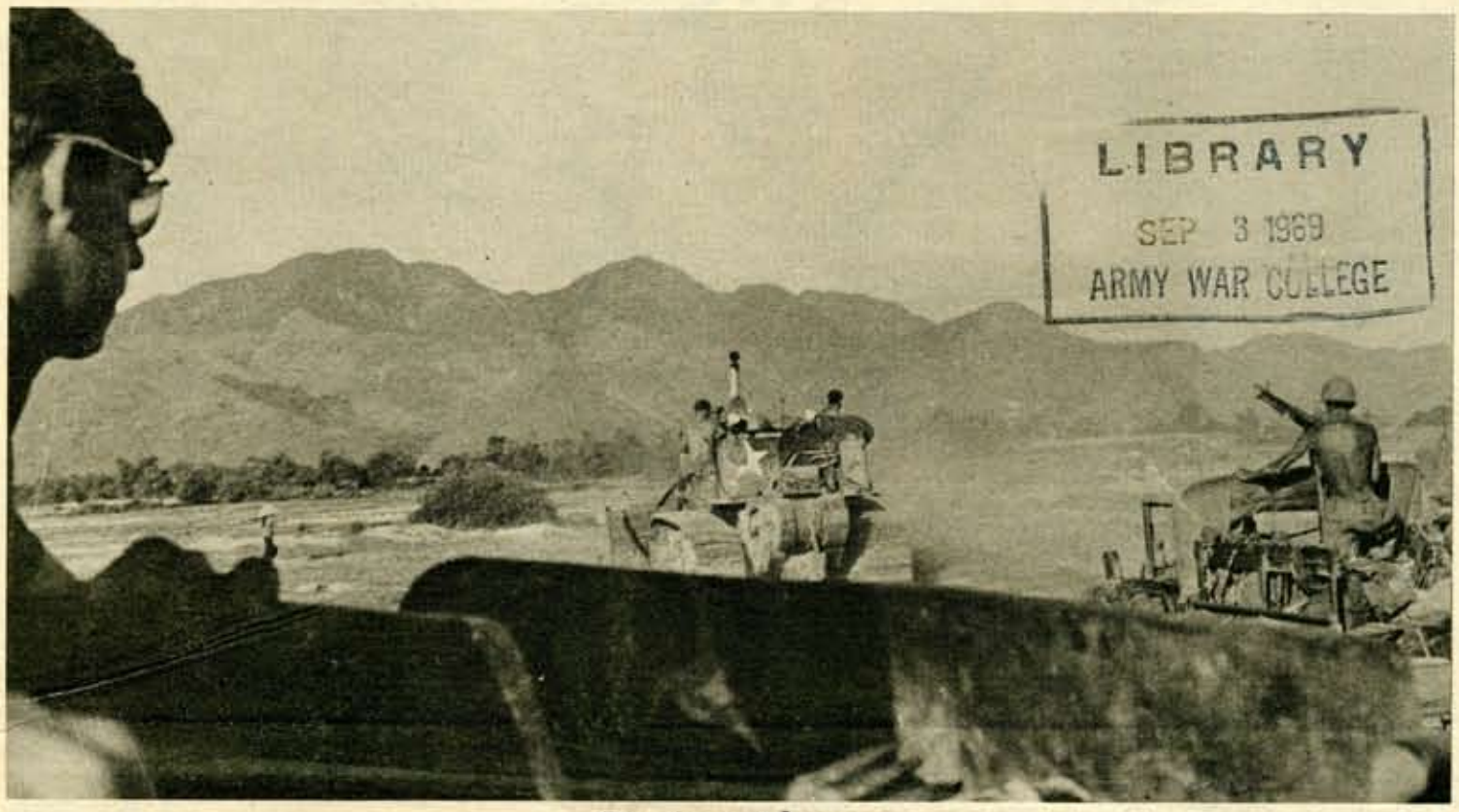
SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 19 | Chu Lai, Vietnam | August 6, 1969

Operation Russell Beach Concluded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Dozing Along

Bulldozers manned by members of C Co., 26th Engr. Bn. begin a road clearing project northwest of Quang Ngai City to a new firebase site. E Trp., 1st Cav. provides security for the engineers. (Photo by SP4 Lou Pearson, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

CHU LAI — Operation Russell Beach, a long-range pacification campaign which began on Jan. 13, ended July 21. The operation kicked off with a massive 8,500-man cordon around the Batangan Peninsula, a longtime Viet Cong stronghold 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Besides Americal battalions — the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., 11th Inf. Bde., and the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. — other allied forces in the operation were two battalions from the 2nd ARVN Div., two battalions of Marines, and Navy Swift Boats patrolling off the coast.

Americal units accounted for 158 VC killed during the campaign, and other elements brought the combined total to almost 225 enemy killed.

The operation aimed at removing the entire civilian populace from the peninsula and weeding out the enemy, VC suspects, and members of the VC infrastructure.

After the allied cordon was in place across the neck of the peninsula, an intense psychological operations (PSYOP) campaign persuaded more than 12,000 persons to evacuate the area. Refugees were moved to a combined holding and interrogation center (CHIC) near Quang Ngai, where government officials screened them.

During the pacification phases beginning in mid-February, refugees were provided with food, building materials, and transportation by Quang Ngai Province officials, and the rebuilding process began. (Americal IO)

'Hello, Vietnam, This Is Korea Calling'

By SP4 TONY SWINDELL

LZ BRONCO — SP4 Paul Tannapel (Huntington, Ind.), C Co., 26th Engr. Bn., was huddled over his radio one wet, stormy night at 11th Bde. headquarters, maintaining communications with D Co., 26th Engr. at LZ Max eight miles north.

Suddenly, Tannapel began receiving interference on his PRC-25 radio, forcing him to break contact with the operator at LZ Max. Trying to tune out the interference on his frequency, Tannapel heard an English-speaking voice broadcasting a weather report and listened in for a moment.

He then broke in and said, "this is White Lion, am receiving your broadcast on our operating frequency. Please identify your unit."

Silence

The unknown broadcaster was silent for a few seconds and said, "What is the location of your unit?"

Tannapel replied, "I can't give you our exact location, but we are approximately 80 miles south of Charlie Lima (Chu Lai)."

A long silence. "Wait a minute," said the unknown voice. "I know it can't be, but are you in Vietnam?" Taken back, SP4 Tannapel replied, "Where do you think I'm broadcasting from? Yes, I'm in Vietnam."

Another long silence. "Incidentally," said the mysterious voice, "my location is about 30 miles north of Seoul, Korea, and I'm with the 7th Division."

Quick Quiz

By this time, other engineer units in the radio net had gotten word of the incident and listened to the transmissions. Tannapel, still suspicious of the broadcaster's identity, quizzed him on American history, geography, and politics to verify his nationality. In the process, he discovered the man was an Army sergeant from Kentucky.

1LT Doug McDougal (Cuero, Tex.) explained the conditions that made the 2,000-mile conversation possible.

