

THE AMERICAN MAY



"Under The Southern Cross"



CG's Message



I salute the officers and men of the Americal Division. Your division compiled a proud history of combat in the jungles and islands of the South Pacific during World War II.

Today we are continuing to uphold the honors and traditions of the brave men who preceded us. The Americal Division has earned an outstanding and enviable reputation in combat and pacification since its activation in Vietnam. No other division has approached the successes enjoyed by the Americal in such a brief period of time.

I wish you success in the future. I know that you will continue to add glory and honor to the Americal Division in our mission of assisting the Vietnamese in their fight for freedom.

S. W. KOSTER
Major General, USA
Commanding

THE AMERICAL

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

MAY, 1968

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Staff Sergeant Patrick Hardy, a member of the Americal LRRP Company, stands a lonely vigil "under the Southern Cross" in our cover photo. The photo was taken by PFC Bill Guerrant, AMERICAL Photo Editor.

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For Freedom Under The Southern Cross

The Americal Division, born in the steaming jungles of New Caledonia and reborn some 25 years later in the equally steaming jungles of Vietnam, boasts of a proud tradition of quick reaction to tyrants who would seek to rob the people of the world of the gift of freedom.

The original Americal grew out of Task Force 6814, which was deployed to the South Pacific to meet an enemy threat there at the beginning of United States involvement in World War II. The present Americal grew out of Task Force Oregon, which was sent to Vietnam's troubled I Corps April 20, 1967.

Though the enemy and the location have differed, the reaction from the soldiers of the Army's only named division has always been one of valiant fighting efforts under some of the most trying circumstances.

Task Force 6814, commanded by Brigadier General Alexander M. Patch, left to defend the island of New Caledonia on January 23,

1942, sailing by way of Panama and Australia.

The original task force was composed of the 132nd, 164th and 182nd infantry regiments; the 245th, 246th, and 247th light field artillery battalions; and the 221st Medium Field Artillery Battalion. Some 45 percent of the troops were Massachusetts members of the 26th Infantry Division's 51st Infantry Regiment and the remainder were from Illinois and North Dakota.

In memory of the strong Massachusetts flavor of the original organization, the Americal Association—composed of veterans of the division—now has its headquarters in Boston.

The first Americal troops trained on board ship while enroute to New Caledonia, and continued their training for jungle warfare after arriving at Noumea, New Caledonia, on March 12, 1942.

On May 27, 1942—slightly more than two months after its arrival—the task force was reorganized as the Americal Division. The name was chosen after a soldier in the

Our area is 1000 meters or down the
beach

Tropics Not New...



USO And Beach Areas Offer Rest To Combat-Weary American Soldiers.

guerrant

...To The Americal



new division suggested a combination of America and Caledonia, to show that the two countries were working together for freedom.

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

The soldiers continued their training until October 13, when the 164th Infantry Regiment became the first U.S. Army unit to conduct an offensive operation against the enemy in any theater during World War II. From then until November 29, 1945, when division elements began to leave for the states, it was all work and no play for the soldiers, as they fought throughout the South

Pacific area, finally ending up in Japan to participate in the occupation of that defeated power.

The soldiers were credited with participation in the Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Southern Philippines and Leyte campaigns, and won two Presidential Unit Citations and one Distinguished Unit Citation (presented to Company E, 182nd Infantry Regiment) during WWII.

The Americal Division was deactivated at Ft. Lawton, Washington, on December 12, 1945, and its soldiers went home for a well-earned rest.

The division was reactivated for the first time in 1956 at Ft. Benning, Georgia, Panama and Alaska, but was deactivated after a two-year period.

Then, with U.S. forces fully committed to stopping the communist surge in Vietnam, the Americal Division was once more pressed into the service of the country. In February of 1967, General William C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, formed a planning group to organize an Army task force to send to the I Corps area.

This planning group, commanded by Major General William B. Rosson (who now, as a lieutenant general, commands the vital MACV forward command post at Phu Bai), organized a multi-brigade force composed of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade; the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (later redesignated the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division).

Task Force Oregon became operational on April 20, 1967, when troops from the 196th Brigade landed at the Chu Lai airstrip and immediately began search and destroy operations around the base camp. Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division started conducting search and destroy operations in Southern Quang Ngai Province, and in May the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne paratroopers arrived at Duc Pho and began operations in the jungles west of there.

Early operations conducted by TFO included Malheur I and Malheur II, Hood River, Benton and Cook. On September 11, 1967, Operation Wheeler was launched against elements of the 2nd North Vietnamese Army Division working in the area northwest of Chu Lai.

On September 22, 1967, Brigadier General Samuel W. Koster assumed command of the task force, replacing Major General Richard T. Knowles, and three days later Task Force Oregon became the Americal Division, composed of the 196th, 198th and 11th light infantry

**AMERICAL DIVISION
MAIN EXCHANGE
OPERATING HOURS
SUN 0930 - 1330
MON - SAT 0930 - 1730**



Americal Combat Troops Get The Chance To 'Restock' With An Occasional Trip To The Division's Main PX, Located In Chu Lai, Near Division Headquarters.

guerrant

brigades, even though the latter two organizations were still training in the U.S.

Operation Wheeler continued and on October 4, 1967, the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division joined Americal and immediately launched Operation Wallowa in the northern sector of the division's area of operations. Operations Wheeler and Wallowa were combined on November 11, and Operation Wheeler/Wallowa was conducted by the 196th Brigade (which replaced the 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade in Operation Wheeler after that organization departed for the II Corps tactical zone) and the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry.

An official change of colors ceremony was held October 26, and the Americal Division became the seventh Army division fighting in Vietnam. General Koster received his second star during the same ceremony.

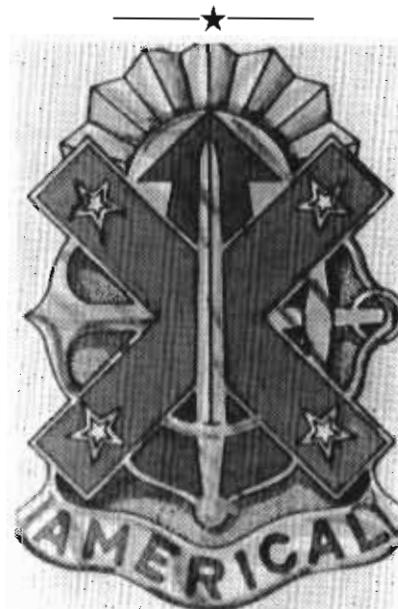
On October 22, the 198th Light Infantry Brigade arrived in Vietnam from Ft. Hood, Texas and deployed to Duc Pho, where it received combat training from the battle-hardened soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry. The 198th currently is in charge of the defense of the Chu Lai base camp and airstrip.

The 11th Light Infantry Brigade joined Americal on December 20, and it too moved to Duc Pho for training. The "Jungle Warriors" are currently conducting combat operations in the Duc Pho area and have control of Operation Muscatine, a multi-battalion search and destroy operation around Quang

Ngai which was originally conducted by the 198th Brigade and units from the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry.

Operation Wheeler/Wallowa is now under the control of the 196th Infantry Brigade, with elements of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry participating actively in the fighting west of Tam Ky. The 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry, and the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry, have left the Americal area.

In addition to its outstanding battlefield record, the division takes pride in the services it offers to its members. A beach provides relaxation for weary soldiers, a USO and extensive Special Services program provide entertainment and the only Division Army Education Center in Vietnam provides the chance for a soldier to earn a high school equivalency or to take courses for college credit.



Americal Combat Center

First A Greeting, Then A Weapon

Since mid-December of last year, all men arriving at or leaving the Americal Division have become the responsibility of the division's Combat Center, commanded by Major Robert E. Clark Jr. The large transient and training complex, located on the beach just south of Chu Lai, handles from 500 to 1,400 soldiers daily.

The Replacement Detachment at the center in- and out-processes all division personnel and provides travel authorization for men going on R&R. It also provides temporary accommodations and orientations for new arrivals to the division.

The center's Replacement Combat Training has already initiated more than 6,500 soldiers to the ways of combat in Vietnam with its comprehensive week of instruction. The 6,500 includes several company-sized "packets" and the entire 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Some 145 enlisted men have improved their chances for promotions by passing the Combat Leadership Course offered at the center. The 10-day course is open to outstanding men who have been recommended by their unit commanders. The top three graduates of each class are automatically promoted one grade.

