

SOUTHERN CROSS DIVISION

AMERICAL

Vol. 4, No. 30

Chu Lai, Vietnam

July 30, 1971

Kroesen takes command of 23d Infantry Division

By Sp/4 Sam Rouso
CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. 10) - Major General Frederick J. Kroesen Jr., assumed command of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) at Division Headquarters in a short, simple ceremony July 9.

He replaces Major General James L. Baldwin, who is on leave, pending reassignment.

General Kroesen was born in Phillipsburg, N.J., on Feb. 11, 1923. He graduated from Trenton Central High School in 1940, then went to Rutgers University. While at Rutgers, he

enlisted in the Enlisted Reserve. He was called to active duty in March, 1943.

After basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., he completed a year of enlistment service before graduating from Infantry Officer's Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., on August 8, 1944.

His initial assignment was with Company E, 254th Infantry, 63d Infantry Division at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi. He served with the company as platoon leader and company commander in the European

Theater from Nov., 1944, until the war ended. He served in Germany until 1947.

He spent a three-year tour as an instructor for an Army Reserve unit in Maine before attending the advanced course at the Armor School, Fort Knox, Ky. He then served two years as regimental supply officer with the 504th Airborne Infantry, 82d Airborne Division in Japan, and later Korea before reassignment to the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team (RCT), as battalion executive officer and battalion commander of the 2d Battalion. He returned to the United States with the 187th RCT in 1955.

After graduating from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in 1956, he was assigned to the Army Security Agency Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, where he did research in Tactical Operations for the Army Security Agency Board.

He attended the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va., in 1959 and then spent two years in Bangkok, Thailand, with the Joint United States Military Advisory Group as a logistics advisor.

In 1961, he returned to the United States and was assigned as a student at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., remaining there an additional three years as a member of the faculty.

Assigned in 1965 to the Army General Staff in the Pentagon, he served as Chief of the Force Programming Division in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development.

He became the commanding officer of the Americal Division's, 196th Light Infantry Brigade in 1968. After a year, he returned to the Pentagon in June, 1969, as a member of the Department of the Army General Staff with duty in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development as Director of Manpower and Forces. He was assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in June, as Chief of Staff, J-3 before assuming command of the Americal Division.



Major General Frederick J. Kroesen Jr., receives the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) colors from Lieutenant General Welborn G. Dolvin, XXIV Corps commander, during ceremonies at Americal division headquarters July 9. Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz handed the colors to General Dolvin in the absence of Major General James L. Baldwin, former Americal commanding general. (U.S. Army Photo by Captain John Hollingsworth)

Col. Beard says 'harass them'

By Sgt. Tom Mano
CAMP REASONER, DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. 10) - "Keep them harassed; keep them confused; keep them off-balance. You just can't give the enemy a chance to mass in large numbers."

This is the philosophy of Colonel Rutland D. Beard Jr., new commander of the 196th Infantry Brigade. For the next twelve months the "Chargers" will see this battle principle put into practice.

During his first week in the brigade, Beard traveled

throughout the area of operations, inspecting, questioning and assimilating information for future use. In the course of his trip he found the morale of the troops to be excellent.

"I know these men have a difficult job because of terrain, an elusive enemy and the climactic conditions," said the colonel. "But despite these handicaps, they are doing a tremendous job and continue to accomplish the mission."

Beard realizes that not all the problems affecting the men's

morale are caused just by being in Vietnam. "Conditions within our own country have affected the maintenance of traditional military standards in the service," said the colonel.

"Some people coming from a permissive way of life find the Army hard to live with; these same people also have difficulty in abiding by the laws of society," continued the brigade commander. "In view of the urgency and critical nature of certain mission assignments, it is absolutely mandatory to maintain high standards of

Commander of the week Cpt. McCrory is CO of 3d Bn., 21st Inf.

By Sp/4 Jimmy J. Stallings
CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. 10) - Captain Michael Alan McCrory (Fairfax, Va.), gives one the impression at first glance that he is a teenager with thinning blond hair. He laughs to himself, "I'm only 24 years old and they call me the 'Old Man'."

McCrory is the "Old Man" for the 23d Infantry Division's A Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry. In fact, McCrory is the 23d Infantry Division's Commander of the Week.

McCrory was born at Fort Bragg, N.C., where his father was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. McCrory later moved to Fairfax, Va., where McCrory spent his younger years.

Upon graduating from Fairfax High School, he went on to graduate from Virginia Military Institute.

In June, 1969, McCrory made his decision to become an officer in the United States Army. Soon after that, McCrory's life became a little more exciting as he was sent to Fort Benning, Ga., to become an airborne officer. McCrory is also ranger qualified and a jumpmaster.

Later, McCrory was transferred to Germany, where he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 509th Infantry Brigade (Airborne), 8th Infantry Division.

Upon arriving in the Republic of Vietnam, McCrory was assigned to the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., as a platoon leader.

When asked his views on being a platoon leader, McCrory noted, "It's the kind of job that demands a positive attitude both in and out of the field."

McCrory goes on to say that the

time he spent in the field as a platoon leader has greatly helped him in his roll as CO. It gives a man a chance to know his men personally and know their problems.

On June 4, less than two years after entering military service, McCrory was promoted to the rank of captain. His record is one to be proud of and it speaks for itself.

After assuming command of A Co., McCrory had these observations to make of his new position. "It's a difficult job, it's easy to give out orders, but to give a good order it has to be carried out. If the guys don't like the order they tend to blame the officer or NCO who has been assigned the task to make sure the orders are carried out."

Even though the job as company commander is a difficult one, McCrory admits that becoming the CO of Alpha Company and acquiring the tremendous responsibilities for more than 100 men, has been the major highlight of his military duty.

When asked to sum up his feelings as a company commander McCrory said, "I am enjoying my experience as A Company commander because of the opportunity to work with outstanding personnel—specifically my platoon leaders, the first sergeant, and the NCOs. These are the people who have enabled A Company to successfully accomplish each mission the company has been assigned. The troops are the greatest."

After looking over the 24 years in the life of McCrory it's easy to understand why he is the "Old Man" at the age of 24.

