Fiery Fighters In Hiep Duc Valley

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Soldier Silhouetted Against Sun

The hour just before dark is the enemy's favorite time for a firefight. Here, SP4 Raymon Whitaker, silhouetted against the sun, lets off a burst. The 198th Bde.'s 5th Bn., 46th Inf. was on a mission south of Chu Lai. (Photo by PFC James Small, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Spt. CO Now CS

COL Joseph G. Clemons (Cleveland, Ohio) relinquished command of the Div. Spt. Cmd. to COL Kendrick B. Barlow (Savannah, Tenn.) at the unit's headquarters.

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, Div. commander, passed the Spt. Cmd. "Color" between the old and new commanders.

In his parting remarks, COL Clemons said, "I was very impressed with your day-to-day efforts to do the mission we are here to do. You succeeded in meeting the challenge and getting the job done."

COL Barlow comes to his new position from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle, Pa.

After accepting the command from COL Clemons, the new commander said, "I hope you will extend the same cooperation to help me in making the challenge of furnishing the front line troops with the best. It is with a deep sense of pride I assume this command."

COL Barlow is a graduate of the USMA. He also has a masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

The new commander has served in the Pacific Theater of Operation, Japan, Korea, and the Antilles.

COL Clemons, who commanded the Spt. Cmd. since July of this year, assumed the duties of Americal Division Chief of Staff. (Spt. Cmd. IO)

NVA Trapped In Trenches

LZ STINSON — A backtracking maneuver by 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers resulted in three NVA killed and an enemy SKS carbine and numerous Chicom hand grenades captured.

The enemy soldiers were apparently caught off guard when 38 men of D Co., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. made an early morning air assault on an area suspected of harboring NVA encampments.

In their first sweep through the area the Americal troops found numerous trenches and well camouflaged spider holes but no enemy soldiers.

Unsatisified with the results of the first sweep, SGT Roy L. Seay (Collinston, La) took two members of his squad and returned to the trench complex. Spacing his men within shouting distance of each other they began a quiet systematic search of the trenches.

"We had just moved a short way into the area when I saw someone running down one of the trenches," said PFC Donald Johnson (Jackson, N.H.).

"I shouted, 'Dung Lai' (stop) but he just kept on going. I was afraid to open fire for fear of hitting one of my own men so I shouted to the sergeant that he was headed his way."

As soon as the fleeting NVA saw Seay blocking his escape route he ducked into a nearby spider hole.

"As I got near the spider hole I saw a grenade tumbling out toward me," recalled Seay. "I dove behind a log and threw one of mine back and waited a few seconds. When I started to raise up to throw a second grenade, I was met with the crack of small arms fire."

After waiting for the rest of his men to make their way over to the spider hole SGT Seay tried to convince the trapped enemy to surrender.

"Everytime we'd try to talk to him all we'd receive for an answer was a stubborn burst of small arms fire," said Seay.

After silencing the enemy soldier a search of the area disclosed not one, but three enemy bodies along with an enemy rifle and several hand grenades.

LZ BALDY — After a grueling attempt to root out the enemy a company from the 196th Inf. Bde. along with the aid of artillery support from the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty. crushed an entrenched NVA force in Hiep Duc Valley.

For two days B Co. of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., had been conducting a search and clear mission in Hiep Duc Valley 20 miles west of Tam Ky in an effort to capture a hill where reports indicated a platoon-size NVA force had been well fortified in underground bunkers.

PFC Richard Fosler (Hamlet, Ind.), a RTO with 4-31 and attached to the artillery, said, "our mission was to link up with the Marines and capture the hill."

Contact with the enemy came at the end of the second day; the NVA zeroed in on the company with .30 caliber machineguns and AK-47s. "The enemy was obviously prepared for they used everything they had on us — the ground just shook beneath our feet," said Fosler. B Co. retaliated with small arms fire but soon had to pull back because of intense fire.

"We were in no position for a full-scale battle," said Fosler. "We were in the open and the rice paddies gave us very little protection."

The next day the company pushed forward and again it was met by hostile fire, this time in the form of 60mm mortar rounds.

"Our men were ready for them this time," said SGT Mike Levine (Gladstone, Mo.), recon sergeant. "From the dikes along the rice paddies we opened up with our light anti-tank weapons, M-60s and M-16s. Several men in my platoon had managed to make it near the top of the hill and were tossing hand grenades into the bunkers.

"In one case an NVA soldier actually stood up in a bunker and aimed an AK-47 rifle point blank at one of our men. However, he never had a chance to pull the trigger for a grenade exploded inside the bunker."

Meanwhile, Fosler was on his radio calling for artillery support from LZ Siberia. "Between the fire from our company and the artillery rounds from Siberia, we blasted the enemy right out of their bunkers," said Fosler. (196th IO)

An Infantryman's Skill

A soldier of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. snaps off a round toward the enemy as they made contact south of Chu Lai while on a search and clear mission. (Photo by PFC James Small, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Religion And You

World Without Error

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ) JAMES R. ROBBINS
14th Avn. Bn.

One day I said to God: "I'm sick and tired of this world of sadness and destruction! Let me make a world in which all things are perfect."

And God said: "Alright! You make a world that is perfect. And I will learn from you." And God gave me the power of Creation and went away.

And I began to make a world. It was perfect and beautiful. I made cities that were great and beautiful; the countrysides were free from all the wild things of destruction. It was a world free from poverty and where every person had whatever he needed.

In my world, my people were free from envy and contention because it was a world filled with abundance. No man rose up against another, for no man coveted his neighbor's house, nor his fields, nor his wife, nor his daughter. And no woman coveted another's husband, nor sweetheart, nor beauty, nor home, for every woman was as beautiful and her children were as lovely as her neighbor's. No child contended with another, for every child's home was perfect; and no child failed at anything, for none were provoked by his fellows, nor by his teachers, nor by his parents.

In my world, all human relationships were perfect. Every employer paid an honorable wage and every employee did a just amount of work. There were no physicians or nurses, for no one was ever ill or died. There were no judges or lawyers, for no one ever disputed with another. There were no newspapers or magazines for nothing unusual ever happened. Nor was there any need to advertise since everyone had whatever they wanted. In my perfect world, there were no storms or floods, or wars.

