# SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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# Graveyard Firefight Buries Charlie

**By PFC James Tannesen**

LZ HAWK HILL—The seven trapped infantrymen pressed against the sand as the bullets ripped past overhead. They had two rifles between them, and thirty Viet Cong were closing in.

The 196th Inf. Bde soldiers had been aboard a resupply chopper headed towards the night laager position of A Co. 2-1st Inf. The sharp crack of AK-47 fire rang out, and bright red tracer rounds tore through the copter floor.

"One round grazed my arm," recalled SP4 Fred C. Forte, (Ft. Myers, Ga.). "Another knocked out the chopper's hydraulic system."

**Graveyard Crash**

The aircraft plummeted to the ground, crashing into a sandy berm, one half mile from its destination.

"I rolled out of the chopper," said SP4 Forte, "and saw about 10 VC firing at us from 50 meters."

The only cover was a nearby sand bank which lay in the center of a crumbling graveyard. With only two rifles between them, the seven division soldiers crawled desperately toward the bare sand dune.

The Viet Cong had now grown to 30 men; they began to move in and pitch grenades at the infantrymen. An enemy rocket demolished the downed chopper.

Though his rifle was lost, Forte was not out of action.

**Thowing Rocks**

"I threw chunks of rubble from a gravestone," he said, "and cussed them out." Others joined in the rock barrage.

In search of more substantial firepower, Forte scrambled down the bank and crawled to the chopper. He found a shotgun underneath the wreckage and opened fire. An instant later, he saw two of his antagonists carried off.

"I wasn't really aiming," said Forte. "I mainly shot to keep them down." Like the others in this group, Forte was buying time.

**Half-Mile Trek**

Meanwhile A Co. was moving to their aid. The half-mile trek was a bitter one, for sniper fire rained in from every side. However, the Americans hit back hard. Helicopter gunships raked the enemy positions from above, while the men of A Co. fought their way through.

"I know we shot quite a few of them on their way over," said PFC Ronald James (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma). "We could see the VC carrying bodies off."

The downed infantrymen were down to their last magazine when the company arrived.

**Alpha to the Rescue**

"I thought I heard friendly voices to the rear," said SP4 Forte, "so I called out." He slumped down in relief and he heard A Co's. point man answer.

Alpha broke the enemy assault with a barrage of machine gun and rifle fire.

"I was awfully glad to see those guys," said Forte. "We only had a few rounds left." (196th IO)

## What Do Puppy-Dogs Dream Of?

**With a candle to keep him warm, the mascot of E Co., 1-6th Inf. Mortar Platoon catches some sleep between fire missions. The men say "Mortar" is not at all gun-shy and if you share your C-rations with him he'll be your friend. (Photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)**

# 'Tripped' Wire Means Trophy

FSB 4-11 — A tripped wire often means danger to the infantryman. On this particular afternoon it meant a war trophy for a soldier of C Co. 3-1st Inf. 11th Inf. Bde.

The squad of division soldiers was walking along a trail in dense terrain 27 miles northwest of Duc Pho when the wire was tripped. A shot rang out and the infantrymen hit the dirt. After an investigation of the site, an AK-44 was discovered tied by wire to a tree. The single round in the weapon was aimed a foot off the ground. SP4 Dan Smith (Jamestown, N.D.) tagged it and now has the souvenir.

When asked why the weapon was aimed so low, MSG Huey Fuatheree (Hampton, Va.) commented, "The weapon was probably set up as some kind of game trap. From the height of the weapon it is hard to say that the bullet was intended for a soldier." (11th Bde. IO)

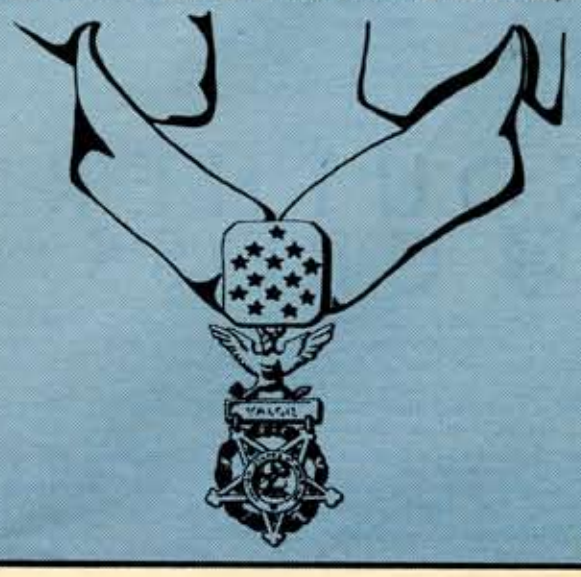
# Medal of Honor Winner In Div.

**By Direction of the President, under joint resolution of the Congress approved, 12 July 1862, the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded by the Department of the Army in the name of the Congress to:**

S/SGT Bacon

Staff Sergeant Nicky D. Bacon, RA28061509, United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a squad leader with the first platoon of B Company, 4-21st Inf, 196th Inf. Bde, Americal Division during a combat sweep west of Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam, on 26 August 1968. When B Company came under fire from an enemy bunker line to the front two platoon leaders were critically wounded within minutes of each other. Without hesitation, and showing admirable initiative and presence of mind, SSG Bacon led both platoons until the arrival of his company commander. So conspicuous were SSG Bacons' superior qualities of leadership and courage that the members of both platoons accepted his authority without question. When other men were forced to take cover SSG Bacon ignored the intense hostile fire and made numerous attempts to rescue the men who had been wounded. SSG Bacon later took charge of guiding the supporting fire and his precise and deadly direction also played a major part in the American victory.

SSG Bacon's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself, and the Armed Forces of his country.



# Drugs Are Costly Road To Self-Destruction

By SP5 James Brown

In trying to reach the impossible "Cloud Nine" a large number of persons have destroyed themselves and their loved ones with the use of dangerous drugs.

