The wreckage of an Air Force OV-10 Bronco Forward Air Control plane haunts the air trip here at Kham Duc where the plane was destroyed by enemy fire when the strip was evacuated in May 1968.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Christmas story

By PFC Fred Abatemarco

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The Christmas Party staged recently at Headquarters and Company A, 23rd Medical Battalion, for over 100 children from the Ta-Bi-Tha Protestant Orphanage in An Tan resulted in a day atuned to the holiday season.

The soldiers gave the party, the children gave their gratitude, and eveyone was merrier as the day proceeded.

"Kids are what Christmas is all about," noted PFC Llano of Rochester, N.Y., who formed an immediate friendship with a cherubic Vietnamese girl, Lien.

The origin of the party can be traced back to a similar effort last Chirstmas. That party was so successful that two more followed in January and February.

It took about two weeks to organize this year's party, starting with the choosing of the Ta-Bi-Tha Orphanage. Interested friends of the men from the 23rd Medical Battalion sent packages of candy and toys, patients started decorating, and food was donated from the mess hall. Word spread as far as Niagara University, Niagara Falls, N.Y., where students made up packages of shoes, shirts and jackets.

"It was the enlisted men who gave willingly when contributions were needed," boasted 1st Lieutenant James Colligan of Westbury, N.Y., coordinator of the occasion. "We collected over 100 dollars in two hours when the men found out what the money was for."

The money went towards the purchase of toys, dolls, and other gifts that were given out to the children during the day.

The children arrived apprehensively, but a festive barbeque, an ample supply of balloons, Christmas Carols, games and a movie soon put an end to their fears. It wasn't long befory they were providing songs and games of their own.

The Battalion NCO Club donated its facilities but the children would not be kept in one place. SP4 Carl Taltos, Buffalo, N.Y., whose avid enthusiasm typified all those supervising the party, took a group on a tour of the Battalion area.

"Kids are kids," Taltos commented. "It makes no difference where they're from, they all get to you."

A quick survey of the men echoed those sentiments with expressions such as "really great," and "out-of-sight".

Tha pace never slowed throughout the afternoon. After earning a round of applause for a neatly performed folk dance, the children drew a crowd as they discovered the function of a dart board.

Later, an impromptu lesson in Vietnam was given by Hoang, a gracious twenty-one year old teacher from the orphanage who had accompanied the children to the party.

Smiles and activity were the order of the day. Said one anonymous GI as he snapped pictures at a furious rate, "It's good to see that someone is happy."

It was difficult to tell whether he was talking about the children or about the soldiers.

Division Recap

Weekly action--division counts 82

By SP4 David P. Goodrich

In moderate action last week, the men of the 23rd Infantry Division killed 82 enemy soldiers. All three brigades had approximately equal contact.

Hawk Hill

In Hawk Hill action, 28 enemy soldiers were killed by the 196th Infantry Brigade this week.

Company A of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry initiated the action this week by killing one NVA southwest of Tam Ky. Captured, was an AK-47 and a magazine.

While on a search and clear mission Company A of the "Professionals" engaged five VC with M-16s, killing one while the others evaded.

Later this week, the company heard movement about 15 meters from their night defensive position southwest of Tam Ky. They covered the area with M-16 fire resulting in two NVA kills.

The Recon element of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry began the week by finding a hospital southwest of Tam Ky. The hospital consisted of four structures.

Half an hour later the unit received 10 rounds of sniper fire approximately 75 meters south of their location. The "Professionals" returned fire, swept the area and uncovered four enemy booby traps. Later in the day, while working with a platoon of RF's, Recon came upon three NVA soldiers on a jungle trail. Quick reactions resulted in two NVA killed and two AK-47s c.i.a.

Late in the week, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while on patrol northwest of Tam Ky uncovered a cache containing 500 pounds of rice. About 200 meters farther along the trail they came across another cache of 500 pounds of rice. The rice was extracted to LZ Center.

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry found one VC killed in a tunnel. The kill was credited to them for earlier action in the area. Earlier in the day the company has engaged and killed one NVA.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry killed a lone VC this week spotted near a tree line in an area southwest of Da Nang.

Charger 13 of the 196th Infantry Brigade, Aviation section, killed one VC this week while on a reconnaissance mission.

