Large Pacification Drive Underway

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Dawn Patrol

First signs of morning find this Huey helicopter of the 176th Aslt. Hel. Co. flying members of A Co., 5-46 Inf., 198th Bde. to a location 10 miles south of Chu Lai. (Photo by SP5 Thomas Maus, Americal IO)

LZ BAYONET—Cordoning and searching almost a village a day, Americal infantrymen and elements of the 6th ARVN Regt. are putting pressure on Viet Cong Infrastructure members operating 15 miles southeast of here.

Since late July three companies of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 5th Bn., 46th Inf. have worked closely with two battalions of the ARVN regiment in an intensive pacification effort aimed at breaking up communist political activity in the area.

"Getting to the infrastructure is the name of the game," said MAJ Donald R. Kannady (Fayetteville, Ark.), intelligence officer of the 198th Bde.

Rooting Out

In the first three weeks of the joint U.S. Republic of Vietnam pacification drive, 721 persons have been detained for questioning. Of those, 31 Viet Cong Infrastructure members, 71 Civil Defendants (Individuals of questionable loyalty), and 32 Viet Cong or NVA have been found. Another 59 of the enemy have been killed.

Almost daily a company of the 5-46 rings one of the many hamlets and villages in the rice paddy flatlands. Along with a Vietnamese interrogation team, they comb the huts in search of the enemy. Just to the south the ARVN soldiers do much the same thing.

"We're disrupting their activities in this area, all right, and we're hitting their food supply, too," said LTC Julian Wagner (Columbus, Ga.), the battalion commander.

Pacification

The project is part of a long range Vietnamese pacification campaign. Although the prime target is VC who have worked themselves into the area's many small hamlet political structures, tacticians also aim to disrupt the movement and logistical support of several local force units in the vicinity.

With the drive only four days old, an estimated company of one of these units was thought to have been located. Infantrymen of 5-46 engaged the element and called in heavy air strikes and artillery. Seven enemy were killed, and intelligence officials said "others were probably buried in the area."

"We are using the muscle of one of our companies or an ARVN company along with the interrogation capability of Vietnamese provincial forces," explained CPT James Gaffney (Tewsbury, Mass.), assistant brigade operations officer. (198th IO)

Commemorates RVN Independence Day

Villagers Share Feast With 11th Bde

By SP4 TONY SWINDELL

BA TO — In a gala day-long celebration, the Montagnard villagers and guests from the Americal Division's 11th Inf. Bde. commemorated the Republic of Vietnam's Independence Day on July 20 here. The village lies in a river valley 15 miles west of Duc Pho.

The festivities included speeches, songs, a volleyball game between the local Montagnard team and a group of 11th Bde. officers, and a huge feast highlighted by the sacrifice of a young bull.

Initially, the day commemorated the separation of the Vietnams (North and South) at the 17th Parallel. But just as important is the Montagnard Buddhist ceremony of the appeasement of the spirits accomplished by the sacrifice of a water buffalo to Buddha.

Colorful Gathering

Hundreds of villagers, many dressed in brightly colored local costumes and scarf headdresses, crowded into the Revolutionary Development Cadre courtyard to observe the celebration. The courtyard itself was festooned with flowered wreaths and banners hanging from arches proclaiming the holiday.

Just before 11 a.m. COL Jack L. Treadwell (Ashland, Ala.), 11th Bde. commander, and his staff arrived to be welcomed by the Ba To Revolutionary Development Cadre honor guard in full dress. They were then treated to an ancient Montagnard dance while the village elders prepared an sacrificial table on which were set china cups filled with rice wine.

Sacrifice of Bull

At the conclusion of the dance, three young girls came forward, each bearing an eight-foot spear, an age-old Montagnard weapon. The elders took the spears and plunged them into the heart of a young bull in the manner prescribed by their custom, and mixed a portion of the blood with the ceremonial wine.

The religious leader of the village then blessed the drink and gave each dignitary a cup. Montagnard custom places great importance on this ceremony. They believe the strength of the bull will be transferred to the man who drinks it.

Dinner

After the sacrifice, the villagers and guests retired to a large hall where tables were filled with both Montagnard and exotic Vietnamese dishes, including boiled pork and chicken, wine, a type of unleavened bread called "rice paper," fried rice with curry and spice, and many other delicacies eaten only on festive occasions.

The Ba To district chief honored his guests at the beginning of the feast when he toasted the efforts of the Americans who have given so much time to help his village. "We are poor people," he said, "but what we have is also yours."

When everyone had finished eating, the Ba To volleyball team challenged the Americans to play them, and to the enthusiastic cheers of the villagers, managed to give a good account of themselves before a torrential afternoon shower dampened the festival. (11th IO)

Monopoly VC Style

CHU-LAI—Ingenuity, raw materials and imagination are making leisure time pass more quickly for the men of the F Trp., 17th Cav.

To break up lull periods, the men decided to Vietnamize the Parker Brothers parlor game of Monopoly.

SP4 Gary Potter (San Francisco), the originator of the game, said, "we use brass cartridges of different sizes for tokens. We also use chewing gum for houses and the gum boxes for hotels." Chu Lai with a gum box is the highest rental property on the board.

