SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 4, No. 26 Chu Lai, Vietnam July 2, 1971

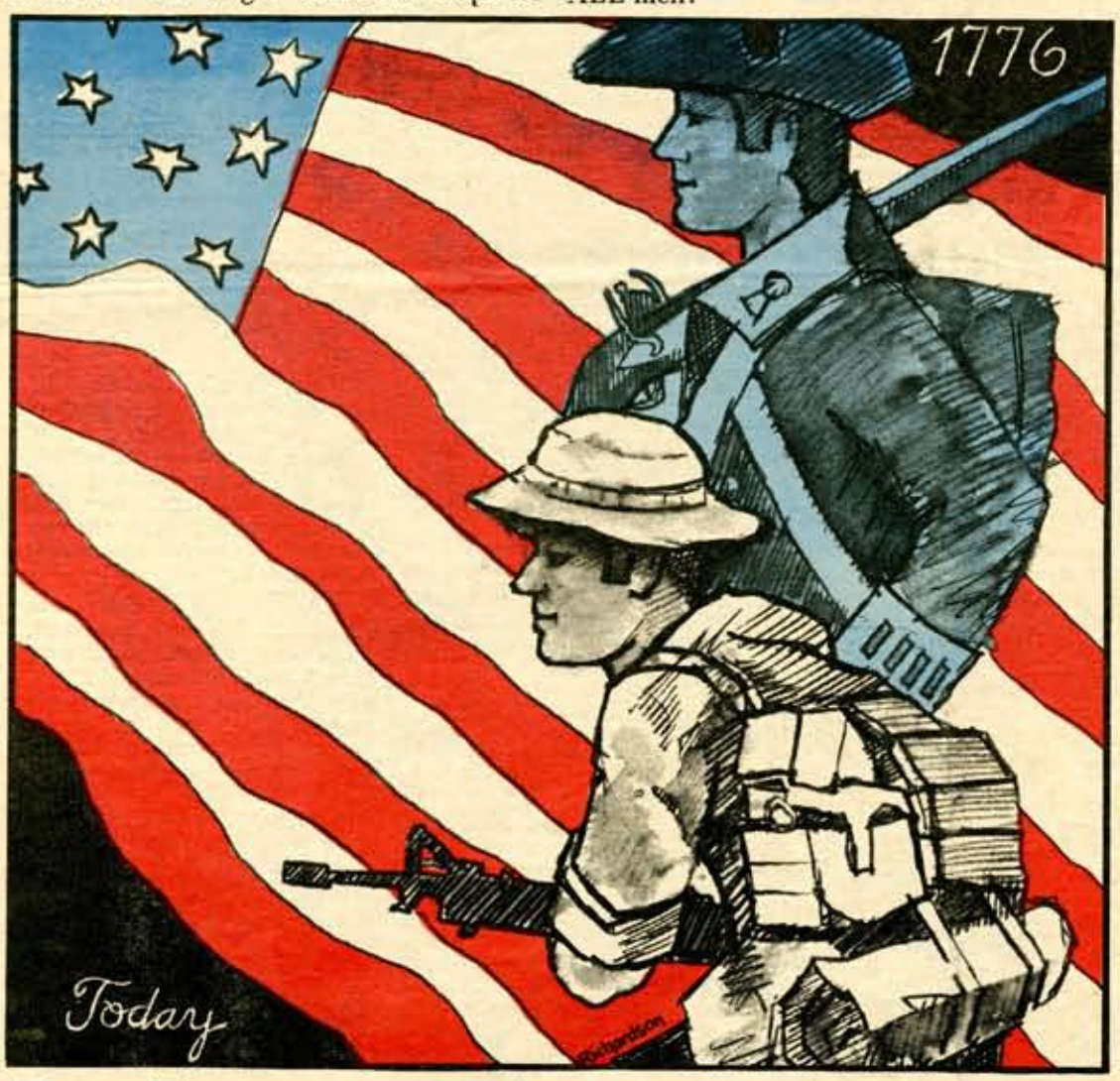
Happy Fourth of July!

One-hundred ninty-five years ago a document was signed that initiated the independence of a nation. That document was the Declaration of Independence, and was adopted on the Fourth of July, 1776, by Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Let us recall what Thomas Jefferson said on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration and ten days before his death.

> May it be to the world what I believe it will be (to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all): the signal of arousing men to burst the chains under which monkish ignorance and superstition have persuaded them to bind themselves and assume the blessings and security of selfgovernment. That form which we have substituted, restores the free right of the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened or opening to the rights of man. The general spread of the light of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred ready to ride them legitimately by the grace of God. These are grounds of hope for others.

Even if one can't find total justification here for fighting a war on another side of the world, can any person be denied the right to choose those same rights Americans felt ought to be the hope of ALL men?



198th kills 15

CHU LAI (198th Bde. IO) -- Action was moderate last week in operation Middlesex Peak as 198th Infantrymen and gunships from the 23rd Infantry Division accounted for 15 enemy killed, two wounded and 11 Viet Cong suspects detained. Also four enemy weapons were captured and 11,000 pounds of unpolished rice were found.

The heaviest action occured in the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry's area of operations. The "Regulars" killed 12 enemy and wounded one. They also detained five Viet Cong suspects and captured two enemy weapons.

An element from Echo Company, 1st Bn., 6th Inf. engaged with mortars and Delta Troop, 1/1st Cavalry engaged with mini-guns and rockets a group of enemy soldiers. Seven Viet Cong were killed by the mortars and two by the gunships.

In an area west of Chu Lai, a recon element from 1st Bn., 6th Inf. engaged a group of Viet Cong soldiers, killing one and wounding one. Captured in the action were two AK-47 rifles and four Chicom hand grenades. The wounded enemy and the weapons were extracted to a nearby LZ.

Also west of Chu Lai, Alpha Company, while on patrol, detained five Viet Cong suspects. The detainees were extracted to an LZ for further questioning.

The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, "Ready Rifles" accounted for one enemy killed and four Viet Cong suspects detained. The infantrymen also found 11,000 pounds of rice.

On patrol in an area southwest of Chu Lai, an element of Charlie Company, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., observed and engaged a group of NVA soldiers. In the ensuing fire fight the "Ready Rifles" killed one enemy.

Earlier Charlie Company found 5000 pounds of unpolished rice and detained one

(Continued on Page 6)

Project Drug is initiated to solve individual problem

By PFC Sam Rousso

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) – Project Drug, a way for the individual soldier to do something about the drug problem, is a reality in the 23d Infantry Division (Americal).

In essence, Project Drug answers all questions about drugs, their effects and consequences, as well as provides channels for the addict to get help–fast.

To reach Project Drug, located in the Division Headquarters area next to the office of the Installation Coordinator, all an Americal Division soldier has to do is walk in or dial D-R-U-G, anytime–day or night.

Ex-addicts, who know the score, man the office 24 hours a day. If they can't answer a question, they refer it to someone who can-the surgeon, chaplain, provost marshal, judge advocate general or psychiatrist.

