Dec 22, 1968

# New Jersey Guns Blast In Support

CHU LAI—An 800-foot-long, 56,000 ton friendly sea monster lent its hefty support recently to units of the Americal.

During operations off the coast of the division AO, the USS New Jersey, only battleship in the world on active duty, belched thundering blasts from her 16-inch guns. Its hapless targets were enemy bunker complexes and supply routes.

The New Jersey was originally commissioned during WWII, decommissioned in 1948, and again called upon for service in the Korean conflict.

After spending 15 years in the mothball fleet, the New Jersey is back at work. Her 16-inch guns have a range of over 23 miles, and fire shells ranging in weight from 1,900 pounds for the high explosives to 2,700 pounds for the armor piercing.

The ship's armor is more than 16 inches thick in places.

USS NEW JERSEY BLASTS AWAY with her 16-inch guns at enemy positions in the division area. The huge ship operated in the South China Sea off the coast of the Americal AO. (Photo by 1LT Stephen H. Cobb, 11th Inf. Bde.)

## 16th CAG Newest Division Member

CHU LAI—Americal forces gained the powerful air support this month of the 16th Cbt. Avn. Grp.

Formerly based at Da Nang, the "Falcon Group" moved down into its new home here near the headquarters area.

**Three Units Attached**

Attached to the 16th CAG are the 123rd Cbt. Avn. Bn., already assigned to the Americal, and the 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn., which has been operating in direct support of the division.

The 335th Trans. Co. also is attached to perform back-up maintenance for division aircraft.

COL William C. Tyrrell, commanding officer of the group, stated, "The officers and men of the 16th CAG look forward with enthusiasm to becoming members of the Americal Div.'s fighting team."

**"Born In Battle"**

Bearing the phrase "Born in Battle" and a falcon's head, the 16th CAG unit crest symbolizes its combat aviation capabilities.

Three mountain peaks on the crest represent the three-fold effort of the United States, Republic of Vietnam, and free world military forces to win freedom and secure peace.

The Falcon Group came from the 1st Avn. Bde. and was based at Marble Mountain Air Facility at Da Nang. It had been responsible for all non-divisional Army aviation units in I Corps Tactical Zone.


SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 1, No. 14 | CHU LAI, VIETNAM | December 22, 1968


## BG Clement Becomes ADC

CHU LAI—BG Wallace L. Clement has assumed the duties of Assistant Division Commander, filling the position left vacant by BG James V. Galloway, who has been reassigned as Assistant Chief of Staff at Headquarters, MACV, in Saigon.

Before taking over his present position, BG Clement was Director of Doctrine, Headquarters, US Army Combat Developments Command at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The general's wife, the former Miss Martha Mansfield of Munfordville, Ky., and five children, Sarah, Elizabeth, Ellen, Douglas, and David, reside in Carlisle, Pa.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, his education includes: Basic Horse and Mechanized Course, Ft. Riley, Kan.; Advanced Course-The Armored School, Ft. Knox, Ky.; Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.; and the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., where he received constructive credit as a faculty member.

BG Wallace L. Clement

During his 28 years of military service, the armor officer has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for Valor, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Italian Cross for Military Valor.

## 196th Kills 65 In Mountain Assualt

# NVA Camp Clobbered

By SGT George Hawkins
196th Inf. Bde.

LZ BALDY — A fierce seven-day battle against 1000 NVA on the steep, lofty Nui Chom Mountain recently netted 65 enemy dead for a battalion of the 196th Inf. Bde.

Steep slopes and triple canopy jungle made operations extremely rugged on the cloud-shrouded, 924-meter-high mountain, 26 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

"It was one of the hardest battles I've seen over here," said LTC Robert Wetzel, CO of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf.

"My men had to virtually crawl hand over hand up parts of the mountain. Those mountains are some of the steepest in Vietnam," he said. "Day by day we pushed back the NVA and forced them from well-entrenched bunkers."

**Bunkers Blasted**

The initial contact with the enemy was made when D Co. discovered an enemy base camp on the mountain.

Well-camouflaged enemy bunkers were located at strategic positions on the trails leading to the NVA command post, blocking the infantrymen's advance. The "Polar Bear" soldiers used M-72 LAWs and sheer guts to eliminate the enemy positions.

