Villagers Rescued From Floodwaters

By PFC Toby Prodgers

LZ LIZ—The coastal lowlands of southern Quang Ngai Province were inundated by a deluge of floodwater, placing the Vietnamese civilians in the area in imminent danger of being washed away in the strong currents of the flash floods. The Division's 1st Bn., 20th Inf., 11th Inf. Bde. reacted promptly to the emergency and in a driving rain evacuated 127 people from several small hamlets on Hwy. 1, five miles north of Duc Pho, to the battalion's firebase here.

SGT Dale E. Scheidt (Topeka, Kan.) of B Co. while conducting operations on Hwy. 1, alerted the 1st and 4th platoons that the people in a small hamlet 300 yards west of the highway were in immediate danger of being swept away.

Scheidt attempted to swim out to the hamlet but was unable to fight the current. The two platoons then pooled their efforts and paddled out to the hamlet on their air mattresses, and once there, formed pontoons to evacuate the villagers.

When they arrived, the residents were clinging with their valuables to the roofs of their homes. SGT John B. Thomson (Manassas, Va.), platoon sergeant of the 4th Plt., said the water in some places was 10-12 feet deep.

"It seemed to accumulate quickly—in a matter of an hour or two. The current was so strong that the men had to make a hell of an effort to swim out and back. We made about four or five trips, and some of the stronger civilians were swimming with us to help out," Thomson explained.

A mile to the north, in the village of Vinh Hien, CPT Boyd M. Harris (Pontiac, Ill.), B Co.'s commanding officer, was busy with five of his men pulling people out of the water. PFC Stephan J. Hood (Waxhaw, N.C.) said, "We were on our way to the 2nd Plt.'s location when we passed a jeep that had been washed off the road. There were three men in the water, and 1LT Abe Lochart (Columbia, S.C.) jumped in to get one of them who looked like he was drowning. The Charlie-Charlie (command and control helicopter) dropped a raft to us and we pulled them out." Earlier the helicopter had extracted the 2nd Plt. which had also been stranded in the floods.

The command and control chopper landed on the highway and LTC Robert Wilson (Fayetteville, N.C.), battalion commander, and his RTO, SP4 Joseph Wrzesinski (Chicago), proceeded to assist CPT Harris and his men, who by that time were evacuating people from their flooded hootches on to the high ground of the highway.

"The water was up to our necks in some places and way over the heads of some of the children. We managed to get them out with what few valuables they could carry with them," Wrzesinski explained. Once on the highway, the civilians were evacuated to LZ Liz by seven gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. from LZ Bronco.

The battalion also evacuated a VC suspect, who jumped off a floating log when a chopper approached. CPT Gene Miller (Spanaway, Wash.), the battalion's forward artillery observer, said his chopper spotted three people hanging on to a log.

"On the first pass we saw that two of them

(Continued On Page 3)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 35 CHU LAI, VIETNAM November 28, 1969

Shot Into The Darkness

Division soldiers from E. Co. 1-6th Inf. 198th Bde, fire their 80mm mortar into the darkness surrounding Hill 76. These mortar men are on call 24 hours a day and are extremely accurate with their weapons. (Photo By PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)

Village Has Homes For 200 Families

DAI LOC — Sharp cracks broke the silence of the village where Division soldiers had joined with Vietnamese forces to defeat their enemy. However, the noise was not gunfire but the impact of hammers striking nails, and the "battle plans" not only consisted of armed defense but the construction of a productive community as well.

Members of B. Co., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. and Revolutionary Development (RD) cadre are now working with 30 families seven miles northwest of Quang Ngai City in a village called Dai Loc.

The 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. pacification project has been in the spotlight as a successful model. The password in Dai Loc was "general praise" when five visiters, all generals, seemed extremely pleased with the current progress of the battalion project.

Among the visitors were MG George S. Bowman Jr. (Hammond, La.), Deputy Commander of III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF); MG William A Burke (Muskegee, Okla.), Plans Officer for III MAF; BG Howard H. Cooksey (Brentsville, Va.), Acting Div. Commander; BG John W. Donaldson (Alexandria, Va.), Assistant Div. Commander; and BG Wallace H. Robertson Jr. (Washington, D.C.), Assistant commander of 1st Marine Div.

Accompanying the generals were LTC Chester C. Phillips Jr. (Columbia, S.C.), 198th Bde. Executive Officer and LTC Arthur E. Brown Jr. (Savannah, Ga.), the Battalion Commander.

"The battalion's ultimate goal is to provide homes for 200 families," explained CPT Wendell D. Goff (Saluda, S.C.), B Co. commander. "However, construction is only one of several projects now underway." While the infantrymen are instructing the PFs in building a strong defensive perimeter, the RD cadre are busy teaching the villagers proper methods of planting and harvesting crops. The villagers also receive medical treatment from a battalion MEDCAP team.

"The functions of MEDCAP," CPT Harry T. Hensley (Indianapolis), battalion surgeon, explained, "consist of weekly visits to the 'ville' where we treat mostly infection cases. However, if the case is serious enough we will hospitalize them."

The smiling faces and eager cooperation displayed by the villagers predict success for the pacification program. (198th IO)

Infantry, Tiger Meet In Jungle

LZ BRONCO — One of nature's most artfully camouflaged and ferocious predators, the tiger, was outclassed by a well concealed team of Division Rangers.

The six-man team of G Co., 75th Inf., was on a recon patrol 13 miles west of Duc Pho when they made a security halt along a stream bed.

Like the tiger, the Rangers are alert to the slightest movement or sound and protected with coloration artifically provided by special fatigues and camouflage sticks.

"I noted movement in the bush but couldn't make heads or tails of it," related SP4 Ivan MacDonald (Boston). "Then I caught a quick glimpse of a three-foot long tail."

The owner of the tail, a stately dusty-orange tiger, soon emerged for a brief drink from the stream and then silently bounded into the triple canopy jungle.

