SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 22 | CHU LAI, VIETNAM | August 27, 1969

Increased Fighting Erupts Throughout Americal Area

CHU LAI — The comparative quietness lasting several weeks in the Americal Division area has erupted with "war pounding" as the enemy lunged attacks throughout Southern I Corps. In two days action, 145 enemy soldiers were killed.

Fire Support Base West a lonely outpost located 18 miles west of Tam Ky was struck by NVA. But, with a deadly fire and alertness of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., repulsed the enemy attack and killed 50 NVA regulars while sustaining only four friendly casualties.

"Perimeter guards made the first sighting when they spotted two enemy sappers attempting to cut through the barbed wire," said LTC Cecil M. Henry (Rome, Ga.), the 4-31 commander.

"We pounded the area with artillery and M-79 fire and stopped the attack before it really could get started," added LTC Henry.

Still a number of NVA soldiers were still at the base of the hill, trying to move upwards. But they were driven back by the heavy fire placed on them by the Americal troops.

Besides four detainees, all of whom were wounded, the 4-31 soldiers also policed-up 195 Chicom hand grenades, 19 B-40 rockets, seven B-40 rocket launchers, four AK-47s, an Ak-50, four 20-pound shape charges, and one 40-pound shape charge during a sweep of the hillside.

Landing Zone Dottie, located 12 miles southeast of Chu Lai, jointly manned by ARVN and Americal units, was also the target of enemy mortar and rocket fire.

Repelled

An estimated 40 VC were driven back when they tried to gain entrance inside the LZ's perimeter. ARVN units accounted for 16 enemy deaths and elements of D Trp., 1st Squdn., 1st Cav.; D Btry., 1-82nd Arty.; and B Co., 39 Engr. Bn., killed four VC.

"They (the VC) were after our eight inch howitzers," said 1SG Homer A. Roberts (Manitua Springs, Colo.), of D Btry.

The Battery's eight-inchers as well as 105's and 155's belonging to the ARVN artillery, began firing in flat trajectories on all sides.

PFC Ronald Fordice (Chicago), an artilleryman manning a Quad-50 mounted on a 2½ ton truck, said "we went all over the place, first down by the main gate and then up into the hills."

At the front gate of LZ Dottie, eight enemy were killed by ARVN infantrymen and the Quad-50 blazed from all four barrels.

The home of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. located on Hawk Hill, received approximately 150 or more 60mm and 82mm mortar rounds against their position. During the action that followed, C Trp. of the 1-1 killed 13 NVA of an unknown size force that tried to storm the hill.

When the fighting had ceased, the defenders made a sweep of the area and picked up 103 Chicom hand grenades, four AK-47's, 13 sachel charges, two RPG launchers, and six RPG rounds.

A limited action took place at LZ Gator located 13 miles north of Quang Ngai, and LZ Bayonet, headquarters for the 198th Inf. Bde., receiving small arms and mortar fire. One VC was killed in each of the contacts.

Sappers

Two sapper teams were employed against Fire Support Base San Juan Hill, 10 miles west of Duc Pho. Small arms fire, mortars, and recoilless rifle rounds hit just outside the perimeter.

The sapper teams attacked the hill but were stopped before any damage could be done. Sweeping the area, the men of A Co., 4-3, found two NVA that had been killed and picked up an AK-47, 36 Chicom hand grenades, and three B-40 rockets.

The 11th Bde. soldiers also detained an NVA that had been wounded during the attempted sapper attack. He related that there were six men in his team and that there others wounded in the area.

A short while later A Co. found another NVA that had been killed by small arms fire. Also discovered was a trail leading to the base of the LZ marked every five feet with white cloth in order to guide the sapper team.

Helicopters from F Trp., 8th Cav., killed 17 NVA troops in two separate contacts, 10 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky. The NVA were from the same force that staged the attack on Hawk Hill.

Hold Still

Residents of Hiep Duc, who returned to their homes in March after temporarily being settled in Tam Ky, patiently wait for medical attention during a MEDCAP conducted by the 196th Bde.'s 4th Bn., 31st Inf. (Photo by SP4 Bill Crawford, 196th IO)

DSC Is Awarded To Company CO

LZ BALDY — At this base-camp, home of the 196th Inf. Bde., LTG Frank T. Mildren, deputy commander of U.S. Army Vietnam, presented the nations second highest award for valor to a young company commander.

CPT Richard J. Rinaldo (Pemberton, N.J.) received the Distinguished Service Cross at ceremonies in his honor for his actions during an attack on a hilltop March 22.

Under CPT Rinaldo's command, A Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., succeeded in capturing the western half of an important hilltop near Tien Phuoc, 30 miles northwest of Chu Lai. The attack had been conducted through heavy automatic weapons fire and the company had sustained nine casualties.

As CPT Rinaldo began to evacuate the wounded, heavy mortar and machinegun fire erupted from the valley below. One of the first mortar rounds wounded the entire command group of another company bringing up reinforcements. At the same time, elements trying to go down the hill were pinned down by small arms fire from their flank.

Seeing that the position of his company was now untenable, he directed and covered its withdrawal, calling in gunship strikes to within 20 meters of his own position. At the hastily chosen landing zone, CPT Rinaldo quickly reorganized his company and reinforcing company into a defensive perimeter and supervised their evacuation by helicopter.

11th Closes Ho's 5 & 10

DUC PHO — A unit of the 11th Inf. Bde. found what was believed to be an enemy PX while searching an area 12 miles west of here.

B Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., discovered the concession when they spotted a VC entering a tunnel. A hand grenade took care of the VC.

Searching the complex, the 4-3 soldiers found 20 pounds of tobacco, 1,000 pounds of rice, assorted amounts of coffee, salt, pepper, cinnamon, milk, and first aid packs.

The Americal troops also uncovered toothbrushes, shaving kits, cigarette lighters, and assorted brands of cigarettes.

The cache was even stocked with a woven mat featuring a picture of Ho Chi Minh. (Americal IO)

Loaded Down For Battle

Members of 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. rumble through a hamlet perched atop their APC. The cavalrymen were conducting a sweep operation north of Tam Ky. (U.S. Army Photo)

Pepper Pot Kills VC

DUC PHO — In a day-long action 20 miles north of here, "Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., APCs from E Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., and B Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., locked horns with an unknown size enemy force, killing 12 of the enemy.

E Trp. made the first contact when they engaged and killed four VC in a tunnel shortly after noon. As the exchange of ground fire increased, "Shark" gunships were called in to supply air support.

SP4 John A. Pezente (Jackson, Ala.), a machinegunner on one of the APCs, described the action. "We were sweeping through a wooded area when we came into an open field with very high grass. While crossing the field, four or five VC had gotten around behind us and started shooting RPG rounds at the tracks."

"One of the RPG rounds hit right out in front of my track," said SGT Logan Martye (Hueysville, Ky.), an APC driver. "I opened up on two VC I saw in a hedgerow, but I don't know if I got them or not."

Artillery was called in on the position to join the assault. When the smoke had cleared, B Co. reported nine VC and three NVA killed. (Americal IO)

Religion And You

An Effort To Be Happy

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ.)
ROBERT J. DOMBROWSKI
Assistant 11th Bde. Chaplain

Paul wrote to the Philippians, "Rejoice . . . Put all anxiety from your mind." Even at the time Paul wrote this it seems people were having trouble enjoying themselves.