"Ordinarily, the PRC-25 radio Tannapel used has a range of 20 to 25 miles and transmits by line-of-sight. Due to the unusual conditions during the storm, the radio waves kept bouncing off the atmosphere and reached the 7th Division operator. When the storm ended, so did radio contact with Korea." (11th IO)

New Commanders

CHU LAI—The Americal greeted four new unit commanders recently. Division Support Command welcomed COL Joseph G. Clemons. COL Clemons succeeded COL Harry E. Tabor, who has been reassigned to Headquarters Strategic Communications Command, Ft. Watchuka, Ariz. COL Clemons came to the Americal from the Office of the Chief of Staff, Chief Strategic Mobility Team, Studies and Mobile Group.

In other command changes, LTC Richard K. Dietech took the reins of the 123rd Avn. Bn., succeeding LTC Rayond V. Brown. LTC Robert E. Bartos assumed the duties of commanding officer of the 523rd Sig. Bn. He replaced LTC Lewis F. Magruder. At the 3rd Bn., 16th Arty., LTC Herbert Knight became commander, taking over for LTC Edward Peloquin. LTC Peloquin returned to Washington, D.C. where he will work for the Defense Intelligence Agency in the Science and Technology Division. (Americal IO)

Lighting The Way

Tracer rounds from a "Quad" .50 caliber machinegun chew up a path of light made by a spotlight on suspected enemy positions outside the perimeter of LZ Bronco. Overhead, an illumination round fired by 11th Bde. soldiers intensifies the light. (Photo by SP4 Steve Tipton, 11th Bde. IO)

Religion and You

God in the World

By CHAPLAIN (CPT) JOHN P. KOWAL
26th Engrs.

Thomas Aquinas, the great philosopher and theologian of the thirteenth century, once wrote "We come to our knowledge of the supernatural through the natural." Put another way, this maxim simply means that we come to our knowledge of God through our knowledge of man and earth.

Despite the horrors of war seen in the desolation of a land and its people, there are few of us so jaded that we haven't at one time or another expressed words on the beauty of the land in which we find ourselves. The youngsters selling popsicles, the men working in the fields, the women sweeping the dust from their homes, are they really so different from those we have left behind in the states? How many times have we heard the beaches of Chu Lai compared to a beach off the coast of Maine, Florida or California.

Perhaps understanding these people and their homeland will easily bring our minds to thoughts of places and persons we love. It is precisely in this understanding of people and places that we can come to a knowledge of God, and more important a dedication to him. The words of Scripture put it this way, "No man can hate his brother and love me."

It would not seem irreverent then, to develop the most intense love and loyalty to those people and places that we love. Perhaps in this way we can find God with a little less difficulty. He's not the old man with a long beard waiting to catch us out in evil, instead he is the love a man has for his wife, his girl friend, his family, all those things we count the days to reach again.

Yes, the pain of separation hurts all of us, we are so alone at times, but if we have any real interest or love for any one person or persons we cannot suffer loneliness to any large extent.

This land is a rough training school to learn love and loyalty, but in our own hearts, each in his own way, what an effective one it is. We have learned our own inadequacies, we learn to grow up just a little more and when we go home we have so much more to give than ever before. Maybe in the understanding of ourselves, of others and God, we have finally come to realize that the greatest good we can do for another is not just to share with him our riches, but to reveal to him his own.

VIETNAM-STYLE

Confucian Scholarship

By SP4 JAMES WM. BROWN

The educational system in the pre-French period bore the imprint of nearly 10 centuries (111 B.C. to A.D. 939) of Chinese rule and cultural influence in Vietnam. Confucianism, with its emphasis on learning and deep respect for elders, was a central force in a social order which gave highest place to the scholar.

Education provided the principal by which a young man might move upwards in the social scale. The aims of education were in keeping with the political and social structure of the society. The immediate purpose of formal training was to prepare young men for the examinations through which they might enter the Mandarinate (a high official of China under the empire is trained here).

The purpose of education related to the cultivation of high moral character, especially an appreciation of the wisdom of the ancient sages of China and of Confucian principles.

With the exception of the imperial college and a few other government schools of Hue, education was neither financed nor closely controlled by the government.

Instruction was given in the homes of scholars, in the pagodas, or in a community building made available by the village council. Theoretically, anyone might attend and there was no age limit for schooling, but enrollment was small and the sons of the Mandarins had more opportunity to acquire an education than had those of the uneducated.

Although the Chinese influence in culture and education was strong, Buddhism enjoyed high prestige in learned circles and the sons of many noble families were instructed by Buddhist priests.

Formal training culminated in a series of rigorous competitive examinations. In the system which prevailed in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, candidates for scholarly rank were examined first in the provinces; then if successful, in the capital at Hue; and finally, at the highest level, in the imperial palace.

These examinations took place every three years. Successful candidates, depending on which of the examinations they passed, became low-, middle-, or high-ranking officials.

Those who passed the court examination at the imperial palace were called "Doctors of the first class." Theirs was considered the supreme achievement and it gave them and their families special privileges and compensation.

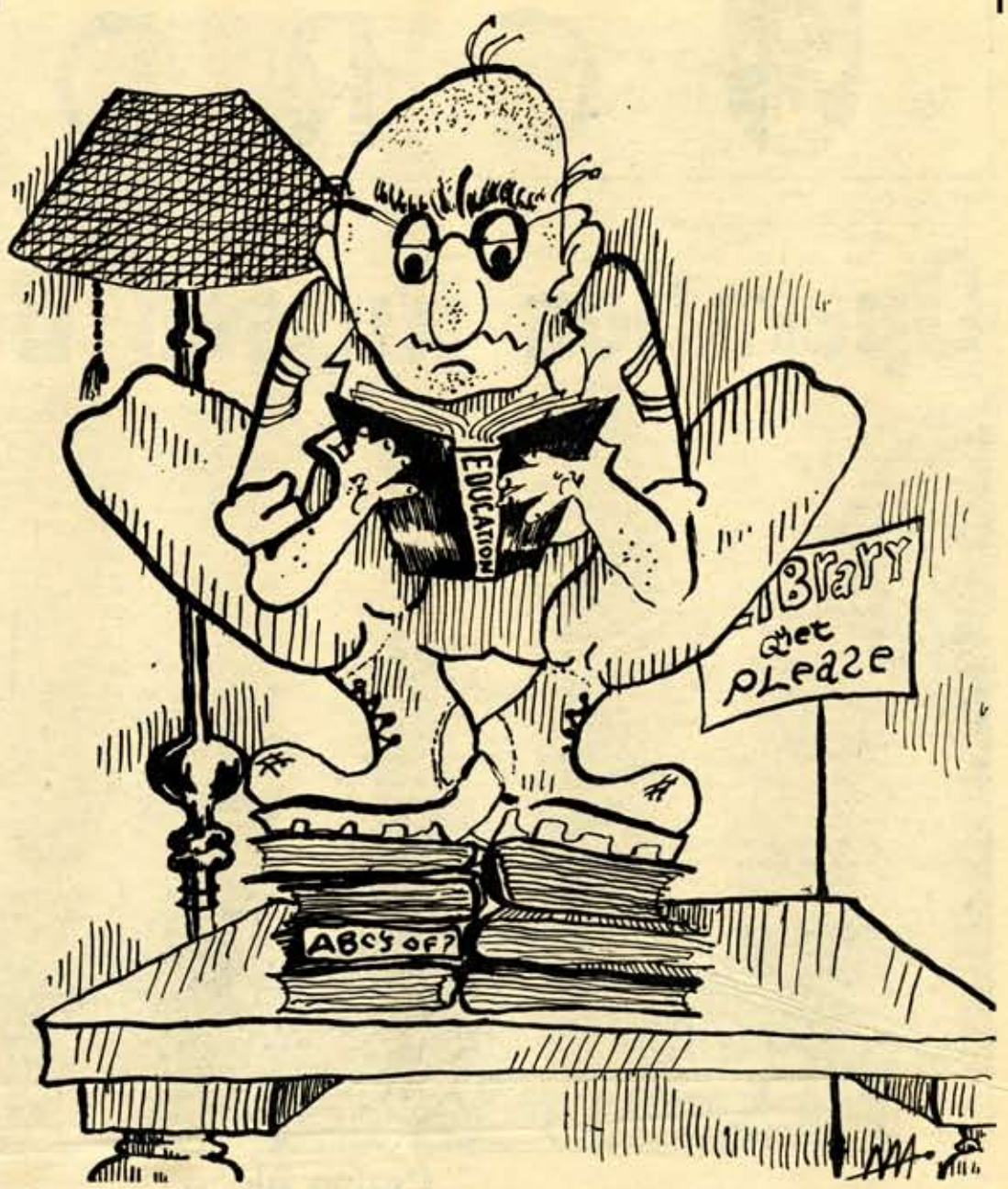
A thousand years of Chinese rule, ending in the tenth century A.D., left a cultural tradition that the Vietnamese were eager to preserve.

