SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Wading through the lowlands southeast of LZ Stinson, a piontman with ALpha Company, 1st Bn. 52nd Inf. leads a patrol on a recent search and clear operation.

(U. S. Army Photo by PFC James Dunn)

Chief in 23d

By SP4 Lee Habich

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV IO) – Remarking on his fifth visit to Vietnam in the past five years, Chaplain (Major General) Francis L. Sampson, Chief of Army Chaplains, noted that living conditions have changed very little.

"The mud is as deep as ever, and the men still face the hardships of loneliness and discontentment," the Chaplain commented, speaking spontaneously to an informal gathering of division chaplains in the General's lounge at 23rd Infantry Division Headquarters in Chu Lai.

Chaplain Sampson, well known for his ability to communicate with the troops, visited the division during a recent fact-finding mission. The purpose of his visit was to assess troop morale and the state of the Chaplain Corps in Vietnam.

The Chief, a Catholic priest in the Army since 1940, was captured twice during the Second World War, once in Normandy and again at Bastogne. He has written a book entitled The Parachute Padre and Lookout Below.

"We have a better breed of men in the Army today than we had thirty years ago," the General said. "They have more initiative, are smarter and have more compassion for one another than we had years ago."

In addition the Chief acknowledged that the men are doing an outstanding job supporting orphanages and dispensaries in the division.

Commenting on the progress the Chaplain Corps has made during his years of service, Chaplain Sampson pointed to an eccumentical spirit within the Corps that has carried over to religious organizations in the States.

"Working among men of other faiths affords the chaplain a unique opportunity to broaden his basis of inter-religious understanding," General Sampson observed. "The chaplain gets a breath of understanding and insight into the depth of faith of other men."

Summing up his thirty years in the service, the Chief said that he would like to be remembered as someone who, despite everything else, loved soldiers. Considering the ties he has made with the men who have known him, he has no cause for concern.

Division in light action

By SP4 Steven Elschlager

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Two weeks ago soldiers of the 23rd Infantry Division saw light action as 84 enemy soldiers were killed with several suspects detained. This week 74 enemy soldiers were killed in the Americal AO with the 11th Brigade witnessing most of the heavy action.

IRON MOUNTAIN

Action in the 11th Brigade two weeks ago was the scene of the heaviest fighting in months as the "Jungle Warriors" along with the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for 48 enemy kills. There was moderate action in the 11th Brigade area of operation this past week as the "Jungle Warriors" along with the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for the deaths of 42 enemy solders.

The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry was credited with 12 enemy kills as elements of Delta Company, patrolling the lowlands northeast of Mo Duc, detected an enemy soldier evading towards a shelter of a grove. The VC was killed as he was engaged with small arms fire. Delta Company later made contact in the same area as they engaged five VC resulting in one VC kill. Again, Delta Company was credited with six kills as they discovered six grave sites in an area northeast of Mo Duc. They were believed killed during contact two days before. The remaining four enemy deaths were also made by Delta Company as they engaged an unknown sized enemy force in the lowlands northeast of Mo Duc.

The 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry accounted for five enemy kill's as Alpha Company, operating in the foothills west of Sa Hug Nh, engaged the five soldiers with small arms fire at 200 meters.

Bravo Company 123rd Aviation Battalion, accounted for the deaths of 21 North Vietnamese soldiers. The kills were recorded during several incidents in an area west of Minh Long.

This week the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry were credited with three Viet Cong kills as Alpha Company, working in an area west of Sa Huy Nh, detected movement near their position. The infantrymen engaged the suspected enemy area resulting in two Viet Cong deaths. Moments later, they engaged five Viet Cong with small arms fire, killing one VC.

The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry accounted for two Viet Cong deaths in the lowlands north of Mo Duc.

Bravo Company of the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for 37 kills this past week as a ship flying over an area west of Minh Long spotted and engaged one enemy soldier, killing him. The aviators also found and destroyed five huts. Flying over the lowlands north of Mo Duc, a ship observed and engaged 10-15 enemy soldiers, killing two. In the same area, a LOH received enemy fire. Returning the fire, the aviators killed three VC. Later, in the same area, elements of Bravo Company engaged the enemy again, and killed 17 enemy, captured two wounded NVA, and picked up a Chieu Hoi. Bravo Company, working in the lowlands north of Mo Duc, engaged an unknown sized enemy force, killing 14 and capturing three.

HAWK HILL

Twelve enemy soldiers were killed and two large caches were found two weeks ago in the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operation.

Reconnaissance, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while in an observation post west of Tam Ky, observed four Viet Cong to their front. The VC engaged the "Gimlets" with small arms fire. The Recon element returned fire and killed two VC.

While on patrol Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry came upon a structure containing two VC, both were detained. Upon continuing the patrol engaged and killed one VC with small arms fire. During the action the two detainees atempted to seize one of the "Gimlets" weapons and escape. They were engaged with small arms fire, killing both.

Also this week Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, found approximately 150 weapons in good condition while on a search and clear mission southwest of Tam Ky.

(Continued page 6)

HELLO... PROJECT HELP?

QUESTION: How much money can you take out of country on Deros?

Answer: According to Macv Directive 37-6, you are allowed to take back with you only $1,000 unless the total pay on the last Military Pay Voucher was greater. However no greater than shown on the last MPV.

Get the facts!

By SP4 Steven Elschlager

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – What can be done about drug abuse? Why Marijuana? Why Heroin? Why LSD? The time has come to bring discussions of drug abuse out into the open. Only through enlightenment–through getting the facts–can young people develop a correct attitude toward drugs.

In the home there is a need for more frank and open dialogue between parents and children. All can benefit from a better understanding of drugs–their beneficial roles when properly used, and their dangers when abused.

For those who already dependent on drugs, there is hope. Through detoxification, physical dependence on any abused drug can be overcome. It is the psychological dependence that causes the greatest problem. Today, society recognizes its duty to help.

