SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 4, No. 21 Chu Lai, Vietnam May 21, 1971

Weekly recap

Ready Rifles net 16

Chu Lai, (198th Inf. Bde. I0) – Action was light in operation Middlesex Peak during the week of 21-27 April, as the men of the 198th Infantry Brigade and gunships from the 23rd Infantry Division accounted for 16 enemy killed and four suspects detained. A total of four enemy weapons and 77 Chicom (Chinese Communits) hand grenades were captured.

The "Ready Rifles" from the the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, accounted for most of the action in an area southwest of Chu Lai. A total of eight were killed, four Viet Cong suspects were detained, and two weapons captured.

In an area west of Chu Lai, Charlie Company 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., engaged a small group of VC soldiers, killing three and capturing two packs and one pistol belt. The captured equipment was extracted to a nearby LZ. The same day the "Ready Rifles" detained one VC suspect. The detainee was extracted to a nearby LZ for questioning.

While in an area south of Chu Lai, Charlie Company engaged a group of enemy soldiers, killing one. The infantrymen found in the area nine B40 rockets, 10 B40 boosters, 10 recoiless rifle round, and 13 9mm rounds. Other items extracted to a nearby LZ were three RPG's, two 82mm mortar rounds, a small quantity of AK rounds, and a machinegun tripod.

Later in the week the infantrymen detained another VC suspect extracting him to an LZ for further questioning.

Maneuvering through an area south of Chu Lai, an element from Alpha Company, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., was engaged with small arms fire and rockets by an unkown size group of enemy soldiers. The "Ready Rifles" returned fire, killing two NVA soldiers and capturing 11 Chicom hand grenades and two packs. The packs were extracted to an LZ and the grenades were destroyed.

Nearby, another element form Alpha Company engaged and killed one NVA soldier at a distance of 75 meters. Two Chicom hand grenades and one poncho were captured in the action and extracted to a landing zone.

Earlier in an area west of Chu Lai, a patrol from Alpha, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., detained two VC suspects. The detainees were extracted to an LZ for questioning.

Also south of Chu Lai, an element from Alpha Company found 21 military structures and three fighting positions. In the area the "Ready Rifles" found 15 Chicom hand grenades, a quantity of AK rounds, one B40 rocket, 10 NVA ponchos, 12 khaki uniforms, six rucksacks, and two helmets. The items were extracted to an LZ.

On patrol southewest of Chu Lai, an element from Delta Company, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., engaged a group of NVA soldiers. One enemy was killed

(con't on page 6)

Team to study GI under fire

FSB BRONCO (234d Inf. Div. 10) – How the field soldier responds to enemy small arms fire is being studied by two former servicemen who are working for the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA) of the Department of Defense.

"We're trying to make a contribution to design considerations for new small arms systems," explained Thomas Wyatt, a retired LTC. "By studying the effects the soldiers relate to us we hope to come up with data that will help to mke small arms that will have a suppressive effect on an enemy," he explained.

Wyatt and Chris Hungerland, a former Specialist Five, are employed by the Defense Sciences Laboratories of Litton Systems, Inc., contracted to do the suppressive study. They began their Vietnam phase of the 14-month project interviewing soldiers from the 11th Infantry Brigade's 1st Battalion , 20th Infantry.

All men holding an 11 Bravo military occupation specialty rating (infantrymen) were first asked to fill out a questionnaire designed to find out what the soldier saw, and heard; what type of terrain and weather was present in his most recent contact and where he was fired at by the enemy.

Next comes a structured 30-40 minute interview where the soldier describes in detail, the action and the researchers query him for specific bits of information.

"The combat experience is very unique," said Wyatt, "because people remember what happened very clearly, even up to several months later." It would be premature to release any of the information at the present time since our researchers have yet to collect 50,000 information pieces.

The study was developed through the President's Small Arms Committee composed of military and civilian experts in the field. Initially, in August, literature from World War II to date on stress, fatigue, fear and tatics was surveyed. Even non-U.S. tactics were looked at to give the men a better grasp of the subject.

Before coming to Vietnam to interview soldiers in the Army and Marine Corp, they first tested a sample of Vietnam veterans in the ll Bravo MOS serving at Ft. Benning and Ft. Bragg. The test group helped to validate questions and ensure that the responses from soldiers in Vietnam would be meaningful.

Warlords present instant support

By 1LT Richard E. Campbell

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. 10) – Supporting the 11th Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division in their ground operations, the "Warlords", Bravo Company, 123rd Aviation Battalion represents the most mobile form of instant direct support ever available to U.S. ground units.

Within reach of the ground units organic FM radio is a complete Visual Reconnaissance (VR) team consisting of one LOH (Light Observation Helicopter), two AH-1G (Cobra) gunships, and two UH-1H (Huey) full of 14 "blues" (ground infantry unit).

Within 10 minutes after the call is received, the "Warlords" team can be at any location within the 11th Brigade's area of operation. Once on station their capabilities are unlimited.

If the situation is a friendly unit in contact the LOH will immediately mark the enemy location with smoke and after verifying the friendly position the two gunships will proceed to eliminate the problem area. Their choice of ordinance ranges from a minigun to 17 pound rockets.

A thorough search of the area can be made in one of two ways. The LOH can re-enter the area and report the results of the Cobra expenditures or if the situation dictates the "blues" may be inserted to make a sweep of the area.

