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SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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Division Resumes Heavy Fighting

TRACKING DOWN the enemy, the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. defeated two NVA regiments in a recent action near Tam Ky. "Dragoons" left 473 enemy dead. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

More Than 700 Enemy Killed

What had been called the "summer lull" in the war seems to have come to an explosive end as enemy action throughout the Americal's area of operations stepped up during the closing weeks of last month.

More than 700 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers have been killed in the renewed action, while division fighting units have sustained light casualties.

After unsuccessfully mounting land and rocket attacks against several landing zones and population centers in southern I Corps, the enemy received its worse defeats at the hands of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. near Tam Ky, the 196th Inf. Bde. near Hoi An, and ARVN troops supported by a battalion of the 11th Inf. Bde. in fighting near Quang Ngai City.

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Enemy Encircled On River Island

LZ BALDY—A modern-day combat assault combined with a classic encircling movement were the tactics used recently by a battalion of the 196th Inf. Bde. and gunships of the 71st Avn. Co. to kill 140 Viet Cong.

The action, in which 18 individual weapons also were captured, occurred south of Hoi An as part of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

The setting for the operation was an island in the middle of a fast-flowing river which the VC had considered their private domain.

Artillery Softens Landing

A landing zone on the island was first preped by artillery fire from D Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty. "Gimlets" of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. were then carried to the island by choppers. They began their assault at a secondary LZ to catch the VC fleeing from the artillery rounds hitting the primary zone.

C Co. was the first to spot the evading enemy.

"We saw 33 VC with packs and weapons preparing to cross the river to safety," said CPT James D. Smith, C Co. CO. "The gunships were on them instantly. Only eight escaped the 'Firebirds', and we got them when they turned to run back."

The following night, "slicks" from the 71st Avn. Co. transported pneumatic boats to the area to enable the "Gimlets" to prepare yet another suprise for "Charlie."

VC Trapped

While a security force remained behind, men of B and C Cos. silently paddled across the river, landing on two of the three sides of the triang-

(Continued on Page 8)

★ ★ ★

NVA Mauled By 1st Cav

By 1LT MIKE WOLFGANG
Asst. Div. IO

HAWK HILL — A bloody three-day showdown between Americal troops and two NVA regiments near Tam Ky left a badly mauled enemy force limping off the battlefield, leaving behind 473 dead.

Spearheaded by the division's mobile armored strike force, the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., the Aug. 24-26 action began as a single platoon encounter before raging into a full-scale battle in the Operation Burlington Trail area.

The 2nd Plt. of the Cav.'s A Trp., commanded by 1LT Thomas M. Gintz, along with the ARVN 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav., came under heavy RPG, recoilless rifle, and automatic weapons fire to start the initial contact.

Air Strikes

Air strikes were called in while C Trp. and the remainder of A Trp. were rushed to the scene. Meanwhile, the ARVN cavalry unit, after losing two vehicles, moved to provide flanking fire.

"As C Trp. moved in and started to work the area over, we discovered this was a major position in great depth," explained Squadron Commander LTC Richard A. Lawrence.

The size of the force turned out to be the major element of two regiments of an NVA Div., well-equipped and heavily-armed with recoilless rifles, RPGs, and 51-caliber anti-aircraft guns.

360 Degree Fight

"As it turned out, we were not able to do any blocking or cordoning off the area. In just about every area we moved into, we were surrounded by NVA, so we just had to fight in 360 degrees," LTC Lawrence said.

"Most of our contact was at 25 yards. Tank guns were firing at less than 50 yards!" the Cav. commander stated.

The first day's action lasted until nightfall, when the tracks pulled back into a more secure night position.

The "Dragoons," supported by units of the 196th and 11th Inf. Bdes., F Trp., 8th Cav. gunships, and tactical air and artillery, had racked up an impressive 177 enemy kill total.

(Continued on Page 8)

A Cool Cargo

Mellon A La Mode

LZ MELLON—A company from the 196th Inf. Bde. was amazed and overjoyed recently when a division helicopter landed with a cool cargo.

The day before, LTG Frank T. Mildren, USARV deputy commander, had come to visit C Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf. at this isolated landing zone, and spoke with the men about chow.

All agreed that the hot chow flown here from battalion headquarters was good, but the "soupy" ice cream came in for criticism.

When COL William Levin, food service director of 1st Log Command, heard of the ice cream crisis, he took immediate action.

Teaming up with MAJ James Henrionnet, division G-4, he decided that bringing ice cream to Mellon would be a good test for their new Army thermal unit.

