



**CHARLIE'S HIDEAWAY**—A 1st Infantry Division soldier checks out a well-camouflaged Viet Cong tunnel entrance. The position was freshly dug outside the perimeter of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry at Phuoc Vinh.

(Photo by Sp4 Ron Block, 1st INF-IO)

## Nine Viet Cong Die As 196th Inf Squad Sweeps Death Valley

**CHU LAI, (196th INF-IO)** — Taking part in a two-week operation near Death Valley, an area of Viet Cong activity north of here, a squad from the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, attached to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, killed nine enemy in five separate actions.

The squad, from Company C, 2nd Platoon, began the string of kills when it received sniper fire while sweeping a village.

"Our machinegun team nailed that sniper," said Sgt. Frank Stamborski, the squad leader. "Two days later we were manning an observation post when we spotted a single, armed VC and fired on him. He disappeared into the brush but we picked up his blood trail and followed it. We came under fire after crossing a rice paddy. But we fought off the ambush with the help of artillery fire. We found one dead body."

"That same afternoon," Stamborski continued, "we conducted a search and destroy mission and killed another VC, capturing his weapon."

"Then the next day the squad repelled another ambush. This was the biggest action for us. When we swept the area we found five bodies."

"Three days later, while on another observation post, the VC tried to ambush us again. We fought that one off too, and found one body afterwards."

## Hidden Long Range Patrol Detachment Sets Up Deadly Night Ambush For VC

**LONG THANH, (9th INF-IO)** — The Viet Cong platoon struggled silently to unload its mortars and 81mm rounds from sampans onto the marshy shore unaware they were being watched.

A recon team from the Long Range Patrol Detachment of the 9th Infantry Division lay concealed in a nearby thicket.

As the enemy mortar crews filed through the knee-high grass with mortars and numerous boxes of ammunition, the recon experts watched and waited.

Staff Sergeant Arlyn P. Wieland, team leader, ordered his men to lay motionless until nightfall.

"After dark we began crawling slowly toward the clump of scrub brush toward the other side—where the VC were," Wieland recounted.

Slithering single file through the grass, they moved into the open. Suddenly the point man

froze. He had spotted a line of khaki-uniformed enemy troops moving straight toward them.

"We sank down into the grass—slowly so that they wouldn't see us—and then we saw another file of VC off to our right. They must have suspected we were in there," Wieland speculated, "but we kept on moving through the grass and somehow—don't ask me how—we managed to slip right through their line. There must have been about 40 or 45 of them."

When they had gotten 50 yards away, the Americans radioed to the helicopter gunships of Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry.

For the next 15 minutes, gunships raked the area.

Rockets, mini-guns and machineguns strafed in a methodical zigzag pattern. "We could hear the VC screaming, trying to get away," he said afterward.

Before the smoke from the helicopter gun runs had cleared, Wieland's team had called artillery fire onto the position and began moving away from the action.

As artillery pounded the area,

Wieland and his team were 250 yards away directing rounds onto a disorganized enemy.

When the guns fell silent about 1 a.m., Air Force F-101 Super-sabre jets pounded the area. Meanwhile the recon team prepared to return to its base.

## Vietnam Communique

**Task Force Oregon** — In recent actions, Task Force Oregon units have killed over 220 enemy. Airborne infantrymen of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division recently killed 16 enemy in scattered skirmishes to raise their body count for Operation Benton to 178. The troopers pursued VC and NVA over all types of terrain, uncovering four different weapons caches containing large stores of weapons, ammunition, and medical supplies. Near Duc Pho, the 4th Division's 3rd Brigade closed in on Viet Cong spider holes, tunnels, and caves. A psychological operations team broadcast a Chieu Hoi appeal over the area, but the enemy responded with small arms fire. The infantrymen moved in and killed five. In other action, the 3rd Bde killed 54 enemy and captured 19 weapons, including one 60mm mortar with base plate. Members of the 193th Light Infantry Brigade killed 26 VC in widely scattered contacts.