The Combat Center is a relatively new complex, with improvements



New Arrival Waits To Check In To Division.

guerrant

and expansion developing steadily. Recently it acquired its own rifle range, in addition to becoming the site of Vietnam's second-largest mess hall.





breedlove

Soldiers Receive Training In Enemy Mine Warfare (Above), And Weapons Training On The Range At The Americal Division Combat Center (Below). After About A Week Of Such Training, They Will Move On To Their Units And Actual Combat.



breedlove

THE INFANTRYMAN AT WORK



us army

MAN AND IDEA

The Story Of

America Fighting Forces

maps by sp4 john nicholson
story by pfc mike kelsey

The combat effectiveness of a division can be seen in the faces of its soldiers, read in the maps and plans of its leaders, and related in the chronicle which unfolds with the meshing of Man and Idea.

America Division soldiers have worked doggedly and without much fanfare to compile an enviable battlefield record in the first 11 months of Army operations in the Chu Lai area.

They have climbed, waded and flown their way to an enemy body count of about 13,500, while losing themselves about 1,100 killed and 6,300 wounded—a kill ratio of slightly less than 13:1. And an infantryman takes more pride in his unit's kill ratio than a sportsman does in his dog.

"The kill ratio is very important to the man in the field," related one NCO who had spent some 23 months in Vietnam and had participated in more than 250 combat assaults.

"He knows that if it is high, he is working in a good outfit, and that his own chances of survival are greater. He respects the team effort more than he perhaps normally would. And he has more faith in his leaders."

A "good" kill ratio, a "good" battlefield record, these are things which do not simply happen. Both outstanding soldiers and swift, decisive leaders are musts, and a little luck never hurt anyone.

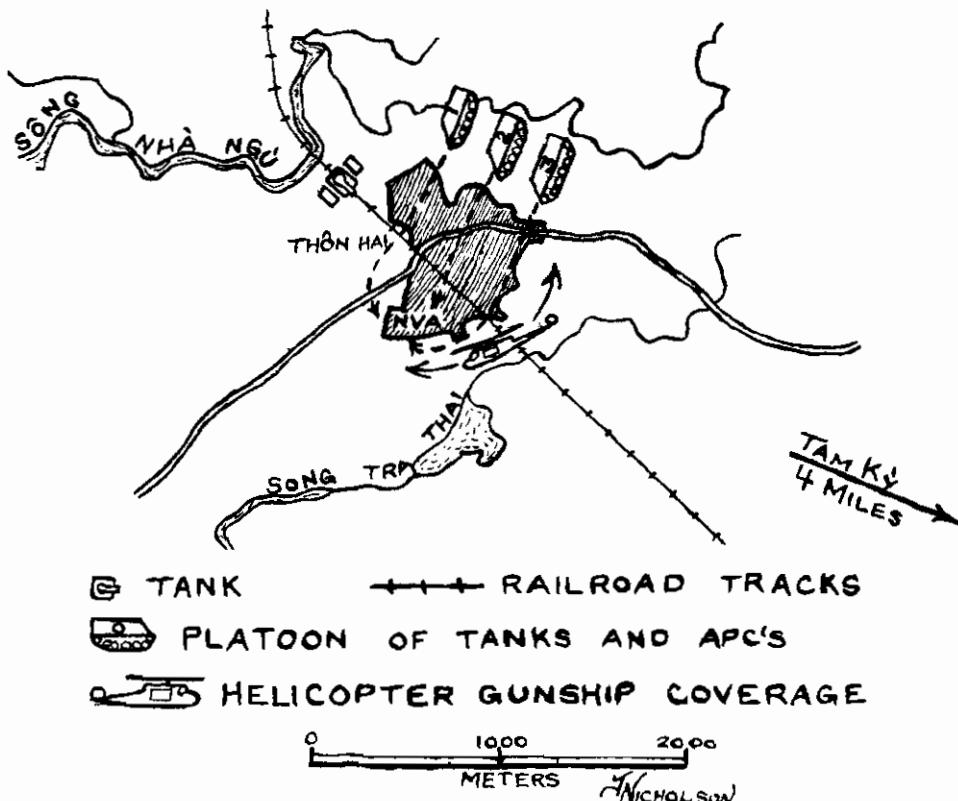
America is currently involved in two major, named search and destroy operations. Wheeler/Wallowa, the senior of the two, is being conducted in the high ground northwest of Tam Ky by the 196th Brigade; the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry; and Troop C of the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry.

Operation Muscatine, being conducted by elements of the 11th Brigade near Quang Ngai, was kicked off by the 198th Brigade in late December.

The pictures, stories and sketches which follow draw on action which have been parts of these operations and another, Task Force Miracle, which involved a quick reaction on the part of three America battalions to the enemy's Tet attacks. The only criteria on which they were chosen was their ability to portray the fine qualities of the soldiers and leaders of the America Division.



THE PINK VILL



America's air and ground cavalry units combined last February to push a force of North Vietnamese regulars to meet death in their own trenches in a deserted village.

The cavalrymen knew the area as the "Pink Vill"—pink because that color was used to indicate a built-up area on their tactical maps.

The basic strategy of the offensive called for the armored personnel carriers of Troop A of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry to line up and sweep across the village. A tank, protected by two APC's, fired on the enemy retreating across the railroad tracks.

Covering the southern and east-

ern portions of the village were the "Blue Ghosts" helicopter gunships of the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry's Troop C.

Within an hour, the enemy soldiers were cornered in their own trench system in the southwest portion of the "Pink Vill," where they were routed by the America forces.

The battle was one of several fought by Operation Wheeler-Wallowa forces which have featured a combination of the air and ground cavalry forces. Such actions have been among the division's most effective.



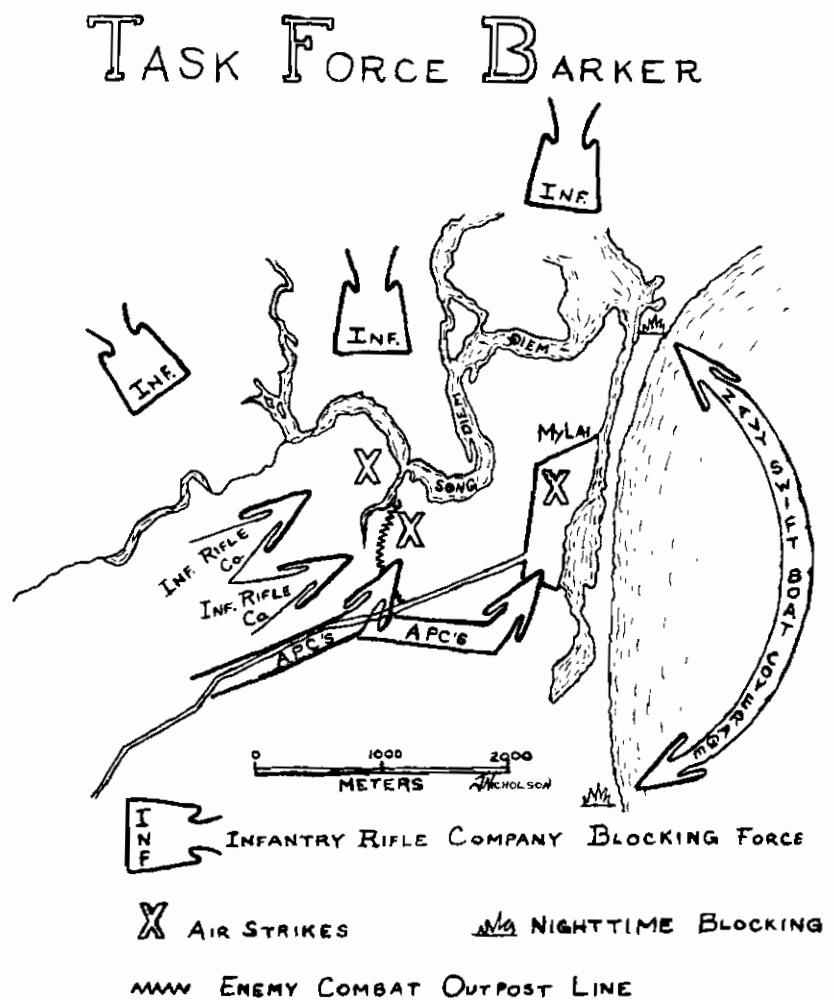
Infantry troops of Task Force Barker cleared an area considered a Viet Cong stronghold for 20 years in a February action involving both Naval and Air Force support for the Army units.

