SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 26 CHU LAI, VIETNAM September 24, 1969

Cleaning Day

Members of E Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. keep busy cleaning their 4.2 inch mortar in preparation for its next mission.
(Photo by CPT Cecil A. Green, Americal IO)

Jungle Resupply Camp Taken, As Guards Run

By PFC BILL EFTINK

LZ FAT CITY — Searching an area 12 to 15 miles southwest of Chu Lai, infantrymen of the Division's 1st Bn., 6th Inf. uncovered a series of enemy basecamps, hospital facilities and resupply stations.

D Co. was first helicoptered into the rugged mountain area after E Co.'s recon platoon reported suspected sites in the general vicinity of Hill 1362, where the 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers had found a battalion-sized NVA basecamp only two months earlier.

After three days of climbing up and sliding down the steep mountains that make up the area, pointmen of the 3rd platoon spotted two elevated bamboo aqueducts carrying water from a mountain stream into the nearby jungle.

"The first aqueduct ran about 550 yards to a large 20-by-50 foot bamboo-and-thatch structure used as a hospital, with another hut close by serving as living quarters. The second aqueduct continued on into the jungle for about a quarter-mile to another similar setup," said 1LT Charles J. Gantner (Piscataway, N.J.), the platoon leader.

In addition to the structures making up the hospital complex, there were several livestock pens holding 50 pigs and 45 to 50 chickens also found.

"It was pretty well developed. They had large storage areas under each hooch containing medical supplies and other living materials, but they had just enough time to get most of it out before we got there," related 1LT Peter Yatsevitch (Cornish, N.H.).

Searching in the same area the next day the company's point squad discovered a well stocked supply station. A concealed "hootch" was found to contain a ton of corn, 500 pounds of salt, 20 pounds of tobacco, over 400 rounds of small arms ammo, NVA uniforms, homemade torches, cooking utensils and articles of clothing.

The CO of D Co., CPT Dale Collie (Benton, Ky.) explained: "Our Kit Carson Scout estimated that this probably served as a resupply stop for up to 300 men at a time on their way down south."

Looking around the area, the captain added, "Of course, there weren't nearly that many men here when we walked up on it. They probably left five or six men to guard the place, and when they saw us coming they took off."

In an area about four miles away E Co.'s recon platoon uncovered yet another enemy complex containing a large structure, bunkers and numerous livestock pens.

"Anything we can do to destroy the enemy's existing facilities and disrupt his resupply activities requires him to devote precious man-hours to rebuilding them, thus weakening his ability to fight," explained MAJ W. L. Lee (De Ridder, La.), battalion operations officer.

Another official was quick to point out that perhaps even more important is the psychological effect of penetrating and destroying what the VC and NVA once considered safe hiding places. (198th IO)

VIP Pays in Full

KY SANH — An elderly Vietnamese farmer was so inspired by the PSYOPs that he turned in a deadly 122mm rocket to division soldiers.

The 198th Inf. Bde. PSYOP men have concentrated their Voluntary Informants Program (VIP) efforts to undermine VC strength in this susceptible village, scene of a recent VC terrorist bombing which killed nine civilians, critically wounded 18 and caused injuries to more than 80 others.

"There had been three different leaflet drops dealing specifically with rockets just before this one was turned in," said CPT William D. Hyde (Merced, Calif.), civil affairs officer for the 1st Bn., 6th Inf.

The farmer, having read one of the leaflets, told the village's PF group of the find, who in turn notified the 1-6 Inf. Located in a cluster of bushes, the missile was in good condition and had its warhead and rocket motor attached.

"It is inevitable that the rocket would have been used against us if the man hadn't turned it in," CPT Hyde said. "This area is known as the 'rocket pocket' because it's a major launching location."

The farmer was paid 10,000 piasters for the rocket. "It completely depleted our VIP fund," the captain said, "but I'd have gotten more from somewhere if we'd needed it."

A brigade PSYOP loudspeaker team returned to the village to applaud and encourage the people. "Our interpreter reminded the people that it is the VC who cause most of their suffering and that turning in enemy weapons helps to alleviate that suffering," said SGT Duane R. Leake (Rochester, N.Y.).

The 1-6 Inf. civil affairs men gave Ky Sanh a supply of captured enemy foodstuffs, including 2,000 pounds of corn. They also distributed 500 pounds of rice, 100 pounds of salt, and 50 pounds of tobacco to the people.

Medic Earns DSC

LZ 4-11—In a small, heavily sand-bagged operations center, six miles west of Quang Ngai City, Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor presented the Distinguished Service Cross to a medical aidman of the 11th Bde. The simple, yet prestigious ceremony conferred the nation's second highest award for valor on SP5 James H. Johnson (Seymour, Tenn.).

Mr. Resor praised Johnson for his "exceptionally valorous actions" on March 15, 1969, while serving with C Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. The unit was conducting combat sweep operations near Tap An Bac—"pushing and fighting from hedgerow to hedgerow," as Johnson described it. Suddenly, heavy machinegun fire erupted on the company, wounding several including the commander, CPT William J. Straub (Mt. Kisco, N.Y.).

Without hesitation, Johnson braved the heavy barrage to treat and evacuate the wounded. Returning to the heavy firefight, he was wounded by an enemy grenade, but refused to be evacuated and continued his life-saving efforts.

Reflecting on his actions that day—Johnson recalled, "I was only worried about getting them patched up and getting the wounded out of there." (11th IO)

