SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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Live Targets For Training Session

Where Aid Is Needed

Helicopters from the division aviation units fly diversified missions throughout the Americal AO in support of the infantrymen. (Photo by PFC James Small, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

LZ STINSON — A new trend in combat training in the division made its debut — with an unexpected wrinkle — at this 198th Inf. Bde. fire support base 15 miles south of Chu Lai.

Students from the division's Combat Leadership School were brought to landing zone Stinson, a forward base for the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., in order that the prospective squad leaders could be taught to call in and adjust artillery fire.

The complexion of the training session changed suddenly when a group of five Viet Cong were spotted in the area cleared for their practice fire. Theory became reality as an actual live mission was fired against the surprised VC, who frantically evaded and dispersed from the Stinson area.

"We chose LZ Stinson for the class because its remote location offers several 'grids' (areas) for fire missions," explained 1LT Edward J. Gleim (Spring Valley, N.Y.), safety officer for the Combat Center.

Upon returning to the Combat Center at Chu Lai, the students were credited not only with completion of the course but a day of OJT as well.

In the past the Leadership School simulated all its training at the center in Chu Lai. The visit to the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. firebase marked a new trend in their training.

"We decided that our program would be more effective if we could hold the classes in a location where our students could observe 'live' practice," Lieutenant Gleim said.

The program was definitely successful in its first effort. (198th IO)

The Crucifix And Ceremony Of Honor

CHU LAI — A solemn processional led the dedication ceremony of a memorial crucifix for the Americal Division Chapel. Officers and men of the division carried objects symbolic of the heroic sacrifice of life by fellow soldiers of arms. A steel helmet to symbolize loyalty to the United States; the Holy Bible symbolic of the soldier's devotion to the word of God; a red stole representing the essence of the soldier's sacrifice for God and country; and the crucifix for the redemption of all mankind.

The non-denominational dedicatory service which has been performed only three times since its origin in the Korean Conflict was explained by Chaplain (MAJ) Leonard J. Lukasewski (Gary, Ind.), the assistant division chaplain.

"The first service was held in secret in North Korea in 1951 when American soldiers held as prisoners honored their expired Catholic chaplain who was captured with them. The Chaplain (CPT) Emil Kapuan (Pilsen, Kansas) died after several months of cruel treatment by his captors."

Service was first made public by CPT Hillary Gillespe and 1SG William Enrico of the 113th Combat Engr. Bn., 38th Inf. Div. (Ind. National Guard who were comrades of the deceased chaplain. The first public service was performed November 2, 1958 in Gary, Ind. by Chaplain Leonard Lukasewski who was then the 113th battalion chaplain.

The crucifix which was hand carved in Assisi, Italy, the patryonmic origin of St. Francis of Assisi, was anonymously given to the division by a mother and wife of an expired Americal soldier.

After the procession arrived at the altar the Address of Welcome was delivered by the Division Chaplain (LTC) James E. Shaw (Boone, Iowa).

CHAPLAIN (MAJ) LEONARD J. LUKASEWSKI HOLDS the Crucifix that was made in Assisi, Italy, and presented to the division by a mother and wife of an expired Americal soldier. (Photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)

BG Cooksey Takes Command

BG Howard H. Cooksey (Brentsville, Va) assumed temporary command of the Americal Division, October 15, 1969, as MG Lloyd B. Ramsey (Somerset, Ky) departed for a thirty day CONUS leave.

The acting division commander comes to the division from Hqs. USARV where he was Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations.

General Cooksey has served in World War II and the Korean Conflict. He is the holder of the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters as well as the Combat Infantryman's Badge with star.

Moreover, General Cooksey is no stranger to the Americal Division as he was assigned here as Assistant Division Commander from June 1968 to April 1969.

BG Cooksey makes his home with his wife and two children at McDill AFB, Florida where he was previously assigned as Director of Personnel. (Americal IO)

BG HOWARD H. COOKSEY TAKES temporary command of the Americal Division until MG Lloyd B. Ramsey returns from a 30 day CONUS leave. (U.S. Army Photo)

Common Sense Best Rule For Gun Safety

You lean back in the seat of that homeward "freedom bird" and sigh. You made it — a whole year and you're still safe and now you're going back to the states. Nobody's going to shoot at you anymore.

Right? Maybe not — the statistics and information that follows may cause you to abruptly change your mind.

You've heard ever since you departed the combat center, that the Americal is the largest division in Vietnam — the largest in the Army. So it stands to reason that we have more soldiers who come in daily contact with guns, depending on them for survival more than any other division.

Familiarity Means Carelessness

So what does all this mean to you? For the man who handles a loaded rifle every day for a year, familiarity may breed carelessness.

In 1967, there were 9,353 U.S. soldiers killed in Viet Nam by all kinds of enemy weapons. Back in the states that year, 21,500 Americans were killed by firearms alone; this total includes murders, suicides, and accidental deaths.

Over 7,700 citizens were murdered by guns while some 11,000 people used them to commit suicide. You may say that the only way to curb these totals is through firearms legislation. You may be right, but that's a matter for each voter!

But what about that third total — the 2,800 Americans who killed themselves or were accidentally shot by someone else in 1967? Can you do something about that?

Yes, you can. If you own a gun, check it to be sure it is empty. Don't play with it when you clean it and if you must leave it for a few minutes, lock it up again.

Safety Tips

If you go hunting or target shooting, follow the "common sense" safety tips published by the National Rifle Association and similar organizations. If you think you're already careful enough, what about your family? Many of the 2,800 victims of 1967 were women and children.

