

their respective units and their training to use as coaches and officials for unit sporting events.

Interested personnel are requested to contact their local Special Services representatives for additional details.

2 Bubble Choppers Fight VC Soldiers

DUC PHU, (25th INF-10) — Two bubble choppers from the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division Aviation Detachment were conducting aerial reconnaissance north of here while supporting the recon platoon from the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry.

With one bubble chopper contouring the area and the other flying security missions, four Viet Cong were spotted running in front of the infantrymen. The choppers fire on the enemy until both ships were low on fuel and out of ammo.

The choppers started back for base camp to refuel and rearm when automatic weapons fire tore into one of the choppers. With a runaway engine, the pilot cut the magneto when he was about 15 feet above the ground.

The ship plowed into the soft mud of a rice paddy, overturning. The crew scrambled for cover behind a hedgerow as bullets whizzed over their heads.

The pilot of the other ship, CWO Brady Jones, located the

and checked against the card files seven times in that period. When the addressee processes in at the replacement center, he fills out several forms, one of which is sent here.

Within a few days after he ar-

enemy positions and fired back with the only weapon which still had ammunition — an M-79 grenade launcher.

While firing at the enemy, the chopper's crew put out the call for help.

The small helicopter was able to keep the enemy pinned down long enough for the command and control ship from the 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. to land and extract the downed crew.

Rach Da Muong River, four miles southwest of here.

Reports initially listed the enemy force at squad size but as the fight became more intense, officers at the scene radioed that the Viet Cong strength was much greater than originally estimated.

In the late afternoon, 1st Lt. Robert L. Beechinor, recon platoon leader, launched a swift attack against the bunkers and found they were only part of a much larger complex.

A heavy volley of anti-tank rounds and automatic rifle fire answered the probe.

Artillery pounded the enemy position throughout the night though ground contact was broken at nightfall.

A sweep the next day revealed the 50 enemy bodies.

The remainder of the enemy kills credited to the battalion occurred during other scattered encounters.

The mechanized battalion also destroyed 203 bunkers and detained 14 suspects.

4th Infantry Division Establishes Tank Crew Proficiency Course

CAMP ENARI, (4th INF-10) — A Tank Crew Proficiency Course (TCPC) has been established by Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor to improve the 4th Infantry Division's armored support.

Located at Co B's, fire base, about 25 miles east of Pleiku, the course is designed to im-

prove the efficiency and team work of tank crews, develop tank gunnery techniques, quicken fire commands, and improve accurate engagement of targets.

All three of a tank's weapons come into play. Various parts of the course require the engaging of targets with the 90mm gun, the co-axial machinegun, or

the .50 cal. machinegun.

In actual combat situations, the course has improved the reaction times and the ability to cover an area in a short space of time, according to Capt. William F. Dougherty, commanding officer of Co. B.

TOWERS OF PENTAGON EAST—An MP from Company C, 716th Military Police Battalion, climbs in to his lookout tower on the compound of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam in Saigon. The company began its duties at "Pentagon East" last August when the new complex was first occupied. (Photo by HAC-10)

Green Beret Patrol Tracks NVA Unit

NHA TRANG, (5th SFG-10)—Operating near the Cambodian border, a 5th Special Forces Group patrol was tracking a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) unit.

Talk was in whispers; "I'm scared to step on an ant; it

might scream and give away our position," quipped SFC Anthony L. Rubie.

Swamps, streams, and woods were so thick with wait-a-minute vines that moving a hundred yards was exhausting. Visibility was down to ten yards most of the time. Meeting the NVA under these conditions would surely make a tough fight for both sides.

The first day, a tunnel and storage room was found; the enemy had already moved though. The complex was destroyed to prevent further use and the patrol moved on.

Rain fell in torrents day and night, swelling the swamps and streams head-high in some places.

One soldier became ill with malaria and had to be extracted by helicopter.

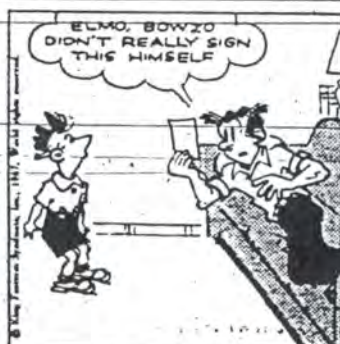
Staff Sergeant Tracey L. Brown is the primary navigator for the patrol. Working near, or on, the point, he is charged with keeping the men on its correct course, though the jungle cover was often so thick that no references were visible.

This type of enemy tracking is one of the most dangerous in Vietnam. If detected, it would be disastrous to stand and fight. The unit being tracked is sometimes regimental size while a reconnaissance patrol is by necessity only a handful of men.

If attacked, they can only try to hold their ground until reinforcements or the Air Force arrives.