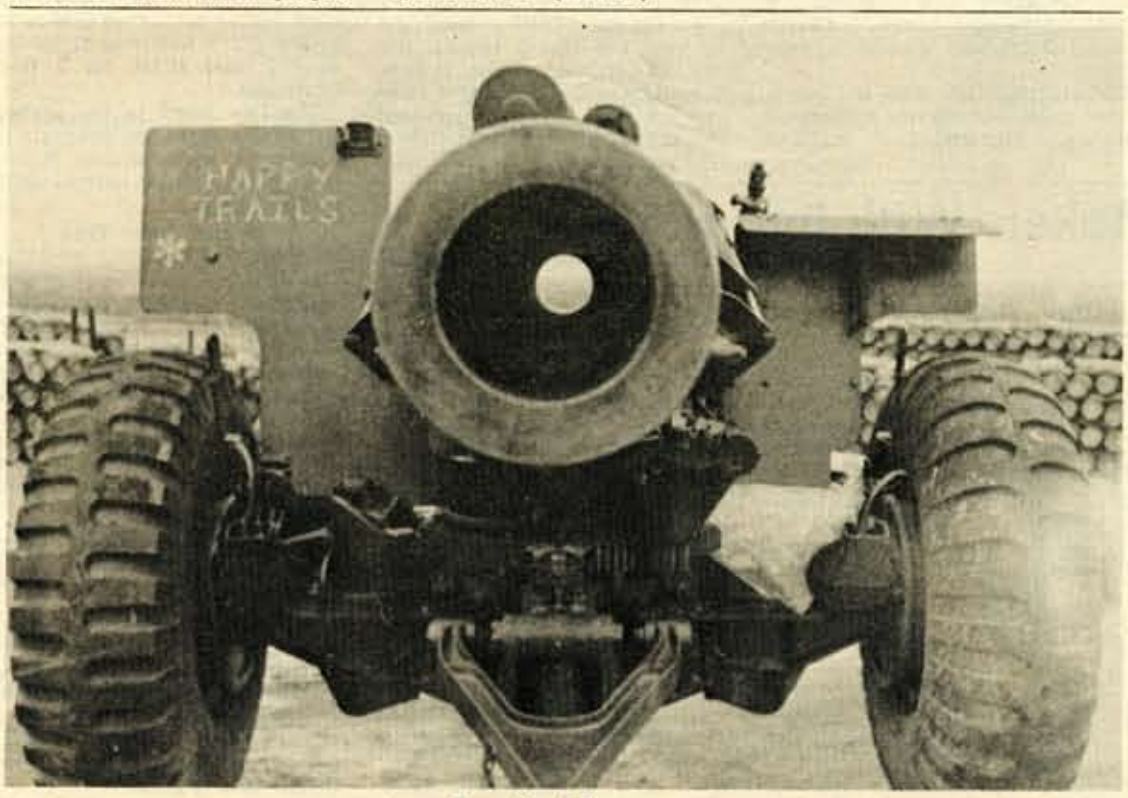
San Juan Charge Repulsed

LZ SAN JUAN HILL — Superb defensive positions, excellent artillery and illumination support, plus the well-trained American "Grunt" with his M-16 weapon were the ingredients that squashed a North Vietnamese attack on the approaches to this fire base. Defending the approaches were the 11th Bde. soldiers of B Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf.

"It was dusk when the enemy started to shell our positions with mortar fire," said CPT James Hurley (Canton, S.D.). "There was just enough light for the enemy to adjust their mortar fire, and as darkness enveloped our perimeter all sides reported small arms fire."

The battle ground was on the northern approaches to the fire base. "When the enemy mortars ceased, we could hear movement to our front. Enemy small arms fire from an estimated 150 NVA was coming into our perimeter," said SFC Robert L. Shannahan (Salina, Kan.).

At first light, B Co. sweeps of the area revealed 21 NVA were killed in the attack. (11th IO)



Trail Blazer

This 155mm howitzer stands ready to open a few gaps in enemy forces. The gun is part of the 1st Bn., 82nd Arty., located on LZ Liz, 35 miles south of Chu Lai.
(Photo by SP4 Lou Pearson, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

A VIP Drops In At 3-82

LZ BALDY — General Creighton Abrams, USARV commander, visited various installations throughout the 196th Inf. Bde. Included in the itinerary was a tour of the fire support base at LZ Center.

As Gen. Abrams toured B Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., he shook hands and stopped to talk with some of the soldiers.

SGT David Galliher (Pensacola, Fla.) escorted the general around the 3-82 "big gun" section, showing him parts of the 105mm howitzer and the fighting bunkers around the parapet.

"General Abrams seemed pleased with the armaments," said Galliher. "Everything was in good order. I was proud to meet him and explain my section's functions."

CPT Felix Peterson (Madison, Wisc.), battery commander stated, "General Abrams liked the layout of the battery, especially the construction of the gun parapets. He was pleased with the living quarters, the way the bunkers were secured, and how they were strategically well-placed and well-fortified."

Also accompanying General Abrams were LTC Herbert Knight (Oxon Hill, Md.), battalion commander, and 1SG James Kelley (Lawton, Oka.) (196th IO)

Religion And You

Move Toward Good

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

Habit is the key to efficient human action. But efficiency is not enough. Efficiency alone can lead either to happiness or to misery. A man can wreck his life just as efficiently as he can make it a success. Efficiency must be constructive rather than destructive.

Destructive habits are called vices. Constructive habits are called virtues. Vices harm man's humanity and tend to reduce him to the level of a wild beast Virtues perfect his humanity and increase his likeness to God.

Virtue is good habit by which man lives rightly, and which he can never put to a bad use. Virtues perfect man's powers in the pursuit of truth and goodness.

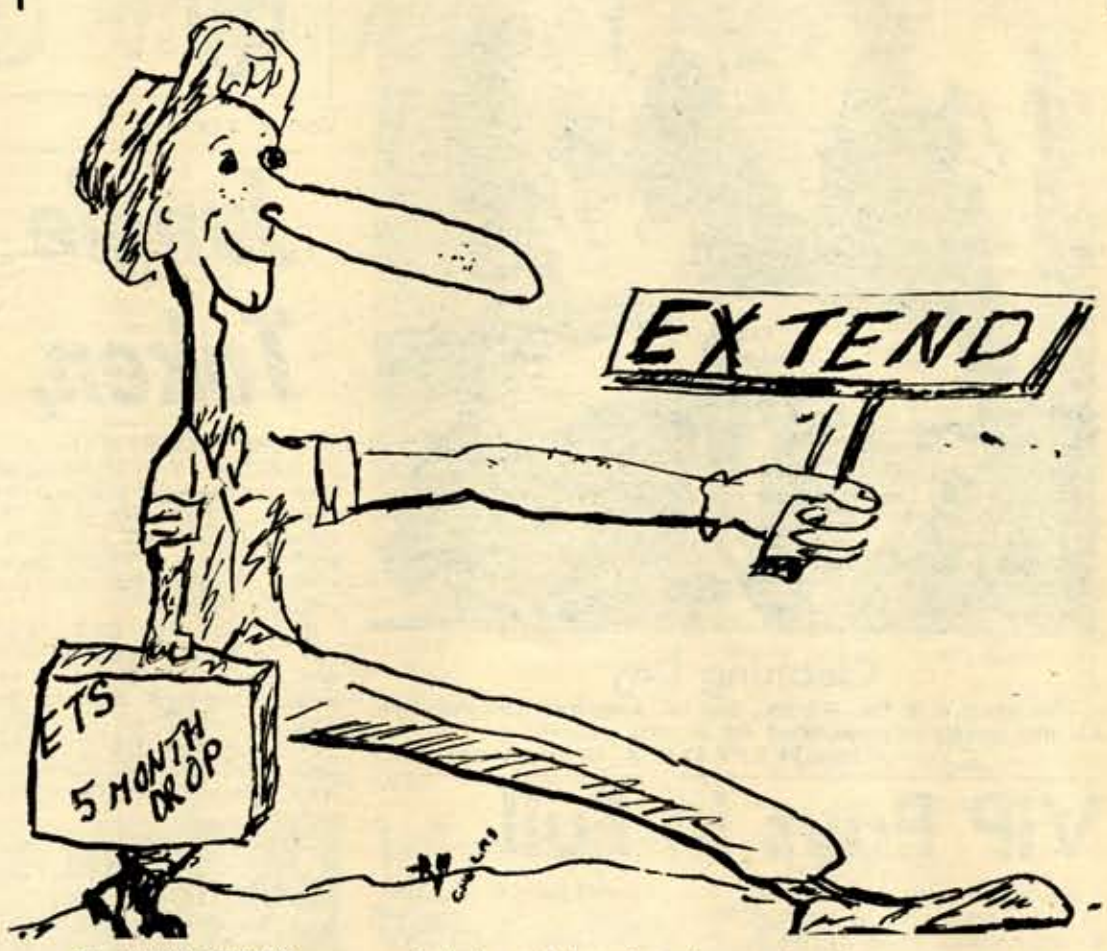
Virtue is a neccesity for good living. It is a good habit by which men work well. Virtues can be related to action in two ways —imperfectly and perfectly. Some virtues give man the ability to work well, but they do not of themselves give him the right use of that ability.

A carpenter may know well how to make a desk—he possesses the intellectual virtue of art—but this knowledge alone does not produce a good desk. This carpenter may make a poor desk because of laziness or bad will. His art then makes him a good carpenter, but it does not necessarily make him a good man. His art is only an imperfect or relative virtue for while it makes him a good carpenter potentially, it does not make him a good man.

