

57,000 Turkeys Are Ordered For Hungry GIs In Vietnam

TAN SON NHUT, (1st LOG-IO)—Major Chester A. Kowalczyk likens himself to an American housewife when shopping for the Thanksgiving Day feast, "but the quantities I deal with are somewhat different," he says.

Kowalczyk is head of the subsistence branch, directorate of procurement for the 1st Logistical Command, which is responsible for all meals served each day to American troops in Vietnam.

When a stateside housewife is shopping for the Thanksgiving turkey and trimmings she might be thinking: "Let's see, a 16-pound bird should be enough for the five of us, and three cans of cranberry sauce, I guess."

But when Kowalczyk orders the Thanksgiving dinner, he might be heard to say, "Let's see, 57,000 whole turkeys in addition to 325 tons of boneless turkey meat should be enough for the 500,000 of us. Oh! and 28 tons of cranberry sauce."

The homemaker might shop for the holiday goods one or two weeks ahead of time. Kowalczyk, on the other hand, puts in computerized requirements no less than nine months before the festivities begin.

While the lady of the house can "one stop shop" at any large supermarket for the whole Thanksgiving meal, the food on the menu for the soldiers' Southeast Asian holiday comes from all over the world.

Kowalczyk believes in the little extras which make the Thanksgiving meal more like "the ones that mother used to make." So he ordered some nuts and candy—15 tons of nuts and eight tons of candy.

The major also ordered 11 tons of olives and 33 tons of fruitcake.

Bit Of The Old West

25th Gets Its Man

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO)—Cops and robbers and a bit of the Old West entered the chase recently for a man fleeing from 25th Infantry Division troops.

It all started when Lt. Col. Walter E. Adams, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 27th In-

fantry, spotted a man running from his command helicopter.

Elements of the battalion's Company A gave chase.

The man jumped on a bicycle and began darting among the hedgerows and through nearby hamlets.

Men of the first and second platoons followed suit by jumping aboard a host of bicycles nearby and pedalling in hot pursuit.

When the man apparently saw the troops catching up, he deserted his bicycle and leaped on a nearby horse.

It was too late. By that time the soldiers were on him, pulled him off the horse and detained him for questioning.

"It was exciting!" said PFC James A. Duke, a member of the 2nd Brigade "posse."

"From the air it looked just like the Keystone Cops," said Adams as he described the chase to brigade officials.

Khakis In Combat?

LANDING ZONE ROSS, (1st CAV-IO)—After stepping off of a chopper returning him to his unit from R and R, Sp4 Ron King, still in khakis, immediately boarded another which took him to a fire fight where he would throw out ammunition to the besieged men.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry was in the fight, and the volunteer would be in a dangerous spot while throwing the ammunition overboard. In each previous attempt to drop the ammo the choppers were sniped at.

Circling over the company, the chopper gave a shudder which told King it had been hit. Looking toward the rear, he saw an ammo box on fire.

Using his feet, King stamped the fire out, and then proceeded to drop the ammo to the cavalrymen below.

Leave Duds ...

(Continued from Page 1)
to all who are traveling on permanent change of station, temporary duty, leave, R and R, and permissive TDY orders aboard Military Airlift Command, MAC charter flights, and all other military aircraft operating from or within the Republic of Vietnam.

Iters 1966

by the South Vietnamese government on April 17, 1963, a total of 72,733 of the enemy have become Hoi Chanh.

Highest monthly and weekly totals for the four and one-half year program were: 5557 for March, 1967; and 1198 for the week ending March 11, 1967. The average weekly rate of Hoi Chanh during the current year is 587.

Americal Commo Maintained

DUC PHO, (1st SIG-10)—The war does not seem so bad when you only have to watch it—even if from a ringside seat. That is the way it is most of the time for the men on Signal Hill in this northern Vietnamese village.

From their 490-foot hill, the signalmen's war consists mostly of working in their communications vans, guarding the site, and improving its bunkers

and physical security.

"We've fought Charlie a few times though," said Sgt. Robert P. Schuchermas. He is the team chief of one of the crews which operates a radio terminal set for telephone and teletype-writer communications between Signal Hill and units of Americal's 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 5th Infantry Division.

The first incident involved

sniper fire; the second, a small arms attack. Both engagements were brief, and one of the signalmen was hurt.

A minefield surrounding the hill wards off the Viet Cong. It also keeps the signalmen on their toes. They are careful not to take any shortcuts down the hill to the valley below.

The men moved to their home in April. Until recently they were supplied by helicopter. Now their supplies and mail are brought up in trucks that struggle up the steep, narrow road to the site.

"The men's morale is very high," Schuchermas said. "We don't have much spare time up here. But we listen to records and tapes, and we have a chaplain who frequently visits us."

The signalmen include personnel from companies of the 4th Infantry's 124th Signal Battalion and from the 1st Signal Brigade.