Then as I sat contemplating my world one day, God returned and stood beside me. He said, "I see you have made your perfect world. It is a beautiful place."

"Yes," I said. "It is a perfect world wherein everything is perfect."

God said, "You have made lovely fields and countrysides, and beautiful cities."

"Yes," I said. "I made them all. I did not trust their creation or care to anyone else."

God asked: "Did you not trust the care of your fields and cities to your people?"

And I said: "No, I made them perfect and perfect they shall remain."

Then God asked: "Where are your people? I do not hear their laughter, nor their cries, nor their curses, nor their prayers."

"Come and see!" I replied. "You don't hear their curses or their prayers for they do not contend with one another. You do not hear their cries for they neither fall sick nor die. Neither do they fear storms, nor earthquakes, nor man nor beast—they have no fears!"

"They do not cry because they do not hurt!"

"No, they do not smile; they do not know either joy or sorrow," and I hung my head.

God said: "They have no souls."

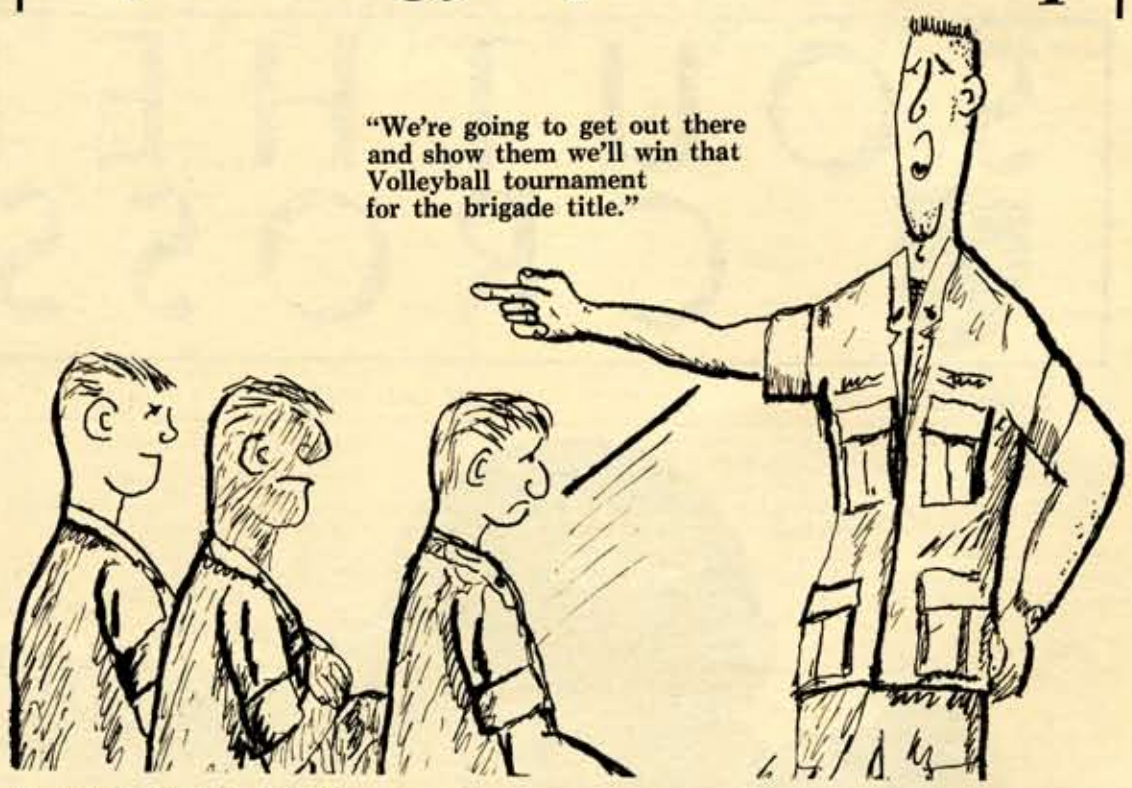
"No they have no souls. They are as dead bodies only."

And God asked: "Is that perfect?"

And I said: "It is perfect but a tragic world—more sad than if it held suffering and hurt. My people do not cry; neither do they swear or laugh or pray. In your world, God, they do. They laugh, and cry, and swear and pray, and Thou hearest them and lovest them. Lord, make me one of them again!"

(abridged from Russel Dicks, My Faith Look Up)

Psychology Of Leadership



By SP4 JAMES WM. BROWN

You are an American fighting man, and certain circumstances may place you unexpectedly in a leadership position at any time. But, will you be prepared to be a leader of soldiers in today's modern Army?

Who is today's soldier? He is a different soldier than what the Indian Wars or WW II produced. The extensive amount of technological expansion and new social changes in our domestic order, now demands a more professional leadership in the Army with a greater importance than any other time for junior officers and enlisted leaders.

A New Soldier

The new soldier is a product of this new society. When this is accepted, the job of leadership becomes easier. Leadership is an art; a sense of psychology makes it workable.

A sense of authority is required in commanding elements of the Army. But authority alone is not enough — authority must be exercised wisely and correctly. It has to be used in different degrees when dealing with different people in a complexity of situations.

Every soldier is a potential leader, be he an officer or enlisted man, NCO or specialist. One's leadership position may be commanding a detail, or a squad, platoon or larger unit in the intense moments of combat.

Leading men is hard! Thorough preparation is demanded of the soldier before he becomes a leader. Contrary to the popular opinion concerning natural or "born" leaders, most Army leaders are made through qualitative training.

The Army has had many dynamic changes. Its tactics, logistics, intelligence, administration, training, weapons, and personnel reflect modern trends.

As the American society progresses to the outer-dimensions of a super society; theoretically, the soldiers drawn from it bring with them more information, more progressive techniques, and greater capability to deal with complex problems and sophisticated weapons systems.

