I LoveYou, I Miss...Hey, Wait a Minute!

By 1LT FRANK LONGWELL

LZ BALDY—The next time MAJ James Allison tells his wife, Mary, he loves her during a MARS call, he's going to make sure of one important item—that he's talk'ng to the right Mary.

MAJ Allison, 196th Inf. Bde. Civil Affairs officer, placed his call through the MARS station here on a Sunday morning. The connection was loud and clear—by far the best he's had in three calls home.

The operator told MAJ Allison, who's from Ocilla, Ga., to talk first.

"How are you getting along, Mary?" he asked. "Just go ahead and tell me how everything is at home," he added, ending the initial part of the call.

'Golly'

"Oh, we've been getting along fine," said the voice on the other end, "and I want you to know that I love you and miss you."

MAJ Allison paused for a few seconds before blurting, "I love you and miss you too, but I don't think you're my wife."

When the operator cut into the conversation, MAJ Allison heard the woman say, "Golly, I don't think that's my husband either."

The MARS operator was so embarrassed that he had trouble talking clearly.

MAJ Allison wasn't sure why he had told the woman he loved and missed her, "but it seemed like the right thing to say at the time—probably made her feel a little better when I set the record straight."

The "other" Mary was still asking questions when the operator told the major he was "sorry" and would try the call again.

MAJ Allison finally talked to his Mary and, yes, she loved him and missed him.

"The MARS operator called back later in the day and said he was sorry and that his face was still red," said MAJ Allison. (196th IO)

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 10 | CHU LAI, VIETNAM | May 11, 1969

Site Simulated U.S. Perimeter Defenses

NVA Training Area Closed

By SP4 BILL CRAWFORD

LZ WEST—An NVA Sapper Academy was permanently closed recently when the enemy d'scovered that a 196th Inf. Bde. company planned to end graduation ceremonies.

C Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf. discovered the NVA's mountainous r'dgeline training site 26 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Several other 4/31 elements were also conducting search and clear operations on the rugged slopes of Nui Chom Mountain, the same area where a large NVA unit was defeated in mid-November.

C Co. was on patrol when it encountered light enemy sniper fire, and killed the sniper, then captured a K-50 rifle and a pack containing a satchel charge, three Chicom grenades, and black shorts.

Course

The NVA presence sent C Co. on a detailed search of the area. Beneath thick foliage, an NVA base camp was discovered.

Fifteen hootches comprised living quarters in a sapper squad training area, complete with an outdoor classroom, wooden lectern, and log seats.

An obstacle course simulating defenses around a typical American installation was also discovered. Vines had been coiled like concertina wire. Small thorns had been placed in the vines to act as barbs.

This hole in the side of a hill calls for a tunnel rat. Would you believe a 6-foot-3 tunnel rat? See page 8.

Thin wires along the ground represented trip flare wires.

A further search along a trail leading from the camp revealed a deadly arsenal, including 1500 rounds of new AK-47 ammo, 26 B-40 rockets, 31 B-40 booster charges, five 25-pound shaped charges, 35 feet of time fuse, 57 Chicom grenades, and 25 pounds of C-4.

Documents

To penetrate American perimeter defenses, the NVA had amassed 14 bangalore torpedoes, 10 wire cutters, and numerous picks and shovels.

C Co. also found 250 pounds of rice. Scattered equipment indicated the NVA had vacated the training site some 24 hours ahead of 4/31.

Five pounds of captured documents revealed that elements of the same NVA sapper battalion had recently launched a night attack against LZ West, 4/31's fire support base. During that assault, eight NVA were killed and one captured.

Attacks

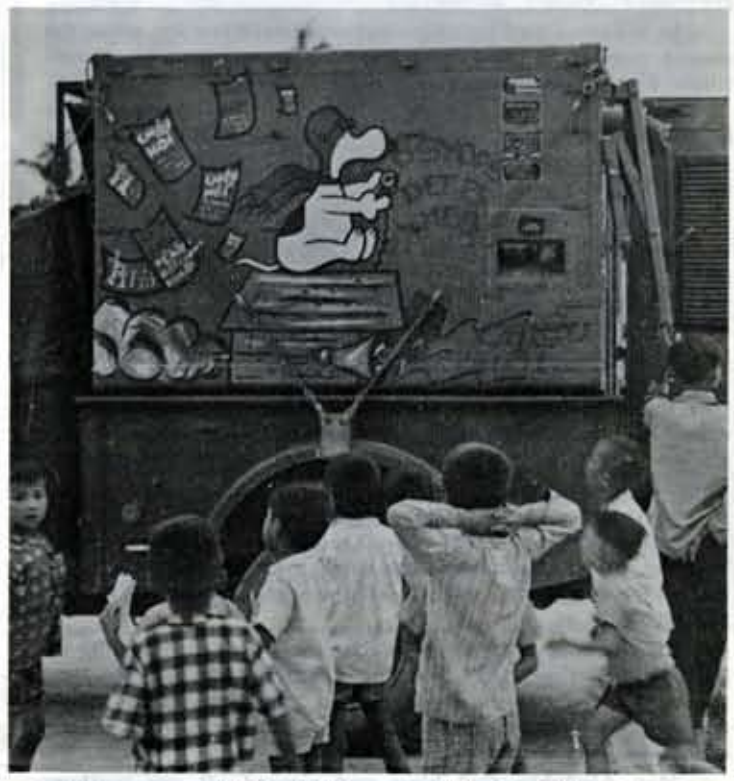
In related action several days prior to finding the training school, D Co. 4/31 discovered a sizable arms cache several miles from the sapper school.

Hidden in a pit beneath triple canopy jungle, D Co. found 22,500 rounds of AK-47 ammo and 100 RPG rounds. (196th IO)

132d Flies Safely

CHU LAI—The 132d ASHC completed its 10,000th accident and incident free combat flying hour when a "Hercules" Chinook landed here April 14.

The 132d arrived here from Ft. Benning, Ga., 11½ months ago and has flown more than 30,000 sorties; 60,000 cargo tons; and 110,000 passengers. (Americal IO)



Every Night at the Movies

One look at Snoopy barreling into the village atop his house is enough to excite these Vietnamese kids. Snoopy's arrival means movie time in Duc Pho village. SFC Gene Moreno reports on pg. 7. (Photo by SP4 Phil Tipton, 11th Bde. IO).

NVA 'Just Ran Away' From DSC Winner Goff

LZ BALDY—Machinegunning SP4 Stanley Goff wasn't conscious of emotion when he charged across 200 meters of exposed rice paddies to drive nearly 100 heavily-armed NVA from well-entrenched positions.

The San Francisco lad was downright nervous, however, when GEN Creighton W. Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on him here.

"I wasn't nearly as scared in the field as I was when those four stars were standing directly in front of me," said Goff.

"I just stared at GEN Abrams through the whole ceremony. I just couldn't believe it."

Preparations

An entire infantry company couldn't believe Goff's exploits on an extremely hot day last August. Goff's commander remembered how B Co., 2d Bn., 1st Inf. got into the action.

