100,000th Vietnamese Treated By 198th Bde.

By PFC WALTER JACKSON
198th Inf. Bde.

LZ BAYONET—The 198th Inf. Bde.'s Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) reached a milestone of service last month by treating its 100,000th Vietnamese patient since the brigade arrived here a year ago.

The impressive total was reached a week before the brigade's first anniversary in Vietnam when a young Vietnamese woman trained to give medical assistance by the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. treated the 100,000th patient. The 198th joined the Americal at Chu Lai on Oct. 23, 1967.

2,000 Treated A Week

About 2,000 civilians are treated each week as a result of the "Brave and Bold" brigade's MEDCAP program, which is designed to help raise the health standards of the local population.

"Treating injuries is only a small portion of our work," according to SSG Beauregard Lee of the 198th civil affairs office. "We are trying to get the people to practice good health habits. Preventive medicine and medical hygiene are stressed in our visits to the villages."

Starting Them Young

One of the brigade's recent projects directed toward this goal was a poster competition held among school children in the Binh Son district. Prizes were given for the best posters showing good health habits, such as brushing teeth, bathing, and washing clothes.

Lee said the MEDCAP program is a continuing success. "One of the biggest problems we treat is skin disease," he said, "and these have shown a significant decrease in areas where we've worked."

WITH SKILLED HANDS a 198th Inf. Bde. medic, SP5 Paul D. Kerr of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., swabs medication on the sores of a young Vietnamese boy during a medical visit northwest of Tam Ky. Each week more than 2,000 civilians are treated by the "Brave and Bold" MEDCAP program. (Photo by 1LT Robert F. Harrigan, 198th Inf. Bde.)

Eye Care Clinic Opens

CHU LAI—The Americal added another first to a growing list recently with the opening of the first division-level optometric facility in country.

Some of the functions of the newest clinic in the 23rd Medical Bn. area are the making and fitting of single vision glasses and giving eye examinations for prospective drivers.

At the present time, single-vision glasses are the only ones that can be made at the facility. Sunglasses must be made in Cam Ranh Bay and bifocals are made in Okinawa.

"Until their business picks up, they have the capability of giving an eye examination and making glasses within 35 to 40 minutes," commented MAJ David B. McQuillan (Kensington, Md.), operations officer for the 23rd Med. Bn.

The clinic is staffed by one optometrist, MAJ Stanley Arakaki of Mavi, Hawaii, and two enlisted opticians, SP4 Robert L. Cohen of Washington, D.C., and PFC James T. Knapp of Renton, Wash. A second optometrist is scheduled to arrive in the near future.

COL Lewis B. Tixier (Arlington, Va.), commanding officer of the Americal Div. Support Command, performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the optometric facility.

'Always First' Kills 18 VC

Eighteen Viet Cong were killed by two companies of the 11th Bde.'s 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. recently during fighting in a heavily wooded area 10 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

The "Always First" battalion had been receiving intelligence reports of enemy activity in the area and, recalling the numerous attacks on Quang Ngai earlier in the year, they launched a combat assault.

D Co., led by CPT Frank W. Koleszar, landed in the woods just north of the suspected VC hideout, while A Co., commanded by CPT Paul C. Place, waited along the Ve River to the south, acting as a blocking force.

Kill Two, Uncover Cache

As D Co.'s lead element began forming a cordon, two VC were surprised and killed while walking along a trail. A search of the vicinity uncovered a tunnel complex containing nine Chicom 60mm mortar rounds and a collection of dynamite, blasting caps, and other explosives.

Meanwhile another element of the company's 2nd Plt. had set up a blocking force on the east side of the woods when LTC Henry I. Lowder, Bn. CO, spotted some VC from his helicopter. The enemy was quickly routed leaving behind an AK-47, field pack, camouflaged poncho containing medical supplies, and other equipment and ordnance.

LTC Lowder then saw a number of VC moving around the west end of D Co.'s 3rd Plt. He called Co. A across the river and they sent their

(Continued on Page 8)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 1, No. 11 | CHU LAI, VIETNAM | November 10, 1968

'Operation Golden Fleece' Takes Viet Cong's Rice Supply In Que Son

CHU LAI — A joint operation involving division troops and Vietnamese civilians from the Que Son Valley closed last week, after successfully delivering a punch to "Charlie's" stomach.

Nearly one million pounds of rice were snatched from the enemy in the rice rich Que Son Valley during "Operation Golden Fleece," which began Sept. 15.

"In a sense we lodged a two-pronged assault against the communists who had free access to the Que Son rice," remarked COL Frederick J. Kroeson, 196th Inf. Bde. Commander.

"Not only did we make a concerted effort to confiscate his stores of rice, we also transported refugees into VC/NVA territory where they labored right under the enemy's nose to harvest this year's crop."

Airborne Workers

The big job of flying nearly one thousand workers daily from Que Son district headquarters to the unsecure ricefields was handled by CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters from the 178th and 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Cos.

"We flew into the area with some apprehension," said CW2 Philip C. Jeszek, assistant operations officer for the 178th.

"Shortly after the operation began, we started taking rounds when we approached the enemy territory. That's when we called upon the 132rd Avn. Bn. for gunship support."

Hooks Haul Harvest

"Hooks" were used to transport the harvested bundles of rice in massive nets, slung beneath the choppers.

