

SOUTHERN CROSS



AMERICAL
DIVISION

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CHU LAI, VIETNAM

October 25, 1968

Award Three DSCs For Exceptional Valor

LZ BRONCO—Three Americal Div. soldiers were awarded our nation's second highest decoration for valor in a special ceremony recently at the 11th Inf. Bde. base camp at Duc Pho.

MAJ Patrick M. Trinkle, operations officer of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., and 1LT Douglas M. Falck of a Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf., both of the 11th Inf. Bde., and PSG Artenio Romero, Jr., of the 198th Bde.'s 1st Bn., 6th Inf., received the Distinguished Service Cross.

GEN Andrew J. Goodpaster, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army, Vietnam, made the presentation.

96 NVA Are Killed By 'Brave And Bold'

LZ BAYONET—Answering an urgent distress call from a squad of division soldiers outnumbered by the enemy recently, the "Ready Rifles" of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., 198th Inf. Bde., rushed to the scene and killed 96 NVA soldiers 10 miles west of Tam Ky.

Arriving with guns blazing, the two platoons from D Co. drove through the enemy position to where the group of friendly forces were defending themselves near an NVA outpost.

"Sheer firepower, good maneuvering, and good position allowed us to gain superiority over the enemy," said LT Michael J. Deal, the company commander.

On-The-Double Relief

Because of the intense fire, only six men could be inserted by helicopter. The others had to land nearly 1,000 meters from the battle, but they moved out on-the-double to relieve the pressure on the surrounded men.

The action began when "Aero Scouts" of the 123rd Avn. Bn. spotted an enemy mortar position and landed to send a squad of infantrymen to investigate; shortly, they were engaged in a fierce firefight.

Heavy Enemy Fire

Massive fire from the enemy positions kept the gunships from landing to extract the team. It was at this point that the request for help was sent to the two platoons who were working nearby.

"My men did an outstanding job," said LT Deal. "LT John Snapp and SFC Eddie Banburg, my platoon leaders, reacted quickly to a danger."

(Continued on Page 8)

198th, 1st/1st Kill 23 NVA

LZ BAYONET—A company of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde., supported by the 1st Sqdn., 1st Armored Cav., killed 23 NVA and captured nine AK-47s and two RPGs in a fierce fight four miles west of Quang Ngai City.

The initial enemy contact was made in mid-afternoon on a search and clear mission. The fighting raged until dusk; then, all of a sudden... "It was over just like turning off a light. We were fighting, and then nothing. It was weird," commented SP4 David Doctor, an RTO.

"We assaulted the enemy in trenches to our front and on both flanks. Using our machineguns and the tracks to provide the base of fire, I maneuvered my men towards the enemy, who was throwing out a heavy volume of fire," said B Co. commander, CPT Roger Dimsdale.

Advancing into the enemy, the division soldiers worked their way towards the foe. They pinned him down with small arms fire then lobbed grenades into his hiding places until the enemy broke contact.

MAJ Trinkle's Award
MAJ Trinkle (Cornwall, N.Y.), then a captain and commanding officer of a Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., was honored for exceptionally valorous actions on Feb. 23, 1968, while leading his company on a search and clear operation near the coastal village of My Lai, five miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

When A Co. began receiving heavy automatic weapons fire from a numerically superior force, MAJ Trinkle braved the hail of fire to call in air and artillery strikes and helicopter gunship support.

Later, the major spotted one of his men wounded and trapped in the open. Although seriously wounded himself, he began moving through intense enemy fire to the wounded man's aid, along the way killing an enemy sniper who was firing on them.

After carrying the casualty to safety, MAJ Trinkle refused medical aid for himself and directed the attack in which his men overran the enemy positions. His citation reads in part: "His gallant actions in the heat of battle inspired his men to fight furiously and overwhelm the hostile enemy forces."

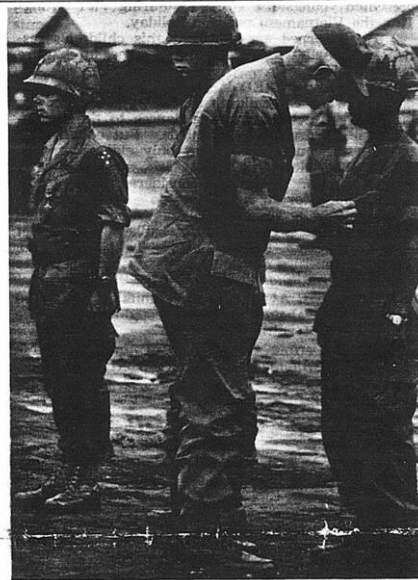
1LT Falck's Citation

1LT Falck (Topeka, Kan.), was decorated for extraordinary heroism while an infantry platoon leader during a combat mission May 16, 1968, on Hill 352, 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

In the midst of a furious three-day fight for an enemy occupied ridge, the lieutenant volunteered to lead a six-man patrol on a probe of an enemy-held hilltop.

