Aug 30, 1968

Special Services Opens 'Sandpiper'

CHU LAI—The newest service club in I Corps, the "Sandpiper," opened here under the auspices of Special Services, Aug. 10 at the 723rd Maints. Bn.

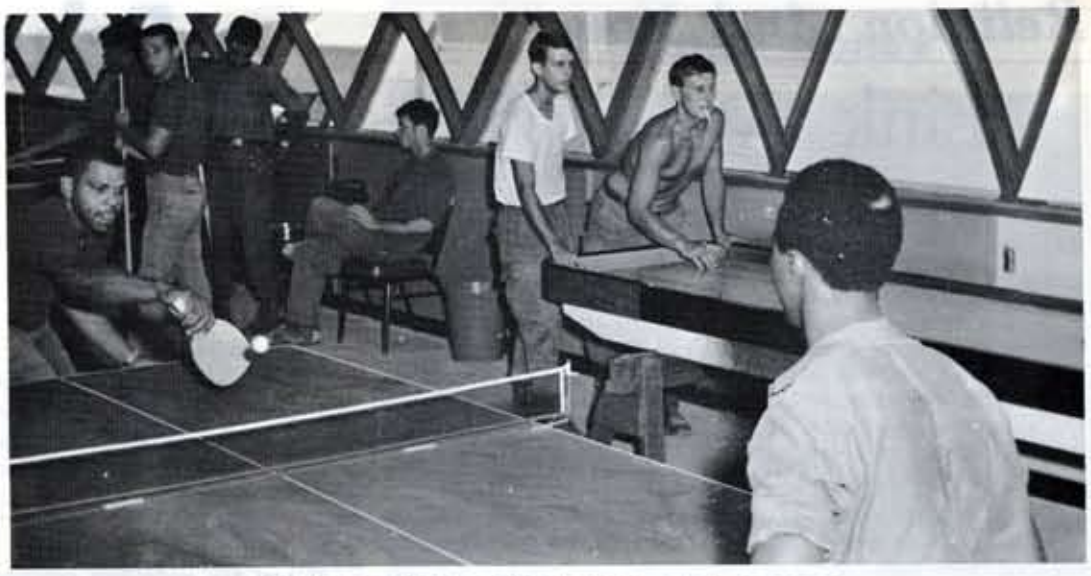
MG Charles M. Gettys, division commander, spoke briefly at the opening ceremonies and cut the traditional ribbon.

Miss Jackie Sykes, the club director, described the Sandpiper as "a colorful, comfortable 7,500 square feet equipped with three pool tables, a ping pong table and shuffleboard, all sorts of games, books, and magazines."

She added, "the three air-conditioned music rooms will probably attract a lot of overheated soldiers into taking up a musical instrument, even if they haven't already done so."

"We'll have something every night," said Miss Sykes, "a film, bingo, or tournaments. On a monthly basis, we should be offering USO shows and special activities."

The 160th Engr. Det. contributed the major portion of the construction. Many man-hours, however, were volunteered by division headquarters troops, sailors, Marines and Koreans.



Service Club offers fun and games

(Photo by 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Aero Scouts Kill 18 VC, Round Up 16

CHU LAI—A trigger-happy Viet Cong got more than he bargained for when he fired upon an apparent "defenseless Aero Scout OH-23 observation helicopter, which was flying a routine mission recently five miles west of here.

One crewman of the small chopper was wounded with the initial burst of enemy automatic weapons fire, but he was the only American casualty taken during the fierce three-and-a-half hour air and ground battle which followed, netting 18 enemy dead and 16 detainees.

The 123rd Aviation Bn.'s OH-23, trailed by four choppers including two heavily armed gunships, was winding up a reconnaissance flight when the shooting started.

MAJ Junius Tanner, Aero Scout CO, described the action: "The OH-23 marked the position for the two gunships, which began returning the hostile fire. We killed five VC before we ran out of ordnance. Then we flew home to reload and refuel.

Infantrymen Mop Up

"When we returned to the battle," MAJ Tanner continued, "we brought along 20 infantrymen and set them on the ground. The 'Skeeter' (OH-23), moving ahead to direct the action, took more hostile fire, and the gunships came in again, followed by the ground troops."

(Continued on Page 8)

GotAnyPhotos?

Combat and base camp photographers grab your cameras. The Southern Cross and the Americal magazine are interested in combat, feature, and colorful photographs for possible publication. The photos should have general interest for the division. Only black and white shots including negatives and color transparencies can be accepted. Full credit will be given. Send your name, unit, date of photo and the nature of the action to Info. Off., Americal Div., Attention: C.I. All material sent will be copied and returned.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 1, No. 6 | CHU LAI, VIETNAM | August 30, 1968

Army Choppers Pull 2 Marines From Sea

By SP4
CHARLES A. GORDON
Staff Writer

CHU LAI—A Marine pilot took a harrowing, one-mile ride on the skids of an Army helicopter recently after ejecting from his crippled jet over the South China Sea.

The Marine, 1LT Ralph C. Brown Jr., and fellow pilot MAJ Daniel Carroll, had completed a bombing mission north of here when the landing gear of their F-4B Phantom malfunctioned and forced them to eject.

