SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 14 | CHU LAI, VIETNAM | June 30, 1969

LIBRARY JUL 1 1969 ARMY WAR COLLEGE

Two LZs Stop NVA Sapper Attack

GUNNING GUNNER from the 11th Bde.'s 1st Bn., 20th Inf. was one of the "Sykes Regulars" temporary pinned down by intense NVA small arms and automatic weapons fire. A short time later, the blazing .50 cal. machineguns of E Trp., 1st Cav. arrived on the scene and the NVA were routed. (Photo by SP4 Rodney Preuss, 11th Bde. IO)

CHU LAI—Two early morning attacks by NVA forces on division fire bases were repulsed in a day of heavy contact, with 55 NVA and seven VC killed, and the bodies of 15 enemy soldiers found later in the day.

Hard-pressed infantrymen, along with artillery elements beat off a strong enemy assault on LZ East, 11 miles west of Tam Ky.

The men from the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., and the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., aided by Army gunships and Air Force "Spooky" and "Shadow" aircraft stopped a company size force that attacked their position behind a heavy RPG barrage.

"They were everywhere. At least 50 of them, all over the place," said SGT John Berrelli (Lawrence, Mass.), a perimeter guard at the time of the attack.

The enemy employed satchel charges, RPGs, and a flamethrower in their assault, moving under a cover of heavy machinegun fire.

SP4 James Kahele (Honolulu) and SP4 Frank Ware (San Francisco) were in one bunker when the explosion of a satchel charge damaged their position.

After the smoke cleared they noticed that the adjacent bunker had also been hit and overrun.

"That bunker was equipped with a .50 cal. machinegun which I knew we had to get working because of the heavy friepower it could put out," said Kahele.

Stymied Escape

Ware and Kahele moved from their position, fought their way into the overrun bunker, got the machinegun working, and effectively blocked the NVA's escape route through a hole in the wire.

The only officer on the LZ was wounded early in the attack and SSG William Cruse (Live Oak, Fla.), the acting platoon leader, quickly took over to direct the defense of the fire base.

Cruse moved around the perimeter throughout the 45 minute attack coordinating friendly fire, calling for dustoffs, and directing the aircraft and choppers.

Awarded Medal

For his actions during the night, Cruse was presented the Silver Star for gallantry by COL Thomas H. Tackaberry (Fairfax, Va.), brigade commander.

Later, the platoon swept the area and discovered the bodies of 27 NVA on the wire.

In other action at LZ Liz, a small knoll in the lowlands five miles northwest of Duc Pho, a four hour firefight resulted in 14 NVA killed and one detained.

An estimated NVA platoon began the battle at 2:00 a.m. with a heavy bombardment from 82mm mortars.

"After the mortar attack there was a lull for about two hours," commented SGT John Thorpe (Novi, Mich.), "and then, all of a sudden, three RPG rounds came in hitting a bunker on the southeast slope.

Bright Sky

"Flares were popped and 20 NVA were spotted crawling toward us with a .30 cal. machinegun giving them supporting fire from about 300 meters out," he added.

CPT Dennis Newbury (Youngstown, Ohio), CO of B Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf. said, "The NVA had gotten pretty far up the slope without any resistance until they fired those RPGs at one of our bunkers. Then we started returning fire.

"I took an element down to recapture the bunker where my wounded from the first incoming rounds had pulled back to. We killed three NVA trying to escape from the bunker," recalled the infantry officer.

Throw A Curve

Further along the slope the NVA had succeeded in coming within grenade throwing range of the four gunpit crews of C Btry., 1st Bn., 82nd Arty.

CPT Gerald Dixon (Provo, Utah), the battery CO, said, "Two grenades actually breeched the perimeter and they were throwing satchel charges into the hootches when SGT John La Favor (Hilo, Hawaii) and myself came around the corner of a building and saw them."

Americal ground troopers killed eight NVA soldiers, while the artillerymen got six. (Americal IO)

11th Bde. Routs Enemy In Day Long Firefight

DUC PHO—Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf., and two platoons from E Trp., 1st Cav. combined to inflict heavy casualties on an entrenched NVA battalion in a day long battle, two miles north of here.

The soldiers accounted for 29 NVA killed, and captured three AK-47 rifles, a .30 cal. RPG machinegun, and an 82mm mortar tube, base plate, sights, and 15 rounds of ammunition.

Sweep West

C Co., 1-20 Inf. began a sweep, moving east to west, hoping to clear the area of enemy troops who were harassing ARVNs and civilians working on a rural development project.

The company split into three groups for faster and less conspicuous movement.

The third platoon acting as the lead element swept into an area that a NVA battalion was using for a grouping area. The enemy was entrenched on three sides of the open terrain and began firing automatic weapons and M-79 rounds.

Pinned Down

The second platoon pulled back and then tried to flank the NVA's positions from the east but were also pinned down by heavy fire.

"We were pinned in a depression and they were throwing everything at us. If it hadn't been for Jansky, we might have never gotten out alive," said SP4 Gill Noe (Greensburg, Ky.).

SP4 Raymond Jansky (Chicago) explained, "There were a couple of guys wounded and they needed a dustoff. I heard the APCs to our right about 600 meters away, so I crawled toward them."

"Crawling and dodging behind trees, I made it to the APCs, and directed them to the men, still pinned down."

Jansky continued, "The APCs laid down a base of fire, and we evacuated our wounded to a pick-up area."

