

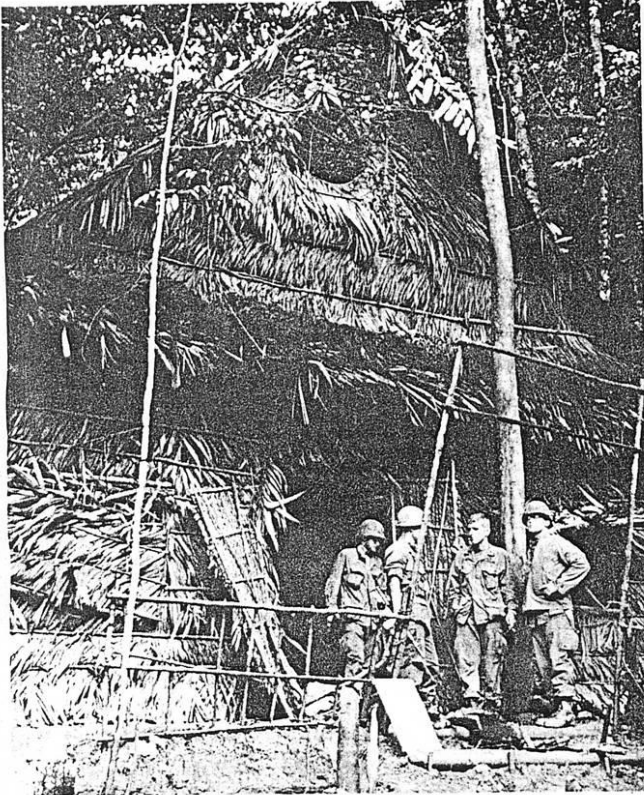
SOUTHERN CROSS AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 1, No. 13

CHU LAI, VIETNAM

December 8, 1968

11th Bde. Uncovers 29 Enemy Base Camps



"JUNGLE WARRIORS" STAND PROUDLY in front of a large hooch found recently in one of the 29 NVA base camps discovered by the 11th Inf. Bde. (Photo by SP5 Al Holloway, 11th Inf. Bde.)

Medic Performs Heroics

3/21 Kills 44 In Two Days

LZ BALDY—The heroics of an Americal combat medic helped thwart an NVA ambush aimed at avenging the discovery of a large enemy base camp the day before.

The ambush took place near Nui Lam Cam, and according to CPT Robert G. Wahl, commander of B Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., it was an attempt at revenge from the previous day when his company had killed 34 NVA and discover-

ed a hospital area where they uncovered many weapons, supplies, and documents.

Medics Shot Twice
During the ambush, an NVA soldier jumped down between SP4 Frederick Betters (Wilmington, N.Y.) and another medic and shot both of them. Apparently thinking the medics were dead, the enemy soldier turned away and was shot by Betters with a .45 caliber pistol. "Betters had been shot

twice in the abdomen by the enemy," said 1LT Marly J. Sharkey (Atlantic Beach, Fla.), "but he quickly went over to the other medic and started administering first aid."

Betters, although himself bleeding profusely, gave his comrade a shot of morphine and continued to help him and the other wounded.

"I never saw a person work under pressure like he did—and it was real pres-

(Continued on Page 8)

LZ BRONCO—Discovery of twenty-nine enemy base camps by 11th Inf. Bde. soldiers has dealt a severe blow to enemy forces southwest of Quang Ngai City.

"The discovery of the base camp complexes and capture of large quantities of ammo, medical, and other supplies has unquestionably seriously reduced the operational capabilities of enemy elements in Quang Ngai Province," said LTC Donald F. Hanson (Columbus, Georgia), 11th Bde. S-3.

The largest, a battalion-size camp discovered by C Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., contained 25 buildings and a 200-seat auditorium (See photo-story p. 3).

B Co. of the 4/21 found an underground complex containing nine huts, including a mess hall and 50 pounds of rice. A few days later, the same unit discovered another NVA base camp with several cases of milk and 150 first-aid kits.

1/20 Finds Cache

"Sykes Regulars," not to be outdone by the "Gimlets," uncovered two base camps plus a large number of weapons and equipment caches.

The reconnaissance platoon from the 1st Bn., 20th

Inf. discovered one base camp with 270 NVA uniforms, 100 mosquito nets, 60 combat packs, eight Chicom grenades, and a large supply of medical equipment.

