2nd ARVN Troops Mark 14th Anniversary

3 Americal Commanders Receive Gallantry Awards

QUANG NGAI CITY—The 2nd Inf. Div. of the Army of Vietnam celebrated its 14th anniversary here last month with a day of parades and ceremonies.

After crack 2nd ARVN troops passed in review for GEN Cao Van Vien, General Joint Chief of Staff, he drove to the War Memorial Monument.

There, he placed a wreath at the monument's base paying tribute to the courageous Vietnamese who have given their lives in defense of their country.

Gratitude Expressed

During a short ceremony, BG Nguyen Van Toan, 2nd Div. commander, who accompanied GEN Vien, expressed his gratitude to the "Generals, unit commanders, and comrades-in-arms of the U.S. Armed Forces for their support, showing the tight relationship and close cooperation with the 2nd Div."

"We are convinced," BG Toan added, "that as long as we have that unity and precious support, we will win over the communists."

Later in the day, 80 awards were presented to American and Vietnamese fighting men.

Proud Recrod

Among the Americal soldiers receiving awards were COL Frederick J. Kroesen, 196th Inf. Bde. CO, COL John W. Donaldson, 11th Bde. CO, and LTC Robert L. Wetzel, former CO of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Bde. They received the Gallantry Cross with Palm (5th Class).

During 1967-68, the 2nd ARVN Div. conducted more than 3,000 separate operations killing 27,542 communist troops, capturing 3,416 prisoners, and welcoming 2,386 Hoi Chanhs. Three hundred and ninety-eight crew-served and 4,113 individual weapons were captured.

THE VIETNAMESE GALLANTRY CROSS with palm is presented to BG Nguyen Van Toan, commanding general of the 2nd ARVN Inf. Div., by General Joint Chief of Staff GEN Gao Van Vien during 14th anniversary ceremonies. (Photo by SP4 Dennis Selby, Americal IO)

Offense Ends In Operation

CHU LAI—The offensive phase of Operation Russell Beach, which began on Jan. 13 when thousands of Americal, 2nd ARVN Div., and Marine troops swept into an 11½-mile cordon around the Batangan Peninsula, ended at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 10.

Activity has now entered Phase IV, which is of unlimited duration and is mainly controlled by Quang Ngai Province officials.

The completion of this pacification phase will result in resettlement of the more than 11,500 refugees who had voluntarily left the area.

The operation accounted for 206 Viet Cong killed and 201 VC infrastructure members, 140 VC suspects, and 104 prisoners of war detained. Sixty-five weapons, including six crew-served, were captured, while more than 14,000 meters of tunnels and 241 structures were destroyed.

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 5 | CHU LAI, VIETNAM | March 2, 1969

3 DSCs Presented

LZ BRONCO—Three Americal soldiers received the nation's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross, here recently from the commander of the United States Army Vietnam, GEN Creighton W. Abrams.

Two of the recipients, CPT Barry D. Gasdek (Loyalhanna, Pa.) and SSG Nicky D. Bacon (Silverton, Ore.) are from the 11th Inf. Bde., while the third recipinet, CPT Roger Dimsdale (Sioux City, Iowa) serves with the 198th Inf. Bde.

CPT Gasdek, who is presently S-4 of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf., was CO of D Co., of the same unit. He earned his award during action against the VC in September.

Rallies His Men

When his unit had come under intense enemy fire, CPT Gasdek exposed himself to a hail of bullets to encourage his men to fire their weapons and throw hand grenades. He then took two of his men and directed nearby APCs to the battle site.

Upon returning, they encountered accurate small arms fire which wounded CPT Gasdek in the leg. Despite his painful injury, he moved up to his men and organized the evacuation of the other wounded to the tracks.

Carrying the most seriously wounded man on his back, the captain crawled more than a hundred meters under

(Continued on Page 3)

1st Bn., 52d Inf. Soldiers Find Weapons Cache

LZ PROFESSIONAL — The largest weapons cache uncovered in the Americal AO in recent months was found by C Co., of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., one mile from here during a search and clear operation last month.

The company had been searching the area 20 miles south of Tien Phuoc for 14 days when the 52 weapons were unearthed.

Found In Underbrush

"We thought we would get some supplies out here somewhere," said CPT A.L. Jamison Hall (San Antonio), C Co. commander. "We really just stumbled across this (weapons pile) in the thick underbrush."

The captured firearms cache, which included 11 SKS assault rifles, six Browning automatic rifles, five submachineguns, and 30 assorted bolt-action weapons plus ammunition, was found by the 2nd Plt. in dense forest about 200 meters from a suspected Viet Cong training site.

Enough For A Company

"My point man (PFC David Lane of Newport News, Va.) stumbled across the weapons. I guess we really ran into a good haul," said 1LT Jim Achille (Rochester, N.Y.), the platoon leader.

"These weapons are enough to outfit an entire company of local forces," noted CPT Jim McGee (Nashville, Tenn.), battalion S-2, "and capturing them will really put a bind on somebody."

MEN OF THE 1ST BN., 52ND INF. display some of the 52 enemy weapons and assorted ammunition which the battalion's C Co. uncovered recently 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky. (Photo by 1LT H. Josef Hebert, 198th Inf. Bde.)

