198th Locates Elaborate Enemy Basecamp

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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CHU LAI—Division infantrymen uncovered an abandoned battalion-size enemy basecamp believed to have housed an estimated 200 enemy soldiers.

Located approximately 15 miles west of Chu Lai, the camp was found overlooking a 125-foot cliff and nestled in heavy underbrush.

"It was a pretty permanent setup, complete with running water, showers, and multi-story huts," said MAJ Theodore Kershaw (Carmel, Calif.), operations officer of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 6th Inf., whose B Co. found the encampment.

As B Co. approached the camp, they crossed two bamboo bridges, only access to the well-hidden camp. Enemy soldiers apparently abandoned the area three to six days before it was discovered.

The area contained several large hootches, one of which a 15 ft. by 75 ft. three level structure with an underground bunker, sleeping space, and an attic for storage. Another large hootch housed sleeping facilities.

"It seems they had an elaborate system of running water and showers," said SP4 William Siegle (Farmington, N.J.), a radio-telephone operator at the battalion tactical operations center. "They even had a chicken coop and stock pens."

CPT Richard Jessop (Knightstown, Ind.), CO of B Co., said, "This place looks like it's been here for quite some time, and I wouldn't be surprised if we don't find more sites like it."

CPT Jessop's unit is one of three companies of the 1-6 sweeping rugged jungle area with elements of the 6th ARVN Regt. (Americal IO)

Precious Cargo

An infantryman from the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. hurries to a waiting Americal chopper with a heavy sack of rice. The valuable cargo was distributed to refugees in Que Son Valley. (Photo by SP4 Jim Bruce, 196th Bde. IO)

Courses For Ex Enemy Troops

Open New Kit Carson Training Center

By SP4 JAMES BROWN

CHU LAI — It was a landmark day for the Kit Carson Scouts (KCS) serving with the Americal as the new Kit Carson Training Center was opened here.

The center will be the focal point for the division Kit Carson program and will formalize training of the Scouts, who operate much the way as their namesake did in the old American West.

Scouts Valuable

The Kit Carson Scout is a former VC or NVA soldier who rallied to the Government of South Vietnam (GVN) and subsequently hired by U.S. Forces. Serving as a guide with extensive knowledge of the enemy, the KCS is contributing much to the war effort.

"The training center you see before you is the culmination of much hard work by U.S. Forces and Scouts themselves," said LTC Robert B. Nelson (Columbus, Ga.), division G-2 (Intelligence) officer.

"It is also fulfillment of a dream to provide the division with the basic tools necessary to turn out effective, well-trained scouts. The usefulness of KCS's has been proven time and time again."

Marines Train Scouts

The Kit Carson Scout program was first initiated in the Republic of Vietnam in November 1966 by the 1st Marine Div. under the command of MG Herman Nickerson (now LTG Nickerson, Commanding General of III Marine Amphibious Forces, who is credited with coining the name "Kit Carson Scouts.")

"The opening of the Kit Carson Scout Training program marks the fruition of the efforts of many people involved in the KCS program for more than a year," said BG Wallace L. Clement, Assistant Division Commander.

"These Scouts have saved many lives with their sharp eyes and instinct for mines and boobytraps. They have given a unique, personal testimony in PSYOP, have assisted in on-the-spot interrogations that gained valuable information about enemy actions, and have proven themselves well under hostile fire," BG Clement concluded.

Variety Of Courses

The Americal Combat Center will conduct technical portions of instruction, which amounts to approximately 20 percent of the total 160 hours of instruction in such courses as First Aid, Demolitions, and Map Reading.

The KCS section, composed of six full-time U.S. personnel and one part-time KCS coordinator at each brigade, gives classes in English, physical training, weapons, Kit Carson Scout strategy and duties, and tactics.

Rangers Hit Beach

CHU LAI — "Boxcars" from the 178th AHC have opened a swimming beach complete with lifeguard tower and covered picnic area. But not without a few problems.

A Chinook set out the buoys marking boundaries of the swimming area. Unfortunately, in hovering into position to accurately drop one of the closer barrels, the choppers rotorwash completely blew down the beach house.

The Rangers really weren't too pleased about the situation. However, the "Boxcars" felt they had done a fine job in setting out the barrels. Grumbling, the Rangers rebuilt the shed, and the beach area is ready for enjoying. (16th CAB IO)

Swabbies Cool Off Grunts

LZ BRONCO—"It was a hot, muggy afternoon, and we'd been humping all day with the tracks," commented SP4 Mike Thompson (Ithaca, Mich.), a radio-telephone operator (RTO) with the 11th Bde.'s A Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf.

As the infantrymen took a break on the beach just south of Duc Pho, they observed a heavy cruiser, the USS Boston, anchored off the coast. CPT Robert Smith (Columbus, Ga.), the company commander, told his men, "There's something on that ship that you guys would really like."

Beer, Broads?

This started the "Gimlets" guessing. Could it be cold soda, beer, whiskey, or maybe women? Finally, CPT Smith had to tell them, "I'd wager to say she's got about five tons of ice cream aboard."

This started the wheels rolling. SP4 Al Taylor (Dunsmiur, Calif.), another RTO, made radio contact with a swift boat from the Naval Support Activity at San Huynh, CPT Smith took over, "Big Boat in the Blue, this is Dirty Ernie on the shore, over."

"I got a buddy on board and he said you have plenty of ice cream. Could we swap you something for a few gallons?"

Ice Cream To Go

The USS Boston replied, "Just call me Big Generous Boat in the Blue. We'll send some right over." The swift boats volunteered to go pick up the ice cream and return it to Sa Huynh. APCs from E Trp., 1st Cav., working with the company, charged for the village to meet the swift boats.

The tracks returned to A Co. promptly with 20 gallons of pineapple ice cream. The entire company's sentiments were voiced by SP4 Rocky Butzer (Portland, Ore.), "I can still taste it! It was delicious and we'd all like to thank the Navy." (11th IO)

Religion and You

'Patience Pursued'

By CHAPLAIN (LTC) JACK C. RANDLES
Acting Division Chaplain

George Matheson, the great Scottish preacher, who when told by a famous oculist that he was going blind, wrote these lovely words: "O love that will not let me go! I rest my weary soul on thee." Also, "O joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee: I trace the rainbow through the rain."