"We were far enough down wind that he probably couldn't smell us," noted team leader SGT Roger E. Rule (San Diego).

Unlike the Tiger, the team remained unobserved for the duration of the two-day mission. (11th IO)

Cooperation

Ralliers Lead Inf. To NVA Cache

By SP4 Charles Hancock

LZ Hawk Hill — A timely warning from the Hoi Chanh ralliers foiled a deadly NVA ambush of an Americal recon platoon.

A three-man squad from E. Co., 1-46th, 196th Bde., led by SGT Craig C. Taylor (Greensboro, N.C.) was guided down an overgrown trail about 15 miles southwest of Tam Ky by two Hoi Chanhs, recent converts to the GVN cause. Niether one was a Kit Carson Scout. Suddenly they stopped and motioned.

"We could hear talking up ahead," said Taylor. "Moving closer, we saw three NVA sitting near a grass hut."

Just then the enemy ran.

A salvo of M-16 fire caught the fleeing NVA before they gained cover, killing all three. A search revealed several packets of food, medical supplies, valuable documents and clothing hidden under camouflaged mats in the enemy huts.

But the best was yet to come.

"Then the Hoi Chanhs told us that 300 meters ahead was a small village where NVA soldiers lived," said Taylor. "They said that an arms cache was buried beyond the village."

Ranging out farther in the same vicinity, the squad surprised an NVA regular and a woman in a cave. Not wanting to disclose their position SGT Taylor decided to hold the prisoners rather than having them extracted.

As the group neared a brushy curve in the trail, they heard someone approaching. The men quickly melted into the greenery bordering the footpath as a young girl came into view.

The girl was detained and informed them of a 40 man NVA stronghold. The sergeant decided to set a night defensive position and not risk contact. The ralliers had done their job. (196th IO)

Soldiers Must Guard Against Disease In Nam

Anytime a person changes his living conditions, he is subject to changed health problems. Here in Vietnam, there are diseases that are not common back in America, and the conditions under which we live make it more likely that we will be exposed to them.

Before coming to Vietnam, you had many immunizations. These help you against diseases which are common in Vietnam. Every Monday you take a pill to guard against catching malaria.

There are some things, however, that you must do on your own to make sure that you do not fall victim to illness. Knowing that preservation of your health may well save your life later on. A man who falls ill from disease is just as much casualty as a man wounded by the enemy.

In Vietnam, especially if you are in the field, it is easy to get dirty. Keeping yourself clean requires extra effort, but it's worth it. One of the best defenses against illness is to stay as clean as possible. If you are in the field wash yourself with water that has been treated with iodine or chlorine. If you can't get treated water, it is better to use clear nonpotable water than to not wash at all.

You won't always be able to get to a PX, so it is necessary to think ahead. If you know you are going to the field, invest in a wash cloth and several bars of soap. They don't cost much, and may save you a trip to the medics.

Anything you touch in the field may contain germs. Don't bite your nails, scratch open sores, or pick your nose. Your hands carry germs into your body. The same thing happens when you eat without cleaning your hands. The food you eat may be germ-ridden and may cause illness.

Even in today's modern army, the soldier often has to rely on his feet to get him around. Be nice to your feet and they will get you where you want to go. You can't go very far unless your feet are in good condition.

When you have a chance, wear shower clogs or thongs, so your feet can air out. Fungus thrives on moisture, so it is important to keep your feet dry as you can. Change into dry socks often.

Two of the most frequent problem areas with soldiers are tooth decay and gum disease. The best way to prevent them is to keep your teeth clean, by brushing at least once a day and rinsing your mouth with water after each meal if you can't brush. Preventing dental disease is much easier than treating it; you're the only one who can really apply "preventive medicine" to your teeth and gums.

Water can be as dangerous to you as Charlie. Never drink water unless you know for certain that it is potable. Most of the water in Vietnam comes from surface sources, wells, or municipal systems. These systems offer varying degrees of water quality, but nearly all are contaminated or are open to contamination.

Don't assume the water is safe to drink just because you see the local people drinking impure water. They have built up immunities to the impurities over a number of years.

Venereal Disease has been a serious health problem for centuries. There are five major forms of venereal disease, each highly contagious and all present in Vietnam. The sad part of the whole thing is venereal disease is 100 per cent preventible. Use appropriate preventive measures, but the best is abstinence.

Heat is a fact of life in Vietnam. There is nothing you can do about that. But you can protect yourself against the five types of hot weather diseases: heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, sunburn and heat rash.

The two best ways to insure that you don't become a heat casualty are to drink enough water and take extra salt. About six to eight quarts of water per day should be about right for a man in the field.

If you are a new arrival in Vietnam, you are probably more susceptible to salt and water depletion than a man who has been here awhile. Be careful. Take extra salt through increased salting of food at mealtime.

Drugs have a definite place in Vietnam. When medically prescribed and properly used, they can prevent disease and help heal wounds. Properly used, they can save a life. When they are misused, they can cause serious complications.

Drug abuse has a particularly important consequence for each member of the armed forces. Unlike civilians, those in military have a special dependency on each other.

The drug abuser in the military is open to a range of risks; he is a security risk and vulnerable to blackmail, he can be forced to sell classified information to satiate his need for drugs, and when 'high' he may overlook security measures.

Drug abuse of any sort does not make any sense in a combat zone. Used properly drugs contribute to life. Used improperly they can contribute to nothing but grief.

Religion And You

The Family Of God

By CHAPLAIN (CPT) JOHN P. KOWAL
196th Inf.

There are those who share life intimately with you, whose blood is your blood, whose love is with you constantly and will stay with you always, and these are called family, and they are yours.

There are others whose hands are wrinkled, whose pink bodies are still wet from birth, who run through the rain, who are curly haired, pretty, dimpled, beautiful, who have no teeth, who are bald, who live in shacks, who live in tenement houses, who live in tents, who know the weight of suffering, who love to sing and these are called family, and they are ours.