More Supplies Found

A Co. of the 1/20 came upon caches with more than 10,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 532 mortar rounds, 22 B-40 rockets, two RPG rounds, and a 175mm artillery round.

B Co. of "Sykes Regulars" found a hut complex and a small hospital with three operating rooms and a classroom. A blood pressure gauge and 75 pounds of gauze were also on the scene.

'SRPs' Collect 22 For Debut

LZ DOTTIE—Adapting some old tactics to a new situation, the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. started a Short Range Patrol (SRP) recently, and killed 22 VC. The outfit is patterned along the same lines as the Long Range Patrol (LRP).

The SRP team, led by SSG Kenneth Turner (Smyrna, Ga.), was hidden on a hill near here when they surprised 30-40 enemy soldiers. Before the VC could collect their wits, artillery shells were falling in right on target.

Small, But Powerful

SSG Turner explained the organization and operation of the Short Range Patrol. "We work in 13-man hunter-killer teams," he said.

"Like the LRPs, we are small enough to avoid detection by hiding out in the daytime and travelling at night. But we've got the LRPs beat if we encounter an enemy force. We've got enough firepower to take on an enemy platoon," Turner said.

Trouble Stoppers

The SRP team carries two M-72 light anti-tank weapons, two machineguns, two grenade launchers, two sniper rifles, and the usual array of M-16s, grenades, and ammunition.

3 Battalions Have New Commanders

Three Americal battalions have had changes of command recently.

LTC Sinclair L. Melner has assumed command of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.; LTC A.J. Dombrowsky takes command of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 6th Inf.; and LTC Richard M. Raunswinder will command the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 6th Spt. Bn.

LTC Melner replaces LTC Robert B. Nelson; LTC Dombrowsky replaces LTC William D. Kelley; and LTC Raunswinder replaces LTC Ralph R. Rusche.

The Long And Short

By CHAPLAIN (CPT) E. JAMES RICHARDSON
26th Engineer Battalion

When one arrives in Vietnam he becomes immediately aware of the "short-timer." SHORT! is the joyous cry of those waiting in the air terminal to return to the States. Short! is the cry of the individual preparing to go on R&R. The short-timer is often recognizable by his reluctance to venture outside the perimeter. He has a tendency to keep one eye checking on the nearest bunker or hole to dive into in case of incoming rounds. In the extreme case, the person loses interest in everything except clearing.

When we examine closely the short-timer attitude we realize that there are many people who go through their whole lives as short-timers. The short-timer is not interested in his present job because he doesn't plan to be around long. He isn't willing to participate in the affairs of his community because he is only going to be there for a short-time. The short-timer is not interested in religion because he cannot or will not recognize the long range effects upon his life.

God's alternative to the "short" attitude is the "long" of it. The "long-timer" admits his need of God and his involvement with his fellowman. The awareness of God's continuing love for and involvement with man leads an individual to get involved completely in life. Commitment to God and concern for the needs of our fellowman yields lives filled with meaning and joy. God invites each of us to stop and take a "long" look at life.

VIETNAM-STYLE

By SFC Larry Babitts

TET Gift Giving

It is recognized that westerners attach a great deal of meaning to our "cheerful" Christmas-New Year holiday season with the often boisterous, but always good-hearted exchanging of gifts.

The holiday spirit manifests itself with the American's inherent desire to observe it with gifts and parties for children and others less fortunate than ourselves—the homeless and the poor.

But in a different part of the world, a change in emphasis becomes necessary. This year, perhaps, emphasis should be placed on the holiday of TET. Why? While we are planning to give gifts in our fashion, it is imperative that we remember that we are guests in a predominantly non-Christian society where Christmas has relatively little meaning.

Perhaps a look at the local custom—a custom popular among most of the southeast Asians—is in order. A Vietnamese holiday custom older than Christianity itself is the giving of small amounts of money to persons of all ages during the TET season.

The giving of money placed in a small red envelope is in itself purely a token wishing luck and prosperity to the recipient, and the amount of money is not particularly significant.

In keeping with this ancient custom, the traditional amounts of VN\$ 10.00 (about 8¢) for small children, VN\$ 20.00 (not quite 16¢) for older children, and VN\$ 30.00 (approximately 25¢) for an adult should be given. To give more would be ostentatious, and would detract from the true meaning of the gift.