New designations speed your mail

By MSG Bill Pickett
CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. 10) - You can help speed the mail—from AK to WY—by using the new Postal Service two-letter state abbreviations, as well as the zip code number.

AK, of course, is Alaska; WY is Wyoming, first and last on the new two-letter abbreviation list which includes the Canal Zone (CZ), District of Columbia (DC), Guam (GU), Puerto Rico (PR) and the Virgin Islands (VI) as well as the 50 states.

Actually those listed above are pretty simple, you say, and designated very simply by the

first two letters of the state name: OH, OK (as the song says), and OR.

Also simple, you maintain, are NH, NJ, NM, NC and ND, as well as RL, SC and SD. Right? But how about Maine, Maryland and Massachusetts? They can't all be MA. Maine is ME and Maryland is MD. Massachusetts is MA, which makes it easy even for a kid from Boston who is not sure how many "S's" there are in the state's name.

Of course, there are a couple of other states with similar spelling problems. Remember the old "M-I-crooked letter, crooked letter (MS) for Mississippi.

For the remaining MI-beginning states, it tooks like this under the new system: MI is Michigan; MN is Minnesota; MO is Missouri. As you can see, "M-O" is not Montana. That state is MT.

There's a form of "aloha" in Hawaii's designation: HI!

Indiana is "IN" under the new system, but Utah is almost "out": UT. And Pennsylvania is PA, and .oh, hell, for those of you who want to get your abbreviations together, here's the entire list.

- Alaska AK
- Alabama AL
- Arizona AZ

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Medics fight disease, show concern with help of nurse

By Sp/4 Larry Rich
CAMP FAULKNER, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) - Dispensing care and candy, some medics of the 196th Infantry Brigade are winning the war against disease and expressing their concern for the Vietnamese people.

Twice a week a civil affairs team from 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry holds a Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP). Traveling to a small village, orphanage, church or school, the medics treat the civilians for a variety of ailments.

Setting up at a small school on the outskirts of Da Nang recently, the MEDCAP treated 160 people. The problems ranged from the loss of baby teeth and minor cuts to serious infections and internal disorders.

As word of the visiting American doctor spread through the village, mothers started bringing their babies for treatment. The young children needed little prodding to have their cuts washed with hydrogen peroxide and bandaged. Any natural timidity was outweighed by the knowledge that the tall Americans had gifts of candy and soap.

Minor problems such as cuts and sores were treated by the medics. Disinfectants, salves, bandages and concern were also freely dispensed.

Those with internal problems and diseases requiring formal medication were taken one at a time to see the doctor. Participating in all the 1st Sgd., 1st Cav., MEDCAPS, Captain Ronald J. Schwertler (Portland, Ore.) is becoming a familiar face to the people living in the outskirts of Da Nang.

The patients explained their problems to a young Vietnamese nurse, Dao Thi Ke. Besides interpreting for the doctor and patient, she gives understanding and reassurance amid the towering occidentals.

"We're lucky to have a nurse like her," Captain Blaine P.

Turner (Wilmington, Del.) the S-5 (Civil Affairs Officer) for 1st Sgd., 1st Cav. stated. "She's a great asset towards friendly relations."

"She was trained by the Marine Corps, but now works as a bar maid at a United States service club," he continued. "We asked if she would be interested

in the MEDCAPS. She volunteered her afternoons and has been accompanying us ever since."

The people are soon treated, and the 1st Sgd., 1st Cav., prepares to leave, but the villagers know that the tall Americans and their petite ally will return to help them again.



Explaining directions for taking medicine is only one of the functions of Dao Thi Ke, a volunteer nurse with the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry's MEDCAP team. Understanding the concern may be part of a universal language, but it is a little more reassuring when easily understood in your native tongue. (U.S. Army Photo)

Reporter loses Da Nang story

Editor's note: The following is a tale of adventure written by Sp/4 Sam Rousse (Montebello, Calif.), the IO's newfyer. As far as can be determined, it is a true excuse-story—detailing why an assigned story wasn't written. This is part one of a two part series.

By Sp/4 Sam Rousse
CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) - I had a simple assignment. All I had to do was catch a helicopter to Da Nang, where the 196th Infantry Brigade, part of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) was headquartered.

From there, I would catch a resupply bird to a firebase where I would photograph and interview the Americal Division's commander of the week.

On looking back, there were a few things I should have known, like where to get off the helicopter in Da Nang and the exact location of the 196th headquarters.

Just before I boarded the helicopter to Da Nang, an omen reared its ugly head. It started to rain. But when I got to Da Nang, it was sunny, and I didn't think anything of it. I didn't notice the clouds beginning to form.

But, having been in country less than two months, I was enthralled at the opportunity to be on my own, so my confidence remained unshaken until I asked someone how to get to the 196th. "The 196th what?...Never heard of it."

The word "TROUBLE" flashed through my mind for the briefest instant. I thanked the fellow and went on. I got the same answer three more times before someone suggested I ask the MP at the main gate. He didn't know either. I began to have an inkling of disaster.

With the help of my "Official U.S. Army Correspondent" shoulder patch, my camera, my explanation that I was a newfyer and my veiled references to the power of the press and bad stories, I convinced him to let me use his phone.

As I should have known, it was futile. But, by this time, someone had come by who

thought he knew where the 196th was. Several hours later, it turned out that he didn't.

I started hitchhiking (which is frowned upon outside of U.S. bases). Suddenly, I realized I was hitchhiking in the middle of Da Nang City, which is off limits. I still had my camera on my chest and my cheap-but flashy-watch on my wrist. I could feel the eyes on me. I decided that discretion was indeed the better part of valor.

After a short walk, I found an ARVN post, went inside and tried to ask directions. It only took me five minutes to discover that he didn't speak English and I didn't speak Vietnamese. In desperation, I wrote "MP" on a piece of paper and showed it to the ARVN. He said "Ah! MV's!" and pointed the way. Luckily, I saw them first.

I casually walked up to the jeep and asked how to get to the 196th. In reply, I got blank stares. I mentioned where I had been told it was. They said, "We can't take you that far."

Suddenly, I had an inspiration. "Do you have a phone? Maybe I can call and have someone pick me up."