The gun murder rate for 1968 (just in) was 8,900 persons, an increase of almost 16 percent.

And if you still need another reason to convince you that you need to be more careful with a gun at home than you were here, just remember that an accidental shot back home may kill the one closest to you — someone that you dearly love. Think about it — the life you save may be your very own. (198th IO)

Religion And You

What?—Your Enemies!

By CHAPLAIN (CPT) JAMES B. RITCHIE
1-52nd Inf. Bn.

Coils of barbed-wire, mess tents dripping rain, sand-bags slowly breaking open in the mud, hand "frags" lined up in front of him, a soldier in his poncho sits at guard and watches the dull gray of evening turn into blackness.

"What did the Chaplain say? . . . Love your enemies saith Jesus Christ!" thinks the man. "What?" he puzzles as an 81mm mortar round drops in beyond the wire.

The man questions: "Are the teachings of Jesus a staccato of [illegible] demands or do they fit into a life pattern that has continuity?"

Certainly we are bound to follow the command to "Love your enemies" (Luke 7:33) or else we will become cruel and brutalized. But don't we have to put this command in proper perspective with our obligations and duties to ourselves, our family and our friends? In seeking a balance in our life pattern, it is legitimate to ask these questions:

*** Does "Love your enemies" mean we reject our loyal friends and fellow soldiers?**

No—To desert those who have stood by your side in time of need is contemptuous. After Saul's soldiers had defeated the army of his traitorous son, Absalom, the loyal general, Joab, rebuked Saul for bewailing the death of his treacherous son while the victorious army was forced to slink into the city.

Joab made his disappointment clear: "Today you have made it plain that commanders and soldiers mean nothing to you, since now I see if Absalom were alive today and we all dead you would be pleased." (II Samuel 19:7) And Jesus Christ confided with his disciples: "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15: 12-13).

*** Does "Love your enemies" mean that we adopt the tactics of our enemy?**

No—Proverbs helps provide the answer: "Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways." (3: 31). Paul gives us good counsel: "Be not overcome of evil' but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21). All who would do evil come under this warning of the Master: "Obstacles are sure to come, but alas to the one who provides them!" (Luke 17:1). Love the criminal, but not his crime.

*** Does "Love your enemies mean that we forgive them when they turn from their evil ways?**

Yes—From Matthew's telling of the life of Jesus, we read: "And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, behold my mother and my brethern. For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, sister, and mother." (12: 49-50)

Our total absorption into only one of Jesus sayings without finding its proper balance among His other teachings will lead to hypocrisy and confusion. We should strive to advance on all fronts (physical, mental, and spiritual) simultaneously, so that our horizon of life will grow brighter.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Getting To Know Your Veterans Administration Rights Can Mean Hard Cash In The Bank For You

BRADLEY L. CARL, VA'S REPRESENTATIVE, brings his message to the field as he speaks to men of the 11th Bde. about benefits available to Vietnam veterans.
(Photo by SGT John L. Smith, 11th Bde. IO)

Good ol' Uncle Sam realizes that your military service may have interrupted your education, delayed your plans for job training or slowed your savings toward a home for your family.

Although he can't give you back the years you've spent in the service, he has come up with something which, financially at least, makes up for that service time.

Application Forms

Application forms for all G.I. Bill benefits are available at VA offices in Vietnam as well as in the United States. A personal interview with a VA representative is part of ETS Processing for all soldiers, but if you need assistance or application forms while you are in Vietnam, write to: VA Representative, 90th Replacement Battalion, APO In Country 96491 or phone Long Binh 2185.

Loan Guaranty Benefit

The VA may guarantee loans for the purchase, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement of homes; to purchase farms, farm supplies or equipment; or to construct, alter or improve farmhouses or farm buildings.

Direct loans from the VA may be used only for the purchase of a home or a farmhouse. Business loans and automobile loans are not authorized under current laws. Veterans who may be eligible for business loans under previous laws should consult with the VA.

Duration of Eligibility

Each eligible veteran has a minimum of 10 years in which to apply for a VA loan or loan guaranty. An additional year is allowed for each three month period spent on active duty, up to a maximum of 20 years.

What is a VA Loan Guaranty?

A VA loan guaranty is a promise by the VA to pay a certain percentage of loans made to veterans should they default in repayment. This means you have the government vouching for your credit, and the result is a better chance for you to obtain favorable interest rates with little or no down payment. The VA will guarantee a home loan for up to $12,500 or 60 percent of the total amount whichever is less. For farm real estate the VA will guarantee $4,000 or 50 per cent; for non-real estate farm loans, $2,000 or 40 per cent. There are no limits imposed by the VA on how large a loan you may make from a private lender.

VIETNAM-STYLE

The Viet Arts And Crafts

By SP4 James Brown

The artistic skills and grandeur of a people reflects their true cultural and intellectual depths.

Vietnamese craftmen have produced for centuries the shapes and images of their history and sociology, and the creativity of their imagination in tin, pewter, copper, bronze, silver, gold, lacquer, wood, marble, tile, jute, ceramics, cotton, silk, ivory, tortoise shell and leather, producing a wide variety of essential articles and luxury goods.

Art Shapes

Coppersmiths produce gleaming bells, trays, boxes, vases, Buddhist statues, bowls and containers of various shapes and sizes. While potters pride themselves on the traditional and classical designs decorating glazed pots and bowls. Bien Hoa is renowned for its pottery.

Images In Wood

Woodworkers include scupltors, engravers and artisans, whose speciality is mother-of-pearl inlayed in wood. Objects decorated with inlay include altars for pagodas, temples, churches and homes; tables; chairs; beds; chests of drawers; screens; and panels.