The "birds," capable of a 6,000-pound load, transported the grain to Que Son district headquarters where Air America took over, flying the rice to a processing plant in Hoi An. The rice was then flown back to Que Son for distribution to the refugees.

"These people are willing to work under the most trying conditions," commented MAJ Franklin Donahue, senior Que Son district adviser.

Problems Defied

"An occassional sniper or mortar round and torrents of monsoonal rains failed to break an almost defiant desire to get the job accomplished," the major said.

The big job of securing the outer perimeter of ricefields was handled by the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., which played a major role throughout "Golden Fleece." Further security was provided by elements of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf.

A number of Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF) kept a wary eye out for snipers in the immediate vicinity of the workers.

'Rice Bear II'

Supplementing this large scale effort was a smaller harvest conducted by elements of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf. and RF/PFs in another portion of the valley. This operation within an operation, referred to as "Rice Bear II" by the battalion, netted the refugees of Nui Loc 15,000 pounds of rice.

But this was only one aspect of Operation Golden Fleece.

"While the Vietnamese worked to deprive the communists of their bread and butter, our men were making regular raids on his waning stores of rice," COL Kroeson said. "Each man

(Continued on Page 8)

Moniker Is Mouthful

The alphabet has 26 letters, but 1LT Richard Ha Jr. is not too far behind. He has 23 letters... in his middle name. Are you ready for this? The name is: KEAWEIKEKA-HIAIUOKAMOKII.

A native of Hawaii, the officer is a forward observer of Btry. C, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., 196th Inf. Bde. His name means "tree of strength," and refers to the Ha family's royal blood.

Can anyone top this nametag stretcher?

Religion and You

Uncorking Prayer

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ) RAYMOND P. HOFFMAN
11th Inf. Bde.

An unusual experiment was conducted once in a gun factory in the United States. A bottle cork, weighing less than four grams, was suspended by an almost invisible silk thread alongside a heavy steel bar, itself hung vertically from a beam by a slender metal chain.

The cork, set in motion, began to swing gently against the steel bar. For a long time there was nothing to be seen but its rhythmic, noiseless swaying back and forth, back and forth, while the bar remained motionless.

There was no deviation in the motion of the cork. Steadily, without haste, it continued its quiet assault. Gradually, the steel bar picked up the rhythm of the swinging cork. In another half hour the cork, its work finished, had been cut down and the heavy bar was swinging back and forth as steadily and as rhythmically as a pendulum.

There is a spiritual lesson here. It has to do with the IMPACT of urgent prayer! The steel bar represents the immovable objects with which life confronts us. The ones we feel we can do nothing about.

We sometimes say, "How can I singlehandedly make even the slightest impact on such hide-bound situations? I am only one person; I would waste my strength and time for nothing." So we often do nothing!

But let the cork represent a quiet and mysterious power called prayer, and we can do something! If an almost weightless cork can, by its gentle persistent hammering, set a heavy bar of steel in motion, why cannot you and I, with nothing more than persistent prayer, go to work on the tough situations life confronts us with? We can! And IF we will, there is a chance to appropriate some of the good in the world, and to overcome some of the evil.

By quiet, yet constant re-iteration of urgent persistent truthful prayer, we can expect to make some impression on the most deeply rooted of life's problem situations.

It would seem then that a bottle cork can be a reminder to us about the impact of urgent prayer! This is the truth about how things are in the real world—let it be an arrow pointing us behind the material to the power of the spiritual.

VETERANS DAY —Nov. 11, 1968

On Nov. 11, 1918 the guns stopped firing. World War I, the "Great War," was over.

Since then, this date has acquired a special significance for the American people.

At first, it was called Armistice Day as the American people recalled the end of WWI and the brave individuals who gave their lives.

In 1954, however, Congress redesignated Nov. 11 as Veterans Day, a time for all Americans to honor the men and women who have served and are now serving in our nation's Armed Forces.

VIETNAM-STYLE

Modified Greetings

The presence of Westerners in Vietnam for more than a century has influenced native customs in many ways; one of these is the mode of greeting.

The Vietnamese people no longer bow deeply as the north Asians do when they meet one another. The ancient custom of "kow-tow" is now considered to be a sign of subservience.

Today they either uncover their heads and nod silently or they may say the equivalent of: "Hello, how are you?".

Some of the males, having dealt with Westerners for many years, have adopted the practice of shaking hands with both old and new friends.

This is not true of the traditional-minded peasant women who do not engage in this newer practice with their own countrymen. On the contrary, they are quite likely to greet Westerners with a friendly, if somewhat limp handshake.

However, the orthodox Buddhist, who shuns the influence of Western informality, still performs his ritualistic salutation.

In the colorful oriental fashion, they will clasp their hands in a prayerful manner, bow slightly and invoke the blessings of Buddha upon each other.

Not News, But Propaganda

By SFC LARRY BABITTS
Staff NCOIC

Unsolicited, derogatory mail has recently found its way through the APO channels. This mail, purportedly giving news about the army and the American establishment, doesn't come through to the reader that way. It comes through as thinly disguised propaganda.

Usually, it is written poorly using common vulgarities in the place of adjectives and often is busy "knocking" not only the seeming inconsistencies of the military and political establishments involved in the war effort, but debunking everything and anything.

Color It Yellow

The terminology among newsmen for this type of sensationalism is "yellow journalism," and it is considered both unethical and abhorent by its very nature.