**199th Light Infantry Brigade** — Elements of the 199th in coordination with elements of the 25th Infantry Division and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) units recently began Operation Shelby 14 miles from Saigon. In Gia Dinh Province on the Saigon defense perimeter, a light fire team in support of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry destroyed four enemy sampans, two of which were 25 feet long. The 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry killed five enemy soldiers and sank an additional sampan. A VC burial ground was discovered during a sweep in the Binh Chanh district. Medical inspection of the 29 bodies buried there indicated they had been killed by recent artillery or airstrikes.

**25th Infantry Division** — Twenty-six Viet Cong were killed recently when a platoon composed of soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry along with soldiers from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam trapped an enemy force in an open field northwest of Saigon. The infantrymen

were lured by helicopter near a suspected wooded area and flushed 26 VC out toward open ground. Gunships from the 116th Aviation Company formed blocking positions and the enemy soldiers were caught between the ground forces and the gunships. In another aerial combat assault, the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry killed 9 Viet Cong in action along the Oriental River. The assault was based on intelligence from a Hoi Chanh.

**1st Cavalry Division** — In the

Pershing area of operations, 35 enemy were killed recently, bringing the total body count to above 2800 in the five and a half month operation. Two enemy were killed as elements of the 1st Brigade combined with National Police Field Forces (NPF) to conduct a cordon and search operation in the hamlet of Tuy An, 11 miles north of Bong Son. In six brief encounters, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry teamed with the Air Force to kill six enemy.

## Soldiers Collect \$500 For Scholarship Fund In Memory Of Buddy

**LE THANH, (4th INF-IO)** — A scholarship fund has been established in memory of a 4th Infantry Division soldier killed in action.

Approximately \$500 has been collected by fellow soldiers and friends for the fund which honors Sp4 Sterling D. Steadman of Battery C, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery.

Steadman's parents have requested that the money go into the Everett High School, Everett, Wash., scholarship fund.

The 3rd Platoon from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry was on a routine search and destroy operation in a heavily wooded area near the Cambodian border in Pleiku Province.

A forward observer team from Steadman's unit accompanied the platoon.

Without warning, the platoon came under heavy mortar, rocket, and automatic weapons fire from a battalion-sized enemy element.

Steadman was acting as the reconnaissance sergeant for the forward observer team. He quickly called for artillery support and began adjusting the rounds into the enemy positions.

Completely surrounded, the 3rd Plt., supported by devas-

tating artillery fire, continued its battle, driving back each enemy assault.

For two hours, Steadman called in artillery fire to within 50 meters of his position, inflicting heavy casualties on the ever-advancing enemy.

He continued directing artillery fire until the position was overrun and he was killed.