The self-contained, refrigerated "goodhumor-man" unit was packed with 30 gallons of ice cream for its maiden flight.

Some two hours later, the cache of ice cream arrived here—still hard and cold.

It took C Co.'s happy soldiers three trips through the line to finish off the last of the cold treat. However there was one complaint.

As one soldier remarked, "Now the ice cream is so hard, it breaks our plastic spoons!"

NVA Hospital Found

LZ BAYONET—"The doctor is out!" Or so it appeared when a company of the 198th Bde. discovered a large North Vietnamese Army hospital complete with surgical supplies and operating facilities 33 miles northwest of Chu Lai.

C Co., 5th Bn., 46th Inf. was operating in an area not visited by American soldiers in the last two years when they spotted an armed enemy soldier. One platoon gave chase, and killed him just outside the hospital perimeter.

The 20-hut complex, capable of handling 400 patients, had been run by the medical battalion of a large NVA force. It contained such medical and surgical supplies as penicillin, sleeping tablets, aspirin, dysentery pills, scissors, forceps, and Czechoslovakian surgical gloves.

Since the hospital was vacated only a few days before the discovery, the medicine and medical supplies—which were turned over to the Vietnamese government for use in their hospitals—were in good condition.

"The presence of troops in the area forced them to abandon it," said battalion intelligence officer LT Douglas Rasmussen. "We interrupted them. They don't leave things lying around. Surgical equipment and medical supplies are too hard for them to obtain. They cleared out all the patients, but left the supplies."

Among the documents found at the hospital site was a North Vietnamese letter to the hospital director commending him for his efficiency.

Religion And You

Doing Little Things

By CHAPLAIN (LTC) JACK C. RANDLES
Assistant Division Chaplain

I AM SURE that those persons who are faithful in that which is least wear very radiant crowns. They are those who tower above us when they are called upon to do little tasks—never murmuring. They are meticulous in the furrowed roads of drudgery.

THEY ARE THE PEOPLE who, when trudging up the "Hill of Difficulty," make it well. They are experts at making the desert bloom. They win victories amid trivial irritations. They are as constant and consistent in overalls or jungle fatigues in their daily tasks as when they are wearing royal purple and fine satin in the presence of the King.

IT IS THE NOBLE group that completes the most obscure piece of work as though it were to be displayed before a great assembly for their judgment. Great are they who are faithful in little things.

"I know not when the day shall close;
But when life's curfew rings,
I want my Lord to find me then
Still doing little things."

—Unknown

Lawyer's Corner

Borrowing Money

By CPT SALIM J. BALADY, JAGC
Legal Assistance Officer

IN NEED OF A LOAN?

If you can't get the credit you need at a bank or credit union, there are still a few sources available to you.

You may borrow against your life insurance, for instance, or you may be able to get the cash you need from a small loan company. Perhaps a charge account or installment payment plan will suit your purpose.

Each of these alternatives to the main sources of credit carry with them a special set of limitations which any prospective borrower, but especially a serviceman, should know about before attempting to use them.

TAKE THE EXAMPLE of borrowing against your life insurance.

As you pay on your life insurance (except term insurance) the cash surrender value of your policy increases. The cash surrender value is the amount of money which would be returned to you if you decided to stop making payments and to cancel your policy.

If you have been paying on your life insurance policy for a number of years, it could have a substantial surrender value. If it does, your insurance company will let you borrow up to that amount of money without any further security of cosigners. Their security is the policy.

Insurance company interest rates are quite reasonable, usually five or six percent per year (or an effective rate of about 10 to 12 percent per year).

The important limitation to be considered here is that by borrowing against your life insurance, you may jeopardize your insurance.

If you don't pay off the loan as you've agreed to do, then your policy may be canceled and the loan collected from its surrender value. Consequently, as with any other type of credit, make sure you can repay the amount advanced to you.

AS A LAST RESORT to obtain a loan, you could go to a small loan company. If you do, be careful. The small loan companies specialize in the small, short term loan. They can charge interest alone or interest plus any number of "service charges."

They are always the most expensive source of credit and many of them employ as many shrewd devices as possible to get extra money out of the borrower.

Small loan companies charge an interest rate which ranges from about 1½ percent to 3½ percent per month which is an effective rate of about 18 to 42 percent per year. As if that weren't enough, they add on charges for the loan application, credit check, loan insurance, and bookkeeping.

The only way to deal with these companies, if at all, is to get everything in writing, including all charges which will be assessed against the loan. See what the total cost of the loan will be by adding up all interest and charges. Read every word of the contract, including, if not especially, the fine print.