"I was alerted that the company would proceed by foot to LZ Ross and prepare for airlift to Hawk Hill to help the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. charge a well-fortified bunker area west of Tam Ky," said CPT John R. Malpass (Larchmont, N.Y.).

Shortly afterward, B Co. and A Trp., 1/1, were moving cautiously through the Pineapple Forest area toward flat, rolling hills where the 1/1 had killed some 200 NVA the previous day.

Across 200 meters of rice paddy to the front lay a den-

(Contniued on last page)

BG Powell New ADC

CHU LAI—BG Edwin L. Powell Jr., has assumed the duties of Assistant Division Commander, replacing BG Howard H. Cooksey.

BG Cooksey has been reassigned as USARV Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations.

Since Sept., 1967, BG Powell has been Director of Army Aviation, Office, Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, DA.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, his education includes an MS in Civil Engineering from California; the Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth; and the Air War College, Maxwell AFB.

BG Powell has been awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

A native of Washington, D.C., he is married to the former Clelia Helene Pez of Peterson, N.J., and has three children—Jill, Denny, and Douglas.

BG Powell

Religion and You

A Gal for All Seasons

By CHAPLAIN (LTC) FRANCIS J. DOLAN
Division Chaplain

While every nation has heroes and heroines held up to its citizens for emulation and to promote patriotism in the land, seldom does a nation single out any living person for immortality.

Great patriots are often dead and gone before they reach the stage of national fame. Their history of noble deeds is usually of the past rather than the present and, beyond the confines of a country, many national heroes are seldom known.

But one name among these heroes and heroines knows no national boundaries. Its history is not solely of the dead past but very much of the living present. That name, sweet to everyone's memory, is "mother."

As a nation and by official decree, we have set aside the second Sunday of May to honor American mothers. Sometimes I think we overemphasize this day.

For a whole year of work, worries, and wrinkles, poor mother gets one day of candy, cards, and carnations; and, implied further, is a contract for 364 more days of hard work before she again has her "day."

Someone once wrote about a mother that you couldn't get a coolie to take her job and that she wouldn't exchange jobs with a queen. A mother worries about us before we come, she works for us as long as we are with her, and she worries about us when we are away.

A mother gives her very blood to our making, her milk to our nursing, her sweat to our rearing, her tears to our straying. She does not mind that when we are young we cause her work and break her back and that when we are old we cause her worry and break her heart—because she loves us.

To the rest of the world, we may be very small print but, to mother, we are front-page headlines. We always were. For her, we are the reason the world goes around, and it will always be that way. Even if all the world is against us, she is still with us.

An uncomfortable truth is that too many of us, while we have our mother, take her for granted. By the time we realize all she has done for us and what she meant to us, she does the only really harsh thing a good mother ever does —she dies and leaves us.

May Almighty God bless and reward all our mothers, living and dead.

VIETNAM-STYLE

By SFC LARRY BABITTS

The Mother-To-Be

Despite the long war and various upheavals in Vietnam's recent history, a great desire among the people is to have large families. Boys are preferred, except among certain Montagnard tribes, to maintain family bloodlines and for certain rituals of ancestor worship.

Many peasants believe that if a couple has only female children, the gods are punishing the couple for prior wrongdoings. Many consider repeated bearing of female children good grounds for divorce or annulment.

Longstanding Asian custom dictates that the mother-to-be follow certain traditional rules and observe special practices and taboos to guarantee a round, healthy baby.

Her diet will change radically, and she must eat only especially nourishing foods. Most luxury foods are forbidden during pregnancy. Care must be taken that the mother doesn't eat too much; then the delivery will be easy.

Since Vietnamese are strong believers in pre-natal influence, an educational ritual for the unborn begins as soon as pregnancy is determined. The future mother converses as if the child were in her presence and often sings to him or lectures him on moral guidance.

While among poorer people heavy work and tense situations cannot be avoided, they are discouraged. If possible, a good husband will hire another woman to do his wife's manual work, or her mother or sister may be invited to help.

An expectant mother is prohibited from going to weddings or funerals because her presence could bring bad luck to families concerned. Another ill omen occurs if a pregnant woman meets people leaving on a long trip. Most peasants cancel a journey if they meet a pregnant woman.

A baby is considered one year old at birth (Asians say he is in his first year) and becomes two when the next lunar new year (Tet) arrives.

Consequently, a child may become two years old when he's really just one day old—if he is born on a Vietnamese New Year's Eve. (Americal IO)

Why Is America in Vietnam?

By SFC LARRY BABITTS

When the doctrine of American self-determination appeared in the late 18th century, it applied to a select few persons living in Philadelphia and Boston and to a handful in London and Paris.

Since then, man's right to live as he chooses under the government he chooses has become a universal goal, particularly in Africa and Asia where new nations constantly emerge.

One nation born of revolution and fighting for life since birth at Geneva in 1954 is the Republic of Vietnam.

A loud minority is saying that Americans are "aggressors" trying to colonize in Southeast Asia and they spread the belief that America supports an illegal and unpopular government in Saigon.

Why are Americans in South Vietnam?

Abdication

When the French deserted their colony of Indo-China after nearly 100 years of military occupation, a weak monarch remained enthroned at Hue while civil officials governed in Saigon and Hanoi.

The monarch abdicated and yielded authority to a pro-western Saigon government. Hanoi reverted to a professional revolutionary, Ho Chi Minh, political leader of the Viet Minh who fought for an end to Indo-China's colonial status.

Recognizing that Ho's following lay largely in the then northern state of Tonkin, the Geneva Accord gave him control of that and several small districts.

Another Geneva agreement was that the states of Annam and Cochin-China would become the Republic of South Vietnam, with their capital at Saigon.

Movement

Immediately following division of Indo-China, free movement of individuals was permitted.

According to the United Nations and other neutral observers, more than three times as many Tonkinese moved south than Annamese moved north despite the fact that the north comprised the wealthiest industrial part of the nation.

Vietnamese tradition holds that freedom of choice is more important than material wealth.

Prior to Geneva, most Indo-Chinese Christians lived in Tonkin, but, upon establishment of the Communist government at Hanoi, more than one million Catholics moved south to avoid governmental restrictions of religious freedom.

Outbursts

As one of the "guaranteeing powers" of both new states' integrity, the United States was asked to provide military advice and economic aid to Saigon.

When Viet Cong hostility increased in the south, Saigon handled the problem easily at first. Northern involvement became apparent when Hanoi introduced ground troops to complement its advisors in the south.

Arrival of American combat troops in South Vietnam stirred emotions at home as Americans carefully watched the Vietnam conflict being fought amid international implications and followed by an intent world press.

Detractors of American involvement in Vietnam tend to oversimplify problems of the battlefield and the "other war" for the hearts and minds of the peasant.

People

Like America, Vietnam is people—Montagnard tribesmen farming rice and herding buffalo, Chinese food merchants and bankers in the southern cities, Cambodian craftsmen and elephant tenders in deep forests and jungles, Indian cloth merchants and traders.