Within the scope of this improved capacity of soldiermanship also comes inherent hazards and pitfalls. The soldiers of today are better educated than their forebears, in that respect, they are more likely to challenge existing concepts and established principles, traditional methods, and elements and principles of rigid authoritarianism with rational and objective questions.

Center-stage Of War

The need for a more stable and complete degree of leadership is becoming a problem — this need is more important now than ever before.

The soldier is the center-stage of war. Notwithstanding, technological progress, man cannot be divorced from the true mechanics of warfare. Leadership is essential to a successful end, involving an art of influencing men in such a way as to obtain their willing obedience, confidence, respect, loyalty, and cooperation necessary in accomplishing the mission.

There is a unique difference between commanding and leading soldiers. One commands when he exercises the authority to order an element to perform a given task. In leading, one guides the activities of a group who willingly accepts the guidance even when formal authority is absent.

The concept of modern leadership is complex because it is dealing with complex elements — men. A leader shows the way but leads his men there. Some of history's greatest leaders have been earmarked by their ability to establish a sense of group cohesiveness and understanding in times of great crisis.

If leadership is effective, the unit will work toward the leader's goals even without detailed orders, because the leader's goals are also the unit's goals.

Like most human activity, the concepts of leadership produces two points of view—what men expect of their leaders and what leaders expect of their subordinates.

Group Interaction

Group interaction between individuals is essential to rewarding leadership. A leader's basic responsibilies are accomplishing a mission and seeing to the welfare of his men. The two responsibilities are equally important in most cases, however, conflicting circumstances and factors, the mission takes precedence. Even then the leader must take into consideration ways to best accomplish the mission with best regards for the welfare of his men.

What keeps a man pushing into battle, sometimes seemingly beyond all sense of logic? What makes a man place or elevate a mission or welfare of a nation above his personal welfare? Most times it is to remain a member of the unit-squad, platoon, or company. In essence,the unit must also be worthy of the soldier's devotion. Creating such a unit is the task of its leader.

Morale and Esprit has great meaning on leadership. The importance of a leader knowing his men cannot be over emphasized. To determine the needs and desires of subordinates and satisfying them when possible is an all important factor of leadership responsibility.

One of the leader's responsibilities is listening to the views of subordinates, which also insure them that their leader is interested in their welfare. Many times a subordinate may have a solution to a problem. However, a leader should always make the final decision.

Leaders set the example of a good soldier with determination. He does not order his men to do what he himself hesitates to do; it has to be on a give and take basis of realism. Leadership is not a one-way street — one must sometimes take orders as well as issue them out.

Initiative Works

The leader must give a person credit for his initiative because it is the only thing that gets the job accomplished. A leader has no room to exhibit personal dislike for a subordinate, in that, it will conflict with the mission and it holds a non-leadership quality. Today's modern Army has room for a close and unifying comradeship within small and large units.

Military discipline is a must. But it should be a discipline teamed with a willingly and cheerful response to orders.

The robot-like response to orders built upon fear of punishment is a misguided and poor form of discipline, foreign to our customs and counter to our objectives. Leadership requires a two-way faith, faith in the leader by the men, and faith in the men by the leader.

RE-UP! ARMY

Administer: Opportunity Unlimited

The Americal Reenlistment Office would like to bring you some additional information about some of the many jobs available within the Division.

Administration

Under this heading we find the office procedures specialists: clerks, typists, stenographers, legal clerks, court reporters, postal clerks, and the soldiers who initiate and maintain personnel and finance records, or are responsible for administrative procedures.

This field also covers the chaplain's assistant, who must have a general knowledge of the history, tenets, and belief of his particular religion (Protestant, Roman Catholic, or Jewish).

A Lot To Choose From

The movement specialist has his own office procedures specialty — planning movement of personnel and material by rail, water, highway, air, or pipeline.

The flight operations specialist schedules, clears, and dispatches aircraft.

Information specialists keep military personnel informed of military and civil events, conditions, policies; they assist in programs to provide civilians with factual reports on Army activities to create better public understanding of the Army.

To accomplish these missions, information specialists collect and distribute verbal and pictorial news items, edit Army newspapers, and assist in the promotion of special events.

The broadcast specialist writes scripts and participates as announcers, newscasters, and directors in radio and television programs.

How can you qualify? Phone, write, or see your brigade career counselor, or stop by the Americal Division Reenlistment Office.

SOUTHERN CROSS AMERICAL DIVISION

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SILVER STAR

SP4 Ramon K. Cunningham, 196th Bde; CPT Frank J. Czap Jr. 11th Bde; SSG Dennis J. Heine (1st OLC), 11th Bde; 1LT Philip L. Spackman (2nd OLC), 11th Bde; 1LT Thomas N. Tamanaha, Div Arty; CPT James W. Wats, 198th Bde.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

WO1 Alfred Adamitis Jr, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; LTC Godfrey J. Crowe (2nd OLC), 11th Bde; LTC George V. Ellis, 11th Bde.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

LTC Donald F. Hanson, 11th Bde; SFC Frank G. Torres, Spt Cmd.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

SP4 David A. Barnett, 11th Bde; PFC Ricky N. Bell, 196th Bde; SP4 Danny J. Bivins, 11th Bde; 1LT Joseph S. Dolock Jr, 198th Bde; SSG Larry E. Dover (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Robert E. Frye, 11th Bde; SP4 L.C. Gillins Jr, 11th Bde; PFC William F. Gordon, 11th Bde; PDC Gary D. Gruber, 11th Bde; PFC Stephan C. Henderson, 198th Bde; SGT Gene A. Hines, 196th Bde; 2LT Lowell G. Jones, 11th Bde; SGT Walter Juranty Jr, DivArty; SP4 Charles L. Karpick (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Daniel J. Liddy, 11th Bde; SP4 Phillip D. Martin, 11th Bde; SGT Charles L. McDonough, 11th Bde; SP4 Anthony Muklewicz, 196th Bde; SGT Jeffrey M. Norcotta, 11th Bde; SSG Ronald On, 75th Inf (Ranger); SP4 Daniel C. Peeples, 11th Bde; PFC Donald B. Pennell, 196th Bde; SP4 George Reeves (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Steven L. Townsend, 11th Bde; SP4 Dennis E. Van Duyn, 11th Bde; SP4 Vaughn J. Vander Meer, 11th Bde; 1LT Greg L. Yacovou, 1st Cav.