He penetrated the enemy perimeter through three barricades of barbed-wire, established a small defensive perimeter, and set his men

(Continued on Page 8)



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS RECIPIENT, PSG Artenio Romero, has his medal pinned on by GEN Andrew J. Goodpaster, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army, Vietnam, while the other award winners, MAJ Patrick M. Trinkle (left) and 1LT Douglas M. Falck, stand by. (Photo by SP5 Albert Holloway, 11th Inf. Bde.)

Two Senior Officers Assume Americal Posts

CHU LAI—Two new senior officers have joined the ranks of the Americal Div. to take positions as Chief of Staff and Commander of the 11th Inf. Bde.

COL Jack L. Treadwell has taken over as Chief of Staff and COL John W. Donaldson is the new leader of the "Jungle Warriors."

Chief of Staff

COL Treadwell, a Congressional Medal of Honor winner during World War II, came to the division from Ft. Benning, Ga., where he served as the commander of the 197th Inf. Bde.

An Armor officer, the 49-year-old veteran has also been decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star Medal, and Legion of Merit.

He succeeds COL Lewis B. Tixier, who was Acting Chief of Staff after COL Nels A. Farson, Jr., left the division. COL Tixier is presently commanding officer of

the Division Spt. Cmd. 11th Bde. CO

COL Donaldson, who graduated from West Point in 1944, was most recently the Army member of the Staff Group of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A recipient of the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster and one "V" device, the 11th Bde. commander attended the Armed Forces Staff College in 1951.

He succeeds COL Oran K. Henderson, who is now chief aide to the commanding general of the U.S. Army Hawaii.

Americal Completes First Year Of Vietnam Service—See pp. 3-5

VIETNAM-STYLE

By CPT CARY S. SKLAREN

Friendship Takes Work

Children and soldiers are the same all over the world; the children love to receive gifts and the soldiers love to give them. But there is a right way and a wrong way for a GI to show his affection and his liking to Vietnamese children.

THE PROPER WAY was exemplified earlier this month by various units of the division when they presented youngsters with gifts during TET Trung-Thu, the Vietnamese national holiday.

They learned exactly what this children's festival was, and what the accepted procedures were for presenting gifts.

THEY LEARNED it is a time for gaiety and dancing, when the children form long processions in lantern-lit streets performing dances to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals. But equally important, they understood that only elders, parents, or extremely close friends may present gifts directly to the children. It would be considered a loss of face to the family for an outsider to do so.

Therefore according to custom, each of the units presented the gifts to district, village, or hamlet elders on Oct. 5, the day before TET Trung-Thu. The elders in turn distributed the toys and candy to the children at the celebration.

BY THEIR ACTIONS, these units demonstrated that they care about and are interested in Vietnamese customs and traditions.

A little effort to learn about the Vietnamese way of life will make it less of an effort to make new friends.

Religion and You A Look At You

By CHAPLAIN (LTC) FRANCIS J. DOLAN
Division Chaplain

It is an occupational disease of most chaplains to constantly tell people what they should be. In this month which marks the division's first year in Vietnam, I want to tell the men of the Americal what they are.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, you are loyal American citizens. In a moment of crisis in our nation's life you have come forward from the ranks of our citizenry to dedicate, and if necessary, to sacrifice your life in the country's defense. This is a tremendous responsibility and you must never take it lightly.

A GENEROUS and grateful nation turns to you with confidence willing to provide you with every possible benefit in return for total dedication on your part to patriotic duty, integrity of character, and intelligent leadership. These are virtues that dismay the weak, but mark the worthy. They characterize the soldiers of our division.

Men of the Americal—physically you are rough, tough, hardened soldiers, but your body is not the source of your strength and courage. Most of the time you do not look very pretty. Covered with dust and mud or soaked with sweat and rain, no one would mistake you for "flower children."

THE SOURCE of your strength is within you. Sometimes it has no better name than guts. It enables you to face danger bravely, to push yourself near to the limits of physical endurance, to take one more step when the one you took ten steps back should have been your last one. You are men of steadfast determination.