Despite the subsequent influence of the European culture of France and the latent effect of western education of traditional values, Vietnamese cultural and intellectual expression basically continue to reflect the Chinese heritage with a strong Confucian influence running through the whole fabric of Vietnamese artistic forms.

Combined with this fundamental Confucianism, recognizable in the emphasis on hierarchy and duty, there are elements of two other great Asian religions: The Buddhist belief in the spirit world, the reward of good and punishment of evil and the reincarnation of the soul. The second element is the Taoist tendency to accommodate to nature.

The high ideals of Confucianism undoubtedly found expression in the conduct of many scholar-officials, and Confucian precepts strongly influenced the structure of education in Vietnam.

Education a Necessity



By PFC TERRY MACK

Learning is a never-ending process. Unfortunately an individual's formal education is often curtailed before he earns a diploma or degree.

Whether on a firebase or in Chu Lai, Americal soldiers need only call or visit the Education Center for assistance in broadening educational backgrounds.

The center can help soldiers finish high school or for those with partial college credit, a year in Vietnam can still be used to further your education by taking advantage of courses offered.

The High School General Education Development (GED) Test, given to help soldiers earn their high school equivalency certificate, is the most widely-used program. During the first quarter of 1969, over 1500 Americal soldiers successfully completed the tests.

The program is flexible in that the series of five tests do not have to be taken at once. This enables soldiers to work at their own pace and when time permits.

The center stands ready to reach surrounding fire support bases to give troops the chance to take the GED and to assist in other educational needs.

Other services offered by the education center includes counseling, testing, evening classes, and correspondence courses.

Mr. Bernard Kane, Education Center Director, who holds an MA in Education from Columbia University and PFC Paul Zdziarski, MA in Vocational Rehabilitation from the University of Indiana, counsel Americal soldiers on job opportunities and placement, college admissions, Veterans Administration aid, and correspondence courses.

To determine educational level the center offers tests such as the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) achievement, end-of-course and subject standardized tests, college entrance, and graduate record exams.

Evening classes offered at the center include high school and college level courses and a Vietnamese language course.

The Americal Education Center offers college credit courses through the University of Maryland. Classes meet twice a week for an eight-week period. The next term begins Sept. 8, with registration Sept. 1-7 at the Education Center. Courses offered include American History, Business Law, Accounting, English Composition, and Economies.

A soldier on the move in Vietnam will find more than 600 correspondence courses available through the center.

Do yourself a favor and call or drop in at the education center or your unit education center for more information about educational opportunities.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

SP4 Joseph E. D'Aleo, 11th Bde; LTC John N. Brandenburg, 196th Bde; SP4 Charles L. Burnes, 11th Bde; SP4 Joseph J. Day, 11th Bde; 1LT Terry R. Dickey, 11th Bde; SGT Jerl E. Freeland, 75th Inf. (Ranger); MAJ Wayne C. Harrington, 11th Bde; 1LT Phillip E. Jackson, 196th Bde; PSG Samuel D. Knight Jr, 11th Bde; SP4 John A. Mason, 196th Bde; SP4 John W. Nelson, 11th Bde; 1LT Steven B. O'Keefe, 11th Bde; MAJ Roger B Olson, 196th Bde; SP4 Sammy W. Schreiber, 75th Inf (Ranger); SGT Daniel St. Germain, 11th Bde; SP5 Mark R. Tietjen, 11th Bde; CPT Robert E. Winn, 11th Bde.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/ "V" Device

SP4 Robert H. Arnold, 198th Bde; SP4 William L. Arnold, 196th Bde; SGT Dan A. Badders, 11th Bde; 1LT Jeffery W. Baden, 11th Bde; SP4 Terrence J. Baril, 15th Arty; SFC Okey Blankenship, 196th Bde; SP4 Thyrle R. Britten, 11th Bde; PFC Mark O. Bruemmer, 11th Bde; SGT Michael V. Burns (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SGT Douglas L. Chappell, (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC James H. Chappie, 11th Bde; PFC William A. Colantoni, 11th Bde; SGT Michael F. Conway, 11th Bde; SGT Robert L. Cox, (2nd OLC), 11th Bde; 1LT Robert Dean Jr, 16th Arty; SGT Carl C. Dyson Jr, (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PSG Vernon R. Fairchild, 11th Bde; SP4 Jose R. Flores, 11th Bde; SFC John R. Flowers, 11th Bde; SP4 Wardell Flurry, 196th Bde; SP4 John F. Fosnacht, 196th Bde; 1LT Roger L. Fullen, 11th Bde; CPT Barry D. Gasdek, (2nd OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Ronald R. Haberman, 196th Bde; SP4 Raymond L. Hammons, (1st OLC), 198th Bde; PFC Norman H. Harden, 198th Bde; SP4 Paul G. Henry, 198th Bde; SPC Paul Ikeda (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Stanley Kreft Jr, 196th Bde; SGT Daniel J. Langdon, 7th Inf. (Rangers); SP4 Michael T. Lazorchak, 75th Inf. (Ranger); PFC Bill Lemaster, 198th Bde; SP4 David J. Lee, 11th Bde; SP4 Tyrone Lewis, 11th Bde; SP4 Ralph H. Lucas, 11th Bde; 1LT Sean P. Maloney, 198th Bde; PFC James N. Myers, 196th Bde; SP4 Billy J. McGill, 196th Bde; PFC David H. Meers, 196th Bde; SP4 Joe R. Mena, 196th Bde; SGT John C. Mikell, 11th Bde; SP4 Peter R. Monteforte, 11th Bde; PFC Norman K. Morrison, 196th Bde; 1LT Allan J. Ostrow, 196th Bde; SP4 Donald R. Peterson, 198th Bde; SP4 Ray Neace Jr., 196th Bde; PFC Roland D. Nyberg, 196th Bde; 1Lt Allan J. Ostrow, 196th Bde; SGT Jerry W. Owens (2nd OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Martin E. Paph, 198th Bde; SP4 Donald R. Peterson, 198th Bde; 1LT Dean R. Popham, 196th Bde; SP4 Ronnie Pugh, 11th Bde; SP4 Jesse L. Roger, 11th Bde; SP4 Patrick T. Scallion. 75th Inf (Rangers); SFC Wesley Schegel Jr. (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SEC Charles T. Sizemore, 11th Bde; 1LT Phillip L. Spackman, 11th Bde; SP4 Wilmer P. Stillens, 11th Bde; SGT Donald J. Timmerman (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SGT Kenneth L. White (1st OLC), 196th Bde.