One of the changes in the game is that "States Avenue, Virginia Avenue, and St. Charles Place" are now the PX, EM Club, and the mess hall. "Chance" has remained the same, but "Community Chest" has been transformed into Troop Fund. (Americal IO)

Religion And You

In Service Of God

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ)
LEONARD J. LUKASZEWSKI
Assistant Division Chaplain

God has created man. He is man's beginning. He has created man for Himself, and is man's final goal. The proper order of the universe demands that men recognize these two facts and act accordingly.

Men must give God his due, just as they must give each other what is due. Since God is the source of man's existence, life, and action, it is clear that man can never fully repay God for all that God has done for him. Man can never fully repay God because all that he gives to God, already belongs to God. But man must give to God, as the source and final goal of his existence, all that he can give him; the full service of his body and soul. Religion is the virtue by which man gives to God the service and the honor which are due to God.

Men pay honor to God not for God's sake, but for their own sake. Since God is absolutely perfect and perfectly happy in Himself, the honor men pay to Him in religion adds nothing to the perfection and happiness of God. But it does bring happiness to men because it places them in their proper relationship to God. It gives men their proper place in the universe.

Man exists as the spokesman of the universe. It is his function, in the world to recognize God's dominion over all creation, to adore God as the Creator and the goal of all creation. When man recognizes God's majesty, he achieves his true destiny and so he finds happiness.

VIETNAM-STYLE

By SP4 JAMES BROWN

Wholesale And Retail Trade

Trade in imported processed foods and manufactured consumer goods continues in unreduced volume in Vietnam.

The largest concentration of consumers of imported goods is at Saigon-Cho Lon, although there is demand in other cities where Europeans and well-to-do Chinese and Vietnamese live.

Basically, however, the bulk of domestic trade consists of the purchase and sale of agricultural products and locally made essential consumer goods. An appreciable part of this trade takes place at village or town markets where sales are made directly by producers to retailers or consumers. Most of the rice trade, however, moves through channels established by brokers, wholesalers, and dealers (who in normal times are also exporters) centered in Saigon-Cho Lon.

Most of the export, import and wholesale houses are situated in the Saigon-Cho Lon area. Almost all of the exporters, who are relatively few in number, deal in rice, since rubber, the other main export crop, is shipped directly from the plantations.

Many of the approximately 1000 import houses are small firms. Some—mainly the larger ones—add wholesaling and retailing to their activities and deal in a wide variety of goods. Most of these firms are Chinese, but the number of Vietnamese enterprises is increasing.

The larger Chinese merchant houses commonly operate both as independents and as agents for European companies. They channel the produce of the rural areas into the cities for sale or export and, operating through a network of relatives, friends, and members of their "congregations" engage in business in all parts of the country, providing outlets for imported goods.

All businesses, including wholesalers and retailers, are required to have licenses issued by the government. The charge for a license varies according to size and type of business; in addition, there is a provincial surcharge and a further surcharge by the city, town, or village.

In Saigon-Cho Lon there are eight commercial banks which offer plentiful credit to reputable businesses of the metropolis. The Vietnamese-, Chinese-, and French chamber of commerce are located in Saigon. Vietnamese chambers of commerce are also located in Hue and Da Nang.

Among the Montagnards, who predominantly are self-sufficient, there is little trade. The Katu, the Rhade, the Mnong, and the Sedang are exceptional in this respect, trading with the Vietnamese and acting as middlemen with other ethnic groups among the hillmen.

The Katu trade with the Vietnamese especially for highly valued iron and pots. The Rhade exchange cloth with the Mnong for their pigs and poultry.