Geneva Park

Infantrymen from the 198th Infantry Brigade saw moderate action during the week as the "Brave and Bold" accounted for 26 enemy kills in operation "Geneva Park". In addition several enemy were captured, and several enemy weapons were taken.

The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry saw the heaviest action during the week as the "Ready Rifles" killed 11 Viet Cong soldiers in sporadic engagements.

Gunships of the 116th Aviation Company, flying security for an eagle flight south of Chu Lai accounted for one VC. The Ready Rifles killed another VC while sweeping the area. Two automatic rifles and five fully loaded magazines were c.i.a.

A recon element from the battalion observed and engaged three enemy soldiers south of Chu Lai. The element killed one and radioed Company C that the other VC were evading in their direction. Company C set up a blocking force and captured the two Viet Cong.

Bravo Company of the "Ready Rifles" conducted a series of eagle flight missions south of Chu Lai which proved to be very effective. Bravo was inserted into an area where four Viet Cong had been spotted from the air, and the "Ready Rifles" killed the four VC.

The company was later inserted into another area and engaged two Viet Cong. The "Ready Rifles" killed one and captured another. The captured enemy was extracted to a nearby LZ. Then Bravo made another insertion at an enemy bunker site, and killed two more enemy soldiers. The "Ready Rifles" captured two hand grenades in the action.

The 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry killed six enemy soldiers in light action northwest of Chu Lai.

While on patrol, Bravo Company of the battalion heard loud talking in the thick vegetation. The "Professionals" maneuvered to a better vantage point and engaged a group of VC. Two enemy soldiers were killed in the action.

Later in separate actions, the company kille; two more VC with accurate small arms fire. The next day they engaged yet another VC in the same area and killed him too.

In a night defensive perimeter, Alpha Company of the "Professionals" engaged and killed one enemy soldier as he neared the "Professionals" position.

The "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry killed four enemy soldiers in light action southeast of Chu Lai.

In the early morning hours, Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry engaged several Viet Cong as they neared their night laager site. The "Regulars" engaged the enemy with M-79 grenade fire. At the first light, the "Regulars" swept the area of contact and found three dead Viet Cong.

Echo Recon of the battalion killed one Viet Cong on a small trail. Captured in the action were an AK-47 rifle, an automatic rifle, five fully loaded magazines, seven Chicom hand grenades, and two packs. The captured equipment was

(Continued page 6)

Christmas in Chu Lai, and at the 23rd Infantry Division Headquarters, a nativity scene conveys the message of the birth of Christ. It is doubtful however, He had a Jeep for transportation.

(U.S. Army Photo)

1st Lieutenant William Cain, civil affairs officer of the 198th Infantry Brigade, watches as a rallier makes a broadcast from a chopper to induce his former comrades to rally.
(U.S. Army Photo by 1LT Mark Tucker)

8 rally in a day

By LT. Mark Tucker

CHU LAI, (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – The Psychological Operations Program (Psyops) of the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade, a proven savings program in terms of casualties for both sides, paid an extra dividend recently when eight Viet Cong soldiers turned themselves in to the government in a single day.

At least one of the returnees turned himself in as a result of a unique "live" helicopter broadcast made the day before by another former Viet Cong who had previously rallied. This was believed to be the first time in the Division area that a returnee had personally flown on a Psyops mission and made a "live" appeal to his former guerilla mates.

The eight ralliers, all former guerillas in Binh Son District, turned themselves in to a Popular Forces outpost southeast of Chu Lai. All stated that the Psyops program of the 198th had influenced their decision to return to the government, according to 1st Lieutenant William Cain of Burlington, Vt., the Brigade civil affairs officer.

"We have been running an intensive Psyops program in that area for some time," said Lt. Cain. "We were particularly interested in appealing to the village guerillas who set booby traps and attempt to harrass the pacification projects. These eight all told us that, because of our broadcasts and allied operations in the area, they had decided to rally."

Two days before the eight returned to the government, a lone Viet Cong turned himself into the Brigade's H Troop, 17th Cavalry, which was working in the area. The troop sent him to a nearby firebase where the former guerilla expressed his willingness to go up in the Psyops helicopter and make an appeal for his friends to rally.

The next day, the normal schedule of broadcasting taped messages in the Brigade area was suspended and the helicopter was utilized for the "live" message by the rallier.

"We normally use only taped messages in our broadcasting," the lieutenant said. "But this time the opportunity presented itself for us to make a direct 'live' appeal. Our interpreter, the rallier and the civil affairs officer of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry got together and composed a short but effective message for the rallier to broadcast."

