196th & 198th's efforts net 36 enemy

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The combined efforts of the 196th and 198th Infantry Brigades, 23rd Infantry Division, accounted for 36 enemy kills during the week of 26 May to 1 June. During this period over 41,950 pounds of rice was also confiscated from the enemy's food supply.

MIDDLESEX PEAK

The action was the heaviest in the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, area of operation as the "Ready Rifles" killed eight enemy soldiers and accounted for 11 detainees, and captured all the rice in the Brigade which consisted of approximately 37,950 pounds.

Flying over an area southwest of Chu Lai, gunships observed and engaged a group of Viet Cong soldiers killing two. Charlie Company 1/52nd Infantry, was inserted and killed one enemy hiding in a spider hole. The "Ready Rifles" killed two more enemy in a bunker and one Viet Cong evading down a trail. Captured in the action were one AK-47 rifle and two Chicom hand grenades.

Later in the week, Charlie, 1/52nd Infantry, engaged and killed a Viet Cong soldier who was setting up a boobytrap. Captured were 12 Chicom hand grenades. Near the same area, the "Ready Rifles" found a booby trapped Chicom hand grenade. The hand grenades were all destroyed.

Near a day laager position southwest of Chu Lai, the infantrymen engaged and killed a lone Viet Cong who was attempting to evade.

Working southwest of Chu Lai, Charlie Company, 1/52nd Infantry, detained five Viet Cong suspects and captured three hand grenades, two ponchos, and one full rifle magazine. The detainees and equipment were extracted to Chu Lai. The "Ready Rifles" also found 22,500 pounds of unpolished rice which was extracted to an LZ.

Earlier in the week, the infantrymen found 6500 pounds of unpolished rice in several metal containers. Near the same area, the "Ready Rifles" found 2500 pounds of rice and detained three Viet Cong suspects. The detainees and rice were extracted to a nearby LZ.

Later in the week, Charlie, 1/52nd, found and destroyed 400 pounds of unpolished rice.

Working southwest of Chu Lai, a Recon element from 1/52nd, founds of unpolished structure, with enemy soldiers inside. The "Ready Rifles" engaged the Viet Cong resulting in two enemy killed.

While on patrol southwest of Chu Lai, an element from Alpha Company, 1/52nd, engaged and killed one Viet Cong soldier who was evading from a military structure. Inside the structure were two Viet Cong suspects who were detained and extracted to an LZ.

Near the same area, Alpha, 1/52nd, found and destroyed four boobytraps. The infantrymen also found and extracted to an LZ 1260 pounds of unpolished rice which was hidden inside an old well. Also southwest of Chu Lai, an element from Delta Company, 1/52nd found 440 pounds of rice which they extracted to a nearby LZ.

An element from Delta, 1/52nd, working southwest of Chu Lai, found 2500 pounds of rice in six metal barrels. The rice was evacuated to a nearby LZ.

Near the same area the "Ready Rifles" found 1850 pounds of unpolished rice which was extracted to a nearby LZ.

Action was fairly moderate in the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry during this recent week, as the "Mountainmen" killed six enemy soldiers, detained two Viet Cong suspects, and captured 10 weapons.

While on patrol, an element from Alpha Company, 4/3rd, engaged and killed one Viet Cong and detained two Viet Cong suspects.

Working in an area northwest of Chu Lai, Alpha Company also engaged and killed one enemy soldier coming down a trail.

(Continued on Page 6)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 4, No. 25 | Chu Lai, Vietnam | June 25, 1971

Largest in Army

APO serves many soldiers

PFC Sam Rousso

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Mail. In Chu Lai, it's almost like the weather. Everyone talks about it, but there are people doing something about it–the 64 enlisted men and three officers of the largest APO in the Army.

The statistics, if you're a figure filbert, are interesting. APO 96374 serves a population of about 30,000. In March, 766,000 pounds of mail destined for the soldiers of the Americal Division and other units in an around Chu Lai passed through the APO.

Each month, $1.5 million worth of money orders and $50,000 worth of stamps are sold in the APO's four branch offices. All that money is counted and accounted for by First Lieutenant Ernest A. Maher (Warwick, R.I.), the Custodian of Postal Effects.

"Considering the number of people we serve and the number of people we have, I'd say we're doing a pretty damn good job," comments Captain Darell A. Hott (Ogden, Utah), Division Postal Officer.

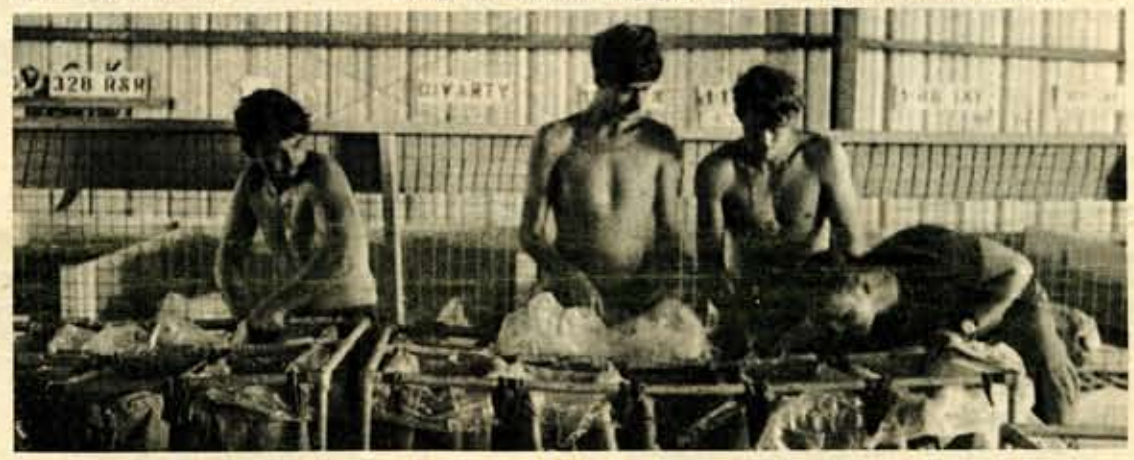
Recently, the two branch offices in Chu Lai (one near Finance, the other near the 16th combat Air Group), the branch in Duc Pho and the branch in Da Nang, were joined by a second branch in Da Nang.

Mail destined for Chu Lai and the surrounding area is flown into Da Nang, then flown or driven here. Outgoing mail follows the same route back to the world.

Before the mail gets to you. unit mail clerk it is handled three times at the APO. First it is unloaded from a van onto a 2½ ton truck with no sideboards, and carried into the main sorting room, where the mail bags, which are addressed to the various units, are thrown into the unit's bin. Then, each morning and afternoon, the units' mail clerks drive through the building, and the mail is thrown onto the trucks by APO personnel.

According to Specialist Four Preston Fielder (Augusta, Ga.), "the work is hard physically, but the realization that what we do is so important makes the work worthwhile."

As Hott says, "Our only reason for existence is service. If you're authorized postal service, we're here to give it to you, no matter who you are.



The mail moves through APO 96374, the largest APO in the Army, as SP/4 Russell Griffin (Marysville, La.), SP/4 Preston Fielder (Augusta, Ga.) SP/4 Fenten Parke (Casper, Wyo.) and SP/4 George Edson (Bingamton, N.Y.) prepare mailbags for dispatch. (US Army photo by PFC Sam Rousso)

1st kill for 48th scout dog platoon

By SGT Tom Mano

LZ HAWK HILL (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Nowadays in Vietnam it's hard to accomplish a "first", but a scout dog handler here in the 196th Infantry Brigade has just earned this mark of distinction.