IF YOU MUST deal with a loan company, the wisest move you can make is to take the loan agreement to your legal assistance officer for examination before you sign it.

Education In Vietnam

By SP4 JOHN NICHOLSON
Staff Writer

One of the most important factors in the development of any country is the education of its people. How well and how quickly the educational problems in South Vietnam are solved will determine the future of this country.

Of greatest concern to the Vietnamese educators and their US advisers is the very high drop-out rate. For example, as can be seen from the chart, of the 12,000 children that start primary school in Quang Ngai Province only 17 percent continue on to secondary school and just 0.8 percent begin college.

The causes for the high rate of drop-outs are, basically, the needs of the student's family, the war, and limited school facilities.

Many children are unable to attend school because they are needed at home to help the family earn a living or to care for the younger children while the parents work.

Biggest Drop

The biggest drop in enrollment occurs between primary and secondary school. This is explained by the fact that most hamlets have their own elementary school; while the children who wish to continue their education must travel to a large village or to their province capital to attend a secondary school.

Since the secondary schools do not provide housing for out-of-town students, the student must be able to live with relatives, friends, or in a boarding house.

Children who are victims of the war's devastation are unable to continue their schooling because they have had to move or rebuild their home and family business or because they could no longer afford the expenses involved.

Shortage of Classrooms

The most serious problem faced by the schools is the shortage of classrooms. In Quang Ngai, for example, there are about 9,200 students in 13 secondary schools—squeezed in at 60 to 100 per classroom. The teacher-student ratio for all elementary schools in the country is one teacher for every 63 students.

During the Tet offensive, twenty primary and two secondary schools in Quang Ngai Province were more than 70 percent destroyed.

Plans for the construction of schoolrooms in Quang Ngai this year include 110 "new life hamlet" schools, 43 refugee classrooms and 20 rooms to be built through civic action and self-help programs. Unfortunately, many of these classrooms will not be built because of a lack of materials such as cement and roofing.

Also, the aforementioned classrooms are only for primary schools; there is no program for the construction of classrooms in the secondary schools.

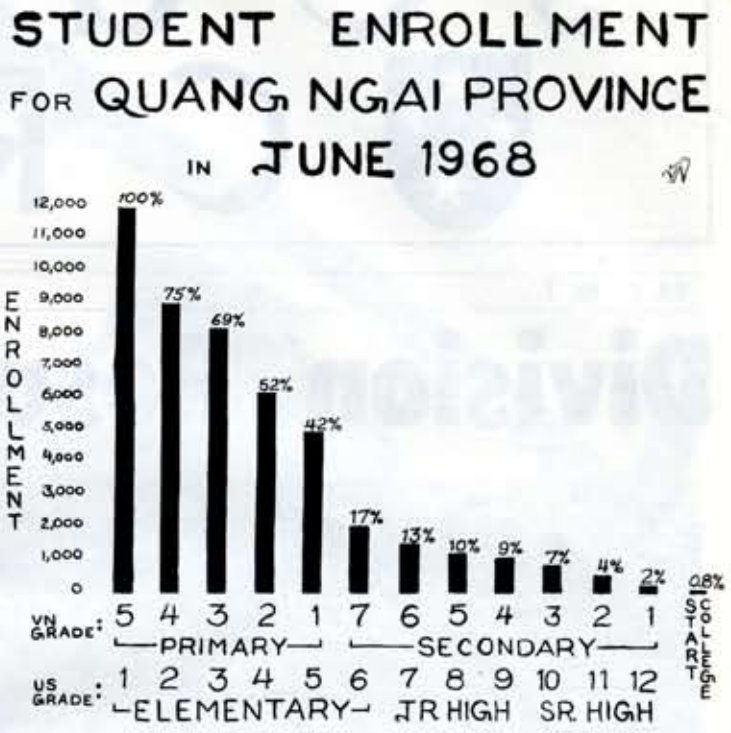
Education Program

The construction that has been planned is part of a program begun by American and Vietnamese education officials in 1960 to expand and improve the long neglected school system in Vietnam. It is expected that the program, which includes changing the curriculum, recruiting teachers, and building classrooms, will be completed before 1971.

Of those who do manage to graduate from secondary school, less than half continue their studies at one of the country's four colleges.

Finally, adult education in most areas is limited to home-study programs at the primary and secondary levels.

These are the problems. The Vietnamese educators, with the assistance of US advisers, are doing all they can to solve them.



