Captain Hardy E. Batchelor is commander of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, and has also been chosen 23d Infantry Division's Commander of the Week. (U.S. Army Photo by 1L. Henry G. Grambergu Jr.)

Commander of the week

Batchelor enjoys his job

By 1LT Henry G. Grambergu Jr.

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div. IO) – "Being a company commander is the greatest job in the Army." These are the words of Captain Hardy E. Batchelor Jr. (Fayetteville, N.C.), the 23d Infantry Division's Commander of the Week. Batchelor is the commander of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry.

Batchelor graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1966, with a degree in Russian History. After graduation he immediately enlisted in the army and received his commission through Officers Candidate School.

He has been married for 4½ years. His wife, Marcia, recently gave birth to a son. Batchelor states that, "Except for the seperation, I think my wife likes the Army better than I do. She loves to travel and likes the social life."

The Batchelor family has a fine Army tradition behind it. Batchelor's father is a Chief Warrent Officer with 35 years behind him. His 25 year old brother is a Staff Sergeant and has been in the Army seven years. The Batchelor men have something in common besides the Army, they are all Special Forces trained and they all have been to Vietnam at least twice. In fact, if you total up this family's tour in Vietnam you will come up with more than seven years.

A career as an Army officer was planned for Batchelor long before he entered this world. "My father wanted me to be an officer, even before I was born." Despite his father's desires, Batchelor doesn't plan an Army career, "I'm not a lifer," he says with a smile. "I'm only going to stay in the Army 20 years."

Batchelor has had a varied career in the five years he has been in the Army. After receiving his commission, he went to Special Forces school and then to Vietnam for his first tour, in 1968. During this tour he worked on a LZ-man Special Forces Advisory team for the Civilian Irregular Defense Group near Nha Trang.

After completing his first tour, he went back to the U.S. as a recruiting officer, a job which he held for 16 months. After this assignment he went to Ranger School and then back to Vietnam for his second tour. He has been with the battalion for six months and with A Company for the last two months.

When asked if he liked being the commander of a line company, Batchelor replied, "The bush is the only place to be. I feel I'm accomplishing more here than I could anywhere else in the Army. When you're a company commander the show is mostly yours. Time goes by faster out here.

"I have the feeling that I've accomplished something with this company. Even though I'm a lifer they understand what I'm trying to do and the way I feel about the Army."

Now that he is a commander instead of an advisor, he has had to make a few adjustments. "The biggest adjustment was the change from advising to suddenly becoming the man in charge of what's going on."

However, everything is not perfect in the field and Batchelor is well aware of the main problems. "There is a lack of motivation in the war," he said. The men don't feel it's their war. I'd like to be home, but I don't mind being here. I have a job to do and I do it.

"My main responsibility is taking care of my men. I have to make sure they are well supplied, and that they know what you're going to do and why. My number one job is convincing the men that they can die. If they realize this, they do their job better."

Batchelor is a fine example of a company commander. His superiors obviously know it, but what is more important, his men know it and having a deep respect for him. Their feelings were put into action one night. We had a "stay behind" operation. I asked for nine volunteers and got 11. The fact that I got volunteers was very satisfying and we got one kill. This is when I felt I was their CO."

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 4, No. 29 Chu Lai, Vietnam July 23, 1971

21st Inf stands down

By Sp/4 William Hutchison

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – On June 15 another proud chapter in Americal's history was drawn to a close. On that date the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, officially stood down. The battalion was the 23rd Infantry Division's second unit to be deactivated.

The 4th Bn., 21st Inf., has successfully served the Americal for three years after coming under the operational control of this division on the April 26, 1968 as a part of the 11th Infantry Brigade. The "Gimlets" began operating in the Duc Pho area.

During its time in combat the battalion participated in Operation Muscatine, in Quang Ngai Province; Operation Wheeler/Wallowa, in Quang Nam Province; and Operations Dukes Glades and Vernon Lakes II, both in Quang Ngai Province – all of these taking place in its first year. The remaining years saw the "Gimlets" take decisive parts in Operation Iron Mountain and Operation Finney Hill, both in Quang Ngai Province.

The 4th Bn., 21st Inf's., long and honorable history can be traced back to the Civil War, where on the May 3 1861, President Abraham Lincoln commissioned the 21st Infantry into action. The unit saw extensive combat throughout the Civil War.

Through the thick of the United States's long list of wars, the battalion was there – the Indian Wars on America's Great Plains, the Spanish American War (4th Bn., 21st Inf's., first encounter was on San Juan Hill), during the Phillipine Insurrection.

World War II saw the "Gimlets" make two combat assault landings in the Pacific Theater. Jungle warfare was fast becoming their forte. They were also the first American unit to meet the North Korean onslaught in June, 1950.

Throughout this long history, the battalion received numerous unit decorations and citations. In Vietnam the 4th Bn., 21st Inf., added the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz, acting commanding general of the 23rd Infantry Division, summed it all up nicely when he said: "The casing of the battalion colors today signifies the completion of a job well done. It is also another step in

(Continued on Page 6)

Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz, acting commanding general of the 23d Infantry Division, goes through the chow line at the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry mess hall. Behind him is mess sergeant, Sergeant First Class Willatant Austin (U.S. Army Photo By Sp/4 Randy Bombard)

4/3rd mess racing for best Army mess

By Sp/4 Mark A. Schulz

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div. IO) – Major General Theodore Antonelli, USAVR chief of staff for logistics, was here recently to present one of many "best mess" awards won by the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry mess hall.