After the NVA broke contact four hours later, D Co. found five enemy bodies while searching the area. That night two more line companies moved in to search and clear Nui Chom Mountain.

**Air Support Called**

The following morning A Co. moved through the base camp area. Tactical air strikes were called in on enemy positions high on the mountain, followed by "Blue Ghost" gunships from F Trp., 8th Air Cav.

As night approached, A and C Cos. pulled back to night defensive positions.

On the third day of fighting observation helicopters and Helix airplanes had reported observing an estimated 50 bunkers encircling a command post on the mountain.

They also reported spotting company-size NVA elements in the base camp area. When summoned again, fighter bombers dropped 500-pound bombs on the NVA positions.

**Chargers Close In**

The following morning the three infantry companies began to pinch in on the NVA base camp from three sides, meeting strong resistance from the enemy bunker positions.

C Co. destroyed 10 bunkers and killed 30 NVA as they slowly gained ground and penetrated the enemy perimeter.

"We found that we had to eliminate each bunker one by one, because the enemy wouldn't give up," said 1LT Dickie Dixon (North Liberty,

(Continued on Page 8)

Merry Christmas

*Season's Greetings*

*and best wishes*

*for the New Year*

Charles M. Gettys

**CHARLES M. GETTYS**
**Major General, USA**
**Commanding**

## *Religion And You*

# Songs At Yule

By CHAPLIN (LTC) FRANCIS J. DOLAN
Division Chaplain

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know."

You see I come from Boston, Mass.

"You tell me your dreams
And I'll tell you mine."

In one way or another your dreams will be about home. "I'll be home for Christmas"...next year.

It's a peculiar thing about Christmas—how it wakes memories of songs and singing. People sing when they are sad and sing when they are happy.

Surely then we who are in Vietnam should do a lot of singing this Christmas for one reason or another.

"It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
Peace on earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King:
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing."

...as, more than any since our forces have been in Viet... ...is a genuine hope of peace. With all our hearts we pr... that a just and lasting peace will settle on this troubled land. May the Prince of Peace grant us this Christmas wish.

"Peace on earth to men of good will."


SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Sergeant First Class Larry Babitts ..... NCOIC
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Specialist Four Bill Guerrant ..... Photo Editor
Specialist Four Dave McGown ..... Cartoonist
Specialist Four Dean Norland ..... Reporter


## Rice Paddies Instead Of Snow

# *A Vietnamese Christmas Carol*

By SFC Larry Babitts

Marley was tired to begin with. That is, tired-er than an all night marathon runner. It was very early on Christmas morning and his squad had just returned from a patrol when the first sergeant accosted him.

"Marley," he snorted as only a first sergeant can snort, "I think there's someone outside of our wire. Take a couple men and check it out."

### "Bah, Humbug"

And that was how Christmas Day 1968 began for SGT Marley and his two best men, SP4 Scrooge and CPL Cratchett.

"Merry Christmas, guys," he shouted into their bunker, "don't get undressed yet, we've got a small job to do."

"Bah, humbug! Merry Christmas, hah!" sneered Scrooge, "Big deal, Christmas, deck the halls with lotsa I don't know what..."

"Be of good cheer, you know, good will and all that," added the eternally optmistic Bob Cratchett as a mortar round slammed into the hillside.

"Nuts to you and your holiday, didja hear that? Instead of 'Silent Night' we get that," humbugged Scrooge, "good will, hm-m-m-m."

### Quest Begins

The three soldiers put their gear together and proceeded cautiously down the path towards their perimeter wire.

Cratchett was whistling "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" under his breath, pausing only to wipe the slow drizzle from his weapon.

"Cut that out—rest indeed — bah, humbug!" Scrooge said in low tones, "even the weather is against us."

"Oh, man, it's Christmas, how about a little Christmas charity," replied Cratchett, his face pink from the morning chill.

"Christmas is supposed to be for giving. What the hell are we giving? Smoke to 'Mister Charles,' I guess," grumbled Scrooge answering his own question. "Humbug, I say."

"Gee Scrooge, it really isn't as bad as all that. I know it's Christmas Day, but it's really all right. After all, when we return from this mission, we probably get a special holiday meal."

"Yeah, special meal. A ham for Christmas...with lima beans, I guess."