So, they took me to the main Da Nang MP station. Soon after I arrived, it started to rain. My watch said 10 a.m. I had a feeling that I was doomed.

Even with the aid of the MP radio set, I hadn't gotten through to anyone by 1 p.m. So I called Chu Lai, and got in touch with Captain Frank N. Griscom, my boss—the Division IO (Information Office).

"Sir, this is Sam."

"How's it going, Sam? Got the story?"

"That's what I called about. I've been in the main Da Nang MP station since about 9:30."

"What the HELL are you doing there?"

I related my sad story, concluding with "I think I got off at the wrong place."

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This nocturnal creature serves his fellow soldier

By Sgt. Tom Mano
DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) - As the sun sets behind mountains surrounding this seaport, nocturnal creatures start poking their heads out searching for food and something to occupy their time. One of these comes out to help other people occupy their time.

Each morning at breakfast men of the 196th Infantry Brigade are treated to stories, up-to-date news, jokes and other interesting articles in the Charger News Sheet. The driving force behind the "rag" is Specialist Four Richard V. Kerr (Kennewick, Wash.), editor of the news sheet.

Each night around 10:30, when others are carousing, trying to get a last hustle on the barmaids, or in their beds soundly sleeping, Kerr starts his work. Organization is the first step in preparing an easily readable paper.

"I always try to mention any kills in the brigade first," said Kerr, his bushy eyebrows raised. "Those guys are humping their butts off, and I'm going to give them every bit of publicity I can."

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The editor picks up the most recent news from the radio broadcasts from midnight to 3 a.m. He believes that if it's the least bit old, there's no use printing it.

"Nobody wants to read about something that happened two days before," mused the specialist. "You've got to have more respect for the readers' intelligence."

From time to time important news will break when Kerr is mimeographing the five hundred copies for the brigade. Then it's back to the typewriter to redo the news.

Some of those guys, like the ones in the bush, don't have radios," said Kerr. "They deserve to know what's happening as much as anybody else. In the 'world' they get the news quickly, so why not here?"

Articles about the brigade and editorials on urgent issues like drugs follow the news. Information as to where to get treatment and the soldier's rights are also included in this section.

"I try to stay away from 'lifer' stuff and really get into something," commented the

editor. "I knew a guy who ODED (died) on smack (heroin), and I'm going to do everything in my power to see that it doesn't happen again."

The news sheet ends up usually with a joke and the credits. The editor tends toward risque humor.

"Most of my jokes are from Playboy, Sex to Sixty and maybe a few grade B magazines," remarked Kerr. "They aren't really dirty in the sense that the Supreme Court would shut down the news sheet, but if you think about them long enough, you might get a leer on your face."

One other feature that generates excitement for "Chargers" is the publication of addresses of dollies who are hot to write to servicemen in Vietnam. Many times all Kerr has is the girl's address and name.

"I never guarantee that the chick looks good," chuckled Kerr. "She might be anywhere from eight to 80. Can I help it if a guy writes a sexy letter, and gets a letter back from the girl's father?"

One of Kerr's main problems

is scrounging enough paper, ink and stencils to cover his operations. This entails visiting the battalion supply rooms and begging for the materials.

"It's really no sweat off mine," stressed the editor. "If you don't get the stuff, you don't get the news sheet out. So you bust your butt to get it."

Since its inauguration on New Year's Day at LZ Hawk Hill, the "Charger News Sheet" has



THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized, unofficial weekly publication of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) Information Office for division units in the Republic of Vietnam. It is printed by the photo-offset process by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, 23d Infantry Division, APO S.F. 96374. Tel: Chu Lai 3212. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

Major General Frederick J. Kroesen Jr. Commanding General
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SOUTHERN CROSS

July 30, 1971

MARS-men hook you with the 'world'



TOP: A patch completed, Sp/4 Carlos Chavis (Columbia, S.C.) of the 523rd Signal Battalion, talks to his family at home, from one of the two phone booths at the Chu Lai MARS station.
 BOTTOM LEFT: MARS station NCOIC at Chu Lai, Sergeant First Class Philip W. Rogers (St. Petersburg, Fla.), indicates the QSL (acknowledgement) card from the MARS station at Ft. Lewis. Most of the hookups to CONUS are made through Ft. Lewis.
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Monitoring a call to the states over the 23d Infantry Divisions, MARS facilities is Sergeant Larry M. Jarrell (Tampa, Fla.). (U.S. Army Photos by Sp/4 Ron Cryderman)

By MSG Bill Pickett

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div. IO) - The men from MARS in the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) don't come from outer space, although they depend on the air space to accomplish their jobs.

These MARS-men look like any other soldier, but next to the mail clerk, these soldiers provide perhaps one of the biggest boosters in the division. They can hook you up with a phone patch from the bush to your home, whether your home is in Okinawa, CONUS or Germany.

The 23d Inf. Div. MARS station led all RVN MARS stations again in June. The local outlet logged 1946 patches between June 1 and 30, most of them through Ft. Lewis and other west coast station.

Within the Americal Division, three MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) stations operate around the clock. Although their primary mission is to provide emergency communications for military circuits, when these are running smoothly, they carry out the secondary mission—that of passing your personal calls to CONUS or other authorized areas.

The local net control station for the division is located at Da Nang and primarily serves members of the 196th Infantry Brigade, and supporting units. A second is operated by the 11th Infantry Brigade, while a third is located in Chu Lai with division headquarters and local support units. Its call sign is AB8AAD.

Under the supervision of Headquarters Detachment, 523d Signal Battalion, the Chu Lai station operates like any of the others: usually an NCO-in-charge and half a dozen operators.

Sergeant First Class Philip W. Rogers (St. Petersburg, Fla.), is presently training replacements, so his crew numbers nine at this time. "We work in two shifts," he noted, "half of the men from 6:30 p.m. to the rest on the other 12-hour shift."

He noted that three of his men have previous MARS experience, and some carry a radio operator MOS. "There is no specific MOS for a MARS operator," Rogers said. "We look for replacements whenever we can get them, preferably with some radio experience. We get excellent cooperation from our personnel section; everyone up and down the line within the division is concerned and interested in the MARS program."