Finally, you are men of feeling and compassion. Assembled in the broiling sun for memorial services or ceremonies for fallen buddies, not all the moisture bathing your faces is caused by the intense heat. Some of it consists of tears of sorrow and anguish, but only brave men can weep for brave men.

THE UNITED STATES hopes, and in hoping, looks to you for your "finest hour." As God gives each one of you the grace to see the right, be loyal to your conscience, be loyal to your faith, be loyal to your division, be loyal to your country.

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In Another's House



By SFC LARRY BABITTS
Staff NCOIC

"Chao ong" — the traditional Vietnamese greeting—how many times have you heard it said? How often have you tried saying it? The culture and mores of the Vietnamese differ from our western world in many ways. (Haven't you noticed it?)

While we think that eating with chopsticks is clumsy and sometimes even comical, they believe that only a child should use a knife and spoon.

A Positive Approach

So it is that in many things there are differences. Let us not dwell on these differences, but rather take a positive approach. Think of the many similarities.

Perhaps the single most significant thing we have in common is our mutual admiration for liberty and freedom of the individual. This love of the rights of each person, less than two centuries old to America, has a glorious history of nearly 50

centuries in this corner of Southeast Asia.

Their Way of Life

A history of long wars, bitter politics, and personal sacrifices to insure keeping their way of life desired by these people is evidence of their having the courage of their convictions.

This is the first time in their long history that a major power has come to their aid, rather than coming as an occupation force or with colonial intentions.

Our initiative and drive, the warmth of individual personalities and our desire to help are enjoyed by the Vietnamese.

Inscrutable GI

However, our humor and often our short tempers are inscrutable to the orientals.

A chance remark made in jest to an elder, an ordinary pat on the head of a child, or a demanding shout resulting from the inherent impatience of Americans leaves the Vietnamese peasant in the cold. He doesn't understand.

He doesn't comprehend the meaning of the physical actions or the commanding attitude of the American soldier, and he takes offense. Another potential friend and ally, a person who cheered our arrival here, may be lost to us.

Another's Property

Vietnam is such an old nation that very little property is in the public domain. Virtually every piece of ground, regardless of how wild or uncultivated, belongs to someone. In fact, more often than not, it belongs to a whole community of "someones."

The hill you are on or the soggy paddy you are in may represent the lifetime investment of an entire community whose annual income must come from this ground.

Respect for their private property will be repaid with respect for our mission.

Different Society

So it is that we should try to understand his "different" ways. We are guests in another's house—we should and must conform to some of his customs.

USARV, the Americal Div., and most every other division information office in-country, publishes Fact Sheets, booklets, pamphlets, and papers explaining the "taboos" and customs of the country.

Each soldier should, as part of his duty, read and understand them. This will enable us to have entered another's house as a stranger, and depart as a friend.

SOUTHERN CROSS AMERICAL DIVISION

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Vietnam Record Adds To A Proud Heritage

America Is Born In World War II Pacific Combat

With the completion of this first year of combat in Vietnam, the Americal Div. marks close to six-and-a-half years of service since its origin in World War II.

The original Americal grew out of Task Force 6814, which was deployed to the South Pacific on Jan. 23, 1942.

Task Force 6814 was composed of the 132nd, 164th, and 182nd Inf. Regts.; the 245th, 246th, and 247th Light Field Arty. Bns.; and the 221st Medium Field Arty. Bn. Some 45 percent of the troops were members of the 26th Inf. Div.'s 51st Inf. Regt.

Under the command of BG Alexander M. Patch, the task force arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia on March 12, and on May 27 it was reorganized as the Americal Div.

Composite Name

The name was chosen after a soldier in the new division suggested a contracting of the phrase, "American Troops in New Caledonia."

The newly-designated division then adopted a shoulder patch of four white stars in the form of the Southern Cross on a blue field, indicating organization of the division south of the Equator.

The Americal Division became the first U.S. Army unit to conduct an offensive operation against the enemy in any theater during WWII, fighting with the 1st Marine Div. on Guadalcanal.

Distinguished Record

From that combat beginning until occupation duty in Japan three years later, division units distinguished themselves for their hard fighting throughout the South Pacific area.

The soldiers were credited with participation in the Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Southern Philippines, and Leyte campaigns, and won two Presidential Unit Citations and one Distinguished Unit Citation during WWII.






Renewed Service

The Americal was deactivated at Ft. Lawton, Wash. on Dec. 12, 1945. After an 11 year period of inactivity, the division was reactivated in 1956 at Ft. Benning, Ga. for peacetime service in Panama and Alaska.