The next evening, the eight turned themselves in to the Popular Forces.

"Our Psyops program has been extremely effective this month," Lieutenant Cain said. "By employing this new twist of 'live' messages, we hope we can have a few more days of receiving eight ralliers in a single day."

Those guys in the boonies did very well on Christmas

By SP4 Terry Williamson

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Buying Chirstmas gifts for the American infantryman in Vietnam is just about as difficult as buying gifts for that 'man who has everything'.

"What can I get him that he can really use?", people ask. "What can we buy him that won't be too much trouble to carry around?"

To be sure, the infantrymen of the 198th Infantry Brigade were not forgotten this Christmas, but some of the gifts they received brought about firm chuckles from their fellow soldiers.

"My company is like a traveling confectionary," said 1st Lieutenant Kenneth McCumber of Denver, a platoon leader with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry. "Food was the most popular Christmas gift we received, and there is more Christmas candy in this company than you could find in any one store back in the world."

Sergeant Thomas Fray of Bellevue, Neb., also with Bravo Company, received a gift containing no food. His present consisted of two yo-yo's, a chess set, a baseball game, and a two-foot tall Christmas tree.

"Everyone in our company had a Christmas tree at their night positions," Sergeant Fray said. "It was kind of a ritual to take out your tree and set it up before you went to sleep. If you didn't have a real one, you made one out of branches."

John C. Nero from Gadsden, Ala., found a candy pistol in his Christmas package. He said that he has always been fond of guns, "But this is ridiculous."

Private First Class Armano Garcia of Oakland, a member of Echo Recon, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry helped make his family's shopping a little easier by writing home and telling everyone what he wanted. His tastes were simple–he just wanted a deck of plastic playing cards that might make it through the rest of the season. He received the deck just in time for a quick game of cards just before Christmas dinner.

Private First Class Bruce Gillingham of Casper, Wyo., a member of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, received an eight-inch aluminum frying pan along with some things to cook in it. "Everyone laughed when I got the present, but they'll all be sorry when we're out in the field and I cook up some fresh eggs in the morning for breakfast," he said.

A popular gift with all the infantrymen were plastic blow-up pillows which can help turn the hard ground into an almost comfortable bed. Hundreds of these pillows were received, some in the shape of animals, and some even in the shape of Santa Claus.

"On our last operation, I had a little trouble getting my people to carry some extra equipment," said lieutenant McCumber. "They all complained that it would be too much extra weight. Then I found out they were all carrying Christmas trees. We had real ones, aluminum ones, pink ones, and green ones. You name it and we had it."

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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25 Christmas cards stun unsuspecting GI

Captain Brodzinski is surrounded by the numerous colorful hand-printed Christmas cards that he so mysteriously received in the mail recently.

(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Robert A. Spangler)

By SP4 Robert Spangler

Christmas in Vietnam leaves something to be desired by most GIs, but for Captain Ted Brodzinski, Jr. of Brookhaven, Pa., this Christmas season away from home contains a bright spot that he will always remember.

Brodzinski, Aviation Section Commander for the 196th Infantry Brigade, received an envelope in the mail today with his address written in pencil by an unfamiliar hand. Full of curiosity, he opened the packet and to his amazement discovered about 25 hand-made Christmas cards. The cards were from Miss Verna's fifth grade class at Our Lady of Charity School, Brookhaven, Pa. This might not have been a surprise if Brodzinski's wife or mother was the school teacher, but he doesn't know the teacher or the students.

Although Brodzinski did attend the school from 1955 through 1960, he couldn't imagine how they obtained his name for their project. A letter from Miss Verna explained that her fifth graders wanted to do something special this year and each class decided to send Christmas cards to men in Vietnam.

Brodzinski said he was "tickled to death" to receive the cardd, and he had read them three times already. "These kids are really bright," he commented. "One of the cards read, 'And the stockings were hung by the chinmey with the care hoping soon Ted would be there. See you I hope, Joe.'

"I return to the states in March and I plan to visit Miss Verna and kids," he said. According to the 196th Inf. Bde. Aviator the assortment of hand scribbled, funny colored cards more than accomplished their purpose to "cheer up the troops."

6th grade class adopts battalion

HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – A sixth grade class from Hauppauge, N.Y., recently adopted a Battalion of 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers as pen pals.