On board one of the Huey's is a trained aerial observer which gives the "Warlords" team instant artillery capabilities if needed.

The Air Cav. team has the capabilities of pulling emergency dust-offs, instant insertion or extraction of ground units, or BDA's (Battle Damage Assessment) of recent air strikes. As an intelligence gathering unit, the "Warlords" team has proven its worth many times over.

With the unlimited mobility of the Air Cav. team it is little wonder that the "Warlords" have been called the Red Barons of the 1970's. Even Snoopy would sit in awe after watching their daily operations.

23d Infantry Division
PROJECT HELP, Question of the Week
QUESTION: Why can't the AFVN-FM give all of the news at the 0600 news because that is the only chance I have to hear it? Answer: The FM news circuit is a programmed automated broadcast. The problem of the news automatically switching off is currently under review by AFVN Da Nang to determine the cause and to correct this inconvenience. Headquarters AFVN, Saigon has been made aware of this problem.

The slender AH-1G (Cobra) gunship, equipped with mini-gun, 40mm grenade launcher and rocket pods, is one of the most effective weapons in Vietnam today. The one in this picture prepares for a mission in the 23rd Infantry Division. (U.S. Army Photo).

Specialist Four Ismael Muniz-Rios, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry was convicted by general court-martial on 14 April 1971 for an aggravated assault in violation of Article 128, UCMJ. According to the evidence admitted at his trial, Muniz-Rios shot another soldier in the chest with an M-16 rifle following an argument. Following announcement of findings of guilty, Muniz-Rios was sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to Private E-1 and confinement at hard labor for two years, he will be transferred to the US Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to serve the period of confinement.

Legionnaires rout enemy ambush

By Sp/4 Ralph Winter

FSB 4-11, (11th Inf. Bde. 10) – Legionnaire's of the 3rd Battalion, lst Infantry turned the tables on the enemy recently when they were ambushed while moving to their NDP (night defensive position).

Approximately four insugents initiated the contact, but the 3rd Platoon of Alpha Company, led by Sergeant First Class Ruben M. Cadriel (Brownsville, Tex.) immediately established a curtain of fire and forced the enemy to withdraw.

"One of them had tossed a hand grenade," said Cadriel, "But fortunately he failed to remove the safety." While checking the area, Cadriel said pointman Private First Class Gary A. Casey, (Raymondyille, N.Y.) found an AK-47, a pair of sandals and fully loaded AK-47 magazine.

The next day, the Legionnaires of Alpha Company's "3rd Herd", led by Sergeant Robert Congaware (Greensburg, Pa.) discovered a cave containing an ammunition cache of over 1,000 M-16 and M-60 machinegun rounds and four grenades.

Near the cache, Private First Class Lynn "Pops" Sorrels (Dallas, Tex.) uncovered a booby-trap consisting of a can of petna with a pressure type firing device. The booby-trap was blown in place.

'The Mad Mexican'-a living legend

By Sp/5 Robert A. Spangler

LZ HAWK HILL (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – They called him "Chico", "The Mad Mexican", or just "Mr. Quintero", but whatever the name, he was always known as the hero who stuck out his neck to save someone else's.

Chief Warrant Officer Two Carlos E. Quintero (Tampa, Fla.) existed as a living legend within the 196th Infantry Brigade. Everyone here either knew Mr. Quintero or had read about him in the papers. The headlines were many, "LOH turns 'dust-off'; Rescues 15", "Pilot wins Two DFCs in Ten Days", "LOH makes Rescue", "Pilot Ditches Acrophobia For 4th DFC in Vietnam".

Newspaper copy about Quintero usually dealt with his heroics: "A small LZ presented a problem for a normal 'dust-off'. It was an occasion for field expediency, turning a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) into a 'dust-off' chopper.

Of all the people who knew Quintero, Specialist Five Mickey L. Lewis (Hannibal, Mo.) probably knew him best. Lewis served as Quintero's crew chief for 10 months and he expressed his feelings about Quintero, "Having flown with him for most of my tour, I'd say that he was the greatest, and having him for a friend I'd say he would be the best I've ever had; and as a big brother, he actually helped me a number of times."

"The Mad Mexican" returned home recently bringing to an end a 15 months tour as a living legend, but he carried four Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Army Commendation Medals, a Bronze Star, numerous air medals, and two Purple Hearts home with him. A Silver Star is also scheduled to follow him back to the states.

Quintero and Lewis had teamed up to kill 59 enemy soldiers during their 10 months of flying together, but there isn't a record of how many kills Quintero "chalked up" with the other crew chiefs that flow with him.

Lewis stated that Quintero would volunteer to fly emergency resupply during the monsoon season when larger and less maneuverable choppers couldn't fly. He flew "dust-offs" when medical evacuation choppers couldn't get in, and he also flew his small LOH as a gunship in support of ground troops when the need arose.

Quintero lived dangerously, but that's why he was a legend, and he loved every minute of it. At one time he was afraid of heights, but when he joined the Army he voluntered for jump school to get rid of his fear and later attended flight school.

He was once quoted as saying, "I'm pretty well over my fears now, but I still get a little queasy when someone else is doing the flying." He lived up to this quote on his last mission when he flew his own "dust-off" after being wounded on a "leaflet drop" mission. Instead of landing at a nearby Landing Zone and calling for a "dust-off", he chose to return to Hawk Hill and land his LOH even though both legs were injured and one was broken.