There are those who sit in wheelchairs in hospitals and look at the soft rain, whose faces are black, whose smiles come from white mouths, whose legs are yellow, who have never seen at all pines bending in the wind, who have heard the roar of an ocean, who are blind and deaf, and these are called family, and they are ours.

Christ clearly taught the sons of God to treat one another as brothers . . . He commanded His apostles to preach to all people the Gospel message so that the human race might become the family of God, in which the fullness of the law would be love.

VIETNAM-STYLE

By SP5 JAMES BROWN

Culture Since Independence

Since independence, artistic and intellectual endeavor in South Vietnam has been largely initiated and financed by the government and is subject to a large measure of official guidance and control.

Atmosphere Of Crisis

The atmosphere of crisis created by the enemy in the countryside and the preoccupation with political, economic, and military problems have temporarily diminished interest in poetry, the novel and literary criticism, while heightening in the production of textbooks and technical treatises.

In the literary field, however, there are still a number of promising novelists and short-story writers, including Binh Nguyen Loc, Loan Quoc Sy and Vo Phieu. In addition, a small group of writers called Song Tao (Creation) are attempting a new literature patterned after similar movements in WWII France.

The literary monthly France-Asie has carried the work of a number of Vietnamese authors.

Formerly published in Saigon and subsequently in Tokyo in a combined English-French edition, France-Asie has a large following in Vietnam, France and elsewhere. The magazine is owned by a French company and both French and Vietnamese are on its editorial staff.

Government Censorship

All books circulating in the country are subject to strict government censorship, and the importation of many foreign works, especially those dealing with the Vietnamese political situation, is forbidden.

Substantial U.S. assistance has been given to the government of South Vietnam in the fields of graphic arts and crafts, music, motion pictures and the publication of textbooks. Among the more active Vietnamese government agencies are those dealing with education and public information in the Ministry of Social and Cultural Affairs.

Arts And Crafts

The government of South Vietnam has established various centers for the arts and crafts, some of which are designed to spur the production of handicrafts for sale abroad. The government also sends abroad traveling art and handicraft exhibits, one of which toured the U.S. in 1959.

The government has also established schools of music and fine arts in Saigon and Hue and sponsors such cultural activities as concerts by the Saigon Symphony Orchestra.

RED CROSS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Assistance to Dependents. Red Cross gives financial assistance to service personnel and their wives and children for basic maintenance when family allotments, officially applied for, are delayed or interrupted. Assistance is given directly to the family by the local Red Cross chapter, or the serviceman may apply through the field director. Assistance usually is in the form of a loan (always without interest), since Red Cross funds are used in lieu of the allotment. Assistance is limited to basic maintenance, which includes food, housing, utilities, clothing, and essential transportation.

KNOW WHAT?

See your Red Cross field director for other assistance. He can help when you need counseling on personal and family problems, emergency communications and reporting service, health and welfare reports, or other services.

Proudly Serving Our Action Army

SGM Paul K. Shaffer
Reenlistment Supervisor
Amcal. Div.

By MSG H. A. Bonesio

AMERICAL Division career counselors reenlisted 46 soldiers during a one-week period. Thirty-four of these were in the First Termer category with the majority choosing guaranteed reenlistment options. Most of the career personnel chose "choice of CONUS station" program.

Division Troops retained SFC Warren B. Pollard and SSG Leander Cooper, HHC, Americal; SP4 Larry Chard, HHT, 1-1st Cav.

Support Command was represented by MSG Willie Stevens, HHC, 23rd S&T; SSG Delmas Pauldo, 23rd Admin. Co.; SSG William Cutler, D Co., 23rd Med. Bn.; and from the 723rd Maint. Bn., SP5 James Sirmans, SP4 John Harrigan, and PFC Hiram L. Henderson.

Division Artillery keeps SFC Wilmot E. Kaufman, Btry. B, and SSG Parnell M. Wasnuk, HHB, 1-14th Arty; CPL Wilbert C. Jackson, B Btry. 3-82nd Atry; PFC Dewey W. Gibson, B Btry. 1-82nd Arty; PFC Kenneth Blizard, C Btry., 3-18th Arty.

The 16th Combat Aviation Group had MSG Volley Cole, HHC.

The 11th Infantry Brigade reenlistees were PFC Robert A. Davis, C Co., 4-3rd Inf.; from 3-1st Inf., PFC Larry D. Kutzner, PFC William R. Metts, and PFC William Mead, A Co.; PFC Alex J. Carter, C Co., PFC Gary H. Buskol, D Co., while 1-20th Inf. had PFC Kenneth A. Beckley, A Co., PFC Robert F. Arney and PFC Dale Hyndman, B Co.; from 4-21st Inf., PFC Dannie Hardaway and MSG Thomas Denn, B Co., PFC Charles Piner, D Co.

The 196th Infantry Brigade re-upped PFC Terry D. Hixon, F Trp., 17th Cav.; PFC Louis Lumpkin and PFC Leonard Morgan, A Co.; PFC Albert Retzlor, PFC Victor B. Moore, PFC Harold Johnson, and PFC Thomas Casteel, B Co., 1-46th Inf.; from 4-31st Inf., PFC James McDaniel, A Co., PFC Thomas E. Miller, PFC Dale Brown, and SP4 William Rozier, C Co.; 2-1st Inf. had PFC Peter W. Hrutky and PFC Robert L. Gray, A Co., PFC Darrell Witcher, B Co.; while from 3-21st Inf., PFC Glenn Miller, HHC, MSG Eugene Lyons, B Co., SFC Okey Blankenship, C Co.

The 198th Infantry Brigade was represented by SFC George Gonzalez, HHC, and from HHC, 5-46th Inf., MSG Norman C. Bunch.