AIR MEDAL W/ "V" DEVICE

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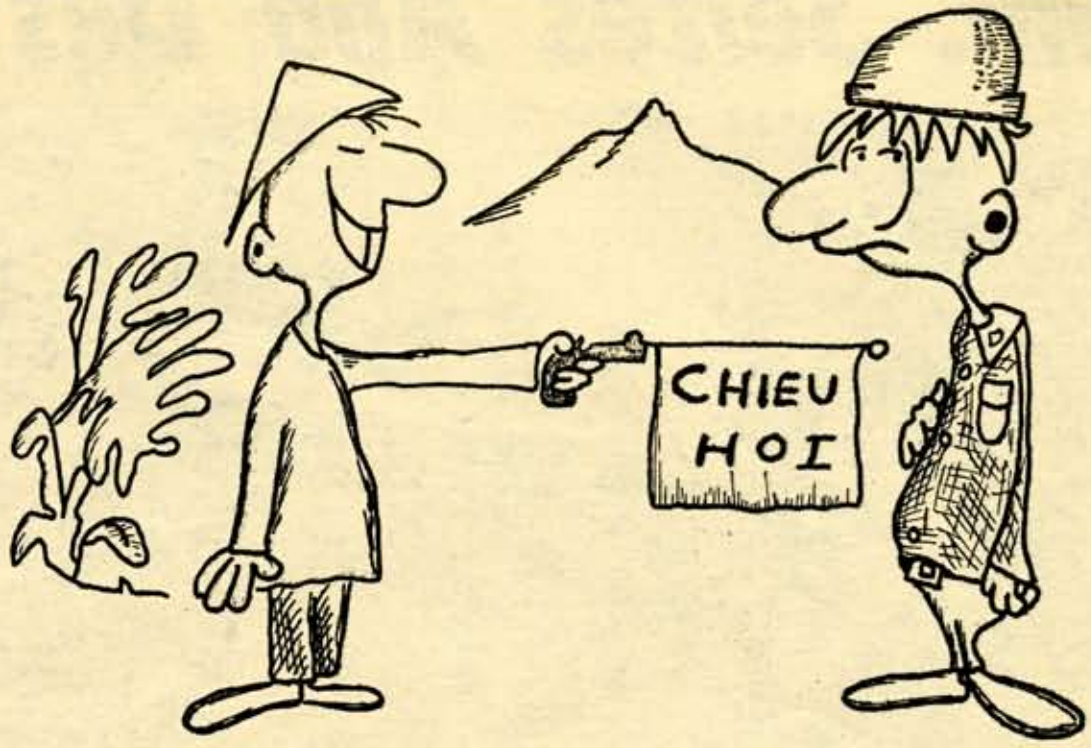
SGT Ronald J. Kingery, 11th Bde; SP4 Gregory D. Mainous, 196th Bde; PFC Julius R. Mang, 11th Bde; SP4 Felix Marzan, 196th Bde; SSG Billie J. McQueen, 82nd Arty; PFC Peter M. McPhail, 16th Arty; SP4 Jose F. Munoz-Bauza (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Melvin W. Murphey, 11th Bde; SGT Ronald M. Olsen (1st OLC), 75th Inf (Ranger); PFC William J. Quade, 198th Bde; PFC Lonnie W. Reed, 11th Bde; SP4 David A. Rittinger (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Larry A. Sager, 196th Bde; SP4 Martin L. Schoenfield, 196th Bde; SP4 Steven W. Trapp, 198th Bde; SSG Cary T. Whitenack, 11th Bde.



He'd Rather Switch Than Fight

The average soldier like our friend PFC Goodsham doesn't always understand Psychological Operations (PSYOP), but old Ho Ho Charley has the good word. That is why the Chieu Hoi program has cost the enemy over 100,000 men since its inception and well over 19,000 soldiers just this year. (Art by SP4 Jim Newman, 198th Bde.)

63rd Trans. Brings Vital Supplies To 11th

Convoy Roars Through Pass

DUC PHO — A flatbed trailer truck with the name CHRIS stenciled on its grill turns off the road and angles sharply across the gravel embankment.

Its driver, SP4 Roy Haggard of the 63rd Trans. Co., steers the truck neatly beside a row of 40 other empty-bedded rigs waiting to begin the morning's convoy to Sa Huynh.

"Hey Roy, glad you could make it," cried a voice from the group of drivers standing out of the way of the settling dust. "We're gonna be late today. They've got a bunch of VC trapped down in the pass and it may be a while before we'll be able to get the trucks through."

Not far to the south, the crackling of machinegun fire was audible — echoing from a low ridge of hills near the seacoast, an area the truckers have come to name "Ambush Valley."

Supply Route

On the other side of the hills is Sa Huynh, the smallest and southernmost of the Navy's support detachments in I Corps. Everyday the long line of trucks thunder down the 17-mile stretch of Highway 1, from the 11th Inf. Bde.'s logistics base at Duc Pho to load military cargo and fuel at the supply yard in Sa Huynh.

A jeep bearing twin-mounted machineguns and three men in flak jackets turned into the parking area.

"Let's move it," shouted the Army sergeant at the wheel. "The road's cleared, but don't expect an easy trip . . . it's still open season down there."

The slope of the brushy hillsides gradually steepened, closing in along the road as it wound its way into "Ambush Valley." Steering became more of an effort for the drivers as the road grew rough and pitted, but the trucks held their speed.

Then, over the roar of the engines the rapid popping of rifle fire was heard. "Damnit! They're sniping at us!"

The next instant a louder burst of gunfire split the air as the jeep gunner fanned the brushline atop an embankment on the right.