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

WO1 Victor J. Bandini (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; PFC Ronald C. Barron, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP5 Michael Curry, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; LTC George V. Ellis (12th OLC), 11th Bde; LTC Donald F. Hanson (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Theodore Thompson, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; MAJ Lee W. Tucker, 26th Engr Bn; MAJ Thomas B. Vaughn (2nd OLC), 11th Bde.

Tender Care

"There—doesn't that feel better?" Those were the comforting words of SP4 Raymond Essenmacher (Detroit) as he attended to a Vietnamese child. He and other members of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. were on a MEDCAP southwest of Tam Ky. (Photo by PFC James Small, 523rd Sgn. Bn.)

Neophyte 'Doc's'

On-Job-Training For Medics

CHU LAI — An electrical powerman in charge of a ward? An 11B fabricating eyeglasses? A cast man performing laboratory tests? A medical aidman cleanign teeth? A clerk giving immunization shots?

Amazingly enough, all of these things are happening or have happened at A Co., 23rd Med. Bn., but the men involved perform their jobs so well no one would ever suspect they haven't been doing these jobs since they entered the service.

Because of the shortage of school-trained medics and technical specialists, the medical officer of A Co. embarked on a careful screening program to identify men who because of their past experience or in some cases because of special interest and enthusiasm, could fill the gaps.

The men selected included an electrical powerman who had worked several summers in a large metropolitan hospital and the aidman who just happened to have three years of dental school.

The men were given intensive on-the-job-training, working alongside trained and experienced personnel throughout their training. Periodically after the men were working on their own, their performance was carefully monitored and supervised by A Co. physicians and other professional officers.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and desire to learn possessed by the neophyte medics, the results of the program were successful. They filled in during the time demonstrating skills, knowledge, and competence on par with the school trained medics of the unit. More importantly, with the help of these men, patient care was kept at the same high level which has been the unit's trademark.

The shortage of trained personnel has ended, but some of the "non-medical" medics are still on the job performing their new duties excellently. In fact, they're so good you'll never be able to tell who they are. (Spt. Cmd. IO)

Crawled To Bunkers

LZ BALDY — Tossing smoke grenades and firing M-16 rifles, two 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers crawled to within 10 meters of enemy bunkers.

SSG Michael Wallace (Rockwell, Tex.) and SP4 Donald F. Chalmers (Detroit) destroyed enemy positions and marked helicopter gunship targets with red smoke grenades.

SGT Jack W. Johnstone (Los Angeles), a squad leader from A Co., 1st Bn., 46th Inf., was moving his men out on patrol. Alert machine-gunner, SP4 Gerald Smith (Portland, Ore.) spotted an NVA unit to his left and opened up with deadly machinegun fire killing three of the NVA.

The remainder of the enemy returned fire and quickly retreated to concealed bunkers. Johnstone then called in gunships to pound the entrenched enemy with rockets.

Following the air strike, A Co. assaulted the enemy positions, but they were pinned down by concentrated AK-47 fire.

Chalmers lobbed grenades at the well-fortified bunkers. He crawled towards the enemy. At one point, he observed an NVA firing down on the squad, raised his M-16 rifle and killed the aggressor with a quick burst of fire.

Grabbing a red smoke grenade, Wallace also crawled toward the bunkers. He marked the target for the helicopter gunships hovering close by. After gunships strafed the area, the company reconned and searched, and discovered eight dead NVA with packs and weapons. (196th IO)

Explosion Kills Viet. Civilians

LZ BALDY—A homemade VC mine exploded on Hwy. 1 three miles northwest of Tam Ky, killing 11 Vietnamese civilians who were passenagers on a north-bound bus. Fifteen other civilians were wounded in the blast.

The 40-pound bomb gouged a three-foot deep hole in the paved highway and tore the body of the bus from its frame. Victims were thrown from the wreckage into rice paddies bordering the highway.

An eyewitness described the events leading up to the VC atrocity: "I was driving a truck loaded with wire, going north," related Marine LCPL Larry Warner (St. Louis), of C CO., 9th Engrs. "The bus came racing over a bridge about 1,000 yards from the mine. Then it hit the thing and blew up."

"I helped them load the dead onto the Medevac helicopters," said Warner.

One of the evacuating choppers was the C&C ship of LTC Clarence P. Campbell, (Shreveport, La.), CO of the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. LTC Campbell witnessed the explosion from the air and ordered the ship set down to aid in moving the dead and wounded to a nearby landing zone.

A second mine, identical to the first, was discovered by a minesweep team about 20 meters from the killer mine along the shoulder of the road. It was detonated by explosive charges, throwing 100-pound chunks of asphalt onto the pavement.

Less than a month ago another blast was set off by the Viet Cong about a half-mile from the site of the most recent tragedy. Other mines were placed on either shoulder of the road, so that repair crews would be destroyed. But minesweep teams combed the site and found the mines. They were detonated harmlessly, and another tragedy was thus avoided. (196th IO)

Sees NVA In Viewfinder

LZ BALDY — During a recent mission in the mountains southwest of Tam Ky, A Co. platoon leader 1LT Francis J. Davis (Muncie, Ind.), of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf., was admiring the beauty of his jungle surroundings.

The 196th Inf. Bde. soldier decided to capture the jungle beauty on film. He uncased his camera and commenced to cast about for a suitable subject.

He detected movement through the viewfinder. Straining his eye, 1LT Davis saw NVA soldiers moving out of the woodline into a valley below.

Quickly plotting a grid coordinate, he had artillery called in on the unsuspecting enemy. (196th IO)

At LZ Bronco

Jessel Captivates Audience

By SGT JOHN L. SMITH

LZ BRONCO — "Gentlemen there is nothing that I can say about this gentleman, that has not been said in the past. So I give you the man that five American Presidents have labeled the Toastmaster General of the United States—Mr. George Jessel," so spoke the emcee of a recent show here.