Blondie

by Chic Young



BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-10)—The 173rd Airborne Brigade's Jungle School has added another important confidence course to its program of instruction.

One day of the week-long school is devoted to lectures on the various types of mines and booby traps made from explosive ordnance.

Both Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) favorites are studied, as well as all known indicators used by the enemy to warn their own soldiers that explosive devices are

in the area.

Students put their classroom learning to a practical test by negotiating one of several heavily booby trapped trails set up and monitored by the Jungle School faculty.

"The point man who misses a booby trap," said Sgt. Dennis M. Rogers, "starts the trail all over. He repeats the trail or another trail until he really knows what to look for."

At the end of the trails, the students come upon a full-scale facsimile of an NVA platoon-

sized base camp, complete with a strutting rooster. Instructors point out all the features of enemy base camp construction to their charges.

According to 1st Lt. Alfred Paul, the school's commander, the "course is as realistic as we could possibly make it, short of stocking it with Charlies. We've duplicated enemy build-

ing techniques down to the letter."

To test the responsiveness of the new replacements, a hidden staff member disguised as a Viet Cong darts down a trap door in the base camp. The door leads into a tunnel.

The students follow, practicing their newly-learned tunnel team techniques. After flushing

out Sgt. Don Jones, they emerge from the far end of the winding, 100-yard-long tunnel.

"It's a great course," said PFC Patrick O'Connor, one of the first students to go through. "The one I went through back in the States was nothing like it."

Completion of the 173rd's Jungle School is required for all brigade replacements.

Gunner Slays Enemy In Scattered Palms

LONG THANH, (5th INF-10)

The rotor wash of a tiny reconnaissance helicopter of the 5th Infantry Division scattered a layer of palm fronds in the belly of a sampan plying a stream in Bien Hoa Province and exposed an enemy soldier clutching an M-60 machinegun.

The surprised chopper pilot, Capt. Jon E. Swanson, a platoon leader in D Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry pulled away fast, turned, and swooped down for a high-speed, low-level pass. His door gunner unleashed a storm of tracer bullets, sinking the boat and killing the enemy gunner.

The body of the enemy soldier, his machinegun, and another weapon — an M-16 rifle — slipped into the stream as the boat overturned.

Swanson said he had been flying an ordinary reconnaissance mission about 12 miles east of Saigon when the action oc-

curred.

The sampan, plying a waterway between Highway 15 and the Dong Nai River, appeared to be innocent, but on the first pass, door gunner crew-chief Sp5 Mitsuaki Konishi spotted the barrel of an M-16 rifle peeking through the palm fronds.

Hovering 25 feet overhead, the rotor wash blew away the palm fronds and exposed the man with the machinegun.

Another sampan passenger, who had posed as the pilot of the vessel, dived overboard and swam a few feet to safety — minus his rifle.



BREATHE IN—An eight-year-old Vietnamese girl has her respiration checked by Capt. Philip L. Kamps, a 1st Infantry Division doctor from the 1st Medical Battalion. The check-up occurred during a recent MEDCAP mission in the village of An Phu, 20 miles northwest of Saigon. (Photo by Sp5 Dick Clapgood, 1st INF-10)

1st Avn Crew Saves 6 As Plane Burns

QUI NHON, (1st AVN-10) — A helicopter crew from the 1st Aviation Brigade's 161st Assault Helicopter Company and two passengers from the 39th Engi-

neer Battalion rescued six persons from a burning aircraft near here recently.

Warrant Officer Marston B. Hose, aircraft commander, and WO Douglas A. Miller, pilot, were flying their helicopter to Tuy Hoa from Chu Lai on a mission for the engineers.

While they were approaching Qui Nhon for a fuel stop, the tower requested that they proceed west of the airfield and try to locate and give assistance to a med-evac chopper that had just reported trouble and was going in for a crash landing.

With only 46 gallons of fuel remaining from the ship's 220 gallon tank, the chopper headed in the direction of the downed aircraft. It was found burning near the base of a mountain

with six persons lying on the ground close by.

Hose called the tower giving them the location of the burning ship and requested that an additional aircraft be sent to help due to the low amount of fuel in his chopper.

Landing in the area, Miller, PFC Clarke W. Wilson, crew chief, Sp4 Richard R. McBroom, gunner, and the two engineers ran to the injured men and pulled them away from the burning ship.

All were found to be alive but the two pilots were badly burned. Hose was just taking off with the two pilots when a Chinook landed to give a hand.

With only nine gallons of fuel remaining, the rescue ship departed the area and landed at

Qui Nhon where the injured pilots were taken to the hospital.

The Chinook brought the other injured men in to Qui Nhon a short time later.

1st Cavalry Discovers VC Cache

BONG SON, (1st CAV-10) — A Communist cache of documents was recently turned up by an element of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade.