On the other hand there are virtues which give a man not only the ability to work well but also the right use of that ability.

The virtue of justice not only enables a man to pay his debts on time but it gives him the right use of that ability. It produces the act of paying the debt. Such virtues are perfect virtues and so they are called simply virtue. (Adapted from Saint Thomas Aquinas.)

Extend And Grab Bennies



By JAMES BROWN

What does time mean to you? Almost every soldier in Vietnam, considers time daily, and has some thoughts about it.

The soldier charts time — the time he has spent or the amount he has left in Vietnam becomes numbers and graphics.

A day is scratched off a short-timer's calendar with the professional accuracy of a mapmaker.

Time Watchers

Then the big question is asked: "Are you going to extend?" Well, are you — you probably heard this a few days after you arrived in country along with the chants of "short!" As time ticked off you saw people extend, and you came up with a conclusion that there might be something to it after all.

Using deductive logic, you figured that if other troops were looking into extension possibilities, then there must be some "bennies" under the surface of things.

Facts and chances don't get by you. The search begins. Every little clue is essential to your investigation. You are still looking for facts, finally you get around to the Personnel Office, and you strike "pay dirt".

It is learned that the advantages are money, a 30-day special leave or R&R, choice of assignment, and up to 150 days early out from active duty. You can't really believe this, so you ask the personnel representative to repeat himself. It's true — dreams begin to focus into reality.

You learn that the extension program was initiated by the Army to help reduce personnel turbulence, both here and back in the States. Bringing replacement personnel to Vietnam is rather expensive and time consuming. It is also hard to orient them, and get them working in their new jobs. Sending a soldier back to a stateside assignment for four or five months also means that in a short time he will have to be replaced.

Good News

The program works in the interest of the Army and you. You receive overseas pay and hostile fire pay while in Vietnam. Plus, all your earnings are tax-free.

A six-month extension will earn you an additional $750 or so as a E-4. It's well over $1,000 for an E-7, and $1,500 for a first lieutenant.

The key word to the money side of the extension program is additional, which means that it is over and above normal military earnings.

Dreams Come True

The extra leave may probably also interest you. Anyone that extends for three to six months is eligible for an additional R&R leave. You'll still have all your accrued leave after you return stateside because this additional leave isn't charged against your regular accrued leave time. The military will also provide free round-trip transportation to your leave destination.

Now you have an outstanding chance to see London, Paris, Rome, or go home and visit your family.

That specific duty assignment with the unit of your choice is awaiting you. The only thing that you have to do is, state that you will extend your tour for a certain period of time if your request for assignment to a particular unit is granted.

A position vacancy for which you are qualified at the unit which you have requested and that the unit will accept you, are the only requirements to be met.

Too Good To Be True

You may also be qualified for the 150-day (three months for officers) early out program by taking the tour extension. The current Army policy states that all servicemen returning stateside from short tour areas such as Vietnam with less than 150 (90) days will ETS immediately upon their arrival in CONUS.

If your present DEROS gets you home with more than 150 (90) days left to serve, you probably are interested in extending your tour so that your new DEROS will fall within the limit. Since there is no maximum or minimum time for which you may or must extend, your new DEROS can be easily arranged. You may extend to whatever period of time would be best for you. However, only one extension of less than 90 days will be approved; extensions over 90 days have no limited number.

How about eligibility — you are eligible if you are permanently assigned to a military unit in Vietnam. As you probably know, you must have enough time prior to ETS to complete the period of extension. If you don't have enough time, you must extend your ETS or re-enlist.

It Pays

So you've decided to extend after your investigation into the facts? But you must keep in mind that the 30-day leave has to be in one period — not 10 days now and 20 days later. If you fail to return the allotted period to include travel time, and delay was unavoidable, all extra days will be charged against your accrued leave. Your leave may be taken up to 90 days before normal DEROS, but not later than 30 days into your extension.

In taking that leave to CONUS, your leave orders must be indorsed at your point of debarkation (place of arrival), where return travel instructions are also received.

However, if you take leave in a foreign area where U.S. military is stationed, you must have your orders indorsed at the local military replacement center. In other areas, you will get your orders indorsed and will receive return transportation at the U.S. embassy or consulate.

RE-UP! ARMY

Electronics: Suave Circuits

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

This field is concerned with employing wire, radio, messenger, visual and sound mediums in the combat branches. The many MOS's range from laying field wire to operation of a unit communication center.

Communications equipment must be installed, operated, maintained, and repaired. The many specialists necessitate a corps of supervisory non-commissioned officers, so promotions are likely for the qualified worker. The action-type life calls for good physical condition, and ability to think and act fast in hazardous situations.

The general cryptographic repairman keeps the systems in operation that transmit and receive classified messages. Electrical and mechanical theories are applied in testing and repairing cryptographic and teletypewriter equipment.

The aviation electronic equipment repairman maintains electronic equipment which includes communication, navigation, stabilization and identification systems and their related components.

The aircraft control system mechanic services remote controlled aircraft units. He uses test equipment and hand tools in maintaining radio receiver-selectors, gyroservo units, autopilot equipment, control box coders, transmitters and ground antenna systems.

The various MOS's in this field are concerned with the operation and maintenance of fixed station radio and carrier equipment. They ready standby equipment and make adjustments to maintain operating efficiency of circuits.

Outfox Grief Makers With Information

CHU LAI — Numerous hoax calls to relatives of personnel serving in Vietnam have been reported. These hoax calls have caused considerable anguish and discomfort to the next of kin who are unaware of Department of Army notification procedures.

The hoax calls are malicious and relate primarily to false reports of death, missing in action, absence without leave, desertion, or other related matters concerning personnel status. The adverse and traumatic impact on the unwary is obvious.

Spare Grief

Spare your relatives this grief! Advise them that they may be the recipient of such a contemptible call, and that any such telephone call concerning your status should be immediately recognized as a hoax.

If your status requires notification to your loved ones, the Army does not use the telephone. Notification is made by a personally delivered message by Army representatives, where identity can immediately be verified.

The Army's Way

Also the Army might notify by a Western Union telegram which can be verified with the Western Union office from which it was received; or the Army forward correspondence directly from the Department of Army.

The purpose for notifying your next of kin determines the means used.

See page 7 for cutout to send home to your loved ones. Help stampout the many hoax calls. (Americal IO)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized periodic publication of the Americal Division Information Office for division units in the Republic of Vietnam. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division, APO 96374. Tel: Chu Lai 2414. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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SGT Alfred Anthony Jr. ..... Staff Artist

Gasline Is Pulse Of Div.

CHU LAI — The success of a battle can be determined by fuel as Field Marshal Rommel (The Desert Fox) discovered when his armored units exhausted their petroleum supply in the desert battle, El Alamein.

An endless supply reaches Americal fuel tanks through the daily efforts of Co.'s A and B, 23rd Supply and Trans. Bn.

"We requisition fuel from the Naval storage yard in Chu Lai where we send our tankers daily," said 1LT John H. Strube (Hiawatha, Kan.), battalion petroleum and lubricants (POL) officer.

