

Gunships of F Troop, 8th Cavalry teamed up to kill 15 enemy in the previous weeks action. (Photo by SSG L.E. Perkins)

Weekly recap

Division soldiers tally 114 enemy

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Last week saw 114 enemy fall to the guns of the Americal. In Operation Frederick Hill, the "Polar Bears" of Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry received 13 Hoi Chanh, of which six brought their families. Elsewhere in Operation Iron Mountain the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade accounted for 31 enemy killed. The lightest action occurred in Operation Geneva Park as the "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade tallied eight enemy killed.

Operation Frederick Hill
Early in the week Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry killed two VC while on a sweep northwest of Tam Ky. Later they received 13 Hoi Chanh, 6 of them brought their families.

Recon platoon later in the week killed four VC in separate incidents northwest of Tam Ky. The 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry operating west of Tam Ky found several enemy caches

during the week. Company A found 14 cases of .51 caliber ammo and 40 batteries early in the week.

Towards the end of the week the Recon platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry located a cache which yielded 900 .30 caliber machinegun rounds, 100 .51 caliber machinegun rounds, and 200 7.62mm rounds.

In the same area Company D later came across a trench line (continued on page 6)

Col. Richardson now at 198th

By 1LT Mark Tucker
LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) - In a ceremony at LZ Bayonet, Colonel William Richardson, Arlington, Va., replaced Colonel Joseph G. Clemons as commanding officer of the 198th Infantry Brigade. Colonel Clemons leaves for assignment with Plans Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, USARPAC, in Hawaii.

Colonel Richardson, 41, joins the brigade from an assignment

with the Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C. Born in China, Colonel Richardson spent a previous tour in Vietnam in 1966-67 when he deployed to the Republic with the 9th Infantry Division and served as a battalion commander and G-3.

A 1951 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Colonel Richardson has also served two tours in Korea and several tours in CONUS, including one at West Point. He attended the

Canadian Army Staff College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and received a masters degree from George Washington University.

Colonel Clemons, who graduated from the same 1951 West Point class, arrived in Vietnam last July and served as

Support Command commander of the Division and Division Chief of Staff before assuming command of the "Brave and Bold" brigade last November. Prior to arriving in Vietnam, Colonel Clemons had served in

several instructor positions in various CONUS service schools. He also attended the Army War College, the Air Command and Staff College and the United States Intelligence School.

In his farewell remarks, Colonel Clemons said, "I want to thank the 'Regulars' of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, the 'Professionals' of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, and the 'Ready Rifles' of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry for their outstanding cooperation during the past eight months."

Colonel Clemons was presented the Legion of Merit by Major General A.E. Milloy, commanding general and the Vietnam Honor Medal, First Class by Colonel Nguyen Trong Luat, assistant commander of the 2nd ARVN Division.



In a recent ceremony held at LZ Bayonet, Major General A.E. Milloy presents Colonel Joseph G. Clemons with the Legion of Merit. Colonel Clemons is the out-going commander of the 198th Infantry Brigade.

(Photo by 198th Bde IO)

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3 No. 28

Chu Lai, Vietnam

July 31, 1970

Soldier rescued after 18 hrs alone in bush

By PFC Guy Winkler
CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Perhaps the luckiest man in the Division is Sergeant T. Talamoni, Santa Ana, Calif., who was stranded for 18 hours alone in "no man's land."

Sergeant Talamoni, a member of D Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Cavalry, Aero-Rifle Platoon (ARP), recently participated in a

combined reconnaissance mission with F Troop, 8th Cavalry, ARP, in an insertion on a hill 10 miles south of Hiep Duc in support of the 196th Infantry Brigade. The general area south of Hiep Duc is frequently referred to as "no man's land" by Division soldiers.

At the time of the insertion, the plan was for two helicopters carrying ARPs to land on the hill simultaneously while a number of other gunships provide cover. The first helicopter, under a barrage of small arms fire, encountered difficulties with the limited space available for insertion and crashed on the hill after engaging a tree stump with the tail rotor. The second helicopter, with Sergeant Talamoni on board, was

hovering a few feet off the ground when the ship was hit by enemy fire. The fire caused the helicopter to spin in an uncontrollable spiral which threw Sergeant Talamoni from the ship onto a log on the ground approximately 55 yards away from where the ship finally crashed. After Sergeant Talamoni hit the log on the side of the hill he slid to the bottom where he lay unconscious for about 30 minutes.

In the frenzy of enemy fire and not knowing that Sergeant Talamoni was missing from the rest of the crew near the two ships, the support helicopters dropped down to recover the ARPs from the hill where they (continued on page 6)

Air, arty, infantry combine to get 53

By 1LT. Michael Simmons
LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - In a rock-throwing, grenade tossing battle 23 miles west of Tam Ky, infantry, artillery and helicopter gunships recently combined to kill 53 NVA.

Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, were conducting search and clear operations in the rugged jungle terrain of Hiep Duc Valley.

"We sent one company to clear the high ground to the north and another to clear the valley floor," said Major James M. Hallinan, Akron, Ohio, operations officer, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry.

Company B moved out to sweep the valley floor in the early morning hours and immediately became involved in what proved to be the biggest fire fight of the day.

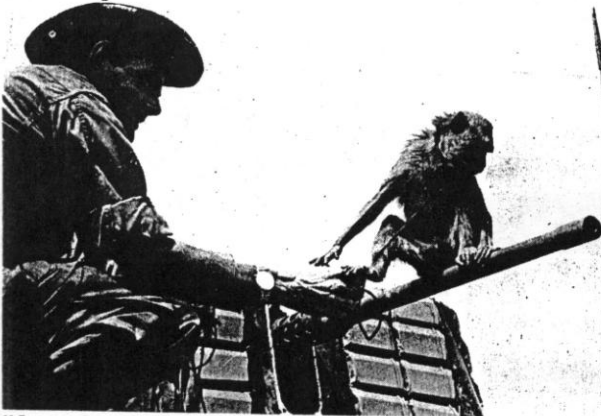
"We started moving out of

our night laager around 5:30 in the morning," said First Lieutenant Drake H. Erby, Milton, Wis., 2nd platoon leader. "The 3rd platoon was point, mine was second, and the 1st platoon was drag."

As the company moved across a small grassy opening, the point platoon began receiving rifle and machinegun fire from a treetline to the front. At the same time the 1st platoon, which was still in the night laager waiting for the other platoons to move across, began receiving heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire.

