Americal Repulses Enemy Assaults

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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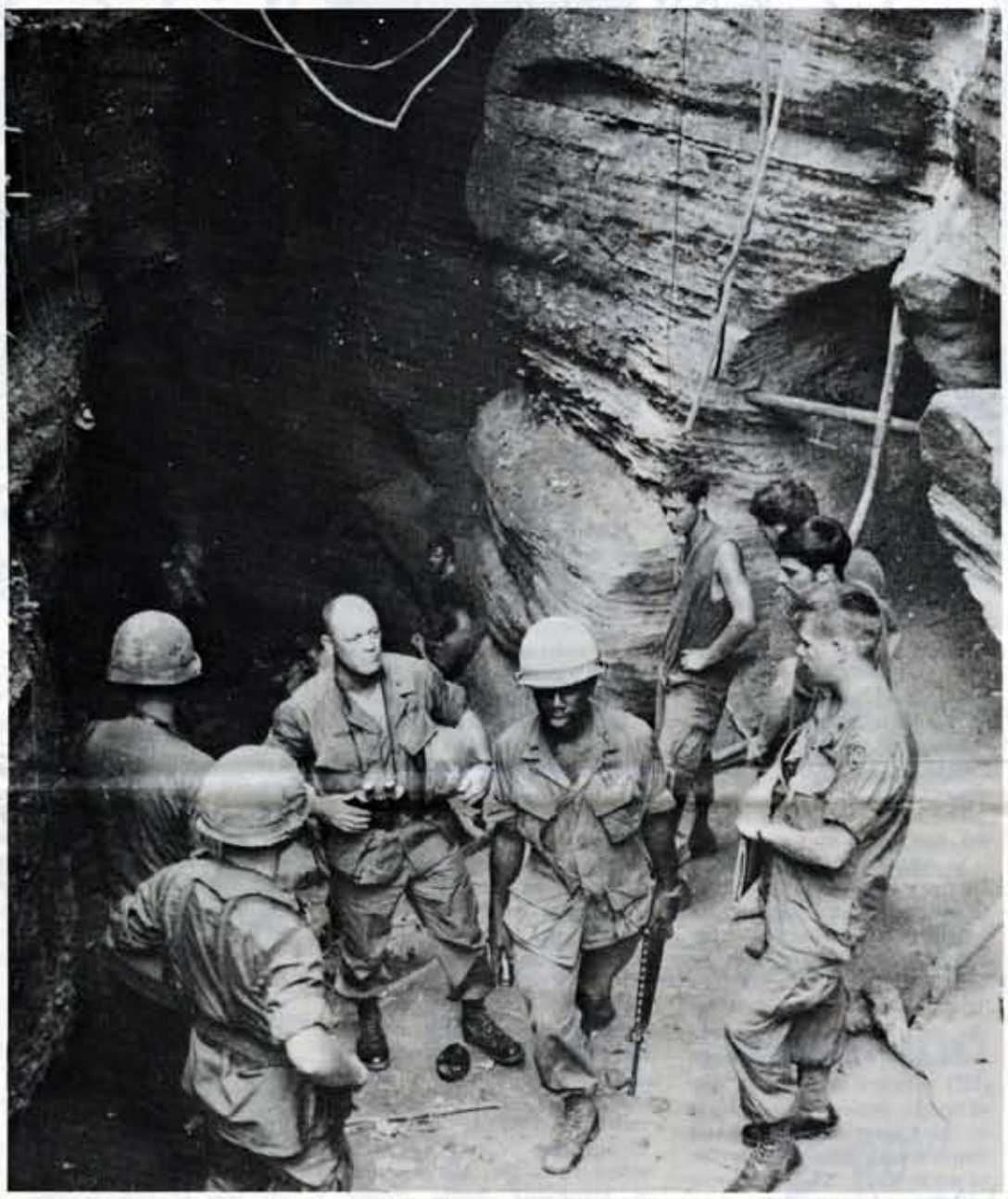

CHECKING THE SITE OF AN NVA MUNITIONS CACHE IN A CAVE 23 miles southwest of Tam Ky are BG Wallace L. Clement (with binoculars) and 1LT Ron Piggee (with M-16). The cache was discovered by A Co., 1st Bn, 46th Inf. (Photo by 1LT Josef Hebert, 198th Bde.)

Division Units Kill 594 Of Foe During Sapper, Rocket Hits

CHU LAI—After seven months of relative quiet in the division area, enemy activity exploded all over southern I Corps as Americal units killed 594 during seven days of heavy fighting in May.

From one end of the AO to the other, enemy main force and sapper units attacked friendly positions only to be successfully repulsed. Artillerymen and engineers along with other support troops fought like "grunts" in repelling many of the assaults.

122mm and 140mm rockets, 60mm and 82mm mortars, RPGs, automatic weapons, and small arms fire were unable to throw Americal defenders off balance.

The combination offensive-defensive encounters accounted for 389 NVA and 205 VC dead and 109 weapons, 21 crew-served, captured.

Sappers

At LZ Baldy, a large force of NVA sappers attempted to breach the 196th Bde. base camp's defense. 2nd. Bn., 1st Inf. soldiers fought off the assault.

Forty NVA bodies were found around the perimeter the next morning along with 13 individual weapons and numerous munitions including seven RPGs and 25 satchel charges.

To the south near Tam Ky, NVA and VC forces over-

(Continued on Page 8)

★ ★ ★

Snoopy Curses Red Sappers In Night Of Terror

By SP4 DICK SHEARER

LZ SNOOPY—What started as a pleasantly cool evening for sleeping turned into a nightmare for members of B Btry., 1st Bn., 82d Arty., and C Co., 39th Engr. Bn.

The peace and tranquility ended at 0217 hours when a medium-sized enemy force launched a combined ground and mortar attack against the two units which share LZ Snoopy with an ARVN detachment.

Initial contact was made with the enemy in the engineers sector where five VC were spotted.

At about the same time, a number of enemy troops worked their way through the perimeter and were mov-

(Continued on Page 8)

Joint Operation Uncovers Cache

False Floor Hides Weapons

LZ PROFESSIONAL — The grass and bamboo structure looked like so many others in Vietnam.

But a closer search of the hut buried under triple-canopy jungle disclosed a weapons bonanza for a company of division infantrymen.

Soldiers of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn, 46th Inf., OPCON to the 196th Bde. swept the hilly, rugged terrain near their basecamp as part of a joint U.S.-Vietnamese search and clear operation.

False Floor

They uncovered the first of three weapons caches under the false floor of a hut.