The money should be as new as possible and should never be folded before placing it into the envelope. The envelope should be red, the color signifying longevity, and the newness of the money illustrates the birth of the year, and the coming of the "new life" of spring. This again is an old, revered custom among the South Vietnamese and all attempts should be made to honor it.

While the amounts may seem paltry, it is quite important, particularly during these critical times, that the total distributed be small because of the inflationary impact any surge of money spending has upon the local economy.

This is not to demean the American attitude towards holiday giving or to inhibit the generous tendencies normally displayed by our soldiers, but rather to emphasize the importance of the TET gift to a Vietnamese in contrast to the Christmas gift.

It has been officially recommended that Christmas be de-emphasized in its party and gift trading aspect.

Where celebrations are planned, it is recommended that emphasis be given to the children, without regard to religion, in orphanages and in hospitals. The destitute and refugees, as well as the dependents of deceased South Vietnamese servicemen, also should be remembered during our holiday season.

THE ARMY OF VIETNAM



By CPT Cary S. Sklarén
Throughout the history of Vietnam, the warrior—the man who rose to defend his homeland against external aggression—has won the respect and admiration of his countrymen.

Today, when his nation is once again besieged by the forces of aggression, the soldier has risen to the fore.

Although the Vietnamese Armed Forces can trace their history back a thousand years to the overthrow of their Chinese conquerors, the modern military had its beginning after World War II.

French Formed Units
The French formed the first Vietnamese regular military units to fight against the Viet Minh who were led by the communist leader Ho Chi Minh.

After the end of the Indochina War, there were more than 200,000 well-trained Vietnamese soldiers. What they lacked, however, was the support troops and the logistics necessary for a modern army.

After the Republic was proclaimed in 1955, French cadre were withdrawn. Two years later, the remaining Frenchmen were replaced by advisers from the United States.

A Modern Army Emerges
In the years since then, the Vietnamese military has organized the necessary combat support troops and developed a maturity and competence in fighting skills which has proven itself during the present conflict.

The regular Army of Vietnam (ARVN), called Quan-

doi Viet-Nam, today has more than 380,000 men. The chain of command begins at the Chief of the Joint General Staff and extends to the Corps commanders and then to either division commanders or leaders of specially designated forces.

Command Breakdown
There are four Corps and a Capital Military Region which have command, administrative, and logistical responsibility for ARVN forces in their area. I Corps, with headquarters at Da Nang, is commanded by LTC Hoang Xuan Lam.

Eleven divisions fall within these Corps and are located throughout the nation in proportion to the population and the level of enemy activity. In the Americal area the 2nd ARVN Div. has headquarters at Quang Ngai City.

2nd ARVN Div.
Generally, each division area will encompass several Div. shares responsibility for shares responsibility for Quang Ngai and Quang Tin. Commanded by BG Nguyen Van Toan, the division's three maneuver regiments, the 4th, 5th and 6th, operate throughout the 12th Divisional Tactical Area.

Each regiment contains four infantry battalions and a reconnaissance company. The division also has three troops of APCs; the 1/4, 2/4, and 3/4.

SOUTHERN CROSS AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized periodic publication of the Americal Division Information Office for all division units in the Republic of Vietnam. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Armed Forces Press Service Material is used. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division, APO 96374, Tel: Chu Lai 2414. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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'Gimlets' Find NVA Battalion Camp

By 1LT STEPHEN H. COBB
11th Inf. Bde.

LZ BRONCO. An NVA battalion-size base camp was discovered by the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. recently, in a draw 20 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City.

The discovery by the 11th Bde. unit was larger than expected, as the "Gimlets" of C Co. counted 25 buildings, including six that were unfinished. The entire camp was invisible from the air, even by a helicopter directly overhead.

Training Site

Included in the camp was an auditorium 200 x 50 feet with seating capacity for more than 200 persons. One of the training aids was a mock-up of a U.S. helicopter made of twigs.



AN NVA TRAINING AID, a model of a U.S. helicopter, was found by "Gimlets" of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. during sweep operations southwest of Quang Ngai City. (Photo by SP5 Al Holloway, 11th Inf. Bde.)

