SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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NVA Sappers Repelled In Fight-out

Time to saddle up as the men of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. board choppers to be combat assaulted into an area northwest of Quang Ngai. (Photo By PFC D.K. Williams, Americal IO)

CHU LAI—Sappers from NVA units operating in the Hiep Duc Valley were turned back in an attempt to overrun a Division fire base and pave the way for an attack on the refugee center at Hiep Duc, twenty miles west of Tam Ky.

The purpose of the early morning attack was evidently to tie up artillery gun crews in their own defense, so that another NVA force would not have to face the guns in attacking the refugee center. Both attacks failed.

In the early morning hours, LZ Siberia was hit by RPG, recoilless rifle, and intense automatic weapons fire. Sappers carrying grenades, satchel charges and flamethrowers moved up to the perimeter wire.

Their advance had been slowed by artillery fire from the battery on the hilltop base and by more rounds flying from LZ West, a nearby fire base. As contact continued, Army gunships and Air Force tactical air strikes were called in.

The two NVA companies moved up the hill from the west and the north and, after breaching the outer wire, used their grenades, satchel charges and flamethrowers to get close to the inner wire. But they ran head-on into combined infantry and artillery firepower which stopped them dead.

The defenders of the hill, a company from the 196th Bde.'s 4th Bn., 31st Inf., poured small arms fire on the NVA, stalling the attack at the wire. The effect of the 105mm howitzers from the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty. firing point blank into the NVA broke the attack and pushed it off the hill.

The retreating NVA left behind 32 dead on the slopes of LZ Siberia. One enemy was captured as infantrymen combed the weapon-strewn hill at first light. Among the captured equipment were rifles, grenades, satchel charges, several rocket launchers and one of the flamethrowers.

The following attack on Hiep Duc was folded by the combined efforts of the U.S. artillery and units of RF-PF soldiers based in Hiep Duc. As the enemy pushed toward the center from the west, air strikes and artillery broke up all coordination in their efforts. At this point, ARVN forces met the enemy units and drove them back.

The sapper attack and the drive toward the refugee center followed the same pattern as a similar attack on LZ West earlier, which kicked off 12 days of fighting around Hiep Duc. Both attacks have failed and LZs Siberia and West continue to stand guard over the Hiep Duc Valley.

4-21 Soldiers Honor CO Change Over

LZ BRONCO — In a ceremony held here with military decor and tradition, LTC Donald F. Hanson (Columbus, Ga.) handed over the reins-of-command of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. to LTC George R. H. Johnson (Xenia, Ohio).

LTC Johnson formerly was professor of military science of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps located at Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio.

New ADC; BG Clement Departs

CHU LAI — Two major changes took place in the Division chain of command. The assistant division commander for maneuver left to take a post in Saigon and the division chief of staff moved up to succeed him.

BG Wallace L. Clement has assumed new duties as director of the Training Directorate at the J-3 office of MACV. The general had held the position of ADC since December 1968.

His successor, COL John W. Donaldson has served the division in two other capacities. He commanded the 11th Inf. Bde. from Oct. 1968 to Mar. 1969 and has since served as chief of staff.

GEN Clement graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1940 as a second lieutenant in the cavalry. He saw action in North Africa and Europe in WW II, serving with the 804th Tank Destroyer Bn.

The general had a variety of assignments with cavalry units and attended the Armored Officers' Advanced Course at Fort Knox after the war. After serving with infantry units during the Korean Conflict, he held positions in research and as a faculty member at the Army War College.

In mid-1960, GEN Clement began a four-year tour in Europe which included commanding the 14th Armored Cavalry Regt. in Germany. Shortly after his return to the U.S., he was nominated for BG, and received his star in 1966.

After a tour at the Pentagon and an assignment with the Combat Developments Command, he came to Vietnam and the Americal Division last December.

COL Donaldson also graduated from West Point, but in 1944. After serving with the 42nd Div. in Europe, he joined the occupation forces there and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris.

With this training, he returned to West Point as an instructor in French and German. In 1948 he was a member of the U.S. Pentathlon team for the Olympic Games in London. He taught at West Point until 1950 and then returned to Europe for a tour in Germany.

After serving with the 1st Inf. Div., he became Senior Aide and assistant XO to GEN Lauris Norstad, supreme commander of Allied Forces in Europe.

COL Donaldson has also attended the Air War College and holds a master's degree in international affairs from George Washington University. Prior to taking over the 11th Bde., he spent 11 months as the Army member of the Staff Group of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In the ceremony, BG Clement received the Silver Star. In addition to this award, he holds the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit with two clusters, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Army Commendation Medal with cluster, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Italian Cross for Military Valor. (Americal IO)

BG Clement Assigned New Position.

11th CO Leaves With Honors

LZ BRONCO — In a colorful outdoor ceremony, COL Hugh F. T. Hoffman Jr. (San Antonio, Tex.) succeeded COL Jack L. Treadwell (Ashland, Ala.) as CO of the 11th Inf. Bde.

COL Treadwell who has been assigned as G-3 of 4th Army at Ft. Hood, Tex., has commanded the 11th Bde. since March.

In a brief farewell address, he noted the progress of the ARVN units operating in the area, saying, "they have proven that they will go where enemy situation dictates."

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey (Somerset, Ky.), commander of the Americal Division presented the outgoing brigade commander the Legion of Merit with second Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with one through twelve clusters, and the Soldiers Medal.