Read these lines from his pen as he continued, "There are time when things look very dark to me—so dark that I have to wait even for hope. A long-deferred fulfillment carries its own pain, but to wait for hope, to see no glimmer of a prospect and yet to keep the window open for possible stars; to have a vacant place in my heart and yet to allow that place to be filled by no inferior presence that is the grandest patience in the universe. It is Job in the Tempest; it is Abraham on the road to Moriah; it is Moses in the desert of Midian; it is the Son of man in the Garden of Gethsemane."

It takes a real faith to trace the rainbow through the rain, but it takes the storm cloud to make the rainbow.

What then? Shall we sit idly down and say
The night hath come; it is no longer day?
Yet as the evening twilight fades away
The sky is filled with stars, invisible to day.

—Selected.

VIETNAM-STYLE

Rural Justice In Vietnam

By SP4 JAMES BROWN

In the villages of the lowlands and in the mountain regions many disputes and minor offenses among the people are dealt with informally by family heads and local leaders. Under existing conditions such customary proceedings seem to have at least the approval of the authorities, although the minor offenses are not entered in the records of the formal court system.

In the lowland villages the district chiefs have limited judicial powers. When using their authority to gather evidence and to bring offenders to court, they function as assistants to the prosecuting attorney.

They are not authorized to hold trials of any kind, but they may arrest anyone caught in a criminal act, interrogate witnesses and prepare an official statement for the prosecuting attorney.

When a serious crime has been committed, the district chief makes a personal investigation and informs the prosecuting attorney of the facts.

Where public safety or morals are involved, the provincial governor must also be informed. Village chiefs are authorized to mediate disputes between villagers, but criminal offenders are customarily turned over to the police for investigation to determine what further action is to be taken.

Most disputes in lowland villages are settled informally by hamlet chiefs or village councils. Differences between members of the same family are probably most often settled within the family to avoid airing family troubles in public.

The informal juridical role of the village council is an important means of preserving tranquility. Moreover, hearing cases enables the council to keep closely in touch with village attitudes and activities.

In serious disputes the entire council may meet and listen to the complaints of the parties. After questioning, the council may ask the hamlet chief to investigate further, delegate the case to him for settlement or itself try to effect reconciliation.

It may also require indemnity for loss or damage, levy fines or impose other sanctions, such as contributions of labor to village projects. Unresolved cases are forwarded to the district chief for further consideration.

Village justice, which costs nothing, generally seems to be administered effectively and villages prefer its relatively simple operation to the expense of the regular courts.

Among the Montagnards in the highland areas, customary law and the manner of settling disputes varies among the different ethnic groups. It appears, however, that the local council of elders combines juridical with governing functions.

The president of the so-called highland customs courts is a member of the dominant ethnic group in the province. He is assisted by several other representatives of his group and by a court clerk.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Dollars Are Senseless

By SP4 JAMES BROWN

How much sense do you use with your dollars? Let's take a look at how you can save for a rainy day, and how you can spend the money you've saved when the monsoon season does come.

The Uniformed Services Saving Deposit Program is perhaps the best saving program in the world, but it is available only to U.S. servicemen overseas. A Class-S allotment or a cash deposit at the Americal Finance Office will get things swinging — all the way to 10 percent interest. That's right; this program pays 10 percent interest, compounded quarterly, on your deposits.

Money cannot be withdrawn until you return from overseas, except in cases of emergency or special leave. And you can keep your money in up to 90 days after DEROS to take advantage of an extra dividend period.

It pays to take out an allotment for the regular purchase of saving bonds. The interest rate on bonds has recently been upped. Bonds now pay you 4.25 percent interest for your long-term investment.

In this way you can invest in your country's future as well as your own. As an added bond-buying incentive, Uncle Sam offers bond purchasers the opportunity to obtain "Freedom Shares." These treasury notes pay a higher 5 percent interest, and maturity is only four years from date of purchase.

Ready Cash

Another saving advantage is found in having a checking account. Cash is offered the user when and where he needs it. In Vietnam, the U.S. government has arranged an added bonus for servicemen with in-country military banking facilities. Checking accounts with balances of more than $100 earn 5 percent interest — and no matter what the balance, there is no charge for personalized checks or service.

The Army Finance Center will automatically mail a deposit to your bank or pay your insurance premiums monthly. All that is needed is for you to arrange for a Class-E allotment with the Finance Office.

Where To Buy

Well now, you've got beaucoup money saved up, and you've finally decided to spend it. But, where?

The Vietnam Regional Exchange offers the usual low prices found in the worldwide exchange system, with a big plus: radios, TVs, cameras, watches, and audio equipment are offered for sale at prices far below those stateside.

In addition, there is a pacific mail order service, which offers hundreds of hard-to-beat values on Asian-manufactured products.

If you like, you can have a new car waiting for you when you return home, thanks to an agreement between the exchange service and the "Big Four" auto makers. Factory representatives are located at many exchanges throughout Vietnam, offering the latest models and specs — and low factory prices.

R&R — here's the answer to everyone's dream. Five days and nights in your choice of one of seven exotic Asian capitals — Bangkok, Hong Kong, Manila, Penang, Singapore, Taipei or Tokyo; or choose urban, bustling, Sydney; or spend five days with your wife in Hawaii.

You are authorized one out-of-country R&R for your one-year tour of duty in Vietnam, plus an additional one for an extension of 90 days or more. But wherever you go, you're certain to obtain a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Hey big spender let's go a little farther! Yes, you with that pocketful of piasters — wait a second — hear me put it on the line like it's supposed to be put forward. You draw a couple of hundred dollars across the board each month, your laundry costs next to nothing, and you've got to empty your pockets before next pay day comes, or you'll strain yourself carrying all that money around, right?

Spend Thrift

So what do you do? You buy Saigon tea for the young lady that loves you too much, porcelain elephants, short-timer sticks, and a whole bunch of stuff that's not worth as much as a case of M-60 ammo without the links.

Wise up! You're hurting the Vietnamese economy, the U.S. economy, and most important to you, you're hurting yourself!

OK, we've gotten down to basic facts: The average Vietnamese consumer is in competition with the Vietnamese who are making money from servicemen. But how bad can it be?

Inflation

Consider that in 1967 over 600,000 free world forces servicemen spent over 13.6 billion piasters (equivalent to well over 100 million dollars) and you'll see that this is not a problem to be treated lightly.