9th Support Area Is Busy With Construction Projects

LZ MUD—The sound of saws and hammers never stops these days around the home of the 9th Spt. Bn. here.

The men of Co. C (Medical) are busy constructing a new 36-bed ward, a mess hall for patients and company staff, an olympic-sized swimming pool (only pool in the Americal), and 900 feet of concrete sidewalks.

The most ambitious item on the building schedule, the new ward will be air-conditioned and humidity-controlled.

According to CPT Watson

MAIL EARLY



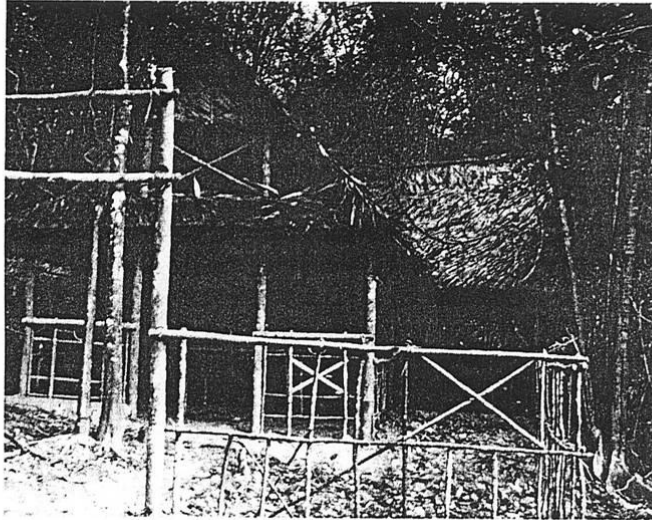
"It's a Christmas Present for my girlfriend."

Near one of the unfinished huts a cache of 15 weapons was found. It included 10 K-44 rifles, three French burp guns, one Browning Automatic Rifle, and one Chicom machinegun.

The company had been given the mission of searching a deep draw after a series of air raids. Slowly and carefully making their way, the "Gimlets" discovered the well-concealed camp near a stream.

Find Enemy Supplies

The "Jungle Warriors" found a mess hall, sand tables used for mapping, a clock with an NVA star, training aids, plaques, propaganda packs, wet weather gear, 15 Chicom grenades, khaki uniforms, and documents.



THIS UNFINISHED NVA HUT was one of 25 discovered by "Gimlets" in a battalion-size base camp. The huts, which were invisible from the air, were built in triple canopy jungle. (Photo by SP5 Al Holloway, 11th Inf. Bde.)

PRUs Aid 196th Units

More Rice Taken From VC

LZ WEST—"Charlie" is minus 12,000 pounds of polished rice thanks to the efforts of an 18-man Vietnamese Province Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) and A Co. of the 196th Bde.'s 4th Bn., 31st Inf.

Engaged in combat operations south of here, the Special Forces-trained PRUs and 4/31 infantrymen locat-

ed the enemy rice in the Hiep Duc Valley and evacuated it, along with 200 refugees, to the refugee center at Nui Loc Son.

A Viet Cong cadre secretary captured by the PRUs led the way to the rice cache. After brief interrogation, the enemy revealed the location of a platoon-sized VC bunker. When A Co. and the PRUs

went to the location of the enemy bunker they observed two VC moving toward a hamlet.

A Co. and the PRUs then moved in to search the hamlet where they found the platoon-size underground VC bunker filled with six-tons of polished rice, VC web gear, and assorted medical supplies.



ARVN Inquiry

An ARVN interpreter with the 1st Sqdn., 1st Armored Cav. asks questions of the son of a Viet Cong squad leader who was killed during a firefight west of Tam Ky. (Photo by SP4 Steve Shingledecker, 523rd Sig. Bn.)