And then they neared the wire...Marley with a silent, calculating expression, Cratchett, smiling to himself, thinking about home and the holidays, Scrooge, grumbling and feeling cheated.

### Hark, Who Goes

Then they heard it.

A soft, rustling sound came from the wet underbrush, a voice. They paused upon

Cratchett's signal, barely able to see through the early morning fog. And they waited. Now they were certain there was someone there, speaking in easily recognized Vietnamese tones.

Squad leader Marley motioned them into position as they prepared to close with whoever or whatever was in the brush. Their breath halted, sweat popped out on their foreheads, Cratchett moved cautiously to the right, while Scrooge maneuvered left with Marley stealthily moving straight towards the voices.

Suddenly, Marley motioned for them to stand fast. "My God," he exclaimed at what he saw.

### Tiny Tim And Friend

There in a clearing...an old farmer in his black pajama-like clothes, lying on the ground, groaning. Next to him was a small ragged boy, perhaps six years old. The boy, extremely small even for a Vietnamese child, was leaning on an old fashioned crutch because of a bandaged foot.

Cratchett, who spoke some Vietnamese, went forward while the others anxiously covered his movement.

"Ong la ai?" he shouted. ("Who are you?")

"Thua ong, Chung-ta bi lac," the crippled boy raised himself saying. ("Sir we are lost.")

"Ong lam gi day?" Cratchett asked, softening his tone. ("What are you doing here?")

The boy answered rapidly, fear written clearly on his small, tanned face.

"For crying out loud, what did the boy say?" anxiously asked Scrooge.

### Plea For Help

"He says," Cratchett translated, "the VC have burned his home, and that the old man and he have traveled many days through the jungle to find our base camp." He paused.

"He thinks that the old man is dying."

The three soldiers lowered their weapons and there was only the sound of the rain on the leaves.

"Well, don't stand there," ordered Marley," gvie me a hand fixing up a litter."

Marley and Cratchett set about finding sticks strong enough for an expedient litter while the rain still came down soaking everything through.

### Christmas Spirit

Scrooge, a slight smile on his face, motioned the boy to climb upon his back, and started the climb up the hill. The other two soldiers were carrying the old man in their home-made litter.

The little lame boy, a tear welling in his eyes, spoke again in Vietnamese.

"Hey Cratchett, what did Tiny Tim say this time?"

"I can't translate it exactly, but it's something like 'God bless us all, each and every one'."

# Americal Band Performs For Vietnamese Villagers

QUE SON—All the Vietnamese on the road from LZ Ross to Que Son stopped and stared when the two fully loaded trucks passed. A large crowd gathered as the trucks stopped and men filed out.

There was something decidedly different about these American soldiers.

The gathering crowd contemplated the men's shiny blue helmets and highly polished boots. Instead of the traditional M-16 which every Vietnamese child over the age of crawling could easily recognize, these men carried objects which they had never seen.

**Band Swings**

The mystery of the strange objects was soon cleared up when the Americal Division Band started to play "Feeling Groovy."

As the band played, more and more children and adults appeared.

"We are supposed to play in a change of command ceremony of the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. at LZ Ross," Bandmaster CW-2 Conrad S. Taylor explained. "They called down and asked if we would like to give a concert in the village and we told them we'd be very happy to."

The warrant officer went on to say that he enjoyed travelling around the AO and tried to give concerts to the local Vietnamese at least once a month.

"We also go to the different base camps five and six times a month and sometimes more," he added.

**Villagers Like Latin**

CW-2 Taylor tries to give his listeners the music they like to hear. "Since oriental music has a Latin flavor, we try to play Latins and a few marches, but mostly Latins."

Giving concerts in a Vietnamese village is not the only new twist for the band. For the past four weeks they have been going to the Chu Lai Air Terminal in the afternoons.

The purpose of the Air Terminal concerts is to play a few pop tunes and marches for the troops going back to the States.

The idea of a band is not new, but the ideas of the Americal Division's Band are.

## Prayer For Peace

**Just back from a combat mission, this "Brave and Bold" trooper at LZ Paradise pauses for prayer, perhaps a prayer for "Peace On Earth." (Photo by PFC Steve Marvin, 198th Inf. Bde.)**

## Christmas Mail

**A letter from home makes Christmas in Vietnam a little less lonely for this 198th Inf. Bde. soldier. (Photo by SP4 Steve Shingledecker, 523rd Sig. Bn.)**

# HAWK Missile Bn. Joins Division

CHU LAI—A unique and powerful artillery unit has brought added punch to the Americal.