To the west D Co., led by CPT Jerald Oleary (St. Louis), was inserted by helicoptres, and a platoon of E Trp. joined with the "Sykes Regulars" who then began to push east toward the entrenched NVA who were keeping C Co. pinned down.

A Cool Toss

SSG William F. (Handgrenade) Kelly (Tampa, Fla.) commented, "We received sniper fire the whole time we were moving so we began tossing grenades into any likely spot an NVA might hide.

"When we reached C Co., they were pinned down by NVA firing from a trench to the north. The companies combined their fire, and SFC Robert Eickoff (Brownsville, N.J.) and myself crawled

(Continued on Page 8)

Religion And You

Glorious Fourth

BY LTC (CHAPLAIN) FRANCIS J. DOLAN
Division Chaplain

The Fourth of July, 1969 marks the 194th year of independence of our beloved United States of America.

Far, far lesser in importance, but surely of more personal significance, the Fourth of July, 1969 is my DEROS.

This column, then, marks the final message that I shall be privileged to address to the truly great and wonderful officers and men who have served with me in the Americal. In a more personal and parochial view I single out for special praise all 41 chaplains with whom I have been associated during my tour as Division Chaplain.

But this is no time for sentimental reminiscing. The past, with all its moments of glory and tragedy, is history. It is the future which holds our destiny. We must face up to present day reality, especially you who have time remaining to complete your tour.

For you, the importance of a Fourth of July message is to realize the dangerous age in which you have come forward from the ranks of our citizenry to dedicate your minds and hearts to the defense of our nation.

This is a tremendous responsibility and you must never take it lightly. A generous and grateful nation turns to you with confidence, willing to provide every benefit in return for total dedication on your part to patriotic duty, integrity of character, and intelligent leadership. These are virtues that dismay the weak but mark the worthy. They characterize the officers and men of the Americal.

No one asks mediocrity of you. You are called upon to give your best with trembling, but even your best can be found wanting. No margin for error can be tolerated. You cannot mete out devotion to duty based on love of country bit by bit.

Indeed, you must make your way in a world of the future wherein one slip may well wipe out everything for which we and our ancestors have toiled and lived as a free people ever since the Fourth of July, 1776.

Men of the Americal, a nation hopes and in hoping looks to you for your "Finest Hour."

Farewell, and may God keep you in the palm of his hand, until we meet again.

Battle Weary, but Proud

by MSG Bonesio

A company returns to its base camp following extended operations in the jungles, mountains and rice paddies of Vietnam.

The men are unshaven, physically and mentally weary, their clothing and equipment bear the stains of the terrain and the sweat of their efforts and toil.

Not visible but doubtlessly present in every one of these men is pride—in his unit and in himself. Each has done his job for the team and the unit has accomplished its mission. They have SOLDIERED!

These troopers have three goals in mind, clean up their gear and themselves, have a good hot meal, and relax.

With weapons and equipment cleaned and oiled, sporting fresh clothing after a shave and bathing, they have in effect "scraped the mud from the silver wreath of their CIB."

The third item, relaxing, will be up to individual; writing letters home, reading, viewing a movie, sacking out on a bunk, soaking up sun and water at a beach, or a few cold ones at the club.

Unfortunately, there are some people who are immature and believe that soldiering ceases upon coming out of the bush. They feel that they must adhere to the television or Hollywood version of the combat returnee as one who must "tear down" the local bar and "tear up" anyone who doesn't agree with his attitude or actions.

The individual who expresses disdain for authority by deliberate failure to exercise military courtesy and is lax in personal appearance, disregarding uniform regulations, is placing a film of tarnish on "The Badge."

This same person thinks that upon his return to "the world" he must epitomize the combat veteran as one of sloppy appearance — bareheaded with his hat tucked through the shoulder epaulette, uniform coat unbuttoned, tie pulled loose with shirt unfastened at the collar.

Would you believe? A camouflage material bush hat with the Army Green uniform? The same uniform with trousers bloused above jungle boots? Childish, of course! Yet these are instances of uniform violations recorded on DR's by military policemen.

There is no excuse for personnel assigned to duties at a static headquarters area presenting an appearance far below par for the course. A combat trooper who does not have the basic comforts, showers, laundry, barbering service, is bound to feel resentment toward a rear area soldier who has these facilities available but does not utilize them.

Any soldier who appears in public with the attitude that slovenly dress, uncouth actions, and a foul mouth depict a combat veteran only demonstrates a lack of pride in himself and in his unit.

We can only assume this person has failed in his duties or has not produced during the unit's mission.

The next time you stand before a shaving mirror think for a moment and ask yourself these questions. Am I soldiering "all the way?"

Does my appearance, attitude or actions require a corrective application of brasso to remove tarnish from my "Badge?"

VIETNAM-STYLE

BY SP4 JAMES WM. BROWN

Family-Kith and Kin

In the traditional Vietnamese family, the individual is a member of a group which included living persons as well as a long line of ancestors.

Emphasis is on the interests of the group rather than the individual, and famliy functions carry far beyond what we know in our western society.

While in the U.S. economic, educational, and religious relations such as one's job, his school, and his church are regulated by outside sources, in Vietnam, they are regulated by the family.

Throughout his life the individual is caught up with the activities of his many relatives. Members of the same household live together, work together, and on frequent occasions, meet togehter with a large family circle group for marriages, funerals, TET celebrations, and rituals marking the anniversaries of an ancestor's death.