"We spotted some NVA in the woodline to the north and opened up on them," said Staff Sergeant Charles Hall, Hookerton, N.C., 1st Platoon Sergeant. "As we were blasting them, someone also noticed two attempting to sneak up on our perimeter. We threw frags and

(continued on page 6)



If Sergeant George Gauthier, Jaffrey, N.H., seems to have the mascot of F Troop, 17th Cavalry, "over a barrel." The pet is affectionately named "Linda," and has been with the fit for more than three years. Sergeant Gauthier took charge of Linda when he was in 1967 and resumed those duties when he returned for another tour last November. (Photo by SP5 Richard Merritt)

F Trp 17th Cav gets business

By SP4 Thomas J. Neville

LZ HAWK HILL (AMERICAL IO) - There seems to be a lot of "monkey business" being conducted around F Troop, 17th Cavalry, here and word has it that it's been going on for more than three years now.

Staff Sergeant George Gauthier, Jaffrey, N.H., is the NCO in charge of the unit's monkey business. But his duties resemble those of a curator of a zoo more than an NCO. The troop he is primarily concerned with is a rusty-brown and very temperamental primate known as "Linda."

No stranger to the Army and F Troop in particular, Linda has been stationed with the cavalry unit since 1967. According to Sergeant Gauthier, the monkey was found by members of a track crew when the unit moved from Tay Ninh to LZ Baldy three years ago.

"We built a little swimming pool for her on a brook at Baldy," recalled Sergeant Gauthier. "I just took charge of Linda that year until I finished my tour in October, 1968," he added.

Last November Sergeant Gauthier returned to Vietnam and when he reached F Troop he was surprised to see that Linda was still cavorting with the men. Even more amazing was the fact that Linda recognized her old friend. "I didn't think she would remember me, but she did," he beamed.

One characteristic of Linda's species is the absence of a tail. That fact, spiced with a little jealousy, could be the reason why she doesn't get along with the dogs which roam around the base.

The men feed her vegetables and fruits but Linda's favorite delicacy is fruit cocktail, straight from a C-Ration can. She knows a good deal and everytime she wanders off into the countryside, she always returns—usually around meal time.

Sergeant Gauthier, who is in charge of the maintenance shop for the tracks, said that Linda enjoys the same social activities as the GIs. High on her list of fun things to do is beer drinking. However, the frisky lassie has been known to over-indulge, adding to her already unpredictable female temperament.

First Sergeant R.O. Warnum, Sheffield, Ala., said that he is having a brand new cage built for F Troop's mascot. He noted that Linda receives the best medical care also. "We just had her up to the dispensary for chest x-rays and fortunately they proved negative," he stated.

Men of F Troop will come and go and each new man will learn to accept Linda as a member of the unit. But the mischievous monkey isn't concerned with her DEROS. She has her "choice assignment" at LZ Hawk Hill.

Part 1 of a 3 part series

EM promotions explained

HU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -

Army's enlisted promotion system is designed to provide standard procedural and tentative guidelines which will be equal opportunity for advancement among all enlisted personnel. Introduced in August 1968, this system is designed to ensure the best qualified individual is promoted. To do this there must be a high degree of uniformity in promotion procedures throughout the Army. Qualifications for promotion to a higher grade are the same no matter where you are assigned. Careful review of this article will help you measure your qualifications for promotion.

The rules for promotion are simple. After you complete advanced training, you are administratively advanced to E-2 (normally upon completion of 4 months service pay purposes). You can then be promoted to E-3, E-4, E-5, E-6, E-7, E-8, E-9, E-10, E-11, E-12, E-13, E-14, E-15, E-16, E-17, E-18, E-19, E-20, E-21, E-22, E-23, E-24, E-25, E-26, E-27, E-28, E-29, E-30, E-31, E-32, E-33, E-34, E-35, E-36, E-37, E-38, E-39, E-40, E-41, E-42, E-43, E-44, E-45, E-46, E-47, E-48, E-49, E-50, E-51, E-52, E-53, E-54, E-55, E-56, E-57, E-58, E-59, E-60, E-61, E-62, E-63, E-64, E-65, E-66, E-67, E-68, E-69, E-70, E-71, E-72, E-73, E-74, E-75, E-76, E-77, E-78, E-79, E-80, E-81, E-82, E-83, E-84, E-85, E-86, E-87, E-88, E-89, E-90, E-91, E-92, E-93, E-94, E-95, E-96, E-97, E-98, E-99, E-100.

Gen Westmoreland visits Div

by MSG William Turner
HU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - General William C. Westmoreland, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, visited the 196th Infantry Brigade at Hawk Hill, the home of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

on his Vietnam tour since becoming the Army Chief of Staff. General Westmoreland arrived in the Division area at Hawk Hill, the home of the 196th Infantry Brigade.



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you arrive in Vietnam. Candidates for promotion to the more senior grades, E-8 and E-9, are judged by identical standards and selected for promotion at Department of the Army. For now, let's concentrate on E-4 through E-7. Department of the Army determines each year how many soldiers it will need in each grade and MOS. It knows about how many it will lose through separation, retirement or promotion to a higher grade. The Army determines on the basis of this information how many men it can promote each month to reach the desired strength in each grade and MOS. This figure is the quota for promotions each month.

Promote The Best Qualified But yourself in Uncle Sam's shoes. Who would you select for promotion? Naturally, you'd promote the best-qualified man for the job! The key factor in promotion is known as merit, and merit is the backbone of the entire enlisted promotions system. The principle of the merit system is quite simple - promote the most qualified person. This is as it should be and is the standard for promotion in all walks of life.

Because merit plays such a large part in enlisted promotions, you might believe that promotions are rewards for

outstanding performance. This is only partly true. The jobs performed by all personnel, regardless of grade, demand special skills, training and abilities. The noncommissioned officer must have a thorough (continued on page 7)

Miss Dingley's lengthy epistles

By SP4 Matt Gryta

LZ CENTER (196th INF BDE IO) - Some people write letters, and some people write letters, but Miss Jerrie Dingley, of Browns Mills, N.J., produces hers by the yard. Sergeant Peter A. Gagnon, Lincoln, R.I., can roger that, that is if he's not too busy reading one of the lovely, Miss Dingley's lengthy epistles. "Eighty-seven pages, 87 pages long," exclaimed the Radio Operator section chief for the Tactical Operations Center, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry.

That's the length of the first letter he received from his state-side pen pal shortly after he arrived in-country for his second tour of duty.

"She started writing it as soon as I left the states and just kept adding on to it until she got my mailing address over here," explained the 196th Infantry Brigade soldier.

During lulls in her letter

writing, Miss Dingley is a sales clerk in the Main Post Exchange at Fort Dix, N.J.

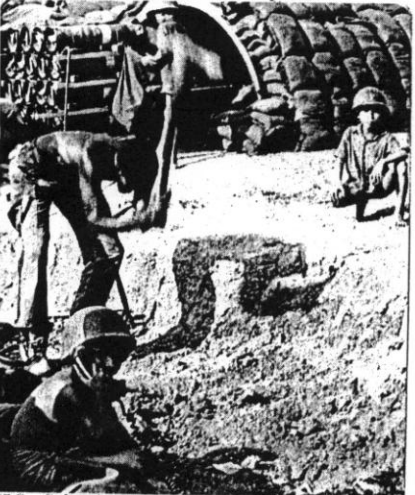
In fact, that's where she and the young sergeant first met.