The 6th Bn., 56th Arty., recently assigned to the division, is different from all others in Vietnam. Instead of artillery rounds, it fires deadly swift HAWK missiles.

**Under Division Artillery**

Formerly part of the 97th Arty. Grp., the air defense missile battalion will perform under the command of Americal Division Artillery with operational control vested in the 7th USAF. The battalion is commanded by LTC William R. Warren.

The missile battalion's mission is to provide air defense protection for the Chu Lai area against attacking low and medium altitude, high-speed hostile aircraft, by destroying, nullifying, or reducing their effectiveness.

**Civic Minded Too**

The unit also contributes to the Civic Action Pacification Program by supplying manpower and materials to assist villages near its sites.

Yearly each battery must fire two HAWK Missiles at a jet drone target aircraft. As a result of this training, the battalion is ready if called upon to attack hostile aircraft.

No newcomer to Vietnam, the 6/56 has been in country since Oct. 1, 1965. It withstood all communist offensives, including the TET offensive in the Saigon, Long Binh and Bien Hoa area.

On July 26 last year the unit was presented the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period Nov., 1965 to June, 1966.

# Season For Good Cheer

For most of us, this Christmas will be our first away from home.

We find ourselves in a foreign country 10,000 miles from "the world," where people observe traditions different from ours.

During this season of "Good Will Toward Men," it is appropriate to understand the customs of the Vietnamese people and learn their do's and don'ts.

**Show Interest**

Just as you are flattered when someone asks you about your home or your family, the Vietnamese are flattered when you show a little knowledge of their customs, religions, or language.

Don't look down your nose at Vietnamese working at menial jobs, and don't underestimate their intelligence. Remember that most of these people have gone through extremely difficult times.

Always try to be pleasant with them and try to pick up some of their language. They will be honored to see that you are interested in learning.

**Religion**

In Vietnam, the majority of people are Buddhists.

Whereas we observe Christmas as our main holiday, Vietnam's most important traditional holiday is TET, or lunar New Year, on which the Vietnamese are reminded of their cultural heritage.

TET begins in mid-February.

So spread a little Christmas cheer, not only now, but next year, too.

## Like Pea In Pod

**This Vietnamese youngster looks quite contented snuggled in his hammock. He comfortably watches Americal infantrymen pass through his village. (Photo by PFC Art Noel, 198th Inf. Bde.)**

# A SOLDIER'S CHRISTMA

## IMPRES

## OF

## COMBA

By SP4 Alfre
198th

Will we feel the day of Christmas as a day different from any other in Vietnam? Will we remember Scrooge and Old St. Nick and the snow covered ground? Will carols come to mind? Do we remember the words to "Silent Night" or "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" or "We Three Kings of Orient Are"?

Will a Christmas without the family still be Christmas? What of the children hanging stockings? Who's here to leave a Coke and some Oreos for Santa?

Do you remember last year's mistletoe? Holly? Candy canes? Homemade cookies with sparkles on top? The Christmas tree with tinsel? The angels who decorated it? The miniature Nativity? The bright glass bells and Christmas tree balls? Remember the star on top?

The red, blue, yellow, arange, green lights? Did you ever drink a hot-buttered rum at Christmas time? Remember its warmth? Egg-nog with nutmeg?

# AS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

## SSIONS

## A

## T ARTIST

d Anthony Jr.
nf. Bde.

All these things are for memory to bring back; but the most important part of Christmas is still with us. To feel the spirit of Christmas and the birth it celebrates we don't need to be back by the fireside. Christmas lives in the words of Christ.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

"You will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. You have sorrow now but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. In that day you will ask nothing of me.

"If you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name. Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

# Combat In Review

## Watch Your Step

**With a sharp eye out for booby traps, a soldier of C Co., 1st Bn., 46th Inf. sloshes through a rice paddy in search of the enemy. The 198th Inf. Bde. troopers were participating in a rice denial operation west of Tam Ky. (Photo by PFC Art Noel, 198th Inf. Bde.)**

### *Eliminate Smoke-Marking Rounds*

## 1/14 Artillery Surprises Enemy

LZ BAYONET—No-smoke artillery barrages have given the 198th Bde.'s 1st Bn., 14th Arty. a big boost in firepower, by eliminating the marking round often used to check the accuracy of artillery fire.