THESE CHILDREN are among the fortunate percentage who have been able to remain in school. But, in time, most of them will drop out too. (Photo by 11th Inf. Bde.)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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27th Surg Cares For Vietnamese

By SP4 JOHN NICHOLSON
Staff Writer

CHU LAI—From all over the America. Div. area, Vietnamese soldiers and civilians are treated for disease and injury by the 27th Surgical Hospital here. The Vietnamese receive the same medical treatment as the American soldiers treated at the hospital.

There are 16 doctors and 33 nurses on the staff of 27th Surg, which occupied the buildings of the old 2nd Surgical Hospital for two months before moving to the new 300-bed facility on June 24.

At the hospital there are four general surgeons, two orthopedic surgeons, two pediatricians, one thoracic surgeon, one pathologist, one dentist, one obstetrician-gynecologist, and six doctors of internal medicine.

"All types of surgery are performed at 27th Surg except for brain and eye surgery, which is handled at the 2nd Surgical Hospital," explained CPT Samuel L. Braunstein of San Antonio, Tex., the hospital adjutant.

623 Admitted Since April

"Of the 623 Vietnamese that have been admitted since we began operation in April," stated the registrar, CPT Daniel A. Hester of Paragould, Ark., "148 have been treated for disease, 52 for accidental injury and 423 for injuries resulting from hostile action." He added that there has been an average of 65 out-patient visits per month.

Most war casualties are air-evacuated to the hospital where they immediately receive emergency life-saving treatment. Surgery follows in one of the six surgical suites.

The patient's next two hours to three days are then spent in the recovery room where they receive 24-hour care. From there, they move to one of the two Vietnamese intensive care wards for about two days. For recuperation, the patients are either evacuated to the Quang Ngai or Tam Ky Provincial Hospital or released to go home.

Most Are War Casualties

One of the hospital's two orthopedic surgeons, CPT Dennis P. Gordon of Denver, Colo., commented that 90 percent of his Vietnamese patients were war casualties. "We are concerned mainly with just the first stage care of these casualties; for the most part, definitive surgery is performed at the provincial hospital."

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON—90 percent of CPT Dennis P. Gordon's patients are Vietnamese war casualties. (Photo by SP5 David L. Tyler)

CPT Frank Cappelli of Brooklyn, N.Y., a pediatrician, stated, "You see many unusual diseases here—conditions you would never find in the States. The most common problems are malaria, plague, and nutritional deficiencies."

One Dentist

The hospital's only dentist, CPT Douglas N. Abaid of New York City, in discussing his work said, "Most of my Vietnamese patients are brought in by Americans. No program of continuous care has been started because they don't return for regular care."

However, the captain expressed hope for the future. "I will soon begin to treat the children from the orphanage in An Tan and set up a program of dental care for them."

In addition to the medical care given to the Vietnamese, 27th Surg has a program to train Vietnamese women as nurse's aides through on-the-job training.

Teetering Tots

Children of the Chu Lai Orphanage enjoy playground equipment built by SP4 James Phillips of Louisville, Ky. and SP4 Barry Holdren of Rockwood, Mich., of the Americal Band. (Photo by SP4 Ernest Rudy)

School Rises Out Of Ashes

THANG BINH—Residents of this village recently celebrated the opening of a new secondary school on the same spot where the old one had once lain in ruin.

The village leaders' determination to not slacken their children's education despite a Viet Cong terror attack which destroyed the old structure was realized with the help of the 196th Inf. Bde.

None of the village's 1,500 youths missed a day of class as the new school simply grew up around them.

"As the rooms were completed, the classes shifted around to make way for the work to continue," said MAJ Robert Pugmire of Pocatfillo, Ida., the brigade civil affairs officer.

The villagers provided the basic ingredients such as manpower, locally-made bricks, and handmade shutters and doors. Roofing and other needed material were provided by the brigade.

The completion of the school was the last project in totally revitalizing the village after a Viet Cong force mortared it and burned many of the buildings.

Refugees Build Hamlets With 198th's Support

CHU LAI—With the help of 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers, 2,000 refugees are building their own village just south of Tam Ky. These refugees have come voluntarily or have been moved for their own protection from as far south as Duc Pho and as far north as the Que Son Valley.

Using the materials supplied by the 198th, the Vietnamese are building tin-roofed houses, wells, and defense bunkers.

An American-built school is being run by teachers from Vietnamese Revolutionary Development Teams for the hamlet. Also, German Red Cross nurses and MEDCAP teams assisted by a resident Vietnamese nurse treat more than 100 patients a day.

While the refugees constructed their homes, men of the 198th have supplied more than 8,000 pounds of food, milk, resettlement kits, and tools ranging from farming implements to sewing machines.