Rice, the mainstay of the Vietnamese diet, has shot up over 200 percent; chicken, one of the few meats that the Vietnamese can afford, is up 147 percent over 1966 levels. Condensed milk is up 206 percent, and the all-important fish sauce found in the diet of every Vietnamese, nouc mam, is almost 300 percent above the 1966 cost.

Now you're convinced that piaster spending is harmful to countless individuals; but you, nonetheless, have nothing better to do with your money, right?

Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR

LTC Robert B. Longino, 196th Bde; CPT Kenneth R. Lamison Jr., 1st Cav; 1LT John L. Berns, 1st Cav; 1LT Philip L. Spackman, 11th Bde; 1LT Kenneth A. Zilke, 11th Arty; 11th Bde; 1LT Paul Yamada, 11th Bde; 2LT Jerry J. Josey, 196th Bde; CW2 Valentine Royal, 251st Rad. Det; CW2 Dennis J. Lord, 123rd Avn. Bn; WO1 John M. Blair, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 John I. O'Sullivan, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; PSG Jose J. Fernandez-Delgado, 11th Bde; SFC Neol P. Farmer, 1st Cav; SFC Charles E. Broadhead, 196th Bde; SFC Harold D. Winger, 196th Bde; SGT Johnathon A. Neil, 11th Bde; SGT Thomas L. Dreier, 11th Bde; SGT Ronald M. Olsen, Spt. Cmd; SGT James V. DeRosa, 1st Cav; SGT Carl M. Johnson, 196th Bde; SGT Michael J. Kollen, 1st Cav; SGT Gary L. Reynolds, 198th Bde; SP4 Gerald H. Penn, 198th Bde; SP4 John C. Stricklin Jr., 196th Bde; SP4 David A. Barnett, 11th Bde; SP4 Edward E. Floyd, 198th Bde; SP4 Joseph E. Meredith, 1st Cav; PFC Sammy L. Graham, 11th Bde; PFC Vincent Taylor, 196th Bde; PFC Michael J. Mills, 11th Bde.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

CW2 Gilbert W. Snow, 123rd Avn. Bn; SGT Charles G. Price Jr., 523rd Sig. Bn; SGT Steven M. Sherbundy, 11th Bde; PFC Dennis H. Lafcrest, 16th Arty.

SOLDIERS MEDAL

LTC Herschel E. Chapman, 11th Bde; LTC Richard M. Gecoma, 196th Bde; MAJ Ronald C. Metcalf, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; CPT John M. Henry, 1st Cav; 1LT Roger L. Mothersbaugh, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; 1LT Robert D. Tormey, 123rd Avn. Bn; 1LT William D. Bristow Jr., 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Jerry W. Herman, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Thomas Downs, 123rd Avn. Bn; WO1 David B. Haugen, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Robert J. Haynes, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Wayne D. Clark, (1st OLC), 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Phillip S. Lee, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Thomas G. Melin, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Richard K. McLean, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Glen E. Goff Jr., 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 Robert Allison, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 Antonio K. Taylor, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn.

BRONZE STAR WITH "V" DEVICE

CPT William T. Isaac, (2nd OLC), 11th Arty; CPT Jerry W. Lindsay, 198th Bde; CPT Foster W. Jenkins, 82nd Arty; 1LT George G. Beall, Spt. Cmd; 1LT David L. Rumsey Jr., 56th Arty; 1LT Edward P. O'Conner, 196 Bde; 1LT Loren C. Wardell Jr. 1st Cav; 2LT Robert J. Youngs, 11th Bde; 1SG Van B. Kadlec, (1st OLC), 196th Bde; SSG Darmel M. Pack, 82nd Arty; SGT Frank Yanez, 196th Bde; SGT Paul D. Bonnell, 14th Arty; SGT Rodney R. Dillman, 11th Bde; SGT George B. Edwards, 196th Bde; SGT Joseph Green, 196th Bde SGT Michael W. Lewis, 11th Bde; SGT Donald L. Mann, 11th Bde; SGT Ronald C. Bleazard, 1st Cav; SGT Lawrence J. Ranek, 11th Bde; SGT Russell G. White, 82nd Arty; SP4 Robert R. Blanusa, 16th Arty; SP4 Ernesto R. Borges, 198th Bde; SP4 Wilbert L. Croom, 11th Bde; SP4 Thomas Hall, 196th Bde; SP4 John K. Henning, 196th Bde; SP4 Alan T. Blado, 196th Bde; SP4 Clyde R. Rosin, (1st OLC), 1st Cav; SP4 Johnny M. Cruz, (1st OLC) 11th Bde; SP4 Zola R. Jones, 51st Inf. Spt. Cmd; SP4 Jerry W. Ferguson, (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Ronald Diotaiuto, 196th Bde; SP4 Robert M. Geissler Jr., 196th Bde; SP4 John E. Eads, 196th Bde; SP4 Robert E. Kooi, 198th Bde; SP4 Alvin C. Merzke, 16th Arty; SP4 John E. Schultz, 75th Inf. Spt. Cmd; SP4 John J. Schwall, 198th Bde; SP4 Robert R. Sedlmeyer, 75th Inf. Spt. Cmd; SP4 Joseph L. Vann, 11th Bde; PFC Kenneth W. Tenney, 196th Bde; PFC Gary L. Bishop, 14th Arty.

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

1LT William D. Bristow, (1st OLC), 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Thomas Bell, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Walter E. Peck, (9th OLC), 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SSG Juan R. Rios-Rivera, 11th Bde; SGT Johnny Rone, (32nd OLC), 123rd Avn. Bn; SP5 Lawrence J. Silva Jr., (3rd OLC), 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP5 Phillip R. Varnum, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 Alvin M. Fugate, (1st OLC), 123rd Avn. Bn; SP4 William E. Swinford, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 Richard J. Conover, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 Wayne E. Hawk, (1st OLC), 123rd Avn. Bn; SP4 Jerry L. Mitchell, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 Richard C. Sear, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 Dennis R. Potter, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 Lee E. Haywood, (1st OLC), 123rd Avn. Bn; SP4 Steven R. Cundy, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 John C. Gruidl, (1st OLC), 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SF4 Tommy Hobbs, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 Billy L. Parsons, (1st OLC), 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn.

Regiment Observes Birthday

LZ DRAGON — The 4th ARVN Regiment celebrated its 7th Anniversary at LZ Dragon, where the regiment is stationed.