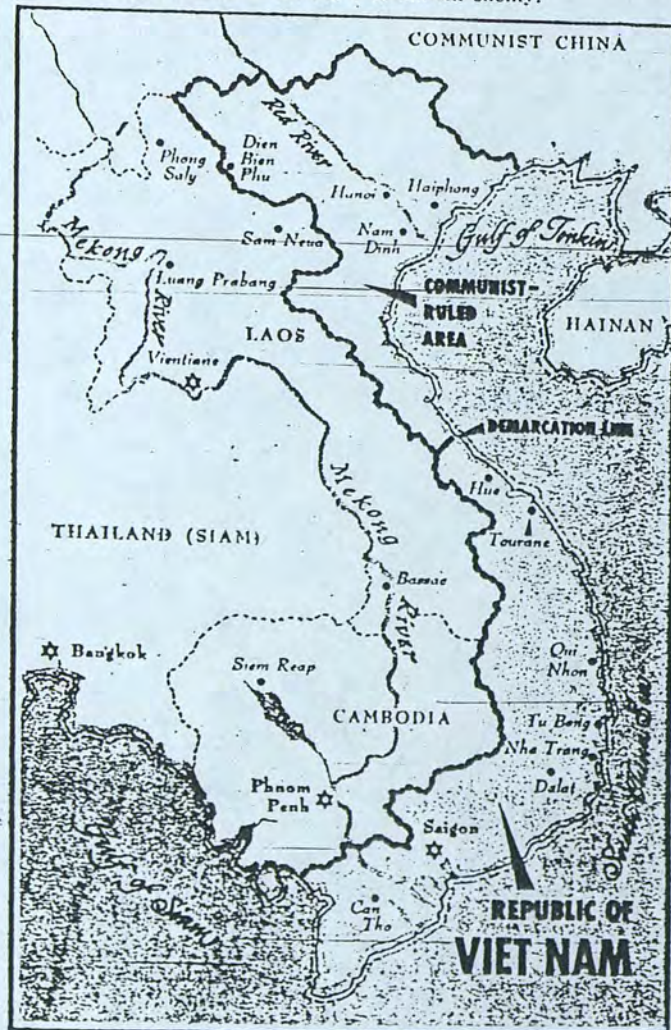
## Chaplain Gets WWII CIB

**XUAN LOC, (54th ARTY-IO)** — Twenty-three years after the action took place, Chaplain (Capt.) James W. Bradley received a Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge.

The medal was awarded for his actions during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, 1945. Bradley is presently the Catholic chaplain at the 54th Artillery Group here.

He was a private first class at the time. He was wounded in an arm and leg and discharged from the Army.

After becoming a priest, Bradley traveled through East Africa as a missionary. He re-entered the Army in June 1966.



## Stronger SFG Camp Erected At Ba To

BA TO, (5th SFG-10)—Settled in a valley in the southern portion of I Corps, not far from the South China Sea, lies the little hamlet of Ba To and the 5th Special Forces A camp that defends it.

## Available Space Limited

SAIGON, (MACV-10)—U.S. servicemen returning to Vietnam from compassionate leave in the States should be prepared to buy an airplane ticket, a MACV spokesman said recently. Both Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., have reported that space available travel is extremely difficult to obtain.

Although many flights leave both bases for overseas destinations, the seats are filled with either replacements or others traveling in a duty status.

The spokesman said transportation coordinators at the ports will permit a serviceman to stand by for space available passage after his leave terminates.

A man with insufficient funds for a ticket to Vietnam must report to the nearest transportation officer. An airplane ticket may be supplied, but the cost will subsequently be deducted from his pay.

The present camp was established in November 1966, when it was decided that the old camp's location was no longer adequate for its defensive purpose.

The result is the camp that stands here today. The camp is built almost entirely below ground level, with an intricate network of trenches to connect all the buildings with the bunkers and other defenses.

Another feature is the 105mm gun nicknamed Loudmouth. This weapon is one of the few in an A camp which is owned and operated by the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG).

The medical section here, consisting of the two Special Forces advisors, Sgts Douglas A. Peacock and David L. Graves, and their Vietnamese Special Forces counterparts, has special projects under way.

One is a regular program of medical aid to the people of the village and surrounding area. Another is to improve the medical program for the CIDG soldiers at the camp.

Peacock has already built and equipped a dispensary for the CIDG and their dependents. At present both sergeants are in the process of running a program of training CIDG medics.

The medical team has also succeeded in establishing a well-equipped field laboratory to cope with some of the more serious cases that may occur.

Ba To also has several construction projects under way inside the compound.



**TIGHT SQUEEZE**—Specialist Four Timothy Bodecker crawls through the narrow opening of a Viet Cong tunnel. He is in the process of pushing an explosive charge into the hole which will destroy the tunnel. Bodecker is a demolitions man with the 65th Combat Engineer Battalion which is accompanying the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division on search and destroy operations. (Photo by 25th INF-10)

## Chopper Hook-Up Can Be Dangerous Job

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10)—Keeping the 1st Cavalry Division supplied on their air assaults is a dangerous job.