After one rifle company was positioned on the north to block an enemy retreat in that direction, two more rifle companies and a full platoon of armoured personnel carriers from the 11th Brigade pushed through the enemy combat outpost line to the village of My Lai and the sea.

The enemy had massed a full battalion, entrenched in fortified positions linked by tunnels and protected by mines and boobytraps, in the village and surrounding area.

A total of 78 Viet Cong were killed in the action, and the ground troops detained another 35 suspects.

Task Force Barker, a combat element of Operation Muscatine, is composed of companies of the 11th Infantry Brigade.



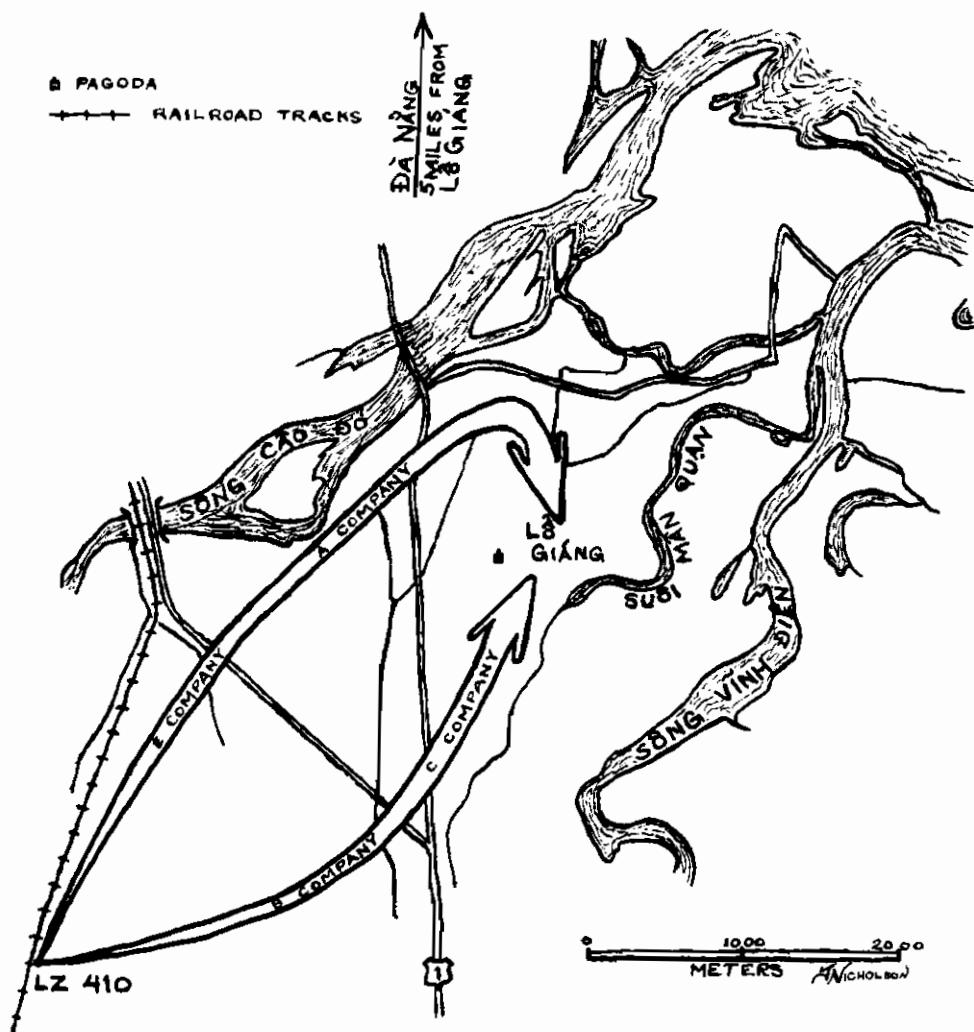


*A Machinegunner With The 198th Infantry Brigade Crouches In The Woods
Waiting For His Patrol's Next Move.*

murphy



THE BATTLE FOR LÔ GIÁNG



In the battle for Lo Giang, the "Regulars" of the 198th Brigade's 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry—sent to Da Nang to assist Marines defending that city during the Tet attacks—wiped out the 60th Main Force Viet Cong Battalion which had amassed some 800 soldiers to attack Da Nang.

The "Regulars" were supported by both Army and Marine helicopters.

ters and artillery, and by Marine jet bombers in the five-day action.

The soldiers of Company A, supported by the men of Company E, swung to the north of the village and companies B and C struck the enemy from the south.

The actual body count after the vicious, often hand-to-hand fighting was 266 enemy killed.





guerrant



us army

Faces Often Reflect The Mood Of The Action In The American Division. At The Upper Left, A Handler Rests With His Dog On A Patrol, While At The Upper Right, A Foot Soldier Moves Cautiously Through The Jungle. At The Bottom, The Seriousness Of A Combat Assault Is Shown On The Face Of A Soldier Moving Out Of A Chinook.



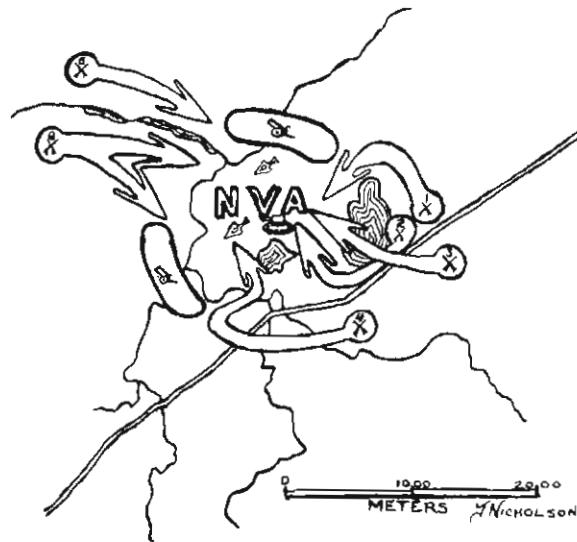
eilers

Infantrymen from the 196th Brigade used their support elements to full advantage last Thanksgiving Day to surround and crush two companies of the 3rd Regiment of the 2nd North Vietnamese Army Division in the Que Son Valley near Hill 63, about 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The foot soldiers, accompanied by armored vehicles from the 1st and 17th cavalries, swept the area where intelligence reports had indicated a sizable enemy force was hiding, while artillery shelled possible escape routes and provided illumination and Air Force and Marine aircraft dive-bombed the enemy to force them from their cover.

Some 128 enemy soldiers were killed and numerous weapons captured in the joint action, which was a part of the division's Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

THE THANKSGIVING DAY BATTLE



✖ INFANTRY COMPANIES FROM THE

196TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

■ ARMORED CAVALRY

▲ ARTILLERY COVERAGE

◆ AIR STRIKES



US ARMY

~~Some are even better looking than these
two~~

America's "Donut Dollies"

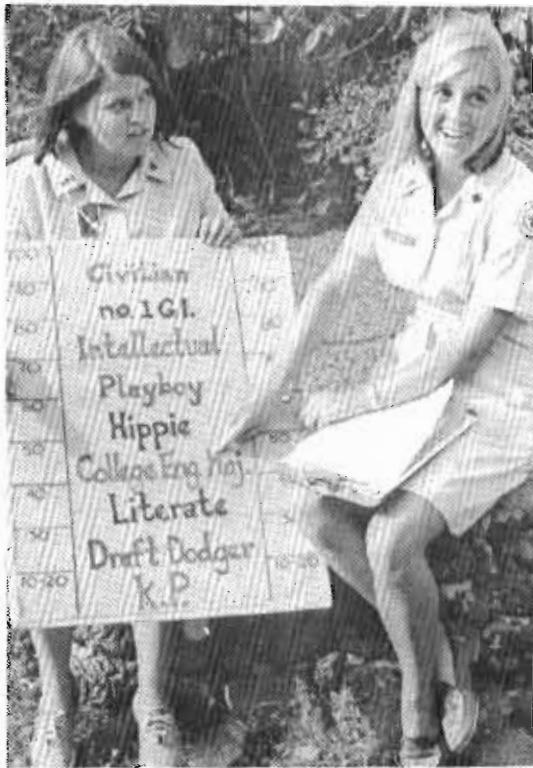
They're Armed With Smiles And Kool-Aid

The Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas (SRAO) branch of the American Red Cross is well established here. The unit was founded in July of 1967.

There are 19 other such units throughout South Vietnam made up of about 120 girls, all of whom volunteer to come to Vietnam and must have a college degree, be single, and between 21 to 25 years old.

