'Iron Curtain' is lifted from valley

By SP4 Zin Balaban

LZ HAWK HILL (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – The Iron Curtain separating the Soviet Bloc from the rest of the world is well known. A similar curtain was cast about Antenna Valley, Vietnam by the Viet Cong.

Inhabitants of that valley were forbidden to leave for any reason whatever under penalty of death. This condition existed until soldiers from the 196th Infantry Brigade recently lifted the restraining curtain and returned the people their freedom.

It all started when Company A of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry began operations a few miles northwest of Tam Ky. Since many civilians populated the area, it was decided to relocate them for safety reasons.

"I called battalion headquarters and requested a field team," said Captain Edward J. Daly of Philadelphia, Company A's commanding officer. "They have the job of persuading civilians to move a government controlled area."

"Field teams" or Psyops (Psychological Operations) teams are attached to each brigade and are readily avilable at a commander's request. A field team consists of two Vietnamese and two Americans. They often work by an infantry unit, utilizing loud speakers and amplifiers, while talking directly to the villagers. The advantage of face-to-face communication over aerial broadcasts are obvious.

The team arrived by resupply helicopter and immediately went to work. Over a period of ten days a total of 242 villagers were escorted from Antenna Valley to the government controlled province of Duc Duc, an area northwest of Tam Ky.

"It's surprising how fast news of relocation travelled through the area," said Staff Sergeant Lee V. Campbell of Gadsden, Ala., platoon sergeant. "We would no sooner enter a village, when the people would start packing what little belongings they had and be ready to move out."

According to the refugees, their living area was controlled by a small number of VC and NVA who forced the villagers to provide food and shelter. The enemy threatened to kill anyone who attempted to leave the valley, whatever the reason.

Consequently, the villagers were blocked from any trading or visiting of relatives beyond their valley.

The VC and NVA also took young men and women from the village, presumably to help carry supplies.

"We had no trouble with the people," continued SSG Campbell. "There were a few of them who spoke some English, and they passed on our instructions to the rest."

Infantrymen shared their food with the refugees, giving them candy, chocolates, cigarettes and cans of "C"-rations. The Vietnamese were also given insect repellent at night.

After arriving at Duc Duc, which is a resettlement area northwest of Tam Ky, the villagers were given food and housing.

"You could see that the people were glad to be out of that Viet Cong controlled valley," concluded SSG Campbell. "Although they were no longer at home, they were free."

The iron curtain is broken at Antenna Valley and no longer dinies freedom to Vietnamese people.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 4, No. 7 CHU LAI, Vietnam February 12, 1971

Soldiers from Company A, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry scurry to load a helicopter waiting to extract a large enemy cache found by the company about 30 miles northwest of Tam Ky. (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Guy Winkler)

Division Re-cap

Action is light

By SP4 Steven Elschlager

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Action was light last week for the men of the 23rd Infantry Division as 56 enemy soldiers were killed and several large caches were uncovered in the Army's largest area of operation.

GENEVA PARK

In operation "Geneva Park" during the week, action increased for the 198th Infantry Brigade as 26 enemy soldiers were killed and several enemy weapons were captured.

Enemy contact continued to be heavy for the second straight week as the "Ready Rifles" of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, killed 17 Viet Cong south of Chu Lai.

Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, while on an early morning patrol, received fire from a distance of 300 meters. The "Ready Rifles" swept the area of contact and observed a group of Viet Cong evading to the west. The infantrymen maneuvered to a better firing position, and killed six Viet Cong. Captured in the action were a pistol, an AK-47 rifle, three packs, and two hand grenades. All of the captured items were extracted to a nearby LZ. Later, Alpha Company detained two Vietnamese.

Alpha Company also found a large rice cache during the week. Over 5,400 pounds of rice was uncovered at the bottom of a bomb crater. The rice was stored in four large barrels, and was destroyed by the "Ready Rifles". Alpha Company also found three barrels of rice, buried in the ground next to a woodline, containing 3,040 pounds of rice.

Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, observed and engaged a group of Viet Cong. The "Ready Rifles" swept the area of contact and killed six enemy and captured an automatic weapon, five packs, and seven hand grenades.

Later, Charlie Company heard an explosion a short distance from their day laager position. The infantrymen swept the area and found one Viet Cong who had been wounded when he stepped on his own booby trap. The "Ready Rifles" continued the sweep and found another enemy killed by the booby trap.

In a night defensive position, Charlie Company heard an explosion a short distance from their position. The infantrymen swept the area and found that enemy soldiers had tripped their own booby trap for the second day in a row. Charlie Company then processed mortar fire in the suspected enemy location, and later found one enemy killed by the mortar fire, and a short distance away the "Ready Rifles" found a wounded Viet Cong.

Charlie Company also detained four Vietnamese in s small village south of Chu Lai during the week.

(Continued page 6)

Sarge saves drowning buddy

FSB BRONCO (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – When torrential rains caused floodwaters and swift currents in the lowlands near Duc Pho last October, a 23rd Infantry Division soldier made a life-saving swim to rescue a buddy from drewning, and for those moments of personal bravery, Sergeant Philip B. Geary of Coalville, Utah, has received the Soldier's Medal.

Geary was the 2nd squad leader in the 2nd Platoon of Company B, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry at that time. The unit was on the Gaza Strip and had set up a position on the high ground in the rain. By morning, the men stood knee deep in water and some were floating equipment on air mattresses.

Geary was busy clearing bamboo to give choppers enough space to land and pick up the platoon. "I heard a lot of shouting and went over to see what was going on," Geary related.

He saw a fellow soldier struggling against the current about 15-20 meters from the position. Geary dove in and reached the man even though the current made it difficult to move.

Geary said he was having trouble because of the waters pull and the men on the bank extended a pole to him. "I'm just glad they got the pole," he said. "I was sweating it for a while."

The coveted Soldier's Medal is given for meritorious deeds not involving hostile action.

Barbituates—deadly

By SP4 Steven Elschlager

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Barbiturates ("downs") are used by doctors as sleeping pills and tranquilizers. Once taken they induce immediate relaxation in which tensions and anxieties seem to disappear. However, these depressants produce mental and physical fatigue and weariness and can cause death.

Barbiturate users are sometimes likened to alcoholics because the latter get drunk to feel secure and confident. The constant use of alcohol and barbiturates together will cause death.

Depressants, like heroin, create a great physical dependency. The body craves the constant flow of "downs" and if suddenly cut off, the user will experience severe pain, convulsions and delirium and may even die.