In the next 12 hours C Co. found the other two. The cache included 39 new SKS rifles, 36 RPG rounds, more than 150 rounds for 60 and 82mm mortars, and other munitions.

"We were moving through the area pretty well," said 1LT Walter W. Brownlee (Marcas, Iowa), C Co.'s acting commander, "when we ran across a hut with this false bottom. And there they were—10 new SKS rifles."

The company continued its sweep and uncovered another hut with a false bottom. This one contained more SKS rifles, mortar rounds, mortar tubes, a half-dozen carbines, and assorted ammunition.

Snipers

"We knew something like this was in the area," said 2LT Marshall Cooper (Hamburg, N.Y.). "We've been getting sniper fire in that area for some time."

The next morning as the unit moved forward again they found their third weapons storage area, a cache containing 12 rocket tubes and more than 1,800 Chicom grenades.

The muntions haul came just 10 days after B Co. 1-46 Inf. discovered an NVA battalion-size basecamp. (198th IO)

MG Ramsey New CG, MG Gettys Off To DA

CHU LAI—MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, former Deputy CG of the 1st Log. Command, assumed command of the Americal Division June 1, replacing MG Charles M. Gettys.

MG Gettys became director of individual training, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters, Department of the Army.

Fourth CG

As Americal's fourth commander since the division arrived in southern I Corps in April 1967 as Task Force Oregon, MG Gettys served 11 months here.

Among the highlights of the general's tour were 15 combat operations directed against NVA and VC forces throughout the Americal operational area, and increased goodwill and cooperation between Americal forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

MG Ramsey is a graduate of the University of Kentucky. After graduation he was commissioned a 2LT in 1940.

By 1943 he was a major and aide-de-camp for GEN Alexander, Ground Commander under GEN Eisenhower in North Africa.

In 1946 he attended a course in psychology at Yale University in preparation for a teaching assignment at the Infantry School.

War College

Other academic endeavors include the Command and Staff College, Army War College, and Harvard University.

The sixties have seen MG Ramsey in a variety of positions.

In 1966 he was Deputy Chief of Information, and in late 1967 until 1968 he served as Chief of Staff, Third U.S. Army, Fort McPherson, prior to his arrival in Vietnam. (Americal IO)

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey

Religion and You

You Show The Way

BY CHAPLAIN MAJ EDWARD J. KITA
Support Command Chaplain

The day you entered the Army, you took upon yourself the most remarkable opportunities for good. That is, if you have the courage to seize them. Of ccurse we don't need to kid ourselves. It takes much more courage to be good in the service than it did back home with the family.

A lot of weak men take the uniform as an excuse to swear and curse, to drink, and to live immorally. "We live only once," they alibi; "and who knows when we'll be dead?" So off they go to break the Commandments. They dodge out of their religious duties. They seldom if ever attend Chapel. They draw others to live as they do.

Yes, it takes courage to be good. But what grand things you can do if you want to. There are many fellows in your outfit who need only a little good example and direction to behave themselves. These men honestly and sincerly would rather be good than bad.

What can you do for the young soldier in these circumstances? Certainly you don't do it with preaching, but rather with your good example.

You do it simply by the way you act and the things he sees you do—and that takes guts. Yes, it takes courage to be good, and it is not easy. With God's grace, however, it can be done.

Chain of Command Important

Back in basic training, one of the first things you had to learn was the Chain of Command. Did you ever stop to wonder why?

The Chain of Command is the vital link between you, the soldier, and all the tactical and administrative machinery of the U.S. Army. Everyone fits into it somewhere.

The basic purpose of knowing the men in your chain is to define your leader. Each of these men has a direct effect on your life as he weighs and considers his daily decisions. You can be assured that these are not lightly reached.

Unity

While a commander has staff officers who assist him with his duties, the decision is his responsibility. And there is only one commander at each level. This is known as unity of command.

Because one man can control only a few subordinates by direct contact, there is a pyramid of responsible leaders, with the President of the United States at the head of our military forces.

The Chain of Command, then, tells you who your leaders are.

Equally important, you go through the chain of command to solve problems. If your commander cannot help you directly, he will refer you to the person who can, or he will relay your request or problem up the chain.

Open Door

Each company commander has an open door policy about talking to his men. Use this time if you find you have a serious matter troubling you.

The chain and your position provides for immediate repairs if a break occurs. One trait most noted in the American soldier has been immediate assumption of command by the next in line.

When a squad leader or platoon leader is wounded or lost, subordinates take over without break in continuity.

Numercus victories have been won when a specialist fourth class or private stepped in to replace a sergeant.

In Vietnam, the Chain of Command is a bond to other units. At the squad level, you may not know the platoon leader of a different platoon. But since all platoons serve the same company commander, you have a common leader.

At each echelon this applies and becomes a unifying force. These bonds, once forged, are difficult to break.

Another reason for knowing your Chain of Command is to save yourself time. While every soldier has the right to present complaints to agencies outside his command structure, the solution is invariably found within the unit.

Wastes Time

Thus, letters to elected officials will seldom produce immediate results, since a query is sent right back to the unit where the complaint originated.

Several weeks may pass while information is passed back and forth. Going directly to the company would have gotten immediate action.

While it is easy for you to know your Chain of Command up to division level and from the President down to the Army Chief of Staff, there are some differences in Vietnam that may cause some confusion.

Under USARV

The Americal Division and all Army forces are under the administrative and logistical control of U.S. Army, Vietnam (USARV) and U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC). But tactical control may be given to another commander or component.

Thus additional names may appear. These men are in the chain because they exercise operational control only.

Third Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF), a Marine headquarters immediately above our division, works directly for Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), a command composed of all services.

But the Army Chain of Command is constant. The incumbent may chnage, but the position remains.

You had to memorize a lot of names and positions during your first weeks in the Army. Perhaps you did this because you knew that you might make Colonel's Orderly if you got all the answers right at guard mount. There are more important reasons in Vietnam.

The Chain of Command is a vital factor of command.

Hon. Richard M. Nixon	**Commander in Chief**
Hon. Melvin R. Laird	**Secretary of Defense**
Hon. Stanley R. Resor	**Secretary of the Army**
GEN Earle G. Wheeler	**Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff**
GEN William C. Westmoreland	**Chief of Staff, US Army**
ADM John S. McCain Jr.	**CINCPAC**
GEN Creighton W. Abrams	**CG MACV (Also CG USARV)**
LTG Frank T. Mildren	**Deputy CG USARV**
LTG Herman Nickerson Jr.	**CG III MAF**
MG Lloyd B. Ramsey	**CG Americal Div.**

VIETNAM-STYLE

By SP4 JAMES WM. BROWN

Governing The RVN

CHU LAI—The political power of the Government of Vietnam is concentrated and incorporated at the national level where the most important decisions and programs originate and are effected from Saigon.