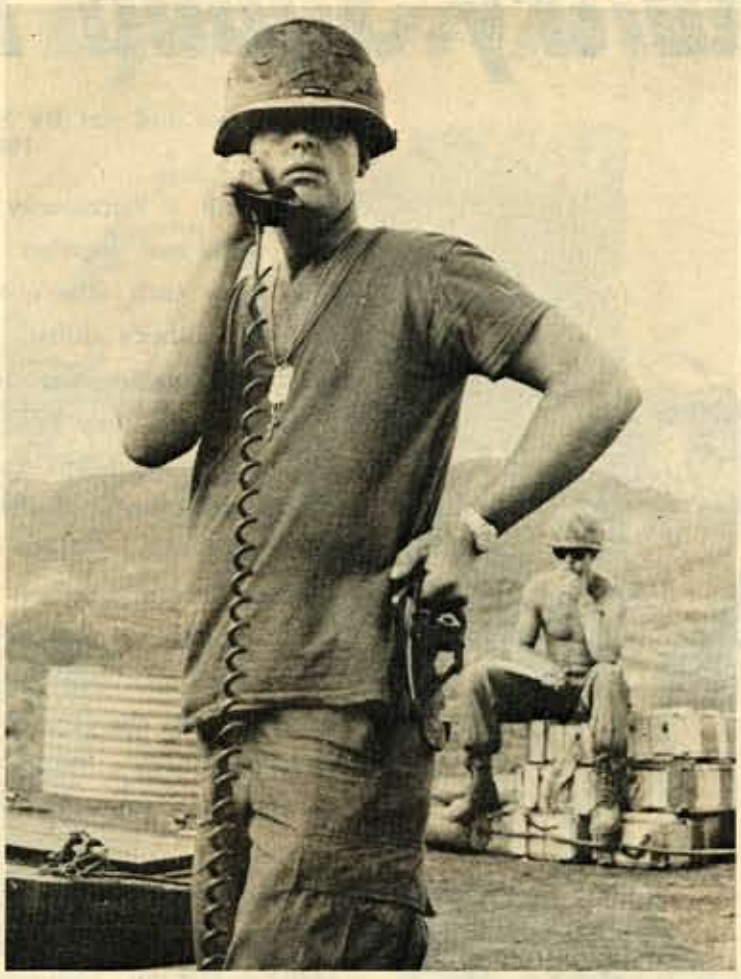
The tankers are assigned a convoy position and roll north or south on Hwy. 1 to fill storage tanks on landing zones scattered throughout southern I Corps. They also fill the tanks at the POL point in Chu Lai.

Types of fuel fall into two categories, bulk fuel and packaged products. Bulk fuel includes JP4 "chopper" fuel, motor-gas, and diesel. Packaged products (drums) generally contain motor oil, kerosene, cleaning solvent, and aviation fuel.

"We control the distribution of bulk fuel and packaged products at the POL retail point," said SFC Willis Simpson (Birmingham, Ala.). "To serve the Chu Lai area, we have a bulk fuel storage capacity of 22,000 gallons and we are able to store almost 2,400 drums."

Charts are kept on the flow of fuel. "An LZ calls and says they need 5,000 gallons of motor-gas," said 1LT Strube. "We mark this on our chart and compute our orders accordingly."

The success of a battle still depends on the flow of petroleum but with 804 thousand gallons of fuel feeding bottomless Americal tanks monthly, it is unlikely Rommel's predicament will recur.



Is This The MARS Station?

SGT Billy Morris (Appling, Ga.), a fire direction controller for C Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., listens carefully as he receives instructions for firing another volley at the enemy.
(Photo by SP5 M. L. Hoskinson, Americal IO)

Arty. ARVNs Team, Pound NVA Force

By PFC CARL EKENGREN

LZ WEST — Through the combined efforts of Americal and ARVN soldiers, a major enemy offensive was thwarted near Hiep Duc.

A liaison team from the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty. comprised of CPT Paul Jenkins (Orlando, Fla.), CPL Wilbert Jackson (Welch, La.), and SP4 Sheldon Dotterrer (Los Angeles) undertook a mission that not only created a stronger tie between American and ARVN soldiers but also helped the ARVNs to help themselves.

"Our major task as part of this liaison team," said Dotterrer, "was to coordinate with the ARVN artillery on LZ West for the support of the 3rd Bn., 5th Regt. of the 2nd ARVN Div. and help to destroy major NVA infiltration routes into the Republic of Vietnam."

For eight days the three-man liaison team, along with two advisors from the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), worked closely with the 350-man ARVN battalion in the area directly south of LZ West across the Song Chang River plotting grid coordinates and calling in artillery support.

"We went out in the field with the ARVN force," said CPT Jenkins, "so that when we returned to West we could help the ARVNs on the landing zone to better coordinate their artillery in support of the battalion."

As a result of this team being in the field, two things were accomplished — not only did the combined artillery support of the ARVNs on LZ West and the Americal soldiers help support the 3rd Bn., 5th Regt., it also helped U.S. soldiers on these fire support bases.

"While we were in the field, we called for artillery support from our B Btry. on LZ Center and C Btry. on LZ Siberia. Because of the perfect coordination between us and the batteries we were able to prevent the enemy from advancing toward those landing zones," said Dotterrer.

"I learned a new way of life while working with the ARVNs," said Jackson, "not only do you learn to look out for yourself but also for your buddies. Teamwork between the men in the field and the artillery batteries is of utmost importance."

"I think," continued Jackson, "the ARVNs learned a lot as a result of our presence with them. Certainly they learned to respect the ultimate capability of the artillery. I believe the ARVNs now have more confidence in their own abilities to effectively destroy the enemy." (196th IO)

Captain Speaks Nine Fluently

Languages Easy For World Traveler

LZ CENTER — Somewhere under the steel pot of CPT Boudewijn W. Van Pamelen (Hazlet, N.J.) lies an adroit aptitude for grasping languages. This S-2 officer for the Division's 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., has nine languages under his helmet.

Born and raised in the Dutch East Indies, CPT Van Pamelen was required to speak fluent French, German, English, Italian and his native language, Dutch, as a prerequisite for graduating from high school.

His schooling, however, was interrupted when the Japanese invaded the Dutch East Indies. With other Dutch citizens, he was evacuated to a POW compound near Singapore. Only seven years old at the time, he attended a nearby Chinese school and preceeded to learn that language.

After two years of captivity, the captain was released, returned home, and completed high school. Next he attended the University of Indonesia where, in order to learn the courses being taught at the school, he first had to learn the Indonesian language, and afterwards Malaysian.

When he transferred the next year, the 33-year-old captain attended the University of Holland, where constant use of his former high school languages fixed them permanently in his mind.

Drafted into the Dutch Army before he was able to graduate, CPT Van Pamelen attended officer training. After two years of service as a lieutenant, he returned to school and earned a degree in economics from the University of Holland.

Following graduation he attended the University of Denver as an exchange student for one semester to earn the equivalent of an American degree.

During this time he decided that he wanted to remain in the U.S. as a citizen. He joined the Army to speed the process by four years, applied for OCS, was graduated and assigned to the Special Warfare Center at Ft. Bragg, N.C. It was here, during six months instruction, that he learned Vietnamese.

CPT Van Pamelen's following tour of duty brought him to Europe, at which time he had ample opportunity to exercise his various European languages.

Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

SP4 James Ball, 198th Bde; CPT George Blake, 123rd Avn. Bn; SP4 Thomas Chase, 198th Bde; CPT Brian Chermol, 198th Bde; 1LT Roger Faust, 6-11 Arty; SFC Andres Garza, 198th Bde; 1LT James Gordon, 198th Bde; 1LT John Gundy, 198th Bde; SP4 Richard Minor, 1st Cav; 2LT Steven Rapier, 82nd Arty; PFC Vincent Sitoski, 198th Bde; SP5 Dale Mells, 198th Bde.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

CPT Lavern Austin, 123rd Avn. Bn; 1LT Geoffrey Buckley, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 David Washington, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; CW2 Avn. Bn; WO1 Thomas Dana, 14th Cmt. Avn. Bn; CPT George Handley, 123rd Avn. Bn; CW2 Dennis Lord, 123rd Avn. Bn; 1LT Bernard Mier, 174th Avn. Co; WO1 Steven Moy, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; CW2 Ronald Olivotti, 123rd Avn Bn; WO1 Charles Preaus, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP6 John Ried, 123rd Avn. Bn; WO1 Michael Riley, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 David Washington, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; CW2 John Wiley, 123rd Avn. Bn.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

CPL Leonard Collier, 3-16th Arty.

BRONZE STAR WITH "V" DEVICE

CPT George Alexander, 1-14th Arty; 1LT Michael Anderson, 198th Bde; 1LT Charles Arthur, 198th Bde; 1LT Donald Bullock, 198th Bde; WSGT Robert Carpenter, 198th Bde; SP4 Gary Casper, 26th Engr. Bn; LTC Reed Davis Jr., 198th Bde; SP4 Robert Devonshire, 1st Cav; SSG Gerald Dixon, 198th Bde; SP4 Johnnie Edwards, (1st OLC), 198th Bde; SP4 James Ferris, 198th Bde; SP4 Tucher Grant, 1st Cav; PFC James Hadwin, 55th Arty; PFC Edward Jacobs, 198th Bde; SP4 Roberto Jiminez, 198th Bde; PFC Joseph Johnson, 198th Bde; SP4 Lavern Johnson, 198th Bde; SP4 David Kaye, 198th Bde; CPL Daniel Laizure, 198th Bde; SP5 Remberto Martinez-Jimenez, 123rd Avn. Bn; SP4 Hebert Messer, 198th Bde; 2LT Donald Much, 198th Bde; MAJ Edward Neary, 198th Bde.

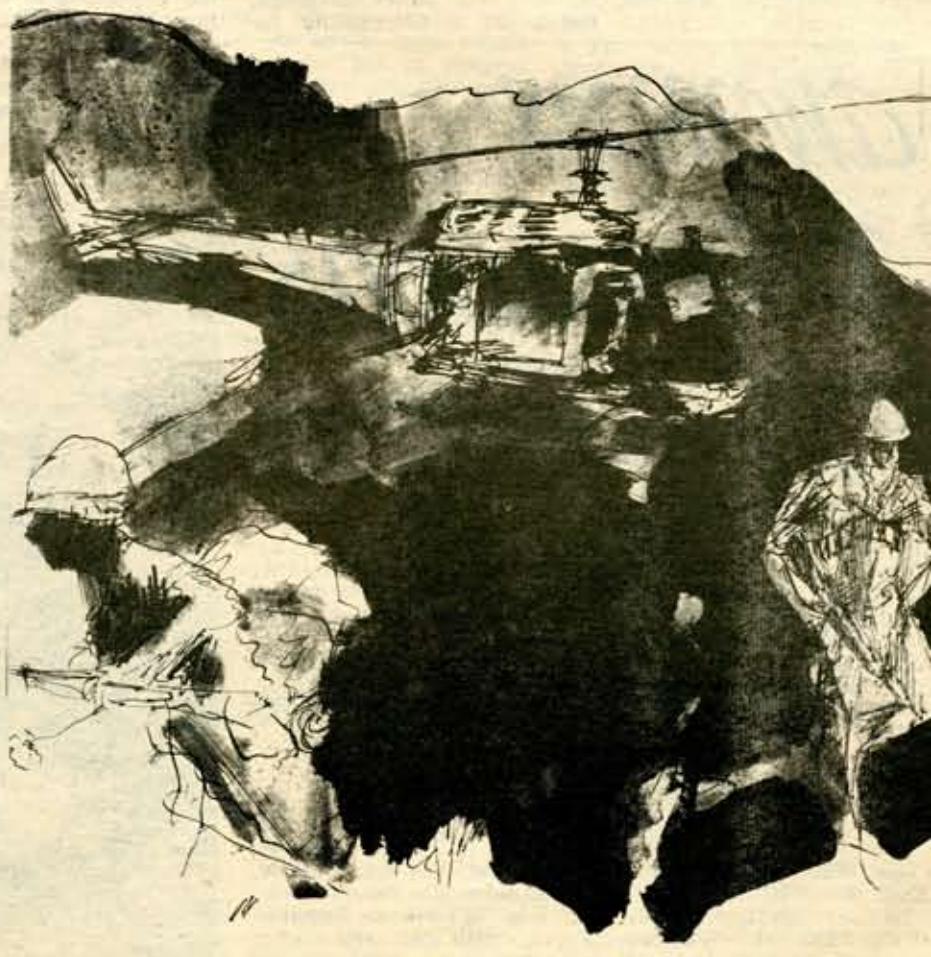
RESORTING TO HIS KNOWLEDGE OF VIETNAMESE when necessary, CPT Boudewijn Van Pamelen confers with a Vietnamese interpreter. CPT Van Pamelen's knowledge of the language helps him coordinate the Kit Carson Scout Program.
(Photo by SP5 John Ramanauskas, Americal IO)

A Fighting Infantry Squad Reflec

Poem and Art By SGT ALFRED ANTHON
198th Bde.

The squad is necessarily made of men
Who work well together
Who know each other's habits of movement
And each other's skills;
Each man complements another
In this manner they fight together
The smallest unit but the foot
Of the giant body of the Army
The squad walks silently
Fighting fear in isolation
By the soundless murmur of its talk
Where each man must be the other's friend—
Be able to do the other's job.
They fight with a fierce grin
To keep alive the camaraderie.

The eight men snake
Between the trees of Vietnam
Ford its streams, sleep beneath its green canopies
Just as a lone man would, a single being;
Each man's eyes map the course
For the man on point
Each carries a share of rounds for the gunner.
There are hardly any names in the squad
When each face has become so familiar
Many times there is no need for talk.
When they are shooting
It is like eight men firing a single weapon
Each man's purpose is so close.



I Through Eyes Of A Combat Artist

Big Brag Silenced With Costly Battle

LZ BALDY—Americal infantrymen were locked in combat with two regiments of NVA recently 17 miles southwest of Tam. Ky. The violent ten-day battle claimed 516 enemy lives.

The unit involved was a task force comprised of companies from 4th Bn., 31st Inf. and 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.

Early fighting saw 59 NVA soldiers killed and six captured when an element of the 2nd NVA Div. was surprised before it could launch a pre-dawn assault at LZ West.

A sweep of the area turned up a small enemy arsenal. Scattered on the slopes of the fire support base were RPGs, rocket launchers, and explosive charges.

NVA forces hoped to destroy the American-supervised Hiep Duc refugee center. The enemy had vowed they would wreck the center and disperse or kill its 3,000 civilian inhabitants. Broadcast messages told the refugees that no one could stop the NVA efforts.

"The American and South Vietnamese governments cannot protect you," boomed the loudspeakers. "We will wipe out your settlement."

The infantrymen of the Americal made the NVA eat their words.

In subsequent fighting, B Co., 4-31 Inf. encountered a large bunker complex near hill 118. Enemy machinegunners pelted the Americans from concealment.

