

# TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



Ready To Strike . . . . Anywhere, Anytime

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TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

April 10, 1967

## VC Chased in Hau Nghia Province



**ER FIRE**—Men of the 1st Bn., 27th Inf., crawl forward under heavy fire to assist a buddy who has been hit. Heavy contact was made with the enemy after the men swooped into the area aboard helicopters. The action was part of Operation "Walaia." (Photo By PFC David Givens)

### Evidence Shows Female VC Working in War Zone C

Members of the 3rd Bde., 11th Armored Cav. Regt. swept through the northern areas of War Zone C, more and more of

#### s Rock Mine Covered By Bag Fillers

sandbags can be a dirty job, but for the men of the 1st Bn., 27th Inf., it paid big dividends in the recent operation south of Chi. The 1st Bn., 27th Inf. soldiers were digging a trench and a de-posit. "I was digging a piece of com- mo wire," Joseph Holland of Kut-

and the three men with him followed the center of the bat- tle. The helicopter resupply pad. The men found a pile of rocks," said Hol- land. Once detonated, the rocks would have filled the air.

Viet Cong fragment the men their job, this time little more interest-

the larger VC base camps and supply dumps are being un- earthed.

Believed to be a sizable com- plex of the COSVN headquarters, these camps have furnished good- sized caches of ammunition, new tools and a variety of products vital to the Viet Cong war ef- forts.

The larger base camps ap- parently house a permanent el- ement of an organized female au- xiliary, most likely a seamstress team used to make and repair VC uniforms. Chinese manufactured sewing machines and even an old model American sewing machine have been found in excellent working condition.

In past search and destroy mis- sions, there has been evidence that there was an occasional woman present in the base camp from items of clothing and per- sonal items left behind.

More recently uncovered camps have produced larger quantities of female pajama-type garments, new unworn pink and blue cotton sweaters, and un- dergarments. Searchers have found among the abandoned clothing, long lengths of hair that is worn as western women wear wiglets, to make fake "pony tails" hair- styles and natural hair appear- longer.

### Okay Fans!

The "Tropic Lightning News" readership has reached its peak according to one of our correspond- ents recently returned from Op. "Walaia."

While searching a sus- pected enemy hootch, he found a page of the TLN wrapped in a plastic bag filled with documents and hidden in a crack between the roof and wall.

## VC's Finest Regiment Falls to US

A decisive victory for the 3rd Bde., 4th Inf. Div. in the battle of Suoi Tre caused the defeat of one of the finest Viet Cong regiments.

The March 21 battle found the tough 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment throwing five bat- talions of enemy soldiers at the forward element of the 3rd Bri- gade participating in Operation "Junction City" — they never made it.

Ever since the brigade estab- lished its base camp near the tiny hamlet of Dau Tieng, the 272nd has been under constant surveillance. On nearly every op- eration the infantrymen took part in, evidence of the regiment's presence was found. The enemy unit was one of the

Viet Cong's best organized and equipped regiments in South Viet- nam. Its morale was exceptional and its fighting ability was worthy of high praise. Their fire power consisted of scores of re- coilless weapons plus great quan- tities of automatic rifles. One mark of distinction was the fact that the regiment would attack in daylight as well as after dark. One fault of the 272nd Regt. was that it severely underestimated the guts of the American soldier. Engagement of the 272nd Regt. was one objective of the 3rd Bri- gade. It was hoped that large scale contact would occur, rather than the sporadic contact of the past.

During the recent Guam Con- ference the Viet Cong wanted and

needed a large scale victory. The 272nd Regt. and attached forces were sure they could score a ma- jor conquest against the Ameri- cans. The massive attack was well planned and carefully pre- pared, and as captured docu- ments later showed, it was to bring hope to the Viet Cong ob- jective, but it proved to be a vain attempt.

Their offensive brought them to the 3rd Brigade and accounted for about one half of the their unit being destroyed.

The 3rd Brigade had never re- ally participated in a large battle, but when the VC regiment hit the American perimeter the 4th Div. proved itself as a fighting unit.

## Chowhounds to the Rescue In Charge of 'Stripped Bde.'

By Sp4 Terry Richard

After being caught with their pants down, the 25th Division's "Wolfhounds" conducted a "charge of the stripped brigade" to rout several VC snipers and save their evening chow.