Landing a helicopter with one broken and a bullet lodged in the other is next to impossible, but the impossible was Quintero's daily challenge. Countless American and Vietnamese troops owe their lives to "The Mad Mexican" because he continuously did the near impossible.

Sergeant First Class Antonio Gil Munar, a medic from Delta Company, 23rd Medical Bn., 23rd Inf. Div., is sworn in for three year reenlistment by First Lieutenant Paula Quindlen. Lieutenant Quindlen is a nurse at the 27th Surgical Hospital and the wife of Captain Eugene Quindlen the Commanding Officer of Delta Company, 23rd Medical Bn. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Fred Abatemarco)

Take pride in what you are

Keep your head down; look the other way; cross the street; then you won't have to salute.

But who are you putting down? him or you?

When you let your hand dangle along your hat brim or bring it up in the vicinity of your eye, and you drift by him almost not looking at him--who are you letting down; him or you?

The salute has a special meaning. It is the greeting of people who have pride in themselves. The pride you show today will help you stand taller tomorrow.

People have always saluted each other. The word salute means, "I wish you well."

The handshake, the embrace, the kiss, and even the "V" peace symbol are all forms of salutes.

Sure, sure, but what does that have to do with a stranger and I exchanging greetings or salutes all the time?

Well, you are not doing it for him. You are doing it for you. You are saying I am a member of this brotherhood and I'm proud to be me and I can look you right in the eye.

You bring your hand smartly to your forehead; that says "I recognize you."

You smile, offer a greeting and look him in the eye. This act says: "I respect me and you've got to respect me, too."

And when he responds, you bring your hand back down with a snap. You are a man in a special brotherhood and you have greeted such another man.

Not a better man, but a man you respect just as you want him to respect you.

College loans for your dependents

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Effective with the second semester of the current school year, U.S. Army Educational Assistance loans are being offered under the Federally Insured Student Loan Program (FISLP) to eligible dependent children of active duty Army personnel for post-secondary education or training.

Eligibility for the program, which will continue through the 1971-72 school year, is limited to dependent students who graduated from high school in the spring of 1970 or later, whose parent was on active duty in the Army on 30 November of the student's senior year of high school.

Also, the student must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible institution of higher learning or vocational school. More than six thousand U.S. colleges, vocational and training schools are classified as eligible institutions, in addition to some foreign colleges.

The amount of the loan per academic year will not exceed the education costs, as computed by the college or school concerned, with the minimum being $250 and the maximum $1,500. Loans are granted in increments of $50.

Any other loans received by the student for the same period under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, will be deducted from the education costs mentioned above in determining the requirements for the year.

Student loans under the FISLP are interest-free while the borrower is in school, if the borrower's adjusted family income is less than $15,000. However, during the repayment period the borrower pays seven percent interest.

If the borrower's adjusted family income is $15,000 or more, he may borrow, but must pay all interest charges.

The repayment period is five to ten years, normally beginning one year after the borrower ceases to be at least a half-time student. Adjusted family income is equal to line 18 of the 1970 income tax return, less ten percent and less $625 for each exemption claimed.

The FISLP is further described in Paragraph 53 of DA pamphlet 352-1, but it should be noted that the borrower does not have to find a lending institution. The Army Central Welfare Fund serves as the lending institution.

Dependent children or their parents desiring loans for the 1971-72 school year should write without delay directly to the Adjutant General, Department of the Army, ATTN: AGMG, Washington, D.C. 20314 for the necessary forms and instructions.

All that is needed is a letter or post card asking for application forms for U.S. Army Educational Assistance Loans. Due to shortages, application forms will be distributed only on an individual basis to parents and students asking for them.

As it requires about two months to process a loan, students needing loans at the start of the 1971-72 school year should submit applications no later than 31 May.

Americal sports

563rd Trans rips through HHC, 71–61 for Americal basketball championship

By PFC Fred Abatemarco

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The undefeated 563rd Transportation Company captured first place in the 23rd Infantry Division Basketball Tournament recently by downing Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) 71-61.

The victory climaxed a 10-game winning streak for the Trans team and crowned the 30-game, double-elimination tournament sponsored by Division Special Services. HHC took second place with an 8-2 record.

A quick moving first half saw both teams trade baskets evenly until the turnovers got the best of HHC. Staff Sergeant Alvin Henderson hit the last two baskets giving 563rd a 36-30 lead at the buzzer. Henderson was high man with 17 points, while Private First Class Thomas Simmons paced HHC with 12 points in the half.

The Trans team opened the second half with a 11-0 spurt before Private First Class Roger Saffold hit a short jumper for HHC.

With the score 47-32, HHC was forced to play "catch-up" ball and was consequently forced into damaging turnovers by the 563rd'd "dog-in-the-box" defense. By dominating the backboards and slowing down the game, the 563rd was able to keep a comfortable lead the rest of the way.

Henderson was the high scorer with 26 points for the Trans team. Simmons and Saffold paced HHC with 18 and 15 points respectively.

The basketball tournament was the first in a series of scheduled competitions within the 23rd Infantry Division. Future contests will be conducted in softball, tennis and archery.

