Dec 8, 1968

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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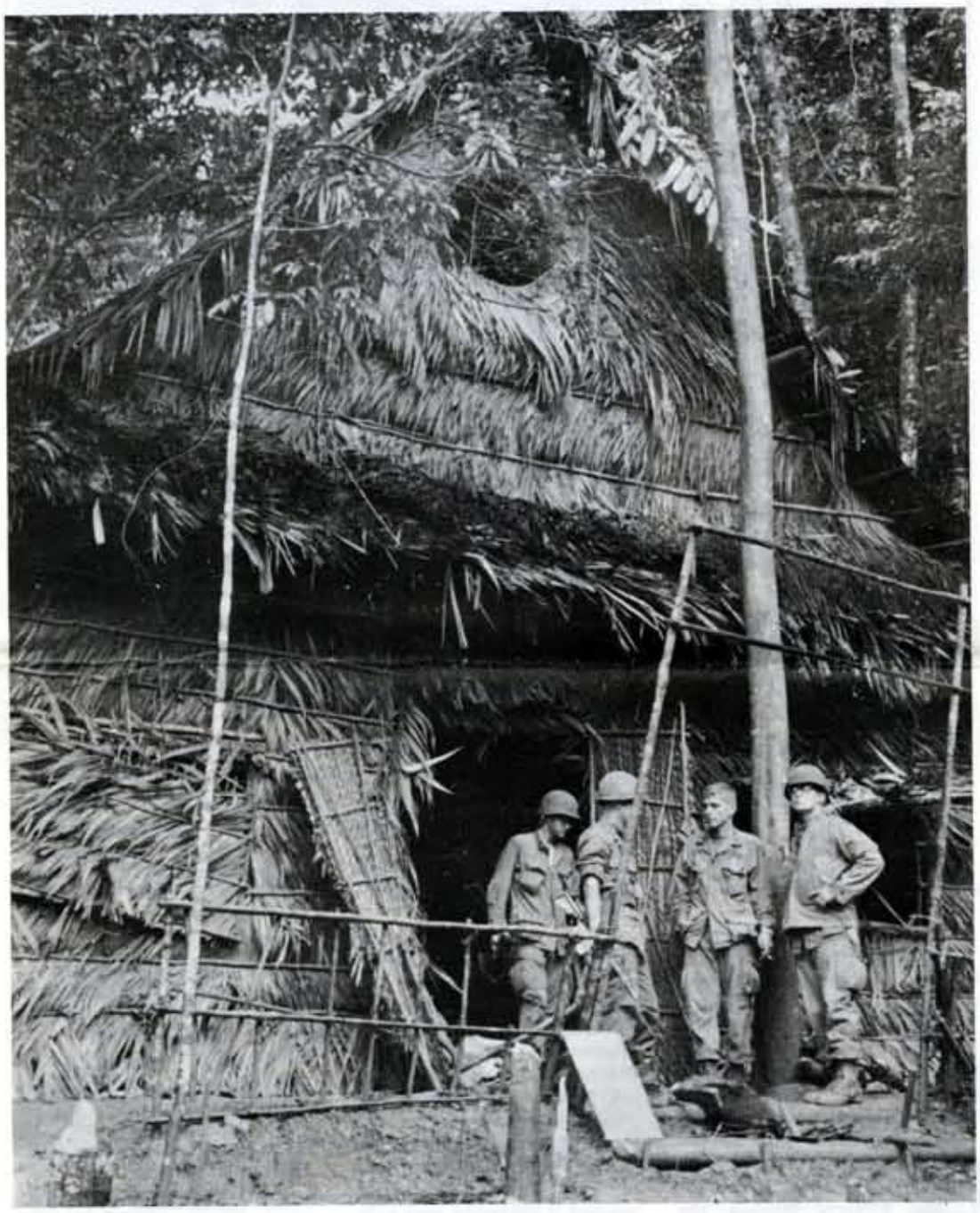
11th Bde. Uncovers 29 Enemy Base Camps



"JUNGLE WARRIORS" STAND PROUDLY in front of a large hootch found recently in one of the 29 NVA base camps discovered by the 11th Inf. Bde. (Photo by SP5 Al Holloway, 11th Inf. Bde.)

LZ BRONCO—Discovery of twenty-nine enemy base camps by 11th Inf. Bde. soldiers has dealt a severe blow to enemy forces southwest of Quang Ngai City.

"The discovery of the base camp complexes and capture of large quantities of ammo, medical, and other supplies has unquestionably seriously reduced the operational capabilities of enemy elements in Quang Ngai Province," said LTC Donald F. Hanson (Columbus, Georgia), 11th Bde. S-3.

The largest, a battalion-size camp discovered by C Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., contained 25 buildings and a 200-seat auditorium (See photo-story p. 3).

B Co. of the 4/21 found an underground complex containing nine huts, including a mess hall and 50 pounds of rice. A few days later, the same unit discovered another NVA base camp with several cases of milk and 150 first-aid kits.

1/20 Finds Cache

"Sykes Regulars," not to be outdone by the "Gimlets," uncovered two base camps plus a large number of weapons and equipment caches.

The reconnaissance platoon from the 1st Bn., 20th Inf. discovered one base camp with 270 NVA uniforms, 100 mosquito nets, 60 combat packs, eight Chicom grenades, and a large supply of medical equipment.

More Supplies Found

A Co. of the 1/20 came upon caches with more than 10,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 532 mortar rounds, 22 B-40 rockets, two RPG rounds, and a 175mm artillery round.

B Co. of "Sykes Regulars" found a hut complex and a small hospital with three operating rooms and a classroom. A blood pressure gauge and 75 pounds of gauze were also on the scene.

Medic Performs Heroics

3/21 Kills 44 In Two Days

LZ BALDY—The heroics of an Americal combat medic helped thwart an NVA ambush aimed at avenging the discovery of a large enemy base camp the day before.