It all stated when Mrs. Brumbaugh, an English teacher in Middle School (6th - 8th grades), suggested to her sixth grade students to write a letter to the soldiers in Vietnam. Judging from the number of letters received by the men of 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, the students responded enthusiastically.

The following gems of corresponddnce could only have been written by someone who still possesses the innocence and sincerity of youth.

"I am sending this letter because my teacher made us," truthfully explained one young lad.

Another student dismissed all teachers in what is often times a young adolescent's opinion of teachers everywhere. "Just forget about teachers," he advised. "They're not important anyway."

And here is a bit of advice that every infantryman can appreciate. "Watch out for flying bullets," cautioned one erudite youth.

Another reflects the thought of us here and at home. She wishes that "you come back home soon, so you can be with your friends and family."

One young lass summed up the student's feelings with, "I hope this letter has cheered you up." Obviously it has.

Everybody was pleasantly surprised to receive their letters. However, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry soldiers aren't sure why their battalion was chosen by Mrs. Brumbaugh's class.

In many such cases the class or church organization sending mail to military units find the unit's addresses listed gratuitously in their local newspaper.

PFC Charlie Allison of Waynefield, N.C., a member of A Company stated his feeling which represents that of the Battalion. "It's nice to know that somebody back home cares enough about us to write. I, for one, will be real glad to answer them."

Red Cross forgets us not

By SP4 Rick Holloway

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV IO) – A soldier with a problem has a definite friend in the American Red Cross. The Red Cross will assist in personal and financial matters.

If there is an illness or death in the family which requires your presence at home, the Red Cross will compile all the information for you and send it to the Army. The Red Cross can only present the facts they can not grant or approve your emergency leave, this is left up to the military.

If a death does occur in your family, you will be notified in person by a Red Cross representative, if possible. If you have an approved leave you will be on your way home anywhere from 12 to 18 hours after notification, sometimes sooner than that.

If you decide you do not want to go home, perhaps you feel that your presence is not needed, you do not have to go. This is left up to you.

The Red Cross handles many Health and Welfare cases. This means that someone is not writing home, so the family contacted the Red Cross in your home town in order to find out where and how you are.

You do not have to write home every day, but perhaps two or maybe one letter a month is not too much to ask, let the people back home know your are alive and well. Besides if you do not write, either will they. Then you will contact the Red Cross to find out why, so write once in a while.

The Red Cross also advises on some financial matters, and helps you relieve some of your worries.

They also counsil you on some of the government benefits available to you.

In the case of a Harddhip Discharge or compassionate re-assignment the Red Cross will assit in confirming the documants necessary.

The Red Cross in the Americal Division is manned mostly by college graduates with a degree in social work. They are able and willing to help you.

They are based in Chu Lai with sub-stations in the 11th Infantry Brigade and the 196th Infantry Brigade, and they are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The "Donut Dollies" are young women with compassion for their fellow humans. They are here voluntarily for one year to help relieve your tensions by bringing some sunshine into your life, if it is only in the form of a game of Charades.

If you have a problem go to the Red Cross, they will do all they can to help you.

Cav gets ugly newfer

By PFC Ron Cryderman

HAWK HILL (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry has a "newfer" that is exempt from all duties. His name is Bernie and he is a three month old pig.

He has complete run of the company area and receives special attention from the men of B Troop, who often will stand in line to get a turn at holding the piglette.

Bernie came to the troop a month ago when elements of the Dragoons were out on maneuver. They had come into an area near a village one evening for dismount. At dusk one of the men reported that a "moving sandbag" had been sighted. The sandbag of course turned out to be Bernie, who was immediately confiscated and taken back to Hawk Hill, where he now lives a life of ease.

Bernie adapted to his new surroundings without any hesitation. The pint-sized porker can be seen wandering around the company area, stopping occasionally to catch a glimpse of someone at work. His slightest squeel brings at least one man to his aid. Whether his problem is being stuck in the fence or if he has simply lost his way.

"He's accepted us", says Specialist 4 Ronald Eidison of E1 Paso. Although he is constantly wandering around, he thus far hasn't even attempted to run off."

No comment was made as to what Bernie's future would be when he fills out a bit more.

Skillful flying

Three pilots from the 16th Combat Aviation Group recently received the "I saved one" award from Group commander Colonel Benjamin S. Silver for their efforts in bringing down damaged aircraft safely.