Private First Class Raypheal Kenney (Galveston, Tex.) was the first man in the 48th Scout Dog Platoon to kill an enemy.

The incident occurred when Kenney was working with Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry off their home firebase, LZ (landing zone) Mildred. Accompanied by Smokey, a 65 pound German shepherd, Kenney was engaged in seeking out an enemy convalescent home that intelligence had reported was in the area.

"I thought we'd be successful," commented Kenney, "because I heard Bravo Company were some squared-away dudes."

The men were air-assaulted into an area that the battalion had never worked before. Gunships provided support fire as the men ran across rice paddies and corn fields when they were set down.

"Those birds were rapping off so much ammo: you didn't know if there was any return fire."

Once the company had regrouped, they started humping west. Kenney and Smokey were the forerunners in the column.

"I always walk point because I think it's the most effective," said Kenney. "If I get killed, the hell with it, it's just my day."

When they hit double-canopy jungle on a mountainside, Kenney called for a man to cut vines, so he could devote his entire concentration to working his dog. After 150 meters hacking at the vines, the cutter stopped and the men set up their night defensive position (NDP). Movement was detected a short distance from the perimeter so a few rounds of artillery were called in.

While walking through elephant grass the next day, the men received sniper fire. This confirmed their presumption that the movement the night before were not just water buffaloes.

After three miles of arduous "humping" the men settled down in a NDP. Kenney was just preparing to settle down for some needed sleep when Smokey alerted.

"I was blowing up my air mattress and Smokey's nose went up in the air searching for the scent cone (the area at which the smell is the most intense)," mused Kenney, "I looked around, but didn't see anything so I went back to my mattress. I didn't feel it was that strong an alert."

As Kenney was lying down, Smokey came to a strong alert. His rigid body and probing nostrils gave evidence to something strange nearby. Rising from his mattress, a VC suddenly loomed before him less than 100 meters down a nearby trail.

"I wanted to yell to the other guys, but the words just wouldn't come," reflected Kenney. "I'd never fired my weapon in the field and I was scared as hell."

Kenney open up on automatic and the enemy fell into nearby brush. Immediately Smokey bounded from cover and started scouting the brush. Kenney followed close behind and together they found the enemy's body.

It wasn't until the team returned to Hawk Hill that they learned of their "first". The First Sergeant was the initial person to tell him.

"In a way I was happy, in a way I was sad," said Kenney. "I knew I had killed somebody, but I also knew it had to be down to save the other guys."

HELLO... PROJECT HELP?

PROJECT HELP, Question of the Week

ANSWER: USARV Cir 600-8 dated Feb. 28, 1971 states: No individual will be placed on the local recommended list whose total point score (board and administrative) is lower than the bottom man already on the list in the same three-digit MOS. In the event there is no one already on the list in the same three-digit MOS in which the individual is competing, then at least one individual but no more than 20 per cent of the total number of personnel competing in the MOS may attain list status.

QUESTION: A buddy and I went before a promotion board the same day. He made a higher score and was placed on the promotion roster but my name was kept off because supposedly only one man for each MOS could be promoted. I was recommended for promotion. Can they do this?

One on the house?

By Sp/4 Ralph J. Winter

FSB BRONCO, (11th Inf Bde. IO) – "Sit down and have a drink. The First Sergeant will see you in a minute." Are you hearing things? A bar in the company orderly room?

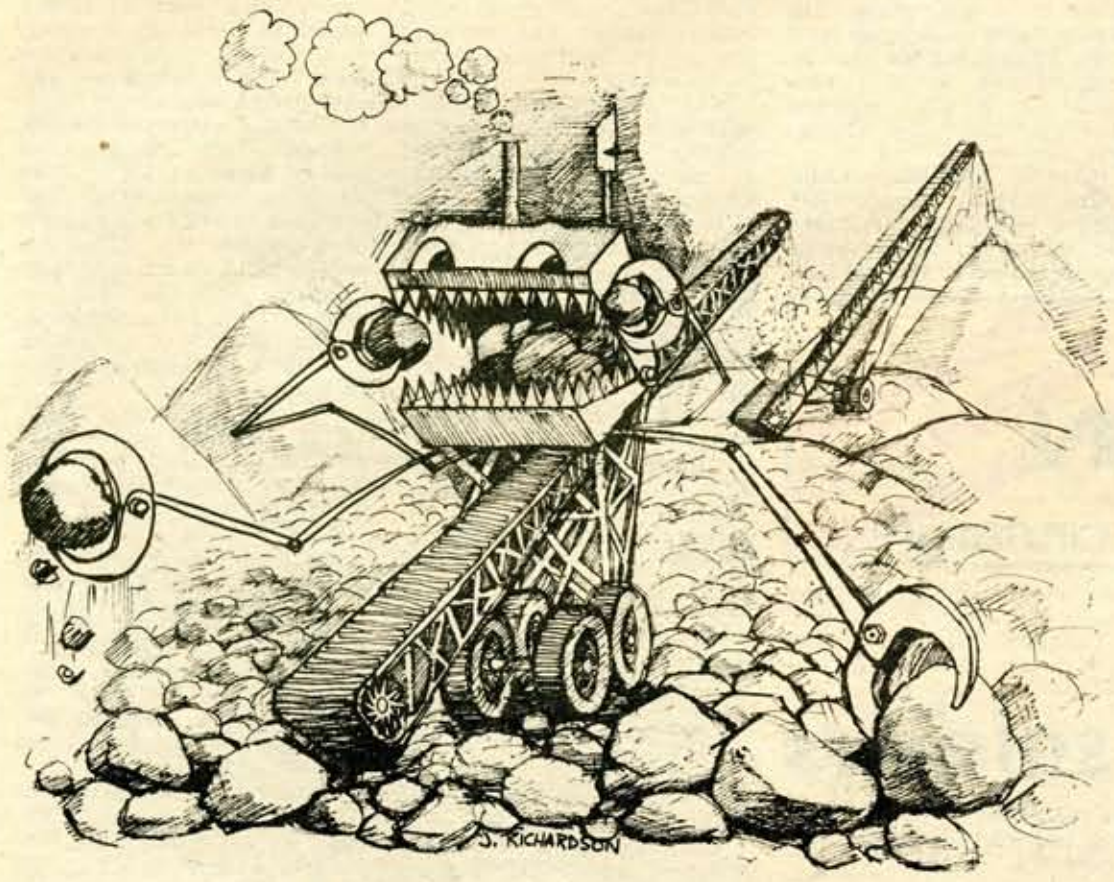
Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, of the 11th Infantry Brigade has one. Actually Army policy change does not go quite that far. However, Typhoon Wanda recently hit South Vietnam causing damage to many structures at FSB Bronco. One of those buidlings damaged by the storm was the orderly room. In order to continue operations, the staff moved into the vacant Officers' Lounge with its leather trimmed bar and tiled floor and ceiling.

The sentiments of everyone working in the office were voiced by Sergeant Michael P. McGuire (Donaldsonville, La.), who said, "It's unfortunate this move is just temporary. I sort of like the atmosphere of our new unique orderly room."

'Big Bruiser' has terrific appetite for rock

By 1LT. Feigenbaum

CHU LAI (39th Eng. Bn. IO) – As the sun rises over Chu Lai combat base and guards are relieved from their posts, we see a cloud of dust in the distance. A three quarter ton and a two and one half ton truck loaded with men are approaching.



As you stand at Chu Lai's gate two, you see to the right of QL-1 a rather large stone quarry digging complex. Its layout is typical of modern technology Trained Vietnamese civilians run the digging operation, and you can observe the morning activity of the civilians as they mount the equipment.