Both were rescued by members of the 14th Avn. Bn., an aviation unit attached to the Americal Div. MAJ Carroll was pulled out of the water in a more conventional manner.

Attempt Landing

The two pilots had attempted to land their plane on a "foamed" runway — specially prepared to aid the wheeless craft—but more problems arose when the cross deck arresting gear pendant broke and caused the jet to skid sideways.

"My choice was to hit the burners and try to get the aircraft back off the ground," MAJ Carroll said. "I think we did a first in aviation when we got the aircraft off the ground without landing gear.

"While I prepared for our ejection, LT Brown headed towards sea. We both ejected about a half-mile from shore."

First At Scene

The first rescue helicopter at the scene was that of WO1 James M. White, with the 176th Avn Co.

"The crew tossed a rope to me, as the pilot hovered the craft at about three feet. Mr. White did a fantastic job of holding the chopper steady," MAJ Carroll said later.

LT Brown's rescue, however, was more exciting.

A Marine UH-34 tried to pick him up, but as it began to pull him out of the water, it started to lose power. LT

(Continued on Page 8)

Resor Tours Division Base Camps

POINTING OUT his AO, 1LT Edward D. Henry, CO of Co. C, 4/31, is watched closely by Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor (center), along with MG Charles M. Gettys, Division commander, and COL Frederick J. Kroesen, CO of the 196th Inf. Bde. (far left.) (Photo by 196th Inf. Bde.)

Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor spent a day during his recent trip to Vietnam to visit with Americal Div. commanders and tour a dozen landing zones and base camps.

Hosted by MG Charles M. Gettys, division commander, Sec. Resor started his quick helicopter tour of the area at LZ Bayonet, and hopped from landing zone to landing zone, going as far west as LZ Mellon.

Chatting with 1LT Edward D. Henry, CO of Co. C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf. of the 196th Inf. Bde., at LZ Mellon, the secretary commented:

"Your company occupies an important strategic position here in I Corps. You and your men have helped stop the flow of enemy personnel and supplies into the area."

SIGHTING IN on an artillery target at LZ Mellon during his July 31 trip to the Americal Div. area of operations, Army Secretary Resor is instructed by SFC Dannis Creighton, mortar platoon sergeant with Co. E, 4/31. (Photo by 196th Inf. Bde.)

Religion And You

Link At A Time

By CHAPLAIN (LTC) JACK D. RANDLES
Assist. Div. Chaplain

I RECENTLY READ of an old blacksmith who, in the opinion of many people in the community, was foolishly careful as he worked on a great chain in his dingy shop. He ignored their adverse remarks and seemed to work with even greater care. Link was added to link, and at last the chain was finished and carried away. Later it lay coiled on the deck of a great ship which sped back and forth across the ocean. There seemed to be no use for the chain. It lay unused for years.

ONE NIGHT there was a tremendous storm and the ship was severely threatened. Anchor after anchor was dropped, but none of them held.

FINALLY THE MAIN anchor was dropped. The old chain uncoiled and soon grew taut. Would the chain hold? The vessel's weight surged upon it. The ship, the cargo, and hundreds of lives were dependent upon this one chain.

SUPPOSE THE OLD smith had labored carelessly upon just one link? Suppose he had yielded to the voice of his critics for just one day? He had not yielded. He had refused to compromise his convictions even once. He had put honesty, truth, and invincible strength into every part.

THERE MAY BE occasions when your day to day tasks seem unrelated to the whole of life. We need to remember we prepare and are prepared for the great eventualities of life by being faithful to the given task—A LINK AT A TIME. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...."

Lawyer's Corner

Dangers Of Debt

By CPT SALIM J. BALADY, JAGC
Legal Assistance Officer

EXCESSIVE FINANCIAL INDEBTEDNESS, the downfall of men and women in all walks of life, claims an alarming number of victims among the military. The consequences can be devastating.

The private citizen may have the unpaid-for property repossessed, or property not related to the debt "attached"—taken out of his control—by court order until the debt is paid.

In the last resort, property which has been attached may be sold at public auction and the proceeds used to pay the debt.

THE CIVILIAN'S WAGES may be subjected to an assessment which must be paid directly to his creditor by his employer. This assessment, called a "garnishment," is carried out under court order and can be an amount equal to 10 per cent, or more, of the debtor's weekly wage.

In addition, the defaulting civilian may lose all credit standing in his community and be branded a "poor credit risk," a status which will prevent him from contracting any kind of credit arrangement.

He may suffer domestically, too. Patterns of defaulted indebtedness are responsible for breaking up many otherwise happy families.

The defaulting serviceman debtor is subject to all the consequences his civilian counterpart may suffer—except granishment of wages earned by military service—plus a few more.

DISHONORABLE FAILURE to pay a just debt, considered a manifestation of poor judgment and irresponsibility, is a ground for administrative elimination from the service with an undesirable discharge. The serviceman also may be given nonjudicial punishment or not considered for promotion, though he may be otherwise qualified.

In the extreme case, he may be given a general court-martial, which may result in a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement at hard labor for six months for each debt not paid.

