An Army UH-1H (Huey) hovers into position to pick up waiting Infantrymen from A Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry during an operation northwest of Tam Ky. (U.S. Army Photo)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

VOL. 4, No. 5 Chu Lai, Vietnam January 29, 1971

Division sees light action

By SP4 David Goodrich

Action was extremely light during the week in the Americal area of operations as heavy rains and the New Years' ceasefire period slowed activity in all areas. In all, the troopers under the Southern Cross accounted for 31 enemy kills and a relatively large number of detainees and Hoi Chanhs.

IRON MOUNTAIN

The 11th Infantry Brigade killed 10 enemy soldiers during the week, despite no action during the first three days of the month.

At the beginning of the week, while patrolling the foothills west of Duc Pho, Company D of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged and killed one Viet Cong. An AK-47, a pack and 20 pounds of corn were captured.

Through the combined efforts of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, Company B of the 123rd Aviation Battalion and Tu-Nghia MACV officials, 14 Hoi Chanhs were successfully picked up on December 31st.

Some days later, while working in the lowlands west of Duc Pho, Company B of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry detained five Vietnamese trying to evade them. The detainees were questioned by an interpreter and evacuated to Duc Pho.

In the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry observed two enemy soldiers evading east of their location. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire killing one and capturing the other, who was wounded in the action. Captured were an SKS, a pistol and one rucksack.

The next day, while operating in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho, recon of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry observed 15 enemy soldiers. The enemy troops were engaged with artillery fire from C Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery and gunships from the 174th Aviation Company.

A sweep of the area of contact revealed two NVA, who had been killed by artillery fire. Continuing the search, the infantrymen spotted two Viet Cong, which they engaged and killed. A short time later, the unit encountered two more NVA, killing them both. A seventh enemy kill was credited to the 174th Aviation Company.

At the end of the week, Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry found a total of 11 enemy huts contining an assortment of Viet Cong equipment, during a day sweep in the lowlands west of Duc Pho. The company finished their long day by killing a lone VC who was detected hiding in a tunnel.

In other action, Company A, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry detained five Vietnamese, while recon of the battalion detained two.

GENEVA PARK

Action was light in the 198th Infantry Brigade AO during the week. Nine enemy soldiers were killed during the week and brigade infantrymen uncovered a large weapons cache.

Late in the week, Company A, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, while patrolling an area northwest of Chu Lai, found a weapons cache apparently belonging to a heavy weapons unit of the enemy. Included in the find were two AK-50 machineguns, three other automatic weapons, three rocket-propelled rounds (RPGs), 25 mortar rounds, three cases of AK-47 ammunition, and 600 machinegun rounds.

(Continued on page 6)

HELP!

A letter signed "Concerned" came to Project Help this week suggesting a questionaire concerning why soldiers Re-up or get out of the Army.

USARV Headquarters is actively soliciting your ideas and recommendations for improvement of the reenlistment program. You can write directly to them with your suggestions. Address the letter to Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVHAG-PE, APO in-country 96375.

Vietnam heroin can kill

Want the real story on the heroin sold in Vietnam? Chemical analysis of "smack" sold in Vietnam shows it is 93 to 98 per cent pure. The heroin available in the United States is by comparison only three to 10 per cent pure.

You can become physically addicted to this potent heroin by only smoking or sniffing. The vast majority of those who have become physically addicted to heroin in RVN have only smoked or sniffed the local product. Steer clear from this dope--it will make you a loser.

Cav helps out

By SGT Matt Gryta and SP4 Ron Cryderman

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) -- The rebuilding of a country is not accomplished solely through a liberal application of hammers, nails and wood. More often the path to progress is paved in the classroom and the "Black Hawks" of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry are doing their share of the roadwork.

With funds donated by the men of the squadron, the "Black Hawk" Civil Affairs Office has embarked on a two-fold program of educational assistance to the children of Quang Tin Province.

Approximately two months ago, Captain James J. Benan and 1st Lieutenant William Knight, S-5 and Assistant S-5 respectively, hit upon the idea of teaching English to children in Tam Ky City. They chose the all-gril Quang Tin School for the project.

Every Monday afternoon one of the officers arrives at the school to present a basic English lesson to a high school class.

"The regular teacher for that particular class assists us in giving the lesson and acts as an interpretor in cases of a misunderstanding with either of the two languages," explained Captain Benan, of Derby, Conn.

"The atmosphere and manner of teaching are the same as any language class found in the United States. We'll say the phrase and have the students repeat it. Then the phrase will be written on the blackboard and students will be called upon individually to pronounce them."

Like their counterparts throughout the world, the girls break out in uncontrollable giggling if a word or phrase is said somewhat backwards, Captain Benan noted.

"The students have shown a willingness to learn that is hard to believe unless seen," Lieutenant Knight, of New London, Ohio, pointed out. "They digest every word that we say with an insatiable appetite for the new language."

At the end of the teaching period the 196th Brigade officers open the class up for a question and answer period during which the students ask their new teacher anything they would like to know about him or the United States.

"The questions run the gamut from 'How long have you been in Vietnam?' to 'What was your job in the United Staes?'," the captain recalled. "For some mysterious reason the one question that is, without fail, always asked is 'Do you sing?'"

During one recent session that question induced Lieutenant Knight to sing a rousing chorus of "Jingle Bells" after which he taught the girls the stateside holiday perennial and directed them in a rousing songfest.

"In the future we want to expand the program and teach more classes on a regular basis," he said.

The other recent project in the "Black Hawks" Civil Affairs Program involved the construction and stocking of a library for a Buddhist school located near the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Compound at Hawk Hill, 196th Brigade headquarters.

"Approximately 95% of the students at the school are children of ARVN soldiers and it is sponsored and staffed by men of the 5th Regiment, 2nd ARVN Division," explained Lieutenant Knight.

"The director of the school, Lieutenant Thich Tam Hien, a Buddhist monk and Regiment Chaplain, approached me with the idea of making up a list of books that would be necessary for starting a library.

"We got together and compiled a list of books we felt were needed and using funds donated by the men of the squadron ordered the books from Saigon."

A section of the school previously used as office space was chosen as the site of the library and the men of the ARVN regiment, utilizing lumber gleaned from ammo boxes, built bookshelves and tables for the facility.

"We feel the library was a great idea both for helping the children and strengthening our community relations," Captain Benan commented. "With the help we gave them on it, I am certain they will continue to improve the library on their own.

"We want to help start libraries in more of the surrounding schools, as well. I'm sure that if they could just get a little financial and technical assistance they would be as successful at other schools as we were with the Buddhist school here."