The ambush took place near Nui Lam Cam, and according to CPT Robert G. Wahl, commander of B Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., it was an attempt at revenge from the previous day when his company had killed 34 NVA and discovered a hospital area where they uncovered many weapons, supplies, and documents.

Medics Shot Twice

During the ambush, an NVA soldier jumped down between SP4 Frederick Betters (Wilmington, N.Y.) and another medic and shot both of them. Apparently thinking the medics were dead, the enemy soldier turned away and was shot by Betters with a .45 caliber pistol.

"Betters had been shot twice in the abdomen by the enemy," said 1LT Marty J. Sharkey (Atlantic Beach, Fla.), "but he quickly went over to the other medic and started administering first aid."

Betters, although himself bleeding profusely, gave his comrade a shot of morphine and continued to help him and the other wounded.

"I never saw a person work under pressure like he did—and it was real pres-

(Continued on Page 8)

'SRPs' Collect 22 For Debut

LZ DOTTIE—Adapting some old tactics to a new situation, the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. started a Short Range Patrol (SRP) recently, and killed 22 VC. The outfit is patterned along the same lines as the Long Range Patrol (LRP).

The SRP team, led by SSG Kenneth Turner (Smyrna, Ga.), was hidden on a hill near here when they surprised 30-40 enemy soldiers. Before the VC could collect their wits, artillery shells were falling in right on target.

Small, But Powerful

SSG Turner explained the organization and operation of the Short Range Patrol. "We work in 13-man hunter-killer teams," he said.

"Like the LRPs, we are small enough to avoid detection by hiding out in the daytime and travelling at night. But we've got the LRPs beat if we encounter an enemy force. We've got enough firepower to take on an enemy platoon," Turner said.

Trouble Stoppers

The SRP team carries two M-72 light anti-tank weapons, two machineguns, two grenade launchers, two sniper rifles, and the usual array of M-16s, grenades, and ammunition.

"With that much firepower," Turner noted, "we know we can get out of big trouble if we run into it, or start our own trouble if we have the chance."

3 Battalions Have New Commanders

Three Americal battalions have had changes of command recently.

LTC Sinclair L. Melner has assumed command of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.; LTC A.J. Dombrowsky takes command of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 6th Inf.; and LTC Richard M. Raunswinder will command the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 6th Spt. Bn.

LTC Melner replaces LTC Robert B. Nelson; LTC Dombrowsky replaces LTC William D. Kelley; and LTC Raunswinder replaces LTC Ralph R. Rusche.

Religion And You

The Long And Short

By CHAPLAIN (CPT) E. JAMES RICHARDSON
26th Engineer Battalion

When one arrives in Vietnam he becomes immediately aware of the "short-timer." SHORT! is the joyous cry of those waiting in the air terminal to return to the States. Short! is the cry of the individual preparing to go on R&R. The short-timer is often recognizable by his reluctance to venture outside the perimeter. He has a tendency to keep one eye checking on the nearest bunker or hole to dive into in case of incoming rounds. In the extreme case, the person loses interest in everything except clearing.

When we examine closely the short-timer attitude we realize that there are many people who go through their whole lives as short-timers. The short-timer is not interested in his present job because he doesn't plan to be around long. He isn't willing to participate in the affairs of his community because he is only going to be there for a short-time. The short-timer is not interested in religion because he cannot or will not recognize the long range effects upon his life.

God's alternative to the "short" attitude is the "long" of it. The "long-timer" admits his need of God and his involvement with his fellowman. The awareness of God's continuing love for and involvement with man leads an individual to get involved completely in life. Committment to God and concern for the needs of our fellowman yields lives filled with meaning and joy. God invites each of us to stop and take a "long" look at life.

VIETNAM-STYLE

By SFC Larry Babitts

TET Gift Giving

It is recognized that westerners attach a great deal of meaning to our "cheerful" Christmas-New Year holiday season with the often boisterous, but always good-hearted exchanging of gifts.

The holiday spirit manifests itself with the American's inherent desire to observe it with gifts and parties for children and others less fortunate than ourselves—the homeless and the poor.

But in a different part of the world, a change in emphasis becomes necessary. This year, perhaps, emphasis should be placed on the holiday of TET. Why? While we are planning to give gifts in our fashion, it is imperative that we remember that we are guests in a predominantly non-Christian society where Christmas has relatively little meaning.

Perhaps a look at the local custom—a custom popular among most of the southeast Asians—is in order. A Vietnamese holiday custom older than Christianity itself is the giving of small amounts of money to persons of all ages during the TET season.

The giving of money placed in a small red envelope is in itself purely a token wishing luck and prosperity to the recipient, and the amount of money is not particularly significant.

In keeping with this ancient custom, the traditional amounts of VN$ 10.00 (about 8¢) for small children, VN$ 20.00 (not quite 16¢) for older children, and VN$ 30.00 (approximately 25¢) for an adult should be given. To give more would be ostentatious, and would detract from the true meaning of the gift.

The money should be as new as possible and should never be folded before placing it into the envelope. The envelope should be red, the color signifying longevity, and the newness of the money illustrates the birth of the year, and the coming of the "new life" of spring. This again is an old, revered custom among the South Vietnamese and all attempts should be made to honor it.

While the amounts may seem paltry, it is quite important, particularly during these critical times, that the total distributed be small because of the inflationary impact any surge of money spending has upon the local economy.

This is not to demean the American attitude towards holiday giving or to inhibit the generous tendencies normally displayed by our soldiers, but rather to emphasize the importance of the TET gift to a Vietnamese in contrast to the Christmas gift.

It has been officially recommended that Christmas be de-emphasized in its party and gift trading aspect.

Where celebrations are planned, it is recommended that emphasis be given to the children, without regard to religion, in orphanages and in hospitals. The destitute and refugees, as well as the dependents of deceased South Vietnamese servicemen, also should be remembered during our holiday season.