About this time the two trucks have arrived, and they turn east onto the combat base side of QL-1 and stop at a small, unimpressive shack. Moving closer to the shack, a machine comes into view. This machine is known as "Big Bruiser" but it is really only a 75TPH rock crusher. One laughs as he glances at this "toy" and then looks across the road at the impressive layout there. The operation on the east side of QL-1 is complete with crusher, track drills, leaders, crane and bulldozer, and is run by the 39th Engineer Battalion's 137th Engineer Company (Light Equipment).

After a few seconds of milling around, Sergeant First Class Roland L. Furgal, Warren, Mass., the non-commissioned officer in charge of the operation, scratches his head, yawns and exhorts; "Let's get to work!"

Staff Sergeant Willie Smith, Detroit, Mich., who supervises the crusher operation, gathers his men and climbs onto "Big Bruiser." Chief Warrant Officer Stewart Hurst, Hargate, Tenn., arrives on the scene and eyeballs the machine. After a few puffs on his pipe, he says a few words to his men in the maintenance contact team at the crusher. The chief knows every inch of the crusher. Maintenance is ever present, and is the primary concern of every individual there.

The engine is started and sits idling. The clutch is engaged and the jaws move..."Big Bruiser is hungry."

Out across QL-1, the crane, drills and dump trucks are in operation digging the large stone blocks out of the ground and carrying them over for the crusher to "eat."

One becomes impresssed with the coordination, teamwork and professionalism of the two operations working together.

"Big Bruiser" has an insatiable appetite for rock. His diet only calls for 1500 cubic yards a week.

It was shortly after noon on Friday and the crusher was already sleeping, for by that time he had finished eating 2530 cubic yards of rock for the week. This is a new record for the crusher and all personnel are gathered around the machine with smiles on their faces. They are watching Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Mumm, battalion commander, open can after can of beer and pass them out to the men.

The man behind scenes of justice

By SGT Tom Mano

DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – An infantry brigade may be deemed a small society controlling many of its own affairs, yet still receiving life-giving supplies from the outside. One aspect in the 196th Infantry Brigade that is given top priority is the execution of justice.

Some punishments are meted out here such as Article 15s, while judges higher up decide courts-martial. These men and those who argue for and against the defendant are well publicized, but what of the middleman?

What of the man who handles the paperwork, consults the brigade adjutant on cases that are unfair or wouldn't succeed in court and advises non-judicial punishment? What of the man who makes certain that the evidence such as lab specimens and the witnesses are present for trial?

Where but in self-satisfaction is the glory for this man without whom a trial would not take place? Perhaps he is considered just a whetstone in the harvest of justice, perhaps just a few drops of oil for the "machine". Perhaps it is this oil that he has burned until the early morning in an effort to bring about a quick trial.

"When a man comes to me with a problem," explained Specialist Four Lyle M. Freeland (Belpre, Ohio), legal advisor for the 196th Brigade, "I first try to make him aware of his actions and what might become of them. If he comprehends the details, I will acquaint him with the paperwork and who has to sign it."

Lyle, working hand in hand with the Judge Advocate General (JAG) in Chu Lai prepares all courts-martial that emanate from the 196th Bde. He sets up the courtroom and makes sure all required personnel are there.

Working closely with the brigade adjutant, he might recommend a lower punishment than the one imposed on a soldier by his commanding officer. "Like if a guy doesn't have his boots shined, his hair cut or his pants bloused and the commander wants to give him a court-matial, I will probably advise a lesser punishment," said Lyle.

Article 15s and courts-martial occupy much of Lyle's time, but personal problems requiring legal advice frequently come to his attention. Counsel on divorces from both foreign and American girls is included in his repertoire of skills.

"I had one guy who had married a Thai girl and wanted to get divorced over here," said Lyle. "I had to tell him it wasn't possible, and he would have to wait until he got back to the states."

Another problem Lyle works on are people desiring conscientious objector status. He encourages anyone seeking it to go through the battalion and then come to him.

To properly execute his job, Lyle has disciplined himself to ignore his personal feelings. "An evil disposition or sloppy clothes does not make a man guilty," stressed the Specialist.

When seeking justice, the men of the 196th Inf. Bde. have an enthusiastic friend in Sp/4 Lyle. "If a man has question I can't answer, I'll damn sure find it out for him," concluded the legal advisor.

Crime doesn't pay

Case 1

Private First Class James H. Bumgarner Jr., and Private William J. Schott, both of Echo Company, 26th Engineer Battalion, were convicted by general court-martial on May 31, for committing aggravated assualts upon two noncommissioned officers.

According to the evidence introduced at the trial, PFC Bumgarner and Pvt. Schott fashioned a "home made" bomb out of C-explosive and large nails. The bomb was placed under a building occupied by several noncommissioned officers and was detonated a few minutes later.

One noncommissioned officer was slightly injured in the explosion that severely damaged the building.

After announcing findings of guilty, the court sentenced PFC Bumgarner and Pvt. Schott to dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to Private (E-1) and confinement at hard labor for five years.

Both soldiers are presently confined in the Division D-Cell awaiting transfer to the USARV Installation Stockade, Long Binh, Vietnam. Thereafter, they will be transferred to the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., to serve the period of confinement.

Case 2

Private Charles L. Lewis, a member of Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Battery, 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery, was convicted by general court-martial on May 31 for possession of marihuana, heroin and opium and for wrongful sale of heroin.

After announcing findings of guilty, the court sentenced him to dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to Private (E-1) and confinement at hard labor for five years.

He is presently detained in the Division D-Cell awaiting transfer to the USARV Installation Stockade, Long Binh, Vietnam. After review of his conviction in this command, he will be transferred to the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., to serve the confinement portion of the sentence.

Returning convoy uprights overturned Vietnamese bus

By Sp/5 Daniel McVann

CHU LAI – (39th Eng. Bn.) – A convoy returning to Chu Lai recently saved the day for some local Vietnamese.

The Convoy, consisting of two five-tons and a low-boy from the 39th Engineer battalion, was nearing the Chu Lai combat base when they noticed a group of Vietnamese gathering around a bus that had apparently overturned into a rice patty.

Stoping to investigate, they soon discovered the driver of the bus had lost control and in the ensuing accident several persons were still pinned under the overturned bus.

Staff Sergeant Morris Wire, Quinter, Kan.; assisted by Specialist Four William Cooper, Xenia, Ohio; Staff Sergeant Stanley Williams Tacoma, Wash.; Specialist Four William Keller, Vancouver, Wash.; Specialist Four William Keller, Vancouver, Wash.; and Private First Class Richard Brown, Duck Hill, Miss.; immediately began their own rescue operation.

Backing the low-boy part way off the road into the rice patty, they attached a chain from the rear of the low-boy forward the bus was righted and the people were helped from underneath.