Unscrupulous publishers frequently flood a serviceman's mail with publications designed to lower morale and cause dissension among unit personnel. The army cannot effectively stop such unsolicited mail matter without imposing censorship.

Protect Yourself

Nobody wants official mail censorship, so protect yourself, your friends and your country from cruel propaganda. Report immediately to your unit commander the receipt of any unsolicited, obnoxious mail matter.

Any inflammatory, unsolicited material or printed matter that is exceptionally critical or adverse to the military effort in RVN may have intelligence interest. If intelligence determines that your unsolicited correspondence is not of a harmful nature, you may handle the matter as you see fit.

Although these agencies or "hip" publications obtain the names of GIs through legitimate sources, the material's intended use is patently harmful.

Beware of mail which expresses principles in which Americans believe, such as world peace, brotherly love and human compassion, yet which contain transparent propaganda urging acts which violate the Oath of Allegiance you have taken upon entering the service.

'Big Lie' Technique

The Nazi propagandist Dr. Josef Goebbels, the inventor of the "big lie," used a similar technique. The technique consists of only telling part of a story and giving credence to it by adding half-facts to an otherwise bald-faced lie. Later, as the lies gained strength by being mixed with the truth, Dr. Goebbels would dispose of the truth and preach the accepted lie.

This technique is being exploited again by many unfriendly publications whose major goals seem to be the demoralization of the individual GI and the undermining of our nation's assistance to smaller nations.

Why? What are their reasons and their rationale?

Draw your own conclusions.

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. 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.

Major General Charles M. Gettys ..... Commanding General
Major Paul B. Parham ..... Information Officer
Captain Cary S. Sklaren ..... Officer-In-Charge
Sergeant First Class Larry Babitts ..... NCOIC
Specialist Four Robert Buzogany ..... Editor
Specialist Four Bill Guerrant ..... Photo Editor
Specialist Four Dave McGown ..... Cartoonist
Specialist Four John Nicholson ..... Reporter
Private First Class Thomas D. Rice ..... Editorial Cartoonist

Vietnamese Girls Serve As Policewomen, Nurses

LZ BALDY — When two new "Chargers" landed on the VIP pad here recently, everyone at the 196th Inf. Bde. base camp knew things were looking up.

The pretty new "Chargers" were Miss Hanh and Miss Duoc, National Policewomen from Hoi An.

"These girls spent three weeks in Da Nang getting special training in searching for and confiscating contraband items," said MAJ Frederic F. DeMetrovich (Salt Lake City, Utah), brigade provost marshal.

Female Friskers

The policewomen's main duty is at the base camp gate searching the Vietnamese women who work for the 196th. They perform the same duty by checking and handling women detainees.

"The girls are also available to assist the Provost Marshal's Office both on Baldy and in the surrounding hamlets," added SGT Thieu, PMO interpreter.

Charged-Up 'Chargers'

"This is the first time either has gone to the field and both volunteered to work for the 196th," said Thieu, who is responsible for their welfare on Baldy.

The new arrivals are part of a 46-woman group located at Quang Nam Province headquarters in Hoi An and work closely in assisting the area's 2,000-man National Police Field Force.

LZ BAYONET—Six smiling girls recently received certificates of achievement from the 1st Bn., 6th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. upon completion of a two-week course in nursing.

The proud young ladies were the first graduates of a program designed to provide trained medical assistance personnel for each of the seven villages in Ly Tin District.

The nurses began training at a brigade fire support base north of Chu Lai.

In the morning they observed sick call at the base camp. In the afternoon they attended two hours of lectures. Their day came to a completion after accompanying the battalion surgeon on a medical assistance visit to one of the local villages.

"The girls were excellent students," said CPT Robert Brown (Riverdale, Ill.), the battalion surgeon. "They were very eager to learn, and they helped vault the language obstacles in our MEDCAPS.

"More adults have been attending medical assistance visits since the nurses have been helping. The people have a lot of faith in the nurses!"

The girls were trained to use 15 basic medicines, eight ointments and several injections. Under close supervision they have begun to use the skills learned in the classroom.

Son Tra MEDCAP Team Wages War On Disease

CHU LAI—Son Tra, the village savagely attacked by Viet Cong terrorists in early June, is now under an "attack" of a different sort.

A Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) team from the 23rd Medical Bn.'s Co. A is presently waging a war against disease through weekly MEDCAPs in the refugee camp.

Through the MEDCAP program, many Vietnamese civilians are receiving medical aid and at the same time being exposed to modern methods of medical treatment.

Lack Of Facilities

Many are quite sick and and need surgery or other help, but the facilities are not available.

"Whenever we can, we fly them out to where they can receive better help," stated CPT Louis Abbey (Boston, Mass.), the team's dentist.