"I tried to beat her feat after I got that 87 page job," said Sergeant Gagnon. "Utilizing a borrowed roll of teletypewriter

paper I managed to knock off a 13 foot letter."

"However, she came right back with one 37 feet long, composed of separate pieces of paper which she taped together and rolled into a scroll."

"I can't wait to see what she dreams up next."



While their host, a cannoneer of J Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery, plys his pick axe, his three little friends play soldiers. A 'toy soldier' quickly picked up the field phone and posed when he noticed the photographer trying to film their fantasies.

(Photo by SP5 A.C. Barnett)

July 31, 1970

Southern Cross



Q? That may be his MOS but this combat photographer, Staff Sergeant Lloyd E. Perkins, Franklin, from the Americal Information Office might as well in 11-Bravo as he slogs his way through a stream near Pho. The cameraman was on assignment with Bravo company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry pade.

(Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)

Part 4 of series

ARC's Joann Weesner

By SP4 William Hayes
HU LAI (AMERICAL IO) — her first trip away from home, Joann Weesner came a way-halfway around the world. After receiving her doctor's degree in sociology at the University of Southern California at her home town, up, Joann began looking for more than just a job. She found what she was siring for as a Doughnut Dolly the American Red Cross. "You don't just sign up for a but for a way of life for one," she explained, "and I love job, it's fantastic." When Joann talks about her her enthusiasm is evident. dialogue is even more mated than vital. Her eyes w a little wider than normal sparkle just a bit more. "I can't believe all that's opened since I've been in team," she admits. The Americal Division is not a first assignment. Since she ved in country almost nine nths ago, she's worked at eral locations, enjoying a ety of experiences and uations. There's one she als especially. "Two of us were in a atandard village in another a, visiting the soldiers igned there as an advisory m. We were getting along fine h the fellas right there in the age, but whenever we turned and to look for some of the llagers, all we could find was a appearing form melting into a brush or a pair of eyes sring out from a doorway or mer of a hut." "I guess I was the first blonde, e-eyed woman they had ever e." Always willing to make a new nd, the girls got together a in to break the ice with the ly 31, 1970

villagers. Picking an open area in plain view of the hiding villagers, the girls opened up a few packets of pre-sweetened beverage powder. "We began liking our fingers and dipping them into the powder. After a few tastes of the stuff, our tongues were purple and green from the food coloring," she laughed. "We kept on eating the powder, giggling and making faces at each other, and before long, one of the old women of the village came out of a hut to join our game." More villagers timidly approached the group, and within minutes, the whole village was on easy terms with the girls in spite of the language barrier. When she's out in the area of operations visiting the men wherever they are, she often shows up at the nearest mess hall around meal time to serve the soldiers passing through the line. She's apparently appreciated. Serving at meal time is sidelight for Joann—she does it when she can, but her main job is to get together with a group of men to present a program to entertain soldiers where they work and help them relax. The girls bring the recreation to the men because the limited recreational facilities at Chu Lai are inaccessible to many forward area soldiers. If her spirits drop, she knows it's important to get back on the ball quickly. "I groove on life, and that's all I need to pull me out of the dumps," she explains. "If you're depressed or down, you've got to take care of it right away." Often, men she meets ask her why she's here, doing the work she's involved with. "Back home, I kept hearing

about Vietnam on radio and TV, and reading about it on the front page and editorial pages, but I wanted to see for myself." She admits that the Red Cross offers a nice package for girls who become Doughnut Dollies: travel, new places, and unique experiences. "Sure, you have the 'bennies,' but that's a small part of it," she points out. "Everyday, for a whole year, she deals with people. "I think the neatest thing going is people," she explains. And one of the neatest people going has to be Joann.



This is a reminder to keep your steel pots on out in the bush. It betters your chance of getting home and of getting your picture in the Southern Cross and other publications. (Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)

Southern Cross

Dust-off crew has its ups and downs in 'Old 600'

By SP5 Richard Merritt
L Z H A W K H I L L (AMERICAL IO) — The beds are unmade and C rations are stacked deep under the bunks. A big green dusty map is stapled in one corner under a light. A helicopter unit in front, patch-welded in several spots down the body where it took hits, is manned by a dust-off crew from the 236th Medical Detachment, Da Nang. Warrant Officer James Gregory likes to call it "Lucky Old 600"—the last three tail numbers. "Old 600" has been shot down once since WO Gregory became its commander, but it still flies, saving the lives of wounded soldiers. Like many other units, Gregory's crew is on call 24 hours a day. "We cover areas all the way to Laos." He traced a line on the map that took in their flight area. There are three men in the crew—the pilot, a crew chief and a dust-off medic. "The best medic I've ever seen," insists WO Gregory.

When they leave for an emergency run, the crew carries only their personal weapons. They have all the facts about the pick-up, but they must follow closely directions from the ground element. WO Gregory trained five extra weeks as a chopper pilot, specializing in medical evacuations at Ft. Sam

Houston, Texas. "Last month we went right in on top of the bad guys," WO Gregory removed about 100 ARVN in the western Division area of operation, near the beleaguered refugee camp of Hiep Duc. "Several runs were made without any smoke (signal smoke) to guide us in," said WO Gregory. "Smoke would give the NVA an aiming point for their mortars and we couldn't give them that much time. Sometimes I came in a low level, 100 knots per hour, and people on the ground would give me hand signals. "But then I flew over an enemy machinegun when I was returning with a load of wounded. A round hit the fuselage and we went down." The chopper fell into a small Popular Force camp about 24 miles northwest of Tam Ky. "It was like a dead stick landing," said WO Gregory. No one was hurt. The crew unloaded the

wounded and stayed all night with the friendly unit. Their luck held. None of the infantrymen were critically wounded and they were able to leave the next day on another chopper. "Old 600" was retrieved later and repaired. "You can get a good idea of how a mission is executed by looking over a mission sheet," said Specialist Four Charles Harris, Macdesfield, N.C., crew medic. Mission sheets are submitted by the aircraft commander after each flight. Private First Class Thomas Day of Canby, Ore., is the crew chief. He makes minor repairs and oils up the machinery between flights. Recently a hostile bullet burrowed into the floor of the chopper about a foot from where Private Day crouched to return fire. "That's the second time the ship has been hit in the same place," noted Private Day. "I'm going to start sitting somewhere else."

C, 4-31 nets 4 NVA

By SP4 Gerald Lamb
LZ WEST (196th INF BDE IO) — An NVA supply element chose the wrong route recently when they walked into the night laager of a 196th Infantry Brigade Company. A group of 15 NVA were headed toward Hiep Duc 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky carrying rice and three of their wounded on stretchers.