The "Old Guard" mess hall has received four awards for food service and is awaiting word on another award.

They have received recognition by the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) for the best mess hall in the division; Major General A.E. Milloy, deputy commanding general, has recognized them as the best mess hall in the XXIV Corps area; USARV recognized them as one of the best two messes in Vietnam (there was no decision as to a first place, only a top two); USARPAC recognized the mess hall as the best one in Vietnam and parts of Korea.

The most recent award consideration is for the best dining facility in the Army. Representatives of the U.S. Army Food Service Center, Chicago, road-toured the continental United States, and overseas Army areas including Vietnam, Korea and Germany to determine the 12 finalists competing for the third annual Phillip A. Connelly Award for excellence in Army Food Service.

The judging group started in mid-April, and winners will be receiving awards in Milwaukee, Wis., on August 14-18.

The 3rd Infantry mess hall has received word that they are in the running for the award with a final decision due soon on the first and second place winners.

Sergeant First Class Edward Trammell, mess sergeant, who has recently been moved to mess sergeant of the 23d Inf. Div. general's mess, says the worst placing they can receive is runner-up for the best Army-wide mess hall.

Trammell and an officer will receive "an all-expense paid trip to Indianapolis, Ind., to a Food Service Executive Association meeting," said Chief Warrant Officer Clifton Lawrence, division food adviser, "if they take the first place award."

Sergeant first class Willatant Austin, the new mess sergeant, is assisted by 18 cooks. Sergeant First Class Harry Sanders serves 220 soldiers per day on Firebase Professional, as part of the mess hall chores. Their service also includes daily meals to about 160 soldiers at the mess hall, 200 A rations and 100 meals to persons on refit.

Flying PX takes items to FSB's, LZ's

By Sp/4 William Hutchison

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) – "Step right up folks. Don't miss out on the bargains of a lifetime. Right this way." Well, that may not be the way First Lieutenant Niel Lerner (Philadelphia, Pa.) presents his flying CONEX of PX merchandise, but to the men who live on the isolated Fire Support Bases and Landing Zones the little CONEX Of goodies is a flying extravaganza.

The 23d Infantry Division (Americal) maintains two fully stocked CONEXES which are flown, weather permitting, each day to two of the divisions outlying bases. Each "mini-PX" makes the rounds about every nine or ten days. The schedule is kept flexible so that the infantry companies who return to a firebase may receive a visit while they are out of the field on refit.

Each morning Lerner rousts his two teams up and drives out to Chu Lai's main "Chinook" pad where one of the big choppers picks them up and then their CONEXES for transporting to a distant firebase. Upon arrival at the base each team—made up of one lieutenant and a sergeant, or two or three sergeants, sets up their store. For the next three to four hours, the line is long as the customers buy enough to hold them until the next trip.

Depending on what the main PX has, the flying PX will carry beer and soda, usually a fast seller to the artillerymen and grunts. Snack items such as Vienna sausage, cookies, crackers, tuna fish, and whatever else Lerner could scrounge from the main PX, turn-on the tastebuds. Cameras, radios, the ever popular cassette recorders are carried.

According to Lerner: "We give them a good selection, just about everything Chu Lai has, we carry."

The customers are not too demanding; with a sandbag for a shopping bag the men will buy all there is, and when the day's supplies start to deplete, they will just go big for something else.

When one artilleryman on LZ Rawhide purchased 16 cans of vinna sausage, another "friend" further down the line commented: "Why don't you buy the whole damn CONEX and we'll divide it up later."

As the departure time rolls around, a few cans of grape-fruit juice and a couple copies of last month's Playboy can still be found on the shelves. What is left is packed up in preparation for the "Chinook" and the return trip to Chu Lai.

Back at Chu Lai, the "Chinook" loweres the CONEXES onto a truck bed. The fairly empty CONEXES are returned to the main PX where they are inventoried and restocked for the following day's jaunt to another two of Americal's outposts.

TOP: Specialist Four Mike Johnson (Austin, Tex.), an artilleryman with C Battery, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery, using a sandbag to hold it all, stocks up on "eats". Staff Sergeant James Kincer (Columbia, S.C.) has to work fast to keep up with the long list each customer spouts off, while surveying the PX's contents.

BOTTOM: Looking like they are getting ready for the long winter, thanks to the Americal's flying PX are: Specialists Four John Adams (Claremore, Okla.) far left; Edward Clark (Minneapolis, Minn.) with his hands full; and Dan Reid (Yacolt, Wash.) pockets bulging. In the CONEX is Staff Sergeant James Kincer (Columbia, S.C.). On the far right, First Lieutenant Meil Lerner (Philadelphia, Pa.) smiles after a good sale. (U.S. Army Photos by Sp/4 William Hutchison)

Case 1

On June 21, Private (E-2) Wayne D. Sims, headquarters and Company A, 723d Maintenance Battalion, was tried by a special court-martial authorized to adjudge a bad conduct discharge. He was tried for aggravated assault and possession of heroin.