Straining beneath twisted strands of concertina wire a Chieu Hoi demonstrates zapper techniques at the 33rd Infantry Division Combat Center. (Photo by PFC James Dunn)

It's eyes up when watching a Vietnamese volleyball game, where players spend as much time in the air as they do on the ground. Here the 21st ARVN Artillery plays the Duc Pho Dusters at Duc Pho in the 11th Brigade AO. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Stanley Van Beck)

Wolf -san slips up

By SP4 Guy Winkler

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) -- American servicemen in Vietnam, over the years, have developed colloquialisms which allow them to relate familiar expressions common to their everyday environment.

The type of colloquialisms which predominate in Vietnam from the Delta to the DMZ have a unique meaning in which various phrases describe a particular action or attitude.

The phrases often consist of one, two or three words which would probably sound out of place or meaningless to a person unfamiliar to the style of speaking.

Anything goes in this type of slang which we'll call "Viet-speak."

To better familiarize those "newfers" who have just arrived in Vietnam for the first time and are wondering how not to sound green while conversing with a "short-timer," perhaps a familiar story using Viet-speak in a dialogue of Little Red Riding Hood would be appropriate. Some of the phrases you read will not be new to you because of old military slang carry-overs.

A brief definition of a few Vietnamese words will help you better understand Viet-speak. Beaucoup....is derived from a French word meaning many or much; Ti-ti...is the opposite of beaucoup; Di-di...means to go away; Bic....to understand; and Dung lai....to stop.

As our story begins, Little Red Riding Hood is leaving her hootch with a basket of chop-chop to take to her sick grandma-san.

As she skips along the trail to grandma-sans hootch, the Hood is confronted by a wolf.

"Dung lai," shouts the wolf. "Where you going baby-san, and what have you in that basket?"

"To grandma-sans hootch," replied frightened Hood. "Come on, cut me some slack. There's only ti-ti chop-chop in the basket for my sick grandma-san."

"Then pass, and never come this way again! You bic?"

"How ya goin' to act?" thought the Hood as she di-di'd toward grandma-sans.

But that wasn't the last time Little Red Riding Hood saw the wolf. Not EVEN.

As the Hood runs to grandma-sans hootch, the wolf takes a short cut and arrives at the hootch first.

As the story goes, the wolf eats the grandma-san, dresses in same-same pajamas and jumps in bed to await the Hood.

When the Hood arrives, she knocks on the door and enters. "Chou, grandma-san. What's happening? I've brought you some chop-chop. Here, knock yourself out."

As she places the basket next to the bed, she makes a double-take and exclaims, "W-o-w! What big eyeballs you have!"

"There it is, babe," says the wolf. "All the better to see you with."

"What big ears you have," comments the Hood.

"All the better to hear you with."

"And beaucoup teeth."

"All the better to eat you with," howls the wolf as he leaps up from the bed and trips over the basket on the floor.

As the wolf struggles to free his foot from the basket, papa-san busts into the hootch with his pig and blows the wolf away.

"Right on time," says the Hood. "I don't think I could have handled him alone."

"No sweat," comments the papa-san. Papa-san is a man of few words.

Now, what's the moral of this story? That's up to you. It doesn't have to have a moral, but if you the think the moral is that you owe it to yourself to have a basic understanding of Viet-speak; Right On. You bic, GI.

Mountainmen find beaucoup weapons

SP4 James Tabata

FSB BRONCO (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – Mountainmen of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade recently dealt the enemy a large setback, when the arduous task of patrolling paid off with two caches found approximately four miles northwest of Fire Support Base San Juan Hill.

"We didn't find much in the hootches, but searching the surrounding area our pointman, Private First Class James Weythmen of Montor, Wash., found a small cave and a larger one 200 meters to the high ground," related 1st Lieutenant Charles Boyd of Charleston, S.C., platoon leader of the 3rd platoon.

Checking the cave, PFC Weythmen found two mortar rounds and quickly summoned the platoon leader who moved his men into the area for a thorough search.

In an hour's search the men found 27 RPG rounds, two 82mm mortar rounds, 21 shotgun shells, 27 fuses, and 21 Chicom grenades. The captured ammunition was evacuated later that day after an LZ was cut.

In a later search covering the same area, Company C discovered and confiscated an enemy weapons cache consisting of two rifles and a carbine, five 7.5 French machineguns with tripods, two magazines, two French 7.5 automatic rifles with three magazines, two .30 cal. tripods, one 7.5 French rifle, one NVA 7.62 submachinegun, two French 9mm submachineguns, a case of .51 cal. rounds, one 20mm round and 21 57mm recoilless rifle rounds. In addition, the mountainmen found two radios, one handset, and three 81mm rounds.

Gimlets open fire--get results

By PFC Gene Colling

FSB DEBBIE (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – "The men on the last bird saw five VC in the open about 250 yards from the LZ. They could see that three were carrying weapons."

Recon Platoon leader 1st Lieutenant Peter L. Barili, of Salisbury, N.H., was describing the start of the early evening action that netted "Gimlets" of the 4th Bataalion, 21st Infantry two VC killed and four captured.

Recon spotted the enemy while being inserted into an area four miles southeast of Duc Pho.

"We immediately called for gunships," said Barili, "and they worked over the area with rockets and machineguns. After they pulled out, we swept the area but couldn't find anything."

The element doubled back over the area and headed for the beach 700 meters away to link up with another element that was set up as a blocking force. On the way they spotted a hootch.

"When we approached the hootch, small arms fire came from inside," said Barili. "We returned the fire until everything inside was quiet."

Inside the hootch the Gimlets found two VC dead, a pistol, an M-2 carbine, and six hand grenades.

The element continued on toward the beach. As they moved down a trail, they saw a man run inside a bunker that was located just off the trail.

"It looked suspicious, so we ordered everyone out of the bunker," said Barili.

The men did a double take when not one, but four VC hesitantly walked out of the bunker.

Arty hits the spot ;gets 3

By SP4 James Tabata

FSB BRONCO (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – Persistence on the part of infantrymen and gunships and artillery killed three NVA and routed their comrades from a mountain basecamp northwest of FSB San Juan Hill.

Mountainmen from the 1st Platoon of Company D, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry found the bodies of three NVA killed by Bravo Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery.

The infantrymen pushed through booby traps and mines as well as small arms fire in the first assault on the base camp. "There were signs of fresh enemy activity all the way up this mountain," said Private First Class Roger Carr of Dover, N.H. "They had the trail booby-trapped and I almost set one off before I spotted the wire."

The men again tried to gain entrance the second time but were involved in another firefight. The artillery and gunships were called in late in the evening, and the unit decided to try another approach.