SOUTHERN CROSS AMERICAL DIVISION

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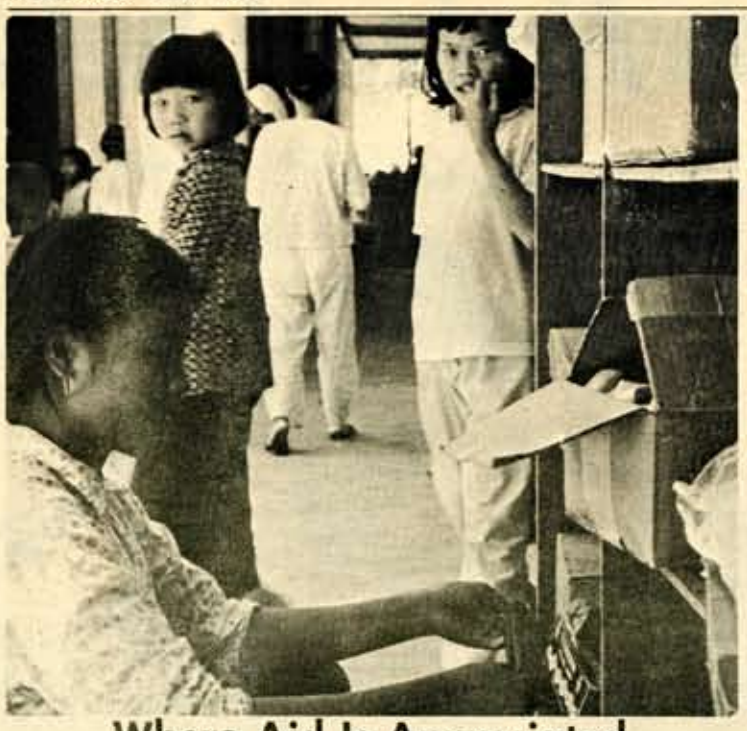


Where Aid Is Appreciated

Youngsters from the Binh Son Orphanage 10 miles south of division Hq's at Chu Lai have received a variety of goods ranging from cement to candy in "Operation Adoption" begun by the 5-46th Inf. Here a youngster sorts through a bin. (U.S. Army Photo)

Treats Villagers

Girl Learns Dental Care

LZ BRONCO — Sponsored by the 11th Inf. Bde. Dental Clinic, a newly-trained Vietnamese dental assistant is bringing an end to the "Duc Holiday" dentistry era of gold crowns and antiquated methods of tooth pulling in the Duc Pho District.

Modern Dental Techniques

Treating four Vietnamese nationals a day in the Division's modern dental facility here and helping on a Dentcap once weekly, Miss Co Thi Lan has acquired knowledge of modern dental techniques and skills.

Quickly overcoming her initial shyness, eighteen-year-old Miss Lan has performed many tasks normally done by a trained dentist, much to the amazement of her principal instructor CPT Dean Harrington (Alamogordo, N.M.) who holds a D.D.S. (Doctor of Dental Surgery) from the University of Missouri.

"If a dental assistant could be trained for 800 piasters a week for three months and know as much as Miss Lan does, we'd be getting a real bargain," remarked Doctor Harrington, commanding officer of the 23rd Med. Bn. Clinic serving the 11th Inf. Bde.

Mastered Art of Suturing

Unlike the "quack" toothpuller who often extracts good teeth for the monetary commission which he gets for a gold crown (a status symbol to the Vietnamese), Miss Lan has learned the anatomy of the mouth, how to distinguish and extract those teeth which need pulling and has mastered the art of suturing.

In addition to these specialities which her American counterpart would not be qualified by law to do, the bright girl can deftly inject a local anesthetic and administer analgesus (pain reliever) as well as prepare fillings. Fluent in English and some dental terms, she has learned to diagnose common dental diseases and is spreading the word to her Vietnamese patients of the importance of dental hygiene.

Quang Ngai Hospital

Proper medical training at one of Vietnam's four universities is beyond the financial resources of Miss Lan. Her main desire is to pursue her medical training as a dental technician at Quang Ngai Hospital.

Evidently quite pleased with Miss Lan's aptitude for learning, Harrington asserted, "A dentist considers a dental assistant a boon to his practice whenever she can anticipate his every move and stay one step ahead of him. Miss Lan does remarkably well. When we leave, she'll be the nearest equivalent to a dentist serving Duc Pho District." (11th Bde IO)

PFs-Potent Allies In Village Conflicts

LZ HAWK HILL — The division has some potent allies in the area of Nui Lac Son.

"They're experts at reading a map," says SGT Jack Arent (St. Louis).

"It's uncanny how they can spot VC," exclaims SP4 Chuck Jones (Fresno, Calif.).

"They're some of the most courageous fighters we have," asserted SGT Wyamon Young (Buffalo, N.Y.).

Arent, Jones and Young are all members of the 196th Bde's 3-21st Inf. The objects of their praise are the South Vietnamese Provincial Forces — better known as PFs, a local militia.

They operate primarily in and around their own hamlets. Their reason for fighting is a fundemental one.

"They know that if they don't get Charlie one day," commented Arent, "He's liable to come back and kill their families next."

Given such motivation, the PFs have emerged as a dedicated group of fighters. They learned that the VC were using a trail east of Nui Loc Son rather frequently. The PFs decided to correct the situation.

That afternoon five of them concealed themselves and their weapons in some brush just off the trail. Hours passed. Night came. Finally they heard movement. A squad of VC came into view, followed by another. When the enemy was within point-blank range, the PFs cut loose with a deadly burst of fire.

The five ambushers withdrew quickly down a concealed route. Next morning refugees reported seeing 20 bodies at the ambush site.

The PFs frequently go on combined operations with the 3-21st Inf. The aggressiveness of these Vietnamese is known and appreciated throughout the battalion.

