Fierce Battles Rage In 196th Area

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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PACKING PLENTY OF PUNCH, a machinegun crew and fellow soldiers of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 4th Bn., 31st Inf. pin down NVA forces in the battle near Hiep Duc. (Photo by SP4 Bill Crawford, 196th IO)

CHU LAI—Americal infantrymen using heavy air and artillery support, killed at least 469 North Vietnamese soldiers in almost continuous action for a week near Hiep Duc 30 miles south of Da Nang.

In contact since midday August 18, the infantrymen of the 196th Bde. reported 312 enemy killed in the first 72 hours of fighting in the Que Son River Valley 18 miles west of Tam Ky near a pair of brigade forward firebases.

Another 103 enemy bodies were found the next day during a systematic search of the rolling hills and thick underbrush which abounds northeast of Hiep Duc. Most of them had been killed by air strikes, artillery, and gunships during heavy contact August 20-21.

The enemy activity, the heaviest in more than three months in the Hiep Duc area, may have been a coordinated attack on the refugee center near the village, according to LTC Cecil M. Henry (Rome, Ga.), commander of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., whose units have seen most of the action in the valley since the heavy fighting began.

"Since the refugees arrived in March, the NVA have sworn to destroy the (refugee) center," LTC Henry said.

READY WITH HIS KNIFE for an old-fashioned watermelon party in Vietnam is 1LT Ronald E. Hinze. The watermelon was one of two sent to him through the combined efforts of the Altanta CONSTITUTION, Pan American and Delta Airlines, and an American Red Cross "Doughnut Dolly," Sandy Lockhart, who delivered the melons to 1LT Hinze at LZ Baldy. (Photo by CPT Cecil A. Green, Americal IO)

11,000 Mile Journey For Delicious Gift

Wet Treat For 196th Soldier

By CPT CECIL A. Green

CHU LAI — The basic idea was simple enough — get some Georgia watermelons to a watermelon-lovin' Americal soldier in time for his birthday.

The Atlanta CONSTITUTION liked the idea and started the ball rolling with two, plump 20-pound watermelons from the Georgia State Farmers Market.

More than 11,000 miles away, 1LT Ronald E. Hinze (Fort Worth, Tex.) liked the idea too, because his 25th birthday was coming up, and ". . .nobody likes watermelon better than I do — especially Georgia watermelons."

The trans-Pacific shuttle began when Hinze's wife, Susan, who lives in Manchester, Ga., wrote the CONSTITUTION and asked how she could send the special gift to her husband.

The editors of the CONSTITUTION began making telephone calls and arranged for Delta Airlines and Pan American Airlines to fly the perishable package to the west coast and then across the Pacific.

They also enlisted the aid of MG Robert R. Linville, chief of staff of the 3rd Army area, who arranged for the movement of the melons in Vietnam.

Upon arrival in Saigon, Pan American Traffic Manager Joseph F. Gatt (New York), and a pretty Pan American ground hostess, Kathy DeMassiac (Pau, France), escorted the precious melons to Chu Lai.

Hinze, who is a platoon leader with the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., had been alerted of the impending arrival and was prepared to come to the 196th Bde. basecamp at LZ Baldy to accept the melons from Miss De Massiac.

At that point, the Viet Cong seemed to take an active interest in the delivery of the Georgia fruit.

Before the melons could get airborne out of Chu Lai, word came that Hinze's unit, D Co., was engaged by enemy snipers and that he would be occupied for a few hours.

"I knew the watermelons were coming in for me," Hinze grinned, "but when the battalion called to ask my situation, all I could say was I'd get them later — right now, get me some artillery."

The watermelons were left overnight at Chu Lai, and the next afternoon, an American Red Cross "Doughnut Dolly," Sandy Lockhart (Seminole, Okla.) presented the melons formally to Hinze.

"My men and I have really been looking forward to getting ahold of these," Hinze said. "We're all kind of excited about getting real watermelons here and I can tell you now that there won't be too much left in a couple of hours."

There wasn't.

As for the seeds, future Americal soldiers may stumble across an unexpected watermelon patch in Vietnam someday and sample the famous Georgia product again.

Search And Clear Operation Finished

CHU LAI—Operation Lamar Plain, a multi-battalion search and clear operation involving elements of the 101st Airborne Div. under control of the Americal Division, ended on August 13.

The operation, begun on May 16, centered in an area 10 miles southwest of Tam Ky. The Americal and 101st soldiers made contact with elements of the North Vietnamese Army 2nd Division during the three month period.

Americans kept the enemy off balance and prevented any significant offensive being launched against them by finding and destroying many enemy basecamps, supply caches, and tunnel complexes.

U.S. soldiers accounted for 524 enemy killed—178 VC and 346 NVA. Besides the capture of tons of rice and cases of medical supplies, the combined force also was credited with 256 individual weapons and 62 crew-served weapons captured from the enemy.

Religion And You

Write Home Often

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ) EDWARD J. KITA
Support Command Chaplain

Many a man in the service is kept decent, straight, and brave by the memory of the folks back home. Your parents, wife, and family are the most important things in your life.

Don't for a minute forget how proud they are of you. You're their son, their brother, their father, in the service. Of course, there are other men in the Armed Forces, but you are the one that really counts. You belong to them. And because you do, there is no virtue of a man or a soldier that you don't possess. That's something to live up to, isn't it? It's something to keep you on your toes. It's something to keep you straight and decent.

Keep in touch with your family and friends. It's wonderful for them to know what you are doing, because they are interested in you and the achievements of your outfit. They're overjoyed everytime they hear from you. And of course, it makes them feel that you have not forgotten them, and that you're not in uniform for something vague and impersonal. You are here in a far away land for them and the things that they hold dear.

If you write to your wife, mother, or sweetheart today, you're not likely to do something that they would be ashamed of you. And don't forget dad. Maybe he was in the last war and wants to compare notes with you. Maybe he's just anxious for a chance to brag to the other fathers about what a great guy his son is. Don't let him down!