"The last rounds of artillery landed right in the middle of their perimeter," explained Carr.

Vietnamese children gather around a Buddhist temple, one of many located throughout the 1st Military Region of South Vietnam. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC James Dunn)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Chow is a chore at consolidated mess

By SP4 Terry Williamson

CHU LAI (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – How would you like to sit down to a meal consisting of 1,175 pounds of meat, 1,375 pounds of vegetables, 5,000 hot rolls, and topped off with 120 gallons of coffee? That's exactly what approximately 2,000 soldiers do every day in the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade.

The Consolidated Mess of the Brigade, which feeds around 1800 soldiers three times a day and procures food for the Brigade's infantrymen in the field and at forward fire support bases, is the largest single mess operation in the 23rd Division, and because of this operation, a tremendous challenge has to be met every day.

The monumental task of seeing that the Brigade is fed three times a day rests on the shoulders of Chief Warrant Officer Elie B. Daniels of Colorado Springs, Col., the Brigade food service technician. CW2 Daniels advises, supervises and assists the mess personnel of the Brigade to insure that the Brigade mess system is successful.

CW2 Daniels' responsibilities seem almost endless, and he necessarily, is a man go. Just finding the Chief is a remarkable task.

At the present time, the Consolidated Mess feeds the personnel of three battalions and Headquarters Company, who are assigned in Chu Lai. With meals prepared for others in the field and at various firebases, this accounts for about 1800 personnel daily. CW2 Daniels spends a lot of his time supervising this part of the operation.

"I also advise and check the fire support bases to insure that their food service standards are adequate," he said. "If necessary, I will recommend additional personnel or equipment if needed."

CW2 Daniels also insures that LZ Stinson and LZ Dottie request the adequate amount of food needed each day. The Consolidated Mess insures that daily rations of food are alloted to the Brigade's soldiers at Fat City and Ky Tra, where the men eat in the mess hall of the 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery.

One of the most challenging and colorful operations of the Consolidated Mess is the program to get hot meals to the infantrymen in the field. The "re-supply mess" is prepared to feed over 700 soldiers in the field.

"We try to see that the troops in the field get at least one hot meal every three days," he said. "We are more than happy to give them more if it is possible, but there are many factors involved in this process."

Weather, the availability of re-supply helicopters, and the nature of field missions play a big part in the decision of when the infantrymen will get hot meals in the field.

"The infantrymen really appreciate a hot meal, and this re-supply program is a real morale booster," said Daniels. "This is a fine program, and we are prepared to give them the best when we can."

The Re-supply Mess also prepares one hot meal a day for the infantrymen at LZ Chippewa. There is no mess hall at the small LZ, but the soldiers there get one hot meal day to supplement their C-Ration diet.

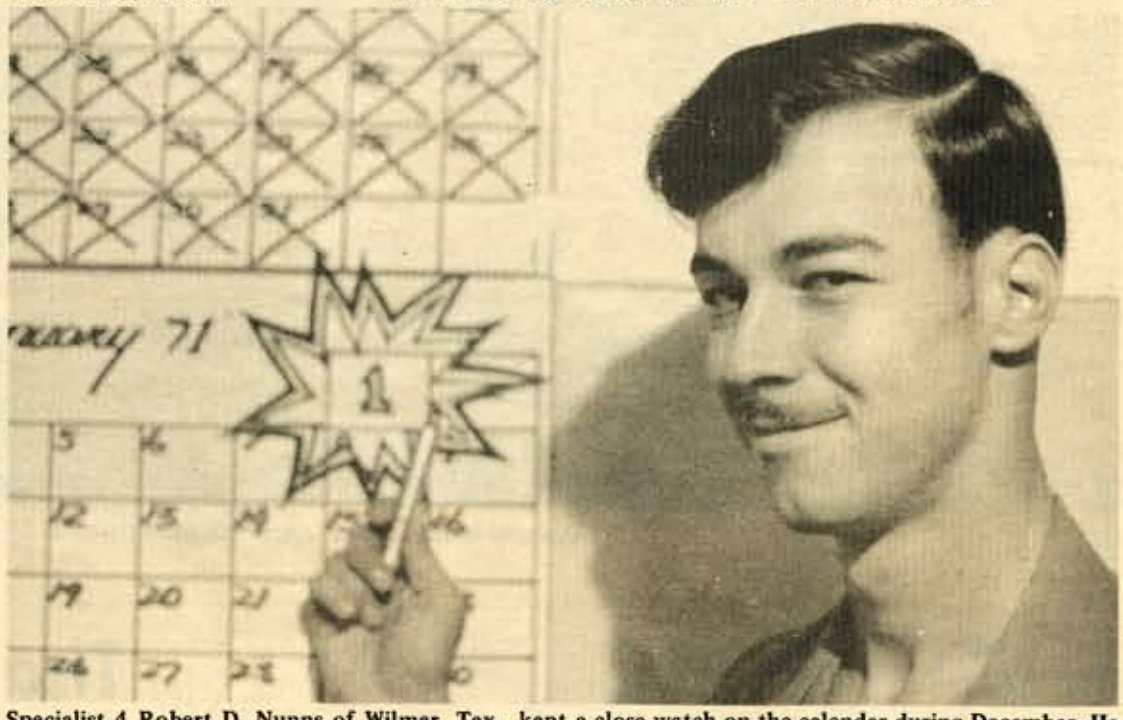
Another responsibility of CW2 Daniels is to see that each unit has a basic load of C-Rations. He also insures that each unit has a basic load of C-Rations stored in Chu Lai for emergency purposes.

"Our C-Rations are good for a three year period, and I insure that the ones the troops get are within that time frame," said Daniels. "We try to store the newest set of C-Rations, and consume or destroy the older C-Rations before the expiration date."

Each unit is also supplied with Long Range Reconnaisance Patrol Rations (LRRP). The LRRP rations provide a change in diet for the infantrymen and are a welcome change for the soldiers who participate in long field missions.

"We make sure that the infantrymen get one box of C-Rations or LRRP rations for each meal that they are unable to get hot food," he said. "It is up to the individual soldier to manage his food supply, but there is no reason for him to miss a meal."

It's not a bad feeling to know that when the dinner bell rings, even in a combat zone, there will be something to eat.



Specialist 4 Robert D. Nunns of Wilmer, Tex., kept a close watch on the calendar during December. He Derosed on New Years day after a 536-day extended tour. (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Edward Briedenbach)

Signal keeps communication alive and well

By SP4 Terry Williamson

CHU LAI (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – "Bishop 31, this is Bishop 32, over."

