SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 32 | Chu Lai, Vietnam | November 7, 1969

Infantrymen Led To Enemy Camp

KIT CARSON SCOUT NGYUEN Trong Thu, who previously demonstrated sapper techniques for the 1-52nd Inf. 198th Bde. led the sweep and eventual uncovering of a NVA recuperation and training site northwest of Quang Ngai. Thu led the members of B. Co. and recon platoon to his former hideout where he once recovered from an earlier in the year attack on LZ Stinson.
(Photo by PFC Marshall B. Rowland, 198th IO)

By SP4 RICH EGERTSEN

LZ STINSON — The cry, "fire in the hole" shattered the air and sent Division infantrymen sprinting for cover as PFC Wayne Lowry (Pittsburg), B Co.'s demolitions man, touched off the charges that ripped apart yet another section of the NVA recuperating station and training site located in the mountainous terrain 15 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

Nguyen Trong Thu, a former NVA soldier and now a Kit Carson Scout, guided the recon platoon and B Co., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. to the station where he recovered after being wounded in the May 12th sapper attack on LZ Stinson.

Hacking their way through double canopy foliage, the infantrymen had finally found the 13 bunker complex. Their efforts of a long march were rewarded.

Probing the bunker interiors, they dug up 15 AK-47 assault rifles, one SKS carbine, one .30 cal. machinegun, 10 rounds for an 82mm mortar, two field telephones with an estimated 1200 feet of commo wire, one radio transmitter-receiver, and one Chinese 9mm pistol.

The Kit Carson Scout who was previously publicized at 'the sapper demonstrator' for the 1st of the 52nd in the Southern Cross, Stars and Stripes, and other Vietnam publications, had now established his worth in both firebase defense technique and field operations.

The members of Thu's platoon voted to award him the 9mm pistol for his role in finding the cache. As PFC Richard R. Pooler (Keller, Wash.), A Co. rifleman, said, "The camp probably wouldn't have been discovered if he hadn't led us to it."

While searching the cleared areas around the complex, members of the companies found enemy training grounds. Vines, shaped to simulate concertina, were used to drill sapper teams and wooden silhouette targets were nailed to trees for marksmanship classes. Using carved wooden models, the NVA troops had been instructed in the methods of firing at helicopters and tossing hand grenades.

"From the looks of their training facilities, it could have been mistaken for an old-fashioned U.S. training center," described PFC David M. Koponen (Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.), a member of B Co.'s third platoon.

When the two infantry units left the area, it was with the satisfaction of knowing that this once-secure NVA encampment would no longer serve to train enemy soldiers. (198th IO)

Can't Fight Minus Rice

QUANG NGAI CITY — Five VC decided they would rather switch than go hungry after A Co. of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. uncovered the supply of rice they had hidden for the monsoon season.

Division soldiers of D Co. working side by side with A Co. were conducting a careful search of a small village five miles north of Quang Ngai City when members of the second platoon became suspicious of the thick walls making up many of the 300 hooches in the village. A few cautious pokes soon caused the thin outer mud-walls to crumble spilling out 6½ tons of the precious rice.

The following day five members of a local VC unit Chieu Hoied to the 198th Bde. infantrymen still working in the same area.

MSG Oren W. Justice (Oswego, Kan.), battalion operations sergeant, said, "This is an indication of how a find like this really injures the enemy in a subtle way. They compare their situation with that of the government soldiers who have plenty of food and it serves as a powerful demoralizing factor. When they are in this state of mind they will often take advantage of the 'way out' offered by the Chieu Hoi Program and this is the exact effect we are hoping for." (198th IO)

Hamlet Security Is Part Of Participation

By LT ROBERT KRESGE

PHU THANH — Farmers and their families are streaming into this small hamlet near Quang Ngai City. And the reason isn't too hard to find.

"They know there is security in this hamlet," said MAJ Robert C. Disney (Alexandria, Va.), the operations officer of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf.

MAJ Disney's battalion has become involved in the pacification and "upgrading" of Phu Thanh in an intense joint U.S.-GVN effort to bring improved conditions and security to small hamlets in this part of southern I Corps.

The goal is to bring small, "contested" villages such as Phu Thanh to a state where the Viet Cong can no longer influence its well being, explained MAJ Disney.

To do this infantrymen of the 198th Bde. have joined one rifle platoon of PFs, National Police and other Vietnamese agencies to eliminate VC pressures in the hamlets.

Of first priority, explained MAJ Disney, is improving security for the villages. Then the Revolutionary Development cadre begin to establish an elected local government rooting out the VC infrastructure members.

A Census Grievance Committee surveys the population and monitors complaints by the people. In further stages of the program the Revolutionary Development cadre trains local men as a self defense force and the U.S. Army doctors and medics conduct periodic checks of the populace.

"The people here are becoming more friendly to Americans," said PFC Herbert Zellers (Kewanna, Ind.), a member of the platoon assigned to the hamlet. "We've checked out where the kids said to look for mines and we've found them."

Hamlet chiefs in all of the hamlets undergoing the newly tried effort of pacification have contributed in finding enemy munitions, mines and booby traps.