Local mental health clinics and special drug information centers supply advice and information on group discussions and other forms of therapy to help the drug abuser. With the help that is available, anyone, if he has the desire and the strength of character, can break the habit and prepare for a new start as a respected member of society.

Those who have not abused drugs should learn the facts and be made aware of the probable consequences of drug misuse. Pharmacists, physicians, drug manufactures, concerned business firms and the military and civilian agencies of our government are undertaking an educational campaign of the use and misuse of drugs.

After learning the facts, what the individual does with his life must be his own decision. Most young people will use good judgement and choose the right road. Every sensible individual will seriously ponder the wisdom of misusing drugs even once, for it is the psychologically inadequate person who becomes a slave to his habit and a burden to society.

A 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Brigade 4.2 inch mortar crew register their tube on surrounding hillsides in preparation for the defense of an Americal firebase. (U. S. Army Photo by SP4 Peter Sorensen)

An average day with 'Gimlet' patrol

By SGT Matt Gryta

LZ CENTER (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The noonday sun beat down as the small 23rd Infantry Division patrol edged quietly out of a patch of thick foliage into a hootch area. A Viet Cong was preparing a meal as the pointman, Specialist Four Sam Hartman (Senecaville, Ohio) inched his way closer. The VC turned around, spotted the young soldier and let out a cry.

Mere seconds passed before another Viet Cong came running out of a hootch. He halted, looking down the barrels of two American M-16 rifles. His AK-47 rifle was recovered from a nearby tree. Both detainees were extracted to the rear.

Late that night the 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers slipped unnoticed into another hootch area and began a painstaking search of each structure. The search paid off as the hamlet chief was found sleeping under one of the hootches.

The chief was extracted to the rear and found to be a VC sympathizer. Interrogators subsequently gained some valuable information about enemy activity in the area.

For the Reconnaissance Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, it was all in a day's work. On a recent operation the "Gimlets" killed 20 enemy, detained eight more and confiscated five weapons.

The infantrymen achieved their success by borrowing some of "Charlie's" own tricks. On one typical day's operations the Americans were moving through thick, tangled terrain southeast of this firebase.

"No line companies had been through in about four months," said Sergeant William Milburn (Harriman, Tenn.), squad leader. "We were able to slip through an NVA day laager, undetected."

The 23rd Infantry Division soldiers set up an ambush 35 meters from the enemy position.

"Late in the evening one of them walked into our ambush," said SGT Milburn. "The next morning we found the body of an NVA officer." The NVA was later found to be a regional political officer.

Not every basecamp checked out by the Americans proved so hospitable.

"We were patrolling a ridgeline," said Staff Sergeant Gary Delton (Minneapolis), platoon sergeant, "when we ran into an NVA night laager."

The Americans began to receive fire; they responded with a barrage from their M16's.

"When the smoke cleared, we found four enemy dead and two AK-47's," said SSG Delton. On one of the bodies we found paymaster's kits with records dating back to 1965."

Later that evening they called helicopter gunships in on an NVA basecamp. The gunships scored two direct hits on bunkers.

"Not long ago we were moving down a trail when we noticed another freshly-cut trail running parallel to ours just a few meters away," said First Lieutenant Joseph D. Barrett (Burlington, Mills, N.C.), platoon leader.

The infantrymen checked out the trail and came upon an NVA campsite. The site was within 175 meters of the American's previous night laager.

"On assessing the situation," said 1st Lt. Barrett, "we decided that the enemy had either moved into attack our position, or had totally disregarded our force as a threat, or had completely missed our night position."

Another day had started.

Slowly and distinctly, that's the way 1st Lieutenant William Knight, New London, Ohio, teaches his Vietnamese students to pronounce the English words they are learning.

(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Ronald Cryderman)

23d awarded Cross

By SP4 Lee Habich

QUANG NGAI CITY, (23rd Infantry Division IO) – The 23rd Infantry Division was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm in a recent star-studded ceremony at the Second ARVN Division Organization Anniversary in the City Stadium here.

Major General James L. Baldwin, Commanding General of the 23d Inf Div, accepted the award which cited the "meritorious service" of the men of the 11th, 196th and 198th Brigades: the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry; the 3rd Battalion 21st Infantry and the 14th Aviation Battalion. The period for which the award is cited is August 21, 1969 through December 31, 1969 and March 31, 1970 through June 30, 1970.

Second ARVN Division Commanding General, Major General Nguyen Van Toan, made the presentation, personally pinning the campaign ribbons on the unit colors.

After the 2nd Infantry Division and 23d Infantry Division Commanders received the unit decoration 200 members of both divisions assembled to receive individual awards and decorations.

Awards presented include the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Gold Star, Silver Star and Bronze Star. In addition a number of ARVN personnel received promotions.

The ceremony, commencing with a 16-gun salute, lasted nearly two hours. The sandy Quang Ngai soccer stadium, disected midfield by the reviewing stand and the city's memorial to the war dead, flaunted troops standing four deep in ranks the entire length of the field.

Encompassing the field, the troops and the reviewing stand, hooths representing the various units displayed captured AK-47s, Russian machine guns, clothing and other war equipment.

On either side of the reviewing stand Quang Ngai citizens gathered in order to catch a glimpse of the ceremonies. Upon completion of the award presentation potite high school girls decked in the traiditional Vietnamese white Ao Dai placed colorful yellow and red wreths on the shoulders of those soldiers receiving awards.

Notification of the unit citation will now be forwarded to USARV to receive temporary authorization for division members to wear it.

Permanent authorization to wear the citation will be given to individuals assigned to the division during either of the periods cited. Individuals attached to the division during those periods must have been attached for a period of 30 consecutive days in order to receive permanent orders to wear the citation.

Individuals currently assigned to the division who were not assigned to the division during either of the periods cited will only be authorized to wear the citation while they are in the division.

Nurses celebrate 70th

By SP4 Lee Habich

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Twenty-third Infantry Division Commanding General James L. Baldwin and Assistant Division Commanding General Atterbury were guest speakers recently at the 91st Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai.