Haggard kept a bouncing pressure on the floored gas pedal and as the road made a final curve around a hillside, the gunfire died away to the rear. "Ambush Valley" was behind them.

Two hours later, 40 loaded trucks left Sa Huynh and started back through the pass, the men in the convoy thankful that another successful day could be crossed from their calendars. (Americal IO)

Big 4th, Thanks To Wife, Red Cross

LZ BRONCO — Independence Day has always been a special occasion for PFC Gary E. Hutton (Laurel, Miss.). Now the day holds more significance to this soldier since he learned his wife gave birth to a son on July 4th.

Hutton, with HHC, 6th Bn., 11th Arty., was overjoyed when he heard the news from Mr. Bill De Putron (San Antonio, Tex.), assistant field director for the Red Cross serving the 11th Inf. Bde.

Happy Call

"My wife was very excited when I talked to her over the phone in the MARS station," related Hutton. "I guess we both laughed and cried for joy at the same time, we were so happy."

About a week later, the Laurel, Miss. chapter of the Red Cross sent Hutton a picture of his wife holding the seven-pound, fifteen-ounce baby christened Gary Scott Hutton.

Mr. De Putron made the presentation to the artilleryman in the Red Cross building and read a short letter from Mrs. Verna Tullos, executive secretary of the local chapter of Jones County, Miss.

The letter read in part, "This is just a little service to the first-born child of our men in Vietnam. It's our appreciation to men like you who are serving overseas in the war zone."

Helping Hand

De Putron praised the local Red Cross workers back in the states who continually help servicemen stationed abroad. "These local chapters, like the one which sent Hutton the picture and helped care for his wife, are all made up of volunteer workers whose only pay is the satisfaction they get from helping others." (11th IO)

196th Soldiers Tops In Class

CHU LAI — Three 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers graduated with top honors in the Combat Leadership Course at the Combat Center.

SP4 Roland D. Nyberg, D Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. finished first in his class. He was followed by SP4 Ronald A. Ditchie, D Co., 1st Bn., 46th Inf. and SP4 Frank Blanch, C Co., 1-46.

All three young men received promotions to sergeant and plaques denoting their outstanding performance. (Combat Center IO)

Easy Does It

SGT Harry R. Fisher (Minneapolis) cautiously probes into a suspicious mound of dirt in the roadway to see if the VC have planted an explosive charge there. The minesweep operations between LZ Baldy and Ross on Highway 535 are conducted by A Co. 26th Engr. Bn. and members of the 2nd ARVN Division. (Photo by SP5 John Ramanauskas, Americal IO)

Inf. Seizes And Destroys Enemy Ba

These livestock pens held the food supply for the estimated 200-man enemy basecamp.

By PFC BILL EFTINK

LZ BRONCO — B Co. toiled slowly up the steep slopes of Hill 1362, west of Chu Lai, each man straining for the first glimpse of the objective.

These 198th Bde. soldiers from the 1st Bn. 6th Inf. were in search of an enemy base camp reported to be in the area. Two men near the head of the company had not started looking yet; they knew the camp was on the other side of the hill. They knew because they had been there before.

SSG Ronald On (Wichita Falls, Tex.) and SP4 Franklin R. Cole (Westbury, N.Y.) were guiding the company into an area they last saw only two weeks before. At that time SSG On was the leader of a recon element of G Co., 75th Inf. (Rangers) and SP4 Cole was his pointman.

The Ranger element had been inserted into the area by helicopter looking for traces of the elusive enemy. The first indication of enemy activity was the appearance of three enemy soldiers.

In an effort to avoid being seen, the team inadvertently walked into the well-concealed base camp.

"We just ran right through when they saw us," said On. The

"Nobody home but us tunnel rats." This soldier emerges smiling after searching a deserted tunnel.

A 198th

secamp

unit broke contact and later was lifted out by helicopter.

But as SSG On led B Co. into the camp, even he was surprised at the size and complexity of it.

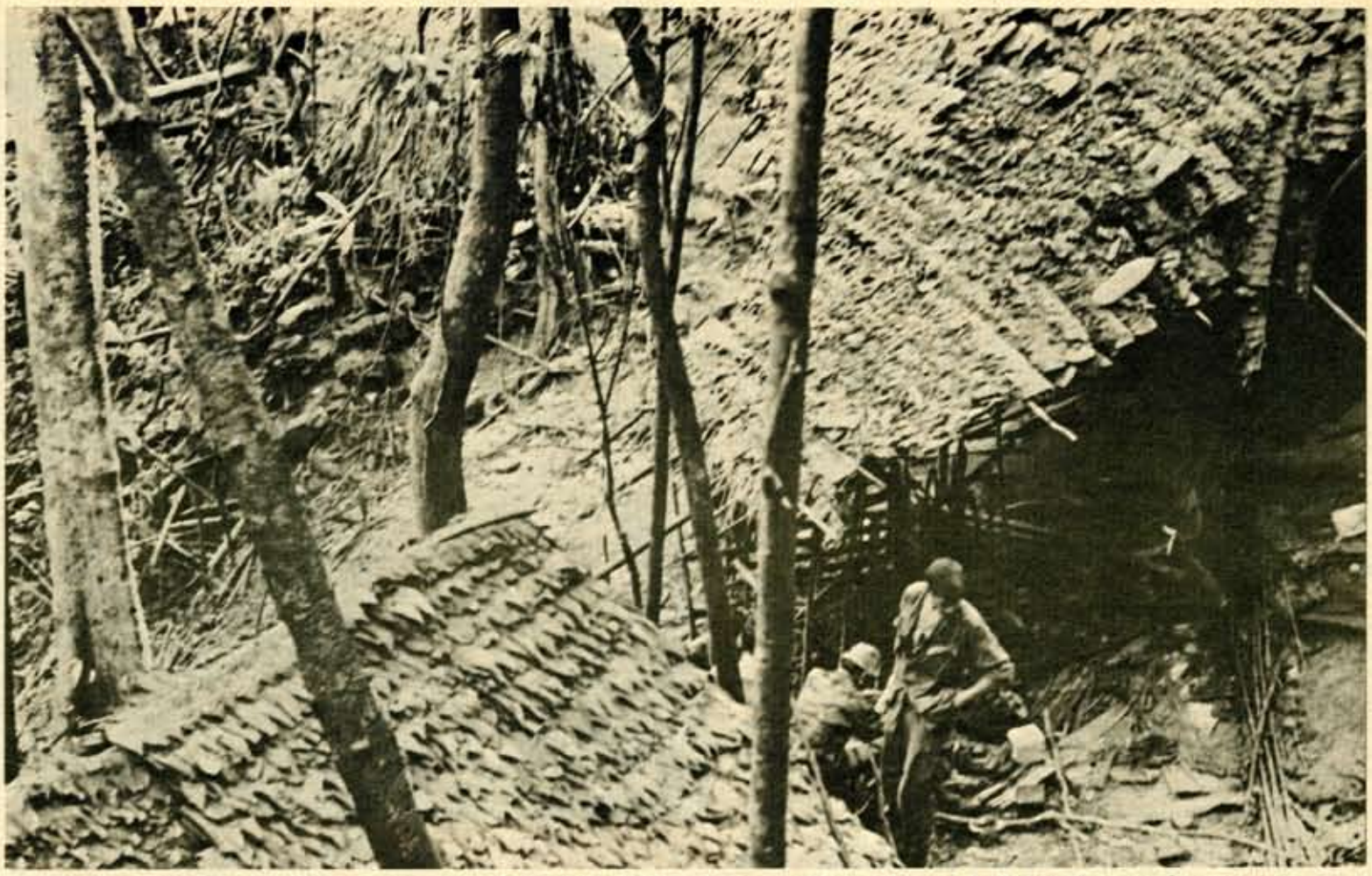
"We just thought it was one hootch," he remarked. That one building turned out to be part of a massive bunker and base camp complex hidden on the side of the hill.