SGT Ronald Haebelin, 11th Inf. Bde

"Jungle Warrior" cautiously checks-out hut



SP4 Bernard Gmitter, 11th Inf. Bde

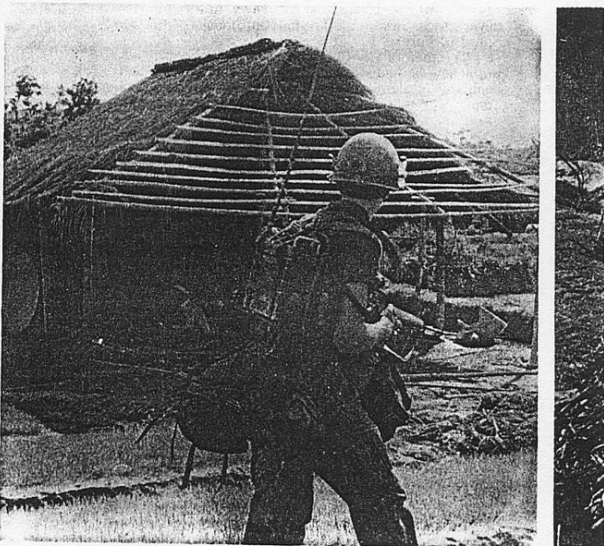
Bambo pole is used in probe of well



Searching, listening, probing, Americal Division infantrymen seek the enemy, his weapons, and his supplies in every kind of terrain, every kind of hiding place, with every technique at their disposal, from crude sticks to the latest electronic equipment.

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SEARCH AND



PFC John Hollenhorst 198th Inf. Bde.

198th soldier keeps sharp eye on civilians

NVA Camp Clobbered

(Continued from Page 1)
 ed) of C Co. "This prevented us from moving into the enemy perimeter."

Doctor Nabbed

C Co. also captured a well-equipped NVA medical aid station and seized an enemy

doctor and two female nurses.

The enemy doctor said that during the first two days of contact he treated more than 50 wounded NVA soldiers.

During the second night he received word from his high command to hide his medical supplies and equipment and move north, but before he and his nurses could leave, C Co. caught them.

Mopping Up

On the seventh day, the 4/31 rifle company moved into the base camp and searched it completely without further resistance.

During the battle for Nui Chom Mountain, 32 tactical air strikes were flown and more than 4,000 rounds of 105mm and 155mm artillery rounds were fired in support of the infantry.

The NVA moved north and abandoned their high-peaked fortress in the clouds to a tired and weary bunch of "Chargers."

They left behind 25 AK-47s, one chicom machinegun, 29 82mm mortar rounds, two 82mm mortar sights, and 20 NVA packs.



Members of the American Cross help you enjoy holidays.

'Pot Luck' Saves Officer From .30 Cal. Round

LZ BALDY—Although "scalped" by a .30 caliber round, a "Charger" platoon leader bravely fought on to wipe out an NVA machinegun emplacement during a recent fire fight.

The action began when a company from the 196th Inf. Bde. came into heavy contact with a large force of NVA soldiers on Nui Chom Mountain in the Hiep Duc Valley.

After the initial contact, 1LT Stephen Rice (Ames, Iowa), of A Co., 4th Bn., 1st Inf., ran to the front of his platoon to assist and direct his men during the fire fight.

Blasts Enemy Bunker

1LT Rice administered aid to two of his wounded men until his platoon medic arrived. He then directed M-60 machinegun fire on an enemy bunker that was pouring out 30 caliber machinegun fire.

Maneuvering close to the enemy bunker, the lieutenant fired his M-16 and threw several hand grenades until the NVA weapon was silenced.

His platoon moved in to search the bunker while the lieutenant paused during an unexpected dizzy spell.

Pot Riddled

"My RTO told me a bullet had creased my helmet," the lieutenant said. "When I removed my steel pot I found out a .30 caliber bullet had gone completely through it, creasing my scalp along the way."

"I really started to sweat when I looked at my steel pot and saw those holes in it," he recalled.

In the search of the NVA bunker, A Co. found six enemy bodies and captured four AK-47s and, of course, the 20 caliber machinegun.



Santa's Helpers

This holiday greeting is extended by the Red Cross Girls working in the division area. During Christmas week they are spreading good cheer to men of the Americal. Standing (l. to r.): Linda Goettman (Houston, Tex.), Sallie Daniell (Anniston, Ala.), Paula Wright (Perryton, Tex.), and Sandi Nielson (Squaw Valley, Cal.). Front (l. to r.): Diane Kusron (Outer Banks, N.C.) and Sheelagh Field (Kalamazoo, Mich.). Absent from photo: Carol Krupp (Cleveland, Ohio). (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant)

It's A Dog's World

Scout Dogs Receive Same Medical Treatment As Soldiers

LZ BAYONET — The old saying "The Army takes care of its own" applies to dogs as well as men.