The regiment is part of the 2nd ARVN Division, and was established on July 1, 1962 at Than Ha, Quang Nam. The unit is presently commanded by LTC Le Ba Khieu.

Participating in almost all the operations organized within Quang Ngai Province, its soldiers have killed more than 12,500 enemy and detained another 1000.

During Operation "Quyet Thant," meaning "Strive for Victory," the ARVN unit and the 11th Bde. "Jungle Warriors" fought side by side killing 1496 enemy soldiers.

At the anniversary celebration, COL Jack L. Treadwell (Ashland, Ala.), the 11th Bde. commander, received one of the highest ARVN awards, the Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star, in recognition of the support he has given the ARVN Regiment.

LTC Richard A. Jacoby (Arlington, Va.), the senior American advisor to the 4th ARVN Regt., and his advisory team were thanked for the help they have given the Regiment in completing its mission against the Communist forces. (11th IO)

Rebuilding For Future

An elderly Vietnamese man notches logs to be used as support in his new home on the Batangan Peninsula. He is one of the many refugees returned to homesites cleared by the 26th Engr. Bn. as Operation Russell Beach began its final phases.

(Photo by 1LT Helmut Hebert, 198th Bde. IO)

Finds Haven In Jungle

Respite From Rigors of War

By SP4 BILL CRAWFORD

LZ WEST — A platoon from the 196th Inf. Bde. have found a sort of Shangri-la amidst the steaming jungles they constantly patrol.

The reconnaissance platoon of 4th Bn., 31st Inf., considers the small village of Phu Coc, located 35 miles northwest of Tam Ky, as a utopia and with good reason.

The men of the recon platoon have established a close rapport with the residents of Phu Coc. The close association began a few months ago when the platoon detained a military-age male near the village.

He was taken to brigade headquarters at LZ Baldy. After interrogation established he was not a VC sympathizer, he was returned to Phu Coc.

Several days later the unit passed through the village on a search and clear operation. Apparently their detainee of a few days before had enjoyed his glimpse of American civilization. He was wearing a new set of clothes and was listening to a shiny transistor radio.

New Friend

He proudly showed his new possessions to the men of the recon platoon and after this day Recon had a group of firm friends in Phu Coc.

The platoon conducted a series of MEDCAP operations in the village during the next few months. The Americans worked closely with the people, often joining them for a noonday meal. Soon the platoon and the villagers were calling each other by name.

Perhaps the most valuable friend the soldiers have in Phu Coc is a 10-year-old Vietnamese boy they dubbed "Honcho." He is the leader of the village children and has expressed his gratitude to the American troops for their kindness in an interesting manner.

It seems that "Honcho" is a skilled map reader. If a soldier points to a ridgeline on the map, Honcho can point to the same ridgeline in the surrounding countryside. He also has proved to be valuable in locating the elusive VC guerrillas who operate in the foothills near his home.

Recently the recon element questioned "Honcho" concerning VC activities in the area. Confidently he located nearby ridgeline on the map and exclaimed, "VC here!" The platoon moved out along the ridge and captured 10 VC in the exact location pinpointed by "Honcho."

With all the good food and hospitality offered by the people of Phu Coc it has become a home away from home for the "Chargers."

"Recon's town" is also producing outstanding results from a tactical viewpoint. (196th IO)

Missing Kim Safe And Found

LZ BALDY — It will be a tearful homecoming for Kim Lunh Khanh.

The boy, kidnapped when VC terrorists assassinated his hamlet chief father, was rescued after weeks of enemy captivity by a joint effort of Regional Forces (RFs) and an Americal infantry unit.

At tiny Xuan Phu hamlet, 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky, everyone was enjoying the festivities of the annual Buddhist birthday celebration when three men walked unnoticed into the midst of the revelry.

They went quickly to the home of hamlet chief Luu Khanh and, in brutal contrast to the merry-making outside, shot the chief in the head with a pistol and spirited away his 10-year-old son, Kim

The family was doubly grief stricken. Kim's uncle, Theu Van Khanh, an RF with the Moc Bai forces, swore vengeance and began checking rumors of the kidnapped boy's whereabouts. After weeks of following up fragmented bits of information and blind leads, his efforts were finally rewarded.

On a joint search and clear operation 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky, Moc Bai RFs and "Legionnaires" from 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., of the 196th Inf. Bde. were sweeping through the sandy floodplain just inland from the South China Sea.

As evening approached, the units suddenly began receiving fire from a range of dunes to their front. Dropping to cover behind rice paddy dikes, company commander 1LT Dwight D. Sypolt (Reedsville, W.Va.) called in artillery and airstrikes on the enemy's location.

Find Bunkers

At daybreak, search parties checking out the area discovered a complex of nine bunkers buried in the dunes reinforced with railroad ties, tracks and cement. They also found six Vietnamese women and 24 children huddled in a hut near the bunkers.

While B Co. went to work destroying the bunkers, RF Khanh began questioning the women. But what was this? One of the children looked familiar!

A closer look disclosed the youngster to be the kidnapped Kim! The boy had been held in this area by VC and NVA since shortly after his abduction from Xuan Phu hamlet. (198th IO)

Firemen Alert And Ready To Battle, Prevent Blaze

DUC PHO—Fire Station #1, operated by the Pacific Architects and Engineers Inc., had its work cut out fighting brush fires around the 11th Bde.'s perimeter.

The department has two missions: providing fire protection and prevention, and structural and crash rescue.

The men and equipment are located next to the landing strip, and they are able to give immediate rescue and fire control to aircraft utilizing the field.

This phase of their job increases during the monsoon season as bad weather ups hazards to aircraft landing and leaving the airfield.

"The fire department is slowly growing in size and proficiency," explained Terry W. Hundt (Las Vegas, Nev.), the Fire Chief of I Corps Tactical Zone.

"We presently have ten Vietnamese Nationals working with us as trainee fire fighters, and by July we hope to be staffed with 30 trained Vietnamese Nationals working in 24-hour shifts." (11th IO)

RANGERS—Eyes And Ears Of The

"Be alert and stay alive" could be the motto of these rangers moving stealthily along a jungle trail.

SGT Dane instructs a student on the proper use of detonation cord.

Quick-ready ra

Americal

CHU LAI—"I felt like a peeping Charlie" was the comment used by PFC Andrew J. Pack to sum up his three week course at the Americal's Recondo School. What prompted the remark was the last period of instruction, which unlike most military schools, is an actual live mission into enemy territory.