Division Special Services will organize each tournament and provide officials and equipment.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Weapons cache captured by element of 11th Bde., largest in recent years

FSB 4-11, (11th Inf Bde. I0) – One of the largest weapons caches in Quang Ngai Province in recent years was captured by an element of the 11th Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division, in the southern end of Da Son Valley, some eight miles west of Quang Ngai City.

The find included nine crew-served weapons, consisting of three 60mm mortar tubes complete with two extra tripods, three .50 caliber machine guns with tripods, three 57mm recoilless rifles, 68 machine guns and automatic weapons of varying origin, 27 semi-automatic rifles and 19 bolt-action rifles. The majority of the weapons were serviceable and boxes found at the site contained spare parts.

The large cache was discovered by Private First Class Winston S. Jordan (Elberton, Ga.), the pointman, who was working with the weapons platoon and command element of Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry. The platoon was cutting a trail down a steep and rugged mountainside when Jordan spotted a hootch with a tin roof.

"I first saw a 57mm recoilless rifle and called the others to help me check it out," Jordan said.

For the next several hours the men cut a trail and with the help of the First Platoon formed a chain to a landing zone in the valley below. Helicopters extracted the weapons to this support base.

Story & photos by 1Lt. John Peterson

Mortar rounds of all sizes and nomenclature were exchanged for prized items such as soap and C-rations.

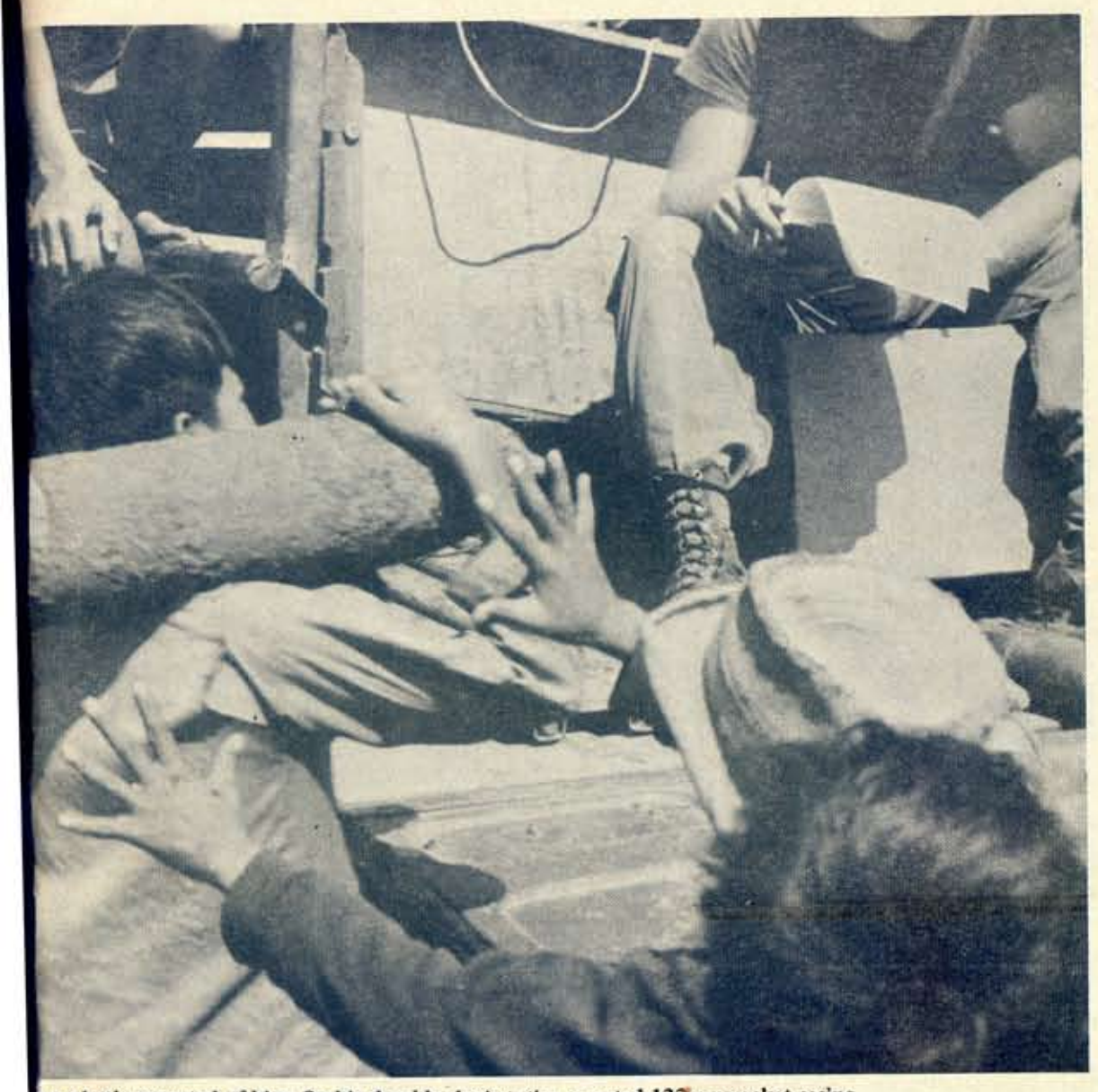
This young fellow obviously kn

Story by Sp4 Fred Abatemarco
and
Photos by Sp4 Darrell McGillen

Children make

A Vietnamese interpreter explains the object of the HB team as the children look on attentively.