People are always curious as to what the girls do. In Chu Lai the four "Donut Dollies" make an average of 50 stops a week at messhalls, dayrooms and even motorpools to present an audience participation-type program that lasts from 45 minutes to an hour. Two teams of soldiers are pitted against one another in a round of "The Price is Right," "TV Trivia" or even "Psychodelic Concentration." The girls use their own ingenuity and ideas to make props and present a new program each week.

The boost in morale is well worth the hour the men get off work.



Whether the girls are serving food, presenting programs, visiting an LZ or making the rounds at the hospitals, they see and talk to 10,000 men a month in the Chu Lai and Duc Pho areas. It's quite a job, but the girls go about it with enthusiasm, sincerity and always a smile.



Civic Action— 'Give And Take'



guerrant

Providing the opportunity for a determined people to help themselves has been the key to the door of the pacification and civic action programs conducted by the Americal Division.

Members of the 6th Civil Affairs Platoon, working out of Chu Lai, the 4th CA Platoon, in Duc Pho, and the 51st CA Platoon, working near Tam Ky at LZ Baldy, carry their programs to the Vietnamese on a "give and take" basis—the Americans provide the materials and money, and the Vietnamese provide the workers and ideas as to what needs to be done.

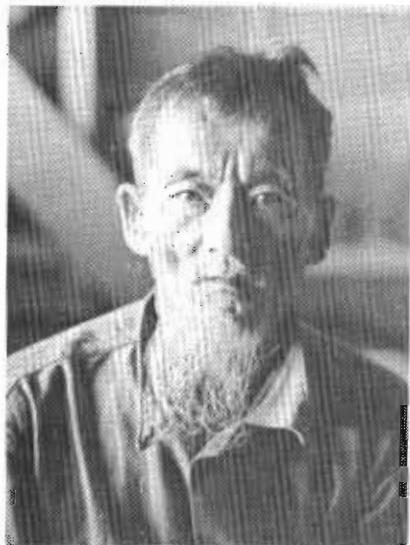
The "two-way street" program has led Americal soldiers to participation in medical care for the Vietnamese, bridge building, agricultural advice and education for the country's youth, among other things.

It's a self-satisfying sort of job, where the soldier's favorite "reward" is often a smile on the face of a child, or the knowledge that innocent civilians, made homeless by the war, will have a place to spend the night in safety.



guerrant

An Americal Interpreter Discusses A Well Repair Project With Villagers (Above). The Old Man And Young Child At Bottom Reflect Scope Of Civic Action Projects Conducted By Division Soldiers.



guerrant



guerrant

196th 'Charger' Brigade



offutt

'Chargers' Round Up Enemy Soldier.

The 196th "Charger" Infantry Brigade was the first outfit in the U.S. Army to be designated as a "light infantry brigade." Activated September 15, 1965, at Ft. Devens, Mass., it was organized as a highly mobile, quick reaction force, capable of independent, sustained operations against guerrilla-type forces.

The Chargers, commanded by

Colonel Louis Gelling, were the first fighting soldiers to arrive at Chu Lai for Task Force Oregon. They immediately set out on search and destroy operations around the base camp and airfield, and have been fighting since.

They are currently in charge of the massive search and destroy operation Wheeler/Wallowa.



3/21

Infantry 'Gimlets'

The 21st Infantry was formed during the early part of the Civil War and took part in many of its major battles, including Gettysburg, Manassas and Antietan.

The unit, from 1921 until World War II, was garrisoned in Hawaii. It was during this period that the nickname "Gimlet" came into being. "Bore, brother, bore," was the unofficial motto of the 21st. A gimlet is a boring tool, hence the name.

It fought in New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II and took part in the occupation of Japan.

Helping to hold the line at Pusan and taking part in several offensive actions with UN troops, the Gimlets earned eight campaign streamers during the Korean War.

The 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry is now seeing much of the heaviest fighting in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa, taking place northwest of Tam Ky.



Led By A Scout Dog, The 'Gimlets' Move Out Through A Swamp During A Patrol.

guerrant

2/1 Infantry 'Guardians'



Advancing On Enemy Positions.

us army

Organized in 1791, the 1st Infantry is the second oldest unit of the Regular Army. Its soldiers fought in the early Indian Wars, the War of 1812 and the Battle of New Orleans. They fought in the Black Hawk War of 1832 and Seminole War of 1837 and earned two campaign streamers for their colors. It was during this time that the 1st became known as the "Guardians of the Frontier."

The 1st Infantry, in the forefront of the fighting during the Mexican War, led the attack at Buena Vista, stormed Vera Cruz and captured Monterey.

During the Civil War, it fought in Missouri and helped win battles at Corinth, Memphis, and Vicksburg.

The 1st Infantry saw action in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, then was sent to the Philippines to help put down the Moro Insurrection.

During World War II, the 1st was part of the 6th Division and took part in the "Island Hopping" in the Pacific, helping win back the Philippines.

Again in Southeast Asia, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry is assigned to the 196th Brigade. Its participation in Task Force Miracle, which stopped a possible attack on the Da Nang airstrip, illustrates its contribution to the Vietnam conflict.



4/31

Infantry

The colorful "Foreign Legion" of the U.S. Army began 42 years ago in the Philippine Islands when the new 31st Infantry was organized at Regan Barracks, Camp McGrath and Ft. McKinley.

The 31st was the first full infantry regiment ever assigned to the Philippines, and until 1958, it had never had duty within the continental limits of the United States.

The 31st wears a polar bear on its crest in recognition of its Siberian campaign—an unpleasant little war fought in Russia against a tough and elusive Red Army of Russian communists. It was the first time a regular U.S. force had ever engaged an organized Communist army.

Then in World War II, the "Polar Bears" were forced to withdraw at Battaan. The regimental colors were burned and the 31st was removed from the Army rolls. For its heroism in the defense of the Philippines, the 31st Infantry



A Company From The 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Moves Through A Village While On Patrol.

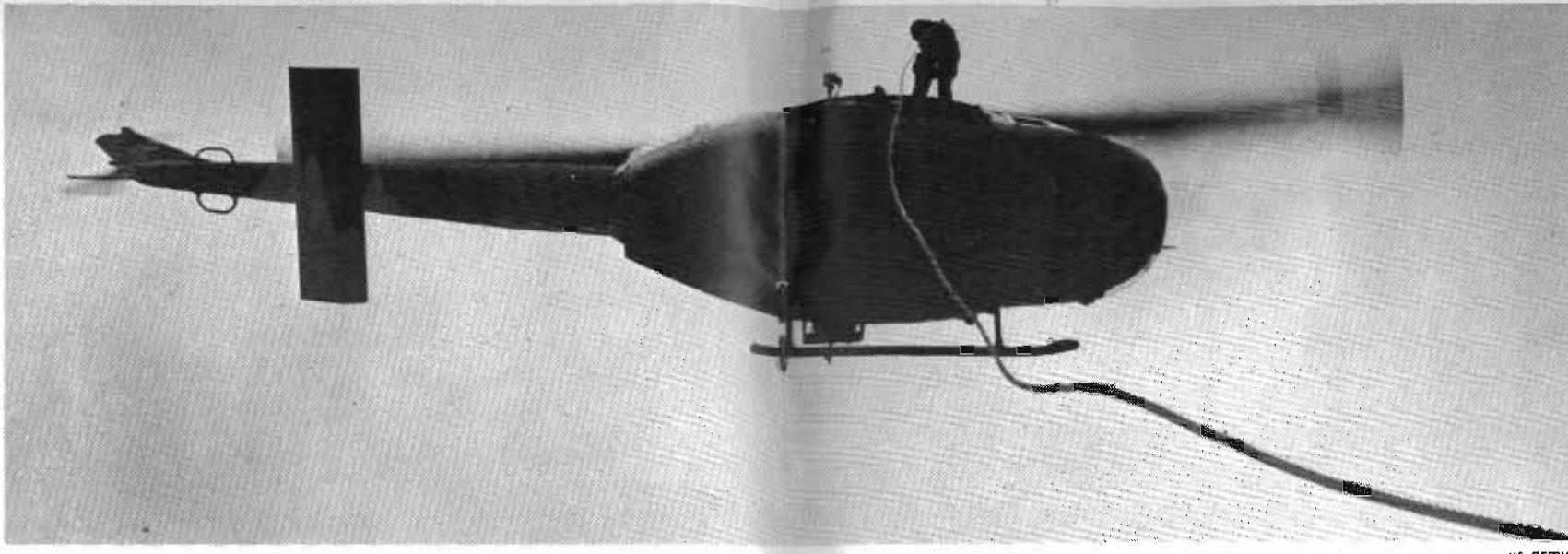
US ARMY

was awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations and a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

During the Korean War the reactivated 31st took part in the Inchon landing, helped recapture Seoul and fought at "Heartbreak Ridge" and "Pork Chop Hill."