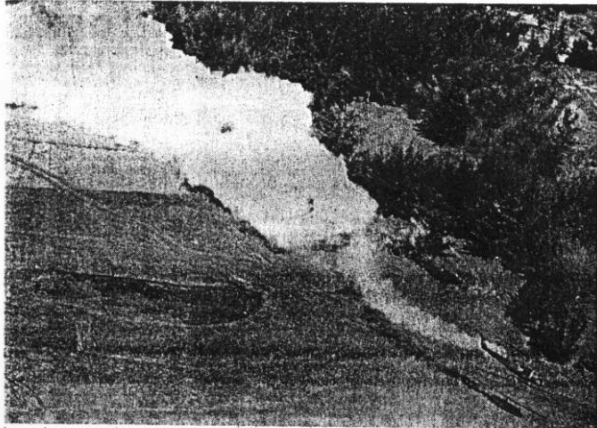
C Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry was in a night laager on the road east of Hiep Duc. "Suddenly a trip flare went off on the road and we saw them silhouetted against the light," said Specialist Four Kenneth Schrader, Olean, N.Y. The infantrymen blew their claymore mines and opened up with M-60 machinegun fire from the perimeter. A squad went out to check the area and found the bodies of three NVA and an AK-47 rifle. "On the way back to the perimeter we heard a low moaning in some bushes," said Specialist Schrader. A wounded NVA was flushed from his hiding place. Before being evacuated for treatment, he related that he had been in a combat unit and had asked to be transferred to become a rice carrier. The unit's mission that night had been to resupply enemy forces in the Hiep Duc area and take the wounded to a hospital located somewhere on Nui Chom mountain to the north.

Something is fishy

By SP4 Gerald Lamb
SON HOA (196th INF BDE IO) — Inhabitants of this pacification outpost have noticed something fishy in their

area, but they don't mind a bit. Civil affairs workers from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, are helping their Vietnamese allies build a fish hatchery here. "We decided on the hatchery because it would add a good, high-protein food to the diet and provide a highly marketable product," said First Lieutenant Michael Donohoe, Alamo, Calif. Staff Sergeant Malcolm Johnson, Tillar, Ark., is in charge of setting up the project and showing the people how to operate and maintain it. "My father owns a fish hatchery, so I have been raising fish all my life," said Sergeant Johnson. The first problem to be faced is building a pond and securing it. "We plan to dig a dual purpose ditch from a nearby creek to fill the pond and irrigate the rice paddies in the area," said Lieutenant Donohoe. The people of Son Hoa now buy their fish at the Que Son market about five miles away. The hatchery will be stocked with Tilapia, a rapid reproducing, high-protein food fish common all over Asia. "Initially the fish they raise will be used as a food supply, but once a surplus is established, they can be sold at the Que Son market," said Johnson.

Page 3



A smoke screen is generated and laid down between a woodland and landing zone in preparation for a combat assault three miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. "Smokey" a specially equipped utility ship is provided by the 174th Aviation Company.



A "Dolphin" utility ship of the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) provides the cover of smoke during a combat assault three miles northeast of Duc Pho.



A line of Dolphins and choppers from the 71st Aviation Company as they prepare to set down on the landing zone. A thousand men from the 4th ARVN Division were delivered to 24 landing zones. High above the LZ, a Shark provides security.



Dolphin delivers its wave of "Jungle Warriors" from the 11th Infantry Brigade during a combat assault three miles northeast of Duc Pho.

The Shark use mod

Story and photos by SF

FSB Bronco (11th INF BDE IO) - In a sense, the "Shark" gunship platoon of the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) is an anachronism. While their helicopters and weaponry are '70s vintage, the battle techniques of a guerrilla war are reminiscent of the 1914 war in France. When a thin-skinned Shark banks and rolls in to engage the enemy, it is subject to the same anti-aircraft and small arms fire that was thrown at the Spad bi-plane.

There is still a certain romance to piloting the flying machines. The hectic and often dangerous schedule includes lively comradeship at a club and a white sheeted bed at night rather than a soggy Vietnamese rice paddy or muddy European trench. The young pilots' gung ho enthusiasm is still tempered by their experienced professionalism. Five miles east of Quang Ngai City, two Shark heavy fire teams alternate flying security for a combat assault of the 4th ARVN Regiment. The waves of men are ferried into 24 landing zones (LZs) by a dozen "Dolphin" utility ships.

Gunships without a "hot" landing zone are like an infantryman without a P-38 can-opener. They prepare the LZs and patiently cover the sky train of utility ships. They wait. The two gunship pilots are in constant communication.

"The smoke-ship did alright this time; right between the treeline and LZ," commented Captain Stephen S. Riddle, Weaverville, N.C.

"Damn wind makes it hard not

to smoke the flight. The lead ship is too low. She'll get there before us if she doesn't put up," replied First Lieutenant John I. O'Sullivan, Brooklyn, N.Y.

For three hours the gunships make the flight back and forth between staging areas and landing zones. The teams alternate stops at Quang Ngai City for fuel, re-armorment and a short C-ration picnic.

Returning to station, the gunships cruise the site of the last combat assault of the day. They gain altitude to over-see the put-down of utility ships and ARVN infantry. Captain Riddle stretches in his front seat as darkness falls.

The Air Mission Control ship comes on the horn: "CA complete. LZ hot. I repeat hot."

"Let's go get them," called Captain Riddle as he banked and descended to the left.

"I've got four or five on the run in uniforms with weapons," announced Lieutenant O'Sullivan as he dove into a hedgerow saddle.

Rockets, mini-guns and M-60 machine guns poured fire into the area. Lieutenant O'Sullivan pulls out to the sound of exploding rockets and the sight of black billowing smoke.

"We've covered a couple with mini-gun. We've taken hits."

Captain Riddle follows in by descending quickly with the down-ward motion of a ferris wheel. An NVA frantically runs for a hedgerow and dives into it. The Shark abruptly swings back and forth as the ship is laid up for a rocket run. Captain Riddle sights the aiming reticle.



(copters) descends to a landing zone under Pho.



A Shark prepares the Duc Pho landing zone with rocket and mini-gun fire. The fire power and maneuverability of the Huey helicopters makes them ideal tactical weapons for supporting the ground

S

ern equipment in grand old style

by Peter R. Sorenson

Like two fire-crackers in a sh can, the rockets leap ward from their pods sending hot ignition wire fragments ing into the cabin. The door ousers open up with a steady arm of M-60 fire for flank ivity at this critical moment. ough the windshield two k mushrooms explode on target.

wo more sets of two rockets sent on their way before the k jerks upward out of its . It circles to the right to tinue the deadly two Shark wheel.

aptain Riddle comes on the room and acknowledges t all had heard. "Where did ke the hits?" "Where did e got about two or three ds in the left rocket pod. ube is down, replied Crew f Specialist 4 Ernest T. s, Brandon, Fla.

uring the next half hour, the ups alternated angles of k destroyed a bunker and d a secondary explosion and suppressive fire for the cing ground troops.