The cake and punch celebration marked the 70th birthday of the Army Nurses Corps, the oldest military nurse corps in the United States and the first women's component of the U.S. Armed Forces.

According to LTC Maxime Douglas, Assistant Chief Nurse at 91st Evac., there are 68 nurses at the 91st Evacuation Hospital, the largest medical installation in Chu Lai. The nurses, both men and women, alternate among the various shifts at 91st Evac. Thereby procuring practical experience in many different facets of nursing.

Commenting on the experience gianed by a nurse in a combat zone such as Chu Lai, LTC Douglas points out that the work, although at times difficult, is very rewarding. One year's experience in Vietnam for an Army nurse is easily equivalent to three or four years stateside.

196th combat aid station

By 1LT Jack Brettholz

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Saving lives is a routine matter for the men of Company C, 23rd Medical Battalion who man the aid station, one of only two of its kind in Vietnam, at LZ Hawk Hill. The landing zone is the home of the 196th Infantry Brigade "Chargers".

"Because of the size of the division's area of operations it often takes too long to medevac a wounded GI all the way to a hospital in Chu Lai," says Brigade Surgeon, Captain James G. Baron, of Denver.

"For instance, a man picked up in the northern reaches of the 196th's AO would not get to Chu Lai for at least an hour-probably more-after the dust-off call came in," he continued. "With a clearing station and dust-off crews located right here on Hawk Hill, however, that same man can be administered emergency treatment (replacement of lost fluids, insertion of chest tubes, tracheotomies) in about one third to one half the time. Often this can make the difference."

Two dust-off crews from the 236th Medical Detachment in Da Nang are kept on 24-hour call at the aid station. Able to reach any point in the 196th Bde. AO within 20 minutes, the dust-off crews usually fly at least two or three missions a day to and from the aid station. They also fly as many "backhauls" (further medevacs from the aid station to hospitals in Chu Lai).

Besides providing emergency care, the two doctors and eighteen medics at the clearing station stabilize and classify all wounds, in preparation for further treatment.

Vietnamese medics from New Hau Duc give medicine to Montagnard people who have recently arrived at the new settlement to flee Viet Cong control.

(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Guy Winkler)

SOUTHERN CROSS
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Re-up for 'pot of gold'

By SGM Paul J. Haddox

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO)–There is a "pot of gold" awaiting those who reenlist for the first time and hold one of the 279 Military Occupational Specialties designated as critical by the Army.

The pot of gold is in the form of the Variable Reenlistment Bonus (VRB). It can add as much as $8,000 to the regular reenlistment bonus, and in Vietnam this is tax free money.. Unless a professional athelete, it is difficult to receive such a bonus in the civilian world.

The VRB is only available to individuals reenlisting for the first time and meet the following requirements:

1) At least 21 months of active service in your current enlistment before reenlistment; 2) E-3 or higher; 3) classified in accordance with chapter 2, AR 600-200 and have an awarded MOS listed in section II, chapter 10, AR 600-200 (VRB list); and 4) reenlist for at least 48 additional months from the expiration date of prior term of service.

If a man meets all of the above requirements, he can collect a VRB in addition to his regular reenlistment bonus.

How is the VRB figured? At this time there are 279 critical MOS's divided into three categories: multiplier of 4, multiplier of 3 and multiplier of 2. Thee "multiplier of 4" category includes skills in most critical demand; "multiplier of 3" and "of 2" categories includes skills of a critical nature but not as critical as "multiplier of 4".

The multiplier category is the prime factor in figuring VRB. First, the reenlistment bonus is calculated. Then it is multiplied by four and the sum would be the VRB bonus. The VRB bonus will be added to the regular reenlistment bonus to get the total bonus.

As an example, an E-4 with 4 years of service with a primary MOS in the 12E bracket, reenlists for 6 years. He gets a regular bonus of $2,000 and his VRBB multiplier is three which gives him a VRB of $6,000. The total reenlistment bonus is $8,000.

Career unit counselors have information on the VRB and the regular reenlistment bonus. Stop by and see him or call the 23rd Infantry Division Reenlistment Office at 2519.

Denis

Tom

Mark

Suzanne

Steam bath opens in Americal Hqs

By PFC Fred Abatemarco

CHU LAI, (23d Inf Div IO) – The 23rd Infantry Division recently opened an establishment that has as its sole function the betterment of every soldier's "health, welfare, and morale".

Those are the words of Mr. Lee Chang Yung, owner of the brand new Steam Bath and Massage Parlor here.

Mt. Lee has quite a bit of experience with the effects such havens have on American GIs. Before opening his business here, he has seen his health clubs please men at Da Nang Airbase, Hue, the 80th Support Group, Phu Bai, and Duc Pho.

Under the experienced management of Mr. Choi Kuk Yol, who worked for Mr. Lee in Da Nang, any and all GIs can come and enjoy relaxing hours in the new facilities.

Whether for an E-3 or an O-4; a combat weary "grunt", or a finance clerk; the steaming sauna bath, the refreshing showers, and the massages have the same luxurious justification for existence: to have you feeling better when you walk out than you did when you walked in.

As the first paying customer SP4 John Blake, Gainesville, Fla., can tell you, once the clothing is removed and only a clean towel separates you from the heady steam of the sauna, a person is able to forget what ails him and concentrate on pure comfort.

A refreshing shower follows the steam bath and then with the aid and direction of white uniformed service girls, you are led to one of the 28 private massage rooms for the ultimate in relaxation.

There one of the more than 40 masseuses will personally attend to every muscle and joint, loosening and relaxing them with a dexterity and skill that is telling of their experience.

The Steam Bath also provides convenience in smaller ways. It is open from 0900 hours to 2000 hours daily and the standard admission is $2.50. There are lockers available for clothing and valuables as well as facilities for checking weapons. Towels, powders, and linements are provided by the management.