PEDIATRICIAN—CPT Frank Cappelli from Brooklyn, N.Y. notes that "You see many unusual disease here—conditions you would never find in the States." (Photo by SP5 David L. Tyler)

Division Artillery Su

Forward observer calls in coordinates . . . 3rd. Bn., 16th Arty

FDC computes trajectory . . . 523rd Sig. Bn

Another 155mm Howitzer is lowered on a remote LZ 3rd. Bn., 16th Arty

...pports Infantrymen

Weather data checked . . . 523rd Sig. Bn.

Calculations complete, round is readied 523rd Sig. Bn.

Division Artillery, commanded by COL Lawrence M. Jones, Jr., has fired more than two million rounds in support of the Americal's combat operations in the southern I Corps.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery has administrative and tactical control of all assigned artillery battalions, detachments, sections, and platoons in Divarty. Assigned directly to Divarty are the 3rd Bn., 16th Arty., 3rd Bn., 18th Arty., and the 1st Bn., 82nd Arty.

Air-transportable

The 3rd Bn., 16th Arty. has three air-transportable batteries. This battalion operates throughout Americal's area of operation and has simultaneously operated from as many as seven fire bases. They have performed direct support missions for the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. Their 155mm Howitzers have a range of 14,600 meters and fire a 193-pound high explosive projectile, illumination, or propaganda.

The 3rd of the 18th Arty. is an 8-inch Howitzer and 175mm gun battalion. Their three batteries give general support to the entire division area and reinforcing fire for the direct support battalions. Elements of this battalion have given support to operations outside the division—Dak To during the Tet offensive and Hue-Phu Bai during their liberation.

Both the 8-inch and 175mm are mounted on track vehicles. A 200-pound projectile can be fired 16,000 meters from the 8-inch Howitzer, and a 150-pound high explosive or white phosphorous round can be launched over 32,000 meters from the 175mm gun.

Recent Arrivals

The 1st Bn., 82nd Arty., recent arrival from Ft. Lewis, Wash., became operational on Aug. 9. It is a composite battalion consisting of three 155mm Howitzer batteries and one 8-inch Howitzer battery. It is organized as a standard general support battalion for an infantry division. Its role is the same as that of the other two battalions.

Also assigned to Divarty are G Btry., 55th Arty. (Machine-gun) and the 251st and 252nd Radar Detachments. The primary mission of the machine-gun battery is to provide perimeter protection. The radar detachments give counter-mortar protection and information to further bring first-round accuracy on suspected enemy mortar, rocket, or artillery locations.

The Searchlight Plt. of G Btry., 29th Arty., which is attached to Divarty provides illumination for all supported fire bases in the division area.

Important Sections

Under Headquarters and Headquarters Battery are four important sections. The Ballistic Meteorological Section collects weather data for fire adjustment. The Surveillance Radar Section detects targets moving on the ground up to a range of 18,000 meters. The Aviation Section gives air intelligence, and the Communications Section provides the division commander with an alternate division communications network.

In addition to the units previously mentioned, there are other direct support artillery units which are organic to Americal's three brigades: the 6th Bn., 11th Arty. with the 11th Inf. Bde.; the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty. with the 196th Inf. Bde.; and the 1st Bn., 14th Arty. with the 198th Inf. Bde.

Powerful protection comes in fours 523rd Sig. B

Combat In Review

AIRBORNE DELIVERY—"Flying Crane" airlifts construction equipment for 26th Engr. Bn. to be used in building a new LZ in the division area. (Photo by SP4 David L. Tyler)

Engineers Utilize Choppers To Build Isolated Outposts

CHU LAI — "White Lions" from the 26th Engr. Bn. are confronted daily with missions ranging from sweeping Highway 535 in search of mines to floating pontoon bridges across rivers.

One of the most challenging assignments given the combat engineers is the construction of a new outpost in the division's area of operation.

It takes from three to five days to create a fire support base or landing zone.

Unfortunately from a logistical standpoint, the construction sites are usually mountain tops, dense forests, or other isolated locations.

The difficult task of transporting the essential earth-moving equipment and building materials overland is made easier by a helicopter airlift operation. CH-47Bs and CH-54's, known to most ground observers as Chinooks and Cranes, play a major role.

The boxcar-shaped Chinook is capable of carrying an 11,000 pound load; the Crane, which appears to have had a bite taken from its underside, can hoist 16,000 pounds skyward.

LTC Mathew W. Hoey, commanding officer of the 26th Engr. Bn., praised the chopper units that support his engineers.

"As far as I'm concerned," he said, "without the assistance of the Army aviation units our job would be at least five times more difficult. They give us a tremendous advantage over the enemy."