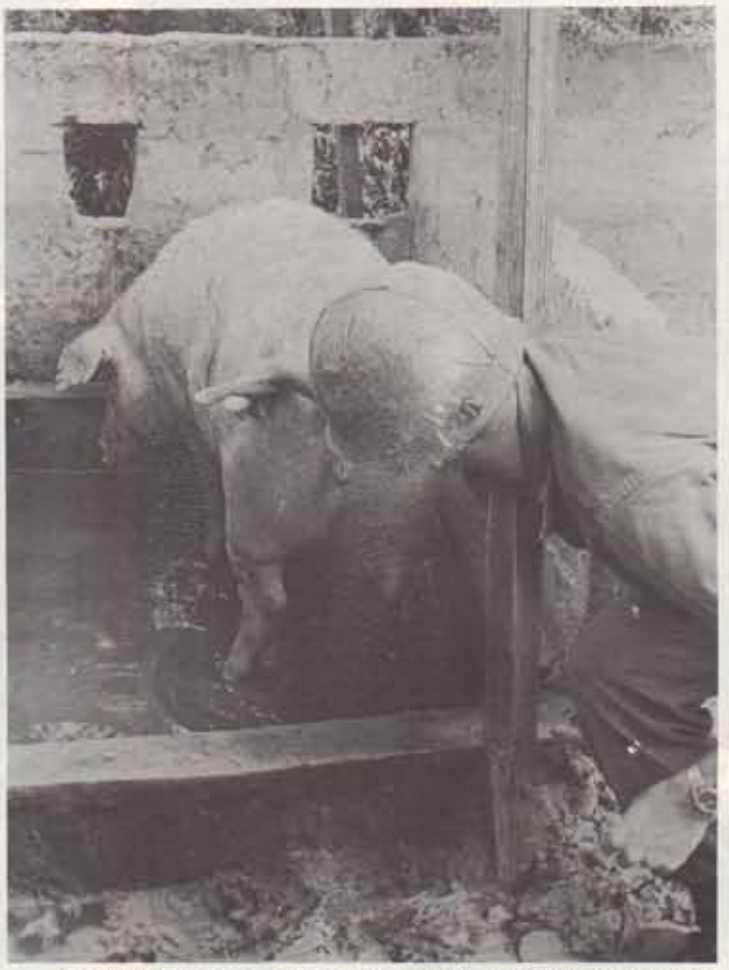
The Son Tra MEDCAP team is composed of a doctor, a dentist, three medics, one dental technician, and an interpreter.

Before leaving the village, the team passes out bars of soap to the children in an effort to cultivate clean living habits.

"One of the major objectives of this program is to discourage the villagers from using old and sometimes harmful methods of treating sickness," CPT Abbey said.

Mission Called VETCAP

Healthy Animals Their Goal



INSTEAD OF A PIG IN A POKE, this veterinarian is taking a poke at a pig with his syringe to innoculate the animal against disease. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

LZ BAYONET — The acronym MEDCAP, short for the Medical Civic Action Program, has become a familiar word in Vietnam, and the many ways it has benefited the health of the civilian population here have often been told.

But the deeds of the veterinarians who work under MEDCAP and aid in raising the health standards of the people by caring for their animals is not as well known.

Clever Coinage

Recently veterinarians from the 725th Med. Det. coined a word to stand for their specialized part in the overall program. They call their animal-aid activities, "VETCAPs."

Though not an official title, the VETCAP mission is similar to that of the MEDCAP, except the patients range from dogs and cats to snakes and water buffalo.

The veterinarians practice preventive medicine, as well as treating sick or wounded animals.

On a recent mission, a veterinarian and a veterinary technician from the 57th Inf. Plt. (Scout Dog), 198th Inf. Bde., teamed up to inoculate dogs and pigs and examine cows.

Cows Like Cars

While visiting villages throughout the area, CPT Stephen D. Wilson (Colorado Springs, Colo.), the veterinarian, said, "Treating the livestock of a Vietnamese is much the same as fixing an American's automobile. In this country, cattle and water buffalo are prized possessions."

"The most common ailments found in the animals are hookworms and distemper," according to SGT Richard L. Wibbens (Worthington, Minn.), the veterinary technician. He said all the animals treated receive a rabies vaccination.

Dangerous Killer: Rabies

All animal bites should be considered rabid unless proven otherwise.

Rabies in man is always fatal if not treated by medically trained personnel. A series of 14-21 shots are needed for the cure of rabies.

In Vietnam, we find many animals which could be infected with rabies. However, we cannot completely eliminate the carriers of rabies, but we can avoid the disease.

Animals can be immunized against rabies, and you can stay away from stray animals and immediately report any suspected case of rabies for medical treatment.

Stateside Clothing

The residents of San Antonio, Tex. sent nine boxes of clothing for Vietnamese children here. Six-year-old Au Dong, a patient at the 27th Surgical Hospital, and his 13-year-old sister, O Thi Hong, admire the clothing presented by CPT Samuel Braunstein, right, hospital adjutant, and SP6 Robert Sowder, a clinical technician at the hospital. (Photo by SP4 Harry Ottey, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Why Wear Black PJs?

American soldiers, especially troops new in country are amazed to see certain armed South Vietnamese wearing, black "pajamas."

In order to increase their support among the predominantly rural population of Vietnam, the government has created a system of Revolutionary Development (RD) cadre—men and women who are specialists in skills relating to farming and farm family life.

In order to promote nationalism and the explain the GVN land reform programs, it is necessary that these specially selected cadremen be able to relate to the farmer and his problems.

Therefore, it is only natural that they wear the clothing identified with the Vietnamese peasant — the black "pajamas."

SP5 John Stanton, 3d Bn., 16th Arty

After a 'hook's' rotor is repaired it carries cargo to the field.

SP4 Patrick F. Doyle, 14th Avn. Bn.

SP4 Patrick F. Doyle, 14th Avn. Bn.

SP5 David L. Tyler, 523d Sig. Bn.

From a flight engineer's aerial observation to resupply in supporting ground troops.