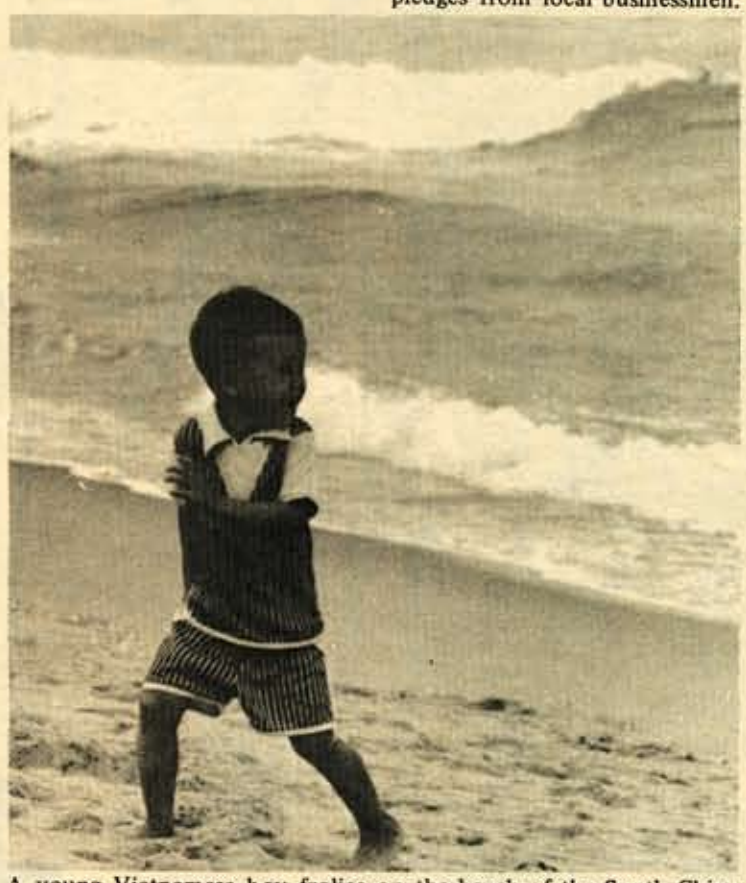
Warrant Officer 1 Theodore Beasley of Company A, 123 Aviation Battalion; Warrant Officer 1 William E. Bush of the 176th Aviation Company and Warrant Officer 1 James Powell II of Company B, 123 Aviation Battalion brought Americal aircraft to the ground with minor damage after having had major engine failures in the air.

Colonel Silver praised their acts as showing "the difference between a real professional and somebody who didn't have as good a professional touch as you."

"Each of your actions came under different circumstances but each one is equally deserving of recognition."

New museum dedicated

Winthrop Rockefeller recently got the drive to raise $6,000,000 for the construction of a National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning off to a rolling start by accepting $197,000 in pledges from local businessmen.



A young Vietnamese boy frolics on the beach of the South China Sea as he plays tag with a playmate.

(U.S. Army Photo by SP5 William Hayes)

The Bob Hope Sh

Photos b
Guy W

Bob Hope performs with the Gold-diggers

Lola Falana moves out into the crowd to help the guy

The old master with Miss World.

Hope exhibits the golf bag given to house his famous driver.

now we missed

y SP4
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orget about the war, the girl back home and everything else.

Believe it or not: They call themselves the Ding-alings

ractions: Lola Falana

Johnny Bench, star Catcher, is presented for minority viewpoint

This is the number one ding-aling of the show.

Specialist 5 Delmar V. Pickett, dustoff medic with the 236th Medical Detachment, gazes into the unknown during a routine flight west of Hawk Hill. (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Robert Spangler)

A dust-off medic also sees action

By SP4 Robert A. Spangler

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – What does 22 months in Vietnam mean to a non-combatant? Well, it means five purple hearts, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the basic air medal with 25 clusters, air medal with V device, and two Vietnamese Crosses of Galantry, as well as being fired at over 1,000 times to Specialist 5 Delmar V. Pickett of Olsburg, Kan., a dustoff medic with the 236th Medical Detachment.

Pickett is probably the only dustoff medic in Vietnam who wears a camouflaged cover on his head gear. "When I first came in-country I wore a red flight helmet, but after a few missions we were shot down and I lost the helmet. I got a new red helmet and after a few more missions I caught a round through the top of that one. It just grazed my head, but I decided that it was time to change colors and I got an olive drab helmet and put a camouflage cover over it," recalled Pickett.