In times of trouble, a man looks first to his kin for help and advice, and when making decisions for himself or household, looks out for the interests of his family.

The special reverence given to the spirits of ancestors derives from the idea that spirits of the departed still influnce the lives of the living. Honoring one's forebears and ensuring one's own immortality by maintaining the tradition is all-important.

Today, individual Vietnamese families adhere to this ancient way of living in varying degrees. The truest representation in the division area, perhaps, can be found among families living in the hamlets of the coastal lowlands from Hoi An to Gia An.

The reason is that this region had once been part of the ancient country of Annam, where Vietnamese cultural hertiage, was deeply rooted.

The most significant departure from the tradition system, however, is doubtless in Saigon and Da Nang, cosmopolitan cities where the intermingling of peoples with differing ideas and values has been the greatest.

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.

Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey ..... Commanding General
Lieutenant Colonel Paul B. Parham ..... Information Officer
Captain Cary S. Sklaren ..... Officer-In-Charge
Master Sergeant H. A. Bonesio ..... NCO-In-Charge
Specialist Four John W. Heath ..... Editor
Specialist Five Edward Conaway ..... Managing Editor
Sergeant Alfred Anthony Jr. ..... Staff Artist

Shot In The Arm

Wide-eyed child is comforted by Dr. (CPT) Raymond Hurm (Cincinnati), of the 23rd Med. Bn. as a Vietnamese Nurse administers a plague injection. More than 12,000 people in and around the Duc Pho area were inoculated. (Photo by SP4 Philip Tipton, 11th Bde. IO)

Artillery MEDCAP Cures Ills With Soap, Smiles, Pills

LZ BALDY—A 196th Bde. doctor examines the neck of an infant Vietnamese boy and skilled hands move carefully over the child's throat.

Nearby an assistant applies a bandage on a foot wound of an elderly man, and seated on a bench another aide prepares a syringe.

Cleanliness

Anxiously crowding around the doctor and his helpers are dozens of Vietnamese, young and old, who are patiently awaiting medical care.

To the personnel who conduct the MEDCAPs of the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., this scene is typical whether it be an old, dilapidated building, a school room, or a hootch in a busy market place.

"One of the primary objectives of our MEDCAP program, is to teach the Vietnamese people personal hygiene," said CPT Robert Lehman (Carlsbad, N.M.), battalion surgeon.

"Many of their problems would be eliminated if they kept clean. We give the people a half a bar of soap and show them how to use it. A majority of them have never seen a bar of soap before."

Puzzled

A glance at their frail bodies is evidence that malnutrition is a common problem of the average villager, and for this reason medics carry an ample supply of vitamin pills which they distribute.

When first presented with these vitamins, the individual looks puzzled, but with proper explanation and instruction from an interpreter, he soon learns their purpose.

The use of medical drugs to combat the spread of disease and infection is an important preventive measure employed by the medics.

Smiles

"We treat many people with penicilin and other antibiotics," said SSG Lynwood Nozworthy (Columbus, Ga.), section NCOIC.

"Most of them will never come back for further help, so we do our best to aid them in one treatment."

Children of all ages are popular patients and often their only complaints are headaches and sore throats.

"To remedy this," SSG Nozworthy added, "we are always equipped with plenty of aspirin and cough syrup. To a small child, receiving a bottle of cough syrup is a real treat."

SP5 Arthur Miller (Bradford, Pa.), senior aide man, remarked, "the people are quite responsive to us. We can help as many as a hundred villagers in an hour and still have a waiting line." (196th IO)

Village Defense Force Keeps Ceaseless Vigil

DUC PHO—Looking over the miles of rice paddies and hundreds of busy field workers, a member of a local Popular Forces platoon provides security for this Southern I Corps village.

His mission is simple: to protect the many hamlets in the area from interference by VC and NVA forces.

Alert and Ready

Given the same training as all Vietnamese soldiers and a new M-16 provided by his Americal allies, a PF stands ready to defend his home against VC guerillas and main force NVA units.

His defensive posture includes bunkers and trenchlines which aptly reflect his Vietnamese ingenuity.

According to SFC Raymond D. May (Russellville, W.Va.), the MACV security forces advisor for the Duc Pho area, the PFs usually work in the vicinity of their own home.

"These men usually come from the village or hamlet they are assigned to," May explained. "The assignment comes after they have gone through the regular ARVN training."

No Tax

Although their basic mission is providing security for the villagers, PFs sometimes go on missions in the field.

"The PFs in the Duc Pho area recently helped to protect a Vietnamese rice harvest in the area," May said. "They helped us keep VC tax collectors away from the region."

The PFs returned the same night to keep their regular vigilance of the sectors beyond the perimeter here.

As night fell, the steady forms of PF soldiers were silhouetted above the numerous oval-shaped bunkers.

Their constant surveillance of the nearby area continues to keep Viet Cong terrorism away from the village of Duc Pho. (11th IO)

In Duc Pho Project

Hefty Oinkers Thrive

LZ BRONCO—Members of the 29th Civil Affairs Co. are bringing home the bacon to the people of a small village on the outskirts of the 11th Bde. basecamp here.

The bacon is on the hoof in the form of a new breed of pig the company is introducing to give the local economy a shot in the arm.

