The 'Chargers' Invaded By Men From MARS

LZ BALDY—Calling home from Vietnam via the MARS network has always been a well received special service to the soldier. But the signal platoon from the 196th Inf. Bde. is carrying the MARS service even a little farther—on their backs.

"Of course, the calls are available to the guys in the rear area and on the LZs," said 1LT Jay Reese, leader of the 156th Sig. Plt. "But there wasn't much opportunity for them to call home until they got out of the field."

So the four-man MARS crew decided to correct the problem as soon as possible.

"If they couldn't come in to use the station, we would just have to find a way to take the station to them," said SP4 Frederick Pernert.

From Field To Family

The problem of transmitting from the field was solved by attaching a PRC-74 radio to a rucksack. This powerful transmitter allowed the "Men from MARS" to relay through their station from up to 50 miles away.

"Ideally, we would have one man and radio with each battalion to alternate between the companies," said 1LT Reese.

As a company sets up its night defensive position, or late in the day, the "Man from MARS" joins the unit by resupply helicopter and spends the night originating calls for that company.

MARS Calling

"Depending on how many guys want to call home from the field, the station basically belongs to that company that night," added Pernert.

Adding a special service to an already special service is not easy, but the "Charger" radiomen are doing just that.

Leaders Meet

Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu is greeted by MG Charles M. Gettys. President Thieu visited Chu Lai to present BG Howard H. Cooksey with the Republic of Vietnam National Order 5th Class and the Cross of Gallantry with palm. (Photo by 523rd Sig. Bn.)

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 1, No. 8 | CHU LAI, VIETNAM | September 27, 1968

Allies Repel Attack

LZ BRONCO—A joint effort of the 2nd ARVN Div. and troops from the 11th Inf. Bde. recently spoiled enemy plans to attack and capture Quang Ngai City.

Persistent intelligence reports of a large-scale enemy unit planning an offensive against the provincial capital, and subsequent ARVN contacts in the area brought a quick response from four companies of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf.

After VC positions were prepared by air strikes and artillery fire, the men of the "Always First" battalion began combat assaults against the enemy. The objective was to secure three strong points on the Tra Khuc River and drive the VC into the ARVNs deployed as a blocking force along the river's north bank.

Mobile Blocking Used

"The ARVNs continually made mobile blocking maneuvers as enemy pull-backs were reported," said CPT Dan Prather, battalion liason officer to ARVN headquarters.

Well-fortified Enemy

As 3rd Bn. 1st Inf. companies began their sweep, they came under heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from pockets of enemy resistance which used numerous command detonated mines scattered throughout their well-fortified positions.

"We estimated the enemy to be a main-force VC unit with NVA advisors," said Battalion Commander 1LT Henry I. Lowder. "Even after the concentrated air and artillery strikes the enemy was still dug in when we landed."

Constant Movement Is Key

Constant movement to catch "Charlie" off guard was the key to the operation LTC Lowder explained. "The 'War Lord' helicopters of the 123rd Avn. Bn. deserve great credit for staying on the hot LZs, extracting casualties and carrying out the effective repositioning of the elements," he noted.

"As the battalion approached the enemy-occupied objectives," related SP5 Wayne Marek, operations NCO at the temporary base camp, "C Co., led by CPT James O'Herron, ran into what appeared to be the enemy command post. They encountered heavy small arms fire and more command detonated mines."

422 Enemy Killed

The combined allied operation accounted for 422 enemy killed in six days of fighting. More than 93 small arms and crew-served weapons, numerous mines, grenades, and explosives also were captured.

The enemy threat against Quang Ngai City had been stifled.

198th Kills 17 In All-Day Fight

LZ BAYONET—"Regulars" of the 198th Inf. Bde. and supporting air power recently killed 17 NVA in the highland region, known as "Rocket Ridge," southwest of Chu Lai.

The battle began early in the morning when infantrymen of Co. C, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., engaged a single NVA near a small clearing. As they moved forward they came under automatic weapons and machinegun fire from several concealed bunkers.