'Slicks' constantly undergo checks and rechecks be

SP5 David L. Tyler, 523d Sig. Bn.

SP4 Robert Towle, Americal IO

to LRP extraction, the 'fighting 14th' runs the gamut

SP4 Patrick F. Doyle, 14th Avn. Bn.

fore taking off for combat support missions.

Busy 'Birds'

By SP4 PATRICK F. DOYLE
14th Avn. Bn.

Throughout the skies above the I Corps Tactical Zone aircraft of the 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn. are giving direct and general combat support to the Americal Div. and other select units.

Under the command of both the 1st Avn. Bde. at Long Binh and the 16th Cbt. Avn. Grp. at Da Nang, the "Fighting 14th" is composed of three assault helicopter companies: the 71st, 174th and 176th; and two assault support helicopter companies: the 132nd and 178th.

The "Arab Battalion" came to Vietnam in 1964 to provide primarily fixed wing aviation support, but evolved into a strictly helicopter battalion while engaged in activities near Qui Nhon in 1966.

In April, 1967, the unit was sent to southern I Corps to support the newly formed Task Force Oregon. It immediately occupied unprepared tactical sites in the Chu Lai area and sent its craft skyward in aerial support.

In carrying out their mission the men of the 14th, under the command of LTC Charles A. Klopp, have established an outstanding record for fast, reliable response to any situation that calls them to action.

The majority of the 14th's support activities consist of resupply missions which carry food, water, ammunition and various types of equipment to the men in the field. These are the "birds" that bring out beer, soda, ice cream, and the mail from home. They also give that ride to Chu Lai everyone dreams about for the long-awaited trip back to the world.

Direct combat support can be considered an everyday mission at the 14th —but seldom routine. Each combat assault, emergency resupply under fire, or medical evacuation presents a dangerous challenge. In addition to the constant threat of enemy ground fire and anti-aircraft positions, the pilots must be prepared to overcome the hazards of terrain here in the southern I Corps.

The 71st Assault Helicopter Co., under the command of MAJ Dehne W. McGinnis, has established the highest safety record of any helicopter company in Vietnam. In addition to their outstanding safety record the "Firebird" gunships and "Rattler" slicks of the 71st have accounted for the capture of numerous enemy weapons and supplies being transported by sampans on the waterways which lace the area of operations.

The 174th Assault Helicopter Co., commanded by MAJ Richard A. Brown, bears the responsibility of supporting the 11th Inf. Bde. in the Duc Pho area. The "Jungle Warriors" rely on the 174th for safe and timely insertions and extractions and for the potent firepower of the "Shark" gunships when they need instantaneous close combat support.

The 238 enemy body count recorded by the "Sharks" on Jan. 30, 1968, is proof of their savage capability. The number of extractions, medivacs and resupply missions accomplished by the men of the 174th under intense enemy fire gives life to their unit's motto, "Nothing Impossible."

MAJ Richard G. Adamski, commanding officer of the 176th Assault Helicopter Co., pilots one of the finest aviation units in Vietnam. The "Musket" gunships and "Minutemen" slicks are known throughout the I Corps for their outstanding combat support.

The recent conflict near Quang Ngai and the action in the Hue-Phu Bai area were marked by countless examples of the courage and professionalism of the pilots and crew members of the 176th and their "Can Do" attitude.

The 132nd Assault Spt. Helicopter Co. arrived in Vietnam in May, 1968, becoming the battalion's newest unit. Under the command of MAJ Carl O. Johnson, the men of the "Hercules" unit have been quick to adapt to the demands of the tactical situation. In this short period of time they have established a record of excellent service with the units they support.

The 178th Assault Spt. Helicopter Co., commanded by MAJ Morris M. Jessup has the distinction of being the first fully operational CH-47B "Chinook" helicopter unit in Vietnam. Since their arrival in Chu Lai in April, 1967, the men of the 178th have earned both the Presidential and the Meritorious Unit Citations in recognition of their achievements.

Combat In Review

Voluntary Informant

A villager gives "Charger" infantryman the word about VC in the area of the 196th Inf. Bde. unit south of Hoi An. (Photo by SP5 David Tyler, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

'Ready Rifles'

Too Smart For Dummies

LZ BAYONET—A dummy minefield set up by the enemy failed to fool a unit of the 198th Inf. Bde. as "Ready Rifles" of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. used the Viet Cong's own entrance to their base camp and routed them from the area.

"Basic military tactics gave us the advantage. We read the enemy's signs, dug in, and pre-planned our concentrations and final protective fires," said CPT Peter L. Lawson, D Co. CO.

The action started when the company was airlifted into an area 27 miles southwest of Chu Lai. Moving out in the direction of the suspected VC battalion base camp, the "Brave and Bold" soldiers encountered several enemy minefields.

"My men—especially my squad leaders—were very alert in detecting the minefields and calling the information back to me," noted CPT Lawson.

"The minefields were all marked, but the real ones were marked with sticks, while the dummies were marked by signs written on cardboard."

Valuable Asset

A Kit Carson scout operating with the unit proved to be a valuable asset by interpreting the signs. The Vietnamese word for mine—"min"—was written on top of each sign, with writing below, also in Vietnamese, explaining there were only dummy mines in the field.

Checking the mounds of dirt in the minefield to insure the mines were dummies, the captain led his men through the field and established the company's night defensive position in the enemy area.