Bryant locates a desolate area and prepares to destroy the unexpe



ws what's expected of him. On his shoulder he is toting a rusted 122mm rocket casing.

Specialist Five Terry Bryant logs the particulars after receiving a live mortar round from a youngster in Phuoc Am.

VIP successful

ded ordinance.

Specialist Five Terry Bryant (Orlando, Fla.) recently took his very small Highway Broadcast Team into a very small fishing village and came up with some very large results.

Operating in conjunction with the 7th PSYOPS Battalion, Bryant and two Vietnamese interpreters went to the remote village of Phuoc Am with hopes of having the civilians turn in any arms, ammunition, or ordinance that they might have found.

Phuoc Am is a sparsely populated hamlet located along the sandy banks of the Truong Giang River about 10 miles northeast of Hawk Hill. The people are not accustomed to dealing with Americans and it was feared that their confidence would be hard to win.

But reassured by the message delivered by the interpreters, the multitude of children in Phuoc Am began to gather items to turn into the team in exchange for money, soap, and food. Within an hour, Bryant received one 82mm mortar round, one 81mm mortar round, four 60mm mortar rounds, one 122mm rocket head, and one ancient AK-44 rifle.

"The children find these rounds in any number of places," explained Bryant. "Sometimes they are lost, or dropped by GIs and Regional Forces working in the area, or they could be rounds that just failed to explode. Where they come from is of little importance to us, however. Our aim is to make sure that they don't get into the wrong hands."

After rewarding those who turned in the ordinance, Bryant and his team found a deserted spot and blew the rounds in place.

Having wired the rounds to a few pounds of C-4 explosive, Bryant lights a generously long fuse.

Doctors make hootch calls

By Sp/4 Ralph J. Winter

FSB BRONCO, (11th Inf. Bde. I0) – Medical care may be taken for granted, even by the infantryman in the bush who has the platoon medic to provide medical treatment. However, the South Vietnamese people seldom have excellent medical care.

Every week medical personnel from the 3rd battalion, 1st Infantry provide medical service to the South Vietnamese people in the Tu Nghia District north of Quang Ngai City.

These weekly MEDCAPS (medical civic action program) usually begin with a cordon and search of a village by district Regional Force (RF) and Popular Force (PF) troops under the command of Major Hoa, Tu Nghia District Chief.

The villagers are brought together in a centralized location where they are checked for identification cards. Often a drama team from the district entertains the villagers and disseminates helpful public information. An inoculation team gives shots and distributes health and sanitation leaflets.

Recently, on one such MEDCAP at the village of Tu Thuan west of Quang Ngai City, the villagers were already lined up awaiting medical attention when the joint MACV 3rd Bn., 1st Int. medical team arrived.

A makeshift dispensary was set up and the MEDCAP was underway. First Lieutenant David J. Eckberg (San Antonio, Tex,) and Specialist Five Claude Bradley (Fisherville, Ky.) began treating those people with minor wounds. Many small children cried as their wounds were cleaned, but they were led away with smiles on their faces.

Eckberg reflected, "These MEDCAPS are very hectic. But knowing the friends we're making for the Government of Vietnam makes it all worthwhile."

The 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., surgeon, Captain Michael H. Dang (Lahaina, Ha.) and Specialist Five Manuel Arroyo (Pacioma, Calif.) assisted by MACV medical personnel and interpreters treated the villagers' internal ailments.

A MACV official commented that "The MEDCAPS make the people in the ville we visit very happy, but the residents of other villages in the district are sometimes unhappy because they didn't get one that week."

However, the villagers of the Tu Nghia District can take comsolation in knowing that next week the MEDCAP may be visiting them.

This soldier with Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery cleans the breech section of a 155mm Howitzer at the "Ghost Town" sector of LZ Siberia. (U.S. Army Photo by Major Robert D. Bailey)

VIP spells 'success'

LZ DOTTIE, (198th Inf. Bde. I0) – Combine a battalion S-5, a broadcast team and the energy of a small boy, mix in a thing called the Volunteer Informer Program (VIP) and what do you get? This intriguing formula recently paid massive dividends in a village near here when a large quantity of unexploded ordnance was turned in under the VIP Program.

The VIP Program is not new but seldom has it been more successful than it was in the village of Binh Lien, thanks to First Lieutenant Thomas E. McLain (Kansas City), Highway Broadcast Team 13 and a Vietnamese boy named Larry.

Under the VIP Program civilians bring in arms, ammunition or ordinance in exchange for money or other valued items like soap.

During a one-week period over 400 items ranging from artillery rounds to trip flares and fuses were brought in by children from Binh Lien, or pointed out by the industrious youngsters.

The turn-in of ordinance was initiated when McLain, S-5 for the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Brigade, went with Highway Broadcast (HB) Team 13 to several villages to present the program first hand. In Binh Lien McLain found a boy of 12, Larry, who was most receptive toward the idea.

Larry got together a group of 10 or 15 Vietnamese children, and they scoured the surrounding countryside policing up unexpended ammunition or ordinance, or making it so that it could be found later and blown in place.

McLain says this of the VIP results in Binh Lien: "The boy, Larry, just got a gang and they went out and found the stuff. We've tried the program in other villages but it has never worked as well as it did in this one."