Mr. Jessel was accompanied by two girl singers and an accordion player. The thirty minute show brought the audience closer to home with such vocal renditions as "Mammy," "California Here I Come," and "Jeepers Creepers Where Did You Get Those Peepers."

The 71-year-old Mr. Jessel, a veteran of over fifty years in show business, began with a humorous monologue: "The girls and I came not because of money, as we do not receive any. I do not even have a television show like Bob Hope. All we get is Army transportation and chow, and judging from some of the food we have been receiving lately, I am convinced that Adolf Hitler is still alive and is a cook in an Army messhall."

At the conclusion of the show, Mr. Jessel turned serious for a moment. He stated that he believes that the American fighting men deserve all the support they could be given and that he was saddened that this would be his last trip to Vietnam.

Speaking to an audience whose average age could not exceed half of the fifty years he has spent entertaining people, Mr. Jessel said, 'Tonight when you say your prayers, you may say your prayers softly or silently. But no matter how you say them remember to say please God protect our great country the United States of America." With this George Jessel brought to a close his final show of his last trip to Vietnam. (11th IO)

500,000th Fired By 3-16

CHU LAI — The 3rd Bn., 16th Arty., recently fired its 500,000th round since arriving in Vietnam.

Based on the results of an overall performance evaluation, section 4 of B Btry., led by SSG Charles W. Hassler (Bloomington, Ill.), was selected as the battalion's outstanding howitzer section and given the privilege of firing the round. B Btry. is located at Tien Phuoc, twenty-five miles west of Tam Ky, commanded by CPT Glenn E. Hulett (Moberly, Mo.).

A brief ceremony, held after the noon meal, was climaxed by the actual firing of the round. BG Edwin L. Powell, Jr., assistant div. commander, was given the privilege of pulling the lanyard, sending the 155mm round on its way.

The 3rd Bn., 16th Arty., formerly assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., the home of the XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery, arrived in Vietnam as part of Task Force Oregon on June 6, 1967. Five months later it became part of the Americal Division when the division was reactivated. The battalion is commanded by LTC Andrew R. Foster, Jr. (La Mesa, Calif.). (Americal IO)

Kit Carson Scout Demonstrates Sappe

With an arm-load of destructive and trouble gear.

It takes iron-nerve and artful craftiness.

Demonstrator disarms Claymore Mines.

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PFC BILL EFTINK

LZ STINSON—Nguyen Trong Thu had travelled the route before. The first time it had been under the cover of darkness and with the expressed intention of doing as much damage to LZ Stinson firebase as he and his comrades were able.

Now, the American battalion commander and his men stood in awe as the nearly naked figure squirmed his way through the rows of concertina wire at the same spot he had penetrated only four months earlier.

Nguyen Trong Thu is now a Kit Carson Scout with the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., which mans LZ Stinson, located southwest of Chu Lai.

A squad of VC sappers led by MSG Thu hit the forward firebase (then called LZ Buff)—the five year veteran had little trouble guiding his men through the three strands of concertina wire comprising the LZ Stinson perimeter.

Once inside the perimeter, the invaders found the alert soldiers of A Co., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. too much to cope with. Many of Thu's comrades were killed that night and he himself was seriously injured.

The sappers dragged most of their dead and wounded back through the perimeter and into the mountains west of Stinson.

Thu was admitted to an NVA-controlled hospital where he started to recuperate and hash over his future as a VC sapper. As soon as he regained his strength, Thu broke through the defense of the enemy hospital and rallied to the government of the Republic of Vietnam, where he officially became a Hoi Chanh.

He took the division three week Kit Carson Scout training course where he was taught how to aid the same people he tried to overcome just one month before.

It didn't take long for Thu's skill as a perimeter prober to get around LZ Stinson; soon he was demonstrating his prowess in crawling through the barbed-wire entanglements of that firebase to division soldiers as a teaching method. (198th IO)

PFC Marshall B. Rowland
198th Bde.

per's crawling technique.

Travelling through the steel loops of danger.

Only alertness stops his deadly entrance.

Combat In Review

All In A Careful Aim

You don't often get a chance to aim a shot in jungle combat, but you jump at the chance when it comes. This grenadier takes careful aim before putting his 40mm round on the target. (Photo by PFC James Small, 523rd Sig Bn.)

Artillery Blasts Lurking Enemy

By PFC CARL EKENGREN

LZ BALDY — Infantry and artillery units of the division turned the tables when they blasted a concealed NVA hideout.

Co. D of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf. had been trudging through the rough terrain of Hiep Duc Valley 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky in an effort to establish a base camp.

The infantry had tried several campsite locations over a three-day period, but each time they encountered heavy enemy mortar and small arms fire. On the morning of the fourth day, the company pushed forward again in search of a better place.

"I could feel the perspiration beading on my forehead," said 1LT Enis Jordan (Nashville, Tenn.), fire direction officer, "as we moved out under the scorching sun. We had been following a well marked trail for only a short distance when we discovered that it led nowhere, so we changed direction and proceeded along a path which eventually led us to the beach of the Song Thu Bon River."

Inch-by-inch D Co. plodded along in the ankle-deep sand. They had gone less than one-fourth of a mile when suddenly the sharp crack of automatic weapons fire resounded in the morning air.

"Bullets were flying directly over our heads. We couldn't go anywhere for behind us was a steep jagged cliff. If we went any further, we'd be picked off like ducks in a shooting gallery. We lay buried in the sand firing as best we could with our M-16 rifles and M-60 machineguns," said Jordan.

The estimated NVA platoon was well concealed in thick underbrush 100 meters on the other side of the river and was bombarding the company with 60mm mortars and small arms fire.

In the midst of the fire-fight the RTO was seriously wounded and lay unconscious on the beach. Some 10 meters away, Jordan was sprawled out in the sand witnessing the entire event.

Seeing that he could not effectively coordinate with the CO due to the fact that the entire company was pinned down by intense fire, the 23-year-old officer crawled to the side of the wounded man. As he reached over to pick up the phone, an AK-47 bullet grazed his right forearm causing him to flip over on his back.