The students who pass the rugged course become Rangers and are highly qualified jungle fighters. Their mission will be to go out into "Charlie's land" in small groups, usually from two to seven men, and perform reconnaissance work.

The students are trained to infiltrate and work close to the enemy in a way they will not be detected. Since they work in such small groups, each man must be a specialist in all areas of warfare.

School Rough

Three weeks might seem like a short time to become a specialist in many fields, but that's what makes the school tough.

Because the course is short, the students are selected with care. Most are veteran soldiers who have served and proven themselves with infantry units in the field.

After the students are selected and the course begins, the attrition rate is high, with 65 to 70 percent of the students not completing the course. "A pupil must come with the concept that he wants to be a Ranger more than anything else or he won't make it," commented Recondo School instructor SGT Clarence E. Avery.

Expert

The Americal trained Ranger is an expert with maps. He knows all of the correct intelligence and communications procedures and is an expert with all light weapons, ours and the enemies.

"We're trained to work better at Charlie's own game," explained SGT John Dane, the Recondo School NCOIC. Dane explained the advantage of the small Ranger unit over the infantry unit is that, "There is the element of surprise, we can move without being seen."

The school stresses physical fitness. No "softy" can accomplish the commando type tactics. Upon completion of the course, the students think nothing of a seven mile run. For the Ranger the most important classes given concern patrol techniques. He is taught how to move and infiltrate. The students spend long and arduous hours practicing to be silent and unseen.

All through the course, students pick up handy tips on what the school calls "field expedient methods" on how to handle various situations. The neophyte learns that the school solution to a problem can't always be used and that he must think for himself to outwit "Charlie".

Extraction

Among the commando tactics taught at the Recondo School are methods of air and water infiltration and extraction. The new Rangers are taught to rappel from hovering helicopters as well as being extracted from an area by hanging onto a 150 foot rope attached to a hovering chopper that lifts the Ranger up and away.

The students who do make it through the course feel it was worth it. "It was the first time I could hear Charlie messing around," explained PFC Robert S. Parker, "it was exciting."

(Americal IO)

LRP rations taste mighty good after rigorous training.

Story and Photos by
SP4 Pete Schwarz
Americal IO

ers strike out through enemy territory with cautious precision.

Ranger alert under watchful eye of instructor.

Tender Feet?

Looking very much like a high-wire walker balanced hundreds of feet above the ground, PFC Charles F. Ford (Clayton, Ga.) makes his way through the lush grass of the 11th Bde.'s area of operation. Ford is an assistant machinegunner with D Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf. (Photo by 1Lt Stephen H. Cobb, 11th Bde. IO)

U.S., ARVN Find Hospital, Hurt NVA Strike Potential

LZ STINSON—Although enemy contact was scarce during a recent eight day joint U.S. and South Vietnamese operation 15 miles northwest of Quang Ngai, Tacticians of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. have called it a success.

Three companies of the 198th Inf. Bde. were airlifted alongside elements of the 4th and 6th Bns. of the 6th ARVN Regiment into the triple canopy jungle west of this forward fire base.

During an extensive search and clear sweep — much of it in shoulder high elephant grass — the U.S. soldiers uncovered a provincial Viet Cong hospital of 15 hootches capable of housing more than 100 patients.

Bombs Score

In addition, a series of pre-operation air strikes apparently found their mark since the infantrymen uncovered 46 enemy graves in the area while their ARVN counterparts found another 21 graves.

On the second day of the sweep, B Co. spotted an estimated two companies of NVA soldiers scaling a cliff some distance away from the Americans. Gunships and a "Spooky" (a C-119 aircraft equipped with miniguns) opened fire on the fleeing enemy. Ten enemy bodies were found the next day and U.S. Army officers said additional dead were apparently carried away.

Main Hospital

The following day, B Co. hacked its way through thick elephant grass and pushed directly against what intelligence officers determined to be the Communist's Quang Ngai Province Hospital.

All but four patients had been evacuated and the hospital apparently was abandoned just before the U.S. infantrymen arrived. The four patients — two NVA soldiers and two Viet Cong — were evacuated to the U.S. 312th Evacuation Hospital at Chu Lai.

"They said they hadn't had anything to eat for three days," said 2LT Thomas W. Wheeler (Atlanta, Ga.), a 198th Bde. military intelligence officer. "But it looked more as if they hadn't had anything to eat for the past few weeks."

The infantrymen also found medical supplies, cooking utensils and miscellaneous documents. Outside the hospital they uncovered the bodies of 14 NVA, apparently killed by the air strikes.

"We burned the hootches, but the tunnels and bunkers were too strong for us to blow with a small amount of explosives, so we used artillery and programed the air strikes on those," explained MAJ Krause. (198th IO)

Ambush Squelched

LZ BRONCO—Enemy soldiers of the 2nd Regt., 3rd NVA Div. are discovering ambushes directed against 11th Inf. Bde. units comes at a very high price. Twenty-two NVA died when their recent ambush against A Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. and APCs from E Trp., 1st Cav. was crushed with combined firepower from air strikes, artillery, gunships, and heavy machinegun fire.

Hide In Stream

A Co. and the APCs were on a coordinated sweeping mission west of fire support base Debbie when they were hit by intense fire from a stream bed at the edge of a woodline.

The lead APC moving up a stream bed nearby hit a mine and then took three RPG hits, pinning down cavalrymen. Answering the call for help, four more APCs rushed to the scene while air strikes pounded the Communist fortifications.

"It was a well-prepared ambush," noted PFC Bill Mead (Oto, Iowa), "because we put 150 rounds of M-79 fire into the area before we entered. They didn't move a muscle or give themselves away at all."

In describing the initial contact, 1LT Terry Ehrich (Cherokee, Iowa), stated, "I don't know how many of them there were, but they had my 24 men and seven tracks pinned down. We had fire coming in from all directions."

Flush NVA

Following raids from Marine Phantom jets and gunships of the Army's 123rd Avn. Bn., the men of A Co. and the APCs pushed forward to root out the remaining enemy troops. As they advanced toward the woodline the bodies of 14 enemy soldiers were found.

The enemy fire, not as intense or as concentrated as before, was crushed by continuing gunship and APC fire as the soldiers overran the enemy positions. Found among the enemy dead were three AK-47s and three RPG launchers with five rounds of ammo.