Always remember this little principle that you get letters if you write. Don't expect letters if you don't write. If you can't write long letters, at least write short ones. Even these are welcome. If your name isn't called at mail time tomorrow, ask yourself when you last wrote a letter to anyone.

VIETNAM-STYLE

By SP4 JAMES BROWN

Technical, Vocational Help

Since the early stages of Vietnam's independence from France, the technical and vocational education programs have undergone a remarkable and substantial expansion.

There are 22 secondary institutions and four higher level schools that provide vocational and technical training. The schools have a total enrollment of more than 6,000. At nine training workshops on the elementary school level, an additional 800 students receive basic instruction in numerous skills. A number of American teachers and technicians are attached to these vocational institutions.

The technical schools on a secondary level at Hue, Nha Trang, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Ban Me Thuot, ond Vinh Long are the largest and best equipped technical and vocational training programs in Vietnam.

The other outstanding schools are at Lycee, Cao Thang in Saigon and the Polytechnic School of the Phu Tho National Technical Center near Saigon.

Courses are offered in carpentry, ironworking, boilermaking, as well as automobile and diesel mechanics. Advance instruction is available in furniture design, ceramics, and the graphic arts at the School of Applied Arts in Bien Hoa and Binh Duong.

Secondary level vocational courses are of four years' duration, leading to a vocational training certificate. A certificate of industrial training is received by each graduate of the technical school at Hue after he completes two years of general academic work followed by two years of specialization in a technical field.

Students at the School of Applied Arts combine academic work with vocational training and, upon completion of the four-year course, become eligible for a certificate of applied arts.

The School of Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Husbandry at Saigon, Can Tho, and Hue present vocational training in agriculture.

The three-year course includes academic and technical subjects and field practice in agriculture. Students may concentrate on a special subject for an additional year to become eligible for advanced training.

Holders of one of the vocational farming certificates or graduates of the first cycle of academic secondary schools are offered advanced vocational courses covering three years' work.

Such courses are available in schools like the technical colleges in Hue and Saigon, and at the Phu Tho National Technical Center near Saigon.

The mathematics course of the technical colleges leads to the Baccalaureat Technique, which is regarded as equivalent to the General Education Baccalaureat.

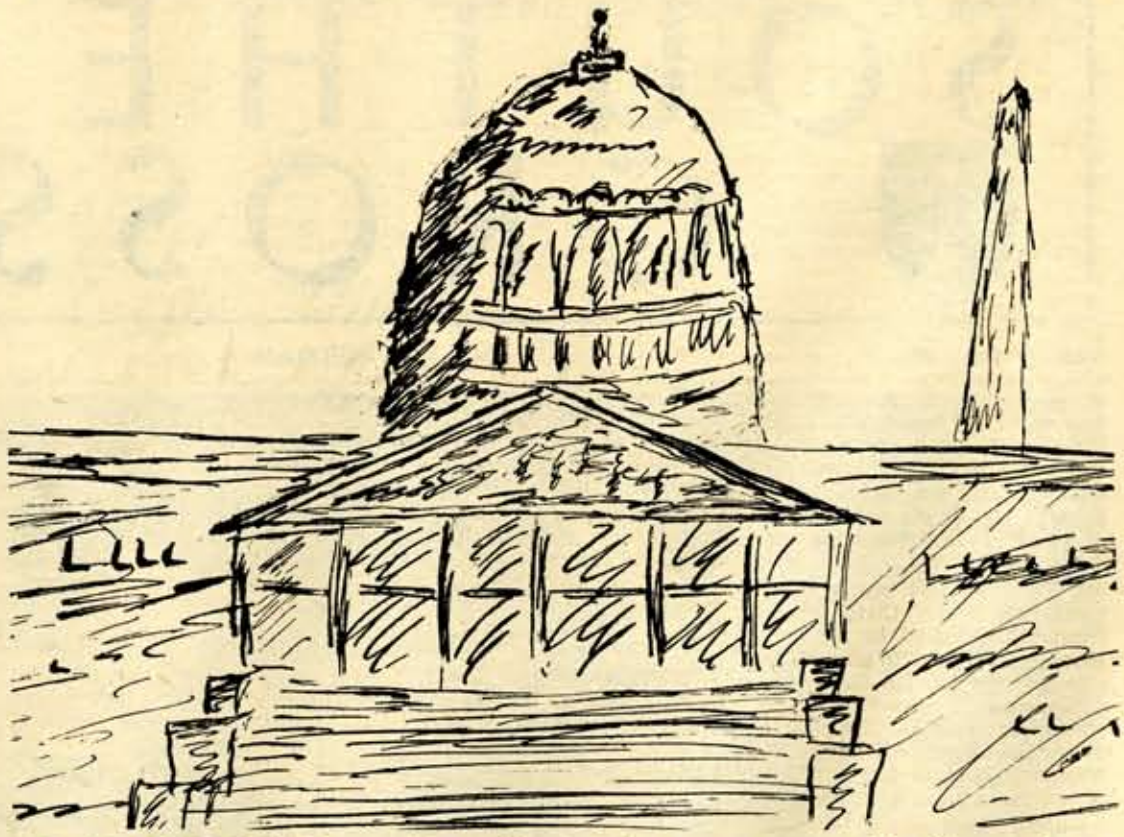
The School of Fine Arts at Gia Dinh and Hue, the National School of Music and Dramatics at Saigon and Hue, and the School of Maritime Navigation are institutions presenting advanced professional training on the secondary level.

Technical education beyond the secondary level is offered at the School of Public Works, the School of Electrical Engineering, and the National School of Industrial Engineering. With assistance from the U.S. and France, the government of Vietnam established the National Technical Center at Phu Tho, of which all three aforementioned schools are a part.

Those holding a technical or academic baccalaureat with a major in mathematics or science can enroll in vocational schools on the post-secondary level. In 1963 a two-year course was added on to the post-secondary level for training teachers of vocational subjects.

There is a three-year vocational program which leads to the equivalent of a university degree—this program of agricultural education is offered at the National College of Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Husbandry at Blao, about 50 miles northeast of Saigon.