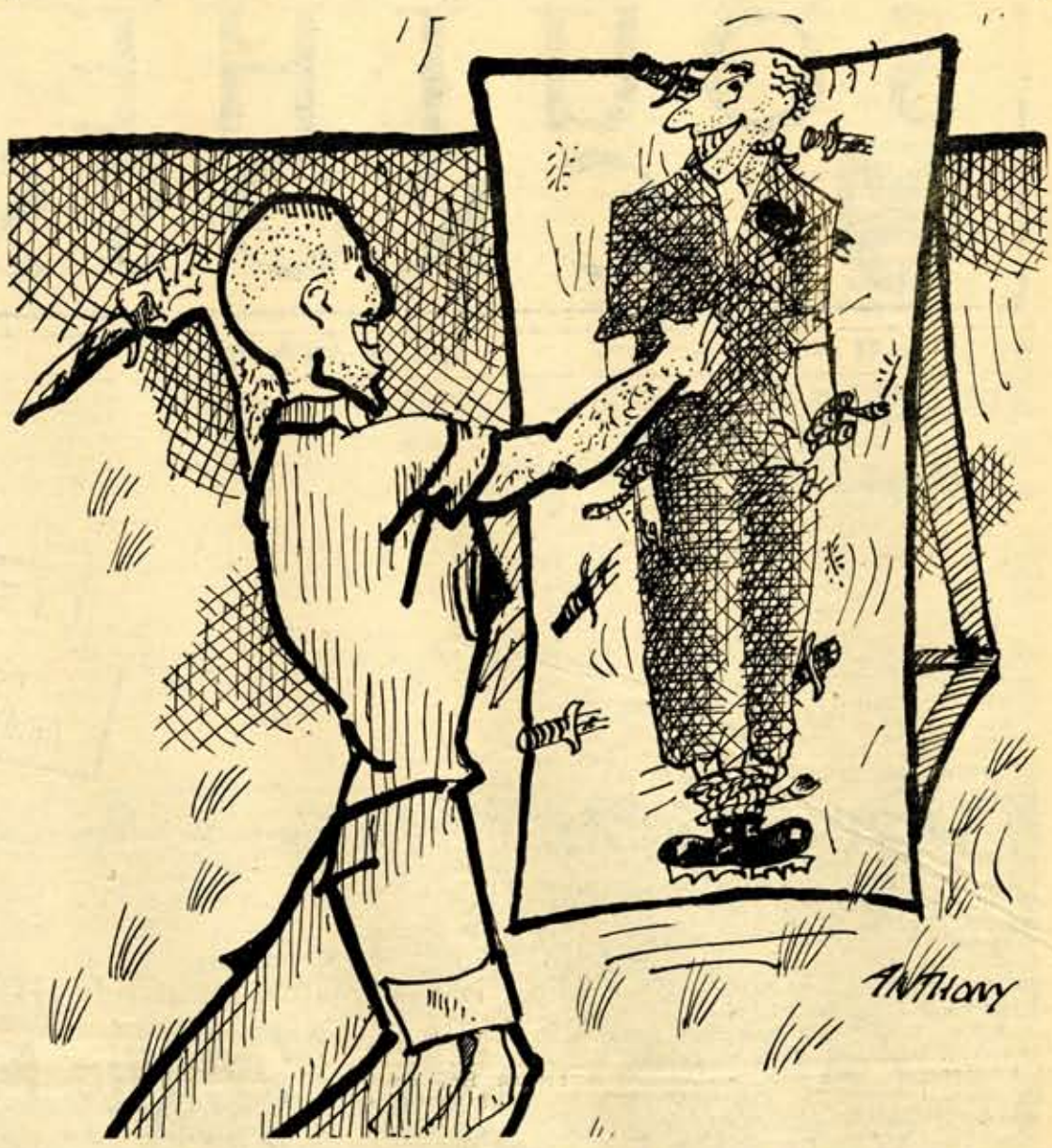
The Mnong also deal with the Chinese and Vietnamese, exchanging their own livestock, including buffalo, for much coveted salt and jars. The Sedang are quite unusual in the wide extent of their trading alliances among the minority groups of the highlands, dealing in local and Vietnamese goods.

The contrast in different retail outlets vary from the Saigon department stores and specialty shops selling luxury goods, to the peddler with rice cakes, fruits, or vegetables to bargain.

The typical retail enterprise is the stall or small shop of the city, town, or village marketplace. Both the city shops and the open-air stands of the villages are usually family operated, generally not large enough to warrant the employment of outsiders.

Some merchants in Saigon have adopted a fixed-price policy, and the government has licensed a number of food shops to sell rice at the price set by the government. Bargaining, however, remains the normal accompaniment of most retail transactions.

Safety Prevents Accidents



By
PFC DEAN K. WILLAM

An Americal Division soldier attempted to clear a .45 caliber pistol with a clip of ammunition still in the weapon. When he pulled the slide to the rear and released it. He pointed the pistol downward and pulled the trigger. The weapon discharged, striking a fellow soldier in the back of the knee. This soldier, through negligence and carelessness, had broken all the rules for clearing a weapon.

He should have removed the clip, pulled the slide to the rear and locked it in this position, and finally made a visual inspection of the weapon, to make sure it was clear.

There isn't anyone who wants to leave Vietnam "feet first." There is a way to prevent it—use precautionary safety. Take the split second to think before you act.

Surely most of the cases are accidents and no one ever intended them to happen. The poor excuse for the failure to act safely that "accidents always happen to the other guy," just is not true. They have been happening too frequently to you the Americal Division soldier.

Mr. Michael Drew (Philadelphia), safety director for the division, described an accident this way in a weekly newsletter. "An accident is an interruption to an intended course of action resulting in injury to a person or damage to equipment or property incident to an Army operation or activity that is not the result of combat operations or direct action by a hostile or belligerant force."

A soldier was on guard duty on a bridge. Another man with him was throwing a knife so that it would stick into the planks of the bridge. On one toss the knife slipped and struck the first guard in the foot. The result was a painful injury to a person performing an assigned task, through the careless use of a potentially dangerous weapon.

The man-hours lost because of foolish accidents can be reduced by company commanders who should see to it that supervisors instruct their men on accident preventive programs.

Commanders should investigate accidents thoroughly and completely to find ways to prevent the reoccurrence of the accident.

One such accident that continually flares up is the improper use of flammables. The problem often goes back to when someone was assigned to paint on cans what they contained. No one checked on the job, to ascertain the cans were correctly labeled.