"We don't have any big problems with our operation here," he continued. "The biggest thing is trying our best to raise contact somewhere in CONUS, and being patient while doing it."

The local station has received QSL cards (cards acknowledging contact) from several CONUS stations, but Rogers says his crew works on a regular basis with only four or five.

"Our most regular contact is Ft. Lewis, a military station which also operates 24 hours a day," says Rogers. "There is also a couple who operate an amateur station in California who work with us quite often."

The ability to make contact depends on atmospheric conditions, the NCOIC pointed out. "The atmosphere is ionized by the sun," he explained, "and it takes a certain amount of it to reflect signals. Although this is somewhat predictable, there are changes. Propagation reports furnished by the Air Force give us some help."

Once contact is made with CONUS, that operator "Patches" his set to a telephone hook-up to the number you are calling. Since only one party can transmit at a time, the operators on each side of the ocean monitor the calls and are guided by the use of the word "over" by the talkers.

Lately, he laments, late afternoon and early evening have seemed to be poor times to make contact. Although unable to predict an exact time, Rogers noted that from 6 to noon and 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. have been the best times for making patches recently.

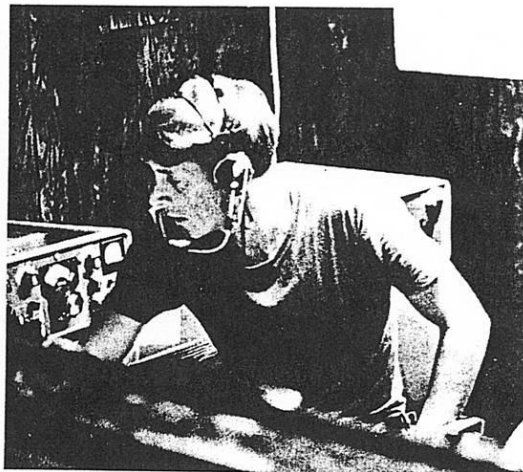
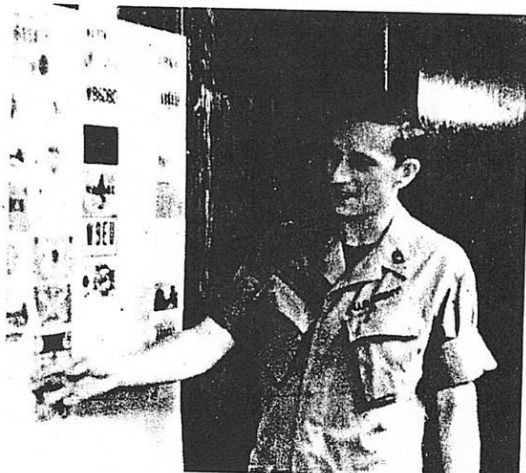
"It's best to go to the MARS station in person," he advises. "Personnel standing by at the station have priority over those calling in with a request." Priorities are guided by regulations and take the following precedence: wounded in action and in the hospital; other hospital patients; Red Cross emergency and then personnel at the station placing calls before those calling from.

At Chu Lai, the hours from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday are for hospital patient calls only. "We average about 1800 calls a month," Rogers noted. "Of 40 stations in RVN, we have logged more calls than any other during four of the past 12 months and were second three other months. Recently, in one Saturday span when we had excellent contact, we set a station high of 846 patches."

The division MARS station is one of only six authorized to patch from RVN to Germany, Korea, Okinawa and Japan. Hours to Germany are 7 to 9 p.m. local (noon to 2 p.m. in Germany), and must be made to military phone numbers. Calls to all of these countries must be conducted in English.

There are some restrictions in all conversations, Rogers said. The caller may give his complete mailing address over the patch, but not his geographic location. He may not discuss items of security, military information pertaining to unit strength, operations or identification, or location and movement of units, supplies and personnel. Casualty information relating to injuries or deaths from enemy action is also included in the restrictions.

"We get a lot of satisfaction out of helping a guy call Home," says Rogers. Another thing that indicates the worth of the MARS program is the number of calls placed on emergency basis by the Red Cross. "It feels good to be part of the chain which helps a man get back with his family in a time of need," Rogers noted. A lot of families would probably OSL that statement.



Civil Affairs office treats 50 Vietnamese



CHU LAI (198th Inf. Bde. IO) - Remember when you were young, and Saturday afternoons were for picnics and swimming? Times may change, and the places, and the people, but kids are kids and they have the same likes everywhere.

For 50 Vietnamese children, that Saturday afternoon became a reality recently when the 198th Infantry Brigade Civil Affairs office and the Brigade Chaplain combined forces to sponsor a couple of "Kids Days."

About 25 children from the Binh Son Catholic Orphanage were first to get the royal treatment, when they came to the beach near 198th Brigade Headquarters for a picnic lunch and an afternoon in the surf. The food was typically American: hamburgers, sodas, potato chips and ice cream, and even the language barrier couldn't stand between the children and American GI's serving as "Big Brothers for a Day."

The weather failed to cooperate when another 25 children from the Tam Ky Protestant Orphanage came for their visit, but an indoor

Story by 1Lt. Edward
photos by SGT. Thor

TOP LEFT: Four boys from Binh Son Catholic Orphanage frolic on the beach near the 198th Brigade's Stella Maria Chapel during the party given recently for the orphans. The party was sponsored by the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry and the 198th's Civil Affairs office.
BOTTOM LEFT: Chaplain (Captain) Donald W. Gover (Ft. Worth, Tex.) poses with two young beauties from the Tam Ky Protestant Orphanage.
CENTER: It seems everyone has to stand in line for chow in the Army—but these youngsters from the Binh Son Catholic Orphanage don't seem to mind. They were treated to a picnic lunch and later went swimming in the South China Sea.
BOTTOM RIGHT: A young boy from the Binh Son orphanage, under the watchful eye of Sergeant Steve J. Slipper (Lafayette, Ind.) gets a picnic lunch.
TOP RIGHT: Captain Gary D. Robbins (Ft. Benning, Ga.) Commanding Officer of Headquarters, Headquarters Company 198th Brigade, helps serve a picnic lunch to girls from the Catholic orphanage. Specialist Four William D. Mitchell (Chicago, Ill.) also of HHC, 198th Bde., supervises the serving.



