

# New Christy Minstrels—Div. Sports p.8

# SOUTHERN CROSSES

AMERICAL  
DIVISION

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CHU LAI, VIETNAM

January 2, 1970

## Cavalry Routs NVA In Lowlands

By SP4 Harry Baumann  
CHU LAI — It was a routine operation for the light cavalry team. They were on a visual recon of an area 5 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City when they observed an enemy soldier evading into a bunker. The enemy soldier opened fire, but it proved a foolish thing to do for the tiny ship came strafing in and quickly silenced the nemesis with fire from the door-gunner.

As the helicopter set down to pick up a number of forsaken documents and a pack, the se-

renity of the post-fire area seemed ominous. Suddenly the trees around them came to life spewing small arms fire. This scene began the largest single action in southern I Corps in more than three months. The team, from D Trp., 1-1st Cav., made it back to their home base and rounded up their "heavies" (2 LOH's, 2 Cobras, 2 troop ships) along with their crack aero-rifle team and returned to the area. At the target area the situation was evaluated and a plan

was formed. The operations order went into effect. The ground troops began to sweep the area and discovered a line of well-prepared bunkers and fighting positions. A LOH readied the area by dropping smoke on the suspected enemy positions. As soon as the LOH disappeared the F-4s placed ordnance (in the form of 500lb bombs, 20mm cannon) on the enemy positions. The trees, grass, dirt, rocks spewed through the sky. After the smoke cleared the "Blues" continued to search the

area and found the signs of recent enemy activity. Suddenly, the element began to receive a large volume of small arms fire from a tree-line. The fire was an NVA company situated in small teams of three to five near the coastal area. Cavalry troops slogged through mangrove swamps along the tree-line, firing continuously. During one phase of the action a 35 minute close-in battle left three NVA dead, two carbines and one AK-47 found. Meanwhile a "Sabre" LOH zap-

ped three enemy soldiers as they were spotted fleeing a bunker. Hearing the battle over the radio, C-Trp., 1-1st Cav., nearing the end of their own sweep joined the ground platoon of D Troop. Under the command of CPT David L. Miller (Blossvale, N.Y.), C-Trp. was into the action using the back way. "As I started approaching the area I came across the enemy, clad in green shirts and black pants. We came in from behind and caught them by surprise," he said.

Operating with APC's, C Troop literally rolled over the enemy burying many of them in their bunkers. As the APC's came in from the south, D Trp. was pushing in from the north. The pincer movement crushed the NVA.

At the battles' end the enemy suffered great losses. More than 50 enemy were killed; 15 were detained, and ten individual weapons were captured. The enemy had been found by aerial recon, fixed, engaged and routed by the rifle platoon, ground troops and APC's.

The routine mission had been a success and the fighting men of Delta and Charlie Troop, 1-1st Cavalry once again showed the enemy what an air cavalry team is all about. (Americal IO)

### County Fair Supplies Aid For Village

By SP4 Ron Adams

FSB DEBBIE — The PSYOPS section of the 21st Inf. working in conjunction with the Regional Forces (RF) commander of Grp. 18 and the hamlet chief of Tan Diem Hamlet, 15 miles south of Da Nang, conducted a three-day "County Fair" operation recently.

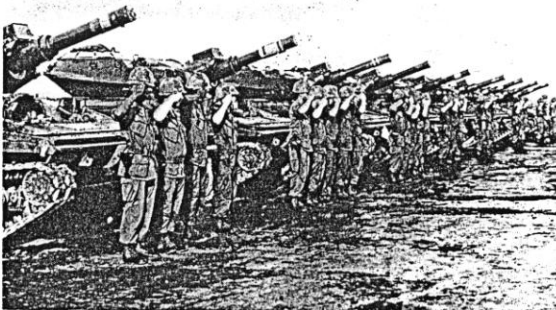
The operation began when an element from Co. C, 41st, placed a cordon around the hamlet while the PSYOPS team evacuated the civilians two miles north to Long Thanh outpost. Here the RF troops and PSYOPS team had set-up large tents to accommodate the villagers for their three day stay.

According to 1LT Allen Hendrickson (Missoula, Mont.) 41st S-5, "This operation was designed with the dual purpose of first removing the civilians so that the troops could be sent in to search and clear the premises and secondly so the civilians could be gathered into one location to be exposed to the latest government programs and receive medical care."