Officers and NCOs can call in and find out how to spot an addict. If someone wishes to report an incident of drug abuse or to provide information on known drug users or pushers, anonymous calls will be accepted.

If transportation to medical facilities is needed, it too is available 24 hours a day.

"The key words in our campaign are 'Home Free' and 'We Care,'" according to Command Sergeant Major Merrill A. Barron, the Americal Division's top enlisted man. "With this project, we want to get the boys home, free of the habit because we care about them."

23d Infantry Division
PROJECT HELP, Question of the Week

QUESTION: What is wrong with the mail system? Is it true that a rail strike has tied some mail in California?

ANSWER: No, it is not true that the rail strike had any significant effect on the mail as it only lasted a couple of days. Also, there is nothing wrong with the mail system. True, there are times when mail will be backed up--the typhoon on the first day of May had Da Nang backed up for several days, and the recent long Memorial Day weekend will curtail incoming mail, which is averaging five to seven days from date of postmark. Outgoing mail tends to take a little longer, and a similar survey is being conducted to determine the actual transit time.

E-5 promotions on semi-centralized system

By MSG Bill Pickett

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) – Promotions to grade E-5 have been placed under a semi-centralized system, it was announced in June by the 23d Infantry Division adjutant general office. No promotions to that grade will be made in the entire Army in July during the changeover to the new system, it was further stated.

Position vacancies are no longer required for promotion to E-5 and personnel who are eligible will be competing worldwide for advancement.

Beginning August 1, Department of the Army will announce promotion cutoff scores by three-digit MOS, such as 11B, 71B, etc. All personnel who appear before local promotion boards and attain at least 500 points will be placed on local promotion lists. When DA announces monthly cutoff scores for the various MOS's, individuals who meet or exceed that mark will be eligible for promotion.

All personnel, regardless of MOS, who held approved recommended list status on May 31, and who had a total point score of 525 or higher, were to be promoted during June.

Effective June 1, all individuals in grade E-4 who meet administrative eligibility and who were recommended for promotion to grade E-5 by unit commanders, were to be afforded an opportunity to appear before local recommendation boards.

Those personnel who are not credited with at least 500 points (total of administrative and board points) will not be placed on recommended lists. Those individuals who had recommended list status as of May 31, but whose total points were below 500, will retain list status. If, through a process of reevaluation, such personnel do not attain 500 points or better by May 31, 1972, they will lose recommended list status.

It was emphasized that any individual with a recommended list status may request reevaluation every three months.

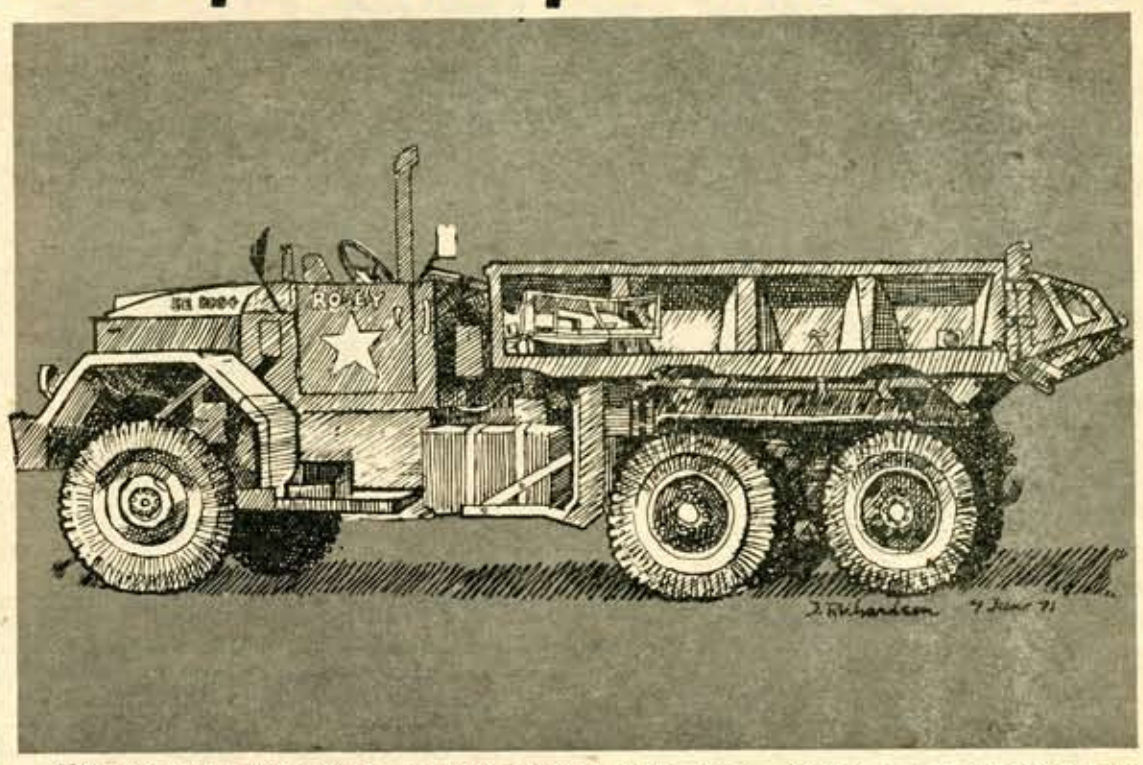
The division AG office also announced that effective June 1, attainment of recommended list status for promotion to E-6 requires a total point score of 600 or higher. Personnel currently on recommended lists with less than 600 points will retain their status. As in grade E-5 process, such personnel who do not attain at least 600 points by May 31 next year lose their recommended list status.

'Rosey' the 5 ton dump truck just won't die

By CPT Daniel F. Lennon

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div. IO) -- A rose by any other name would smell as sweet--sometimes. In this case Rosey is a five ton dump truck of Company B, 26th Engineer Battalion with a longevity that would put Methuselah to shame.

Although the harsh climate and rugged terrain of Vietnam and the hazards of warfare combine to make the average life expectancy of a five ton dump something like 18 months. Rosey is now on her fourth tour in country--without a single R & R or leave.



The remarkable story began in 1967, Rosey rolled off the production line in South Bend, Ind. March 1968 found her already in country and working hard for Company A, 26th Engr. Bn.

It should be explained that a five ton dump truck does much more than simply haul earth. In one of the most hazardous activities that can be conceived, five ton dumps are loaded with earth to increase their weight and are backed down the road behind a mine sweep team in an effort to detonate with the rear tires, any mines the detecting team may have missed. This exercise is called "pressure testing" and not a few five tons have met premature demise in this fashion. Rosey, however, survived unscathed but much from her tour with Alpha Co.

In September 1969, she was sent to Chu Lai for repairs and replacement of some more sorely worn parts and then sent to Company C, 26th Engr. Bn. There she put in another industious nine months of work. At the end of this time, though, she was in such bad condition that the company was anxious to get rid of her, so a rehabilitative transfer was arranged and Rosey came to Company B, her present home.