The HB Team moves through villages broadcasting its message and informing the people about the Vietnamese Government, as well as giving out toys and leaflets.

Among the items turned in were about 40 artillery and mortar rounds, over 100 hand grenades, 11 anti-personnel mines, 12 recoilless rifle rounds, three anti-tank weapons, 62 M-79 rounds and two trip flares.

"Most of the stuff was brought right here to Dottie," McLain says, "and then disposed of."

Binh Lien is located on QL 1, about 15 miles south of Chu Lai. But why the effective results of VIP in this one village and not in others? "The reason for its success was the boy, Larry," McLain says.

Obviously all S-5 programs could use a Larry.

Pilot reveals chopper crash

By PFC Fred Abatemarco

QUANG TRI, (23rd Inf. Div. I0) – A premonition of a tough mission ahead started the day for WO1 Wendell Freeman, (Tifton, Ga.) a helicopter pilot with the 71st Aviation Company "Rattlers" of the 23rd Infantry Division. Freeman to his chagrin and discomfort was to be proven correct.

The young aviator and his crew were assisting in the recovery of a downed helicopter inside the Laotian border later that day.

"We were flying low-level at about 125 knots when I told my door gunner to open up over a particularly dangerous area," said Freeman. "Our gunship simultaneously began taking 30 caliber rounds from enemy positions below."

"Suddenly my feet flew up and hit the control board. I didn't feel them come down and I was afraid to look for fear they wouldn't be there," he said.

He was to find out later that an enemy RPG (rocket propelled grenade) round had blown a hole in the chopper's belly, but luckily failed to explode.

"At this time Mr. Patrick Riley, the co-pilot, took command and brought our bird down in a very controlled crash landing," continued Freeman.

WO1 Riley (Stillwater, Minn.) had jettisoned the rocket pods and landed amongst some high grass and bamboo. The crew was pinned down immediately by hostile fire from a distance of 20 meters.

Specialist Four Delferre, the crew chief and Specialist Four Betts, the gunner put out a barrage of suppressive fire, but the situation was beginning to look hopeless.

"After a few minutes I heard WO1 Hubert Collins, who was flying the recovery ship, take fire and I assumed that he was shot down, too. That's when I really began to worry. I didn't think another recovery ship could get to us in time," Freeman said.

Riley, not knowing Collins had landed safely, crawled the 100 meters to aid the other "downed" crew. When Riley came within sight of Collin's chopper, he saw that Specialist Four Catalina, Collins' door gunner, was doing an amazing job of covering the crew and the chopper. He also found out that the recovery ship was not severely damaged after all.

Catalina was able to hold the enemy off while Riley returned to his ship and brought the crew back to the recovery ship. Freeman, Riley and their crew climbed in and were lifted out.

"We weren't down more than 15 or 20 minutes, but I doubt if we could have lasted much longer," Freeman concluded.

In Vietnam even when you are resting you are working. This 23rd Infantry Division trooper uses his "break" to make certain that his M-16 rifle is in working order. (U.S. Army Photo by SP/4 John Cushman)

198th routs enemy

(Continued From Page 1)

and one AK-47 rifle, one 9mm pistol, and one full magazine were captured in the action and extracted to an LZ.

Also in the area, Delta Company found eight structures, one large mess hall, and one B40 rocket. The rocket and structures were destroyed.

The action was light in the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, area of operations northwest of Chu Lai. The "Professionals" accounted for five enemy killed and 49 Chicom hand grenades captured.

In a night defensive position in an area northwest of Chu Lai, Charlie Company, 5th Bn., 46th Inf., engaged and killed one Viet Cong soldier as he neared the "Professionals" position. Captured and extracted to a nearby LZ were two hammocks, four batteries, and a cooking pot. The next morning, the infantrymen killed two more VC also approaching the perimeter.

Ealier in the week Charlie Company, 5th Bn., 46th Inf., engaged and killed one enemy soldier, while capturing one pack which was extracted to an LZ. The "Professionals" searched the area and found one camp fire and 15 new Chicom hand grenades. The grenades were destroyed in place.

On patrol in an area northwest of Chu Lai, an element from Charlie Company, 5th Bn., 46th Inf., found and destroyed two structures and one bunker containing 34 Chicom hand grenades, one homemade satchel charge, several pungi stakes, and one gallon of kerosene. The "Professionals" also found 10 pounds of rice, two NVA ponchos, three pairs of sandals, one NVA rucksack, one pair of fatigues, a wristwatch, and assorted cooking utensils.

Another element from Charlie Company 5th Bn., 46th Inf., found 15 enemy rucksacks containing food, miscellanious clothing, and one booby-trap device. The items were extracted to a nearby LZ.

While in a day laager position northwest of Chu Lai, Alpha Company, 5th Bn., 46th Inf., engaged and killed a lone VC soldier and captured one pack which was extracted to a nearby LZ.

Flying over an area west of Chu Lai, gunships form Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, engaged and killed one VC soldier with mini-guns, killing him. The gunships then engaged and destroyed two military structures with rocket fire.

While flying over an area west of Chu Lai, the "Warlords" engaged and killed one VC soldier who was evading into a tree line.

On patrol west of Chu Lai, an element of Alpha Company, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., found and destroyed eight enemy bunkers.