No knowledgeable military man can deny that there is not a drug problem in the military. The extensive use of drugs among the young people of America is clearly reflected in the services themselves. Marijuana, particularly, is increasing its hold on the troops.

**Drug Abuse Control Committee**

Frank Bartismo, an assistant general counsel for Defense, who is Chairman of the department's drug abuse control committee, expounded: "Compared to the problem that exists in the civilian community, ours (the military) is not a great one. However, we consider that any man in uniform using any dangerous drug is a great concern because a man under the influence of such a drug, in a key spot, could not only endanger his comrades but frustrate the entire mission."

Drugs can save lives, but their "abuse" can take lives. Drugs have their definite place in Vietnam when medically prescribed and properly used. A hallucinogen — a drug that prompts delusions — can easily damage one's mind and have no medicinal benefit whatsoever.

**Marijuana Is A Hallucinogen**

Marijuana is a hallucinogen, which is easily attainable in Vietnam. It is called "pot," "grass," "weed," or "mary jane" and is the most frequently abused of the hallucinogenic drugs today.

Under U.S. federal law, "marijuana is defined to mean all parts of the Cannabia plant except for the stalks and sterile seeds. All other parts or preparation of the plant, whether leaves, flower, resins (hashish) or chemical extracts are legally defined as Marijuana.

All problems have their beginning. Likewise the problem of marijuana begins when the user first trys it. The consumption of marijuana produces a variety of immediate mental effects and physical effects which become more pronounced with chronic use.

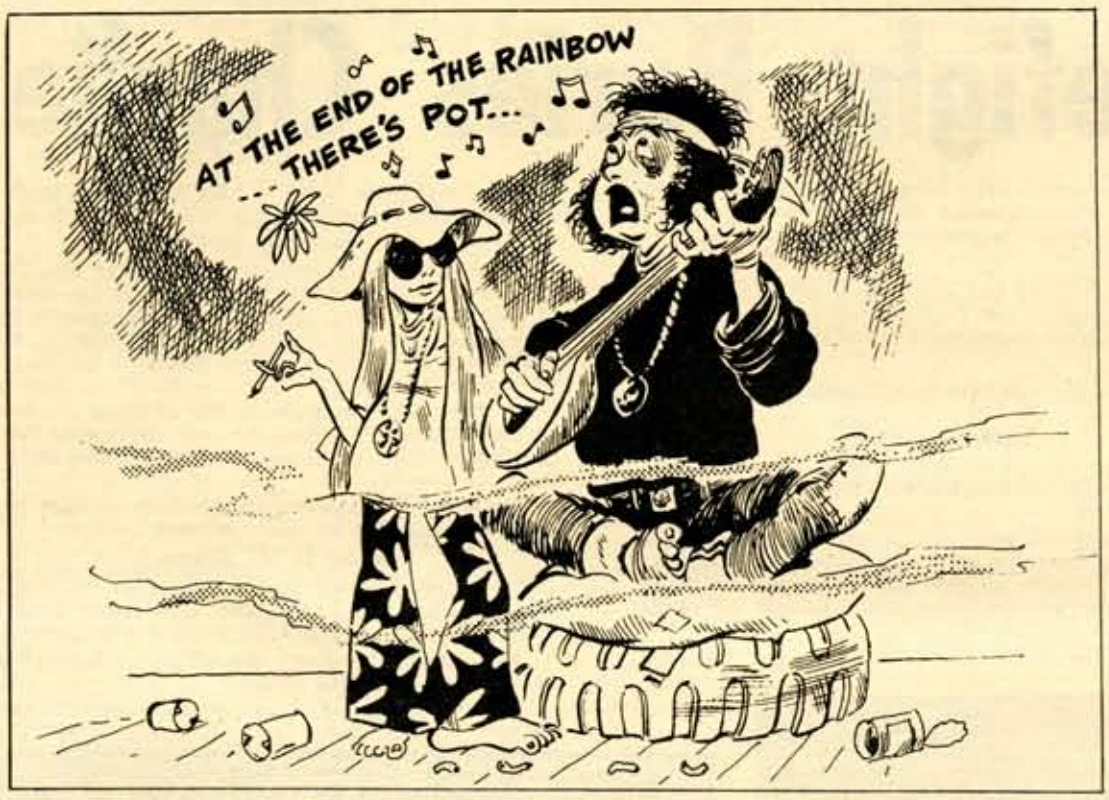
The 1965 report on Drug Dependency for the World Health Organization described some of the effects. Such effects include distortion of sensation and perception, the impairing of judgement and memory, distorted emotional responses, irritability and intensified stages of confusion. Other vivid effects, which develop often after repeated use of marijuana or hashish, include illusions and delusions which make individuals incline into antisocial behavior, anxiety and aggressiveness and sleep disturbance.

Since the use of "pot" is against federal law — penalties for a first offense can be as much as 10 years in a penitentiary and a fine of $20,000. Possession, use or sale of "pot" is likewise against the Uniform Code Of Military Justice, and is punishable by courts-martial with possible Dishonorable Discharge and up to 5 years in prison. The U.S. government can also impose and collect a tax of $100 for each ounce or fraction of an ounce possessed.

After a certain period of drug use, the individual only cares about means of attaining his supply — all other interests are lost to the destructive elements of the drug.

The "trip" via drug use can be an endless one. Most of the habitual users, the psychiatrists have found, have a psychological problem. The drugs are just a crutch — an escape mechanism that becomes shackles.

An individual's conversation with a Chaplain are privileged on the basis of a priest-penitent basis. Accordingly a man on drugs and seeking advice can freely discuss his problems with the Chaplain and be guided as to what he should do. Likewise, a true attorney-client relationship enjoys a privileged status. However the relationship is not established by simply walking into a legal office and talking to an attorney.




*Religion And You*

## Towards Normalcy

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ) CLYDE J. WOOD
HHC, 11th Inf. Bde.

A man, now deceased, and I talked freely about his addiction to narcotics. He had a brilliant mind and an extraordinary personality. Financially, he had steady employment. He had been married and divorced three times.