Checking Accounts Featured

Bank Opens Soon

CHU LAI—The familiar pay line may be a thing of the past for some Americal soldiers when a military banking facility is scheduled to open in Chu Lai sometime this month.

According to LTC Harold R. Golden, division finance officer, the new American Express office, to be located in the division finance area, will offer numerous special benefits, "greatly increasing a person's financial flexibility."

Soldiers will be able to open a checking account and have pay directly deposited

(Continued on Page 8)

Religion and You

Brace From Within

By Chaplain (CPT) RICHARD D. RADDE
Div. Spt. Com.

A young politician, just elected to office, was besieged with angry phone calls from hundreds of his constituents. He had just announced his stand on a certain bond issue in a newspaper article, and then the fur started to fly. He was convinced his position was reasonable and sound, but about 90 percent of the people did not think so.

His neighbor, a retired sailor, came to console him when he was at the point of drafting his letter of resignation. The old sailor knew it would not help to preach to the young man, nor would it help to indulge his self-pity. He made one remark and then left.

This is what he said: "Strong inward braces are needed for strong outward pressures." This remark had the effect intended, giving the politician some backbone. A piece of ancient wisdom showed him that he must believe in what is right and abide by that belief—long before sniffing winds for a scent of popular approval.

The Bible says, "If God is for us who can be against us?" God builds braces within for all pressures without. God will prompt us to tear up fear-engendered letters of resignation and to bear up under the discomfiture of hearing angry and disputing voices.

Don't Let Malaria Bug You

By SP5 ROBERT BUZOGANY

An oldtimer recalls the troops of the Americal Div. during World War II very well. "They were colorful troops," he remembers, "they were 'yellow'."

"Them's fightin' words," you say? On the contrary, it is a kind of left-handed compliment due to the division's long and distinguished service in the South Pacific, beginning in 1942 and ending in Japan.

As the first U.S. Army unit to conduct offensive operations against the enemy in any theater during WWII, fighting along with the 1st Marine Div. on Guadalcanal, the men of the Americal remained in the South Pacific longer than most American soldiers.

Yellow Badge Of Protection

The "yellow" label was pinned on the Americal infantrymen because they became yellowish in skin tone through using Atabrine, the Army's anti-malaria pill at that time.

Atabrine yellowed the skin after continued use, and naturally, since the Americal was in the tropics for three years, its infantrymen showed more of the coloring.

Malaria was a serious problem then, just as it is here now.

CPT Smith W. Douglas, the division's preventive medicine officer, names malaria as the biggest medical problem in Vietnam, rivaled only by digestive tract diseases due to improper treating of drinking water.

Serious Statistics

In December of last year, 76 percent of all cases admitted to division hospitals were suffering from disease, and of these 21 percent were due to malaria.

Last year 1,725 Americal soldiers came down with malaria, including a high of 256 in July. Unfortunately, this represents one of the highest rates in USARV, and it underscores the seriousness of the problem.

It is common knowledge that malaria is contracted when one is bitten by a mosquito infected with a strain of the disease. To avoid malaria avoid mosquitoes. It is as simple as that.

Primary Measures

Of course it is next to impossible to avoid mosquitoes, but precautions can be taken to reduce the possibility of being bitten. The primary protective measures are simple:

- Keep sleeves rolled down and your boots bloused at night and in the field.
- Use mosquito repellent (frequently when perspiring).
- Use insect spray around your shelter and bedding.
- Use mosquito netting at night.

These precautions will help at avoid the source of the sickness, but there is still a secondary line of defense to help defeat malaria even if you are bitten by a disease-carrying mosquito: the familiar white and orange pills.

If taken regularly, "the pills will suppress the growth of the parasite once it enters the body," stated CPT Douglas.

Malaria Prevalent Here

Medical authorities are concerned with two strains of malaria in Vietnam: vivax malaria and falciparum malaria. The latter strain, the far more dangerous of the two, is found mostly in the I and II Corps Tactical Zones.

Currently, the rate of vivax and falciparum is fairly evenly divided among the total cases reported.

The big orange pill, Chloroquine-Primaquine, must be taken once a week to combat vivax malaria, and the little white tablet, Dapsone, must be taken daily to protect against falciparum malaria.

Take Pills, Not Malaria Home

Some soldiers have complained about side effects due to the pills, but CPT Douglas warns that rather than discontinuing use of the tablets, the soldiers should see their medical officer, who will find a substitute preparation to alleviate the problem.

It is also important to continue using the Dapsone for four weeks and the Chloroquine-Primaquine tablet for eight weeks after returning to the States to insure against taking a case of malaria home.

In addition to the personal protective measures which the individual soldier must carry out, the division is combating the mosquito on a larger scale.

Killing The Source

Starting last September, a team from the 926th Prev. Med. Det., which is part of the 44th Med. Bde. and is supporting the division, has been using a helicopter-mounted spraying unit to cut down on the mosquito population.