Mission Control: "Shark u are released - fine job. secondary may have been a You may stay on station if ant to see what the ARVN 'o."

was hoping he would say remarked Captain Riddle. two gunships reconed a urea surrounding the scene nct.

There's a big hole down said Specialist Johns. door-gunner waved and d the spot out to the . On the second pass, he

threw a smoke grenade. On the third pass a waving ARVN pointed to a uniformed NVA they had pulled out of the hole. Wearing heading home above Highway One, the two ships bantered back and forth about the day's action.

"We took a couple of rounds in the shin bubble. Guess who got his third Purple Heart?" said Lieutenant O'Sullivan. "You?" came back the answer from Captain Riddle. "Yes, took a little shrapnel in the leg."

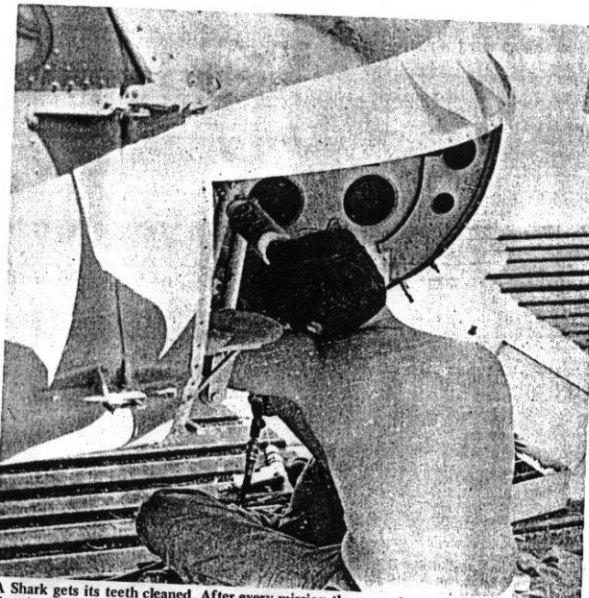
A red glow fills the cock pit from the instrument panel. Captain Riddle stretches leg. Door gunner Specialist 5 Fred G. Vandiver, Riverside, Calif. props his foot on a door and adjusts himself on his hard flat armored seat pad.

The village smells of livestock and dinner fires drifts through the cabin. In a few minutes the city like lights of the perimeter, Fire Support Base Bronco is on the horizon.

The end of the mission; the end of the day? Hardly. Maintenance must be administered to the aircraft. The pilots checking in at operations, are notified that a visual recon of the "Rice Bowl" has been ordered. A team of gunships must also recon the Bronco perimeter.

A night, maybe a restless night, will pass. "On call" requires that their 24 hour day be punctuated by scrambles.

If they could wear streaming white silk scarves, they would - for the Lafayette Escadrille is here.



A Shark gets its teeth cleaned. After every mission the ground crews pull maintenance on the choppers. It is their skill and care that gives the pilot a sound ship to fly against the enemy the Shark its bite.

Scattered clashes mark weekly action

(continued from page 1)
which contained 1000 AK-47 rounds and 4 CHICOM grenades. Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed 18 in brief encounters throughout the week.

The Recon platoon tallied three dead VC when they fired on the enemy 11 miles west of Tam Ky.

Later in the week Recon again made contact in two separate engagements killing six enemy. The "Professionals" of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry killed five enemy soldiers in the thick triple canopy jungle southwest of Tam Ky.

Gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry killed 12 enemy while flying visual reconnaissance missions in support of the brigade.

Operation Iron Mountain
Early in the week Company D, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry accounted for one VC killed in

the early morning hours while working near the Song Tra Khuc River northwest of Duc Pho. Later in the day they picked up another three VC killed with claymore mines.

The same day elements of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed two VC and confiscated one AK-47 rifle.

The next day Company D, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry engaged four VC who were spotted by the element's Kit Carson Scout. In the following hit and run fire fight one of the enemy was killed. The action occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

In an evening engagement with fire VC, Company D, accounted for two of the enemy killed. Three packs and four grenades were confiscated in the action which occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

Working in the lowlands southeast of Duc Pho, Company D, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry

uncovered a .51 caliber machinegun.

Company A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry and E Troop, 1st Cavalry accounted for two VC killed while working together on the Song Tra Khuc River northwest of Duc Pho.

Company A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry uncovered a 10-ton rice cache near the Song Tra Khuc River northwest of Duc Pho. The rice was found in 35 gallon drums and baskets in a small village.

"Sharks" of the 174th Aviation Company sighted and engaged two NVA on the Song Ve River northwest of Duc Pho. One of the enemy was killed when they attempted to swim the river, the other evaded into heavy vegetation.

Company A, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry uncovered a two and one-half rice cache while working near the Song Ve River northwest of Duc Pho. The rice was found in numerous hooches, most of it in 55 gallon drums and some in large baskets.

Company D, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry had a heavy day of action working adjacent to the South China Sea north of Duc Pho. The element initially killed one VC and one NVA, detaining two enemy soldiers and confiscating one AK-47. Later, on information supplied by a Vietnamese National, the element learned that two VC were scheduled to arrive at his village. The company engaged and killed both VC when their Kit Carson Scout spotted them approaching.

Recon engaged a seven to nine man VC squad in the foothills west of Duc Pho. The ensuing fire fight resulted in four enemy killed, two automatic weapons, one AK-47, one Carbine, and

four grenades confiscated.

Company B killed one VC in an early morning engagement with an undetermined size enemy force. Four of the enemy were detained in the action which occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

Company C engaged and killed one VC while working in the mountains northwest of Duc Pho. One pack, assorted medical supplies, 10 pounds of rice, and NVA canteen, and a knife were confiscated following the action.

Operation Geneva Park
In an area northwest of Quang Ngai, several Vietnamese revealed to Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, the location in which two enemy weapons were concealed. The infantrymen searched the area to find two carbines.

Elsewhere, Delta Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry while maneuvering in the mountainous terrain west of Quang Ngai, spotted five NVA evading in the thick vegetation. The company swept through the revealing signs of recent activity. Found within the complex was one pistol belt, one CHICOM magazine, two canteens, 100 pounds of salt, 50 pounds of rice and other miscellaneous items.

The next day in an area northeast of Quang Ngai, two Vietnamese led Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry to the location of three booby traps. The infantrymen searched the area to find and destroy the munitions.

Elsewhere, Delta Company, received two booby traps from Vietnamese children. The company, maneuvering in an area northeast of Quang Ngai, destroyed the booby traps.

In an area southwest of Chu Lai, Alpha Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, killed one NVA as the enemy approached their location.

Captured in this action were four CHICOM grenades, one fragmentation grenade and one pair of field glasses.