**I asked, "Why do you take drugs?" He answered, "To feel normal". I was startled and asked what he meant. He related how there had been the stage of experimentation with marijuana, pep pills, etc. But these soon held no thrill for him, so he "mainlined" heroin.**

In his own words he said: "For a while I was on 'Cloud Nine'; all my problems were solved. Then I began to feel terrible without it. Now I must have it to feel normal."

**Today, the judgments of values are radically changing, and the standards of normalcy are being questioned. However, most of us know what living a normal life is. It is a tragedy to need a drug to lift oneself to a normal life. In the case of my friend, he eventually died because of the affects of narcotics on his body at the age of 43. Before his death I saw him in agony, even as he used drugs—that I would not equate with normalcy.**

The Christian can expect more out of life than a normal existence. Jesus has attested to this fact in John 10:10 "I come that they may have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

I challenge anyone who may be tempted to resort to normalcy via the use of drugs to a better way of life. I invite them to Christ who truly gives more than that which is normal. He gives life abundantly.

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AMERICAL DIVISION

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## VA News In Review

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Veterans and their families are asking thousands of questions concerning the benefits their Government provides for them through VA. Below are some representative queries. Additional information may be obtained at any VA office.

Q — My brother-in-law receives compensation for a 40 per cent service-connected disability. A friend of his receives compensation for his wife and child. Why?

A — Under the law, only those veterans who are 50 per cent or more disabled are entitled to additional compensation for dependents.

Q — I understand that the VA will no longer compensate a veteran for TB when the disease is completely arrested. Is this correct?

A — Up until Aug. 20, 1968, the veteran was awarded $67 a month for a service-connected TB condition even though the TB was in complete arrest. Since that date, if there are healed lesions with minimal or no symptoms nothing is paid to a new applicant. However, those then on the rolls are continuing to receive payment.

Q — I must sell my VA loan-financed home because I am being transferred. I find it advantageous to let my VA loan be assumed by the purchaser. Is there any way I can be released from my liability to the Government on the VA loan?

A — Yes. You may be released from liability to the VA if your loan is current, if the purchaser obligates himself by contract to assume all of the liabilities on your loan, and in a situation like this, you will not be eligible for restoration of your loan benefits until this loan is paid in full.

## Proud Men Serving Our Action Army

SFC Fenton M. Edwards
Career Counselor
Spt. Cmd.

By MSG H.A. Bonesio

Division troops was represented by the "Topkick" of C Co., 26th Engr Bn., 1SG Alva Cox, while from the same organization SSG William Singfook and SP4 Charles F. Lewis, HHC, SSG Wanice Walls, A Co., SP4 Carl F. Kij, D Co. from 1st Cav., SP4 John Gildroy, A Trp., SF4 Eugene Jackson, B Trp., SGT William Wasson, C Trp.

Support Command had MSG Leroy Dix, 23rd Admin Co., SSG Elbert J. Wilkerson, Hq& Band, SP4 Douglas Stroup, Hq&A Co. 723rd Maint. Bn, from the 23rd Sup. & Trans Bn., SFC Franklin Procell, and MSG John Aro, HHC, MSG Richard Herman and SP4 Angel Rivera, A Co., SP4 Fidel S. Babuta and PFC Stephen R. Raper, B Co.

Division Artillery retains SSG Richard Acre and PFC Sanford Cowart, C Btry., PFC William Renner, D Btry., 1-14th Arty., PFC Billy Henley and FFC Robert L. McMillian, Btry., PFC Kelley A. Snyder, D Btry., 6-11th Arty-SFC Alberto S. Zayas, C Btry., 3-18th Arty-SGT Victor W. Rafner and PFC Jesse Edmond, HHB, PFC John Holden, B Btry., 3-16th Arty; 1SG Conrad F. Lushbaugh and SGT John Morgan, HHB, MSG John B. Roth, HH&SB, PFC Erik Olsen A Btry., 1-82nd Arty.

The 16th Combat Aviation Group keeps SP6 Max Bates, 178th ASHC; SP4 Oscar M. Bryant, F Trp., 8th Cav., SFC James Wyche, B Co., 123rd Avn Bn., SFC William Jackson and PFC William A. Case, D Trp., 1-1st Cav.

The 11th Infantry Brigade reenlistees are PFC Timothy Cook A. Co., PFC Vernon W. Jayne and Paul D. Pruitt, B Co., SP4 Dennis Gildersleeve, PFC Gary Lawrence and PFC Carl E. Parker, D Co., 3-1st; from 4-3rd Inf., SF5 James D. Anderson and PFC Roy W. Lark, HHC, PFC Davey Miller, A Co., PFC Dwight Alden., B Co., PFC Ed C. Colter, C Co., PFC Charles L. Sener and PFC George Mitchell, D Co., SSG Donald May, E Co.; from 1-20th Inf., PFC Dana R. Young and PFC Daryl L. Elmer, B Co., PFC Robert Hernandez, Co C., PFC Eddie Wilcox, D Co.; from 4-21st SP4 Jewel R. Wright, HHC, PFC Norman B. Haldeman, B Co., PFC John L. Mitchell, PFC Donald E. Norris, PFC Emmet Anderson, PFC Jerry Jenkins, D Co., PFC Larry Ashley, PFC Jimmy Stewart F. Co.

# Battalion's Project Has Goal: '200' New Homes For Dai Loc

By SSG. Bill Campbell
And SP4 Rich Egerster

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

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

"The battalions 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 PF's in building strong defensive perimeters, the RD cadre are busy teaching the villagers proper methods of planting and harvesting crops.

The villagers also receive periodic medical treatment from U.S. MEDCAP teams assigned to the battalions AO. "The functions of MEDCAP," CPT. Harry T. Hensley (Indianapolis, Indiana) Bn. surgeon, explained, "consists of weekly visits to the 'ville' where we treat mostly infection cases; however if the case is serious enough we will hospitalize them."