A Good Friend Is Hard To Find

FSB WEST—Kindness paid off recently for soldiers of the 196th Inf. Bde. working in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

"We were conducting a search and clear operation when we found a former Viet Cong who had decided to help our side," said SP4 Robert Martinez of El Paso, Tex., a rifleman with Co. B of the brigade's 4th Bn., 31st Inf.

"After we fed him, we continued our mission. We had traveled pretty far when one of our men was overcome by heat. Immediately, the former VC offered to carry the man's pack; and he carried it to the night location.

"The next morning after we had fed the soldier and given him shelter, he led us to a hidden VC booby trap which would have triggered a 500-pound bomb," Martinez said.

Sleep By Light, Fight By Night

LZ BAYONET—"Know the enemy so that you may beat him at his own game," is a proverb that has gained much credence lately with one unit of the 198th Inf. Bde.

Using the VC-NVA tactics of resting during daylight and moving at night, the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. has denied the enemy the use of a former stronghold in the division AO.

The Ky Sanh Valley, northwest of here, had often been the scene of extensive activity by Viet Cong rocket teams. By maintaining security during the day, companies saturated the "rocket pocket" with ambushes and night patrols.

"By using saturation patrols we have denied the VC their night activities," said LT Alphonso Ramieres, a platoon leader with Co. D of the "Regulars." "We've actually been able to seal off the valley."

These night operations have netted seven enemy killed, seven weapons captured, including a sniper rifle with scope, and nine VC have been captured, including a platoon leader, squad leader, and nurse with medical supplies.

"The VC know we're here, but we vary our routes and ambushes so much they can't keep track of us," PFC Lorne White, a Co. D machinegunner, said. "Once it gets dark the Viet Cong just don't know where we've moved."

Recon Platoon Routs Enemy

LZ BAYONET—Ordinarily, the primary function of a reconnaissance platoon is to obtain information about enemy activities. When actual contact is made with enemy forces, however, more often than not the recon platoon initiates it.

Although the informational aspect of the recon platoon's mission comes first, a chance to destroy the enemy is never passed up.

Such a time was Aug. 5 for 1LT Michael Cooper and his reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Bn., 6th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde.

Chow, Then Action

The location was the southern Dragon Valley, approximately six miles northwest of Chu Lai. The lieutenant explained that the platoon had set up a defensive perimeter and were relaxing after chow.

The serenity was suddenly broken by the cracking of automatic weapons fire. Twenty-three-year-old SP4 Boyd Rader from Harrisburg, Pa., had spotted an NVA soldier and had "opened up" on him.

The NVA force, an estimated two platoons in strength, responded with automatic weapons fire and grenades from two directions. As the heavy fire continued, the NVA attempted to flank the platoon's position.

Artillery Support

LT Cooper made a hurried call for artillery support and helicopter gunships. In describing the ensuing battle, the platoon leader said, "The helicopter gunships came within 25 to 50 meters of our position, and that's closer than you like to bring them."

But the gunships brought down a hail of firepower in the form of grenades, rockets, and mini-gun rounds that proved too much for the enemy force. The NVA force withdrew, leaving behind three bodies.

Six hours later, the recon platoon was extracted from the area, a bit unnerved, but otherwise unscathed.

"Incoming..."

LZ BALDY—Would you believe a soldier with the 196th Inf. Bde. was hit in the back with an incoming 60mm mortar round and lived to tell about it?

"I was so busy ducking bullets I really didn't know what had happened," said SGT Phillip Darrington (Patterson, N.J.) of A Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf.

"I remember we were assaulting an enemy position and drawing heavy automatic weapon and mortar fire," said the A Co. squad leader. "Suddenly I was knocked down hard."

The "Charger" lay dazed until one of his men dragged him into a nearby hole.

"When I regained my senses one of my men said I had been knocked down by an incoming mortar round which bounced off my back and exploded on down the hill," said Darrington.

"I wasn't even hit by any shrapnel, and I had only minor bruises where the round had hit me," he added.

Tracked Down

Suspected VC gets a ride in an armored personnel carrier of "E" Trp., 1st Cav., 11th Inf. Bde., during a routine sweep by the armored vehicles in the brigade's area of Operation Muscatine (Photo by SP4 Bernard Gmiter)

Baseball's Big At Bronco

IT'S A HIT—An artilleryman from the A merical Division's 6th Bn., 11th Arty., connects as "Redlegs" and 11th Bde. HHC battle it out in the brigade league at Duc Pho. (Photo by SP4 Dean Pohland, 11th Inf. Bde.)