He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge from the service, to be confined at hard labor for five months, to forfeit $75 per month for five months and to be reduced to the grade of Private (E-1)

Case 2

Private First Class Charles R. Rivera, company A, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 23d Infantry Division, was convicted by special court-martial on June 26 for being AWOL, being derelict in the performance of his duties and larceny.

He was sentenced to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge, to be confined at hard labor for four months, to forfeit $95 per month for four months and to be reduced in grade to Private (E-1)

Case 3

Specialist Five Richard H. Ramberg, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 23d Infantry Division Artillery, was convicted by special court-martial on June 26 for possession of heroin and morphine and use of heroin.

He was sentenced to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge, to be confined at hard labor for four months, to forfeit $150 per month for four months and to be reduced to the grade of Private (E-1).

A rear job for the grunt?

By Sgt. Larry V. Sisk

FSB Redhorse, (23d Inf. Div. Arty IO) – The closest thing to DEROS for a soldier in the field is a rear job. Moving into Da Nang or Chu Lai means that the troop has served his time in the bush or on some isolated firebase, and he's beginning to get short.

Most short timers feel that they are taking unnecessary chances staying in the field when they could be in the rear area. One sage commanders only put men with 60 days left in country on bunker guard as Blue Chip Security. No matter what the alert status, no one falls askeep; they're too short to mess around.

Life abounds wtih other such niceties for the Remf (Rear Echelon Maintenance Force) once he gets a secure job and figures he has it made. Although he won't be taking direct fire from VC or NVA troops, he's bound to catch a lot of flak if he doesn't change hia grooming standards from those he had in the field.

Besides sporting CONUS-Style Army haircuts, polished boots and pressed fatigues, the Remf finds that all souvenirs and good luck charms he wore in the bush are rated number 10 by the command.

When he finally finds his niche, the rear troop figures he has it beat. So what if there are formations and police calls three times a day? So what if he can count on nine hours a day at his desk, seven days a week with maybe a half day off for good behavior?

Just think of the PX that the man in the field never gets to see. If he's lucky enough to get off when its open, and scrounge a ride, and the line isn't over two blocks long, and the exchange still has what he wants when he makes it in several hours later, then he can spend all that money he's accumulated during his hard months in the bush and buy that very special something that he'll really enjoy before its stolen.

One characteristic of the rear guard is his strict attention to detail; grass detail, concrete detail, paint detail, garbage detail, DETAIL...DETAIL. However, if it weren't for all these minor inconveniences, the Remf would lose probably the strongest bond he has with his less fortunate brother in the field-the ability to gripe endlessly.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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

ALCE, TMA are backbone of our airport

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) – "Our goal is to keep ground time at a minimum, so we can get maximum use of our flight crews," says Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Ray Sanders (Louisville, Ky.), the commander of the 15th Aerial Port Detachment in Chu Lai, the home of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal).

The staff of the aerial port is comprised of the 65 Air Force officers and men known as the Airlift Control Element (ALCE) and the five-man Army team known as the Traffic Management Agency (TMA).

The C-7 Caribou, C-123 Provider and C-130 Hercules are constantly departing and arriving from "Chu Lai International". About 17,000 people a month flow through the airport, coming or going. In addition, the "port" handles an average 2000 tons of cargo a month, along with 90 tons of mail.

Most of the outbound cargo is ammunition and rations bound for Thien Phuoc, Minh Long or Tra Bong. JP-4 is also ferried to those areas on "Bladder Birds". The fuel is loaded onto the Caribous and Providers in a large cell or bladder. On Arrival at one of the fire bases, it is transferred to bladders on the ground and used to fill gunships and transport helicopters. Forty sorties a day fly out of Chu Lai.

According to Sanders, the ALCE's job is elementary. "An incoming plane radios how much fuel it has and how much cargo it can carry. We coordinate this information with all the necessary agencies–fuel, cargo and passengers."

ALCE takes passenger reservations for flights to Cam Ranh Bay, Da Nang and Tan Son Nhut Airport (Saigon). Two hours prior to flight time, it hands the manifest to TMA for action.

Although their job is often thankless, the soldiers and airmen of "Chu Lai International" perform a necessary job, fulfilling a vital task in support of the 23d Infantry Division.

TOP LEFT: Air Force Staff Sergeant Alfred C. Stevens (Turbeville, S.C.) listens as an incoming aircraft details its fuel requirements and cargo capacity.

MIDDLE LEFT: New arrivals pick up their baggage after debarking at Chu Lai.