"Basic hygiene habits such as washing regularly are also stressed, using example of the American soldier. The goal of the MEDCAP program is to include treatment of minor cases and supervision of the hygiene program in the daily chores of the individual medical companies," said CPT. Hensley.

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

## Soldier Does Good Deed

**An 11th Bde. soldier aids one of the villagers evacuated to LZ LIZ when monsoon floods threatened several hamlets five miles north of Duc Pho. The 1-20th Inf. 11th Bde. gave food, clothing and overnight shelter to the evacuees on this firebase.**
**(U.S. Army Photo)**

## English Class

By PFC James Tannesen

LZ HAWK HILL — People passing through the village of Binh An may find Vietnamese children speaking the "Kings English" with a Brooklyn accent.

If this happens, the credit will go to PFC Bernard Locke (New York City, N.Y.) a member of the divisions' 196th Bde. Locke who works with the Civil Affairs Team of the 2-1st Inf., teaches "English I" in a one-room schoolhouse in Binh An.

"I more or less walked into the job," says Locke. "The Civil Affairs section does some work with the Catholic priest who is the headmaster at the school. He needed someone to teach, and I said okay."

The class meets in a wooden building that contains only the basic necessities — rough hewn desks, ammo box seats, and a plywood blackboard. But when Locke tapes his bamboo pointer on his desk to start class, the bare surroundings lose importance. The children are there to learn.

"They're pretty well behaved," says Locke. "The kids here treat education as a privilege."

He begins class by writing a sentence in English on the board. At first sounds are garbled, but soon words are recognizeable.

"They are sharp kids," reflects Locke. "I go through a sentence maybe once or twice, and they do it by themselves."

He believes his classes do more than provide a chance for schoolchildren to learn English. "If an American soldier comes into a village and works with the people, it just naturally eases tension."

However, nothing is ever perfect. Quips Locke, "They still say 'bicture' instead of picture."

# Awards & Decorations

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

SGT Randell G. Backovich, 198th Bde; SGT Charles E. Brown, 196th Bde; SGT Johnny E. Brown, 11th Bde; LTC Clarence P. Campbell, 196th Bde; SP4 Lonnie J. Eldridge, 11th Bde; 1LT Richard L. Gibson, 11th Bde; PFC Peter Krytowicz, 196th Bde; SP4 Gary W. McCann, 11th Bde; SSG Everett L. Mohr, 196th Bde; FFC Victor B. Moore, 196th Bde; PFC Karl R. Rohide, 196th Bde; SP4 Victor M. Silvas, 196th Bde; CPT John R. Stolfi (1st OLC), 11th Bde.

**DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

WO1 Michael D. Curtis, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Ronald Van Fosson, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Dennis G. Wheary, 14th Cbt Avn Bn.

**BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE**

SGT Phillip A. Arlotta (1st OLC), 11th Bde; LTC Robert C. Bacon, 196th Bde; MAJ Wilburn T. Boozer, HHC, Americal; SSG James O. Cook, 11th Bde; 2LT William T. Cox, 196th Bde; SP4 Carl D. Enloe, 196th Bde; SSG Issac D. Faughn, 196th Bde; PFC Kenneth R. Hamilton, 11th Bde; PFC Delmar A. Jensen, 196th Bde; SP4 Dary R. Lindstrom, 196th Bde; SSG Allan J. Mauratic, 11th Bde; PFC Ronnie L. Owens, 196th Bde; FFC Murel D. Parks (1st OLC), 196th Bde; SP4 Leonard Rodriguez, 11th Bde; PFC Baldino Soto Jr, 196th Bde; SP4 Donald R. Westfall, 196th Bde; SP4 Brian T. Winters, 196th Bde.

**AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE**

CW2 Thomas N. Dana (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; PFC Mark Dekreon (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CW2 Thomas R. Fox, (2nd Awd.) 123rd Avn Bn; WO1 Wallace T. Honda, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP4 Gregory W. Hughes (2nd Awd), 123rd Avn Bn; CW2 Francis J. Kazaitis (24th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SF4 Stephen G. Miller (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP4 Charles J. Newell, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; PFC Richard W. Nicolazzo (2nd Awd), WO1 David J. Picco, 123rd Avn Bn; SP4 Curtis Pieper (2nd Awd),14th Cbt Avn Bn; PFC Bernard Smith, 14th Abt Avn Bn; SP5 Charles E. Upton Jr (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP5 Marcus L. Zimmerman (17th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn.

**ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE**

SP4 Adolph Abel 23rd Med Bn; SP4 Robert A. Bates, 196th Bde; PFC Derrill Bolden, 198th Bde; SGT Ulysses Cutter Jr, 196th Bde; SP4 Donald J. Folmar, 196th Bde; CPT John I. Gerzel, 18th Arty; SSG Leotis Gunn, 196th Bde; SP5 Michael S. Halper (1st OLC), 23rd Med Bn; SP4 Ricky D. Jay, 196th Bde; PFC Guy W. Jones, 196th Bde; SSG Donald G. May, 11th Bde; SP4 Jose M. Pedraza, 11th Bde; SP4 Sheldon Porter, 196th Bde.

# Hiep Duc Supply Push

LZ HAWK HILL — A convoy of 18 Vietnamese trucks recently set out from Tam Ky with one mission: to resupply the refugee center at Hiep Duc.

Leaving Tam Ky early in the morning, the trucks rolled down highway 535, protected by elements of the divisions' 196th Bde.

Soldiers from 4-31st Inf. held key sections of the road. APC's from F Trp. 17th Cav., rumbled alongside the convoy during the entire trip, while helicopter gunships, provided by F Trp., 8th Cav. hovered constantly overhead.

The enemy did not challenge the array of firepower, and the convoy safely reached Hiep Duc by late afternoon.

The success of the convoy may well have had some far reaching results.