In cooperation with the division Surgeon's Office, the 926th hopes to spray each major base camp once a week, and initial results of their work indicate the spraying has been successful in reducing the insects. The Americal is the only division in Vietnam using this approach, which is a prototype for USARV.

Increase Your Safety Margin

Also, each company-sized unit in the division has a specially-trained field sanitation team, which handles unit protective measures and local spraying.

Ultimately, however, malaria control comes down to the individual soldier. If he follows the primary protective measures and takes his pills religiously, the chances of contracting this ravaging disease, which sometimes causes death and always causes severe discomfort, will be minimized.

And just think: you don't have to turn yellow to protect yourself.

RE-UP! ARMY

Big Bonus Awaits You With VRB

Most soldiers in the Americal Div. may have heard of the Variable Reenlistment Bonus (VRB), but many may not know just what it is.

It's a "bennie" that can add as much as $8,000 to your regular reenlistment bonus, and if you reenlist in RVN it's tax free.

Still listening? Okay, you have to meet the following requirements:

- You must be reenlisting for the first time.
- You must have completed at least 21 months of your current enlistment before re-upping.
- Be in the grade of E-3 or higher (in certain MOSs, E4 or higher).
- You must reenlist for at least 48 additional months of service.
- Reenlist within three months of your current ETS.
- You must be qualified in one of the military occupational specialties designated as a critical skill by DA.

There are nearly 300 critical MOSs, divided into four categories.

Those in the "Multiplier of 4" category are the skills in which there is the most critical need; those in the "Multiplier of 1" category are skills in which there is still a critical need, but not as critical as "Multiplier of 4, 3, or 2" skills.

The multiplier category in which you fit is the prime factor in figuring your VRB. First, your regular reenlistment bonus is calculated and multiplied by your VRB factor.

The following is an example:

If you are an E-6 with four years of service and reenlisting for six years, your bonus would be $2,000. Say you are also a field radio repairman. You would be in the "Multiplier of 4" bracket.

Your $2,000 bonus would be multiplied by four—giving your a VRB of $8,000. Your reenlistment bonus and VRB would then be added together, totaling a $10,000 bonus going to you.

The VRB critical skill areas cover virtually all branches of the Army and all type of jobs.

For further information talk to your Unit Career Counselor or call Chu Lai 2519.

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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11th Bde. MEDCAPS Surpass Old Record

DUC PHO—The 11th Inf. Bde.'s MEDCAP set a record for the month of January as its medical teams treated a total of 9,670 Vietnamese patients, eclipsing its previous record of 6,244 set in June 1968.

The brigade MEDCAP is directed by Doctor (CPT) Edward N. Davis (Walhalla, S.C.), the brigade surgeon.

The largest in the brigade, the Duc Pho hospital program is administered by Doctor (CPT) Thomas A. Nims (Troy, Ohio).

Making The Rounds

CPT Nims, surgeon for the brigade HHC, spends six busy days a week helping Vietnamese patients in and around the village of Duc Pho.

His rounds include the hospital, the jail, the brigade POW camp, and the 6th Spt. Hosp. on LZ Bronco. He and his medical teams see about 250 patients per day.

"Our primary goal is to teach the Vietnamese how to take care of themselves," CPT Nims said.

Effective Hospital Program

One part of the MEDCAP that CPT Nims is particularly proud of is the hospital in Duc Pho, where the program is run by a Vietnamese male nurse, Mr. Ga.

"Mr. Ga was school-trained in Saigon," the captain related. "He is very dedicated and handles his duties just as a doctor would. In the past couple of months he has made a lot of progress."

CPT Davis described the HHC MEDCAP as "the most successful in the brigade."

PFs Learn M-16 Use

DUC PHO—A classroom where students wear green uniforms and combat boots is a strange sight anywhere except in Vietnam. And at MACV District Headquarters in Duc Pho, near LZ Bronco, the classes are being conducted every day for local Popular Forces units on the use of the M-16 rifle.

The classes, directed by 1LT William P. Buckley (Lawrence, Mass.), assistant MACV team advisor, were initiated in mid-January when it was learned that the PFs would soon be provided with the weapon.

Instruction is now given by the Vietnamese and is scheduled to include members of 14 PF platoons and three Regional Forces companies.

They are being taught how to clean and operate the M-16, and when the weapons arrive, will be given instruction at a rifle range.

"The PFs have a great deal of respect for the M-16," said 1LT Buckley. "They've seen the American soldiers use them, and they know how effective they are."

4 New Div. COs

CHU LAI—Four division units conducted change-of-command ceremonies recently, welcoming new leaders.

The 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., 196th Bde. welcomed, LTC John N. Brandenburg while LTC J.A. Richard Guertin assumed command of the 6th Bn., 56th Arty.

LTC Raymond V. Brown became CO of the 123rd Avn. Bn., and MAJ Jessie W. Watson Jr. took over duties as commander of F Trp., 8th Air Cav.

A Battle Prayer

Chaplain (CPT) Galvin M. Carmichael Jr. (Enterprise, Ala.) conducts services for members of 1st Plt., A Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., 11th Bde., shortly after the battle of Buff Triangle. The five-day action against the NVA occurred eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. (Photo by 1LT Stephen N. Cobb, 11th Bde.)