To stop senseless accidents, it is the responsibility of all commanders to see that effective safety campaigns are started and carried out to the fullest degree. But accident prevention has to go even further—down to the soldier who has these accidents.

Caution when ruled by common sense pays big dividends to your safety account.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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OP-CAP Merger Effective

CHU LAI — A combined effort to break the VC influence in rural areas was made by the Americal for the first time as a Medical Civilian Action Program (MEDCAP) merged with a Psycological Operation (PSYOP) in a hamlet eight miles northeast of LZ Center.

On the first night of the operation, while medics from the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. treated a handful of villagers, and the PSYOP team prepared to show films on the government of Vietnam, a VC rallier walked into the hamlet under the cover of dusk.

Used as still another aid in breaking the VC influence, a platoon of Popular Force (PFs) assisted two platoons of A Co., 3-21 in routing the VC from the area. It was hoped that seeing the Vietnamese soldiers fighting alongside the American soldiers would add further weight to their pacification attempts.

CPT Dennis L. Chudola (Cleveland, Ohio), A Co. commander, stated his mission of clearing the area "would help establish a fire control zone (an area where artillery would not fire) which would insure the safety of the people, if the village could be pacified." (Americal IO)

Widerrrr!

A dentist finds that not everyone dislikes having their teeth checked. This young girl sits patiently in the make-shift dentist office for her check-up during a MEDCAP at the village of Son Tra. (Photo by PFC Art Noel, 198th Bde.)

Soul Food For The Soul

'Music Fry' On Red Hot LZs

By SP4 James Brown

CHU LAI — The "sound of music" gets forward area welcoming treatment. Soldiers stationed on forward area bases and LZ's groove to the come-on-strong-big-beat sounds.

Sometimes the entertainers hitchhike copter rides or take to the highways by 2½ ton trucks to get to the forward areas.

"The main emphasis is placed on getting the entertainers and entertainment to the troops in the field," said William E. Hutchinson (West Palm Beach, Fla.), director of the Americal Division Special Services entertainment Branch. He is also a percussionist for the Americal's "Luther T. Stone Music Society."

"The field soldiers are the ones needing entertainment most. Sometimes months pass before they can see any live shows. We realize their appreciation through their favorable response," added the former Marshall Grant Orchestra performer.

Numerous command USO shows from Saigon, which are comprised of soldiers stationed in Vietnam, tour the LZ's and artillery fire bases.

"We have to procure transportation through whatever means we can for the command touring performers. Sometimes that is a very big job in itself," said SP4 Fisher C. Dezevallos (Nashville, Tenn.), the Luther T. Stone's lead guitarist who formerly was a songwriter for Tree Publishing Co.

The Hollywood Overseas Entertainment Committee selects and approves talent from celebrity sources to tour Vietnam. These performers appear on a non-pay basis; they donate their talents to the American fighting man.

"We have had handshake tours by Pam Moffitt and Jill Townsend who visited the troops. Pam has appeared on 'Ironside' and Jill co-stars in 'Cimarron Strip,'" said SP4 Thomas D. Cronon (Portland, Ore.), a pianist who directed musicals for University of Portland.

"Also we have had Troy Donahue and Sebastian Cabot talk with the forward area soldiers," concluded Cronon.

The Americal USO Special Services has two all-local soul-rock groups, the "Joint Chiefs of Staff" and the aforementioned "Luther T. Stone Music Society," that tour the LZ's as a full-time job.

"I know about the troops in the field — it hasn't been too long since I came out and was assigned to play bass guitar for the Luther T. Stone group," said SP4 William H. Smith (Winston-Salem, N.C.), who formerly performed with a gospel group called the "Royal Travellers."

"Troops in the field are happy to see any live entertainment, you know that by their actions, and it makes you play much harder."

Order Division History Now

The Americal Division's battle record in Vietnam will be recorded in an 80,000 word hard-bound book written by military historian Edward Hymoff.

"The Americal history will be written on the scene, while the memories are still fresh," said Hymoff.

To order the history contact your first sergeant.

Gift Donated To Honor Cav.

CHU LAI — The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. donated a stained glass window worth $850 to the Bell Hall Memorial Association building at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The Bell Hall Association was officially formed on May 1 to perpetuate the distinguished history and lineage of the U.S. Army. Because of its important historical link with Fort Leavenworth, the 1st Cav. is represented in the project.

The Army's most battle honored unit, the 1st Cav. served with distinction at Fort Leavenworth from 1835 to 1861.

The Cav. was deployed from Oklahoma to Iowa, then known as the "Last Frontier". Their duty was to protect local settlers and wagon trains along the Santa Fe Trail from hostile Indians roaming the plains.

The 1st Cav. was called from Fort Leavenworth in 1846 to participate in the Mexican War, distinguishing itself at Buena Vista and Coahuila. After the Mexican War it returned to Fort Leavenworth and remained there until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. (Americal IO)

Pilot Earns DFC And Gold Bars

CHU LAI — Chief Warrant Officer Richard Farris (Washington D.C.) received a Direct Commission in the U.S. Army and was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross in ceremonies at Americal headquarters.