The lacquer industry manufactures all kinds of useful articles, including tables, boxes, trays or purely decorative objects. A noted lacquer product is gilt-lettered maxims written in paralled script and hung against a black background on each side of ancestral altars.

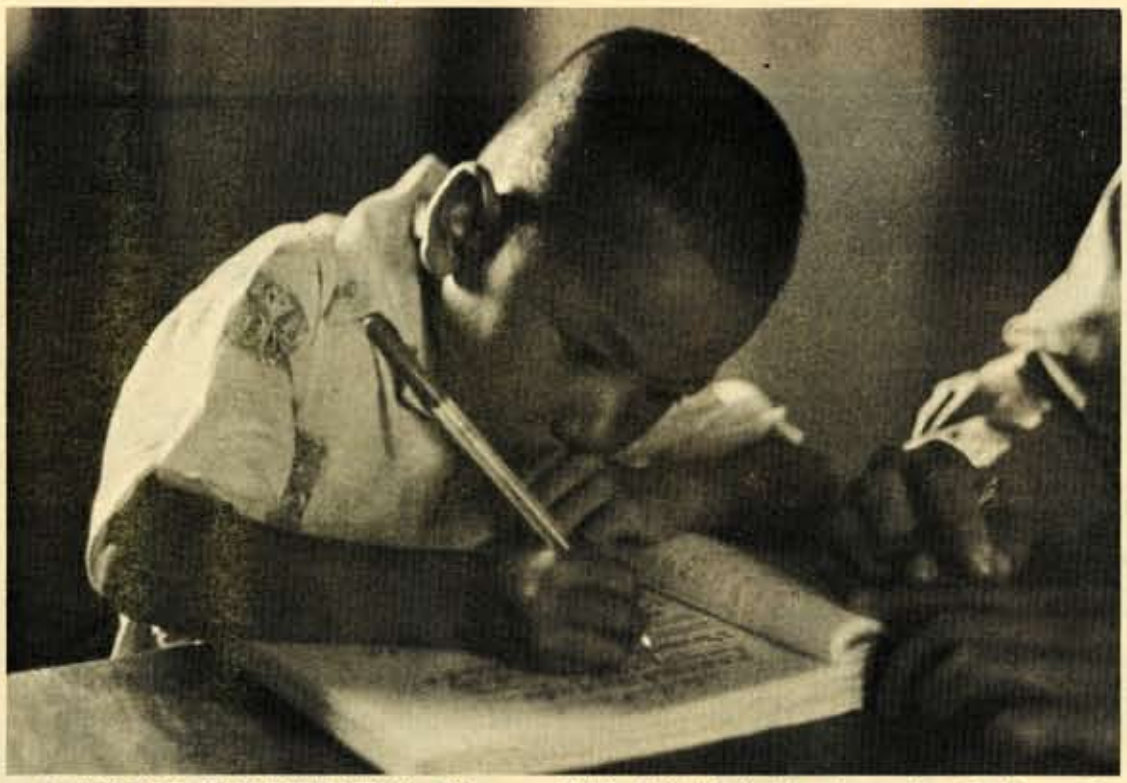
Historical Art

Embroidery is an old and advanced art in Vietnam. Embroidered silks are often given on ceremonial occasions, and designs vary with the purpose of the gift. The craft of weaving fine brocaded silks receives special encouragement from the South Vietnam Government due to the products demand in clothing and costumes.

Baskets come in many shapes and sizes made in close or open weaves. Mats, window shades, parasols, hats, and fans are also made.

The main material, bamboo, is put to an almost endless number of other uses as well.

Scholarship Means Funds, Child Invests Initiative



A STUDY IN CONCENTRATION: This young GEN. Walt Scholarship winner signs for his monly award of 500 piasters in the Duc Pho School. Through this program the 11th Bde dispenses 200,000 piasters yearly to needy and talented students.

By 1LT James P. Collins Jr.

LZ BRONCO — The tiny Vietnamese boy skipped into the Duc Pho school with an ear-to-ear grin. You knew he felt at least five feet tall. His mother carried herself more decorously, but with unmistakable pride. For her son had been selected a a recipient of the GEN Walt Scholarship; today they would sign for the first monthly payment of 500 piasters.

Selection of Awardees

The 11th Inf. Bde. of the division, dispenses more funds under this program than any other unit in I Corps. The brigade's PSYOPS units acts as a liaison between the funds and the student while actual selection of the awardees is made by the district chief and the village school principal.

Distributions of 500 piasters monthly are presented by 11th Inf. Bde. to each of 50 children of the Duc Pho district during the eight-month school term.

Modest Amount

Although this may seem a modest amount, it will be sufficient to meet tuition expenses, provide for school supplies, and perhaps a few clothes. It is the difference between a child continuing his education or withdrawing from school due to lack of funds. Need is a basic criteria in awarding the scholarship.

A boy may be poor but also bright. Any award recipient should be in the upper third of his class academically. Special consideration is given to orphans, children of PF and RF soldiers, and those who have designs on a teaching career.

500 Piasters Means Much

MAJ Eric I. Mackintosh (Concord, Calif.), 11th Bde. S-5, said of the program: "It alleviates family crisis in which the decision must be made to withdraw a child from school for financial reasons. It also helps to ensure the youngster will be adequately clothed and fed while in school."