She was not exactly well received, however, arriving as she did with a leaky radiator, bad brakes, faulty steering, inoperative dump bed and an engine that balked at anything that wasn't level or down hill.

The first Company B operator assigned to her, Specialist Four John Gogel, relates some interesting experiences with Rosey.

"When we first got her," he said, "we were working on Tra Bong road. Rosey was in such bad shape we all thought the best thing to do was try to blow her up and get a replacement truck. So that's what we did. We removed four of her eight rear tires to increase the pressure on the ground, and I drove her as first pressure test truck every day for two months. I figured that if any truck would hit a mine, it would certainly be Rosey since she was the first one in line. It didn't work out that way though."

"Although nine five tons were blown up during those two months Rosey made it without a scratch. She almost seemed to know where the mines were and how to get around them. Other times she was just plain lucky."

"One morning I remember, I drove Rosey west from the logger site where all the mines were expected and some newer trucks went east. Well, wouldn't you know it, two of the trucks going east hit mines, and Rosey came smirking back without a nick."

"Once Rosey did hit a mine, but it was just a little AP (anti-personnel) device and all she got was a flat tire."

Gogel went on to describe the art of "driving" Rosey. "You had to be a real contortionist," he explained. "She didn't have a clutch return spring so we had a piece of wire tied to the clutch pedal to pull it back up. It was 'push-shift-pull- accelerate' and then pray because you couldn't always control the accelerator."

"Once while driving on QL-1, Rosey passed another vehicle all by herself. I couldn't get her to slow down. Rosey seemed to have something to say about her steering too. The steering wheel would have anywhere from one quarter turn to a full turn of play--it seemed to depend on her mood--and you couldn't be sure when you would have power steering. An inexperienced operator once put Rosey on her side in a rice paddy when he turned right and she went straight. You didn't really drive Rosey, you tried to persuade her to go where you wanted to go."

Unsuccessful in their attempt to rid themselves of this machine with nine lives, Company B sent Rosey to 723rd Maintenance for repairs. There the radiator was replaced an the clutch, brakes, and steering were repaired. She also got her four tires back.

She was assigned a new operator in November; Specialist Four James "Tex" Nayedo. "She didn't have much power," Nayedo stated; "she would do a maximum of 20 miles per hour flat out."

"In January 1971, while on a resupply mission, Rosey's engine blew up." She was towed in and got a heart transplant--a new engine.

Work began on the LZ Stinson access road in February and Rosey was again the lead pressure test vehicle. Amazingly, once again, Rosey survived it all, though several other five tons were destroyed during the two months the road was under construction.

"On more than one occasion," Nayedo remarked, "vehicles following directly behind me detonated mines. Somehow Rosie missed them. Several trucks were lost to 40 pound plastic antitank mines. Rosey hit one once but for some reason it failed to detonate completely and she left the scene with a slow leak in her left rear outside dual."

She's currently hauling and pressure testing for Company B, though she has, as Nayedo put it, "an aversion to work," "She worked real hard for awhile," he commented, "Then she burned out a wheel cylinder. She was down a few days for repairs, then went back to work. A few more days and the hydrovac went out. In for repairs again, back to work, and the rear brake shoes had to be replaced. In between the rests, though, she's doing a lot of work."

Occasionally rests are, perhaps, due her after three long years in Vietnam. Rest or not, though, there is no doubt that Rosey's uncanny luck and phenomenal endurance have made her one of the Army's best investments. Who knows, with continued luck and some perseverance from the maintenance personnel, she may run forever.

APO constantly tries to improve service

By SGT Thomas R. Mano

DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – There will always be some work that if it goes right, nobody will praise the workers concerned, but let there be a tiny blunder and every customer is immediately in an uproar. Such is the plight of the men who handle the mail.

"There is no way you can keep everybody happy, but we do the best we can," stressed First Lieutenant Ernest A. Maker, officer in charge of the 23d Infantry Division's APO for the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Maker is constantly striving to improve the delivery of parcels and letters which contain those "sweet notes" for the "Chargers". "We've had many complaints regarding the mail service in recent weeks," said Maker sadly. "We're conducting a survey to determine exactly what's the matter."

The survey is being conducted to ascertain the average transit time for all classes of mail from CONUS (Continental United States) at each APO; it began May 16 and will terminate on June 15. Each sack of mail is being checked and recorded as to the date it was actually dispatched from the states, and the resulting date of arrival here.

A clamor has reached Maker that mail from the states is taking 12 to 15 days to get here. He is taking definite steps to stem these grumblings.

"We're investigating the situation locally, but we think the problem might lie in the CONUS gateways," commented Maker. "We're checking mail at Seattle and San Francisco to determine if backlogs are developing at these localities.

One problem Maker encounters is a misunderstanding between the APO and its "customers". When 900 pounds of mail comes in, everybody expects a letter.

"We might get all parcel post and maybe nobody gets any letters," observed the mail officer. "It's very frustrating for both sides."

One trouble the APO has is with the unit mail clerks who don't arrive at the two proper times daily to pick up mail. Also, when the clerk doesn't face all the letters the same way or separate the United States bound mail from the letters to be forewarded.

"We process the mail expiditiously and with minimum dalay," said Maker. "But in order to have a well-functioning delivery, the clerks have to do their part."

Another problem the "Mailmen" have is insufficient addresses and improper placement of the "stamp". Many men don't know that you only write "free" on letters destined for continental North America and overseas APO's; otherwise, you leave the space blank and the APO will stamp it. It is also imperative that each and every item have the correct zip code and a return address to speed up its delivery.

Three other factors about mailing are obviously unknown to many "Chargers". One, the purchaser of a money order must have an addressed envelope with him. Two, customs tags must be attached to each parcel leaving Vietnam. They can be picked up right beside a correct copy of the tag on the wall inside the APO. Thirdly, registered letters must be mailed in a special envelope that can be picked up at the PX.

Contraband items are a constant hassle to the APO. Alcohol, drugs, explosives and weapons are some of the items that cannot be sent through the mail, not even inside Vietnam. This means you can be prosecuted for sending a bottle of spirits to a buddy down in the Delta.

"We frequently have MP mobile customs units open packages here," related Maker. "One hundred per cent of the mail is opened somewhere along the way."

If you're a gambler, you won't like those odds. No matter how heavy the grass, it isn't worth it.

Maker admitted it wasn't just the "little man" who was committing offenses. "It's not the grunt out in the field all the time, it happens to officers too," he concluded.

BG Wittwer

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div. IO) – Brigadier General Wallace K. Wittwer, USARV Provost Marshal and 18th Military Police Brigade commander, recently visited the 300th Military Police Company here.

The 300th MP's are part of the 18th MP Brigade, and the call by Wittwer was his final visit to the unit prior to his reassignment as the USAREUR Promost Marshal.