The Agricultural Officer, 1LT Thomas A. Walton (Ft. Wayne, Ind.) and SP4 Gary Klauenburch (San Jose, Calif.) are responsible for the project.

1LT Walton explainded that the local pigs were small in camparison to the new breed. To illustrate this, he compared the local porkers which weigh 100 pounds with the new breed which is a hefty 400 pounds.

Pen Splitters

"This new breed is the result of crossbreeding American and Thaiamese swine, and will increase the meat diet of the local people," LT Walton stated.

The problem in size was initially quite serious. The people receiving the first pigs failed to provide adequate space for the animals to exercise in. They built their pens scaled on the local breed's specifications.

"Without exercise, the pigs muscles didn't develop as their weight increased, "noted 1LT Walton." Their legs would not support them, and they became permanently crippled."

Growth

The situation was corrected through careful supervision in the pen building. Now, one of the requirements for receiving a pig is that adequate space be provided prior to its delivery.

Initially, working through the hamlet chiefs, 32 pigs were distributed to selected individuals throughout Duc Pho.

A stud fee of one or two pigs from a litter is charged by the family owning the boar.

"In this manner, we were able to get a herd started for each of the families. The pigs are theirs to keep. We only require that one pig from each litter be returned to us," remarked LT Walton.

"We then redistributed them to 32 other families," concluded the lieutenant.

Objectives

The object of the program is two-fold:

One, to provide a meat source and to gvie them the opportunity to gain additional income through sale or trade of pigs.

Two, in the future, this larger, healthier breed will replace the local animal opening up the possibility of a regional meat industry.

With the aim of perpetuating this program, still another project is being introduced—the planting of appropriate crops to provide food for the animals.

New Horizons

At present, the villagers have a ready food source for their pigs from the mess hall garbage of the LZ.

Each day, trucks drop the garbage off at a central point in the village. Villagers then divide it under the supervision of a local village official.

Sorghum is being introduced to the local fields to replace the garbage. This canelike grass, also a source of sugar, has a high nutritional value.

"We've had problems, such as Hog Cholera that killed five animals, but overall the project is very successful," stated LT Walton. (11th IO)

Confident Officers Emerge From First RF-PF Course

CHU LAI—The first 20 graduates completed the RF-PF Combat Leadership Course at the Combat Center, and walked across the stage with gleaming pride.

LTC John Dure III (Medford, Mass.), then commandant, 14 days earlier in the opening ceremony stated, "we will watch the progress of your class and hope our combined efforts will improve the course for future classes."

The two weeks, of classes is designed to perfect the military knowledge and leadership of the RF-PF junior officres. Those attending received the necessary preparation to command a field company or perform staff functions.

Closely Watched

"You have been an enthusiastic class and approached the course with vigor and determination," said LTC Craig G. Coxerdale (St. Petersberg, Fla.), the new Combat Center commandant.

The training consisted of map reading, weapons familiarization, political warfare, NVA-VC tactics, and the organization of Regional and Popular Force units.

Togetherness

"One of the first programs brought to my attention after my arrival was this course," said MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, commanding general. "I was told that this was an outstanding class in every respect.

"We have a big job in front of us—our objective is to work together and complete our jobs effectively."

"I am very glad to have attended this course of instruction," said 2LT Nguyen Vinh Khuong, honor graduate, who is a 27-year old regional force company commander from Quang Tri province. (Americal IO)

The magical baton brought the flow of entrancing music. It was also the signal starting the second in a series of cultural exchange visits between the Americal Band and its counterpart with the 2nd ARVN Div.

The Band, which is part of the Div. Support Command, travelled by "Chinook" to Quang Ngai City to give a concert for the Vietnamese troopers. The ARVN band had previously appeared at Chu Lai.

Everything from folding chairs to chimes went aboard the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Co. "Flying Boxcars," in addition to more than 40 musicians.

Americal Bandmaster, CW2 John Murat, led the

After a thorough briefing by Americal Bandmaster CW2 John Murat and SSG John Blomstrom, Band members load themselves and their instruments aboard waiting CH-47 "Chinooks." Although the chimes proved a bit cumbersome, these musical "Miracle Men" arrived in Quang

Americal Band Serenades ARVNs At Quang Ngai City

Story and Photos
By SGT DERRILL C. DALBY
Division Support Command

full concert band is such numbers as "America the Beautiful" and "How the West Was Won." Then the ensemble broke down into the dance band, placing deeper emphasis on rhythm and the swinging sounds of the sixties.

The "gig" changed its pace again a while later, revealing the trade secrets and elements of soul music to the fascinated ARVN audience.

The pulsating beat of "Soul Incorporated" hummed in the air, and progressed the ARVN listeners from toe-tapping into "Groovy-feeling."

Such a response keeps true the traditional saying: Music is an international language and speaks clearly loud.

Ngai City and played with gusto and virtuosity for the soldiers of the 2nd ARVN Div., Vietnamese officials, their wives and children.

Combat In Review

Flat-footed VC Try To Hoof It: 'Sorry Charlie'

LZ WEST—The enemy had the red carpet pulled out from under them by the 196th Inf. Bde.

During a lighting combat assault, infantrymen from C Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf. were airlifted at dawn in the western part of Hiep Duc Valley, 36 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The VC element operating near Phuoc Son was apparently caught completely unaware by the fast moving "Polar Bears."