"We killed 142 enemy soldiers during November," said 1LT James Rand (Winona, Minn.), the battalion's fire direction officer, "and the main reason we've been killing so many is that we've eliminated the first marking round in many cases.

**Enemy Surprised**

"The marking rounds used to give the enemy some time to seek cover," he continued, "but we now set up and fire maybe a 'battery two,' which is eight rounds, and adjust."

To use this innovation more effectively, soldiers of the 198th Bde. recently began using some new tactics of their own.

A small group of men hides out in an area which is known or suspected to be a base of enemy operations. They pick out likely avenues of approach and plot the coordinates.

When the VC walk into the area, the pre-planned fire mission is called in without a preliminary marking round.

One volley from a battery covers an area 100 meters long and 50 meters wide. "If the enemy is there when we fire our mission we usually get at least some of them with the first rounds," 1LT Rand explained.

"We get them pinned down and work the area over. A search of the area usually reveals bodies."

**Artillery Kills 22**

On one occasion last month a small group of "Brave and Bold" soldiers spotted a band of NVA and engaged them, calling on the 1/14 for artillery support.

The NVA soldiers withdrew from contact while the 198th troopers remained in the area near the bodies of seven enemy that had been killed.

When the infantrymen heard noises indicating the NVA were trying to recover bodies of their dead comrades, a repeat fire mission was called.

The next morning, 22 enemy bodies were found.

## 'Jungle Warriors' Unwelcome Guests At House Full Of VC

LZ BALDY—An uninvited house call recently by "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Inf. Bde. stirred up a hornet's nest of inhospitable Viet Cong.

"Seven of us were sent out to set up a position in a rice paddy," said SP4 Charles W. Davis of C Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., "and on the way we passed through the corner of a village. We saw a big French house with a light on."

"I kicked the door open and as soon as I did a guy shot at me with an AK-47. He fired a whole magazine right through the doorway. Nobody was hit."

"The next thing we knew," related fire team member PFC Tim D. Bennett, "VC started coming out of the house from holes in the wall, windows, and everywhere. All we did was fire back."

Already in ambush positions and forewarned by the gunfire, other C Co. fire teams then took over the fight by trapping the fleeting VC with automatic weapons fire.

When the action was over, Davis' fire team had killed five VC and the other teams accounted for 10 more.

"The whole thing was a surprise to me," said fire team member SP4 James Newcomb. "We never did find out why they were there."

## Gunships Help 'Brave And Bold' Oust VC From Tunnel Complex

TIEN PHUOC — Passing "Aero Scout" helicopter gunships aided a recon. platoon of the 198th Inf. Bde. in blasting a VC position southeast of here, killing or capturing 16 of the enemy.

Blazing fire power killed 10 VC, and lightning reaction by the Recon. Plt., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. captured six of the enemy.

It all started when the "Ready Rifles" spotted eight enemy soldiers carrying rucksacks and weapons moving into a deserted village.

**Gunships Strike**

1LT Barry Luther (Jacksonville, Fla.), the platoon leader, was calling for artillery fire on the enemy position when an RTO overheard a radio message indicating the gunships were in the vicinity.

The fire mission was scrubbed and the gunships were called in.

"We decided that the gunships could do a more effective job under the circumstances," said SGT Chester Nolan (Philadelphia, Pa.). "They could place the first fire more effectively on the enemy."

The VC dove into tunnels trying to escape the gunships' blazing lead. The tunnels connected several of the huts in the area and tied up with escape tunnels into the jungle.

"When we saw that the gunships had the enemy pinned down in the tunnels," said SGT Pat McKenzie (Lansing, Mich.), "we sent two squads in to flush them out."

**Enemy Flushed**

The plan worked. Several grenades thrown into the holes were enough to get "Charlie" back into the open.

Ten of the enemy were killed trying to escape and six VC were captured. The gunships were credited with two of the kills and the "Ready Rifles" with eight.

When the action ceased, the roundup included captured weapons, webgear, rucksacks, documents, and rice.