During the day the Medcap team, consisting of CPT Jeffery Katz (Minneapolis) and SP4 Robert Dickey (Alliance, Ohio), treated the people and issued medication, an identification team issued new I.D. cards if needed, and in the evenings a team from the 7th PSYOPS Bn. showed movies. During their stay the villagers received generous rations of rice and fish three times daily.

National Police forces provided security and supervision for "County Fair" and entertained the villagers with music and singing throughout the day. At the end of the three day operation the villagers returned to their homes with a fuller understanding of the government's efforts on their behalf and less fear of the enemy. (11th IO)

### The Sheridan....



The new Sheridan tanks stand proud and straight at ceremonies honoring their arrival at Chu Lai. The tanks, assigned to the 1-1st Cavalry have since been on their first field exercise in the Americal area of operation and have proven to be a vital asset to the mobility and firepower of the Division. (U.S. Army photo by SP4 D. K. Williams)

## 178th Sets Division Record

CHU LAI — The Division's 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company (ASH), commonly known as the "Boxcars", became the second Chinook company in the Army to fly 40,000 hours in the CH-47 helicopter.

### Presentation

LTC Jerry L. Teague (Alexandria, Va.), commanding officer of the 14th Combat Aviation Bat-

alion, and MAJ. Robert W. Parker (Secane, Pa.) commanding officer of the 178th, were on hand as the big CH-47 flew into the "Boxcars" ramp at Chu Lai, officially logging the 40,000th hour.

Mr. Michael DiGangi, Vitrol representative, presented the bronze plaque to the pilots, WOs Alan K. Olson (Salt Lake City, Utah) and Earl E. Akerhurst

(Freeland, Mich.). Vitrol manufactures the CH-47 for the Army.

### Brief History

The "Boxcars" were organized at Ft. Benning, Ga., in September 1965 and became fully operational at Phu Loi in March, 1966. They moved to Chu Lai as part of Task Force Oregon and have supported the Division since April of 1967. (Americal IO)

## Ralliers Test Proves Worth

LZ HAWK HILL — Two Hoi Chanh, ralliers to the Government of Vietnam, recently proved their worth in combat to three Division Infantrymen.

### Ralliers As Guides

The two ralliers were guiding recon men from the 196th Bde's 1-46th Inf. down a tangled, gnarled trail 15 miles southwest of the coastal city of Tam Ky. Alert and cautious the men of Echo Co. continued, heads moving side to side, bodies hunched over, fingers near the trigger. Suddenly the Hoi Chanh stopped and motioned.

"We could hear them talking up ahead," said SGT Craig C. Taylor. "When we moved closer, we saw three NVA soldiers sitting near a grass hut talking."

### Marksmanship

Just then the enemy noticed the recon-men, they took to their feet. But just as quickly a salvo of M-16 fire brought them to the ground before they could gain cover. A search of the hooch revealed several packets of food, medical supplies, and documents hidden under camouflaged mats on the floor. (196th IO)





# Crack-Shot Artillery Team Hits Goodwill Road

By SPS A. C. Barnett

**GIU LAI** — The translation read much like any other military citation: "outstanding performance of duty, technical competence, professional competence." But then a new word — goodwill.

COL Phan Dinh Soan, commander of all ARVN artillery had personally signed each certificate and sent a representative to the 22nd Artillery Headquarters to present them to the Division soldiers.

The six artillerymen had been sent out by their commander, COL Leslie B. Hardy, (Annandale, Va.) to assist the ARVN artillery in the calibration of its guns. This highly technical method of determining the individual peculiarities of each howitzer, using advanced radar tracking devices, is a vital process that makes it possible to keep the big guns on target after extensive firing.

### In The Field

Travelling by air and truck, the team spent 19 days in the field, slogging through the monsoon mud loading and unloading

their elaborate equipment and as well as bulky fuel for their generator. In the end, every gun of the three artillery battalions at four critical areas in the ARVN tactical area had been fired and the statistics recorded.

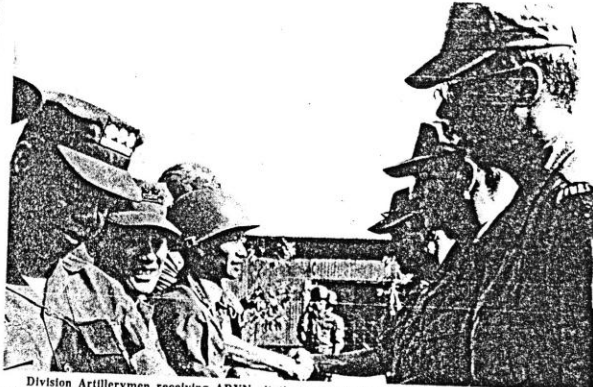
It had been a new experience for the troops, working day after day with the Vietnamese artillerymen. For the first time they were able to see these men in action, under the trying monsoon conditions.