Aggressive Surprise

"We caught them flat-footed," explained CPT John Long (New Boomfield, Pa.), CO of C Co. "Our aggressiveness surprise them and the entire operation was completed in an hour and a half.

"The VC were in such a hurry to leave that we found an M-1 carbine, and a pile of important documents still lying on a table in a hootch," he said.

Two platoons of C Co. secured and searched the main hamlet. The third platoon, commanded by 1LT Jerry Josey (Bishopville, S.C.), was dispatched to a hootch area several hundred meters to the south.

Dead Evaders

"As we approached the hootches, we saw five VC evading into a draw," related 1LT Josey. "We followed them and killed three as they tried to climb up the draw into a woodline."

A fourth VC sought refuge in a rocky cave. SP4 Juan Class (New York) ventured into the dark crevice armed only with a .45 cal. pistol.

He detected movement to his front, and fired, killing the VC. A search of an adjacent hootch revealed a quantity of VC medical supplies and a bicycle.

C&C Spots 'Em

Several times the unit received sporadic sniper fire from an unknown enemy position. LTC Robert B. Longino (Atlanta, Ga.), 4-31 Inf. commander, aloft in his command and control chopper observed three VC in the vicinity of the third platoon, and alerted them.

The VC position now exposed, LT Josey and his men closed in, raking the area with machinegun and M-79 fire. A VC carrying 10 gallons of gasoline, an AK-47, and ammunition was killed.

Supply Point

Also located in the vicinity were 80 pounds of powdered CS and captured documents which indicated the VC were supplying NVA units with food supplies.

Among the nine VC killed during the sweep was a security chief, a high ranking member of the propaganda cadre, and a VC village chief. (196th IO)

Determined Gunner

An artillery men takes careful aim in an attempt to silence an enemy sniper in the valley below LZ Professional. SGT Denvil Bailey (Oceana, W. Va.), a member of C. Btry., 1st Bn., 14th Arty., didn't know if he was successful or not, but shortly thereafter, the invisible Communist vanished and ceased firing at the helicopters flying in to resupply the mountaintop fire base. (Photo by SP4 Paul F. Palmer, Americal IO)

VC Handicrafts Class An Explosive Session

LZ BRONCO—An unusual incident outside the main gate of the 11th Bde. headquarters here cost five VC their lives and wounded four others.

The group of nine apparently had an accident as they were making hand grenades in a hootch near the access road connecting the village of Duc Pho to the base camp.

An explosion at noon sent Military Police from the 1st Plt., 23rd MP Co., who were patrolling the village to investigate.

"At first I thought it was an M-79 round that had exploded," commented SP4 David Chrystal (Walker, Iowa), "but when we arrived, we knew it must have been a much larger blast."

"We found four still alive and evacuated them to the aid station on LZ Bronco."

SFC Frank Lewis (Geneva, Ala.) and SP5 Paul Patrick (Belle Plain, Kan.) of the 123rd Ordnance Det. were called to the scene.

Lewis remarked, "apparently they were making coke-can type grenades when one went off causing a chain reaction. We recovered two homemade grenades, a small vial of black powder, and six flashlight batteries."

1LT John McNoun (St. Peters, Mo.), Asst. Bde. S-2 stated, "Under interrogation, two wounded suspects claimed they were making grenades to sell to the Volunteer Informant Program, but we believe they had other purposes in mind."

Later two of the wounded suspects confessed to being VC. (11th IO)

LZ Baldy Batters Bad Guys

LZ BALDY—The dark morning stillness exploded for the 196th Inf. Bde. here when a company of NVA attempted an unsuccessful sapper attack only to be thwarted by a canine's alarm.

After a 15-man enemy force penetrated perimeter defenses, they scaled a hill behind the remote camp of an element of Co. G, 75th Inf., silently approaching until the ranger's pet mongrel, "Crash," began barking fiercely.

Their attempt at stealth destroyed, the NVA began to receive intense fire from the hastily wakened rangers who were upset at having their sleep disturbed.

Other squads of enemy were storming other points on the perimeter only to be beaten off by the stubborn defense of "Charger" bunker-line guards.

Although the invaders were credited with damaging several bunkers and hootches, two jeeps, and a battalion chapel with satchel charges and RPGs, 43 NVA died in the assault.

Morning patrols discovered eight AK-47s, 125 Chicom grenades, more than 25 satchel charges, six other individual weapons and a bangalore torpedo. (196th IO)

NVA Hate Eagle-eyed Ferguson

LZ BRONCO—It was simply a case of unmistaken identity.

"I saw him before he saw me," said SSG Frederick Ferguson (Omaha), a track platoon leadre with the 11th Bde.'s E Trp., 1st Cav.

The armor column, with B and D Cos., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. in support, were moving through open terrain five miles south of here when Ferguson saw some NVA setting up a 75mm recoilless rifle.

He put his tracks on line and with infantry beside him began assaulting the enemy. "Apparently we caught them by surprise because we were able to overrun the NVA position before they could fire," the cavalry sergeant noted.

The combined armor-infantry team killed 13 enemy and in addition to the recoilless rifle captured four AK-47s, an RPG launcher, an M-79, a .45 cal. pistol and numerous typewritten documents. (11th IO)

Sooty Sappers Zapped At Liz In Night Attack

LZ LIZ—An NVA sapper attack on this firebase five miles north of Duc Pho was successfully repelled by soldiers of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf.