COL Hoffman served previously in Vietnam as deputy senior advisor to the 7th ARVN Div. in 1964-65. He comes to the 11th Bde. from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he was director of military instruction. The new commander is a 1948 graduate of the Academy.

"It is a privilege and a proud mission to maintain the record of the 11th Bde," said COL Hoffman.

Religion And You

The Cake Not Turned

CHAPLAIN (MAJ) CHARLES M. JOHNSON
HHC 196th Inf. Bde.

The ancient prophet, Hosea, once told the people of Israel that, religiously, they were like "a cake not turned." He was using as an illustration the practice of cooking a mixture of meal and water by pouring it over a very hot stone, a practice akin to our cooking of modern-day hotcakes. After one side was done, the cake was turned over so that the other side would cook. No one would think of not turning the cake. A half-baked cake was just as unappetizing in those days as it would be today.

Hosea used the expression, "a cake not turned," to describe the relationship of the people to God. Under the ancient covenant, He was to be their God and they to be His people.

But they had allowed this relationship to deteriorate to the point where, while they expected Him to continue as their benefactor, they felt free to ignore the basic loyalty which they owed to Him. Such a one-sided relationship was most worthy of Hosea's expression, "a cake not turned," for it was as unpleasant and as worthless as a half-baked cake.

As individuals and as members of a great nation, we frequently call upon God to watch over us and bless us with a special concern and providence. In this relationship, as in all the relationships of life, there are two sides. The privileges we enjoy are not free, but demand that we receive them with a fine sense of responsibility. If we desire the privilege of God's providence, we must act responsibly toward Him. If He is to be our God, we must be His people.

When you stop to think about it, that is a mighty fine arrangement: small investment—big return. That is the way it is when you give God a chance to act in your life.

VIETNAM-STYLE

By SP4 JAMES BROWN

The Newspaper Industry

The number of daily and weekly newspapers printed and distributed in the Republic of Vietnam has been extremely fluid since 1963. There were 10 Vietnamese newspapers at the end of 1956, two English newspapers and one Chinese newspaper among those considered most influential upon the population.

However, almost every month, newspapers are suspended, closed or discontinued publication for financial reasons, while new ones begin to publish. In mid-1966, there were 23 Vietnamese, two English, two French and 10 Chinese dailies published in Saigon; these, however, represented only a fraction of the more than 60 dailies and weeklies published throughout the country. The Vietnamese newspapers constantly change, while the number of those published in French, English and Chinese tends to remain about the same.

Something To Say Papers

The progovernment newspapers do not receive official subsidies from the government. Therefore publishers turn to former politicians or politico-religious groups, even though the solvency of such persons and groups has not always been durable or workable. Governmental policies are sometimes opposed by newspapers linked to political or religious sponsors.

The average circulation is about 20,000 for Vietnamese-language newspapers; 7,000 for Chinese publications and lower for English- and French-language newspapers. Financial status and names of persons or groups supporting a newspaper are considered secret by publishers and are not divulged to the public.

Newspaper sales in Saigon represent a substantial portion of the total circulation. Many people read more than one newspaper in the capital and larger cities. Moreover, the readership on a countrywise basis per newspapers show a propensity for sensationalism and banner headlines, and devote considerable space to serialized novels and cinema gossip.

From 4 to 6 pages makes up or formulates the average-size newspaper. Many papers are of poor quality, because of economic shortages, paper, printing and pictures. Usually the staff of reporters and feature writers is small, sometimes consisting only of 10 or 12 persons. Although formal training in journalism is offered at the university level, many newspapermen learn the trade on the job and never acquire a degree.

A Professionalization

The South Vietnamese Journalists Union and the Federation of Journalists are the leading professional associations for journalists.

The Newspapers Publishers Association represents the publishers. The Press Council, formed in 1946, includes both publishers and journalists. In March 1966 the Journalists Union offered a 3-month course in journalism, taught by teachers from the U.S. and Canada. The course received technical and financial assistance from the International Federation of Journalists and the American Newspaper Guild.

Probably the most influential newspapers are the Chinh Luan (Right Opinion) and Dan Chu (Democracy). Both are nonpartisan and anti-Communist. Chinh Luan's estimated circulation of 20,000 is the high among Vietnamese-language newspapers. Dan Chu, with a circulation of about 10,000, appeals mainly to intellectuals.

Different Papers for Different People

Dan Chung (The Mass), with an estimated circulation of 6,000 is nonpartisan and tends to support the government. The nationalist Ngay Nay (Today) generally favors the Buddhist cause and has a circulation of about 2,000. Tu Do (Freedom), with an estimated circulation of 12,000, is noted for its support of the U.S.

Because the circulation of commericallly published dailies and weeklies is limited to Saigon and the major provincial newspapers published by the Vietnam Information Service (VIS) or by the province chief. Published weekly or biweekly, provincial newspapers serve the information need of the rural areas.

Great Art Of Diplomacy

By SP4 JAMES W. BROWN

You have a mission that steps beyond the threshold and quality of war. That mission rests upon the foundation of world humanity and respect for one's national heritage, laws, attitudes and race. In the final analysis this human obligation will define your statue as a fellow human being.

Support Smiles

No doubt you have been in the Republic of Vietnam long enough to understand what "Numbah One GI!" and "Numbah Ten GI!" means. If you don't know what these expressions mean, it will be good to learn, because they have meaning to you as a person. If you are the type of person that violates the national customs and manners of the local people, or just plain disrespect their humanity — you are numbah ten.