Another very distressing point about barbiturates is the fact that, unlike heroin, the body does not compensate for the increased dosage in order to maintain the "high." A user intending just to get "high" can end up killing himself accidentally by an overdose.

In the Central Highlands one soldier stated, "I came back from a night combat patrol scared and shaking. I couldn't relaz or sleep because I kept thinking about tomorrow's mission. I don't want to die" –so he takes "downs" to sleep but he may be silently killing himself.

Americal vets association

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The National Adjutant of the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA), Daniel G. Merlin Jr., has announced that the ADVA is soliciting memberships from men currently assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division.

The association is "a living memorial for all Americal veterans". Along with the benefits and friendships of membership, a member can enjoy an Annual Dinner-Dance and the Annual Reunion, usually held in June.

"A strong association depends on participation of the members and the recruitment of new members", Mr. Merlin says. "Each member is just as important to us as the next member and will always receive prompt and courteous treatment".

An application with the ADVA is very simple. Just write the National Adjutant, Daniel G. Merlin Jr., Headquarters, Americal Division Veterans Association, Post Office Box 1381, Boston, Mass. 02104.

"We sincerely hope that you and your family will enjoy all the benefits and friendships of membership, now and in the future."

HELLO... PROJECT HELP?

Project Help, Question of the Week:

Question: I shipped my hold baggage from the 4th Infantry Division last November and I have a receipt for it. Where may I collect it?

Answer: You may pick up your hold baggage up at 226 Supply Service. They say they have 78 people's unclaimed hold baggage from the 4th Infantry Division.

Capt. Theodore C. Mataxis, Jr. (right) receives the insignia of his new rank from his father, Brig. Gen. Theo. C. Mataxis, assistant division commander for maneuver. The bars were the same ones Gen. Mataxis was promoted to captain with in 1942. Capt. Mataxis just completed 13 months as a platoon leader and company commander with the 101st Airborne Division. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Lt. Dean Bunch)

MP's get the job done

By SP4 Tom Mano

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. 10) – Because of their power to enforce laws, "cops" have been despised, ridiculed and even envied. Parallel to civilian police, the protection and benefits afforded by military policemen are rarely recognized.

Men of the 2nd Platoon, 23rd MP Company are omni-present on Hawk Hill, completing functions which, if left undone, could become disastrous.

The first MP to go on duty in the morning is the gate guard. Processing 400 civilian workers can be a tiring job, but sometimes pleasant, with 250 of them being females. These employees are checked for contraband items such as drugs and explosives.

But the gate guard's duty is not only concerned with pedestrians. Vehicles are checked for destination, number of passengers and apprepriate passes.

Another job of the gate guard is to act as an information bureau for Hawk Hill. This entails giving directions, phoning in arrivals of VIPs and releasing times of events.

Twice a day a patrol makes a trip to the garbage dump to inspect the disposal of refuse. They check to see if anyone is dumping ammunition or grenades which could be policed up by local VC. Preventing the transaction of marijuana, heroin and other drugs is another of their responsibilities. But their main duty is to prevent GIs who venture to the dump from getting hurt.

Dog control is one of the MP's most important tasks. Getting bit by a rabid dog can cause convulsions accompanied by delirium and nausea. The 196th Brigade policemen believe it's better to prevent rabies than to treat them.

As night creeps on the hill, most people finish up for the day. Not the MPs. There might be larcenies to check on, shootings to investigate or ladies of dubious repute to turn over to the National Police.

The 2nd platoon handles a 20 miles stretch of road on Highway One which runs perpendicular to Hawk Hill's access road. They escort convoys from Da Nang to Chu Lai and back with an M-60 machinegun mounted on their jeep.

Protection as well as investigation is a major part of controlling this stretch of road. More than one GI has felt relief when he saw MPs descending on the scene of an accident in which he was involved to protect him from irate villagers.

The "nerve center" of the platoon is the "desk". From here information is compiled. To achieve the highest degree of coordination and competency, 1st Lieutenant George R. Holland of Holly Springs, Miss., commander of the platoon, sleeps in an adjoining room to the "desk". Anytime an emergency arises, he can quickly be aroused to handle the situation.

The creed of the MPs on Hawk Hill was very adeptly summed up by Private First Class John W. Boulware of Los Gates, Calif., a night patrolman for the 196th Infantry Brigade. "If we stop someone and he's honest with us, we'll do everything in our power to help him."

89 enemy rally

By SP4 Terry Williamson

CHU LAI, (198th Inf. Bde. 10) – In a period of one month, 89 Viet Cong laid down their weapons and rallied to the Government of Vietnam in the 198th Infantry Brigade area. Nearly 90 per cent of the ralliers came from the once Viet Cong infested Batangan Peninsula, southeast of Chu Lai.

The total for the month was four times the average for the Brigade and is the largest number of ralliers received in a one-month period in at least a year.

The reason for the great increase of ralliers lies in the fact that four distinct yet cooperative operations have drained the enemy of his manpower and his will to carry out missions in this area. Allied small unit operations, land clearing projects, pacification programs and concentrated psychological operations have all combined to cause major setbacks for the enemy in the Batangan area.

"All of these reasons have been cited by the ralliers as reasons why the came over to our side," said 1st Lieutenant William Cain of Burlington, Vt., the brigade civil affairs officer. "The enemy's very existence is being threatened every day in this area."

Small unit operations have saturated the area with U.S. and Vietnamese patrols. Night movement by these allied forces have nearly stifled enemy movement and supply routes. The 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry has been largely responsible for upsetting enemy activities on the peninsula with its combat operations and its support of the pacification program.

Land clearing operations, conducted by the 59th Land Clearing Company and Company B, 26th Engineer Battalion, have eliminated thousands of former enemy hiding places, tunnels, bunkers and booby traps, under the cover of which enemy elements used to be able to roam almost at will throughout the countryside. The land clearing projects have left enemy units and guerillas without cover and thus vulnerable to allied ground units.

The area is also becoming a show-place pacification site with the hamlets of Giem Dien, An Thien, and Van Thien proving the worth of the pacification effort, Vietnamese civilians in the area are less and less tolerant of enemy activities, and with the loss of popular support, more and more Viet Cong are seeking a better life by returning to the Government.

"Many of the Viet Cong want to come across but are afraid of what might happen to them," said Lt. Cain. "Our job is to make sure they know they will be taken care of, and we have been successful in this effort, partially by employing a 'live' broadcast technique.