On the same day Delta Company while maneuvering in an area west of Quang Ngai, discovered two freshly dug graves. The enemy kills were attributed to a previous contact of the company.

In another action northwest of Quang Ngai, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, while maneuvering in mountainous terrain, found one NVA body. The kill was attributed to enemy contact the company experienced the previous day. Found near the body were one AK-47, three fully loaded AK ammunition clips, two CHICOM grenades, one pair of field glasses and other miscellaneous items.

Late in the week gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry received several rounds of small arms fire in an area northwest of Quang Ngai. The pilot spotted two Viet Cong wearing black pajamas in a bombed out shelter on the ground below and fired on the enemy with automatic weapons to kill both.

Later, in the same general area, the pilot observed another Viet Cong in a black uniform running along a trail and opened fire to kill him.

In an area southeast of Chu Lai, Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, while on a routine patrol, spotted one Viet Cong moving through sparsely vegetated terrain. The infantrymen engaged the enemy with small arms fire to kill him.



Infantrymen take a break in a thick wooded area while on a patrol. Their unit, Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, was searching for enemy hideouts during the recent heavy fighting in Hiep Duc Valley. (Photo by SP4 Gerald Lamb)

1st-46th collects 53

(continued from page 1)
killed them both."

As the 1st platoon continued to fire suppressive fire, the 3rd platoon continued to receive sniper fire and incoming mortar rounds. The 2nd platoon spotted some communication wires on the ground and cut them. The mortar rounds temporarily stopped. The 2nd platoon then moved up to take point and was ordered to secure a defensive

position from which an assault on the dug in NVA could be made.

"We dug in faster than I ever imagined it could be done," said Lieutenant Erby. By this time the 3rd platoon had joined the 2nd and only the 1st platoon remained to cross the open area.

Gunships from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company and F Troop, 8th Cavalry, were called in to work out on a ridgeline in hopes of destroying the NVA mortar emplacements. The Cavalry gunships killed three NVA. Artillery was also pounding the enemy position as the 1st platoon began to move from the old night laager.

"We moved out by fire and movement and spotted the bunkers," said Sergeant Hall. The ensuing battle was a grenade-tossing, bunker to bunker battle, as the infantrymen moved into destroy the NVA.

As the bitter struggle progressed, the 1st platoon found they had expended all their hand grenades. One squad each from the 2nd platoon and 3rd platoons collected all the available grenades and moved to aid the 1st platoon.

With the arrival of reinforcements and more grenades, the "Professionals" continued the assault.

"It was a bunker to bunker, hole to hole fight," said Lieutenant Erby. "We would toss a grenade into a bunker and it would come flying back out. So we resorted to first throwing in a rock to confuse the enemy and then immediately tossing in

a grenade. It worked." The infantrymen finally knocked out the last bunker. In the search of the area that followed, they found that there had been a total of 14 heavily fortified bunkers connected by a trenchline. Twenty-nine dead NVA were counted by the Americans.

"Evidently the NVA had planned to ambush us as we moved out," said Lieutenant Erby, "but we moved before they were ready and caught them flat-footed."

Company B then moved to the high ground and later spotted a large number of NVA in the open. A Firebird from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company was called in and killed 10 of the enemy.

Charlie Company, clearing the high ground, had received heavy mortar fire the entire morning. However, the men continued to support Company B. As a result four NVA died from Charlie Company's intense barrage of rifle and machinegun fire.

Two days later soldiers of the 6th Regiment, 2nd ARVN Division swept the site of Company B's contact. The ARVN soldiers found six additional NVA killed by artillery from Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery.

There were several reasons for the success of the operation, but one in particular stood out.

"It was an all-out effort on everyone's part," said Sergeant Dale Phelps, Van Nuys, Calif., Company B. "It was really fantastic how everyone worked together."

Sgt Talamoni luckiest man

(continued from page 1)

were taken to nearby Tien Phuoc for medical evacuation.

When he regained consciousness, Sergeant Talamoni said, "I could see nothing but LOH's (Light Observation Helicopters) firing on enemy positions. And I couldn't see anyone from the downed helicopters we were on. I thought I would try to move back to the helicopter to get a smoke grenade to signal for help, but at that time the LOH's were running out of fuel and had to leave to refuel. I knew Charlie was somewhere around so I moved 65 yards to the south so the enemy couldn't get me. Right away, I dug a foxhole."

With a broken left leg and right arm, Sergeant Talamoni, armed with nothing but a bayonet, dragged himself farther from the enemy where he dug a foxhole to conceal himself.

Sergeant Talamoni continues, "I lay in the foxhole and I couldn't see anything...it was

getting dark. I lay there until about 9:00 p.m. when I heard movement...some one was talking. It was the VC moving west. They were about 25 yards from where I was, but they couldn't see me because I was in the foxhole with some rocks over the top."

After the VC left the vicinity of his foxhole, he slept until about five the next morning. "I crawled back to the helicopter to get some smoke grenades. My legs were no use at all...I couldn't use them. But there was no smoke whatsoever. If I stayed there, Charlie would find me so I moved 55 yards west so if the LOH's came, they could spot me in the area." About 7:30 two LOH's from the 1st Battalion, 1st Cavalry did come. Sergeant Talamoni, who still had his lighter in his pocket built a small fire for the observation choppers to spot. They saw it and radioed an eight man rescue Huey, helicopter, which let the rescue team down to set up a defensive

position while a MEDEVAC helicopter was called in.

If the rescue helicopters, by some chance, couldn't spot him, he said that he was anticipating to move to a landing zone eight miles away from where he had recently been. "I tied two sticks around my leg," Sergeant Talamoni said, "I figured that I could make it in about 12 hours."

When asked what he did when he was finally safe, Sergeant Talamoni said, "I was praying to God."

In 1964 Sergeant Talamoni went to Ranger School at Ft. Benning, Ga. The training that he received definitely payed off, he said, "I can survive. I don't need water or food for a long time. I know I can survive."

Thanks to the dedication of the courageous rescue group, Sergeant Talamoni is alive and safe and deeply grateful to his friends of Company D, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

Southern Cross

Army promotion system outlined

continued from page 2)
 ledge of what it takes to be
 od NCO. Most of all, he
 be able to lead other
 le. The specialists in these
 s must be what their title
 experts in a technical field.
 omotions are not intended
 made merely as a reward

for jobs well done, but rather to
 recognize the outstanding
 individual who has demonstrated
 that he can perform effectively
 at the next higher grade level
 and better than any other
 individual available.
Eligibility and Selection Criteria
 You say you are in a

promotable status? Good. Now
 let's examine the regulation and
 determine how you compare
 against the eligibility and
 selection criteria.
 There are several requirements
 you must meet to be eligible for
 selection for promotion. Some
 of these requirements can be

waived. The waiver provisions
 are used to permit personnel
 who demonstrate exceptionally
 outstanding performance and
 high potential for leadership or
 increased ability in their field
 the opportunity to be
 considered for rapid promotion.