Disregarding his wound, Jordan snatched the phone up and called for artillery support. In a matter of minutes 105mm howitzer rounds came crashing in on the enemy position, silencing their guns.

"The skirmish lasted only 25 minutes, but those AK-47 and mortar rounds were kicking up the sand," said the lieutenant.

Co. D never did find a base camp site that day, but, along with the artillery, it did manage to kill 11 NVA soldiers. (196th IO)

723rd Knock Out NVA In Sapper Suicide Try

LZ BALDY—Incoming rounds of 82mm mortars and an almost simultaneous sapper penetration of its bunker line alerted members of C Co., 723rd Maint. Bn. at LZ Baldy in the early morning hours. The company area received an estimated 15 mortar rounds just before the sapper squad penetrated the perimeter.

One sapper managed to toss a satchel charge into a bunker, the men were not inside but on top of it. SP4 Lawrence Less (Gibsonia, Pa.) killed him with a burst from his M-16 rifle.

As Less was eliminating one sapper, the other men were assuming auxiliary fighting positions. Just as SP4 John W. McGatha (Dayton, Ohio) approached his position, he saw a second sapper trying to evade through the wire. McGatha downed him with M-16 fire.

Meanwhile, the men in one of the adjacent bunkers were equally busy. They were the object of several mortars as well as one RPG round, which was stopped by the protective wire in front of the position. SP4 Jesse W. Bell (Houston) saw a figure with an automatic weapon crossing a section of the airfield to his flank. Because of limited visibility, Bell decided to challenge the individual. After several commands to halt failed to stop the approaching figure, Bell opened fire and downed the intruder.

A sweep at dawn of the area revealed three NVA soldiers killed and one automatic weapon captured. (196th IO)

Enemy Talk Boomerangs

DUC PHO — A NVA radio operator stumbled onto the radio frequency used by a squad of Quang Ngai Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) soldiers working with A Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf., two kilometers northwest of Duc Pho.

2LT Gary Odell (Kuna, Idaho), attached to a MACV advisory team at Duc Pho and acting as advisor to the PRUs, thought the NVA was trying to get the PRUs to defect, a rather weak and ineffectual attempt. SGT Phan Van Tien, the company's interpreter, summed up the exchange as a session of "shooting the bull."

The NVA took the opportunity to complain about the destruction of three of their hooches, searched and cleared by A Co. the previous day.

When the PRUs denied feeling any regret about the incident, the NVA went on to inquire about such things as the PRU location, A Co.'s location, and asked for an assessment of damage to LZ Bronco at Duc Pho by NVA rocket attacks.

The PRUs replied with an immediate query as to the NVA position, and the NVA responded by proposing a meeting between the two units at an old schoolhouse on Hwy 1. The PRUs, of course, felt obligated to refuse the invitation. On that note, the NVA announced an impending rocket attack on LZ Bronco for that night. The PRUs then changed their radio frequency.

As a reward for the NVA's jabber, the next day A Co. killed one enemy and destroyed 30 NVA fighting positions, 20 bunkers, and four tunnel complexes, one of which had been used by the NVA to adjust mortar rounds on Duc Pho. (11th IO)

"Mad Minute" Fire Dismiss VC Plans

DUC PHO — Within the past month four VC have fallen prey to fire during two separate "mad minute" exercises.

A Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf., pulls bunker guard on fire support base Liz, five kilometers northwest of Duc Pho, and uses the "mad minute" as a practice red alert exercise in which all the troops manning the perimeter bunkers open fire from their positions to test their defensive capabilities.

Soldiers in a bunker on the northern side spotted some movement in the wire in front of the position and engaged the movement with small arms fire and called in 81mm mortars on the area. Later that night, a practice red alert was called and everyone opened up. The next morning a check of the wire revealed one dead VC, two wounded VC, five chicom grenades, and a hand weapon.

Another "mad minute" was called and again all the bunkers opened up. After the barrage of fire, the bunker guards continued their routine surveillance of the perimeter. The next day a chopper pilot, flying over the area, reported seeing a dead VC lying on the eastern side. The report was confirmed by the C&C copter.

The pilot noticed a satchel charge containing one-quarter pound of TNT wrapped in blasting caps on the northwestern slope.

SGT Joe Surratt (Winston-Salem, N.C.), whose squad was posted on the bunker line, drew a conclusion about the incident.

"Apparently, this joker was coming through the wire and we got lucky," he said. "In that 'mad minute' we must have gotten him on the northwest side of the slope where he left his satchel charge, and then he must have crawled to the other side where he was found later."

It seems that the VC sappers simply can't buck the "mad minute" timing. (11th IO)

Dummies Trap-site

DUC PHO — A NVA unit employed a stratagem designed to lure a company from the Div. into a trap, using dummy mortar tubes and straw scarecrows as bait.

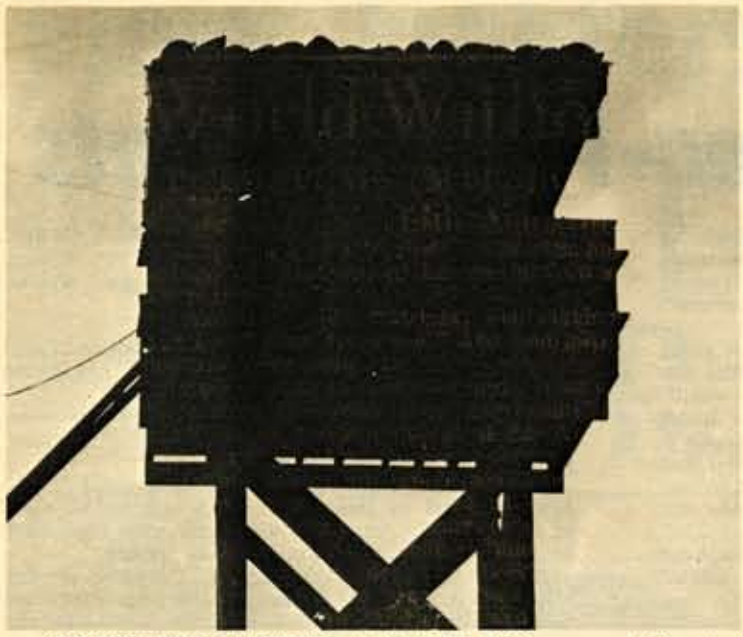
Gunships from D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., spotted the fixtures in the Hwy. 515 Valley, twelve kilometers northwest of Duc Pho. The location of the dummies was confirmed by the C&C chopper of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf.