"When they spot the enemy, they go right after him," said Jones. "Sometimes they don't even wait for artillery." (196th IO)

Six Earn Grants

LZ HAWKHILL — LTC Clarence Campbell, commander of the 196th Inf. Bde's 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., presented six General Walt Scholarships to school children from Binh An Village. The students were ages 11 to 15.

"The grants are an expression of American-Vietnamese friendship," said LTC Campbell at the presentation. "I see the scholarships as recognition of outstanding scholarship for the men and women of the future in Vietnam." (196th Bde IO)

Floodwaters . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

were children. The third was quite a bit older and jumped off the log and tried to hide in the water. He came back up for air and tried to evade, so I pointed to the door gunner's M-60 machinegun, and he finally decided to cooperate." The two children were taken to LZ Liz, and the VC suspect was turned in for questioning.

Once on the battalion firebase, the 127 evacuated civilians were given hot soup and billeted in the mess tents. They were provided with an emergency supply of food and clothing, and sanitation facilities were constructed for them.

They stayed overnight on the firesupport base, and the next day when the floodwaters had receded, were returned to the four "New Life" hamlets of An Dinh, My Thuan, Vinh Hien Bac, and Vinh Hien Nam, five miles north of Duc Pho.

The hamlets are being upgraded as support of the battalion's pacification program to improve living conditions and security for the civilians of the area.

As the evacuees were leaving LZ Liz, little Billy Phuc, a 12-year-old, offered a touching and very poignant epilogue to the entire rescue operation: "Beaucoup water, you know. Water too big for all the people. If soldiers didn't bring us here, all people die. Beaucoup thank you."

His appreciation and that of his people was reflected in their grateful faces and extended hands as they prepared to return to their homes. (11th Bde IO)

Vietnamese Boy Finds LZ Home

By PFC Thomas A. Budarz

TEIN PHUOC — Almost everyone remembers the happiness of childhood. It was playing with friends, running, shouting, laughing; a life free of cares. One little boy in South Vietnam is just learning about happiness.

On a rainy morning in June, a boy named Lou wandered into the Division artillery complex at Tien Phuoc. So weak from malnutrition and disease that he could hardly stand, Lou had been left on his own in the jungle by VC terrorists after they had killed his parents.

Lou had other problems. A prenatal defect had damaged his brain and stunted his growth. At ten years of age he was only thirty inches tall.

Learning of the boy's plight, the men of B Btry, 3-16th Arty took Lou into their somewhat 'oversize' family. They gave him love, the best possible medicine.

During the past few months, Lou has become a real part of the battery. He has learned to smile and laugh. He is usually the first person to introduce himself to new arrivals.

1SG Ralph C. Louis (Akron, Ohio) said, "Lou has an amazing ability to learn English. He is making every effort to thank the men of the battery by learning their language. Tell him your name just once and he will say hello to you by name the next time he sees you."

What Lou means to the battery was aptly summed up by CPL Bernardo Jordon (Douglas, Ariz). "You can't help but like him. He always has a big smile on his face for anyone who happens to pass by him. The battery just wouldn't be the same without him." (Div Arty IO)

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE a very large shirt but for thirty inch tall Lou, it fits like it was tailored for him. Lou is a 'member' of the division artillery complex at Tien Phuoc.

(Photo By DIV Arty IO)

196th Bde. Proservco: Trained Soldi

Ready For Action.

Change Of Color Honors Old and New Proservco Commander.

Early Morning Moveout.

Experience: The Few Joys Of The Field Soldiers

rs Can Be Called Upon When Needed

War-Smoke And Proservco Soldiers Fill The Valley.

Photos By PFC Laszlo Kondor

Americal IO

Story P. 6 *1-46*

Thoughts On Combat Faces.

Framed With Jungle Green.

Combat Trackers

A tracker and his dog take a break during a mission south of Tam Ky. These dogs are specifically trained for rooting out mines, boody traps, and the enemy hidden in tunnels. (U.S. Army Photo)

Proservco: Grunt Orientation

By PFC Dean Williams

CHU LAI — New boots pounded the trails in the 196th Bde. along with a pair that were on their last Vietnam field exercise.

The men of the Division's 1st Bn., 46th Inf., were participating in a field training exercise as members of the Provisional Reserve Co. (Proservco), which was devised by the battalion's commander, LTC Craig C. Coverdale (Manhasset, N.Y.).

For SGT Lemaul Ayres (Ewing, Va.), it was his first time in the bush. "It is very worthwhile," he said. "Valuable experience is gained. I never realized what it was like in all the heat and all the work."

Another sergeant, 1SG Antonio Garcia (Columbus, Ga.) said good-bye to the field after the 24-hour operation. After twenty years of service he is retiring. With the sweat of the midday sun on his brow he described it as a great experience for the new fellows and "a pretty good way to end a career."

Instituted by Colonel Coverdale, Proservco has become unique to the Division. The unit is made of elements from the battalion which normally are associated with the rear areas — cooks, clerks, and truck drivers. Still some of the men proudly wear the Combat Infantryman's Badge, from prior assisgnments with a line company. For them the monthly trip to the field is just a refresher.

"This company would only be used if all the line companies in the battalion were committed and help was needed," explained CPT William Woodford (Marcellus, N.Y.), outgoing commander of Proservco. "They are just what their name implies, a back-up company.

THIS WAS 1SG ANTONIO Garcia's last trip to the field for his entire career. He is retiring upon DEROS to the United States after 20 years of service.

Proservco heads to the field once every month and no one is excluded. The battalion rear area eats C-rations for the day as the mess steward is out "humping the bush" with the rest.

During the thirty day span there is on the average a 35 per cent turnover in personnel and the newcomers are thoroughly briefed before the operation as to their mission and the reason behind Proservco.

For CPT Woodford it was the last time he would lead the company, relinquishing the reins to CPT Alva R. King (Lexington, Ky.).