One of the 1st Bde's teams from Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry was dropped off at dusk recently in the northeast corner of the Bong Son Plain



Computer Introduced

CHU LAI, (101st ABN-IO)—A critically wounded 101st Airborne Division paratrooper lay for 12 hours, refusing to ask for help because his buddies were fighting a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) force which attacked them near here recently during Operation Benton.

The wounded soldier, a member of a reconnaissance element of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry, had one leg blown off below the knee. His arms were bloody from numerous shrapnel wounds. A fragment tore out an eye and ripped open the side of his head.

Yet, he never lost consciousness.

"He was hit in the first minutes of the attack," said PFC William Rutherford. "The medic couldn't get to him because of the enemy fire. We bandaged him best we could. Only the medic had the morphine."

Private First Class George Fallon crawled to the wounded paratrooper and put a tourniquet on the shredded leg.

"I asked him if he wanted more bandages on his head. All he said was: Don't worry about my eye, buddy. I'll get a new one in the states."

Fallon could tell by the man's voice he was in pain. "He didn't want anybody worrying about him."

Throughout the battle, other

paratroopers crawled to check on their wounded friend.

"I tried to stay near him despite his protests," said Pete Kennedy. "He kept telling me to fight Charlie and not worry about him."

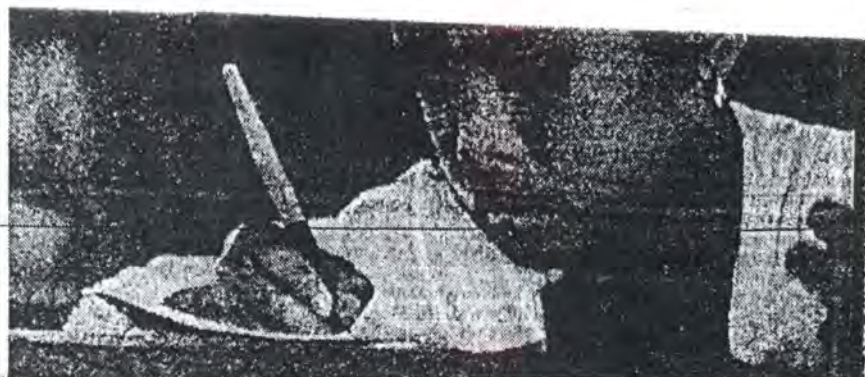
Specialist Four Leonard Pinand told how the wounded paratrooper once turned over and threw grenades at the NVA when they tried to storm the Hawk position.

"He lay there all night," said Pinand. "Sometimes he'd even fire a few rounds to let us know he was okay. All night he kept telling us not to worry about him. I don't know how he stood it."

With dawn the enemy broke contact. A chopper evacuated him.

"He was a quiet, soft-spoken kid," recalled SSgt. Walter D. Stock. "He never said much, but he was tough."

"He survived the night on sheer courage," said SP4 Jay W. Molyneux, the medic who couldn't reach him.



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER—A Vietnamese student concentrates on her work at school sponsored by the 5th Special Forces Don Phuc A Camp. The school's fifth grade curriculum and is operated at no cost to the pupils or their families by Sp4 Frederick R. Fawcett, 5th

Bulldozer Drivers Fight NV

BONG SON, (USAECV-IO) — Bulldozer operators recently met with North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars during a clearing operation in the Bong Son plains and the An Lao Valley.

Engineers from the 35th Engineer Battalion, 45th Engineer Group and the 1st Cavalry Division's destruction team were

working in conjunction with a tank platoon, an infantry platoon and an engineer mine clearing team near Tuong Son heading east towards Tuy An.

The engineer bulldozers led the way across a stream and then the tanks advanced on a village near the crossing. An infantry platoon and the mine-sweeping team was riding on the tank decks.

Suddenly automatic, semi-automatic, and M-79 grenade rounds cracked overhead from heavily fortified positions. The team had met an estimated two companies of the 22nd North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment.

The tank nearest the bulldozer received the most fire. While the engineers and infantry dove for cover, the tanks continued into the village; but the fire was so intense that they had to withdraw. Air strikes, armed helicopters, and forward artillery were called in for support.

After the initial contact, the bulldozer operators grabbed their weapons and joined in the fire fight. They killed two NVA soldiers and possibly a third who was trying to sneak down a stream and get behind the American position.

Within minutes an infantry company was airlifted in and another tank platoon arrived on the scene. Throughout the after-

noon, the four bulldozers helped reload to so relieve the driver

1st Sig Shoot Movie

SAIGON, (1st Sig) — Recently under production is a color motion picture of the Brigade's comm work which stretches Vietnam.

"Communication demonstrates the signalmen in their work," said Lt. James A. Vardier.