But if you are the one to respect all persons and their uniqueness as people — you are numbah one in the eyes of these people. You are an ambassador of good will from the U.S. to Vietnam, a guest in this country because the Vietnamese government has invited us here to assist them in constructing a stable and self-determined governmental structure.

Within the traditional Vietnamese family unit, the aged hold the most honorable and respected positions, because age is symbolic of wisdom gained from life's experience. Respect has all around importance to the family: the Vietnamese will go great lengths to "save face" in the eyes of others. Any situation which demands the loss of his "face" should be avoided. You weren't brought all these many miles to cut-down and make fun of the Vietnamese, instead of helping to enhance his ego and self-determination to combat the many odds against him.

Yes, you are really moving on up in the world, now that you have hired a Vietnamese who performs unskilled labor, whom you may call "hootch maid" or names to that effect. But, are you ready for them, do you know how to treat them as fellow human beings?

The Honor Of Man

Let's look more closer into that important subject. In Vietnam unskilled work is honorable and not indicative of inferiority or lack of intelligence. A subtle realism is claimed here. These people have to be treated with human respect, the same as you would desire to be treated.

The "Mama san" who washes your clothes should always be paid on time. And if you imply that she is a VC simply because she asks for her pay, you are being ruthlessly unjust. She risks her life daily by working on a U.S. military post.

Those gestures of contempt we express against fellow Americans, are doubly harmful when used against the Vietnamese. The crossing of your fingers is considered obscene, and the pointing the sole of your foot toward a person is very poor manners. Neither should you stick out your tongue at anyone. And the lifted forehand used to motion someone toward us should be avoided because in Vietnam it's the way to call animals. If you wish to call a Vietnamese, simply wave as you would wave goodby.

Dear To The People

You should seriously respect the Vietnamese religions as well as the people themselves. The main religious group is Buddhism. Buddhism is even older than Christianity, and is very important to the people. The Buddhist teachings state that the head of a person is sacred. Thereby, you should keep your hands off the heads of Vietnamese people. The religions of the Vietnamese people are just as important to them as yours are to you.

The facts are: we are the guests of the Vietnamese people but the guesthouse is very crowded. In that respect sometimes we seem like trespassers.

A Road Hog

On the crowded roads you will not set any friendship records in being a "road hog" or thinking that you are the "king" of the hills. There aren't any autobahns or speedways in Vietnam! It doesn't cost anything to be polite, but may cost you and others greatly if you don't obey the rules and logic of understanding.

Your mission as an American fighting man in Vietnam is two-fold — a military mission that goes hand-in-hand with your mission as an ambassador of good will to the Vietnamese people. Just try placing yourself and your loved ones in the critical position of the Vietnamese people, then you will be able to see the reality of diplomacy as an art of understanding the needs and pains of a proud people.

Only through understanding comes the common faith of human bonds and the valuable trust of the Vietnamese people. Also you will discover that your two-fold mission will become easier with personal knowledge and a deeper regard for humanity in general.

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AMERICAL DIVISION

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Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PFC Andrew Garza, 198th Bde; SP4 Thomas Chase, 198th Bde; CPT Brian Chermol, 198th Bde; SP5 Dale Wells, 198th Bde; 1LT James Gordon, 196th Bde; 1LT John Gundy, 198th Bde; SP4 James Ball, 198th Bde; PFC Loren Tope, 11th Bde; CPT Wyland Hopkins 11th Bde; SP4 Edward Mueller, 11th Bde; SP4 Thomas Becker, 11th Bde; SP5 Thomas Dillon, 196th Bde; CPT Dennis Newburry, 11th Bde; PFC Ronald Miranda, 196th Bde; SP4 Eddie Allen, 11th Bde; PFC Arthur Ford, 11th Bde; SP4 Eward Marsh, 11th Bde.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

WO1 James Leech, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; CPT Chris Cartwright, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; WO1 Drew Boudrieau, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; 1LT William Thibeault, 123 Avn. Bn; SP5 Larry Smith, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; CW2 William Patrick, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