### Sense of Accomplishment

When the mission was completed they had a new sense of accomplishment and respect for their counterparts. Most important of all, a bond of comradeship had developed and the sincere spirit of goodwill prevailed.

Several months later when the men of the calibration team were recognized in the ceremony at Tam Ky, that very important word . . . goodwill . . . appeared again, as the Vietnamese expressed their appreciation and fellowship.

Goodwill, that intangible sentiment that bypasses the barriers of language, race and nationality. (Div. Arty. IO)



Division Artillerymen receiving ARVN citations at a ceremony at the 22nd ARVN artillery headquarters at Tam Ky. The Americans had spent 19 days in the field, calibrating the ARVN artillery. (Photo By SPS A. C. Barnett, Div. Arty IO)

# 'From Horseback To Chopper' 'Pioneer' Doc Makes Rounds

By 1LT Robert R. Kresge  
**PHU VINH** — Back in the good old days, a general practitioner would make his weekly rounds on horseback, visiting only a few people, unable to provide permanent or completely effective cures for patients.

Today, "Doc" rides in a Division helicopter, seeing hundreds of patients and providing them with the best in medical supplies and treatment.

"Doc" is CPT Bud Verdin (Mauldin, S.C.), surgeon for the 5th Bn, 46th Inf., located at LZ Gator and his weekly rounds consist of treating Vietnamese civilians in several hamlets where companies of the 198th Inf. Bde. are conducting hamlet improvement programs.

"We run MEDCAPs out of here every day," said MAJ Robert C. Disney, battalion operation officer, "and 'Doc' runs about 95 per cent of them himself."

### Flight To Village

Each morning the medical team packs its supplies at the battalion aid station, assisted by the unit's medics. Then on to a

nearby helipad for a short flight to the hamlet.

This time, the hamlet is Phu Vinh, a farming community about four miles northwest of Quang Ngai city, the provincial capital.

The people have been expecting the doctor today and the children follow him to where he is. They are his first patients because the old people have not yet arrived. The medic, SP4 Everett Rowles (New Kensington, Pa.), began to treat their cuts, and minor infections.

Treating Children And Elders  
"This little girl," he said, pointing to a scalp infection, "got this way because of improper hygiene as a baby. We do two things about this — we treat her, and we try to impress upon the parents the importance of hygiene, especially for newborn infants."

Then came the village elders, and their ailments were many and varied. They were treated for sore throats, stomach and headaches and received eye drops as quickly as they could line up.

### 7,000 Since June 1

"Between the kids and the old people," said SFC Billy Clark (Columbus, Ohio), a medical technician with the team, "We must have treated 60 people today."

"That's not an unusual number for the 'Doc' since June 1; we have treated almost 7,000 patients in hamlets just like this."

### Effect Of Treatment

What effect does medical treatment have on the health and attitudes of the Vietnamese people? CPT Verdin thinks it has a great effect.

"What we do here has a great psychological as well as medical value," he said. "The people come to trust us and the American infantrymen who live here. They see how we train and equip their own Vietnamese medics on these operations and begin to rely on their own medical capabilities. We are trying to establish a rapport with the people." (198th IO)



### Bolstering A Perimeter

Vietnamese villagers get a helping hand from a Division infantryman as they bolster their defensive perimeter. In an intensified pacification effort near Quang Ngai City, a platoon from 5-46th Inf., 198th Bde., joined in the construction. (Photo By PFC Bill Eflink, 198th IO)

# Awards & Decorations

### SILVER STAR MEDAL

SP4 Harley E. Bowers, 196th Bde; SP4 Randal E. Grove, 196th Bde; PFC Jerry M. Heath, 196th Bde; LTC Cecil M. Henry, 196th Bde; SFC Robert J. Smith, 196th Bde.

### DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

WO1 John K. Applegath, 123rd Avn Bn; CPT Earl Ingram II (1st OLC), 14th Cbt Avn 1LT James E. Lutz, 123rd Avn Bn; SP4 Ernest C. Matthews, 123rd Avn Bn; WO1 Stanley A. Reel, 123rd Avn Bn; WO1 Reginald C. Slavens, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CW2 Frances M. Tolle Jr, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; LTC Robert E. Wilson, 11th Bde.

### BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

SP4 Donald R. Abeln, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; PFC Ansel S. Baldwin, 196th Bde; PFC James G. Bass, 82nd Arty; 1LT John F. Baxter III, 11th Bde; SSG James H. Beheler, 198th Bde; PSG Glenn A. Blackwell, 11th Bde; SSG James A. Buytaert, 196th Bde; SP4 Franklin R. Cole, Co G (Ranger), 75th Inf; PFC Danny G. Conster, 11th Bde; PFC Max J. Emberton, 196th Bde; PFC James B. Evans, 196th Bde; SP4 Barry D. Daniels, 196th Bde; PFC Gregory Deason, 196th Bde; PFC Clifford Deskins, 198th Bde; SPS Andrew H. Drott, 198th Bde; PFC Ralph E. Durain, 196th Bde; PFC Robert H. Edwards, 196th Bde; SGT Sterlin M. Feeney (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Miguel U. Gastelo, 196th Bde; PFC Robert E. Green, 196th Bde; SP4 John T. Griner, 11th Bde; SP4 Peter Hellenstein (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SGT Allan Holtzman (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC John H. Jackson, 196th Bde; SGT Leonard D. Knox Jr, 1st Cav; SP4 Frederick L. Lange, 11th Bde; SP4 Robert W. Leverenz, 196th Bde; 2LT William S. Linehan, 196th Bde; SP4 Robert J. Madden, 196th Bde; 1LT William L. Mauthe, 196th Bde; 1LT Frank W. Meyer, 11th Bde; 1LT Dennis D. O'Neill, 196th Bde; SGT Ronald W. Owens (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Joseph V. Palmeri, 198th Bde; PFC Frank W. Prickett, 198th Bde; SGT Kenneth Ragins (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Scott Schuelke, 198th Bde; 1LT James B. Simms, 196th Bde; SP4 Tony L. Slagle (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Avery H. Snipes, 196th Bde; PFC Paul Snodgrass, 196th Bde; PFC Richard A. Stensvad, 196th Bde; PFC Harold W. Thomas, 196th Bde; SP4 John E. Thomsen, 1st Cav; PFC Denis J. Timone, 196th Bde; CPT Alfred W. Watkins, 1st Cav; PFC Gene W. Wellman, 196th Bde; PFC Glenn H. White, 196th Bde; PFC Kenneth L. Wilkerson, 11th Bde; PFC Stephen C. Winebrenner, 196th Bde; PFC Ronnie E. Wingard, 196th Bde; SGT William E. Wion Jr, 11th Bde; PFC Sherman B. Zaretsky, 196th Bde.

### AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

CW2 Robert E. Bailey (15th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SPS Terry L. Bennett (3rd Awd), 123rd Avn Bn; SP4 Frank R. Brown Jr (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SGT Ralph B. Burchfield (2nd Awd), 123rd Avn Bn; SP4 Horace M. Cassels (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP6 Richard O. Colgate (10th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP4 Michael D. Deahl (11th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP4 Peter Gudt (2nd Awd), 123rd Avn Bn; WO1 John T. Hasselden (2nd Awd), 123rd Avn Bn; WO1 Richard F. Hutson, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Richards S. Jones (23rd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Raymond L. Jopes (18th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 James R. Leech (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SPS John L. May (3rd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; 1LT Kenneth E. Mayberry, 26th Engr Bn; SP4 Daniel C. Moody, 1st Cav; SP4 Peter Walsh (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn.



# *Seven Klicks Of Wicked Humping*



3-21st Leader Makes Plans For Next Sweep.



'Chow-Down' Is Much



Lessons In A 'John Wayne' Shave Job.