THE SERVICEMAN has several sources of credit not available to civilians. In an emergency, for example, he has the "relief fund," which usually will provide an interest free loan, and the Red Cross.

Banks, credit unions, loans against life insurance policies, loan companies, charge accounts, and long-term installment contracts round out the most dependable sources of generally availabie credit.

Education A Must:

Division Center Provides Variety of Opportunities To Aid Student-Soldiers

"Education is no longer a luxury for the military man; it is essential to his success as a soldier in this dynamic technological age," says "Army Digest" this month.

If you are ambitious enough to make the most of your abilities by continuing your schooling, the Army can help you do it while you are on active duty.

Last year 3,251 men in USARV achieved their high school equivalency certificate by passing the High School General Education Development (GED) Test.

Other GIs took courses as part of a long-range development process leading to a college degree, to improve their technical skills or simply to increase their general knowledge.

First Anniversary

For the men of the Americal, the Division Education Center, located in buildings AN 1 and 2 west of headquarters, stands ready to assist the soldier in broadening his educational background.

Celebrating its first anniversary this month, the center offers one of the most extensive programs of any division in Vietnam.

"The outstanding feature of the GED Program is its adaptability," stated Delbert J. Wilson, division education director and a 10-year veteran in the Army GED program.

"In Vietnam this built-in flexibility is essential if the Army is to accomplish its primary mission and still provide the individual with educational opportunities," continued the civilian director, who holds a masters degree in school administration.

Extension Services

These learning opportunities are not limited to the Chu Lai area. Providing extension services at Quang Ngai and Duc Pho, center personnel also go directly to the soldier in the field.

"Field commanders need only call Chu Lai 2311, and educational services will be provided at any fire support base either on a regularly scheduled basis or by special appointment," Wilson emphasized.

The education program is divided into four main areas: counseling, testing, evening classes, and correspondence courses.

Counseling Service

About 20 soldiers a day are given advice on subjects such as college, high school, or vocational decisions, Veteran's Administration aid, the Degree Completion Program for Commissioned Officers, or post-retirement careers in teaching.

PFC Robert Fleming, who holds an MA degree in educational psychology and is the administrative assistant in charge of counseling, advises the GI to start his education program at the earliest possible time in his tour here.

Testing Program

"What we do first if they have been out of school for a while," Wilson explained, "is to give them achievement tests to determine their ability to succeed in the high school GED tests, and then channel their further study."

Testing at the center is handled by SP5 James Wormley, who holds a bachelors degree in political science.

The available tests include United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) achievement, end-of-course, and subject standardized tests, GED tests, college comprehensive examinations, vocational tests, and college entrance and graduate examinations.

Evening Classes

Evening classes at the Center, offered at various times, include courses on the elementary, high school and college level, MOS-related classes and a Vietnamese language course. Most of these courses are free.

The Americal Education Center is the only division center in country to offer college-credit courses through the University of Maryland program. More than 200 men of the division enrolled in U. of M. courses last year.

The undergraduate courses are given two evenings a week during five 8-week terms. The first term of the 1968-69 year begins Sept. 9, and registration opens one week prior to each term.

There is a matriculation fee of $10 for the first enrollment in the U. of M. program, and each semester hour is $18, but under the tuition assistance plan the government will pay three-fourths of the cost. Books for a college course usually average $8-15.

Correspondence Courses

For the GI on the go, there are about 150 USAFI courses, more than 6,000 courses from 46 colleges and universities, and free Army Extension Courses, all of which can be taken by correspondence.

Take advantage of your educational opportunities, and plan to visit the Americal Division Education Center or see your unit education adviser as soon as possible.

EDUCATION CENTER DIRECTOR Delbert J. Wilson checks, along with SP5 James Wormley, administrative assistant, some of the books available to soldier-students.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized periodic publication of the Americal Division Information Office for all division units in the Republic of Vietnam. Army News Features, Army Photo Features, Armed Forces Press Service and Armed Forces News Bureau material are used. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division, API 96374, Tel Chu Lai 3212. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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196th Bde. Doctor Brings Hope To Villagers

LZ ROSS—For the people of the village Que Son, hope comes every other morning.

It begins about 9 a.m. when one by one and in family groups the villagers begin to gather at the Que Son aid station. They bring their ills and their sufferings with them—old men, mothers carrying babies and children.

Soon an Army jeep pulls up outside the crumbling concrete building. It's chased by every dog in the village, while squawking ducks scatter to safer ground. From the jeep steps CPT Angel Jimenez, of Monterrey, Mexico.

Accompanying Dr. Jimenez are two medics, ready to help wherever needed and to fill prescriptions from a makeshift foot locker-drugstore.

It's all part of Operation MEDCAP, a civil affairs program sponsored by the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., of the 196th Inf. Bde.

Dr. Jimenez explains it this way: "We try to understand these people. They need so much and have so little. We try to get them close to us. Often we can't accomplish much, but we try."

On a typical medcap day, Jimenez treats up to 100 persons who suffer everything from an infected cut to chronic tuberculosis.

"We take the serious cases to the Hoi An hospital, but most of them are treated on the spot," said the doctor.

Jimenez works with a Vietnamese interpreter who trys to let him know "where it hurts." Still there are problems.