Because the presence of the joint U.S. and Vietnamese forces have brought security to Phu Thanh, Vietnamese have abandoned surrounding areas and moved into the hamlet.

"They know that there is security here and they're streaming in," explained MAJ Disney. "The people are beginning to turn to the hamlet team and provide information on the VC. And they're gaining confidence in their ability to defend themselves."

"I think with this new program the people will not only learn about government, but also about their own self defense," said CPT Donald Duncan (Rolling Meadows, Ill.).

Aside from helping the villagers, the program is also keeping "Charlie" from using the hamlet as a base for supplies and rest.

"The VC are going to get awfully hungry out there," said PFC Daniel F. Burner III (Reston, Va.).

While the enemy are "going hungry" the villagers of Phu Thanh and other hamlets which are targets of the new program, are making lengthy strides toward a safer and healthier existence. (198th IO)

A MUCH SOUGHT AFTER sense of security draws farmers and their families to the village of Phu Thanh, Then with help they elect their own government, are trained to defend themselves and are subject to periodical medical check-ups by U.S. MEDCAP teams.
(Photo by 1LT Robert Kresge, 198th IO)

The Army Attitude And Racial Discrimination

By SP4 JAMES BROWN

In today's modern Army, there is a more progressive attitude and climate of providing equal opportunity and treatment for all military personnel. The Army has been more progressive in its ranks than any other major institution in the American society. But lets not fool ourselves! There is a great need for an in-depth analysis of racism and other social problematic areas.

Harmonious Relationships

An effective degree of mature action must be taken by leaders to preclude any circumstances that may prompt racial turbulence that could adversely affect harmonious relationships between U.S. soldiers of different races.

In a message to all soldiers GEN W.C. Westmoreland said "racial harmony will not occur automatically. Every month thousands of recruits take their places in Army ranks. They come from varying economic and social backgrounds."

The concept of personal uniqueness is representative of our democratic principles — in our heterogeneous society we must be able to comprehend the personal quality of others and respect their humanity.

The necessity of effective race communication cannot be overemphasized. Many persons bring harsh and often distorted attitudes concerning race relationships into the military service with them from civilian life. But, racial disharmony in today's Army can greatly hinder military missions, in that, each soldier must respect and trust his fellow soldier to the extent of placing his life in the other's hand.

Secretary Of Army

Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor as he opened the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army stated, "Negro soldiers need commanders who recognize the 'black is beautiful' slogan as a symbol of racial pride and comradeship."

In order to combat racism we must understand how it comes into being. Modern sociologists and psychologists state that racism is abnormal and mentally unhealthy, and is taught rather than developed innately. Racial mythology is the fuel of racism. It is what M.F.A. Montagu has called, "man's most dangerous myth."

"It must be clearly understood by all soldiers that the Army has made a firm commitment in continuing the task of removing every vestige of discrimination which affects the American soldiers and his dependents. That same mutual trust and respect so manifest on the battlefield must pervade all Army installations and activities," concluded GEN Westmoreland.

Some soldiers might perceive racism as the official policy of the Army due to actions and reactions by a particular person in a leadership role. Consequently, there exist a great void between established fact and opinion. The American society represents a progressive sociological integrity; it takes a creative response toward racial understanding to keep democracy as a workable philosophy.

"We shall give more recognition to the Negro's presence in the Army, and the fact that he has a long military heritage. Training films and other materials must be developed to promote racial understanding among soldiers, said Secretary Resor.

We must discord our traditional ways in confronting racial matters. The outmoded standard indicators which we have relied upon in the past to access morale factors and principles of discipline are not sufficient today.

Many Scholarships To Aid College Bound Students Having Military Dependent Status

College-bound students of Army personnel on active duty are eligible to compete for scholarships ranging between $100 and $1500 through the U.S. Army Educational Assistance Program. The amount the scholarships to be awarded will be based on financial need. Winners will be selected through the testing facilities of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) and approved by the Department of the Army.

The U.S. Army Educational Assistance Program provides four-year U.S. Army Merit and U.S. Army Special Scholarships to eligible active duty Army dependents who are designated finalist, semifinalist or commended students by the NMSC during their senior year of high school.

To be eligible for Army scholarship assistance, a student must be a dependent of an Army member who is on active duty as of Dec. 15 of the students senior year of high school.

Second semester junior and first semester senior dependent students who wish to be considered for a U.S. Army Merit or U.S. Army Special scholarship must take the National Merit Scholarship qualifying test. (NMSQT).

The qualifying test will be administered during the current academic year at participating high schools on either Feb. 4, 1970 or Feb 7, 1970. If unable to take the NMSQT on one of these dates, students must contact NMSC to arrange an alternate testing date.

Eligible dependent students who reach finalist status will be automatically considered for one of the scholarships. Announcements of award will be made in May 1970.

Dependent students who do not advance from semi-finalist to finalist status and those who receive Letters of Commendation from NMSC may apply for a scholarship. The awarding of a scholarship in this case is not automatic.