This program, which is now country-wide, began in I Corps to implement Marine GEN Lewis Walt's belief that "The children of Vietnam are the key to its future." (11th IO)

Buddha Statuette Returned

SON TINH—A short while ago SP4 Juan Jimenez (Palm Springs, Calif.), a demolitions specialist with B Co., 26th Engr. Bn., stepped into a deserted bunker on an NVA infiltration route 19 miles south of Chu Lai.

"I was checking it to see how much explosives would be needed to destroy it," he said, "when I saw a 2½-foot statuette of Buddha. I thought it was probably of some religious value to the Vietnamese, so PFC John F. Huntsberger (Somerset, Ky.), the 'dozer' driver and I carried it outside." The stone-and-cement statuette weighed about 100 pounds.

1LT Robert Mocarski (Holyoke, Mass), 1st platoon leader of B Co. arrived, then, finding not only a blown up bunker but also a serene Buddha perched on his large D-7 bulldozer. Jimenez explained the situation, saying that he thought the article should be taken back to basecamp.

When the statuette was brought to LZ Bayonet, CPT Warren W. Sullivan (Fredericksburg, Va.), company commander, asked the brigade civil affairs section to coordinate with Vietnamese officials for its return to local Buddhist religious leaders.

The 26th Engr. Bn. Commander, LTC Donald R. Swygert (Ballentine, S.C.), flew by helicopter to Son Tinh to officially present the Buddha to authorities at the district headquarters. (198th IO)

21 Vietnamese Earn Awards For Valor

LZ BRONCO — Twenty-one Vietnamese soldiers from Quang Ngai Province were decorated for valor here by MG Lloyd B. Ramsey (Somerset, Ky.), the Americal division Commander. The Vietnamese soldiers, representing seven PF and RF units, received a total of 14 Bronze Stars with "V" device and seven Army Commendation Medals for valor.

Duc Pho District Chief MAJ Bun Toung commented after the ceremony: "We are all proud because this proves we can provide the support and cooperation for combined operations."

MAJ Eric J. Mackintosh (Concord, Calif.), 11th Inf. Bde. PSYOPS officer added: "It's a fine idea that we recognize the excellent work and heroic actions of the local forces."

Also participating in the ceremony were COL Hugh F. T. Hoffman Jr., 11th Inf. Bde. commanding officer; COL Ton That Khieu, Quang Ngai Province Chief; LTC Richard A. Jacoby, province senior advisor, and LTC Le Ba Khieu, CO, 4th ARVN Regiment. (11th IO)

Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PFC Peter L. Smith, 11th Bde; 1LT Richard A. Williams, 1st Cav.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PV2 Ricardo Alvardo, 723rd Maint Bn; 1LT Stephen S. Benseman, 196th Bde; SP4 Ronnie L. Carrol (1st OLC), 196th Bde; SP4 George E. Carter, 11th Bde; PFC Hugh O. Clark, 198th Bde; PFC Peter Cosser, 198th Bde; SGT Dennis P. Davis, 198th Bde; PFC Carl Dean (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Brian A. Doyle (1st OLC), 196th Bde; SFC Ecolia A. Dunn, 196th Bde; PFC Robert J. Fair, 11th Bde; SP4 Abraham Gilbert, 198th Bde; SP4 Robert Goff, 196th Bde; SFC Carlen G. Graves, 196th Bde; PFC Thomas E. Guy, 196th Bde; CPL Leonard Haas, 14th Arty; PFC Gordon L. Harrison, 11th Bde; SP4 Carl R. Harter, 11th Bde; SGT Scott G. Hasselback (2nd OLC), 198th Bde; SP4 John S. Henyan, 11th Bde; 2LT Phillip R. Holloway, 11th Arty; PFC Steven W. Hunt, 11th Bde; PFC Larry D. Keith, 198th Bde; SP4 Randall Kroll, 11th Bde; PFC Robert J. Miller, 11th Bde; PFC William O. Mills, 196th Bde; 1LT Robert J. Monaghan, 123rd Avn Bn; SP4 Fernando Nephi Jr, 123rd Avn Bn; SP4 Richard A. Paddon (2nd OLC), 198th Bde; 1LT Arnold O. Porter, 11th Bde; SP4 Juan S. Santana-Serrano, 11th Bde; SFC Ronald J. Schuller, 196th Bde; 1LT Philip L. Spackman (2nd OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Wayne C. Spencer, 11th Bde; SP4 Edward J. Swain, 123rd Avn Bn; SP4 Larry D. Tabor, 196th Bde; SP4 Kenneth W. Tenney (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Kenneth H. Walker, 11th Bde; SP5 William L. Webb, 11th Bde; SSG Cary T. Whitenack, 11th Bde; SSG Bobby G. Wilds, 11th Bde.

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

1LT Gary O. Bently (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn; CPT Jeffrey P. Knowlton (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn.

Awards for Heroism

Meaning Of Bravery

LZ BAYONET — In a ceremony here a number of Vietnamese soldiers were presented awards of valor by COL Jere O. Whittington (McLean, Va.), the 198th Inf. Bde. commanding officer. The awards given were Bronze Stars and Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions with A Co. of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. while on independent joint operations.

CPT Chau Duc Thao, a Bronze Star earner and the commanding officer of the 3rd Bn. of the 6th ARVN Regiment, was leading his men in a search and clear operation in Quang Ngai Province when his two lead companies were attacked by two VC companies. Thao raced across open terrain to reach the point element to find it pinned down. He now realized that it was impossible for his other units to move to the aid of the pinned element without suffering heavy casualties. The enemy's volume of fire had to be disrupted.