In 1958 the division was deactivated, but nine years later it once again responded to the call to duty, and currently is starting its second year of service in Vietnam.

STATISTICAL LOOK AT DIVISION

(Totals through Oct. 1, 1968)

	ENEMY KILLED	— 16,639
	DIVISION TROOPS KHA	— 1,166
	CHIEU HOI RETURNEES	— 1,400
	WEAPONS CAPTURED	— 4,577
	MEDCAP MISSIONS (PATIENTS)	— 4,215 (361,164 Treated)
	FOOD DISTRIBUTED	— 400 Tons
	SELF-HELP KITS	— 11,715

Good Work Men!

The solid record of achievement by the Americal Division since being reactivated one year ago has added substantially to the military effort of the United States forces in Vietnam.

During this first year of our rebirth, Americal troops have accumulated one of the best kill-ratios in Vietnam, as well as the highest Chieu Hoi percentage in the entire I Corps Tactical Zone.

We have done more than fight a war. We have made friends with our Allies through our MEDCAP, civic action, and revolutionary development programs.

Whether you be an infantryman, a cavalryman, an aviator, an artilleryman or any of the divisional support personnel, I am proud of your devotion to duty in this past year and offer my best wishes in our continuing endeavor.



Charles M. Gettys
Major General, USA
Commanding

Tomorrow Is A Milestone But Just Another Day For GIs

By Southern Cross Staff

Tomorrow there will not be special ceremonies nor will most of the men of the Americal be aware that they have participated in the passing of a milestone.

As they have been doing for the past 12 months, division personnel will be too busy with the serious business of combat to note that Oct. 26 represents the completion of the division's first year of Vietnam service.

Rebirth Begins As T.F. Oregon

Though the Americal Div. as such is completing its first year in Vietnam, its beginnings here go back more than a year and a half.

The division's forerunner, Task Force Oregon, began to organize for duty in southern I Corps in February of 1967 by direction of GEN William C. Westmoreland, then the COMUSMACV.

Led by LTG William B. Rossion (then MG), the planning group formed a multi-brigade force comprised of the 196th Inf. Bde.; the 1st Bde., 101st Abn. Div.; and the 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div. (later 3rd Bde., 4th Inf. Div.).

Operations Begin

The task force became operational on April 20, 1967, under the control of III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF).

The 196th began working in the Chu Lai area and throughout Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces, while the 3rd Bde., 4th Inf., conducted search and clear operations in southern Quang Ngai Province.

Arriving in the AO in May, 1967, the 1st Bde., of the 101st began operations in the jungles west of Duc Pho.

On The Offense

Offensive operations conducted by Task Force Oregon included: Malheur I, Malheur II, Hood River, Benton, Cook, and Wheeler.

On Sept. 22, 1967, MG Samuel W. Koster (then BG) succeeded MG Richard T. Knowles as commander of the task force.

A little more than a month later, Task Force Oregon passed into military history as GEN Westmoreland presented MG Koster with the colors of the Americal.

Read The 'Americal' For Detailed History

For a detailed chronology of the division's day-to-day operations in the southern I Corps Tactical Zone, be sure to read "One Year in Vietnam" in the current issue of the Americal.

However this occasion offers us a logical time to stop and reflect on our past record as a fighting unit and to take a silent moment to remember those comrades who have given their lives during this first year of the division's return to battle.

Therefore in this issue of the Southern Cross, as well as in this month's issue of the quarterly publication Americal, we have tried to portray in print and pictures the heritage and accomplishments which you as a member of the division have helped to attain and carry on.

Year Of Action

It has been a tough year, but one filled with actions for which you can be proud of your unit. The men of the Americal have carried the fight to the enemy as well as bringing the skills and materials of the builder, doctor, and educator to the beleaguered people of this brave nation.

The chart on this page denotes the record compiled by division soldiers while covering the Americal's approximately 4,750 square-mile area of responsibility and racking up a better than a 16-1 kill ratio.

Well-Earned Reputation

It is due to the skill and efficiency of the battle-honed troopers of the 196th, 198th, and 11th Inf. Bdes., the 1st/1st Armored Cav., and Div. Arty., plus the efforts of the hard-working support soldiers, that the Americal enjoys its proud reputation as one of the crack divisions in Vietnam.