The next time you feel a little stiff, or maybe just under the weather and in need of a morale boost, visit the Steam Bath. It has been a long time coming to Chu Lai, but now it is here and you owe it to yourself.

'Stage Twenty Three'

By PFC Fred A. Abatemarco

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – "Stage Twenty Three", the newly formed Theatre Section of Special Services Entertainment here, recently closed its first production after a week of successful performances.

Luv, the former Broadway comedy hit, written by Murray Schisgal, was the choice of the players as they set out on a very unique and experimental endeavor.

A short while back, Specialist Mark Melnick, Tom Morgan, and Denis Whitaker, all of whom are involved with Special Services Entertainment, decided to do something about the caliber of theatrics that had been available to the men of the 23rd Infantry Division.

"Stage Twenty Three" came about as the first division level effort in stage productions; the only existing repertory company in South Vietnam being the Command Military Touring Shaw, which operates from Saigon under the command of USARV (U.S. Army, Republic of Vietnam).

The problems the 23rd Infantry Division actors faced, as one might expect, were indigenous to the novelty of their idea. But determination on the part of the three male thespians, and Suzanne Shoemaker, a Red Cross "Donut Dollie", brought "Stage Twenty Three" from a mere tryout to an integral part of the division's Special Services.

In January the Special Services Officer Captain Robinson gave his stamp of approval to the project, and funds were appropriated from the Central Post Fund. By using their past experience, ranging from Drama degrees to professional stage work, Tom, and Denis were able to have Luv ready for its first performance within three weeks.

Mark Melnick, who earned a Bachelor's degree in Drama from Bard College in New York, acted in repertory at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., and in stock at the Timberlake Playhouse in Illinois, became the Production Manager and member of the cast.

Technical direction was handled by Tom Morgan who attended Hofstra University in New York where he earned a degree in Theatre Production. Tom was also a member of Luv's cast, but his DEROS will soon separate him from "Stage Twenty Three".

Besides these productional, technical, and directorial tasks, there still remained the job of casting a female actress.

Miss Shoemaker, from San Francisco, was the one to finally answer the call.

She did so with more irresolution than unwillingness at first, but she now looks forward to more work with "Stage Twenty Three"

Suzanne has a creditable amount of acting experience from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where she majored in International Relations. The expertise she brought to the already talented troupe was a factor in Luv's success.

"Stage Twenty Three" has its sights on another production sometime in March. It will probably be a bill of one act plays which as yet are undecided upon.

Their goal is to bring quality entertainment to as large an audience as possible within the 23rd Infantry Division.

Monkey fools Warriors

By SP4 James Tabata

FSB SAN JUAN HILL, (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – The numerous trails of the South Vietnamese countryside provide easy travel for both man and beast with an occasional case of mistaken identity resulting. Such a mishap occured recently when Delta Co., 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry of the 11th Infantry Brigade was in a position four miles northwest of San Juan Hill.

The "Jungle Warriors" remained in their location, as the sun appeared realizing that this was the ideal time for enemy movement.

"We heard funny sounding groans as we waited for the suspected enemy to move closer to our location. We couldn't figure out what was wrong with the poor guy," reported SP4 Henry Brown of Chesapeake, Va.

The men waited as the movement grew louder. Suddenly the blast of a mechanical ambush claymore mine shattered the morning calm.

"When we entered the trail we were shocked more than surprised to find a monkey KIA instead of an enemy soldier. The movement sounded just like a human being coming towards us," said Lloyd Ferbbert of St. Joseph, Mo.

Troopers from Echo Co., 26th Eng., move across a clearing on their way to LZ Pratt, temporarily set up during a recent operation in the 196th Infantry Brigade.

(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Stephen Belfeld)