Threading his way back through the continuing fire, CPT Thao picked up a mortar crew and recoilless rifle team and lead them to a position where they could place concentrated fire on the VC. Although he was working in a dangerously exposed position, he was able to call for and direct artillery fire, gunships and flareships in to the enemy positions.

The combination of courage and skill paid-off — the VC were driven away, not even stopping to pick up their dead.

Two weeks earlier, CPT Ho Nam, also a member of the 6th ARVN Regiment, distinguished himself while on a search and clear mission on the Batangan Peninsula 15 miles southeast of Cu Lai. Just after the unit had set up in a night defensive position, a VC company opened up on the CP with heavy machinegun and mortar fire.

At the same time, two additional enemy rifle companies launched probing attacks against the perimeter from the northeast and south. The captain grabbed a radio-set and ran through the weapons fire to a position where he was able to call and direct artillery and gunship fire.

In order to lay the fire more closely to his own position, CPT Ho Nam personally directed the withdrawal of his unit's Ranger platoon to a more covered position. The enemy gave up the fight and withdrew under the cover of darkness, leaving their dead and many weapons behind.

VC Mine Kills 11 Civilians

Workers sift through the wreckage of a small bus in which 11 Vietnamese civilians died when the vehicle detonated a 35 pound VC mine two miles north of Duc Pho. (U.S. Army Photo)

Infantrymen's Aftermath Of Ferociou

Soldiers Keep The Faith With Prayer

A Leader In Thought

A Hovering Chopper Extracts Infantrymen

s Battle And Stern Claim To Victory

Smoke And Signal For A Chopper Being Directed By CO

Photos by
PFC Laszlo Kondor

Americal IO

Story
Page 6

Enemy Flag Held By The Men Of Victory

Tells Of Someone Before

Combat In Review

Combat Choppers

Members of C Co., 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. readies to board an extraction helicopter after finishing a combat operation. (Photo by SP4 James Small, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Infantrymen Caused Enemy to Flee

LZ STINSON—Rainsoaked infantrymen of the Div's 1st Bn. 52nd Inf., marched two days to uncover an extensive enemy base-camp and weapons cache hidden in the mountains seventeen miles west of Quang Ngai City.

The well developed jungle hideout consisted of a large tunnel complex and eleven hooches scattered about a large central building capable of housing 100 people. The central building was furnished with bench type seats and contained a large stock of medical instruction-documents. The findings led local sources to believe the building was being used as a classroom for training NVA medics.

Underneath the buildings an elaborate tunnel complex provided housing for another 300 enemy soldiers. The 4-by-5 foot tunnels also served as a hiding place for 30 semiautomatic and automatic rifles, 35 mortar rounds, 7 RPG rounds, 3 Chinese field telephones, 50 pounds of documents, 10 NVA rucksacks and over 100 pounds each of polished rice, salt and sugar.

C Co. Commander, CPT Terry A. Gordon (Sacramento, Calif.), who led his men to the site after it was discovered by a low flying helicopter said, "The basecamp was one of the most sophisticated I've seen. The fireplace in each of the hooches was equipped with an underground smoke tunnel leading away from the camp. This made smoke detection of the camp very difficult."

The expertly camouflaged camp was discovered when the backwash from a low flying helicopter parted the overhead foliage enabling the pilot to see the large building. Because of the rough terrain the 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers had to be landed on a hilltop nearly five miles away, where they began their two-day march.

"The VC must have just left, because when we got here there were four bowls of warm rice in one of the hooches and all of their pigs and chickens were still around. If they would have had much time they would have chased the animals off or taken them with them," explained SFC Charles R. Pierce (Rock Island, Ill.), platoon leader of the point element.

In addition to serving as a training and resupply area, part of the camp was fenced in to serve as a POW detention area. (198th IO)

A 'Less Alert' Foe Gets Grim Greeting

By SP4 Rick Sohengen

LZ BRONCO — In a war which is being waged largely in small scattered skirmishes and incidents, it is a rare occasion when such contacts culminate into a significant day's action for a forward element.

A recon platoon of the 4-21st Inf., 11th Bde., had met sporadic resistance on a search and clear operation through the hedgerows, rice paddies, and small coastal settlements one mile southeast of Duc Pho.

On the fourth day, two squads of infantrymen and nine National Police (NP) set out before dawn and converged on a small rural hamlet. Four VC suspects were questioned by the NP and were returned to LZ Bronco for further interrogation.

Returning to the day laager position, both elements began taking fire. One VC was killed in the ensuing firefight.

Continuing the operation during the afternoon, the platoon swept through another rural village where repeated sniper fire had been received. Attempting to escape, six NVA were killed and one AK-47 and several grenades were captured.

The platoon had just finished digging in for their night defensive position, when five suspicious characters approached.

"These guys were walking so nonchalantly, we thought at first they were other friendly soldiers," said SP4 John Troutman (Edgemont, Calif.)

A call to "halt" sent the enemy soldiers fleeing. The platoon opened fire killing all five NVA. Several pistols, pith helmets, grenades and documents were found on the bodies.

The platoon was mortared a few minutes later but the day ended as usual with no friendly casualties and with several highly successful missions. (11th Bde IO)

Cat Napping Unlucky For NVA Troop

LZ LIZ — A short catnap proved unlucky for a lost NVA soldier when his sleep was interrupted by infantrymen of the Div.'s 11th Inf. Bde.

The men of B Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf. were canvassing an area in which they engaged four NVA soldiers the night before when they came across the thin, pale enemy soldier soundly and blissfully asleep.

With him was a bag of polished rice, first aid equipment, canned food, poncho and poncho liner, canteen, hammock and helmet.