Most important, Vietnam is the land of the Viets, a people of south central Chinese origin who have maintained, with slight modification, the traditions of a Chinese-based culture, have adopted many Indian customs, and have absorbed European attitudes.

Vietnamese history is one of revolution and economic turbulence, but Vietnam's future has never looked brighter.

Opportunist

Attacks continue against America's presence in Vietnam, but every soldier has a potent weapon available to answer such attacks. That weapon is truth.

Soldiers know that war is brutal because they are there. They have carried comrades to dustoff choppers and know the enemy is neither a patriot nor nationalist but political opportunist and vicious fighter.

Soldiers have seen civic action work, have shown their affinity for a long-suffering land through personal contact with the elderly, the sick, and the children of Vietnam.

Americans are in Vietnam because the government of the Republic asked for help to retain its independence despite northern insurgency.

Often, amid great pressure from the opposition, the American Army has fought in Vietnam in a most humane way. When American soldiers leave Vietnam, they can leave proudly to tell the world they are soldiers who performed well in the most difficult of circumstances. (Americal IO)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized periodic publication of the Americal Division Information Office for division units in the Republic of Vietnam. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division, APO 96374, Tel: Chu Lai 2414. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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Andy and pal Mike Huckert

'He Jumped Right Into My Arms'

Andy: A New Life from 198th

By SP4 ALFRED ANTHONY JR.

LZ BAYONET—His name is Tran Thai Hong Phuc but, to soldiers of the 198th Inf. Bde., he's simply "Andy."

Not long ago he was a war orphan who, thanks to some Americal Division soldiers, found a chance to start a second life with a new family.

Today he lives in Tam Ky, north of here, as the son of an ARVN officer.

Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 52d Inf. found Andy wandering among NVA bodies after a battle near Tam Ky in Ky Son village where some months earlier his parents had been killed in a VC raid. Andy, 10, was brought to 198th headquarters.

"His clothes were torn, he looked as if he'd never had a bath, and his hair hung to his shoulders," said SP5 Theodore L. Schlepp (Miles City, Mont.) and SP5 Stephen Alexander (Fresno) of the 198th Military Intelligence unit.

The two men took Andy under their wings.

"He jumped right into my arms. Right then Steve and I knew we were going to help him," said Schlepp.

After advertising in their hometown newspapers, the two men received gifts and cash contributions to support Andy who was enrolled in a local school.

The GIs' friend immediately became the most celebrated member of his class as fellow students greeted the American jeep which brought him each morning and stayed to see him off in the afternoon.

SP4 Michael C. Huckert (Bakersfield, Calif.), working for brigade PSYOP, took over befriending Andy where the two busy MID men left off.

"I liked him right away," said Huckert. "We worked to teach him English.

"At first it seemed pretty useless, but one time Andy was watching movies when something particularly funny happened. He laughed, and everybody else laughed too. That was the turning point between us."

Through SSG Bao, a Vietnamese interpreter, Andy was introduced to 2LT Tran, an ARVN signal officer who legally adopted Andy and welcomed him into a family that included a wife and two-year-old daughter.

Now Tran Thai Hong Phuc is at the top of his class in a Catholic school in Tam Ky and looking forward to a relatively happy life in a land plagued by war. (198th IO)

'Battling Bravo' Gets a Mess

Tien Phuoc Hilton Replaced

By SP5 TOM MAUS

TIEN PHUOC — Garman Hall, located at B Btry., 3d Bn., 16th Arty. has officially replaced the famous Tien Phuoc Hilton as mess facility at this war-torn outpost 15 miles west-southwest of Tam Ky.

A dedication-memorial ceremony, conducted by Divarty Chaplain (CPT) Edward Erzen, was held last month in honor of SP4 Thomas P. Garman, a former member of "Battlin' Bravo."

As members of B Btry. and local Special Forces detachment Alpha 102 stood at attention, Taps was sounded, and three rifle volleys rang out to honor the fallen comrade.

SP4 Garman was killed in action during the recent post-TET offensive. An appropriate memorial honoring him has been built near the new mess facility.

In the Cold

On Feb. 25, two 82mm mortars struck the then Tien Phuoc Hilton and sent shrapnel flying throughout the building which caught fire and was a total loss.

"With no mess facilities available, B Btry. was pretty much left in the cold with C rations," asid SFC Alfred Walsh, the battery mess steward.

As soon as the men could work in relative safety, remains of the old mess hall were demolished, and construction began on Garman Hall.

Actual work on the new building was completed during the first week of April, and one aspect was noticeably different—a metal roof had replaced a highly-volatile thatched roof.

Addition

One week before the tragic attack, the Tien Phuoc Hilton had been scene of the first battalion "Best Mess" award. A plaque was presented SFC Walsh and the men of B Btry.

The plaque was badly scorched in the fire and has since been returned to battalion headquarters for refinishing and addition of a Purple Heart.

The new, aptly-decorated plaque now hangs in the Garman Hall dining area. (3/16 IO)

Optometry in Field To Provide Eye Care

CHU LAI—When a patient with an eye problem finds it impossible or difficult to visit a doctor, why shouldn't the doctor visit the patient?

CPT O. Howard Smalling (Tampa), an Americal optometrist, asked himself this question, and the result was introduction of the division's Optometric Civic Action Program (OPCAP).

The program provides eye care for needy Vietnamese and Americal soldiers in the field.

Inadequate

While accompanying a MEDCAP team, CPT Smalling once noticed a conspicous absence of glasses among the villagers.

"Two villagers were wearing glasses," CPT Smalling said. "One elderly man wore a woman's frame, while another man wore glasses with the 150-piaster price tag still attached.

"The children with refractive errors that go uncorrected lose the opportunity of learning through seeing, and the older people who rely on handicraft for a livelihood are handicapped also."

Unique

The Americal OPCAP is the only one of its kind in Vietnam, and is supported by frames and lenses donated by civic organizations and interested individuals in the States.

The two optometrists and two opticians who staff the eye care center also treat patients from Naval and Marine units, as well as some American civilians.

Field Benefits

"Visiting the soldier in the field produced favorable side effects," CPT Smalling said. "Morale improved among troops who formerly found it difficult to travel to our main section in Chu Lai."

Praising donations made to the eye care clinic by folks back home, CPT Smalling expressed hope that organizations and individuals will continue donating frames and other materials and perpetuate the OPCAP. (Americal IO)

NVA Bn. CO Killed in Fight

DUC PHO—Careful reading of captured documents recently showed that D Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf. killed the commanding officer of the 1st Bn., 2d NVA Regt. in a firefight 13 miles northwest of here.

While working near a stream in a mountainous region, D Co. ran into a small group of enemy soldiers and opened fire to kill one.

The dead man was immediately identified as an NVA regular, and documents taken from his body were sent here for examination. That same day, 11th Inf. Bde. S-2 ascertained the commander's name.