During his visit, Wittwer called on Major General James L. Baldwin, commanding general, 23d Infantry Division; the division Provost Marshal's Office and the 300th MP Company.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized, unofficial weekly publication of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) Information Office for division units in the Republic of Vietnam. It is printed by the photo-offset process by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department. of the Army. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office. 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) APO SF 96374. Tel: Chu Lai 2414. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

Major General James L. Baldwin . . . . . Commanding General
Captain Frank N. Griscom . . . . . Information Officer
Second Lieutenant Henry G. Grambergu Jr. . . . . Officer-in-charge
Specialist Four Charles L. Habich . . . . . Production Editor
Specialist Four Mark A. Schulz . . . . . Editor
Specialist Four James Richardson . . . . . Art Editor

'Hold baggage' sends personal effects home

By PFC Sam Rousso

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) – To Uncle Sam, it's known as "Household Effects." To the soldier, it's "hold baggage."

Whatever you call it, it's unaccompanied personal effects–including clothes, household goods, souveniers and almost anything else you want to send home at government expense when you DEROS.

In Chu Lai, home of the 23rd Infantry Division, this service is handled by the Household Effects section of the 277th Supply and Services Battalion's 226th Supply and Services Company.

As you enter Warehouse No. 8, on Rosemary Point, the first thing you notice is the long counter. It is here that the required paperwork is done. There is paperwork that you should bring with you, however. Nine copies of your PCS or DEROS orders and at least four copies of an inventory of the goods you're shipping.

After the paperwork has been completed, your shipment is inspected and weighed. Remember, at the beginning, when I said you could ship ALMOST anything home? Well, this is where the "almost" comes in.

There is a list, as long as your right arm, of material you aren't authorized to ship home in your hold baggage.

Basically, though, you aren't allowed to ship the following items home:

Narcotics, tobacco products, medicines, goods with federal stock numbers, pornography, camouflaged uniforms, food products, firearms, ammunition, alcoholic beverages, flammable goods and batteries.

All these will be confiscated, with the shipper being liable to be reported to appropriate authorities.

Authorized war trophies may be shipped home with your hold baggage if they have been registered with a Military Intelligence Company in your area.

One set of jungle fatigues, as long as they have been worn, and two worn pair of jungle boots may be sent home with your hold baggage.

"It has to have been obviously worn," according to Staff Sergeant Leroy Stone, Nashville, Ga., NCOIC of the hold baggage section. "The reasoning behind that is that if the uniform is new, it can be reissued." Undergarments and socks may also be shipped home, with the same provision.

When is the best time to ship your goods home? "As soon as you get your orders," says Stone. "It takes 30 to 45 days for a shipment to get home, and you could probably do without the stuff better over here than you could at home."

After your shipment is weighed and inspected, it is put into a Conex and driven to the Personal Properties Branch, 5th Transport Command in Da Nang. From there it is sent by air back to the states.

There are weight limitations, depending on your service and rank. For further information on this and other questions about hold baggage, contact household effects, Chu Lai 4261, or come in during business hours, Monday through Saturday 7 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m.

Staff Sergeant Leroy Stone, Nashville, Ga., takes a last look at paperwork before putting it into a conex with hold baggage prior to shipment to Da Nang. (U.S. Army photo)

There it is--hold baggage being inspected. Object in center is a NVA helmet. (U.S. Army photo)

46th holds element of surprise

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. I.O.) – It's definitely using the element of surprise when the enemy is engaged with accurate fire at a distance of 300 meters. An element from the 23d Infantry Division's 198th Brigade did just that recently, killing four NVA soldiers.

A recon element from the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, had set up an observation point overlooking a river in a mountainous area northwest of Chu Lai. The infantrymen observed a group of NVA soldiers wearing camouflaged uniforms and carrying AK-47 rifles as the enemy emerged from a tree line and moved into the open along the river.

"We heard some voices off in the trees," said Sergeant Lamar Mecham, Lindon, Utah, the team leader. "Then we saw a small group of enemy soldiers come into the open by the river about 300 meters away. They all had weapons. We engaged the enemy with small arms fire and saw four of them drop."

The remaining enemy evaded into heavy vegetation near the river and the "Professionals" called in artillery. In a matter of minutes, the artillery arrived and pounded the tree line in which the enemy were hiding.

"Right after we fired, the remaining NVA soldiers began running around in circles," said Specialist Four Tim Webber, Lake City, Tenn., a rifleman. "I don't think they could tell which direction the fire came from. The enemy isn't used to being shot at accurately from such a great distance."

The infantrymen were unable to maneuver down the hill due to the extremely thick vegetation; however, it was assumed that a large group of enemy were in the area when the artillery rounds landed.

"Just before the artillery came in, we heard a lot of shouting coming from the area," said Specialist Four Archie S. Mallett, Tuscaloosa, Ala., a rifleman. "The first group was probably a point element for a larger enemy force. Talk about the element of surprise, we had it."

196th kills 14

By Sp/4 Richard Kerr

DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – In light action this week the "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade killed 14 enemy soldiers.

While on patrol southwest of Da Nang early this week, A Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, engaged three VC soldiers with small arms fire. As a result one enemy soldier was killed as the others evaded. Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while serving as a blocking force for the cav., captured the evading VC. Two Vietnamese females were also detained by A Troop. The detainees were extracted to Da Nang for questioning.

Co. D, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., while on a search and clear mission this week, engaged two enemy soldiers with small arms fire. The "Gimlets" checked the area and detained a wounded Vietnamese male. The detainee was extracted to 91st Evac. for treatment.

Later in the week, Co. D, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., while in their night defensive position southwest of Da Nang, observed three enemy soldiers moving northwest. They engaged the enemy with small arms fire, killing one as the others evaded.

While in their night defensive position this week, Reconnaissance 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., engaged two enemy soldiers. The Recon element then sent out a patrol to check the area, and they found one VC soldier killed and the other wounded. The wounded VC soldier engaged the patrol with AK-47 fire and a Chicom grenade. The "Gimlets" returned fire, killing the wounded enemy soldier. Two AK-47 rifles, five Chicom grenades, four magazines, two rucksacks and 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition were recovered in the action.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, while working an area west of Da Nang, observed 10 VC soldiers to their front. The "Professionals" engaged the enemy with small arms fire, killing six and detaining three. The detainees were extracted to Da Nang.

While in their night defensive position this week southwest of Da Nang, a reconnaissance element of 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, engaged and killed two NVA soldiers. Two AK-47 rifles and two rucksacks were captured in the action.

Red Baron 40, an artillery observation helicopter, while on a visual reconnaissance mission this week observed two enemy soldiers and several enemy structures. The small aircraft processed artillery on the enemy's position, resulting in two enemy killed by the artillery. The artillery also destroyed two enemy structures and five bunkers. The kills were credited to Battery D, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery.

Staff Sgt. McManus cares about the men

By Sp/4 John P. Gibson

FSB 4-11, (11th Brigade IO) – Staff Sergeant Jervis S. McManus (Cheraw, S. C.) cares, and always has. His entire life has always been centered around assisting others.

Prior to entering the military service, he played professional basketball with the Cincinnati Royals; Washington, D. C., Generals, and the world famous Harlem Globetrotters.

McManus gained the greatest satisfaction in playing with the latter. "I have always pictured myself as somewhat jovial. I have always liked to clown around," said McManus. Undoubtedly, that is why the Globetrotters were saddened with the loss of McManus to the Army.