"I can give them pills and soap and tell them how to use them, but it's hard to get the message through—they just don't know what to do," he said.

But the people of Que Son continue to come and so the routine goes on. Every other morning, the Army doctor in the green fatigues comes to help them.

'Dustoff' Unit Speeds Wounded To Vital Aid

CHU LAI — Medical evacuation units from the 54th Med. Co. (Air Ambulance) here provide support for the Americal Div.'s 11th Inf. Bde. and other allied troops working in Southern Quang Ngai Province.

Available 24 hours a day, a crew can be airborne within three minutes to speed a casualty from the field to the hospital.

Through the "dustoff" crews' efforts, more than 98 per cent of the casualties who reach the medical clearing station survive their wounds.

Sp4 Bernard Gmiter, 11th Inf. Bde.

Friendly hoist helps wounded

Sp4 David Shaw, 11th Inf. Bde.

'Dustoff' arrives in field

Sp4 David Shaw, 11th Inf. Bde.

'Dustoff' strains on takeoff

Sp4 David Shaw, 11th Inf. Bde.

Patient loaded on helicopter

Sp4 David Shaw, 11th Inf. Bde.

Unloaded for prompt medical treatment

'Chargers' Fight On In

LZ BALDY—When the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, the Army's first light brigade, landed on the beaches of Vung Tau in mid-August, 1966, it was the beginning of continuous and successful contact for the "Chargers" throughout Vietnam.

The Brigade originally set up its base camp four miles west of Tay Ninh City on the edge of Communist War Zone C. In heavy combat, the "Chargers" scored impressive victories over the Viet Cong in Operations ATTLEBORO, CEDAR FALLS, JUNCTION CITY, GADSDEN and LANCASTER, killing more than 700 VC and destroying numerous enemy base camps and supplies.

First Move

In the first of many moves, the 196th came to Chu Lai in April, 1967, to reinforce the III Marine Amphibious Force units in I Corps.

As the first major Army unit in I Corps, the "Chargers" assumed responsibility for defense of the Marine air base at Chu Lai.

During the first few months in Chu Lai, the Brigade opened two major highways to Allied travel, while killing 400 VC and disrupting enemy plans.

In November, 1967, after becoming an organic brigade of the newly-formed Americal Division, the 196th moved again. This time it moved to Hill 35, north of Tam Ky, which brought with it the responsibility for Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA.

In this, the Brigade's longest sustained operation, the "Chargers" have accounted for 3,500 enemy soldiers killed and 1,100 weapons captured.

In the first major contact of the new operation, "Polar Bears" of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., teamed up with "F" Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry in a three-day battle. The action cost the 2nd NVA Division 118 dead and 56 enemy weapons captured.

Two weeks after the contact, known as the Thanksgiving Day Battle, a 38-member VC unit surrendered under the Brigade's Chieu Hoi program.

The "Gimlets"—of the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., presented the Brigade with its finest Christmas present by uncovering an enemy cache containing 140 weapons.

Tet Offensive

The new year brought the "Chargers" into their heaviest contact with the 2nd NVA Division. The action left another 466 enemy killed, as the stepped-up offensive by the NVA failed.

In early February the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.,

Resupply chopper brings goods to the field

196th medic treats Vietnamese boy

Smoke marks the spot for app

Wheeler/Wallowa

was called upon to support the 1st Marine Division in defense of Da Nang. In a three-day battle, the "Legionnaires," in Task Force MIRACLE, delt a swift and decivise blow to NVA elements trying to infiltrate the Da Nang Military Complex. In a brief contact, 317 NVA regulars were killed and 33 weapons captured.

In March, the Brigade moved to LZ Baldy and the surrounding landing zones. Contact quickly picked up as artillerymen from the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., joined Brigade infantrymen in a 10-hour battle. Pinpoint artillery fire supported the ground action and accounted for 34 of 78 enemy killed.

Large Weapons Cache

In April, a former NVA soldier led Bravo company, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., to a well-camouflaged hospital. After securing the complex, an intensive search turned up 225 enemy weapons—28 of which were crew served—and a massive quantity of ammunition.

Soon the Brigade was again on the move. The planned invasion of the NVA stronghold in the A Shau Valley brought them to Camp Evans, north of Phu Bai. During Operation DELAWARE, the Brigade provided security for the 1st Air Cavalry Division base camp.

As the operation was drawing to a close, the 3/21 "Gimlets" moved north of Dong Ha to engage the enemy in a fierce 10-day battle. Part of Operation NAPOLEAN/SALINE, the battalion killed 579 NVA regulars and captured 129 weapons.

Returning to LZ Baldy and Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA the brigadesmen combined artillery, air strikes and fierce ground fire to whip a determined NVA force. The three-day battle for Hill 406 and two other hills west of Baldy netted 30 enemy killed and numerous weapons captured.

The "Chargers" are under the command of COL Frederick J. Kroesen.