Reinforcements came immediately. A platoon from C Co. joined in the fight, and helicopter gunships from F Trp., 8th Cav., rained deadly fire on the enemy positions.

The battle raged for ten days. Most of the action involved contact that soon mushroomed into heavy exchanges of fire.

Elements of the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., provided invaluable firepower throughout the operation. Explosions rocked enemy bunkers, accounting for many enemy deaths and clearing the way for an infantry assault.

Combat In Review

The Long Trek

As the sun begins to set, infantrymen of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. fall into dispersed lines as they head toward their night laager position. The 198th Bde. soldiers were participating in a cordon and search operation west of Quang Ngai. (Photo by PFC D.K. Williams, Americal IO)

Alert

While on a search and clear mission 16 miles southwest of Chu Lai, SGT John Shepardson (Owega, N.Y.) moves alertly across a rice paddy. Shepardson is a member of the 198th Bde.'s 5th Bn., 46th Inf. (Photo by PFC James R. Small, 523rd Sig Bn.)

"Chief" Walks Point

Penetrating Eyes Save Lives

LZ BALDY — With the sharp eyes of a cat, SP4 Neil McKinnon (Eureka, Calif.) can pierce the night. At least that is how his fellow platoon members feel.

It was on a very dark night when E Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., operating 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky, broke camp and began heading toward another location.

"I was supposed to be the second man in the order of march. But our point man was sick and I was nominated to replace him," said McKinnon, a Yurok Indian, from a small tribe in California.

"I always feel better when the 'Chief' is walking point," said PFC Ron Justice (Los Angeles). "We all feel that Neil is the best point man in the whole battalion."

Unseen to McKinnon and the rest of the platoon members was a VC warning of an upcoming booby trap. It was a piece of paper on a rock, 100 meters from a bridge.

"I was cautiously crossing the bridge when my leg felt a wire going across it. I immediately stopped and held my breath," related McKinnon. Looking down, his keen cat-like vision pierced the darkness and saw a fine trip wire running ahead of him.

The Yurok Indian ran his hand across the wire as he signaled for his fellow soldiers to take cover. Coming to a hand grenade, McKinnon recited some quick prayers, then seized the explosive by the handle.

"I just thank God that it didn't go off," smiled the point man.

After wrapping wire around the grenade, the 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers continued on their way with a sigh of relief. (196th IO)

Blast Destroys Tunnels

LZ STINSON — A tunnel complex that took the NVA an estimated one year to build, collapsed in thirty seconds of spewing dust, rumbling earth, and a rising column of smoke near this 198th Bde. forward fire base.

Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., were guided to the nearly 400 meters of tunnel by two former enemy soldiers. The two brothers had rallied to the friendly forces under the Chieu Hoi program.

"The tunnels have been used quite recently," said PFC Harry S. Little Jr., (Beaver Falls, Pa.), a "tunnel rat" for A Co. "I found an empty food can that couldn't have been over a few days old."

NVA units were believed to have used the tunnels as sleeping quarters and shelter from air strikes and artillery.

"They weren't really wide enough to make good supply storage areas but by sleeping head-to-toe they probably could have held over 200 men," said Little.

LTC Reed E. Davis Jr., (Omaha, Neb.), battalion commander, said it was the third large tunnel complex his men have destroyed in the last two months.

"Some NVA unit is going to be awfully disappointed when they find themselves down here with no place to hide," the colonel said.

The tunnels — as deep in some areas as 12 to 14 feet below the surface — required 3,500 pounds of cratering charges to collapse them.

In leading the Americans to the tunnels the Hoi Chanhs also pointed out two nearby rice caches and three booby traps surrounding the area near the tunnels. (198th IO)

Pistol Toting NVA Won't Tote Again

LZ BRONCO — A pistol-toting commander of the 90th Sapper Bn., 3rd NVA Div. was killed when an element of the 11th Inf. Bde. broke-up an ambush positioned to hit a minesweep team 10 miles southeast of here.

Road security was being pulled by A Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf. between the villages of Duc Pho and Sa Huynh when the ambush was spotted on an abandoned railroad just off highway 1.

Moving in and engaging the enemy force, the company killed two high-ranking NVA cadre and captured several documents substantiating the identity of the NVA unit and positions that the two dead men held.

One of the dead was identified as the battalion CO of the 90th Sapper Bn. The other was a recon platoon leader.

The Bn. CO was carrying a 90mm Chinese-made pistol and several documents addressed from the company commanders to the battalion commander. A table of attacks scheduled to go into effect, was also found on his person.

The time-table called for an attack on a U.S. outpost, an ambush of a convoy and a plan calling for the planting of obstructions and mines on the road followed by an ambush of a minesweep team.

These attacks did occur later, but the units threatened were alerted as a result of this intelligence interpreted by the 11th Bde.'s S-2 section and the 1st MI Team, on LZ Bronco.

"It was obvious by these documents that these men were of some authority," noted an Intelligence Specialist.

The 90th Sapper Bn. is an NVA outfit of sappers and engineers especially trained to penetrate installation defenses and destroy or harass road projects. (11th IO)

Surplus Mess Food Put To Special Use

LZ GATOR — Waste material from the mess halls at this battalion basecamp has been put to good use by feeding it to hogs at a nearby village.

1LT Jerry Gooden (Burlington, Iowa), civil affairs officer for 198th Inf. Bde.'s 5th Bn., 46th Inf., explained that from six to nine barrels of food scraps gathered at the mess halls are sent daily to the hamlet of Tri Binh, and used as hog feed.

The village chief told U.S. officials that the program is helping the hamlet's economy in that now he and the other people are able to buy additional livestock, since they are now capable of feeding them. (198th IO)

Suggested Weapons Fee

VIP Gives Payment For Deadly Objects

CHU LAI—The voluntary information program (VIP) is an effort of U.S. forces to buy information, ammo and weapons from the Vietnamese civilians, thus helping supplement allied intelligence and denying the VC another avenue of supply.

CPT Edward C. Prytko (New Britian, Conn.), of the Division Civil Affairs section, works in the "advertising department" of VIP.

"We are responsible for letting the people in the Division area know that they can be rewarded for turning in any munitions or information vital to the safety of our troops in the field and also themselves," said CPT Prytko.

According to people connected with Civil Affairs in the Division, close to 9,000 rounds of munitions, including anything from an M-16 round to a 105mm howitzer shell have been turned over yearly to U.S. authorities.

Besides publicizing the program, the Americal's 635th Military Investigation Det. delegates funds to keep the worthwhile operation moving. This valuable assistance aids the men who actually transact this sometimes dangerous work, the men in the field.

The average day for a VIP worker in the field begins early in the morning at a spot near his basecamp that has been established as a demolitions pit. The local civilians know this spot well and they tell the VIP worker about that which could be detrimental to allied lives and equipment.

In the Americal, 1,429 artillery rounds were turned over to U.S. authorities between January 1 and June 30, 1969.

"We figure that we saved quite a lot of money and friendly lives by paying the Vietnamese for these dud rounds, especially when you stop to think of these artillery rounds planted in roads as mines, blowing up our trucks and personnel," said CPT Prytko.

Infantrymen can also buy information and munitions from civilians in the field. The Vietnamese readily accept a receipt for their trouble if the soldier has no money, cashing them in at the nearest American installation.

The VIP program has proven extremely effective over the past two years in the Division.