God created man for eternal happiness. To earn this happiness man has to spend some time in this world, and here lies the rub. During the world—period of human existence—many people make the mistake of thinking that they are supposed to take all they can and, thus end up wanting to be entertained.

Now there is nothing wrong with being entertained just as there is nothing wrong with being spoon-fed. You may recall as a child getting tired of hearing, "C'mon, just one more bite," and pushing your meal on the floor. It is the same thing, with being entertained or, better still, relying on a crutch for happiness a person gets bored.

Maybe it would be better if I stated my point negatively: You do not have to practice to be miserable. It is hard to be happy on a gloomy day but with a little work it can be done. We emphasize the word "work". Even listening to a joke requires the attention of the listener and that can be work.

The conclusion: If you wait for someone to serve you a taste of happiness you will miss a lot. It may take some effort but then again you might just have to open your eyes and look around. It is up to you.

RE-UP! ARMY

Variety Of Good Jobs Now Open

The Americal Reenlistment Office would like to bring you additional information about some of the many jobs available to you through the reenlistment program within the Americal Division. This week we will discuss briefly the precision maintenance field.

MOS's in this field each cover a particular repair speciality, all outside the electronics field. The only specialist working with electrical equipment is the office machine repairman.

These repair specialties, counterparts of civilian specialization, are: optical instruments, office machines, photographic and printing material. Careful inspection, delicate handling, and close tolerances portray the general days' work.

Prosthetic Appliances

The Orthopedic Specialist makes, repairs, and adjusts casts and other devices for patients needing bone support. His responsibility ranges from applying a plaster cast, through measuring the patient, to actual construction and fitting of the appliance. He fashions metals, plastic, wood, leather, and fabrics with hand and machine tools. This is a field for the creative craftsman!

The Dental Laboratory Specialist constructs and repairs dentures. Using the impressions taken by the dentist, he carries out laboratory procedures for full- or partial-denture construction.

Textile and Leather Repair

The Parachute Rigger packs and repairs all types of cargo and personnel parachutes. He also loads, positions, and lashes or rigs equipment within aircraft for airdrop.

The Canvas and Leather Repairman obviously repairs and fabricates canvas and leather equipment, but he also inspects and tests materials for damage. His duties might include upholstering furniture, vehicles or shoe repair.

The Quartermaster Maintenance Helper assists in the repair and alternation of textile and leather supplies. This can include minor repairs on shoes or overshoes. He operates sewing machines. Under supervision, he may perform maintenance—or repair—of equipment, machinery, and tools. He could be assigned to tally, sort, tag, and bin items received for repair.

The Textile Repairman's basic mission is clothing; fitting, repairing and altering by hand or power equipment. He might patch items such as blankets, mosquito nets, or raincoats. He maintains and performs minor repairs on his tools and machinery.

Metalworking

The Metalworking Helper is an apprentice who assists in setting up, operating, and maintaining all types of tools and equipment used in machining, welding, and forging metal.

The Metal Body Repairman carries out body repairs, from inspection through repair, to final painting. He uses hand and power tools; handles oxyacetylene welding, soldering, and brazing eqiupment; cuts, grinds, and installs safety glass; repairs radiators and fuel tanks.

SOUTHERN CROSS AMERICAL DIVISION

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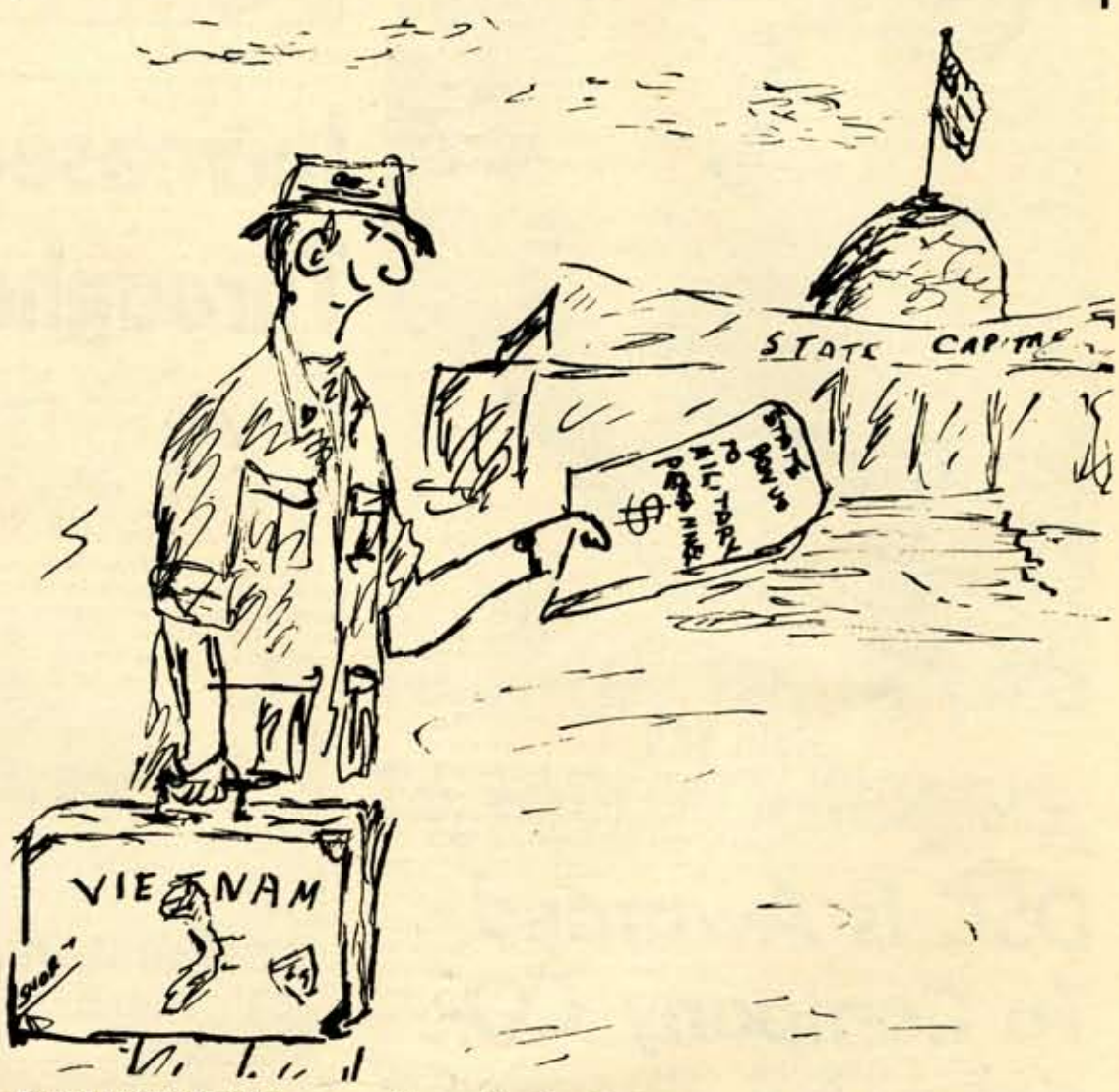
Bonus For Military Service



By SP4 JAMES BROWN

You may be entitled to a "wad of green" that you didn't know about. Some states have traditionally paid bonuses to residents for wartime military service.