"CPT King is an understanding man," explained LTC Coverdale, "and that is what you have to be when you command men in the field with a non-combat MOS." While commanding B Co. last August, King received the Silver Star.

In a farewell note, CPT Woodford struck at the heart of the reason for the battalion initiating Proservco. "There is no doubt these men have gotten better with every outing," he said. "Almost every man with a non-combat MOS has now had some experience in the field." (Americal and 196th IO)

Combat In Review

5-46 Explore Ghost Ship Near Chu Lai

LZ GATOR — It floated in silent and unnoticed. Where it came from was a mystery. Where it was headed and why were just as perplexing. But one thing was for sure — the ghost ship wouldn't be going anywhere for awhile.

Spotted by men of the division's 198th Bde. while operating along the seacoast southeast of Chu Lai, a 49 foot Chinese fishing junk was firmly grounded on a sandbar about 100 meters offshore.

1LT Norman C. Cottrell (Terre Haute, Ind.), a platoon leader of C Co., 5-46th who discovered the craft radioed a description of the find to his Bn. Hq.

After an aerial inspection of the boat, they planned a course of action. The operations officer, MAJ. Robert C. Disney (Alexandria, Va.) joined Lt. Cottrell on the shore. They waded out about half-way and began to swim against the churning late afternoon surf.

"When we reached it we swam around it quite awhile looking for mines and booby traps before climbing aboard," said MAJ Disney.

When he was convinced that all was safe, MAJ Disney signaled the hovering helicopter to drop the end of a 1,200 foot nylon rope. The other end of the rope was attached to a powerful U.S. Navy Swift boat called in to drag the vessel free.

But already waves had trapped the wandering ship in a bed of sand and the taut rope snapped.

With darkness rapidly approaching, the infantrymen decided to abandon effort until another time.

Before abandoning ship, MAJ Disney removed the inscribed Chinese identification plate, leaving the meandering junk homeless and now nameless, last seen on a shifting sandbar of the South China Sea. (198th IO)

Hide-Seek

LZ STINSON—At daylight a small recon element from E. Co., 1-52nd Inf. began moving toward a village to check it out.

"We had just stepped out of a kind of blind area when we spotted four VC hiding from a Helix along a trail in front of us," said SP4 Thomas K. Mackey (Tarkio, Mo.) first squad leader. "Our point man opened up on them, killing two of them.

"While the main body of the platoon followed the fleeing VC, three members of the first squad broke off and circled the woodline.

"Just as we got there, we spotted them running out of the thicket and began firing at them, killing four", said Mackey.

Gun Crews Foil NVA

By SP4 Carl Ekengren

LZ HAWK HILL—"Fire Mission! Fire Mission! Enemy squad in the open," crackled the radio in the fire direction center (FDC). Immediately a Division Artillery battery swung into action on a task that concluded with three NVA dead and their mission foiled.

CPT Thomas Crews (Pittsburgh, Pa.), a liaison officer with a PF unit spotted the enemy movement about five miles north of LZ Hawk Hill. His urgent call to A Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty. on Hawk Hill set the FDC crew to work plotting the grid coordinates and computing all the additional information while the gun crew was alerted.

Moments after FDC gave the order to fire the 105mm howitzers blasted their volley of death on the NVA location.

The report came back from Crews confirming the rounds were "on target."

Later reports indicated that the enemy was making a surveillance of the area to establish a rocket launching site.

The fast and accurate coordination between the artillerymen on the fire base and the PF unit in the field quickly changed the NVA plans. (Div. Arty. IO)

Gettin' On It

A tanker from the Americal's 1st Sqd., 1st Cav., scrambles to load his .50 cal. machinegun. The cavalry troopers recently moved to the 11th Bde. operational zone and have been conducting armored operations there. (Photo by SP4 John R. Gildroy)

LRP's Meet NVA Goliath

LZ BRONCO — A division LRP element was cast as David and the NVA played the dubious role of Goliath in an encounter five miles southwest of Duc Pho in the 11th Bde. AO.

SP4 David Halsey (Louisville, Ky.) and PFC David Jackson (Sodus, N.Y.) observed two NVA moving on a trail as a point element for a company a few hundred meters away.

"We opened fire on the lead platoon using grenades, claymores, and small arms fire. The NVA retreated back down the trail and we pursued them," explained SSG Robert Pruden (St. Paul, Minn.).

Moving through the brush after the retreating NVA, the team found enemy equipment and four NVA dead. The NVA, hit with such deadly fire power, continued the retreat, not knowing they were being routed by a six-man force.

As with the story of David, the LRP's suffered no casualties but the team chalked up four NVA dead during the battle. (Americal IO)

U.S., RFs Kill 13

LZ HAWK HILL — A joint combat effort by 196th Inf. Bde. units and PF-RF elements accounted for 13 VC killed in combat flare-ups. Two separate clashes in the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. sector caused the enemy deaths.

Two platoons of C Co. engaged and killed one VC while on patrol 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Later, in the same area the company killed two more VC.

Stationed near Tam Ky, two platoons of PFs and RPs made contact with an estimated company-sized force of VC in the same area. They drove the VC away after a blazing firefight. Clearing the battle site, they found 10 dead enemy and captured three rifles. (196th IO)

Would you believe sweet sixteen and never been kissed? Frances Segelman our saucy, sweet pinup this week is only 16-year-old. Oh, to be young again!

Vets Administration Assures Allowances

Up to $250 for the burial expenses of an eligible deceased veteran will be paid by the VA without regard to whether the interment is in a national cemetery or a private burial place.

The VA explained that allowance is payable in the case of wartime veterans, including those who have served after Aug. 4, 1964, but also those who served during peacetime as well as wartime veterans are eligible for burial in any national cemetery that has available space. The only requirement is that their last period of active duty must have ended with an honorable discharge.

Administered by the Department of Army, the benefits include grave site and actual interment in the national cemetery including opening, closing and marking the grave.