"It definitely showed the people at Hiep Duc that the Government of Vietnam is concerned about them," asserted MAJ. James Y. Iha (Whaiawa, Hawaii), civil affairs officer, 196th Bde.

"The Viet Cong cadre in that area have claimed for a long time that they are winning the war," said CPT. William H. Marty (Santa Cruz, Calif.). PSYOPS officer, 196th Bde., but "the convoy's success hurt their creditability." (196th Bde IO)

# Vietnamese National Day Hi-lited With Folk Songs In Tribute To War Dead

By 1LT James P. Collins Jr.

LZ BRONCO—The 500 or more residents of Duc Pho who gathered on a rainy night to celebrate National Day, the Vietnamese equivalent of our Fourth of July, had no need of fireworks. The "big guns" of the 11th Inf. Bde. were pounding out a rumbling tattoo, not in mere celebration of independence, but in preservation of it.

The faces however, changed expressions, in consonance with new action on a small, brightly lit outdoors stage. It was a night for cultural drama. Oblivious to the constant "chug-chug" of the gasoline generator which supplied power for the show, and forgiving the three occasions when it failed, the crowd was enthralled.

The handful of Division soldiers in the audience soon discovered that language was only a minor barrier, because villains, heroes, and slapstick clowns all speak a universal language.

National Day was established in 1963 to commemorate the organization of the new government and pay tribute to those families who have lost loved ones in the war. These themes were interwoven into the dramatic skits and songs of the presentation.

Earlier in the day, the 11th Inf. Bde.'s PSYOPS section and members of the 29th Civil Affairs Co. traveled to Quang Ngai City where they presented gifts to families who have lost relatives in the war.

## Not A Whimper

**A small Vietnamese boy looks to the medic for reassurance as he receives his innoculation against bubonic plague in the village of Le Thuy (2) in the Division AO. The medics innoculated 1,450 Vietnamese against the plague in two days.** **(Photo By SP4 Bob Harris, 198th Bde IO)**

# Artillerymen's 'King Of Guns' Wh

Chinook Airlifts In Needed Ammo.

CHU LAI — The largest division artillery in the U.S. Army, comprised of more than 4,000 men, is located in the Southern I Corps of Vietnam.

COL. Leslie B. Hardy (Annadale, Va.), Commanding Officer of division artillery, has the immense task of insuring the maximum possible firesupport is provided to US and ARVN maneuver forces in the Division AO.

The scope of artillery is not limited to the artillery pieces on the scattered firebases. The fire support element is responsible for coordinating all Naval gunfire; Army, Air Force and Marine air strikes; and even the Coast Guards' 5 inch guns.

Strategically located searchlight units and radar sites keep a watchful eye on the enemy both day and night.

Meteorological teams constantly monitor the weather, providing the data for artillery that is so necessary for accurate fire.

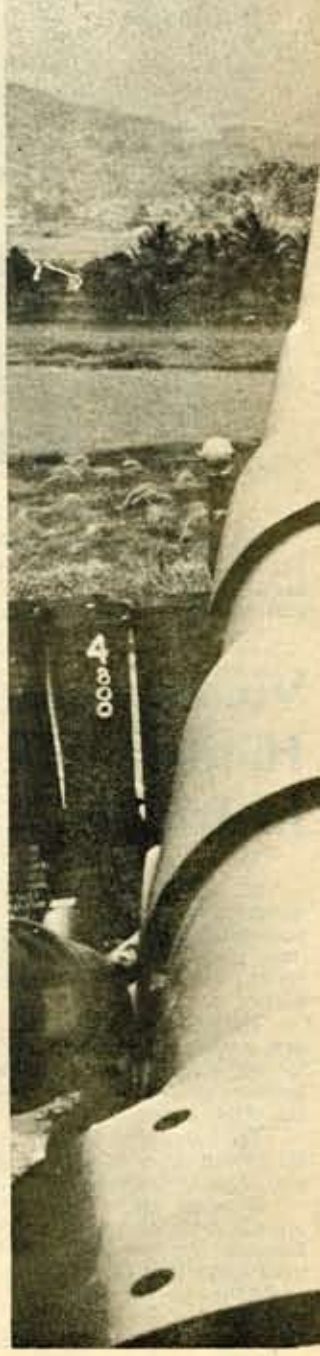
"Quad 50's" known as Whispering Death, protect the perimeters of 22 isolated fire bases and outposts. Four .50 cal. machineguns mounted as a single unit, this imposing and highly accurate weapons system is one of the most respected members of the Army's arsenal.

The core of Div. Arty's massive organization is naturally the field artillery. Firing day and night; computing data both manually and using the Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer humping tons of explosive steel; filling sandbags; is the unheralded job of the artilleryman.

However, these artillerymen and their specialized equipment would be of little value if it were not for the man who pinpoints the artillery rounds exactly on target — the forward observer.

(Div. Arty. IO)

A Convincer With Hard-Hitting Knockout Punch.




Story
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Maste

# ...per Deadly Symphony Of Firepower

...ar Machine.

The 'Big Gun' Hammers Steel Into Distant Hills.

...Photos By
...y. 10

A 'Quad 50' Holds Its Own While On Perimeter.

...e Valley.

The Team: Men and Gun Battle The Enemy.

# Combat In Review

## Jungle Insertion

**Division Infantrymen disembark from their assault helicopter during an insertion west of Quang Ngai. The 11th Bde. soldiers were participating in a recent search and clear operation. (Photo By PFC Daniel Plescott, 523rd Sig. Bn.)**

# Bashful VC Hides Alas, To No Avail

LZ LIZ — Without having fired a shot, a squad of division soldiers, led by a squad leader on his first mission surprised and captured four Viet Cong five miles west of Duc Pho.

SSG Wayne Cook (Knoxville, Tenn.) led his ten-man squad from C Co., 1-20th Inf., 11th Bde., through a treeline to its ambush site. The point man, PFC Harry Rhine (Mackyville, Pa.) suddenly found himself facing a VC ten yards away. The VC assessing the situation, threw up his hands, and the men tied him up , before settling into their ambush site.