After insuring there were no seriously injured persons and that those even slightly injured were being attended to, the members of Alpha Company, 39th Engr. Bn., continued on their way, having extended a helping hand to a fellow man in time of need.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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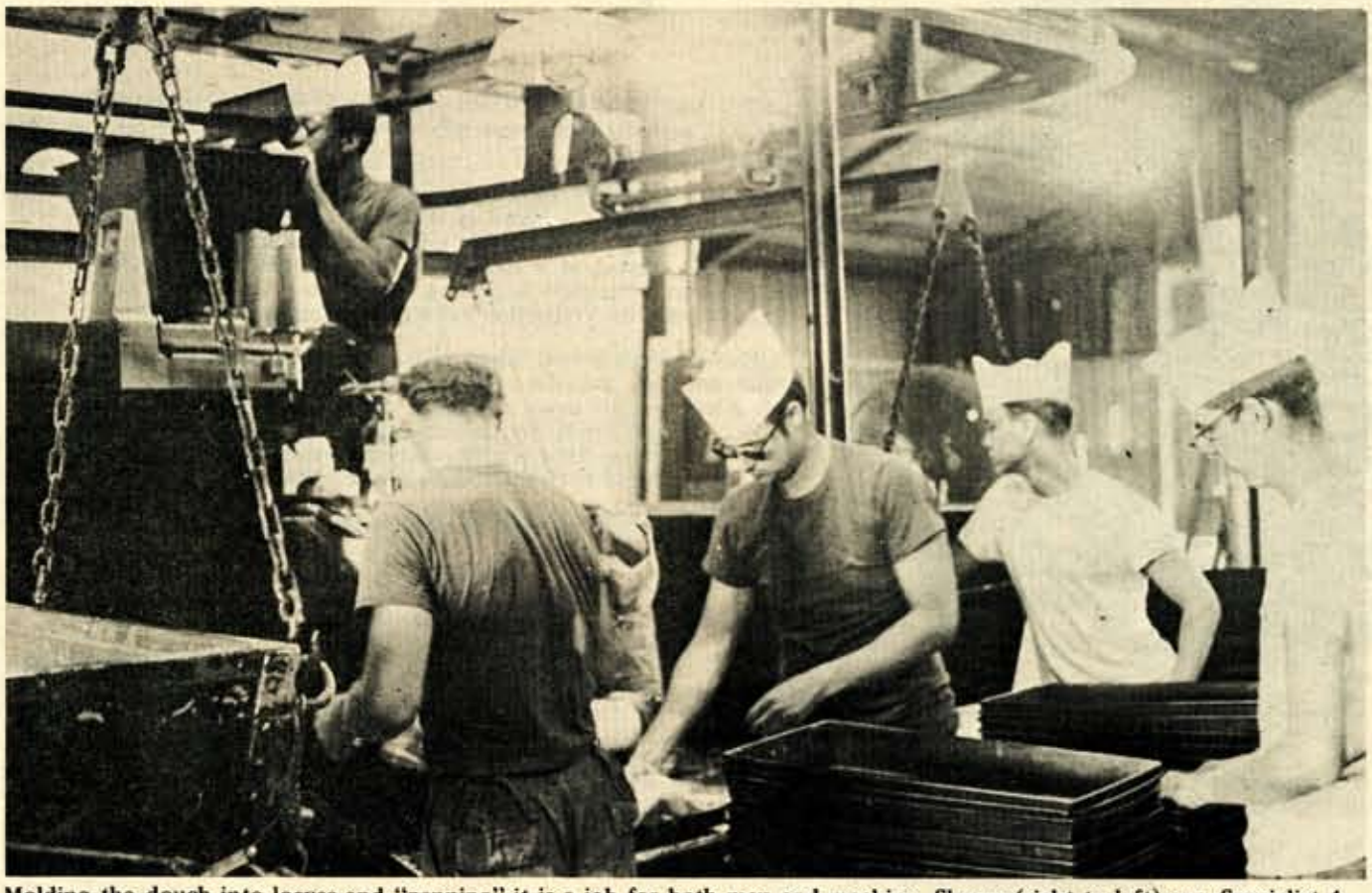
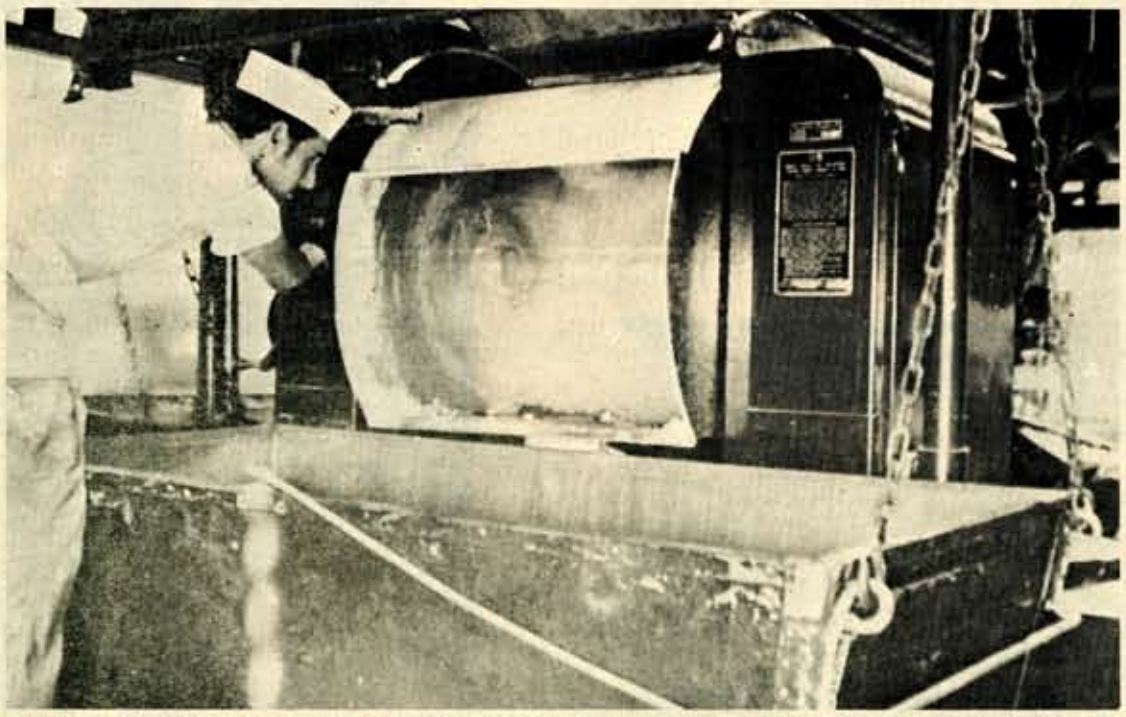
Specialist Four Mark A. Schulz . . . . . Editor