The Army also furnishes a headstone or grave marker for deceased veterans buried in unmarked private plots.

Information and assistance on filing for these Army-administered benefits will be furnished by any VA office.

Claims for the burial allowance may be filed with the VA within two years after the veteran's burial or cremation.

The claim may be filed by the undertaker, if he has not been paid, or by the party who paid the undertaker.

"Routine" Job Stops Disease

LZ HAWK HILL—Routine ??? Yes, but as vital as the routine of breathing is the task of the men that run the battalion aid station on LZ Hawk Hill.

Just about every kind of complaint imaginable comes to these medics of the 3-82nd Arty; from common colds, headaches, sore throats to minor injuries and dandruff.

Visiting each battery on their widely separated fire bases these men aid in the treatment of the many minor ailments that so often when left unattended, become serious enough to hospitalize the victim.

When asked the extent of the treatment that can be given at the aid station, SSG Lynwood Nozworthy, (Columbus, Ga.) said, "We can go as far as opening boils and removing ingrown toenails. Any minor surgery such as the removal of a cyst is done by the battalion surgeon in a hospital; once surgery is performed, any further care of the patient is handled at the aid station."

Two minor skin ailments that occur frequently are heat rash and ring worm. SP5 Clayton Petersen (New Windsor, Ill.), was quick to explain some misunderstanding about these conditions.

"Many people actually think that ringworm is caused by a real worm when it is actually a contagious fungus much like athletes foot. It appears as a ring-shaped, discolored patch of skin, covered with scales. If treated in time this disease is not a major problem but the most important point is to recognize the symptoms and get treated immediately."

The other problem they face is the ever present heat rash. "There are basically two different kinds of heat rashes," said SP5 Artheu Miller (Brandford, Pa.), "The first causes just mild itching, whereas the second, known as prickly heat causes little red pimples to erupt on the skin and intense itching. The best way to treat both conditions is to keep the skin as clean and dry as possible."

The least spectacular unit within the entire chain of medical facilities, the aid station, can well be considered the most influential force in the control and prevention of disease. (Div. Arty IO)

Use Floating Docks

Tankers Supply Fuel

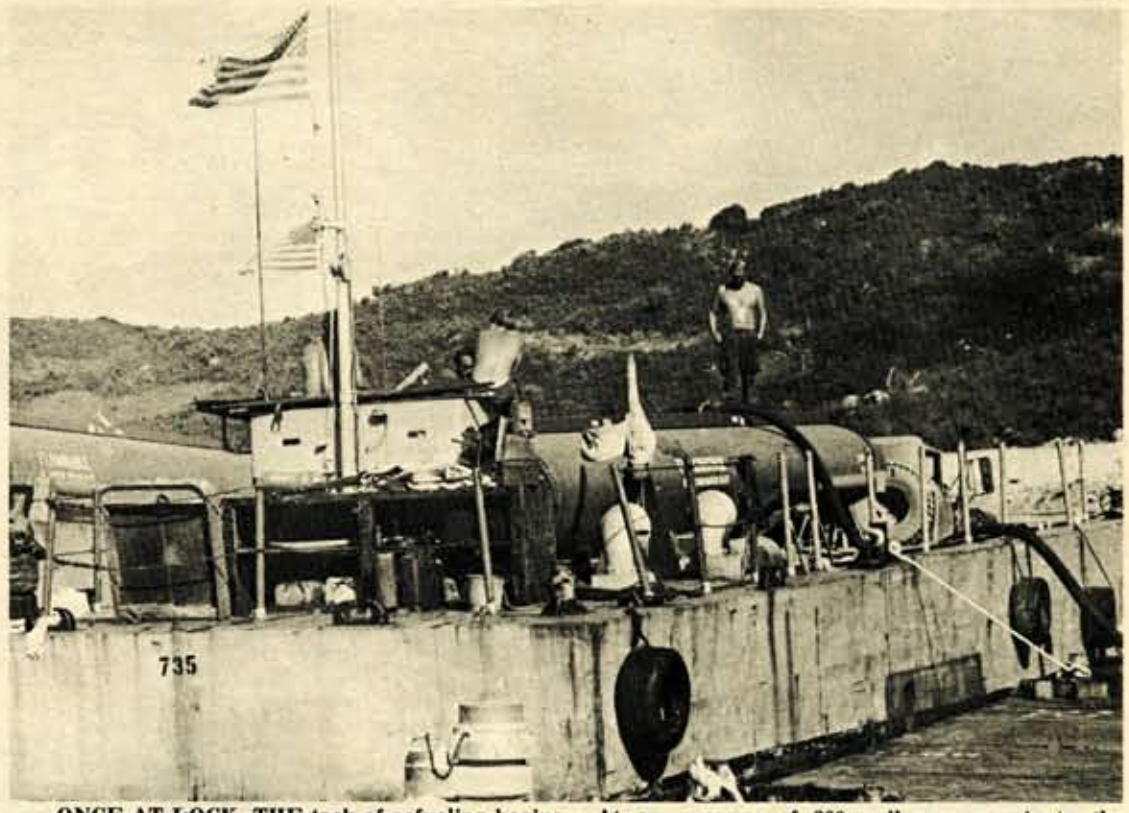
DUC PHO — Napoleon once said, "An army travels on it's stomach." But in today's highly airmobile army, fuel is often more important than food.

In an effort to maintain the supply of aviation fuel at an operational level at LZ Bronco, tankers from the divison's 57th Trans. Bn. transport nearly 45,000 gallons of fuel daily to the 11th Bde. Hq's near Duc Pho.

Every morning, the 5,000-gallon vehicles travel to Sa Huynh near Duc Pho, where they are loaded onto naval beach-craft for the trip to floating fuel docks.

Once at dock, the task of refueling is started and completed with maximum efficiency and minimum delay. At an average rate of 300 gallons per minute, the seemingly endless appetitie of a tanker is satiated within a short time.