The determination of "bonus eligibility" rests with state authorities in all cases. To be eligible for a bonus, armed forces members and veterans must meet both service and residence requirements. Bona fide residency within the state generally warrants qualification for a bonus.

If an entitled person does not or cannot collect the bonus to which he was entitled or a larger sum, it can be paid after his death to an eligible survivor.

When in doubt of your eligibility, application should be made so that responsible state authorities can pass on a claim.

Many states not authorizing the traditional cash bonuses for veterans of periods of armed conflict do, however, offer other benefits, such as property tax advantages, special farm or home loans, and job preferences.

If you are interested in what may be available from your home state, write to the Veterans Affairs Office at your state capital.

Requirements in Connecticut for the bonus are: At least 90 days' active duty between Jan. 1, 1964 and the date to be determined as the end of the Vietnam conflict.

You must be a resident in the state for at least one year immediately prior to entry on active duty.

The amount of bonus is $10 for each month of active service up to a maximum of $300 (30 months).

If a veteran dies in active service during the performance of duty or as a result of duty, the maximum amount of $300 is paid to a survivor without regard to the 90 days of active service.

The application deadline is three years after the termination of the Vietnam conflict as determined by the U.S. Government.

Where to apply: State of Connecticut, Office of the Treasurer — Vietnam Bonus Division, 15 Lewis St., Hartford, Conn.

Delaware — You must have served honorably with the U.S. Armed Forces for at least 90 days during the period Aug. 5, 1964 to the cessation of hostilities in the Vietnam conflict as declared by the Secretary of Defense or the President of the United States.

If a person served less than 90 days during the same period, died, or was released because of service-incurred injury or disability, he or his survivor is entitled to the state bonus.

Within one year after cessation of hostilities is the application deadline. Write to: Veterans Military Pay Commission, 1224 King St., Wilmington, Del. 19801.

Illinois — Persons who have served on active duty on or after Jan. 1, 1961 and have received the Vietnam Service Medal meet the states' requirements.

If a qualified veteran dies in service or as a result of service between the dates specified, $1,000 will go to an eligible survivor. Otherwise, a $100 bonus is awarded to eligible persons.

You must act with your application before July 1, 1970. Don't forget to write Illinois Veterans Commission, 221 West Jefferson St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

Louisiana — You must have honorable active military service in the combat area of Vietnam between July 1, 1958 and the official end of hostilities as established by the U.S. Government.

The individual must be a citizen of the state at the time of entry into military service. The bonus is $250.

Application deadline is five years from the official end of the Vietnam campaign. No bonuses will be paid until after the end of hostilities in Vietnam.

Apply at the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, Vietnam Bonus Division, Baton Rouge, La. 70801.

Massachusetts — At least six months of service since July 1, 1958, is the first requirement. The individual must have residency in the state at least six months immediately prior to entry into military service.

The amount of bonus for active service outside the Vietnam area is $200; for active service in the Vietnam area, $300. The application deadline hasn't yet been set.

Soldiers that participated in the Korean Conflict or in World War II can also gain information from Office of the State Treasurer, Bonus Division, 100 Cambridge St., Boston, Mass. 02202.

Pennsylvania — Requirements include the Vietnam Service Medal and separation cannot be under anything other than honorable conditions. You must have listed Pennsylvania as your home state when entering the service.

The amount of the bonus is $25 for every month of qualifying service, up to an amount not to exceed $750.

You can apply to Department of Military Affairs, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 415, Harrisburg, Pa. 16108.

One of the technicalities of the state bonus involves the following: If you served in Vietnam and were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal-Vietnam, and your state requires that one must have been awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, the military has made provisions for exchanging the Expeditionary Medal for the Vietnam Service Medal.

Something that may bring a smile to your face is that state bonuses are wholly exempt from federal and state income taxes and need not be reported on tax returns.

Young Sergeant Dedicated Worker

By SP4 JIM BRUCE

LZ BALDY—Building latrines, digging wells and teaching English may sound like unlikely weapons for a counter-insurgency struggle, but SGT Leroy H. Stevenson has turned them into an effective and satisfying combination against the enemy in the Americal area of Operations.

The son of a Lutheran minister back home in Valparaiso, Ind., Stevenson displays a strong missionary zeal. In his case, however, the zeal is for education and village sanitation.

The 20-year-old soldier teaches English in the schools of Que Son refugee village, 38 miles south of Da Nang. In addition to his work in the Civil Affairs section of the 2nd Bn., 21st Inf., he manages six community projects of his own. Building latrines and showers, digging wells and installing pumps are just a few of his extracurricular activities.

Following basic training and infantry advanced training, Stevenson took three months of intensive Vietnamese language at the Defense Language Institute at Fort Bliss, Texas. Then he received his orders for Vietnam.

Assigned to the 196th Inf. Bde., Stevenson spent six months in the field as an infantry rifleman and machinegunner, occasionally acting as a platoon or company interpreter. Then the S-5 officer requested he be transferred to his Civil Affairs Section.

For a green teacher, the young sergeant adapted quickly to his new responsibilities. He now instructs 15 classes a week in a half-dozen schools with 230 students enrolled.

Stevenson is proud of the fact that even with such large classes, attendance level is the best in the school system. Absentees seldom run more than two or three a day. And there is the satisfaction of seeing a shy student gain enough confidence to speak out in class or piece strange words together forming sentences.

Not content to remain in the classroom, Stevenson finds a completely different challenge in community health and sanitation. Talking with the people of the village, he discovered that many were not taking advantage of the medical treatment offered by Army MEDCAP Teams. So he talked with the battalion medics and arranged a better MEDCAP schedule suited to the majority of the villagers.

Sanitation among the refugee hamlets had to be improved to preclude an epidemic in the village. Good water was in short supply, bathing facilities were scarce and latrines were non-existent.

Stevenson began tackling the problem in a three-pronged attack of well, shower, and latrine construction, with the aid of the battalion S-5 (Civil Affairs Section) providing materials, cement and culvert sections and villagers contributing labor in a joint effort to improve their own refugee living conditions.

"The whole thing has a pyramiding effect," said Stevenson. "Teaching is a good way to get to know the people and gain their confidence. Helping with medical problems is a good introduction."

During the past few months, new wells have sprung up in all the Que Son hamlets, many of them equipped with hand pumps and boasting public shower stalls nearby. It is a common sight to see whole families visiting the pumps to draw water and bathe the children under a gushing cascade of fresh water.

The schools and dispensaries have latrines and a program to convince the villagers of the necessity for "square building" behind their homes is in effect.

The sergeant is involved in sports and recently helped the Que Son youngsters install new soccer goal posts and a volleyball court, and he plans to institute a sports program for the schools.

With the enthusiasm of a missionary who has found a special calling, he recently extended his tour in Vietnam six months in order to continue his work among the villagers. He is contemplating the possibility of two full years in Vietnam, "in order to make the greatest use of my language training."