SP4 Gregory Adams (10LC), 198th Bde; CPT David Beccara (30LC), 198th Bde; SGT Edward Brandt, 198th Bde; SGT Robert Brown, 198th Bde; SP4 Gregg Castillo, 198th Bde; SGT Billie Campbell, 198th Bde; PFC Gordon Cellum, 198th Bde; SP4 Daniel Cloke, 198th Bde; SGT Marion Brunsun, 198th Bde; SP4 Michael Coleman, 198th de; SSG William Cruitt, 198th de; 1LT Donald Pepler, (10LC) 198th Bde; SSG Paul Sloan (10LC), 198th Bde; 1LT Raymond Wall, 198th Bde; PFC James Lewis, 198th Bde; SGT John Stiverson, 198th Bde; SP4 Terry Mortenson, 198th Bde; SP4 Fred Story, 198th Bde; SP4 Donald Beals, 198th Bde; SP4 Cederic Barnes, 198th Bde; CPT Todd Martin, 198th Bde; PFC Donald Cook, 198th Bde; SP4 Jonnie Ewards (10LC), 198th Bde; SGT Daniel Wood (10LC), 198th Bde; PSG Timothy Williams, 198th Bde; SP4 Jeffery West, 198th Bde; SFC Anthony Sunnekalb, 198th Bde; PFC Eugene Smith, 198th Bde; 1LT Joel Salyers, 198th Bde; SP4 John Pryfogle, 198th Bde; SP4 Norman Ohara, 198th Bde; 2LT Donald Munch, 198th Bde; SP4 Herbert Messer, 198th Bde; CPL Daniel Laizure, 198th Bde; SP4 Marion Sayre, 198th Bde; PFC Joseph Johnson, 198th Bde; PFC James Wheeler, 198th Bde; SP4 Laverne Johnson, 198th Bde; 1LT Charles Arthur, 198th Bde; SGT Robert Carenter, 198th Bde; SSGT Gerald Dixon, 198th Bde; PFC Edward Jacobs, 198th Bde; SP4 David Kaye, 198th Bde; MAJ Edward Neary, 198th Bed; SP4 Roger Overbey, 198th Bde; SGT Donald Somara, 198th Bde; PFC Donald Welch, 198th Bde; 1LT Donald Bullock, 198th Bde; SP4 Grant Watmough, 198th Bde; 2LT Michael Anderson, 198th Bde; SGT David Thompson, 198th Bde; PFC Raymond Whitman, 198th Bde; SP4 Billie Turinsky, 11th Bde; SGT Thomas Crosswhite, 196th Bde; SGT Daniel Durbin, 11th Bde; PFC John Loftus, 196th Bde; CPT Patrick Simpson (10LC), 11th Bde; SP4 Roy Alford, 196th BDE, SP4 Albert McDonald, 196th Bde; SP4 Raynando Fernandez, 196th Bde; PFC Edward Koerber, 196th Bde; PFC Dwain Gibson, 196th Bde; MAJ Roger Lee (10LC), 196th Bde; 1LT James Dean (10LC), 196th Bde; CPT Melvin Beyer, 11th Bde; 2LT John Crenshaw, 196th Bde; 1LT Percy Laube, 11th Bde; SP4 Andrew Brinker, 198th Bde; SP4 Michael Fenner, 196th Bde; 1LT Paul Bavis (20LC), 196th Bde; SP4 Hayward Neace, 198th Bde; PFC Robert Munson, 196th Bde; SP4 Bert Amon Wolfe, 196th Bde; SGT Ronald Mitchell, 196th Bde; SFC Dale Moran (10LC), 196th Bde; PFC Mural Farks, 196th Bde; SP4 Willie Albert, 11th Bde; PFC Donel Erikson, 196th Bde; PFC Irvin Fox, 11th Bde; 1LT Victor Ricci, 11th Bde; SP4 David McCann, 196th Bde; SP4 Warren Peterson, 196th Bde; 1LT Levon Asadoorian, 11th Bde; 1LT David Waltz, 198th Bde; PFC Kerry Lawrence, 196th Bde; MAJ George Ingleright (10LC) 11th Bde; SGT Steven Liddle, 11th Bde; SGT James Chapman (10LC), 11th Bde; PFC Thomas Schwarz, 196th Bde; PFC David Woodworth, 11th Bde; SSG William White (10LC), 11th Bde; PSG Johnny Garlic, 196th Bde; SSG Paul Reynolds (10LC), 75th Inf (RANGER); 1LT Raymond Mares (10LC), 27th Chem. Detct. SSG Donn Westfall (10LC), 196th Bde.

Officer Plans Kid's Itinerary

LZ BALDY — Hai is a Vietnamese lad of 13. He used to be an orphan. For several weeks now, men of a Division recon platoon have been virtual godfathers to Hai.

Members of Co. E, 4-31, met little Hai in his native village of Phuoc Son where he was being cared for by neighbors. Like most Vietnamese children he was endeared to the soldiers at once when they offered him candy and sodas from their packs.

The next morning, when the recon platoon moved out, they had acquired a new member — Hai. He was firmly attached to the unit, refusing to go to the refugee center at Hiep Duc.

The men fed and pampered Hai and he was with them for two days of the march. On the third day he was gone.

"We found out later that he was captured by the VC," said 1LT Barry Brandon (Huntsville, Ala.), platoon leader. "They knew he had been friendly with us, so they imprisoned him."

Hai's place of confinement was a trench dug out beneath a hooch. The VC guard dozed, but Hai wasn't sleeping. He crept past the sleeping sentry and into the jungle — a jungle he knew like the back of his small hands.

"He staggered into our camp about noon. He was really beat. The VC hadn't fed him, but we soon took care of that. When he was feeling better he told us exactly where his VC captors were located," added 1LT Brandon.

The next day, during a sweep of the area, a VC province leader was killed. He carried a .38 cal. revolver.

Recently, Hai accompanied Brandon to LZ Baldy, fire support base for the 196th Inf. Bde.

"Hai will stay with me until the paperwork has been completed making me his guardian. Then he will go to school," explained the platoon leader.

Does this mean Hai's days in the field are over?

"Yes, it does," concurred Brandon. "I plan to send Hai to college in Saigon someday. He said that was what he wanted to do when he gets old enough." (196th IO)

Price Of A Haircut

Barbershops are a must for the U.S. soldier, whether he is in the states or on an isolated firebase. Division soldiers from the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. receive haircuts and read home town newspapers while sitting on chairs made from ammo crates at LZ Center.
(Photo By CPT Cecil A. Green, Americal IO)

A Soldier Does Job Up In Air

By PFC CARL EKENGREN

LZ BALDY — If success is measured in how high in the world you go, then there's one Division soldier who has reached the heights with flying colors. However, he had to overcome obstacles in his climb to the top.