After the men have loaded into helicopters, there is little room left for their cases of ammunition and supplies. These supplies have to be attached to a hook underneath the hovering aircraft.

Attaching these supplies is the job of Sp4 Emery C. Frye, Headquarters Company, 1st Bat-

talion, 5th Cavalry.

Every day, Frye loads three or four Army mules with about 700 pounds each of equipment and drives them to the hook-up point. The choppers hover just inches above his head as he loops the strap onto the helicopter's hook.

"It's a pretty small hook for a chopper that size to catch," Frye said, "but the pilots rarely miss. On our biggest day, we had seven hook-ups, and the longest took only five minutes."

## Soldier 'Catches' Enemy

SAIGON, (25th INF-10) — A 25th Infantry Division photographer recently played a double role when he caught a Viet Cong on film and then by the scruff of the neck.

A helicopter from Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry was on a road check operation along Highway 1 when the pilot, 1st Lt. Leland Burgess spotted a suspect running along a rice paddy dike.

"We had just cleared a high hedgerow when I spotted the man standing on a dike," explained Burgess. "He started running for some woods about 300 meters away so I flew up ahead to block him."

While Burgess was maneuvering the aircraft back and forth blocking the running VC, Sp4 Jack Mraz was snapping pictures.

"We were running low on fuel," Burgess added, "so Mraz volunteered to jump and detain the man. It was touchy because I couldn't take another passenger, which meant Mraz would have to wait on the ground till another chopper could get in."

The photographer grabbed an M-16 and three magazines of ammo, jumped, grabbed the man, and waited almost ten minutes for another chopper, while Burgess circled overhead.

The suspect was taken to the 25th Division's base camp for interrogation and later admitted that he was a member of a local force VC unit.

## By \$50,000 Electronic Computer

# Army's VN Aviation History Tabulated

LONG BINH, (USARV-10) — The idea of computerizing the history of Army aviation in Vietnam might sound fantastic, but it is being done today at the Aviation Data and Analysis Center (AVDAC) in Saigon.

It has been made possible by AVDAC's recent acquisition of a \$50,000 tabulator—the IBM 407 Electronic Accounting Machine.

Statistical data covering all phases of a unit's air activity (from number of flights flown to the number of hits a damaged aircraft took) is sent or phoned into AVDAC on a daily basis by all Army aviation units in Vietnam.

This information is reduced to an IBM punch card form where it is kept in files called

"data banks" until its use is required. When the information is needed, the cards are taken out of the data bank and fed into the 407 tabulator. This machine almost instantaneously prepares a written copy of the information which is contained on them.

"We hope to have our data bank go back as far as the beginnings of the Army air role in Vietnam," stated Operations Sgt. Aubrey L. Clemons. "When the bank is completed, there should be approximately one million cards of historical information available for immediate use."

Formerly a subdivision of G-3 Operations, the Analysis and Management Division (of which AVDAC is now a part) became a separate branch of the USARV aviation section in November 1965. In January 1967, AVDAC was formed as a branch of the A&M Division.

AVDAC's overall purpose is to help provide better control and utilization of Army aviation resources—minimizing costs and maximizing efficiency.

At present, AVDAC soldiers are involved in preparing a number of major aviation reports for use at all levels of Department of the Army.

There is the Monthly Summary of Army Aviation Losses and Performance in Vietnam—known as the MSLAP report. MSLAP is the official confirmation of all Army aircraft losses within Vietnam.

And there is the newly acquired Aircraft Inventory and Flying Hour Report which made its first appearance on July 31. This monthly report gives a

complete inventory of aircraft by unit, records the number of engine hours logged by Army aircraft, and gives up-to-date maintenance information on unit aircraft.