"All of the documents had the name CPT Van Vinh printed on them," said CPT Gerald W. Simmons (Cincinnati). "We believe he was traveling for reassignment because he carried orders for the 8th Bn., 22d Regt." (11th IO)

Easter in the Motor Pool

When SFC Cedric F.N. Smith (Bridgewater, Mass.) thought about his wife and four children at home for Easter, he decided on his own brand of holiday cheer. The result was this happy group of Binh Son Orphanage kids, eggs held high, after an egg hunt and party in SFC Smith's motor pool at 198th Bde. headquarters. In an unrelated event, 198th soldiers delivered to the orphanage $125 donated at 198th area church services in March. (Photo by 1LT Josef Hebert, 198th IO).

64,000 Bags

LZ BRONCO — Seabees from the 58th Mobile Const. Bn. in Chu Lai, utilizing tons of heavy equipment and mountains of cement and sand, are resurfacing the 3800-foot airstrip at 11th Inf. Bde. headquarters.

The Seabees will use about 64,000 bags of cement before they finish. (11th IO)

Americal Combat Center Gets a Nev

Replacements zero the M-16 on the range at LZ Bayonet.

Story and Photos by CP

CHU LAI—The objective is the same—teach a man how to survive. And the site hasn't changed much either —about 800 square meters of sand on the southern part of the Chu Lai enclave.

Combat veterans still instruct replacements in methods and modes of the war they are soon to experience, but the Americal Division Combat Center has come of age.

Fifteen months ago, replacements lay on cots under canvas roofs and listened to the South China Sea lap the shore while they brushed away mosquitoes entering the tent through upturned flaps.

Today there are wooden, screened hootches, iron beds, mattresses, and clean sheets. A soldier's seven-day (three for support troops) stay is made as comfortable as possible.

Although the bleachers are still around, large, well-lit

Troops finish the booby trap course.

Bleachers sit beyond the bac

SFC Ken Childers (Frederick, C

v Look

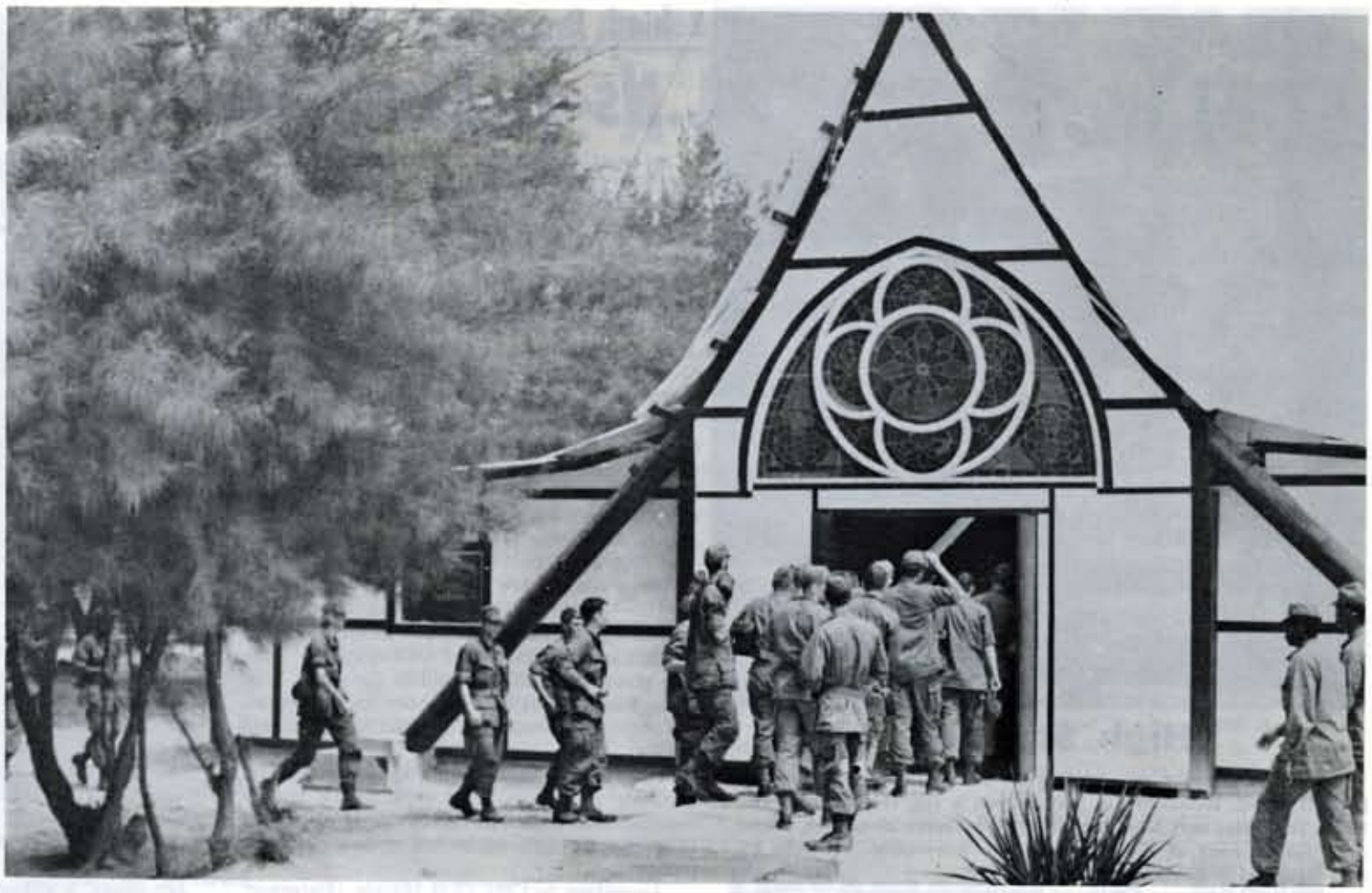
T CARY S. SKLAREN

wooden buildings with desks and chairs, a blackboard, and overhead fans enable the new Americal soldier to hear course material in pleasant surroundings, conducive to learning.

A new chapel, dedicated April 30 to Americal dead in World War II and Vietnam, caters to the spiritual needs of the everchanging community. The chapel is made of telephone poles.

Although the staccato sound of M-16s is gone—the rifle range has moved to LZ Bayonet — the occasional bone-rattling boom from the mines and booby trap course still startles the new arrival and initiates him to the sound of war.