The chief of state is the president. Fundamentally, he executes the laws and appoints the prime minister and other members of the cabinet upon recommendation of the prime minister.

The president presides over meetings of the council of ministers, i.e., the cabinet.

Campaigning for the vice-presidency and presidency is on the same ticket. They are elected to a four-year term and may succeed themselves only once.

The vice president is chairman of the culture and education council, the economic and social council, and the ethnic council (which handles the problems of such groups as Montagnard tribes, overseas Chinese, and Cambodians). Upon the president's death or disability he succeeds him.

The prime minister is the government's operative head: he assists in the development of governmental policies and programs by the various ministries.

A two house legislature similar to that of the U.S. called the national assembly is composed of a 60-member Upper House, and a Lower House of 137 representatives. It was established by the Vietnamese Constitution.

Policies, decisions, and programs formulated at the national level are posed to the lower echelons of the government (province, district, village, and hamlet) for execution.

Each of the four corps commanders acts as the government representative in his Corps Tactical Zone.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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BATTLE-TORN CHURCH serves as setting for a mass celebrated by the 11th Inf. Bde. Chaplain, MAJ Robert J. Dombrowski. The 1st Bn., 20th Inf. soldiers knelt before an altar made of cartons from C-rations. (Photo by 1LT Stephen H. Cobb, 11th Bde. IO)

Largest Company MEDCAP Visit, 2-1 Treats Over 1,000 Vietnamese

LZ BALDY—Medical personnel of the 196th Inf. Bde. in one hectic day treated more than 1,050 Vietnamese civilians during the largest company-size MEDCAP in the history of the Americal Division in Vietnam.

"Legionnaires" of B Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., set the stage for the new mark during a joint cordon and search operation through Hien Luong Village, 10 miles south of Da Nang.

The operation also netted 12 VC kills, four VC suspects detained, and more than 5,000 pounds of polished rice unearthed from buried caches.

It was 0200 hours when the men on guard began waking the rest of B Co. from their night laager on a white, sandy plain off the South China Sea.

Move Out

Dawn found the 2-1 troops drawn up in a modified "L" outside Hien Luong. CPT Richard D. Heroux (Watertown, Conn.) gave the command to move into the village.

A few hundred meters away, Popular Forces (PFs) from Huong Xuan Village began their advance from the opposite direction.

Suddenly pointman PFC Michael Fox (Brooklyn) spotted a man racing away along one of the many paddy dikes surrounding the Village. Ignoring shouts of "Dung Lai! Dung Lai!" the man kept running.

Rifles cracked and the operation claimed its first kill of the day. Documents on the body later proved the man a top local VC leader visiting from a nearby village.

Flush VC

The two allied forces continued their sweep through the outlying hamlets, moving toward the village center and rooting out 11 more VC from hootches and underground bunkers.

In a short time, more than a thousand excited Vietnamese had gathered, milling about in the central street as whispers of "Bac si, Bac si" (doctor) passed through the crowd.

As soon as the village was secured, 2-1 battalion surgeon, CPT Kirk Hilliard (Pleasantville, N.J.) and a Medical Assistance Team (MAT) took over to diagnose and treat villagers' ills.

Find Rice

GIs and PFs continued their search, unearthing rice caches buried in graves, under hootches, and hidden in the woodline around the village.

While the record MEDCAP continued, logbird pilots of the 71st Avn., Bn., "Rattlers" extracted the rice to government storehouses.

Four children slightly wounded in an exchange with VC snipers were dusted off and treated at an aid station on LZ Baldy.

With late afternoon, a group of justifiably tired and satisfied infantrymen and medics packed up their gear and prepared to withdraw again to their night laagers and fire support base. (196th IO)

Use Ruins of Church To Celebrate Mass

DUC PHO — Standing among the ruins of what had once been a magnificent church 3½ miles north of Duc Pho, Chaplain Robert J. Dombrowski, (South Bend, Ind.) the 11th Bde. Chaplain, recently offered mass for the soldiers of D Co., 1-20 Inf.

The Chaplain used a makeshift altar of C-ration cartons while Army cots and sand bags served as benches.

War-Shattered

Caught in the center of combat, the church has been pounded by artillery, bombarded with mortar rounds, and pelted by sniper fire.

Its roof no longer exists and piles of stone are all that remain of once sturdy walls.

In his sermon the Chaplain said, "It is sad to realize that even the House of God is not safe from the horror of war." He then asked the "Sykes Regulars" to pray with him for peace the world over and especially in Vietnam.

Large Parish

The church was built in 1960 and was constructed of reinforced concrete. At one time it was attended by 8,000 parishioners in the Duc Pho area.

Today its only inhabitants are birds that build their nests in the intricate designs carved in the stone.

The mass celebrated by Chaplain Dombrowski was the first in five years to take place in the church.

Although the building was destroyed by war, the spirit of hope it represents cannot be destroyed as easily. (11th IO)

Honor Graduate

LZ CENTER—A young division specialist was named honor graduate recently from a reconnaissance school in Da Nang, and given an accelerated promotion to sergeant for his efforts.

SGT Charlie Swaggert (Du Bois, Pa.) a member of the recon platoon from 3-21 Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. was named top student among a class of 45 men.

The reconnaissance school courses include training in repelling, tracking, communications, CBR, and river crossing techniques.

Kids Get New Duds

'Chargers' Outfit Battalion of Children

By SP4 JIM BRUCE

LZ BALDY—It was a circus, visit to the zoo, and Christmas rolled into one, and no one could say whether the hamlet of refugee children and parents or their Americal benefactors were enjoying it more.

At Que Son Village, 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky, an idea generated by a platoon leader and a medic was helping to clothe more than 1,000 orphans and refugee children.

1LT Stephen M. Florio (Mira Mar, Fla.), A Co., 2-1 Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., and SP5 David Webb (La Mirada, Calif.) first conceived the idea of a clothing drive to help the children of Que Son.

Like Kids

"Most GI's are pretty softhearted when it comes to little kids," LT Florio said.

"I come from a big family, and Webb's got a bunch of brothers and sisters. It kind of hurts being out there, seeing all these kids and remembering how much we had back home."