The technique was initiated by the brigade to enable former Viet Cong to give direct messages to their past comrades from helicopters. The ralliers tell their friends that they are being well treated and they urge their friends to rally also.

Besides the broadcasts, ralliers also tape messages appealing to their friends. The messages are normally made and broadcast within a day after the rallier has turned himself in, and the messages continue for a three-day period.

Other taped broadcasts are subsequently made to show the enemy still in the field how his former friends who have rallied are progressing under government protection.

Many ralliers have said that this method of showing "follow-up progress" has encouraged them to rally. They asserted that they had wanted to rally but were not sure how they would be treated. These "follow-up" broadcasts have eliminated this fear for many Viet Cong.

"The whole key to our Psyops program is quick reaction," said the lieutenant. "We try to get the rallier to make live broadcasts within hours of his surrender. This way it has more of an impact on his friends than if he had been gone for several days before they heard from his again."

The ralliers are reunited with their families at special government-operated centers, and the medical needs of the entire family are looked after. Few of those who rally have been reluctant to make the broadcasts after they see that they will be well-treated.

The trend appears to be continuing into this month as six ralliers have already surrendered in the first five days.

Once this Batangan Peninsula was considered a VC stronghold, but the enemy now seems to be losing the last remnants of his influence as the Vietnamization process moves on at full speed.

Americal gets new chaplain

By PFC Darrell McGillen

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. 10) – Chaplain Ira G. Moss of Hopkinsville, Ky., assumed the position of 23rd Infantry Division Chaplain during a recent change of command ceremony here in Chu Lai. He succeeds Chaplain Teddy R. Pope Jr. of Raleigh, Tenn. Both are lieutenant colonels.

Chaplain Moss comes to the 23rd Infantry Division from an assignment with the 6th U.S. Army Headquarters, The Presidio, in San Francisco. This is his first tour in Vietnam.

Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Ira G. Moss, newly appointed 23rd Infantry Division Chaplain here at Division Headquarters, Chu Lai, Vietnam. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Darrell McGillen)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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

Major General James L. Baldwin . . . . . Commanding General
Major Robert D. Bailey . . . . . Information Officer
First Lieutenant Marlin M. Miller . . . . . Officer-in-charge
Specialist 5 Thomas J. Neville . . . . . Production Editor
Specialist 4 David P. Goodrich . . . . . Editor
Specialist 4 Steven Elschlager . . . . . Assistant Editor

Monsoon rains can come in handy!

By SGT Matt Gryta

LZ CENTER, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Monsoon rains can benefit enemy troops by covering up or washing out all signs of movement. But heavy rains can also work to the advantage of American forces, as two enemy commanders recently learned at the cost of their lives.

The 3rd Platoon of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, was moving into a day laager site when 1st Lieutenant Norman K. Fredriksen of Huntington, N.Y., platoon leader, and a number of his men heard what sounded like the knocking of bamboo near the top of the rain-drenched hill they occupied.

"As a patrol I dispatched returned with negative results, the noise resumed. So I personally took out another patrol equipped with an M-60 crew," the lieutenant said. "We were determined to locate the noise and identify it."

Moving east along the base of the hill, studded with frequently used rock-made trails, the nine-man "Gimlet" patrol picked up the aroma of food cooking. A search of the area, however, revealed neither hootch areas nor signs of recent activity.

With the intensity of the rain increasing and the noises ceasing once again, Lt. Frederiksen swung his patrol west for an investigation of the top of the hill.

"Since it was a light patrol, we moved quickly and after a short time we came upon a large French-style hootch with three walls and an open front situated on a terrace four feet above us," he noted.

"Five NVA were inside and having just finished eating their supper were sitting on the floor talking animatedly.

"It continued to rain hard, which provided us with perfect concealment because visibility was poor, and they couldn't hear our movement. This enabled us to move within five meters of the hootch along the edge of and below the terrace.

"After I positioned all my men on line in fighting positions with sights trained on the enemy troops, my RTO and I moved to the right side of the terrace so I could better supervise the operation.

"Before I could get set up, though, I spotted movement in some thick shrubbery between myself and the hootch and yelled out to my men to watch out for their right side. With that, my machinegunner opened up on the hootch with his M-60."

"Two of the NVA were killed outright in our first volley," reported the machinegunner, Specialist 4 Mel E. Hamman of Arenzville, Ill. "The other three made an initial faint-hearted effort to grab their weapons which were stacked against the back wall, but instead dove toward the middle of the hootch into a hole which looked like the beginnings of a bunker being built inside the structure."

As Hamman and a few other "Gimlets" moved in on the trapped enemy, one of the NVA attempted to toss a Chicom grenade up through the hole, but failed because the grenade exploded before completely clearing the opening.

Seconds later fragmentation grenades tossed into the hole finished off the hostile troops.

In addition to capturing six AK-47 rifles and ten Chicom grenades from inside the hootch, the "Gimlets" captured one of the enemy found cowering in the bushes just outside the structure.

Aids reenlistment

By MSG William Turner

"It's a widely accepted fact that good leaders get reenlistments. It's one of our jobs as career counselors to see that only the most qualified men stay Army." These are the words of Sergeant Major Paul J. Haddox, Career Counselor Supervisor of the 23rd Infantry Division.

Sergeant Major Haddox, a veteran of 25 years of active service has the distinction of serving in the Navy and now the Army. He was assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division from the Recruiting Main Station, Dallas, in September of last year, bringing to the staff valuable administrative and counseling experience.

He served in the Navy from 1942 through 1946. In 1948 he enlisted in the Army after a visit from the local recruiter.

His career has taken him to assignments in France, Korea Germany and other countries as well as a variety of state-side posts.

A dedicated soldier and one who is sold on the Army reenlistment program, Haddox explained the reenlistment program in the 23rd Infantry Division, some changes designed to enhance the Americal's "Re-up" program, and areas he feels need more emphasis.

The major change in our program are soldiers. They have become more important especially with the "new" Army concept. The young soldier today who wants to make the Army his career has more options and opportunity to do so. However, I find that many men in the division don't know who their unit reenlistment NCO is. This is one man everyone in the unit should know.

"People seem to be afraid to consult the career counselor, but he is able to provide information on service benefits during and after service in addition to selling the Army as a career. We present the facts and it's up to the individual to decide if he wants to make the service a career," Haddox explained.