The action lasted for six hours and resulted in 12 NVA killed, two AK-47 rifles, two RPGs, and over 100 Chicom grenades captured.

The fighting began on the south side of the perimeter when 12 enemy were spotted by members of B Co. manning the southern bunker.

Outscoped

"I was scanning the area with a starlight scope when I detected a reflection," commented PFC Walter Swain (Philadelphia). "Looking closer, I counted 12 of them coming through the wire.

"I alerted the others and gave the starlight to them, and they confirmed what I saw. We called it in, and opened up with a M-79 and automatic weapons fire," Swain added.

SGT Larry Sopczynski (Harbor Beach, Mich.) interjected. "We called for illumination and continued to fire. They tried to retreat through the wire, but we kept picking them off."

Alive & Squirming

When they couldn't detect any more movement, 1LT William D. Castille (Port Arthur, Tex.) along with five other men went down to check the area out.

"I was walking towards the wire and was about 30 meters away when I stepped off the path into a ditch and right on a very much alive NVA. My M-16 was on automatic, and I emptied a magazine in him," Castille added.

A half hour later, on a return trip, LT Castille and his men policed up two AK-47 rifles.

On the northern side of the perimeter, a sapper squad managed to penetrate the concertina wire and fired an RPG into the artillery's communication bunker.

Knocked Out

Two NVA took over a small fighting position, but three rounds from a 90mm recoilless rifle fired by PFC Charles Shell (Dallas) put an end to their fighting.

At daybreak, an NVA, found hiding in the chapel, revealed that he was a member of an 18-man sapper unit that was organized into three six-man squads.

Well-equipped

Each squad was equipped with an AK-47 and a RPG-2. The other men served as ammunition bearers.

The morning search confirmed 12 NVA killed. They wore dark shorts, and camouflaged their bodies with soot. Several blood trails were found leading out of the perimeter. (11th IO)

Give to Army Emergency Relief —'The Army Helping Its Own'

CHU LAI—Army Emergency Relief helps the Americal live up to the motto "the Army takes care of its own."

Last year more than $4,500 was provided to personnel of the division in the form of loans and grants and the current loan volume indicates that Army Emergency Relief will provide more assistance in 1969 than ever before.

Assists Our Own

AER is the service's way of assisting active and retired Army personnel and their families when a financial problem arises.

Assistance is provided to anyone deserving in time of an emergency for privation of dependents, emergency travel, medical and dental expenses, or anything else that may cause a soldier of his family hardship.

The 1969 Joint AER and Army Relief Society Fund Raising Campaign is presently being conducted within the Americal and will end on Aug. 15. See your unit AER project officer to make contributions.

Merged Funds

When you give to AER remember that your contribution is merged with AER funds from all units in the Army for your use in the Army in case of need. It also enables AER to cover disbursements for assistance worldwide. You are asked to make generous contributions to help your fellow soldiers and their families.

AER can help you by an outright grant or by a non-interest loan which may be repaid in small monthly installments.

To apply, contact CPT Bratt, the Division AER Officer, who is located in the rear of the AG Personnel Services Div. Butler building, AG Personnel Actions Branch. (Americal IO)

PFC Strums One Mean Guitar

LZ BALDY—PFC Mike Weaver, an artilleryman, has communicated most of his life, either delivering inspiring sounds as lead guitarist with the popular Buffalo Springfield Band or running an army message center.

Weaver, from Valley Station, Ky., joined his first rock and roll band while still in high school.

"We started our five piece band in 1961—then known as the 'Rugbees'," said Weaver. "It was just about the same time when the Beatles were really the 'in' group."

The band started playing at high school dances and then advanced to hotels and clubs. Later, the name was changed to Buffalo Springfield.

The group performed at the Monterey Pop Festival in Tennessee, and made television appearances on American Bandstand and Hullabaloo.

In addition to being lead guitarist, Weaver is also a lyricist, and is co-writer of the song "Rock and Roll Woman", a number which shot the Buffalo Springfield to an overnight success.

Presently Weaver works in the headquarters battery message center of the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., and does everything from driving a truck to distributing newspapers and running a mimeograph machine.

"It sure is a far cry from those band days," remarked Weaver, "but in my spare time I strum my guitar and reflect on those good ol' musical years." (196th IO)

Four Glorious Girls

Four is the magic number this month, as the comely quartet above outshines July Fourth's skyrockets. They are known as the Honey Ltd., a group of singing lovelies who appeared at Chu Lai with the Bob Hope Show way back when. See, you really are getting short—only 178 shopping days till Christmas. (Photo by SP4 Peter Schwarz, Americal IO)

Congratulations To The New Arrivals

SP4	Charles Burton, 1-46 Inf.	.....	daughter	born June 11
1SG	Doyle D. Smith, 523 Med. Co.	.....	son	born June 11
SP4	Hugh B. Auton, 6-56 Arty.	.....	daughter	born June 12
SP4	Carlton Webb, 1-52 Inf.	.....	son	born June 12
SP4	Leroy Nairn, 1-20 Inf.	.....	daughter	born June 13
SP4	James C. Cash, 4-31 Inf.	.....	son	born June 13
SP4	Milton Wilson, 3-16 Arty.	.....	son	born June 13
SP4	William G. Keull, Combat Center	...	son	born June 14
1LT	David Waltz, 1-46 Inf.	.....	son	born June 14
PVT	Robert D. Shuemak, 1-46 Inf.	.....	son	born June 14
2LT	Walter T. Brown, HHC, 11th Bde.	..	son	born June 14
SP4	William M. Biddy, 723 Maint. Bn.		daughter	born June 14
PFC	Frederick Cross, 26 Engr. Bn.	.....	son	born June 15
SP4	James Alexander, 39 Engr. Bn.		daughter	born June 15
SGT	Eugene Holland, 1-20 Inf.	.....	son	born June 15
PFC	Floyd G. Lewis, 2-1 Inf.	.....	daughter	born June 16
PFC	Michael Brewer, 1-46 Inf.	.....	daughter	born June 16
SP4	Nelson G. Monroe, 4-3 Inf.	....	daughter	born June 16
1LT	James S. Koener Jr., 23 MP Co.		daughter	born June 17