Gone from the camp were the enemy soldiers, estimated at 200, but they left behind a well-hidden, highly strategic encampment comprised of many structures — the largest of which was a three-level 15- by 75-foot bamboo house. Other hootches, storage areas and stock pens dotted the hillside.

The camp, which at first seemed almost inaccessible did not prove so. One week after B Co. arrived, the combat engineers of B Co., 26th Engr. Bn. started a 'jungle renewal program' to force the enemy to find a new home.

With cool precision, the engineers used 1500 pounds of explosives to turn the base camp into smoking rubble. (198th IO)

Photos By
SGT Jose Velasquez
G Co., 75th Inf.



1-6 soldiers search two thatched-roof buildings camouflaged on a hillside by triple canopy.

Bde. soldier descends a ladder after checking out a "treehouse" probably used for storing rice at the large basecamp.

Semester Ends, No Graduation

By SP4 JIM BRUCE

LZ BALDY—It was a hasty "Class dismissed, comrades" for elements of the 2nd NVA Div. when their jungle classroom was paid an unscheduled visit by a company from the 196th Inf. Ble.

The enemy basecamp, considered a training and political indoctrination center because of tactical and propaganda manuals, training aids, books, and pictures of Ho Chi Minh found there, was discovered in the mountainous terrain of Base Area 116, 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Also captured in the camp was a model 58 Czechoslovakian assault rifle, an M-2 carbine, eight magazines and more than 500 rounds of ammunition.

Find Camp

Sweeping up the northeastern ridgeline of the mountain complex, the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., company, commanded by CPT Rudolph Yap (Waialua, Hawaii), discovered the camp on the sixth day of operations seeking concentrations of NVA reported in the area.

"We were making light contact during the week, and there was sniper fire about one kilometer away from the camp the night before," said SP4 Terry Dole (Lansing, Mich.), whose squad made the initial find.

Pointman SP4 Doug Sanders (Maricopa, Calif.) thinks he heard the camp's occupants departing as he approached. "I don't think they could have been gone more than 15 minutes at the most," he said.

Warm cooking fires, plus a small menagerie of kittens, chickens, and a pig indicated the camp was recently occupied.

Swanky Accommodations

Advancing along a covered trail and into the triple-canopied sanctuary, the 2-1 soldiers discovered 12 large bunkers and comfortable accommodations for 20 to 30 people. A pair of NVA lieutenant colonel insignia and the posh appointments suggested the camp had also served as a command echelon base.

Among the special attractions were a shower, an officer's dining area complete to toothpicks on the tables, two popular commercial radios, one of them a big, multi-band shortwave model, and a complete telegraph set for radio-telegraph transmitting. One bunker, possibly a nurses' quarters, even had a tray of cosmetics.

"A real nice place," was the consensus of C Co. infantrymen.

Scouring through the camp, the searchers disclosed a store of NVA propaganda booklets, songbooks, nurses' manuals, books of Communist history, a North Vietnamese history of the war, NVA and Russian field manuals, schematic drawings of military equipment, maps, and documents.

In spite of all the training aids, not every comrade's thoughts had been concentrated solely on absorbing the intricacies of tactics and Communist thought. Checking out one of the bunkers, the 2-1 troops found a Nancy Sinatra pinup. (196th IO)

Combat In Review

Here They Come

A troop-carrying helicopter of the 176th Aslt. Hel. Co. hovers on target before touching down with its load of 198th Bde. infantrymen in an operation northwest of Quang Ngai City. (Photo by 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Combined Forces Protect Civilians

198th Paves Way For Road

By SFC HERB NESMITH

QUANG NGAI CITY — The combined efforts of Army, Navy, and U.S. civilian personnel are rehabilitating the Republic of South Vietnam's most important road as it cuts through the Americal's area of operations.

Between the division base camp at Chu Lai and Quang Ngai City — a 22-mile stretch of coastal plain and fertile rice fields — men of the 198th Inf. Bde. are charged with keeping "Charlie" from interfering with the project.

The "rehabilitation" is in the form of widening and paving Highway 1, eventually stretching from Saigon to the Republic's northern provinces.

Civilian Builders

Most of the construction is being done by American civilian construction workers of RMK-BRJ, a conglomerate of four U.S. construction firms.

As the dozen or so roadbuilders work, a four-man team from the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., mounted on a gun jeep, keeps an eye out for enemy harassing tactics.

"We patrol the area the crew is working on at any given time. It's not too bad near large cities such as Quang Ngai because there are a lot of 'friendlies' around," said the team's leader, SP4 Junior Rambo (Fresno, Calif.). "But out in the country we stay pretty close to the men and equipment and keep a sharp lookout."

Ready For Enemy

"We have enough fire power to make it tough for 'Charlie' for a short period of time anyway," says Rambo. He added that if any prolonged contact ensues, the team has instantaneous radio contact with its headquarters at LZ Gator, just minutes away.

"There were a few nights out there when there was a little sniper fire, but when that M-60 answered it stopped all at once," recalls Navy Lieutenant Joe Clare (Batavia, NY), who is responsible for all civilian contracted construction projects in this part of Vietnam.

For the most part the enemy has stayed clear of the RMK-BRJ work project, thanks mainly to the presence of the 5-46 "gun jeep" and instant retaliatory capability of the 198th Bde. (198th IO)

It's 'Hard Day's Night' Infantryman Discovers

By PFC JOHN CALDERONELLO

LZ BRONCO — SP4 Bob Keefe (Boston), from the 11th Bde.'s 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., had a hard day when his unit made contact with an unknown size enemy force 12 miles northwest of here.

The 1st Platoon of C Co., the lead element that day, halted for a brief respite from "humping" through rough, mountainous terrain. Keefe was talking to one of his buddies when, as if by inborn response, he casually turned aside and fired his M-16, instantly downing an NVA standing beside a nearby tree.

Ambush

The company continued on its way when the raucous sound of an AK-47 split the air. It was coming from an extremely close hole along the trail.