"There was one little boy I remember especially. He would come out on the road and just about live with us from sunup to sundown."

"This little fellow had only one set of clothing. In three months I saw him in the same red shirt, the same blue pants, and no shoes. We decided that a clothing drive could help a lot more kids."

So the lieutenant and medic wrote letters, with pictures of the kids, for school presentations and newspaper features, and sent them to Webb's mother.

MOM Helps Out

Mrs. Webb is a member of the La Mirada MOM's Club, an organization of mothers with sons in Vietnam who boost morale by sending cards and packages.

For weeks, the MOM's held clothing drives and rummage sales, and high school students collected money for postage.

La Mirada responded with over a ton of new or slightly used children's clothing, shoes, toys, and enough money to send the items air mail.

Deluge Of Boxes

Early in May, A Co. supply personnel in Chu Lai were surprised to see 50 big boxes of clothing delivered at their rear area warehouse.

Four days later, the other half of the shipment arrived. One hundred boxes of clothing, shoes, and toys for the children of Que Son.

Webb already had left in February for reassignment to Fort Hood, Texas; and LT Florio had only "111 days to go," but he was there to see the final result of their efforts to help the children of Que Son.

Rummage Sale

In refugee housing centers throughout the village, Vietnamese parents stood by expectantly and children shouted at familiar American faces as LT Florio and other men of 2-1 handed out clothing, shoes and toys.

"It's a good feeling," LT Florio said. "These kids have nothing to do with the war, and if we can do something to make it a little easier for them, that's good." (196th IO)

OVERWHELMED WITH BOXES, SGT George Sanders (Stafford Kans.) and SP4 Frank Cyphers (Mansfield, Ohio) toss still more onto a swiftly growing pile. They contain clothing for more than 1,000 children in the Que Son area and were donated by family, friends, and neighbors of the men of A Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Bde.

Homing All The Way HAWK Killer

Story by C
6t
Photos I

CHU LAI—No one enjoys being a "loner." Yet there is a particular orphaned battalion willing to doubt the credibility of this universally accepted truth.

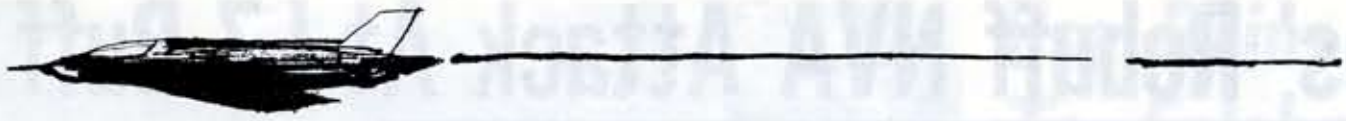
That battalion is the only Army Air Defense artillery unit in Vietnam assigned to the division artillery of an infantry division and operationally controlled by the Air Force in a tactical zone controlled by Marines.

And this orphaned battalion is large. Its boundries extend north to Da Nang and south to Saigon, west to Pleiku, and east to Americal Division headquarters here, involving an area which only a complex mathamatical integration could accurately compute.

The 6th Bn., 56th Arty. happens to be both the "largest loner" and the "doubter" since it enjoys its rather unique role in Vietnam. The HAWK missile battalion, commanded by LTC J.A. Richard Guertin, has the mission of providing low and medium altitude air defence artillery protection.

The Americal battalion's physical makeup consists of a headquarters and

HAWK missiles sit poised, ready to destroy any approaching enemy aircraft in the vicinty of Chu Lai. 6th Bn. 56th Arty. firing crews go through daily drills that begin with a siren sounding in their underground, bunkered,



by CPT ARNOLD J. ECKELMAN
6th Bn., 56th Arty.

Photos by SP4 MIKE SULLIVAN
523rd Sig. Bn.

headquarters battery, four firing batteries, and a direct support platoon augmented to lend general support capability to the "orphan" it supports.

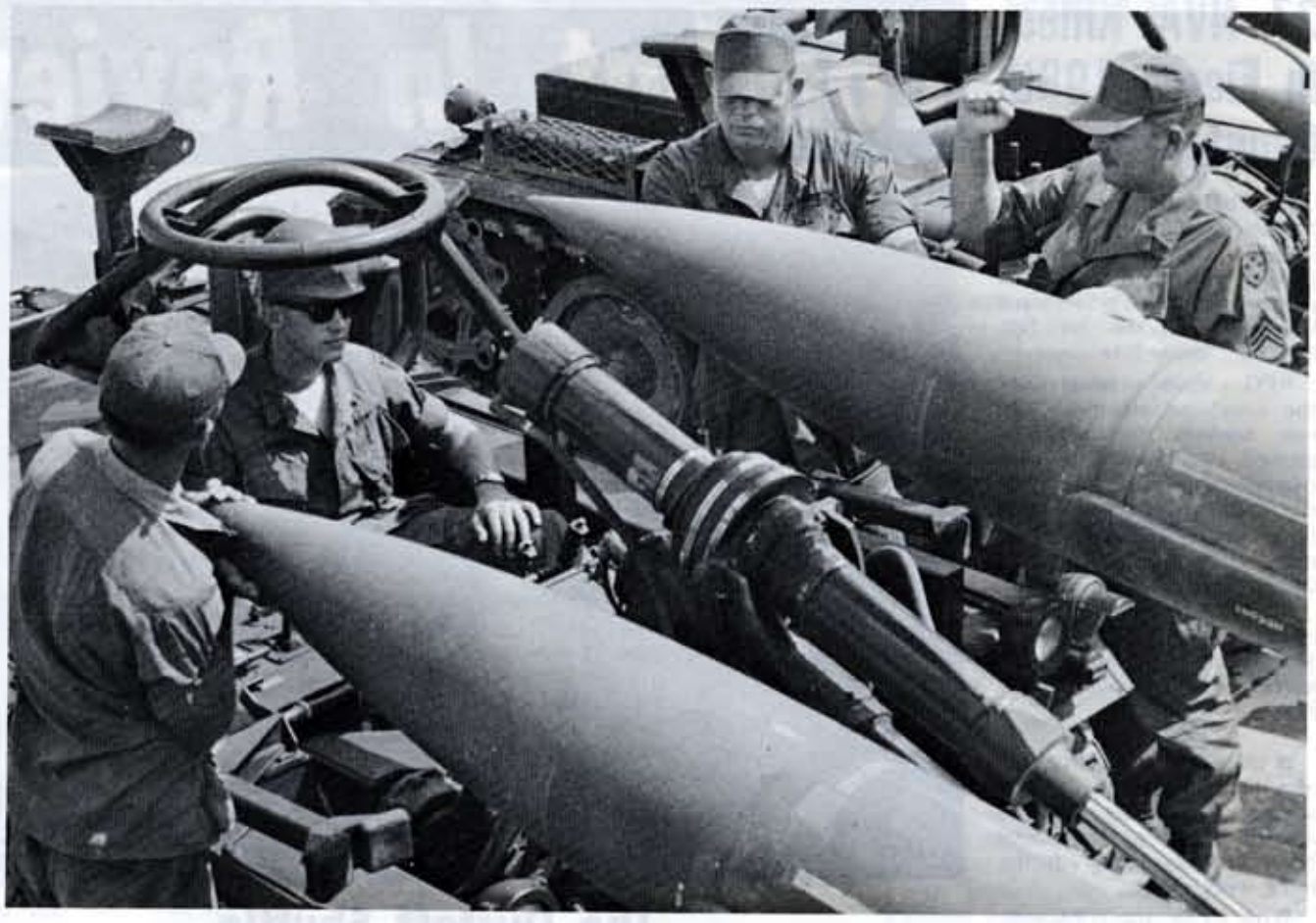
The HAWK system utilizes the principle of semi-active homing guidance for missile control during flight.