The 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, now assigned to the 196th Brigade, continued its fighting history in action against NVA in the Que Son Valley prior to the enemy Tet attacks, and now participates in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.





us army



Standing Guard.

guerrant

Division's 'Elite'

The all-volunteer Americal Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) boasts of being the most elite outfit in the division. Most of its members are graduates of the three-week Special Forces-operated recondo school in Nha Trang, and many are airborne qualified as well.

All the members of the "eyes and ears of the Americal Division" have had considerable combat experience, but "novices" will be accepted if they pass an interview with the LRRP commander and meet the company's stringent physical requirements.

The camouflaged fatigue-clad soldiers move silently and swiftly on their four- to five-day patrols to gather valuable intelligence data for

division combat elements. While they are in base camp they train continually, both physically and mentally, for their duties.

Perhaps more than anyone else, the LRRP troop stands out as the paragon of patience and military perfection in his operations. Although their primary job is to gather information, and not to engage the enemy, the teams have had several skirmishes with the enemy, and have never failed to give an outstanding account of themselves in the heat of battle.

The LRRP backs a sound military knowledge with quick, decisive action, and has gained prestige and respect throughout the division.



Calling Artillery.

guerrant

BRAVE AND BOLD

198th Brigade



The "Brave and Bold" soldiers of the 198th Infantry Brigade arrived in Chu Lai October 23 after extensive training at Ft. Hood, Tex.

During their first two weeks, the infantrymen familiarized themselves with the terrain and their enemy, then they were returned from Duc Pho to take over the defense of the Chu Lai complex. In late December of 1967, the Brave and Bold brigade kicked off Operation Muscatine, a multi-battalion search and destroy operation in the Quang Ngai area.

The brigade reacted swiftly and

surely after an enemy rocket attack on the Chu Lai complex at the end of January, netting 190 enemy kills on the following day.

The 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, deployed to the Da Nang area during the enemy Tet attacks to fight in support of the Marines who were defending that vital city, was credited with stopping a possible ground attack on the Da Nang airfield.

The brigade is commanded by Colonel James R. Waldie.



US ARMY

1/6 Infantry 'Regulars'



ellers

'Regular' Searches For Enemy Weapons.

"Regulars," the oldest unit in the 198th Infantry Brigade, have added to their already outstanding battle-field record since their arrival in Vietnam.

The "Regulars Da Nang Gang" deployed to Da Nang during the Viet Cong Tet attacks and played a vital role in the defense of the air-field there, killing some 262 North Vietnamese regulars in four days of vicious fighting.

The Regulars started their "march to Da Nang" in 1798, and it has taken them through many bitter and renowned battles. The infantrymen first fought in the War of 1812 as a part of the 11th U.S. Infantry.

Between 1832 and 1860 the unit fought in the Indian wars and the Mexican War. It saw service in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and in the Philippines.

During World War I the Regulars fought at Alsace-Lorraine, St. Mehiel and at Meuse-Argonne. In the Second World War, they saw action in the desert campaigns of Algeria, French Morocco, Po Valley and Anzie.

Now one of the division's most mobile fighting battalions, the Regulars are participating in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. They are commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William J. Baxley, Jr.



1/46 Infantry: 'Professionals'

The 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry "Professionals" were first organized on Independence Day in 1917, and they have since dedicated themselves to the upholding of the principles celebrated on that day.

The battalion was organized at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, from personnel of the 10th Infantry, and was immediately sent to the

fires of World War I, which were raging in Europe at that time. The proficiency with which the soldiers of the new battalion did their jobs earned them their present nickname.

During World War II, the soldiers' travels carried them through France with General George A. Patton's Third Army.

The battalion, always close to history, was called upon in 1962 to become a part of "Task force Jenson," a reactionary force assembled during the Soviet missile buildup in Cuba.

The Professionals are currently stationed near Chu Lai and conduct search and destroy operations in this area. They are commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Jack A. Henson.



*This Soldier's Form
Is Reflected In A
Muddy Stream As
He Loads A Ma-
chinegun Clip For A
Friend During A
Lull in Action Near
Chu Lai.*



ellers



Infantryman Destroys Enemy Supplies.

ellers

1/52 Infantry

‘Ready Rifles’

One of the proudest units in the 198th Infantry Brigade is the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry. Its soldiers earned their nickname, the “Ready Rifles,” by their ability to utilize firepower and meet the enemy on any field of battle.

Constituted as Company A, 52nd Infantry, the Ready Rifles were formed in 1917 and fought in the Alsace and Meuse-Argonne campaigns during World War I. During WWII the soldiers, this time under the banner of the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion’s Com-

pany A, participated in campaigns in the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and in Central Europe.

Living up to their name, the Ready Rifles earned Distinguished Unit Citations for battles at Bastogne (“the Battle of the Bulge”) and the Remagen Bridgehead.

The Ready Rifles, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Paul A. Roach, Jr., are currently engaged in the defense of the Chu Lai base camp and airfield.



11th Brigade

'Jungle Warriors'



'Jungle Warriors' Enjoy Striking View.

us army

The 11th Infantry Brigade's "Jungle Warriors" sailed into Qui Nhon in mid-December of 1967 after extensive training at the Army's Jungle and Guerrilla Warfare Center in Hawaii to become the newest fighting force in the Americal Division.

The brigade dates back to World War I, where it served as a part of the 6th Infantry Division in France.

Though the 11th is the newest arrival of Americal's three combat brigades, it is entrusted with two areas of operations, including one

major, named search and destroy operation. The Jungle Warriors are responsible for fighting in both the Duc Pho and the Operation Muscatine areas.

Task Force Barker, formed in mid-January as a combat element of Operation Muscatine, has been in increasingly heavy contact in the area near Quang Ngai. The task force is made up of one company from each of the three infantry battalions in the 11th.

The brigade commander is Colonel Oran K. Henderson.





us army

3/1 'Always First'

The 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry "Always First" soldiers have one of the oldest heritages in the Regular Army.

First organized in 1791, the 1st Infantry fought in many Indian wars, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and World War II. The battalion has been assigned to the United States Military Academy at West Point and has been a part of a battle group head-

quartered in New York City as part of its peacetime duties.

It was inactivated in 1963, but was quickly reorganized to join the 11th Brigade at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in 1966, where its men underwent extensive jungle training before being shipped to Southeast Asia.

The battalion is currently engaged in combat in both the Operation Muscatine and Duc Pho areas.



old unit

1/20

Sykes'

Regulars

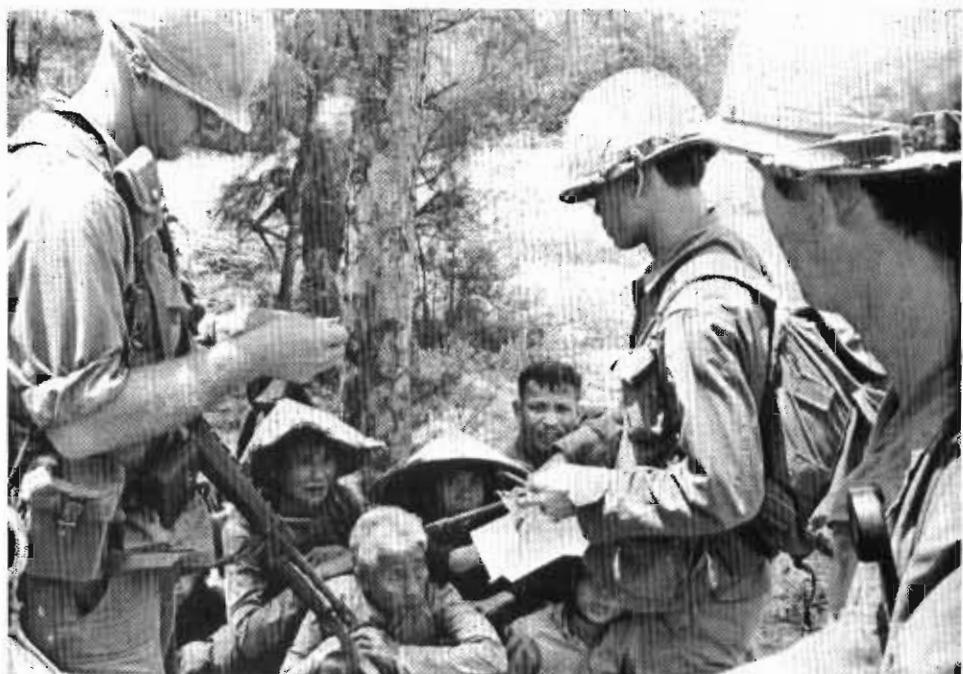
The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry "Sykes' Regulars" can trace their history back to 1862, through the Civil War, numerous Indian wars, the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection and World War II.

