base camp area while on a joint operation with Republic of Vietnam forces. The action resulted in the capture of 200 pounds of rice, a large quantity of personal equipment and five NVA killed in action.

While operating north of the Pennsylvania Square, Troop B killed five NVA in a joint operation with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry.

Troop A uncovered approximately 150 pounds of rice later in the week.

Kill 6 NVA on 'beaten path'

By Sp4 Terry Williamson

KY TRA (198th INF BDE IO) – Infantrymen from the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade employed an anti-personnel mine and followed up with small arms fire to kill six North Vietnamese soldiers in a recent action northwest of Chu Lai.

Echo Recon, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, engaged an element of NVA soldiers after discovering a well used trail in thickly vegetated area near the Ky Tra Valley. The "Professionals" set up a night defensive perimeter on a small hill overlooking the trail, and a squad set out an anti-personnel mine covering the expected enemy route.

"The trail had been used recently, and we know that the enemy was unaware that we were in the area, so it was an excellent place to wait for the enemy," said Sergeant Norman E. Love, Birmingham, Ala., assistant squad leader.

The chance the "Professionals" had been waiting for presented itself quickly–almost too quickly. Staff Sergeant Joe Casino, Dapter, Mich., the squad leader, set up the anti-personnel mine, and within 30 minutes the NVA came walking down the trail.

As the NVA approached, the anti-personnel mine was set off and five enemy soldiers were killed instantly from the blast. The remainder of the NVA column began to evade after the unscheduled interruption.

"We heard the blast from a hill overlooking the trail, and we were ready to engaged any enemy we saw running back down the trail," said Sergeant Charles R. Crossland, Kansas City, Kan. "We couldn't see the point of contact, but we were ready to fire at the back side of the trail."

A group of NVA suddenly appeared in a nearby clearing, and the "Professionals" on the hill engaged the enemy with small arms fire. When the firing ceased, the infantrymen swept the area and found they had killed another NVA. Futher search produced several blood trails but darkness put an end to the search.

Captured in the action were one AK-47, two fully loaded AK-47 magazines, one handgrenade and two packs. All the items were extracted to Chu Lai.

"If we had been an hour later, we would have missed them," said Sgt. Love.

Waiting in tall elephant grass for the helicopter hovering above them to land, these 23rd Infantry Division soldiers prepare for an extraction from the field. (U.S. Army Photo)

Photo contest extended

The Division Information Office has extended the deadline for entries in the division-wide photo contest to January 30, 1971. The contest includes black and white and color photos and cash awards will be given to the winners. Awards will be as follows:

1st Place- $50.00	Honorable Mention- $5.00
2nd Place- $25.00	Honorable Mention- $5.00
3rd Place- $10.00	Honorable Mention- $5.00

Winning photos will be published in the Southern Cross and credit will be given to the photographer. The winning photos will also be released to both the military and civilian press. Following are the procedures and rules governing the contest:

1. The contest will be limited to only one entry per person.
2. Participants must enclose both picture and negative and their name and unit. Address entries to:

Editor, Southern Cross
23rd Admin Co (IO)
APO 96374

3. Photos must be received by Jan. 30, 1971.
4. Photos must have been taken during 1970 in the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) area of operations.
5. No member of the Division Information Office, 523rd Signal Battalion, 10th PID, 31st PID or any other member of an information section may enter.
6. A brief description of the picture, where and when it was taken and the circumstances under which it was taken must be included with the picturs.

Our curvacious pet of the week obviously leaves little to the imagination and the editor felt she would be the perfect model to get your attention while we remind you to "watch out for booby-traps." We wish we had more statistics of our brunette beauty but unfortunately you will have to speculate.

Closest call is too close

By SGT Louis Miller

CHU LAI (198th INF BDE IO) – Just for the heck of it, an infantryman from the Americal Division's 198th Infantry Brigade decided to check on a slight pull on his boot before lowering his foot to the ground. To his surprise he found that the pull was from a trip wire to a booby trapped hand grenade whose pin was three-quarters of the way out.

Operating northwest of Chu Lai, an element of Delta Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, had received word that a booby trap was hidden near their day laager position. The unit now had the task of finding and destroying it.

First Lieutenant William Kotas of Brooklyn, the platoon leader, Sergeant Michael L. Fortin of Pampa, Tex., the platoon sergeant, and Specialist 4 Ralph Puralewski of Chicago, a squad leader, set out to search for the booby trap and made a visual search of the area. Minutes later, the three spotted it a short distance up the trail. Sergeant Fortin and Specialist Puralewski left the lieutenant and moved up with explosives to destroy the trap. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Kotas began moving up the trail to rejoin the two men.

About half way there, the lieutenant stepped over a vine running across the trail–the same trail the two NCOs had just used. When Lieutenant Kotas began to lower his foot to the ground, he felt something snag his foot.

"At first I thought it was just another vine that was on the trail, but for safe keepings, I thought I had better take a look." said Lieutenant Kotas. "The funny thing was that I couldn't see the trip wire at first. It was light green and difficult to locate. When I finally spotted it, I saw that it was connected to a hand grenade and that the pin was pulled three-quarters of the way out.

"It was lucky that the pin had a small bend in it, or else it would have come completely out and the grenade would have detonated," said the sergeant. "Also, the trip wire had too much play in it and this gave Lieutenant Kotas a few extra inches."

Sergeant Fortin then replaced the pin in the grenade and all three men backed away from the hand grenade and the booby trap they had previously found. An extra charge had been set next to the grenade and when the three reached a safe distance, they detonated the charges and destroyed both booby traps.

"It was an experience," remarked the lieutenant. "Next time I'll be a lot more cautious."