"Bishop 32, this is 31, over."

"This 32, commo check, over."

"This is 31, I've got you Lima Charlie. How me? Over."

"This is 32, I've got you same-same, out."

Familiar? It should be because the same conversation is heard thousands of times each day in Vietnam. But few people realize why their communications are "Lima Charlie" and how much effort is taken to insure it remains like that.

The Signal section of the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade headquarters down to the subordinate units and up to higher units. This mammoth responsibility includes the maintenance of radios, telephones and communications centers and the administering of all the nets. The job is big, the responsibility great, and the importance staggering.

"Communications is an essential element of any successful mission, and we attempt to give the best service in all phases of our work so that the Brigade's missions are completed with efficiency," said Captain Robert L. Irving of New York City, the Brigade Signal Officer. "We would have real havoc if there were no communications, and our job is to see that that never happens."

One of the largest duties of the signal office is frequency management for the entire Brigade. The office insures that every unit has a working frequency at all times and this can be a major task since frequencies are changed periodically to maintain security.

Any unit that requires a frequency change, even if a new frequency has not yet been issued, can get a new frequency from the signal office. Sometimes this is necessary when atmospheric conditions render some frequencies inoperable.

When this occurs, Captain Irving assigns the unit a new frequency and then notifies all elements involved of the change.

The Brigade Signal Office also runs a radio repair shop and assists subordinate units in the repair and maintenance of their equipment. The shop can perform second echelon maintenance on all communications equipment.

"This ability has saved a lot of time for Brigade units," said the captain. "If the equipment has to be sent to division for work, it can take considerably longer to get it back into actual use."

A switchboard operated by the signal section gives the brigade an organic internal phone system. The switchboard typically handles 1200 calls a day and acts as a supplement to the Chu Lai dial phone system.

Another duty of the signal section is to provide an emergency power system, should the primary one fail. This emergency enables the Brigade Tactical Operations Center to retain power for normal operations.

Just the basic duties and responsibilities of the signal office seem to be an enormously time-consuming operation, but the initiative of the office has not been slowed. In the past three months, the section has installed over ten miles of wire to improve an already outstanding communications system for brigade.

Whether you pick up a hand phone in Chu Lai, or a hand set in the field, the chances are you'll get the party you want, thanks to the Brigade Signal Office.

A Vietnamese orphan from the Ta-Bi-Tha Protestant Orphanage in An Tan marvels at the toy locomotive he received at a party given by the men of Headquarters and A Company, 23rd Medical Battalion. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Fred Abatemarco)

VC trips booby trap -- his

By SP4 James Tabata

FSB BRONCO (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – Trying to outwit Infantrymen of the 11th Brigade, a Viet Cong recently became the victim of his own mischievious deeds as he tripped his own booby-trap nine miles northwest of FSB San Juan Hill.

While setting up for the night the Observation Post and fourth platoon of Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry were unaware that they were being watched by a determined VC soldier.

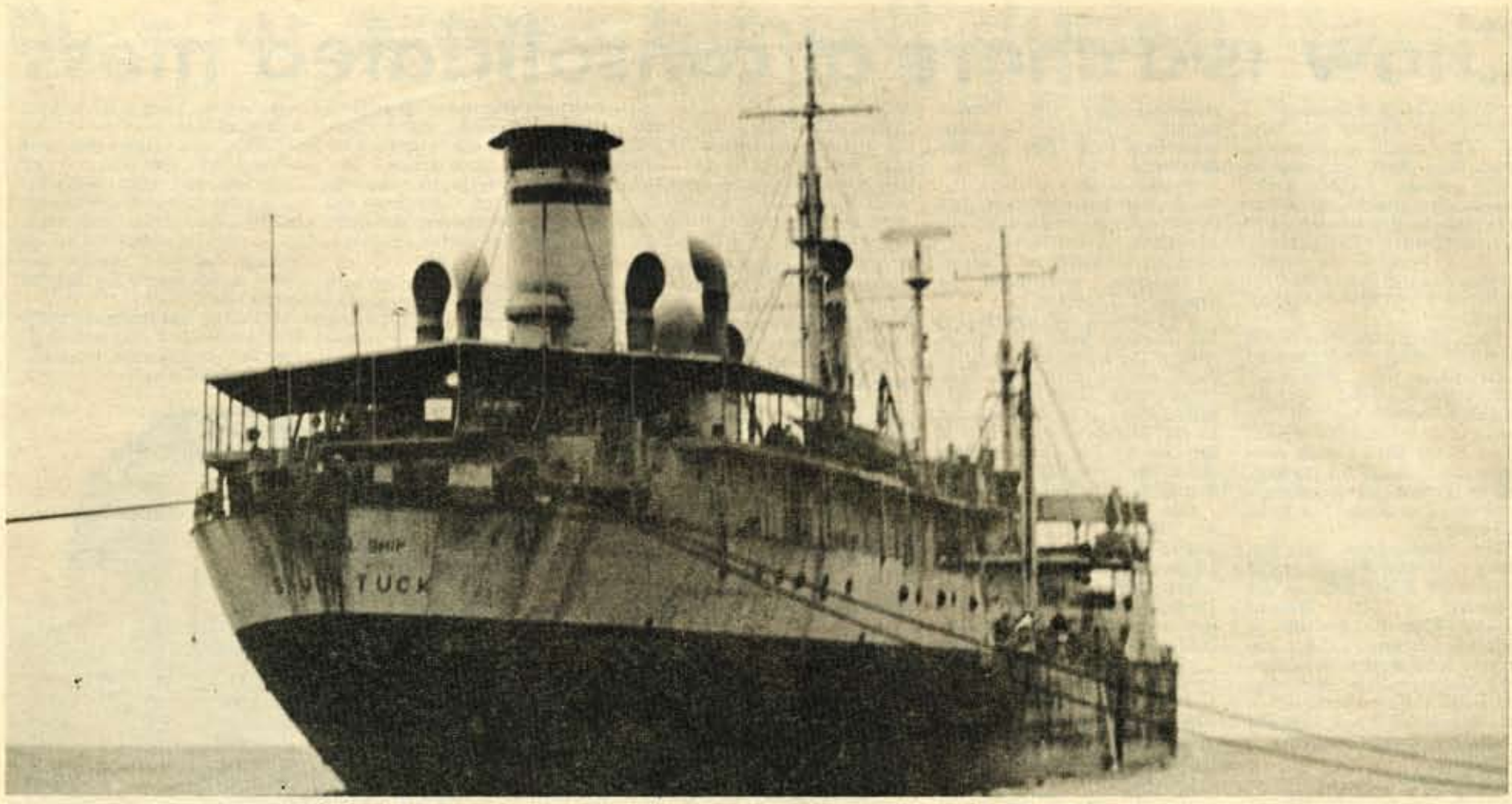
Probably setting the first of two booby traps on the trail leading to the mountainmen's location, the VC moved 50 meters closer to the perimeter to set the second one. "We heard an explosion about 2000 hours and could not figure out how it was caused," reported 1st Lieutenant Milton Brown of Mooreland, Inf., the Forward Observer for Company B. We contacted the other platoons but all had a negative contact report."