"I feel that I am at the point where everybody is used to me and I can make more progress," he said. (196th IO)

There's Nothing Fishy About PSYOP

While our leaflets may not be quite this great with the fish, they do have a surprising effect on enemy soldiers—lured about 19,000 of them over to our side last year. It really was not hard, all we had to do was convince them communism is all wet. (Art by SP4 Jim Newman, 198th Bde.)

Top Graduate

CHU LAI — When SP4 Melvin Schoch (Pottstown, Pa.) entered the Unit Recon Course at the Combat Center he had hopes of being the top graduate and earning an automatic promotion to sergeant. Two weeks later he was named top graduate, but instead of receiving a promotion to sergeant he was promoted to staff sergeant.

Band Scores With Kids

CHU LAI—The Americal Concert Band made a "goodwill trip" to the Binh Son Catholic Orphanage and School recently and presented a varied performance for the orphans, students and clergy of the compound.

When the trucks arrived, approximately 200 children were gathered in the school's quadrangle to listen to the bandsmen under the direction of the bandmaster, CW2 John Murat (Orlando, Fla.)

The young Vietnamese students watched the proceedings from the time the band began unloading their vehicles until the minute the trucks left the orphanage for the trip home.

At first, the children "ganged" around the band to have a closer look at the various musical instruments used for the concert. One wide-eyed little boy continually asked about that giant "fiddle" carried by bandsman SP4 Frank Williams (Greensboro, N.C.) and why it had to be so large.

After the concert, the band distributed candy to the children and then were served cold drinks by the appreciative faculty of the orphanage. (Americal IO)

Americans Help Viets Battle Fire

By SP4 RICK SOEHNGEN

LZ BRONCO — When a flash-fire erupted along the Sa Huynh dock sheltering the village fleet 12 miles south of here, Naval and Army support units rushed in to suppress the fire and care for possible casualties.

Within minutes, two Naval short hold cargo vessels and two Landing Crafts Medium (LCM) manned to capacity by volunteers were on the scene extinguishing fires aboard numerous sampans moored to the dock.

Medics from C Co. 4th Bn., 21st Inf. and fire trucks from the 19th Engrs. arrived shortly thereafter in response to a call for help from CPT Robert Smith (Columbus, Ga.) company commander of A Co., 4-21.

Coordination between soldiers from A Co. and Vietnamese nationals on the river bank and the sailors working the fire pumps aboard the naval boats was superb. Vietnamese civilians would point out a burning boat which threatened to ignite several others and the soldiers would direct naval craft to extinguish the flames and tow the stricken sampan away from the harbor area.

Recognizing the loss to the village was severe, CPT Smith requested a civil affairs team from the Duc Pho detachment, 29th Civil Affairs Co.

"The 15 to 25 boats lost probably represented the accumulative profits of several generations to the present owners," remarked CPT Smith. "We hope civil affairs can help these people get back on their feet after not only their source of livelihood but their homes aboard the sampans were wiped-out within 30 minutes."

First Class Boatswains Mate Jim I. Click (Bremerton, Wash.) attached to the Naval Support Activity said "Although the cause of the fire hasn't been determined at this time, it's believed that a diesel fire aboard one of the sampans quickly spread among the closely-tied boats at the dock." (11th IO)

Awards & Decorations

AWARD AND DECORATIONS
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

SP5 Earl W. Evans, 123rd Avn Bn; CW3 Fred Lindsey, 123rd Avn Bn; CW2 Walter L. Seger, 123rd Avn Bn; CW2 James E. Sheridan, 123rd Avn Bn; 1Lt William R. Stiffler, 14th Avn Bn; 1LT John L. Stoddard, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPT Richard M. Williams (1st OLC), 123rd Avn Bn.

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

WO1 Raymond Atwood (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 James D. Bullard (1st OLC), 123rd Avn Bn; Bn; SP4 Hoyt Fowler II (2nd OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SGT Jerl E. Freeland, 75th Inf (Ranger); SP4 Jon D. Holman (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPL James V. Shembarger (1st OLC), 123rd Avn Bn.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

2LT Michael A. Anderson, 198th Bde; 1LT Charles T. Arthur, 198th Bde; PFC Lawrence P. Batiste (1st OLC), 11th Bde; 2LT Frank J. Beddia, 11th Bde; SP4 Roy E. Berckefeldt (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Gerald J. Burg, 11th Bde; SP4 James E. Cannon, 11th Bde; SGT Robert A. Carpenter 198th Bde; SP4 George M. Cato, 11th Bde; SP4 Michael D. Chappel (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 James L. Clark, 251st FA Radar Det; SGT Ralph Couch, 11th Bde; SP4 Clinton L. Culley, 11th Bde; SP4 Ysidro Delao, 11th Bde; SSF Gerald D. Dixon, 198th Bde; SP4 William R. Fall, 11th Bde; SSG Fredrick J. Fekete (1st OLC), 196th Bde; SP4 John H. Felts, 75th Inf (Ranger); PFC William D. Ferguson, 11th Bde; SP4 Willis A. Fleming, 196th Bde; PFC Ronald F. France, 55th Arty; SP4 Robert Gonzales Jr, 11th Bde; PFC Kenneth H. Gomes, 196th Bde; SP4 John L. Gordon, 11th Bde; SFC Jerome O Gran, 56th Arty; SP4 Tucker Grant (2nd OLC) 1st Cav; PFC Harold Gudmundsson, 11th Bde; SP4 Steven L. Hall (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SGT Douglas F. Harkins (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Howard D. Hassard, 11th Bde; SP4 Michael C. Hildebrandt, 11th Bde; PFC Franklin C. Horlback, 11th Bde; PFC Edward C. Jacobs, 198th Bde; SGT David C. Jaynes, 196th Bde; SP4 David F. Kaye, 198th Bde; SP4 Jonathan Lloyd, 196th Bde; SP4 William E. Kuksavage (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Richard T. McFadden, 196th Bde; 1LT Laurence V. McNamara, 196th Bde; SP4 Peter R. Monteforte, 11th Bde; SP4 Jerry L. Mount (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Frank T. Muller, 196th Bde; MAJ Edward F. Neary, 198th Bde; SGT James M. O'Brien, 11th Bde; SGT Gerald R. O'Dell (1st OLC), 75th Inf (Ranger); SP4 Roger E. Overbey, 198th Bde; PFC Mark Patten, 11th Bde; SP4 Donald J. Prochaska, 11th Bde; SP4 Richard A. Rich, 56th Arty; SP4 Miguel A. Rios-Moldonado, 11th Bde; SGT Michael S. Roberson, 1st Cav; SP4 James L. Shillow III, 196th Bde; SGT Levi F. Sinclair, 55th Arty; SGT Donald A. Somora, 198th Bde; PFC Lloyd L. Tolliver, 196th Bde; SP4 Dennis W. Townley, 11th Bde; 1LT William H. Townsend, 11th Bde; PFC John W. Troutman (2nd OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Joseph L. Vann (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Donald P. Welch, 198th Bde; SP4 Chester G. Whiley, 11th Bde.