VIP program saves lives

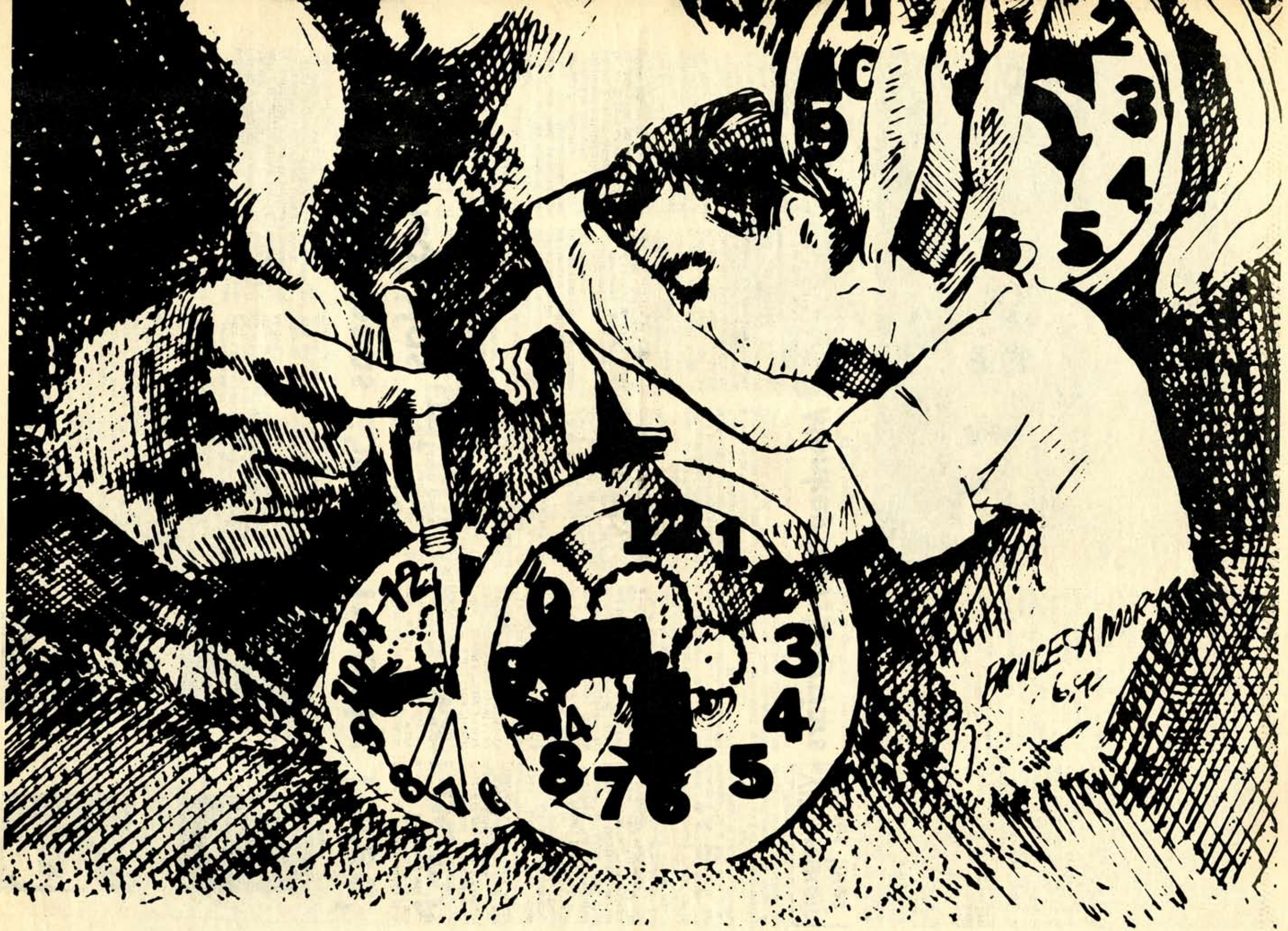
By PFC Dale Wilson

LZ BRONCO, (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – The young Vietnamese boy walked into the night laager carrying a 60mm mortar round. He went to the lieutenant thanked him and gave him two cans of food and a packet of cigarettes for his trouble.

This is just one of the ways that the Volunteer Informant Program works to save the lives of Jungle Warriors of the 11th Infantry Brigade.

The VIP Program began in this area in 1968, first as a means of gathering information from local villagers, then it was expanded to include the turn-in of small arms and large bore ammunition, as well as explosives, related SP5 John F. Lichtey of Rockaway, N.J., of the 11th Brigade S-2 section.

Although a special fund has been set aside for payment to villagers bringing in ammunition and explosives, many of the units will spend their own money, or will exchange C-rations for these items. A graduated scale covering payment ranges from a few cents for small arms ammunition, to several dollars for a 500 pound bomb.


BRUCE AMORY
6.4

POISON IVY

U. S. Army helicopters from the 23rd Infantry Division return to Chu Lai after an operation near Hawk Hill.

(U.S. Army Photo)

VC siesta is bad

By SP4 Zin Balaban

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Seven Viet Cong were caught napping one afternoon recently by men of the 23rd Infantry Division's 196th Infantry Brigade. This siesta turned out to be the last that three of the enemy soldiers would ever take.

Two squads from the 1st platoon and the company CP (command post) of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry left their platoon day defensive perimeter to reconnoiter a nearby hill. At the top of the hill, the point man, Specialist 4 Marcus Ladd of St. Petersburg, Fla., discovered a freshly cut trail through some elephant grass. He followed the trail approximately 100 meters, down the hill, and heard voices coming from a hootch.

In order to most effectively engage the enemy, the element was divided into two groups. The 2nd Squad was to be a sweeping force while the 3rd squad and the CP (command post) maneuvered downhill into a blocking position.

"While waiting for the blocking force to get into position, we sat and observed," said Specialist Ladd. "We saw a Viet Cong walk toward our position looking for firewood. When he found himself staring down the barrel of an M-16, he quietly surrendered."

When the 3rd squad finally got into position, they also waited and watched. They permitted two enemy soldiers to walk past without engagement.

First, we wanted to find out how large an element we would be opposing," explained Captain Frank Mastin Jr., of Montgomery, Ala., the company commander. "Also, by engaging those two, we would have lost the element of surprise."

When everyone was in position, the 2nd squad advanced toward the hootch. However, the detainee managed to give a warning and the enemy soldiers darted in the opposite direction.

Unfortunately for the VC, the blocking force was prepared. The enemy was greeted by a devastating reception of M-16 and machinegun fire.

The result of the ambush was three enemy dead. A search of the area around the hut uncovered another VC, wounded. Three weapons, ammunition, a Chicom grenade and rucksacks filled with food were captured in action.

The following day, the 2nd platoon of the company detained three military-age males. Upon questioning, it was revealed that one was the man that had escaped the previous day's ambush. The three were extracted to Landing Zone Hawk Hill.

Others may have escaped the ambush. However, if they did, they may be hesitant about future siestas.

Action increased during week

(Continued from page 1)

In action this week the 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers killed 23 enemy soldiers in their area of operations.

While on patrol west of Tam Ky early this week, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, engaged an unknown size enemy force. The "Gimlets" killed one NVA and wounded another.

Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while checking their night defensive perimeter west of Tam Ky engaged two NVA with small arms fire. They killed one while the others evaded southeast.

While in their day defensive position later this week, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, engaged two NVA with small arms fire. Both NVA were killed and two AK-47 rifles, two rucksacks, two ponchos and miscellaneous medical supplies were captured in the action.

GENEVA PARK

Contact with small enemy units increased two weeks ago for the infantrymen from the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade as the "Bravo and Bold" killed 24 enemy soldiers in numerous engagements in Operation Geneva Park.

The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, saw the heaviest action during the week as the "Ready Rifles" killed 10 enemy soldiers in scattered engagements and captured several enemy weapons south of Chu Lai.

The "Professionals" of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, killed three enemy soldiers and destroyed several military structures northwest of Chu Lai.

In other action in the 198th Brigade's area of operation, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, killed a Viet Cong when the enemy soldier neared their night laager position southeast of Chu Lai.