Early the next morning an element moved out to check out the area of the mysterious explosion.

The pointman spotted the trip wire of the second booby trap set by the VC; disconnecting it the element cautiously continued down the trail.

Fifty meters below the point where the booby trap was disconnected, the element found the body of one VC. "There was more than one because a blood trail was found leading into the brush," added the lieutenant.

The element searched the area thoroughly and then moved out to a new area of operation.



U.S. Naval ship Sauca-Tuck lies anchored, while pumping 1200 barrels of fuel per hour.

That's a gas station out there on the water !

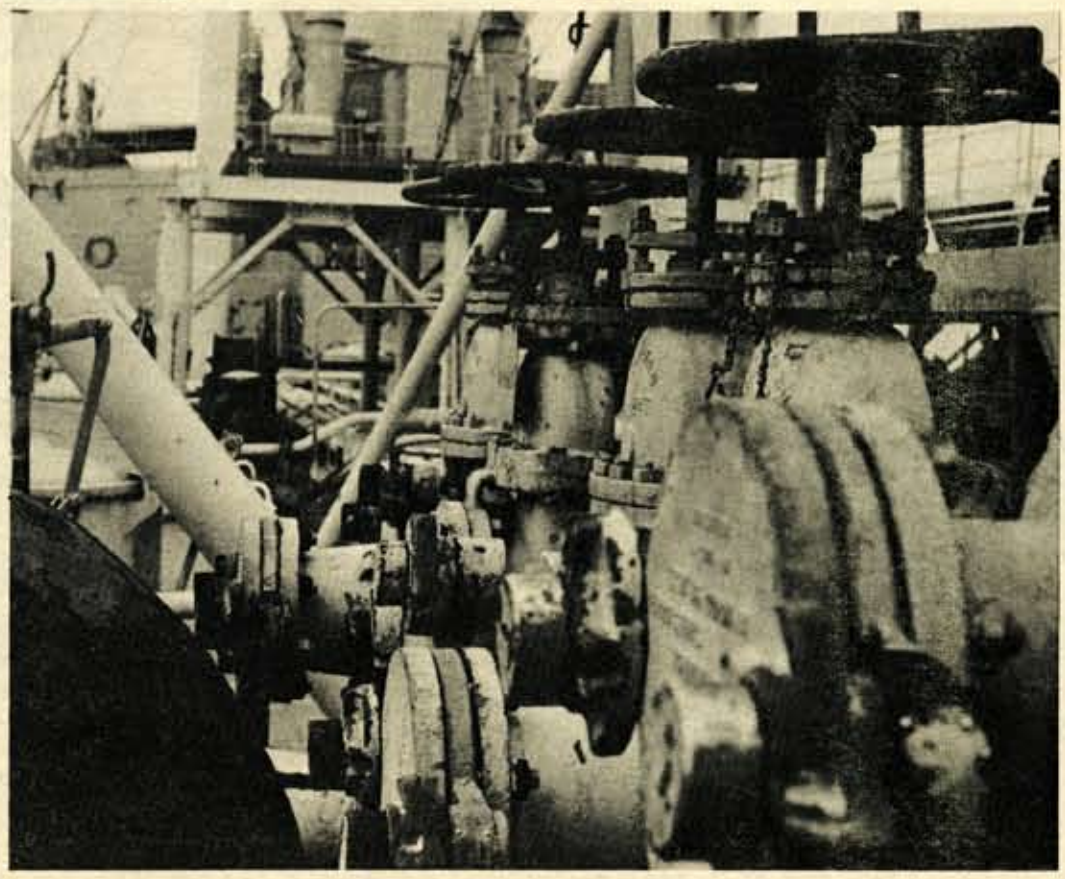
Twice a month a U.S. Naval tanker cruises into Chu Lai Bay and gives the Americal the fuel it needs to operate effectively.

The tanker carries 32,000 barrels of fuel in its bowels and pumps it out at a rate of 1200 barrels an hour.

However, Chu Lai is just one of the stops for the Sauca-Tuck between Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay, so after four days in Chu Lai she leaves for her next port.

Photos by
2LT. Henry Grambergu

A civilian crew-member regulates the flow of oil into the pipeline to shore.



The four main pressure valves which regulate how much and what type of fuel goes into the main pipe-line.

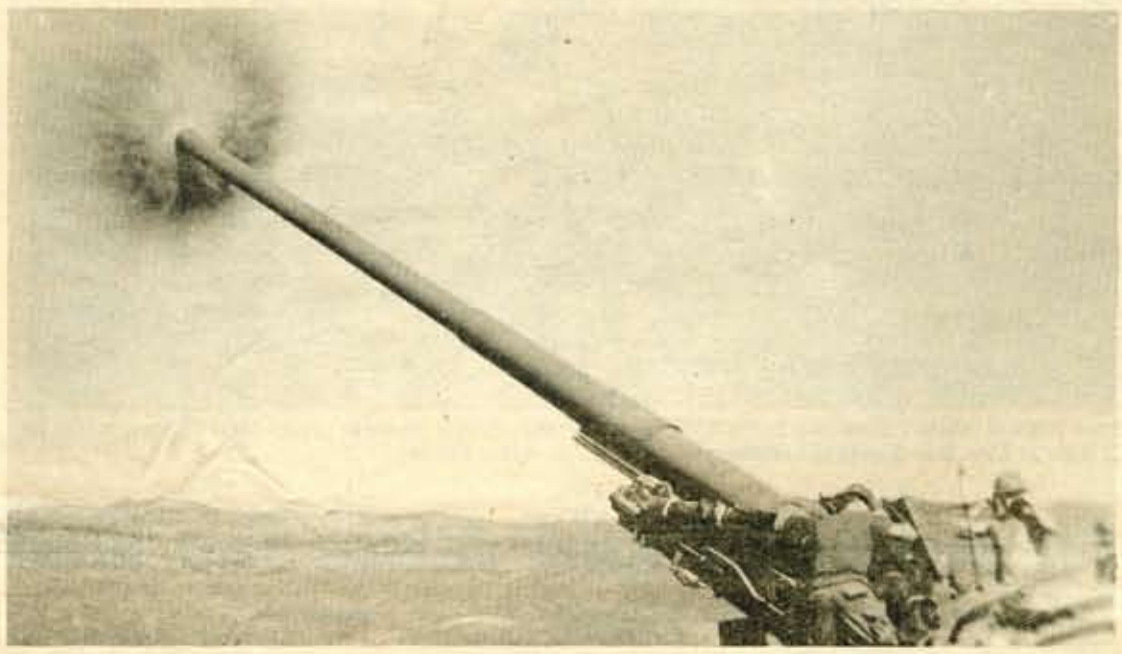
Sheer power

Thor himself didn't have that much thunder- fire

(U.S. Army photos)

A .155mm howitzer is kept smoking by Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery.