Some of the major named combat operations which Americal fighting men have participated in during this year include:

- Wheeler/Wallowa, which began as two separate operations on Sept. 11 and Oct. 4, 1967, became a combined operation on Nov. 11, and continues today as the longest continuous division effort.
- Muscatine ran from Dec. 20 through June 10.
- Burlington Trail, which still continues, began Apr. 8 of this year to open the road from Tam Ky to Tien Phuoc.
- Champaign Grove ran from Sept. 4-24, 1968.

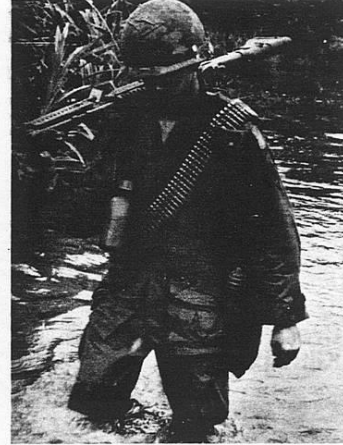
al...365 Days After It Arrived



From toting a duffel bag to . . .



. . . and by our deeds.



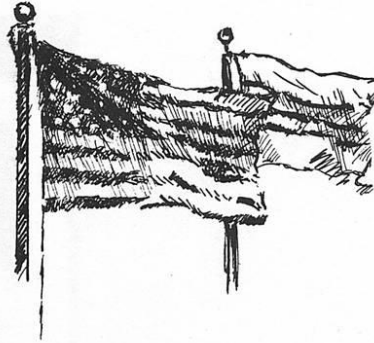
s him from his lairs . . .



Airmobile infantry allows him no quarter

A Pictorial Look At The American

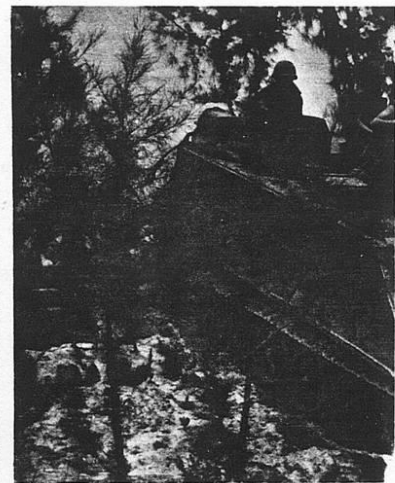
It officially began with the reception of the colors. GEN William C. Westmoreland, then COMUSMACV, passed the Americal Div. colors to LTG Bruce Palmer, Jr., then deputy CG, USARV, during the Oct. 26, 1967, ceremony in Chu Lai. MG S.W. Koster (right foreground), the division's first commanding general in Vietnam, waited to receive the colors from GEN Palmer, while SGM Max E. Daniels, former division sergeant major, looked on. The following 365 days were filled with hard combat and dedicated service by the men of the Americal. The outstanding reputation this division has attained is tribute to their accomplishments.



We made friends by our words.



The artillery's fiery sting gives the enemy no rest . . .



The armored cavalry driv



Wearry Warrior

A trooper from B Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., finds a quiet resting place after a long, wet morning in the hills west of Chu Lai. (Photo by SP4 Robert Brown, 196th Inf. Bde.)

'Chargers' Avert Ambush With Help Of Old Woman

LZ BALDY—An aged, white-haired Vietnamese woman appeared in the clearing. She had come to tell the soldiers of a 196th Inf. Bde. company that the Viet Cong had stored a large amount of rice in her hut.

She had also come to help the "Guardians" by showing them a well-laid enemy ambush a short distance away.

"When the woman first came to us we were quite hesitant about following her; we were distrustful," said CPT John R. Malpass, commander of B Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.

'Guardians' Crash Party Kill Six VC

LZ BALDY—Crashing parties is not always in the line of duty, but "Chargers" from the 196th Inf. Bde. recently became uninvited guests at an enemy get-together.

"We were on a patrol when we came close to a small village. One of the RFs (a Regional Force soldier) who was on duty there came over to us and said that some VC were living it up in one of the huts," remarked fire team leader SP4 Dennis Flores of A Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. Flores and his men then cautiously entered the village, in line formation while the Regional Forces covered all possible escape routes. The force was within 20 meters of the hut when they spotted the Viet Cong partying.

"They were singing and having themselves a ball when a grenade got them out of the party mood," Flores added.

Six VC were killed and one enemy was captured by the end of the brief battle.