A low flying Huey smokeship emits a concealing screen of white smoke for Americal troops below during a recent operation in the First Military Region of South Vietnam. (Photo by PFC Dunn).

Do you need legal assistance?

By Sp4 Rick Holloway

CHU LIA (23rd INF DIV IO) – Soldiers with legal problems can get free legal aid and professional assistance through the Legal Affairs Office.

Qualified personnel, such as Sergeant Tom Treece, of Houston, Tex., are waiting to help iron out many servicemen's problems. Treece, who holds a degree from the University of Texas Law School, admits that many soldiers with legal problems never reach his desk, because they are not aware of the services available.

A full range of situations are encountered by the legal officers daily, from divorce to problems of taxation.

"Divorce," says Sgt. Treece," is one of my most frequent cases." He has seen as many as seven a week. Soldiers should realize that under the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act they do not have to sign the divorce decree, and suit cannot be brought against them while in the service.

If both parties want the divorce, the Legal Affairs Officer will assist with the decree, and explain its provisions. He can also act as an advisor to the decree, to protect one from losing all property.

They also handle happier problems, such as the adoption of a Vietnamese child. The largest complication here is procuring the child's birth certificate, which are sometimes non-existent.

One also has to have the village chief's consent. Adopting a child can be done this way but the recommended way is to go to an orphanage.

The orphanage acts as the child's parents and will have the necessary papers. Treece remembered one special case in which an Army nurse wanted to adopt a child who had been with her for two years.

"The nurse was having trouble obtaining the childs birth certificate, as he had been with her for two years. After many disappointing attempts, we decided to go to the American Embassy in Saigon, where we finally did accomplish the adoption," related Treece.

For those who want to marry a Vietnamese woman, the suggested way is to take her to the United States on a 90 day visa. Marry her there during the 90 days. If you marry her in Vietnam, you are going to have more problems getting consent as well as getting her back to the states.

One of the most useful, but hazardous services the Legal Affairs Office handles is drawing up a Power of Attorney. This enables a person of one's choice to act in his place where legal or financial matters are concerned. It is useful, but as stated can be dangerous. In one instance a man had a complete power of attorney drawn up, placing all his affairs in his wife's confidence. His confidence was shortlived however, as she filed for a divorce and signed his name in agreement.

This in itself disturbed the man, but she also had his personal belongings sent to her boyfriend's house. He had given her the power therefore he was unable up, this gives the person power only in certain areas.

The legal affairs officers also aid the soldier in his personal finance problems. If your debts shadow your earnings, go talk to them. More often than not your debts will be reduced to an amount you can afford.

Sergeant Treece cannot represent you in court, but he will refer you to one of the officers who can. Also, a military lawyer cannot represent a client in a state other than where he is a member of the bar. They will review your case and refer you to an attorney best suited for you.

The office has started a new service in that they now make runs to the field in order torepresent the soldier in the bush the chance to solve his problems without having to come back to the rear. On Wednesday they travel to Hawk Hill and Friday to Duc Pho.

Among other assistance cases they handle are citizenship, civil rights, paternity suits, non-support cases, taxation problems and wills. If you have a problem of a legal nature, go in to see the Legal Affairs Officers.

Church offers a helping hand

By SP4 Gregory Wright

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – For the Vietnamese family which is rendered homeless in the midst of war and forced to take refuge in secure villages such as Duc Pho in the 11th Infantry Brigade's AO, regaining a normal, productive existence is often a lengthy and difficult procedure.

One of the greatest obstacles the head of a dislocated household has to overcome is finding employment adequate to feed himself and his family until another home is established. Other problems of equal importance include suitable housing and clothing.

Representing a last hope for many of the hungry and homeless is Mr. Duong, pastor of the Duc Pho Protestant Church. Mister Duong and his church offer a helping hand to victims of war at every opportunity.

"When we learn of a dislocated family," he says, "we first try to learn exactly what is needed: employment, food, housing, etc. When the need is established, we then work to supply these necessities."

Who makes the contributions to maintain Mr. Duong's work? "We receive assistance from many sources," says Reverend Duong, "especially from the chaplains' officers. Men of the 26th Engineers built our well, and others of the 11th Brigade often come with money or needed supplies."

In addition to the 90 dislocated families in his congregation Mr. Duong also feeds, clothes, and supervises the education of 80 of various ages. These children live at the orphanage until such time as they are able to care for themselves.

Private John A. Jones of Baltimore examines one of 23 buried rice barrels found by his unit; Company D, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry. The enemy was apparently stockpiling the staple for the monsoon season. (Photo by SP4 Terry Williamson)

Engineers clear peninsula

By SP4 Guy Winkler

CHU LAI, Vietnam (23d inf. Div. IO) – The 59th Engineer Company (Land Clearing), operating on the Bantangan Peninsula in the 23rd Infantry Division, has cleared 17,000 square acres of the proposed 32,000 acres.

"The area that's being cleared will be used for the purpose of resettlement by Vietnamese citizens," says Captain William Korn, Livingston, Mont., commanding officer of the 59th Engineers.

On July 10, the company, comprised of 134 men, went into the area with 22 D-7E Bulldozers to begin clearing.

Since that date, enemy trenches have been discovered averaging one per day at length from 50 to 100 feet, a tunnel every day averaging 50 to 100 yards in length and three to four bunkers destroyed per week.

"Significant enemy food caches that have been discovered since we began on the project varied in size," says Captain Korn. "One cache we found contained 975 pounds of rice, 600 pounds of potatoes, 535 pounds of corn, 20 gallons of barley and five gallons of soy beans. Another cache contained four 55-gallon drums of rice and four 55-gallon drums of corn."

Captain Korn says that the 32,000 acres should be completely cleared by February unless rain continues to hamper the work.