Another patrol west of Chu Lai from Charlie Company, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., found one carbine and one SKS rifle. The weapons were extracted to a nearby LZ.

In our continuing crusade to wipe out visual pollution we present Miss Cynthia Hall. Who says ecology can't be fun?

Air traffic controllers proud of profession

By PFC Larry W. Rich

LZ HAWK HILL (196th Inf. Div. IO) – "Being an air traffic controller isn't a job," Specialist Four Dean Elliott (Hacienda Heights, Calif.) Field Chief in charge of the 196th Infantry Brigade Control Tower stated. "It's a profession. You won't find a controller who says "Aw, I'm just a controller." They are proud of their profession and their ability."

If the three men who guide and coordinate helicopter traffic at Hawk Hill are any indication, their pride is well founded.

Hawk Hill Tower has authority over all aircraft within a radius of five miles and within a 2,000 foot altitude. The controller expedites landings and take offs and keeps the aircraft safely seperated.

While not one of the largest air control operations in the Republic of Vietnam, Hawk Tower handles over 12,000 take offs and landings a month. A busy day is regarded as one with over 600 take offs and landings.

The control center is located on top of a wooden tower beside the 5/23rd Maintenance Battalion. Large enough to accommodate only one controller, the small center is filled with meteorological and communication equipment. Easily transportable, it can be carried and operated on the back of a three quarter ton truck.

From his vantage point atop the tower, the controller is able to supervise and coordinate helicopter traffic at eight separate landing pads, including an ARVN chopper base and the medivac pad for Company C, 23rd Medical Brigade.

"When an ARVN pilot comes in, you have to give him some leeway for a language barrier that might slow his reaction time a little," Elliott remarked.

"Having a good memory is a big part of the job," he continued. "You have to constantly be aware of where each bird is and its identification. If a helicopter starts to move to the center of the pad without authorization, you have to contact him immediately and with the correct identification. You can't say 'Bird, move to the edge of the LZ,' because the pilot will not realize that you are talking to him."

"If you sound nervous or scared," Elliott continued, "the pilot will react to this and become jumpy. It's a job where you make fast decisions, but each decision has to be the correct one. There is no room for self doubt or hesitation."

Following the same stringent rules the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) sets for airports in the United States, Hawk Hill Tower is an example of the professional attitudes of the air traffic controllers.

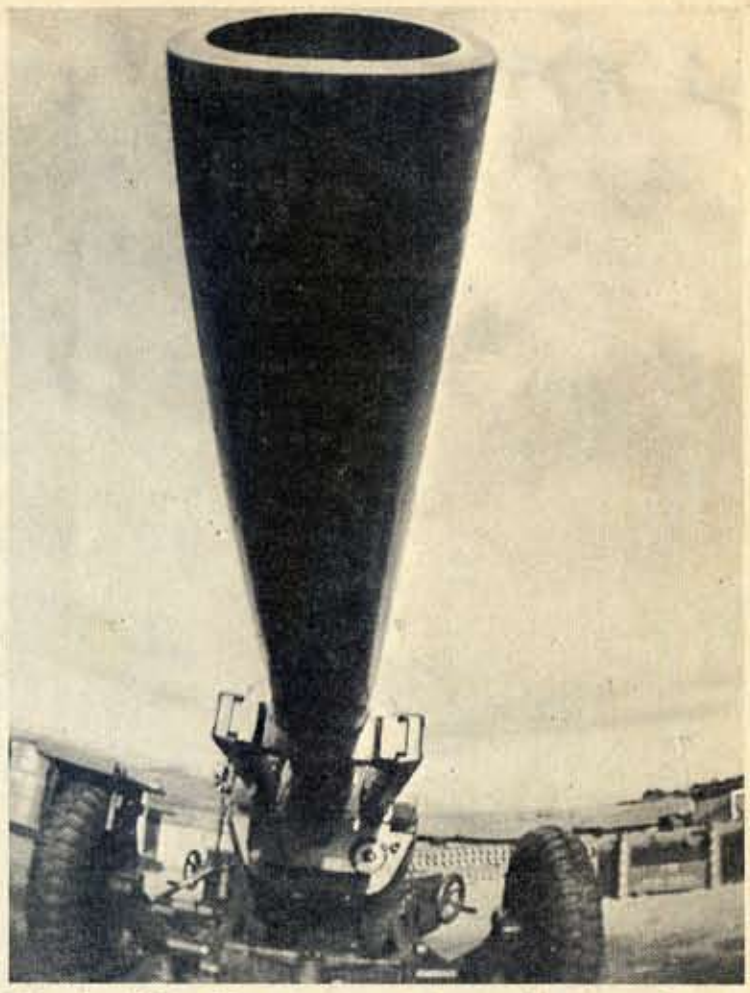
A controller attends 16 weeks of classes at Fort Rucker, Ala., and must pass the same physical that pilots take. He then has an apprenticeship. During this time there is a qualified controller with him on all of his shifts. After he has learned the landmarks and characteristics of the area, he is rated by the U.S. Army Air Traffic Control Battalion. Only then is he allowed to work a four hour shift by himself.

All of the controllers are licensed by the FAA. But each time he is transfered to a new area, the controller undergoes an apprenticeship until he is accustomed to the differences in the new location, and is again rated by the Air Traffic Control Battalion.