Keefe, SP4 Grady Wilson, (Davenport, Fla.), and PFC Butch Hillegas (Quakerstown, Penn.) provided fire support while SP4 Tim Smith (San Jose, Calif.) threw a fragmentation grenade into the hole, killing the NVA soldier.

Gunships were soon called in to pound the area with rockets and miniguns, after which the company again moved down the trail.

Arriving at a sharp drop-off, Keefe saw another NVA step out from behind a tree at port arms. Eyes met, and both stood stock-still for several seconds.

More Hard Luck

Recovering from the initial shock, Keefe reacted first by attempting to fire his M-16. His weapon misfired and Keefe dropped to the ground for cover. The man behind him quickly fired in the direction of the enemy.

Two NVA then jumped out from behind the same tree and began to spray the area with AK-47 fire, but C Co. immediately responded with M-60 and small arms fire.

Luckless Keefe then pulled out a grenade and tossed it at the two NVA only to see it hit a solitary, overhanging branch and bounce back, narrowly missing him. The enemy quickly retreated down the hill, and Keefe was ready to call it a day. (11th IO)

Keeping In Touch

A 196th Inf. Bde. squad leader keeps in radio contact with his company as they move west past ruins of an arch into mountainous jungles west of Tam Ky. (Photo by SP5 Dave Tyler, Americal IO)

Bamboo Curtain Crushed

LZ BRONCO—In a recent day-long battle six miles west of here, an old, fallow rice paddy became the graveyard for 15 NVA soldiers who fell under an onslaught from soldiers of the 11th Inf. Bde.

Soldiers of D Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., had been on search and clear operations in the area for several days when an early morning mortar attack on their night laager position triggered a counter-attack.

Clash With Enemy

Leaving their positions, D Co. moved out in search of the enemy, sweeping through hedgerows and dense brush, until they emerged into an open field where they met fierce resistance.

CPT John S. Walker (Wakefield, R.I.), battalion operations S-3, described what immediately confronted the company. "The NVA were in a trenchline between two open fields with bamboo around the trench. They were equipped with a machinegun, an RPG-7, AK-47s, an AK-50, and they weren't sparing their ammunition!'

With nothing but tree stumps for cover, the company moved forward on line until forced to halt as the enemy beat out a steady tattoo of automatic weapons fire.

Jack-In-The-Box

"I was within 10 feet of that bamboo thicket and I still couldn't locate their positions," recalled PFC James A. Skapara (Boston). "Then all of a sudden, a camouflaged trap door to a 'spider hole' popped open, a burst was fired—and down went the lid."

Meanwhile, B Co. moved west, forming a cordon around the well-entrenched enemy. Valuable assistance came from the air as Army helicopters from the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., and B Co., 123rd Avn. Bn., made repeated strafing runs on the enemy position.

Action began picking up as two members of a B Co. machinegun team, PFC Chris Osgood (Huntington Beach, Calif.), and PFC Richard Olson (Minneapolis), moved far forward of the main element and laid down deadly suppressive fire. SP4 David Schoolous, a squad leader, made repeated dashes to the enemy positions, silencing them with hand grenades, one by one, as other members of the company gave him covering fire.

We heard a rumor that a new kind of pointman would be joining the division in the near future. After spending some time tracing this info, it was discovered that this special type of pointman is operational only in Florida. Sorry, but you'll have to settle for the southern I Corps variety, unless you're going to Florida.

Regulations For Wearing Unit Citations And Awards

Unit award emblems are worn above the right breast pocket on the Army uniform. If more than one award is authorized for wear by an individual, the emblems will be worn in order of precedence, with the highest ranking to the wearer's right.

The emblem of the Presidential Unit Citation was formerly known as the Distinguished Unit Citation until Nov. 1966. The emblem is a blue ribbon encased within a gold colored metal frame.

The emblem of the Valorous Unit Award has a Silver Star color design superimposed in the center of a scarlet ribbon behind the metal frame. The Meritorious Unit Commendation is a scarlet ribbon with metal frame.

If unit awards of sister branches of the U.S. Armed Forces are authorized for wear by an individual, the order of precedence is: the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy) follows the Army Presidential Unit Citation. The Navy Unit Commendation follows the Meritorious Unit Citation. The Navy Unit Commendation follows the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is preceded by all other U.S. unit awards.

Foreign unit awards also are worn above the right pocket following U.S. unit decorations. Order of precedence is: Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII), Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation (Korean War), followed by those earned in Vietnam. If more than one RVN unit award is authorized, precedence of wear will be that established by the RVN.

Unit award emblems are a temporary part of the uniform for individuals not present with the unit in the action cited, and may be worn only for the duration of assignment to that unit.

How Does This Grab Ya?

Army personnel in RVN are authorized an early discharge or separation up to 90 days prior to normal ETS for the purpose of immediate reenlistment. Personnel exercising this option may now be paid accrued leave. Contact your unit career counselor.

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GRAD, a division of the College Placement Council, Inc., is a computerized facility for referring resumes of college graduates to employers throughout the nation. By filling out a resume, you are assured of reaching the widest possible employment market. Contact MACV Annex, Rm. 304, Saigon.

Mobilized USAR and NGUS personnel will be released by Dec. 15, if not sooner, from their RVN tour. If transferred to another unit since being mobilized, personnel will be returned to the unit with which they came on active duty. Personnel involuntarily ordered to active duty for failure to properly participate in reserve activities will be retained until full normal tour or expiration of active duty period. Personnel who wish to remain on active duty may apply for retention. Contact unit personnel staff NCOIC.

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Late submission of a request for extension of foreign service tour may preclude favorable consideration because of insufficient time allowed for cancellation of personnel requisitions.

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Soldiers in pay grades E-7 and E-8 whose records do not indicate required qualification in more than one MOS are limiting their assignment possibilities and denying themselves a chance for promotion in other than their primary MOS. Senior enlisted personnel should qualify themselves for more than one specialty and should see that any additional MOS acquired is properly recorded.

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A Master Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Badge is now authorized for qualified personnel. The current Supervisor EOD Badge has been redesignated Senior EOD Badge. The new award should be available around Dec. 1.

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The first phase of the Army's plan for Management of Enlisted Careerists Centrally Administered (MECCA) is scheduled to begin in January. The new system will provide more personalized service to the soldier in the form of career management teams actively working with individual records. Members of these teams will be vitally concerned with classification, assignment education and promotion.

4-21 Grunts Launch Daring Beach Assault

By SP4 RICK SOEHNGEN

LZ CHARLIE BROWN—In a unique pairing of two branches of the Armed Forces, a highly successful amphibious assault was launched from the deck of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Point Glover by a rifle platoon of the 11th Inf. Bde.

The unprecedented combined operation smashed a Viet Cong coastal sanctuary in a daring hit-and-run, predawn raid two miles north of here.

Comprised entirely of volunteers from A Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., the platoon was led by three Ranger-qualified officers who had trained the selected group of 22 men for four days in sea-land operations with two 10-man rubber boats.

As midnight approached and the soldiers on land greased their faces with camouflage sticks, cleaned their weapons, and received their final briefing, the cutter was also making preparations for the landing.