To be considered for a scholarship eligible dependent students must submit an application for the U.S. Army Special Scholarship to: The Adjutant General, ATTN: AGMG-D, Department of the Army Washington DC. 20315. The application must be submitted no later than November 15 1969. Application blanks may be obtained from local Army personnel offices or by writing the Adjutant General at the above address.

Religion and You

Hell Is Anguish

By CHAPLAIN (CPT) MAX D. SULLIVAN
1st Bn., 20th Inf.

In popular language hell is the place of dreadful punishment. In the Army, hell is an assignment to a unit which lacks both pride and esprit. It is hell because the identity process has broken down.

While it may be the popular thing to "bad mouth" a unit, it is certainly demoralizing to all its members. It is destructive to the point of making one feel that he cannot find meaning and purpose in such a unit. "Bad mouthing" a unit is a contagious demonic start to a cycle of destructive power in the individual. It puts into motion the destruction of pride and esprit—the necessary elements in any collective body which can and should spur self-achievement and self identity.

The Hebrew word for hell is "sheol" meaning the abode of the dead. A unit without pride and esprit can be so described, for here is spread the seed of self-rejection—a living death.

The Cronicles are full of examples of how history was written by collective bodies that were permeated with esprit. Conversely, wise men throughout history have prophetically declared that the lack of it can destroy the individual.

Eric Hoffer, the "longshoreman philosopher", has wisely said, "The less promise and potency in the self the more important is the need for pride." Our Army units can provide "esprit" that can lead to a reconciliation with the self and the attainment of genuine self-esteem.

Where these elements are lacking—Let's Call It Hell!

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

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Proudly Serving Our Action Army

CPT Domingo A. Monlinelli Reenlistment Officer Amcal. Div.

By MSG H.A. BONESIO

Forty-four of the 54 soldiers reenlisting during a one-week period in the division were "first termers." Of these, 40 chose guaranteed enlistment options while the others remain on their present duty assignment.

Division Troops was represented by two "Topkicks" from the 23rd M.P. Co., 1SG Dillard Cannon Jr and 1SG Collins J. Orebo; SP4 Frank E. O'Brien, PFC Robert E. Cowles, PFC Wayne A. Stromley, PFC James Lindsay, all with A Trp., 1-1st Cav.; and FFC Luins M. Morgan Jr, C Co., 523rd Sig. Bn.

Support Command had SSG Robert G. Beal and SP6 Harold Cornett, 23rd Admin. Co.

Division Artillery keeps CSM Jerrold A. Wirig and PFC Thomas S. Hill, HHB, 1-14th Arty.; SSG Lonnie R. Webb, HHB, and PFC Earl Jones, A Btry., 3-82nd Arty.

The 16th Combat Aviation Group retains SFC Billy J. Stephens and SP5 Michael Hallman, HHC, 123rd Avn. Bn.; SSG Jimmie Green and SSG Darrell A. Snuffer, 71st Avn. Co., 14th Avn. Bn.

The 11th Infantry Brigade was represented by 4-21st Inf., PFC Jennings Q. Parker, HHC, SGT James E. Turnbow, C Co., and PFC N. Montgomery, E Co.; 1-20th Inf., SP4 Raymond R. Jansky, C Co., PFC Clarence Wallace, HHC; 4-3rd Inf., PFC Michael P. Collins and PFC Robert F. Ernest, both with C Co., and PVT Kenneth Hafford, A Co.; 3-1st Inf., PFC Ronald Wess, D Co.

The 196th Infantry Brigade reenlistees were, from 1-46th Inf., PFC Ray H. Cox, B Co., PFC Wendell C. Mahan, C Co., PFC Dennis R. Murphy and PFC Bruce G. Haney, D Co., PFC Gary L. Griffin and FFC Bobby L. Cunningham, E Co.; from 3-21st Inf. were PFC Gary D. Coffman, A Co., SP4 Henry Maestas, PFC Tony C. Deason and PFC Daniel K. Holifield, B Co., PFC James E. Peoples, C Co., PFC Ronald J. Wagman, PFC Donald B. Meehan, PFC Joseph B. Wright, FFC John P. Tucker, and PFC Richard P. Cohenour, D Co.; from 4-31st Inf. were PFC Everett Templeton and PFC Richard W. Harrison, B Co., PFC George W. Camp Jr, PFC Rodney Sautter and SP4 Kenneth Albright, C Co.

The 198th Infantry Brigade re-upped at the 5-46th Inf., SGT Randolph Hall, and PFC Kenneth L. Dickerson, B Co., PFC Walter Griffin, HHC; from 1-52nd Inf., PFC Richard T. Cavanaugh, B Co., FFC Gerald E. Paulin, C Co.; while 1-6th Inf. had SSG Manis L. Caudill, HHC, and PFC Robert E. Stryker, A Co.