A recent change in reenlistment options are available to American soldiers in Vietnam, especially in the 11 MOS Series who would like to serve as Security Guards, Military Police and Door Gunners. Other options at the completion of foreign service provides reenlistment options for service schools, CONUS station of choice, Overseas areas and Airborne training depending on the soldier's mental and physical qualifications.

SGM Haddox said the variable reenlistment bonus is a big boost to the program even though many men are not aware that their MOS could have a vrb factor of two, three or four, which guarantees a minimum of $1,600 and a maximum of 10,000 upon reenlistment

"In order to do a good job and make our program more meaningful, we have begun a series of reenlistment inspections to bring our program at the unit level up to standard. Examples of this are training conferences for the unit, battalion and brigade career counselors and an incentive awards program," Haddox said.

He further stated that the key to the success of the program within the division is the honest and sincere interest of the commander and NCOs. Reenlistments are people, and our most precious commodity are good men .

Sergeant Ho Van Minh of the 210th Ordnance Battalion removes rust and grime from one of the newly rebuilt spindles for the 155mm Howitzer. (MACV Photo by SSG Paul E. Johnson, USMC)

Some finished, some waiting to be done, Sergeant Ho Van Minh, ARVN machinist begins the business of rebuilding a spindle for the 155mm Howitzer. (MACV Photo by SSG Paul E. Johnson, USMC)

ARVN machinists save dollars by scoring spindle breakthrough

DA NANG (ARVN I Corps, IO) – ARVN machinists of the 210th Ordnance Battalion have found their own way of keeping the costs of war down, while also increasing the use of certain items in their supply inventory.

An idea by Lieutenant Colonel Ho Doan Tiem, 81st Ordnance Group commander, started things rolling last July. Colonel Tiem wanted a way to modify the used spindles of 155mm howitzers so that the spindles could be reused instead of being discarded.

When the order reached the Machine Shop of the 210th, Sergeant Phan Van Xung found the way, and found it could be done cheaply.

The spindle, resembling a large welder's rivet, contains the charge, that fires the powder, that propells the shell, that sends Charlie scurrying for cover.

When used frequently with a No. 7 charge, the life time of the spindle is short. The No. 7 charge is used when seeking maximum range out of the long guns, and tends to expand the canal which guides it through the spindle.

Before, on the old style spindles, this could be easily remedied by inserting a fresh, screw-in type muzzle to the canal. But, when a new, disposable spindle came out, the policy was to use it, and discard it.

The new spindles cost $63.00 each. With Colonel Tiem's guidance, and Sergeant Xung's machinist know-how, the ARVN machinists are now rebuilding the new spindles at a cost of approximately $6.00. This is doubling the use of the spindles at a less than 10 per cent increase over the original cost. It is an actual savings of $57.00 each time one is rebuilt.

In rebuilding them, the muzzle of the canal is widened, threaded, and a new muzzle screwed in and sealed. The ARVN machinists are turning them out at a rate of about 10 per week.

Captain John H. Flournoy, an ordnance advisor with the 210th, says, "We don't know for sure about the American units in Vietnam, but we believe the 210th is the first to do this among the ARVN, and quite possibly, among the American units.

American Friends make new arms and legs for Quang Ngai Vietnamese

This young man from Quang Ngai seeks help from Roger Marshall to adjust his newly produced leg on the first fitting. (U. S. Army Photo By SP4 Guy Winkler)

By SP4 Guy Winkler

QUANG NGAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Eight-year-old Nguyen could once run faster than any other eight-year-old in his village. He can no longer run and play with his friends today because he accidently stepped on a booby trap and lost both his legs.

Losing an arm or leg from a booby trap explosion can be a traumatic experience for any child or adult.

The American Friends Service Committee in Quang Ngai restores hope for life by making new arms and legs for Vietnamese civilian amputees.

Functioning as an independent program since 1967, it is funded and administered by the Quaker Service, Vietnam and operates a Rehabilitation Center in conjunction with the Quang Ngai Provincial Hospital providing "impartial humanitarian aid to disabled people."

The staff of the Rehabilitation Center consists of six Quaker team members from England: a doctor, a certified prosthetist (maker of artificial limbs), three physical therapists, and a co-ordinator-administrator.

Walking into the Prosthetics Center, a visitor sees happy children playing in and around the building. They are no longer hobbling on one leg or lying around with no legs at all. They have regained the hope to live a normal life with artificial limbs.

Mr. Louis P. Kubicka, the Quang Ngai Quaker Service Field Director says, "The most extensive thrust of the center continues to be the training of Veitnamese personnel in making and fitting of artificial limbs and braces, and the production and fitting of these. With a working staff averaging about 16 prosthetists, brace makers and trainee prosthetists, under the teaching and supervision of the team prosthetist, our production has climbed to approximately 80 artificial limbs and braces per month. Our salaried Vietnamese staff numbers 47, and we have a wage-earning maintenance crew of 11."

With help from Vietnamese trainees, Quaker Service has been able to give physical therapy to about 35 patients daily throughout the past year.

In addition to the therapeutic aspect of the Rehabilitation Center, the surgical facilities of the center, conducted by the doctor and two Vietnamese assistants, makes it possible to average 45 operations per month.

The Quaker staff, working and living in Quang Ngai, are in Vietnam for an indefinate time. Some have been here for more than three years.

"We will be here as long as the war continues and the people come to us for help," says Roger Marshall, prosthetist. "We will help anyone who comes to us."

Young and old alike are treated and fitted for new limbs at the Prosthetics Center in Quang Ngai.

After the stump of the missing member is healed, a plaster of Paris mold is made to begin the production of the artificial leg. The hardened plaster mold is then covered with plastic to conform to the stump impression. After the rest of the leg is constructed from wood to the size of the remaining leg or proportional to the size of the body, the plastic cup to the stump is built on the leg and smoothed, ready for the first fitting.