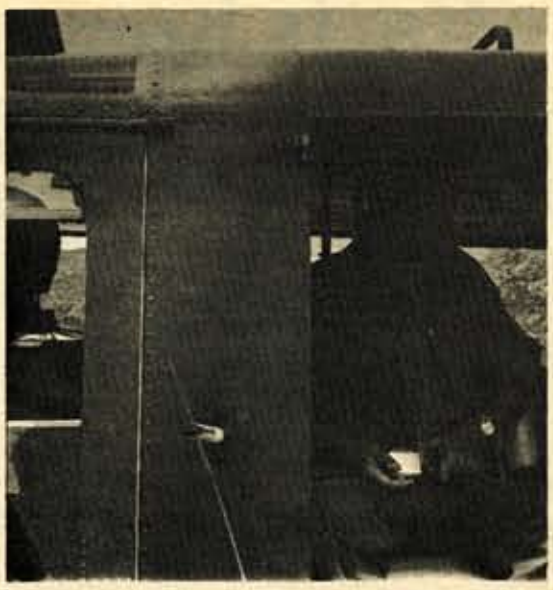
SSG Mac, as he is known to his friends, entered Special Forces in 1960. He also found himself completing Airborne and Jungle Warfare Training schools. Now he makes his home with the "Legionnaires" of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade on Fire Support Base 4-11. He functions in a duel capacity as ground surveillance radar platoon sergeant and non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the helicopter resupply pad.

However, McManus also has another unofficial function on 4-11. Whenever there is a man who needs guidance, Mac is always there. He's always made himself available to counsel others.

Asked what he planned to do after his Army career, he said, "I want to coach basketball to children. Some coaches just don't have the patience with them, but I enjoy working with kids, I feel that youth are worth caring about."

There's someone that cares. Anytime after work, you can find him on the 4-11 basketball court doing his thing.

A day with Genera



ABOVE: General Baldwin buckles up in preparation for a day of firebase hopping. BELOW: The General pauses for a few personal words with Sp/5 Mauricio O. Morales, who had just been awarded a Silver Star.

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) – "The Old Man." How many times have you heard that expression? Well, you can stop using it when you refer to the commander of the 23d Infantry Division. If you could spend a day with him, you would believe Major General James L. Baldwin to be anything else but.

The General's working day begins at 7 a.m., or there abouts, and ends whenever the work of the day is finished–which is usually quite late. His week is seven days long, determined by a tight and usually quite full schedule. For a man who tries to see every one of his battalion commanders–each on his own distant LZ; our Vietnamese allies; and the division support commanders at least once a week, there do not seem to be enough hours of daylight.

Unexpected and expected VIP's must be seen, important problems hashed out and an occasional reporter appeased. Two full staff briefings and numerous special briefings take many hours. And yet the General can still log over 250 miles a day in his chopper to visit his outlaying commands.

On a typical day, with an Army reporter tagging along (dragging by the end of the day), MG Baldwin attended nine tactical briefings and three special intelligence briefings. During each of these briefings–the smallest dealing with the movements and strategy of four companies; the largest dealing with three full brigades–the facts and figures flowed quickly. Even so, he was able to retain and recall what he had been told.

"The General has a truly remarkable ability to retain facts. Facts which I have trouble keeping straight on paper," remarked Captain Peter F. Verga, Folsum, Pa., who is the General's aide de camp.

The day. It begins, as every day, with the General's arrival at his office, where he is confronted with a multi-page folder containing the happenings of the division in the rear and in the field. A brief summary of friendly and enemy locations, movements and activities is also included.

At 7:50 a.m., General Baldwin, accompanied by his aide, attend the morning General Staff briefing. Here, seated in his huge leather chair, facing the divisional situation map, the General is informed of friendly and enemy initiated action, and specifically what happened in the entire division during the previous night. If something troubles him, he questions the appropriate staff officer or comments as to the changes needed.

From the staff briefing, the General goes to a special intelligence briefing, so special that only a dozen or so people are permitted to attend.

At 9:30 a.m. on this day, after a short chopper ride, the General presented impact awards to valorous members of the 116th Aviation Battalion. As the General pinned on each medal, he questioned each recipient in an attempt to know him better. He feels such awards are of the utmost importance for individual morale.

General Baldwin, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Alfred B. Pursell, the G-2, Lieutenant Colonel Crosbie E. Saint, the G-3, and Verga flew to Da Nang, home of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

The General's party was briefed on the operations of the brigade--much more in detail than was given at the Division briefing.

General Baldwin was especially concerned with the different Battalions and their tactical problems. Toward the end of the briefing, the question of drugs was brought up and the General

Story and phot

General Baldwin confers with Lieutenant Colonel Clyde J. Tate, commander of the 1/46th Battalion, outside LZ Linda's TOC.

AT LZ Professional the General attends a briefing on t 198th commander (left) and Colonel Rutland D. Beard J

He listens well...

to

al Baldwin

suggested that an Allied effort be intensified to get the pusher.

Very rarely during the whole day did the General actually tell one of his commanders how to do something. He usually suggested a course of action or described a hoped-for outcome. Implementation and basic strategy is left largely to the individual commanders.

After lunch and an aerial tour of Da Nang, the General flew to LZ Linda, home of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, where Lieutenant Colonel Clyde J. Tate, battalion commander, gave the briefing. The Tactical Operations Center was small and cramped--more boxes than chairs for seats. The numerous radios made listening difficult. In one ear you could hear the briefing; in the other you could hear a company requesting resupply.

In rapid succession, Landing Zone Chloe, home of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, and Yonkers, home of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, were visited. While enroute to each base, the General was updated on the Division tactical situation. Once again, the General was airborne--destination Tien Phuoc.

Nessled in a valley and flanked by a river, Tien Phuoc is a foreward base for the 2nd ARVN Division. There, General Baldwin was brought up-to-date on the situation of the RVN operating in or near the Division AO (area of operation). Refreshments were served as the General asked for an evaluation of the overall enemy situation. The outlook was favorable.

Later when asked to comment on the ARVN's ability to go it alone, General Baldwin remarked: "They have made great strides foreward and with only direct air support, they are fending for themselves in their areas of responsibility."

The 198th Infantry Brigade was the next objective. At LZ Professional, home of the "Old Guard" (4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry), the General along with Colonel Charles R. Smith, 198th commander, and Colonel Rutland D. Beard Jr., the commander of the 196th Brigade, were briefed on the battalion situation and then given a look at the 198th's over-all picture. The General stressed that cooperation with the local province chief was essential. He suggested that the chief be invited over for a few "beers".

The question of drugs was again brought up. General Baldwin felt that narcotics constitute one of the division's greatest problem.

"Many military offenses, like falling asleep on guard, not reporting for duty, and violence against officers may often times be corelated with drug use," he said.

Concluding his travels, the Commanding General visited the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry in Chu Lai. Then back to Division Headquarters for a brief respite, before the evening briefing.