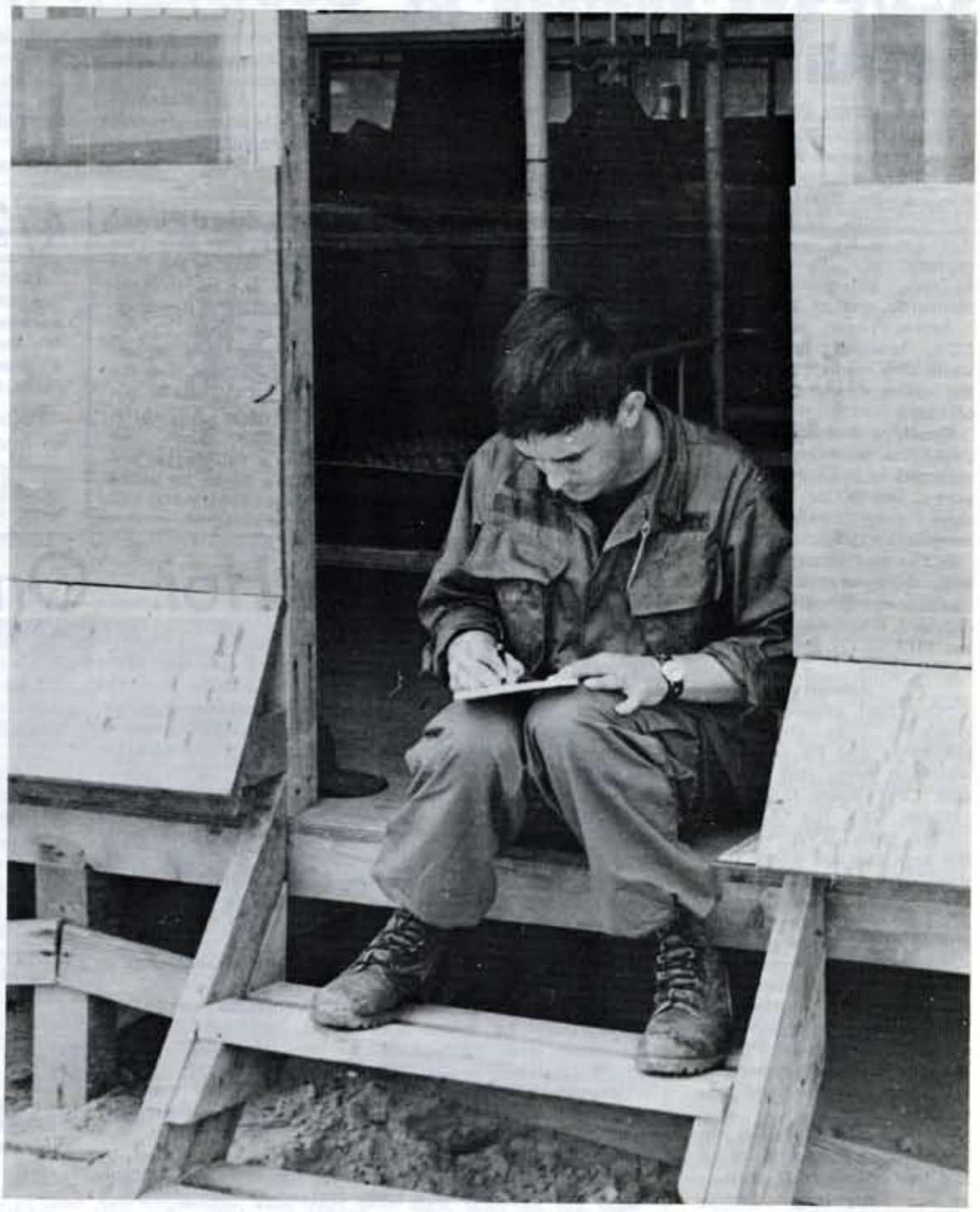
That's the Combat Center's basic job amid new structures and pleasant surroundings—to teach the newly-arrived Americal soldier how to stay alive in the fight against the enemy. (Americal IO)



The new chapel fills steadily on a Sunday morning.

k door of the Combat Center.

Okla.) on mines and booby traps.



A new arrival puts his address in the mail.

High Stepper

Like an acrobat on a high wire, a wary soldier of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf. balances his way across a log footbridge. The 196th Inf. Bde. unit was patrolling Nui Chom Mountain, scene of a major rout of NVA forces last November. (Photo by SP4 Michael Sullivan, 523d Sig. Bn.)

3/1, 123d Kill 22 NVA, Get Anti-Aircraft Guns

By 1LT FRED PELEATE

LZ BRONCO—Fierce fighting erupted again recently in 515 Valley as the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 3d Bn., 1st Inf. joined "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. to kill 22 NVA and capture two Russian-made 12.7mm anti-aircraft machineguns and an SKS rifle.

Action began as B Co., 123d, received heavy fire while on a recon mission over the valley seven miles west of here.

Gunships immediately engaged the position and later returned to the scene to support C and D Cos., 3/1. Gunships were credited with seven NVA kills.

D Co. was nearest the action, deployed overland into contact, and killed nine NVA, detained a suspect, and took the SKS. C Co. was airlifted to the scene.

Assault

"Our first mission was to check a light observation helicopter and its occupants who had been shot down," said CPT Boots C. Blanks (Macon, Ga.), the CO.

"We knew NVA were in the area but not where they were. As we moved south, they opened up with heavy automatic weapons fire and pinned us for a few minutes.

"Our first and second platoons fired and maneuvered on the enemy positions as the gunships returned and worked to our front. When the last ship had expended, we were on line and assaulted."

C Co.'s assault killed six NVA and led to capture of the two anti-aircraft guns.

Big Help

Second platoon leader SFC Berthalan J. Toth (Daly City, Calif.) credited the success and his unit's light casualties to PFCs Wesley G. Ice (Bridgeport, W. Va.); James H. Chapple (Flint, Mich.); and Ronald L. Wolf (Canoga Park, Calif.).

"They laid down excellent M-72, M-79, and machinegun covering fire and enabled the platoon to move on well-camouflaged and well-fortified positions," said SFC Toth.

When C Co. overran the positions, one machinegun was in place and the other dismantled and hidden in a hedgerow where it was found by SP4 Harold F. Johnson (Livingston, S.C.), a squad leader. (11th IO)

Behind Every Good Infantryman...

...Is a Darn Good Artilleryman

By SP4 WALTER JACKSON

LZ BAYONET—A 198th Inf. Bde. company is in a jam—pinned by an unknown-size enemy force concealed in a woodline to the front.

The situation isn't as bad as it looks, though, because the company's artillery forward observer, assigned to the 1st Bn., 14th Arty. and attached to a rifle company, quickly calls an old standby, field artillery.

On a distant fire base, the call "Fire Mission!" signals a flurry of activity. Within three minutes, deadly artillery shells slam toward the unseen enemy.

To ground soldiers, approaching artillery is welcome. To Charlie, the story is altogether different. He suddenly decides to depart the area but too late because 105mm artillery rounds are smashing his position.

Softening

Providing fire support for infantrymen in contact is only one job of artillerymen. They also shoot illumination rounds for night missions, harassment and interdiction fire, counter rocket and mortar fire, and at confirmed targets.

Before an assault, infantrymen often use artillery to "soften" an area where enemy resistance is expected. Artillery is also used to recon by fire suspected enemy ambush points.

According to CPT Cliff Natvig (Paterson, N.J.) of the 1/14 fire direction center, the battalion often fires up to 1000 rounds per day in support of the 198th and other allied units.

Firing an accurate artillery round is not simple. Computations made before a shot are awesome.

FADAC

The 1/14 makes necessary computations, gets clearance from higher headquarters, and adjusts, loads, and fires within two to three minutes after the call for a fire mission.