The 20-year-old enemy explained he had come down from the mountains in a 50-man rice-carrying party, but had become separated from the group and lost his way.

He had only been with his unit for a month, questioning revealed, but already he had been schooled in the need for staying awake. (11th IO)

A Battle Became An Eye Gouging Fray Of Terror

LZ BALDY — Artillerymen at a division fire base nine miles west of Tam Ky were engaged in a rifle swinging, eye gouging, hand to hand melee with NVA sappers.

During a light rain the enemy sappers had moved unnoticed through the barbed wire and trip flares. As they moved closer an excited tracker dog barked his alarm. Fortunately for CPL Ross Johnson (Devils Lake, N.D.), a member of the 196th Inf. Bde., the alarm came soon enough.

"I came out of my bunker and was standing about five feet away when I suddenly turned and saw an NVA soldier on top of the bunker," said Johnson. "I had my M-16 with me. Before he could shoot, I hit him over the head with the weapon. He fell off the bunker dead."

All along the bunker line men from B. Btry., 3-82nd Arty., were clubbing the invaders with wooden stakes, rifles, and other makeshift weapons.

During the fray which lasted sixty minutes. Johnson killed two more NVA, one near the fire base mess hall and the other near the fire direction center.

The invaders were driven off with a total loss of twenty seven killed.

CPL. Johnson's efforts didn't go unrewarded. For his part in the heroic defense of the fire base, he was recently awarded the Silver Star. (196th Bde. IO)

Ready Sapper Squad Pays In Full Defeat

LZ BALDY—Wearing only loincloths and making each movement silently seven sappers carefully negotiated the concertina wire using padded wire cutters at a division firebase seven miles southwest of Tam Ky. Around their necks were basketfuls of satchel charges and Chicom grenades.

PFC Tony Cox (Richmond, Ky.), one of the night guards, saw the intruders when they were about halfway through the wire. He trained his starlight scope on the creeping human figures.

"I called my squad leader and woke up the men at my position," recalled the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. soldier. "When everybody was aware of the sappers, we fired."

While the men on the bunker line were defending the 198th Inf. Bde. firebase, mortar fire was directed on the enemy.

"As the fighting increased, I could see the enemy dragging their casualties from the area," Cox reported.

The deadly M-16 fire and the M-79 grenades were successful. Illumination flares permitted accurate firing as the battered attackers drew off after the brief contact. Alert bunker guards detected no further movement the rest of the night.

The next morning, a sapper body, laden with Chicom grenades and satchel charges, was discovered next to the bunker of PFC Andy Santiago (Colose, P.R.). Later two other bodies were found near adjacent bunkers.

"In our bunker," said PFC Vince Iturba (Union City, N.J.), a squad leader, "everyone responded like a seasoned infantryman. I was extremely proud of their decisive action." (196th IO)

Before The Fight

A division unit checks out a clear area caused by a 1000 pound bomb. The unit is leading in a group of CIDGs from Tra Bong. (Photo by SP4 James Small, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Karen Kosmatka really likes to romp in the field and enjoy nature, but she knows good hygiene is a must for her health. Now we don't want to let Karen down so stay healthy by observing good hygiene habits in the field.

The Combat Photographers Like 'Thick of Things'

By SP5 John Ramanauskas

CHU LAI—When people think of photographers, they usually think of the flash bulb that did not go off. It's an embarrassing problem, but only one of the many that confront photographers from the Div.'s C Co., 523rd Sig. Bn.

Signal photographers, as much at home in triple canopy jungle as on the parade field, endure the hardships of the "field" while performing as a combat photographer.

"I have men that would rather go to the field than remain behind," commented 1LT Timothy W. Hrastar (Cleveland, Ohio), officer in charge of the division photo lab.

SP5 James W. Bennett, Jr. (Memphis), a veteran of heavy fighting in February while with C Co., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., prefers to be in the thick of things because he feels a photo of a combat soldier in print is a great morale booster.

"This recognition is a small way of showing my gratitude to the men who express friendliness and comradeship while I am out there with them," said Bennett.

An average tour in the field covers anywhere from five to seven days. The photographer lives with the unit he is covering and often volunteers to help lessen the infantryman's load by assisting in extra duties such as perimeter guard.

Required to carry a heavily loaded rucksack, an M-16 and his basic load of ammo as well as all essential camera equipment, the combat photographer experiences the same strain and fatigue as the infantryman. Yet he must fulfill his photographic mission.

"Should the combat photographer come under enemy fire, the decision to photograph the action is left to the discretion of the individual," remarked SSG John Robey (Lynchburg, Va.), NCO in charge of the photo lab.

"The combat photographer does not come back with any staged action shots," emphasized Lieutenant Hrastar.

To process the film, from the field or otherwise, lab technicians work long hours to meet the constant demand for prints. The job these lab men perform constitutes the other half of division photo lab operation.

It is the responsibility of these technicians to produce the picture that may reach its final destination in such publications as Stars & Stripes, the division newspaper or magazine, or hometown newspapers.

"To some, printing may not seem like a difficult job," stated Robey, "but my men have their share of problems."

Hampered mostly by mechanical and temperature inconveniences, 523rd lab technicians have used all available recourses to cope with their problems.

"During a breakdown of our air conditioner we were using ice from the NCO club to cool our chemicals," 1LT Hrastar pointed out. "But we generally turn out between 1,000 and 3,000 prints a week."

The division photographers are required to handle diversified assignments both in and out of the field. Taking historical photographs, destined for the archives of the Department of Army is one important mission of the division signalmen.