	(Americal IO)
Hand grenade or rifle grenade	500$ VN
Pistol	500$ VN
Pifle, semi auto or bolt action	1000$ VN
Rifle Auto	1500$ VN
Submachine gun	2000 $ VN
Machine gun, 30 cal or 50 cal	5000$ VN
Mortar 60/81/82 mm	5000$ VN
M-79 Grenade Launcher	2000$ VN
Recoiless rifle	5000$ VN
Artillery piece less than 100 mm	15000$ VN
Artillery piece or mortar over 100 mm	20000$ VN
Pockets 122 & 140 mm or larger	20000$ VN

MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS

Mines or booby traps	500$ VN
If a mine or booby trap is reported which has been set by the enemy	2500$ VN

FOR PAYMENTS AND INFORMATION SEE YOUR BATTALION S-5/S-2.

"The arm or leg you save may be your own".

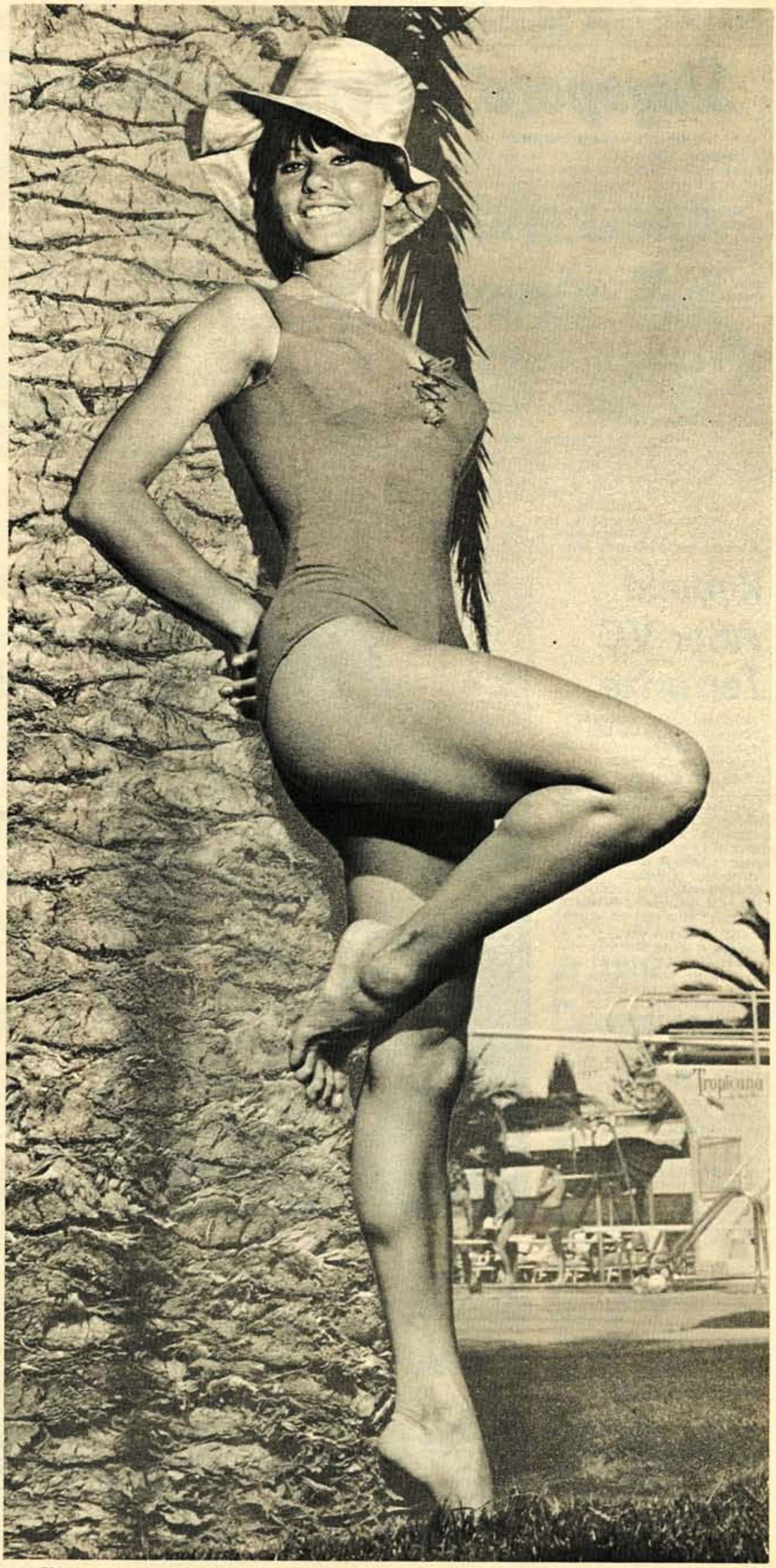
Cutout—Send Home

Stamp Out Hoax Calls

Many relatives of Vietnam stationed servicemen have been receiving hoax telephone calls concerning the health and welfare of these soldiers. Any such call should be immediately recognized as a hoax.

If the soldier's status requires notification to loved ones, the Army does not use the telephone. Notification is made by a personally delivered message by Army representatives, where you can immediately verify the notice's authenticity.

The Army might notify an individual by a Western Union telegram which can be verified with the Western Union office.



You may never see a poem as lovely as a tree, but this lovely miss from Cologne, Germany is something else. Sorry fellas, Cologne is not an R&R site.

Part VII In A Special Series On R&R Sites

Singapore Offers International Flavor

By CPT CARY S. SKLAREN

Singapore, the "Lion City," at the tip of the Malaysian Peninsula, one degree north of the Equator, is a bustling, cosmopolitan, Oriental metropolis with a large dose of its British colonial upbringing.

Most everyone speaks English, but if your mother tongue is Mandarin, Sanskrit, Arabic, French, Japanese, Hebrew, or just about anything else, you'll be equally at home.

People are the most enticing characteristic of the city, and they form an exciting mixture of Chinese, Indians, Australians, Malaysians, British, Indonesians, ad infinitum.

Because of the city's unique nature as a duty-free trading post of the world, it is more renowned for its shopping than for sights. Almost anything one can want is bartered across its counters. Silks from Japan and Thailand, batik cotton from Indonesia, gems from Burma, nickel silver from India, pewter from Pelangor and Malaysia, as well as the city itself, are readily available.

British woolens are measured and tailored in three days by the hundreds of small custom fitters, Japanese and German cameras and electronic gear can be had at lower cost than in their native countries (though not as low as PX prices), oriental rugs are also in abundance.

A few important pointers, however. In all but the largest shops, bargaining is the rule. The original price listed on the item may be marked two, three, even four times what it is actually worth.

Shop Around

To develop your skills, and earn an appreciation of the value of various goods, browse through Robinson's Department Store in Raffles Place and C.K. Tang's Department Store on Orchard Rd. The mark up at these two stores, who have fixed-prices only, can then give you a point at which to evaluate the prices asked in the smaller shops.

Three major shopping areas are Raffles Place, near the harbor, Orchard Road, and North Bridge-Hill Street. Bargains also may be found on Arab St., near the Sultan Mosque, Armenian St., especially in the way of real lizard, snake, and crocodile leather goods, and throughout Chinatown.

Sightseeing can be added onto the shopping tours as it tends to get extremely hot in the afternoons in this equatorial Baghdad.

Delicious Food

Singapore is an new city, even by American standards, having been founded by Sir Thomas Raffles in 1819, and thus has only the culture assimilated from the many peoples that live in it, and nowhere is this more evident than in the food.