## Hello Down There

**A trooper from 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. lobs a grenade into a bunker on the outskirts of "VC Village" east of Tam Ky. Working with 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., the "Always First" were on a search and destroy mission on Cigar Island. (Photo by SP4 Steve Shingledecker, 523rd Sig. Bn.)**

## ARVNs, Arty. Team To Kill 30

TAM KY—An ARVN unit teamed up with U.S. artillerymen recently to blast an NVA company southwest of Tam Ky, killing 30 of the enemy.

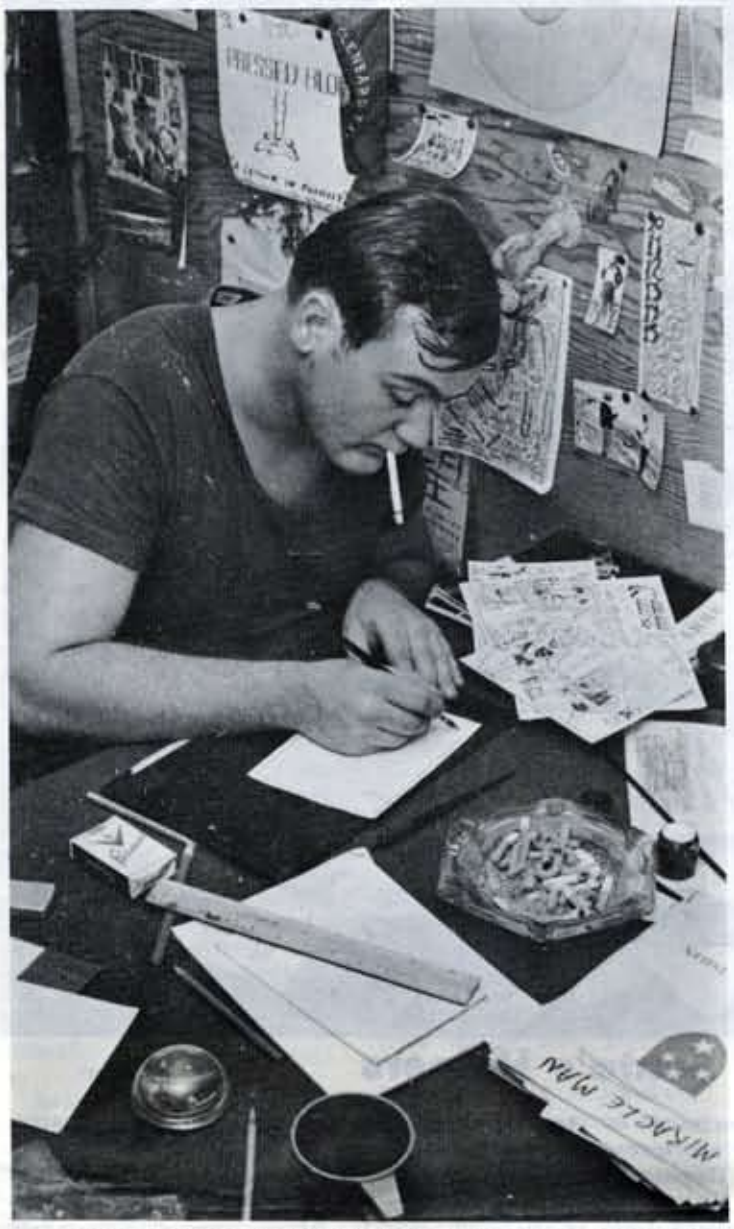
The early-morning ground fog was beginning to lift when ARVN infantrymen of the 4th Bn., 5th Inf. spotted an estimated NVA company moving into the open.

The soldiers called to a fire support base held by the 198th Inf. Bde. and ARVN units for artillery support.

After the ARVNs opened fire, C Btry. 1st Bn., 14th Arty. had 105mm howitzer barrages coming in right on target. The NVA tried to break contact when the American artillerymen intensified their barrages.

Of the 30 enemy killed, the artillery netted 19 and the ARVN infantrymen claimed 11.

# 'Miracle Man' Home Bound



**SP4 DAVE McGOWN PENS his last Miricle Man before heading back for the land of the big PX. Wonder how PFC Dudly will adjust to Stateside life? (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant)**

One of the division's busiest and best fighters—a battler against such foes as the NVA, VC, his CO and first sergeant, KP, and guard duty — has reached his DEROS.