They didn't see any movement that night and were returning to their firebase the next morning with their captive when they spotted a VC clad in a green uniform and squatting near a treeline.

"He jumped and ran into a bunker. We tried to flush him out with some hand frags, but that didn't work. So we threw in some smoke grenades," explained PFC Robert Phillips (Brewer, Maine).

After a number of smoke grenades were exploded in the bunker, a VC emerged coughing and spitting.

"But he wasn't the one we were after. This guy was wearing a tan shirt, and the one we had spotted was in a green uniform," said PFC Don Townsend (Baltimore, Md.), the squad's grenadier.

Finally SFC Angel Delacruz, (Los Angeles, Calif.) grabbed one of the VC and entered the bunker with a .45 cal. pistol. He found the enemy soldier sitting in a cubby hole with his uniform next to him on the floor. (11th Bde. IO)

## Rice Hounds Hit Jackpot

LZ HAWK HILL — The men of A Co. could not believe their eyes.

"We found rice inside fake walls, in 55 gallon barrels and hidden under large piles of straw," said SSG Lon Engwis (Midland, Mich.), A Co., 3-21st Inf. "Everywhere we looked there was rice."

By the time the search was over, the 196th Inf. Bde. unit netted 20,000 pounds of unpolished grain.

The company had entered a small hooch area located 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky early in the afternoon. The unit found 200 pounds of rice behind a false wall. One discovery led to another, and the division infantrymen found themselves working all afternoon to extract what they had found.

The grain will be redistributed among the villagers of Nui Lac Son. (196th Bde IO)

# 'Chief' Smoke Is On Target

LZ STINSON — Although it sounded like the gunfight at the "OK Corral" with the volume turned up all the way, it was only one 105mm howitzer from C Btry., 3-82nd Arty that rumbled through the Hiep Duc Valley in the division's area of operation.

An NVA recoilless rifle crew began to fire rounds into fire support base LZ Siberia from across the Thu Bon River.

When the first rounds impacted into the area of LZ Siberia, SSG William Parent, night "Chief of Smoke" ran barefoot to the gun under the charge of SGT Ronnie Jackson (Joplin, Mo.)

"It was about 6 p.m.," Jackson said, "Suddenly a series of rounds came whistling overhead".

When the enemy fired their second group of two shots, SGT Parent spotted the flash and smoke from the enemy gun and though he had returned to the landing zone that same day after a week's hospitalization for wounds, he helped swing the gun around and jumped up on the gun's trails to observe and adjust fire.

As the enemy gunners fired away, Parent and Jackson and SP4 John Vines (Lansing, Mich.) fired and made corrections and slammed their third round into the NVA position.

"The first eight rounds silenced the enemy," commented Vines.

The next morning, a sweep of the area by the men of the 4-31st Inf., revealed five enemy killed and three wounded enemy victims of direct artillery hits. (Americal IO)

# Ceremony Explodes With Combat

LZ CRUNCH — "Relay-Five-Four hundred", bellowed the battery commander and the men of C Btry. scrambled to their guns. They knew the command meant the enemy was near.

In gun pit number one, BG Edwin L. Powell Jr., Asst. Div. Commander for Support and six crewmen mounted the eight inch howitzer. What had been a routine ceremony was now an actual fire mission.

Earlier in the day LZ Crunch has been a beehive of activity as the division artillerymen prepared for the arrival of the general who was coming to fire the 200,000th round for the 3-18th Arty since it joined the division.

Before pulling the lanyard on the brightly painted projectile Gen. Powell paused to address the battery. Suddenly a member of the FDC ran into the midst of the ceremony, obviously breathless. He exchanged a few quick words with CPT. Gerzel (Lawton, Okla.) the Btry. Commander. The general halted his speech to determine the cause of the disturbance; his answer came quickly.

Formation forgotten the men grabbed their flak jackets and dashed to their guns. An enemy mortar platoon had been spotted by Vietnamese workers and reported to LZ Crunch. With several aircraft and many high ranking officers gathered together, this remote firebase made an ideal target.

Deciding to combine the live fire mission with the firing of the 200,000th round, CPT. Gerzel ordered the ceremonial projectile loaded in gun number one.

Tense moments passed as the exact location of the suspected enemy position was determined. Then Gen. Powell did what he had come to do. . . . . fire that round.

Joined by a 175mm gun the cannoneers continued to fire a total of 43 rounds and ruined any plans the enemy might have to disrupt their ceremony. (Div Arty IO)

# Wiremen Spite Rain

LZ HAWK HILL — In spite of torrential rains, ankle deep mud and slippery poles, the artillery wiremen here gathered their courage together and set about the task of linking up 17 miles of communication and electrical wires throughout the battery.

To the linemen at the division's Hq.'s Btry., 3-82nd Arty., who undertook the job of establishing a line of communications for the battery following its move to LZ Hawk Hill, it seemed like almost an endless task.

"Our first job," said SGT Paul Yarman (Belleville, Ohio) section chief, "was to connect wires for the FDC. Having communications with our other firebases was of utmost importance."

Wiring the 25 hut bunker C complex comprising the rest of the battery came next; this not only included the individual section bunkers but also the mess hall, orderly room and aid station. Communication wires were connected to a main switch.

When asked if any problems were encountered in the process of laying the wire PFC Nieka Andrews (Pittsfield, Vt.) explained "Perhaps our biggest obstacle was the rain. We had to be careful not to be electrocuted by the wet wires. We had quite a job trying to set the telephone poles in the mud. In one instance the mud was so deep, we had to nail a pole to a bunker to keep it from falling."

Setting up the poles was one thing but climbing them to connect wires was another. "Several times I reached the top of the pole only to slide halfway down because it was so slippery," noted Yarman. "It's humorous now that I look back, but at the time it was no laughing matter."