THE ARMY OF VIETNAM

By CPT Cary S. Sklaren

Throughout the history of Vietnam, the warrior—the man who rose to defend his homeland against external aggression—has won the respect and admiration of his countrymen.

Today, when his nation is once again besieged by the forces of aggression, the soldier has risen to the fore.

Although the Vietnamese Armed Forces can trace their history back a thousand years to the overthrow of their Chinese conquerors, the modern military had its beginning after World War II.

French Formed Units

The French formed the first Vietnamese regular military units to fight against the Viet Minh who were led by the communist leader Ho Chi Minh.

After the end of the Indochina War, there were more than 200,000 well-trained Vietnamese soldiers. What they lacked, however, was the support troops and the logistics necessary for a modern army.

After the Republic was proclaimed in 1955, French cadre were withdrawn. Two years later, the remaining Frenchmen were replaced by advisers from the United States.

A Modern Army Emerges

In the years since then, the Vietnamese military has organized the necessary combat support troops and developed a maturity and competance in fighting skills which has proven itself during the present conflict.

The regular Army of Vietnam (ARVN), called Quan-doi Viet-Nam, today has more than 380,000 men. The chain of command begins at the Chief of the Joint General Staff and extends to the Corps commanders and then to either division commanders or leaders of specially designated forces.

Command Breakdown

There are four Corps and a Capital Military Region which have command, administrative, and logistical responsibility for ARVN forces in their area. I Corps, with headquarters at Da Nang, is commanded by LTC Hoang Xuan Lam.

Eleven divisions fall within these Corps and are located throughout the nation in proportion to the population and the level of enemy activity. In the Americal area the 2nd ARVN Div. has headquarters at Quang Ngai City.

2nd ARVN Div.

Generally, each division area will encompass several Div. shares responsibility for shares responsibility for Quang Ngai and Quang Tin. Commanded by BG Nguyen Van Toan, the division's three maneuver regiments, the 4th, 5th and 6th, operate throughout the 12th Divisional Tactical Area.

Each regiment contains four infantry battalions and a reconnaissance company. The division also has three troops of APCs; the 1/4, 2/4, and 3/4.

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. Armed Forces Press Service Material is used. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division, APO 96374, Tel: Chu Lai 2414. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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'Gimlets' Find NVA Battalion Camp

By 1LT STEPHEN H. COBB
11th Inf. Bde.

LZ BRONCO — An NVA battalion-size base camp was discovered by the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. recently, in a draw 20 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City.

The discovery by the 11th Bde. unit was larger than expected, as the "Gimlets" of C Co. counted 25 buildings, including six that were unfinished. The entire camp was invisible from the air, even by a helicopter directly overhead.

Training Site

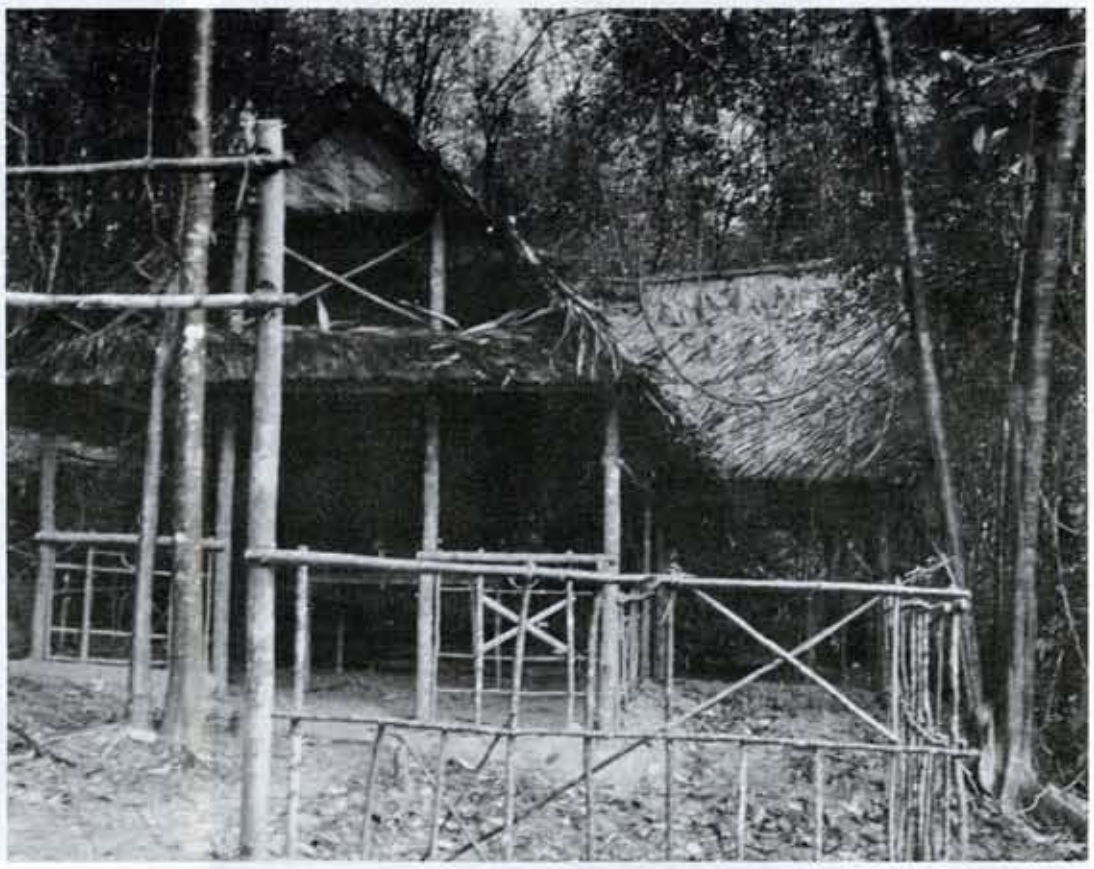
Included in the camp was an auditorium 200 x 50 feet with seating capacity for more than 200 persons. One of the training aids was a mock-up of a U.S. helicopter made of twigs.