Seeking Truth

A National Police Field Force platoon leader questions a Vietnamese woman from a small village eight miles southwest of Hoi An. "Professionals" of B Co., 1st Bn., 46th Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., had been conducting cordon and search operations looking for military age males in the area. The day's activities netted nearly 2,000 pounds of enemy rice. (Photo by SP4 Frank Mayer, 196th Bde.)

3 DSCs

(Continued from Page 1)

intense enemy fire to the medic track.

Returns To Help

He then went back to his men to make sure all his casualties were evacuated, administered first aid to his wounded radio operator, and, when his other radio man was killed, carried both radios himself.

Next he directed helicopters 10 to 25 meters from his position, enabling his men to withdraw to a night defensive perimeter.

The following morning he led an attack forcing the enemy from the area. During this engagement he received a shrapnel wound in his back, but again refused evacuation to remain with his troops.

More Heroics

CPT Dimsdale was serving as CO of B Co., 1st Bn., 46th Inf. during a combat operation near Quang Ngai City when his unit came under intense fire from a battalion of NVA soldiers.

The enemy was well entrenched and laid a heavy barrage on the company and platoon of APCs.

Unhesitatingly, CPT Dimsdale organized his company on a line in front of the APCs and led them in an assault.

Leads Under Fire

Throughout the battle, he personally directed the retaliatory fire of his men while repeatedly being exposed to intense small arms, recoilless rifle, and rocket fire.

On two separate occasions CPT Dimsdale personally destroyed strategic enemy strongholds.

Despite a wound received from grenade shrapnel, the "Professional" remained with his men and controlled their tactical movements.

Blasts Bunkers

SSG Bacon was a squad leader with B Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf. His unit was working in the Tam Ky area when it received heavy fire from a woodline.

With his company pinned down, Bacon moved forward and knocked out the lead bunker. He began receiving fire from another bunker and knocked it out also with the aid of two of his men.

Moving forward again, the sergeant spotted five Americans lying in front, and pulled the only live one to safety in the face of point blank machinegun fire.

After rescuing the man, Bacon returned and knocked out the bunker.

Later he rode back on a tank from the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., directing fire on the bunker and pointing out enemy positions.

Chaplain Dolan Named Monsignor

CHU LAI — Division Chaplain (LTC) Francis J. Dolan has been named recently by Pope Paul VI as a Domestic Prelate to His Holiness with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

He thus has the right to wear the purple robes belonging to the order of bishops in the Roman Catholic Church.

A Regular Army Chaplain, Monsignor Dolan entered active duty in August, 1951, and joined the division last July.

Savings Power Grows With 'Big Ten' Plan

Americal soldiers can increase their savings power through the Army's Uniformed Service "Big Ten" Savings Deposit Program.

It allows you to earn 10 percent per year compounded quarterly on funds deposited through allotments or direct deposits up to $10,000.

For further information, ask your first sergeant or finance officer.

4/31 Words Work Well

LZ KAREN — The disc jockey wasn't try to break any continuous broadcasting records with his 14-hour marathon. He was encouraging the local VC in the Hiep Duc Valley area to rally to the Vietnamese government under the Chieu Hoi program.

Working for the civil affairs section of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 4th Bn., 31st Inf., SGT Kenneth Herrmann took to the airwaves at 15-minute intervals with his portable loudspeaker system.

Tapes Bring Results

He was using tape recordings with the 4,000 meter-range device, which included playing the National Anthem of the Republic of Vietnam, calling known Viet Cong by name, and urging the local populace to cooperate with Americal soldiers in the area.

There have been tangible results from the battalion program, which is directed by 1LT Robert Mocarski (Holyoke, Mass.). Ten VC who recently surrendered admitted that they were prompted by the nightly 4/31 broadcasts.

Disturbing To VC

In addition, captured enemy documents have revealed that the VC hierarchy is quite disturbed by the success of the broadcasts. Local Viet Cong have definite instructions to take any measures to lessen this success.

These include lying on the the ground, covering their ears and making so much noise by yelling and screaming that they drown out the intended messages.

Herrmann, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., said there is more to the program than meets the eye. "We not only deliver effective propaganda, but we cheat the VC out of a lot of sleep."

PFC Art Noel, 198th Inf. Bde.

"Hash and trash" chopper drops off its precious cargo. GIs then shoulder the load so they can relax and scoff-up the "Cs."

CSM John R. Spehar, 26th Engr. Bn.

1LT Stepher

SP4 Steve Shingledecker, 523rd Sig. Bn.

Time Out For Chow In The Field

H. Cobb, 11th Inf. Bde.

Never before in the long history of warfare, has any army ever been better fed than the U.S. troops here in Vietnam. Almost all of the soldiers receive at least one hot meal every day, and sometimes two.

To get the hot meals into the field, the food is packed in "mermite" cans at the base camps and carried out by the fastest means possible; truck or chopper.

When it is tactically impossible to bring hot chow to the field, C-rations are issued. These canned meals are a far cry from the K-rations of World War II or the C's of the Korean conflict.