Artillerymen Move To A New Fire

By SP4 BUD DOTSON

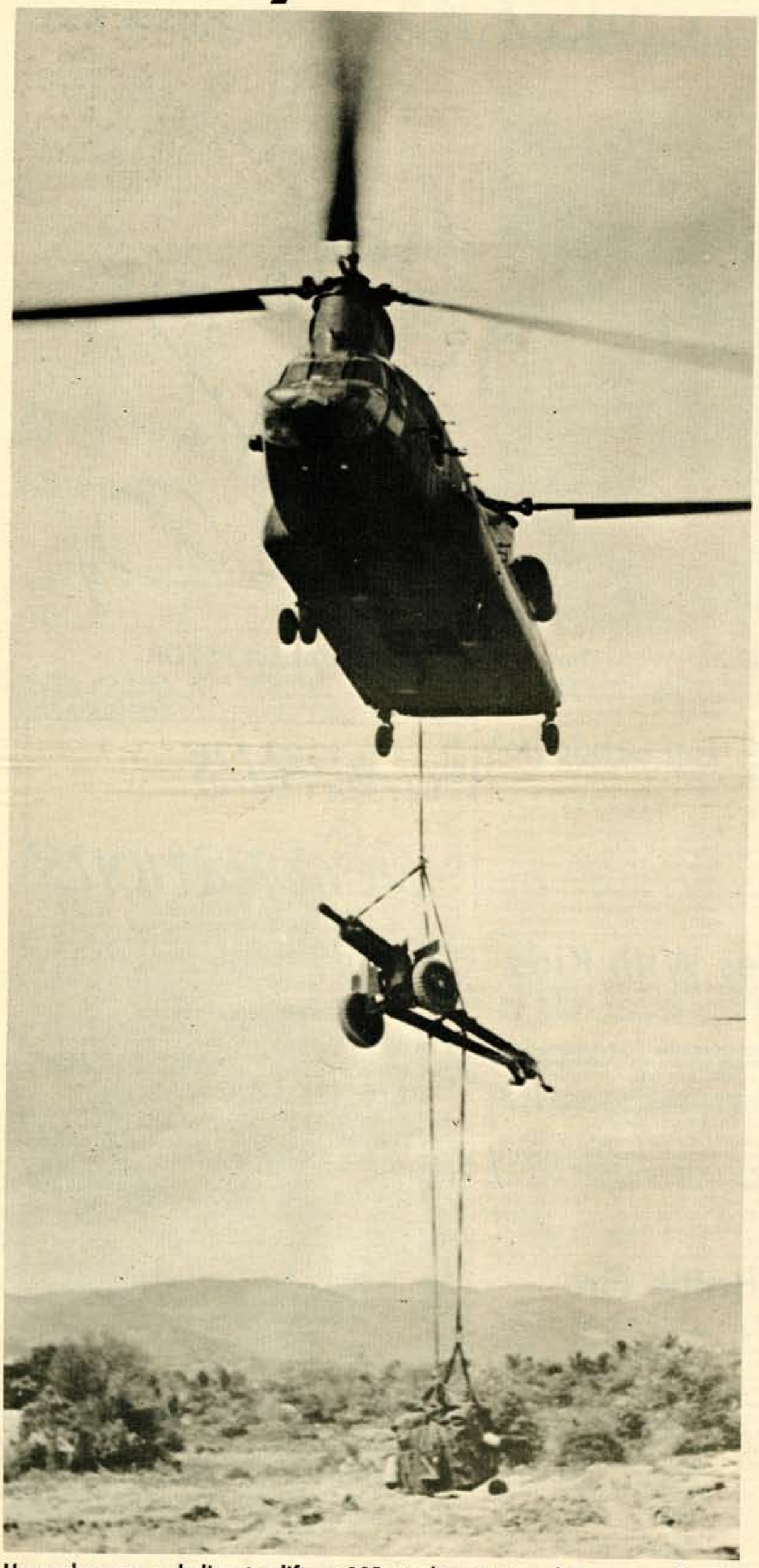
LZ 4-11 — Sunbaked clay is whirled into a dusty frenzy as a bulky "Chinook" helicopter hovers over the waiting 105mm howitzer. Marble-sized stones and clods of dirt are flung in a 15 meter radius as the chopper applies power and carefully lifts the cannon from its resting place.

Men on the ground "pop smoke" near a neatly laid stack of ammunition. A second Chinook lands nearby, and combat proven cannoneers file into the waiting bird. With all aboard, the chopper lifts off and hovers over the netted ammunition. A goggle-clad man hooks the valuable cargo to the passenger laden aircraft and another artillery "jump" is on its way.

"Jumping" from one landing zone to another is old hat to the men of D Btry., 6th Bn., 11th Arty., the artillerymen have more than 15 "jumps" to their credit and have been on ten LZ's since last May.

Their most recent move began a short time ago when 1SG Eldon Perrine (Tacoma, Wash.) and seven men landed on Hill 54, west of Quang Ngai City. When the cannoneers arrived at their new home, they were greeted by members of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., 11th Inf. Bde.

Heavy foliage and large rocks,



Up and away, a helicopter lifts a 105mm howitzer and its ammo for the move to the new firebase.

A Chinook brings another 105mm

Muscle power of the crew is needed to move t

Support Base

120 degree-plus temperatures and the constant threat of enemy attack made working on the new LZ miserable and practically impossible. But through "hard-core" determination and a keen awareness that the job had to be done, the advance artillery party began its task of clearing firing positions for the battery's guns.

Using entrenching tools, picks, shovels and back-power, the men leveled the rock covered ground. In the course of a few days, the untamed hill began to take on the appearance of an LZ. With the firing positions cleared, the suntanned cannoneers turned their attention to the construction of personnel bunkers.

Through the construction period, more personnel joined the advance party. Eight days after the first artillerymen arrived on the LZ, the first 105mm howitzer and its crew were moved to the hill. That night the camp was hit by heavy enemy mortar fire but the newly arrived cannon quickly silenced the enemy attack.

Photos By

SP4 Phil Tipton

11th Bde. IO

owitzer gently to earth at LZ 4-11.

Artillerymen of the new LZ await the arrival of another howitzer.

is howitzer into firing position.

With guns in place cannoneers of 6-11 Arty. fire another round at the enemy.

VC Spy For NVA; Get Caught In Act

LZ BRONCO — A Viet Cong reconnaissance team trying their luck at mapping an 11th Bde. fire base were disrupted in their efforts by an alert infantryman who ended their job for the night.

PFC Paul Taylor (Montebello, Calif.), a rifleman with A Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf., was manning a bunker when he saw a VC watching the landing zone's night activities.

"I couldn't believe it at first because one minute there was no one around and the next minute there is this guy down on all fours looking at the artillery section behind my bunker but he wasn't looking at me." Taylor yelled across to the next bunker as he opened up with his M-16.

In the next bunker PFC Ysidro Hernandz (Dilley, Texas) said, "Taylor yelled that he spotted definite movement so the bunker emptied out in a hurry with everyone firing in the same spot that Taylor was shooting."

Then, the 81-mm mortar started firing and the men had to retreat to their bunkers because the mortar's pinpoint accuarcy was throwing shrapnel on the soldiers as they stood firing outside the bunkers.