Near one of the unfinished huts a cache of 15 weapons was found. It included 10 K-44 rifles, three French burp guns, one Browning Automatic Rifle, and one Chicom machinegun.

The company had been given the mission of searching a deep draw after a series of air raids. Slowly and carefully making their way, the "Gimlets" discovered the well-concealed camp near a stream.

Find Enemy Supplies

The "Jungle Warriors" found a mess hall, sand tables used for mapping, a clock with an NVA star, training aids, plaques, propaganda packs, wet weather gear, 15 Chicom grenades, khaki uniforms, and documents.



THIS UNFINISHED NVA HUT was one of 25 discovered by "Gimlets" in a battalion-size base camp. The huts, which were invisible from the air, were built in triple canopy jungle. (Photo by SP5 Al Holloway, 11th Inf. Bde.)

AN NVA TRAINING AID, a model of a U.S. helicopter, was found by "Gimlets" of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. during sweep operations southwest of Quang Ngai City. (Photo by SP5 Al Holloway, 11th Inf. Bde.)

PRUs Aid 196th Units

More Rice Taken From VC

LZ WEST—"Charlie" is minus 12,000 pounds of polished rice thanks to the efforts of an 18-man Vietnamese Province Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) and A Co. of the 196th Bde.'s 4th Bn., 31st Inf.

Engaged in combat operations south of here, the Special Forces-trained PRUs and 4/31 infantrymen located the enemy rice in the Hiep Duc Valley and evacuated it, along with 200 refugees, to the refugee center at Nui Loc Son.

A Viet Cong cadre secretary captured by the PRUs led the way to the rice cache. After brief interrogation, the enemy revealed the location of a platoon-sized VC bunker.

When A Co. and the PRUs went to the location of the enemy bunker they observed two VC moving toward a hamlet.

A Co. and the PRUs then moved in to search the hamlet where they found the platoon-size underground VC bunker filled with six-tons of polished rice, VC web gear, and assorted medical supplies.

9th Support Area Is Busy With Construction Projects

LZ MUD—The sound of saws and hammers never stops these days around the home of the 9th Spt. Bn. here.

The men of Co. C (Medical) are busy constructing a new 36-bed ward, a mess hall for patients and company staff, an olympic-sized swimming pool (only pool in the Americal), and 900 feet of concrete sidewalks.

The most ambitious item on the building schedule, the new ward will be air-conditioned and humidity-controlled.

According to CPT Watson Samples, Co. C's XO, the ward's controlled atmosphere will result in a 30 to 40 percent drop in the average patient's recovery time. "Skin diseases especially will be much easier to treat. They are particularly sensitive to temperature and humidity," he said.

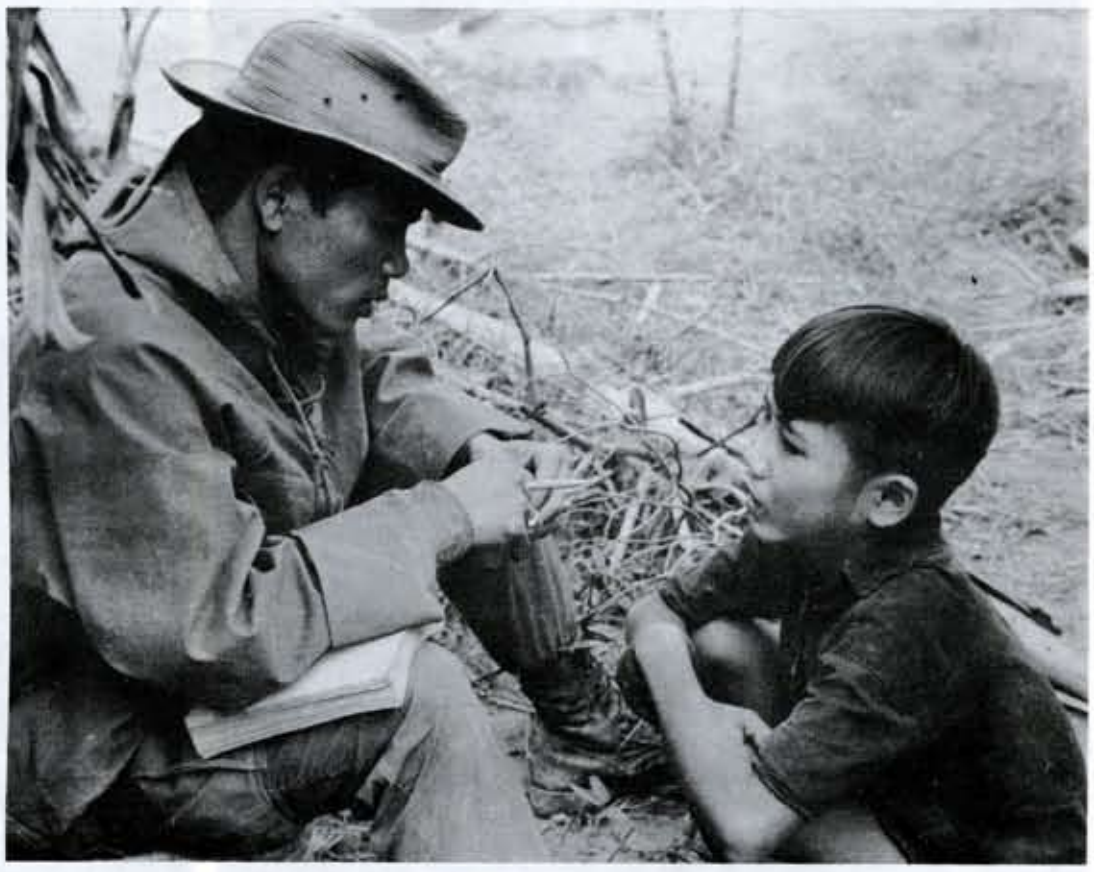
An H-shape design is being used for the new ward where 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers will be treated. The two wings will each hold 18 beds, and the connecting hallway will house the nursing facility. Four nurses will be on duty during the day and three at night.