The 27th Surg. Hospital's Vietnamese Ward

A CORPSMAN APPLIES A dressing to the neck of a Vietnamese child. In the absence of a nurse or when the situation warrants his help the corpsman is a vital member of the nursing team. Many nurses have said it would be impossible to function without them. (Photo by 1LT Josef Hebert, Americal IO)

SSG HO VAN TAO, a National Policeman of the Vietnamese 20th M.P. Co., gives fatherly admiration to his seventh son, Ho Van Phuc. SSG Ho Van Tao works closely with the Americal's 23rd M.P. Co. (Photo by 1LT Josef Hebert, Americal IO)

By SP4 Stephen G. Frazier

CHU LAI — There are few situations in life where eye to eye contact has so much meaning, where an embracing smile can mean the difference between understanding and misunderstanding, where an individual's temperament must possess sensitivity and patience yet keep a sense of immediacy. Rendering of these emotions is sometimes difficult but the nurses and corpsmen of the Vietnamese Ward of the 27th Surg., Hosp. find it an everyday fact of life.

The ordeal of two month old Butch was a microcosm of daily occurrences in the ward. Deserted by his mother and gravely ill he was found by a MEDCAP team. Evacuated to the Emergency Ward of the 27th Surg., Hosp., diagnosticians concluded that he had a perforated bile duct which was pouring poison into his system.

An extremely delicate operation known as a colostomy (an excretory opening in his abdomen) was performed successfully. Butch's survival now depended on the skill of the practitioners on the ward.

After a brief term in the Intensive Care Unit Butch arrived in the ward. There the nurses and corpsmen did everything from careful changing of his dressings to burping him. After a few weeks of close attention his condition improved to the point where his colostomy could be closed. The severity had passed and Butch was pulling through.

Regardless of cultural or religious origin all people realize the frailty and helplessness of an infant; when a nurse held Butch revealing a timeless woman's smile—mama-sans could do nothing but see, and bridges could do nothing but be crossed.

"It's just a known fact that working with this ward has been the most rewarding experience of my life," said LTC Frances Vandiver (Anderson, S.C.) chief nurse. Every other individual in the ward shares with few differences the same viewpoint.

Complications do exist but are handled patiently by the nurses and corpsmen. "As they have had limited training in personal hygiene, they do not understand when we correct them, so we have to be firm but gentle—it's difficult," said 2LT Karen Fedorov (Denver, Colo.). The nurses impress the patients with the fact they must learn to help themselves. "The Vietnamese have lacked past medical attention, so when they are ill or in pain, they do not know that they can ask for and get relief," said 1LT Cheryl Leonard, (Pontiac, Ill.)

The same attention granted to Butch is not slighted for other patients. Between the two "quonset" huts that comprise the forty-bed ward a playground has been built. Sparked by the idea of LTC Vandiver, the once vacant place has been replaced with seesaws and swings. Sometimes whole families are evacuated with their loved one, so a hooch has been built for boarders and meals are provided.

MAJ. Alton F. Gross., CO of the 27th Surg. Hosp. said, "One of the greatest significances of the whole ward is the fact that the Vietnamese (aids and interpreters) are working closely with our nurses, helping each other. Morale is extremely high."

It's a challenge, it's difficult, and it takes patience but since its initiation in June of 1968 the Vietnamese Ward of the 27th Surg., Hosp. has been at the crossroads of understanding; supplying direction. (Americal IO)

SOMEONE REMARKED that "Butch" was getting spoiled by so much attention. Obviously 1LT Cheryl Leonard doesn't think so. Butch recently left the Vietnamese Ward for an orphanage in Tam Ky. (Photo by 1LT Josef Hebert, Americal IO)

VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS need no urging to help each other. Here two ARVN's head for the outside to catch some afternoon sun. Though there are some ARVN soldiers in the ward most of the patients are civilians. (Photo by 1LT Josef Hebert, Americal IO)

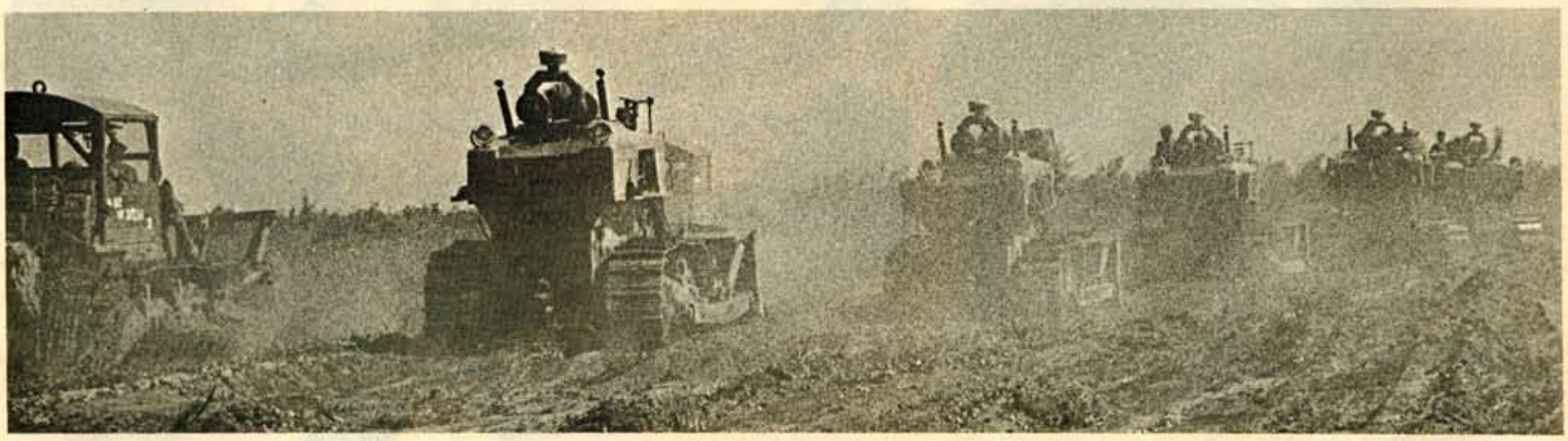
VISITING PRIVILEGES ARE granted at the Vietnamese Ward. Here a young convalescent receives word from home by a friend of the family. Visiting hours are from 1300 to 1500 hours daily. (Photo by 1LT Joseph Hebert, Americal IO)