A stream of smoke shoots from this eight inch howitzer of Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery.



Cannoneers brace themselves against the shock as their 175mm gun roars its defiance to the enemy.

The men of Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery brace themselves as the lanyard is pulled, triggering 175mm of power.

Newfer proves himself during test

By SP4 Zin Balaban

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Ever since the American infantryman has been in Vietnam, the old timer has taken a sort of parental in terest in the new man in the unit. Patiently, the old timer advised, explained and corrected the inevitable numerous mistakes made by the new man.

The only way to rid oneself of the label "new guy" and gain respect in the eyes of the "old timer" was to either prove oneself under fire or to have time in-country under your belt.

Staff Sergeant Lee V. Campbell of Gadsden, Ala., platoon sergeant of the 2nd platoon in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Brigade of the 23rd Infantry Division has one new man who definitely proved himself under fire.

"Here I have a man who has been in the company for barely two weeks, and already he has two Viet Cong to his credit," said Sergeant Cambell. "This FNG (funny new guy) acted cool as a cucumber under fire."

The first enemy soldier was killed while stumbling onto the platoon's night defensive perimeter shortly before midnight. Apparently he was headed for the hootch around which the platoon was set up.

"I was sitting up on guard," said Private First Class Leon R. Luce of Orange, Calif., "when I saw some movement to my front. I knew that there was a trip flare over there and I just waited for him to trip it. All of a sudden the trip flare went off and I saw this guy look about in surprise and confusion."

This moment's hesitation cost the enemy soldier his life. One shot from PFC Luce's M-16 was all it took.

The following morning a search of the area revealed that the Viet Cong soldier was carrying a couple of Chicom grenades attached to his belt.

Two days later, while heading towardstheir day defensive perimeter, the platoon was passing through some high elephant grass. Luce was walking drag (rear security) for the platoon.

"I got a little behind the rest of the platoon," continued PFC Luce. "I was constantly looking back, carefully watching our rear. All of a sudden I came upon a trail crossing the one we were on. I checked it out a little ways down and spotted this Viet Cong with a pack and weapon coming down the trail."

Taking careful aim, PFC Luce brought the man down with a few rounds from his M-16 rifle. The rest of the platoon came on the scene and discovered heavy blood puddles leading to a nearby spider hole. The hole was "fragged" with concussion grenades.

In his attempt to escape, the VC dropped his AK-47 rifle, a ruck sack filled with food, and a pistol belt with a number of Chicom grenades attached to it.

These ARVN soldiers from the 2nd ARVN Division contemplate where to set up their "home" while on LZ Kala at Kam Duc during the summer of 1970. (U.S. Army Photo)

Six NVA learn chow time's bad news

By SP4 James Tabata

FSB BRONCO, (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – The squad of Mountainmen broke for chow on the side of the mountain after reconning their night locations northwest of San Juan Hill.

About 200 meters farther up the side of the mountain, 20 NVA were eating chow.

It was the NVA, however, who seemed to have a lot to talk about, and the alert pointman from the 2nd platoon of Company D, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry heard them.

Once the pointman alerted the element, Sergeant Denver Swisher of Crigsville, Va., said "We moved cautiously and quietly for a closer look and spotted 20 NVA with rucks and weapons, sitting and eating."

Rather than engage a force over twice their size, the squad moved cautiously back to a location down the mountain. Swisher had a surprise for the unsuspecting NVA.

He called in and adjusted the guns of Bravo Battery, 6-11 Arty which is direct support for the 11th Infantry Brigade. Artillery rounds rained on the position and the mountainmen moved into the brush for the night.

At first light the squad joined with the rest of the platoon and moved in on the basecamp. The troopers received no resistence as they entered the camp and found six NVA killed and bunkers smashed by the artillery.

Heavy rains and cease fire limit enemy fatalaties

(continued from page 1)

The captured equipment was all extracted to Chu Lai. Earlier in the week, Company A had found a Chicom grenade, which they destroyed.

Also late in the week, Company B, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, working northwest of Chu Lai, observed and engaged a small group of enemy soldiers. The infantrymen killed one enemy and captured one AK-50 rifle, two Chicom grenades, two AK-47 magazines, a helmet and 20 pounds of rice.

While on a patrol southeast of Chu Lai, Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry engaged a group of Viet Cong with small arms fire at a distance fo 200 meters.

The enemy evaded, but the "Regulars" swept the area and found and followed two blood trails. On further search, the infantrymen engaged and killed a lone Viet Cong and captured an AK-47.

Earlier in the week, Company C of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, while patrolling south of Chu Lai, killed one VC in a brief encounter. Earlier, the company had detained a VC suspect south of that location. He was sent to Chu Lai for questioning.

In other action in the 198th area, a doorgunner from the Division's 174th Aviation Company, participating in a combat assault with ARVN forces, engaged an enemy element with machinegun fire.

Troops were inserted into the area and the ARVN infantrymen found six Viet Cong killed by the accurate fire of the doorgunner. Two automatic weapons and three packs were taken in the action.

FREDERICK HILL

Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade accounted for nine enemy kills during a week of almost continuous rain.

The 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while on a search and clear mission, killed two VC with small arms fire as the enemy attempted to evade from a nearby structure.

While in their day defensive position that afternoon, the company observed and engaged four enemy soldiers. Results were a detainee.

Later in the week, the company stayed active, killing two VC while on a sweep near a suspected enemy base camp west of Tam Ky.

In mid-week, Company A of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry while on a sweep with a Hoi Chanh. They found a hospital complex and engaged three VC spotted near the area. One of the enemy was killed and the other two wounded in the action.

The "Professionals" ended the week in a finale of action by killing a lone VC attempting to hide in a partially camouflaged bunker.