While the point element returned enemy fire, the remainder of the company attempted to flank the enemy positions. As the "Regulars" moved they were taken under fire by other enemy bunkers. Helicopter gunships and jet fighters were called in for support.

Pitched Battle

Under the cover of miniguns and 20mm cannon fire the men advanced. A pitched battle of grenades and small arms fire developed.

"We used fire and maneuver to work our way up to each bunker," LT Michael Myers, a C Co. platoon leader said.

As the battle developed, Co. D soldiers moved in to take the enemy-infested hilltop from the rear. The lead element spotted five NVA attempting to flee. Hand grenades and small arms fire killed three and drove the others back into the undergrowth.

Well-Concealed Bunkers

Air strikes were called within 200 meters of Co. D as they came under heavy automatic weapons fire from concealed bunkers. "Those bunkers were unbelievable," said SGT Peter Bedford, a Co. D squad leader. "You couldn't see them until you were almost standing on top of them."

With the arrival of darkness, artillery was brought in between Cos. C and D, which were only 600 meters apart.

With the exception of some light contact with snipers, the ridge was taken without incident the next day.

A thorough sweep of the area uncovered 17 enemy bodies, 21 fortified bunkers, 23 covered fighting positions, two automatic weapons positions, one 122mm rocket, one AK-47, more than 500 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, ten 60mm mortar rounds, plus a large amount of NVA individual equipment and supplies.

On the Move—"Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Inf. Bde. take the offensive in recent action near Quang Ngai City. (Photo by SP5 David L. Tyler, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Religion and You

Step By Step

BY CHAPLAIN (LTC) JACK C. RANDLES

Asst. Div. Chaplain

A FATHER AND HIS SON were camped in a wooded area a short distance from the nearest village. The father had a letter which needed mailing and asked his son to take it to the local post office. The father took his son to the edge of the camp and pointed out the trail to the village.

"But, father," said the small boy, "I don't see how that path will ever reach town."

The father took the boy's hand and pointed explaining, "See down the trail to that big tree where it seems to come to an end?"

"OH, YES SIR, I see that the path goes that far, but the village is not there."

"Well, when you get to the big tree, you will see further on around the bend and down the trail. Just go to the tree and then follow it some more until you see some houses. When you come to the houses, you will see the post office. There you can mail my letter."

THE LOVE OF GOD quite often withholds the view of the entire distance of the bending road of life. He reveals it step by step and from corner to corner. Thus, it is necessary for us to trust Him, because He alone knows what is beyond the next turn.

He knows what lies ahead and whether we can cope with it now or later. His corners are not the end of the way. Corners are designed to discipline our faith, to teach us patience and to equip us for blessing.

Lawyer's Corner

Claims Against U.S.

BY CPT SALIM J. BALADY

Legal Assistance Officer

"TECHNICALITIES ARE TRAPS for the unwary." Nowhere in the administration of military affairs does the maxim hold more true than in the processing of claims against the United States.

Failure to comply with even the smallest technical requirement of claims regulations can delay settlement for months.

Claims against the United States are permitted under the provisions of several statutes. The two most commonly used are the Military and Civilian Personnel Claims Act (MCPCA) and the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA).

THE MCPCA PERMITS recovery by military personnel or civilian employees of the federal government of compensation for loss or damage to their personal property which occurs incident to their federal service.

Typical of claims which arise under the MCPCA are those which seek recovery for loss or damage to household goods suffered by military personnel during a permanent change of station.

Typical of a civilian employee's claim is loss or damage to his automobile which occurred when the employee used his private automobile in carrying out government business.

The Federal Tort Claims Act permits recovery from the government by members of the civilian community who suffer injury or damage as the result of the negligence of a government agent, if the negligence can be legally attributed to the government itself.

The most common FTCA claims are those based upon automobile accidents in which the government driver, acting within the scope of his employment, is at fault.

OTHER STATUTES under which compensation for damages may be sought from the federal government are:

—The Military Claims Act, which governs claims arising out of the activities of military or civilian personnel acting within the scope of their employment or otherwise in non-combat activities.