After a thorough artillery and 81mm mortar preparation of the area, C Co. moved in to search the site and recovered the scarecrows, clothed in NVA uniforms, and the dummy mortar tubes made out of banana stalks covered with black cloth.

The NVA apparently did not expect the well-planned response to their trap and left the area, leaving behind 200 pounds of rice, 100 AK-47 rounds, one 60mm mortar, and 60 real mortar rounds.

Weapons Everywhere

This NVA equipment will not be used against Div. forces thanks to the sharpness of two of Kit Carson Scouts. The scouts, working with the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., were on a mission west of Tam Ky. (Photo by PFC Ronald Massey, 523rd Sig. Bn.)



OBSERVATION TOWERS AND BUNKERS surround Chu Lai so that a view of all terrain outside the perimeter with no "dead spaces" is possible. (Photo by PFC Paul B. Clark, Spt. Cmd. IO)

Daylight Watchers Keep Eyes Sighted For Enemy Action

By PFC PAUL B. CLARK

CHU LAI—Who watches while we work? Nights in Vietnam are spent on perimeter guard by EM who function as clerks, maintenance men, and other various jobs in support areas, but who is on guard while they work during the daylight hours?

Chu Lai is surrounded by observation towers placed in strategic locations to afford a full view of the surrounding terrain outside the concertina wire with no "blind spots."

Tower Land

These towers come under the control and coordination of the Chu Lai Defense Command (CLDC), commanded by Spt. Cmd. commander, COL Kendrick B. Barlow (Savannah, Tenn.) and deputy commander, LTC Kenneth L. Skaer (Spokane, Wash.). The CLDC is charged with coordinating all measures pertaining to the defense of the Chu Lai defense sector and the operational control of all forces assigned to the defense of the defense subsectors.

The Chu Lai perimeter is divided into subsectors manned by personnel who work and live in the area.

The towers are manned 24 hours a day by designated personnel for a period of 30 days. Before being assigned duty in the towers, the men are given training with compasses and azimuth charts to plot enemy rocket firing positions. When a rocket launch is spotted, the observer grabs the radio, calls the warning, "rockets, rockets, rockets!" Immediately the men in CLDC's TOC sound the warning siren to alert people in the base of incoming rockets, giving them as much as 20 seconds to take cover.

CLDC's Many Functions

This is just a portion of the functions of CLDC. Each evening, as the night begins, men are briefed on the current security conditions and coordinate "firefly" missions with division aviation units for the approaching night's illumination.

The "firefly" mission is composed of gunships equipped with powerful searchlights and illumination flares to be dropped throughout the night as they scan the perimeter for signs of enemy movement.

In addition to the guards in the bunkers, each subsector is required to maintain a "ready reaction force" to back up the forward defenses in case of enemy action.

Each day reports from observation towers, and infantry patrols around Chu Lai are compiled and assessed to determine the existing security conditions.

All this planning and coordination is accomplished by the six officers and 17 EM who comprise the nucleus of CLDC. Most of the personnel assigned to CLDC are former infantrymen who were reassigned from field units because of physical profiles. Their present assignment is now on "Laterrite Hill," overlooking Chu Lai, and their mission is your security and safety. They make sure someone is watching while Chu Lai works.

SERGEANT OF THE GUARD checks his guards for proper equipment and informs them of the night's security condition and the password to be used for challenging on the bunker line. (Photo by Paul B. Clark, Spt. Cmd. IO)

Pretty Jan McClellan was a bit out of uniform during her recent tour of Vietnam. But the 19-year-old singer likes guys who look sharp, even in fatigues.

Final Part In A Special Series On R&R Sites

The 'Down Under' Of Neon-Wonderments

By SP5 THOMAS MAUS

The seasons in Australia are exactly opposite from the seasons we are used to in the northern hemisphere, but the warmth and friendliness of these people below the equator is an exciting and worthwhile change of pace for the American on R&R.

Sydney, Australia's largest city, ranks as one of the most popular R&R sites today.

City of Fun

Anything the weary soldier desires waits for him here as all of this island continent is in his reach.

No matter where you decide to go or what you want to do, your R&R starts in Sydney.

After a short briefing at the R&R Center you will have the opportunity to browse around a local clothier who has set up a shop right there. He has a large stock of sweaters, slacks, shirts, sport coats, etc. And you can also rent clothing for a nominal fee and a small deposit.

Don't forget that you can wear civilian clothes on the airplane to and from Vietnam and you must wear this type of clothing while in Australia, because no uniforms are allowed.

Many Many Hotels

The R&R Center has already made reservations at hotels throughout the Sydney area for you. All you do is pick a hotel in the vicinity you wish to stay and you will be given a reservation card for that establishment. There are 63 hotels or motels to chose from in the Sydney region.

Excellent hotels around Kings Cross such as the Carlton-Rex, Kings Cross Rex, or Crest for a single room run from $10.75 to $12.00 a night. Moderate accommodations at the Hampton Court or Whitehall hotel start at $7.50 a night for a single room.

Downtown Sydney abounds in modern places to stay like the Menzies, Wentworth, or Metropole from $8.00 to $12.00 a night, once again single rooms.

The beach areas near Sydney are only 15 minutes away from the downtown-Kings Cross area.

Bondi, Brunte, and Coogee Beaches stretch along five miles of the Sydney coastline. Here rooms can be acquired on the beach or on beach access roads.

The Beach House or Travelodge Motel at Bondi cost from $8.00 to $9.00 a night for single quarters.

For a single room at either the Oceanic Hotel or Corban Motel at Coogee, you can expect to pay around $8.00 a night, and Bronte Beach has the Charles Hotel for $8.00 a night.