Pickett has had quite a few hair-raising experiences during his 22 months here. When asked what some of his most memorable experiences were, he recollected one mission during which his ship had picked up 12 U.S. casualties and was returning to Hawk Hill when they were notified that an ARVN unit in the area had several serious injuries. Pickett went on to explain that their dustoff ship was the only one in the area so they changed course and picked up 20 injured ARVNs making a total of 32 patients and a crew of four on the chopper.

On another hair raising mission Pickett took a round through the side of his armor plating that ripped the back of his shirt out. He said he only received a minor scratch from that one."

Pickett now wears a small red "Gimlet" on his helmet in hopes of improving his luck. He said his younger brother sent him the figurine telling him that it was a bad luck piece. Since he's been wearing the piece he hasn't been hit by enemy fire, but that doesn't mean he hasn't been fired at.

Radio-telephone operator carries more than share

By SP4 Terry Williamson

CHU LAI (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – A routine patrol left the company laager site to check out several suspected enemy locations. The infantrymen were traveling light, except for the Radio-Telephone Operator (RTO), who carried his weapon and ammunition as well as his 25-pound PRC-25 radio.

Why does an infantryman elect to carry the extra weight on each mission when it would usually be easier to be a normal rifleman? Three RTOs from the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade, each of whom has carried the radio for at least five months, say the reason is that they like their jobs.

"We all know we would have a hard time in the field without communications," said Private First Class Daniel G. Hull of Buffalo, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry who has been an RTO for five months. "Carrying the radio gives you the feeling of importance, and I like to know what's going on first hand, that's important in the field."

Private First Class Jefferey Small of Bridgeport, Ill., an RTO with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry said he could have given up his radio at least a dozen times in his six months of carrying it, but he has always turned down the offers. "When you learn one job well, you gain confidence in yourself and your work. When you find something you like, it's best to stick with it."

Specialist 4 Carlos Escobar of San Diego, an RTO for six months with Company A, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, said "When I got here I didn't know too much about the radio and I had to learn quickly. I'm not going to give it up now."

All three infantrymen agreed that the need to know what was going on at any particular time was important to them. and the three also agreed that two common myths of the RTO are just not true.

"A lot of people think that if you carry the radio, you'll make a better target and you'll be the first to get hit by the enemy," said Specialist Escobar. "That's not true. If everyone keeps spread out, no one person is a better target than anyone else."

All three expressed the belief that if the element is bunched up and not spread out enough, the group makes a good target--not just the RTO.

Another falsehood the three dispelled was that the RTO carries a lost more weight than the other infantrymen.

"Sure our packs are heavy," said PFC Small. "After all, we carry a 25-pound radio, extra batteries, smoke grenades, and our ammunition. But everyone carries a heavy load, it's not limited to RTOs."

The professional pride of the three RTOs notwithstanding, there are some definite disadvantages to carrying the radio. The radio must be kept as dry as possible, and it is a constant worry to make sure that the set is kept in good working condition. The radio must also be kept clean.

"One thing that is really a pain is that if you have a set that is temporarily out of commission, you must carry it anyway. Of course, it's obviously necessary, you don't just discard a radio," said Specialist Escobar.

"When we set up for the night, everyone relaxes as much as they can, but an RTO must stay with his radio in case someone calls," said PFC Small. "But if you like to know what's going on, there's no better place to be."

Two Americal Division soldiers from Company C, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry search heavy brush for enemy bunkers 18 miles west of Chu Lai. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC James Dunn)

The action wasn't so light for 82 enemy

(Continued from page 1)

extracted to a nearby LZ.

In other action in the 198th Brigade's area of operations, H Troop, 17th Cavalry engaged a group of enemy soldiers. Upon sweeping the area of contact, they found a blood trail that led to a wounded enemy soldier. He was extracted to a Chu Lai hospital for treatment.

While escorting a combat assault west of Chu Lai, gunships from the 116th Aviation Company observed and killed four Viet Cong.

Flying over an area south of Chu Lai, a light observation helicopter from Delta Company, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, received small arms fire from one Viet Cong. The LOH returned fire and killed the enemy sodlier.

Iron Mountain

Bronco action was moderate this week as the men of the 11th Infantry Brigade killed 26 enemy soldiers.