—The Non-Scope of Employment Claims Act, under which claims incident to the use of government vehicles and other property of the United States not cognizable under other law may be paid.

—The National Guard Claims Act, under which claims arising from activities of National Guard personnel while engaged in duty of training are cognizable.

—Title 10, United States Code, section 2534, which governs claims arising from activities of foreign military personnel in the United States pursuant to a status of forces agreement.

—Title 10, United States Code, section 939, under which claims against members of the United States armed forces for property willfully damaged or taken may be paid.

—The Foreign Claims Act, under which claims arising in foreign countries are cognizable.

☆The Time Is Near☆

☆The Choice Is Yours☆

By SFC LARRY BABITTS

Staff NCOIC

The right to be heard through representatives not only in Washington, D.C., but at all levels of government is an inherent right of all Americans guaranteed by the Constitution.

Voting has become a direct responsibility of the individual, qualified citizen. If the majority of the people could not or did not vote, it would be possible for a political minority to gain control of the government and rule as dictators.

A prime example of the effect of the individual vote is the 1960 national election. The popular vote of the Democratic candidate was so slim that the shift of only one percent of the voters in Texas or Illinois would have resulted in a Republican victory.

First Step Is Easy

The first step in assuring that your ballot is counted is quite easy. Make sure you are eligible to vote; all states require you to be a U.S. citizen as well as a resident of that particular state and voting locality for a certain length of time.

These required times vary from three months in New York State to two years residency required in Mississippi.

Many states require you to have been previously registered in order to cast an absentee ballot, but the majority permit absentee registration.

Requirements Differ

Because each state has almost complete control of the eligibility requirements —thus 50 different standards —each company in this division has appointed a voting officer.

He has a copy of the newest Department of Defense booklet, "Voting Information 1968." He can also give you a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) Form 76. If the FPCA is not available, just write all of the necessary information on a card and mail it to your local voting office.

When filling out the FPCA be sure to legibly print or type all of the requested information.

Your name must appear twice on the application; once in your own handwriting.

Your legal voting residence and the name of your county are also to be included. Your legal voting address must be a place you have actually lived, not just a residence address.

Avoid Military Abbreviations

When putting your military return address on the application, avoid whenever possible the use of military abbreviations; they tend to confuse civilians.

Your signature on the form must be witnessed by a commissioned officer.

Mail the FPCA as early as possible. If you apply by letter or post card, be sure to include all of the necessary information. Voting eligibility requirements will be given to you by the voting officer.

Your written application also must be witnessed by a commissioned officer.

When your ballot comes in the mail, read the instructions printed on the outside of the envelope first. Follow all the instructions carefully and remember: **the choice is yours.**

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, APO 96374. Tel: Chu Lai 3212. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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Americal Engineer Gives Instruction To ARVNs

Classroom instruction to orient ARVN engineers

QUANG NGAI—Complex machinery requires careful maintenance and a lot of tender loving care. Realizing this, the 26th Engr. Bn. sent a maintenance officer to Quang Ngai City to help the engineers of the 2nd ARVN Div. improve their competance.

CW2 Duane V. Scott left the "White Lions" headquarters at Chu Lai and traveled south to the engineer battalion compound.

Orientation was held in a class room, with the practical work taking place in the yard outside. Mr. Scott, who worked with a Vietnamese interpreter, checked the students' familiarization with the nomeclature and functions of the different types of equipment.

Also, through the interpreter, the drivers and technicians were able to ask questions about the material they did not understand.

Engine maintenance emphasized

Interpreter listens to next pointer

Photos by SP4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor

Dream Coming True

Village Self-Help Program Is A Success

QUE SON—A dream of the people of this village is slowly being realized with the help of a battalion of the 196th Inf. Bde.

A full-time doctor and a dispensary, built with their own labor, will be the result of the program now in effect.

What is the major contribution of the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.? Food. Food to pay the wages of the workers who have produced more than 8,000 clay bricks for the 8-room structure.