Varon has traveled the major signalman with his photo the 221st Signal Company footage on color film from the tactical level. They also in the film the with which a field can communicate, D.C.

Typical of the paring the film shooting of a scene will last about 20 final print. The about 15 minutes up of the equipment than an hour.

Directing most is Sp6 Frank H. is a freelance photographer in area before entering

While Labram scene on 16mm film Melvin Vaughan and white photographs the scenes board used by 4 preparing the film minute film.

"Most of the film around signal Labram said. "I are shot in live the men in the forming their mis just working around of the men, are don't have time

Vietnam Communique

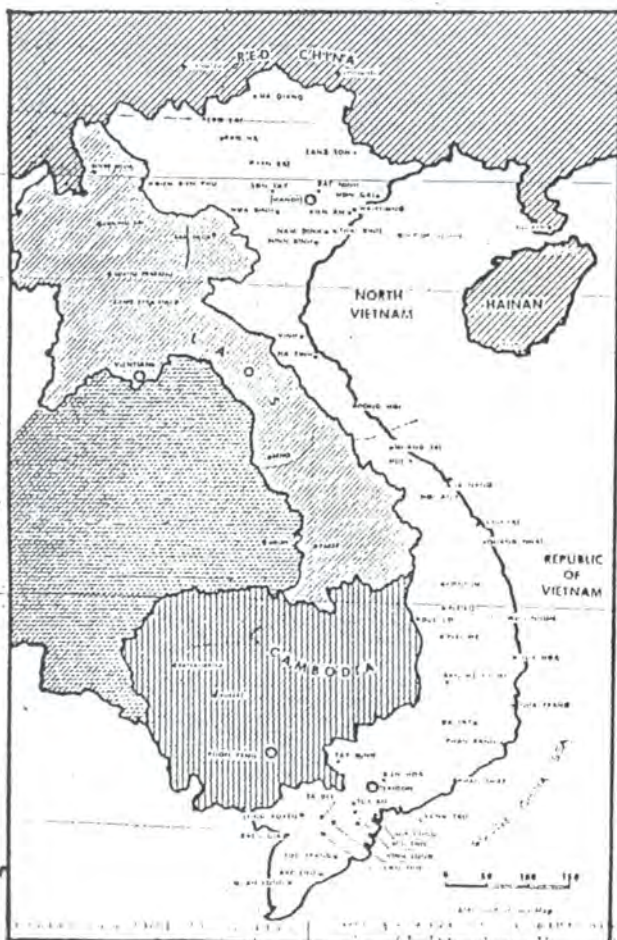
II Field Force—A multi-battalion search and destroy mission ended recently. It was conducted by elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

and the 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division. Operation Arkansas City was centered in an area 35 miles east of Saigon where Long Khanh, Phuoc Tuy,

and Bien Hoa Provinces join. On the first day's encounter, a company from the 1st Brigade found and destroyed an enemy base camp just inside Phuoc Tuy Province's northern border. The company destroyed 125 bunkers and seized one 81mm mortar with eight rounds of ammunition. No significant contact was reported in the rest of the operation.

1st Infantry Division—Operation Bluefield II, a multi-battalion operation designed to clear and widen the roads north and east of Lai Khe, began recently. This operation is under the control of the 1st Brigade. Most of the vegetables and charcoal used in Saigon travel one of the roads being widened. At present, the 1st Engineer Battalion is cutting 100-yard swatches along each side of the routes to deny the Viet Cong cover and concealment.

1st Cavalry Division—Elements of the 3rd Brigade operating 18 miles northwest of landing zone Two Bits recently uncovered an enemy arms cache believed to contain an estimated 85 percent of the heavy weapons of the regimental headquarters support company of the 22nd North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment, 3rd NVA Division. The cache contained two 75mm recoilless rifles, two 57mm recoilless rifles, three 82mm mortars, five 60mm mortars, 20 light machineguns, eight bolt-action rifles, two 12.7mm machineguns, one M-60 machinegun, 12 M-1 carbines, one M-1 rifle, one Thompson sub-machinegun, 20 rifle grenades, forty-five 75mm recoilless rounds, 28 torpedoes, three cases of small arms ammunition, and medical supplies.



Clerks Guard Base Camp

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-IO) — Every Thursday night the five full-time personnel specialists, clerks, and finance specialists who make up the 173rd Airborne Brigade's administration company take their post on the perimeter of the brigade's rear base camp here.

"When the rest of the brigade moved north to the central highlands, we were placed on the mortar," said PFC Dan Warner, a clerk-typist.

Other members of the mortar team are SSgt. Claude Hawkins, Sp4 Arthur Best, PFC Dale V. Viertel, and PFC Terry G. Frye.

To ready them in their new part-time job, the clerks were given a two-day course at the brigade's jungle school.