Stability In Government



By SP4 JAMES BROWN

The National Laws of the United States are formed by Congress, which also acts as the direct representative of the people. These laws can be either vast in their application or pointed to fulfill a specific need. Such laws deal with virtually every aspect of life within the United States.

In order to have an effective governmental system, we are served by three branches. They are the Legislative (Congress), Executive (The President), and the Judiciary (The Supreme Court and subordinate Federal Courts).

It must be understood that Congress is not our only representative on a national level. In numerous instances the President expresses the voice for all the American citizens in many matters, particularly in the field of international relations.

Speaks For The People

However, the most direct representative of the people is Congress; and the public is much closer to its members. Actions taken by Congress can be approved or disapproved in the national general election held every two years.

The senators were to be appointed by each state's legislature as stated by the Constitution when it was drafted. But the 17th Amendment, approved in 1913, changed the rule, and now all senators and representatives are elected by direct popular vote.

The Constitution was specific in setting up Congress. It requires that there be two houses; it specifies how many senators each state will have, and describes how the House of Representatives should be apportioned.

The qualifications for membership in Congress, such as minimum age, citizenship, and residency are also standardized by the Constitution. The term of a senator is fixed at six years, with one third of the Senate membership elected every two years in the national general election.

Every two years a complete new House of Representatives is elected as directed by the Constitution. Each state must have at least one representative, with the more populous states receiving additional representatives according to their populations.

Two-Party System

Generally the procedures in the operation of the First Congress in 1789 are still followed today. Although the two-party political system was not provided for in the Constitution, it developed early and has remained through long-standing tradition. In our governmental operation the two-party system has been the keystone of our nation.

Since most of the in-depth analysis of legislation is done in committee meetings, it is considered that the committees are really the "work-horses" of Congress. As many as 20,000 bills of resolutions can be introduced during the two-year life of a Congress. However, about 80 per cent of these bills never reach the floor for general debate and action, but are discarded by committees.

Amendments to bills can be proposed by the committees, and they can determine what legislation will be sent to the respective houses for debate and action.

Without the committees, Congress could not function effectively. Committee activity is the essence of politics — the attempt to provide the best legislation, while insuring that no element of the nation receives either undue privilege or penalty.

Checks And Balances

The authors of the Constitution sought a system in which power was kept in balance among the three branches of government through the ability of one branch to refuse to allow an action by one or both of the other branches.

The theory behind the checks and balances system is that each branch of government should always have a measure of control over what the others do, thereby ensuring that public rather than private interests are served.

The responsibility of the conduct of foreign relations rests with the President, but all treaties negotiated with foreign countries must be approved by the Senate's two-third vote. Approval of Presidential appointments to the cabinet, to other high governmental offices, to the federal courts, and to ambassadorial posts must be done by the Senate.

Power to reject any legislation Congress passes is reserved to the President in his ability to veto. However, his veto can be reversed by two-thirds vote in both houses.

The main check the Judiciary has on Congress is called Judicial Review — the authority of the courts to determine the constitutionality of laws passed by Congress.

An equal check over the Judiciary is exercised by Congress, in that, it controls the funds available to the courts and determines the size and structure of federal courts. An added check is the Senate's authority to approve or disapprove all appointments to federal judgeships.

Our Congress is not unique. Many democracies throughout the world have a two-house national legislative body like ours. However, our Constitution, which created our Congress, is the oldest written national constitution in the world.

It has also been the model on which many nations have fashioned their governments. Moreover, our system has given these countries insight and structure to the key of a government's stability.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Texts For School Children

CHU LAI — "Boxcars" of books have been delivered to the children attending the Ly Tin School just outside Chu Lai as the results of an aviator from the 178th Aslt. Hel. Co., known as the "Boxcars."

1LT Donald Procida (Long Island, N.Y.), sustained a leg wound from a 30-caliber round while extracting Americal troops from a landing zone before he could personally fulfill his objective of supplying English books for Vietnamese students learning our language. But through his efforts and in spite of his absence, the delivery was made.

LT Procida had always been interested in the Civic Action Projects conducted by his unit. After several trips to an orphanage and the Ly Tin School, he established a pen-pal correspondence between these children and those attending St. Mark's School in Long Island where his wife is a teacher.

During these visits, the lieutenant realized the need for books printed in English. He wrote of this need to his wife and she persuaded the school officials to let her have old text books that were replaced with newer editions. Before long, Mrs. Procida mailed a package containing 500 books.

Before the books arrived, LT Procida was wounded, sent to a hospital in Da Nang, evacuated to Japan, and was finally sent to the United States for recovery.

In spite of his absence, LT Procide's persistence succeeded in supplying the Vietnamese pupils with English texts to advance their studies. (Americal IO)

We're Going In That Thing?

Vietnamese Girl Scouts, loaded with camping gear, board a "Chinook" of the 178th Aslt. Hel. Co. that transported the scouts to Cu Lao Island where they joined 800 other scouts for a week-long campout, organized by the Civil Affairs Section (G-5) of the Americal. (U.S. Army Photo)

Uncovers More Than Just Worms

Clearing Project Levels Jungle

By PFC BILL EFTINK

LZ STINSON — From the ground it is almost impossible to comprehend the size of the massive land clearing operation.

It takes a six-minute helicopter ride over the area to really bring home just how much the powerful D-7 bulldozers have changed the landscape along the banks of the Song Tra Khuc west of Quang Ngai City.

The river, which marks the lower boundary of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s operational zone, serves as an important transportation route as it snakes its way deep into the mountainous jungles of South Vietnam. The brush covered foot trails along its banks have long served as a route for North Vietnamese supplies coming through these mountains.

Offered Cover

"The trails, leading from one bamboo patch to the next, were covered enough so that it was difficult to detect the enemy from the air, and the numerous bunkers in the area offered reasonable security from artillery and air strikes," said team leader SFC Percy L. Gardner (Washington, D.C.) of B Co., 26th Engr. Bn., which along with an engineer platoon from the 6th ARVN Regt. is manning the project.