Artillerymen usually make initial computations on a Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer. Within seconds after the target area's grid coordinates are digested, the machine computes all required primary firing data.

That includes firing deflection, time setting for fuses, quadrant elevations, required charge, and maximum altitude of the round in flight.

Safety First

While primary firing data is being derived and checked at the battery's fire direction center, another computer in battalion headquarters rechecks the same data.

"I'm always safety conscious," said SGT Richard J. Frato (New York), a D Btry. gun chief. "We take every precaution to see that we don't injure friendly personnel."

Clearance from higher headquarters is another check designed to keep friendly personnel and innocent civilians from injury.

Military ground clearance insures that no friendly troops are in the target area. Political clearance checks for civilians in the area, and air clearance insures that shells don't collide with friendly aircraft.

'Frustrating'

Once clearance is granted and howitzers are ready, a gunner pulls the lanyard to fire the round. If fire must be adjusted, an observer calls corrections to the fire base, and changes are made before more rounds are fired.

"It's kind of frustrating at times when you can't see what you're shooting at," said CPT George Alexander (Salina, Kan.), whose D Btry. killed 149 enemy during March.

"As long as we know we're blasting them and protecting the infantry, we're satisfied," said CPT Alexander. (198th IO)

1/14's Added Punch

LZ BUFF—D Btry., 1st Bn., 14th Arty. is the first Americal unit to fire the new 105mm howitzer, labeled the M102.

More adaptable to air-mobile operations than the older M101A1 model, the new howitzer is lighter, has greater range, can traverse a full circle, and has lifting hooks for aerial transport. (198th IO)

4/21 Seizes Valley Cache

DUC PHO—Storming into the Song Ve Valley 16 miles northwest of Duc Pho, C Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf. uncovered a large weapon and supply cache recently.

C Co. was combat assaulted into the area after Vietnamese intelligence sources reported that NVA soldiers were using local villages as rest stops after crossing the mountains.

The third day of the operation turned up the weapons cache. Included were four French MAS-36 rifles, 12 K-44 rifles, five M-1 rifles, an M-1 carbine, an M-2 carbine, two BARs, and an M-60 machinegunner. (11th IO)

Kit Carson Hoi: 'One of the Best'

By SP4 JIM BRUCE

LZ BALDY—When Nguyen Hoi jumped between other men of the patrol onto an exploding enemy booby trap, the young Kit Carson scout ended a short and courageous career.

A former VC guerilla, Hoi was among the first group of Hoi Chanhs recruited to become Kit Carson scouts with the Americal Division.

In the closing days of Operation Fayette Canyon, a patrol of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf. was moving cautiously toward the crest of a jungle ridge overlooking LZ Ross 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The mission was to locate and destroy a reported enemy mortar position threatening the 196th Inf. Bde. fire support base below.

Trouble Signs

Hoi walked with the lead element after transferring to D Co. only two days earlier.

"At the base of the hill, two Vietnamese women said two VC might be hiding in a tunnel. Hoi went to check. That shows what kind of guy he was," said 1LT Michael Holroyd (Sedan, Kan.), a platoon leader.

Moving up the trail, the patrol encountered numerous punji stakes and signs of possible booby traps. Under such conditions, Hoi always preferred to walk point himself.

Saved Two

As he quickened his pace to take the lead, Hoi suddenly snapped the trip wire of a booby-trapped Chicom grenade.

Realizing the grenade would detonate before he could warn the others, Hoi jumped in front of PFC Dennis Smith (Lake Zurich, Ill.) and 1LT Holroyd and into the force of the blast. He was killed instantly.

"His action probably saved at least two lives and prevented several other casualties," said 1LT Holroyd.

Hoi, 23, had been intimate witness to fighting on both sides of the Vietnam conflict. In Dec., 1965, Hoi was taken from home and family by the Ky An village VC guerilla unit.

Chieu Hoi

He had been subjected to VC propaganda and believed part of what VC political leaders had told the people. He resigned himself to becoming a VC soldier.

But as he worked with them, Hoi began to realize to what extent the VC were unable to fulfill promises and how they deceived people. Despite reprisal threats, Hoi Chieu Hoi'd to the 196th in Dec., 1967.

At the Chieu Hoi center, Hoi met an American recruiting the first group of Americal Kit Carson scouts. He was accepted Jan. 25, 1968, assigned number 002, and sent to C Co., 2/1.

As one of the first scouts with the division, Hoi quickly won the confidence of his unit for his work and the entire scout program.

Interrogator

"He was one of the best I ever saw at digging out intelligence in the field," said 1LT Donald D. Fanelle (Pennsauken, N.J.), leader of the third platoon with which Hoi spent most of his time.

"If anything was to be learned from a VC suspect, Hoi got it."

Hoi transferred from C Co. to D Co. to fill a gap. A few days later came the patrol and booby trap which killed him. (196th IO)

Broadcast Halts, But Not Long

By PFC TERRY MACK

CHU LAI — A PSYOP broadcast was interrupted recently but not for a commercial announcement.

SP4 James M. Dixon (Fletcher, Okla.) and his interpreter, ARVN SSG Nguyen Truong Giang, were broadcasting to villagers working a field along Highway 1 three miles south of Thang Binh.

"We were telling people not to support the VC when a round suddenly came through the windshield. Both of us jumped from the truck and took cover behind a dike along the road," said Dixon.

Rounds whistled in on the PSYOP team and its truck for 30 minutes. Suddenly the fight was over—the VC had spotted a chopper overhead.

Return

Seeing the firefight, villagers had gone to get help from a nearby Popular Force unit. By the time PFs arrived, the VC had made their abrupt exit.

Dixon killed one VC and captured an SKS rifle. Blood trails leading from the area indicated that other VC had been wounded.

The PSYOP duo returned to its bullet-ridden truck and took advantage of the incident to continue broadcasting to the large group of villagers.

Dixon and Giang agreed they'll brodacast again in the Thang Binh area.

"It would defeat our efforts if we didn't return," said Dixon. "Next time, however, we'll carry a lot more ammunition." (Americal IO)

Any Night at the Movies, Duc Pho Style

After Cartoons, a Full House

By SFC GENE K. MORENO

LZ BRONCO—Nelson Eddy sings an aria from the opera "Faust" as "Willie, the Singing Whale" appears on the screen before an audience of intrigued Vietnamese adults and children.

It's movie time in the small village of Duc Pho on the outskirts of the 11th Inf. Bde. base camp here.

Ushers carry M-16 rifles and wear jungle fatigues. The theater is a helicopter landing pad, and the audience stands or squats on the asphalt. Members of Team HE-35, Det. 3, 7th PSYOP Bn. are in charge.

"They can't follow the story too well, of course, but they really like films of animals that talk," said 2LT Homer T. Hodge (Paramount, Calif.), the team leader.

Limitations

"We usually start every showing with two or three cartoons to keep children entertained while adults filter in to watch the show," said 2LT Hodge. "By the time the cartoons end, we usually have a full house."

2LT Hodge and team members SP4 John Esch (Mt. Clemens, Mich.) and Loi, a Kit Carson scout, are based at Americal Division headquarters in Chu Lai and present films in small villages and hamlets throughout the Americal area.