The Oath of Commissioning was administered by the young helicopter pilot's father, Lt. Col. Harold Farris, also a pilot, but with the U.S. Air Force. BG Edwin L. Powell Jr, assistant division commander, pinned the gold Second Lieutenant bars on the newly commissioned officer.

The Direct Commission, the fourth to be awarded to an Americal Division Warrant Officer, was in Signal Corps branch while the DFC was awarded to 2LT Farris for his actions while flying a night tactical emergency mission during Feburary, 1969, according to the citation read by MAJ Kenneth A. Sines (Friendsville, MD.), commanding officer of the 178th Aslt Hel. Co.

2LT Farris previously served in Germany with the 60th Avn. Co. and since arriving in the Republic of Vietnam has earned the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Lt.Col. Farris (Uvalde, Tex.) is assigned to the 311th Special Operations Squadron, USAF and has over 300 flying hours in RVN, earning the Air Medal with five OLC's.

This was a proud day for the "Flying Farris Family." (Americal IO).

312th Evac. Hosp., 6-56

Vietnamese schoolgirls say goodbye to departing artillerymen.

"Sir, the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery, requests permission to d

This is it—the last few steps in Southeast Asia

Nguyen Gia Cung, assistant Quang T

th Arty. Depart For States

epart the Republic of Vietnam."

Happiness is boarding a "Freedom Bird."

Photos By
PFC JAMES ROBISON
and
PFC TIMOTHY VAUGHN
523rd Sig. Bn.

n province chief thanks the 312th.

Doctors, nurses, and technicians await the order to board their flight home.

EM Takes Charge Unit Repels Attack

CHU LAI — In the fervid heat of battle, SP4 Dennis Ratcliff took command of his platoon and performed coolly. It began when the A Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., Ratcliff's unit, was combat assaulted into a new area of operations near LZ Charlie Brown.

Each platoon started patrolling an assigned sector of responsibility along Highway 1 and the closely adjacent terrain. Towards dusk the platoons established night defensive positions within their areas of operation.

The leader of the 2nd platoon was evacuated to the rear for medical reasons, leaving Ratcliff in temporary command of the 20-man unit. About midnight the 2nd platoon came under an intense RPG attack.

When Army gunships arrived on the scene Ratcliff halted the artillery barrage and directed the gunship fire, again depleting the enemy ranks.

During this time, the platoon received fifteen to twenty RPG rounds within their perimeter while suffering only four casualties — all of them minor.

Abruptly at 3:30 a.m., grenades began exploding inside the platoon's position as intense small arms and automatic weapons fire started sweeping the laager. Ratcliff was wounded, but moved to his men and directed their automatic weapons fire.

Making his initial request for tactical support, Ratcliff began to administer first aid to four wounded soldiers and assisted a medic in his tasks. He later returned to his radio to continue adjusting artillery fire and spotting targets for the gunships.

Realizing the more seriously wounded must be medically evacuated, Ratcliff called for a "Dustoff" helicopter and organized a small party to secure an emergency LZ.

Moving under the concealment of darkness and the artillery support 40 meters outside the perimeter, Ratcliff found a suitable site for the loading of the wounded. Returning to the platoon, Ratcliff resumed his direction of the defense until the enemy retreated.

Early Risers Surprise VC

LZ BALDY — A company of 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers from the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. are probably changing the sleeping habits of local VC drastically — those enemy soldiers not paying attention are in for a rude awakening.

After C Co. broke camp at 3 a.m., they headed to a suspected VC camp, 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The infantrymen searched the site and caught five VC and one NVA still sleeping. The enemy tried to escape and were killed by the early-rising infantrymen. (196th IO)

Watching The Show

Two 198th Bde. soldiers watch their own private air show as an air strike by F-4 Phantom jets pounds a dug-in NVA emplacement near LZ Stinson northwest of Quang Ngai.
(Photo by SGT Alfred Anthony Jr., 198th IO)

Combat In Review

Blast Off

Mortarmen from E Co., 3-21 Inf., 196th Bde. hold their ears and grimace at the loud bang of their 4.2 inch mortar as another shell drops in on the enemy. The crew was firing in support of the battalion near LZ Center.
(Photo by CPT Cecil A. Green, Americal IO)

Roadblocks Yield Contraband

MPs Slow Prohibited Trade

By SFC HERB NESMITH

SON TINH — Day in and day out large civilian trucks weave in and out of the crowded pedestrian motorcycle and bicycle traffic of Highway 1 like broken field runners heading for a touchdown.

Near this tiny village three miles northeast of Quang Ngai City the huge trucks — as well as buses, motorcycles, and bicycles — have been stopped in a joint U.S. and South Vietnamese roadblock aimed at slowing down the black market traffic.

After only two days the military policemen of the Americal and their South Vietnamese counterparts moved elsewhere because "too many people knew we were setting up along here and they didn't come this way."