Other assignments include supporting the division information office' ID and passports award presentations and chain of command pictures.

Investigative photographs — such as aircraft and motor vehicle accidents — and copy work, the reproduction of maps, documents, etc. provides another facet of photography assignments.

The men from the 523rd Sig. Bn. can accomplish their tasks under varying circumstances as a plaque on their bulletin board jocularly implies: "They have done so much for so long with so little. They can now do anything with nothing."

(Americal IO)

SP4 JAMES SMALL (CHARLOTTE, N.C.) LOOK DECEIVINGLY like an infantryman, but actually he is a combat photographer from the 523rd Sig. Bn. on an action assignment.

(Photo By 523rd Sig. Bn.)

USO Chu Lai: A Place To Get Away From It All

By SP4 Stephen G. Frazier

CHU LAI — So often in Vietnam the soldier is reminded of the value of the little things in life — things he once took for granted like the pleasure of sitting back in an easy chair, thinking and thumbing through a magazine.

Or reaching over to find another edition of the same magazine, a few weeks old, but nevertheless as new to the soldier as the day it went into circulation. Maybe even stretch-out and drape that same magazine across his face and get a little sleeptime — the USO Chu Lai provides that precious diversion.

To the men in from the boondocks it means most of their "stand down" afternoons will be spent at the USO where a variety of activities make pleasant and relaxing hours.

When the soldier thinks of USO Chu Lai he thinks immediately of the sandy beach, the warm, healing water of the South China Sea and the sleep-inducing sun. While indoors he's usually browsing around checking out "what's happening" with buddies, cue-ing in on a run of the table (billiard style) or just sitting listening to the "sounds."

Logging-in a little time in the snack bar isn't too bad of an idea either. Stateside type sandwiches, sodas, and soup are served on the spot to be coupled with the added pleasure of padded chairs and clean tables which provides an atmosphere of the world.

Eating, swimming, and reading are not the only relaxants provided by the USO Chu Lai. The dedicated staff under the direction of Miss Shirley Werner (Lacrosse, Ind.) are constantly creating different mediums for relaxation. They carefully plan barbecues and dinners, suggest both amateur and professional entertainment programs, organize group participation quiz shows and table tennis tourneys.

The staff also includes Miss Sue Graham (Austin, Tex.), Associate Director and twenty-one Vietnamese civilians who are attendants and cashiers. Two servicemen are assigned from the division to supervise the Vietnamese civilians and handle inventory and stock control. Miss Werner, who has an MA in Education from Arizona State U., is on her fourteenth month of a voluntary eighteen month tour.

"Basically I wanted to come over here to do what I could for the military, it seems they take a lot of unwarranted ridicule from the hippies and dissident students," said Miss Werner.

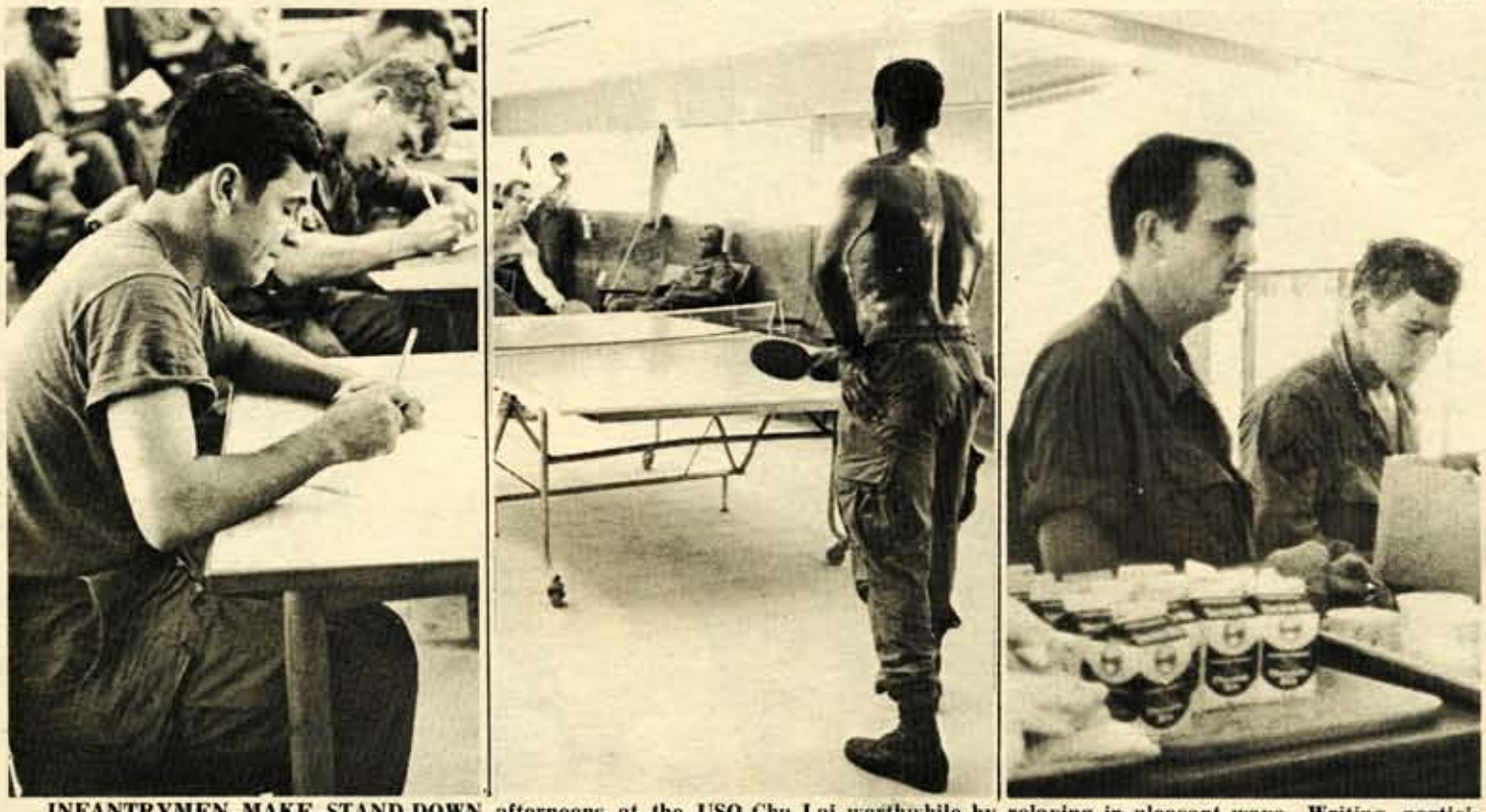
Miss Graham, though she fills the associate director's slot, is actually a director herself and will move to USO Ben Thuy in the delta when it is completed.