HE'S OUT—It's all over for this batter at another 11th Inf. Bde. basecamp softball game. (Photo by 1LT Arthur Dunn)

By SP4 DEAN POHLAND
11th Inf. Bde.

LZ BRONCO — Wherever Americans gather it seems baseball is bound to follow, and Vietnam is no exception.

Lately, evenings here have been ringing with the sounds of the national pastime, marking the beginnings of a full-fledge softball league at the 11th Inf. Bde. base camp.

The league is the brainchild of two Americal NCOs who realized the need for some exercise, found a place to play and decided to take the horse by the hide.

Pick-up Games

"A group of us started some pick-up games in a vacant field," said SFC William Cline of Glen Cove, N.Y., in Co. C, 6th Support Bn. "Others started coming around asking for games and pretty soon we had several teams playing just for the heck of it."

"The idea for a league," according to 1SGT Charles Webb from Tacoma, Wash., also of Co. C, "came when we realized how many people wanted to organize a softball program. Right now, we have about a dozen teams throughout the base camp, with several more being organized."

Equipment Lost

What the teams lack in facilities they more than make up in spirit and enthusiasm. This is especially true of the "Tigers" of Primo Aviation, Ltd. because they lost all their softball equipment when the Primo supply room went up in smoke during a mortar attack a couple of months ago.

League officials plan a play-off within the league and a championship series to determine an overall winner.

"It's a unique league," says Webb. "Here, games can be called not only because of rain and darkness, but also on account of incoming mortar rounds."

Pat Ogelsby

How would you like to meet this while on patrol? Pat Ogelsby, one-half of the "Pat and Cash" duo, hails from Los Angeles and toured the Americal Division recently as part of the Special Services entertainment program. Specializing in jazz and soul numbers, she got her start in show business by appearing with the "Young Americans" on the Johnny Mathis Show. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

Division Huey Cobras Breathe Fire On Enemy

CHU LAI—Americal ground troops are now receiving aerial support from the Cobra, a helicopter gunship that performs as fiercely as it looks. F Trp., 8th Cav. recently took possession of nine Cobras, which carry the military nomenclature of AH1-G.

MAJ Richard N. Peterson, executive officer, said the Cobra is completely different from the UH1-C, commonly referred to as the "Charlie" model, which has been the primary helicopter gunship to the present time. He said the troops' chopper pilots, who are already Cobra flight trained, are sold on the new aircraft. "They think it's the greatest thing that ever hit."

Flys Faster, Longer

Considering what the Cobra is capable of doing, the pilots' praise seems reasonable. The craft normally cruises between 137 and 173 miles per hour, has three times as much firepower as the "Charlie" model, and can stay in the air 50 percent longer than its predecessor.

The gun systems in the new helicopter are just about the same as those in previous gunships. The normal armament arrangement, called the heavy scout configuration, consists of thirty-eight 2.75 free flight aerial rockets and 3,000 rounds of mini-gun ammunition on the inboard wing stores.

This is supplemented by 4,000 rounds of mini-gun ammo and 3,000 rounds of 40mm grenades in the turret, which is capable of swinging 110 degrees left or right of center and is located just below the nose of the aircraft. Variations on the heavy scout configuration can be made by adding or subtracting mini-guns, 40mm grenade launchers, and rockets.

Two-Man Crew

Another change brought about by the Cobra is the reduction in the size of the gunship crew from four to two. MAJ Peterson explained, "We have a pilot in the rear and a copilot-gunner who sits in front. The copilot can have 100 per cent control of the ship but has fewer instruments than the pilot to work with."

The pilot usually controls the armaments on the wing stores while the copilot fires the weapons mounted in the turret. Both aviators, however, can operate either system.

FIERCE ONE—Fire-breathing Cobra of F Trp., 8th Cav., sits passively on helipad awaiting call to action. (Photo by SP4 Harry Ottey)

Cavalrymen

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Only two cavalrymen died in the first day-long battle.

Second Day

The continuing battle on the second day differed little from the first day's action—a series of vicious, independent troop fights with the Cav. in control.

"The fighting became so intense, we had two NVA soldiers who Chieu Hoied to us. They came out of their spider holes with their hands up, stripped to their underwear," related CPT George R. Kaczer, A Trp. commander.

"I had a lot of good men wounded—not seriously—but they refused to be dusted off, and remained to fight throughout the day," the captain said.

After the second day of intense fighting, possibly the most fierce the "Dragoons" have yet encountered in Vietnam, the enemy bodycount stood at 259, with only six division soldiers killed.