Combat In Review

11th Razes VC Refuge

LZ BRONCO—"It was just like being on the rifle range in basic training. After the 'Charlie-Charlie' flushed those first three VC they just started popping up all over." SGT Clive Wang, a squad leader with the 11th Bde's C Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., was describing a recent action by his unit six miles north of here.

MAJ Patrick Trinkle, battalion operations officer, was flying cover for the maneuvering "Jungle Warriors" company when he spotted three VC bolt from their underground refuge and flee before the advancing "Always First" troops.

Swiftly notifying the nearest elements, he directed them to the area and marked the location with a smoke grenade. Two platoons cut off all escape routes and quickly killed the three VC.

"We got several more as they popped out of hidden spider holes and tried to run," continued SGT Wang.

Elements of the company cordoned off the area and called in engineers of C Co., 26th Eng. Bn.

Using cratering charges to demolish bunkers and caves suspected of harboring other stubborn Viet Cong, the combined effort accounted for six more bodies.

When the infantry set up their night perimeter around the area, the day's tally stood at 12 VC killed and five suspects detained.

'Aero Scouts' Find 3 VC Free 10 Slave Laborers

LZ BRONCO—Helicopter pilots flying aerial reconnaissance missions for the 11th Inf. Bde. recently became liberators to ten Vietnamese slave laborers who had been prisoners of the Viet Cong for up to four years.

The pilots, "Aero Scouts" of the 123rd Avn. Bn., discovered the prisoners 12 miles west of Quang Ngai City after spotting a group of military-age men carrying packs through a rice paddy.

"Animals" Landed

As the gunships flew overhead, some of the captives waved to them to attract attention. The "Aero Scouts" infantry element, the "Animals," were inserted and were told by the workers that their VC guards were hiding in a nearby bush. The two guards, plus the work detail's group leader were soon apprehended.

Political Captives

The prisoners, who had the task of planting and transporting rice to VC units in the area, were political captives. One laborer's husband was a National Policeman, a young man's brother was a Popular Forces soldier, and a third man was captured after he informed Government of Vietnam (GVN) officials of a Viet Cong unit in his village.

Inside were three cartons of cigarettes, 20 bars of soap, candy, sandals, six hammocks, a wet suit, 100 pounds of rice and noodles, medical supplies and canteens.



Captured Rice

A Vietnamese child watches as his mother receives rice from local officials. The rice, which was captured from the Viet Cong, was given to the village chief by units of the 11th Inf. Bde. (Photo by SGT Ronald Haerberle, 11th Inf. Bde.)

Dental Clinic Gets Mobility To Visit Field

CHU LAI—An enlisted man's dream that started during World War II has become a lieutenant colonel's reality in Vietnam.

The dream was a dental clinic on wheels and the draftee turned field grade officer is LTC John Carr, a dentist and commanding officer of the 219th Med. Det. His dental unit supports the Americal Div.

LTC Carr recalled, "When I was in the field I used to wonder why we had to go so many miles to see a dentist. Why couldn't the dentist come to see us?" That's exactly what the mobile dental clinic does; it travels to the patient.

Cool Dental Care

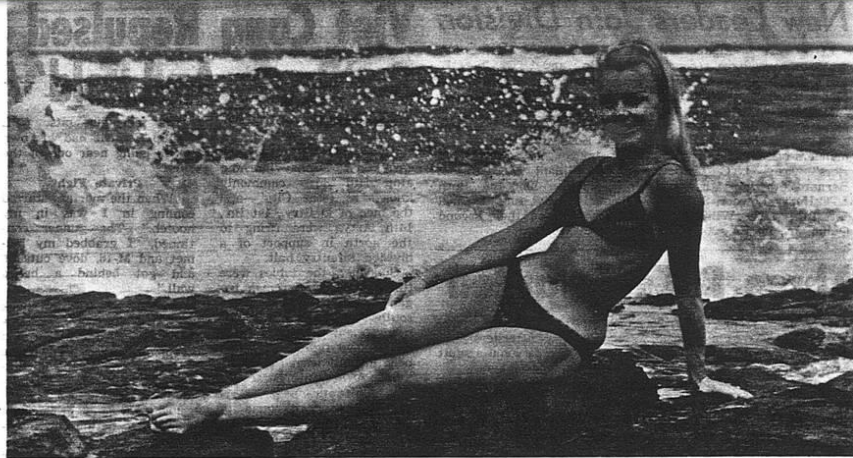
From the outside it appears to be an ordinary 2½-ton Army truck with a shop van mounted on the chassis. Inside it's a completely different story—an air-conditioned dentist's office equipped with chair, high-speed drill, and a special light.