These children to Saturday picnic, fun

picnic, movies and skits replaced the fun in the sun.

The idea for the two parties originated with Chaplain (Major) Thomas J. Confroy, 198th Brigade Chaplain, and First Lieutenant Ronnie J. Johnson, Brigade Civil Affairs Officer. Johnson (New Carlisle, Ohio), has been a frequent visitor to both orphanages, and decided to invite some of the youngsters for an American-style holiday.

Most of the logwork for the two parties was done by Confroy (Union, N.J.), and the four Chaplain's Assistants from the Brigade. Stella Maris Chapel was pressed into service as a combination mess hall-theatre when heavy rains threatened to wash out the Tam Ky visit.

The first party was co-sponsored by 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, which provided "Big Brothers" while soldiers from both 1st Bn., 6th Inf. and 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, helped out when the orphans from Tam Ky visited.



rd G. Spaulding

omas F. Boehler





Why is this medic for A Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry so happy? Well, you would be too if you had just spent two weeks in the field and were now waiting for the helicopter to bring you back to the firebase for four days of adequate comfort and relaxation. A Co. has been operating in an area about ten miles south of FSB 4-11. (U.S. Army Photo by 1Lt. Henry G. Gramberg, Jr.)

'Black death' company unearths enemy cache

By PFC Larry Rich
DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. 10) - Often the war takes on the appearance of a deadly game of hide and seek in the mountains and jungles of the Republic of Vietnam. This was recently demonstrated by the men of the First and Third Platoons of Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, as they unearched enemy caches.

While searching for a place to set up their Night Defensive Position (NDP), in the mountains south of Da Nang, members of the First Platoon came upon an abandoned enemy base camp. A check of the buildings showed they had long been vacant, but the men of the "Black Death Company" continued their search in the rocky caves which bordered the area.

Entering the caves cautiously, the soldiers returned triumphant. They had found an AK-50 wrapped in an NVA poncho, 250 rounds of AK ammunition, two NVA radio head sets, and 50 pounds of salt stored in two gallon plastic containers.

Also found was a home-made 60mm mortar tube. Noticing a 60mm mortar base plate partially buried in the ground, the infantrymen carefully dug it out. A check of the hole revealed a 250 pound bomb buried underneath the base plate.

Two days later, the Third Platoon followed the example and sought out a cache of enemy weapons.

"We'd been climbing up the mountain," Private First Class Kenneth Dixon (Delhi, La.) squad leader, recalled, "and had stopped for a quick break. One of the men noticed a rifle sticking from a crevice in the rocks and the search was soon underway."

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Combing through the scattered rocks proved fruitful for the men of the "Killer Platoon." The area showed the effects of an artillery barrage, and amid the shattered rocks and shell holes laid uncovered enemy weapons.

The soldiers soon gathered up an 82mm mortar base plate, two CHICOM grenades, several magazines and 34 automatic and bolt operated weapons. Although the rifle stocks were damaged by exposure, their bolt mechanisms had been well-greased before they were hidden and were operable.

Spotting a rifle hidden in a rock crevice, the infantrymen warily withdrew the weapon. A check of the crevice disclosed a 15 pound shape charge with a pull ring detonating device.

"Some of the men feel that the rifle was boobytrapped with a vine or light string trip wire," Dixon commented. "After seeing how the weather rotted the wooden rifle stocks, it isn't hard to believe that a vine trip wire could decompose."

After the caches were transported to the rear, the men of Delta Company continued to search for NVA supplies. They moved cautiously, knowing that the enemy might have hidden booby trapped explosives for the seekers to find.

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Recon platoon lives up to motto, 'we who do not die'

By PFC Larry Rich
DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. 10) - If fast reactions spell the difference between life and death on the battlefield, then the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, will live up to their motto, "We Who Do Not Die."

Having killed an enemy soldier the previous day, the platoon was careful to expose itself as little as possible as they made a recent sweep west of LZ Hawk Hill.

Specialist Four Art Lerma (San Antonio, Tex.) was walking point for a small patrol, when he noticed a path bordering and passing through a hedgerow. But the pointman made a new trail. After cutting through the hedgerow and pushing through a patch of elephant grass, the Texan found himself standing behind some enemy soldiers. They had set up an ambush along the regular trail.

Disregarding his own safety, Lerma stood fully exposed and fired into the enemy force. He stopped only to change 30-round magazines in his M-16. Hearing the sounds of the firefight, First Lieutenant James F. Dowling (Honolulu, Hawaii), platoon leader, radioed for air support and led a group of men from their position to support the embattled squad.

Within minutes, helicopters from F Troop, 8th Cavalry, 16th Aviation Squadron (Blue Ghost), arrived at the scene. The helicopter flight, consisting of two gunships, a light observation helicopter (LOH), and a UH1H helicopter (slick) containing a five-man reactionary force, began searching the area for the fleeing enemy.

Spotting a well-hidden trail, the LOH pilot radioed the recon unit. The helicopter flew in a tight circle over the trail to mark the location for the ground troops.

The fact the trail was being used by the retreating enemy troops was soon evident. The door gunner's bursts of suppressive fire were answered with return fire. Damaged by the enemy bullets, the chopper was forced to land.

The slick immediately landed the "Blue Ghost" reactionary force in a clearing near the downed aircraft. As the men attempted to reach the craft, they came under hostile fire.

The recon force requested the slick to pick up a group of men for insertion into the same area as the disabled helicopter and besieged reactionary force. While waiting for clearance, Downey attempted to lead his men into the area by foot.

Coming under fire, the men of Echo Recon pulled back to determine another approach. Suddenly, the "Blue Ghost" chopper radioed them to prepare for pick-up; the slick was going to transport them to the battle area.

Scrambling aboard the craft, Downey and the recon force were quickly taken to where the reactionary force had originally landed. Within minutes they were giving support fire for the Blue Ghost troops.

Splitting his force, Downey and two of his men maneuvered to the downed LOH. "I've never met two men happier to see anyone in my life," the platoon leader said. "The pilot and gunner were in a bad spot, and for awhile it looked like the first people to get to them would be the enemy."