Rice Supplied

"We supply Que Son District with all the good, captured NVA/VC rice we find in our combat operations," said the battalion's civil affairs officer, 1LT Roger Mulock. "In turn, it is used to pay those laboring on the self-help program."

Sandbags of rice are also distributed to those who cannot work, during regular MEDCAP operations.

Doctor Sought

The second aspect of the program is recruiting a physician, MAJ Franklin L. Donahoe, senior advisor for Que Son District, explained, "As soon as the dispensary is completed, we can ask a doctor to come live and work in Que Son. He'll probably have to come from Da Nang, Hue, or Saigon, so we should have something to offer him."

10,000 Refugees

By means of the help given by the 196th Bde. to this village, overcrowded with 10,000 refugees, the dispensary is expected to be completed shortly.

"We have a close working relationship with the 2nd Bn. on LZ Ross," said MAJ Donahoe. "The assistance from their civil affairs section has accelerated our program 100 percent."

'Brave and Bold'

'Brave and Bold' troops board chopper for extraction

198th soldier scans hut for VC

Not yet 18 months old, the 198th Inf. Bde. has gone from the practice field of Fort Hood, Tex., to the hills and jungles of Operations Burlington Trail and Wheeler/Wallowa and the rice paddies of Muscatine to prove itself equal to any combat demands, as the youngest "seasoned veterans" in Vietnam.

On The Move

Always mobile, the 198th units have operated from Duc Pho to just south of Da Nang in pursuti of the enemy. They have gone west of Chu Lai to areas either untouched before by American soldiers or unsearched for years.

Nearly 19-1 Kill Ratio

During its search and clear missions the "Brave and Bold" brigade has killed more than 1,200 enemy. The head-on battles have been few, but in three major battles the enemy losses were 499 compared to the 198th's 28, a ratio of nearly 19-1.

Units have uncovered huge weapons caches, thousands of rounds of ammunition tons of rice, medical supplies, and enemy buildings.

Cavalry mortarmen support

Medic treats burned Son Tra victim

Big In I Corps

Fighting disease, more than 82,000 Vietnamese, or nearly 8,000 per month, have been treated during MEDCAPs by 198th civic action soldiers.

Aid To Education

Numerous repairs and construction of schools, wells, roads, and market places have been made. In addition, more than 70 primary and secondary school scholarships were awarded to Vietnamese by 198th personnel during the last school term.

Consists Of 4 Battalions

Commanded by COL Charles B. Thomas, the 198th consists of four infantry battalions: 1st Bn., 6th Inf.; 1st Bn., 46th Inf.; 1st Bn., 52nd Inf.; and 5th Bn., 46th Inf. Other brigade units are the 1st Bn., 14th Arty.; the support battalion; H Trp., 17th Cav.; Co. B, 26th Engr. Bn.; and the 57th Scout Dog Plt.

Story and Photos
By 198th Inf. Bde.

MP 'River Rats' check junk for enemy contraband

pperation in 'Dragon Valley'

Kit Carson scouts lead patrol

Engineers add final touch to brigade chapel

Combat In Review

Bulging Billfold Bars Ballistic... Bruises Bottom

LZ BRONCO—One "Jungle Warrior" of the 11th Bde. is walking around with a hole in his wallet instead of a Purple Heart on his chest.

The hole in SP4 George Ruckman's billfold is a souvenir left by the Viet Cong when they ambushed two trucks carrying a platoon from LZ Liz to the departure point of a combat patrol. Ruckman, the commo chief of E Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., was riding on the back of the seat in the lead truck when they were attacked.

Sharp Sting

He described the action. "A hand grenade went off between the trucks, injuring some of the men in the second vehicle. As we called for a medic, small arms fire began coming in. I felt a sharp sting in my rear and thought it was a fragment from the grenade because everybody was yelling they'd been hit by frags."

But when he checked for possible injury, he found one big bruise and one hole in his wallet.

Ricochet

The bullet had first hit the radio strapped to the back of SP4 George McMurtry, radio telephone operator for E Co., who was riding in the rear of the truck. It then ricochetted off the side bar of the truck, the front bar of the truck bed, and was stopped by Ruckman's wallet.