Plans also are being made for a day-room and canteen facility for the patients. CPT Samples' goal is to keep his patients as happy and comfortable as possible.

The ward project is a joint effort of B Co., 26th Engr. Bn., civilian advisers of the 335th Maint. Bn., and C Co. personnel.

MAIL EARLY

"It's a Christmas Present for my girlfriend."



ARVN Inquiry

An ARVN interpreter with the 1st Sqdn., 1st Armored Cav. asks questions of the son of a Viet Cong squad leader who was killed during a firefight west of Tam Ky. (Photo by SP4 Steve Shingledecker, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

SGT Ronald Haeberle, 11th Inf. Bde

"Jungle Warrior" cautiously checks-out hut

Searching, listening, probing, Americal Division infantrymen seek the enemy, his weapons, and his supplies in every kind of terrain, every kind of hiding place, with every technique at at their disposal, from crude sticks to the latest electronic equipment.

SEARCH A

SP4 Bernard Gmiter, 11th Inf. Bde

Bambo pole is used in probe of well

PFC John Hollenhorst 198th Inf. Bde.

198th soldier keeps sharp eye on civilians

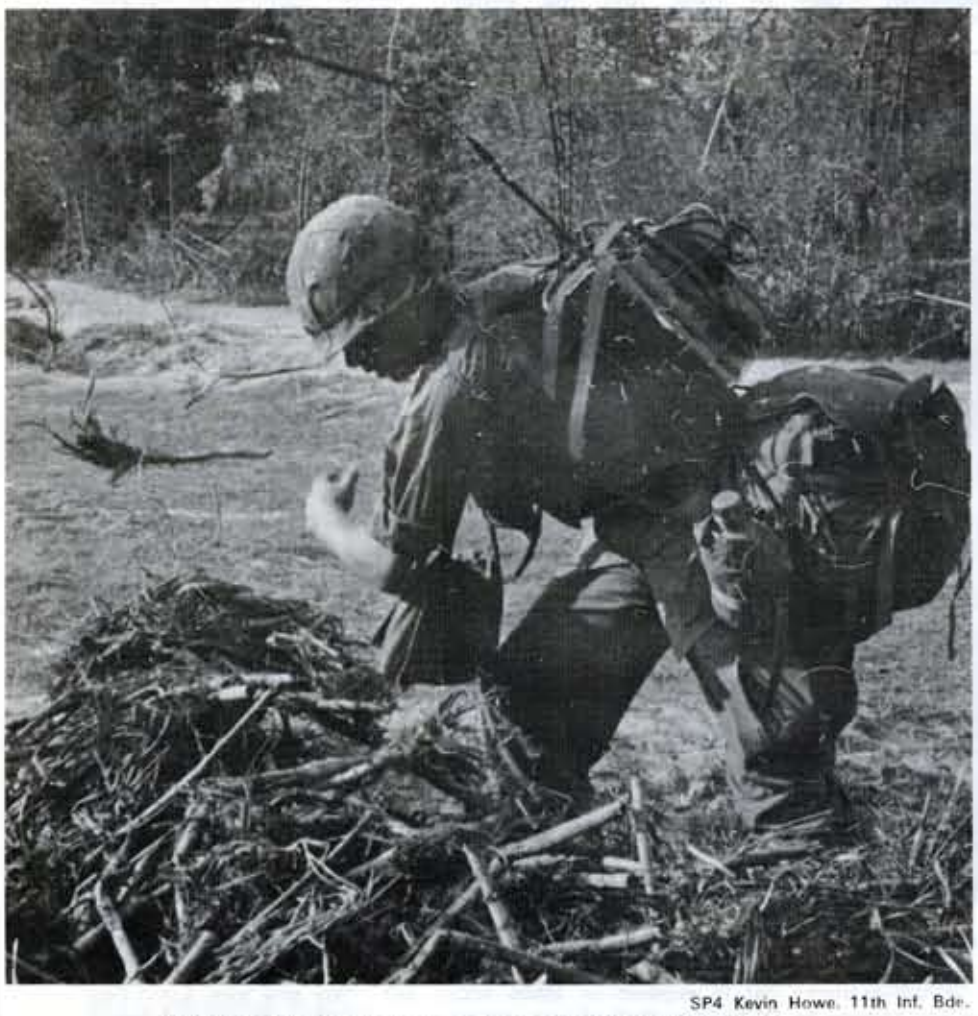
SGT George Hawkins, 196th Inf. Brig.

A haystack, hut, or tunnel might conceal anything: enemy soldiers or caches of rice, ammunition or weapons. The "Chargers," "Brave and Bold," and "Jungle Warriors" of the 196th 198th, and 11th Inf. Bdes. have learned to suspect everything. The mission . . .

...AND CLEAR

SP5 Donald Evinger, 196th Inf. Bde.

196th "tunnel rat" finishes task



SP4 Kevin Howe, 11th Inf. Bde.

Stick pile may conceal enemy weapons

SP4 Michael Reckeweg, 11th Inf. Bde.

Searching for metal in a haystack

Combat In Review

Escorting Enemy

Men of C Trop., 1st/1st Cav. lead NVA soldier to "Blue Ghost" chopper which will take him to Hill 29 for interrogation. (Photo by SP4 Steve Shingledecker, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Buy Explosives And Ammunition

'Brave And Bold' Business Boom

LZ DOTTIE—It's like bargain day at Macy's when 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers go to market seeking merchandise to buy.

They purchase only certain commodities, though—explosives and ammunition.

D Co., 5th Bn., 46th Inf., working with B Co., 39th Engr. Bn., open for business a couple of times a week at a village near the perimeter of LZ Dottie. They offer cash in exchange for ammo and explosives found by the local populace.

Business Good

According to LT William Mullins of D Co., business is booming for the "Professionals." "The Voluntary Informant Program is getting so popular now there's usually a big line of customers waiting for us," he said.