'Charger' cautiously enters tunnel

Story By
SGT Paul S. Forman
Art By
SP4 Brian C. Bardwell
Photos By
196th Inf. Bde

Elusive enemy constantly sought

oaching choppers

'Flying Red Horsemen' blast away at NVA

Combat In Review

'Aero Scouts' Smash VC Cache, Motor Pool

LZ BRONCO—A Viet Cong weapons cache and a primitive motor pool were hit recently by division "Aero Scout" helicopter crews and infantrymen acting on information supplied by a former Viet Cong platoon leader.

The platoon leader had been relieved of his command several months ago and sent to a "reform prison."

He escaped after three months of confinement and later turned himself over to American forces west of Quang Ngai. He agreed to lead Allied troops to a base camp area where he had seen sampans unload weapons and food supplies.

The 123rd Avn. Bn. unit with its infantry platoon swept into the Song Re Valley, 25 miles southwest of Quang Ngai in the 11th Inf. Bde.'s reconnaissance zone.

Hidden Weapons

"The Hoi Chanh told us there were weapons hidden in the valley guarded by a small enemy force," said WO1 Alan Levy, an Aero Scout pilot from Ansonia, Conn. "After we put the infantry on the ground, Charlie opened up on us."

While gunships remained on station to cover the infantrymen, Scout helicopters lifted Montagnard Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) soldiers and their Special Forces advisers from Ha Thanh to the contact area.

Two tactical air strikes resulted in five major secondary explosions and silenced the enemy gunners, allowing the American and CIDG soldiers to move in.

Discoveries

They found six dead enemy soldiers, four Chinese-made 120mm mortar tubes, more than 20,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 5,000 pounds of rice and numerous enemy documents.

In addition, 75 bicycles rigged with weapons racks, and a bicycle repair shop were destroyed.

"We expected to find more weapons, "said Levy," but without those bicycles the enemy will have a tough time moving equipment through the valley."

'Shadow' Follows VC Through 198th's Area

LZ BAYONET—No matter how hard the enemy tries, he can't seem to lose the Shadow.

Working with the 198th Inf. Bde., the Shadow, a scout dog, walks point for patrols in the Americal Div. Operation Burlington Trail area.

During one patrol he and his handler, SGT Donald R. Dunn, were responsible for Co. B of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. soldiers killing two North Vietnamese soldiers and capturing a carbine, a pistol, 500 pounds of rice and more than 10 pounds of enemy documents.

"There was a hut on the other side of a rice paddy we were crossing. When Shadow alerted toward the hut, I decided to go out of our way to search it," Dunn said.

Shadow was right. The soldiers killed two soldiers attempting to flee from the hut.

As the company moved away from the hut, the dog alerted.

"I couldn't see a thing, but Shadow was right again. There was a hut about 40 meters off the trail, so well camouflaged I nearly walked into it," Dunn said.

Inside the hut was a 500 pound rice cache.

Home, Sweet . . .

SP4 Thomas A. Shipp, with the 196th Inf. Bde., prepares his new living quarters. (Photo by Sp5 Donald W. Evanger, 196th Inf. Bde.)

'Guest' Uninvited and Unwelcome

LZ ROSS—A 196th Inf. Bde. soldier, building a new home at this forward landing zone, had a "house warming" he'll never forget, thanks to a particular unwelcomed guest.

"Someone had left a stack of opened, but full sandbags near my bunker, so I started tying them up to use," recalled SP4 Turhan Folse, of Los Angeles, Calif.

The 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. "Legionnaire" was reaching for a bag when it moved and something "like a giant blade of grass" began to grow out of the opening.

"I couldn't believe it, but I was standing face-to-face with a big green and black snake," he said.

The snake wasn't smiling.

Folse and the reptile remained motionless, staring at each other for a couple of seconds. Then one of the soldier's friends saw what was happening.

"Someone yelled that there was a snake watching me," said the "Legionnaire."

"I guess that startled the snake, because it lunged at me—but missed."

As Folse hit the ground, shovels, entrenching tools, rakes and sand went over his head and buried his opponent.

"It measured out to be over seven feet long, which by that time was six-and-a-half feet taller than me," said the shaken soldier.

Vanity Is End Of Army Career

TIEN PHUOC—Let us set the scene: It is a pleasant day and PFC Moc is feeling grand. He's quite pleased with himself. He is a radio repairman and an RTO who infiltrated from North Vietnam.

He is now happily walking toward the hamlet Tien Phuoc to get supplies for his unit. Got the picture?

Now to muddy the situation a bit. SP4 Kenneth Zabcar, of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 57th Inf. Plt. (Scout Dog), enters the scene. He is point man for Co. C, 1st Bn. 46th Inf.

"He was wearing civilian clothes," Zabcar said of his encounter with Moc. "I hollered 'Dung Lai' and he stopped. I told him to come, and he walked right up to us. I thought he was a civilian."

The 198th soldiers made a routine check and were just about ready to let our hero go when one of them found an important picture buried deep in his wallet.

A lot of soldiers carry pictures of their girl friends. Many soldiers keep pictures of their wives—not our Moc.

He was carrying a picture of himself. . . in an NVA uniform.

Got the message?

Engineer's 'Weapons'

An engineer leaps off a helicopter with mine detector in one hand and shovel in the other as he prepares to begin a sweep in Operation Burlington Trail. (Photo by Sp4 Steve Marvin, 198th Inf. Bde.)