Later in the day, Company A found two Vietnamese males near an enemy structure. The suspects, who are extracted to Hawk Hill, claimed they had been forced to labor for the VC.

Soldiers in the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry accounted for two detainees this week west of Tam Ky. One detaince was found by Company, C, as the 40-year old male was making a booby trap.

Charger 13 of brigade aviation engaged six VC, killing four of them while on a visual reconnaissance mission. Two of the VC escaped into a nearby woodline.

In the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry's area of operations, Company C, while on a sweep northwest of Tam Ky engaged and killed one NVA with M-16s.

By mid-week another sweep by the company resulted in one VC detained and extracted to Hawk Hill. Company A of the "Legionnaires" wrapped up this week's action for the battalion when they found one VC killed by artillery on a sweep northwest of Tam Ky. The kill was credited to 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery.

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE

Action was also light for the troopers 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry in the Pennsylvania Square AO as the men of the Army's most battlehonored unit killed three enemy soldiers and captured one.

In the week's only significant contact F Troop, 17th Cavalry, killed two VC when small arms fire caused the bangalore torpedo they were carrying to explode. The troop killed another VC by processing artillery fire.

In other activity elements of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry destroyed 11 mines, 15 mortar rounds, 1 RPG round, a law, 49 CBU's and captured over a ton of rice.

It's a tight fit, but this helicopter from the 23rd Infantry Division manages to set down on a small clearing for a company of the division. (U.S. Army Photo)

New life for Viets at New Hau Duc

By SP4 Guy Winkler

NEW HAU DUC, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Over 15,000 Vietnamese and Montagnard people who are tired of being forced to work for the enemy, are now able to live in peace at this new settlement without fearing Viet Cong terrorism.

The people at New Hau Duc have learned to respect and rely on two individuals who have made their lives mean more to them than just a slave for the enemy. Those two men are Major Hoang Kim Thanh and his American counterpart Captain David Spencer of Columbus, Indiana.

What makes this area 35 miles west of Chu Lai so unique? It's secured entirely by Regional Forces, Popular Forces and Chieu Hoi soldiers. There are no ARVN or American troops in the area except for C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery on LZ Pleasantiville, which lies on the far side of the New Hau Duc valley.

Captain Spencer has been the MACV Senior District Advisor for New Hau Duc for 14 months of the last two of his three tours in Vietnam. "It's a very personal thing to me to see these people living in a peaceful environment where they can grow their crops and raise their families without the VC coming along and taking everything they've worked for," says Cpt. Spencer.

Working with seven other American personnel assigned or attached to the MACV Compound at New Hau Duc, the captain says that the pacification efforts is working "in a big way."

"The people need to do things on their own. This works extremely well here with a minimal amount of American involvement insists Cpt. Spencer. "The people are on their own. They run Medcaps in the ville, they build their own houses, secure their own property and work out any problems that may arise between the two races."

Although two racial groups live in the same settlement at New Hau Duc, they realize that they are there to stand up against a common enemy, who has forced himself upon them, rather than allow ethnic differences interfere. Racial tension would destroy everything that these people have strived to achieve.

Captain Spencer says that between 200 and 300 people come to New Hau Duc per month. However, "As many as 800 have come at one time," he boasts.

To get Communist sympathizers from the mountains to Chieu Hoi, Major Thanh and Captain Spencer have devised a method to drop Chieu Hoi leaflets from the air "addressed" to specific persons in the area who are known sympathizers. The leaflets warn those people to Chieu Hoi or else a platoon of Hoi Chanh soldiers will "come to get you."

Although not a hostile round has been fired on New Hau Duc for over two years, the RFs, PFs and Hoi Chanhs kill between 14 and 18 enemy per month while on patrol of the surrounding region. Between nine and 12 weapons are captured per month and recently a 120mm mortar was confiscated.

The relazed atmosphere at the MACV Compound at New Hau Duc is noticed the instant a newcomer steps off the helicopter at the hill-top compound. The American officer in charge, Cpt. Spencer, is seen confering with his close friend Maj. Thanh or helping some villagers working medcap. Something is different about this man whom everyone at the settlement looks up to.

Instead of meeting an officer dressed in Army jungle fatigues with his rank on the lapel of his shirt, you meet a man wearing black pajama-like attire who will probably offer you a soda and place to sleep for the night. "We're very easy going here," he explains, "But we get the job done, and we have attempted to do here is working, no matter how we dress or act. A sense of confidence helps us accomplish our mission."

Reflecting on how the settlement has develeped since he first came to Hau Duc on his first tour of Vietnam, the captain commented. "I have stood at a place in the middle of one of the villes where, on my first tour, we received mortar fire. Today, there are houses standing where the craters once were."

Asked if he thought the New Hau Duc community would continue to be as safe for the people in the future as it is new, Cpt. Spencer replied, "One of these days we might get a few mortars and a few people will get hurt, but when and if that day comes, the people living here will have the conviction to stand up for themselves and what they have strived to achieve when they came to New Hau Duc. They won't run. They've quit running. They know they no longer have to fear the VC."

One of the goals Cpt. Spencer has set before he leaves Vietnam on this tour is to see electricity for the people of New Hau Duc.

An Associated Press reporter once asked the captain if he thought we were really winning the war in Vietnam. His reply was, "I couldn't tell you whether we're winning in the northern part of South Vietnam nor in the south. I couldn't even tell you if we are winning in the Quang Ngai or Quang Tin Provinces. But I with tell you this, we are winning in New Hau Duc. We're winning in a big way to help the people help themselves."

Here's an example of a girl next door type with whom you might want to explore the islands on a Hawaii R & R. Happy exploring!

Look! Up in the sky

By SP4 Don Newton

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Flying PX's are being sighted by men on several firebases in the 23rd Infantry Division's 196th Infantry Brigade. Far from being illusions, however, these sightings have become a real part of the "Chargers'" logistical support.

About once a week the PX, loaded with beer, soda, pretzels, shoestring potatoes, peanuts, M&M's and other food items, descends on one of the battalion-centered mountaintops. Various other items such as radios, cameras and film are also available.

"You don't find these items packed in SP's (Sundry Packs) or in case of C-rations," quipped 1st Lieutenant George M. Papa of Snowflake, Ariz., manager of the PX here and also the man responsible for the "flying PX".

The portable exchange is actually a conex stocked full of popular selling items which is flown to the 196th Inf. Bde.'s firebases via a Chinook (CH-47) helicopter.

"I got the idea last December after someone called me from LZ Center asking if it was possible to send any PX items to his firebase," said the lieutenant. "Such firebases don't have their own PX, and it's often difficult for personnel there to fly to the rear area."