"It didn't hit any money," he said, "but it went through my ration card, a picture of my girl, and some other papers I was carrying."

He is still carrying the bullet that did the damage ...in his wallet, of course.

Ready To Strike

M-48 tank of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., prepares to go into action against enemy troops near Tam Ky. (Photo by SP5 David L. Tyler, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

One H&I Round Kills 8

LZ BAYONET—"Is it unusual? Yes, I'd say finding a whole squad killed by harassment and interdiction fire is unique," said CPT John Kenny, 198th Inf. Bde.'s asst. S-2. "Especially if all the weapons found are at the scene."

It happened in the 5th Bn., 46th Inf.'s sector of Operation Burlington Trail.

A company of the "Professionals" was making a sweep through the mountains when it found the eight dead North Vietnamese and their eight weapons.

"One round must have killed the whole squad," CPT Kenny said. "Otherwise the survivors would have policed the weapons and tried to hide the bodies."

Btry. A, 6th Bn., 11th Arty. fired the H&I in support of 198th soldiers working in the area near Chu Lai.

Dubbed Outpost

LZ Is 'Way Out'

LZ BALDY — Somewhere deep in the Que Son Valley is a landing zone of the 196th Inf. Bde. so remote its men refer to it as "The Outpost." It's called Mellon.

"Our primary mission here is to observe enemy infiltration routes running east, from Laos to Kham Duc," said 1LT Edward Henry, commanding officer of C Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf. "When we moved to LZ Mellon intelligence reported heavy NVA infiltration and resupply traffic on roads in the area."

Lights on Road

The company observed the lights of many enemy infiltrators on the trails and roads during the night. But after repeated mortar and artillery fire missions, the traffic came to a stop.

A recent visitor to LZ Mellon, Sec. of the Army Stanley R. Resor, observed the enemy infiltration routes and told LT Henry, "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."

Battalion Base Camp

The company sends out combat sweeps every day. Recently, one platoon discovered an enemy battalion-size base camp, complete with mess hall.

"We found one dead NVA soldier in the camp. He had webgear, a grenade basket, and was probably one of the NVA that probed our perimeter the night before," concluded the CO.

Lone Footprint Discloses Mine

LZ BRONCO—Division engineers attached to the 11th Inf. Bde. are fortunate that one Viet Cong's sense of humor is not surpassed by his attention to detail.

On a recent minesweep of the road between LZs Bronco and Carantan, SSG Frank R. Marshall of C Co., 26th Engr. Bn., spotted a lone footprint on a portion of the road already checked by the mine detector.

Booby-trapped Mine

The sweeper went over the area again. This time the detector produced a faint ringing sound. SGT Robert C. Denny began probing the hard dirt. After two hours of careful digging, he uncovered two charges, one of which was intricately booby-trapped.

On top of the mine was a US Army leaflet offering rewards to Viet Cong for turning in mines and booby traps.

"The charges were nytrostarch," said 1LT Bill Hassan, "the Army hasn't used that type of explosive in many years. It's too volatile. I don't know where 'Charlie' got it."

In Mail Sack

Most of the materials for the mine were scrounged from sanitary fills near Bronco. The VC used C-ration and sundry pack boxes and shoe laces. The device was wrapped in a red mail sack to waterproof it.

"There was almost no metal used to construct the mine," said LT Hassan. "That's why the mine sweeper didn't catch it on the first pass. Whoever rigged that mine knew what he was doing. The dirt was hidden in a rice paddy and all the footprints had been wiped out. Except one."

New Arty Commander

LZ BALDY—LTC Edovard A. Poloquin, of Springfield, Va., has assumed command of the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., succeeding LTC Wayne H. Elliott.

The new commander, who was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1951, was with the Staff Communications Division, office of the Army Chief of Staff in Washington.

This powerful long-barreled 175mm gun of the 3rd Bn., 18th Arty. supports "Chargers" of the 196th Inf. Bde. (Photo by SP4 George Hawkins, 196th Inf., Bde.)