The outfit was organized and redesignated in 1957 as a company of the 1st Battle Group, 20th Infantry, in the Panama Canal Zone, then inactivated some five years later. Its last reorganization was in 1966, when it became a part of the 11th Brigade and its soldiers began training for their deployment to Southeast Asia.

The soldiers of the battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Edwin D. Beers, are currently participating in combat activities in both the Muscatine and Duc Pho areas.



us army



Soldiers Question Villagers During Search Operation.

us army

4/3 Infantry: 'Old Guard'

Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry "Old Guard" boast of being members of the oldest and one of the most decorated infantry outfits in the Regular Army.

The "Old Guard" received its nickname in the Mexican War when General Winfield K. Scott instructed his staff members to "remove your hats to the Old Guard of the Army" as its soldiers marched triumphantly into Mexico City. They had been given the honor of marching at the head of

the American troops because of their gallantry during the Battle of Cerro Gord.

The 4th Battalion of the 3rd Infantry was organized July 1, 1966, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and assigned to the 11th Infantry Brigade.

Its soldiers, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Alvin E. Adkins, are now based at Landing Zone Sue and are participating in Operation Muscatine in the area near Quang Ngai.



1/1 Cav Dragoons— Quick and Strong



US ARMY

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry "Dragoons" provide the muscle and speed needed to overpower the enemy in their role as the division's mobile armored strike force. Working in armored vehicles affording them firepower and flexibility, the squadron's soldiers have amassed one of the best battlefield records for a unit their size in Vietnam.

Being at the top of the list is not a new experience for the cavalrymen. Their successes with the Americal Division mark just another milestone in an already long trail of battlefield glory. Organized in 1832 as the "First Regiment of Dragoons," the unit is the most battle-honored in the Army, with 68 decorations to its credit.

Among its famous members it

numbers Jefferson Davis, Kit Carson and John J. Pershing.

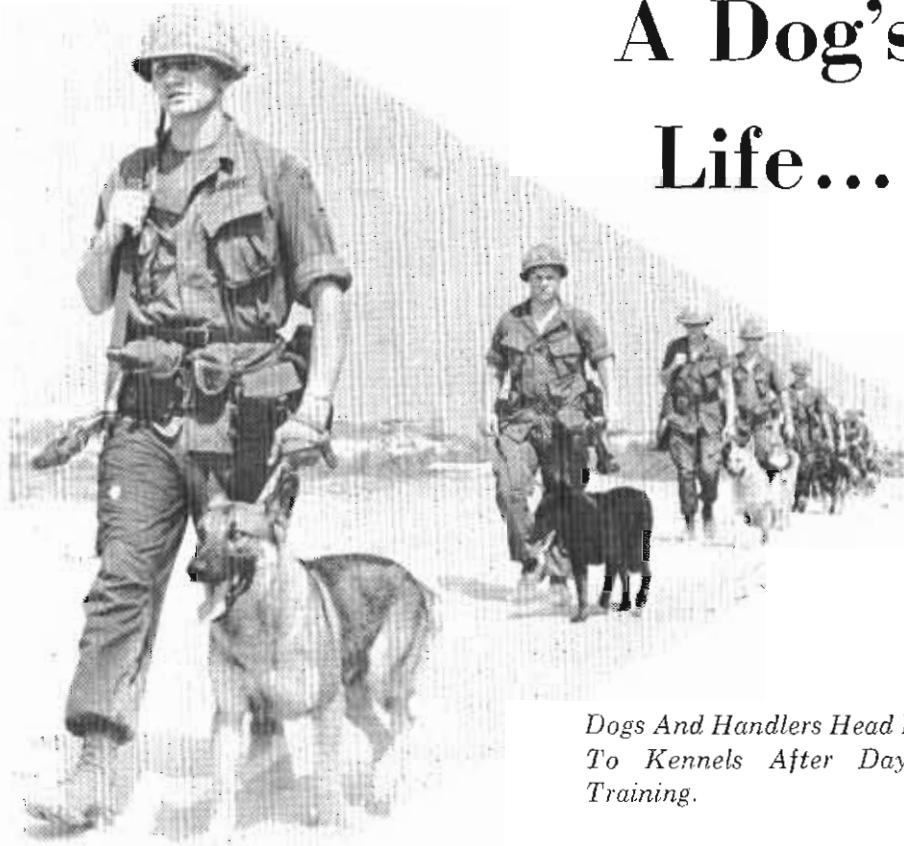
Also the first unit in the Army to become completely mechanized, the men and vehicles of the "Dragoons" arrived in Chu Lai in August, 1967, from Ft. Hood, Tex., where they had been in serious training with the 1st Armored Division. The troops still proudly sport the "Old Ironsides" patch they wore when they arrived.

In continuous heavy contact from nearly the moment they arrived, the cavalrymen are currently working closely with air cavalry elements of the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry's Troop C in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.



A Dog's

Life...



*Dogs And Handlers Head Back
To Kennels After Day Of
Training.*

guerrant

They have four legs and are the friend of every infantryman in the Americal Division. By detecting and giving silent warning of any foreign presence outside the main body, the scout dogs of the 48th and 57th scout dog platoons have proven an invaluable deterrent to enemy infiltration and aggression within the division.

The 48th Scout Dog Platoon is attached to the 196th Infantry Brigade while the 198th Infantry Brigade is the home for the 57th Scout Dog Platoon.

Each platoon has one officer and a group of enlisted men who

serve as dog handlers and trainers. Working as a team the duo may fulfill a variety of missions while on patrols or sentry duties. Detection is the key to the canine's effectiveness, and ambush sites, snipers, caches, mines and booby traps are just some of his targets. The teams usually go to the field for about five days but do not remain idle while in the base camp; an intensive program of proficiency training is maintained to keep the close rapport necessary between handler and dog.



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us army

Two combat aviation battalions help the Americal Division carry the war to all parts of its large area of operations.

The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, attached to Task Force Oregon since April of 1967, contains four assault helicopter companies and one assault support helicopter company. Known as the "Fighting Fourteenth," the battalion furnishes aircraft facilities for combat operations.

The 123rd Aviation Battalion was activated as the division's aviation battalion when the 161st Aviation Company was deactivated last December. In a typical week,

the "slick" troop ships of the Company A "Pelicans" and the Company B "Scorpions" will spend some 280 hours in the air carrying about 2,800 soldiers to the enemy's doorstep. The Pelicans fly about 49 tons of cargo a week.

The unique Company B comes equipped with its own airmobile infantry section as well as light observation helicopters and gunships and is equally adept at providing reconnaissance support for infantry elements and at meeting the enemy on its own. It is the only aero scout company in Vietnam.



US ARMY



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Artillery Roars For Infantrymen

The Americal Division Artillery, commanded by Colonel Lawrence M. Jones, has continually produced outstanding support of the ground gaining arms of the Americal Division and other Free World forces in Vietnam.

Coordinating the efforts of its organic battalions and as many as five direct support battalions at one time, the artillery of the Americal Division has fired more than 1,500,000 rounds in support of the Vietnamese struggle.

Originally activated under combat conditions in the Pacific in May of 1942 with the Americal Division in New Caledonia, it supported the division through the

Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Southern Philippines and Leyte campaigns.

Presently, Division Artillery consists of the 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin T. Meadows, and the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Warren M. Schuab.

Three other artillery units support the Americal Division, but are not part of Division Artillery. They are the 3/82nd Artillery with the 196th Infantry Brigade, the 1/14th Artillery with the 198th Brigade, and the 6/11th Artillery with the 11th Brigade.