The Night Hawks of the 123rd Aviation Battalion started out the week as they received small arms fire while flying over the foothills west of Quang Ngai City. Searching the area, they spotted, engaged and killed two VC.

Later in the day while reacting to a radar, the 'Night Hawks' spotted two more VC in the lowlands west of Duc Pho. The results of the ensuing action were two dead VC.

Later in the week, a light observation helicopter from the battalion spotted a lone VC over the foothills southwest of Duc Pho. The LOH engaged and killed him.

In the same area, the 'Blues', an aerial rifle platoon of the battalion were inserted. The platoon repidly engaged and killed two enemy soldiers.

Early in the week, while patrolling the lowlands southeast of Duc Pho, a recon element of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry found one Viet Cong inside a tunnel. He was asked to come out but he refused. The tunnel was destroyed resulting in one VC killed.

The next day, reacting to a radar sighting, the men of F Troop, 7th Cavalry checked an area in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho and spotted three VC. They engaged the enemy resulting in three Viet Cong dead.

During a patrol of the foothills west of Duc Pho, the 69th Rangers engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in three enemy dead.

While on a search and clear mission in the foothills northwest of Duc Pho, Company B of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged one NVA. He was killed.

Elements of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, working with the 70th Rangers, an ARVN unit, observed a small size enemy force in the foothills northwest of Duc Pho. After receiving fire support from the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery, the infantrymen swept the area finding four VC killed in action. Also found was a shotgun, an AK-47 and 35 huts. After investigating the area, the huts were destroyed.

A light observation helicopter teamed up with fire support from the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery to kill two NVA and one VC over the foothills west of Quang Ngai City.

Patrolling the foothills of Duc Pho, G Company of the 75th Rangers, a long range patrol unit engaged two enemy soldiers, killing both.

On the last day of the week, a gunship from the 174th Aviation Company spotted and engaged a lone VC in the lowlands west of Duc Pho, killing him.

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE

Contact was light in the Pennsylvania Square area of operations last week as the "Blackhawks" of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry killed two enemy sodliers and captured 1.

Let your mind go. Tell yourself that this isn't Vietnam, you're on the beach and there are all kinds of pretty things like this lovely lassie running around.

What's to eat?

By SP4 Terry Williamson

CHU LAI (198th INF BDE IO) – The rains came, but the re-supply didn't, and some infantrymen from the Americal Division's 198th Infantry Brigade had to make a "walk for food" to the nearest re-supply point. To make up for the shortage of supplies, some pretty strange meals were experienced during the trip to the re-supply point.

Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, was operating northwest of CHU LAI when the unfortunate rains came, and the nearest re-supply point was at a forward fire support base at Ky Tra.

"With all of that rain, they just couldn't get any helicopters out to us," said Private First Class David Brown of Miami, Fla. "I didn't take my full load of C-rations in the first place, so I was already out of food when it was time for the re-supply. I was hungry already."

PFC Brown made the best of the situation, however, He opened his last source of nourishment, and prepared a healthy rock soup out of cocoa and locally produced rocks. That's right, rocks. It didn't taste too good, but it was filling.

"I read in a book about some people making soup out of rocks when they had no food, and I guess I thought it would add a little something to the cocoa. It was filling, but it wasn't the best meal I evere had," PFC Brown said.

Private First Class Robert Sandoval of Raton, New Mexico, also was a victim of bad food planning, but a Vietnamese child came to his rescue. When the "Professionals" passed through a small hamlet, he gave a Vietnamese child his last candy bar. The child waswas so pleased that he brought the hungry soldier a bowl of monkey meat and rice. PFC Sandoval ate the bowl of strange food with abandon. He was not proficient with chop sticks, so he just used his fingers.

"The meal tasted pretty good, and the monkey meat tasted a lot like liver," PFC Sandoval said. "But the meal didn't agree with me too well, if you know what I mean."

Most of the soldiers saved enough food to make the trip, One soldier said, "As long as you have one can to look at, you know you don't have any food left."

Captain Thomas Abercrombie of Robertsdale, Ala., company commander, managed to solve the problem. He offered to buy a soldier six hamburgers from the officer's club in exchange for a small can of C-Rations. The offer was taken and the debt was paid off when the unit returned to Chu Lai.