"What we are doing is just clearing everything from the riverbank inward for a thousand meters," said Gardner.

Clearing everything includes crushing well built camouflaged bunkers, toppling deep-rooted willow trees and crashing into dense thickets of giant bamboo that presented a special problem to the engineers.

"These large bamboo poles gave us a lot of trouble when we were using our regular bulldozer blades. When we pushed them over they would frequently just spring back up," Gardner explained.

To overcome this problem the engineers have equipped their bulldozers with special shear-type blades which cut the bamboo off at ground level instead of trying to push it over.

The grinding advance along the river has done more than make the area unsuitable for a future supply route. As the heavy machines uncover enemy tunnels, the number of enemy supply and rice caches continues to rise. More than 16,000 tons of rice have been found as the retreating enemy is pushed farther back into the mountains.

Predictably, the project isn't very popular with the enemy, and a company of riflemen from the 1st Bn., 52 Inf., form a security perimeter around the engineers while they work.

Plowing Along

With the project running about one month ahead of schedule and the resupply situation described as "really great" the engineers plan to just keep pushing on.

After the tunnels, bunkers and other enemy cover is destroyed, the Vietnamese farmers will be able to move back into the fertile area along the riverbank from which many of them were driven from in the past by Viet Cong harassment.

And the North Vietnamese soldiers will find it pretty risky walking along the banks of the Song Tra Khuc, now that his cover has been plowed under. (198th IO)

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School Fund Set

LZ BRONCO — Soldiers of the 295th Ordnance Co., Duc Pho Detachment, have each contributed money to an education fund set up to help pay for the schooling of a Vietnamese boy, Nguyen Ngoc Tien of Duc Pho. Nguyen, called "Lonnie" by the men, is presently preparing to attend his last year of school in Duc Pho.

"We are trying to build better relations with the Vietnamese, and in aiding this boy with his education we feel we are doing our small part to help the people of this country," said CWO Robert W. Copsy (Danville, Ill.).

The cost of sending the boy to school is $27 a month and his family is unable to pay this amount, so the men have contributed money to pay for the education and supply Lonnie with needed books and school uniforms.

"Lonnie has worked for us as a general all around helper for just a month, but he has made such an impression on the men that there was no trouble starting a collection. His spoken English is already excellent and he can read and write the language well," said Copsy.

Copsy added, "Each of us feel we have accomplished something good for the boy if he can continue his education here in Duc Pho and then next year enroll at one of the colleges in Quang Ngai City."

There has also been some talk among the men of trying to get Lonnie into an exchange student program and going to the United States to continue his education.

"All I can say is thank you and I will do my best," said Lonnie. (11th IO)

Wireman Pens Lyrics, Record Cut

LZ BALDY — For SP4 Elane Keyes (Jacksonville, Fla.) writing songs was just a pastime, but now it seems that this lyrical talent may actually pay off for him.

"Ever since I can remember, I've liked to write songs," said Keyes, a wireman for the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty. "Not only do I write in my spare time but when I'm working at the switchboard at headquarters battery I write down ideas that come to me.

"I was working on the words from a song called 'Golden Memories' — actually it was no different from any other of my compositions, or so I thought. However, as I began to add more words, things seemed to fall into place. The words sounded better than any others I've ever written."

Pleased with the results of his efforts, Keyes decided to go all out. "I felt I couldn't go wrong sending the words to a music company, so I sent 'Golden Memories' to the Music City Songcrafters in Nashville, Tenn."

A short time later Keyes received a surprise package in the mail. The music company liked the words to the song so much that they adapted country and western style to the piece. They sent Keyes a recording of the song along with a list of publishers to which he could send the song.

"I never thought they would accept it," said Keyes. "Now I think I'll send the record to a publisher — if it happened once, I guess it can happen again."

Tug-Of-War With RPG

LZ BALDY—Quick thinking on the part of two soldiers averted a possible disaster and saved the lives of two other men.

While setting out trip flares along the wires which line the perimeter of Hqs. Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., SP4 Wirt Mcie (Webster Springs, W. VA.) noticed a strange looking object protruding from the ground. Mcie advanced to the object and began pulling it out. However, since he didn't know exactly what the item was, he stopped tugging and decided to report the discovery to his superior.

Upon receiving Mcie's news, SGT Russell White (Peoria, Ill.) who was in charge of the detail went to the area of the find.

"When I saw the object, I figured it was a rocket from the shape of the tail," said White. "I told the other two men who were with Mcie and myself to clear the area, since the device could possibly explode."

White immediately called the first sergeant who in turn contacted the Explosive Ordnance Team.

When the team arrived, they said the thought-to-be rocket was really an RPG 7 (rocket propelled grenade), the largest made by the NVA. Since the explosive and firing devices of the grenade were still buried in the ground, it could not be disarmed; therefore, the experts along with the help of White, attached a wire to the tail fin and from a distance pulled it out.

The explosive, believed to be one fired during the May offensive, was taken away to a safer area where it could be dealt with accordingly. (196th IO)

Cooks And Clerks Learn The Infantrym

Loaded down with field gear, the men wait to begin their mission.

PROSERVCO soldiers move out quickly on

Story and Photos by
PFC
Dean K. Williams
Americal IO

After the exercise, SP4 Dale Tinsley turned in the field gear for his tool kit and returned to the motor pool.

Keeping a sharp lo

n's Trade First Hand

combat assault.

LZ PROFESSIONAL—Cooks and clerks manning the bunker line isn't unusual, but going on a combat assault and getting a shot at "Charlie" — that's what makes PROSERVCO different.

Professional Reserve Company (PROSERVCO), is a unit unique to the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. The company is composed of men generally associated with the rear area: cooks, clerks, and truck drivers. They are a reserve force to act as an "Ace-in-the-hole" if any emergency should arise.

There are three possible missions the unit could perform: (1) To relieve a rifle company from firebase security so that unit could be deployed elsewhere. (2) To secure a landing zone in the field so a besieged company could be extracted. (3) If all the elements of the battalion are fully committed, to relieve those who are in serious jeopardy.