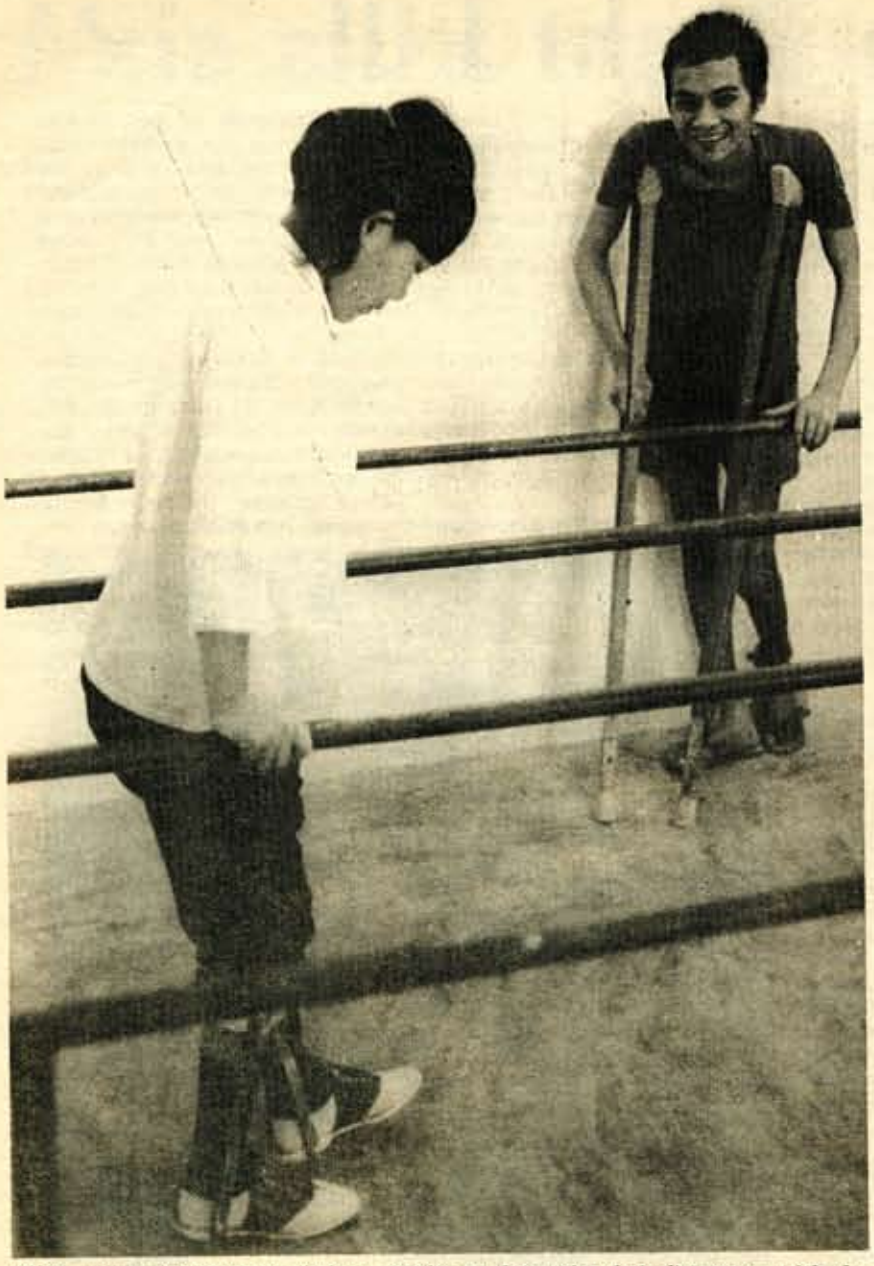
The Rehabilitation Center, not only interested in making legs for people, also helps the handicap find work when they are able.

"In this past year we have continued and expanded a program for vocational training and placement of our physically rehibilitated patients," says Mr. Kubicka. "Two Vietnamese staff members are involved in this program, a social worker and a 'supervisor of patient services'. We teach interested patients to make Vietnamese conical hats, weave plastic mats, and have two men who have learned to make and are now producing wooden crutches.

"Quaker Service is also working to develop a wheelchair made from locally available materials and appropriate to Quang Ngai conditions. A former patient (an amputee) is employed full-time in this endeavor," he says. "We also finance and arrange for training for patients in other occupations appropriate to their situations, from sewing-training and shoemaking to X-Ray technology. The social worker arranges for welfare for our needy patients and for patients of the hospital paraplegic ward, perhaps the neediest persons in Quang Ngai. Over the past six months we have helped in these various ways an average of perhaps 30 persons per month."

In addition to all other activities, the doctor of the American Friends Service Committee makes weekly visits to prisoners of the Quang Ngai Reform Center where he examines and treats the sickest. When the illness is acute, the Rehabilitation Center Co-ordinator sees that the prisoner is transferred to the Quang Ngai Provincial Hospital.

Youngsters everywhere enjoy riding tricycles. This Vietnamese boy from Quang Ngai is overjoyed to find that he can ride with an artificial leg made for him at the Quaker Service Prosthetics Center. (U. S. Army Photo by SP4 Guy Winkler)



These young Vietnamese civilians rejoice as they take their first steps with the aid of braces and crutches provided by the Prosthetics Center. (U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Guy Winkler)

Roger Marshall demonstrates how an artificial leg functions. All of the artificial limbs are produced in a workshop at the Center by Vietnamese civilians trained by Marshall. (U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Guy Winkler)

Thirteen year old Hen awaits for his new legs at the Quang Ngai Service Center. He lost his legs when he accidentally set off a booby trap. (U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Guy Winkler)

Sergeant Steve Howard of Monroe, La., with Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry takes time out to read and enjoy a Sunday comic paper during a recent operation in the 196th Infantry Brigade. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Stephen Belfeld)

Enemy collision fatal

By SP4 James Tabata

FSB BRONCO, (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – Two careless NVA died recently when they blundered head-on into alert "Jungle Warriors" from the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry on a trail five miles northwest of FSB San Juan Hill.

"A lot of fresh sandal tracks were evident as we moved along the side of a thickly vegetated hill," recalls PFC Rodney Barker, pointman for his squad of Delta Company. "Elephant grass grew from the top of the hill to the bottom and was tall enough to overlap the trail, making strict noise discipline nearly impossible."

Spotting movement to his front, Barker alerted his squad which then moved forward cautiously. Rounding a slight bend in the trail, Barker confronted two NVA who had obviously not expected the meeting.

"Neither man was able to get off a single shot," reported Barker. "I opened up first and the slackman and M-60 machinegunner joined in. We got them both before they could fire their weapons at us."

After a thorough search of the area, the infantrymen returned to the scene of the action and confiscated two AK-47s, magazines, ammunition and two NVA ponchos.

Eagle flight kills six

By SGT Louis Miller

LZ STINSON, (19th Inf. Bde. IO) – Using the highly successful tactic of eagle flights, infantrymen from the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade killed six Viet Cong, captured one, received a rallier and found 2000 pounds of rice in a day's activity south of Chu Lai recently.