Continuous experimentation with the latest food preparation methods and dietary techniques have brought about many improvements. Field rations have become more attractive in appearance and taste and the variety of foods available has been expanded.

SGT George Hawkins, 196th Inf. Bde.

While strawberry ice cream is the highlight of the day for 196th Bde. "Chargers" at LZ Mellon, two LRPs, from the 11th and 198th Bdes., respectively, dine in comfort on their specially prepared rations.

SP4 Mike Sullivan, 198th Inf. Bde.

PFC Art Noel, 198th Inf. Bde.

Hot chow really makes a difference in infantrymen who have been eating out of cans and humping through the "boonies." When a helicopter drops off steaming dinners, they are rushed to the serving line and enjoyed by hungry GIs.

SGT George Hawkins, 196th Inf. .Bde.

Combat In Review

Need A Hand

It's rough going up, and this machinegunner for a Short Range Patrol from Co. 5, 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde., gladly accepts help, during a patrol south of Binh Son. (Photo by SP4 Mike Sullivan, 198th Inf. Bde.)

Bird Gives The Word

Flare Tips Off 3/21

LZ BALDY—May the Bird of Paradise fly down and trip your illumination flare, and may the light from the flare expose a company of camouflaged enemy soldiers surrounding your night laager position.

This bizarre set of circumstances occurred recently when a 196th Inf. Bde. company was encamped in the flatland, 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

After dark, a trip flare was set off on the northern side of their perimeter, and everybody in the unit from the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. took positions in their foxholes.

Flare Triggers Attack

A bird was seen flying away right where the trip wire was triggered.

Just as the men began laughing and relaxing again, all hell broke loose. The enemy launched an attack from five areas of the perimeter, some of them within 30 meters from the "Charger" unit.

Illumination rounds were called for by the forward observer, 1LT Charles G. Miller III (Virginia Beach, Va.). The light revealed movement of 10 camouflaged enemy toward 2LT James V. Gordon's (Columbia, S.C.) section of the perimeter.

Gunships Join Battle

Another platoon leader, 2LT Randall Hain (San Jose, Calif.) saw what he estimated to be a "whole platoon moving towards our sector."

Dustoff choppers, accompanied by gunships, were called in to evacuate the wounded and rout the enemy, during the four and a half hour battle.

The attack was initiated by one enemy platoon, but it was possible that another two platoons were attempting to close in on the "Gimlet" perimeter, said CPT William Donsbach (Madison, N.J.), the company commander.

Early Bird Warning

"The attack probably started prematurely when the bird set off the trip flare," the captain said.

A search of the perimeter the next morning uncovered numerous blood trails, but the VC effectively recovered all their dead and wounded.

It may not have been a fly-by-night affair, but one small bird definitely flew away with the top individual effort that night.

196th On-Line Assault

Scratch One AA Gun

LZ BALDY—Pilots can breathe a little easier now after a company from the 196th Inf. Bde. did them a big favor during an intense firefight 35 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

While on a search and clear patrol in a mountainous region, Co. C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., came under sporadic small arms fire. Reacting quickly, the company attempted to fire and maneuver against what they estimated to be several enemy snipers, only to come under heavy automatic weapons fire.

"The weapon was above us on a terrace near a village," said SGT Carol Coy (Sheldon, Mo.). "I had never heard anything like it before —it gave off a strange sound —not like an AK-47 or the usual Chicom machinegun."

Mortar Joins In

To make matters worse, a 60mm mortar located on a nearby hilltop began to add its devastating fire to the hail of bullets which was already spitting around the exposed "Charger" element.

"The machinegun fire probably saved us from the mortars," declared SGT David Gray (Danville, Va.). "It kept us on the ground and when the mortar rounds landed right in the middle of my squad, nobody was killed by the shrapnel spraying through the air."

CPT John Long (New Bloomfield, Pa.), the CO, had to make a decisive move, and calling artillery, he directed a first round hit that silenced the mortar and set off three secondary explosions.

Get Machinegun Next

The forward element of the company, meanwhile, directed their attention to the source of the automatic weapons fire. 1LT Jerry Josey (Bishopville, S.C.) joined his men and directed M-60 fire on the enemy position above them.

"The M-60 got off one burst when enemy fire skimmed the top of the helmets of both the gunner and his assistant," said 1LT Josey. "The men turned and grinned at me and then kept right on shooting."

SP4 Charles Smith (Deep Water, Mo.) succeeded in knocking the overhead camouflage from the enemy machinegun position with a well-placed M-79 round. The previously hidden gun now became exposed to a barrage of hand grenades and M-16 fire from the "Polar Bears."

On Line Assault

The forward element then conducted an on-line assault against the enemy position. SGT Tim Peterson (Toledo, Ohio), the first to reach the enemy, leaped into the hole with his M-16 blazing. Three NVA were killed, while those that survived, evidently retreated.

The "Polar Bear" elements later discovered why the gunfire sounded strange. The weapon was a 7.62mm heavy anti-aircraft machinegun, complete with aerial sight. It could rotate 360 degrees and bring effective fire on any aircraft flying at a fairly low altitude.

The weapon's presence also explained reports from pilots that their aircraft had received heavy ground fire while operating in the area.