The infantrymen made another sweep of the same area the next morning and found the bodies of eight more enemy soldiers, five killed by airstrikes and three by small arms. (11th IO)

VC Song Silenced

LZ STINSON — A Viet Cong pyschological operations team picked the wrong audience for its music recently and was applauded by a barrage of artillery rounds.

After putting a stop to an attempted VC ambush, D Co. of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. settled into their night encampment near here.

"It was around nine o'clock when we heard a voice call out to us on a loud speaker," said PFC Charles H. Nichols (Houston). "he was about 400 meters outside our position but we didn't fire because I guess everyone was curious as to what he would say — we figured it was a battle assessment of our earlier fight."

In broken English the Viet Cong began his message to the Americal infantrymen: "GI and officers, show us a light and surrender."

Then — what soon became a fleeing melody to the blasts of artillery rounds fired from LZ Stinson — the enemy began its rendition of "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"

"They stopped singing each time the rounds came in," said Nichols, "and each time they started up again they'd be further off and their voices would sound a little weaker and a little more shaky." (198th IO)

Lucky Seven Spared By Rocky's Precaution

LZ BRONCO—During an enemy mortar and rocket attack on this forward firebase, seven Americal soldiers were waiting out the heavy shelling in the shelter of a newly-built bunker with six layers of sandbags stacked neatly over their heads.

"We were a little nervous, but mostly, we were hoping that they'd hurry firing—so we could go back to sleep," said PFC Eden Novelo (Los Angeles).

"Then suddenly everyone knew that we had received a direct hit. A deep silence followed. After a few minutes someone nervously started calling roll until each one of us responded that we weren't hurt."

Two cross beams were cracked and a section of airstripping (heavy sheets of ridged metal used in the construction of temporary air strips) had a large break just barely holding the huge layers of sandbags.

The next day, the lucky seven learned that all of them possibly would have been killed if not for a guy called Rocky.

"I think all the VC and NVA in Vietnam have a personal grudge against me, so two nights before the attack, I threw one piece of thick air-stripping crosswise on the bunker roof," said SP4 Rocky Geiger (Philadelphia).

"The recoilless rifle round that hit the bunker had a delayed fuse and it detonated on that plate of airstripping. The six layers of sandbags barely contained the blast, but without that metal . . . whew," he exclaimed. (11th IO)

Enemy Arsenal

This is part of a large ammo cache found in the Americal's Operation Lamar Plain by a recon platoon from the 101st Airborne Division's 1-502 Inf. The cache was found in a jungle infested mountain region, 28 miles southwest of Tam Ky. Part of the ammo cache included 485 82mm and 700 60mm mortars. (Photo by 101st Bde. IO)

New Name Honors Hero

CAMP PAPE — The new home of the 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Division at Tam Ky was recently dedicated in honor of CPT John C. Pape, CO of B Co., 1st Bn., 501st Inf., killed in action during Operation Lamar Plain on May 18.

CPT Pape had just arrived in country when the brigade became OPCON to the Americal.

He was wounded while on a recon patrol, just prior to taking command of C Co., 1-501st Inf. His wounds were inflicted by over 40 claymore fragments and three AK-47 rounds.

CPT Pape refused amputation of his leg, branch transfer, evacuation to the states, and a profile. Instead, he requested return to an infantry company.

He was finally returned to the field and given command of B Co., 1-501st Inf. Using a long wooden staff to help support his leg, Pape moved along with his company until the end. (101st IO)

The lovely filly with the devilish smile is a guaranteed saint. Suzanne Saint is a member of the surf and sun bunch, and blond hair and ten is her calling card. With her qualifications who cares if the surf's up.

Here's How Pay Hike Affects You

OFFICERS

Pay grade	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 26	Over 30
0-10[1]	$1810.20	$1874.10	$1874.10	$1874.10	$1874.10	$1945.80	$1945.80	$2094.90	$2094.90	$2244.90	$2244.90	$2394.60	$2394.60	$2544.30	$2544.30
0-9	1604.40	1646.40	1681.80	1681.80	1681.80	1724.10	1724.10	1795.80	1795.80	1945.80	1945.80	2094.90	2094.90	2244.90	2244.90
0-8	1453.20	1496.70	1532.40	1532.40	1532.40	1646.40	1646.40	1724.10	1724.10	1795.80	1874.10	1945.80	2024.10	2024.10	2024.10
0-7	1207.20	1289.70	1289.70	1289.70	1347.00	1347.00	1425.30	1425.30	1496.70	1646.40	1759.80	1759.80	1759.80	1759.80	1759.80
0-6	894.60	983.40	1047.60	1047.60	1047.60	1047.60	1047.60	1047.60	1083.30	1254.30	1318.50	1347.00	1425.30	1546.20	1546.20
0-5	715.50	840.90	898.20	898.20	898.20	898.20	926.10	975.60	1040.70	1118.70	1182.90	1218.30	1261.20	1261.20	1261.20
0-4	603.60	734.40	783.90	783.90	798.00	833.70	890.48	940.50	983.40	1026.30	1054.80	1054.80	1054.80	1054.80	1054.80
0-3[2]	561.00	627.00	669.60	741.60	776.70	804.90	848.10	890.40	912.00	912.00	912.00	912.00	912.00	912.00	912.00
0-2[2]	449.70	534.00	641.40	662.70	676.50	676.50	676.50	676.50	676.50	676.50	676.50	676.50	676.50	676.50	676.50
0-1[2]	386.40	427.80	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00	534.00

[1]While serving as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, or Commandant of the Marine Corps, basic pay for this grade is $2,807.10 regardless of cumulative years of service.

[2]Does not apply to commissioned officers who have been credited with over 4 years' active service as enlisted members.