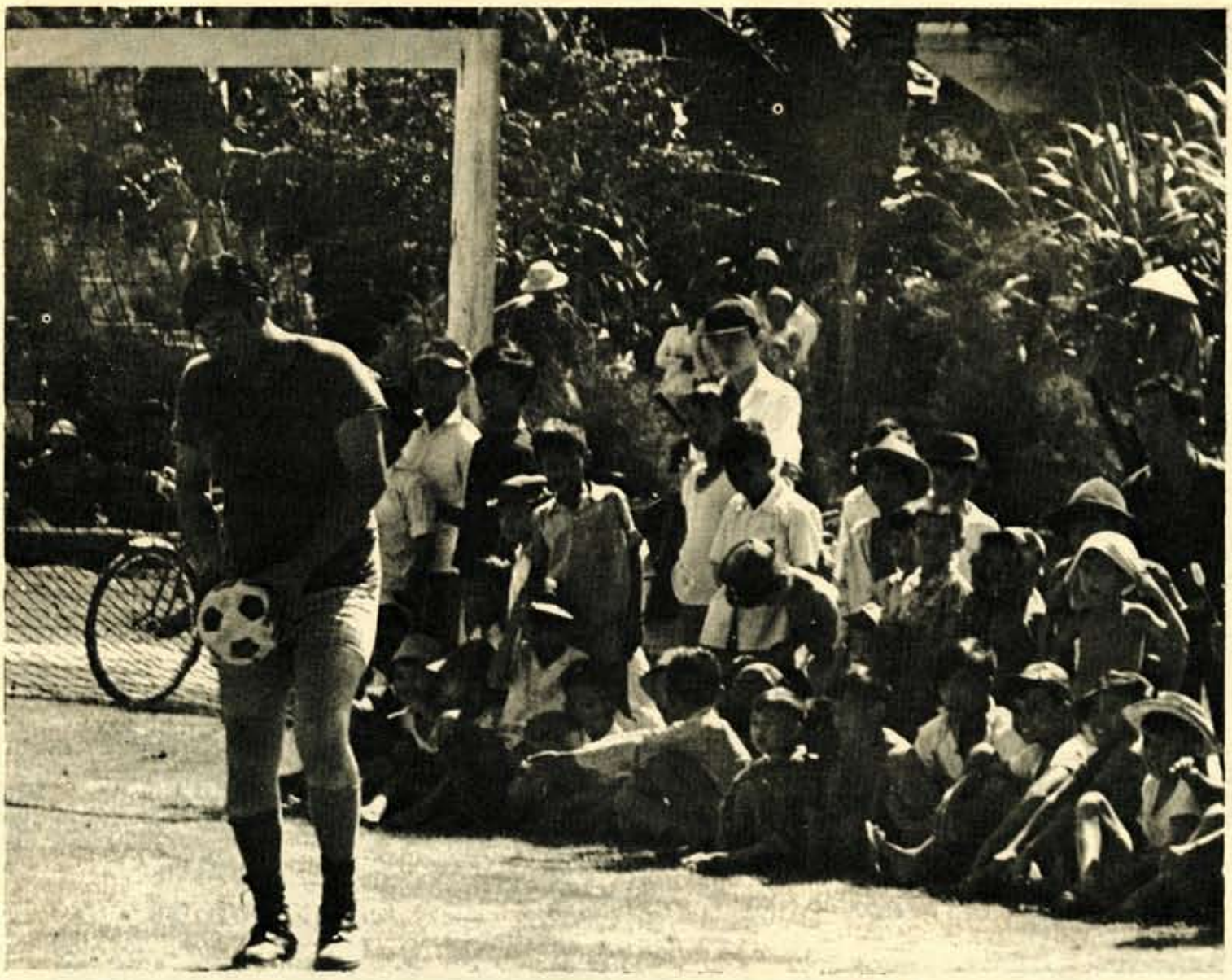
TOP RIGHT: Outbound Americal Division soldiers board a C-130 at Chu Lai Airport.

BOTTOM LEFT: This is the flight line at Chu Lai Airport. At left is a C-130 Hercules and at right in foreground is a C-123 Provider.

Story by Sp/4 Sam Rousso

Photos by 1Lt. Henry G. Grambergu Jr.