'Ready Rifles' are Ready Kill 14, Capture 30 Packs

LZ BAYONET — On a jagged hillside 10 miles southwest of Tam Ky, a company of the 198th Inf. Bde. ambushed an enemy convoy and killed 14 NVA, while capturing more than half a ton of supplies.

Just after dark, Co. C, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. was readying to camp for the night when someone spotted a mixed force of about 60 VC and NVA moving along a trail towards the unit's perimeter. The infantrymen deployed.

The Trap Springs

"We waited until they were right on us and then opened up with everything," said squad leader SP4 Jerry Collins (Jenkin, Ky.). The "Ready Rifles" threw hand grenades and fired machineguns, M-16s, and M-79s, while calling for artillery support and illumination.

"They were caught completely off guard," stated SP4 Jerry Walls (Aurora, Ill.), who was acting 3rd Plt. leader. "They broke and ran and left packs scattered as far away as 100 meters."

30 Packs Found

More than 30 packs were found the next morning. They contained clothes, rice, meat, salt, sugar, cigarettes, tobacco, and ammunition, as well as medical supplies and syringes.

One AK-47 rifle was captured in the brief encounter. Blood trails found in the area indicated that the enemy dragged away more of their dead and wounded. There were no friendly casualties.

11th Soldiers Heed Children's Warning

LZ BRONCO—Suspecting that the fox holes near the bridge which they were to guard for the night might be booby trapped, a squad from the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 20th Inf. listened with interest to what some young tippers had to say.

"The Vietnamese kids around the bridge told us, "When GI didi fox hole, GI go boom,'" explained SGT Patric F. Herringa (Cadillac, Mich.), the squad leader.

To be safe, grenades were tossed in each fox hole... each one resulted in secondary explosions.

3 NVA Surprised By LRP Welcome Wagon

LZ BRONCO—Three NVA soldiers were welcomed home recently by an Americal Long Range Patrol (LRP) team, which had discovered their jungle hideout near the Song Ve River, seven miles west of Duc Pho.

The incident took place when the LRP team, working with the 11th Inf. Bde., discovered a newly constructed hootch containing K44 rounds, fresh laundry, and an enemy jacket.

Since there was only evidence of two or three men living there, SGT Dick T. Roth (Billings, Mont.), the team leader, decided to wait for the occupants to return. He set up his men in nearby positions to watch the hootch while he waited inside.

Surprised Trio

It was not long before voices were heard moving toward the waiting Americal soldiers. Three NVA, obviously unaware of the forthcoming reception, walked casually toward the doorway.

Suddenly one of them began to shout and point at the hootch, but it was already too late for the trio to turn back. Roth jumped into their pathway and started firing his M-16 on automatic, dropping all three before they could return fire.

Futile Escape

When he started to insert a full magazine, however, K44 rounds began cracking over Roth's head. Two of the NVA were still alive, trying desperately to escape, despite serious wounds.

The two NVA slipped back into the jungle, probably heading for a main enemy base camp. Roth and his men did not pursue them, but waited for extraction from the area.

The next day a recon platoon from the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. found two NVA bodies as they swept the area.

Expert Qualifications of NCO, EM Earn Them Second Lieutenant Bars

CHU LAI—An NCO from the 198th Inf. Bde. and an EM from the 11th Inf. Bde. recently achieved an award that is difficult to attain and a real tribute to their leadership qualifications.

Former SSG Daryl Brooks, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., 198th Bde., and former PFC John Allen, HHC, 2nd Bde., 25th Inf. Div., and now of the 11th Bde., both received direct commissions as second lieutenants.

Excellent Qualifications

2LT Brooks explained "shock" as his first reaction when he heard news of his commission. But the new lieutenant is certainly qualified for this distinction.

A thoroughly schooled soldier, he attended the 4th Armored Div. NCO Academy in Germany; completed the USAREUR (United States Army In Europe) course at the Mines and Demolition School, also in Germany; then, still with the 4th Armored, he graduated with the top squad of soldiers from MISPC (Mechanized Infantry Special Proficiency Course.)

Officer Experience

Being an officer is nothing new to LT Brooks, who acted as liaison officer for his unit in Germany.

He also held positions as platoon and squad leader, as well as S-2 and S-3 operations sergeant.

During one of the most exciting parts of his varied career, the lieutenant in 1964 acted as an aggressor on the 98-day Operation Polar Strike, originating at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, which took him into sub-arctic conditions.

A Leader in Vietnam

Assigned to the 198th's 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., he became a plt. sergeant, platoon leader, and later, acting 1st Sergeant, leading soldiers on operations in the then highly-contested southern AO.

Becoming an officer has not changed LT Brook's outlook on his leadership role in Vietnam.

"I'll definitely be back here," he said. "I like leading troops."

2LT Allen was graduated with a masters degree from the University of Rochester in 1966, and afterwards was employed as an internal auditor for the General Foods Corp. in New York City.

In September 1967, LT Allen was drafted into the Army and arrived in Vietnam as a PFC in May 1968 and applied for a direct commission in July 1968.