After dark, the VC hit the company with a heavy mortar attack and ground fire. The infantrymen immediately returned fire and called for artillery support.

Not Even A Worm!

SFC Oral E. King, the company's weapons platoon sergeant, said, "We were getting small arms fire from 360 degrees, but when we opened up a worm couldn't have come through our barrage."

Artillery fire and the company's mortars soon silenced the VC mortars, but only for a short time; they struck again later that night.

"The artillery FO spotted a reorganization by the enemy about 500 meters to the rear of his previous position and called in pre-planned data on the new position," CPT Lawson said.

The accuracy of the planning and the artillery fire was verified by multiple secondary explosions in the enemy's area. At the same time the "Ready Rifles" were repulsing the second ground attack.

Ten secondary explosions were counted as the enemy tried to break contact and move his equipment from the area.

Liaison To ROKs

HOI AN—Not all division soldiers serve within the Americal AO. For example, one officer and three men from the 3rd Bn., 18th Arty. provide an important liaison between the Americal and the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Corps Bde.

The Korean Marines control the area immediately north of Americal's AO and defend the southern approach to Da Nang.

The team's primary responsibility is to pass on intelligence information between the 2nd ROK Bde. and the Americal Div. and coordinate all their operations. It also aids in clearing all requests for AO extensions and for fire between the adjacent units.

Hoi Chanh Leads 4/3 To VC Supply Tunnel

LZ BRONCO—A Viet Cong mortarman-turned-Hoi Chanh recently led infantrymen of the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. to a large arms and medical cache 10 miles west of Quang Ngai City.

The ex-enemy soldier surrendered to ARVN forces when his six-man mortar squad, which had been firing on Quang Ngai City, was surprised by the ARVN unit. The other five VC fled, leaving the Hoi Chanh and a mortar tube behind.

During the interrogation, the mortarman agreed to lead the "Old Guard" soldiers to his former base camp and a large weapons cache.

Points Out Trouble

"The Hoi Chanh told us that the cache was on the mountain across the valley from our position," said SGT James A. Cooper, C Co.'s acting 2nd Plt. leader. "As we walked down the trail toward the valley, he continually pointed out booby traps and punji pits to our point men."

Along the way, the platoon probed hootches and tunnels. "One of the men found a .30 caliber machinegun poised on a rock overlooking the entire area," the sergeant said.

"Apparently the air and artillery strikes of the previous day and our presence in the area caused the VC to leave quickly, abandoning their supplies.

"We found 30 rounds of armor-piercing ammunition, 12 B-40 rockets, and 400 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition," Cooper added.

Well-Supplied Tunnel

CPT Grady Middleton of Quincy, Fla., C Co. CO, said, "One of the hootches was sandwiched between two large rocks. The Hoi Chanh said that was the hootch in which he had been issued his weapon some months before."

When the "Old Guard" company got to the supply tunnel, they found it well-stocked with ammunition and medical supplies.

The cache included seven individual weapons, a Chicom 7.62mm anti-aircraft gun, 122 RPG rounds, 100 B-40 rockets, 22 60mm mortar rounds, 450 rounds of heavy machinegun ammunition, two cases of .50 caliber armor-piercing ammunition and an assortment of other explosives.

They also uncovered five pair of binoculars, a radio, 46 bottles of penicillin and a large quantity of medical supplies. Some of the weapons were still wrapped in their original protective packaging.

"The Hoi Chanh said he used to operate out of this base camp," CPT Middleton said, "but he was never allowed near the main supply cave. We walked in like we owned the place."

GI Laundry

It's wash day for members of the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. as they make use of a cool mountain stream west of Tam Ky. (Photo by SP5 Donald Evanger, 196th Inf. Bde.)

Soldiers Win Wrestling Rout With Enemy

LZ BAYONET—"Grenades and mortars were exploding all around me as I wrestled him into the wire. It was like a motion picture speeded up to three or four times the normal rate.

"All I wanted was to keep him from getting any of the grenades off of his belt," said SSG D. Ray, the Chemical NCO for the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde.

"Stay alive, stay alive, over and over, there just wasn't anything else to think," said LT Henry L. Stauffer, also of the "Professionals." "But there we were out in the open. Our hands were our weapons."

One Slipped Through

The two "Brave and Bold" soldiers did stay alive, captured the Viet Cong that they engaged in hand-to-hand combat, plus his AK-47 and five grenades.

The close-in fighting started when the enemy attacked a firebase northwest of Chu Lai. Under the cover of an intense mortar atatck a VC managed to breach the wire.

"It was instinct. I ran out and grabbed him," LT Stauffer said. "I then realized he was armed. I grabbed his weapon and yelled for SGT Ray."

Exciting, But...

"I hit him as he was about to go through the wire," the sergeant joined in. "I knew he could give us valuable information, but he was trying to kill us."

The two men dragged the Viet Cong out of the wire, disarmed him, and put him under guard.

"Yes, it was exciting, but I never, never want to do it again," both soldiers agreed.

Mama Mia

Luigi's Drafted

By SP4 DEAN T. POHLAND
11th Inf. Bde.

LZ BRONCO—It has often been said that a man cannot serve two masters. But this old maxim had special meaning recently for PFC Luigi G. Lazzari of the 11th Inf. Bde.