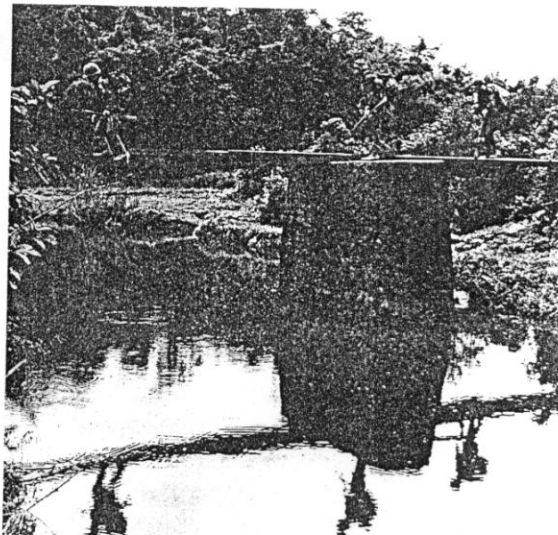


Allows A Few Moments To

# *Deserves Some Day Laager Benefits*



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Photos By  
PFC L. Kondor  
Americal IO



Time To Let Your 'Wheels' Dry Out And Be Repaired





This infantryman has learned that it takes patience and strength to "bump" triple canopy jungle. The soldier is from the 546th 198th Bde. and what is on his face is not a frown but a grimace of determination. (Photo By SP4 D. K. Williams, Americal IO)

## Bold NVA Sappers Scatter

QUANG NGAI CITY — Division soldiers of the 198th Inf. Bde. proved to be stunning hosts when the forward firebase of its 1-52nd Inf., eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, had midnight guests recently.

SP4 David J. Marks (Tucson, Ariz.), a B Co., rifleman first spotted the visitors from an estimated platoon of NVA sappers entering the outside perimeter barbed wire in front of a bunker on his right. Quickly alerting the other guards on the bunker line, SP4 Marks and other members of B Co.'s 2nd Platoon released a barrage of small arms fire that forced the enemy to retreat.

An hour later the sappers made another probe of the perimeter and found the infantrymen ready for them.

Small arms fire supported by artillery, 4.2 inch and 81mm mortars broke the silence that had engulfed the base — LZ Stinson — after the enemy's first attempt.

En. Commander In Thick "It gave the men confidence hearing that their battalion commander, LTC. Arthur E. Brown (Savannah, Ga.) personally adjusted the artillery that was coming in from LZ Dottie (six miles northeast)," said SSG John E. Garcia (Long Beach, Calif.), a platoon sergeant with the 1-52nd Inf. "And the firepower displayed was really impressive."

At daylight, the 3rd Platoon made a sweep of the sides of the hill on which LZ Stinson is perched. The platoon first found a

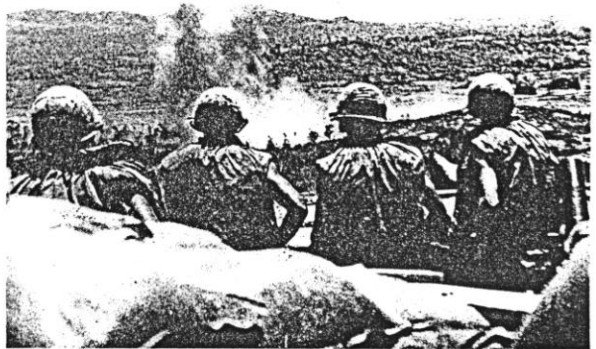
dead sapper in the perimeters barbed wire, and then followed 10 to 15 scattered blood trails downhill to the point where they converged, thought to be a spot where the NVA had set up a temporary aid station.

Two More KIA "Here we found two more NVA — these had been killed by a mortar," said SSG John W. Sausville (Bennington, Vt.), a platoon sergeant. "Both bodies had had bandages applied by someone who knew what they were doing."

In addition to 15 blood soaked bandages, the infantrymen found an AK-47, a 9mm pistol, four Chicom grenades and various NVA uniform shirts and caps. (198th IO)

## Combat In Review

### Scratch One Bunker



Four men of the division's 1-52nd Inf. 198th Bde. watch their own private air show as a pair of Phantom jets drop their ordnance on a well dug-in NVA bunker near a firebase northwest of Quang Ngai. (U.S. Army Photo)

### 196th Gathers Rice

By 1LT David Coffman

LZ HAWK HILL—If an army really does travel on its stomach, then a lot of VC must be moving very slowly these days, at least in the area of the 196th Bde. The brigade recently captured over 60,000 pounds of enemy rice in a period of 26 days.

It all began when D Co., 4-31st Inf., discovered 1,500 pounds of grain 20 miles west of Tam Ky. Throughout the next week, the brigade continued to find more hidden storehouses.

Then came the biggest find of them all.

Early one morning, A Co., 3-21st Inf., began to search a hooch area 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Soon the Division infantrymen were flooded by rice.

Before the day was over the men of A Co., had netted 22,000 pounds of the unpolished grain.