Most hotels and motels in the Sydney area have radio-TV and room services that cater to almost any whim.

World Hospitality

The Australian-American Association can arrange for you to spend a couple of days with an Australian family in one of the suburban or rural areas around Sydney. Some American families in the area have also volunteered this hospitality.

Night life in Sydney moves—present theater hits like "Hair," "Philadelphia Here I Come," and "The Matchmaker" are performed here.

For the dance set, the discotheques in Sydney are the greatest. The Cheetah Room, Martin and Mandarin Clubs, and a swinging rock abode called the Other Place open their doors between 7:00 and 8:00 P.M. and don't shut down until 3:00 A.M. or later.

During the day, dress in Sydney is casual but after the sun sets, the many neon-lit streets all over this city are filled with Aussies sporting coats and ties.

During your initial briefing at the R&R Center, a lovely hostess from the Proscenia Tour Agency will inform you about the many activities offered by this reputable concern.

A Diversity of Fun

During the summer months of December, January, and February city people literally storm the Gold Coast of Australia in Queensland.

You think that the metropolitan mini skirts were something, wait until you see the bikinis at Surfers' Paradise on the Gold Coast.

Many night clubs, restaurants and good hotels can be found at this resort area, 400 miles north of Sydney. You can surf, water ski, ride horseback or play golf at this east Australian riviera.

If you desire to visit Surfers' Paradise or any other place outside of Sydney, contact the Proscenia Agency for transportation and make sure to let the people at the R&R Center know your whereabouts.

No Problems City

Transportation in Sydney is very reasonable by taxi or bus. You will find that cab drivers are very cordial and willing to give you directions around the city.

If you plan on visiting any of the nightclubs, you may be required to order a meal during the course of the evening, so be prepared.

Figuring it liberally, a man can live the life of "Riley" for six days in Australia on $400 to $500. This price includes an excellent hotel, full night life and some shopping expenses. You can adjust your own finances from there.

Whether you are looking for a relaxing week in the country or a bustling time in the big city, you can't go wrong in the land "down under."

(Americal IO)

KNOW WHAT?

EMERGENCY MESSAGES

The American Red Cross serves you and your family 24 hours a day. The field director, and the local chapter back home, are on call at any time, day or night, to handle emergencies for you and your loved ones.

The Red Cross is your link with home. Hundreds of emergency messages are transmitted by the Red Cross every day. These involve emergency leaves, birth announcements, health and welfare inquiries, and other important family matters.

The Red Cross field director assigned to your unit stands ready to help at any time, not only with emergency messages but with other assistance, such as counseling on personal and family problems, emergency financial help, or other services.

Reenlistment Earns Recondo Sarge 8 Grand

THE REENLISTMENT OATH is being read by CPT James B. McWilliams to SSG Lonnie Dale Miller. CPT McWilliams is commanding officer of G. Co. (Ranger), 75th Inf., of which SSG Miller is a Recondo member. (Photo By PFC Paul B. Clark, Spt. Cmd. IO)

CHU LAI — It's not often that a soldier gets paid $8000 for just five minutes of work. But SSG Lonnie Dale Miller (Bertin, Md.) of Co. G (Ranger), 75th Inf. had it happen to him when he received a bonus for that amount in reenlisting for his present MOS as a ranger.

The 23-year old soldier has a record of doing things big. He was a honor graduate of both the division recondo school and leadership course.

Miller served as an assistant team leader with Co. G's platoon working near LZ Baldy in the 196th Inf. area of operation. After his sixth long range patrol, Miller's talents were becoming apparent and was returned to Chu Lai to serve as an instructor in the division recondo school.

Since that time, he has done an outstanding job in preparing students to become members of LRPs.

"Army green is great, especially the folding kind," commented the $8000-richer sergeant. (Spt. Cmd. IO)

VA Backs More Than Ever

A 1969 peak fall enrollment of 635,000 veterans was forecast by the VA chief, who noted that the figure was 520,524 last fall, and 380,037 in 1967.

In addition, some 50,000 men in service will go to school under the G.I. Bill this fall, compared to 36,283 in 1968, and 22,847 in 1967.

This fall's enrollment will bring to 1,600,000 the number of veterans and servicemen who have been trained since education provisions of the newest G.I. Bill went into effect June 1, 1966.

While men in service do not take on-the-job training under the G.I. Bill, however, 8,000 of them will enroll in colleges and another 42,000 in education programs below the college level.

To be eligible for VA educational assistance veterans must have had at least 181 days of continuous service, part of it after Jan. 31, 1965, while a serviceman must have completed at least two consecutive years of active duty.

Veterans entering training for the first time or changing schools or programs this fall should apply immediately to their VA Regional Office for a certificate of eligibility to avoid delays in payment of allowances.

Weathermen Aid Big Guns

LZ BALDY—Meteorological statistics radioed from the fire direction centers (FDCs), allow rounds to make pinpoint contact on the foggiest night in Quang Tin Province, when the cannoneer has to strike a match to find the lanyard.

"Rain and high winds can affect the trajectory of 105mm rounds," explained PFC Richard Muzuruk (Liberty, N.Y.), computerman at the FDC of A Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., 196th Inf. Bde.

"The weatherman can take at least half the credit for a direct hit under such conditions," said Muzuruk. "The monsoon season will he here. With all that wind and rain, we would be lucky to complete one successful mission a week if it weren't for fire direction information from the weatherman." (196th IO)

Girls 16 to 21 Eye Soldiers As Pen Pals

There are 385 girls, age 16-21 enrolled at the Jobs Corps Training Center for women at Excelsior Springs, Missouri. At least one hundred of these girls would like to correspond with some member of the armed forces in Vietnam.

These girls come from all over the U.S. — Ohio, New York, Kansas, Missouri, Wyoming, Montana, etc.

A year ago this program was tried, and it proved so successful that more than 150 of the Job Corps enrollees wrote to an equal number of men in Vietnam. Therefore, it would be propitious to once again establish this pen pal sort of arrangement.

Address: Office of Economic Opportunity — Job Corps Center for Women — Excelsior Springs, Missouri 64024.