Gaza Strip Operation Clears 8900 A

Pointman For Bulldozers

Takes Land Or Water With Ease

Operation Will Help Villagers



A Long Line Of Steel Ready For Hard Work

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0 Acres Of Harsh Terrain Near Duc Ph

A rare amphibious landing in the tradition and excitement of World War II recently took place on the Gaza Strip northwest of Duc Pho.

The land clearing project was a joint Army-Marine mission involving about 220 men, to start a massive 8900 acre land clearing operation. Tracks and infantrymen from the 11th Bde. debarked support landing crafts to provide the engineers with the needed security during the operation. Working on a 30 day timetable the engineers are required to clear the rugged terrain of pine forests, jungle foliage rice paddies, and beaches.

Twenty bulldozers, taking only time for brief coordination, immediately started the operation by moving "en masse" clearing everything in their path.

"It is our third operation with the Army engineers, we work well together," said CPT Richard Schoaf (Atlanta, Georgia.) However, said the Marine, "It's the infantrymen, they are outstanding, they give us great security."

The two month old provisional company immediately faced an area full of booby-traps, mines, and other anti-personal devices. But pre-planning paid off as a nine-man demolition team was landed with the engineers and troops to destroy or disarm any discovered devices.

When the clearing operation is completed the enemy in this area will be deprived of a sanctuary, vulnerable to attack, and powerless to continue their terrorist tactics.

Three Soldiers Of A Determined Team

Story And Photos
By PFC Laszlo Kondor
Americal IO

He Knows The Job

With Time Can Move Mountains

A Hunk Of Deadly Destruction

A tank from the division's 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. guards Hill 411 near Duc Pho. The cavalrymen were supporting 11th Bde. infantrymen sweeping the area in an operation.
(Photo by SP4 Lou Pearson, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

A Grave Discovery Flamed With Battle

LZ HAWK HILL — In ferocious daytime action, D Co., 1st Bn., 46th Inf., ran the gamut in NVA detection and destruction.

The day began when a platoon from the 196th Inf. Bde. came upon eight freshly-dug graves on a brushy hillside 10 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

NVA signs multiplied as the company proceeded on their mission. They passed several bunkers that were apparently being built by the NVA. While searching one bunker, a platoon found 1,000 rounds each of SKS rifle and .30 cal. ammunition. The ammo was in excellent condition, and was destroyed along with the incompleted bunkers by incendiary grenades.

Later, as D Co. was setting up a defense position, 12 NVA soldiers were surprised as they were attempting to mount a 106 recoilless rifle. The enemy fled, but a recon element was dispatched to locate them.

As the recon element moved slowly forward in its search, the men spotted five NVA. Quickly the infantrymen merged with the vined trees lining the trail and waited.

The NVA halted just within rifle range — that was enough. A blaze of M-16 rifle fire slammed two enemy to the ground. A quick search uncovered several 106 recoilless rifle rounds, abandoned when the NVA scrambled to safety.

"Of course, we didn't plan it this way," said 2LT Joseph McCourt (Brooklyn), platoon leader with D Co. "But sometimes we have a day like this, when everything just falls into place for us." (196th IO)

Lumber Pile Logs Luck

LZ HAWK HILL—It never hurts for a soldier to have a little luck, no matter how skillful and alert he may be.

Take PFC Robert Coley (Broderick, Calif.), an artilleryman in the division, who was saved from serious injury by a pile of lumber.

PFC Coley, a member of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., was inside a shed when a 60mm mortar round landed a scant 10 feet from the structure.

"I heard this tremendous explosion," said Coley. "The force of it knocked me to the floor."

Coley received fragmentation wounds in his left leg. However, the injury was slight compared to what it might have been. Fortunately, the mortar round had struck a pile of lumber located next to the shed. The wood absorbed most of the fragmentation from the round.

After he had been rushed to the aid station by three of his buddies, Coley had a chance to reflect. "I might have been seriously injured or perhaps killed," he said. "I guess in a way that lumber pile saved my life."