To prepare the soldiers of PROSERVCO for such missions, they traded in their trucks, cooking ladles, and typewriters for rucksacks, M-16's ammo, and rations for an overnight mission in the jungle east of LZ Professional.

The company was transported by helicopters to an LZ previously secured. After assembly at the landing site, they started a long and arduous trek into new and largely unknown surroundings.

Later in the day, SP5 Steven Jones (Rialto, Calif.), a clerk, heard someone coming down a trail. "I wasn't sure what it was so I alerted the others."

At this time two NVA appeared on the trail, and the PROSERVCO lead element opened fire, killing both enemy soldiers.

After a quick search of the area, the company moved out once again to continue their field problem. The object was to participate in a combat assault, giving the men a taste of the life in the field and to secure an LZ.

"I knew we had a long walk through some dense terrain," said CPT William G. Woodford (Marcellus, N.Y.), company commander. "This was planned so the men would know what to do and how to react if we are ever needed."

SP6 Cecil Rainy back to his normal job.

t for the elusive enemy was just part of the 1-46 soldiers' training.

Two men of PROSERVCO adapt to being "grunts."

Americans, ARVNs Batter VC Force

LZ DOTTIE—"We threw everything at them that we had and they took a beating," said the first sergeant as he sipped a cup of coffee, recalling the battle the night before at this artillery firebase 12 miles south of Chu Lai.

The artillerymen and engineers who man the firebase along with a platoon of ARVN infantrymen repulsed a middle-of-the-night combined mortar and ground attack from three sides, killing 20 Viet Cong and capturing two.

When the first mortars landed in the area of D Btry., 1st Bn., 82nd Arty., the Americans reacted quickly, manning bunkers and firing at enemy infiltrators coming toward the wire.

"We fired flat trajectories with all of our guns and used the Quad .50 machinegun (a four-barreled heavy caliber machinegun) to our best advantage," said 1SG Homer A. Roberts (Manitou Springs, Colo.), referring to the camp's eight-inch guns and 105mm howitzers belonging to his unit and elements of both the U.S. 1st Bn., 14th Arty. and ARVN artillery.

The heaviest concentration of mortar rounds — about 75 — rained on B Co., 39th Engr. Bn., which manned a large portion of the base perimeter.

"They fired from three different mortar positions," explained CPT Harry O. Taylor (Brownsville, Pa.), the engineers' commander.

As the mortars flew in, an estimated 40 to 50 enemy began to approach the encampment from three directions. None penetrated.

"They were after the eight-inch guns," said Roberts, "but we opened up on them and stopped them cold."

Early Hit Downs 2

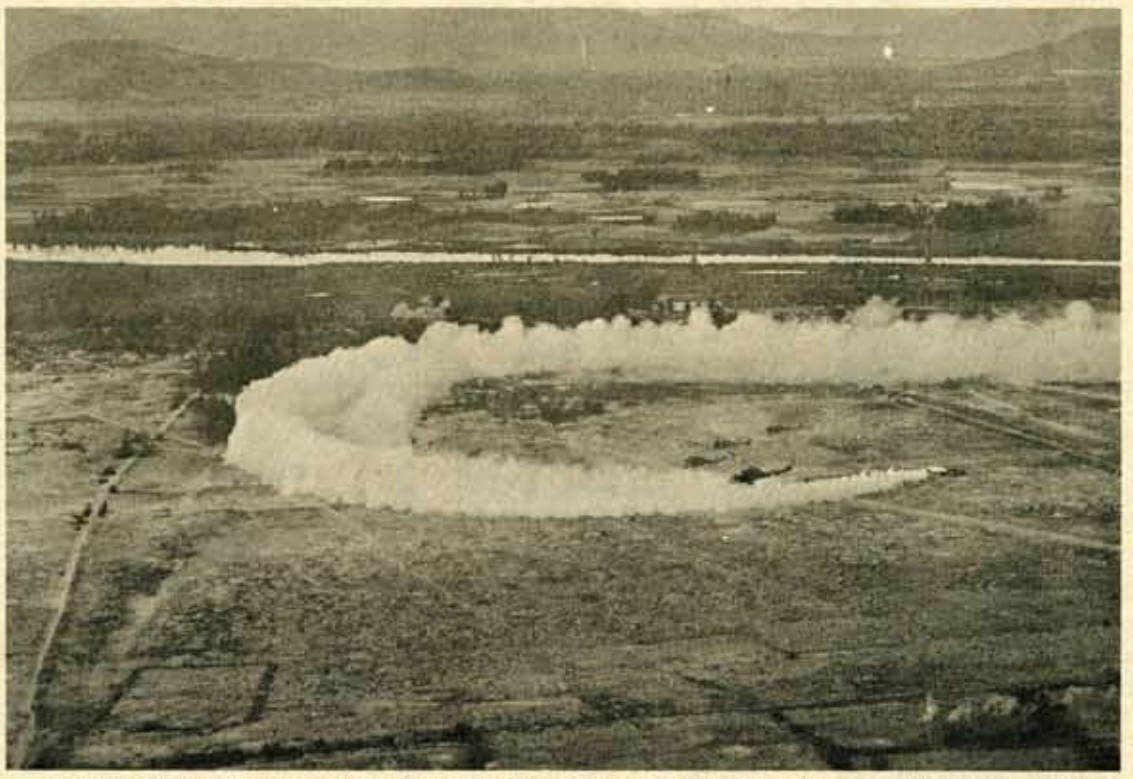
LZ GATOR — A squad of infantrymen and a small element of Vietnamese provincial forces surprised two enemy soldiers with an early morning visit near this 198th Inf. Bde. firebase, killing both of them and capturing their weapons.

"It was pretty dark and we relied heavily on the Vietnamese who knew the area well, and they really came through," said SGT Eli Ring (Yakima, Wash.), the squad leader of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. element.

Combing an area near a village which was suspected to contain Viet Cong, the Americans and Vietnamese prepared to search the village as daylight broke.