Bravo Company of the "Ready Rifles" was making a series of helicopter-borne assaults into suspected enemy locations–a tactic extremely profitable for the battalion in the past several months–when one of their targets was near a deserted hamlet. As the infantrymen approached the hamlet, Specialist 4 Dom Davis of Kansas City, Mo., a rifleman, spotted a Viet Cong near a building.

"I fired and hit him, but he got back up and went into another structure," said Specialist Davis.

The infantrymen then approached the structure and formed a perimeter around it. Several of the "Ready Rifles" moved closer and, after an exchange of hand grenades, entered the building.

"When I got inside, I saw a bunker in the rear," said Specialist 4 Dale Nine of Warren, Ohio. "In the bunker I found two Viet Cong who had been killed by our grenades and rifle fire."

The men made a careful search of the structure and found a false wall. Behind the wall another Viet Cong appeared and quickly yelled "Chieu Hoi".

After being questioned, the rallier led the infantrymen to a hand grenade hidden in a nearby hedgerow. Meanwhile, the rest of the unit searched the hamlet and came up with 200 pounds of locally-grown unpolished rice in poor condition buried in various locations. The rice was destroyed.

A short time later, another element of Bravo Company was inserted into an area near a deserted hamlet where supporting gunships had spotted several enemy troops. It didn't take long for the "Ready Rifles" to establish contact with the enemy.

"We were walking towards the hamlet when we spotted two enemy soldiers hiding in ambush positions in some brush," said Specialist 4 John Petrill of Jeanette, Pa. "We opened fire and killed both."

Specialist Petrill and Specialist 4 Phillip Ridge of Detroit had just enough time to change magazines in their rifles before they spotted two more enemy. "As soon as we replaced our magazines, we saw two more Viet Cong," said Ridge. "Again we both fired as they resisted and we brought them both down."

Just as the two infantrymen stopped firing, another enemy came out of the brush and surrendered. Near him, the infantrymen found a hand grenade and nearby was another hand grenade, this one booby trapped. It was destroyed.

This infantryman of Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry can't make it back to the rear to receive his monthly pay so finance personnel take his pay to him.
(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Stephen Belfeld)

Americal action during week is light; total hits 56

(Continued from page 1)

Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, killed two enemy soldiers in two separate engagements. In both actions, the "Ready Rifles" engaged a small group of Viet Cong moving along trails.

While searching a small village south of Chu Lai, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, engaged and killed a Viet Cong when he tried to evade into a nearby woodline.

Action was scattered for the infantrymen of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, as the "Regulars" killed three enemy and detained several Viet Cong suspects and found a tunnel complex southeast of Chu Lai.

While on patrol, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, found several tunnel complexes. The "Regulars" searched the tunnels and detained five Viet Cong suspects.

In a day laager position southeast of Chu Lai, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, received two ralliers who were extracted to a nearby landing zone.

Later, Bravo Company found several baskets containing 500 pounds of rice. The "Regulars" detained five Vietnamese and extracted them to a nearby landing zone for further questioning.

The "Professionals" of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, killed two enemy soldiers and captured an enemy mortar in operations conducted northwest of Chu Lai.

While in a night defensive, perimeter, Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, engaged and killed one Viet Cong. The "Professionals" also captured 25 pounds of rice.

In other action in the 198th Infantry Brigade's area of operation, gunships from D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, observed and engaged four military structures with rocket fire. The gunships killed two Viet Cong.

In a day laager position southeast of Chu Lai, a team from G Company, 75th Rangers, engaged two enemy near the infantrymen's position. Two enemy were killed, and an AK-47 rifle, a 9mm pistol, and four Chicom hand grenades were taken in the action.

Gunships from D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, engaged and destroyed four military structures, two bunkers, and what appeared to be two ammunition depots south of Chu Lai. There were secondary explosions.

IRON MOUNTAIN

Combat activity was moderate this past week in the 11th Bde's AO as the 11th Bde's "Jungle Warriors" accounted for 20 enemy kills and destroyed several bunker complexes.

Infantrymen from the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, had five enemy kills in various action in the 11th Bde's AO this past week as Bravo Company killed two NVA with M-79 fire in the foothills south of Minh Long. Another enemy was killed as Delta Company, working near the Song Ve River west of Duc Pho, engaged and killed an evading soldier.

The remaining two kills of the 4th of the 3rd resulted when Alpha Company, working south of Minh Long, engaged and killed them. Operating near the Song Ve River southeast of Minh Long, Delta Company detained two enemy suspects.

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry had a very successful week in distroying enemy hootches as they accounted for 16 of the enemy structures. Found inside were 1,000 pounds of corn, seven automatic weapons and a variety of VC equipment.

An ammo cache consisting of five automatic weapons, four boxes of fuses, 25 60mm rounds, 16 82mm rounds and a Chicom hand grenade was also found by Alpha Company near the Song Ve River west of Duc Pho.

The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry accounted for three enemy kills in two separate actions beginning with Delta Company engaging and killing two enemy soldiers in the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai City. Two Chicom hand grenades were captured in the encounter. The other enemy kill came when Delta Company engaged and killed a VC attempting to set up a booby trap on a trail in the lowlandd northwest of Duc Pho.

"Warlords" of the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for eight enemy kills as they were patroling an area northwest of Minh Long. Also, on four separate occasions, they discovered and destroyed four huts, a bunker and five sampans while sweeping an area west of Duc Pho near the Song Ve River.

In action that took place southwest of Quang Ngai City, gunships of the 174th Aviation Company spotted and engaged four enemy soldiers. The enemy soldiers were all killed as a result of the action.

A total of 12 Hoi Chanhs turned themselves over to infantrymen of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry this past week.

HAWK HILL

In action this past week, the 196th Infantry Brigade "Chargers" killed ten enemy soldiers and captured several large caches.

Early this week Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, while in their night defensive position, killed one NVA with small arms fire southwest of Da Nang.

While preparing to leave their night defensive, position, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, received AK fire from four NVA. They engaged, killing two and capturing one AK-47, one AK-50, three Chicom grenades, 10 pounds of rice and assorted medical supplies.

While on sweep west of Tam Ky, Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, engaged three VC with small arms fire, killing two while one evaded.

Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, while on a search and clear mission found 100 RPG rounds, 67 boxes of 30 caliber ammunition, 200 rounds of 51 caliber ammunition, 50 pounds of explosives, two Chinese radios and one Chinese switchboard.

Early last week Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, while in their day defensive position southwest of Tam Ky engaged one VC with small arms fire. They then swept the area and found a blood trail.

Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while on patrol west of Tam Ky last week, observed three VC. They engaged with small arms fire, killing one.

While on patrol west of Tam Ky, Charger 13 of the 196th Brigade Aviation, received small arms fire from approximately 12 VC. They returned fire and killed two VC.

Sabre 78 of D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, received fire from an unknown size enemy force. They returned fire and killed two enemy soldiers.

Summertime improves Mars-calls

By SP4 Don Newton

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – An increasing number of Mars (Military Affiliated Radio System) calls will become available to personnel in the northern regions of South Vietnam with the coming of stateside summer months, according to a Mars station representative here.

"Our monthly rate of completed calls for the 196th Infantry Brigade will grow from roughly 600 calls, which we handle during the monsoon months, to perhaps 1,200 calls, which we project for June, July and August," said Sergeant Richard J. Horton, the senior radio operator at Hawk Hill's Mars station from West Islip, N.Y.

In handling calls for men in the 196th Inf. Bde, Horton's telephone net covers most American installations in Quang Tin Province which is located in Military Region One.

He explained that relatively poor stateside contact during the monsoon season here is due primarily to winter atmospheric conditions for the northern hemisphere, combined with such astronomical factors as meteor showers and magnetic storms.

"If their connection is poor, people often assume that the fault lies with either the Mars operator or the Mars equipment," said Horton. "Usually, it's neither. For instance, during December, January and February, conditions favor the southern hemisphere for making Mars calls. However, we're located in the northern hemisphere, so we suffer the consequences."

Horton stated that Hawk Hill's Mars station is responsible for putting through roughly 10 per cent of all Mars calls in South Vietnam during about nine months of the year. Such efficiency may be partially explained by the three to four enthusiastic operators who answer phones 21 hours daily, shutting down from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

"Last summer's conditions were so good that we solicited people in the brigade to take advantage of their Mars station," said the senior radio operator. "During those slack periods, we would call various fire bases and work sections to let guys know our telephone lines were available. We'll solicit again this summer, if necessary."

Personnel wishing to make a Hawk Hill Mars call should place their request preferably at 6:30 a.m. or 8 p.m., although listings will be accepted at all times except during the shut-down period.

Stateside contact varies considerably, but the northern-most stations in South Vietnam, such as the one here, pick up stateside contact about 7 a.m. for the day shift. For the night shift, this contact usually begins between 10:30 p.m. and 2:30 a.m.

For personnel interested, one Mars call is permitted every seven days.

Lovely Diane Duran is writing you a reminder to take your pill--malaria pill of course.

New helo terminal

By SP4 Tom Mano

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Due to the severe weather and length of travel, troop movements in Vietnam can be exasperating. Realizing how crucial it is to get a man back to the field as soon as possible, the 196th Infantry Brigade has inaugurated a program providing for a minimum of delay.

"The key word in instituting a PAX (passenger) terminal is control," said 1st Lieutenant Russell P. Smith of Cambridge, Md., OIC if the terminal.

"All units on Hawk Hill are co-ordinating to make this a successful project," continued Smith. "For instance, Company A of the 26th Engineers has constructed a radio shack and is working on a latrine. Brigade Aviation is providing the choppers and helping to schedule the Chinook (CH-47 Helicopters flights, while S-4 (Intelligence) is controlling troop movement."

"On any given day we might handle men going to LZs; Center, West, Young and Mary Ann," said Sergeant First Class Lawrence E. Roth of Oxford, Md., the man who actually runs the terminal.

In the past, troops coming to Hawk Hill for transportation to their respective firebases have had to wander around the Chinook pad and chance getting hurt by one of the large "birds".

"We want to relieve them of the worry of getting hurt or just missing a ride to their destination," said Roth. "It can be very depressing to run for a chopper and watch it fly away."

At present there is a medium GP (general purpose) tent servicing the wayfarers. The tent can hold 40 people in semi-cramped quarters.

"We have plans for two C-huts in the near future," remarked Roth. "We want to make the men as comfortable as possible in their brief stay. We'd even like to have a large coffee urn."

Most of the men come from Chu Lai on a convoy from their rear unit. If they are unable to get out because of weather or an unavailability of aircraft, they have to be sent back to Chu Lai.

"We don't have the facilities on the hill to keep them overnight," explained Roth. "That and the fact that they're so needed out in the field is why it's so crucial that we get them there with a minimum of delay."

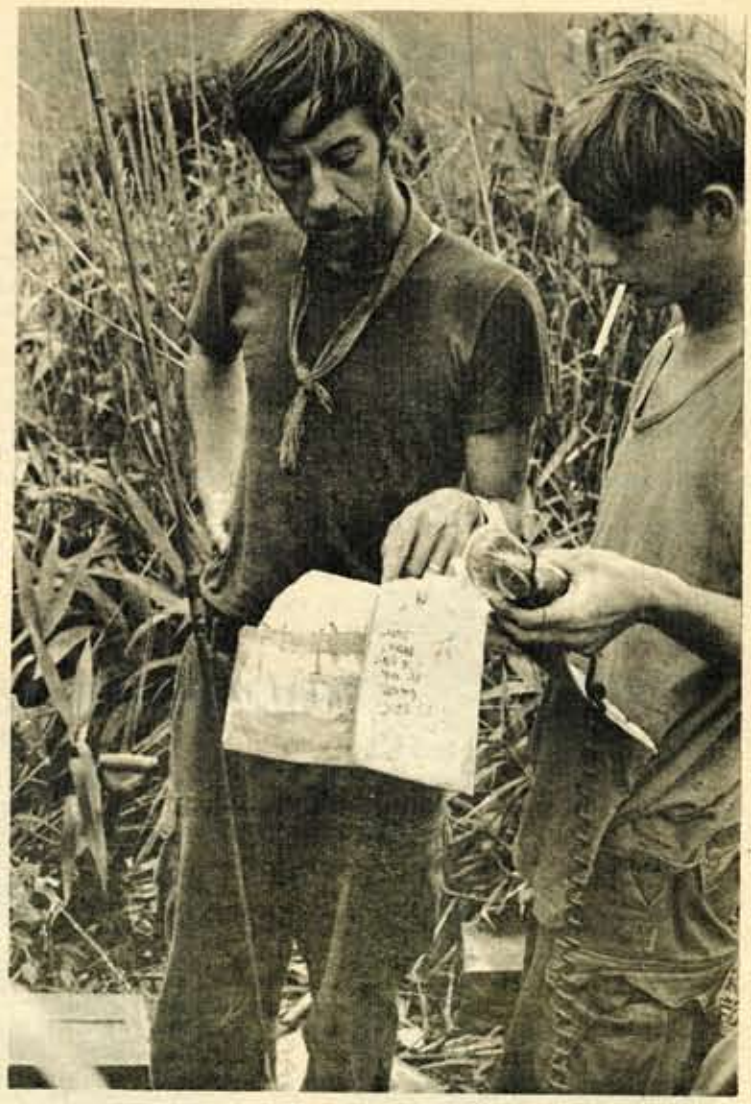
In the convoy there is a non-commissioned officer or officer in charge. His job is to keep the men in one central location until a "bird" arrives.