Thoroughly Screened

LT Allen was highly recommended for the appointment by his company commander and was interviewed for approximately three hours by a review board at division level.

The board critically examined such criteria as educational background and military record, personality stability, and over-all leadership potential.

The lieutenant now is assigned to HHD, 6th Spt. Bn. as the Asst. Bde. Supply Officer for the 11th Bde.

After finishing his tour in Vietnam, LT Allen will be assigned to Ft. Lee Quartermaster School and intends to make the Army his career.

Barbara Swenson

Swaying through her dance routine, 19-year-old Barb (Milwaukee, Wisc.) performs at the Americal Officers Club. The pretty miss appeared with a group called "The Ticket". (Photo by SP4 Peter Schwarz, Americal IO)

A Soldier's Ups And Downs

PFC James D. Schindele, A Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., 11th Inf. Bde. takes advantage of a free moment during Operation Russell Beach on the Batangan Peninsula. (Photo by CPT Cary S. Sklaren, Americal IO)

Viet Vet Fights Under Two Flags

LZ BRONCO—There are few men in Vietnam who can claim that they are veterans of two different wars, especially if they are under 21 years old.

PFC John E. Conley, a rifleman for B Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., 11th Inf. Bde., can make that claim, plus membership in two different armies.

Conley, more familiarly known as "Little John," spent two years with the British Army before joining the "yanks" of the U.S. Army during 1965.

Cyprus Combat Veteran

Vietnam is war number two for Conley, whose hometown is Cumberland, England. He first saw combat in Cyprus with the British Army in 1965.

Spending almost an entire year in Cyprus riding "shotgun" for a British resupply truck, his tour was prematurely cut short when his truck was ambushed along one of the rocky dirt roads leading to the British front lines.

Caught in a deadly crossfire, "Little John" was hit by enemy small arms fire. He was evacuated with a gunshot wound.

After this incident in Cyprus, Conley decided that army life was not for him, and accepted a discharge after his two-year enlistment was up.

U.S. 'Greetings'

The "Old Guard" rifleman then came to the United States to visit relatives in Michigan, but it was not long before he was back in uniform again, courtesy of his local Selective Service Board.

Conley may be the first man in the 11th Bde. to have been in two armies, but he is not the first in his family. His father was in the English Army and then spent some time with the American 82nd Abn. Div. during WWII.

Strategic Post Resurrected

LZ BALDY—Landing Zone Ryder has risen again from the ashes and destruction of its former self to become a strategic outpost in an area of renewed NVA activity.

The mountain top fire support base, 30 miles west of Tam Ky, has a long history of build-ups, destruction, and reconstruction as its tactical value to I Corps combat missions alternately increases and decreases.

Demolition teams of the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. blew up the old base in August, shortly before the monsoons began. The new base is being used for artillery support of current operations.

The recurring strategic importance of LZ Ryder stems from its excellent visual and fire command of Que Son and Antenna Valleys.

Renewed enemy activity has been reported north of Ryder at an old 2nd NVA Div. base camp area. Elements of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf. and 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. have been sweeping through the enemy area as part of the Fayette Canyon Operation.

GI Forgotten In December Enjoys Xmas In February

LZ BRONCO—Last Christmas, when everyone was receiving packages from the Red Cross and other organizations, SP4 Ronald F. Blago of C Co., 26th Engr. Bn. was not so fortunate.

The company had run out of "goody bags" when it was his turn to receive one. SP4 Gregory Homme, also of C Co., came to the rescue, however, and gave Blago a pack of cigarettes from his own package.

The engineer noticed that the gift was from the Passaic Valley (N.J.) Elks Lodge. Blago felt that even though it was a small gift, a note of thanks was in order.

In early February, the "White Lion" received a reply to his note. The lodge was so warmed by his response that they sent him a letter and package weighing-in at more than 12 pounds.

Among the assortment of good things inside was a 2½-foot Danish sausage and a five-pound wedge of provolone cheese.

To Blago it was a complete suprise. As he put it, "Just like Christmas in February."

A 198TH INF. BDE. MP, PFC Wayne Lumm (Coshocton, Ohio), and a Vietnamese National Policeman check cargo and identification papers on a boat passing down the Tra Bong River. The MPs recently turned over their two river patrol outposts to U.S. Marines, after a year and a half of patrolling on the waterways near Chu Lai. (Photo by SP4 John Hollenhorst, 198th Inf. Bde.)

MPS Turn In Boats

River Rats Patrol For Last Time

By SFC Herb Nesmith
198th Inf. Bde

LZ BAYONET — "That's it," the MP said, as the boat slowly glided in to the beach. "Yeah, our last trip," agreed the infantryman, reaching back to turn off the powerful 85 hp outboard motor.

The River Rats had finished their job.

At both River North (the Truong Giang) and River South (the Song Tra Bong), the mouths of large rivers just north and south of Chu Lai, patrols of the 198th Inf. Bde. MP Plt. beached their boats for the last time.

The MPs, with their infantry boat drivers, were getting out of the riverboat business.

Marines Take Over

The platoon had been checking the rivers since September 1967, when the brigade arrived in Vietnam. Now the job was being turned over to Marines.