Det. 3 is composed of five teams, three of which broadcast. The other two show movies. Broadcast team operations are limited only by loudspeaker range while movie teams must work during darkness to reach to reach a large audience. Daytime presentations are made whenever possible in school rooms or public buildings.

Nighttime showings are risky. Whenever Amreicans venture into small villages and hamlets after dark, they're exposed to possible attack.

"We've been lucky so far," said 2LT Hodge. "People have always been very friendly. Possibly it's because we're their only movie entertainment source."

The films' entertainment value is exceptional because most small villages like Duc Pho have no electricity or theaters. The movie team carries a portable generator in its 3/4-ton truck and can set up and run films almost anywhere.

For a night showing, the program rarely varies—two or three cartoons, a short subject, and a full-length feature. The entire presentation lasts about three hours. The team also screens films on hygiene and travel, usually in schools.

Anti-VC Movie

Featured at the Duc Pho showing is "Man From the Mountain," an epic dealing with the rigors and horrors of a VC guerilla's life. The movie, produced by Vietnamese, is definitely anti-VC.

"Vietnamese tend to believe what they see on the screen, and most people in areas like Duc Pho have had experience with VC and their methods of operation," said 2LT Hodge, "so the film just fills in what they didn't know before."

The Vietnamese enjoy films with plenty of action, especially American cowboy movies, according to SP4 Esch.

"There's one film we use, 'The Diary of a VC,' that's so popular that people ask for it two and even three times the same night!

Elizabeth Layton

Meeting sand crabs on a Chu Lai beach was one way Australian singer Elizabeth Layton spent leisure hours during a recent visit with a show called "Whatever's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?" O.K., Liz, what's the answer? (Photo by CPT Cary Sklaren, Americal IO)

"We've made many friends with these films. When we go into villages, people all seem to know why we're there, and kids run up asking, 'Cowboy? Cowboy?'

"American movies we show are dubbed in Vietnamese and are usually in color. We try to trade films with other teams as often as possible to be sure programs are varied."

Films are obtained from libraries in Quang Ngai City and Tam Ky which change inventory at least every two months.

The Kit Carson scout serves as interpreter and part-time projectionist, a job Loi thoroughly enjoys.

"After Loi learned how to run the projector, we couldn't get him out of the truck," said 2LT Hodge.

Loi turns the volume up to full as "Man From the Mountain" ends and floods the night with strains of a Vietnamese love song. The audience is spellbound and stares at the screen even as it darkens. (11th IO)

Best Advice on HOT Days: Sweat It!

By SP5 ED CONAWAY

Let's get the proper perspective on heat because an air-conditioned war isn't scheduled in the near future. Hot weather is here, and the body must adapt to it slowly.

Build up to the work, guard against an initial overdose of sun, and take extra rest, salt, and water. These ingredients promote good health in extreme heat, but each must have its proper place.

Too much of one ingredient breeds another brand of disaster.

To keep the body's air conditioning tuned, proper water level must be maintained. Sweat glands distribute water on the skin, and evaporation there cools the body.

'Balance'

The basic method of cooling involves loss of water, so trying to prevent loss of water isn't conducive to good health. As the day grows

older and the heat more intense, small sips of water are bettter than a gigantic, gulping drink.

Salt loss is a by-product of water loss. The body lets one know how serious this loss is with a heat reaction.

Meals usually include sufficient salt to meet the body's needs and, if more salt is required, tablets are available. "Balance", is the key word—too much salt and not enough water will upset the stomach.

Once the body issues a distress signal, the balance must be restored. There are degrees of distress, and the body resorts to various measures to sustain life.

Remedy

Heat cramps are a mild reaction to a lack of salt. The painful spasms can be alleviated by slowly drinking large amounts of salt water.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can cause death unless treated immediately.

Heat exhaustion is less serious, and the body signals it in this way: headache, excessive sweating, paleness, weakness, dizziness, and muscle cramp.

The remedy? Get into the shade, elevate the feet, massage feet and hands, and restore salt and water to the body. Drink slowly.

Evacuation

A killer may take the form of heat stroke when the body's air conditioning system breaks down—no sweat, no evaporating water to cool the body.

The victim loses consciousness, so a buddy must bring the temperature down. Use water, ice, rubbing alcohol, anything available to cool the body, and rub to increase circulation. Hospital evacuation is a must.

When the heat's on, sweat it! That's the cheapest air conditioner you'll ever own. (Americal IO)

Movin' Out With Meek

TIEN PHUOC — SGT Harold Meek (Columbus, Ind.) is making good time—he's served as artillery forward observer with all but one company in his battalion.

Serving his second Vietnam tour sandwiched around only four months in Germany, Meek works with the 2d Bn., 1st Inf.

"I'm infantry turned FO," said Meek, a 1st Div. grenadier on his first tour. "Before returning here, I didn't even know how to call in artillery."

After working first with D Co., 2/1, Meek moved to C Co. when its FO fell sick. Similar circumstances brought him to B Co. and, each time an FO vacancy occurred, Meek was picked to fill in.

He finally moved to all but A Co. and "now I'm waiting for a chance to complete the cycle with them." (196th IO)

'Blur of Action' Earns Machinegunner a DSC

(Continued from first page)
sely-foliated woodline, and the combined force reconned it by fire.

"To everybody's surprise, we got back twice our employed fire power," said CPT Malpass.

"They had in-depth defense," he said, "rows and rows of positions. Their defensive lines extended far wider than we imagined—at least 300 meters."

The infantrymen ran for cover behind a low paddy dike, and Goff's second platoon was pinned. From the side, friendly fire continued to fly at the NVA.

Under that cover, Goff suddenly jumped up and launched a two-man charge on the NVA with his M-60. Close behind was ammo bearer PFC Tommie Emery (Snider, Okla.).

"It was a blur of action," Goff said. "I just started firing all the rounds I had.

"I heard someone scream that 30 or 40 NVA were in the woodline on his right flank, so I kept blowing ammo toward the NVA as people passed it to me.

"When I got through firing, everything in that area was quiet."

CPT Malpass watched and reacted: "He just kept mowing them down in groups of five or 10 and, almost unbelievably, their fire just didn't hit us.

"RPGs were hitting everywhere. When Goff came closer to the NVA positions, at least 75-100 made a grand exodus. They just ran away."

Goff, staggering in 120-degree heat, then fell exhausted. His scorched machinegun had disintegrated with "bolts coming out everywhere."

Forty NVA were later found dead. Most, if not all, were killed by the estimated 2000 rounds Goff fired. More bodies had been dragged away. (196th IO)

198th Boasts 2 Hefty Rats

LZ BAYONET — Would you believe a 6-foot-3 tunnel rat, weighing 200 pounds?

Such a creature is working with the 198th Inf. Bde. He searches Charlie's underground hideouts with the same skill and daring displayed by many smaller Americal soldiers.