"This Brigade's firebases had never been sold PX items directly, so our first trip was a learning process," explained Papa who previously served six months as platoon leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry of the 196th Infantry Brigade. "The items which sell most quickly are beer, soda, radios and camera film."

"People at LZ Center didn't care what kind of radios we were selling," added Sergeant Ronald Martino of Staten Island, N.Y., a cashier at Hawk Hill's PX. "They just wanted any radio. And as for beer, the first 30 cases were gone after 40 customers."

LZ's West, Young and Marry Ann are other battalion-sized firebases in the 196th Infantry Brigade being served through the Hawk Hill conex. Lieutenant Papa said he tries to serve one firebase each week which means four such trips per month, weather permitting.

"If possible, we stay a full day on each firebase," commented Papa. "Three men from this store can handle the job. "And when they leave the firebase, little or nothing is left in the conex."

About a week before Christmas the flying PX made its first trip to LZ West, home of the Brigade's 4th BAttalion, 31st Infantry.

At that time, the men of Company B of the battalion were out of the field and waiting on West for transportation to their stand-down in Chu Lai.

"I was as surprised and happy to it as anybody," exclaimed Specialist 4 John C. Strand of Amenia, N.D., who was serving as an RTO (radio operator) for Company B.

Vietnam's TWA is pretty small!

By SP4 Terry Williamson

LZ STINSON, (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – A new twist to the commuter air service has been added recently to this forward firebase of the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade. The service, which helps soldiers reach all points north (sometimes), south (sometimes), and east (usually), is the Teeny Weeny Airlines (TWA).

TWA was created to help soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry reach their appointed destinations with the least amount of trouble. It has literally taken the guesswork out of flying the friendly skies of South Vietnam.

Sergeant Brian N. Hanson of Wilmington, Del., Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, who refers to himself as the "manager of light personnel for TWA," says, "If there's a way to get the men to where they are going, I'll do it."

All of the flights for the fledgling new airline are on a space available basis. Tickets, which cost nothing, are obtained from the Echo Company orderly room, and Sergeant Hanson informs the passengers when their flight will be leaving.

"We are not the most modern airline in the world," said Manager Hanson, "But where else can you get a flight for nothing? At least we have organization."

TWA is located in a small building adjacent to the re-supply helipad at LZ Stinson. The building is certainly not typical of airports in other parts of the world, but it serves its function. The TWA building is asmall, tin-roofed structure with bright red letters looking as if they were splashed on the building and reading, "Teeny Weeny Airlines".

"We get a lot of ribbing about our sign, but it just about depicts the scope of our service," said the sergeant. "Remember, we are a small organization and we can only help you get to your destination, but we can't get you back. Our job is completed once you leave our pad."

Another thing lacking in the new conscept of free travel is the absence of coffee, tea and milk, and the girls who serve them. There are no pretty girls to act as receptionist, stewardess or to escort you to the pad. Your ticket comes from a burly first sergeant who doesn't smile a lot, instructions come from Sergeant Hanson, and the only other people on your flight are grizzly infantrymen and the warrant officer pilots.

With all the luxuries missing, some people are wondering if the airline will survive. But, as Sergeant Hanson said: "When a man gets the opportunity to go on R&R, or go just back to Chu Lai for a rest, he really doesn't seem to miss the luxuries that the established have. Besides, we have a monopoly here."

Keen competition for the traveler may come here in the future, but the sergeant isn't worried about losing his job in the very near future. In fact, he is certain he'll remain around for a day or so. He proved it by leaning back in his folding chair, propping his feet on his desk, and telling a soldier who was seeking a ride back to Chu Lai, "Come back tomorrow–no birds today."

Approaching cautiously toward the entrance to this structure, an Americal soldier prepares to confront the unexpected. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC James Dunn)

The search of a newly discovered enemy tunnel complex is a heartbeat by heartbeat operation due to the risk of booby trapping. This 196th Infantry Brigade soldier is justly concerned upon entering this newly-found tunnel. (U.S. Army Photo)

Demolition is his job

By SP4 Tom Mano

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – "In our job here in Vietnam the biggest danger is plastic explosives," said the engineer lieutenant.

Clearing new LZs (Landing Zones) of booby-traps, exploding rusty or corroded ordnance and demolishing structures for the 196th Infantry Brigade is the job of the demolitions section of Company A, 26th Engineers.

"When sweeping an area for booby-traps," said 1st Lieutenant Kenneth A. Nowak of Chicago, company executive officer and head of the demolitions team, "you have to be especially observant for plastic explosives."

"Many times the earphones on the metal detector won't register a tonal difference unless you hear the firing pin," continued Nowak. "But the Army is fully investigating the possibilities of a plastic detector."

The demolitions team's primary function is blowing up ordnance such as grenades and 105mm rounds that have been uncovered by digging or just failed to detonate.

"Our first instruction to the finder is not to touch the round," he commented. "When handling explosives, safety is foremost."

"When we arrive at the scene of the discovery, we check to see if it's feasible to blow the munitions in place," he explained. "If buildings are too close, then we carefully move the explosives to a wide-open area away from all habitation."

Placing the ordnance in an 8-foot-deep crater to minimize flying debris, C-4, a plastic explosive, is attached to the minitions in such a way as to make it blow downward erasing most of the flying schrapnel.

"If the round isn't charged right, it will be just thrown out of the crater," said Nowak. "Poorly-placed C-4 can even shear a round in half."

"We notify everyone on the hiol of our operation before we lay the detonater cord, so they don't think it's incoming rounds," added the lieutenant. "We've exploded 2000 rounds of 20mm ammo (mini-gun ammunition) and if you don't know what's going on, the boom can really scare you."

Det cord is used in place of a time fuse, because a time fuse that fails to operate requires a 30-minute wait before you can safely approach it.

"When we have a lot of extremely fragmentable ordnance, we daisy-chain the explosives," said Nowak. "This consists of placing a string of charges that are set off concurrently."

The 26th Engineer demo team is not equipped or trained to explode large bombs.

"If we come across something like an unexploded 500-pound bomb, we call in a certified EOD team from Da Nang to blow it," explained Nowak. "Sometimes we assist by employing a bulldozer to cover the bomb with dirt to tone down the flying schrapnel."

Men from the demolition section are sometimes requested by the infantry to go out and blow up a bunker complex. "We have blown up as many as 17 bunkers at one time to deprive the enemy of shelter," he remarked.

School-acquired knowledge of explosives is not the only thing that keeps a man safe in this job. "A great part of blowing these munitions properly is common sense," concluded Nowak. "You have to know what's safe to pick up and what's not."