OFFICERS CREDITED WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE SERVICE AS ENLISTED MEMBERS

Pay grade	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 26	Over 30
0-3	$741.60	$776.70	$804.90	$848.10	$890.40	$926.10	$926.10	$926.10	$926.10	$926.10	$926.10	$926.10
0-2	662.70	676.50	698.10	734.40	762.90	783.90	783.90	783.90	783.90	783.90	783.90	783.90
0-1	534.00	570.30	591.60	612.90	634.20	662.70	662.70	662.70	662.70	662.70	662.70	662.70

WARRANT OFFICERS

Pay grade	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 26	Over 30
W-4	$571.20	$612.90	$612.90	$627.00	$655.20	$684.00	$712.50	$762.90	$798.00	$826.50	$848.10	$876.30	$905.40	$975.60	$975.60
W-3	519.30	563.30	563.40	570.30	577.20	619.50	655.20	676.50	698.10	719.10	741.60	769.80	798.00	826.50	826.50
W-2	454.80	491.70	491.70	506.10	534.00	563.40	584.70	605.70	627.00	648.60	669.60	690.90	719.10	719.10	719.10
W-1	378.90	434.70	434.70	470.70	491.70	513.00	534.00	555.90	577.20	598.50	619.50	641.40	641.40	641.40	641.40

ENLISTED MEMBERS

Pay grade	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 26	Over 30
E-9[1]							$648.90	$663.90	$679.20	$694.20	$709.50	$723.60	$761.70	$835.80	$835.80
E-8						$544.50	559.80	574.50	589.80	604.80	619.20	634.50	672.00	746.40	746.40
E-7	$342.30	$410.10	$425.40	$440.40	$455.40	469.80	484.80	500.40	522.60	537.30	552.30	559.80	597.30	672.00	672.00
E-6	294.90	358.20	372.90	388.20	403.20	417.90	433.20	455.40	469.80	484.80	492.60	492.60	492.60	492.60	492.60
E-5	254.70	313.80	328.80	343.20	365.70	380.70	395.70	410.10	417.90	417.90	417.90	417.90	417.90	417.90	417.90
E-4	214.20	268.50	283.50	305.70	321.00	321.00	321.00	321.00	321.00	321.00	321.00	321.00	321.00	321.00	321.00
E-3	155.10	216.30	231.30	246.30	246.30	246.30	246.30	246.30	246.30	246.30	246.30	246.30	246.30	246.30	246.30
E-2	127.80	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10	179.10
E-1	123.30	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80	163.80
E-1 (under 4 months)	115.20														

[1]While serving as Sergeant Major of the Army, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, or Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, basic pay for this grade is $1016.10 regardless of cumulative years of service computed under section205 of this title.

11th Brigade Reporter Stars In Big Combat Story

DUC PHO — Newsmen often risk death to get their stories, and when an Army Information Officer escorts a television crew into the field he runs the same risk, as 1LT Stephen H. Cobb (Honolulu) will tell you.

A short call from the Americal Information Office to the 11th Bde. IO sparked a chain of events that ended with LT Cobb standing in front of MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, the division commander.

"We've got a TV crew coming to cover action of the 4-21 (4th Bn., 21st Inf.)," said CPT Cecil Green, deputy IO.

"Roger that, we'll take care of them," was Cobb's quick reply.

NBC To Field

The two-man NBC team was briefed by the brigade commander and then flown to D Co., 4th Bn. 21st Inf. The enemy was being pushed back toward the hills after a futile attack into the rolling hedgerow country west of Duc Pho.

The attack had been repulsed in vicious fighting and 4-21 was now chasing the NVA out of the area. Combat had become sporadic as the invaders avoided the Americans.

CPT Frank Czap (Bay City, Mich.), Delta's commander put LT Cobb and the camera team in the lead squad as the company moved out toward the wooded hills in the morning.

The tangled jungle closed in on the company, dropping visibilty to 25 yards up the foot-wide trail. The point man was cautiously cresting the hill above when a sniper opened up. CPT Czap quickly maneuvered the lead platoon, and the 11th Bde. soldiers opened up with grenades, small arms, and machine guns.

CPT Frank Czap, CO of the 11th Bde.'s D. Co. 4-21 Inf., directs his troops movement and calls for air support as the unit made contact with a large NVA force, seven miles southwest of Duc Pho. (Photo by 1LT Stephen H. Cobb, 11th Bde. IO)

Newsman Wounded

"I was about six feet back from the point, we were passing up grenades to the front when we got hit by AK-47's and machine guns. I heard a couple of RPG's whistling over me," recalled LT Cobb.

And then the cameraman got hit. LT Cobb sent the soundtrack man back down the trail, and carried the cameraman out. Pushing off the trail, he set up a casualty collecting point. But mortars zeroed in on him and the six wounded soldiers who had joined them.

Remembering a clearing where the trail doglegged down the hill, LT Cobb moved the men out. There they met the 2nd platoon as it moved up to join CPT Czap.

They quickly enlarged the clearing into a landing zone (LZ) for a MEDEVAC helicopter. Then LT Cobb went back up the hill to retrieve the TV cameraman. Talking briefly to the CO., the lieutenant took PFC Donald G. Naughton back as his radio operator. Since Delta's only other officer was too far to the rear, LT Cobb told the captain he'd take care of the middle platoons.

Gunships Open Up

Cobb radioed for gunship support. Armed helicopters raced in with their weapons spurting flame at the enemy. As they worked over the brush, Cobb was able to reposition the infantry's machine guns. Fire superiority allowed him to recall the MEDEVAC chopper.

There were nine wounded now, and eight most seriously injured, including the NBC man, were taken out.

When 20mm slugs from enemy heavy weapons cut off the LZ from the rest of the company, Cobb called for an air strike. One enemy machine gunner was now only 30 meters away, firing at anything flying or in the clearing. The Americans were cut off, pinned down, and more help was needed.

The first jet thundered in to deposit his eggs 100 meters away. Cobb knew they had to be closer when the enemy opened up on the receeding jet. So he called for another strike.

Platoons Join

After three hours, the platoons to the rear were able to work forward, linking up with Cobb, who turned his impromptu command over and prepared to take the second NBC man out.

"I popped smoke (threw a smoke grenade) to mark our position for the utility chopper, and immediately an AK-47 opened up from about 40 meters away," Cobb said.

While the slightly wounded soldiers laid down a base of fire, Cobb stood up to direct the chopper into a small clearing. Although enemy bullets cracked around him as the chopper finished the approach, the men scrambled on board.

His coolheaded actions later brought LT Cobb face to face with MG Ramsey to recieve the Silver Star. But as Cobb says, "I was lucky to be put out with some of the best soldiers in the Army that day. They did everything I told them to do, and they saved the day." (11th IO)

Last NVA Pay Hike

LZ STINSON — The 1st Bn., 52nd Inf.'s A Co. flagged a set of orders recently — NVA orders promoting an officer to captain.