Few U.S. soldiers would discount the value of luck in Vietnam. Least of all Robert Coley. (196th IO)

Sabres: The Makers Of Impressive History

CHU LAI — Not every aviation unit in the 16th Combat Aviation Group can boast of a history which began with protecting settlers along the Santa Fe trail. Nor can many organizations in the division point to distinguished records of service in every major conflict the United States has been involved in since the Mexican War.

At Jefferson Barracks in the summer and autumn of 1833, D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. was activated. It immediately pushed west to explore an unknown country and protect settlers. The unit later fought in the Mexican War, joined the Army of the Potomac at the outbreak of the Civil War, participated in the Indian Campaigns throughout the west, and took part in the Spanish American War. During WWI, D Trp., served on the Mexican Border.

In 1933, D Trp., was among the first units to be completely mechanized. It fought gallantly throughout North Africa and Italy during WWII.

The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav arrived in Vietnam in July 1962, minus D Trp. At this time the "Sabres" underwent transformation to an air cavalry troop and rejoined the squadron in Vietnam on May 1, 1969. The unit was recently assigned to the 16th C.A.G.

The mission of the "Sabres" is to extend by aerial means the reconnaissance and security capabilities of ground units; to engage in offensive and defensive operations or delaying actions within it's capability; and to seize and dominate lightly defended areas or terrains features. In short, D Troop finds the enemy, fixes his position and annihilates him by any means at his disposal.

The "Sabres", commanded by MAJ R.A. Neuwein Jr., (Ft. Worth, Texas) average 1400 hours flying time per month. Since arriving in-country the unit has accumulated 196 enemy KIA. Information received from documents captured by D Trp., had caused great damage to the enemy's local infrastructure.

Since it was organized in 1833, the D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., has undergone a complete metamorphosis. A few things however have remained consistent: the pride with which the "Sabres" serve and the professional ability with which they carry out their mission. (16th C.A.G. IO)

Experience Is Teacher For A Combat Medic With Lifesaving Task

LZ HAWK HILL—No one in Vietnam feels the hot, deadly, uncertain immediacy of jungle warfare more cogently than the field medic—"Mr. 91B20."

SP5 Pete Martinez (Pueblo, Colo.) a division medic, received a fiery introduction to life-saving in Vietnam last spring.

Martinez although army-trained had never experienced the frantic, helpless need of a soldier lying in head-high elephant grass, cut down by enemy fire. It was his first outing with a line company.

The medic was with his unit, B Co, 2-1st Inf. on a sweep 15 miles west of Tam Ky in the 196th Bde's area of operation, when trouble erupted.

"We were pushing across the floor of Happy Valley," recalled Martinez. The elephant grass was over our heads and we couldn't see very far to our front."

The explosion came abruptly when an NVA booby trap was detonated. Three men slumped to the ground in agony. Martinez rushed to their aid, black bag in hand.

In the few critical minutes that followed, Martinez patched up the three men. They lived and were evacuated to the rear. Martinez was now a full-fledged field trained medic, a valuable man in any unit.

"You can't really learn how to be a medic in a classroom; not anymore than a trainee can learn to be an infantryman in A.I.T., insisted Martinez. "You have to go out there yourself. When I first came into my company, another medic gave me my medicines, a short lecture and a chopper ride into the field. There is no one beside you to tell you what to do, it scares you at first, but you learn fast."

"You react with reflex swiftness. You get to know the men very well. When a man is hit you talk to him, try to calm him down. Talk about his hometown or his girl, just anything to calm him down and keep him from thinking about his injury," said Martinez.

Being a medic has changed SF5 Martinez's outlook on life.

"I want to live more, "he said. "You appreciate life and people more when you've seen death." (196th IO)

Combat In Review

Watch Dog

LZ HAWK HILL — The men of C Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., located on a division fire base some 20 miles west of Tam Ky, met Projo when the battery's former commander picked him up in Chu Lai. No one knows how the 85-pound German shepherd came by his name, but it has become a "hoochhold word" for men at this 196th Inf. Bde. fire base.

"You never know how loyal a dog can be until something unexpected happens," reflected artilleryman PFC Jerry Prisoc (Monroe, La.). "Projo roams around the fire base at night. His warning is a mighty 'gru-u-u-ff'!"

"One night he heard an unfamiliar noise or smelled a strange odor near the perimeter. Making a beeline for the battery command bunker, Projo ran through the door and leaped on the sleeping officer. "He's the best warning device we have," laughed Prisoc.

Projo maintains a 100 percent attendance during fire missions. He usually stands beside the cannoneer and never flinches when the big 105mm guns make their earth-shattering deliveries.

"I think with a little coaching he'll be able to yank the lanyard with his teeth," quipped SP4 John Jones (Petersburg, Va.). (196th IO)

A Combat Soldier

An Americal soldier cautiously moves through a swamp on Batangan Peninsula during an operation. The mission is being conducted by the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Bde.
(Photo by SP4 James Small, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

This pretty lass, Jennie Linden, is sure her mini-skirt is just right. Jennie, who likes a trooper to be uptight in appearance said, "Wear your uniform and insignias correctly and you will make a better appear ance."