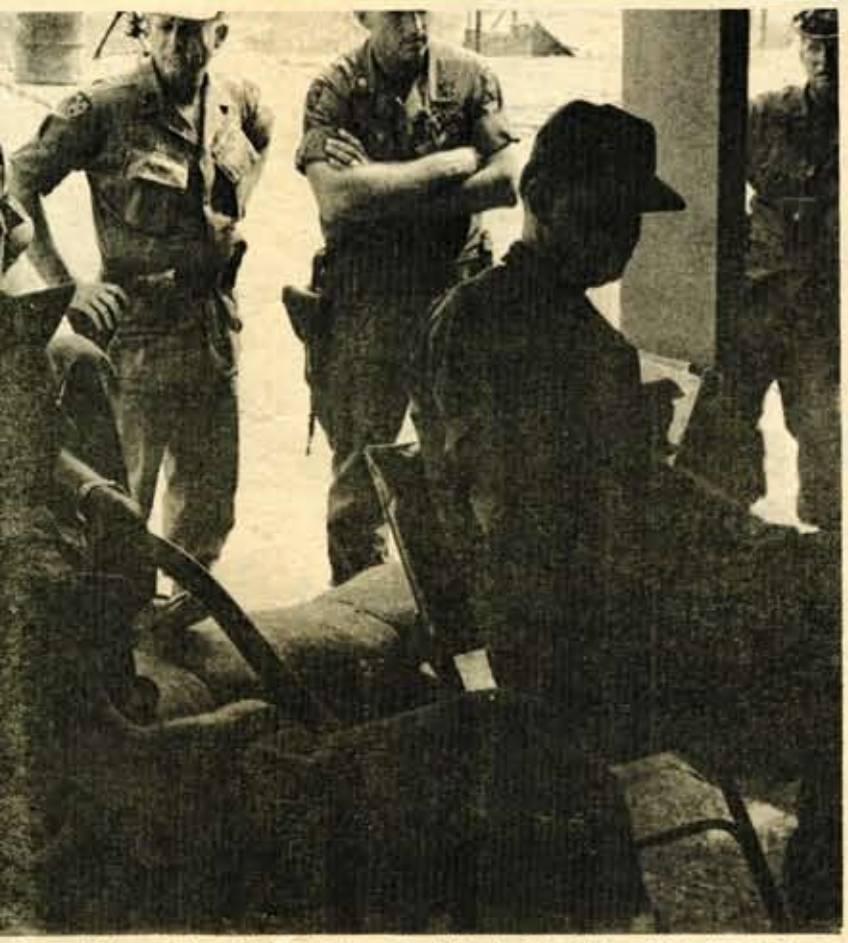
At the final briefing, the General is once more bombarded with all the facts and figures concerning the situation of the Division for the day. Future plans are presented as well as an Allied wrap-up.

Amazingly, the General easily recalls needed information he has gathered that day to enlighten a cloudy tactic problem.

With that final briefing the "reporter's" day ended. The General returned to his office for more meetings while this reporter dragged himself off to ponder a day with the General.

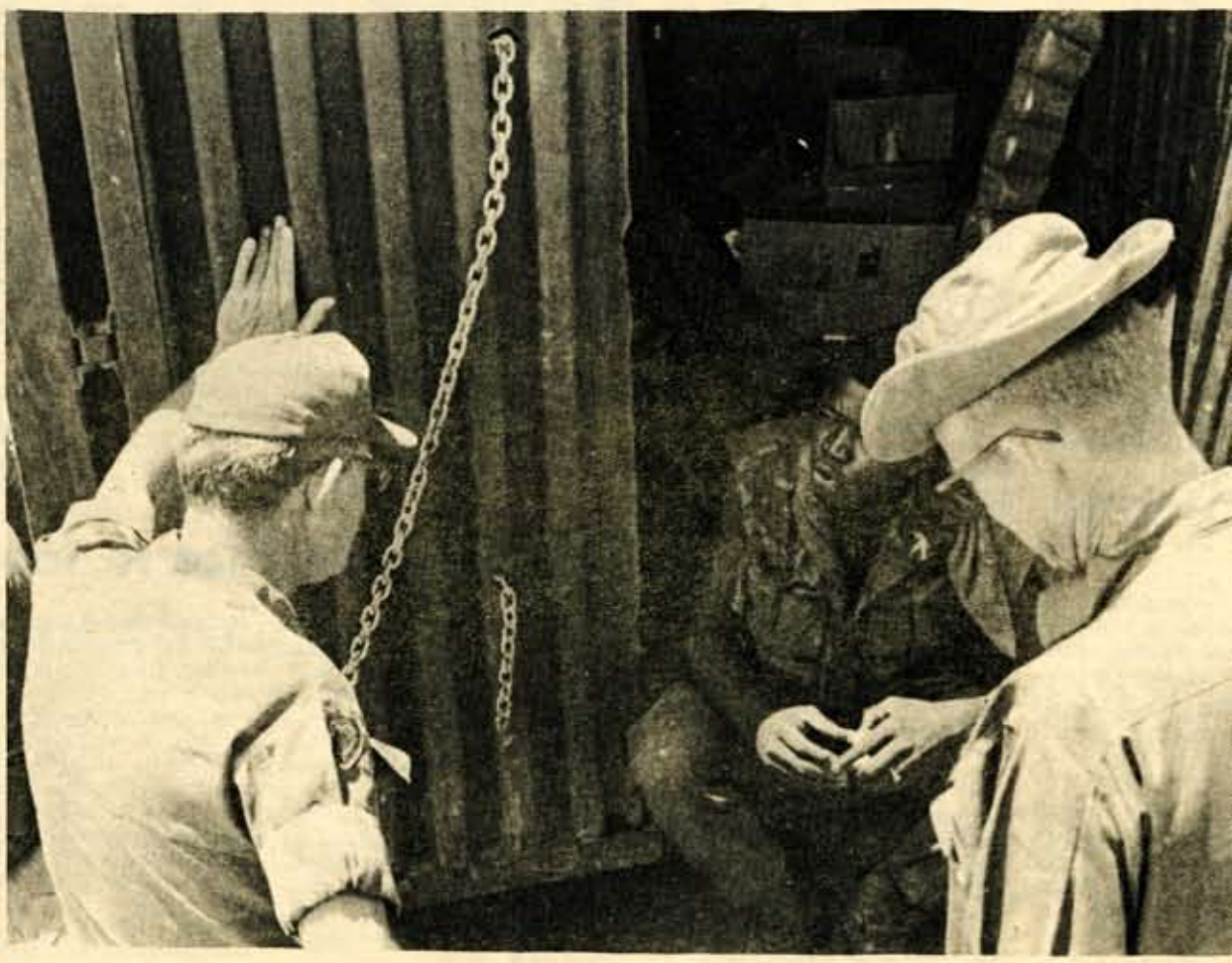
BELOW: General Baldwin opens the breech of a Chicom 70mm Howitzer (model 92) at LZ Professional. The weapon was captur by the "Old Guard" (4/3rd Bn.) ABOVE: Donning his cap, General Baldwin leaves the 2/1st Battalion TOC on LZ Chloe af being briefed on the Battalion's situation.

otos by Sp4 William Hutchison



the activities of the 43rd Battalion. He is flanked by Colonel Charles R. Smith, Jr., the 196th commander.

his officers...