Gunships from Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, observed small campfires and a military structure northwest of Chu Lai. The gunships engaged the targets and destroyed the military structure and killed three Viet Cong.

Action was light in the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade as infantrymen killed nine enemy soldiers in Operation Geneva Park. Several Viet Cong suspects were detained during the week, and several weapons were confiscated.

The "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, killed five Viet Cong in scattered engagements southeast of Chu Lai.

The "Ready Rifles" of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, killed three enemy soldiers and detained eight Viet Cong suspects south of Chu Lai.

Over an area south of Chu Lai, a command and control helicopter from the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, engaged a Viet Cong as he evaded toward a tree line. The enemy soldier was wounded in the action and extracted to a Chu Lai hospital for further treatment.

In other action in the 198th Brigade's area of operation, H Troop, 17th Cavalry engaged a group of Viet Cong soldiers. The cavalrymen killed one enemy and captured an AK-47 rifle, an automatic weapon, and two Chfcom hand grenades.

An artillery observer from the 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery, flying over an area southeast of Chu Lai, directed an artillery strike on a suspected mine field and bunker complex. Ten bunkers were destroyed and the aerial observer reported 25 secondary expoosions.

Monster in Song Chang

By SGT Matt Gryta

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The Loch Ness Monster has nothing on the Song Chang Creepy Crawler, but it does know better than to tangle with a group of infantrymen on patrol.

Creepy's troubles began when a six-man patrol from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry disturbed its abode in the forest primeval along the banks of the Song Chang (Chang River) leading into Hiep Duc Valley some thirty miles northwest of Chu Lai.

First Lieutenant James F. Dowling, Honolulu, Hawaii, was leading the patrol in search of a suitable crossing point for the company along the north bank of the river.

"We were heading up a little hill, moving low because of the bamboo hanging over the top of us," related Lt. Dowling. "I was third man in the patrol and when I heard shots up ahead I went to check it out."

What he found was his normally steady pointman, Private First Class Larry Flurry, East Tallahasee, Ala., visibly shaken after being attacked by a large, hideous creature which had charged from out of a clump of bushes in front of him.

"At first I thought it was a crocodile," mused the young platoon leader, "but I didn't think they had crocodiles in Vietnam. In any event, it had scurried back into the bushes so fast that we couldn't get a really good look at it."

"To make sure we did away with whatever it was we pumped ten more rounds into the bushes," continued Lt. Dowling.

"While in its death throes it made a low grunting noise. When that stopped I moved the bushes apart and pulled out a seven-foot long lizard weighing about sixty pounds with day skin and yellow and orange markings on its body.

"We all just stood there looking at it in amazement. PFC Flurry wasn't too thrilled about the whole thing, though, especially when we examined its claws, inch-and-a-half long teeth and forked tongue," remarded Lt. Dowling.

"Some men on their second tours over here said they had never seen anything like it. The largest lizard they had ever seen in Vietnam was a little under four feet long."

"We figured there must be more of them around because it was typical reptile country, with a sandy river bank where they could lay their eggs, but we didn't continue our safari because we had to get on with our mission."

Bad weather, which prevented helicopter resupply to the unit, made it impossible for the 196th Brigade troops to get their prize catch back to a rear area.

As Lt. Dowling put it, "Curious as we all were about the lizard, the smell got too much for anyone to handle."

The "Gimlets" prize catch turned out to be an "unusually large" Asian Monitor Lizard.

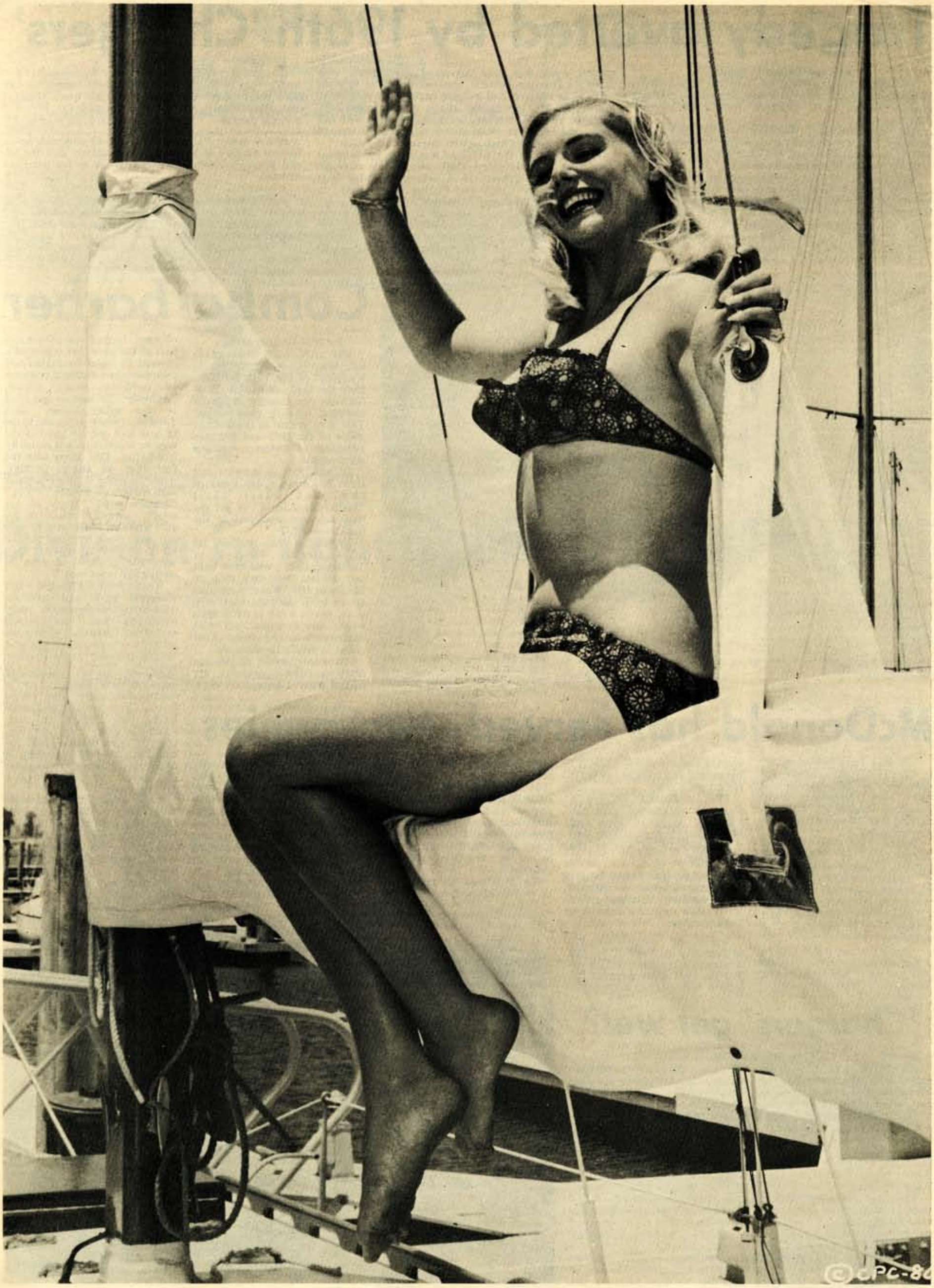
That fact became known when a photo of the reptile was shown to Specialist Five Ronald G. Dalbec, head animal technician at the 175th Veterinary Detachment in Chu Lai.