Ground-based, continous-wave, and pulse radars acquire and track the target. The missile receives radio frequency (RF) energy reflected from the target and uses this energy in developing steering commands to direct the missile to the target.

The sytsem is reliable, mobile, and accurate. In addition, it has the capability to engage two targets simultaneously approaching the defended area from opposite directions.

Similar to other HAWK battalions, the 6-56 must work to accomplish four basic tasks: detection, identification, tracking, and killing the target.

By continually training to perfect these tasks, if the possibility of a sneak attack by low flying aircraft ever becomes a reality, the threat will be met by the American's "Largest Loner."



"J-box" and a swift run to ready missiles for launching. In less than five minutes, missiles are locked on target. After one group of three is fired, a motorized loader (top) carries another trio of HAWKs to the launcher for firing.

'Ready Rifles' Rebuff NVA Attack At LZ Buff

27 NVA Killed In Fierce 198th Counterattack

LZ BUFF—One a.m., moon behind ominous clouds and, suddenly, an enemy head popped up on the western perimeter of this forward basecamp for the 1st Bn., 52d Inf., 198th Bde.

RPG rounds cracked over the area and slammed into two bunkers to herald a ground attack by two NVA companies planning to overrun Buff which stands boldly in thickly-foliated terrain nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

"It was raining Chicom grenades," said CPT Todd A. Martin (Terre Haut, Ind.), battalion communications officer.

'Scary'

B Co., 26th Engr. Bn., part of which was here to build a strong operations bunker system, killed at least four NVA at close range on the hill's west side.

With RPGs, the NVA seized two strategic bunkers, and fighting centered there for several harrowing hours.

"It was downright scary," said SP4 Robert Lambart (Detroit) of the heavy weapons platoon. "We put up 70 rounds of 4.2 illumination when the enemy broke the perimeter."

Twenty-seven sappers were killed as 198th soldiers repulsed invaders on all sides with a heavy counterattack of small arms, grenade, M-72 LAW, and direct 105mm howitzer fire, the latter from D Btry., 1st Bn., 14th Arty. on Buff.

Well-Armed

"When it started, we had everything but B-52s and tanks," said SP4 David Gyllis (Longview, Tex.), a member of the 198th military intelligence team.

A E/14 Arty. platoon placed direct fire on suspected NVA mortar positions well-concealed in surrounding woodlines.

SP4 Mike Vansickle (Rushville, Ind.), section leader for E Co.'s 106mm recoilless rifle team, raced out of his sleeping quarters as firing started.

"The guy next to me was hit in the leg," he recalled. "When I came back with a medic, we couldn't cross a six-foot path because firing was so heavy."

Grounded

Four potent miniguns on a "Shadow" (C-119) gunship, firing 6000 rounds per minute, and numerous helicopter gunships combined for a devastating reprisal against the sappers.

Vansickle said of the night's battle:

"I never knew I could low crawl so fast. It was amazing how well everyone reacted to the attack even though we were fighting on our stomachs." (198th IO)

Combat In Review

The Dustoff Shuffle

High-stepping through cloud-like dust swirls, 11th Bde. infantry rush a wounded buddy and two injured Vietnamese to a waiting MEDEVAC chopper. (Photo by SP4 John Hollenhorst)

Area Set Up for Enemy Regiment

NVA Camps, Cache Fall to 4-21

By SP4 DONALD YOST

DUC PHO—A Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf. uncovered eight large enemy basecamps and a large ammunition cache within four days recently on a search and clear mission 11 miles southwest of here.

"The largest basecamp was 500 meters wide by as many meters deep and consisted of 50 well-constructed bunkers," said CPT Robert H. Smith (Buffalo, Tex.), A Co. commander.

"It included a large mess hall, classroom, bulletin boards, training areas, and a commander's hootch."

Various training devices were found by the 11th Bde. soldiers.

Included were simulated mortar tubes and mortar rounds carved from wood, and simulated concertina wire and hurricane fencing made of woven vines, probably used to teach sappers how to breach wire obstacles.

Many tunnel complexes were also found.

"Some tunnels we've found are large enough to accommodate a man standing up," said CPT Smith.

On the fourth day of the treasure hunt, a four-man patrol from the fourth platoon located a huge enemy ammo cache.

"We figured NVA were still in the area so we reconned by fire and returned to report to the platoon leader," said PFC Gerald C. Duska (Erie, Pa.).

1LT Allen W. Hendrikson (Missoula, Mont.), platoon leader, related what followed.

"We heard firing ahead and moved toward it.

Ammo Bin

"When we reached the location of a cage-type structure, we discovered it was actually a storage bin, larger than two U.S. conexes and filled to the top with brand-new ammo."

Included in the cache were 22 75mm recoilless rifle rounds; 10,750 .51-cal rounds; 16,800 SKS rounds; 12 rifle grenades; 12 82mm mortar rounds; five 60mm mortar rounds; and documents.

Advance

"A basic NVA tactic is to establish support bases and supply routes in an area before sending in the main fighting force," explained 1LT Thomas L. Domin (Cleveland), 4/21 S-2.

"A Co. may have found results of work by an advance NVA work force. What has been discovered so far would accomodate at least an NVA regiment." (11th IO)

Jeepers, Peepers!