Canine members of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 57th Inf. Plt. (Scout Dog) are provided with most of the same medical treatment given the soldiers...some other treatments too.

Each of the war dogs in the Americal Division has his own health, dental and shot records, which are kept

in an official Department of Defense health record folder just like the one the GIs have.

Each dog must receive regular periodic inoculations, ranging in frequency from once every three months to once a year.

When ill or injured, the dogs are put on light duty or medical hold.

Healthy Dog Vital

The two men primarily responsible for providing the

dogs with medical care are SGT Richard L. Wibbens (Worthington, Minn.), the 57th's veterinary technician, and his assistant SP4 Garth S. Redmond (Bedford, Pa.).

"Our main mission," Redmond explained, "is to keep the dogs in good health so the dogs and handlers can accomplish their mission out in the field."

Keeping the dogs in good health is no small job. In addition to the types of care already mentioned, each dog is given a thorough physical check each time he is sent to the field and when he returns.

Prevent Disease

The dogs' kennels are washed twice daily and sprayed with insecticide at least once a month to keep down flies and mosquitoes. About every three weeks the dogs are "dipped" in a solution to remove external parasites.

A dog's health records include, in addition to the chronological record of medical treatment, the results of blood tests which are given every three months, and a monthly recording of the dog's weight.

A large portion of the responsibility for the dog's health also falls on the handler.

"Our handlers are very helpful in caring for and treating the dogs," Wibbens said. "Most of the handlers are very concerned about their dogs, which makes our job easier because they bring them in to us at the first sign of trouble."

Dogs Tagged

When a war dog is "inducted" into the armed services at Lackland AFB, Tex., he is given a service number, which is tattooed in his left ear. A record of the dog's owner prior to his "induction" is kept, and several of the men of the 57th Inf. Plt. have corresponded with the people who used to own their dogs.

If a dog is seriously injured while in the field, he may be MEDEVACed just like a soldier. Also like the soldier, he may be sent to a more qualified specialist if his malady can not be treated at the local level.



GI AND SCOUT DOG make a highly effective fighting team. So medical care for man and dog is tops. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant)





The Old Hat Trick

Defying gravity, sun, and the enemy, an ARVN interpreter takes forty winks during a lull in the fighting in the division's AO. His camouflage cap isn't really floating in air—just suspended on a slender twig. (Photo by SSG Mike Mangianelli)

Chaplain Toots Horn

CHU LAI—An enterprising chaplain took his bugle out of mothballs so 39th Engr. Bn. soldiers could enjoy the musical call of reveille and retreat.

On the morning of Nov. 10, men at the 39th's base camp were called to duty, not by the customary whistle, but by notes of a bugle. The man behind the instrument was not an ordinary bugler. He was the 39th's chaplain, CPT L.P. Utley.

Bugle Bolsters Morale
CPT Utley conceived the

bugle idea after overhearing LTC Tenho Hukkala, battalion commander, mention how having a bugler in his company in Korea 15 years ago acted as a morale booster.

The chaplain quietly went out and set the wheels in motion. When the bugle he requested from friends in the States arrived on Nov. 9, he spent the afternoon practicing in the privacy of his office.

After an initiation of Taps that evening, he set the program in full swing the fol-

lowing morning.

Traveling Horn

The chaplain plans to continue the project and hopes that it will remain with the 39th after he leaves. He plans to play the calls from atop the engineers' newly constructed "TOC" bunker to allow the notes to carry further. On visits to other line companies in the battalion, Chaplain Utley's bugle will accompany him.

In his absence from the battalion base camp, the live bugle calls will be replaced by a tape recording.

He Extends To Instruct

CHU LAI—A masters degree in biology and the ability to read, write, and speak six foreign languages is not a prerequisite to instruct at the Americal Div. Combat Center, but a former "Guardian" of the 196th Inf. Bde. has them.

Sgt. Delmas Pauldo (Buffalo, N.Y.), known as "Pop" to the men of D Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., his old unit, recently extended his tour in Vietnam for six months to teach at the Combat Center.