11th ARVN a
easily gains
win over 1/8



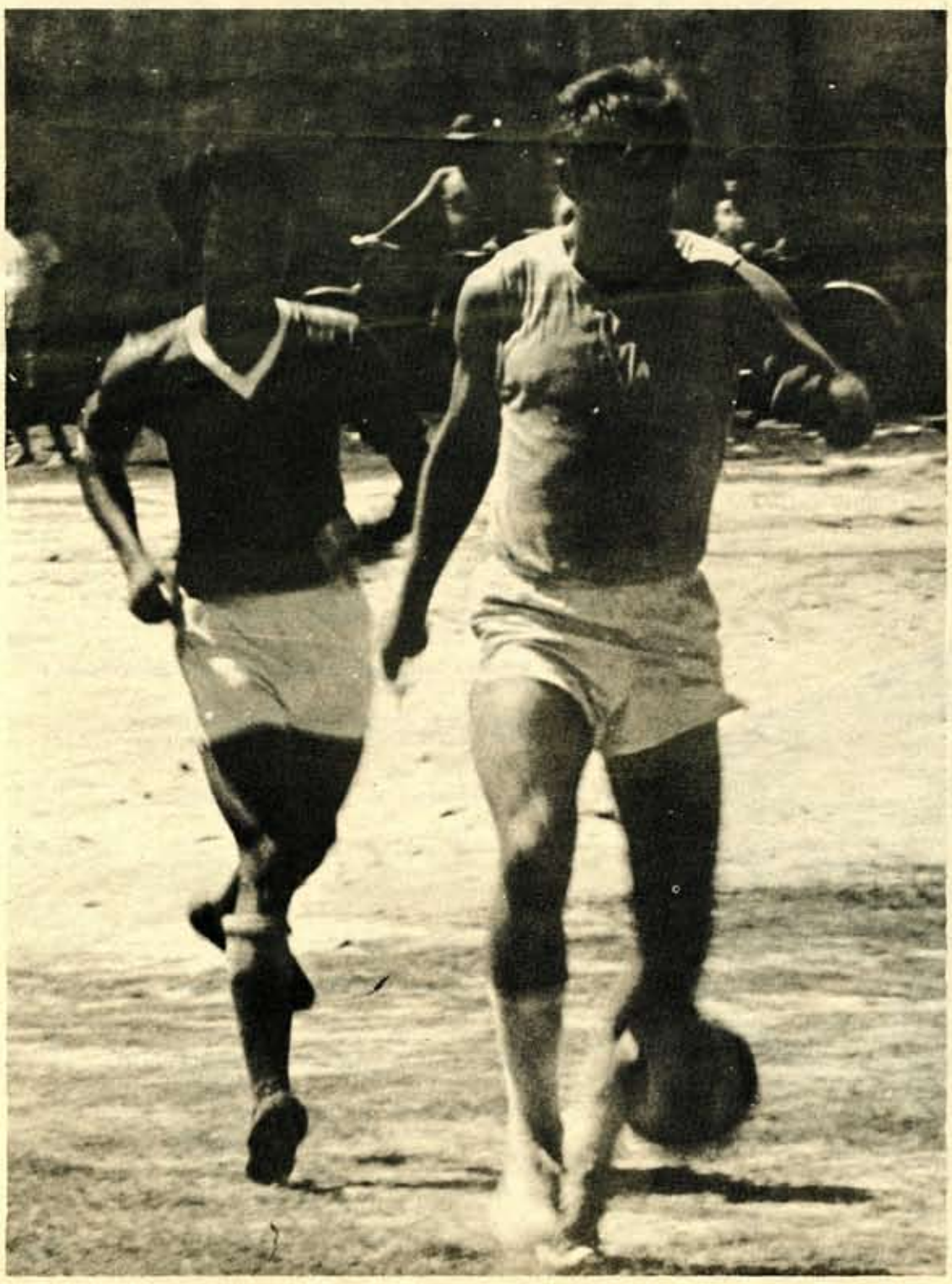
TAM KY, (23d Inf. Div. Arty. I0) – It was truly a wide world of sports last week as headquarters, 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery staged a soccer game with 20th of the 11th Artillery, ARVN, at Tam Ky soccer field.

Relying mainly on personnel who had played schoolboy soccer, 1st Bn., 82d Arty. fielded a team with much individual experience but no practice as a unit. The ARVN crew, who played regularly in the tough Quang Ngai League, posed a rough first test for the U.S. team.

"These guys are pros. They anticipated every move I made," said Sergeant Johnny Mireles, goalie for the U.S.

The ARVN's kept the Yanks scoreless over the first half while scoring two and hitting the goal post several times.

It wasn't until the second half that the Yanks finally scored. Captain Billy Cross put in an angle shot ten feet out of the crease to put 1st Bn., 82nd Arty within striking range. It didn't stay that way long, as the Vietnamese returned with two quick goals by Field Captain Thieu ny Suul, to put the game on ice. The U.S. came back, scoring one with less than a minute left, but it was in vain. Final score was ARVN's 4, U.S. 2.



TOP LEFT: A crowd of 500 watched U.S. goalie Johnny Mireles prepare to return following a save. The game took place in Tam Ky between the 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery, and 20th of the 11th Artillery, ARVN.

BOTTOM LEFT: Captain Billy Cross is pursued by Thieu My Suul, captain of the ARVN team. Each man scored for his respective team.

BOTTOM CENTER: The game's end brought traditional exchange of good wishes between both teams. The slightly out of shape U.S. fought exhaustion to make it off the field.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The U.S. soccer team from 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery arrives at Tam Ky field for the game with their Vietnamese counterparts. Children race the team across the field.

TOP RIGHT: An ARVN goalie fishes the ball out of the net and returns it to the field. The Vietnamese outplayed the Americans 4-2.

rtillery unit 4-2 soccer 32d artillery

The amazingly non-partisan croud of about 500 cheered at fine plays and cores by either team. At the games end, the losers treated the wining team to a round of cheers, emphasizing the sportsmanship that prevailed throughout the game.

Accepting the loss in a philosophical light, Lieutenant Colonel William O'Bryan, commander of the battalion and left inside forewared for the U.S. team, blamed the loss on two factors, "First, we didn't have the right shoes--How can you win in combat boots?" And Second, "Well, their team is better."

The U.S. team will attempt to avenge their loss, but in a different game. Ping-Pong--at least then it won't be their boots.

Story and photos by 1Lt. Fred G. Vigeant

4/21st Inf stands down

(Continued from Page 1)

the continuing disengagement and withdrawal of American combat troops from their role in the Vietnam conflict.

"It is with this fact in mind that we witness the departure of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf, with mixed emotions – joy in the realization that Vietnamization has progressed to a point where it is safe to begin the withdrawal of American troops, and sadness in having to bid farewell to a fine unit of the Division."