First light found the men sweeping the "fire-zone" where they found one VC dead and another wounded, but unable to move. As this was going on one of the infantrymen spotted a young man running away from the perimeter. He was brought under fire and was stopped when one round hit him in the leg.

The two wounded VC were given medical attention and questioned. They said that the previous day, six NVA soldiers belonging to a sapper unit had come into a nearby village and had asked that the local VC force recon the LZ's defense and perimeter. The VC added that they were to rendezvous with the NVA to report the information they had gathered during the night.

With this information the men of A Co. put a plan in motion. The first platoon was trucked to the village indicated as the meeting spots and questioned the villagers as they made a sweep of the area, checking for likely hiding spots.

Overhead "Shark" gunships from the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., were keeping an eye on things so that no one could escape the cordon. "We flushed out three during the cordon and sweep," said 2LT Robert E. Lee (Chicago) the platoon leader. (11th IO)

APCs Bag 20 Enemy

TAM KY — Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) from F Trp., 17th Cav., killed 20 VC after engaging an estimated VC company 11 miles northwest of here.

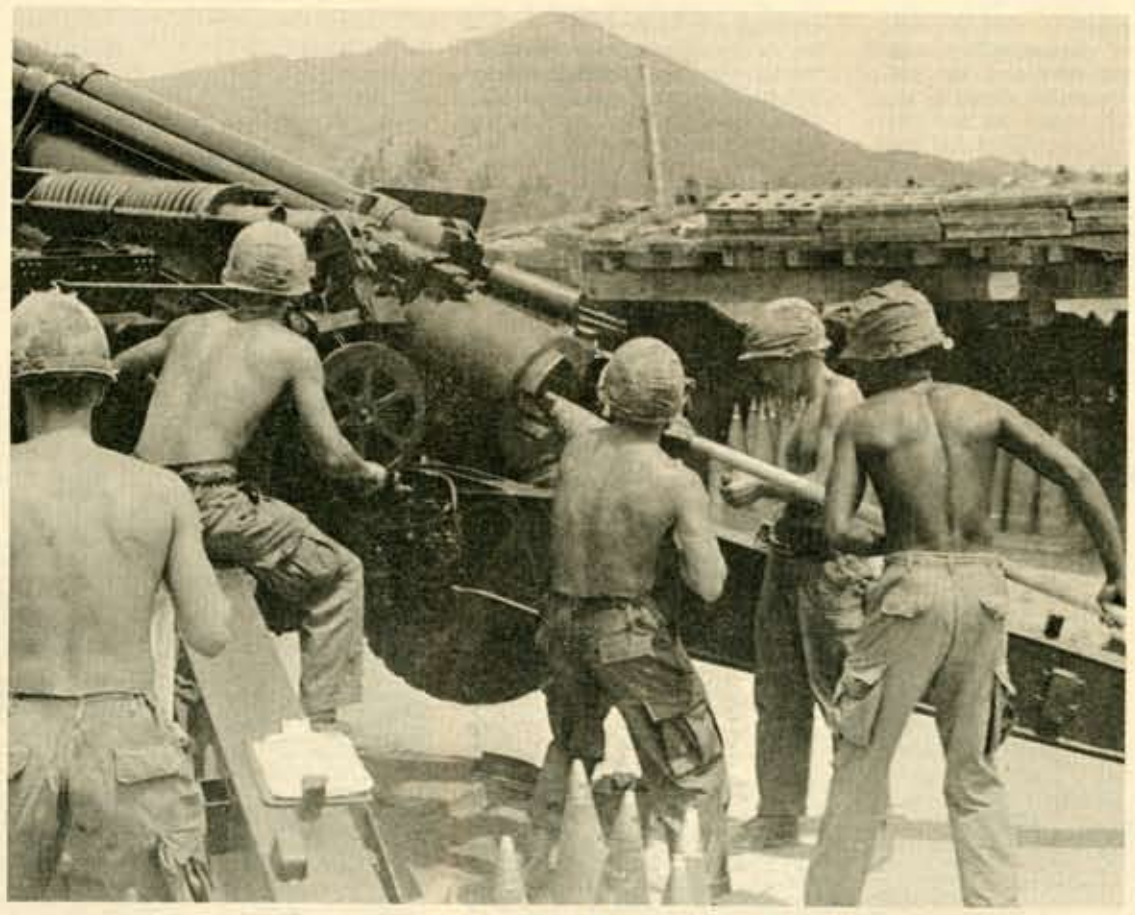
F Trp. came in contact with the force after receiving small arms fire from a rice paddy where a Cobra gunship from D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., recently had been shot down. The mechanized troopers returned fire with small arms and .50 cal. weapons.

Captured during the action were three AK-47s, three SKS rifles, a B-40 rocket launcher, a Chicom light machinegun, an AK-47, and one Browning Automatic Rifle. (Americal IO)

Air Taxi Service

Helicopters of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. transport 11th Bde. soldiers during a combat assault west of Duc Pho.
(Photo by SP5 Robert Buzogany, Americal IO)

Combat In Review



Preparing To Sock'it To Charlie

Heaving a propellant into the tube, these cannoieers of B Btry., 3rd Bn., 16th Arty. ready their 155mm howitzer for another fire mission. The unit supports 196th Bde. infantrymen.
(Photo by PFC Dean K. Williams, Americal IO)

Artillery Zeroes In

Smash VC Strategy Session

LZ BALDY — When the M102 howitzer rounds came pounding in on their position, the enemy knew they were up against a devastating adversary.

With the help of the guns from one Americal fire support base along with the aid of the Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces, a company-size VC force was prevented from carrying out their mission.

CPT John Waltner (Bridgeton, Mo.) and 1LT Thomas Wilson (Addison, N.Y.), both attached to Mobile Advisory Unit 1, were sitting in their district office casually going over notes of the previous day.

Sight Enemy

Suddenly at 6:00 p.m. a voice from the Vietnamese operation officer cracked over the radio requesting an urgent fire mission on a VC unit one mile from the Moc Bai location and about 1½ miles from LZ Baldy, home of the 196th Inf. Bde.

LT Wilson contacted the Fire Direction Center (FDC) of a battery of the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., relaying the message he had received and that he was going to Tra Dinh hamlet, the place from which the fire mission was called.

As LT Wilson called for repeated fire support, A Btry. responded with heavy barrages of 105mm howitzer rounds; during this time he was adjusting the fire and calling in grid changes accordingly.

Direct Hit

"On the second grid change," said Lt Wilson, "a 105 round hit dead center on a group of approximately 60 VC who were evidently gathered to discuss plans for a mission. Twenty-nine more rounds soon followed."

The PFs observed 10-15 enemy bodies floating down the river and nine lying on the river bank.

In a later search of the area, the PFs counted 11 kills attributed to the bombardment. (196th IO)

Sloppy Housekeeping Betrays Enemy Force

LZ BALDY — Numerous "Ho Chi Minh-sandal" tracks and field packs hanging on a fence betrayed eight enemy soldiers trying to evade division elements.

Units of C Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., entered "Happy Valley" 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky and apparently surprised a group of VC/NVA soldiers.