Over the next three days, 3-21st Inf., found three more tons of rice in nearby areas.

A week later, C Co., 2-1st Inf., operating seven miles west of Tam Ky, discovered over a ton of rice under a false floor. Not wanting to pass up a good thing, the company continued to search the area for two more days and came up with 8,800 more pounds.

D Co., from the same battalion, found two more tons as the 26-day period drew to a close.

"The VC have suffered critical food shortages for a long time," said CPT William H. Marty (Santa Cruz, Calif.) PSYOPS Officer, 196th Inf. Bde. "These recent caches have caused them incalculable problems."

Perhaps more eloquent testimony came from a former NVA who recently rallied to the 196th Bde. When asked to describe his daily ration of rice, the rallier drew a tiny circle in the palm of his hand. (196th IO)



**Auto-Get 'Em**  
This Division trooper keeps his finger on the trigger during tense moments in a sweep. Forging a river leaves the men vulnerable. (Photo By PFC James Small, 523d Stg. Bn.)

## Ordnance Run Toughest Route Say Scrappy Drivers Who Know

By 1LT. James P. Collins

FSB BRONCO — The armored personnel carriers and "deuce and a half" trucks formed up as usual, their cold steel sides glistening with early morning dew. There was a quiet tenseness among the men of the Division who would ride these vehicles on the mine-sweep south to Sa Huynh. They had been ambushed the day before.

Getting Clearance Before the last vehicle had passed through the gate of the 11th Bde., clearance for harassment and interdiction fire was being requested for a grid several miles away.

Duc Pho was still sleepy-eyed but awake enough to smile and flash victory signs as the six vehicle convoy rumbled through.

M-60 Trouble SP4 Alvin Cornelius (New York), Co. A 39th Engr Bn., who was triple checking his M-60 machinegun remarked: "They'll be mighty sorry if they try anything today." Overhead two "Warlord" Cobras of 124rd Aero-Scout Company added emphasis to the statement.

"H&I to the west," crackled the voice of CPT Michael Moore (Dallas, Texas) 4-21st Inf. over the radio. As if controlled by a single trigger, the convoy opened up, spraying the ridge-line to the right with lead.

Ordnance Run The recon-by-fire continued periodically over the remainder of the 18 mile paved stretch of Highway One, which was navigated without incident. "The road is open, repeat open, to Sa Huynh."

The return trip to Duc Pho has been called the "Ordnance Run" because of the large quantity arms and ammunition turned in to the convoy by the youngsters waiting on the roadside. The Voluntary Information Program (VIP) authorizes payment to civilians for turning in such munitions.

No Exception This trip was no exception for about five miles south of Duc Pho, when two straw-hatted boys flagged down the convoy. They led 1LT Fred Friesz (Bil-

lings, Mont.) to a 155 mm artillery round several hundred meters off the road.

LT Friesz called for a demo team to blow the round in place and begin filling out a VIP receipt form. As he handed the youngsters 300 piasters — the "going rate" for an artillery shell, he remarked: "It's a bargain at any price to deprive the VC of a possible mine or booby trap."

Look To Tomorrow The mine sweep convoy returned to 11th Brigade Headquarters, their mission completed for the day. "That's it," said a dusty soldier. "Until tomorrow," added another quietly. (11th IO)



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## Rice Raid Blown Away

By SP4 Carl Ekengren

LZ HAWK HILL — A barrage of 105mm howitzer rounds from a Division fire base abruptly halted an attempt by a group of VC to steal rice from a South Vietnamese village.

PFC Patrick Sullivan (Greenville, Miss.) was on duty at the FDC of A Btry, 3-2nd Arty., when a message from CPT Thomas Crews (Pittsburgh, Pa.) liaison officer with a FF unit, was received over the radio.

Said Sullivan, "CPT Crews reported a large number of VC wading through the rice paddies near a small South Vietnamese village 6 miles north of Tam Ky. They were picking handfuls of rice and stuffing it into baskets."

Because of the remote location of the rice-stealing culprits the PF and ARVN soldiers with Crews were unable to pursue the enemy so the liaison officer requested immediate artillery support.