He is PFC Allen Eblin (Columbus, Ohio) and his job is a telephone lineman. The interesting thing is that Eblin never climbed a pole in his life prior to entering the Army.

Assigned to the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., climber Eblin finds himself busy as he does his job of installing communication lines throughout the battery.

Every job has its occupational hazards in one way or another and the same is true with a lineman.

"I remember one occasion," noted Eblin, "when I climbed a pole at Ft. Gordon, never realizing that perhaps it would be my last time. I had to climb a communications tower to remove an antenna that needed wire repairs. I made it to the top and removed the antenna with no difficulty, but when I proceeded down, the guide wire that was holding me to the tower snapped.

"So there I was atop a 60-foot-high tower with only my gaffs (steel spikes which fit on the inside of a climber's boots enabling the climber to remain fixed to the pole) holding me to the wooden pillar. You can bet I never hugged anything so close before as I did that pole. From my position no one could really help me, so I was on my own — boy, was I scared! Eventually I eased myself down, and it sure was a relief when my feet finally touched the ground," concluded Eblin. (196th IO)

Making Sure

CPL Phan Van Toa, an ARVN ranger from the 4th Regt., 2nd ARVN Div., and SGT Roger E. Rule (San Diego, Calif.) of the Div.'s G Co., 75th Inf. (Ranger), check their location on a map during a combined LRP in support of the 11th Bde. near Duc Pho.
(Photo By 1LT Harrison Jack, 11th IO)

Division's 2 Top Grads From Recondo School

CHU LAI—SP4 Spurgeon E. Beattie (Spencer, N.C.), G Co. (Ranger) 75th Inf., graduated from he Combat Center's Leadership Course with top honors and was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

This was the third highly successful completion of an Army course for SGT Beattie. He graduated in June with top honors from the Americal Recondo School and a month later number one graduate of the MACV Recondo School.

On the same day Beattie graduated from the Combat Center's Leadership Course, SP4 Ronald F. Labrie (Beverly, Mass.) graduated in second position. SP4 Labrie, also of G Co. (Ranger), finished one and a half points behind Beattie. His outstanding efforts also earned him a promotion to the rank of sergeant.

SGT Labrie is a graduate of both the Americal and MACV Recondo Schools. The sergeants accumulated the highest total of points ever achieved in the Americal Leadership Course.

BG Edwin L. Powell, assistant Division commander, honored the ceremony and presented the top graduates with the insignia of their new rank. (Support Comd. IO)

The 'Toastma

CHU LAI—In a surprise ceremony at 91st Evacuation Hospital, the commander of U.S. forces in the Republic of Vietnam presented the Army's highest award for civilian services to George Jessel, one of America's most beloved entertainers.

GEN Creighton W. Abrams flew from Saigon to Chu Lai to make the special presentation to Mr. Jessel who had just finished giving a show for Army patients recuperating at the hospital.

"I flew up to present this award to Mr. Jessel here, instead of at headquarters in Saigon," said GEN Abrams, "because he feels more at home in the field than at headquarters."

Mr. Jessel, 71, has entertained U.S. troops as an actor, singer, and comedian for more than 30 years. He received the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal for his fourth tour in the Republic of Vietnam.

"This is just a piece of metal and a strip of cloth," said GEN Abrams as he pinned on the medal, "but Mr. Jessel knows that it comes from the heart."

Mr. Jessel commented on the award and said, "this is one

Two generals get together for a chat.

Jessel and troupe perform some 'oldies.'

The incomparable George Jessel

ster General'

of the greatest honors I have ever received—except for the time when GEN Grant pinned a medal on me in 1862."

Chu Lai was Mr. Jessel's last stop on this tour. He introduced two singers who belted out some "oldies-but-goodies" to an eager audience.

But the show-stopper is always George Jessel himself. After bringing the mess hall down with a riotous monologue, he sang several old favorites. In an emotion-filled finale, he sang a medley of "It's a Grand Old Flag" and a song he wrote "The Flag is Still There, Mr. Key."

Somehow, it's comforting to know, George Jessel is still there, too.

(Americal IO)

Photos by PFC Laszlo Kondor
Americal IO

Songstress captivates audience.

uring a hilarious monologue.

"The Flag Is Still There, Mr. Key," sings Jessel.

A Combined Team Does Kingsize Job

By PFC TOBY PRODGERS

LZ LIZ — The newest force to hit the Division is the fast moving and hard hitting "Ranger Squad", a hybrid element composed of five volunteers from B Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf. and two RF soldiers from the ARVN's 172nd Co.

The concept of this 11th Inf. Bde. squad entails a two-fold operation conducted at night as well as during the daylight hours.

SSG Dan Wills (Chicago), the squad's leader, explained the Rangers' approach. "When working at night we operate as a roving ambush. We patrol in an erratic pattern so we can cross paths with the VC. It's almost like fishing; when the fish are out, we plan to be there."

During the day, however, the squad's mission is entirely different. "We'll work as a police force, patrolling Hwy. 1 with such things as an aid bag. We'll work in the outlying villages to let the Vietnamese know we are around and are interested in their welfare," added SSG Wills.