VC Aids Cavalry

BONG SON, (1st CAV-10) — A Hoi Chanh has led members of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade to a well-concealed enemy stronghold on the north Bong Son Plains, 70 miles north of the port city of Qui Nhon.

The former Viet Cong approached the perimeter of the 1st Brigade's Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry while the cavalrymen were conducting a search and clear mission near the village of An Do.

Staff Sergeant Louis Cota took a squad and an interpreter and followed the Hoi Chanh 200 yards into the hills.

The former VC soldier pointed out entrances which led to a network of tunnels and small rooms.

While searching the excavation, Cota uncovered boxes of Chinese Communist rifle ammunition, magazines, and several hundred rounds of ammunition.

open up on the unsuspecting group.

"I was watching behind me when I noticed the movement and spotted the man readying his weapon," Gannon continued.

"I just fired a full magazine from my M-16 into the position and hoped I had gotten him."

A search of the area revealed the body of the NVA soldier next to his machinegun.

615th MP Co Receives MUC

LONG BINH, (18th MP-10)—The 615th Military Police company received the Meritorious Unit Citation in recent ceremonies here.

The citation was awarded for the unit's services while it was attached to the 716th Military Police Battalion in Saigon and Cholon.

During the period of March 1966 to December 1966, the 615th rendered law enforcement services and static and mobile security forces for the buildings and areas occupied by American personnel.

23rd Artillery Assault Moved By Helicopters

PHU LOI, (23rd ARTY-10) — A recent artillery assault by elements of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery pounded suspected Viet Cong positions in an area about 35 miles west of Saigon in Kien Tuong Province.

The airmobile artillery assault of 105mm howitzers was the third such quick-hitting raid by this 23rd Artillery Group battery in as many months.

The assault supported Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) forces and their Special Forces advisors in remote areas normally beyond the range of artillery support.

The advanced party with the fire direction control team, the four 105mm howitzers, gun crews, and equipment were airlifted from Lam Son airstrip to a fire support base between the Cambodian border and the Mekong Delta.

During nearly five hours of firing the Battery B gunners lobbed 548 rounds toward enemy positions.

According to reports from forward air observers, the assault destroyed two bunkers, six cache areas, five river exits, one house, three docking areas, and 65 yards of trench lines. The pounding of VC fortifications also damaged four bunkers and three structures.

Target information had been gathered by the CIDG prior to the artillery raid.

Led by Special Forces Capt. James Thomas Jr., who has supported artillery movements with ground defenses for 11 months, the 154th CIDG cleared the landing zone hours before the assault.

The artillery assault elements

made no direct contact with the enemy during the operation. The assault was conducted in conjunction with a four company CIDG clearing operation in the area.

Ex-VC Doctor Now Working For 25th Inf

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — A doctor, who had been a Viet Cong for almost a decade, is presently working in the Vietnamese ward at the 12th Evacuation Hospital in the 25th Infantry Division's base camp here.

The doctor rallied to the South Vietnamese government after learning that the Viet Cong had killed his brother and sister.

Working under the supervision of the head nurse, Capt. Ellen Langston, he has been assigned duties similar to those of an American practical nurse.

"An evaluation by our medical board," explained Langston, "has shown that his basic knowledge is equivalent to that of a practical nurse, so for the present his duties are restricted to changing dressings, taking temperatures, and general patient care."

Although the former VC doesn't speak English, the ward staff is teaching him medical terminology.

The 125th Signal Battalion, who has adopted the Vietnamese ward, has contributed clothing and shoes for the doctor.



NICE RIDE—Cavalrymen from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry ride an APC on a search and destroy mission for the Americal Division north of Chu Lai. (Photo by Sp4 Richard Goral, AMERICAL-10)

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attempting to escape from a house they had hidden in. One man was loaded with many letters and documents.

"Our Vietnamese interpreter talked at him," said Williams, "and he admitted to being a Viet Cong messenger and mail clerk."

borne killed three North Vietnamese with a booby-trapped weapon during the Americal's Operation Wheeler west of here recently.

"Three of my platoons wiped out 15 NVA bunker positions and we were policing the battle-

Two of my men spotted a Russian machine gun and started to take it when one of my platoon sergeants stopped them."

Staff Sergeant Harvey C. Reynolds said. "The machine gun was in the open and I knew Charlie was probably watching us to see if we'd miss anything."

"I left the weapon where it was until dark."

Darkness fell and the platoon sergeant crawled out to the weapon, attached a trip flare to it, and moved back to a good position to observe.

"Twenty minutes later the trip flare ignited," said Reynolds. "As soon as it went, I saw three figures and opened up with a burst. It was practically impossible to miss. I was less than five meters away."

For further detailed interpretation and evaluation, the films are flown by jets to the appropriate corps areas. "Hot items" are disseminated by the fastest means to G-2 Air, I FFV, and the tactical areas of operation.