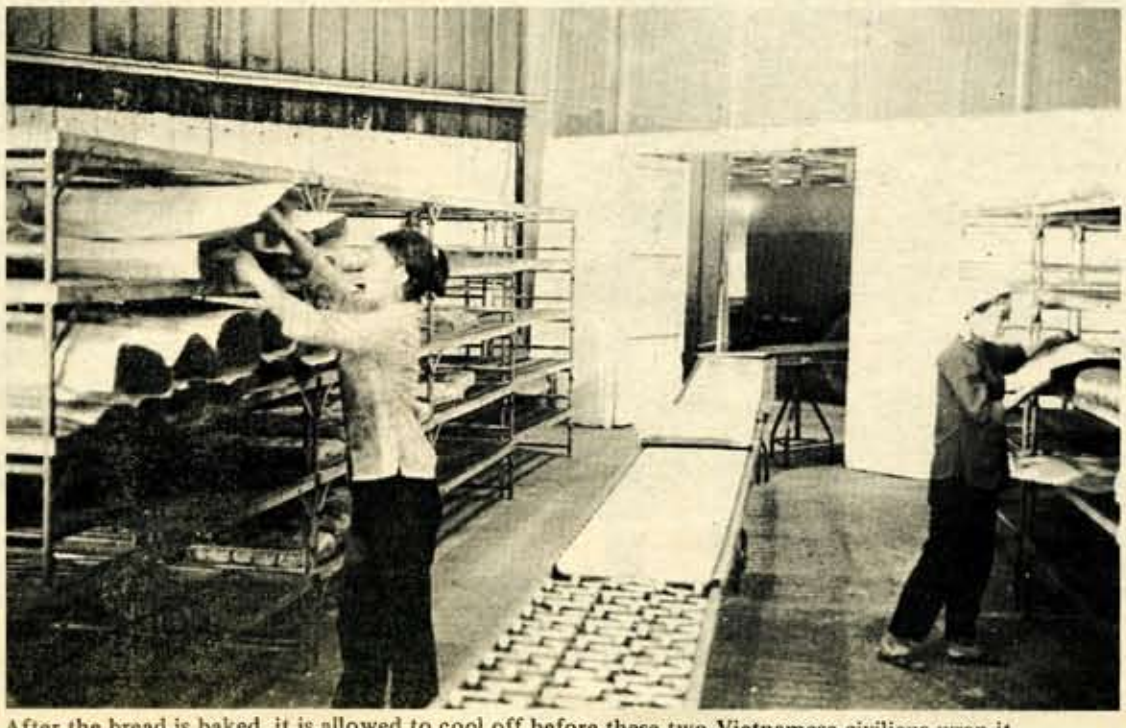
6 types of 'bread' from the bakery



Molding the dough into loaves and "panning" it is a job for both men and machine. Shown (right to left) are: Specialist 4 Ken Hubbard (Casper, Wyo.), Specialist 5 Richard Schuck (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Specialist 4 Mark Licher (Geneva, Ill.), Specialist 4 Dennis Lang (Buffalo, N.Y.) and Private First Class David Brown (Tulsa, Okla.).



Specialist Four James Noyes (Cordell, Lkla.) empties a mixing machine of 450 pounds of raisin bread dough.



After the bread is baked, it is allowed to cool off before these two Vietnamese civilians wrap it.

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) -- There's an old German saying that goes, "Where bread I eat, his song I sing." In Chu Lai and its environs, not too many songs are heard about the 4th Quartermaster Bakery Detachment, even though they supply all the units in and around Chu Lai with their bread.

About 4,000 pounds of bread come out of the 4th Quartermaster Bakery every day. Bread is its only product. French, white, raisin, whole wheat, cheese and potato--none of them are fancy or elaborate, but no one expects home cooking in Vietnam.

It takes four hours from the time the flour meets the yeast and other ingredients until a loaf of bread is ready for eating.

The 24 soldiers and nine Vietnamese civilians who work in the bakery, labor 12 hours a day, every day in order to ensure the bread the troops eat is always fresh.

First, the ingredients are mixed. About 450 pounds of goodies, including about 250 pounds of flour, 150 pounds of water and--surprisingly--a half cup of vinegar, are poured into a gigantic mixing machine that works just like mom's washer back in the "world."

According to Specialist Four James Noyes, Cordell, Okla., "There's a gigantic agitator in there that stirs everything up, just like a washing machine."

After everything is thoroughly mixed, the dough is transported to a molding machine. It ferments for a while, then gets chopped up into 216 loaves, each weighing 36 ounces.

Six at a time, the loaves are put into baking pans, then allowed to ferment a little longer before they're put into a 450-degree-hot oven. Each oven--there are three of them--can bake 216 loaves-- a whole "dough"--at a time.

After baking for an hour, the loaves are allowed to cool; then they are moved to the packing room, where the Vietnamese civilians pack the bread in bags, six loaves at a time.

Sooner or later, a mess hall truck comes to pick up the bread and take it back to its ultimate destination -- the soldier.

Story and photos

by

PFC Sam Rousso

Injured Vietn

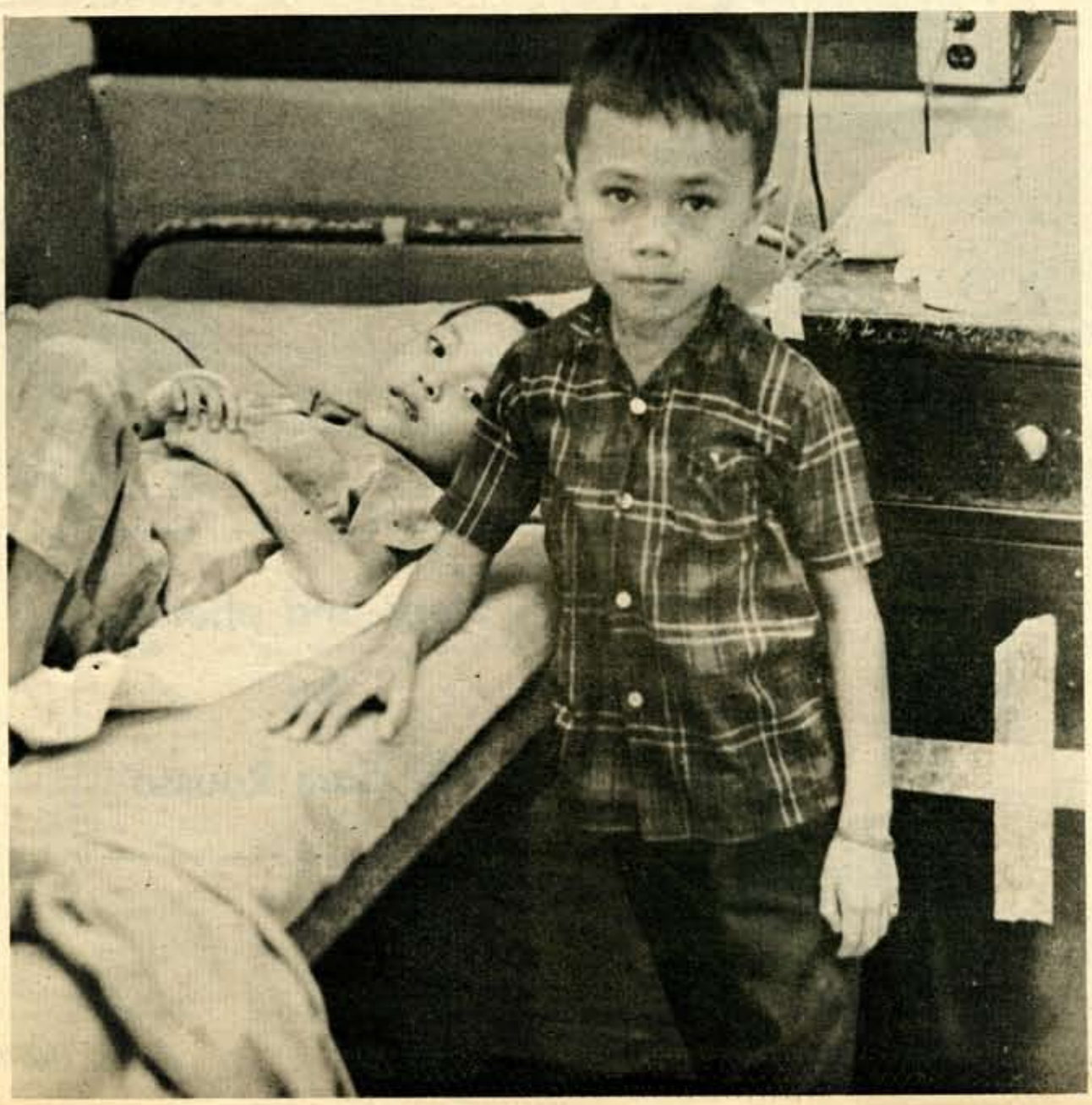
CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. I0) – Thanks to the concern shown by one G.I., a young Vietnamese boy will once again be able to run and play with his friends.

Nguyen-Van-Hong, eleven years old, was injured when Viet Cong terrorists detonated a bomb in the movie theater in which he was sitting. His body was hit by multiple fragments and debris.

He was treated at a local Vietnamese hospital, and when his wounds had sufficiently healed he was released. At the time no-one suspected that the young boy had a more serious problem.