The 2nd Bn., 27th Inf., Wolf- hounds were in various stages of undress when VC sniper fire threatened to cancel their daily re-supply chopper which was also carrying their only hot meal of the day. As the sniper fire began, the thinly-clad troopers grabbed their weapons and charged the enemy firing position.

The unit, participating in Operation "Walaia," had just crossed the Oriental River and was setting up for the night when sniper fire raked the area preventing the helicopter from landing. About half of the men were on perim- eter defense and the other half had taken off boots, socks, shirts, and in some cases pants, trying to get them dried out after cross- ing canals and rice paddies earlier.

"When the firing started, some- one yelled 'they're stopping the chow again' so we grabbed our weapons and took off after the sniper," said Capt. David Cooper, Co. A, commander from Honolulu, Hawaii. Sniper fire had prevented the re-supply ship from landing the night before.

Cooper chuckled when he said, "When we took off across the dry rice paddies some men were hop- ing along with only one boot on, several men were yelping 'ohs and ahs' as they ran across the hard field with nothing on their feet." The captain continued, "One sergeant was running to- ward the enemy wearing only shorts and a steel pot with his weapon crackling."

Someone commented later, "The troops looked like they were

running from a police raid."

The enemy snipers apparently thought the Wolfhounds were a bunch of mental patients and de- cided to clear out before they were annihilated, for there was no more sniper fire that night... and the hot chow was delivered.

## 13 VC Killed; Base Camps Uncovered

Elements of the 1st Inf. Div., 11th Armored Cav. Regt. 173rd Airborne Brigade and 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. killed 13 enemy during scattered contacts in Op- eration "Junction City" north of Tay Ninh City in Tay Ninh Province. Two U. S. troops were killed and 15 wounded. Two base camps and an underground ware- house were uncovered.

A company of the 173rd Air- borne Brigade, sweeping an area 28 Km northeast of Tay Ninh City, uncovered the two base camps. One camp contained five bunkers, seven huts and an as- sortment of weapons including four carbines and one Thompson submachine gun. The other camp had 60 bunkers and three huts and appeared to have been used in the last 36 hours.

Shortly after, another company of the 173rd discovered an under- ground warehouse in an area, 29 Km northeast of Tay Ninh City. Large enough to support a divi- sion, the warehouse contained air compressors, protective masks and assorted weapons. Sporadic contact in the area prevented the company from completing a ma- teriel inventory.

# Creativity, Ingenuity, Traits of a Soldier

Photos by 25th Division Information Office

Many a time in basic training and once in a while afterwards a soldier hears "Can't you guys do anything right?" Perhaps servicemen do make mistakes in different activities but there is one thing that the American soldier can do up in fine fashion any time, anywhere and with anything. He can put his mind to work to find a better and easier way of doing a job or not doing a job.

The creativity, ingenuity and workmanship of a trooper hits some fantastic heights when he is trying to grab a little extra sleep, make his job easier or just plain make his life more comfortable.

A little snooping and scavenging may stack up what appears to be a pile of junk. An hour later that "junk" has been turned into an effective, although not always beautiful, table, stool, an improvised bridge for rapid and dry crossing of canals, or a dozen other things.

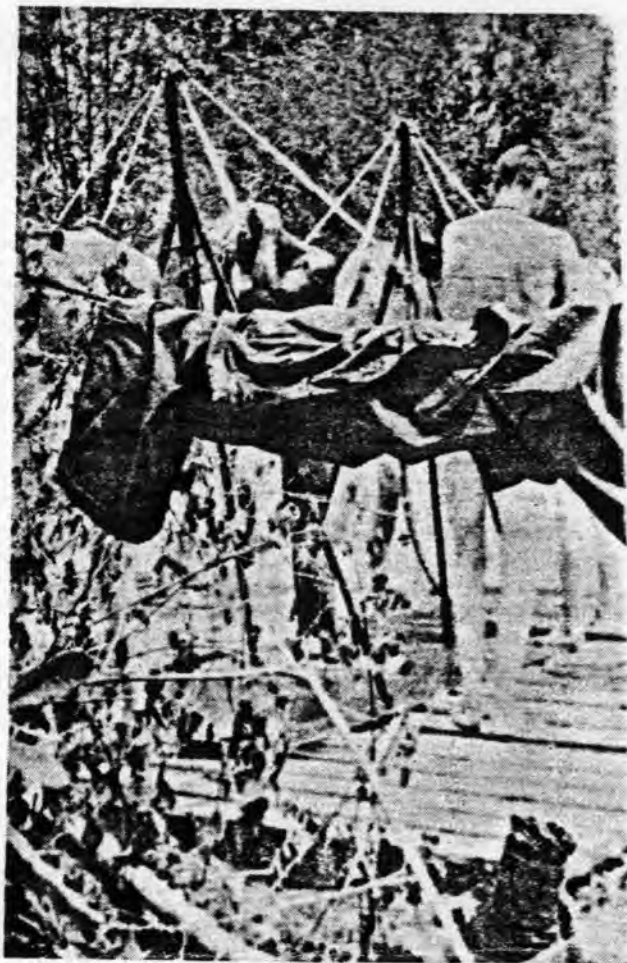
When it comes to making life easier or being comfortable, the American serviceman has no equal for the wild ideas and schemes he comes up with.