There are no provisions for
 waivers to grade E-8 and E-9.
 Waiver provisions apply
 separately for time in pay grade
 and time in service. Waiver for
 one half time in pay grade is
 permissible except for
 promotion to grade E-8 and E-9;
 maximum waiver for time in
 service is shown below:

Grade	Time in Service waivable
E-7	3 years
E-6	2 years
E-5	6 months

Commanders of units
 stationed in the Republic of
 Vietnam may also promote a
 small number of personnel to
 grades E-4 through E-6 without
 regard to time in grade and time
 in service. These promotions are
 to recognize the soldier who has
 demonstrated unusual potential
 and outstanding performance.
 This number cannot exceed 4%
 of the authorized E-4 or E-5
 grades and 2% of the E-6 grades.

E-8 and E-9 must have at least
 8 and 10 years of cumulative
 enlisted service creditable in the
 computation of his basic pay for
 promotion to the grades of E-8
 and E-9, respectively. Prior
 service as an officer is not
 creditable for this purpose.

Time in grade and time in
 service eligibility requirements for
 promotion to grade E-7 are
 expanded for an indefinite
 period. A soldier is now eligible
 if he has three years in grade.
 This time is not waivable.

Promotion status: This cannot
 be waived. You are not in a
 promotable status and will not
 be promoted if you are:

Carried as absent without
 leave, in confinement, in
 desertion, absent in the hands of

civil authorities, in arrest, or
 sick (not in line of duty) on the
 unit morning report.

Awaiting or undergoing
 reclassification for inefficiency
 or disciplinary reasons. Within
 60 days of voluntary retirement
 except that an individual who
 has occupied a position vacancy
 of a higher pay grade for a
 period of 90 days or more may
 be promoted one grade, if
 otherwise eligible, but not higher
 than E-6.

Recommendation: You must
 be recommended by the unit
 commander or your supervisor.
 This cannot be waived.

Award of MOS Code: you
 must be fully qualified for the
 award of the MOS in which the
 promotion is to be made. This
 cannot be waived.

Promotion Qualification
 Score: Not required in the
 Republic of Vietnam.
 Proper pay grade: You must
 be serving in the pay grade next
 below that in which promotion
 is to be made.

Physical Qualification: You
 must be physically able to
 perform all the duties of the
 MOS and grade to which
 promotion is to be made. This
 may be waived.

Education: You must have
 completed the eighth grade, or
 the GED equivalent, for
 promotion to pay grade E-5.
 You must have a high school
 diploma, or the GED equivalent,
 for promotion to pay grades
 above E-5. This may be waived.

Position Vacancy: A position
 vacancy means there is an
 opening within the promotion
 authority's command in the
 grade and MOS for which you
 are being considered or there is
 one projected within 60 days.

Once you have been able to
 meet all of these requirements,
 with waivers if required, you are
 eligible for promotion. It is at
 this point that your commander
 can consider making a
 recommendation.



pin-up Miss Lynda White would like to remind you of the up-coming primary
 tions in September. You may obtain absentee ballots by completing and mailing the
 eral Post Card Application (Standard Form 76, revised 1968). For further
 mation on your state's primary consult your unit voting officer. (USMC Photo)

31, 1970

Southern Cross

Somebody cares at Division Finance

By SGT Chuck Merdzinski

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE 10) - A Division finance officer
 with a unique idea has initiated an on-the-spot financial service for
 infantrymen in the field. It is a mobile operation that enables the
 combat soldier, who normally would have had to wait for a trip to
 the rear, to begin or cancel allotments, alleviate pay problems and
 handle other financial matters, all in his day laager position.

"The man out front is our main concern and he's the most
 important person to us," said Lieutenant Colonel William Cate, the
 Division finance officer. Last fall Lieutenant Colonel Robert Wilson,
 former commander of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th
 Infantry Brigade, asked Colonel Cate if he could send someone out
 to the field to cash checks and give financial advice. Colonel Cate
 continued, "The only time they could get proper assistance was
 usually once every two months when they came to the rear for a
 stand-down; then they'd normally let it slide because they'd be more
 concerned with relaxing, seeing floor shows and having a few beers,
 which is natural."

After his first trip, Colonel Cate decided to start a financial
 assistance program for infantrymen in the field. It began with a two
 brigade test in January and has since spread to every battalion, fire
 support base and artillery battery in the entire division.

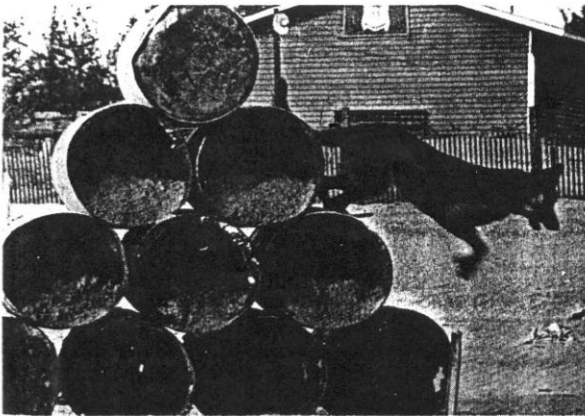
The "finance in a suitcase program" has been well accepted in the
 division. "The company commanders like the program because their
 men are being taken care of plus they don't have to send men to the
 rear for help, which keeps up foxhole strength," said Colonel Cate.

"I sure was thankful for the help I got when I was out in the bush
 near Iron Mountain," said Specialist Four William Brockington,
 Richmond, Va. "I was shocked when I saw the Division Finance
 Officer get off the chopper. I didn't think a finance officer of his
 rank would come out here."

"I feel that by being in the field part of the time and seeing the
 end product of things that we do at finance, I can detect problem
 areas and take corrective action. This way I have my finger on the
 pulse of our operation and it makes our overall service more
 effective," continued Colonel Cate.

"The message on our Christmas pay vouchers last year was
 'somebody cares,'" concluded Colonel Cate. "It's not just a slogan;
 we mean it and try to make it so."

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Line dog from the 63rd Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker), completes the pyramid p during a physical training exercise. The pyramid is one of eight obstacles the dogs hrough twice daily. (Photo by SSG Vern Kaiser)

Allied team hits VC

By CPT David W. Owens
HU LAI (F TRP 8th CAV)
While large body counts
the discovery of huge ammo
weapon caches monopolize
headlines of the newspapers
he states and overseas, it is
small isolated actions that
determining the course of
war in Vietnam.
These small, often vicious
frontations are relatively
ubiquitous. Nonetheless they
the bread and butter
rations of a war like that
is fought in Vietnam, the
of unglamorous tedious
rations that will eventually
the enemy's back.
Typical of this type of
ted action was a visual
naissance recently
ducted by F Troop, 8th
sly, "Blue Ghost," in the
hermost part of the 196th
ntry Brigade area of
rations about seven miles
of LZ Ross. Intelligence

indicated that a VC company
was active in the area.