Model Racer Roars At Duc Pho Raceway

By SP4 KEVIN H. HOWE
11th Inf. Bde.

LZ BRONCO — Buzzing, roaring, high-winding engines; spurts of dust raising clouds over a dirt racing track; these have been a part of the American scene since the invention of the automobile.

And Americans, as everyone knows, take the trappings of their culture wherever they go.

Two electricians with the 409th Trans. Det. (Avn. Maint.), the "Witchdoctors," are no exception. When SP4s Gary A. Barnes and David T. Nimmons knock off from a hard day of tinkering with complicated machinery, they relax and unwind by tinkering with more complicated machinery!

FINAL TUNE-UP—SP4 Gary A. Barnes makes last minute adjustments on model racer as SP4 David T. Nimmons offers technical assistance. (Photo by SP4 Dean T. Pohland, 11th Inf. Bde.)

Like Offenhausers

The two enthusiasts have constructed a model raceway and a racer to run on it—a completely homemade model car patterned after the sleek, rear-engine Offenhausers that run at Indianapolis.

The car is powered by a model airplane engine bolted to an aluminum frame. The axles are made of steel rods, with the rear wheels connected by drive gears to the engine.

Red Finish

The front axle has individual wheel suspension and the body is of styrofoam plastic, coated with a sleek, red finish of metal-set material similar to epoxy.

"I traded one of the guys in the detachment for the engine," Barnes said, "and the rest of the parts came from an old tachometer generator and a windshield wiper motor." The brass parts, he added, were made from an old 105mm shell.

Dirt Track Raceway

The car runs on a tether around a dirt track, dubbed the "Duc Pho Raceway" by the two inventors.

With a scrapyard full of broken down parts and unlimited imagination, these men have brought a breath of the excitement usually associated with the Bonneville Salt Flats or the Indianapolis 500 to Vietnam.

Gail Burnett

What a combat assault! We can understand why the slick pilot wanted to checkout this unique South China Sea scenery. Actually, it is 22-year-old Gail Burnett, an Australian entertainer appearing in Chu Lai will the Ray Harris Network. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

CEV—Men of the 26th Engr. Bn. check out their new mechanical monster. (Photo by 523rd Sig. Bn.)

New Mechanical Monsters Arrive At 26th Engineers

CHU LAI—Several mechanical monsters, weighing 58 tons each, have been throwing their weight around the division area.

There are only a limited number of these huge machines, called Combat Engineer Vehicles (CEV), in Vietnam, and the Americal's 26th Engr. Bn. has received a number of them recently.

The vehicles are built on M-60 tank chassis with a 165mm gun and two machine guns, an M-73 and M-85, sprouting from the top.

Considering the CEV is a fairly recent arrival here and that it is powered by a 750-horsepower engine, and can push, pull, lift, and blast, it will be up to the engineers to determine just what are the limitations of the vehicle.

1SGT Robert E. Elston of B Co. said, "At this time it looks like the new vehicle will be used primarily for clearing and recovery missions."

Demolition Gun

The 165mm demolition gun, which replaces the standard 105mm gun of the M-60 tank, is capable of firing an 80-pound shaped charge to a distance of 4,500 meters, with a bursting radius of 750 meters. It is to be used for long range eradication of bunkers and fortifications.

Hoist And Blade Attached

The hoist atop the CEV can lift 17,500 pounds, which provides often needed vertical lift capabilities in remote sections of the division. The winch is rated at 25,000 pounds of pulling power.

The dozer blade is used to do such things as clear obstacles and cut artillery trenches.

4-Man Crew

Each CEV is manned by a crew of four, or half as many as the M-60 tank. There is a commander, driver, gunner, and loader. The gunner and loader are demolition qualified.

The vehicles arrived at Chu Lai unassembled; it took only a week to put them together at the 723rd Maint. Bn.

Jewish New Year Message

On behalf of the officers and men of the Americal Division, I wish you a Happy New Year.

As your ancestors fought against tyranny for liberty and freedom under God, so are we now engaged in the fight for the liberty of another people.