The greatest portion of AVDAC's effort, however, goes into preparing the JOPREP/OPREP 5 (Operational Report Five). This report is a summary of Army air operations in Vietnam. It is submitted daily to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington. At the end of every week a weekly OPREP 5, summarizing Army air activity for that week, is also released.

"In order to compile the OPREP 5, we receive aviation reports from 29 different reporting units which have consolidated information from smaller units under them," says Maj. Mitch Costino, chief analysis officer, USARV Aviation Section. "In all, we receive data from 165 different sources."

At the same time the weekly OPREP 5 is being compiled, another group, led by Costino, is busily preparing the weekly wrap-up briefing on Army aviation in Vietnam. This is presented on Saturday mornings to the USARV deputy commanding general, Lt. Gen. Bruce Palmer Jr.

Now in the planning stage is yet another report—the Aviator Personnel File. This data will be compiled to better enable the Aviation Personnel Assignment Branch of G-1 to requisition replacements for Army aviators in Vietnam, and to keep a more accurate account of where these aviators are at all times.



**KEYPUNCHERS**—Specialist Four Leland B. West (right), a keypuncher, and Sp4 Edward D. Kalina, keypunch verifier, prepare IBM cards for use in the 407 tabulator. After West punches the cards with the desired information, Kalina uses his machine to verify that the correct aviation information has been transferred to them. (Photo by USARV-10)



# Med-Evac Chopper Crew Draws Fire From VC

**DUC PHO, (101st ABN-IO)** — A recent late afternoon med-evac mission west of here turned into a seven hour endurance contest between a dust-off crew from the 498th Medical Company and the Viet Cong during Operation Malheur II.

Answering the emergency call were WO John W. Shelton, WO

Frank F. Heffernan, and their crew.

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry was fighting its way out of an enemy ambush when the helicopter arrived. Enemy fire ripped through the red cross-marked aircraft.

Quickly the helicopter moved out of range as Sp5 Kenneth

Lynch, crew chief, SSgt. Robert Humphries, gunner, and Sp5 William Smith, medic, checked the aircraft for damage. The enemy fire had destroyed the winch. Other bullets ricocheted between the pilots, damaging the electrical panel.

Realizing they could not evacuate wounded from the dense jungle without a winch, the crew returned to their base for another helicopter.

Once again the crew hovered over the site of wounded paratroopers. The winch cable was halfway down when enemy fire again hit the chopper, this time striking the oil cooler.

The helicopter began to lose power as the oil pressure fell to zero.

"We had only two minutes to find a place to land," said Shelton.

In the seconds remaining, the aircraft made it to a rice paddy where the crew prepared for an emergency landing.

"There were farmers in the field when we came down," recalled Shelton. "Minutes later they opened fire on us."

Shelton stayed at the radio until enemy machinegun fire began raking the downed chopper.

Darkness fell as gunships responded to the emergency and picked up the crew. A nearby infantry unit provided security for the downed chopper, while Shelton and crew went back for a third chopper.

"When you get thrown from a horse," joked Lynch, "you get back on. Those wounded paratroopers out there needed us."

Once more the dust-off approached the battle area. Again they received fire, but this time managed to lift out the seriously wounded. Smith treated them as the helicopter flew to the medical clearing station.

## 2 Red Cross Girls Visit Men In Field

**LAI KHE, (1st INF-IO)**—The men couldn't go to the girls, so the girls came to the men.

Two of four American Red Cross girls working with the 1st Infantry Division recently visited men of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, who were participating in the clearing of the Ong Dong jungle.

The visit by Marilyn Hacker and Jackie Lively, "sent morale skyrocketing," said Sp4 Bradley L. Price.

The girls spent much of their time sloshing through the mud, trying to meet as many of the

men as possible. As they moved around the perimeter, they passed out magazines and playing cards.