Little did the wiremen realize when they started their work that they would stretch a vast network of 89,760 feet of wire and cable before their job was completed. (Americal IO)

# Ambush Psychs Troop

LZ SAN JUAN HILL—A division soldier of the 11th Bde.'s 4-3rd Inf. chalked up four enemy kills in a firefight. The action occurred ten miles west of Duc Pho.

PFC Robert Matucek (Wilmington, Del.) was a member of B Co., on what seemed another routine ambush. The platoon he was with waited a few meters from a trail near the company's former NDP. It was on this trail that Matucek would become a true battle veteran.

Matucek described the action: "I was the last in the line ambush. I heard a movement to my exposed flank and I saw six NVA moving towards me and I opened up."

He maneuvered into position with his M-16 blazing. Two NVA were instantly killed. Two more tried to flee and Matucek quickly dispensed with the duo. The third pair disappeared into the bush away from the deadly blaze of the infantryman's fire.

(11th Bde. IO)

## Alert And Cautious

**A division infantryman moves cautiously along a trail in the thick jungles west of Quang Ngai. The machinegunner, a member of the 11th Bde.'s 3-1st Inf., was participating in a recent search and clear operation. (Photo By PFC Daniel Plescott, 523rd Sig. Bn.)**

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

# HUMAN GOALS

Our nation was founded on the principle that the individual has infinite dignity and worth. The Department of Defense, which exists to keep the nation secure and at peace, must always be guided by this principle. In all that we do, we must show respect for the serviceman and civilian employee as a person, recognizing his individnal needs, aspirations, and capabilities.

The defense of the nation requires a well-trained force, military and civilian, regular and reserve. To provide such a force we must increase the attractiveness of a career in Defense so that the serviceman and the civilian employee will feel the highest pride in himself and his work, in the uniform and the military profession.

THE ATTAINMENT OF THESE GOALS REQUIRES THAT WE STRIVE ...

To attract to the defense service people with ability, dedication, and capacity for growth;

To provide opportunity for every one, military and civilian, to rise to as high a level of responsibility as his talent and diligence will take him;

To make military and civilian service in the Department of Defense a model of equal opportunity for all regardless of race or creed or national origin, and to hold those who do business with the Department to full compliance with the policy of equal employment opportnnity;

To help each serviceman at the end of his service in his adjustment to civilian life; and

To contribute to the improvement of our society, including its disadvantaged members, by greater utilization of our human and physical resources while maintaining full effectiveness in the performance of our primary mission.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY

CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. AIR FORCE

COMMANDANT, U.S. MARINE CORPS

*Secretary Of Defense*

# Laird Cites 'Human Goals' Military's 'Way To Live'

CHU LAI — The Human Goals Credo — a table of projected incentives to enhance careers and dignity for both civilians and military in the Defense Department — has been given added impetus by the Secretary Of Defense Melvin Laird.

At a Pentagon luncheon meeting with the top leaders of the Defense Department, Secretary Laird set the pace for full disclosure of the Credo' contents.

Each official present — including top NCO's of the military departments — received a copy of the Human Goals, which set the standards for improving the Department Of Defense image and assignment within the department.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Delbert Black assured those present that enlisted personnel he contacts are "very enthusiastic" about the support they are getting. "This administration has done more and published more and shown that they are more people oriented than any I have ever seen," he said.

Secretary Laird said, "We want to live with this statement (Human Goals) and the way to live with it is to follow. . . these goals and to do what we can to see that they are a living thing as far as the Department of Defense and the various Services are concerned."

Basically, the Human Goals Credo embodies a philosophy that touches every American, in and out of uniform, proclaiming his individual dignity and worth as a human being. Essentially it expresses the humanitarian approach to the management of people within the Department of Defense.

Asst. Secy. of Defense Roger T. Kelley expressed the belief that the military organization is essentially a humanitarian group of people who represent in composite the most compassionate humane, and effective fraternity of people to be found anywhere. (D.O.D.)

**You may want to take some souvenirs home when you DEROS, none could be better than our comely mermaid. Hint fellas, we found her while looking for sea shells along the South China coast. Anyone for the beach?**

## Easter In The Fall

# Playboy Bunny Visits Troops

LZ BAYONET — Engineers and artillerymen of the division's 198th Bde., received a pleasant surprise when a "Playboy Bunny" visited two LZ's near Chu Lai.

Miss Kathy Mac Donald (Baltimore, Md.) and Miss Dixie Clegg (Salt Lake City, Utah) were members of a 22 day handshake tour sponsored by the USO and led by veteran actor Tom Tully (Hollywood). None of the men had any difficulty recognizing Miss MacDonald.

"Hey, you're the March playmate," said a gunner on an 8 inch gun.

"Who told you that?" she asked.

"Nobody had to tell me, I'd know you anyplace," he said shyly.

And so it went. But as the men got over their initial shyness, they talked with the girls, asked for their autographs and posed for pictures with them.

The tour began at LZ Dottie, 15 miles southwest of Chu Lai, where the girls met the men of the 1-14th Arty, 1-82nd Arty, and a company from the 39th Engr Bn.

After the short delay, they flew on to the home of C Btry, 1-14th Arty, and Company D of the 26th Engineers at LZ Fat City, 6 miles west of Chu Lai. The constant showers didn't dampen spirits of the welcoming crowd of over 400 men.

At each stop, Miss Clegg, a dancer on the Dean Martin Show, flustered radio operators by making a commo check. The usual answer to her purring voice asking "How do you hear me," was a stunned silence from the other end.

## Cbt. Leaders Prove Worth

CHU LAI — ". . .No two leaders are the same. . ." was the comment made by BG John W. Donaldson. Asst. Div. commander and key-note speaker during a recent Combat Leadership Course graduation.

The general went on to say that the differences in men is why the Combat Center's Leadership Course "has been geared to helping the individual develop the common leadership qualities — knowledge, understanding, loyalty, and courage, both physical and moral."