Specialist Dalbec of Worcester, Mass., knows whereof he speaks, having worked at an aquarium specializing in the sale of exotic animals and fish for nearly eight years before being drafted.

"The lizard's actions were purely defensive," Specialist Dalbec noted, "but it could have easily have broken a man's leg with its tail or torn his arm to shreads with a swipe of its claw.

1st Lt. James F. Dowling (right) and PFC Larry Flurry pose with the Creepy Crawler.

(U.S. Army Photo by SGT Richard Adamski)



Christiane Schmidtmer, Germany's voluptuous sex bomb who makes her American motion picture debut in Stanley Krmer's "Ship of Fools," tests her sea legs at Southern California's Marina Del Rey during a day off from filming at Columbia Studios.

Tragedy averted by 196th 'Chargers'

By Capt. George F. Bennet

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. 10) – Courageous actions and sharp wits were instrumental in averting tragedy recently by 15 "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

The Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, had just departed their Night Defense Position (NDP) on a routine search and clear mission when their training was put to the maximum test.

The platoon led by 1st Lieutenant Carl D. Hewitt III of New Johnson, Tenn., had gone only 100 meters when the explosion of a Chicom grenade rang through the air. This combined with the crack of AK-47s alerted the platoon that they were in the heart of an enemy ambush zone. In addition to the flying bullets, enemy whistles were sounded as the VC prepared to assault.

Initially the fire was so strong that when they hit the ground, each man was convinced he was the only survivor. This immediately was recognized as an error when their instincts and training enabled the platoon to return fire and repulse the attack. Not only did they repel the advance, but they were also credited with five confirmed kills, out of an enemy of unknown size. In rebuffing the charge each soldier displayed true valor.

An estimate of the situation was made by Sergeant Jack Farmer of Monterey, Calif., the platoon sergeant. "I returned fire with my M-16—started throwing frags and directing the fight," said Farmer. "I also went to bring up the pig (M-60 machinegun)."

Once the initiative was regained, Staff Sergeant Frank S. Ferguson of Los Angeles, a 3rd tour volunteer, maneuvered his machinegun into position. He leveled a devastating curtain of fire upon the enemy, which gained fire superiority for the platoon.

Sergeant Ervin E. Powell of New Washington, Ohio hasn't been in the field long enough to receive his CIB (Combat Infantryman's Badge), yet his quick thinking and aggressiveness enabled him to save the life of a platoon member.

Powell saw a VC discard his AK-47 and pick up an injured medic's M-16. Powell immediately shot the VC and proceeded to administer first aid to his wounded comrade.

Reinformcements were airlifted into the area of contact. However, the enemy knew he had met the "Professionals." He rapidly broke contact and evaded.

The members of the platoon, all volunteers, were later awarded four Silver Stars, nine Bronze Stars for valor and two Army Commendation Medals for valor.

Having inflated his boat this water craft operator, C Co., 4th Bn. 31st Inf., uses his spare time advantageously.

(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Stephen Belfeld)

Combat barber

By SP/4 Gregory Wright

FSB SAN JUAN HILL, (11th Inf. Bde. 10) – When "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Inf. Bde. leave the field and head for their firebases one thought is usually foremost in each man's mind. That is to get rid of the dirt and grime of the field and and take advantage of whatever comforts are available.

In addition to showers and three hot meals a day many of the men visit their "barber-in-residence" to get the long hair and sideburns of the field trimmed.

Typical of these barbers are SP/4 Dennis Turgeon of Torrance, Calif., who have built and operate their own shop on San Juan Hill. When companies are in from the field both men often put in a full in a full day's work, but face the job with determination and make every effort to satisfy the customer.

Afros are carefully shaped and sideburns and mustaches are meticulously trimmed. A copy of Army haircut regs aderns one wall of the shop, but is generally ignored by both the barber and customer, but haircuts conform to modern Army styles. "Actually, the haircut has a lot to do with morale," says Turgeon. "When a guy can come in here and get his hair cut the way he wants it he will naturally feel better. This, along with the fact that we charge nothing, tends to make us more popular than barbers on Bronco." "Yes," Chiasson adds, "Many of our steady customers refuse to get cuts while on standdown so they can came back here and get the job done. We know what they want and at times we even do styling and razor cuts."

While both Chiasson and Turgeon have had previous barbering experiencce, only Chiasson has had formal training, having completed barber's college and served part of the required apprenticeship. Both have worked to enlarge and improve their shop, which is constructed solely from ammo boxes. The two chairs, also made from ammo boxes, are well padded and comfortable. Cassette tapes provide music for waiting customers, creating a sometimes pleasant atmosphere in spite of the rugged surroundings.