Returning to the landing zone, the only task remaining is that of unloading the precious cargo into storage tanks. Once this is done the mission is accomplished — at least for another day. (Americal IO)



ONCE AT DOCK, THE task of refueling begins. At an average of 300 gallons per minute the seemingly endless appetite of a tanker is satisfied within a matter of 17 minutes. Then the river borne tanker returns to land and its trek inland. (Photo By SP4 Steve Tipton, 11th Bde. IO)

Departee Twins Earn Medals For Photographic Deftness

By 1LT James. P. Collins Jr.

LZ BRONCO—The Tipton twins are nearly as identical as the Bronze Stars for service they received at a ceremony here. The 19-year-old-duo, Steven and Phil, both SF4, have served for the past year as combat photographers for the 11th Bde.'s 31st Public Information Det.

Exemplifying the spirit that keeps them together, Steve, who proudly claims to be the older (by three minutes) and wears a size larger shoe, explained, "When we graduated from Signal School (Ft. Monmouth, N.J.), they said we'd have to decide which one of us would go to Vietnam." At this point Phil interjected: "But we said 'heck with that—we're both going!'" The two came on the same flight and eventually to the same unit of the Americal Division.

"Togetherness" was a precedent set long before by the Tipton twins. They attended the same schools in their hometown of Pittsburg, Kan. and were working there in a supermarket when they enlisted in the Army in April '68.

To the confusion of many, they were members of the same Basic Training squad, and later of the same class at Signal School where they acquired their photographic skills.

All twins have a favorite "mistaken identity" tale and theirs occurred while high school students. "None of the teachers could tell us apart," said Phil, "so we used to switch classes. I was curious about Steve's art class and he wanted to see what my algebra course was all about."

Steve continued: "It was sort of a disaster though. I got a pop quiz in algebra and Phil had to do an oil portrait. We both flunked that day."

The twins are going to new assignments as medical photographers—but 30 miles apart—Steve to Walter Reed Army Hospital and Phil to Ft. Meade, Md. Steve noted with a smile: "We've been together all our lives—it'll be good not to have a look-alike for awhile."

Phil, also smiling, nodded. Or was it Phil who spoke and Steve who nodded? (11th IO)

Praise Given For Courage, Compassion

LZ BRONCO — SP5 Roy Johnson (Ellisville, Miss.) was cited with the Silver Star with first oak leaf cluster by COL. F.T. Hoffman Jr. (San Antonio, Texas,) 11th Bde. commander, for his "extreme courage" and "compassion for his fellow man."

LTC Robert Fernandez (Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.) 4-3rd Inf. commander said, "Specialist Johnson's actions reflect the great credit on the fine medical team of this battalion. The men in the field know that the medic will be there beside them when needed."

"It's kind of hard to say what goes through your mind, when you hear the cry 'medic'," said Johnson. It is your job to go to their aid and that is probably your first thought." (11th Bde IO)

Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

SGT Ronald R. Barth, 198th Bde; MAJ George E. Batcheler, 11th Bde; SGT John D. Boyd, 26th Engr. Bn; 1LT Harvey S. Browne, 196th Bde; WO1 Robert M. Combs, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SGT William D. Conklin, 11th Bde; CPT Robert T. Frank, 11th Bde; 1LT John R. Edwards, 198th Bde; SP4 Mark L. McMillin, 23rd Med Bn; SGT Roy D. Nix, 11th Bde; PFC Christopher B. Osgood, 11th Bde; SGT Ronald L. Sailors, 11th Bde.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

LTC Julian F. Wagner, 198th Bde.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

PFC Kerry H. Good, 11th Bde.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

SP4 Ellwood Anderson (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Thomas J. Barnett, 11th Bde; SP4 Allen J. Bivens, 196th Bde; SGT Clinton L. Bowen (1st OLC), 196th Bde; SP4 Charles D. Bennett, 14th Arty; PFC Charles L. Bradley, 198th Bde; SP4 John D. Brown, 196th Bde; PFC Patrick R. Burke, 11th Bde; PFC Salvadore E. Casteneda, 196th Bde; SGT David G. Chupp, 196th Bde; PFC Richard L. Deadmond, 198th Bde; SP4 Donald R. DeLong, 196th Bde; SGT Michael T. Dewane, 14th Arty; SP5 William D. Dill (1st OLC), 14th Arty; 1LT Richard L. Domaster, 11th Arty; 1LT Charles E. Dyer (2nd OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Larry M. Edwards, 198th Bde; SGT Leonard E. Fater, 11th Bde; SP4 William J. Foley, 26th Engr. Bn; CPL Jeffrey H. Green, 14th Arty.

Choppers Airlift Chow

LZ HAWK HILL — With the monsoon weather of South Vietnam upon them, the division artillerymen expect it to rain cats and dogs.

Rain or shine the huey helicopters make their daily sorties to remote firebases with the vital supplies.

To get all the food to the men in the flying time available the Hq's Btry., mess hall at Hawk Hill starts early so that chow can be loaded on a truck by 6:30 in the morning. Only minutes away, the truck is on the helipad and loading the hot food on choppers.

"We may not have all the comforts of home, but we aim to please," said SGT Gerald McKinney (Reidsville, N.C.) Bn. supply sergeant. (Div Arty IO)

New CO For SUPCOM

CHU LAI — LTC Richard N. Raunswinder (Pittsburgh), relinquished command of the Div. Spt. Cmd.'s 23d Supply and Transport (S&T) Bn. to LTC Frank B. Wall Jr. (Springfield, Va.), during a change of command ceremony.

BG Edwin L. Powell, assistant division commander, passed the S&T Bn. color between the old and new commander.

In his departing remarks, LTC Raunswinder said, "I am very proud to have served the 23rd S&T Bn. You, the men of the battalion made this one of the best battalions in the division and succeeded in meeting all challenges and getting the job done." (SPT. CMD IO)