"The artillery bombardment caught the VC completely off-guard," exclaimed CPT Crews. (Div. Arty IO)





Nineteen-year-old Heather Beadon, of Sydney, Australia, reminds anyone going "d'cwn under" during the next few weeks that it's summertime there and the temperatures are ripe for swimming and surfing—and anything else one might have in mind should he chance to cross paths with a beautiful Aussie lass in a bikini, many of which are the bikiniest in the world. (AP wirephoto)

Pride & Power

## Rugged 26th Engineers Observe Anniversary

By SFC Herb Nesmith

CHU LAI—The Division's 26th Engr. Bn. this month celebrated its second anniversary of service in Vietnam. Battalion commander LTC. Donald R. Swygert (Ballentine, S.C.) personally visited each of the companies on Dec. 8—the anniversary date—to present awards, briefly review the history of the 26th Engr. Bn., and congratulate the Army engineers on their successful and important work with both the Americal and Vietnamese forces in southern I Corps.

### Mission Of Battalion

The mission of the "White Lions" is to provide a special engineer staff and to direct combat engineer support to the Division and its elements.

The battalion was first activated in the Panama Canal Zone at Ft. Clayton on Dec. 2, 1954, and was a component of the 23rd Infantry Division. One of its units C Co. had already been credited with prior service, having taken part in the WWII campaigns of Normandy, northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. The battalion was inactivated April, 10 1967.

### Reactivation In Battle

The 26th Engineers were reactivated in Vietnam on Dec. 8, 1967 with four of its six companies already in-country.

Alpha Co. (formerly the 175th Engr. Co.) both then and now provides engineer support to the 196th Bde.

Bravo Co. came from Ft. Hood, Tex. with the 198th Inf. Bde., and was formerly designated the 355th (Triple Nickel) Engr. Co. Charlie Co. (previously the 6th Engr. Co.) arrived in the Republic with the 11th Inf. Bde.

Echo Co., is the former 554th Engr. Co. (Float Bridge). Headquarters Co. was formed from men of the U.S. Army, Vietnam Engineer Command (Provisional).

The battalion now enters its third year of service in Vietnam, and continues to provide vital support to the Division. (198th IO)



BUILDING AN INTERSTATE FREEWAY? Not really. This member of the 26th Engr. Bn., is leveling out a gun position on LZ Siberia for C Btry 3rd Arty. Since they are in the field a great deal engineers play a dual role, having to be proficient at being both infantrymen and combat engineers. (Photo By SP5 M. L. Hoskinson, Americal IO)



## Christy Minstrels Surprise Division Hospital Patients

By SGT. Cliff Miyashiro  
**CHU LAI** — Several hundred gray clad soldiers gather around a bearded banjo player. In the distance, cannon fire resounds like summer thunder. The date is early 1963, the place somewhere in the deep South.  
 "Pop" Christy and his traveling minstrel show are providing a welcome relief from the day to day routine of war.  
 One hundred years later, another group of musicians, the New Christy Minstrels, perform for another group of soldiers. The date is late 1969, the place Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

The sounds of "Green, Green" echoed through the corridors of the America's 27th Surg. Hosp. as the group played a number of their hits for patients.  
 "This is our way of supporting the American soldier over here," commented Gary Fishbaugh (New York), a guitarist with the minstrels. "I think it was about time for the silent majority to become noisy."  
 "I heard a rumor that the group would be appearing here, but I thought it was just talk. I sure was surprised when I saw them walk through the door. I think it's just great, just great."

grinned SP4 Truman Misener (Rogers, Ark.), a member of the 3-18th Arty.  
 The New Christy Minstrels, who have appeared on national TV and have traveled extensively throughout the United States, have been together for 10 years. Long range plans include a junket through Europe next year.  
 "I wish we made this trip a long time ago, but we'll be back," said Bill Reynolds (Fairview, Kan.), a recent addition to the group.  
 The trip was sponsored by the Reader's Digest Magazine.



THE NEW CHRISTY MINSTRELS hit a "chorus" segment of the song "Green, Green" as they entertain in one of the wards. From left to right they are: Bill Reynolds (Fairview Kan.), Bill Walls (Chicago), Joe Travis (Union, N.J.), Pam Bennet (Santa Barbara, Calif.), Gary Fishbaugh (N.Y. City) Bryan Cutlia (Hollywood, Cal.). (Photo By SP4 Lou Pearson, 523rd Sig Bn.)



PRETTY PAMELA BENNETT (Santa Barbara, Calif.) brought a lot of smiles to the faces of Division soldiers in the wards of the 27th Surg. Hospital. "New Christy Minstrel Power" was the key phrase. "Green, Green" was their song and smiles were their product. (Photo By SP4 Lou Pearson, 523rd Sig Bn.)