Also working in the
immediate area was an element
of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry
and a platoon of Marines.

When the Blue Ghost team of
one light observation helicopter
(LOH), two Cobras, and three
sicks full of the air Cavalry
troop's organic aero-rifle platoon
arrived on station and identified
the friendly locations and
became aware of their
intentions, it immediately
became obvious to the team
leader, Captain Bruce Rolfe, that
with just a little coordination
between the armored cavalry,
Marines and the addition of the
Blue Ghost assets, the stage
could be set for a classic small
scale operation. With the
Marines blocking to the north
along a river, the cavalry
pouncing from the east, and the
southern and western boundaries
of the area to be searched

delineated by rivers, the setting
was perfect.

The next four or five hours
were characterized by hard work
periodically punctuated by sharp
but brief exchanges of fire, as
Blue Ghost screened between the
cavalry, Marines, and river
boundaries.

Hard work all right. It could
even be hazardous to your
health.

By the time the sweep
was completed, it had accounted for
six VC and a modest number of
weapons and ammunition
captured. Not very impressive
when compared to the statistics
coming out of Cambodia or the
results of the fighting at Hiep
Duc, but for the VC company
operating in that particular area,
it represented a setback.

This type of small, productive
action is being reinitiated every
day, often more than once a
day, over the entire length and
breadth of the Division's AO by
various American and Allied
units.



giant Warren L. Foster, Mobile, Ala., climbs from a
nel after searching it for VC on a search mission near
e Son. Sergeant Foster is a member of the Aero-Rifle
foan, "Blueghosts," F Troop, 8th Cavalry.
(Photo by SSG L.E. Perkins)

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Cav charge routs enemy

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - A lightning-like charge
through tangled jungle and dry rice paddies into the midst of an
NVA mortar platoon recently netted a 196th Infantry Brigade
cavalry troop 16 enemy killed, four prisoners and numerous
weapons and ammunition.

Reacting to intelligence reports on the location of an estimated
NVA mortar platoon, F Troop, 17th Cavalry, received orders to
move to a sandy, brush covered coastal area five miles north of Tam
Ky.

"We moved 16 miles in barely over an hour," said Captain Roscoe
Cartwright, Cincinnati, F Troop commander.

Working with helicopter gunships from the 71st Assault
Helicopter Company, F Troop approached the suspected enemy
location and as they deployed into assault position immediately
began receiving rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire.

"We saw two NVA trying to escape as we entered the woodline
and opened up on them," said Sergeant William Liggio, Queens, N.Y.
As the two enemy soldiers fell the cavalrymen continued the charge.

The enemy had tried to fight from the low level sand dunes and
brushed jungle but the intensive fire from the gunships and cavalry
troop had cut them down.

As the tracks entered the woodline the second time they
encountered little enemy resistance and began counting dead enemy
soldiers.

Confiscated weapons included nine AK-47 rifles, 300 rounds of
small arms ammunition, a Soviet pistol, five packs, and 25 CHICOM
grenades.



Tells it like it is

What are the best counseling procedures to use for drug abusers?

In general, the counselor whose approach is punitive is unlikely to
succeed. Channels of communication must be opened, and the
patient must acquire some measure of trust in the counselor. By
listening to the drug abuser's story, the counselor should not give the
impression that he is condoning the behavior because he is listening
without judging. He must try to understand what the drug means to
the patient, and then determine what non-drug alternatives are
available.

Group therapy is often successful. Many treatment programs are
very effectively using ex-abusers as part of their counseling staffs.
Naturally, the skill of the therapist is an important element in
achieving success, but the most important factor is the desire of the
user to stop using.

Is it possible to obtain medical help without incurring legal penalties?
A certified physician or psychologist can generally assure patients
that discussion of drug abuse problems will be kept confidential.
Practically all enforcement agencies cooperate with the person who
wants help.

Cayuse spells tough

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - They
have a rippling buzz that you can't mistake. A
Cayuse is about one-third the mass of a Huey
UH-1H. Pilots and crew members here at the 196th
Infantry Brigade Aviation Section have zipped
these small crafts into nests of NVA in recent
operations, posing a new threat to the enemy.
Never meant to join in heavy combat, these little
ships have suddenly found themselves caught in
more and more lead-filled episodes over Quang Tin
Province.

"We always flew air reconnaissance, cover for
convoy and resupply," said Warrant Officer Dave
Marchant of Arlington, Tex., as he discussed the
toughness of the LOH. "Now, a lot of routine
hops have turned hot."

"It was my first day out," Captain Ted
Brodzinski, Brookhaven, Pa., commander of the
196th Aviation Section, continued with an
example. "The mission sent us over Barrier Island.
We were to check out the results of an artillery
mission that had previously been fired."

The pilot's bubble of the LOH made a fair
target as it skimmed by at 50-foot altitude.
A .30 caliber round smashed through the
bubble, cut a hole in the door frame, and exited a
half-inch below Captain Brodzinski's hand. "My
first day out," repeated Captain Brodzinski.

After that it got hotter.
On an aerial recon a few weeks later, with a
Popular Force (PF) platoon five miles northwest
of Tam Ky, another Brigade LOH zoomed along
ahead of the search. Specialist Five Bob Nutini,
Hancock, Mich., was the craft's machinegunner.

Southern Cross

"I saw a VC running from the PF," said
Specialist Nutini, "and I did him a job. I watched
him go down, but we couldn't get in close to
check." A spatter of rifle fire flashed up at the
small chopper and it withdrew after directing
artillery fire on the enemy. "It was an ambush," in
his opinion.

Ambush or no, the crews from Aviation
continued to set an unusually brisk fighting pace
for an air support unit carrying relatively light
arms. Two other gunners killed three NVA in a
close-range exchange of fire on hostile Barrier
Island. Before long, 10 enemy had fallen to the
aviators' guns.

Entering sizzling firefights is a good example of
what can happen when LOH crews are flown in all
types of operations. While enemy mortar shells
whizzed by, WO Marchant pulled half an
exhausted infantry company from a peak about 20
miles west of Tam Ky. A LOH only seats four,
including the pilot, but all the bigger ships were
tied up. After eleven months in Vietnam WO
Marchant reviewed his experiences.

"The only time I was hit, it was so small I didn't
know about it until the end of the day," he said.
Another pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Carlos
Quinteros, Tampa, Fla., received hits in his aircraft
on three consecutive days but still flies the same
airways.

It looks as if the ubiquitous Cayuse will share a
larger and larger slice of thy support action—all the
support action. A door gunner who fought on
Barrier Island capsuled their ultimate mission
aptly: "It was us or them."

July 31, 1970