Food Stuffs

But in those two days the roadblock was successful. Confiscated goods found on all sorts of vehicles, from large trucks to bicycles, included 144 cans of dehydrated egg mix, 24 boxes of powered sugar, 29 cans of applesauce, 24 cans of shortening, 12 bottles of vinegar, two cases of egg noodles, 20 sheets, and 240 ballpoint pens.

A MP official explained that a case of soft drink is sold at the post exchange for $2.40 and can be sold illegally to a Vietnamese black marketeer for twice that.

The profiteer in turn sells it to other Vietnamese villagers or fledgling entrepreneurs for a higher price. Finally, one can of the drink is sold for 50 cents on the open market.

CPT James S. Koerner Jr. (Green Bay, Wis.) commander of the 23rd MP Co.'s 3rd Plt., attached to the 198th Inf. Bde., expained that foodstuffs comprise the largest portion of the black market goods his men find as they patrol their portion of Highway 1, the nation's leading artery of transportation and commerce.

"The goods are confiscated and returned to the U.S. supply system," said CPT Koerner. "In addition, any goods we stop cuts down on supplies which might eventually wind up in the hands of the VC, and it gets the items back to the U.S. serviceman for whom they were intended. And it helps check South Vietnam's inflation."

Vietnamese police halt civilian vehicles traveling along the highway, check drivers' and passengers' identification papers to nab possible draft evaders and suspected VC.

They search the vehicles for both illegal arms and ammunition and black market goods. Americal MPs assist in the search, and advise as to what disposition should be taken with illegally acquired items of U.S. origin.

When the joint check points were first set up, about one in every five vehicles was found to be carrying illegal goods. Most of the items were being transported to Quang Ngai City for resale on the economy, or possibly to the VC.

SP4 Charles E. Struder (Jackson, Tenn.), one of the MPs manning a recent checkpoint, said that contraband can be found in all types of vehicles from bicycle to heavy duty trucks and in all quantities.

"One man we found to be carrying 20 brand new sheets and two dozen pens —and he had it all on a motorcycle," Struder said.

"Our first few days in this area we found all kinds of things," CPT Koerner added. "Even though we change our location at least once a day and never to the same place two days in a row, apparently the word is out that we're covering this stretch of highway, and there's very little in the way of illegal products coming down the road now."

"So one day suddenly we won't be on the highway — we'll be out on the side roads checking vehicles on likely detour routes."

Aside from finding black market goods, CPT Koerner sees other advantages to the joint-U.S. South Vietnamese checkpoints.

"Sometimes there are misunderstandings between Vietnamese and Americans, and this work helps to solve that. We see how the other man does his job. We learn how to work together and understand each other better." (198th IO)

Arty. Ready Support

TIEN PHUOC—PLAT-o-o-n-s FIRE! The roar and following rumble of the hit as the 155mm guns of Americal artillery fire support to infantry units.

"Battlin Bravo" as B Btry. 3rd Bn., 16th Arty. is called, lends its support to buddies they may never see.

Located at Tien Phuoc, 17 miles southwest of Tam Ky, the artillerymen are near the Son Tien river in a valley surrounded by sharply rising mountains.

Because of the location the supply route is a rigorous one. Army "Chinook" helicopters and U.S. Air Force "Caribou" (fixed-winged) airlift ammo onto a gravel strip near the compound. A war torn deuce-and-a-half distributes the shells and powder to the big guns.

Everyone has other work during the day—building a new dining area, fixing the bunkers, and general repair. They work with one ear cocked for the words "FIRE MISSION," then it's drop the shovel, throw the hammer, and move out on the double for the gun pit.

Someone has spotted "Charlie" and requires artillery support quickly. As clearance is approved the guns are laid in on the coordinates. The 95-pound projectiles are toted over and heaved into the chamber, then the resounding roar echoes throughout the valley.

"Battlin Bravo" is a team, you can't single out any one soldier. They have a job and a responsibility to support American infantrymen and their well coordinated and unified efforts pay off.

SHORT! SHORT! SHORT! Don't get to feeling so smug that you forget to take that malaria pill. "The World" is full of Claudine Auger's, so take every precaution, and DEROS healthy.

Lawyer Assigned For Special Court Martials

CHU LAI—MAJ Michael M. Downes (Athens, Ga.) office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Americal Division will serve as military judge in special court-martials within the division. He was sworn in Aug. 1, in ceremonies at the division court room.

Formerly called "law officers", judges henceforth will be detailed to special court-martials, as well as all general court-martials, under changes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice brought about by the Military Justice Act of 1968.

Takes Oath

Other members of the Judge Advocates General's Corps assigned to the SJA office took permanent oaths to perform duties as counsel in court-martial cases detailed to them at the same ceremony. The officers are CPT Donald H. Segretti (Los Angeles), CPT Gordon B. Baker (Florence, S.C.), CPT Joseph D. Miller (Concord, N.C.), CPT John L. Mavis (Milwaukee) and CPT James G. Hergen (Rockaway, N.Y.).

LTC Thomas H. Davis (Dallas), division Staff Judge Advocate, administered the oath to the officers, all of whom are licensed attorneys.

MAJ Downes, an experienced counsel in trials by court-martials, has been specially trained and certified for judicial duties by the Judge Advocate General of the Army.