When Nguyen arrived home, in An Tan, his parents found that he could not walk. Because of an intense pain in his lower left leg, he would not even let anyone touch it. Since no-one knew quite what to do, the child just lay around home. For nearly two months Nguyen lay at the door of his hootch and watched his young friends playing. He could not even stand because of the pain. His leg began to wither.

The small boy's plight became known to the 23d Infantry



TOP LEFT: Nguyen-Van-Hong, a very happy eleven year old, expresses elation over the news that he will soon be going home. He holds a model helicopter a gift from a G.I. who cared.

OTTOM LEFT: Nguyen, a shy boy by nature, never really became accustomed to hospital life. It was all just too big. Here he is shown with his only friend who occupied an ajoining bed.

CENTER: Under the watchful eye of Sp/4 Joe Lovato, a physical therapist at the 9lst Evacuation Hospital, Nguyen gamely begins to walk under his own power. The sensation of again walking was quite a surprise to him.

UPPER RIGHT: Here Lovato works with conditioning and toning up the boy's leg, which had lost much of its strength. Nguyen looks on with intense interest.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Under the direction of the physical therapist, Nguyen exercises different muscles in his leg. After two months of no use, he had to be taught once more to use his leg.

ımese boy walks once more

Division's G-5 Civil Affairs section and Master Sergeant Loran B. Massey, Johnson City, Tenn., took over the matter.

MSG Massey felt "that the United States Army with all of its modern medical equipment, could probably help. And the only way to find out was to get the boy up there."

Two months after losing the use of his left leg, Nguyen was admitted to the 91st Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai. There he was examined by Dr. (Major) Barry Levine, Morristown, N. J., an orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Levine found that a small projectile had entered the boy's left buttock, causing causalgia, an inflammation of the sciatic nerve. This inflammation of the major nerve of the leg was causing the intense pain that was preventing Nguyen from using his leg.

To reduce the pain Dr. Levine performed a "Lombard Sympathetic Bloc", which was the administration of an anesthetic to the sciatic nerve, thus blocking the pain in the lower leg.

The boy was then turned over to a physical therapist at the hospital's Orthopedic Clinic, where Nguyen began to work at walking again.

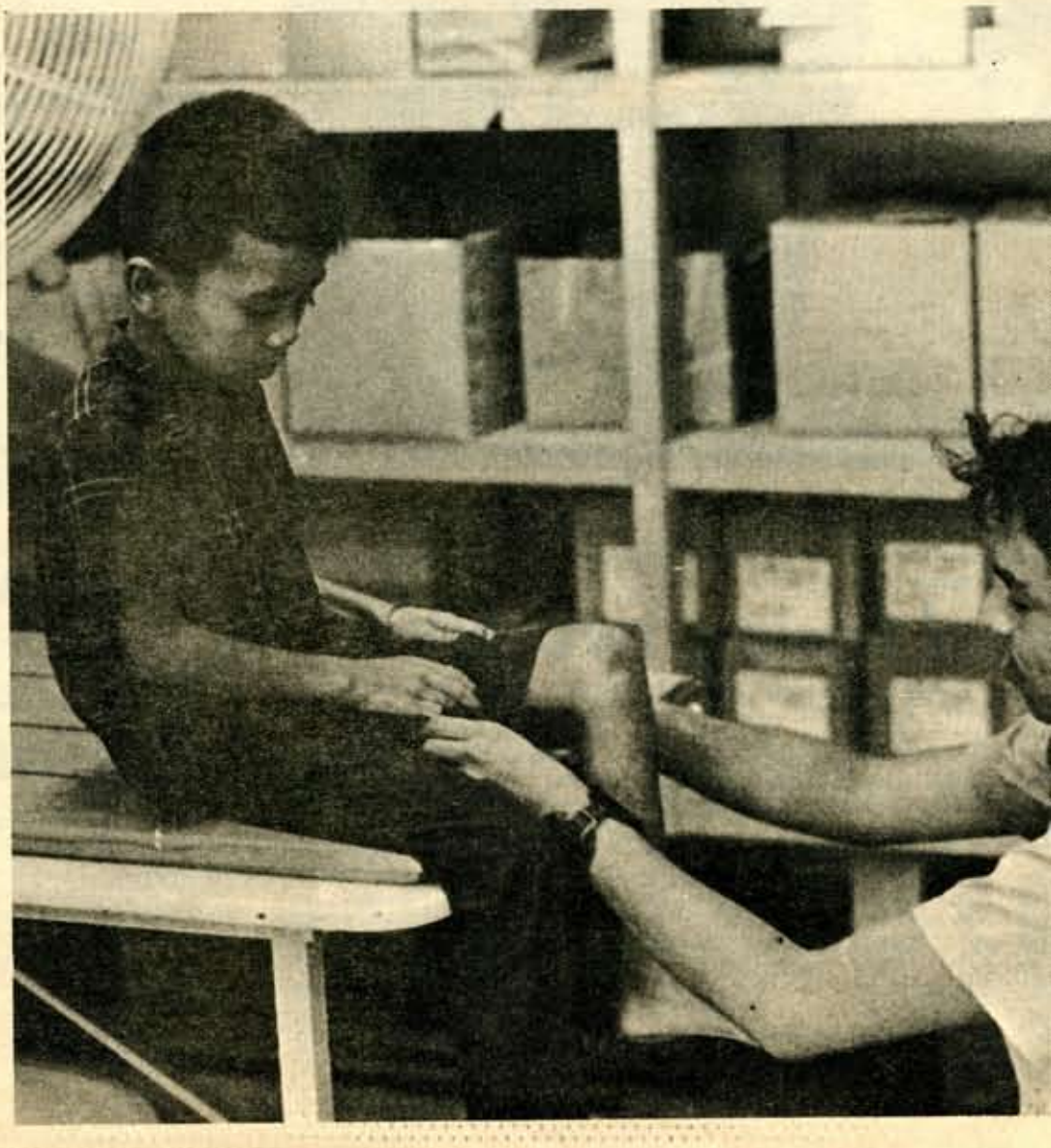
Specialist Four Joe C. Lovato III, Northglenn, Colo., a physical therapist, stated that when Nhuyen first came in: "He wouldn't let anyone touch his leg and would not even attempt to walk on it. His problem was as much emotional as physical. He had convinced himself he would never walk again."

After only a few therapy lessons, Nguyen was walking once more, but with a noticeable limp. The intense pain he had known for so long was gone. By the end of a week he could walk without help, and seemed quite pleased with his returned mobility.

After little more than a week in the 91st Evac. Hospital, Nguyen was told he could return home. MSG Massey, who had frequently visited the boy, also seemed quite pleased to hear that Nguyen would be returning home.

"That was one of the most rewarding parts of my job," he stated.

Story by
Sp4 William Hutchison
photos by
Sp4 Rick Holloway



196th & 198th combine efforts

(Continued from Page 1)-

While on patrol near the same area, the "Mountainmen" found a weapons cache which included three machineguns, three tripods, nine circular magazines, one 76mm recoiless rifle, 31 76mm rounds, two small recoiless rifles, one heavy machinegun, four 82mm mortar rounds, and one Chinese-made 70mm howitzer.

Working northwest of Chu Lai, Delta Company, 4/3rd, engaged and killed one Viet Cong soldier. Captured in action was on AK-47 rifle, two Chicom hand grenades.

Earlier in the week the "Mountainmen" engaged and killed another Viet Cong trying to evade from the infantrymen.

In a night defensive position northwest of Chu Lai, Charlie Company, 4/3rd, engaged and killed one Viet Cong soldier as he neared the "Mountainmen's" position.