Of course he is none other than Miracle Man, who as the alter ego of the slovenly PFC Dudly, has appeared in various adventures during the past seven months in the Southern Cross cartoon series.

Created by SP4 Dave McGown, 21, (Lombard, Ill.), the feature concludes with this issue. McGown will be "hopping" home with his nuoc mam-guzzling hero.

**Initial Cartoon Work**

The 12-panel cartoon strip, which regularly featured side jokes and well-placed barbs hidden in the panels, was the first published venture in cartooning for McGown.

"This has been good experience for me," the cartoonist said, "and my style and confidence improved as time went on."

"I didn't have any trouble planning ideas," he continued, "they just came to me in a flash. But putting the thoughts on paper often was painstaking work."

**Mad Influence**

McGown admits that a couple of Mad magazine cartoonists have influenced his style of drawing.

The Army Pictorial Center, New York, will be McGown's next duty station, but he plans to finish his bachelor's degree at Dartmouth University after completing military service.

# One Mother's Gifts Fill 100 Stockings

CHU LAI—Christmas this year is going to be brighter for men of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 49th Sig. Plt., thanks to a grateful mother who decided to share some of her happiness with the men.

For Mrs. Mildred Hazelgrove of Owings Mills, Md., it was a happy day when she found out her son Donald had been granted a 30-day leave which would include the Christmas holidays after he had extended his tour in Vietnam.

But Mrs. Hazelgrove could not help but think about the other men in her son's unit who would not be able to come home for Christmas. So she decided to send some of the spirit of home to them.

To the more than 100 men of the brigade's communication section, Mrs. Hazelgrove sent packages containing a Christmas tree with decorations, gifts, Christmas cards, games, cookies, potato sticks, oatmeal cakes, soft drink mix, and even Christmas stockings.

It all adds up to quite a Christmas celebration for the signalmen.

Hazelgrove will have cause for celebration too. The day after he left to go on leave, orders came through promoting him to sergeant. The orders will be mailed to him in a Christmas card.

## Col Tully New Head Of 198th

LZ BAYONET—COL Robert B. Tully recently assumed command of the 198th Inf. Bde.

The new commander and his immediate predecessor, COL Charles B. Thomas, exchanged positions. COL Thomas became the USARV G-1.

## Visit VEVERP for Govt. Jobs

If you have been considering working for the Federal government after you ETS, it is worth your while to look into a new program of job assistance initiated by the Department of Defense.

It is called VEVERP (Vietnam Era Veterans Employment Referral Program), and it is open to all Vietnam veterans. Its purpose is to provide a single, automated system so that a veteran or serviceman about to be released can file only one application for federal employment anywhere in the United States.

You can register for the program at any Department of Defense Civilian Personnel Office, which will transmit your application electronically to the central referral activity at the Defense Electronics Center, Dayton, Ohio.

There your application is placed in an automated file and referred to the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies every two weeks in accordance with your skill and your job preference.

If suitable employment is available, you will be contacted directly.

# NVA Camp Clobbered

(Continued from Page 1)

Ind.) of C Co. "This prevented us from moving into the enemy perimeter."

**Doctor Nabbed**

C Co. also captured a well-supplied NVA medical aid station and seized an enemy doctor and two female nurses.

The enemy doctor said that during the first two days of contact he treated more than 50 wounded NVA soldiers.

During the second night he received word from his high command to hide his medical supplies and equipment and move north, but before he and his nurses could leave, C Co. caught them.

**Mopping Up**

On the seventh day, the 4/31 rifle company moved into the base camp and searched it completely without further resistance.

During the battle for Nui Chom Mountain, 32 tactical air strikes were flown and more than 4,000 rounds of 105mm and 155mm artillery rounds were fired in support of the infantry.

The NVA moved north and abandoned their high-peaked fortress in the clouds to a tired and weary bunch of "Chargers".

They left behind 25 AK-47s, one chicom machinegun, 29 82mm mortar rounds, two 82mm mortar sights, and 20 NVA packs.