The General "raps" with an infantryman on LZ Yonkers. Accompanying the General is Lieutenant Colonel L.W. Battalion commander.

and to the grunts.

'Chargers' see moderate action

(Continued from Page 1)

Viet Cong suspect. The detainee and rice were extracted to a nearby LZ. Also near the same area, the infantrymen found and destroyed a boobytrapped artillery round.

Also working southwest of Chu Lai, an element from Bravo Company, 1st Bn., 52nd. Inf. found 1600 pounds of unpolished rice. Near the same area, the "Ready Rifles" found 2000 more pounds of rice and

detained two Viet Cong suspects. The detainees and rice were extracted to an LZ.

In an area southwest of Chu Lai, Bravo Company, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., detained and evacuated to an LZ, a Viet Cong suspect.

Working southwest of Chu Lai, an element of Bravo Company found 2400 pounds of locally grown rice, hidden in the walls of a structure. The rice was extracted to a nearby LZ.

Action was light in the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, as the "Mountainmen" killed one enemy, wounded one, detained two Viet Cong suspects, and captured two weapons.

While on patrol, a recon element from 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., observed and engaged one Viet Cong resulting in one enemy soldier killed. Captured in action and extracted to an LZ was one AK-47 rifle and one pack.

In the same area, the "Mountainmen" detained a Viet Cong suspect who was evacuated to an LZ.

Later, an element from Bravo Company found and destroyed two boobytraps with trip wire firing devices.

An element from Alpha Company, 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., found two boobytraps with trip wire firing device that were blown in place. Later the infnatrymen found and destroyed four enemy structures.

In an area northwest of Chu Lai, Delta Company, 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., found and destroyed a boobytrapped mortar round with trip wire firing device.

In addition to the two enemy soldiers killed by Delta Troop, 1st Bn., 1st Cav., along with the mortars, the gunships engaged and killed one Viet Cong soldier who was attempting to evade. Nearby, the gunships engaged and destroyed five enemy bunkers and five military structures with mini-guns and rocket fire.

Finally, the 198th Brigade Highway Broadcast Team recieved from Vietnamese civilians 44 artillery rounds, 50 mortar rounds, 17 anti-personnel mines, 14 hand grenades, and one stick of TNT. The munitions were destroyed.

UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

Reconnaissance nets 3 kills, 3 sampans

By SGT Thomas R. Mano

DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – It was a routine evening VR (visual reconnaissance) mission for the members of the 196th Infantry Brigade LOH (light observation helicopter). Routine, until they rounded a bend in a river.

Afterwards there was deep content in the minds of Warrant Officer Donald L. Delaplaine, Bayville, N.Y., the pilot of Charger LOH OO and his crew chief door gunner, Specialist Four Charles W. Cook, Inianola, Iowa, as they navigated through the twilight back to LZ Hawk Hill. Three enemy killed and helping to destroy three enemy sampans had been a good day's work.

The action started as Delaplaine maneuvered along a white sandy river bank northwest of LZ Siberia. Their first sighting of the enemy is etched in Cook's mind.

"It was just like they popped up," recalled the door gunner. "There were three sampans and numerous men loading them."

As the tiny chopper swooped down for a clearer look, it received AK-47 rifle fire. Cook returned fire with his M-60 machine gun and was able to kill two.

After its first run, Delaplaine reversed the LOH and fire started coming in from three locations. Making their second pass, Cook scouted the sagebrush, spotted another enemy and killed him.

The LOH quickly ascended and traveled in circles. Cook continued to lay down suppressive fire, while Delaplaine adjusted on the enemy's position. From time to time the crew-chief took potshots at the sampans, though with the LOH's fast speed, he didn't expect to hit anything.

"I must've just hit one boat with a couple of rounds," recalled Cook. "It took five minutes to sink in the 25 feet of water."

The remaining two sampans were destroyed by artillery and as darkness set in, Delaplaine decided to call it a day. As the LOH winged its way home, illumination rounds were shot from the firebases to guide it in.

Delaplaine and Cook were not only instrumental in killing at least three enemy and destroying three sampans loaded with supplies, but they had also plucked another thorn from the infantryman's side.

Dog handler has personnal kill

By SGT Tom Mano

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

Private First Class Raypheal Kenney, Galveston, Tex., was the first man to score a "personal kill" in the 48th Scout Dog Platoon.

The incident occurred when Kenny 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. Kenny and Smokey were the forerunners in the column.

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

When they hit double-canopy jungle on a mountainside, Kenny called for the men to cut vines, so he could devote his entire concentration to working his dog. After 150 meters of hacking at the vines, the cutter stopped and the men set up their night defensive position (NDP). Movement was detected around 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 presuption 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 Kenney 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 opened up on automatic and the enemy fell into a nearby brush. Immediately Smokey bounded for 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 done to save the other guys."

Recently Major General James L. Baldwin (far right) commanding general of the 23d Infantry Division, members of his staff, and the division's chaplains re-dedicated a monument enscribed: In Memory, Americal Chaplains, killed in action: Ch. (LTC) Donald L. Bailey, KIA 8 June, 1969; Ch. (CPT) Phillip A. Nichols, KIA 13 Oct., 1970; Ch. (CPT) Merle D. Brown, KIA 11 April, 1971; servants of God and man, they await the resurrection with the men for whom they died." The monument is located in front of the 23d Inf. Div. Chapel. (U.S. Army photo by Sp/4 William Hutchison)

Hatten came face to face with 2 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," exclaimed Specialist Four Richard C. Hatten.

Hatten, Syracuse, N.Y., was walking point for his squad of Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, returning from a night patrol to their night lagger position, 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 bushy area and we were only about 100 meters from our night position when we made contact," explained Sergeant Henry O. Brown, Chesapeake, Va.

Hatten dropped the first enemy before he could return fire from his AK-47 rifle. The rest of the squad quickly moved up to give support fire. Another NVA soldier slid down an embankment to the stream leaving a heavy blood trail. "We could tell by the 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. Baker, Riverside, Calif., sighted the fleeing NVA soldier first. Initiating the fire, he and machine gunner Darold W. Stine, Akron, Ohio, successfully stopped the NVA soldier's escape.

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

Jennifer O'Neill smiles with satisfaction after starring in her recent film "Rio Lobo" with John Wayne. (Photo courtesy JWT)

Chemical has chore ridding LZ of traps

By SGT Louis Miller

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div.) – A lot more is involved in clearing an area of boobytraps than meets the eye. When it was decided to re-open Landing Zone Professional, one of the first tasks to be accomplished was clearing the LZ of all boobytraps.

This is where the 87th Chemical Detachment of the 198th Infantry Brigade came into the picture.