Private First Class Robert Lange and Private First Class Frank Gertz show the bandolier that possibly saved Specialist 4 Paul Weeks' life, and the T-shirt that was literally chewed to shreads when Weeks stepped on two booby traps. (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Guy Winkler)

College comes to Nam

By SP4 Lee Habich

Chu Lai (23RD Inf Div IO) – The third term of University of Maryland college courses is scheduled to begin January 25th at the Chu Lai Education Center in Division Headquarters.

Registration runs January 11th through the 25th. For those eligible for Government Tuition Assistance under the GI Bill, tuition is only $16.50. Textbook fees vary depending on the course of study chosen.

The curriculum this semester includes: Office Organization and Management, Business Law II, Composition and Literary Types, Principles of Public Administration, History of Western Civilization II, and Introduction to Mathematics.

Those interested are urged to enroll early to assure a place in the class. For Further information contact the Chu Lai Education Center at 2311 or 2320.

Watch for booby traps!

By SP4 Guy Winkler

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Stepping on a booby trap is a terrifying and painful experience if you live through it. Stepping on two booby traps in a ten-minute interval and living through it is miraculous.

While on an operation about 30 miles northeast of Tam Ky recently, Company A, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade uncovered a large enemy cache.

The trail which led up the side of a mountain to where the cache was hidden in bunkers and caves was heavily booby trapped before the enemy hastily evacuated the area when the company of U.S. soldiers entered the area.

After killing seven NVA soldiers who were attempting to evade, Company A sent a patrol up the trail to survey the area and clear the path in order to move the articles to a clearing for extraction by helicopter.

As the patrol moved cautiously up the trail toward the bunkers, Specialist 4 Paul Weeks tripped a hidden wire detonating a hand grenade. "The only thing I could remember seeing," said the company medic, Private First Class Frank Gertz of Chicago, "Was the explosion and Weeks falling through the air." Weeks was wounded on the back, right arm and right leg.

"After I patched him up," said Gertz, "He started walking back down the trail under his own power. He was about fifteen feet behind me as I was putting away the bandages when he detonated a Chicom booby trap. It was the same thing all over again; Weeks flying through the air yelling 'Doc, Doc'. Everyone froze in place. It was unbelievable and no one knew whether to try to move toward him or not."

Gertz yelled to Weeks to ask him how badly he was hit. In more or less words, Weeks responded that his back and posterior had received most of the shrapnel.

"I made my way to him and patched him up again," said Gertz. "He was able to walk back to the awaiting resupply chopper for Medevac."

"All I can say is that it was a miracle he was still alive and able to walk to the chopper after tripping two booby traps," said Gertz.

After Weeks was Medevac'ed, Gertz determined that the only thing that saved Weeks life when the second explosion went off was a bandolier of M-16 ammunition which he was carrying in his hand. "The magazines in the bandolier caught most of the shrapnel which would have hit his head," he said.

New command sergeant major

By SGT Matt Gryta

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Command Sergeant Major William E. Mashburn has been selected as Command Sergeant Major of the 23rd Infantry Division by Major General James L. Baldwin, Commanding General.

Born in Fort Worth, Tex., the 46-year-old combat veteran of World War II and Korea replaces Command Sergeant Major Fred E. Darling of Arlington, Va., who has been assigned as Post Command Sergeant Major of Fort Monroe, Va.

For the past two months CSM Mashburn has served as Sergeant Major of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, 198th Brigade. Now on his second tour of duty in Vietnam, he was stationed with the 25th Infantry Division from April, 1966 to April, 1967.

A veteran of 27 years in the service, he came to the 23rd Division after serving as Command Sergeant Major of the Berlin Brigade for three and a half years. His family lives in the German City.

On assessing his role as senior enlisted man in the division, CSM Mashburn is quite clear on what he considers his central responsibility.

"There's only one elite man in this division, and that's the soldier in the field," he said. "I intend to channel all my energies toward helping him personally and in the successful completion of his mission.

"Since, in my position, I serve as the direct link between the Division Commander and the enlisted man I'll make myself available to help any other NCO or private.

"The way I see it, I've got 25,000 men to worry about now."

CSM Mashburn's military awards and citations include the Combat Infantry Badge, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V" Device, the Soldier's Medal and numerous other decorations.

Command Sergeant Major William E. Mashburn is the new CSM of the 23rd Infantry Division, replacing CSM Fred E. Darling.

(U.S. Army Photo by SGT Matt Gryta)

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