"The river patrols were designed to deny the enemy access to inland waterways, and prevent him from transporting weapons, supplies and personnel for the Viet Cong," explained the Operations Sergeant, SFC Robert A. Wiles (Augusta, Ga.).

The patrols operated 24 hours a day, stopping sampans, checking the Vietnamese aboard for proper identification, and searching for contraband.

Risky Business

It has been a dangerous job. Six MPs have been killed and 14 wounded. But Charlie still got the worst of it, suffering 24 confirmed VC deaths and 11 more possibles.

The river patrols have a lot of firepower at their disposal. Each boat, and they always used two per patrol, had a mounted M-60 machinegun, an M-79 grenade launcher, two M-72 LAW's (Light Anti-Tank Weapon), hand grenades and the crew members' individual M-16 rifles.

Seize Contraband

Even when Charlie was not trying to ambush them, the patrols kept continually busy. On a typical day they stopped and searched 41 boats, and checked out 184 people.

In one three-month period they confiscated more than 3,000 pounds of rice, 1,000 pounds of salt, ponchos, poncho liners, cartons of C-rations, cigarettes and $1,380 MPC, on its way to the Viet Cong or into the black market.

The boats themselves were 16-foot fiberglass "Boston Whalers", powered mainly by 80 and 85 hp outboard motors, making them the fastest craft on the rivers.

Work To Be Done

Now the crews have gone back to other jobs.

"There's plenty for the MPs to do," said their Platoon Sergeant, SFC Claude T. Fox (Junction City, Kan.).

"We've still got our regular military police duties around the 198th Headquarters; we run road patrols, escort convoys, provide security for the LZ, operate the PW collection point, and other normal MP functions."

But the men had grown to like their life on the rivers. It was with some reluctance that the River Rats closed up their shops.

Bank Service To Open

(Continued from Page 1)

into the account without standing in a pay line. Then, when the depositor needs money, all he has to do is write a check.

No Service Charge

Also, a balance of more than $100 draws five percent interest per year, compounded quarterly.

There will be no service charge, so depositors can write checks as often as needed. There are stiff penalties, however, for writing checks with insufficient funds to cover them, LTC Golden warned.

No special savings accounts will be offered, but depositors may open two accounts and leave one undisturbed to draw the 5 percent interest, while the other is being used as a regular checking account.

Forms Available Soon

Records will be maintained in Chu Lai and monthly statements will be mailed out to all depositors.

Forms for opening an account will soon be available through each company.

11th Finds Arms Bonanza-62 Weapons In Two Days

LZ BRONCO—A unit of the 11th Inf. Bde. has been highly successful recently in a technique that severely cripples enemy strength—the uncovering of well-hidden weapons caches.

On an operation approximately eight miles west of Quang Ngai City, the men of C Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., led by CPT William J. Straub (Mt. Kisco, N.Y.), unearthed three enemy weapons caches and found a total of 62 weapons in a two-day period.

Rocks Give Clue

PFC William D. O'Keeffe (Denver City, Texas) was acting as point man on the first day when he found a well-camouflaged trail cut through thick brush.

As he slowly moved down a hill, he came upon a group of massive rocks.

Rain had washed away large quantities of dirt from under the rocks, leaving large depressions which had provided the enemy with well-concealed places to store his weapons and ammunition.

Discover Another Cache

While the "Always First" soldiers were removing the weapons from the cache and destroying the explosives, PFC Dean S. Purcey (Grand Rapids, Mich.) followed a trail and found another cache of weapons and booby trap equipment.

A total of 30 weapons were found in the two caches.

On the following day, PFC McArthur Webb (Chatan, Va.) was working with his squad in the same area and came upon another well-camouflaged trail leading to another cache of 32 weapons.

'Jungle Warriors' Post Reenlistment Record

WHILE THE 11TH INF. BDE. IS GETTING re-up records on the ground, two men of the 198th Inf. Bde. go way up to re-up aboard a UH-1H helicopter flying high above Chu Lai. In the Huey for the airborne oath of enlistment are (l. to r.) 1LT James N. Pease III, Division Re-enlistment Officer; SSG David C. Robinson, a Brigade Career Counselor; and the re-uppers, PFC Mark R. Winkelpleck and PFC Norman G. Leblanc. (Photo by SP4 Mike Sullivan, 198th Inf. Bde.)

LZ BRONCO—The 11th Inf. Bde. set a division record and issued a challenge to all other brigades in the Americal as they enlisted 19 AUS (inductee) personnel in January.

The unit's total for the month was greater than any one month period for the division last year.

COL John W. Donaldson, "Jungle Warriors" CO, gave the oath to the men at a brief ceremony here. At the same time, he issued a challenge to all other brigade-size units to match this number of enlistments of AUS personnel during a one-month period.

Nine of the 19 were from the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf.

The 11th Bde. makes it convenient for a soldier to reenlist by providing career counselors with transportation to as many forward fire bases as possible.

The responsibility to make the individual soldier aware of all the benefits he can receive by reenlisting rests with SFC Fred Fredrich, who is in charge of career counselling for the "Jungle Warriors."