New Ruling

Formerly, under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, a military judge was detailed only to a general court-martial, the highest trial court in the military. Military judges may now be assigned to special court-martials and must be so assigned if the courts are empowered to impose a sentence including a bad conduct discharge.

General court-martials usually hear cases involving felony-type and the most severe military offenses, while special court-martials hear less serious cases.

The sentencing power of the special court-martial is limited to imposing a bad conduct discharge (which may be given only if certain conditions are met), six months' confinement at hard labor, partial forfeitures of pay and reduction to the lowest grade for enlisted men.

A certified lawyer-officer (JAG) must now be assigned to represent a person on trial, who requests such representation, before a special court-martial, unless prevented by extreme circumstances. A detailed written report must be made if a lawyer is not assigned to the case. A lawyer must be assigned without exception, in order for a special court-martial to impose a sentence including a bad conduct discharge.

Lawyer For Defendant

Under the new changes, if the accused wishes he may request a trial alone instead of in the presence of the court members, who correspond to the civilian jury.

In order to insure that the accused receives a fair trial, he may in any case refuse to submit to trial by summary court-martial, the lowest trial court. His case may then be referred to a general or special court-martial for trial. In this manner a soldier is virtually assured of representation in court by a licensed attorney (at no cost to him) if he wishes it. (Americal IO)

Part III In A Special Series On R&R Sites

Ancient China Meets Mod West In Taipei

By SGT HERB HARTLEY

If you decide to visit Taipei when the time for your R&R rolls around, you will be treated to both the wonders of ancient China and the conveniences of the modern world.

The city, the largest in Free China, is a large bustling metropolis with a population of over 1,000,000 people; but, only a few miles outside the city, life goes on much the same way as it did in ancient China.

Upon arrival at the airport, you will notice modern jets sitting next to antique C-46's and DC-4's that were probably flying the Hump in World War II. The planes are liable to be loading anything from Chinese peasants to a pair of elephants.

After a brief customs check at the airport, you will board a bus where you will be greeted with a cold bottle of beer and a warm smile from a pretty Taiwanese hostess. Now off to the R&R center in downtown Taipei, where you make hotel reservations and convert your American currency.

You will be given New Taiwan dollars or "NT" at the exchange rate of one US dollar equals 40 NT. The most common denomination is the 100 NT note which equals $2.50.

Money can be converted at the R&R center, American Express Bank, NCO clubs, officer clubs, and the Naval Exchange, but you cannot convert money on the local economy. Save some greenbacks though, for US dollars are used at American facilities such as the Naval PX, NCO clubs, etc.

The R&R center has a list of close to 40 approved hotels that you can stay at during your R&R. The prices range from $3 to $8 US. As the price goes up, so does the quality. But, $6 will buy a clean, air-conditioned room with bath in the New China, Astar, Palace, or New Taiwan. The Kings, Ambassador, and President are the best hotels in the downtown area, while the Mandarin is tops in the airport vicinity.

The room service offered by most of the hotels is like a dream come true. At any time of the day or night, you can order anything your heart desires —anything from a pot of tea to a full course dinner.

The quickest way to get from one place to another is to hold up your hand. Instantly, a bright-red "kamikaze cab" will appear and roar off with you at something just under the speed of sound. If your hair hasn't turned gray by the time you reach your destination, consider the trip a success.

Your first impression of Taipei is that you've stepped into the streets of a Charlie Chan late, late, movie. You keep glancing back over your shoulder to make sure that Fu Manchu is not lurking in the shadows, ready to chop your head off with an ax.

The city is eerie, even in the day. The smog that hangs over the city is enough to make Los Angeles look clear, and at mid-day, cars drive with their headlights on.

But once the sun sets, a magnificent change comes over Taipei that quickly makes the visitor forget all about smog and heat of the day. Taipei becomes one of the most exotic, fascinating cities in the world after dark.

There are some 30 bars in Taipei approved by the government, each with 20 to 40 hostesses. Among the more popular bars are the Hong Kong, Casablanca, and Susie Wong. Drinks cost 20 NT or 50 cents. To avoid trouble, make sure you pay as you go and don't run up a bill.

The Taiwanese have a reputation for fine cooking. and everything said about their skill with a skillet is true. Experiment and you will discover some wonderful surprises.

Many of the best restaurants, where a knife and fork are rarities, are small and tucked away on side streets. Try shark's fin soup, duck and pork done Peiping style; or shrimp, pork and beef prepared in a variety of ways.

Western-style cooking is available in some large hotels and restaurants; however, you may not always recognize it as western cooking.

When eating and drinking, use common sense and the same standards used in Vietnam. The tap water is non-potable, but jars of safe water are provided in all hotel rooms. Most food is quite tasty and nutritional but avoid raw or semi-cooked meats and vegetables.

For camera bugs, there are a number of interesting sights to see during your stay in Taipei. Eight miles south of the city is a town known as Wulai, famous for its waterfall and Chinese aboriginal dancers. A pushcart ride from the village to the waterfall is a unique experience for any visitor.