After arriving at the village, SGT Steve Ewing (Wichita, Kan.) set his men up as a blocking force to catch anyone trying to sneak out the back way. When the search began, the blocking squad was alerted to a small number of enemy soldiers on a high ridge behind the village. They opened fire and killed one NVA and one VC.

Combat In Review



AFTER COMPLETING A SCREENING RUN around the landing zone, the first wave of troop-carrying helicopters start their combat assault concealed, thanks to the smoke ship.
(Photo by CW2 John C. Pennington)

Performs Vital Mission

Smoke Billows From Chopper

CHU LAI — Gunships and troop helicopters approach the landing zone for another combat assault. But before they set down, one chopper drops to tree-top level. It draws heavy enemy fire but continues to put down a protective smoke screen in front of the treeline surrounding the LZ. The ship is called "Smokey."

Smokey is a regular UH-1H "Huey" helicopter, armed with two M-60 machine guns, but his job is probably the most exacting and dangerous one performed during a combat assault operation. He provides valuable cover for the rest of the choppers and helps locate the enemy positions by drawing their first fire at a relatively low speed. The pilot's skill and ability to perform and complete the mission can mean the difference between success and failure of an entire operation.

Most helicopter companies have one smoke ship pilot. He flies with the command and control ship until the landing zone is confirmed, then he moves out to do his job. In order for the mission to be successful he must do it well.

Comes In Low

Approaching the area at treetop level, he begins to lay his smoke screen. His air speed, around 60 knots, along with the winds, are vitally important. If his speed is too fast the smoke will not be thick enough and it will disperse too rapidly. But going too slow can also prove to be disastrous.

Each smoke ship has approximately two to three minutes of smoke. If the ship approaches too slowly, even though the smoke will be thick enough, he won't be able to cover the entire area, leaving the approaching aircraft exposed to enemy ground fire from the uncovered area.

Vulnerable

Considered by most pilots to be the most hazardous job in an aviation company, the smoke ship pilot's duty doesn't end after making the first pass. After laying his initial screen the aircraft gains altitude. It will remain there until the other ships in the operation are ready to land.

At this time he will descend again and drop another screen to cover the next incoming flight of "slicks" (troop carrying helicopters). Again at low altitude and low speed, he leaves himself completely vulnerable to enemy fire. His only protection is supplied by his crew chief and door gunner who man the machineguns.

While Smokey makes his low, slow run around the perimeter of the LZ, the gunner and crew chief pour out a steady stream of suppressive fire into the treelines.

Museum Stocks Enemy Arms

HOLDING THE FIRST WEAPON placed on display at the Combat Center Weapons Museum is SGT Richard D. Spencer. In front of Spencer is the latest addition to the collection; a 7.62mm Chi-Com heavy machinegun captured by A Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. on May 17, 1969.
(Photo by PFC Paul B. Clark, Spt. Cmd. IO)

SGT Richard D. Spencer (Chaffeen, Ill.) may not have the largest arsenal within the Americal, but his armory has more types of weapons and ordnance than any other collection around. Spencer is NCOIC of the Weapons Museum at the Combat Center.

The museum, opened in December 1967, has grown from one Type 56 Chi-Com Machinegun captured on what is now the Combat Center's shoreline by the 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Div., during Operation Benton, to a display containing AK-47s, RPG launchers, flame throwers, and booby traps captured by Americal units.

The museum is an interesting place to visit, but also it is used to great advantage in the instruction program at the Combat Center. It is the main training aid used by Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel to familiarize all new replacements with enemy weaponry and ordnance. (Spt. Cmd. IO)

LOH Provides Check On Enemy

CHU LAI—During the past two hundred or so years, the science of war has changed. If Daniel Boone were to view the techniques of reconnaissance, for example, the famed Indian fighter would be amazed at the changes. In Daniel's day, "recon-trip" meant perhaps sneaking across a river and getting a "look-see" at the enemy.

Today's modern Army, however, employs aircraft to perform this task. One such craft, the Light Observation Helicopter, (LOH) plays a large role in "scouting the enemy" in the area.

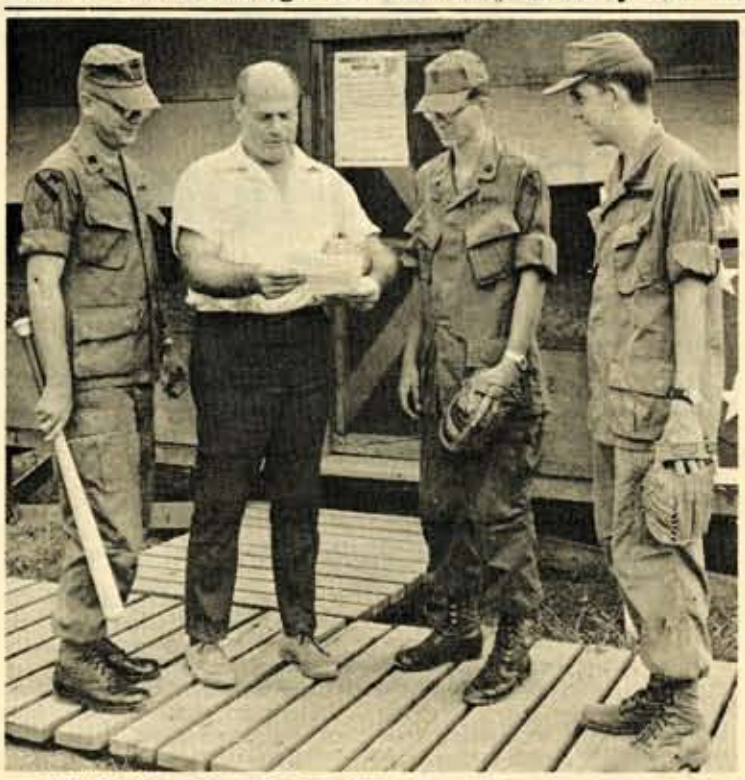
Recently, about eight miles west of Duc Pho, a LOH from the 123rd Avn. Bn. received heavy small arms fire. The chopper returned the fire, killing two NVA in the area. A further search of the area revealed several unoccupied hootches and enemy bunkers.