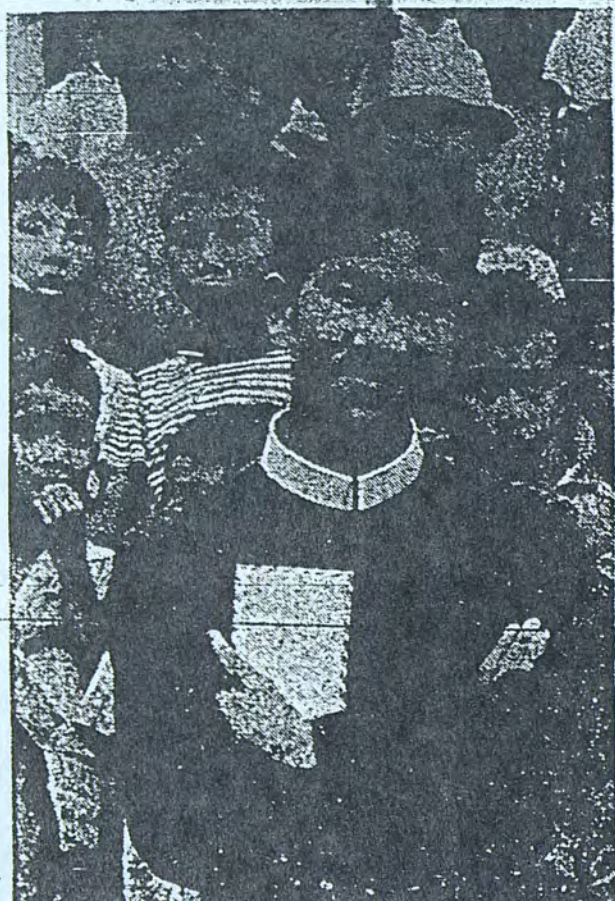
The pert young women chatted with the men and asked them questions about their jobs and what it's like in the field, generally brightening spirits by their good humor and quick smiles.

During their visit, the girls learned about mortars from Sp4 Ronald E. Russell, and saw what a tank looks like up close. The girls then examined the men's rain shelters, trying to decide who had built the best one.

Later that day, Marilyn and Jackie made the evening meal better for everyone when they battled the rain and tried their hand at serving the men chow.

Specialist Four Lloyd W. Moss probably spoke for everyone when he said, "It's a wonderful thing and a great sacrifice for the girls to come out to the field and brave the mud, rain and insects."

"We realize this and that's why it builds our morale up so fast."



**STATESIDE CONTRIBUTION**—Father Joseph Loc, director of the Gia Dinh Boys Orphanage in Vung Tau, holds an envelope containing contributions raised by girls from the South High School club in Cleveland, Ohio. The money was presented to the orphanage by the 73rd Surveillance Airplane Company, 1st Aviation Brigade. (Photo by 1st AVN-IO)

## Radio Unit Helping Villagers To Receive Medical Care

**CHU LAI, (196th INF-IO)** — In a small village four miles south of here, the 498th Radio Research Unit (RRU), which supports the 19th Light Infantry Brigade, recently started a battle to win the hearts, minds, and support of 300 villagers.

The unit visits the village of Phouc An three times a week, treating the sick, evacuating the seriously ill to hospitals, and finding ways to help the villagers help themselves.

Word of the unit's good work is rapidly spreading among the people.

While in the village recently, Capt. William E. Hough, commanding officer of the detachment, was told by a village boy that a baby had badly hurt his hand.

The 15-month-old child had received a deep wound on the little finger of his left hand, cutting it to the bone.

The accident had occurred two days earlier when the child placed his hand on a block where his mother was chopping rice plants with a machete.

After a trip to the hospital and treatment for the wound, Hough stated that the child will regain at least ninety percent use of the hand. The gash had made the hand less than ten percent usable before treatment.

The next day, the captain and his men made medical treatment possible for two more villagers who had undergone much suffering in the past without attention.