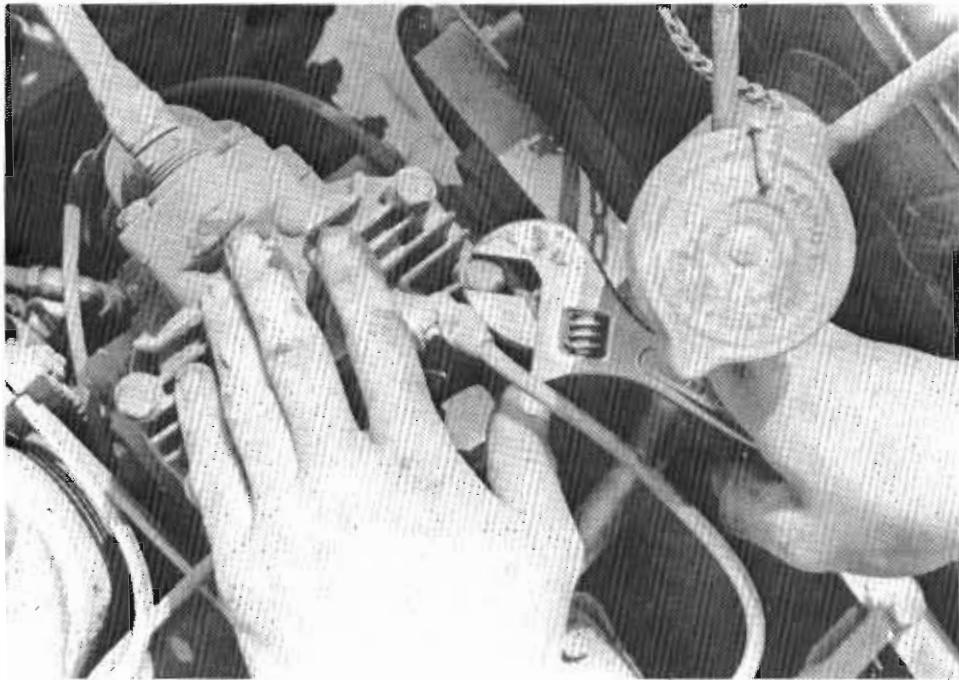


ellers

Above, Artillerymen Prepare To Fire 105mm Howitzer. Below, 175mm Gun Is Framed Across Sky Seconds After Firing A Round In Support Of American Ground Troops.



breedlove



guerrant

The Americal Support Command, whose units provide operational support to elements of the Americal Division, was activated in Vietnam on December 8, 1967. It is comprised of the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion, 723rd Maintenance Battalion and the 23rd Medical Battalion.

The 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion supports the division and attached units by providing a controlled flow of supplies and essential goods. The battalion is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Hiram K. Tompkins.

Lieutenant Colonel William H. Alfonte commands the 723rd Maintenance Battalion which supports field maintenance operations on much of the division's material. Personnel are well-trained in numerous areas of equipment service and preventative maintenance.

Division-level medical service as well as unit level support on an area basis is directed by Lieuten-

SUPPORT COMMAND

ant Colonel William S. Augerson, commander of Americal's 23rd Medical Battalion.

The multi-battalion support force is headed by Colonel Robert M. Rose with headquarters in Chu Lai. Members of the Americal Support Command are not only giving vital assistance to units of the division through medical, supply and transportation duties but they are currently forming a band to fulfill the division's music needs.



Signalmen Keep Communications Going Strong

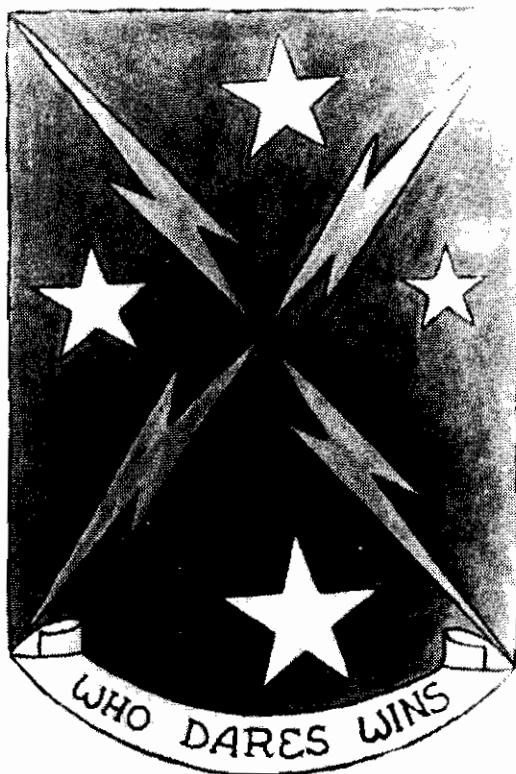
The 523rd Signal Battalion provides the Americal Division with a communications system needed for division functions such as command control, intelligence, firepower and combat service support; special staff and technical assistance for the planning and control of all division communications; direct support cryptologic support for the division, and limited photographic service.

The 523rd Signal Battalion, although activated on January 10, 1968, is by no means a newcomer to the Americal Division. Prior to its activation as the 523rd and assignment to the division, the battalion was the 509th, a stracomm unit of the 1st Signal Brigade attached to the division. It arrived in Chu Lai in April of 1967.

In support of the tactical elements of the division the battalion has various communications sites within the Americal Division area of operations.

Wherever Americal infantrymen wage war for the freedom of the Vietnamese, the 523rd Signalmen will be there to help them shoot, move and communicate effectively.

The blue background and the stars of the southern cross in the unit crest denote its assignment to the Americal Division. Orange and white are the Signal Corps colors and the crossed lightning bolts illustrate the coordination and swift provision of radio and land line communications facilities. The Latin motto translates to "Who Dares Wins."



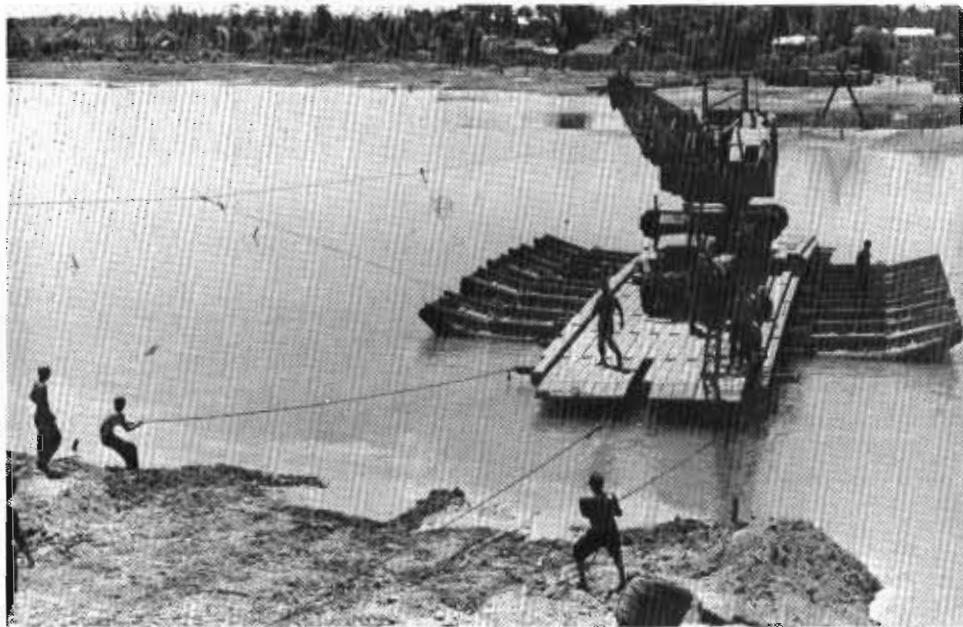
Engineers Support Combat Operations

Engineer support is given to the infantrymen of the Americal Division by members of the 26th and 39th engineer battalions. The engineers also provide general construction services for the division headquarters area.

The 26th, the unit directly assigned to Americal, is one of the few units to be organized in Vietnam. It was formed in December of 1967, with the help of the estab-

lished 39th, already stationed at Chu Lai, from other units throughout the country.

The combat engineers have built bridges, fire support bases and bunkers in support of Operations Wheeler/Wallowa and Muscatine. They also provide demolitions experts and sweep the roads in the division area for mines each day.



us army



guerrant

USAF Detachment Performs Varied Jobs

Air Force personnel stationed with the Americal Division perform duties ranging from gathering information on the weather, needed for successful planning of combat operations, to providing logistical support for the division to arranging actual air strikes on the enemy's locations in the field.

The primary mission of the USAF sections here is to advise the division commander on the use of his air power, then to direct that power against the enemy. Air Force craft also fly reconnaissance missions for the foot soldiers.