In an area northwest of Chu Lai, Echo Recon, 4/3rd, engaged and killed one enemy soldier. The "Mountainmen" also captured in action one AK-47 rifle which was extracted to a nearby LZ.

Gunships from the 23rd Infantry Division accounted for seven enemy kills this recent week and destroyed several enemy structures.

Flying over the 198th area of operations, gunships from Delta Troop, 1/1st Cavalry, engaged and killed four NVA soldiers with mini-guns and rocket fire.

Gunnies from Delta Troop, 1/1st Cavalry, engaged and killed one Viet Cong evading into a tree line, while flying over an area west of Chu Lai.

Using mini-guns and rocket fire, the gunships from Delta Troop were successful in destroying 10 enemy structures southwest of Chu Lai.

Action was light in the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, as the "Regulars" had but one kill and detained five Viet Cong suspects during the recent week.

Charlie Company 1/6th, observed and engaged a group of Viet Cong killing one. Captured in action and extracted to an LZ were three Chicom hand grenades and one AK-47 magazine.

While on patrol west of Chu Lai, Alpha Company, detained five Viet Cong suspects which were extracted to a nearby LZ for further questioning.

Finally, the 198th Brigades' Highway Broadcast Team received, 13 hand grenades, one anti-personnel mine, one rocket, and three recoiless rifle rounds.

CAROLINE HILL

In light action during this recent week of operations the "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade were credited for 14 enemy soldiers killed and over 4000 pounds of rice captured.

While in their night defensive position early in the week the Reconnaissance element of 2/1st Infantry engaged and killed one VC.

A few days later Recon, while on a search and clear mission southwest of Da Nang, observed seven enemy soldiers to their front. They engaged with small arms fire, killing two as the others evaded.

Later that week while patrolling an area southwest of Da Nang, Recon engaged and killed one NVA with small arms fire. Six packs containing 65 pounds of rice and miscellaneous medical supplies were captured in the action.

While patrolling an area southwest of Da Nang early that week, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, found one enemy structure. Upon checking the structure, the "Gimlets" found 2000 pounds of rice stored in wooden bins. The find was extracted to a nearby LZ.

Company C., 3/21st, while on patrol southwest of Da Nang found a cache consisting of 2,000 pounds of rice. The rice was extracted to Que Son.

Later in the week, Charlie Company engaged and killed one VC, while working an area southwest of Da Nang.

The Reconnaissance elements of the "Gimlets", while on patrol late this week came upon a structure and observed two VC. The enemy soldiers attempted to evaded and were engaged by the Recon element. As a result, one VC was killed as the other successfully evaded to the southeast.

While patrolling an area southwest of Da Nang, the Recon element found 12 structures and detained two Vietnamese males. A search of the area uncovered 13 packs containing four NVA uniforms, one Chicom grenade, 10 pounds of rice, 10 pounds of potatoes and 80 pounds of corn. The detainees and supplies were extracted to a nearby LZ.

Early that week, while flying a visual reconaissance mission in the 196th Brigade's AO (air of operation), Helix 16 observed four VC and processed artillery on their position. As a result, all four enemy soldiers were killed by the arty. The kills were credited to Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artilley.

Later in the week, Helix 16, while on a visual reconnaissance mission, observed three enemy soldiers and called in artillery on their location. As a result the artillery killed all three enemy soldiers. Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery was credited with the kills.

A beautiful dancer, and a lively beat keeps the attention during this floor show at the 198th Refit area. These soldiers of A 1/6 seem entranced by the moves of the girl or is it the music of the "Big Sound" band. (US Army photo by Sp/4 James Richardson)

Officer hootch 'slants' on NDP

By Sp/5 Daniel McVann

CHU LAI (39th Engr. Bn. IO) – Located in the middle of Night Defensive Position (NDP) Knight stands, or more accurately, slants, a most unusual looking edifice. Among the men of the 39th Engineer Battalion's Charlie Company, it is affectionately known as the "L.T. Abortion."

It all started three weeks ago when battalion supply reported they had some scrap lumber to get rid of. Not being one to pass up free material, Charlie Co. gathered it up and took it to the NDP. It was decided to construct a combination orderly room and officer hootch.

Originally there were no plans for an officer hootch as all requisitioned materials were to be utilized for the troops. To keep from detracting from the company project, troop labor was not used, but instead, "lieutenant labor!"

The hootch was primarily built by Lieutenants Bruce Gooding, Golden Valley, Minn., and Michael Shaw, Forest Park, Ga., with many others leanding a hand.

The style could best be described as early slum. One of the major problems was that each day, various sizes of lumber were picked up and used the same day. The following day, different sizes would be brought in and used. This led to an assortment of lumber with little or no uniformity. In all, the 12 by 21 by 11 by 20 foot structure, uses more than 20 different lumber sizes.

When you see the hootch, you immediately notice a slight slant to the right. If you ask why; "for drainage." Likewise, the floor has several slopes to it; "for drainage." The incline of the building couldn't have anything to do with the fact that no levels, squares, etc. were used by the builders.

By far the most distinguishing feature of the "L.T. Hootch" is its floor. There was no lumber left over for the floor, so old bricks from nearby ruins were used instead. In addition, to being unique, the brick and mortar floor is quite cool.

Despite its lack of squareness and other minor shortcomings, the hootch is comfortable and sturdy. As testimony to its soundness, the Vietnamese KP's remarked, "Number one! This is where I go if we get trouble!" A true testimony to the worth of a lieutenant's labors.

He awoke with bamboo viper

By Sgt. Tom Frey

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – How would you like to wake up some morning and find a "bamboo viper" hanging over your head? Exactly that happened recently to Specialist Four Joseph Chrisman, Hatfield, Ark., a member of the 23rd Infantry Division's 198th Infantry Brigade.

Chrisman, a rifleman from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, was lying down at his sleeping area of a night laager position when he noticed the poisonous serpent crawling among some branches directly over him.

"I was in a daze at first," said Chrisman, "but when I realized the danger, I immediately cleared the area, fast."

Members of the platoon chased the snake with sticks, fire M-79 cannister rounds at it, and finally Specialist Four Dan Daily (Loving, Tex.) killed it with a machete.

"He was a hard one to kill, but we finally got rid of him," said Daily.

The deadly snake measured about six foot in length and possessed large fangs.

"I've heard a saying that snakes travel in pairs," said Chrisman. "I hope it's not true because I don't want to wake up tommorrow and find the second one."

Relaxing "grunts" show their appreciation for a good show. These "grunts" who were on refit after 46 days in the field relax and get comfortable for the small amount of time they spend at the 198th Refit area. For the men of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry the days in the rear and the floor shows are just to few and far between for soon they will once again don their rucks, gather up their weapons and return to the bush. (US Army photo by Sp/4 James Richardson)

Soldier stood facing two NVA

By Sgt. Les Bechdel

FSB BRONCO (11th Brigade IO) – "It was a point blank situation. I had just reached a crest in the path when I came face to face with two NVA soldiers." exclaimed Specialist Four Richard C. Hatten.

Hatten, from Syracuse, N.Y., was walking point for his squad of Delta Company, 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., returning from a night patrol to their night lagger position, approximately ten kilometers west of Minh Long in Quang Ngai Province. "We observed several signs of recent activity in the area as we made our way along a small stream. It was a light brushy area and we were only about 100 meters from our night position when we made contact," explained Sgt. Henry O. Brown of Chesapeake, Va.

Hatten dropped the first enemy before he could return fire from his AK-47. The rest of the squad quickly moved up to give supporting fire. Another NVA soldier slid down an embankment to the stream leaving a heavy blood trail. "We could tell by the blood trail that he was moving downstream directly toward our other element, so I radioed for the other squad to set up a hasty ambush," said Brown.