The Army's Proper Wearing Of Insignias And Rank

The name tape and distinguishing U.S. Army insignia in black letters on olive green background will be worn on the field jacket, flight suit, and on the field and work uniforms.

The change in positioning the insignias will be accomplished by attrition at no expense to the individual. If insignias are presently attached by old standards, soldiers do not have to change them.

Name and U.S. Army tapes should extend the full length of the pocket on the combat tropical uniforms and will be positioned parallel to the top of the uniform pockets.

* Single Badge: Immediately above the U.S. Army tape, parallel to the ground with the badge's own left side immediately above the highest point of the Army tape.

* Two of more badges. Normal order of positioning—The lower badge positioned as (single badge). Succeeding badges centered over the lower badge.

Insignia Of Rank

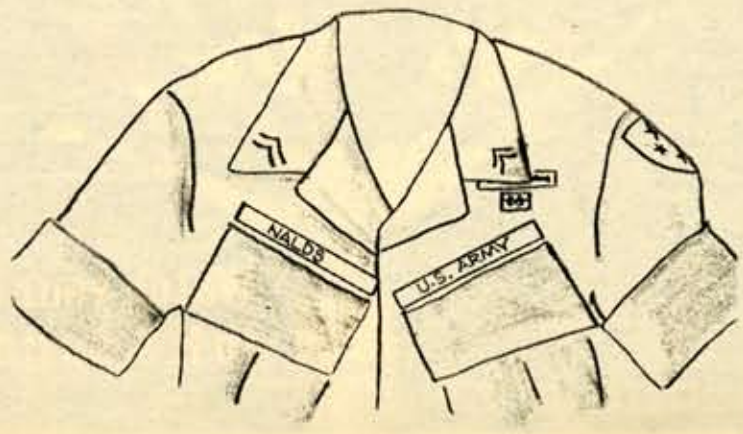
Subdued insignia of grade, metal pin-on for enlisted men or cloth for Officer are authorized for wear on utility caps, the tropical combat hat and the solid color baseball cap.

* Insignia of grade: 1 Lieutenant, Captain, Lt. Colonel, Colonel, General Officer—subdued metal pin-on insignia or black cloth insignia on olive green background.

* Insignia of grade: 2 Lieuteant and Major—subdued metal pin-on insignia or dull bronze cloth insignia on olive green background.

* Insignia of grade: WO1 and CW2—subdued pin-on insignia or black and dull bronze cloth insignia on olive green background.

* Insignia of grade: CW3 and CW4—subdued metal pin-on insignia or black and gray cloth insignia on olive green background.



Nan Shows Eyes For Talent

By SP4 Harry Baumann

CHU LAI — More than ever, this year Special Services is working toward bringing Christmas holiday shows to the division landing zones. Spearheading the drive is Miss Nan Nall, the division's Special Services entertainment coordinator.

"Special Services is currently looking within the division to find entertainers and competent musicians to entertain on our firebases throughout the Christmas holiday season," explained Miss Nall, adding that she would personally interview and audition any applicant.

For a young lady who holds a Bachelor of Science in Opera Stage Direction and a Master of Music in Voice Performance, both from Indiana University, it seems unlikely that Nan's hobby is taxidermy. "It's not that bad but it gets a little stuffy at times," she quipped.

In conjunction with the work she was doing at Indiana University toward a Doctor of Music in Voice Performance, Nan worked part of last summer as musical director and vocal instructor for the Fine Arts Institute at West Virginia State College.

While in West Virginia she joined the USO, and after an orientation in Saigon, Nan was assigned a one-year tour of duty at the Chu Lai USO.

Her duties as the Special Services entertainment coordinator include booking professional talent shows, screening and selecting local talent, directing and producing all types of theatrical and musical shows, and social entertaining.

Finding division talent for the Christmas holiday shows is foremost among Nan's duties. Presenting entertainment to the men in the field is her goal. She punctuated that fact with, "They're the ones who need and deserve the entertainment the most!" (Americal IO)

MISS NALL WILL BE looking throughout the division for entertainers and competent musicians to perform at our firebases throughout the Christmas holiday season.
(US Army Photo by PFC Timothy Vaughn, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

From Observation Tower By Raft To Dry Terrain

CHU LAI — As everyone who has been in Vietnam during the monsoon knows, when it rains, it pours. The 23rd Supply and Transport Bn. has found itself faced with an unusual problem — a lake has been formed around the base of its observation tower.

To solve the problem of transportation to and from the tower, which is centered in four feet of water, the 23rd S&T Bn. has constructed a Tom Sawyer raft out of two empty fuel containers, water pipes, and lumber. One hundred feet of clothesline serves to ferry the raft between dry land and the tower ladder.

As one entry in the Duty Officer's Log stated, "... inspected bunker line and ferried over to tower."