As you go to your Holy Day prayers, may the faith and the hope of your forefathers light the way of joy and peace for you and for all mankind.

Major General Charles M. Gettys

Commanding General, Americal Division

Airborne Rabbi Visits Division

CHU LAI—CPT Franklin C. Breslau, Jewish Chaplain for the XXIV Corps area, paid a seven-day, pre-Jewish New Year visit to all of the tactical maneuver units of the Americal Division earlier this month.

During his brief stay, Chaplain Breslau was briefed by LTC Jack C. Randles, Asst. Div. Chaplain. He also visited neighboring Marine and Seabee camps.

From Ft. Campbell

The rabbi arrived in Vietnam in December, 1967, when he was deployed from Ft. Campbell, Ky. with the 101st Abn. Div.

During the six-and-one-half months he was stationed at Ft. Campbell, he became the first and only Jewish chaplain to become a qualified parachutist.

Engineer For IBM

A graduate of the Hebrew Theological Seminary in Chicago, Rabbi Breslau also holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He was employed for two years as an engineer by the I.B.M. Corp. prior to entering the Rabbinate.

As one of the five Jewish chaplains in Vietnam, Rabbi Breslau's congregation extends from the DMZ in the north to Sa Huynh in the south.

Belligerent Boa Bows After 2-Hour Battle

BY 1LT MIKE WOLFGANG

Press Operations OIC

CHU LAI—A two-hour battle waged with rocks and clods of dirt against an enemy infiltrator ended in victory recently for three bunkerline guards assigned to the 8th Spt. Bn., 196th Inf. Bde.

The foe was an eight-foot-long boa constrictor.

"We first saw the snake shortly after 11 p.m.," related SP4 Angel Cruz, "when it crawled into the grass and weeds in front of the bunkerline. We didn't know what kind it was, but that didn't matter. It was long, big and ugly."

The snake remained out of sight until after 3 a.m., when one of the guards spotted its huge bulk slithering silently towards the bunkerline.

"I guess we were all relieved when we saw the thing again. No one had been able to sleep because the boa had originally crawled from the bunkerline," Cruz shivered noticeably.

Hasty Call To OD

With the "enemy" assaulting towards the men's position, a call was hastily made to the officer of the day.

"I informed him that a big snake was coming toward us," recalled SP4 Marblen Sanders. "I asked for permission to open up on him, but he told me to 'detain' the creature until he could get someone down with a machette to cut its head off!" The young specialist smiled faintly.

Persistent Serpent

SP5 James Leverette explained, "Our 'friend' had appeared again trying to cross the road in front of us. I made a charge at him and he turned and went back into the grass.

"I'll be darned if the snake didn't come back and try his best to make that crossing. Then I trapped him...I battled with him! I really worked out with him!" the soldier remarked.

Two hours after the "battle" began, the snake became SP5 Leverette's trophy.

Red Cross Girls Boost GI Morale

CHU LAI—From the wilds of Landing Zone Mellon to the rolling lowlands of LZ Dottie, the six girls of the American Red Cross crisscross the division meeting the troops.

Each day the girls go out in pairs and present 45-minute audience participation programs to divert the men from the tensions of their daily duties.

The Red Cross girls also carry with them a collection of shorttimer calendars, pencil and paper quizzes, and reading material, which they distribute to the soldiers.

Recently, the girls have been visiting Special Forces "A" Camps and Marine Combined Action Platoons, in addition to other stops around the division area.

The half-dozen girls in Chu Lai now represent five different states: California, Wisconsin, Georgia, New Mexico, and Michigan. New faces join the unit every few months as the girls rotate within country and stateside.

On Monday, the girls may be with an infantry company, on Tuesday at a hospital ward, and on Wednesday with an artillery battery, but they always try to visit every unit as often as they can.

Mobile PX Opens

MG Charles M. Gettys congratulates Area Exchange Manager William Curry and OIC of the Chu Lai Sub-area Exchange CPT William P. Johnson, Jr. on the opening of the first mobile PX canteen. (Photo by 523rd Sig. Bn.)