The third platoon had set up an ambush 50 meters from the company laager, about two miles from the 198th Inf. Bde.'s forward firebase, LZ Stinson.

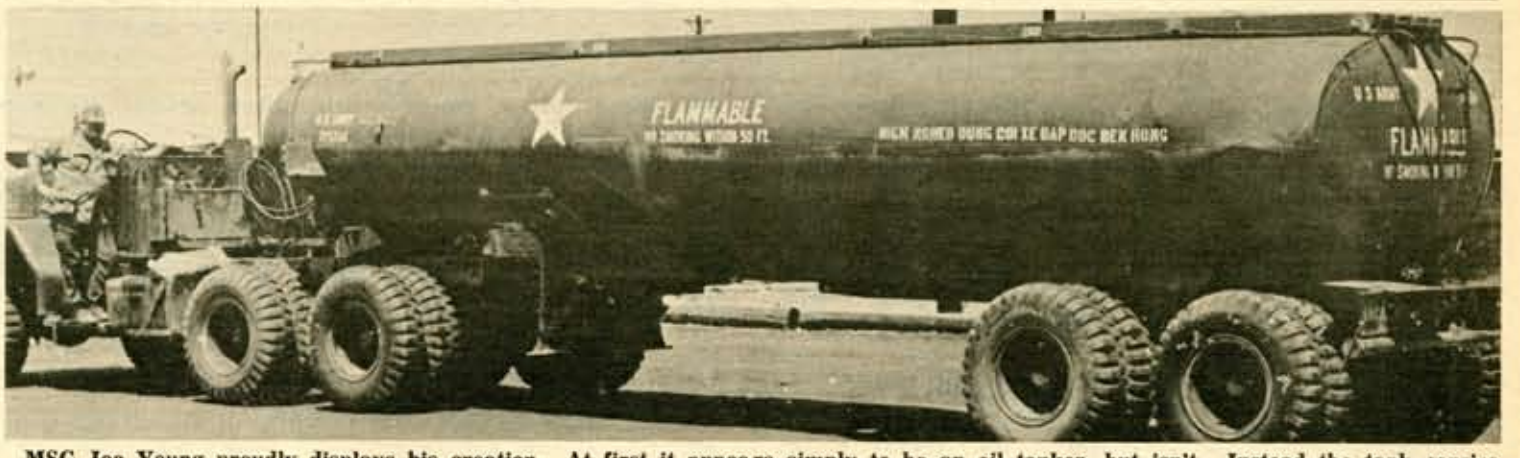
"About a quarter past two we heard the rattle of enemy equipment advancing down the trail toward our position," said SGT Bill D. Campbell (Lenox, Iowa), leader of the platoon's fire squad. "We let them pass us because we weren't sure just how many were coming. We counted 10 NVA wearing green uniforms."

The enemy soldiers continued along the trail toward A Co.'s night laager. Campbell, figuring they now had the NVA trapped, radioed a warning to the main body of the "Ready Rifles" company.

"It was twenty minutes later that the NVA come charging back towards us," Campbell continued. "Apparently they had spotted the company and were trying to evade. Then they stopped just ten feet short of our position and turned back again towards the company. But this time we opened up on them."

After the fighting, a search of the area turned up five NVA dead and numerous blood trails marking the path of the enemy's retreat.

They also found a 9mm Chicom pistol from an enemy lieutenant, apparently the leader of the foiled patrol. "Among the documents taken from the North Vietnamese's pack," Campbell said, "We found papers notifying him of his upcoming promotion to captain."
(198th IO)



MSG Joe Young proudly displays his creation. At first it appears simply to be an oil tanker, but isn't. Instead the tank carries asphalt for reducing dust on roads and helipads. (Photo by 26th Eng. Bn.)

Custom-Made Spreader Does The Job

Engr. Ingenuity Solves Sticky Problem

CHU LAI — After serving almost 25 years with Army ordnance and armor units, MSG Joe Young (Radcliff, Ky.) was rather surprised when he was assigned to the Americal's 26th Engr. Bn.

However, as the battalion maintenance sergeant, he found there was room for an old experienced hand to exercise initiative and ingenuity.

Some months ago Young heard the battalion needed something larger than a "navy cube" to spread peneprime, cut back asphalt used as a dust reducing material on roads, helipads, etc. A navy cube was the name given a tank that held around 500 gallons back in WWII. It is used for water, gasoline, or any other liquid.

Converts Tanker

On a visit to a support maintenance facility young spotted a 5,000 gallon tank-trailer that had been heavily damaged when it detonated a mine.

An idea started to jell that some of this "washed out" junk could be used to build a distributor to spread the gooey black stuff. Support maintenance couldn't go along with Young's idea because what he proposed was unauthorized by every regulation and manual.

Persistence paid off, however, and with the help of Mr. Bill Seaton, local representative for the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Command, Young finally won an OK to try.

After two months of sifting through junk heaps, Young, with a lot of volunteer night assistance from the men in his shop, assembled a rig that, except for a few details, looks like one right off a Detroit assembly line.

Variety Of Parts

The tractor, from the cab forward, belonged to a five-ton dump truck that was permanently deadlined after being broken up twice by mines. The rear part of the tractor frame belonged to a bridge truck that survived demolition by sappers and two mines before it quit.

When Young drove his pet project up to battalion headquarters for the commanders approval, it drew a large crowd unanimous in their praise of his handiwork. The next day the distributor was turned over to A Co. for use on a road job.

The machine functioned better than expected and is now being used on highway 535 between LZs Baldy and Ross. (26th Engr. Bn.)

Build Huge Hangar

CHU LAI—One of the major problems that faces any aviation unit in Vietnam is the lack of proper maintenance facilities. This difficulty has been remedied for the 178th AHC by the completion of their giant new hangar.

The huge structure, built by RMK-BRJ Construction Co., has a few features which are unique to Vietnam and are duplicated only in the twin hangar built for the 178th's sister company, the 132nd ASHC. Measuring a generous 10,000 square feet, the hangar has three single spans, each 70 feet long—the longest unsupported span in country.

Another first for Vietnam, a 6000 lb. motor rail, was installed to handle the massive components of the Chinook. Originally planned to be pre-fabricated in Saigon and shipped here in sections, the building was completely fabricated in Chu Lai. Welders used were Vietnamese given training as welders. (16th CAB IO)