The Members Of The Southern Cross Wish You Happy Holidays

# 'Pot Luck' Saves Officer From .30 Cal. Round

LZ BALDY—Although "scalped" by a .30 caliber round, a "Charger" platoon leader bravely fought on to wipe out an NVA machinegun emplacement during a recent fire fight.

The action began when a company from the 196th Inf. Bde. came into heavy contact with a large force of NVA soldiers on Nui Chom Mountain in the Hiep Duc Valley.

After the initial contact, 1LT Stephen Rice (Ames, Iowa), of A Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., ran to the front of his platoon to assist and direct his men during the fire fight.

**Blasts Enemy Bunker**

1LT Rice administered aid to two of his wounded men until his platoon medic arrived. He then directed M-60 machinegun fire on an enemy bunker that was pouring out .30 caliber machinegun fire.

Maneuvering close to the enemy bunker, the lieutenant fired his M-16 and threw several hand grenades until the NVA weapon was silenced.

His platoon moved in to search the bunker while the lieutenant paused during an unexpected dizzy spell.

**Pot Riddled**

"My RTO told me a bullet had creased my helmet," the lieutenant said. "When I removed my steel pot I found out a .30 caliber bullet had gone completely through it, creasing my scalp along the way."

"I really started to sweat when I looked at my steel pot and saw those holes in it," he recalled.

In the search of the NVA bunker, A Co. found six enemy bodies and captured four AK-47s and, of course, the .30 caliber machinegun.

## Santa's Helpers

**This holiday greeting is extended by the Red Cross Girls working in the division area. During Christmas week they are spreading good cheer to men of the Americal. Standing (l. to r.): Linda Goettman (Houston, Tex.), Sallie Daniell (Anniston, Ala.), Paula Wright (Perryton, Tex.), and Sandi Nielson (Squaw Valley, Cal.). Front (l. to r.): Diane Kusron (Outer Banks, N.C.) and Sheelagh Field (Kalamazoo, Mich.). Absent from photo: Carol Krupp (Cleveland, Ohio). (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant)**

## It's A Dog's World

# *Scout Dogs Receive Same Medical Treatment As Soldiers*

LZ BAYONET — The old saying "The Army takes care of its own" applies to dogs as well as men.

Canine members of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 57th Inf. Plt. (Scout Dog) are provided with most of the same medical treatment given the soldiers...some other treatments too.

Each of the war dogs in the Americal Division has his own health, dental and shot records, which are kept in an official Department of Defense health record folder just like the one the GIs have.

Each dog must receive regular periodic inoculations, ranging in frequency from once every three months to once a year.

When ill or injured, the dogs are put on light duty or medical hold.

**Healthy Dog Vital**

The two men primarily responsible for providing the dogs with medical care are SGT Richard L. Wibbens (Worthington, Minn.), the 57th's veterinary technician, and his assistant SP4 Garth S. Redmond (Bedford, Pa.).

"Our main mission," Redmond explained, "is to keep the dogs in good health so the dogs and handlers can accomplish their mission out in the field."

Keeping the dogs in good health is no small job. In addition to the types of care already mentioned, each dog is given a thorough physical check each time he is sent to the field and when he returns.

**Prevent Disease**

The dogs' kennels are washed twice daily and sprayed with insecticide at least once a month to keep down flies and mosquitoes. About every three weeks the dogs are "dipped" in a solution to remove external parasites.

A dog's health records include, in addition to the chronological record of medical treatment, the results of blood tests which are given every three months, and a monthly recording of the dog's weight.

A large portion of the responsibility for the dog's health also falls on the handler.

"Our handlers are very helpful in caring for and treating the dogs," Wibbens said. "Most of the handlers are very concerned about their dogs, which makes our job easier because they bring them in to us at the first sign of trouble."

**Dogs Tagged**

When a war dog is "inducted" into the armed services at Lackland AFB, Tex., he is given a service number, which is tattooed in his left ear. A record of the dog's owner prior to his "induction" is kept, and several of the men of the 57th Inf. Plt. have corresponded with the people who used to own their dogs.

If a dog is seriously injured while in the field, he may be MEDEVACed just like a soldier. Also like the soldier, he may be sent to a more qualified specialist if his malady can not be treated at the local level.

**GI AND SCOUT DOG make a highly effective fighting team. So medical care for man and dog is tops. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant)**