The small recon force soon rejoined the recon unit "Blue Ghost" ground forces. The combined firepower of the soldiers and gunships forced the enemy to retreat.

The entire firefight had lasted only a few minutes, but during that time the recon unit served in many capacities, from patrol, to attack force, to rescue squad. In an ever changing war, the men "who do not die" had proven their adaptability.

Alpha Co., 4/3d finds weapons

By Sgt Tom Frey
LZ PROFESSIONAL, (198th Inf. Bde. 10) - Strange things are likely to turn up in the jungle if you look hard enough, as a unit from the 198th Infantry Brigade learned recently. What was first thought to be a long-abandoned trash heap of metal and machinery parts proved to be a large enemy weapons cache.

The cache, one of the largest ever found by a 198th Brigade unit, was discovered by a platoon from Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, on an operation northwest of Chu Lai.

The platoon had just left its night defensive position and set out on patrol when the element's pointman, Specialist Four Phil Wiczorek (South Bend, Ind.) spotted an old metal wheel and metal scraps lying in the bushes ahead of him. He told the trailing infantrymen to wait while he checked it out.

"I thought it was just some old machinery lying in a heap when I first saw it," said Wiczorek, "but after I went up to get a closer look I could see it was quite an assortment of weapons and munitions hidden by scraps of wood and weeds."

The platoon set up a perimeter and a few men went about taking an inventory on the equipment they had found. The cache included three .30 caliber machine guns, three tripods, nine circular magazines, one 76mm recoilless rifle, 31, 76mm recoilless rounds, two small recoilless rifles, one heavy machine gun, 200 rounds of machine gun ammunition, four 82mm mortar rounds, one pair of binoculars and one cannon-like weapon which turned out to be a 70mm howitzer with a three-inch barrel. It was three feet long, breech loaded and mounted on wheels three feet in diameter.

The platoon reported finding the cache, and the "Mountnimen" had to cut a LZ to get the weapons back to their firebase. "It took us all day to cut the landing zone for the birds," said First Lieutenant Barrie Town (Flint, Mich.), the

platoon leader. "and it took about three hauls to get all the gear out."

"Most of the weapons were partially rusty and looked like they had been there for two or three years," Town added, "but they could have been cleaned and made usable with a little work."

3/21st Inf has strange floorshow on standown

By Sgt. Tom Mano
CAMP REASONER, DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. 10) - Deprivation breeds strange deeds. Recently at a floor show in the 196th Infantry Brigade this was displayed perfectly in the audience response.

Company D and Company E, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry were on standdown, a time for endless cokes, beer and "heavy rap". The men were particularly happy as they sat down in the open forum for the entertainment. Many would be going home soon, and this might be the last time they would be with the whole company in the rear.

Hoots and hollers greeted the two shapely dancers in mini-skirts and thigh-high black boots. The two guitarists, a drummer and organist were a mixture of the old and the new. Were the latter to put on orange robes, they could easily be mistaken for buddhist monks, while the guitarists had hair flowing past their shoulders.

The beat started. Shoulders hunched and fell, fingers

snapped and hands clapped as it controlled by the rhythm in the air and not their owners. After a few songs, the men knew they were in for a totally enjoyable time.

Dedications started and each time one was announced a joyous roar resounded through the crowd. One Sergeant First Class was so flattered that he waved the peace sign to his anonymous advertising man. The company commander smiled as "Release Me" was dedicated to him.

Now everybody was on his feet. Someone jumped on the stage, started dancing and this became contagious. Soon the stage was filled with men jerking and grinding. These were not 300 men from 50 different states; this was a family.

The party was small compensation for the hardships of their life style. In one way perhaps we should envy them, for they have found something deeper than friendship, they have discovered love for their fellow man.

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SOUTHERN CROSS

Abbreviations speed mail

(Continued from Page 1)

Arkansas	AR	Kansas	KS	North Dakota	ND
California	CA	Kentucky	KY	Ohio	OH
Canal Zone	CZ	Louisiana	LA	Oklahoma	OK
Colorado	CO	Maine	ME	Oregon	OR
Connecticut	CT	Maryland	MD	Pennsylvania	PA
Delaware	DE	Massachusetts	MA	Puerto Rico	PR
District of Columbia	DC	Michigan	MI	Rhode Island	RI
Florida	FL	Minnesota	MN	South Carolina	SC
Georgia	GA	Mississippi	MS	South Dakota	SD
Guam	GU	Montana	MT	Tennessee	TN
Hawaii	HI	Nebraska	NB	Texas	TX
Idaho	ID	Nevada	NV	Utah	UT
Illinois	IL	New Hampshire	NH	Vermont	VT
Indiana	IN	New Jersey	NJ	Virginia	VA
Iowa	IA	New Mexico	NM	Virgin Islands	VI
		New York	NY	Washington	WV
		North Carolina	NC	West Virginia	WV
				Wisconsin	WI
				Wyoming	WY

Col. Beard, 'harass them'

(Continued from Page 1)

on a personal basis particularly on the NCO and junior officer level. A good leader, one dedicated to the management of men and mission accomplishment, must have empathy."

Since receiving his ROTC commission at Georgetown University in 1948, Beard has served in many foreign countries. Duty assignments have taken him to Japan, Korea, Italy and Berlin.

In 1965 and 1966 Beard served with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in Vietnam. During this time he assistant

chief of staff and then battalion commander of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 12th Cavalry.

Among the awards Beard has received are the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the master parachutist badge, and the Combat Infantryman Badge (third award).

In summing up his projected plan of action for the "Chargers", Beard said, "Inactivity breeds complacency. It's necessary to remain active and seek the enemy for a unit to survive."

NVA training camp found by Delta Co.

By Sp/4 Thomas F. Boehler
LZ DOTTLE, (198th Inf. Bde. 10) - A luxury NVA training camp, complete with running water and an anti-pollution chimney in the mess hall, was discovered recently by infantrymen from the 198th Brigade west of Chu Lai.

A platoon from Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, was moving through mountainous terrain to support another element of the company when they came upon the camp

at the top of a small ravine. Upon searching the area the Regulars found six structures, including a large mess hall.