Jobs such as restorative dentistry, surgery, and the cleaning of teeth can be performed in the mobile dentist facility.

Airmobile Clinic

The clinic is capable of being removed from the truck and airfield to any location where dental care is needed. If no power is available at the remote site a generator can be sent along to provide electricity.

LTC Carr, obviously happy about his 20-year dream coming true, has given the new mobile dental clinic a motto: "Have van, will travel."



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, here is another view of Gall Burnett, an Australian entertainer who caused such a stir when we ran her picture two issues ago that we felt

obliged to pose her again. The 22-year-old beauty has been appearing in the Americal area with the Ray Harris Network. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

Enemy Proves Has Taste: Likes American Pinup Photos

LZ BALDY—A 196th Inf. Bde. soldier learned recently that Americans are not the only ones who appreciate the American way of life.

SP4 William Hankins and his 4th Bn., 31st Inf. company were investigating an area of increased enemy activity when they came across what appeared to be a tunnel.

In For Surprise

Since it was Hankins' turn to be the tunnel rat, he grabbed a flashlight and a

45 and crawled into the hole.

As he moved down through the passage, he had expected to find a cramped nook that the enemy used for sleeping. He had a surprise coming.

A Large Room

"I came to a room at the end of the gauntlet, but couldn't tell how big it was, so I lit a candle. The room was about 50 by 25 feet and high enough to stand in,"

the startled infantryman remarked.

Well-Decorated Tunnel

He found tables, chairs and a stand-up bar. He also discovered something that can be found in many hootches, tents, and foxholes in the Americal AO, a pin-up photograph of Chris Noel.

"The only thing I could think of to say when I saw the picture was 'How about that,'" said the surprised tunnel rat.

R&R Exchange

Have you taken R&R yet. If so, you have valuable information which those who are looking forward to going will want to know...where the action is, best buys, things to see, things to avoid, etc. Since this information is constantly changing and being updated, your newspaper could act as a go-between for those who want to know and those who have just found out the inside stuff about the R&R sites.

If you have a question or a tip to pass on concerning R&R, write the Southern Cross, c/o Div. IO, and we will print them in future issues.



New Leaders Join Division

CHU LAI — Eight new senior officers have recently joined the Americal Division. Five are members of the 11th Inf. Bde., while three are serving with the 198th.

The new battalion commanders of the "Jungle Warriors" are: LTC Talbott Barnard, 6th Bn., 11th Arty.; LTC Henry Lowder, 3rd Bn., 1st Inf.; LTC William D. Quinn, Jr., 1st Bn., 20th Inf.;

LTC Ralph H. Ruche, 6th Spt. Bn.; and LTC Albert L. Russell, Jr., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf.

The new "Brave and Bold" leaders are: LTC Reed E. Davis, Jr., XO, of the 198th; LTC Edward A. Kelly, Jr., CO, 1st Bn., 14th Arty.; and LTC William C. Stinson, CO, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. Both Colonel Kelly and Colonel Stinson are on their second tours in Vietnam.

Three DSCs Awarded

(Continued from Page 1)
up to observe the hostile positions.

Receiving fire from an enemy guard in one of the bunkers, 1LT Falck charged the soldier's position and killed him with small arms fire.

He then assaulted through a hail of point-blank machinegun fire to silence a second bunker and although wounded, maneuvered his men into position and eliminated three more enemy entrenchments. These entrenchments included several mortars which had begun firing on his company.

Romero's Action

Romero (Las Cruces, N.M.) distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on May 9, 1968, during a combat mission against a battalion-size enemy force near the village of Phu Vinh Dong, 16 miles west of Tam Ky.

When Romero's company came under a devastating mortar attack as it neared the NVA fortifications, he organized and deployed his

men to provide suppressive fire on the attackers and then began a personal assault on the enemy bunkers.

After destroying three emplacements, he learned that his platoon leader and another man were wounded and pinned down in front of the bunker line. Romero immediately moved through a withering hail of bullets to reach the wounded men and assist them to safety.

Aids Wounded

Once again he started across the open terrain to the aid of another wounded man pinned down near the enemy positions. Along the way, he killed two NVA soldiers who were attempting to overrun a friendly machinegun position.

Although he was knocked down by an enemy bullet, he rose again to destroy another enemy bunker and organized his men into a defensive position against the attacking NVA soldiers who had begun an assault against Romero's platoon.