SCOUT HONORED

LZ BALDY—A Kit Carson Scout of the 196th Inf. Bde. was honored by his commander here recently for outstanding service.

Dinh Mua, a scout with "F" Troop, 17th Armd. Cav., was cited by 1LT Angus Macaulay "as contributing more than any other man in the troop in explaining to Vietnamese the objectives of the Republic of South Vietnam."

The Roving Reporter

Mental Health Care Examined

By PFC
ROBERT BUZOGANY
Staff Writer

Much has been written about the excellent physical care that soldiers receive in Vietnam, but the same also is true of the care given to soldiers with emotional problems.

Major Edmund Casper, Americal Division psychiatrist and CO of the Mental Hygiene Clinic located in the 23rd Medical Bn., was interviewed recently on this subject.

S.C.: What seems to be the most prevalent problem?

Casper: Immaturity and personality disorders make up the bulk of any psychiatrist's practice—in civilian life as well as army life.

Personality disorders and immature people elicit so much hostility and emotional response, both in the commander and the people around them, that they represent a unit problem.

MAJ Casper

The field commanders usually do not have the time to deal with these people, so they recommend sending them back to a base camp. But it is not as simple as that.

It is a judgement on our part what should be done with them. The actual problem may be very different from the identified patient problem, and this is the most difficult thing to point out to commanders and the doctor.

S.C.: How do you handle these cases?

Casper: I try anything I know to rehabilitate a man. We can advise the commander on how to handle the man, we can recommend that he be transferred to a different unit or job, or we can recommend that he be administratively separated from the army entirely.

If the amount of rehabilitation effort is going to be to such a degree that the amount of productivity gained from the man is not worth it, then he should be separated from the service.

Personality disorders are not considered to have psychiatric illness, and cannot be separated medically. They have to be handled administratively.

We sit down with the man, his commander, the first sergeant, and his platoon sergeant to discuss the problem. There are times when I just see the battalion surgeon and discuss the problem and let him handle it.

The more that the problem is handled by the group itself, the better off they are going to be. I don't believe in extracting a man from his unit to solve the unit problem, because it will just come up again.

Our job is not to solve problems for people, but to help them to solve their own problems. That's really the whole basis of psychiatry.

S.C.: What is a normal caseload for a month?

Casper: The average is about 135-140 cases. The two highest months were May and June, with 218 and 196 cases respectively.

S.C.: Is there a relationship between the course of the war and emotional problems?

Casper: Yes. The higher caesloads in May and June were due to a combination of a lot of action in the field and the frequent rocket attacks in the base camps. These factors contributed to increased anxiety and strain on our men.

S.C.: Who has more emotional problems—field or support troops?

Casper: We see about 60 percent from the base camps, and 40 percent from the field. The support troops usually present the greatest problem, and this is true in all wars.

People in the field get the priority, and therefore support commanders have to deal with more so-called "problem soldiers."

S.C.: Is there any problem with drug users in the field?

Casper: The actual use of drugs is not as high as it is rumored or as some writers proclaim.

The one thing that I have noticed about a fellow who uses drugs is that he broadcasts that everyone uses them just because he does. This leads to an exaggerated estimate of users.

Drugs, in my opinion, are a definite danger to combat troops. They dull the reaction time and give a soldier a false sense of well-being.