Specialist Four Rodney A. Barker of Riverside, Calif., sighted the fleeing NVA soldier first. Initiating the fire, he and machine gunner Darold W. Stine of Akron, Ohio, successfully stopped the NVA's escape.

The 11th Bde. troopers swept through the area of contact and found one AK-47 and magazine, one Chinese Communist grenade, two rucksacks, and various medical supplies. All captured equipment was removed to a rear area,

Miss Stella Stevens approach may seem a bit unusual but we at the Southern Cross want to voice our approval. Of course, we're talking about 101 ways to tan evenly. (Photo courtesy of Columbia Studios)

Sgt. Hatfield starts Humgullian stew craze

Sergeant Charles E. Hatfield and his crew prepare to partake of one of life's little pleasures as he gets ready to try the first batch of his concoction. Hatfield is chief of gun crew No. 4, Battery B, 1st Bn. 14th Artillery at FSB Linda.
(U.S. Army Photo by Sp/4 David R. Prim)

By Sp/4 David R. Prim

FSB LINDA (23d DIVARTY IO) – Humgullian stew is the number one dish at Bravo Battery, 1st of the 14th Artillery, since the unit moved to FSB Linda, west of Da Nang.

The battery is a jump unit, constantly moving between makeshift firebases. That means a pretty steady diet of C's for the men of Bravo Battery.

Sergeant Charles E. Hatfield, chief of gun crew number four, concocted the stew from a combination of C's and named it after the Humgully, a short-lived popular dance of the 40's.

"I just take some beef and shrapnel (beef and potatoes with gravy), tomato sauce from barbed wire and buckshot (spaghetti and meatballs) and get a couple of fresh tomatoes smuggled in on the supply ship."

"Season, mix and simmer in a sauce pan until the meat looks like meat again, then serve," recites the Sergeant.

Sergeant Hatfield picked up the culinary skills during a brief break in the service when he and his brother-in-law operated a diner in Hot Springs, Ark. Asked to give his opinion of Humgullian stew, Sergeant Hatfield modestly remarked, "It's just one of life's little pleasures."

New mess hall for 1st of 21st

FSB SAN JUAN HILL (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Engineers of the 23rd Infantry Division recently labored for nearly a month building the only structure on this pile of rocks that does not consist of ammo boxes and sandbags.

First Lieutenant David Sauer, (Buffalo, N.Y.), and ten men of Delta Company, 26th Engineer Battalion constucted a 32 ft. by 64 ft. mess hall for the men of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry.

"Three days after we started work a 'Chinook' helicopter flew over the old mess hall and blew down part of it, making the new mess hall a first priority project," Sauer said.

FSB San Juan Hill can only be reached by air, so all building materials had to be brought in by CH-47 'Chinook' and UH-1H 'Huey' helicopters. Most of the lumber came from Chu Lai, headquarters of the 23rd Infantry Division, and tin for the roof was flown in from a recently closed fire base.

The only power tool the engineers had was a chain saw. With it they cut all their timber and posts and as much of the rest of their lumber as possible.

"We did a pretty good job with what we had," observed Specialist Five Robert Bartnuff, (Kearny, N.J.).

"At one point the plan called for one inch by eight inch boards and four inch wide boards, but all we had were boards one inch by twelve inches, so we cut our narrower boards out of them."

The structure, built from the ground up without prefabricated parts, includes a kitchen, storeroom and a dining area which seats 75 men.

8 posts offer excess family housing

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) -- Eight locations in the continental United States (CONUS) now offer housing to dependents of personnel who are serving in Vietnam and other unaccompanied short tour areas.

The latest excess housing list compiled by CONARC shows 352 sets of quarters available at Edwards AFB near Lancaster, Calif., and 297 units at Roswell, New Mexico. Edwards AFB was added to the list recently.

Clinton-Sherman AFB in Burns Flat, Okla., leads the list of availabe units with 829, while Schilling Manor Sub-Post in Salina, Kan., has 215 sets of quarters for officers and 520 for enlisted personnel.

Army Regulation 210-50 outlines procedures for applying for excess housing. Additional information may be obtained by contracting the locations as indicated below.

* Edwards AFB, Base Housing Office, Edwards, Calif. 93523, (EM ONLY)

* Savanna Army Depot, Family Housing Manager, Savanna, Ill. (3 units for EM)

* Family Housing Manager, Schilling Manor Sub-Post, Salina, Kan. 67401 (215 Units for EM)

* Clinton-Sherman AFB, General Manager, Midwestern Okla., Development Authority, PO Box 549, Burns Flat, Okla., 73624. (829 for officers and EM)

* Family Housing Manager, Dugway Proving Ground, Dugway, Utah 84022. (8 units, officer and enlisted)

* Port of Moses Lake Housing Authority, 419 Liring Drive, Moses Lake, Wash. 98337. (44 units for officers)

Quarters are usually available within 30 to 60 days. At Schilling Manor, approximately 55 familes depart and arrive each month. Quarters at that post can be confirmed in 60 to 90 days.

Additional information is available in AR 210-50.

23rd Inf Div sports

Volleyballnext scheduled event

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Volleyball is scheduled to be the next competition open to 23rd Inf. Div. units, and according to First Lieutenant Samuel E. Torbert, Division special services officer, 30 or more teams are expected to swing into action during the first week in July.

Plans for the volleyball competition were announced by Torbert during a meeting of the Americal Sports Council recently at Special Services Beach here.

The schedule will follow the same lines of the recently completed division softball tournament. Torbert based his expectations for a 30-team battle on six entrants from each of five major divisional units in the Chu Lai area.

"We will handle more," he said, "if the units can field more team. We'll go up to 40 if there are indications that the sponsoring units commander is certain his team can meet the schedule committments."

Games will be played daily on two courts, one of which will be the court at the beach, according to the special services officer. A match will be decided by the best two out of three games.

Competition will be conducted according to Volleyball Association rules, Torbert pointed out, and qualified referees will be assigned to the contest by the special services office.

During the sports council meeting, a slow pitch softball tournament was discussed also, but no dates were established for it.

General Motors joins PX car reps

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The exchange officer at the Chu Lai Main Post Exchange announced that a General Motors new car sales representative has joined representatives from Ford and Chrysler in offering sales service to military personnel.

The offices are located in the arcade of the main exchange building.

Troopers of the 11th Infantry Brigade make a canal near FSB Bronco into a pleasurable swimming hole, while taking a break from working under a hot sun. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/5 Michael Heath)

Veterans hit high of 28.2 million in May

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The number of American veterans hit a high of 28.2 million in May, the Veterans Administration announced.

The VA said the number of living veterans is likely to continued to increase in the forseeable future since the military discharge rate has been running over 80,000 a month and older veterans have been dying at a rate of about 26,000 a month.

Of VA's 28.2 million veterans, some 25.1 million served during a wartime period and an additional 3.1 million served after the Korean Conflict and before the Vietnam Era–Feb. 1, 1955 to Aug. 4, 1964 inclusive.

Most of the million veterans now in training under the post-Korean G.I. Bill served during the Vietnam Era (after Aug. 4, 1964) and this group also makes up the large bulk of those now applying for G.I. loans.

In contrast, these young Vietnam Era veterans compose only 15 per cent of the patients in VA hospitals, and about ten per cent of those on the disability compensation rolls.

Veterans who served after Jan. 31, 1955, are eligible for all VA benefits. While time has run out for World War II and Korean Conflict veterans for G.I. Bill education benefits, unused portions of home loan guarantly benefits have been restored.

Veterans interested in VA benefits information should contact their local VA office or veterans service officer. Personnel here in Vietnam should contact the Eduaction Center.

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