While these little makeshift shops such as the one on San Juan Hill and other 11th Bde. FSB'S may never measure up to that favority establishment back home, they do offer the men of the 11th Bde. a chance to relax, get a trim, and talk things ever with a friendly barber.

McDonald has served two armies

By SGT Terry Williamson

LZ STINSON, (198th Inf. Bde. 10) – An infantryman with the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade is currently serving with his second Army–at the age of 20.

Private First Class Derrall D. McDonald of Edmonton, Alberta, a citizen of Canada and a former member of the Canadian Army, has been in one Army or another since the age of fifteen. He is now with Company C, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry.

"Since I'm not a U.S. citizen, I had to volunteer for Vietnam to be sent here, said PFC McDonald. "But that's what I wanted because this is where it's happening and I wanted to see it for myself."

PFC McDonald finished a four-year enlistment with the Canadian Army in 1969 and immediately began checking into the possibility of joining the U.S. Army.

"The Canadian Armed Forces were combining into one integral unit," he said, "and that didn't leave much room for expansion or promotions."

When he completed his enlistment, he traveled to the American Consulate in Calgary and the staff there arranged for him to visit an Army recruiter in Great Butte, Montana, just across the border.

It was there he decided to enlist in his second Army and he chose the infantry for a three-year term. He passed his physical and all seemed to be going well until he learned that he needed a visa to complete the enlistment.

The visa took six months to be approved but was the last hurdle to joining his second Army. He took basic training and advanced training at Fort Lewis, Washington and then went to Fort Benning, Ga., for airborne training.

"I liked the airborne training very much, but I broke my leg on my first jump and never got to finish the program," he recalled. "That's when I decided to volunteer for Vietnam."

'Chargers' get wet?

By SP4 Zin Balaban

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. 10) – Because of some large recent finds, the enemy has been more ingenious than ever in hiding his caches. But it appears that no enemy cache is too cleverly hidden for soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

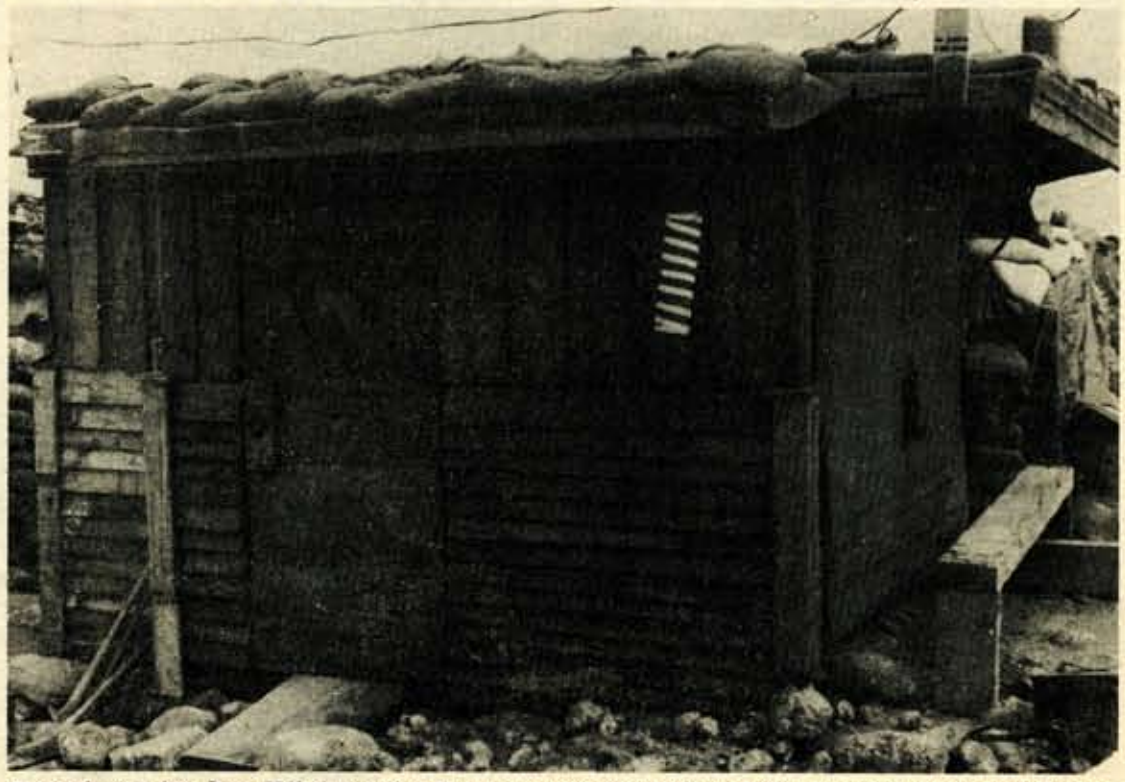
One such hiding place recently discovered by the "Chargers" was a camouflaged cache buried on the side of a river bank, somewhat below water level.

Men of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, with a little help from the weather found and destroyed the cache consisting of 28 82mm mortar rounds, a 122mm rocket and an unopened case of AK-47 rounds.

While on a routine reconnaisance patrol, an element of 3rd platoon spotted the corner of a wooden box protruding from the sand on the bank of a river not too far from their night defensive perimeter. Upon digging it out, the "Legionaires" found the box contained 60 AK-47 rounds.

"I had my men dig around the area," said Staff Sergeant John W. Long of Atlanta, platoon sergeant of the third platoon. "The case of ammo indicated that there was probably an arms cache in the vicinity."

The search uncovered a 122mm rocket, slightly rusted, but still operable, along with the rest of the booty.



Perched atop San Juan Hill this well built shop boasts two chairs and two extremely competent barbers. The candy striped "pole" in front is actually a spruced up 105 casing.

(U.S. Photo by SP4 Greg Wright)