As for grabbing a little extra sleep, it's long been known that a soldier can sleep anywhere, on anything. His bed may be a pile of sandbags, Mother Earth, a duffel bag, or a chair in an airport. Wherever it is, a man in the Army can always find just a few minutes of extra sleep.

A spirit of victory and creativity. Two hallmarks of a soldier in the United States Army.



This trooper may not be getting the same cleaning effect as a hot shower in a tiled room, is just as refreshing. After several days of "humping" it, the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. stopped by and made use of the "public baths."

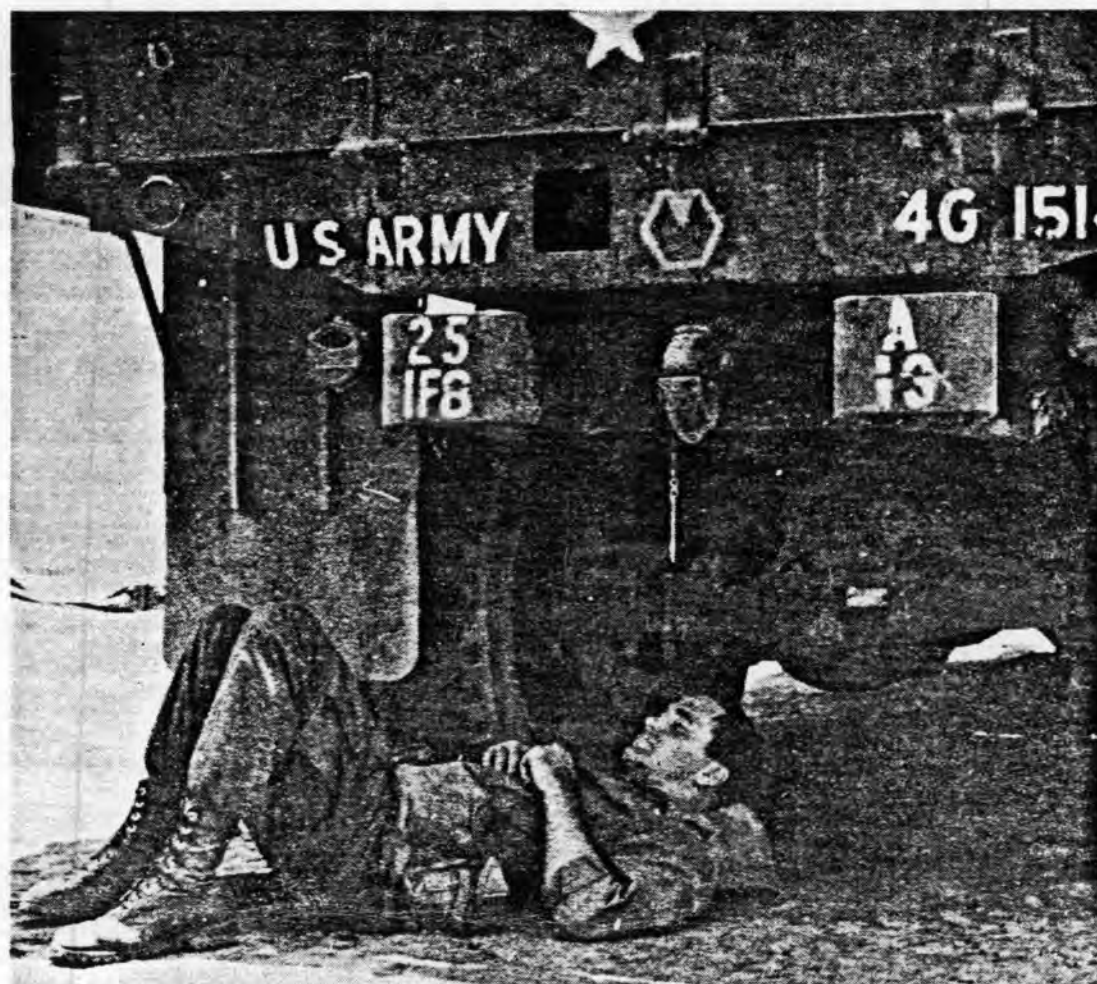