SP4 Kerry M. Armstrong (Killeen, Tex.) B Co. 39th Engr Bn., was the honor graduate of the class of 45. Armstrong received a one grade promotion to SGT and a plaque denoting his accomplishment. LTC Thomas A. Ghromley 39th Engr. commander was present to congratulate the top grad and assist in the pinning of the new stripes on his arm.

Finishing second and third in the class were PFC James W. Sherman (Hot Springs, Ark.) 23rd MP Company and SP4 Denny L. Jacks (Lawton, Okla.) Co. G 75th Inf. (Rangers). Both men received one grade promotions and plaques.(SPT CMD IO)

## 'Nationwide' Call For Mail

LZ HAWK HILL — A little short of mail these days? If so, do what a company in the division did.

Write to a syndicated columnist such as "Dear Abby", "Helen Help Us", or "Ann Landers". Ask to have the name and address of your unit printed so people can write. You might be surprised with the results.

In the case of C Co. 3-21st Inf. 196th Bde., it all started last summer. Mrs. Ann Wagner, a Union City, N.J. resident who has been writing the company for years, sent the company's address to "Helen Help Us" in California and "Mail Call, Vietnam" in Columbus, Georgia.

"In no time at all," recalled 1SG Robert W. Smallcomb (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.), letters and packages started pouring in from all over the states."

"I like them," said SGT Dave Nagel (Midland, Mich.). "If I don't happen to receive any mail from my family, there are still letters I can answer.

"You get to know people you might want to look up back in the world," commented PFC Nels Bolstand (Plains, Mont.) who is currently writing six girls at a time.

PFC William Sheppard (Buffalo, N.Y.) also explained the situation. "We know that people besides our parents and friends care enough to write us. That's a great morale booster." (196th Bde IO)

## Trooper Sings His Theme Song 'Parts Man Drag'

By 2LT Steve Gailar

CHU LAI — For a man accustomed to driving at speeds up to 225 miles per hour, a tour of duty in Vietnam would seem fairly unexciting.

PFC Al Friedman (Washington, D.C.) was assigned as a parts man for A Btry. 3-18th Arty. The decision was reached by Friedman's first sergeant after comparing his 120 pound frame to a 200 lb. projectile he would have had to work as a cannoneer.

In civilian life, Friedman's small stature was perfect for his occupation. His frame fit perfectly in his AA fuel dragster, "Wheeler Dealer".

Utilizing the tremendous power of his 392 Chrysler hemi-engine Friedman met and beat most of the top names on the Eastern circuit. Included in this list was a victory over Don Prudhomme, this year's national champion.

Resulting from this impressive showing in 1967, Friedman was selected as rookie of the year by several magazines.

## Shot Out

**It's going, going, gone—not a home run, but a four-deuce mortar round. Ron Swoboda of the New York Mets, smiling, points the way of a high hard one sent his way by St. Louis Cardinal Pitcher Jim "Mudcat" Grant. The ballplayers were on a tour of firebases in the Americal AO.**

**(Photo By SP4 Dean Williams, Americal IO)**

## Direct Support

**MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, CG of the Division, and SSM James P. Meade display some morale strengthening support from the students of East Tennessee State University. 1220 signatures graced the scroll sponsored by the Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity.**

**(Photo By PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)**

## Armored Car Is Big, Bad News

CHU LAI — Three "Ducks" have added firepower and security to the B Co. 23rd S&T Bn., convoy support vehicles.

Better known as the V-100 amphibious armored car, the "ducks" are powered by a 360 cubic inch Chrysler engine, and are armed with two potent M73E1 electric machine guns.

BG Edwin K. Powell Jr., asst. div. commander for support who took a test drive in the V-100 commented that because of its armor it has a tremendous psychological effect in favor of the vehicles it supports.

A hand picked team of nine cross-trained drivers, and radio operators man the three amphibious armored cars.

The 13,800 pound land and water vehicle is also equipped with special run-flat tires that increase its mobility.

The "Ducks" section chief, SGT Eddie Beasely (Gosden, Ala.) commented that the cars are highly mobile and are just as capable on land as they are in water. The V-100s are capable of traveling 5 mph in water and up to 60 mph on land. (SPT CMD IO)

# Supply Teams 'Provide'

CHU LAI—The 196th Inf. Bde. is doing the fighting at Hawk Hill, but 13 men from A Co. 23rd S&T Bn., keep them resupplied with two of their most important items—food and fuel.

According to SFC Francis Surette (Durham, N.H.), unit NCOIC, "You get an inner feeling that you're really accomplishing something toward the war effort out here. We can go to Chu Lai after 90 days but most of the men volunteer to stay longer."

The squad as, Surette calls them, works in three groups. The first take care of items including ice, milk, fresh vegetables, meat and ice cream, all of which are issued every day. Canned items are issued to the units three times a week.

The second group handles petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL). Diesel and MOGAS stations are the only ones in operation at the present time. However, an aircraft refueling point is being opened in the future. When completed, six "Huey" and one "Hook" will be able to take on fuel at this point simultaneously.

The third group is graves registration. "Thank God business is slow in this section," remarked Surette.

The sergeant concluded, "It's been a long time since the men at Hawk Hill missed chow or fuel because we didn't have it to offer."

This FSE from A Co. 23rd S&T Bn., works in the shadows of the 196th Bde. but without them, life would be pretty miserable for the infantrymen. (SPT CMD IO)

# 50,000th Assigned Div.

CHU LAI — Setting records is beginning to be old hat for the Army's largest division. With less than two years service in the Republic of Vietnam, the division continued to set the pace this week as they passed another milestone.

SGT Dan Pritchett Jr. (Wetumpka, Ala.) became the 50,000th man to go through the Division's Combat Center. He was welcomed by BG Edwin K. Powell, assistant division commander for support and was presented with an engraved cigarette lighter.

The Combat Center was organized in 1967 and operates as a training center for new replacements. The center undergoes constant revision to keep personnel abreast of new ideas, and has developed two schools, combat leadership school and unit recon school to supplement its training. (SPT. CMD. IO)