Early in the morning the men from the 87th Chemical Detachment are busy at work loading 55 gallon drums filled with fougasse, onto a metal structure called a flame rack. Once the drums are loaded, and the carrying straps and release rope are secured, a Chinook helicopter is called in and Captain Thomas E. Sneeringer, Mansfield, Ohio, 87th chemical commander, and Sergeant First Class Billy D. Ball, Clovis, N. M., the chemical sergeant, board the aircraft.

"As soon as we get aboard, the helicopter hovers over the flame rack and one of my people attaches the carrying straps to the helicopter, and hands the release rope to Ball," said Sneeringer. "Once the flame rack is secured, we head out to our target."

When the aircraft reaches the area, it circles the target so Sneeringer and Ball can pick out the more likely spots where booby traps could be hidden. When an area inside the target is picket out, the aircraft makes a pass over the area at low altitude. Sneeringer estimates the speed of the craft and distance to the target, then tells Ball to pull the release rope, which drops the drums on the target.

"After several missions, you get used to judging the distance from the helicopter to the target," Sneeringer said, "On this mission, it was easier because we were dropping the fougasse on an old LZ that was located on a flat part of a hill."

After the drums hit the ground and splatter over the suspected booby-trapped area, the door gunners in the aircraft fire in into the fougasse with tracer rounds, igniting the fuel. When a machinegun round hits the fuel, an orange ball of flame erupts, sending black smoke several hundred feet into the air. The helicopter circles the area again, then heads back to Chu Lai for another load of fuel.

"When the aircraft returns to the pad, we have 14 drums waiting to be loaded," said Specialist Five Joel S. Slade, Uniondale, N. Y., a chemical specialist. "As soon as the aircraft sets the flame rack on the ground we begin loading. We only have the helicopter for a certain period of time, so it's up to the ground crew to load the rack as quickly as possible."

"This process goes on until we clear the LZ or use all of the drums or bird time," Ball said. "By the end of the day we are pretty tired, but at least we know that we might have saved someone's life."

Under the roof of Echo Company 723rd Maintenance Battalion's repair shed this line of choppers await maintenance work, after which they will be returned to the air to carry on the support of the 23d Infantry Division. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/4 Ron Cryderman)

Team sends aid up mountain

By SGT Tom Mano

DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – They're not "pills", but they do give them out; they're not avid climbers, yet they will walk to the top of a mountain to insure a person's health. They could be called "Mountain Healers".

In a recent exhausting expedition a psychological operations (S-5) team from the 196th Infantry Brigade scaled Marble Mountain just outside Da Nang to deliver aid to a monk and his 15 neophytes.

"We got a lot of satisfaction out of it," commented Captain Blaine P. Turner, Wilmington, Del., S-5 for 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, and leader of the excursion. "It's the other side of the war, the good side, as opposed to the killing."

At the base of the mountain it was Captain Ronald J. Schwerzler, Portland. Ore., the doctor on the Medical Civic Action Project (MEDCAP), who provided the firm advice, "We better get started; it's a long climb." Looking up, the men breathed heavy sighs, resigned themselves to their fate and trudged forward.

Half-way up they met a small boy prancing around as nimbly as a mountain goat. Obviously, they were on his home ground. Picking up a dead bat, one who didn't make it, he laughingly threw it aside.

As the men reached the top, there were self-satisfying smiles on their faces. The warm hospitality of the monk helped erase their hard-breathing as they were welcomed into a pagoda for tea and bottled water.

Capt. Schwerzler gave the Buddhist several bottles of pills containing vitamins, aspirin, eyedrops and cold pills as an interpretor changed the names on the containers from English to Vietnamese. The monk, sitting cross-legged, marveled at each of these "wonder drugs".

The delight on the monk's face turned out to be only part of the reward the men received for their arduous climb. They were escorted by a young amputee, a ward of the religious order, into caves to view massive Buddahs carved into the side of the mountain.

All too soon it was time to go. Ceremoniously, the monk bowed to them showing profuse thanks on his face. Any occidental-oriental gap that existed before had now been bridged.

The journey downward proved to be quite a bit easier than the one up. In a final backward look, the men knew that they would return, drawn by a need to aid the mountain dwellers and the mysticism of Marble Mountain.

At the maintenance area of Echo Company, 723d Maintenance Battalion, the 123d Aviation Battalion's choppers receive needed repairs quickly, thus keeping as many choppers as possible in the air. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/4 Ron Cryderman)

Sp4 Manuel opposes 15 foot python

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div.) – "Somebody told me not to be afraid, it wasn't poisonous," said Specialist Four Donald Manuel, Ville Platte, La., as the soldier from 23d Infantry Division, 198th Infantry Brigade, faced his opponent–a 15 foot python.

The incident took place while an element from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, was on patrol west of Chu Lai.

"I was walking rear security and the rest of the platoon had already passed the snake when I first saw it," said Manuel. "I had just stopped and when I glanced down there was this python all coiled up on the grass about six inches from my feet."

After Manuel jumped back, he passed the word up to the rest of the platoon about his find.

Private First Class John Fernandez, Los Vegas, N.M., the pointman, had a machete handy so he volunteered to dispose of the serpent.

"He seemed rather quiet and peaceful at the time," said Fernandez, "but as big as he was, he could have done someone a job!"

Fernandez proceded to chop the python's head off and discard of the snake for the safety of his element.

"We kept his skin to prove our story was no lie and show everyone how large he really was," said Fernandez.

The last word came from Manuel, however, when he said, "You can bet I'll take a double-look before I sit down anyplace."

New bunk idea all wet

By Sp/5 Gregory Wright

FSB BRONCO, (11th Brigade I0) – The standard Army bunk, which has served faithfully for quite a few years as a refuge for weary soldiers, has at last met its match in the latest fad to sweep the United States.

This latest invention is the waterbed, and consists of a large plastic mattress filled with (yes, you guesed it!) water.

As far as we know, the only such bed at FSB Bronco is owned by private Bruce W. Megahan of St. Petersburg, Fla. Pvt. Megahan, who is assigned to the 90th Chemical Detachment, claims his contraption is far superior to conventional bedding for all purposes, including sleeping.

"Yeah, man, this bed is really out of sight," says Pvt. Megahan. "You can get these little waves started and they'll rock you right to sleep. Of course, if you'd rather stay awake, the waves can do that too. The sloshing sounds are so pretty and soothing after a hard day's work. I had to quit sleeping with my knife though."

Pvt. Megahan bought his bed, a large single type, while on leave back in the States and says its maximum capacity is approximately 150 gallons. Ordinarily such beds are filled with a hose, but Pvt. Megahan had to make repeated trips with a five-gallon water can to make his sleepable. After making the required number of trips he collapsed, exhausted, ehile other members of the detachment took turns napping on the new bed.

Aside from comfort, the bed has other advantages, such as being a handy water reserve should a sudden drought strike. Disadvantages include strangers dropping in for naps, curious Vietnamese, and extreme discomfort during freezing weather.

All in all, though, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and the waterbed is certain to go down in history with other such great inventions as the light bulb, the ball point pen and the hoola hoop.