Being a small unit, the team has a quick-strike capability enabling it to take full advantage of the element of surprise. They can move with speed through bush and village complexes catching VC unaware of their sudden presence.

"When we operate, we're constantly on the move. When we spot the VC, we'll open up on them and then break contact keeping them off balance," said PFC Paul Salatino (Brooklyn, N.Y.), the squad's grenadier.

The squad also skirts the movements of the larger elements of B. Co. enabling them to engage any VC the company flushes out.

The U.S. infantrymen in the squad are enthusiastic about working with the ARVNs troops. Besides being effective guerrilla tacticians, the ARVNs are of great value in establishing rapport with the friendly Vietnamese civilians in the area.

"They (the ARVNs) can communicate with the Vietnamese in their own language and know their customs. If we are going to help these people, the ARVNs can show us how," said SSG Wills.

The ranger squad is demonstrable proof of the quality of an integrated force of Americans and Vietnamese. The high degree of "esprit de corps" within the team indicates the viability and effectiveness of such a force in pursuing the Allied goals in Vietnam. (11th IO)

The War Bugle

LZ BALDY — The soldiers of the Division's 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. were presented a silver bugle by COL Gildo Codispoti (New York City), CO of the 7th Regt., 1st Marine Div.

The bugle was presented to LTC Cecil M. Henry (Rome, Ga.) as a token of appreciation for the spirit of cooperation and hospitality that was extended to the Marines during operations around LZ West.

Infantrymen from the Americal Div. and the 1st Marine Div. joined forces to smash two regiments of the 2nd NVA Div. during ten days of heavy fighting in Hiep Duc Valley, 17 miles southwest of Tam Ky. The battle cost the NVA more than 800 dead.

A recruiting drive is now underway to find a bugler among the 4-31 soldiers. (196th IO)

Did You Find It Yet?

"Hey, how do you fire this thing?" seems to be the situation at hand, but actually these artillerymen of the Div.'s C Btry., 82nd Arty., 196th Inf. Bde., are sighting and securing their 105mm howitzer after it was airlifted onto LZ Siberia.
(Photo by SP5 M.L. Hoskinson)

Combat In Review

Big 60's Looking Good

With a sense of alertness, members of the Division's 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. move out on a search and clear mission in a suspected NVA area northwest of Duc Pho. The soldiers are members of the 11th Inf. Bde. (Photo By SP4 Louis Pearson, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Rejoins Infantry Unit

Firefight Brings Old CO Back

By SP4 BILL CRAWFORD

LZ BALDY—Accounts of an American-NVA clash 18 miles west of Tam Ky flooded into the air operations office.

CPT John Whittecar (Salina, Kans.), air operations officer, listened intently as the radio crackled a distress message from D Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. The unit had engaged a battalion of NVA and their commanding officer was wounded and had been airlifted to medical aid.

"I couldn't just sit there and listen while Co. D got riddled. I caught a resupply helicopter going out to the fight," said the former CO of D Co.

The men were happy to see their former commander jump from the chopper under heavy enemy fire.

The NVA were attempting to encircle the outnumbered U.S. soldiers. RPG and machinegun fire laced the air as the enemy tried to keep the company immobilized.

"Fire was coming from three sides," related CPT Whittecar. "I knew we had to exit before they closed in. But night was coming on, so I decided to set up a defensive perimeter and wait."

The enemy began to move in the dark. Army helicopter gunships pounded the creeping NVA. Hearing the gunships coming, the enemy opened up on the besieged company with RPG and machinegun fire again.

Whittecar directed the gunship's fire to within 25 meters of the company's perimeter because the NVA were so close.

"The captain was calm all the time," recalled PFC David Roland (Bellingham, Wash.). "He talked to the gunship pilot as if he were back in the States talking to his nextdoor neighbor."

At one point Whittecar talked to the tactical operations center. "I've got the enemy where I want them," he quipped. "They're all around me in a complete circle."

The next morning, Whittecar set up his CP in an old French building, continuing to direct defensive fire. An RPG smashed into the room. The blast wounded several men, including Whittecar.

Undaunted, the captain helped the medics treat the wounded and "talked in" a Medevac helicopter to remove the more seriously wounded.

The impromptu reunion with their old commanding officer was a real lifesaver for D Co. (196th IO)

Team Of Midnight Shadows Moved From Rock-to-Shock

LZ GATOR — Four enemy sappers played a dangerous game of hide-and-seek with infantrymen of D Co., 5th Bn., 46th Inf., and came out losers.

Shortly before midnight, bunker guard SP4 Jason M. Woody (English, W. Va.) observed a figure standing like a statue behind a rock about 35 feet from his bunker.

"It was incredible. Apparently he didn't realize I had spotted him. Although I was sitting on top of the bunker and looking in his direction, the sapper didn't make any move to duck down. I guess he figured the darkness would hide him," said Woody.

After waking his bunkermates, Woody spotted three other sappers and began to direct mortar and small arms fire on their position.

For the next two hours shadows continued to dart from rock to rock, drawing steady small arms fire from soldiers of the 198th Inf. Bde.

Around three o'clock, an unexplained explosion occurred in a small gully on the hillside near Woody's bunker.

"I called to two other guards to see if they had thrown any hand grenades in the area. But they had not," the soldier recalled.