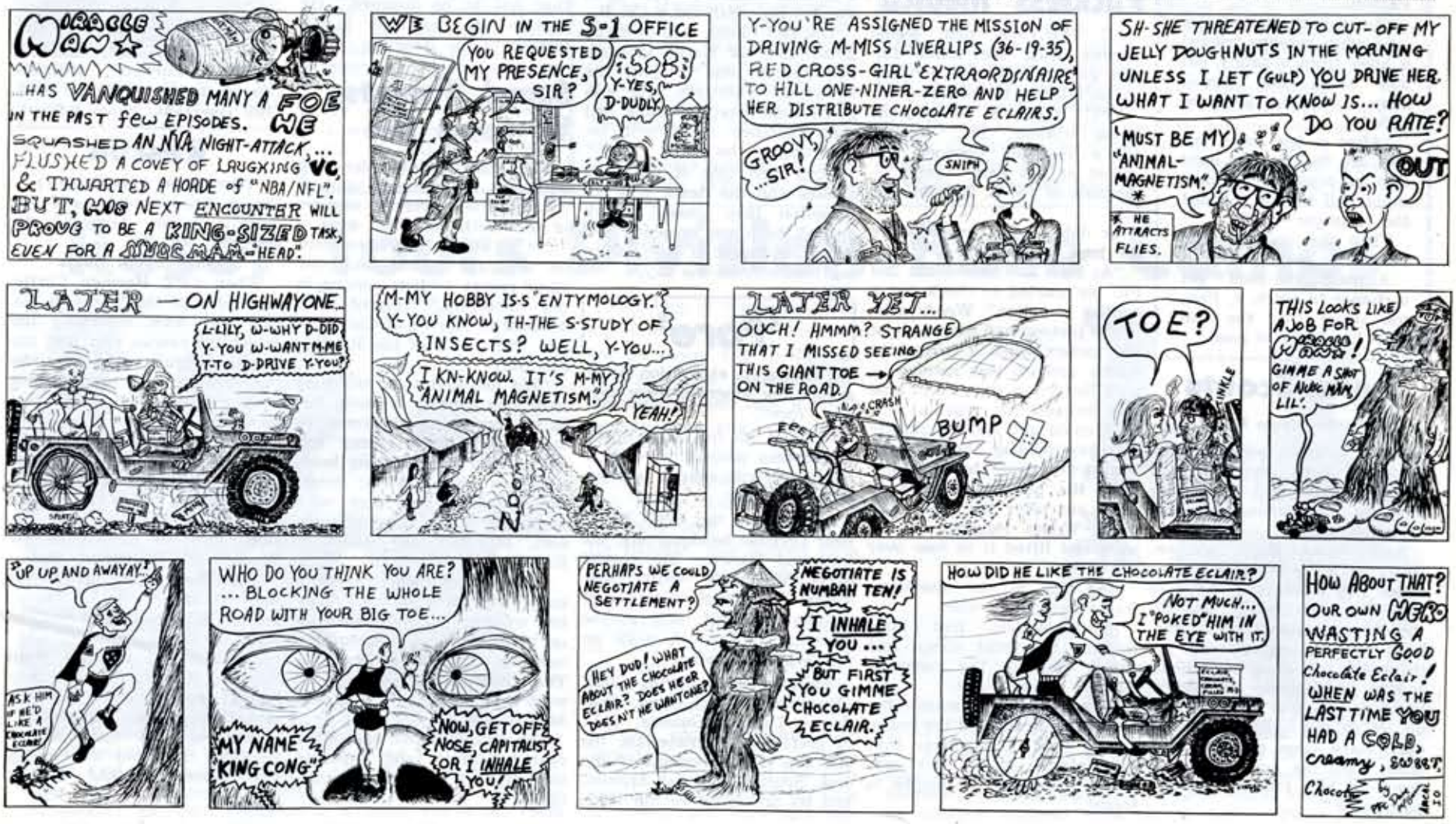
We've had about 12-15 cases in which marijuana has precipitated a period of actual toxic psychosis.

(MAJ Casper is a graduate of Kent State University (Ohio) and the Ohio State University School of Medicine. He took his psychiatric residency at Walter Reed General Hospital.)

'F' Troop Honey

Melody Patterson

No, she's not a member of a Cav unit but she does come on strong. Entertainer Melody Patterson, star of television's 'F Troop,' toured Vietnam recently with Johnny Grant and paused long enough in Chu Lai for this greeting. (Photo by Sp4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)



2-Millionth Round

Gun Blasts; General Laughs

CHU LAI—It was an overcast day, but spirits were high in expectation of the momentous occasion that was about to take place for the men of C Btry., 6th Bn., 11th Arty.

The 105mm Howitzer artillery piece was poised and ready to shoot the two-millionth round fired by Americal Division Artillery.

Dignitaries arrived to take part in the launching of the decorated, highly polished ceremonial round. All was ready at the fire support base for the big event.

As MG Charles M. Gettys, division commander, stepped up to the breach of the big gun to pull the lanyard, the gun's team leader was on hand to give final instructions. He wanted the firing to go off without a hitch.

"When the word comes over the radio to fire, all you do is yank the lanyard, sir," the excited sergeant graphically demonstrated.

BOOM!

The slightly embarrassed sergeant had gone a bit too far. With a hearty laugh and a pat on the back for the noncom, the general said, "Thanks, sarge."

". . . When we get the word, all you do is . . ."

Bomb Problem? Call EOD PDQ

By PFC ROBERT BUZOGANY
Staff Writer

CHU LAI—The men of the 133rd Ordnance Detachment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal—EOD) do not "get a bang out of their job"...but that's the last thing they seek.

Most of the cases handled by the EOD team involve retrieving, for disposal or salvage, abandoned or dud-fired munitions.

But the team members really earn their incentive pay for hazardous duty when they are called on to disarm or dispose of enemy mines, boobytraps, and other explosives.

Work Throughout Division AO

Assigned to the First Logistical Command and attached to the 80th General Support Group (FWD), the 133rd works throughout the major portion of the Americal Division's AO.

Averaging about 135 incidents a month, the team has been called on as many as 265 times a month to perform their specialized mission.

CPT Fred J. Puckett, Jr., CO of the 133rd, considers the 40mm grenade projectile as one of the most dangerous types of explosives he has to deal with in this area, and he has had several unique experiences with this round.

Do Not Disturb

By the book, the 40mm round is not to be disturbed but blown in place, due to its highly unstable, explosive nature. But in some cases this is impossible.

Three such instances involved soldiers who had 40mm projectiles lodged in a part of their body. CPT Puckett teamed up with a surgeon in each of the delicate removal operations.

Extremely Gentle Handling

"It's just another explosive that has to be disposed," the captain says routinely in referring to the handling of the 40mm round. "As long as the thing is handled extremely gently, I can transport it safely to where it can be detonated."

"I treat all explosives with a great deal of respect," he says, "but I don't fear them. If I did, I wouldn't be in this field."