Gourmets open up your belts. Every imaginable concoction is waiting the curious gormandizer. Malaysian Satay, meat on a stick cooked over coals and dipped in a sweet, spicy peanut sauce is a delight with the ubiquitous Singapore Slings, and Gin and tonics. Muslim food, Kashmiri cuisine, French, British, Scottish, goodies and indescribable pastries are always available to tempt and delight. Numberless Chinese dishes cooked in every conceivable manner are also succulently served.

Many of the finer restaurants and all the hotels have cabarets with dancing and shows and many have no cover charge. Drinks vary from US $.65 to $1.25, and five course, scrumptious meals can be had for US $3.00. Some of the clubs have hostesses, especially the Chinese ones, but the girls of Singapore are exceedingly friendly and joyfully help foreign tourists.

Reasonable Rates

Dress is informal, though Singaporeans wear a short-sleeve shirt and tie, most of the time. Some restaurants and clubs require jackets in the evenings. The better hotels, Goodwood, Malayasia, Singapura, Cathay, Cruscreden, Ladykill, all start at $14-16 per night. There are good smaller hotels that cost around $10 per night and the R&R hotels offer fine accommodations at reasonable prices.

Taxis are very, very cheap, though rates do increase after 1 a.m. Be sure that the meter is set at $.40 Singapore, when you get in. Most drivers speak English. Buses are also very cheap, and if you avoid riding during rush hours, are quite relaxing.

American and English movies, with Mandarin subtitles, are plentiful and inexpensive. You can reserve a seat by phone, but be prepared to sit through a half hour of commercials before the feature. (Americal IO)

Rebuild After VC Terrorize

LZ BALDY — A platoon of VC terrorists ravaged the Phu Hiep refugee village located 17 miles north of Tam Ky City.

The remains of the village included burnt patches of ground and stone foundations standing in the ruins. The new school, which the villagers had built and were very proud of, had two gapping holes in the walls where VC rockets penetrated. The roof of the marketplace had jagged pieces of sky showing through as the result of mortar explosions.

SGT Robert Wiggins (Las Vegas), a heavy weapons advisor at Moc Bai, recalled what had taken place during the night, "The VC ran through the village with hand grenades and threw them into hooches."

When Pham Sung, the village chief, requested help in rebuilding the destroyed village, the Division's 196th Inf. Bde. Civil Affairs section came to his aid.

Under the direction of MAJ James Iha (Wahiwa, Hawaii) the devastated village was rebuilt by supplying over 8,000 pounds of scrap wood and 50 sheets of used tin brought in by truckloads to rebuild the razed homes.

The supplies went through Government of Vietnam (GVN) channels and were given to the village chief for equal distribution to the 35 families in need.

A GVN loud-speaker political warfare team from Quang Nam Province reassured the village population that the GVN would support and protect them in the future. The team also condemned the VC for the vicious and wanton raid on the peaceful farmers.

Members of the 3rd of the 82nd Arty.'s MEDCAP cared for 35 villagers suffering from fragmentation wounds. MEDCAP then called in choppers to evacuate 18 more seriously injured Vietnamese to Da Nang.

When Pham Sung was asked why the VC attacked, he stated, "They hit the village to capture men and scare people into working for them." However, the chief said his people would never leave their village. (196th IO)

A Little Care

SP4 Steve Daniel (Chicago), a Division medic with the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., cleans an open sore on the head of a young Vietnamese boy. Daniel is one man of a team of five working in the Hiep Duc refugee area 30 miles west of Chu Lai. The medics and doctors hold daily Medical Civic Action Programs in the Hiep Duc area. (Photo by SP4 Bill Crawford)

Cool Music Ties Friendship

CHU LAI — Music and poetry are two of the purest forms of communication between human beings and this was the goal of the Division Band this week at the 2nd ARVN Div. headquarters in Quang Ngai City.

Under the current direction of WO John Murat (Orlando, Fla.) the bandmen presented a well-balanced concert for the men of the 2nd ARVN Div. Recon. Co. The two part performance covered the spectrum—U.S. and Vietnamese marches to pop music.

Among the many highlights of the first half of the performance was a moving arrangement of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" featuring a vocal quintet composed of SSG Richard Auman (Latrobe, Pa.); SSG Elbert Wilkerson (San Pedro, Calif.); SP5 John E. Woodard (Portsmouth, Va.); SP4 William Cody (Jersey City, N.J.); and SP4 Hank Kindell (Tampa).

The second part of the concert introduced the ARVNs to the "big band sound" of the 17-piece stage band under the direction of SP4 David Matlock (St. Petersburg, Fla.).

It only took a few minutes for the Vietnamese troops to start tapping their toes and "groovin' " to the driving bass beat of songs such as "Going Out of My Head" and "Mercy, Mercy."

The polished performance was highlighted with personal interpretations by saxophonist, SP4 Cody, drummer, SP4 Jerry White (Chattanooga), and trumpeter, SP4 David Karpilow (Bridgport, Conn.). (Americal IO)

Infantrymen Give Lifesaving Course

By PFC CARL EKENGREN

LZ BALDY — A refresher course in first aid is in store for Division soldiers on LZ Baldy.

Realizing the importance of proper first aid in time of emergency, the staff at the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty.'s aid station has taken steps to insure that the men of the batteries have a thorough knowledge of the four basic life-saving steps.

"It's important that as many men as possible be able to perform the four life-saving procedures," said SP5 Arthur Miller (Bradford, Pa.), a senior aidman.

"Inspite of the fact that all soldiers have been taught these steps in basic training, many have forgotten some of the important points. If we are attacked, at least there will be someone who can administer first aid. The medics can't be everywhere at once," added the aidman.

In addition, the course is aimed at showing what to do in case someone has a stomach, chest or head wound. Demonstrations are performed showing various ways to apply bandages to these wounds.

Miller explained: "One of the biggest mistakes people make in giving first aid to one of their buddies who has been shot is that they put a bandage on only one of the holes and forget about the other one. The majority of the time when a rifle round penetrates the body, it goes in at one point and out the other side; both holes must be blocked to prevent air from escaping."

"Don't panic when treating a wounded person. Be calm and always try to calm the patient. Talk to the wounded man and assure him that he will be alright," concluded the senior aidman.

The course is directed by SSG Lynwood Nozworthy (Columbus, Ga.) and SP5 Miller. (196th IO)

Duty With Importance

CHU LAI — CPT John A. Dawdy (Cincinnati), OIC of Support Command's S-5, regularly arranges and accompanies medical, dental and optometric civilian assistance programs to the islands off the coast of Chu Lai. CPT Dawdy, with the aid of an ARVN interpreter, SSG Thach An, works actively with village chiefs and other Vietnamese government officials on the various islands, helping to solve economic problems.

The latest phase in the civil affairs program began to take form when SSG An prepared and presented the first of a series of English lessons to the government officials and ARVN troops at the headquarters compound of Ky Xuan Island two miles off the coast. (Spt. Cmd IO)

Signals Meet

CHU LAI — A conference between Division signal officers of the 523rd Sig. Bn. and their Vietnamese counterparts from the 2nd ARVN Div. based at Quang Ngai was held for the first time here to establish a contact between the two signal elements.

Two ARVN officers, accompanied by CWO Clayton Bramhall, signal advisor to the 2nd ARVN Div., toured the division and the 198th Bde. signal facilities.

During this time, they received briefings to explain the signal mission and operation as well as to exchange ideas and mutual communications problems. (Americal IO)