Sweeping across the rendezvous site, the cutter took drift tests to determine the speed and direction of the current, necessary for the proper dispatch of the landing boats.

At 1:30 a.m., the 4-21 soldiers paddled their boats to the blacked-out coastal patrol boat lying offshore, tied them to the ship, and went aboard.

Ready to go

CPT Robert Smith (Columbus, Ga.) A Co. commander, went quietly among the men gathered on deck and said, "Once we hit the beach, if all goes according to plan, it should take 10 minutes to reach the bunker complexes on top of the cliff, five minutes to take the positions, and five minutes to withdraw to the boats. Are you ready?"

"Yes Sir!" came the reply in unison.

"Then best of luck to every one of you," the captain concluded.

For two hours the Point Glover crisscrossed the coastline as on a normal nighttime patrol. Suddenly, about a mile offshore, she cut her engines and the troops disembarked into their rubber boats.

Swim for land

The lightly equipped troops, their pantlegs secured with leather thongs in order to prevent noise, paddled towards shore. Two swimmers were released about 700 yards out and began swimming in, each towing a small buoyant, waterproof bag around his shoulders.

While the boats waited just offshore the swimmers reached the beach, broke open their bags, took out .38 cal. pistols, survival knives, garrotes, and flashlights, and carefully reconnoitered the beachhead.

After insuring the beach was clear, the swimmers flashed signals to the boats and guided them to their objective.

Leaving the rubber rafts and the swimmers along the rocks bordering a small cove, CPT Smith skirted the beach for 300 feet before moving up a rocky trail along the cliff to a small plateau on top.

Leading an element to within 20 meters of the enemy positions to see if any last-minute changes were necessary, CPT Smith withdrew to the objective rally point.

Charge

The captain pointed to the RTO, who handed him a white star cluster which would signal the attack, and motioned to the forward observer, 1LT Richard A. Percival (Bryon, Tex.), who immediately called for a continuous illumination barrage from C Btry., 1st Bn., 82nd Arty., on LZ Debbie.

As the star cluster burst and the first illumination rounds went off above them, a shrill whistle blown by CPT Smith pierced the night air. The troops then swept on line through the bunker complexes, destroying them with grenades as they went.

This action flushed the quickly evading Viet Cong from their holes and the raiders met little resistance.

Fine Mission

Meanwhile a continuous artillery barrage to the northwest from A Btry., 1-82 Arty., and mortar fire to the southeast from the 4.2 mortar platoon of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf., on LZ Charlie Brown formed an effective sealing fire to prevent any VC from escaping.

Four minutes after reaching the objective the mission was accomplished and a green star cluster fired signalling the withdrawal. The volunteer force withdrew, leaving behind numerous destroyed bunkers.

After the operation, SP4 Jack Head (Stow, Mass.), a mortar man with the 4.2 mortar platoon said, "We fired 103 rounds in close support of this mission. It was supposed to be a wall of steel and I think we laid down fire just like that."

"This operation has added a new dimension to the operational capacity of the 11th Bde., and places a limitation on the enemy, who can no longer ignore the sea approach," said LTC Donald Hanson (Columbus, Ga.) 4-21 commander, who developed the concept for the operation.

"These coastal sanctuaries will no longer afford the VC the security they previously enjoyed." (11th IO)

PREPARATION FOR THE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT against a VC coastal position by volunteers of 4-21 soldiers begin with instruction in seamanship by A Co. commander CPT Robert Smith. (Photo by SP4 Phil Tipton, 11th Bde. IO)

ONE TEAM TURNS the boat over and the other team prepares to aright the raft in a training exercise by the infantrymen before their successful beach assault, two miles north of Duc Pho. (Photo by SP4 Phil Tipton, 11th Bde. IO)

NVA Snooze, Zapped!

LZ WEST—The discovery of a large enemy basecamp consisting of more than 200 reinforced bunkers began a busy day for the 4th Bn., 31st Inf.

While conducting search and clear operations northwest of Tam Ky, D Co. of the 196th Inf. Bde. unit found the enemy fortifications. The basecamp was spread out over a large area with the bunkers connected by a huge tunnel network amidst thick jungle terrain.

The infantrymen observed an NVA sleeping in a hammock inside the hootch. Two other NVA slept on a nearby table. "Suddenly, the guy in the hammock spotted us and went for his rifle," Coyle said. "We opened up and got all three of them before they could get moving."

Three weapons were captured, including an M-1 Carbine, an AK-47 rifle, and an M-16.

Later the same afternoon, D Co. was set up in their night defensive positions when five NVA wandered into the area and came under intense weapons fire from the 4-31 infantrymen.

Two NVA were killed and blood trails branching off from the area indicated others were wounded. Captured packs yielded rice, canned fish and 9mm pistol ammunition.

First Of A Ten Part Series On R&R Sites

Start Off Your R&R On The Right Foot

CHU LAI — Have you ever dreamed of being snuggled in a plush hotel on a tropical island with pockets full of money and nothing to do but eat, drink, and relax?

If the dream comes true, you are either a jet-set VIP doing your usual thing, or a jet-sent soldier on a five-day R&R tour in one of nine exotic cities living it up.

Want to get away from it all? If you have been in Vietnam three months or longer, you are eligible for R&R. Choose one of nine pleasure-seeking locations: Bangkok, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Manila, Penang, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, and Tokyo.

Continuing Series

But you are not ready yet! The SOUTHERN CROSS will help you plan for those glorious five days. Each week this newspaper will highlight one of the sights.

In taking advantage of R&R you must submit an application through your company orderly room at least one month in advance of the date you desire.

Servicemen assigned here are entitled to one out-of-country R&R during a one-year tour. Those who extend 90 days or more may take a second R&R, and are eligible any time subsequent to the date extension is approved. A seven-day leave to any of the R&R sites also is available to servicemen in Vietnam.

The uniform must be worn to and from R&R departure sites. Civilian clothing is mandatory after arrival at most sites and is recommended for all.

Plan Ahead

Uniforms may be worn on the ground only in Hawaii and Camp Zama, Japan. Civilian clothing may be rented or bought at all R&R locations.

Financial arrangements should be made well in advance. MPC used in Vietnam is not valid elsewhere and must be changed into U.S. currency before departure, and changed into the national currency of the country you are visiting.

Shots — shot record, ID Card, identification tags and orders are required in order to board the aircraft. Shots must be up-to-date and cholera immunization administered at least five days before departure.

Smallpox vaccinations must be taken at least two weeks in advance. Those going to Bangkok must have received a cholera shot within four months; all other locations will accept cholera shots taken within the previous six months.

Safeguard Luggage

Baggage — a maximum of 66 pounds applies to all R&R sites. A copy of R&R orders should be placed in each piece of luggage to help safeguard against loss.

Personnel at R&R centers provide detailed information, change currency, arrange tours, and obtain reduced-price hotel reservation.

If you carefully choose a site which offers the type of recreation you seek, and if you plan your trip beforehand, R&R can be a once-in-a-lifetime event you'll never forget.