MAJ Helps COL, Stems Attack

LZ BRONCO—MAJ Virgil W. Oglesby (Lakeland, Fla.), the Assistant Amercial Division G-2, was recently awarded the Silver Star Medal for his actions while serving as Operations Officer for the 11th Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry during a massive enmey attack on the battalion forward firebase, LZ Cork.

At the outset of the attack, MAJ Oglesby observed that the Commanding Officer's bunker received a direct hit. Leaving his protected position, he maneuvered through a heavy volume of enemy fire to reach the Colonel's bunker.

Upon reaching the bunker, he found the Colonel seriously wounded and administered immediate first aid.

MAJ Oglesby then assumed command of the Battalion, and after insuring that all enemy forces were repelled from the perimeter, reorganized the unit's defenses and directed the medical evacuation of wounded personnel. (Americal IO)

A Long Pass Scores Big TD For Artillery Ammo Bearer

LZ BALDY—One of the longest forward passes in the history of professional football was right on target from the Chicago Bear's owner George Halas to a mortarman from the 196th Bde.

The 13,000 mile pass was completed all the way from Chicago to LZ Baldy.

SP4 Steve Coach (Kankakee, Ill.) wrote a letter to the Bear's owner and former coach explaining his situation —"I wanted to keep in touch with the game and I needed something to keep my arm in shape."

Inflated Package

A few weeks later, the chief ammo bearer of E Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. was pleasantly surprised to find a package in the mail. Opening it, he found an official football and Bears team picture autographed by Halas.

"It's the very best made," said Coash, running his big hands appreciately over the pigskin. "They mailed it fully inflated, too. We didn't even have to pump it up to start playing."

Coash has always been a Bears fan. He has also spent a good deal of his 21 years wrapped up in football. So it seemed only natural to write Halas from his duty station and ask for a little help.

Hiked At Center

Coash knows some of the Bears players from his old high school team personally. After finishing high school, he spent a couple of years playing center at Northeastern Oklahoma Junior College.

He is looking forward to going back to school and playing again after his military hitch is up, perhaps at the University of Southern Illinois.

"I've been away for awhile, and that may be a bit of a problem," said Coash, "but I sure plan to give it a try." (196th IO)

Those Bells Are Ringing

CHU LAI—"Hello! Taper? Give me Tackle Rear please. Tackle Rear? Tackle Forward please."

And so it goes, some 3,000 phone calls made daily through the Americal switchboard in Chu Lai.

Chu Lai is served by two overlapping telephone systems: first, the conventional dial system which is handled and serviced by the Navy; and second, the Americal system which is maintained by the 523rd Sig. Bn.

The latter is a common battery-manual switchboard system, which means you pick up the phone and an operator will answer. You give him the number and he'll place your call.

"It's a very reliable system, in that we are able to complete 96 percent of all our calls daily," said CPT Robert E. Dragoo (Hyattsville, Md.), A Co. commander. "This system connects all the brigades, firebases, and LZs into one main area."

Four men are at the switchboard at all times, and work in shifts.

SP4 Charles Hendrix (Moro, Ark.), one of these operators, said, "We answer all calls, give any information that we can, and make all the connections."

And so it goes, "Baldy? Give me Locomotive please." (Americal IO)

Communication Problems a Cinch For 'Brave and Bold' Signalmen

LZ BAYONET—An urgent call for artillery support from a rifle company under heavy enemy fire or just a telephone call from the brigade headquarters to the Americal basecamp at Chu Lai.

Both are necessary factors in the efficient operation of the 198th Inf. Bde.

Responsibility for maintaining such communications rests on the men of the 2nd Plt., B Co., 523rd Sig. Bn. and the communications platoon of the brigade's Hqs. Co.

Communications Vital

"Our basic mission is to provide communications for brigade headquarters and its lower echelons," said MAJ John F. Hargrove (Flushing, N.Y.), brigade signal officer.

From the tactical operations center at LZ Bayonet, communications with the most isolated platoon deep in enemy territory can be accomplished.

With equal ease, signal personnel could contact a Navy vessel in the South China Sea, an aircraft flying in the brigade's support, or an armored personnel carrier rambling through the bush.

Call Support Fast

"Only with instant communications between all coordinating elements," said 1LT Russell Messina (Detroit), signal platoon officer, "can units in the field quickly get support from gunships, tactical air strikes, artillery or have men, equipment and supplies moved where it is most needed."

As in all technical and mechanical operations, maintenance is a big problem.

Much To Repair

One of the duties of the communications platoon is to operate a radio repair section that handles all radio equipment for the brigade.