In a recent three-day period, the Americal soldiers bought nearly $1,000 worth of explosives.

LT James Romanowiz of the engineers agrees that the program is growing in popularity. The lieutenant drives a jeep and trailer into a nearby village about once a week. He's considering switching to a deuce-and-a-half.

Complete Arsenal

The ammo and explosives collected include everything from blasting caps to howitzer shells. The most common item is the M-26 grenade.

After a recent trip to the village, LT Romanowiz returned with a trailer full of 105mm shells, 81mm mortar rounds, and anti-personnel mines.

"Most of the explosives are found by the villagers out in the rice paddies," noted LT Daniel Schulte, civil affairs officer and coordinator of the program for the "Professionals." "Some of them probably know where large caches are hidden. We're hoping that eventually they'll lead us to them."

Advertising Pays

The program is advertised to the villagers by Psychological Operations loudspeaker teams, leaflets dropped from the air, and by signs posted along Highway 1. Word of mouth advertising also is important.

As LT Schulte stated, "If one satisfied customer returns to the village, he usually comes back the next time with about 20 friends."

Fringe Benefits

In addition to the obvious benefits of keeping potentially deadly explosives out of the hands of the enemy, the program offers other advantages.

"It builds up the villager's confidence in us," said LT Schulte. "Soon we expect them to lead us to caches of rice, ammunition, and enemy concentrations. It will be an important avenue of intelligence."

LT Mullins summed up the importance of the program. "It seems like we are paying a lot of money for a grenade, but it is worth it when you consider someone may have thrown it at us instead."

"WOW"

LZ BALDY — The word "WOW" may not mean much to the average individual, but to the men of the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., it is their catchword.

"I don't know where the expression came from," said 1LT David D. Parker, a platoon leader with D Co., "but everybody uses it from the battalion commander on down."

Tree Climbing Aids Artillery

LZ BAYONET — Two Americal infantrymen went airborne into a tree to direct artillery fire that netted 18 Viet Cong killed south of Chu Lai.

The mission began when a Long Range Patrol, led by CPL John Dane, 198th Inf. Bde., rendezvoused with 13 men from C Co., 5th Bn., 46th Inf., led by SSG Everett Rice (Weaverville, N.C.). The soldiers spotted and opened fire on six VC moving across a rice paddy.

Bird's Eye View

With the VC pinned down, Dane and Rice took turns on a position high in a tree to direct the fire of eight-inch howitzers from Btry. D, 1st Bn., 82nd Arty. The shells screamed in right on target, killing six of the enemy.

"By being that high," Dane said, "we had good surveillance over the entire area and still had concealment. It also helped our radio transmissions."

VC Flushed

When three of the enemy left their cover trying to recover their weapons, the LRPs requested a repeat of the first fire mission, bagging three more VC.

In the next few hours four more fire missions were called in on groups of VC killing an additional nine enemy soldiers.

"The artillery really did a fine job," a LRP spokesman said. "It is a big asset when you get quick accurate fire like we had today."

1/52 Nets 15 In Ambushes

TAM KY—"We were careful to keep concealed. Our opportunity came when a group of Viet Cong came down the trail we had under surveillance.

"They stopped right in front of us. When they sat down to take a break, it was all over."

This account by SGT Chester A. Nolen (Carthage, Ind.) and SGT Donald R. Whaley (St. Paul, Minn.) illustrates how a Reconnaissance Platoon of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. is beating "Charlie" at his own game—the small unit ambush.

Recently, the 198th killed 15 VC either by ambush or by artillery fire adjusted from a concealed position.

Thirteen of the enemy were bagged in the ambush described by Nolan and Whaley by fire from the 1st Bn., 14th Arty.

In a similar action, the reconnaissance patrol leader, LT Barry Luther (Orange Park, Fla.) effectively used ambush techniques this way:

"My element killed two VC and captured and AK-47 in an ambush. We set the ambush on a trail we thought they would use and sure enough two of them wandered right into the killing zone."

Fight Ripens Charger Unit

LZ BALDY—Heavy battle contact changed an inexperienced "Charger" unit from the 196th Inf. Bde. into hard fighting men, and "Charlie" paid for the transition.

"When we came under heavy automatic fire while moving through the valley, I started to think about my almost completely 'green' platoon," said 1LT James Spencer (Nashville, Tenn.).

The commanding officer sent his 3rd Plt. on a sweep to check out the area, while reminding the men to keep spread out.

With his men in a secure position, the lieutenant instructed the forward observer, SGT Dick Kolash (Fort Wayne, Ind.) to call for artillery support. When the artillery proved ineffective against the well-fortified positions, he requested helicopter gunships and air strikes.

A later search of the area uncovered bunker complexes with walls three feet thick. Ten NVA bodies were found along with numerous blood trails.

"We were very lucky but my men deserve a lot of credit for reacting as quickly as they did," said 1LT Spencer. "My new men acted like pros and came through when I needed them."

APC Sweep

Armored Personnel Carriers from H Trp., 17th Cav. move out in support of 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers in a sweep operation west of Tam Ky. (Photo by PFC John Hollenhorst, 198th Inf. Bde.)

The Old Hat Trick

Defying gravity, sun, and the enemy, an ARVN interpreter takes forty winks during a lull in the fighting in the division's AO. His camouflage cap isn't really floating in air —just suspended on a slender twig. (Photo by SSG Mike Mangiameli)

Chaplain Toots Horn

CHU LAI—An enterprising chaplain took his bugle out of mothballs so 39th Engr. Bn. soldiers could enjoy the musical call of reveille and retreat.

On the morning of Nov. 10, men at the 39th's base camp were called to duty, not by the customary whistle, but by notes of a bugle. The man behind the instrument was not an ordinary bugler. He was the 39th's chaplain, CPT L.P. Utley.