1/6th Inf nets 4 NVA

By Sgt Tom Frey

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf Div) – On a recent mission west of Chu Lai, an element from the 23rd Infantry Division, 198th Infantry Brigade, used some quick reactions and fine shooting to kill four NVA soldiers.

An element from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, was on patrol and came to a stream, so the men decided to fill their canteens and take a break.

"We put out security on both sides of the stream and observation points (OP's) flanks of the security," said Sergeant David Sanchez (Denver, Colo.), a team leader.

Sanchez, Allard, and three other men maneuvered up along a steep bank into some heavy vegetation and waited.

"It hadn't been but about five minutes when our OP's spotted four NVA soldiers coming up a trail along the stream bed," said Private First Class Lonnie Allard (Martin, S.D.), the element's pointman. "They were headed right for us and of course we all got a little nervous."

"They came out of a hedgerow about 75 meters away and we could tell they were NVA soldiers by their khaki apparel and Chicom hand grenades attached to their pistol belts," said Sanchez.

"We waited until they got within about 50 meters, then we all opened up at once," said Allard. "We got all four before they know what had happened."

The "Regulars" captured three packs, four Chicom hand grenades, and two pistol belts in the action. All items were extracted to a nearby LZ.

LEFT: Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz, acting commanding general of the 23d Infantry Division, compliments members of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry for a job well done, in a speech during their standown ceremony. RIGHT: Lieutenant Colonel Vernon B. Sones, commanding officer of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf., holds the battalion's standard as the unit's colors are officially cased for shipment back to the United States. (U.S. Army Photos by Cpt James J. Hollingsworth)

Cav harasses enemy near Mo Duc

By CPT John J. Hollingsworth

CHU LAI, (11th Brigade IO) – Around the beginning of May a new unit joined the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade and since that time Task Force 23rd Cavalry (Provisional) has harassed the enemy in an area known as the Gaza Strip east of Mo Duc.

The special Cavalry task force consists of two of the three original Cavalry troops that came to Vietnam with each of the Americal's Brigades. Echo Troop, 1st Cavalry commanded by Captain James L. Wilson (Kansas City, Kan.) and Hotel Troop, 17th Cavalry commanded by Captain Randall F. Jarmon (Ithaca, N.Y.) comprise the special cavalry task force now operating with the 11th Brigade.

"I think the success is significant, but perhaps difficult to measure concretely," Major Frederick L. Wilmoth, (Harrisburg, Ill.) commanding officer of Task Force 23rd cavalry, commented.

We have had some good initial successes and we have interdicted a great deal of enemy movement in this area. Echo Troop for example has discovered numerous small arms caches, has captured six of the enemy and has found approximately 20 tons of rice. H Troop while working with a Popular Forces (PF) element killed two enemy and captured four. Hotel Troop has also collected a substantial amount of munitions under the Volunteer Informant Program, Wilmoth added.

Major Wilmoth attributes the large munitions collection to two things: first, the area Hotel Troop was working in had a lot of munitions around and second, Sergeant First Class Longland (Hamburg, West Germany) organized the children in the area and got them in the spirit of turning in the munitions.

Since its forming the task force has been on combined operations with Regional Forces (RF), PF and U.S. Infantry forces. Operations with the 11th Brigade have primarily been with RF and PF elements.

The Cavalry-Infantry team compliments one another very well. The RF and PF like our fire power which gets them into areas they have never worked before, Wilmoth said.

"We like the added infantry protection they provide in heavy bush, plus the capability they add to the team to thoroughly search bunkers, brush lines, villages and tunnel complexes.

"We perfer American Cavalry men to fight mounted where we can maximize our fire power and mobility. Realistically speaking, in the Gaza Strip there is little opportunity to fight this way. The area is trafficable, there are several choke points and access into the strip is limited because we take extreme care not to damage rice fields. This, of course limits our rapid mobility, but in the long run it is a good policy because it doesn't make enemies out of the people.

"We must, as the Infantry, ambush, search and clear and engage in and conduct dismounted sweeps. To say cavalry troopers are fond of dismounted actions would probably be incorrect," he added.

Wilmoth thinks it is significant that since the first of the year both Echo and Hotel Troops have operated extensively in three of the four most heavily mined and boobytrapped areas in Military Region 1. He added, "Our combat vehicles have belly armor for added protection against mines."

Mines, boobytraps and rice paddies are a hinderance to the Cavalry Troops, but their record speaks for itself. They have denied the enemy his food and they have captured his weapons–the cavalry is doing its job.

Booby trap does not detonate

By SGT Thomas F. Boehlor

LZ STINSON, (23rd Inf Div IO) – When a soldier trips an enemy booby trap he usually finds out rather quickly–like in a fraction of a second. But one "Ready Rifle" from the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, didn't find out he had hit a trip wire connected to a Chicom hand grenade until half an hour later.

An element from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 198th Brigade had made contact early one day with a lone NVA soldier and wounded him. A potrol was sent to follow a blood trail left by the evading enemy.

The platoon leader, First Lieutenant Martin Ronya (Olympia, Wash.), was walking second as his patrol moved through thick vegetation in an area near here.