"We like to get out to the firebases and the men in the field as often as possible taking out such things as cookies, cool drinks, and gifts," said Miss Werner.

The USO Chu Lai is completely civilian funded and operated. Funds are usually received through donations to the Community Chest, United Fund and Combined Federal Campaign.

The familiar USO banner which appears over the main entrance to all USO facilities represents six civilian agencies that are interested in the American soldiers' welfare. Each star in the banner represents one of the agencies: YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, National Catholic Community Service, National Jewish Welfare Board and the Travelers Aid Association of America.

To bring a little home to the serviceman away from home is the mission of the USO. Through the efforts of the USO Chu Lai staff, any individual of any service can enjoy a tranquil atmosphere to pursue those precious moments of leisure. (Americal IO)



INFANTRYMEN MAKE STAND-DOWN afternoons at the USO Chu Lai worthwhile by relaxing in pleasant ways. Writing, participating in outdoor and indoor sports, and eating stateside type chow at the snack bar. At the USO the soldiers' tensions become somewhat relieved with fun and constructive games; also the atmosphere is a morale builder.

Professor Says . . .

UM Has Following Courses

The following University of Maryland courses are being offered by the Education Center, HQ, Americal Division, for Term #2, 10 November to 17 January; History 21 (History of United States to 1865) Business Administration 20 (Principles of Accounting I) Sociology 1 (Introduction to Sociology).

Registration is scheduled at the Education Center for the period, 3 thru 9 November, telephone 2311 for further information.

Bangkok's Art Flow May Delay Someone

Antique and art collecting by servicemen assigned or visiting Bangkok face the risk of baggage delays if they attempt to carry unauthorized art works out of Thailand.

In most instances delays can be avoided if the serviceman follows the rules set by the Thai Government. The Fine Arts Department of the National Museum in Bangkok and the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, provide application forms which, if approved, allow shipment of art works, antiques and some Buddha images.

Thai Art Flow

Baggage delays can occur on either side of the Pacific. In a clamp down Air Force officials have reported in country delays on the unofficial flow of Thai art and Buddha images out of Thailand. Transportation Officials in Bangkok at Headquarters, Army Support Thailand said that unauthorized objects hand carried onto military carriers can be confiscated at Travis AFB, Calif.

The procedures a serviceman should follow are:

1. Application forms for antiques or art objects are issued by the Museums' Archaeology division upon payment of 20 stang ($.01) for a duty stamp. The antiques or art objects must be taken to the archaeology division for inspection, together with two post-card sized photographs of each object.

2. Small objects not exceeding five pieces can be photographed in one picture.

Archaeology Division

3. Applicants should submit the application form to the archaeology division at least five days before the date of shipment. After a license is issued by the fine arts department, all objects listed in the license must again be taken to the archaeology division, this time for official sealing. The license is valid for 30 days from the date of issue.

4. Buddha, Diety images or fragments, dating up to the 18th century A.D., are not permitted to be taken out of country. A license for taking Buddha, Diety images or fragments, dating from the 19th century A.D., is obtainable from the foreign trade department in Bangkok.

Books To Div Troops

Thoughtful members of the Americal Division Veterans' Association collected and packed over 12,600 books which were obtained through donations from private citizens of Boston, Mass. and surrounding communities. Volunteers also included the school children of the Dedham, Mass., public schools.

Each unit in the division will receive at least two cartons of books. The cartons are comprised of paperback pocket books, along with specific deliveries of Readers Digest to Military hospitals in the division AO.

SP4 Richard Merlin (Boston, Mass.), who was home on emergency leave from the 23rd MP Co., pitched in to help collections and packing with his father, a retired regular army M.P. sergeant who is also National Adjutant of the Americal Association. Both Merlins served in the Americal and both were MPs, a true father-son team.

MEMBERS OF THE Americal Division Veterans' Association unload over 100 cartons of books at a Boston Post Office for shipment to division units. Left to Right: (Kneeling) CWO Bill McGoldrick National Commander (standing) Bill Trubiano Jr, Edward Vieira, Asst. Adjutant, SP4 Richard Merlin, 23rd MP Co., Bill Trubiano, Bob Donahue, Henry Morash Past Commander and Committee Chairman, James McHarrie and on truck Fred Gernier.

(Photo by Americal Div. Veterans' Assoc.)