Located in the middle of II CTZ, the Phu Cat operations started last September on a trial basis to insure speedier

The equipment consisted of jungle gyms, merry-go-rounds, and swing sets.

Working closely with Maj. Phuong, the district chief, Vietnamese civilians and American soldiers entered into a self-help program to erect the equipment at the nine Vietnamese schools.

Chaplain (Capt.) Roger Knutson stated, "The results of this project have been overwhelming. Not only did we help the school children, but the whole village came out to see what was happening."

"The operation proved itself a tremendous opportunity to show our interest and concern for the Vietnamese children, their education, and their welfare."

Soldiers Directed By Observation Choppers

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-10)—Unlike the impression their name gives, the Owls of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Aviation Battalion do most of their work in the daytime.

Aviation Bn Adopts SFG Delta Camp

LONG THANH, (9th INF-10)—In return for services rendered, armed Stingray gunships of Company B, 9th Aviation Battalion have adopted a Special Forces camp at My Phuoc Tay in the Mekong Delta.

For the past two months, the 9th Infantry Division aviation unit has provided armed helicopter support for the Green Berets stationed at a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp 50 miles southwest of Saigon.

As their half of the bargain, the Special Forces troops have often pointed out targets for the gunships.

"The Green Berets have led us to some of our best hits—sampans full of Viet Cong supplies and foot patrols," said 1st Lt. Robert Rogers, a Company B pilot and assistant operations officer.

In the past six weeks, he noted, cooperation between the two units has produced 16 dead VC and 24 structures and 49 sampans damaged or destroyed.

The Owls perform aerial reconnaissance by light observation helicopters for the 1st Brigade. Each pilot puts in an average of 120 hours of flight time per month.

Armed with only small arms and grenades, they fly over sites of suspected enemy activity and hover, while the aerial observer draws a map of the area, including escape routes, possible artillery positions and ammunition supply points.

"Our main job," says CWO Richard M. Louderbach, "is to fly command and control personnel over enemy areas so they can direct their troops."

Their safety record is good, in spite of the large amount of flight time.

"Skillful flying has a lot to do with our luck," states CWO William Manzanarez. "I have just become a member of the Owls, and have found that these boys are great pilots."

Chief Warrant Officer Robert D. Perry gave an example.

"I was flying low over the treetops and saw five men in a clearing looking up at me. I thought they were friendly, but when they pointed their rifles at me, I knew otherwise."

"I quickly turned the chopper around and headed back to our lines half a mile away," he said.

"I advised the artillery, and they immediately started pouring rounds into the area. My chopper took eight rounds of small arms fire before I got out of there."

New Avn CO

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-10)—Major Billy R. Goodall became the seventh commander of the 155th Assault Helicopter Company, in a change of command ceremony here recently. He replaced Maj. Charlie P. Fleming as commander of the 1st Aviation Brigade unit.



FIREPOWER—A gunship armed with mini-guns and rockets covers an air assault for the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry. The action took place during the 1st Infantry Division's Operation Bluefield II. (Photo by Sp4 George Pawlaczyk, 1st INF-10)

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Infantry, pulls a tooth during a MEDCAP in Quang Ngai Province. (Photo by Sp4 Eric Schmidt, AMERICAL-10)

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Viet Cong, CIDG Argument Ends In Four Enemy Killed

MINH LONG, (AMERICAL-10) — An argument between seven Viet Cong and members of the 141st Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) Company netted four enemy kills and three captured weapons during Operation Hood River near here recently.

The CIDG force was working with the Tiger element of the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry as the 101st Airborne Division and other Free World Military Forces conducted search and destroy operations.

Staff Sergeant Randall Berry 5th. Special Forces Group advisor, had just checked the CIDG perimeter as darkness fell.

"The VC approached our perimeter," said Berry, "and were challenged. The enemy began an argument with the CIDG forces over who was VC and who was not."

The "yes-you-are; no-I'm-not" quarrel lured the VC closer and convinced two of the enemy to cross inside the perimeter.

"One of them overheard me in a radio conversation with the Tiger force commander," recalled Berry, "and shouted a warning to the other VC outside our defensive positions."

One of the CIDG troopers grabbed the VC's weapon and a fire-fight broke out with the remaining five. Three escaped leaving blood trails.

ed From Fire

on the fire was the Coke we were drinking," said McNally, "and we poured it on. It was just lucky that the kerosene didn't catch. The whole place would have gone up."

Normal Day For Is Long, Hard W

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—Military Policemen from the 1st Infantry Division's 1st MP Company

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GOING IN—Choppers from the 174th Aviation Company prepare to extract soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry after a search and destroy mission west of Duc Pho for the Americal Division. The 174th recently received a unit citation for outstanding service.

(Photo by Sp4 Bob Towle, AMERICAL-10)

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