The USAF has control posts at division headquarters in Chu Lai, the 11th Brigade at Duc Pho, the 198th Brigade near the Chu Lai air strip and with the 196th Brigade northwest of Tam Ky. The tactical unit commander is Lieutenant Colonel Richard P. Schumann.

Airmen from the 31st Weather Detachment stationed here are kept busy gathering information on the weather to facilitate infantry operations.



From The Field To The Operating Room



guerrant

The Americal Division's extensive medical facilities are headed and coordinated by the 23rd and 74th medical battalions.

A soldier who is wounded in combat or taken ill while with the division can count on swift, efficient medical treatment from the time of his evacuation from the field to the time he is returned to duty.

The 23rd Medical Battalion, assigned directly to the division, was formed in December of 1967 when the existing 25th Medical Battalion was redesignated. The 74th, which was first moved to Chu Lai in October of 1967, has the mission of providing hospitalization, evacuation and dispensary type medical service to US, Free World Military and Republic of Vietnam forces within the I Corps Tactical Zone.

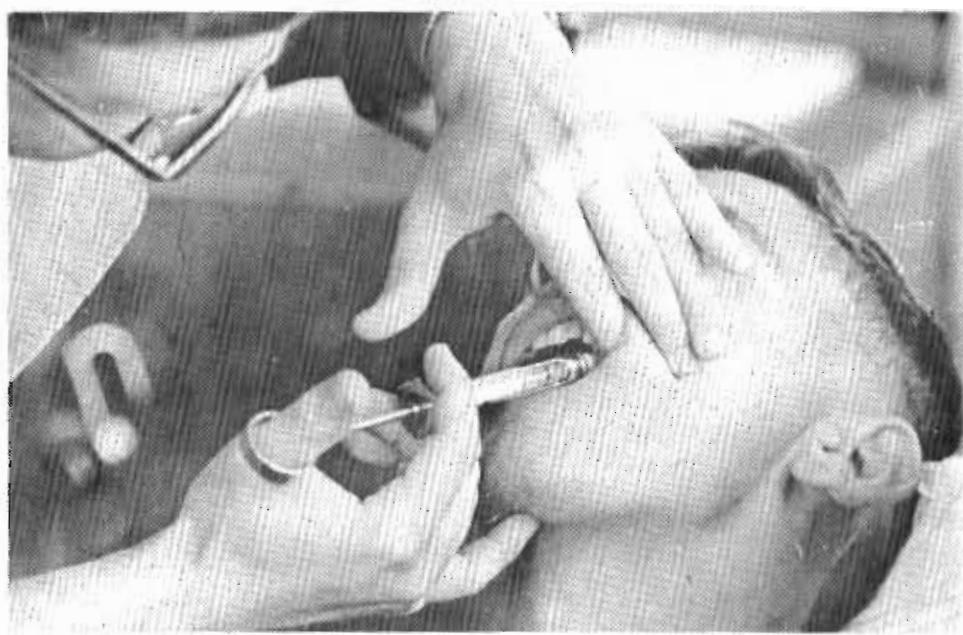
The 74th supervises the 2nd

Surgical Hospital and the 54th Helicopter Ambulance Company.

The 2nd Surgical Hospital, the primary surgical facility in Southern I Corps, is also one of the busiest hospitals of its kind in Vietnam, and has led all other surgical hospitals in Vietnam in total operations performed during several reporting periods. The high-flying medics of the dustoff unit have shown time and time again their willingness to move in and evacuate wounded under hostile fire.

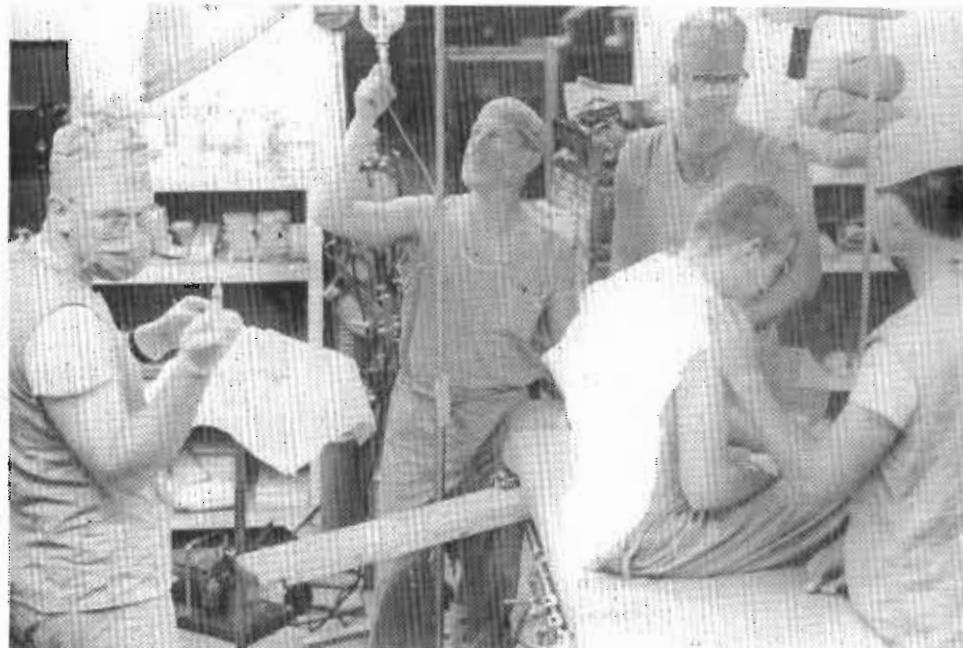
The 1st Marine Hospital Company also provides medical service to Americal soldiers, and each brigade has its own field hospitals where less serious wounds can be treated and quick treatment can be given.

The medical facilities are also used to treat many sick and wounded Vietnamese civilians.



guerrant

A Patient Gets A Shot Of Novocain From American Dentist, Captain Robert H. Adler (Above). Below, American Physicians Prepare To Make A Spinal Tap On A Soldier.



us army

Military Policemen

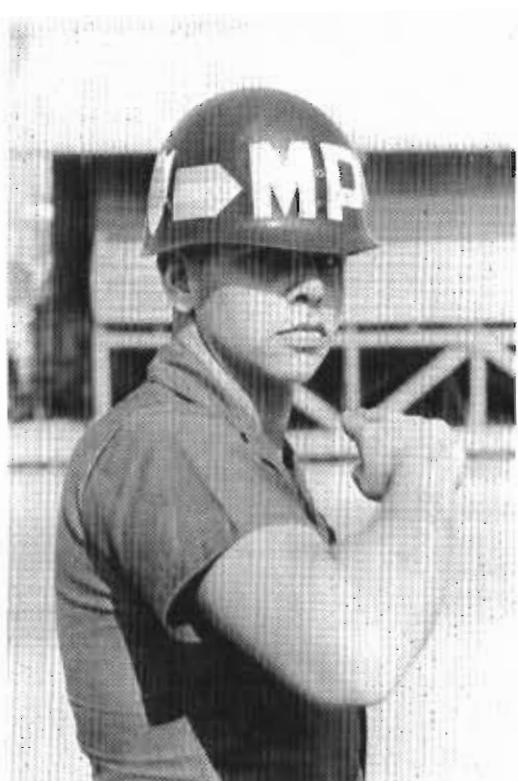
Enforce Law

The 23rd Military Police Company, the law enforcement branch of the Americal Division, was activated December 8, 1967.

On April 13, 1967, half of the 148th Platoon of the 18th MP Brigade and half of the 544th Platoon of the 196th Infantry Brigade came to Chu Lai with Task Force Oregon. Under the operational control of the Provost Marshal's office, the platoons became one, eventually to become the 23rd MP Company.

Attached to the company are about 55 Marine and Navy personnel. Besides headquarters security, the MP's are responsible for traffic control and security at the connection point where civilian employes enter the compound each day. The MP's have also shown their interest in civil affairs by becoming sponsors of a village school north of Chu Lai.

Working closely with the Vietnamese military police, Americal MP's, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Warren J. Lucas, make sure that law enforcement and security continue in the Americal Division.



An Americal MP Directs Traffic Near The Division Headquarters Area In Chu Lai.

guerrant

"YEAH? WELL, IF YOU'RE KING CONG, I'M MIGHTY JOE YOUNG."



• AMERICAN MIRTH •



"WOULD YOU BELIEVE 12-HOUR GUARD DUTY?"