Bugle Bolsters Morale

CPT Utley conceived the bugle idea after overhearing LTC Tenho Hukkala, battalion commander, mention how having a bugler in his company in Korea 15 years ago acted as a morale booster.

The chaplain quietly went out and set the wheels in motion. When the bugle he requested from friends in the States arrived on Nov. 9, he spent the afternoon practicing in the privacy of his office.

After an initiation of Taps that evening, he set the program in full swing the following morning.

Traveling Horn

The chaplain plans to continue the project and hopes that it will remain with the 39th after he leaves. He plans to play the calls from atop the engineers' newly constructed TOC bunker to allow the notes to carry further. On visits to other line companies in the battalion, Chaplain Utley's bugle will accompany him.

In his absence from the battalion base camp, the live bugle calls will be replaced by a tape recording.

He Extends To Instruct

CHU LAI—A masters degree in biology and the ability to read, write, and speak six foreign languages is not a prerequisite to instruct at the Americal Div. Combat Center, but a former "Guardian" of the 196th Inf. Bde. has them.

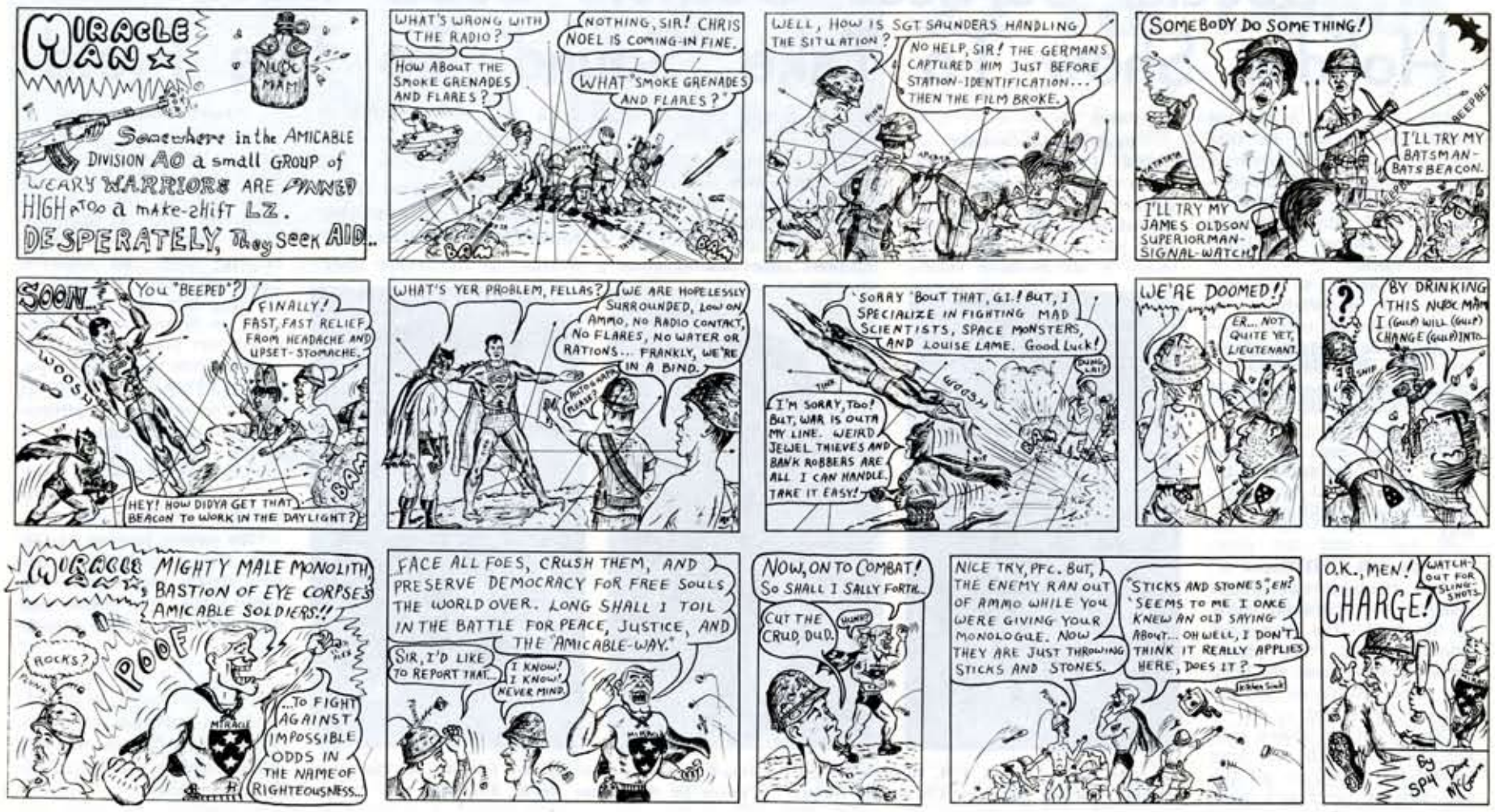
SGT Delmas Pauldo (Buffalo, N.Y.), known as "Pops" to the men of D Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., his old unit, recently extended his tour in Vietnam for six months to teach at the Combat Center.

"There are too many men coming over here not knowing what to do when they make contact with the enemy," the 32-year-old soldier noted. "Too many lives are lost simply because someone underestimated the enemy," he continued.

Pauldo, like most instructors at the Combat Center, has experienced combat in the field and knows what he is talking about. He will be working with the tactics committee.

Happy Holidays

Lovely Kathi Horan is a sight to warm your heart as a December calendar girl. Besides being an Air Force "brat," Kathi has done extensive modeling in Japan. (Photo by 315th Air Div.)



Comedienne Raye Visits

CHU LAI—One of the most popular lieutenant colonels in the military services visited Americal soldiers on Nov. 13.

Comedienne Martha Raye, an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, barnstormed through LZ Center, LZ West and Hill 29 with her friendly greeting.