After pounding the complex with airstrikes and artillery, C Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. was combat assaulted into the area. The 11th Bde. soldiers searched the complex which contained about 90 bunkers.

Found in the camp were a .51 cal. machinegun destroyed by small arms fire, several NVA documents and an NVA killed by the airstrikes. D Co., working in the same area, discovered the bodies of nine NVA also killed by the airstrikes.

Daniel Boone might not understand the methods the Army uses today, but he would certainly approve of the effectiveness of helicopter reconnaissance. (Americal IO)

Dawn Cooke, a pretty 16-year-old English lass, scored tops in her modeling class. You can score too by taking advantage of college-credit courses offered through the University of Maryland. For more information, contact the Americal Education Center.



READING LETTERS-OF-INTENT to SP5 Donald Page and PFC Ralph Jaeger is Mr. Bernard Kane, director of the Education Center. Both young men have received acceptance to the college of their choice and plan to play baseball for the schools. Looking on is their commander, CPT George Shea of HHC.
(Photo by PFC Dean K. Williams, Americal IO)

Campuses Await The Saturday Hero

CHU LAI — When you left high school did you have big dreams of being the college hero? Did the plans end up forgotten when you entered the Army? How would you like to rebuild those dreams when you ETS?

Questions, questions, and more questions, but there are answers and solutions to those problems at the Americal Division Education Center. Under the direction of Mr. Bernard Kane, a former professional athlete, sports scholarships are being granted to Americal soldiers.

Mr. Kane is known in the sports world for having played pro football in New York, and later, after a tour in the service, with the Philadelphia Eagles. He maintains contacts with the pro's in football and baseball.

PFC Ralph Jaeger (St. Peter, Minn.), played second base in high school and before he had a chance to try the college ranks, he came into the Army. His tour in the Army is nearly over, and by applying through the Education Center he now stands a good chance of getting his tryout with a college team. Jaeger has the paperwork started for Mankato State College in his home state of Minnesota.

To reap the benefits all you have to do is have the initiative, ability, and suitable grades. Present your qualifications to Mr. Kane with the name of the college of your choice. The gears are now set in motion, applications will be sent to the college.

SP5 Donald Page was a standout semi-pro baseball player back in Dayton, Ga. With the aid of the Education Center he is hoping to further his baseball career with the University of South Carolina.

You do not have to have sports on your mind to make use of the Education Center, the staff is there to assist in filing for admittance to any school you desire after leaving the Army.

Be A Leader

(AFPF) — The Department of the Army has announced that more than 1,200 applications for Officer Candidate School (OCS) from enlisted men are needed to fill the vacancies that will exist in OCS this fall.

All qualified warrant officers and enlisted men on active duty with the Army are eligible providing they meet the requirements. You must be at least 18½ years of age and not over 32½ years of age at the time of enrollment in OCS, be a high school graduate or the equivalent, be a citizen of the United States or have been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence, or be serving on active duty in the U.S. Army.

You must have achieved an Aptitude Area GT score of 110 or higher, attain a score of 115 or higher on the Officer Candidate Test, and be of high moral character.

OCS graduates must serve at least two years of active duty as a commissioned officer after graduation.

Other requirements and information concerning the submission of applications will be found in AR 351-5 dated January 1969.

Part IV In A Special Series On R&R Sites

Relaxation, Nightlife Await In Hong Kong

By SP5 THOMAS MAUS

To most people, Hong Kong brings thoughts of the mysterious Orient, old Charlie Chan movies and fishing junks. Once they've been there, however, most people have a different idea of this British Crown Colony.

Hong Kong is, perhaps, the most beautiful, fascinating and cosmopolitan city in the East; and as such, it offers to the visitor a mixture of sights, sounds and tastes that has no equal anywhere else in the world.

The two-and-a-half hour flight from Vietnam is a most enjoyable change of pace for the combat soldier, and highlighted by a superb meal and the first decent cup of coffee in a long time, this appears to be a dream come true.

Airport officials in Hong Kong are concerned with getting you on your way to five days of pleasure, so customs checks are fast and efficient.

Buses at the airport will take you to the R&R Center on the Kowloon side of the colony where pretty young hostesses greet you at the door with a cold glass of beer.

Good Accommodations

R&R hotel reservations are made for you months in advance at any one of more than 15 hotels in the Hong Kong-Kowloon area. Before leaving the R&R Center, you'll be presented with a choice of hotels that vary in price from $4 to $11 a night. These hotels have been approved by the R&R Center for their clean, Western facilities.

The economy minded person might like to check into the Shamrock Hotel. Middle of the road prices will get you an excellent room by any stateside standards: the President, Empress, or Park Hotels all offer outstanding accommodations for $7 to $9 a night. Where else can you walk into a top notch Hilton Hotel but in Hong Kong for $10.50 a night.

While you are at the R&R Center, you'll be allowed to convert $100 American into $600 Hong Kong dollars. The rest of your money can be exchanged at local banking facilities listed in your R&R brochure, and there only.

Once you've had a long awaited bath and a good night's sleep, the many sights of Hong Kong are there to greet your amazed eyes.

Ride to the Top

One will have to agree, not all the sights of Hong Kong center around Kowloon's Nathan Road. A five minute ($.10) ride across the bay to the Hong Kong side of the colony on the Star Ferry will bring you close to the bottom of famous Victoria Peak. The cable-car ride up the peak is a thrill in itself, and when you've reached the top, you can see for hundreds of miles in any direction with the sprawling city below you.

A tour of the new territories can be arranged by any of the local tour agencies. On this interesting journey, you'll pass the resettlement areas where refugees from the Communist China Mainland have decided to start anew. As your trip progresses, you'll find unspoiled beaches and virgin fields passing your window. The climax to your trip is sure to be at the northernmost border of Hong Kong where the panoramic view at the Lok Ma Chan police post includes a look beyond the Bamboo Curtain into Communist China.