The next morning a preliminary search of the area revealed the cause of the explosion. One of the sappers, heavily laden with explosives, had been struck by a bullet fired by the basecamp defenders, causing his deadly baggage to explode, killing the enemy soldier. (198th IO)

Slick Ranger

LZ BRONCO — A Vietnamese Ranger walking point for a combined U.S.-ARVN long range patrol became separated from the element when the elite band made contact with an unknown-sized VC force six miles southwest of here.

The seven-man team, comprised of five soldiers from Co. G, 75th Inf. (Ranger) of the Americal Div., and two rangers from the 4th Regt., 2nd ARVN Div. were on an area recon mission when the brief firefight broke out.

Although wounded and without water, CPL. Tran Huan succeeded in evading the VC dragnet and made his way four miles through enemy-infested territory to LZ Debbie.

The ARVN soldier had tried to outflank the enemy in the first few moments of contact, but became wounded and was dangerously close to being captured.

If you're getting short, chances are you're looking forward to returning to the likes of 17-year-old Margaret Darnley. She reminds you to have all your records in order when DEROS time comes. You wouldn't want to keep her waiting.

Outprocessing The Homeward Soldiers

By SP4 PAUL PALMER

CHU LAI — Before one realizes it, that wonderful day comes. The approximate 365 days rocked on with a silence while each soldier did a man-size job. Now the year is up and you are preparing to return home.

However, first you must go through an outprocessing system which has been simplified by the Division for a more rapid movement of departing soldiers. There are only three main steps to go through; they are clearing the company, finance, and AG outprocessing.

In clearing the company, the "short timer" needs to turn in his weapon and protective mask to unit supply. He also must fill out his change of address card (DD 1175), and check with the dispensary to insure that all necessary immunization shots are up-to-date and medical records are checked. While at the dispensary the returning soldier fills out a malaria debriefing form and receives one to two months supply of pills, which he must continue taking upon his return to "the world".

The official clearance of the company is when the commander signs the Installation Clearance Record (DA 137), which includes conduct and efficiency reports.

Next on the list is the Division finance and AG outprocessing located in Chu Lai. Finance records are checked and pay brought up-to-date. Travel pay may be received at this time or at the next assignment.

The soldier's personal records file (DA 201) is reviewed at AG outprocessing to make sure the reassignment and port-call orders are filed. Copies of the soldier's latest promotion and other entries are double checked for possible error. A minimum of 15 copies of reassignment orders and five copies of port-call orders are required. ID card and tags are also checked here. The "short timer" signs the Mass Transit Authorization roster (MTA) which will be his plane ticket to Cam Ranh Bay.

Field equipment is turned in at Cam Ranh. Finally the departing soldier boards a "freedom bird" back to where he has looked forward to for a long time — back to the land of the big PX. (Americal IO)

THE YEAR HAS GONE! One of the last steps in the outprocessing system is the stop at the Chu Lai air terminal where the "almost there" soldiers undergo a detailed inspection of person and baggage. But one of the rewarding moments is during the debriefing when a "thank you" comes from one of the Division officers, a declaration of how the entire Americal feel toward the departing soldiers. (Photo By SP4 Paul F. Palmer, Americal IO)

Big Task! Be A Pro Cadreman

The soldiers returning to CONUS from Vietnam represent the most experienced group in the Army. Among them are many who qualify for the Drill Sergeant (DI) Program.

Commanders have a vital interest in insuring the success of this program. The newly inducted or enlisted soldiers, in a relatively short period, report to commanders as replacements. The effectiveness of Basic and AIT which produce the replacement is directly related to the quality of the training cadre.

NCO's should be strongly encouraged to apply for the DI program. In addition to the stabilized 18-month tour benefit, completion of satisfactory service entitles the DI to superior performance pay ($30.00 per month).

To the truly professional noncommissioned officer, the DI program offers an opportunity to make a major contribution to the Army.

Commanders are urged to personally counsel their outstanding NCO's to apply for the Drill Sergeant Program.

Part VIII In A Special Series On R&R Sites

Dreams Come True In Billion Lights City

By PFC TERRY MACK

If Tokyo is your choice for R&R, be prepared for an experience you will never forget. The world's largest city offers something for everyone.

Upon your arrival at Yokota Airbase you are met by R&R representatives. After collecting your baggage it's off to Camp Zama, the R&R center.

The national currency is Yen "¥" having an exchange rate of one US dollar for ¥360. Greenbacks can be converted at the R&R center, USO, Sands Club, atop the Stars and Stripes building, and at the Sanno Hotel. Save some US currency for PX purchases and dining at the Sands Club.

Tokyo Make Way

The R&R center has a list of recommended hotels for you during your visit. Make sure you have accommodations before leaving Camp Zama; it may be difficult for you to find a room on your own.

Hotel prices range from ¥1,500 ($4.16 US) to ¥4,300 ($11.94 US) for a single room with bath and from ¥2,500 ($7.00 US) to ¥6,500 ($18.05 US) for a double room. Highly recommended hotels are Shiba Park, Dai Ichi, and Fairmont which overlooks the Imperial Palace moat near Yasukuni Shrine. Camp Zama also offers fine accommodations.

A shuttle bus service is provided from the R&R center into Tokyo, about an hour ride.

Once you are settled in your room, one of your first stops should be the Tokyo USO. The staff at the USO offers valuable assistance in planning tours in and around Tokyo, as well as information and tickets for Japanese sporting events and English speaking movies.