"We were following a trail when our Luc Luong Scout, who was walking point, found a bag of rice on the trail," said Renya. "We picked up the rice and continued after the enemy. Little did we know, but we also walked through an enemy booby trap."

The "Ready Rifles" finally lost the trail when it entered a stream, and turned back toward their day laager position. As they neared the spot where the rice was found the pointman noticed some indications that the enemy had laid a trap.

"Our scout is very good at finding booby traps," said Renya. "He said the insignificant signs left by the enemy meant that one was just ahead. We searched the area and finally found it right where we found the rice."

The booby trap consisted of a Chicom hand grenade tied to a tree close to the ground. A piece of vine fastened to the firing device was used as a trip wire spanning the trail. The vine had already been tripped. Not wanting to disturb it further, the "Ready Rifles" blew the Chicom in place.

"We were really lucky," concluded Renya. "The Chicom must have been defective. It was so well camouflauged that we couldn't have seen it until we were on our return trip. A lot of people could have gotten hurt."

Sp/4 Mitchell carries butterfly net in the bush

LZ PROFESSIONAL, (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – "I have been accused of walking point with my M-16 in one hand and a butterfly net in the other," says an infantryman from the 198th Brigade. "It's not true though. When I walk point it's strictly business."

However, Specialist Four Daniel Mitchell (Rancho Cordova, Calif.), a rifleman with Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, does put his butterfly net to good use whenever he has a chance, during breaks or while in a laager position. He has been collecting butterflies in Vietnam since his aunt sent him a net in April.

"My aunt in California is very interested in butterflies and she figured I could find some species over here that she wouldn't be able to find at home," says Mitchell. "So far, I have sent about 15 different kinds home."

Mitchell began collecting butterflies when he was five years old. His mother and aunt would use the ones he caught to make decorative plates. He plans to keep on collecting as long as he is in the bush.

"My aunt really gets a big kick out of some of the butterflies I have sent," says Mitchell. "She hasn't even been able to find some of them listed in her butterfly books."

Weather as hot as it is in Vietnam, here's something we bet you fellows would like to take a dip into. Edy Williams, who recently starred in "The Seven Minutes", seems to share that feeling. (Photo courtesy Alex Babcock)

Lieutenant Colonel R.J. Barnhart, adjutant general for the 23d Infantry Division, cuts the first piece of cake for Captain Arthur Gipsom at a party celebrating the Adjutant General Corps' 196th birthday. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/4 Ron Cryderman)

Lieutenant's voice booms at firebase

By 1Lt Henry G. Grambergu Jr.

FSB 411 (23rd Inf. Div 10) -- If you are ever on Firebase 411 and you hear a baratone voice boom out of the shower stall, don't be surprised, it probably is First Lieutenant Michael Noon (Baltimore, Md.) trying to keep his voice in shape.

Noon has been singing all his life and definitely has a passion to sing opera. He started a serious singing career while attending Telvsen State College in Maryland, where he majored in music and specialized in voice. While at Telvsen he earned $75.00 a month during his junior and senior years as a singer.

"Church work and ROTC put me through college. I did weddings and any odd jobs. I even used to sing the Star Spangled Banner for the Calhoun School of Marine Engineering in Baltimore for $25.00," Noon mused.

After Noon graduated from college he immediately went into the army and directly over to Germany. This was almost a dream come true for Noon, since Europe was the home of his first love--the opera. Noon was stationed at Colman Barracks, Sendhofen. While there he was able to go to the nearby city of Heideberg and sing baratone solo for the Madrigal Singer of the University of Heidelberg.

As a roving baratone in Europe Noon had many interesting experiences

"If I had leave or a weekend off I would just take off," he related. I put 60,000 miles on my car in 18 months while in Europe. Once I helped finance a stay in Vienna by singing for a restaurant. I got the job by making friends with the tenor who worked there. He heard my friends and myself singing at our table and joined us. I did this all over Europe. I just started singing and people would buy me drinks or dinner."

When asked how opera and his Army career correlated he stated, "I always kept the Army and the music separated." However the twain did meet once in Germany. "My brigade commander asked me once what I studied in school. I told him opera and he walked away. He rarely spoke to me after that. I guess he was a country and western fan."

After Noon leaves Vietnam and ETS's from the Army, he plans to return to Europe to further his opera career. He has been excepted at three conservatories in Europe. However, he plans to go to the Robert Schumann Conservatory.

His ultimate goal is to live in Heidelberg and sing in the Manheim National Theater and go around the world singing with this group.

Does crime pay?

By Sp4 David A. Rea

CAMP REASONER, DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Who says that crime does not pay?

Private William G (Tiny) Gobble (Riviera Beach, Fla.), of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry has been approached many times by local Vietnamese soliciting sales for their fastest selling commodity, 'smack' or heroin. Gobble, complying with the Army's recent crack down on drugs and his own feelings towards the perils of drugs, has taken it upon himself to try to apprehend these 'pushers'.

He has already started. Recently, he was the main figure in capturing five pushers in one sweep and is presently trying for more.

"I got tired of watching my buddies getting messed up on smack and no one was doing anything about it," commented Gobble. "I'm getting short, so I decided I'd try to help do away with some of the suppliers and keep the stuff away from my buddies. Without it they'll get off it," Gobble continued.