## Ammo Sarge Starts Fourth Year In 198th

By 1LT. A. J. Tolentino  
**LZ BAYONET**—Division "short timers" fill the air with impromptu shouts of "Short". However no one around LZ Bayonet has ever heard SSG Howard Walker (Verdun, Quebec) yell it out, even though he has been "short" on several occasions.  
 The 30-year-old sergeant has been with the 1-6th Inf. since Dec. 1966, and even took part in the activation of the battalion's new parent unit—the 198th Bde.—at Ft. Hood, Tex. in May 1967.

"I've seen many changes since we came to Nam in October 1967," Walker remarked. "When we first got here we didn't have a permanent home. We were OPCON from the 196th to the 1st Marine Division."  
 Although a large part of the 1-6th area of operation is pacified today, Walker recalls a time when it was "hot."  
 "During the 1968 Tet Offensive, we were attached to the 3rd Marine Regt. of the 1st Mar. Div. near Da Nang. In four days of fighting, our battalion killed 288 NVA. For that action, the battalion was awarded a valorous unit citation. After that we were in continuous contact

with the NVA, and moving all the time — LZ Baldy, Dragon Valley, the Burlington Trail, LZ West, LZ East, LZ Center — all over the place."  
 From May to December, 1968 Walker was assigned to Delta Co., of the 1-6th.  
 "Two days after I took over as Plt. Sgt., the lieutenant was wounded. We didn't get replacements too often in those days, so for the next seven months I was an acting platoon leader. I got a better understanding of the war, being closer to it, and working with a platoon of men was one of the best experiences in my life."  
 In December, 1968 SSG Walker voluntarily extended his tour of duty in Vietnam for six months, and was reassigned to the supply section of the battalion's headquarters as the ammunition section chief. In June 1969 he requested another 6-month extension.

As ammunition chief, Walker is responsible for insuring that the battalion maintains its basic supply of ammunition.  
 "In the old days," he says, "When we were getting started over here, we had trouble building up a basic load. We shot it up almost as fast as we got it in."  
 With each man in Vietnam required to serve a 12-month tour there has been a large turn over in personnel in Walker's three years with the battalion. "I've seen many people come and go. We've had five battalion commanders since I've been here with this unit."  
 This year he was home for Christmas for the first time in four years, and is taking a 30 day leave before beginning his next 6-month extension.  
 When he returns, SSG Walker's home will again be the same as it was before — 1st Bn., 6th Inf.

### Your Mail: 'Fail-Safe'

By PFC Dennis L. Selby  
 Neither rain, mud nor Viet Cong will stop the flow of mail to the Americal Division soldier.  
 A stab at an old cliché, yes, but the Americal's main Army Post Office (APO) proved this true last month when it processed and delivered over 484 tons of mail.

MSG Frank E. Marvin (Killeen, Tex.), NCO-in-charge at the main APO explained that more than 35,000 troops are served by his mailing facilities each year. This includes not only the Americal, but also Marines, Navy and civilian personnel.

An average day for the men assigned to the APO consists of the unloading, breakdown and loading of 11-12 tons of incoming mail per day.  
 The volume of mail handled for the months of June and July were 433 and 469 tons respectively.

The mail, which is flown by transport plane from Da Nang, arrives on a 24-hour-a-day basis requiring that the APO have a night shift to keep the mail moving as rapidly as possible.  
 With the arrival of the Holiday Season, the mail influx naturally increases. The incoming volume of mail did an expected jump from 484 tons in November to approximately 800 tons in December.

## Americal Sports

### Div. Football Tournament Wrap-Up

**CHU LAI** — Footballers from the 3-18th Arty took advantage of some costly errors by the infantrymen of the 11th Brigade recently to ease past the foot-soldiers 26-12 in the Division football championship.

The infantrymen and gunners grounded out steady yardage in the first half to battle to a 12-12 tie. Then the men of the 3-18th took charge in the closing half.

Fourteen teams from the Division entered the single elimination tournament sponsored by the Special Services. Teams came from all over the Division including all three brigades, Divarty and the support elements.

### The Champs...



### 3-18th Magnificent '10'

The champions of the Americal Division Football Tourney 3-18th Artillery. The contest was a single elimination tournament sponsored by Special Services. The 3-18th captured the trophy by eliminating the 11th Inf. Bde 26-12. In the future there will be a basketball tournament and a cross country race, a Special Services spokesman said. (Photo By 523rd Sig. Bn.)