LZ WEST—Two "peeping Congs" found their occupation can be hazardous, especially when snooping on an Americal Division company.

Engaged in search and clear missions 25 miles west of Tam Ky, B Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Bde. was patrolling the Hiep Duc Valley region.

As the troops moved to their day laager position, SP4 Louis Terry (Eldorado, Ark.) observed two VC hiding in tall grass on a hillside.

"The VC were a little too far away to bring effective fire on them," explained CPT William H. Gayler (Mineral Wells, Tex.), B Co. commander.

"I sent a reinforced squad up the hill because the high grass made it impossible for the VC to see my men."

The men moved to within 40 meters of the unsuspecting VC before the enemy finally detected them.

The two enemy soldiers attempted to evade through tall elephant grass down the far side of the hill.

They were killed with M-16 fire at a range of 35 meters, and two AK-47 rifles with four full magazines were captured. (196th IO)

Love Makes Night Too Hot For Sappers

By SGT ALFRED ANTHONY JR.

LZ BUFF—"I had just come out of my hootch when I heard an AK-47 rifle. Right in front of me, four NVA were firing from atop a bunker."

Thus began SGT Louis C. Love's harrowing experience during a recent two-company NVA attack on this forward fire base of the 1st Bn., 52d Inf., 198th Bde.

"I ran back in and grabbed some LAWs (Light Anti-Tank Weapon)," said the E Co. supply sergeant.

Under heavy small arms fire from two captured perimeter bunkers, Love figured his only chance to retaliate was to reach the enemy flank.

Good Aim

Crawling along a low dirt embankment, he fired a LAW and killed two NVA on the bunker.

"The other two then moved to the other side. I fired another LAW and threw grenades over the bunker. I guess I got those two because they stopped firing."

Love spotted two more NVA firing from a knoll in the center of the firebase. He quickly opened up to kill both.

"I ran down into the gully by the wire in front of the two bunkers," he said. "An M-60 had been sitting there the whole time."

'Oops'

Love picked up the M-60, already loaded, and turned to move back up the hill where other NVA were still firing.

"When I turned around," he said, "I was looking down the barrel of an AK-47. I heard it click three times. I couldn't do a thing. I was frozen solid.

"I just looked at an NVA standing right in front of me. I thought, 'Oops, time to hang it up.'

"All that really matters is that a guy we call 'Short-time' shot the NVA and that I was still standing there in one piece." (198th IO)

It's LZ Stinson

CHU LAI—LZ Buff is now LZ Stinson and will be identified that way in the future.

The home of the 1-52 Inf., 198th Bde., LZ Stinson is named for LTC William C. Stinson who was killed in action last March as he directed his troops from the command and control helicopter. (Americal IO)

Blue Ghosts Add Silence After Sweep

LZ PROFESSIONAL — With the splat of an AK-47 round and thud of a .50 cal. machinegun bullet slamming into the windshield, the third chopper of the day had been hit in the sleepy little valley east of here.

The artillerymen from C Btry., 1st Bn., 14th Arty. were doing their best, throwing everything in their repertoire, but "Charlie" kept blasting away.

Two gunships arrived on the scene—"Blue Ghosts" from F Trp., 8th Cav.

They went high to the west and then came roaring down the valley with doorgunners blasting away and rockets blazing with deadly accuracy.

After four sweeps the valley became silent.

RTOs sent out calls of "good shot," and "that's the way to shoot." The gun had been knocked out and LZ Professional could rest for a moment anyway.

It's been a long time since her Christmas visit, but a pretty Golddigger is a welcome present for tired eyes anytime of the year.

Uncle Ben's Rice Raiders Remove Basic Diet From VC/NVA Pantry

By SP5 DENNIS IRVINE

LZ BALDY — Discovering 51 tons of critically needed enemy rice, cavalrymen from F Trp., 17th Cav., severed an important VC/NVA resupply chain.

While on a routine search and clear mission seven miles southwest of Thang Binh, the cavalry from the 196th Inf. Bde. entered a hootch and uncovered a small quantity of rice concealed in camouflaged crocks.

Shortly after this initial discovery, the rice raiders engaged and killed a VC nearby.

While searching a cement building, one of the men began to tap on the walls and floor, testing and probing. Something didn't sound right.

Pressing his examination, he discovered a hidden basement containing five tons of unpolished rice.

The "Chargers" called the brigade's civil affairs section and asked for rice sacks.

While part of the platoon stuffed rice into 100-pound satchels the next day, the rest of the unit looked for more caches of the grain. They weren't disappointed.

Rice Everywhere

In a series of false graves, bushes, hootches, almost everywhere the men looked, they found rice. More than 13 tons were gathered by late afternoon.

1LT Charles C. Garefino (Flemington, N.J.) now suspected his platoon was well on the way to unveiling a major enemy rice distribution and storage point, which served both VC and NVA elements in the area and was controlled by local guerrillas.

The American rice rogues began to encounter a new problem. How to get the rice out of the area and back to Thang Binh for distribution.

They talked the pilot of their resupply chinook into flying a few extra missions, carting off many mounds of bagged rice.

Pilots Protest

First the men crammed bags inside the chopper till it reached capacity, then hung more rice in nets under the craft.

In mock displeasure, the chinook pilots threw handfuls of rice at the cavalrymen everytime they tried to shove more on the helicopter.

The 196th soldiers uncovered six tons the next day. By this time, the men had dubbed LT Garefino "Uncle Ben."

Winding up their rice hunt the next day, the soldiers gathered 21 tons of unpolished rice. In the process, two enemy were killed by F Trp. and the PFs accounted for another enemy KIA.

Returning to their base camp that evening, the men raced to the mess hall for a good hot meal. You guessed it—they were served rice.

Rice Bags Prove Healthy As Chopper Cushion Seat

LZ BALDY—CPT Robert E. Netter has acquired a sudden taste for rice. A thousand pounds of the grain probably saved the 196th Inf. Bde. officer's life.

CPT Netter, an intelligence officer from the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., and his Vietnamese interpreter, SGT Cao, were seated atop a dozen 100-pound bags of rice being extracted from caches found 20 miles north of Tam Ky.

Suddenly 13 rounds of enemy automatic weapons fire ripped into the belly of their Huey. Luckily, their rice-padded perch absorbed all the hits.

The "Rattlers" logbird from the 71st Avn. Co. had been lifting out the first load of 3,000 pounds of rice unearthed by B Co., 2-1, and Regional Force (RF) soldiers when the enemy gunner zeroed in.

Suddenly the air was awhirl with the crack of ground fire and the doorgunner's answering bursts.