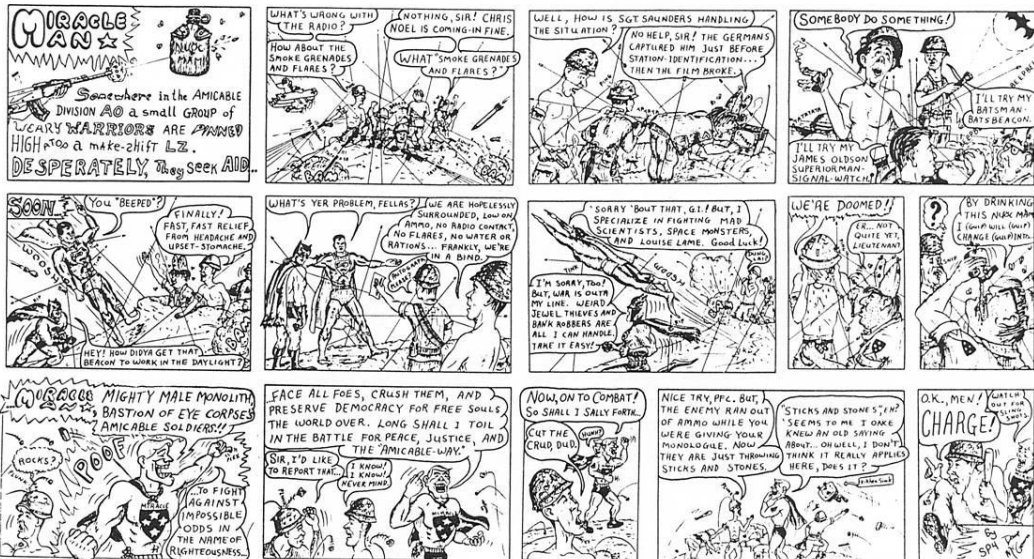
"There are too many men coming over here not knowing what to do when they make contact with the enemy," the 32-year-old soldier noted. "Too many lives are lost simply because someone underestimated the enemy," he continued.

Pauldo, like most instructors at the Combat Center, has experienced combat in the field and knows what he is talking about. He will be working with the tactics committee.



Happy Holidays

Lovely Kathi Horan is a sight to warm your heart as a December calendar girl. Besides being an Air Force "brat," Kathi has done extensive modeling in Japan. (Photo by 315th Air Div.)



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Comedienne Raye Visits

CHU LAI—One of the most popular lieutenant colonels in the military services visited American soldiers on Nov. 13.

Comedienne Martha Raye, an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, barnstormed through LZ Center, LZ West and Hill 29 with her friendly greeting.

Making her sixth tour of Vietnam, "COL Maggie" launched her first entertainment tour in 1965. She last appeared in Vietnam in a mini-version of "Hello Dolly."

Miss Raye's war record dates from 1942, when she performed for troops in England. During the past two years, she has spent 14 months in Vietnam.

On her last visit Maggie was cited by GEN William C. Westmoreland for her nursing work; the first citation of its kind.

As casualties poured in during a major battle last year, she donned fatigues and treated wounded men throughout the day and following morning.

She plans on appearing throughout the country until Jan. 8.



"COL MAGGIE" chats with an American soldier during her visit here. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant)

B-52 Crew Takes Closer Look

CHU LAI—Six high-flying B-52 Stratofortress bomber crewmen took their first close look at the combat areas they have been supporting for the last few months when they visited the 11th Inf. Bde, recently.

Through a joint effort by the 7th Air Force and the American, the B-52 team from Columbus AFB, Miss.,

observed effects of their recent bombing missions in the 11th's area of operations.

The six crewmembers, commanded by MAJ Rod Busby, were briefed by COL John W. Donaldson, brigade commander, on operations and missions.

MAJ Fred Smith, brigade aviation officer, led them on a tour of the base camp and

later to watch elements of the 4th Bn, 3rd Inf., and 1st Bn, 20th Inf., execute the type of operations the flyers have been supporting.

The high-flying crewmen were then flown by helicopter to Ha Thanh CIDG Camp 16 miles west of Quang Ngai, site of a communist siege in early September.

3/21 Kills 44

(Continued from Page 1)
"sure," exclaimed LT Sharkey. All the wounded were loaded on a dust-off helicopter after the ambush was repulsed. B Co. had lost three men, but turned the ambush in their favor by

killing 10 NVA.