Viet Cong Repulsed At Fat City By 'Brave And Bold' Artillerymen

By PFC DEAN NORLAND
Staff Writer

CHU LAI—It was very early on a Sunday morning atop Hill 35 — commonly known as "Fat City"—and the men of D Btry., 1st Bn., 14th Arty., were firing to the north in support of a division infantry unit.

Suddenly, the tables were turned; the artillerymen began receiving fire from the south. Mortars, CS gas rounds, and rockets showered in. The fight, which had been initially waged at a distance, turned into a face-to-face confrontation.

"A VC sapper squad of eight to ten men had cut through three rows of triple-deck concertina wire," explained CPT Elvus Farrow, the battery commander.

The artillerymen were forced out of two of the bat-

Milestone Reached At Combat Center

CHU LAI—The 20,000th man to be trained at the Americal Division Combat Center since its inception in Dec., 1967, completed the 7-day course here earlier this month.

SGT Jerry R. Doerr, who has been assigned to C Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., 11th Bde., was congratulated at graduation ceremonies by the center's commander, MAJ Robert B. Longino.

The center currently trains between 500 and 1,400 American soldiers daily.

tery's four gun pits. CPL Phillip Connell had his own battle going near one of the guns.

Private Fight

"When the mortars started coming in I was in my hootch." The gunner continued, "I grabbed my helmet and M-16, dove outside, and got behind a baffle wall."

Connell got up to check out the situation. He saw the darkened figure of a man dropping grenades down the barrel of one of the howitzers. The VC saw the corporal.

"He bowled a grenade at me," the artilleryman exclaimed.

Connell hit the dirt and managed to roll five or six feet before it exploded. The corporal received shrapnel in his left leg but was able to return fire with his M-16. Missed!

Another Grenade

Again the VC pitched a grenade at Connell; it hit the corporal's side. This time he rolled in the opposite direction before it detonated. "I guess he thought he had me," the artilleryman related. As the sapper walked up for a closer look at his intended victim, Connell put the rifle on automatic and killed his assailant.

The corporal, with shrapnel in both legs by this time, got up and started treating some of his wounded buddies. Meanwhile, other D Btry. personnel had pushed the re-

maining VC outside the wire, and Cobra gunships dispatched from F Trp., 8th Cav., made their presence known.

Helpful Cobras

CPT Farrow praised the support his unit received from the helicopter gunships. "The Cobras were outstanding, and it took them only a short time to arrive."

A body count revealed one dead VC inside the perimeter and two more outside the fence. Blood trails were found leading away from the area.

About an hour later, after the ground attack had been thwarted, the artillerymen returned to their 105s and continued their original fire mission to the north.

CPL Connell summed up his experience when he said, "I'm not all that brave. But there's no way I'm going to sit still and let 'Charlie' get me."

He was evacuated to the 9th Spt. Hosp. here and was treated for the leg wounds.

Kill 96 NVA

(Continued from Page 1)

ous situation. They saved the lives of the men who were trapped."

A search of the battlefield turned up two 82mm mortars, one 60mm mortar, two RPG launchers, forty 82mm mortar rounds, twenty 60mm mortar rounds, and a large amount of personal equipment.

Cavalrymen Visit Marine Aviation Flightline



AN A-1E SKYHAWK JET roars before taking off for a combat mission, while visiting ground troopers get an earful of the sounds of Marine aviation. (Photo by 1LT Joe Collins, USMC)

CHU LAI—Americal soldiers are always glad to be "visited" by Marine aviators when the need for quick tactical air support arises. Recently however, some division soldiers had the opportunity to visit the Marine pilots... on a more personal basis.

At the invitation of LTC Norman B. McCrary, CO of Marine Sqdn.-311, Marine Aircraft Grp.-12, 14 troopers from the 198th Inf. Bde.'s H Trp., 17th Armored Cav. attended an open house held on the squadron's flight line here.

The purpose of the visit was to acquaint the ground troops with Marine aviation and to give them a close look at the aircraft they have grown to appreciate and respect from afar.

Pilots in full gear showed their visitors the fire power carried by the attack jets, while ordnance men loaded bombs ranging in size from 200 to 2000 pounds on the awaiting planes.

At the conclusion of the inter-service session, the Marine aviators gave each of the Americal visitors an embroidered patch bearing their squadron insignia and a cigarette lighter.



A MARINE PILOT, 1LT John E. Souders of Marine Attack Sqdn.-311, explains his flying equipment to H Trp., 17th Armored Cav. soldiers, who were guests of the Leathernecks. (Photo by 1LT Joe Collins, USMC)