At mail call a couple of weeks ago, Lazzari, a VHF radio technician in the brigade's 11th Sig. Det., picked up an official looking letter from the Italian Consul General in San Francisco.

Luigi is a Sicilian immigrant who came to America in 1959 with his parents and two younger brothers.

Surprising Contents

After more than eight years of life in his new country, education in the Detroit school system, marriage to an American girl, and induction into the U.S. Army, he was not prepared for the surprise he got when he read the letter.

Mama Mia! Luigi could not believe his eyes. What he was reading was the Italian equivalent of our classification notification prior to being drafted.

Forgotten Formality

"I had an idea what the problem was right away," he explained. "When the family arrived in the U.S., I was too old to be included in the automatic naturalization that children receive when their parents become citizens. After that, I just never went through the formality."

When he recovered from his initial shock, Luigi went to his unit Staff Judge Advocate Office and then to his commanding officer who drafted a letter of reply to the Consul General clarifying the situation.

Things were straightened out just in time for Luigi to meet his wife, a second generation Sicilian, on a seven-day R&R leave in Hawaii.

'Mail C-a-a-all'

LZ BRONCO—It is not often that you find a soldier overseas who says that he's getting too much mail. Meet PFC Ronald M. Krieg.

An intelligence clerk in the 11th Inf. Bde.'s S-2 office, Krieg recently received a letter from home which probably contained enough correspondence to last him the rest of his tour in Vietnam.

The letter, written by friends and former fellow employees at the grocery store where Krieg worked in Plymouth, Mich., was 20 feet long and contained 23 individual messages.

"It was written on a piece of window advertising that we use in the store," Krieg explained. "There were letters from all the guys I worked with plus some of the salesmen who called on us and several regular customers."

"I guess I brought this on myself," Krieg laughed. "I wrote to one of them and said jokingly that I was mad they weren't writing more often. Now I've got to figure out how I'm going to answer them all."

Hi, Love!

"I think that I shall never see, a thing as lovely as a tree," wrote Joyce Kilmer, but Chris Noel's visit here last spring did a lot for this one. (Photo by SP4 Anthony Paul, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Pool Champs

CHU LAI—Two "Guardians" of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., were the winners of a Sandpiper Service Club pool tournament held under the auspices of Americal Special Services on Oct. 26.

SP4 Ed Dougherty of E Co. was the champion, while PFC Thomas Jordan of B Co. was runner-up.

Sentry Sees Spots

Feline Felled

By SP4 BRIAN KATEN
198th Inf. Bde.

LZ BAYONET—When a sentry starts seeing spots before his eyes he has usually been staring at that same old stump in front of his position for too long.

When PFC Michael L. Rogers (Baltimore), a 198th Inf. Bde. mortarman with Co. D, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., saw spots, he had a good reason. The spots were on a 95-pound female leopard that was walking straight at him.

"I had about 15 minutes of guard left when I saw something crawling under the wire," recalled Rogers.

Large Caller

"It was awfully low in the wire and I realized it was some kind of large cat. It was pretty dark and I really couldn't tell what kind of a cat it was, but it was definitely large.

"Once she got through the wire she started walking straight for me. I really couldn't believe it was happening.

Well-Placed Shot

"When she was about eight feet away I finally got it in my mind it really was a leopard walking at me. I raised my M-16 and aimed for the heart. When I fired she jumped about three feet and started running. I fired a couple of shots and started yelling because she ran into the perimeter."

"I was in the bunker when Mike started yelling and shooting," recalled SP4 Tom McQuillan (Chicago).

"All I could hear was him yelling 'You guys better get out of here, there's a tiger in the perimeter.'"

"I was pretty excited," continued Rogers. "We searched the perimeter and found a blood trail leading back out through the wire.

"The next morning we followed a blood trail about 50 feet past the wire and found the leopard."

The carcass was evacuated to a fire support base where a skinner went to work making what will eventually become a prized trophy.

Trophy Troubles

Everybody in Vietnam is interested in war trophies; especially if the trophies are firearms picked up in the field. However, sawed-off shotguns, rifles with barrels less than 16 inches, zip-guns, automatic weapons, silencers, along with tanks, APCs, and aircraft may NOT be taken home.

If you are found to be the holder of explosives or any other prohibited articles, you won't be leaving Vietnam. You may be sent back to your old unit to await disciplinary action, if the violation is serious enough.

If you have a war trophy and it conforms to the regulations to be sent home, contact your Provost Marshal and Adjutant General sections. They will give you all the information for sending home your war trophies.

Ejected, But Not Dejected

While writing a letter to your loved ones, it really does not matter where you are, as long as happy thoughts are flowing onto the paper. Case in point is PFC John A. Williams of Deepwater, Mo., who uses a discarded ejection seat from a jet plane as his place of inspiration. A recent graduate of the Americal Combat Center, Williams is assigned to Co. C, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

Tactics Invade Sanctuary

LZ BRONCO—Outward appearances can be deceiving, as an 11th Inf. Bde. platoon from B Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf. found out recently after entering an old, abandoned French church about three miles west of LZ Dragon.

It was not the remnants of Sunday school classes they found, but instead the church had been used as an enemy briefing room, complete with drawings of American equipment, charts, and a large unit patch painted on the walls.

Illustrated Lessons

"The sketches were only a few weeks old, though a few had been smeared by the recent rains," said SGT Charles E. Rutto, a squad leader in the platoon. "And under each drawing was a neatly printed lesson."