Tall, husky, SP5 James Matthews (Eldorado, Kans.), 22, became a tunnel rat in an unusual way. He's assigned as a chemical staff specialist with the 198th's 87th Chem. Det., which must deny the enemy use of tunnels that cannot be destroyed.

Matthews and another member of the detachment, SP4 Douglas Van Horn (Charles City, Iowa), 6-foot and 180 pounds, form a special team whose mission is to investigate and neutralize such tunnels.

The two big probers say they don't usually find size much of a problem.

"We can usually get into tunnels on hands and knees," says Matthews, "and when we get inside we often find them almost high enough to stand in." (198th IO)

50,000th MEDCAP

SP4 Carl J. Aikens (Bay City, Mich.), a medic working with the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. civil affairs section, removes a sliver from the foot of a bemused Vietnamese youngster. The recent MEDCAP visit was the 50,000th held by 1/6 in the Ky Sanh village area. (Photo by PFC Art Noel, 198th IO).

New APO Unit Cuts Delays

Hospital Mail Moves Faster

By PFC TERRY MACK

CHU LAI—They wait, and finally he comes. Reaction is mixed—some GI's are delighted, others disappointed.

Then he is gone, and mail delivery to patients in Americal Division hospitals is finished for another day.

Responsible for handling patients' mail is SP4 William Hamilton (Emmett, Mich.).

"The Americal Hospital Mail Section was developed after complaints that units of men admitted to hospitals were holding mail instead of delivering it," said Hamilton.

Speedier

"Our aim is to insure that mail is delivered to patients as rapidly as possiible. Before the system began Feb. 1, mail usually reached soldiers 10-12 days after it arrived in country.

"Delivery has been reduced to three days, and we hope to lower that even more."

SP4 Hamilton's section handles some 500 pieces of mail daily for patients in division hospitals and for soldiers evacuated to hospital ships and points outside Vietnam.

When a soldier is admitted to a hospital, his unit notifies the battalion adjutant who forwards the individual's mail to the APO.

Bottlenecks

There, Hamilton and his assistants, SP4 James E. Pierce (Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.) and PFC Michael Birchett (Barberton, Ohio) sort and personally deliver mail to the patients.

A locator card is kept on each patient, and mail he receives is recorded. If after several days a soldier does not receive mail, a check is run with his battalion to determine if mail is being held.

"Guys in the hospitals are generally pleased with our service," said Pierce. "That makes us feel that the new system is worthwhile."

(Americal IO)

Anniversary

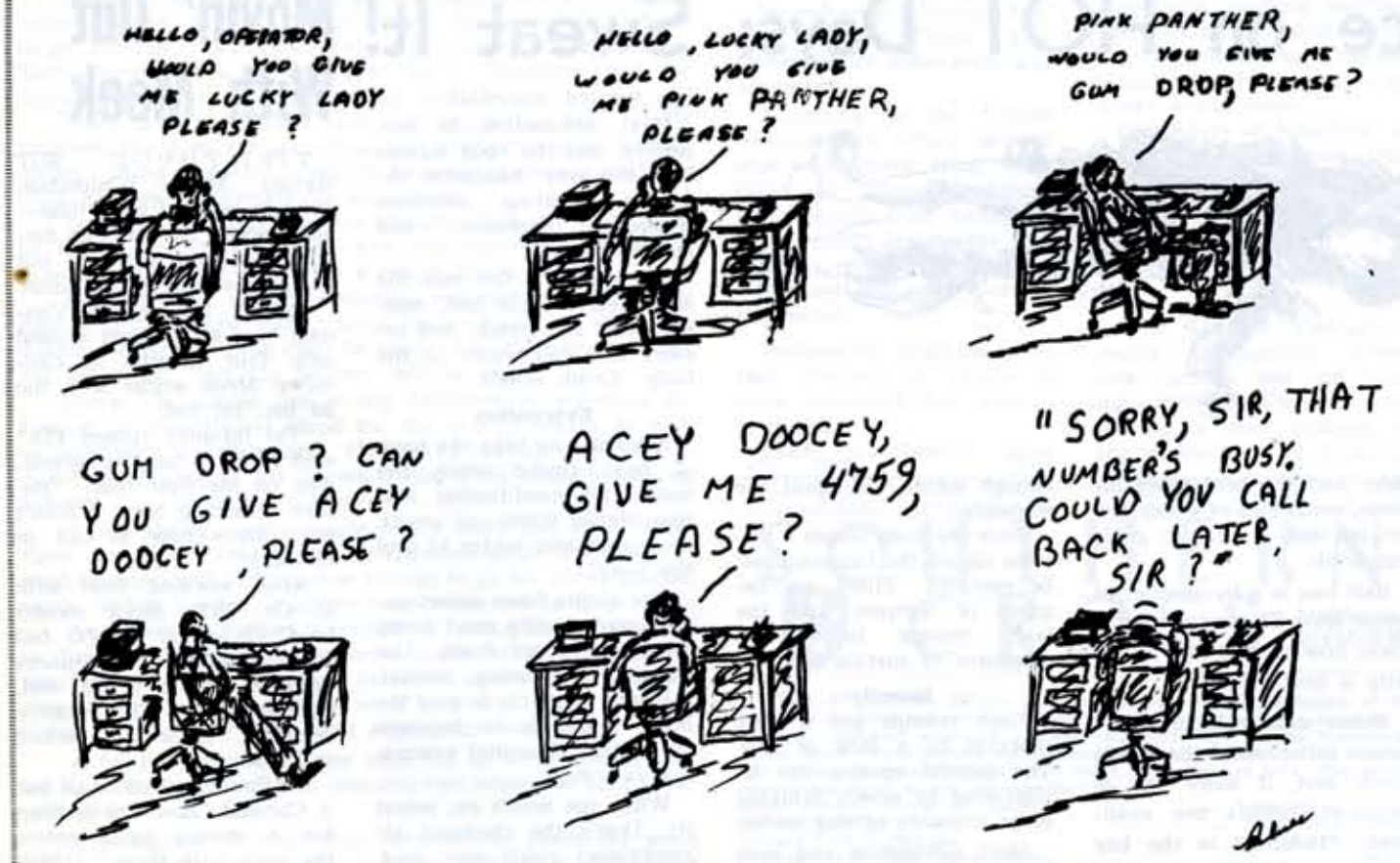
CHU LAI—U.S. Army operations in southern I Corps entered their third year April 20. The Americal Division, then Task Force Oregon, deployed into this area and began combat operations April 20, 1967. (Americal IO)

Ringo Trips It; Mulroney Skips

CHU LAI—Luck was with PFC Thomas Mulroney (Newport, Ky.) when his scout dog, Ringo, tripped a booby-trapped grenade recently.

Mulroney, 20, of the 57th Inf. Plt. (Scout Dog) and Ringo were walking point for B Co., 1st Bn., 6th Inf. seven miles west of here when the incident occurred.

"I heard the wire snap and the spoon fly off the grenade," said Mulroney.

The scrambling dog handler got about 10 feet and hit the ground when the grenade exploded. No one was hurt in the blast. (198th IO)

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