A platoon-sized force of C Co. proceeded cautiously down a winding jungle where they observed sandal tracks, hootches, and tunnel complexes.

A Kit Carson Scout, accompanied SP4 William Rozier (St. Paul, N.C.), the point man. Suddenly the alert scout detected movement in the thicket ahead.

Three NVA and one VC were killed by the platoon's small arms fire as they attempted to evade. A detailed search of the area yielded a hidden tunnel entrance.

Meanwhile, helicopter gunships supported another platoon-sized element. As the platoon moved in to investigate the enemy routed by gunships, three more VC were killed as they tried to flee from the infantrymen.

Minutes later, SGT Albert Gentry (Bumtass, Va.) observed several enemy packs hanging on a fence directly in front of his position. Advancing slowly, he located three VC in a bunker beneath a hootch. The enemy attempted to evade, but died under a hail of fire. (196th IO)

A Brilliant Performance

LZ EAST—There are not too many situations more disconcerting than being shot at while carrying 40 highly flammable illumination flares and hovering in a helicopter.

WO1 Robert E. Baily, aircraft commander, WO1 Raymond L. Jopes, pilot, SP4 Curtis Pieper, crew chief, and SP4 Steven G. Miller, door gunner from the 71st Avn. Co., however, took it in stride as they dropped flares over LZ East.

Their gunship escorts had warned them several times that they were much too close to the enemy's .51 cal. anti-aircraft positions. In addition, the ground situation had become tense when a sapper platoon broke through the perimeter and were in a position to inflict heavy U.S. casualties.

Several medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) extractions were performed without serious incident. When fuel and flares were exhausted, the mission was still not ended. After replenishment, the aircraft was back in the air over LZ East where it continued to drop flares until the ground situation was under control. (196th IO)

While walking down the road looking for someone to salute, we received a very discerning look from sunny Jacqueline Bisset, who dropped us for twenty for ogling. But who cares, a little physical exertion is expected when girl watching.

Search Div. For Illegal Weapons

CHU LAI — Americal Regulation 210-5 (9 Nov 67) prohibits the posession of privately-owned firearms and dangerous weapons. 1SG Dillard Cannon Jr. (Middlesboro, Ky.) of the 23rd Military Police Co. noted that these prohibited weapons, which include switchblade knives, straight razors, folding knives with blades longer than three inches and any size sheath knife not issued by the unit as well as unauthorized firearms, pose a problem within the Americal Division and have resulted in death and serious injury to friendly troops.

Privately owned firearms, often of inferior quality and improperly maintained, are particularly dangerous to both the owner and his fellow soldiers.

To promote safety and protect American troops from the unfortunate incidents that occur when unauthorized weapons are involved, commanders of each unit will conduct frequent shake-down inspections for these prohibited weapons.

CONFISCATED WEAPONS—Pictured above are some of the unauthorized weapons found during recent shake-down inspections in the Americal Division.
(Photo by PFC Paul B. Clark, Spt. Cmd. IO)

Military Retains Many Traditions

CHU LAI — Soldiers frequently come across customs in the Army that originated long ago. All customs have a traditional basis; because of this we find some interesting facts about certain ceremonies the Army conducts.

Some say the salute began in late Roman times (200 A.D. to 500 A.D.) when assassinations were very common. People who wanted to see public officials had to come before them with right hands raised to show they did not hold a dagger.

This practice gradually became a way of showing respect and sometimes involved removing the hat. By 1820, this was modified into touching the hat, and since then it has become the crisp hand salute.

Many years ago, men battled with swords and since most men were right-handed; the heaviest fighting occurred on the right. Men and units who preferred to fight rather than a "let George do it," and who were proud of their fighting ability considered the right of a battle line to be a post of honor. When an officer walks on your right, he is symbolically filling the post of honor.

The past purpose of retreat was to notify sentries to start challenging until sunrise and tell the rank and file to go to their quarters. This ceremony, although the original purpose is gone, remains as a noble tradition.

Join Americal Vet's Assn.

All members of the Americal Division are eligible to join the Americal Division Veteran's Association (ADVA). If you are DEROSing for ETS, use ADVA to keep track of your buddies. Get them to join. This growing organization needs several state adjutants. You might be a VIP in your home state.

Membership dues are $5 in RVN; $6 elsewhere. Send your name, mailing address, unit, social security number, hometown, and wife's name (if applicable) with check or money order to:

Americal Division Veteran's Association, P.O. Box 1381, Boston, Mass. 02104.

Part IV In A Special Series On R&R Sites

Hawaii Beckons With A Friendly Aloha

By SP5 THOMAS MAUS

Hawaii, our 50th state is far and away the most popular R&R site for the married man and also rates as a top notch Polynesian retreat for the single soldier.

The Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) in cooperation with several commercial airlines offer a special round-trip rate of $165. (plus tax) for wives flying from the West Coast to meet their husbands on R&R.

Very little is required to insure your wife's meeting you in Hawaii: To start, remember those military reduced fares you used to get back in the states? Your family is entitled to the same benefits as long as you send at least three copies of your R&R orders along with DD Form 1580 to that loved one back home. With these papers and your wife's dependent ID Card, she can get a reduced fare ticket from home to the West Coast as well as from the mainland to Hawaii.

Welcome

Newcomers to this South Seas paradise are called "Malininis" and the old timers are referred to as "Kamaainas! A warm or close friend to these islanders is known as "Aikanes."

Captain James Cook discovered Hawaii in 1778, considered the islands a garden of Eden. The inhabitants of each island to this day strive to keep their islands pride. Each one of these islands has their own lei, and of course the traditional aloha means both welcome and farewell.

You will receive a Special Privilege Card good for reduced rates on everything from hotel rates to buying a pair of shoes at certain establishments while you are in Hawaii.

Hotel prices start reasonably for people on R&R in Hawaii, for instance: The Reef and Park Shore Hotels are near Waikiki and modestly priced at around $70. a week for two. Extremely pleasant accommodations may be had at either the Reef Towers, Kalakauan, or Hawaiian Village Hotels for $82. to $125. a week, double occupancy. One of the more exclusive Honolulu area hotels is the Halekulani. The Halekulani caters to the older set and works on a European basis (no meals). For two, the hotel runs about $200. a week.

Cuisine

The Floating Pagoda has both Japanese and Chinese food at a very reasonable rate. Fisherman's Wharf serves excellent seafood at moderate prices, and for the more discerning palate, try some Chop Suey at the House of Hong.

While strolling around Honolulu, go to the top of the famous Aloha Tower and see a beautiful panoramic view of downtown Honolulu.

In this land of everlasting warmth, colorful festivals are celebrated at least once a day on one of the islands.

Places of interest outside of Honolulu are Pearl Harbor, the Dole Pineapple Farms, and of course the many beaches that serve as stomping grounds for many bikini-clad young beauties the year around.

Forty miles north of Waikiki is a new Polynesian Cultural Center at Laie, where six authentic lived-in native villages from Samoa, New Zealand, Fiji, Tahiti, Tonga and old Hawaii are reproduced. The center is open daily except Sunday.

Air transportation between the islands is frequent and very reasonable.