The co-pilot was slightly wounded by shrapnel in one foot, but the chopper returned safely to the battalion's base at LZ Baldy inspite of a ruptured fuel line.

"I was hugging those rice bags and darned glad they were there," said the captain from Kingston, N.Y. "I'll be happy to eat rice every day from now on." (196th IO)

Mailing Explained

LONG BINH—U.S. Army postal officials reaffirmed that unit newspapers and magazines can not be sent home as free mail.

Military Assistance Command directives explain that free mailing service is limited to personal letter mail, post cards in the usual and generally accepted form, and sound recorded communications.

Printed matter—such as the SOUTHERN CROSS newspaper or the AMERICAL magazine—can be sent at the regular first class rate, or at a lower rate if sent clearly labeled "printed matter." (Americal IO)

Jungle Warrior Viet Vet Heading For 54th Month

LZ BRONCO—It is not uncommon to find a soldier in the 11th Inf. Bde. who has spent 18 months in Vietnam, but SP5 Donald M. Henry (Grant City, Mo.) has long since passed that mark.

A maintenance specialist in HHC, Henry is just beginning his 48th month in RVN.

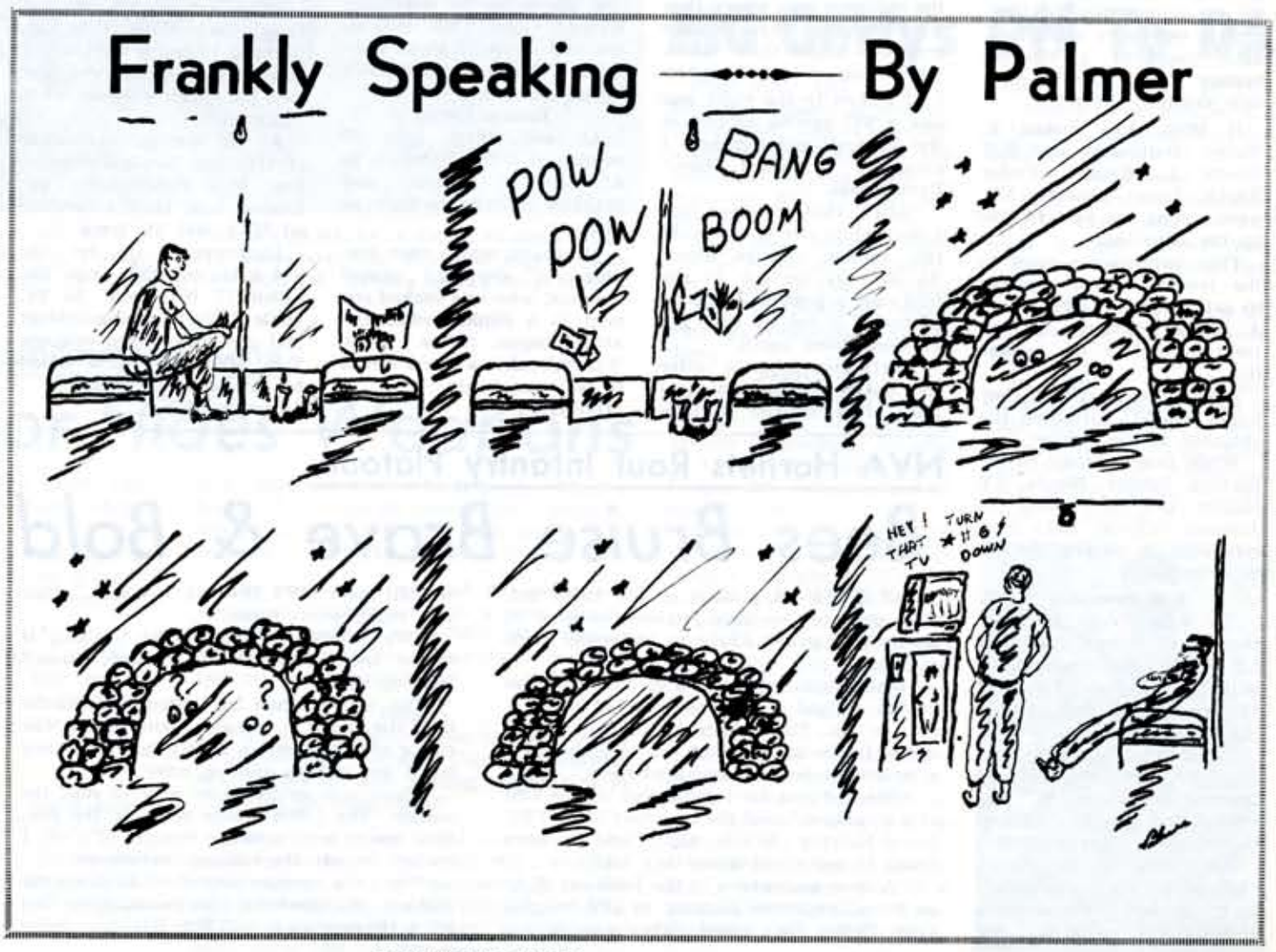
Henry came into the Army in 1964 and headed overseas the same year.

Since that time he has been assigned to units as far south as Cam Ranh Bay and as far north as Da Nang.

The young specialist soon will head back to the States, but only for a 30-day leave.

"I've put in for another 6-month extension," the Americal soldier said with a smile. "After that I think I'll go back to duty in the States. If this extension is approved it will mean a total of 54 months for me in Vietnam."

Speaking of his plans after the long tour, Henry said, "I think I'll request duty at Fort Ord, California, as a Drill Instructor. It would give me a great deal of satisfaction to teach others and prepare them for combat duty." (11th IO)



Engrs. Ward Off VC, Finish Road

PERCHED ATOP THEIR BULLDOZER, 26th Engr. soldiers move massive mounds of earth in clearing a road to the Tra Bong CIDG camp. Security was provided by A Co., 1-52 Inf., 198th Bde. (Photo by SP4 Mike Friedman, 26th Engr. Bn.)

By PFC
WILLIAM EFTINK

LZ BAYONET — The grinding roar of bulldozers and steady clanking of huge dump trucks signaled the determined push west by B Co., 26th Engr. Bn.

They were building a 17-mile road running from the village of Binh Son, on Highway 1, to a CIDG camp near Tra Bong.

CPT Warren W. Sullivan, (Fredericksburg, Va.), CO of B Co., said: "Besides serving as a supply route, the road will give the local civilians a better transportation route for bringing out their rice and cinnamon. In this way it will be a big step forward in pacification of the area."