A thorough search turned up simulated barged wire defenses and 75 practice Chicom hand grenades. The infantrymen also found two chicken coops, latrines, and an enclosed lookout position in a tree.

The place must have been a sapper training camp," said Piper. "It was built to last a long time. all the structures had basement type bunkers with trap

Reporter loses Da Nang story

(Continued from Page 2)

At 3 p.m., a new desk sergeant came on duty and asked me what I was doing there. I told him I had to get out to Red Beach to cover a story in the 196th Brigade. It was then I found out that the 196th was located near Freedom Hill, not Red beach. Within three minutes I was on my way. It was still raining. Hard.

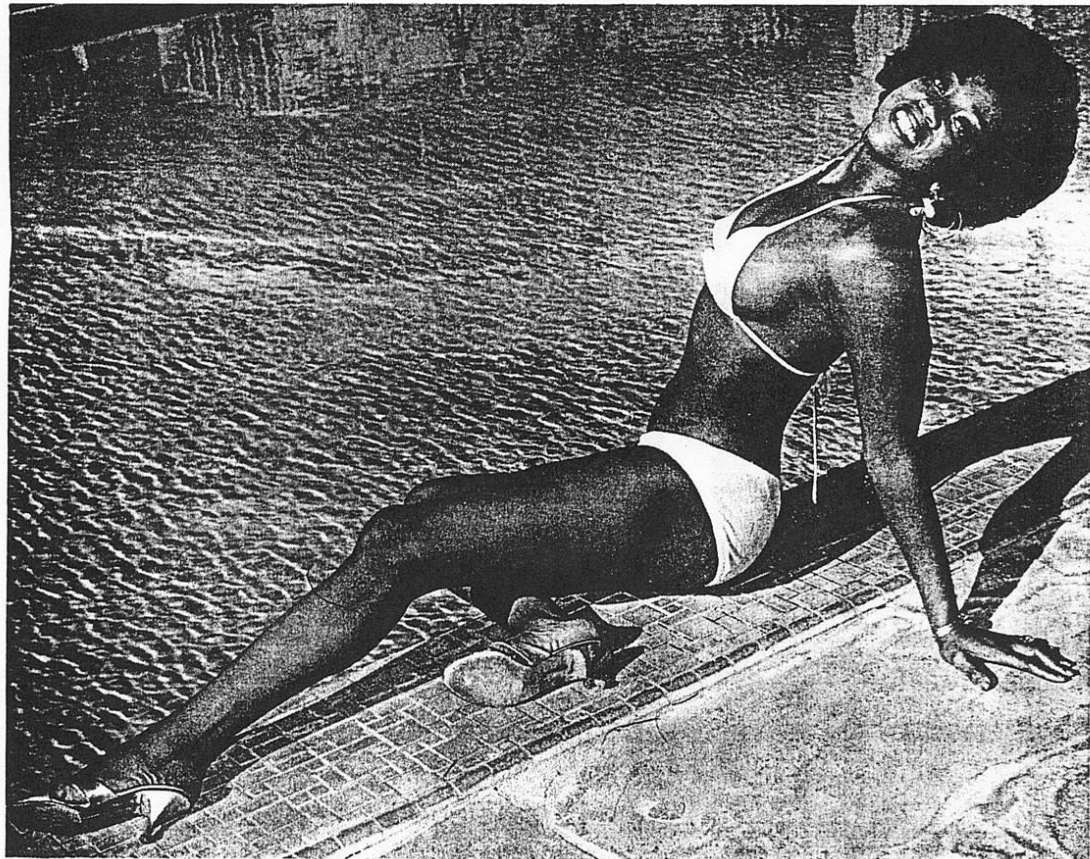
He gave me the number of the 196th IO and suggested I call. Much to my surprise, I got through. The only trouble was, the jeep was gone and there was only one person in the office, Private First Class Larry Rich. He suggested I call back in 15

minutes. Two hours later, I still hadn't gotten through again.

Shortly, I was at the 10th Public Information Detachment, which serves as the IO for the 196th. I explained my problem. We called the battalion the commander of the week was supposed to be with. They never heard of him. Neither had any other artillery battalion in the brigade.

We called Chu Lai-it was decided that I could return there. I looked out. Still raining hard.

Then began the process of returning to Chu Lai. But that's another story.



Lovely Candy Ward, recently starring in "The Seven Minutes", appears content to lie next to this inviting pool. Anyone care to take a dip? (Photo courtesy Alex Babcock)



Four Korean workers put finishing touches on the roof supports for the Officers Club roof. The roof, finished with tin, replaced the thatched roof which blew off during a May typhoon. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/4 Ron Cyderman)

Officers' club roof rebuilt

No more stars and rain at the Officers Club this month, thanks to a Facilities Engineer repair project which involved the construction of a roof for the club.

The project was given to Philco Ford Inc. to build a tin roof over the once thatched-roofed Officers Club. The thatched roof had blown off in May when the tail-end of a typhoon hit Chu Lai.

Work was begun June 21, after a short delay while waiting for building materials, when large steel supports were bolted to the cement floor. The contract included complete work on the roof, including metal work, electrical wiring and tin roofing.

The roof was completed the week of July 11.

Sergeant First Class Russell Horne and Sergeant First Class James Wakefield, NCOIC and assistant NCOIC of the Officers Club, were very pleased with the improved condition the roofing project afforded.

Little 'world' in Da Nang center

By Sp/4 Ralph J. Winter
CHU LAI (11th Brigade IO) - It's a short ride by airplane or Chinook helicopter and then by bus to the USARV in-country R&R Center in Da Nang. The moment you walk into the air-conditioned office and reading room, you know your going to like this place.

The soldier on R&R soon finds that it's much like being back in the "world." Comfortable beds with linen provided, indoor plumbing with hot and cold running water, a

large EM club with a floor show every night or the showing of three motion pictures nightly are just a few of the attractions.

"Probably the best thing about the R&R Center is the mess hall," stated Jimmy Petrey (Miles, Tex.) from Echo Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry. "The dining room is air conditioned and furnished with comfortable tables and chairs. Three different main dishes are offered at every meal and there is always a wide selection of vegetables, salads and desserts. There is also free beer provided for those who prefer this to the many other beverages available." Perhaps this is to be the mess hall of the future if the all voluntary Army is to become a reality.