The average cost for a couple meeting in Hawaii (including wife's round-trip air fare) is from $500 to $800.

Hawaii will be a memorable experience never to be forgotten.

A Dog, A Snuff, A Mine

QUANG NGAI CITY — "Toby was trained well for his job," said the leader of the Americal's 60th Inf. Plt. (Scout Dog). And a pair of B Co., 26th Engr. Bn. soldiers may owe their lives — not to mention a $35,000 bulldozer — to that training.

SFC Percy L. Gardner (Washington, D.C.) was walking in front of a bulldozer driven by SP4 Davis D. Lane (Syracuse, Kan.) at the site of a land clearing operation along the Tra Khuc River west of Quang Ngai City. Suddenly, "Toby," a German Shepherd, uncovered a triggered artillery round buried in the track paths of the dozer.

"The sergeant and dozer both would have gone right over that mine," said 1LT Robert Mocarski (Holyoke, Mass.), whose engineer platoon as well as a company of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. and South Vietnamese Army engineers are clearing land along the river.

LT Mocarski said that VC in recent weeks have been planting mines under existing bulldozer tracks, tunneling in from the sides so as not to disturb the tracks. "We used to be able to move around in the same tracks without fear of mines, but now we can't do that anymore," the lieutenant said.

The engineers have had two bulldozers blown up by mines since beginning their job. And they would have lost another one as well as perhaps two lives had it not been for the scout dog, especially trained for rooting out enemy mines.

"If the dog wouldn't have found the mine we would have gone right over it," said Gardner. "We were only about 40 feet away."

1LT Steve Smith (Rochester, N.Y.), commander of the 60th Plt., of which Toby and his handler, PFC Joseph Faiivae (Lemon Grove, Calif.) are members, explained that his dogs are trained to detect the powder used in mines or booby-trapped munitions.

At times, the lieutenant said, a dog will find a trip wire, follow it right to the mine itself and sit or stand next to the explosive until someone notices it.

This time Toby did his job and at least two engineers are happy he did. (198th IO)

A STATUE OF BUDDHA is carried by two Vietnamese Boy Scouts through the streets of Quang Ngai City during a parade that started when the statue and other religious relics were returned to villagers of Son Loc by 198th Bde. soldiers.
(Photo by 1LT Josef Hebert, 198th IO)

Treasures Returned To Joyful Villagers

By 1LT JOSEF HEBERT

QUANG NGAI CITY — A four-foot, 200-year-old temple bell and a three-foot, yellow Buddha marked the return of proper religious worship for the more than 2,000 Vietnam refugees of Son Loc Village near this provincial capital.

The infantrymen of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., who brought the items back to their rightful owners after four years of absence, were greeted with a heroes welcome.

"We surely didn't expect anything like this," said LTC Reed E. Davis Jr., (Omaha, Neb.), battalion commander, as he and six other 198th Bde. soldiers found themselves the honored guests in a two-hour-long Buddhist parade through the streets of Quang Ngai City to the hamlet of Son Loc nearby.

The reason for the parade, said a South Vietnamese interpreter, was the return of the religious articles, found a few weeks earlier by members of D Co., 1-56 in an abandoned pagoda.

Artifacts Left Behind

Resettling near Quang Ngai City in the new refugee village of Son Loc, the village elders asked for American and provincial help to regain their religious articles.

A few weeks later D Co., commanded by CPT James A. Fivin (Ottawa, Kan.), found the articles, including about 10 statuettes, a large replica of Buddha and a 200-year-old bell.

"I knew they would be happy about the return of these articles," said MAJ Luther Kallan (Columbus, Ga.), battalion operations officer, "but this is really something. They've gone all out."

Parade Through Streets

Going "all out" meant a parade honoring the Americans who had returned the articles. More than 1500 persons including young boys and girls, village elders and Buddhist monks paraded through the streets of Quang Ngai. The Americans, sitting in a small bus in the middle of the parade, were the center of attraction.

As the parade snaked through the streets, across the bridge over the Quang Ngai River, and up Highway 1 to the village of Son Loc, a band comprised of elderly men sounded out a steady tune. A dozen small busses hauled youngsters dressed in their Sunday best while the lead vehicle carried on its roof the Buddha recovered by the American soldiers.

With a final round of handshakes, the Americans departed the refugee village leaving its inhabitants behind to worship as they had not been able to in four years. (198th IO)

Music Festival Swings With "Far Out" Sounds

CHU LAI — The Chu Lai Pop Music Festival had a similarity to that of the Monterey Jazz Festival, and progressed into the "far out" grooves and dimensions of a super-experience.

Notes vibrated around the beat of the "Joint Chiefs of Staff" with a flow of finger-snapping and toe-tapping coming from the listeners.

The Joint Chiefs are composed of SP4 Brian Baker (Tallahassee, Fla.), drummer; SP4 Hezzie Lee Bolton (Hattiesburg, Miss.), a soul singer of the Wilson Pickitt vein; SP4 Garnett Brooks (Detroit), lead guitarist; SP4 Dale Dobson (Los Angeles), bass guitarist; SP4 Rodrick Hollway (Milwaukee), trumpeter; and SP4 Archie Turner (Memphis), electric organist.

The group's lead vocalist, Bolton, belted such tunes as "Knock on Wood", "I'm in Love", "Hold On", and "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay,"

Next on stage were "The Sounds Unlimited" from the Americal Division Band, where CW2 John Murat (Orlando, Fla.) is the arranger and conductor.

Murat blew a mean trombone and was backed by two other Americal bandmen — PFC Thomas Martin (Winston-Salem, N.C.), hot pianist, and PFC Oscar Flares (Artesia, N.M.) who "wailed" on drums.

When the "Luther T. Stone Music Society" erupted with their "Acid Rock" sound, a new touch was added to the night. Their music was blues-folk-rock oriented.

Leader of the Music Society is a percussionist, SGT William E. Hutchinson (West Palm Beach, Fla.), who is also director and NCOIC of the Americal Special Services Entertainment Branch.

The other members of the swinging group are SP4 Fisher C. Dezevallos (Nashville, Tenn.), lead guitarist; SP4 Thomas D. Cronon (Portland, Ore.), pianist; and SP4 William H. Smith (Winston-Salem, N.C.), the base guitarist.

The last band to perform was "The Green Machine", a United States Marine Corps group. This band started establishing a name for itself back at Camp Lejeune, N.C. more than a year ago.

"We came to Vietnam via the Ed Sullivan Show where we performed January 26," said CPL Robert E. Eissfieldt (Birmingham, Mich.), the group's leader and organizer who also plays drums.

"On the Sullivan Show we did 'Stand and be Counted', which I had written on my first tour of duty in Vietnam along with another song called 'Hey Hippies'. The two songs were released on the Idel Label, a recording company that we started. We came to Vietnam as a group, and were assigned directly to III MAF located in Da Nang. Our job is to entertain the troops as best we can," concluded CPL Eissfieldt.

When the Green Machine's lead vocalist, CPL Guy Tallon, grabbed the microphone and began to sing such tunes as "Blood, Sweat & Tears", "California Dreamin' ", and "This is My Country, Too" there was no doubt in anyone's mind that they were swingers.