Former Trail

The road, formerly an old French foot-trail, winds alongside the Tra Bong River into the rich cinnamon producing areas near the village of Tra Bong. Now completed, Highway 529 is the second major road inward from Highway 1 in the division area.

While the engineers were working, someone had to keep an eye out for the Viet Cong. Security primarily was the job of the 198th Bde.'s A Co., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf.

Although small arms fire was limited to an occasional sniper, the infantrymen and engineers came across several mines planted in the road and along the 40 to 100 meter right-of-way being cleared on each side.

Mine Problem

After a section of the road was completed, it still was susceptible to communist tampering. And each morning the portion of the road built the previous day had to be searched for mines.

Five days after the start of the project the VC blew up a large culvert near the beginning of the road.

CPT Sullivan explained that in a road of this type culverts are used whenever possible instead of bridges.

"If the VC knock out a culvert my men can have it replaced in an hour, with a bridge it would take considerably more time."

The giant 58-ton combat engineer vehicle (CEV), three 23,000 pound bulldozers, five 3/4-ton dump trucks, and other smaller support vehicles opened new arteries of transportation and commerce in the southern I Corps area. (198th IO)

Snoopy Curses Reds

(Continued from Page 1)

ing freely under the protection of heavy shelling.

The full impact of the attack was felt in a matter of minutes when three sachel charges exploded in one of the engineers' bunkers, starting an ammunition-fed fire.

Soon two more enemy soldiers captured a fighting bunker and pinned down four engineer defenders.

B Btry. 1SG James E. Norris (Baltimore) and 2LT Steven L. Rapier (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), assistant XO, were among the first to size up the situation.

They immediately went to the communications bunker to get the medic, PFC David A. Bozek (Chicago), to help treat injured at the bunker fire.

When they arrived they found two VC patrolling the entrance to the bunker.

While Bozek moved to the burning bunker, Norris, LT Rapier, and SSG Boon D. Johnson (Tipton, Ind.) concentrated on pinning the VC in a bunker.

Lob Grenades

"It wasn't easy to flush them out," Norris said, "but LT Rapier kept them down with M-16 fire and I started throwing hand grenades at the bunker."

Apparently each had scored a hit because later they learned that one VC had been killed by rifle fire, and the other by a grenade blast.

PFC Terrance L. Penick (Louisville, Ky.) was asleep in his bunker when someone shouted a warning that the LZ was receiving in-coming fire. A few seconds later a grenade went off outside the door.

More Grenades

Penick and SP4 Robert T. Staples (Andalusia, Pa.) jumped up and headed for the entrance way where they were greeted by another grenade blast that threw Penick back into the bunker.

"I looked to the right and saw a VC moving around in the shadows and somehow I managed to shoot him," Penick said.

"After that, Staples and I decided to check the profo pits (ammo storage area). As soon as we got to the first one, a grenade exploded on top of it and we both got knocked down again."

Thirty-five minutes after the battle began, gun and flare ships arrived to take up the fight with illumination, rockets and machine-gun fire.

The hill yielded 25 enemy bodies and a cache of armament that included 10 rifles, two pistols, and 150 assorted Chicom grenades.

A check of the perimeter showed blood trails indicating that as many as 20 additional VC were brought down by the gunships.

Enemy Losses

All told, there were 37 confirmed kills on Snoopy as a result of engineer and artillery teaming to fight as infantry.

"It really was a nice evening for sleeping," stated Johnson, who was sacked out next to a bunker when the attack began. "Now I think it might take us a few weeks to rest easy again."
(DIVARTY IO)

Div. Repels Enemy Hits

(Continued from Page 1)

whelmed a small outpost atop Nui Yon hill only to be driven off with extremely heavy casualties.

Elements of the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. and 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. aided by intensive artillery bombardment and air strikes, retook the position.

Fifty-three NVA bodies were discovered on the hilltop when the ARVN 3/4 Cav., which also participated in the action, reached the peak.

VC Stopped

Northwest of Quang Ngai, elements of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., 198th Bde. rebuffed the Viet Cong at LZ Buff.

Twenty-seven of the enemy were felled by "Brave and Bold" bullets as they attempted to reach the landing zone. Two crew-served and four individual weapons were captured.

At LZ Snoopy, northwest of 11th Bde. headquarters at Duc Pho, non-infantry defenders beat back a combined NVA and VC force.

Elements of the 1st Bn. 82d Arty. and 39th Engr. Bn. killed 17 NVA and 23 VC while capturing six individual and one crew-served weapon. Two NVA also were killed by artillery barrages.
(Americal IO)

NVA Hornets Rout Infantry Platoon

Bees Bruise Brave & Bold

LZ BUFF—A platoon of the 198th Inf. Bde. got bees in their bonnets working in an area they are likely to remember with a sting.

While participating in a cordon operation in the rugged mountains west of here, A Co., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. had a platoon hidden in the triple-canopy forest for security when a swarm of hornets assaulted them.

"We had just been resupplied on the side of a mountain," said the assistant RTO, PFC David Herring (Mobile, Ala.), "and we were fixing to move out when they hit."

"A man somewhere in the back sat right on them," explained Herring, as SP4 Douglas Cole (Dallas, Ga.) added: "They were bees—we call them 'NVA Hornets' out here." Cole was stung seven times.

"We started popping smoke thinking it would keep some of the hornets away," Herring said.

The soldiers had an added problem in that they had to remain silent during the entire attack. Deep in enemy territory, they could not chance making noise.

There was evidently no way to rout the enemy. The 198th troops were at the hornets' mercy until someone thought of a No. 1 hornet chaser—the resupply helicopter.

When the chopper dove down to assist the platoon, its powerful downwash blew the NVA Hornets away. (198th IO)

Marine Baptized By Arty. Chaplain In Chu Lai Surf

CHU LAI—The congregation of the First Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., did not have their newest member with them on Easter morning.

The absent member was baptized just eight hours earlier on the other side of the world, in the South China Sea.

LCPL Elijah Greene Jr. is one of three Marines of the 1st Marine Air Wing Radio Relay Group operating within the Chu Lai perimeter.

The Americal Division Artillery (DIVARTY) Chapel shares the location with the Marines and it was through his regularly attending services there that the young Marine's unusual baptism came about.

The 20-year-old Marine was baptized by MAJ Robert F. Shaddox, DIVARTY Chaplain, in the rolling surf to join a congregation ten thousand miles away.
(DIVARTY IO)