Sightseers will also be interested in Yangmingsham Park and Chihman Temple, both within a short drive of the city.

The Taiwanese have long been famous for their craftsmanship. This remarkable skill is today manifested in a wide variety of exquisite handicraft products at Taiwan souvenir shops.

Besides these hand-made artifacts, good buys can be found in tailor-made clothes, jade, ivory, lacquerware, coral, bone, and campher carvings.

In addition, the Naval PX, one of the best stocked in the Far East, is open to all R&R personnel. E-4's and above can purchase up to three bottles of liquor using their RVN ration cards.

After five nights, and four days, your R&R will be over. But your adventures in Taipei will be remembered until the day you check into a home for the aged. (Americal IO)

Voices Ring Loud, Clear

CHU LAI — The voices carry the weight and quality of chapel bells, and add a welcome "Taste of Home" in a country of war.

The voices belong to the volunteer members of the Americal Choral Group, and their reach is greater than the normal chapel choir.

Originally the choral group was to perform only Christmas Carols, but they later decided to stay together as a group and perform a wider scope of songs.

"From the very beginning it was easy to organize. We maintain about 20 members — it seems that whenever an individual leaves Vietnam, another readily walks in and takes his place," said LTC Jack C. Randles (Rogersville, Tenn.), assistant division chaplain, who formed the original choral group.

The singing group of soldiers keeps on the move, performing throughout the Chu Lai area. Recently, the group were guests on the AFVN telecast from Saigon, featuring a live entertainment session.

The musical renditions encompass a variety of song styles and lyrical material. From Broadway scores come medleys like "My Fair Lady" and "South Pacific." The list of impressive folk-songs are headed by titles such as "Shenandoah" and "Five Hundred Miles." And from the pop field erupt songs like "The Impossible Dream" and "Moon River."

"Most of the divisions in the states have permanent choral groups," said SP5 Larry P. Mason (Joliet, Ill.), new director of the Americal Choral Group. "We decided that the Americal should also have one." (Americal IO)

It's A Smash-In

"It's a groovy group, but it's the percussionist who really swings." Soul, Incorporated, a Chu Lai rock group, provided music to smash a car by at the USO club. The car-smash gave military personnel a chance to blow off steam as they took turns demolishing the car donated for the purpose by the Chu Lai USO. (Photo by 1LT Robert R. Kresge, Americal IO)

Soldier Goes Up To Re-Up

CHU LAI — Over the roar of rotor blades and from the inside of a U.S. Army helicopter hovering above a landing zone, a lieutenant colonel shouted an oath. A platoon sergeant repeated the same oath.

The two soldiers were not cursing at an unfortunate circumstance. Rather, LTC Craig G. Coverdale (Manhassett, N.Y.), commander of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. was administering the oath of reenlistment to PSG Candito Pantoja (Cantano, Puerto Rico).

Pantoja, in charge of an 81mm mortar platoon, reenlisted for four years to continue in his present job.

Since he began supervising the frequent shuffle of men to the field and has continued to meet the needs of his squads while they are away from the basecamp, the helicopter has become as familiar to him as directing mortar fire on the enemy. (Americal IO)

"Hold That Pose And Smile"

Shutter Bug Fever Runs High in Vietnam

By 1LT JOSEF HEBERT

LZ BAYONET — The wind smashes against your face as the Huey Helicopter zooms along at low altitude nudging the 80 knot mark on the air speed indicator.

Suddenly the doorgunner taps you on the shoulder: "How about taking a quick picture?" he shouts over the noisy wind and rotors, handing you his 35mm camera. "I want to send it home."

"OK. Give me a smile," you yell and snap the shutter.

As the helicopter begins to move out across the coastal beaches of the South China Sea the doorgunner has both his weapon and camera within easy reach.

And he is not the only avid shutter bug in the division. It might be a $12 Instamatic or a $200-plus camera; nevertheless they are in evidence almost everywhere you go.

Variety Of Cameras

In the field many 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers "hump the hills" with a familiar camera bulge in their rucksacks. Truck drivers shoot from trucks, pilots from planes, cavalrymen from their tracks, and doorgunners while leaning over their M-60 machineguns.

"There's another shooting contest going on here," said PFC Arthur Noel Jr. (Lynchburg, Va.), a former combat photographer and now operator of a Special Services Photo lab. "Everyone wants to take pictures."

"The picture possibilities in Vietnam are endless," Noel continued. "The many varieties of terrain — mountains, rivers, hamlets, rice fields — are all settings for hundreds of different and interesting photographs."

"When we get film in — especially color print film — it's never in the store more than a week," said SP4 Ross Carlson (Chicago), manager of the branch post exchange at LZ Bayonet.

Carlson explained that cameras go just as fast. Recently a shipment of 30 instamatic cameras were sold within a week and 10 cameras costing more than $100 each went in less than three days.

There is a story passed around the 198th Bde. that a hardened infantryman for the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. once was seen in the midst of a heavy firefight shooting both his rifle and camera at the same time.

Perhaps this is the extreme. Nevertheless, it has been shown that the story of combat is being recorded not only in diaries but on film as well. (198th IO)