All three of the Controller at Hawk Hill, Specialist Four Mike Palmer (Lancaster, Calif.), Specialist Four Larry Kirkwood (Tulsa, Okla.) and Elliott, are interested in aviation and possess private pilot licenses.

Recently, a helicopter pilot radioed the tower that he was one mile out and requested landing instructions for his LOH (light observation helicopter). After fruitlessly looking for the small aircraft, the controller looked directly overhead. Barely visable, the LOH was hovering at 5,000 feet.

The attitude of the pilots towards the relaxed competence of the controllers at Hawk Hill Tower is one of respect. "They do a fine job," Warrant Officer Randolph Wright (Harper Woods, Mich.) said. "They've got it together."



The tube of this 105mm Howitzer is dramatically silouetted against the sky as it rests in its parapit. Capable of firing a sustained barrage at the rate of three rounds per minute this artillery piece is the most important support weapon available for the infantrymen of the 198th Infantry Brigade. (U.S. Army Photo)

'Glad to be back'

Legionnaires return from Lam Son 719

By Sp/5 Tom Mano

LZ HAWK HILL (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Huge clouds of dust swirled around Tam Ky airport as the gigantic C-130s landed and spewed forth a battalion of weary infantrymen. The 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry had come "home".

After a month of working close to the DMZ (demilitarized zone) the "Legionnaires" had returned to the 196th Inf., Bde.'s area of operations (AO) and many were glad of it.

"I didn't sleep well the whole time I was up there," commented Specialist Four Ray R. Dyer (Kalispell, Mont.) a rifleman with 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company.

The lack of rest could be accounted to the difference in terrain, tactics and heat. It was an "entirely different world" than what the 23rd Infantry Division soldiers had been used to.

The ground was flat and sandy. "Fires have burned that place to bits," said First Lieutenant James F. Boggess (Huntington, W. Va.), platoon leader for the 2nd Platoon.

The temperature wasn't higher than their southern AOs, but the lack of foliage made sun stroke a problem. There was no triple-canopy jungle to provide shade.

Another problem that the battalion encountered was a well-equipped and well-supplied enemy. This was evident in rations, munitions and supplementary equipment.

"Down south you might get a burst of six or seven rounds and then the enemy would disappear into the brush, but up there they'd stand and fight using perhaps eight or 10 magazines with 20 rounds in each one," said Clark.

One plague which the "Legionnaires" didn't encounter that had troubled them before were booby-traps. One reason for this was the difficulty the enemy had in camouflaging the booby-traps in the flat area.

When the battalion was further inland and humping every day, the key word to a mission's success was 'move'. If they weren't fast enough, mortars would come raining down on them.

"When a bird (helicopter) comes in up there, you move out of the area quickly, because nine out of 10 times you'll be mortared," said Clark. "We strived never to have a bird on the ground more than 30 seconds."

Now the men are back on familiar ground. Many are happy and their attitude was summed up by one trooper who laughingly said, "I never thought I'd be happy to see another place in Vietnam."

PFC Bob Graves (Chicago, Ill.) with Charlie Company, 2nd Bn. 1st Inf., calls in a "dust-off" while two fellow comrades look on during a recent patrol near Hiep Duc. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/4 Brad Mandel)

Students say farewell to teacher

By PFC Larry Rich

LZ HAWK HILL (196th Inf. Div. IO) – A small group of teachers and administrators from the Quang Tin Girls High School held a farewell luncheon in a Tam Ky restaurant recently for their departing English Teacher. Specialist Four Dean S. Corey (Pacific Grove, Calif.), was moving to the Da Nang area with the 196th Infantry Brigade, and would not be able to continue teaching English pronounciation.

Assigned to the Civil Affairs section (S-5) of the 196th Inf. Bde., Corey has worked at the school since February. Holding a college degree in History, he found little difficulty in shifting his attention to the English language.

The girls receive eight hours of regular English instruction a week," Corey stated, "but there was a need for oral practice. My job was to teach the pronounciation of the words they had learned through their grammar classes."

Going to the school twice a week, he taught over 150 students in three one-hour class periods. He also held informal sessions with the faculty members on Saturday afternoons to discuss English grammar and usage.

"I think the girls were a little uneasy at first because I towered over them," the six-foot Californian said. "But a teacher couldn't ask for students who were more eager to learn or more conscientious."

In an attempt to achieve a relaxed and personal relationship with the faculty members and to make up for his lack of Vietnamese, Corey assigned English names to the faculty. The teachers were proud of their 'new names' and informal, friendly relationships were quickly established.

After learning the soldier was a stamp collector, the Head Mistress bought him several issues of South Vietnamese commemorative stamps in appreciation of his work. Corey is especially proud of a first day of issue stamp which she purchased for him while she was attending a series of meetings in Saigon. The stamp dates back to the late 1940's and was issued while the country was part of French Indo-China.

As a going away present, the Head Mistress presented him with a letter of recomendation, extolling his teaching abilities. Corey gave the school a photograph album containing pictures he had taken of various school pageants and celebrations.

"I hope someone will take my place at the school," Corey said. "I am preparing take recordings of lesson for the school's use, but it's much better to have a teacher for the students to talk with and question."

"Both the teacher and student benefit from the classes," he continued. "You get to know the Vietnamese people in a natural way, and you get a free exchange of information at a personal level. It's great to know you're doing something constructive."