Shopping Paradise

Because Hong Kong is a free port, items from all over the world are sold at the lowest prices anywhere.

Stereo and camera equipment are sold at hundreds of street shops throughout Hong Kong. Some of the best hand-made clothing featuring materials of any kind are sold in this Far Eastern business hub.

Whether you are looking for any of these items, carvings, watches, perfumes, leather goods, china ware or 10,000 other curios, check out the prices at the China Fleet Club located on the Hong Kong side before you buy. Also, customs will require you show them a comprehensive Certificate of Origin (CCO) on any Chinese made objects—ask for one when you purchase your native items.

No visit to Hong Kong is complete without trying some Chinese food. There are four basic styles of Chinese cooking in Hong Kong to choose from, each originating from a different geographical locality.

Cantonese food is perhaps best known for its shark's fin and bird's nest soups; then there's Szechuanese, a style favored by the people who like highly spiced foods; third we find Pekinese, the type closest to Western cooking, made famous by its Peking duck; last, there's Shanghai, a must for anyone who likes seafood.

By all means, don't let the thought of old Charlie Chan or the mysterious Orient keep you from this place where Ancient Chinese and modern Western worlds meet to form Hong Kong.

Strike Up The Band

CHU LAI — The Americal Division has been getting off on the right note lately, thanks to the Division Band. Two or three days out of the week the band has started the working day with the snappy marches, "The Bridge Over the River Kwai" and "76 Trombones" and ending with the Americal March.

This has not always been the case. The band started with eight men in 1967. They didn't have a place to practice, their hootches were in shambles, and perhaps oddest of all, they had no instruments.

SSG Anthony Moret (New Orleans), who was one of the first to arrive said, "After we had cleaned up and built, this place looked as if the 'White Knight' had been through it."

What does a bandsman do during the day? They have details and pull guard duty like everyone else, however, the better part of the day is spent in rehearsing and attending to musical duties.

CW2 John Murat (Orlando, Fla.) described some of the band's present activities. "We are mainly working with the 2nd ARVN Division Band which was understaffed and without suitable equipment. They are avid learners and a very receptive group. We have been exchanging members, two or three come up here for instruction and we send two or three down there to group-instruct."

The next RF-PF class that graduates from the Combat Center will have a pleasant surprise as they graduate to the sounds of Vietnamese marches. The band got some books from the ARVN band and have been learning the new music.

The band likes to think its main purpose is public relations as they play for orphanages and places where they come in contact with the public. They want to bring the Vietnamese people closer to the Americal. (Americal IO)

MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION BAND unload their truck in preparation for another performance at Chu Lai. (U.S. Army Photo by SSG John Blomstrom)

Sergeant Receives Silver Bar

LZ LIZ — An 11th Inf. Bde. soldier received a direct commission promoting him from the rank of Sergeant First Class to First Lieutenant at this forward firebase.

The oath of commission to SFC Abe L. Lockhart (Daytona Beach, Fla.) was admistered by COL Jack L. Treadwell, 11th Bde. commander, who pinned the silver bar on the new lieutenant's collar.

"I feel that I can make a significant contribution to the Army as an officer," said 1LT Lockhart, "and with my experience be able to lead young soldiers just arriving here." 1LT Lockhart is presently serving with B Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf.

Gather Valuable Intelligence

FAC Pilots Double As Photographers

By 1LT JOSEF HEBERT

LZ BAYONET — A 35mm camera with a telephoto lens, an Air Force observation plane, and some down to earth ingenuity have brewed a fresh means of gathering vital intelligence for elements of the Americal.

In an era when aerial photo reconnaissance is nothing new, CPT James F. McGee (Nashville, Tenn.), assistant intelligence officer for the 198th Inf. Bde., and Air Force CPT Vernon D. Nutter (Syracuse, N.Y.), a forward air controller (FAC) attached to the brigade, recently thought the FAC's camera might be useful for similar missions.

"Why Not"

"We've always had the camera available to us," CPT Nutter said. "But hadn't thought of using it this way. Then one day we said 'why not?' and tried it. We got some pretty good results."

Since then most of the brigade's FACs have gone out on photo reconnaissance missions, taking their assignments from brigade intelligence personnel.

"Often we combine the picture taking with other missions or shoot between calling in artillery or air strikes. A half-dozen times we've gone out only for taking these pictures," said CPT Nutter.

Although amateur photographers, their results on several occasions have proven valuable.

Pays Off

One time their photos, after close scrutiny, uncovered a key bridge marking a communist infiltration route. Another time a special aerial photo reconnaissance plane from Da Nang shot pictures of an area in which one of the companies was expected to make a helicopter landing.

The photo plane, shooting from its higher perch, reported all was clear to enter the area. "We flew over the spot at a lower level the next day," explained CPT Chuck Karr (Columbus, Ohio,) another FAC, "and our pictures still showed a lot of trees and terrain not suited for a landing zone."

A typical mission begins at brigade Tactical Operations Center when Army intelligence personnel point out specific areas they want photographed. Then the Air Force FACs, flying in light observation planes — used primarily for directing artillery and air strikes — pick up the action.

Use Telephoto Lens

When flying over the area in question, the pilot begins to shoot with his 35mm camera equipped with a 200mm telephoto lens. The film is then taken to be developed at division facilities and the eight-by-ten prints are examined by brigade intelligence officials.

"This supplements our intelligence gathering system quite a bit and we can use it against all kinds of targets," said CPT McGee.

The assignments have ranged from an extensive hamlet study — aimed at answering questions about population, fortifications, and movements — to location of hard target areas such as bunkers, tunnels, and infiltration routes.

Pacification Study

Prior to a recent pacification operation aimed at rooting Viet Cong infrastructure members from the villages, the aerial photos were used in an extensive study of each of the hamlets in the area.

The technique of aerial photography is not new and has been used in many parts of the world by almost every nation at every degree of sophistication.

But now its usefulness has been shown even on a small scale in a joint effort by Americal infantrymen and Air Force FACs.