A 77-year-old man was afflicted with ulcerated varicose veins which had deteriorated the skin below the level of the flesh in an area more than two inches square.

Later Hough saw a 7-year-old girl with one leg bent back 80 degrees from its normal position. It was later determined that she had been a polio victim.

Both were taken to a Marine hospital.

## Truckers Chalk Up 1 Million

**TUY HOA, (1st LOG-IO)** — The 1st Logistical Command's 24th Transportation Company recently rolled past its one million mile.

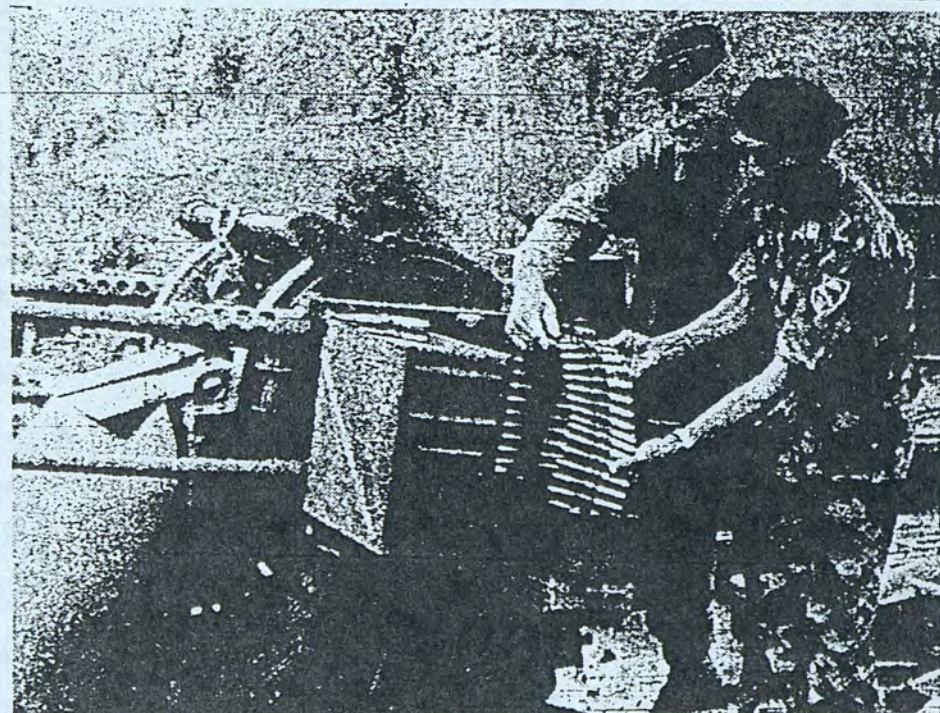
The Tuy Hoa Sub-Area Command unit hit the milestone after less than ten months of operation in Vietnam. All but about 20,000 miles were turned out during operations from here.

The primary mission of the transportation company is port and beach clearance from Port Lane at Vung Ro Bay, to the sub-area command and air force base ammunition and supply points.

The company's scope of activity has also included convoys to Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, Pleiku, and Cung Son, and it was the first unit from the 1st Log to travel on Highway 1 from Tuy Hoa north to Qui Nhon.

The unit has conducted combat support missions in support of the 101st Airborne Division, the 4th Infantry Division, the 28th Regimental Combat Team, and the 39th Combat Engineer Battalion.

Surgery was performed on the man and a skin graft accomplished. The little girl's leg was straightened by resetting the bone and fusing the hip. A brace is being made for the leg which will enable her to walk again.



**ASSET TO CAMP DEFENSES**—An electronically-operated mount with four 50-caliber machine guns is given a thorough going-over by MSgt. Harmon D. Adams and Vietnamesee Specialist Set Le Van Chanh. The two non-commissioned officers are responsible for maintenance and operation of all equipment at the Lang Vie Camp. (Photo by Capt. D. W. Thomas, 5th SGF-IO)