GREAT—Men of the 2nd Bde. enjoy a most refreshing shower in the "Waialua." The 25th S&T Bn., sometimes known as Shower and Towel for the men who had already been in the field for more than 30 days

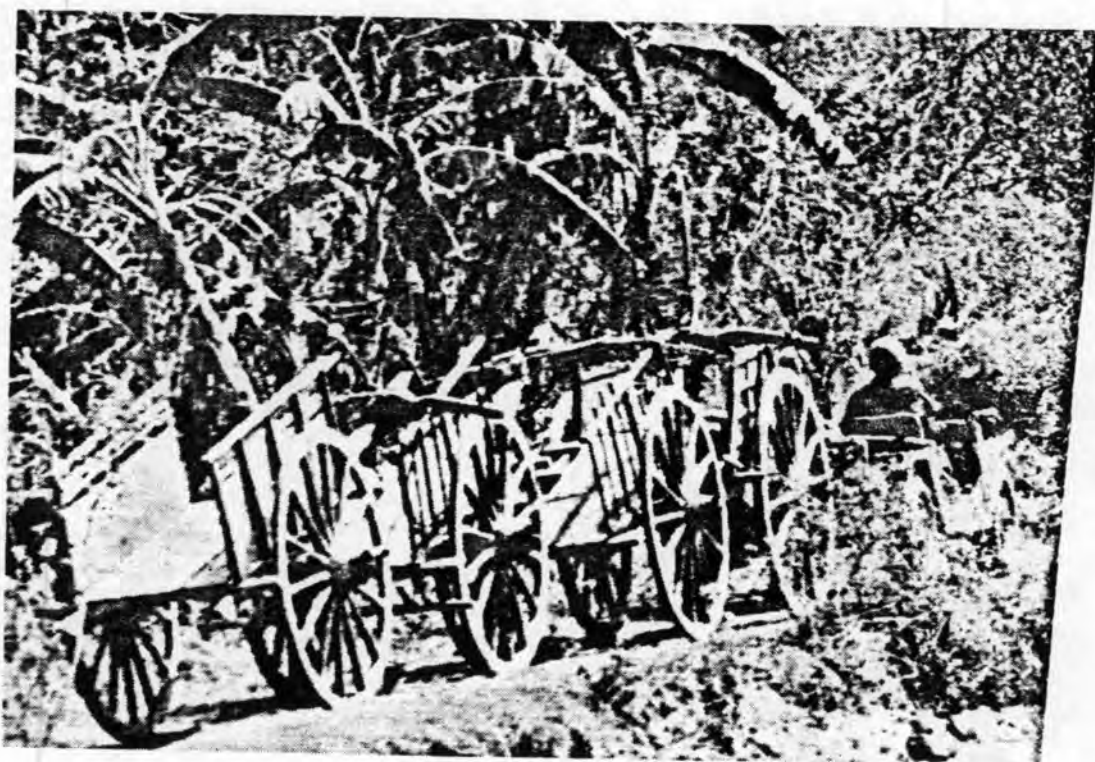


COOL MAN—Leave it to the American soldier to figure out the fastest way to get a job done. Toting a load of ice just delivered by chopper is moving the medic's stretcher.





**SNOOZE**—In the shade of the old deuce and a half. One soldier, "anxious" to get to the field, waits at the helipad on a hot day. An all right place to be as long as the driver doesn't decide to move on.



**BETTER'N AN OX**—A U.S. Army jeep tows four ox carts along a jungle trail. The village of Ben Suc was being moved to a new-life hamlet and the Vietnamese vehicles were being transported to the Saigon River for transportation stream.