The large, immaculately clean beach and the refreshing South China Sea are additional attractions of the R&R Center. Besides swimming, you can try surfboarding or water skiing. If you keep your eyes open, you're sure to see a "round eye" or two sunning herself or taking a dip in the ocean.

Close to the R&R Center is the large China Beach PX and USO where, three days a week, you can phone back to "the world" for under \$10 or put away a delicious cheeseburger and french fries or perhaps "trip out" in the black light poster shop. If you can't find what you want there, a short bus ride takes you to Freedom Hill where there's another PX, USO (with cherry Cokes), a bowling alley, American Red Cross and an indoor movie theater.

There's little chance to become bored on a three day R&R. Maybe you'll be one of the lucky ones from your company to get a China Beach R&R. It's sure to be an experience worth remembering.



Case I

Private First Class Charles T. Kinnaman, 17th Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Group, 23d Infantry Division, was convicted by special court-martial on July 2 for wrongfully communicating a threat and two specifications of escaping from lawful confinement. He was sentenced to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge and to be confined at hard labor for four months.

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Price reductions go into effect

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div. IO) - A multi-million dollar savings, through price reductions on selected items of merchandise, will be passed on to exchange customers who shop in Army and Air Force Exchange (AAFES) stores throughout the Pacific beginning immediately. Brigadier General Robert E. Brofft, USAF, commander, Pacific Exchange System (PACEX) made the announcement from information received from Headquarters AAFES who called the move a significant step toward lower prices for AAFES merchandise worldwide. General Brofft added that the price reductions will continue for an indefinite period of time and that additional items of merchandise with price reductions will be announced to patrons throughout the summer.

Price reductions which will produce customer savings of upwards of \$25 million, worldwide, annually will be applied to a broad spectrum of items. Of special note are reductions on photographic equipment and electronic items. Price reductions will be accomplished as rapidly as possible.

Customers are advised to look for the double tagged merchandise items. One tag will show the original price; the second tag the new discounted price.

These price reductions stem from a continuing AAFES program to streamline the Exchange pricing structure and move toward greater pricing uniformity, worldwide. They also reflect a recent relaxation in gold flow restrictions and are in direct response to a recommendation by the House

Armed Services Committee to reduce prices.

Said General Brofft, "It pleases me that AAFES, and in particular PACEX, can offer a program of such magnitude to our customers at a time when more and more pressure is being brought to bear on the servicemen's disposable income through spiraling costs. In our 76 year history, there has not been anything quite like this savings to our customers."

Exchange customers in Vietnam will begin to realize these savings immediately, according to Colonel Dale J. Perkins, USAF, commander, Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE). Exchange retail personnel are preparing necessary markdown actions for merchandise.

Perkins explained that some merchandise will be reduced immediately, while other merchandise will be reduced over a period of time during the summer. The proposed timetable is: electronic and photographic - June 29, clocks and watches - July 8, fans, toasters, etc. - July 15, sporting goods and giftware - August 15, cigarette lighters and bath toiletries August 25.

Military clothing, shoes and insignia will be sold at cost, with no markup effective August 1.

PACEX mail orders after July 13 will be computed with the new reduced prices. Special orders, for this selected merchandise, after the price change date, will be at the lower price.

Perkins expressed his satisfaction that the exchange in Vietnam, in consonance with PACEX and AAFES, will make possible savings to our customers.

4/21st Inf. disengage from combat

By SPS Gregory Wright
FSB BRONCO (11th Brigade IO) - After operating in the 11th Brigade's AO (area of operation) since early 1968, the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry "Gimlets" has received orders to disengage from combat operations and prepare for standdown.

"Gimlets" who will be going home were very happy to get the news. Others, who will be redeployed within Vietnam, are enjoying the welcome break in the rear. Those who pause to think about their unit cannot help but feel pride in what they have been a part of.

The record established by the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. since its arrival in Vietnam is an impressive one. Time and again the battalion has thwarted enemy plans for attacks on population centers in the Duc Pho District and has been relentless in seeking out enemy personnel and equipment.

While carrying out rice denial programs in the fertile "rice bowl" area, 4th Bn., 21st Inf. protected the civilian rice harvest, at the same time discovering and confiscating numerous enemy caches. Intelligence reveals that NVA elements in this area were invariably ill-fed and in critical need of the food denied them by the "Gimlets".

According to Lieutenant Colonel Vernon B. Sones (Butler, Pa.) 4th Bn., 21st Inf.'s eighth commander since its arrival in Vietnam, this portion of Military Region I is a particularly rough one and a traditional center of dissidence.

"This area was a hotbed of insurgents when the French were here, and when the Japanese were in control during World War II. Now it is a problem area for the Government of Vietnam," said Sones. "It is

impossible for the enemy to move or operate in large numbers, however, as he did in the early years of the war. We've been able to put unbearable pressure on him and now, as we leave, the ARVN troops have taken over and are quite capable of maintaining that pressure."

Under Sones' leadership, 4th Bn., 21st Inf. has occupied as many as three firebases, Charlie Brown, Debbie and San Juan Hill at the same time. Thus the "Gimlets" had the unique experience of working in greatly varying terrain such as the mountains surrounding San Juan Hill, the coastal plain and the "rice bowl". While at San Juan, they also had contact with Montagnards for the first time and had the opportunity to work with ARVN units which were predominantly Montagnard.

Now the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. has closed down its firebases and is preparing itself to be deactivated.

"This is a good battalion," says Sones, "It has a long, proud history and I feel that its retirement is really a historical event. I feel privileged to command the battalion in the field, take it through standdown, and see the colors retired until time as the United States needs the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. again."



23d Infantry Division
PROJECT HELP, Question of the Week

QUESTION: Are sandals allowed to be worn without socks?
ANSWER: Yes, a recent modification in the dress code allows the wearing of leather sandals without socks. Keep in mind that rubber shower sandals are not considered appropriate and that socks are still worn with low quarter shoes and sneakers.

This change is mentioned in the June 15 and 16 Daily Bulletins.
SOUTHERN CROSS

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