The two most convenient modes of travel are by taxi and subway. Both are inexpensive and efficient, but you certainly miss something by always taking the subway. A truly professional cab driver is an expert at testing your blood pressure as he throws caution to the wind, driving madly through the narrow streets of Tokyo clogged with humanity and other taxi drivers just as fearless as yours.

For a stunning view of the city, take a ride to the top of the Tokyo Tower. From the observation platform you will have a panoramic view of Tokyo as it reaches out in all directions.

Another of your first stops should be the Ginza, hub of Tokyo shopping and entertainment. A walk through the area may begin as a sightseeing tour, but passing up the many shopping bargains is hard to do and soon the sightseeing is forgotten and instead becomes quite a shopping spree. Don't fret, all visitors to the Ginza are engulfed by its magnitude.

Once you tear yourself away from the Ginza make sure to visit the Meiji Shrine located adjacent to the Harajuku station of the Yamate train line. The shrine complex contains a lovely Japanese-style garden and a museum containing articles used by Emperor Meiji.

Kaleidoscope Avenues

Hundreds of clubs and bars offer a diversity of entertainment. Some of the hotels also offer floor shows.

Excellent food abounds in Tokyo. For some international cooking the Roppongi area has many good foreign restaurants, each ready to tempt your palate.

Shopping is of course one of the main attractions in a visit to Tokyo. Some of the best buys are camera and stereo equipment, as well as silk, pearls, woodblock prints and many more artistic items.

Make sure to stop at the Navy Exchange at Yokohama and Yokosuka. Both have large stereo and camera departments.

Buying on the local economy the general rule is no bargaining particularly in the larger stores in the Ginza, but perhaps a little polite bartering with small shop owners can be profitable for you.

A trip to Tokyo is not your homeward bound flight, but it's the next best thing. (Americal IO)

Recondo-man In Shock Episode Survives To Fight And Instruct

CHU LAI—Soldiers sometimes mysteriously cheat near-certain death by faith, raw courage, fortitude or simple good fortune.

For SGT John F. Fritzinger (Walnutport, Pa.), an instructor for the Division's Recondo School, the enemy on this occasion was a bolt of lightning—far less predictable than the enemy and considerably more lethal.

The sergeant was an advisor for a six-man student team on a two-day recon mission 17 miles west of Chu Lai, when an electrical storm flashed as the team prepared to set up a night laager position on the side of a steep hill.

Making a communications check with a radio relay team on top of the 4000 foot hill, Fritzinger removed the radio from his back and was holding the hand-set about five feet away when the lightning struck.

Striking the antenna attached to the radio, the high-voltage bolt of natural electricity simultaneously burnt the radio out and flung the sergeant about 15 feet up in the air.

At the same time it set several claymore mines off and blew a metal rucksack to bits. The initial reaction by the other members of the patrol was that the enemy had mortared their position.

Recovering quickly however, SGT Gary Gentry (Dallas), a Special Forces-trained medic, began to apply mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the unconscious Fritzinger.

Within 10 minutes a medevac chopper arrived through the pouring rain and whisked the semi-conscious soldier to the hospital. A six-day stay at the hospital permitted SGT Fritzinger to recover from a temporary paralysis of his left side.

When asked what he felt about the episode the sergeant's quick reply was "Shocking, simply shocking! I got quite a charge out of it really." (11th IO)

Strength In Prayers

Chaplain (CPT) Charles V. Adams holds early morning services for infantrymen of the Division's 5th Bn., 46th Inf., before they begin a combat assault operation on the peninsula 20 miles southwest of Chu Lai. (Photo By 1LT Josef Hebert 198th IO)

Medals Earned

The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry is presented to 36 Division soldiers in ceremonies at Quang Ngai by the province chief. It was one of the largest presentations ever made by the Republic of Vietnam in the Division area.

(Photo By PFC James Robison, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

176th Tops

CHU LAI—The Division safety awards for the month of August were presented to MAJ O. R. Hite (Strunton, Va.), the commander of 176th Avn. Co.

Major Hite received both the battalion and company "outstanding achievement award" in aircraft accident prevention.

The 14th Combat Avn. Bn. was cited by the award as the outstanding unit in aircraft accident prevention and the 176th as the example company from the 14th CAB.

The 176th experienced four consecutive months with accident-free flying, and from July 1 through August recorded 5,867 flying hours without an accident. (16th CAB IO)

12 Bullets Hit Do Not Count

LZ BRONCO — It isn't everyday that a man gets hit by 12 AK-47 rounds and lives to talk about it, but an 11th Bde. soldier did just that.

SGT Facundo Ramos (Rio Piedras, PR) was on a search and recon mission with his platoon near LZ San Juan Hill, as they walked point for C Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., down a narrow jungle trail suddenly the element ran smack into three NVA soldiers coming down the trail.

There was brutal flash of rifles. The air was filled with the ripping staccato of M16s and AK-47s shattering the hush of the jungle.

Men yelled and bullets screamed all around — as abruptly as the NVA came, they were gone.

Members of the platoon began checking for possible casualties. Ramos felt around and discovered that he had been "hit" 12 times where bullets had either pierced or cut into his clothing and gear.

One round put holes in the side and back of his helmet. Another close one sliced the bayonet off his belt; several smashed into his ammo pouch, ripping the ammo out.

The remainder of the 12 bullets pierced the equipment on his back — his air mattress, poncho and rucksack. But incredibly enough, Ramos didn't even have a scratch.

Sarge! somebody up there likes you. (11th IO)