The raft is fully operational: neither wind, rain, nor a monsoon flood can keep the men of 23rd S&T from keeping a watchful eye out for the enemy. (Spt. Cmd. IO)

SP5 CLIFFORD DIROSHER (Pennelton, Ore.) of B. Co., 23rd Supply and Transport Bn., rides a raft to dry land from the observation tower. (Photo by SP4 Paul B. Clark, Spt. Cmd. IO)

Safety Award

CHU LAI — The aviators from Division artillery recently won their third consecutive Americal Division Air Safety Award.

According to 1LT Roger W. Petrie (Cincinnati, Ohio), the men who fly—both fixed wing and and rotary type aircraft —perform a variety of missions from administrative liaison to delivery of combat cargo for Division artillery. The artillery pilots have flown 2057 accident free hours during the past three months. (Div. Arty IO)

New Theatre Promoted In Vietnam

The first military touring theatre to be formed in Vietnam announced plans for its first production, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown", together with a slate of touring plays which will follow in the coming months.

Headed by Stephen Pokart, professional director and newly assigned entertainment director at Long Binh Post, "Armed Forces Theatre Vietnam" will have the honor to present the world's first production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" outside of the United States.

Members of the military throughout Vietnam wishing to audition for acting roles in this and subsequent productions are requested to get in touch with Mr. Pokart at the special services office at Long Binh Post, APO 96491, telephone 925-4950 or 6348.

Plans call for a three week rehearsal period at Long Binh followed by a week touring the post and a month touring throughout the country, traveling in the status of a command military touring show. To be considered for casting, military personnel must be releasable for a 60 day TDY.

Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

SGT Jerry W. Collins, 198th Bde; PFC Donald G. Naughton, 11th Bde; SP5 Robert A. Whitcomb, 11th Bde.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

WO1 Kelly C. McHugh, 14th Cbt Avn Bn.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

SGT Werner H. Hunley, 198th Bde; SP4 Stephen M. Hanson, 198th Bde; PFC Herbert Moses, 196th Bde; PFC James Randazzo III, 198th Bde; SGT Steven R. Wells, 198th Bde.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PFC Carlton E. Baker, 523rd Sig Bn; SP4 James L. Brandt, 196th Bde; SP4 Charles F. Breton (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SF4 James F. Carr, 11th Bde; SP4 Harry J. Chaskey (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PSG Daniel G. Connolly, 26th Engr Bn; SP4 Clinton L. Culley (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PSG I.J. Elder, 196th Bde; SGT Roger J. Grazioplene, 196th Bde; 1LT Leon R. Griffin, 11th Bde; SP4 John S. Henyan (1st OLC), 11th Bde; 2LT John M. Herlong, 11th Arty; PFC Steve N. Holland, 11th Bde; SP4 Larry A. Hunt, 196th Bde; SP4 Junior A. James, 196th Bde; SGT Edward L. Kaywork (2nd OLC), 196th Bde; FFC Thomas J. McCobb, 11th Bde; MSG John S. Pallatin (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; PSG James F. Price, 196th Bde; PFC Earl F. Remmert, 11th Bde; PFC Truman M. Scales, 11th Bde; PFC James A. Skaparas, 11th Bde; SP4 Richard C. Soehgen (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Barry L. Spring, 11th Bde; SSG Craig C. Taylor, 196 th Bde; PFC Jacob G. Tekac, 11th Bde; PFC Robert C. Vitale, 198th Bde; 1Lt James Whalen (1st OLC), 196th Bde.

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

SP4 Jimmy L. Bailey, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPT William D. Bristow (2nd OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Michael C. Callahan (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP4 Edward Carrington Jr (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 John D. Graves (27th OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Robert L. Heck (31st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP4 James M. Hiler (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Richard L. Johnston, 123rd Avn Bn; SP4 Robert J. Lacy, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP5 Larry W. Maitland (2nd OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPT Joseph A. Monday, 11th Arty; MAJ James A. Rakowitz, 26th Engr Bn; WO1 Richard T. Stuhmer (1st OLC), 123rd Avn Bn; 1LT Steven J. Van Hole, 26th Engr Bn; CPT John S. Walker Jr (13th OLC), 11th Bde; SF5 John R. Wiklanski (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn Bn.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

SGT Lonnie D. Miller, Co G (Ranger) 75th Inf; SF4 Robert W. Larson, Co G (Ranger), 75th Inf; SP4 Joe W. Dodson, 11th Bde; SSG Jose A. Santiago Jr, 11th Bde; SP4 Efren A. Martinez, 11th Bde; 1LT John G. Marceau, 196th Bde; 1LT Bruce M. Draudt, 196th Bde; CPT John S. Walker (1st OLC), 11th Bde; 1LT Phillip E. Jackson, 196th Bde; SP4 Robert L. French, 196th Bde; SP4 Marcelo A. Cruz (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 David L. Copple (1st OLC), 82nd Arty; FFC Gerald W. Daise, 82nd Arty; 1LT Peter F. Kochel, 11th Bde; PFC George R. Johnson, 11th Bde; SP4 Jeremy F. Conover, 196th Bde; PFC Michael Christensen, 11th Arty.