Continues Aid

Bettors performed further heroics. "Enroute to the medical clearing station at Hill 63," said CPT Robert Peneguy, dust-off chief, "Bettors disregarded his own serious injuries and assisted my medic and crew chief in taking care of the patients."

Later, during a flight to the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang, the medic again cared for the other three patients aboard. He is now in Japan recovering from his own wounds.

Spilled Vengeance

The attack which the NVA tried to avenge began the day before when a unit from the 196th engaged three weapon-carrying NVA with small arms, who eventually led the way to a large enemy base camp.

When CPT Wahl maneuvered his company on line into the rice paddies and engaged the enemy, a 15-minute fire fight ensued that was entirely one-sided.

In 30 minutes B Co. had accounted for 27 kills.

Hospital Discovered

In a sweep, the 2nd and 3rd platoons came upon a large base camp consisting of two huts, a mess hall and a washing shed.

A further search of the area produced a total of 34 dead NVA and the capture of a wounded NVA nurse, documents, medical supplies, 45 packs of food and equipment, a 75mm recoilless rifle and four AK-47's.

Bravo also uncovered a large, well-camouflaged structure used as a hospital by the enemy.

1/52 Aids Homeless

LZ BAYONET—Oppressed by the Viet Cong, over-taxed and put to involuntary labor, a Vietnamese man and his family left their home in the hills northwest of Chu Lai and headed towards Tam Ky.

Moving through darkness, the family edged too close to the night defensive position of D Co., 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. The 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers stopped the refugees and brought them into their position.

Suspecting they were VC, the "Ready Rifles" evacuated the Vietnamese for interrogation. At the 198th's base camp the story came out.

"The VC had been living near the refugees' village," explained a spokesman for the team which questioned the refugees.

"They complained of excessive taxes levied on the villagers by the VC. The refugees said the enemy took both food and money in excessive amounts.

"Finally the friendly Vietnamese got fed up and moved out, taking all they could carry, and headed for the safe-life hamlet in Tam Ky."

The American soldiers took the family to safety at Tam Ky.

—Special Services Gathers Local Talent— Holiday Show To Take 'Sound' To The Field

A new concept in service entertainment will be displayed during the Christmas season under the guidance of SP4 Bill Hutchinson, director of the Americal Special Services entertainment branch.

"We're going to be the first unit in Vietnam to bring an all-local talent show to the fire support bases. Most of the entertainers, however, were professionals before entering the service," Hutchinson said.

The idea for the local talent show was fathered by LTC Bernard L.J. Callahan, the division adjutant general.

To Fill USO Gap

"We thought this might bring a note of holiday spirit to the field," the lieutenant colonel noted. "The shows we are getting from the USO and other Stateside sources are too infrequent.

"These outside shows cannot remain with us long enough to appear at all the fire support bases and land-

ing zones."

Soul Singing Soldier

SP4 Cornell W. ("Mr. C-4") Yates, a soul music singer who wrote and recorded with the "Mel-Tones" the hit song "Come On Over," is the featured vocal-

ist. He is with the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., 11th Inf. Bde.

Yates has appeared on the stage with such popular recording stars as the "Temptations," "The Four Tops," and "Shep and the Limelickers." He has appeared

as a solo act at Harlem's famed Apollo Theater.

The singing soldier also recorded "Temptation Walk" and has written a number called "Merry Christmas GI" for the Special Services show.



SOCKIN' IT TO 'EM, soul singer SP4 Cornell Yates warms up for his part in the upcoming Special Services Christmas Show. (Photos by SSG Dan Ruch, Americal IO)

'Aunt Willie's Band'

The featured rock-group, "Aunt Willie's Memorial Band," has SP4 John B. Clapp III, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde., as lead guitarist; PFC Fisher de Zavellos, 1st Sqdn., 1st Armored Cav., on bass; Hutchinson 1st Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde., on drums; and a former concert pianist, PFC Tom Cronon from the 23rd Admin Co.

"We're presently auditioning horns to enable us to better play the latest sounds," Hutchinson said. "We're looking for a trombonist as well as a sax man."

"We expect to open at the Chu Lai Amphitheater before 10,000 men about one week before Christmas and then go on tour until a week after.

"A surprise act is in rehearsal right now," he added, "and the addition of these American girls to our 90-minute show should really be a big thing."