"In one section, the VC had very plainly depicted our different types of helicopters and armored personnel carriers, including their kill points," recalled 1LT Kenneth A. Zilke, the platoon leader.

Also in the orientation center were sections explaining the preparation of different types of ambushes, boobytrap-making and detection, and how to avoid being spotted from the air.

Obvious Meanings

"Even though we could not read the Vietnamese writing, it was very obvious what points were being stressed at each station," the lieutenant said.

The best illustrated area, according to the platoon leader, depicted the differences between soldiers in the field by using stick-figure drawings of North and South Vietnamese and larger figures representing the Americans.

3/1 Kills 18

(Continued from Page 1)

1st and 2nd Plts. to meet the enemy.

Zap Sapper Commander

SGT David S. Orndorff, acting 1st Plt. leader, spotted two VC in the tall grass and called for them to stop. They began to run, and then nine other VC suddenly joined them in flight. "They didn't have a chance to shoot at us," Orndorff noted, "we killed six of them."

A search of the bodies revealed an RPG-7 rocket launcher, an AK-47, an SKS rifle and a Chicom pistol. Numerous maps and documents were found on the body of one VC, which identified him as the 506th Sapper Company (A) Commander. According to an entry in the dead CO's notebook, his company contained 41 personnel.

While elements of the "Always First" battalion were battling the enemy on the ground, "Shark" gunships from the 174th Avn. Co. were flying air support, guarding open areas from evading VC and helping where they could in the fighting. "Shark" gunners accounted for six of the enemy kills.

RTO Finds One More

When the action slowed down, D Co.'s 1st Plt. settled down to eat lunch. But the RTO was not quite satisfied and continued to search the area. Suddenly he noticed a foot sticking out of the bushes. He checked it out and found another dead VC with two AK-47 magazines on him.

After three hours of fighting, 3rd of the 1st soldiers counted 18 Viet Cong bodies in the area. The list of captured weapons included two AK-47's, two SKS rifles, an M-2 carbine, a pistol, and a rocket launcher with rockets.

Finders Keepers Was Not The Case

LZ LIZ—A wallet lost in the fields or roads of Vietnam might as well be forgotten. The chances of its recovery are slim.

Or so thought SP4 James M. Richardson, mail clerk for the Americal's C Btry., 1st Bn., 82nd Arty., after losing his wallet along Highway 1, south of the 11th Inf. Bde.'s base camp at LZ Bronco.

"I didn't discover that it was gone until later that day," he said. "After making rountine checks and inquiries, I just gave it up as lost."

But three days later, Richardson was notified that his wallet had been recovered. According to 1LT Frederick R. Salandi, MACV adviser at Duc Pho, a local Vietnamese farmer, Nguyen Phung, found the wallet while working near his home.

Thinking it might belong to one of the Americans who had come through that area recently, the farmer turned it over to MACV authorities. 1LT Salandi contacted the 11th Bde. MPs, who in turn notified the specialist.

"I was really surprised to see it again," said Richardson. "Everything was intact, including $6.50 in MPC, 100 piasters, an oil credit card and my ID card."

Golden Fleece

(Continued from Page 1)

carried with him 10 empty sandbags to remove any rice discovered during a sweep."

"The suspected enemy we have detained recently give us a good indication of the success of Operation Golden Fleece. They're hungry."

PF Volunteers Aid F/17 Find Cache In Village

CHU LAI—The formula could read F + PF = trouble for the enemy.

This formula stands for F Trp., 17th Cav., 196th Inf. Bde. plus a South Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) unit, and it recently added up to an ordnance and weapons cache and two detainees.

The two units got together during a recent reconnaissance-in-force patrol when the Popular Forces requested to accompany the cavalrymen, who were conducting blocking force operations approximately eight miles southwest of Hoi An.

Welcome Volunteers

An F/17 platoon leader, 2LT Charles C. Carefano (Fleminton, N.J.), stated, "This is the first time I have worked with a PF unit that had volunteered to work with us."

He explained that he knew there was a PF unit working in the area, but had no instructions to meet with them or join them. "We welcomed their help," the lieutenant said.

In one village the combined force of F/17 and PF soldiers found a Viet Cong cadreman, one NVA officer, fourteen 60mm Chinese Communist rockets, four bangalore torpedoes and seven 10-pound land mines wrapped in plastic.

Find Weapons, Bodies

After questioning the two detainees, the allied troops found three additional individual weapons and nine enemy bodies believed to have been killed in a helicopter strike the day before.

"When we returned to the infantry unit we were working with before, the PFs were left to clean up the area," remarked 2LT Carefano, who was impressed by their work. He added he was looking forward to working with them again.

Artillerymen Net Top Photo Awards

CHU LAI — Two artillerymen from Div. Arty.'s 3rd Bn., 18th Arty., took all three prizes in the division's first Army Photo Contest on Oct. 26 at the Sandpiper Service Club.

First prize went to PFC Larry Eppy who snapped his winning photograph (right) in the Mt. Fuji State Park in Japan while on R&R.

The runner-up was CPT Steven Lutes, who is the battalion S-1, while PFC Eppy also copped third place.

The cash awards of $25, $10, and $5 were presented by COL Bernard L.J. Callahan, Div. Adj. Gen.

The contest, which took place during Army Arts and Craft Week, Oct. 20-26, was sponsored by Americal Special Services.