Who said crime doesn't pay? Private Gobble has already received a three day R&R. But more important still, has the self-satisfaction of knowing he is helping in solving the drug problem in Viet Nam and, above all, helping his buddies kick the habit before it is too late.

LTC Rolf Arnhym takes over command of 1/6th Infantry

By 1LT Edward O. Spaulding

CHU LAI, (23rd INF DIV IO) – Lieutenant Colonel Rolf G. Arnhym assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Brigade, succeeding Lieutenant Colonel James W. Sawey, in a recent ceremony at the 198th Brigade Parade Field.

Arnhym (Fairfax, Va.), joins the "Regulars" following a tour at the Pentagon, where he served as Chief of the Systems Development Branch for the Manpower and Forces Director. Arnhym, a 1953 graduate of West Point, served an earlier tour in the Republic of Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division.

Sawey (Sandia Base, N.M.), took command of the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. early in January, and under his leadership the battalion became proficient in small unit tactics, operating in both the lowlands and mountains.

The "Regulars" area of operations quadrupled during Sawey's tour as commander, and the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. executed two complete moves. The unit first moved to Fire Support Base Dottie, and later moved back to Chu Lai. Sawey was largely responsible for making Dottie one of the best fire bases in the Division, with his improvements including a new mess hall, outdoor theatre and recreational facilities.

Sawoy, a 1956 graduate of New Mexico Military Institute, is headed for assignment with the Defense Communications Planing Group. In his farewell remarks to the 1st Bn., 6th Inf, he praised his small unit leaders, calling them "the backbone of the unit because of the way this battalion operates."

At the ceremony, Sawey was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross and Legion of Merit by Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz, Action Division Commander.

Artillery nestled in valley

By Sp/4 Mark A. Schulz

LZ CINDY, (23d Inf. Div. IO) – Sugar and spice isn't all that the men of Alpha Battery, 3rd of the 18th Artillery have nestled in Tra Bong Valley.

Tra Bong, one time cinnamon capitol of the world, in the valley along the Soui Tra Co River about 15 miles inland from Chu Lai.

LZ Cindy is anything but the average landing zone. There is an American advisory team there, 3rd battalion, 18th Artillery and also ARVN units.

Most artillery units are situated on hills, while Cindy is in the large valley with steep hills one mile away on three sides.

The landing strip is "the smallest operational airfield in Vietnam" said Captain William Stanley, commander of the artillery unit. The strip was recently damaged by heavy rains and was being repaired. The airstrip cannot be enlarged because one end boarders the South Vietnamese village and the other sits 20 feet from a Soui Tra Co River tributary.

Supplies for the base are dropped in by Chinook about seven times per day with Huey's (UH-1H) stopping in to lift passengers and supplies to a nearby observation post and Chu Lai.

Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz, assistant general for support from Chu Lai, called LZ Cindy "the most improved fire support base in the division" on a recent inspection tour of the base.

LZ Cindy provides general support artillery for the Americal Division within 20 miles of the base. The Division Artillery gives the men of LZ Cindy their targets and clearance to fire.

Water for the base is filtered from the nearby river and electrical power is generated from four generators which light the perimeter area during the night.

Captain Stanley proudly stated that, since the landing zone has been there for two years, they have had the opportunity to install five flush toilets; an Enlisted Mens Club, serving soda and beer; Non-commissioned Officers Club and movie theater.

The men of Alpha Company can also enjoy volleyball, horseshoes or basketball.

Three neighbors meet in same recon platoon

By 1Lt. Frank B. Easterly

DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – What are the odds of working in the same squad of the same reconnaissance platoon in Vietnam with a neighbor? After you've figured that out, compute the odds for three neighbors who lived less than four blocks from each other. The chances are astronomical.

This is the happy situation which three men from the 196th Infantry Brigade found themselves in. Robert R. Wilson, Richard L. Radcliffe, and Daniel L. Prize, all Specialist Fours and all from East Detroit, Mich., have been together in the 1st Squad, Reconnaissance Platoon, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry since last fall.

"I was first on the scene in the last part of August," recalls Radcliffe. "Then Dan Prize came in early October and Bob Wilson in mid-October. It was all a complete coincidence."

A closer check shows that the three men didn't know each other until they met in the recon platoon. "Man was I floored when Rich and Dan told me that I made number three from east Detroit," remarked Wilson.

Though the men have different jobs in the field, their common origin has fostered a deep rapport and they've stuck together. "Dan humped the radio, Rich usually was "slack" with an M-16 and I carried to over-and-under, an M-16 with a mounted grenade-launching tube," recounted Wilson.

Easy communication is one benefit of having comrades from the same home town. "It's nice to have a little bit of home with you in Nam, then you don't have to explain the local jargon," said Prize. "We got together and talked up home while the other guys had to hold those memories to themselves. I think we really helped each other out."

An invitation from Wilson's mother on a voice tape to a "chicken dinner" was enough to entice all three to take the same USO flight back to East Detroit under the two week CONUS (Continental United States) leave policy. "We got together a lot and had some great times," recalls Prize. And yes, they all made it back to the same squad of the same reconnaissance platoon.