"Immediately upon arrival here I tell him his ETD (estimated time of departure) and advise him of safety precautions on the pad," said Roth. "He in turn relates the information to his men."

"They must be doing their job well," he concluded, "because to my knowledge we've had nobody missing their flights."

Presently the terminal is handling about 40 people a day and has handled over 300 since its conception. These are men who have just come in-country or who have gone to Chu Lai to have medical attention or make appointments such as finance.

Another step has been taken to increase the efficiency and strength in the 196th Infantry Brigade. The goal for the "Chargers": perfection.



A forward observer determines his location with the aid of his radio-telephone operator. Both men with Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry were taking part in a recent operation by the 196th Infantry Brigade. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Stephen Belfeld)

Et tu Allard?

By PFC Fred Abatemarco

CHU LAI, (23rd Div. IO) – Allard K. Lowenstein, former Democratic Congressman from Long Beach, N.Y., recently visited units of the 23rd Infantry Division while on an unofficial tour of South Vietnam. His purpose was to meet with constituents of New York's 5th Congressional District and to gain a better understanding of what is happening in the Republic of Vietnam.

The former Congressman has made several tours of Vietnam. He has traveled extensively in the 1st Military Region, and has also visited American installations in the Mekong Delta.

Inclement weather forced an abbreviation of Mr. Lowenstein's stay in Chu Lai, but he was able to talk with New York residents stationed on LZ Dottie, LZ Young, LZ Stinson, LZ Hawk Hill and with the 26th Engineers Battalion.

In last November's election, Mr. Lowenstein was defeated by the Republican candidate, Norman F. Lent. Nonetheless, he extended himself openly towards the men he was able to meet here. "It is important that they know that they have people to talk to about their problems," he commented.

In addition to listening to the men and talking with them, Mr. Lowenstein offered to call their families when he returned to New York, and also promised to look into particular questions concerning education and employment.

The former Representative's concern for the situation in Vietnam is not, however, confined to the immediate problems of his district's constituents.

There are a lot of people doing a lot of hard work here to accomplish goals which are difficult goals," he stated. He also expressed interest in the plight of American prisoners of war.

"Every American is deeply concerned about the treatment of our prisoners of war. However, in addition to being indignant about Hanoi's failure to abide by the Geneva Convention, which we have every right to be, there is also the much larger question of what it is that will ease the suffering of the prisoners of war," he noted.

Sergeant William D. Baldwin working with Company B, 5th BAttalion, 46th Infantry, drops himself into a well to check out a possible tunnel complex in Quang Tin Province west of Tam Ky. (U.S. Army Photo)

What is a man with his initials doing in Nam for 1,000 days?

By CPT George F. Bennet

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – The average tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam is a well-known 365 days.

Because of this, Captain Ulysses Steven Adolph of Flint, Mich., may be considered somewhat unique. When he departs Vietnam on Feb. 9 of this year, he will have completed over 1,000 days.

Captain Adolph feels that "Combat is where a soldier belongs." Such feelings definitely indicate he is career oriented.

Perhaps Adolph's parents were especially perceptive when they christened him with the initials--U.S.A. Perhaps they realized their son would dedicate his life to the United States of America as a career soldier.

However, Capt. Adolph is not an exception, for there are many soldiers who have spent long periods of time in Vietnam. There are also many who have volunteered to return.

Reasons for a soldier volunteering to return or to remain in Vietnam are abundant. Very few enjoy the actual combat of the battlefield. Most readily admit there is or was a job to be done.

This is the case with Capt. Adolph. When questioned as to his logic for remaining, he answers with a multitude of reasons.

As a bachelor he feels the venefits for doing his duty are tremendous. He likes to travel and because of the various incentives for extending, he has visited Manila, Taipei, Sidney, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok, France, Germany and Italy.

In all, the captain has taken three special 30 day leaves, four R & R's and four ordinary seven day leaves.

Better yet, as a career soldier, he has been able to acquire invaluable experience.

Upon his departure from Vietnam, he will be authorized to wear the combat patch of either the 5th Special Forces, MACV, the 25th Infantry Division or the 23rd Infantry Division.

His duty assignments, like the units of assignment, have been many and varied. Currently he is the S-3 Air for the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Action was seen by Capt. Adolph in all four Military Regions. The 23rd Infantry Division soldier readily admits, however, that when he arrived in-country in May, 1968, he was a "green" second lieutenant, as scared and nervous as anyone.

"When I first arrived in Vietnam, the TET Offensive of "68" was still going strong," he said. "I knew it couldn't get worse. Battalion size unit were chalking up daily body counts of 50 or 60."

He thinks Vietnamization is working as typified by his statement, "The Vietnamese have come a hell of a long way since 1968." He also feels many ARVN Regional and Popular Force units are as good as their U.S. counterparts.

Because of Capt. Adolphs experience, within the different areas of Vietnam, his statements should carry a degree of authority. He feels, as do many higher level decision-makers, that MR Three and Four need only technical support: that the job in MR One and Two is progressing well. Nevertheless, he believes much remains to be accomplished.

Since he has spent so much time in-country, the obvious question of his fluency of the Vietnamese language was posed. His answer: "It varies according to the situation."

Once while leading CIDG's, his interpreter was medevaced during the early stages of a battle in Mr Three. Because his unit was the only ground support for four American mechanized units, it was imperative that good communications be maintained. "When the battle ended 18 hours later, I was totally fluent," the captain commented with tongue in cheek.