A 19½-year Army veteran—18 of them in EOD—the 43-year-old EOD expert has been in Vietnam since July of 1966. He is due to rotate back to the States next month, and plans to retire next January.

CPT Puckett disposes 40mm dud. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

A Fish Story

LZ BALDY—It started when Sp4 Jim Paxton (Oregon, Mo.), a radio operator from the 196th Bde., was on a canteen filling mission for his buddies in the jump command post of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf.'s HHC section.

"While I was filling the last canteen, a fish jumped out of the water," said Paxton.

"I ran back and got my long whip antenna, rigged a hook from a safety pin and used some thread from a sewing kit," he added.

"After a few casts the fish hit the line so hard that he broke it before I could pull him in," added the "Charger" RTO.

Then the company got the call to move out.

Although the didn't get a chance to catch it, Paxton swore that the fish must have been at least...

Aero Scouts

(Continued from Page 1)

Three weapons were captured along with grenades and other supplies, and seven VC hootches and three bunkers were destroyed.

Aero Scout flight platoon leader, CPT Thelmer Moe, added this footnote:

"Under questioning, one of the detainees admitted he had triggered the engagement by firing on the small lead helicopter. Apparently he didn't know the 'Skeeter' was backed up by so much firepower. It must have been quite a surprise when the gunships came down on him followed by infantrymen."

Hoi Chanh Gets 'Feel' Of B-52 Air Strikes

LZ BAYONET—A safe distance from a B-52 air strike is too far away to get the real "feel" of its effect, but two PFCs have provided 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers with a firsthand account.

The two PFCs were a North Vietnamese radio operator captured in Operation Burlington Trail by Co. C, 1st Bn., 46th Inf. soldiers, and an infantryman who turned himself in to the 1st Bn., 46th Inf.'s Co. B.

The Hoi Chanh told how the government of North Vietnam had forced him to join the NVA last February. He was given some hasty training and then assigned to a unit infiltrating to the south.

Both men told of the B-52 strikes and the death and destruction they caused. Both agreed there was no place free from the threat of B-52s raining bombs from the sky.

Close Call For Packless Medica

LZ COLT—A new medic serving with the 196th Inf. Bde. got a welcome to the field he isn't likely to forget.

PFC Keith S. Woods, of Coeur d'Alene, Ida., stepped off a resupply chopper and stared at his new "family"—the men of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.

He didn't have time to stare for long.

"As soon as I joined the 2nd Plt. we started to check out a nearby woodline," Woods said.

The platoon had moved about 150 meters when a premature enemy ambush was sprung.

"I jumped in the closest hole and dropped my regular pack so I could get around quickly with my aid bag. Fortunately, I wasn't needed," he related.

As the platoon grouped to move out after the brief skirmish, Woods returned to his pack and lifted it to toss over his back

One side of the aluminum frame snapped in half.

"Two bullets had gone through the front straps and ripped through the rucksack frame," he explained.

"I was happy I wasn't between the straps and the frame at the time. I must say that my welcome to the field was one to remember—or maybe to forget."

'Fore'

The newest expression heard around the Americal these days is..."fore!"

On Aug. 22, the latest Special Services project, an 18-hole miniature golf course, was officially opened.

Located at the USO Beach near Division headquarters, the tees and fairways are opened every afternoon until dark. There are a full selection of putters and golf balls so the Americal duffer can work on improving his game.

Built by SGT Lucius Clark (Brunswick, Ga.) and SGT James Turner (Gualala, Cal.) of prefabricated materials, the site was chosen because of the cool, South China Sea breezes, and its proximity to the USO.

Squad Disrupts VC Camp Site

FSB WEST—Both sides were surprised at a recent unusual confrontation involving soldiers of the 196th Inf. Bde.

"It all started when we were on a squad patrol and saw three enemy soldiers coming in our direction," related SP4 Michael L. Martin, of Carencro, La., with Co. E of the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.

"We moved into a woodline to set up a hasty ambush, but as we moved into the trees we saw several more enemy soldiers. Two were digging holes and two were cutting trees, and it looked like they were preparing a base camp of some sort," said SP4 Jose Nuniez, of Kenedy, Tex.

"I don't know who was more surprised, them or us. They had weapons, so we opened up on them. Instead of returning our fire, they turned and ran. They must have thought we were larger than just a squad," Martin said.

The soldiers killed one of the enemy soldiers and captured two weapons in the brief contact.

Rescue

(Continued from Page 1)

Brown disengaged himself and quickly moved clear of the aircraft.

Hangs From Skids

When CPT Herman Castle, a member of the 71st Avn. Co. who had been observing the attempted rescue, saw that the Marine aircraft could not make the pickup, he lowered his chopper to about two feet above the water.

There was no rope aboard, and LT Brown was forced to hold on to the skids.

"The crew pulled me up, and I hooked my arms over the skid. Then we headed for the beach," the lieutenant said.

The Huey sped off at 50 knots to the shore. LT Brown let go in about three feet of water to cushion his fall.

But the day was far from over for the two pilots, as they bought champagne for the men of both aviation companies.

"It was just our way of thanking the Army for helping two Marines," MAJ Carroll said.