Making her sixth tour of Vietnam, "COL Maggie" launched her first entertainment tour in 1965. She last appeared in Vietnam in a mini-version of "Hello Dolly."

Miss Raye's war record dates from 1942, when she performed for troops in England. During the past two years, she has spent 14 months in Vietnam.

On her last visit Maggie was cited by GEN William C. Westmoreland for her nursing work; the first citation of its kind.

As casualties poured in during a major battle last year, she donned fatigues and treated wounded men throughout the day and following morning.

She plans on appearing throughout the country until Jan. 8.

"COL MAGGIE" chats with an Americal soldier during her visit here. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant)

3/21 Kills 44

(Continued from Page 1)

sure," exclaimed LT Sharkey.

All the wounded were loaded on a dust-off helicopter after the ambush was repulsed. B Co. had lost three men, but turned the ambush in their favor by killing 10 NVA.

Continues Aid

Betters performed further heroics. "Enroute to the medical clearing station at Hill 63," said CPT Robert Peneguy, dust-off chief, "Betters disregarded his own serious injuries and assisted my medic and crew chief in taking care of the patients."

Later, during a flight to the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang, the medic again cared for the other three patients aboard. He is now in Japan recovering from his own wounds.

Spoiled Vengence

The attack which the NVA tried to avenge began the day before when a unit from the 196th engaged three weapon-carrying NVA with small arms, who eventually led the way to a large enemy base camp.

When CPT Wahl maneuvered his company on line into the rice paddies and engaged the enemy, a 15-minute fire fight ensued that was entirely one-sided.

In 30 minutes B Co. had accounted for 27 kills.

Hospital Discovered

In a sweep, the 2nd and 3rd platoons came upon a large base camp consisting of two huts, a mess hall and a washing shed.

A further search of the area produced a total of 34 dead NVA and the capture of a wounded NVA nurse, documents, medical supplies, 45 packs of food and equipment, a 75mm recoiless rifle, and four AK-47's.

Bravo also uncovered a large, well-camouflaged structure used as a hospital by the enemy.

1/52 Aids Homeless

LZ BAYONET—Oppressed by the Viet Cong, over-taxed and put to involuntary labor, a Vietnamese man and his family left their home in the hills northwest of Chu Lai and headed towards Tam Ky.

Moving through darkness, the family edged too close to the night defensive position of D Co., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. The 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers stopped the refugees and brought them into their position.

Suspecting they were VC, the "Ready Rifles" evacuated the Vietnamese for interrogation. At the 198th's base camp the story came out.

"The VC had been living near the refugees' village," explained a spokesman for the team which questioned the refugees.

"They complained of excessive taxes levied on the villagers by the VC. The refugees said the enemy took both food and money in excessive amounts.

"Finally the friendly Vietnamese got fed up and moved out, taking all they could carry, and headed for the safe-life hamlet in Tam Ky."

The Americal soldiers took the family to safety at Tam Ky.

B-52 Crew Takes Closer Look

CHU LAI—Six high-flying B-52 Stratofortress bomber crewmen took their first close look at the combat areas they have been supporting for the last few months when they visited the 11th Inf. Bde. recently.

Through a joint effort by the 7th Air Force and the Americal, the B-52 team from Columbus AFB, Miss., observed effects of their recent bombing missions in the 11th's area of operations.

The six crewmembers, commanded by MAJ Rod Busby, were briefed by COL John W. Donaldson, brigade commander, on operations and missions.

MAJ Fred Smith, brigade aviation officer, led them on a tour of the base camp and later to watch elements of the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., and 1st Bn., 20th Inf., execute the type of operations the flyers have been supporting.

The high-flying crewmen were then flown by helicopter to Ha Thanh CIDG Camp 16 miles west of Quang Ngai, site of a communist siege in early September.

—Special Services Gathers Local Talent— Holiday Show To Take 'Sound' To The Field

A new concept in service entertainment will be displayed during the Christmas season under the guidance of SP4 Bill Hutchinson, director of the Americal Special Services entertainment branch.

"We're going to be the first unit in Vietnam to bring an all-local talent show to the fire support bases. Most of the entertainers, however, were professionals before entering the service," Hutchinson said.

The idea for the local talent show was fathered by LTC Bernard L.J. Callahan, the division adjutant general.

To Fill USO Gap

"We thought this might bring a note of holiday spirit to the field," the lieutenant colonel noted. "The shows we are getting from the USO and other Stateside sources are too infrequent.

"These outside shows cannot remain with us long enough to appear at all the fire support bases and landing zones."

Soul Singing Soldier

SP4 Cornell W. ("Mr. C-4") Yates, a soul music singer who wrote and recorded with the "Mel-Tones" the hit song "Come On Over," is the featured vocalist. He is with the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., 11th Inf. Bde.

Yates has appeared on the stage with such popular recording stars as the "Temptations," "The Four Tops," and "Shep and the Limelighters." He has appeared as a solo act at Harlem's famed Apollo Theater.

The singing soldier also recorded "Temptation Walk" and has written a number called "Merry Christmas GI" for the Special Services show.

SOCKIN' IT TO 'EM, soul singer SP4 Cornell Yates warms up for his part in the upcoming Special Services Christmas Show. (Photos by SSG Dan Ruch, Americal IO)

'Aunt Willie's Band'

The featured rock-group, "Aunt Willie's Memorial Band," has SP4 John B. Clapp III, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde., as lead guitarist; PFC Fisher de Zavellos, 1st Sqdn., 1st Armored Cav., on bass; Hutchinson, 1st Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde., on drums; and a former concert pianist, PFC Tom Cronon from the 23rd Admin. Co.

"We're presently auditioning horns to enable us to better play the latest sounds," Hutchinson said. "We're looking for a trombonist as well as a sax man.

"We expect to open at the Chu Lai Amphitheater before 10,000 men about one week before Christmas and then go on tour until a week after.

"A surprise act is in rehearsal right now," he added, "and the addition of these American girls to our 90-minute show should really be a big thing."