"The largest problem we run into are heat and dust," stated MAJ Hargrove. "This is extremely hard on equipment. These conditions shorten equipment life by 35% here."

"This means a lot of emphasis on maintenance," noted MSG Charles R. Rando (Boston), commo platoon NCOIC. "And in addition to the equipment itself, we've got to take care of about 20 miles of wiring right on LZ Bayonet." (198th IO)

Too Many Don't Spoil Broth

Arty Cooks A Saucy Bunch

By SP5 John Rananauskas

LZ LIZ—Was that a cook's hat on the head of the soldier carrying a 105mm round?

When not in the kitchen, SP5 William Vega (New York), first cook from C Btry., 1st Bn., 82nd Arty., takes the time to learn the artilleryman's job. Vega feels his cross training is important "because someone has to take over" if a cannoneer becomes a casualty.

Two cooks are members of a reactionary force, called into action if a forward defense line is penetrated. Perimeter guard is performed nightly by all five combat chefs.

When not in a gun pit or on the perimeter, Vega reverts to his primary duty, preparing food. Cooks for C Btry. put an extra effort in their mess hall procedure.

"We have cook-outs every Sunday afternoon, tactical situation permitting," commented SP4 Garry Messner (Wooster, Ohio). "Usually we have steak but when we can't get it, we prepare chicken or hot dogs and hamburgers."

Even personal resources are occasionally substituted in the absence of sufficient equipment.

"We're using refrigerators belonging to mess personnel to make ice for cold drinks," added mess sergeant SFC Jackie M. Lancaster (Gadsden, Ala.).

Weary cannoneers can look forward to coffee or cold drinks accompanied by a snack after a night fire mission.

In addition, SFC Lancaster's "white hats" prepare one hot meal daily for members of the 6th Bn., 11th Arty., manning a radar observation post on a nearby mountaintop.

The morale of the artillerymen is greatly influenced by the food he eats; the cook is responsible for it, but at the same time an artillery cook's mess hall is not alway his castle. (Americal IO)

BG, Chopper Pilot In Daring Rescue

CHU LAI—The major was up to his ears in the water when the general dropped in unexpectedly.

An Air Force major and his co-pilot from the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing (Da Nang) issued a MAYDAY call after their F-4 Phantom was hit by ground fire, forcing the aircraft into the South China Sea.

The command and control chopper of BG Edwin L. Powell (Cocoa, Fla.), Asst. Div. Com, answered the call flying fast and low over unfriendly territory to the jet pilots' watery predicament.

With the general's and WO1 Michael W. Jacobs (Miami) deft maneuvering, door gunner, PFC Salvatore Amorello (Jackson Heights, N.Y.), was able to snatch the downed pilots from the water. (Americal IO)

Balancing RTO

As deftly as he maintains the frequencies of his radio, this soldier from the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., cautiously walks across a log foot-bridge as his units returns from Nui Chom Mountain. (Photo by SP4 Michael Sullivan, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

'Regulars' Rebuild LZ

LZ BAYONET—Converting an infantry battalion base camp from a tent enclave into an enlarged, permanent wood and tin area can be more than a minor chore in a combat zone.

Rear area personnel are at a premium and carpentry seems to be an "on the job" learned expertise.

In spite of problems, infantrymen of the 198th Inf. Bde's 1st Bn., 6th Inf. found a solution. And the rear area at LZ Bayonet is not the same as it was a month ago.

Wood Replaces Canvas

The canvas is gone. There are 48 permanent wood and tin structures where tents once stood. Wood floor and walls and corrugated tin roofs have replaced weather-worn, faded green tarpaulins.

The job was done by the men themselves — infantrymen, cooks, jeep drivers and supervisory personnel. Working around operational commitments, they raised the buildings in one month.

"Whenever they had a few free minutes, or a day back in base camp from the field, they sawed a board here and nailed a plank," said MAJ Theodore G. Kershaw (Carmel, Calif.), Bn. XO.

Work Pays Off

"Sure, it was a lot of hard work," said SGT Don Beck (Prichard, Ala.), a field veteran now in the rear area. "But I was tired of canvas. So when we got the wood and nails, it was no problem getting it done."

Some have even called it a luxury. Medic SP5 John Kephart (Burlington, Iowa) remarked: "Just get the roads paved and some shade trees planted, and this place will be an R&R center before you know it." (198th IO)

Cav-Inf Combo

(Continued from Page 1)

forward to the trench."

Out Mortared

Kelley shot one NVA and threw grenades into the trench as SFC Eickoff covered him. It was in this trench that the 82mm mortar was found by these two men.

A machinegun fired at them from the north side of a hedgerow. The position was fortified with solid overhead protection, and the gun continued to fire even after the APCs fired on it with their .50 cal. machinegun.

PFC John Taylor (Taft, Calif.) crawled behind the bunker, worked his way to the opening, and threw in a grenade silencing the gun and killing the crew.

The Recon element, inserted as a blocking force, joined with C and D Cos. in an attempt to cordon the NVA force.

Sporadic fighting continued as darkness fell on the blood stained battlefield. (11th IO)

New Chapel

The memorial chapel honoring LTC Walter Pritchard Jr. has become a reality for the troops of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. The 30-foot high place of worship was constructed from material acquired from LZs Liz and Dragon under the direction of SSG James A. Jones. (Photo by SP4 Rodney T. Preuss, 11th Bde. IO)