Third Day

On the morning of the third day of battle it soon became apparent that the enemy had had enough and fled the battlefield during the night.

Only 37 NVA were killed during the day in a sweep, which turned up a few rear elements of what had been an imposing enemy force.

"It would appear from captured enemy documents and prisoners," explained LTC Lawrence, "that the enemy's original objective was an attack on Tam Ky.

"The meeting engagement of the first day uncovered their position, allowing the Cav. to move into and break up the enemy positions and destroy the major portion of this force."

High Praise

The colonel had high praise for the men who participated in the fighting, and he stated, "We took the enemy apart."

'Doc's' Job Rewarding

By CPT. DENNIS M. EILERS
198th Inf. Bde.

CHU LAI—The 198th Inf. Bde. platoon was making a sweep near a village in the Que Son Valley. A small Vietnamese child strayed cautiously up to the soldiers.

About five-years-old and unable to speak the language of the battle-worn soldiers, he pointed to a two-inch long splinter in his foot, and lifted it for an infantryman to see.

"Hey, Doc, over here," the soldier shouted, and PFC John Donaghue, of Paradise, Calif., came trotting across the rice paddy with his medic pack under his arm.

Donaghue set the small boy down and opened his medic bag. The boy stared apprehensivley as the medic took out the necessary instruments and disinfectants. Then Donaghue cut into the sore foot and revealed the full length of the wooden splinter.

No Ordinary Splinter

"It was nearly an inch deep. I don't know how he was able to walk on it," he said.

Donaghue went to work on the splinter while the child sat motionless and glassy-eyed. Soon the medic had the source of pain removed, and the wound disinfected and bandaged.

The boy looked up at the medic in thanks, then ran back to the village as if nothing had happened.

The medic stared after the boy, picked up his pack and rejoined the platoon, which was moving out beyond the village.

Although he didn't get a verbal "thank you," Donaghue received the satisfaction of providing medical help for the Vietnamese boy.

Thankful Villagers

The villagers are thankful, though, and they know that whenever a 198th Inf. Bde. unit comes through there is a combat medic with them that can ease a small pain, bandage a cut, and even call a medical evacuation helicopter for a seriously injured patient.

Donaghue is just one of many combat medics who work tirelessly with brigade infantrymen to extend the helping hand of medicine in the Americal Div. area northwest of Tam Ky. But aiding the Vietnamese is just one facet of his job.

"Everything I've learned, I've been able to apply over here," Donaghue said.

He explains his job in Co. C of the 1st Bn., 42nd Inf. as "having all the pieces of a big puzzle and being able to use the right piece at the right time.

Evacuation Praised

"We have to know how to comfort the wounded, treat their wounds and get them off the battlefield," he said.

"Each problem is different. You have to rely on your training and experience to do the right thing each time."

He describes the helicopter evacuation of the wounded with praise.

"We have been evacuating wounded in 15 to 20 minutes," he said. "It works real fast, but I still have to give them the best treatment I can until the chopper arrives."

ADC Promoted

BG James V. Galloway, Asst. Div. Cmdr., was promoted recently in a ceremony at Chu Lai. MG Charles M. Gettys presented the 28-year Army veteran with his first star. BG Galloway was assigned to MACV before coming to the Americal last March.

Field Services

Mortarmen of 3rd Bn., 4th Inf., 11th Inf. Bde., pause for worship with brigade chaplain. (Photo by SP4 Bernard Gmiter)

Surrounded

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ular-shaped land mass. They then proceeded inland, as the VC retreated towards the one remaining avenue of escape.

LTC James E. Armstrong, the battalion commander, explained what happened next. "Our D Co. immediately executed a combat assault under the protective fire from the 'Firebirds' on the remaining side of the island. We had the VC surrounded and they knew it."

The main body then began to split up, running in every direction, but "Charger" infantrymen were everywhere.

B Co. commander CPT David O. Treadwell described the action that followed. "As each platoon swept forward, a squad would trail behind and pick off the VC as they tried to sneak behind the advancing elements. Their only hope was to get into a hole, but most of them never made it."

No Escape

Some did manage to elude the trap, however, and get to the river. But as they tried to escape, the "Gimlet" security force, which was controlling the pneumatic boats, went into action. They cast off and pursued the fleeing VC through the maze of small islets and tributaries.

As a result of this one night's action, 64 VC were killed and numerous sampans filled with packs and weapons were either captured or sunk.

In summing up the combined operation of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf., and the 71st Avn. Co., LTC Armstrong concluded, "We were pulling out all the stops and using every trick in the book, but we got them where they thought we wouldn't go—and we got them all."