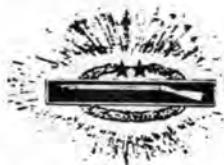


TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



Ready To Strike . . . Anywhere, Anytime

2, No. 14

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 "Waialua."

(Photo By PFC David Givens)

'dence Shows Female VC Working in War Zone C

ments of the 3rd Bde., Div. sweep through the northern areas of C, more and more of

**s Rock Mine
covered By
bag Fillers**

sandbags can be a dirty job, but for the men of Bn., 27th Inf., "Wolf" paid big dividends recent operation south of Chi.

Inf. Div. soldiers were sandbags to reinforce a position. "I was digging a piece of commo wire," Joseph Holland of Kut-

and the three men with him followed the center from their digging the center of the helicopter resupply pad, down and found a pile of rocks," said Holler. The rocks was a large mine. Once detonated, had filled the air trap.

Viet Cong fragment destroyed and the men their job, this time little more interesting.

the larger VC base camps and supply dumps are being unearthed.

Believed to be a sizable complex 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 efforts.

The larger base camps apparently house a permanent element of an organized female auxiliary, 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 missions, there has been evidence that there was an occasional woman present in the base camp from items of clothing and personal items left behind.

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

Okay Fans!

The "Tropic Lightning News" readership has reached its peak according to one of our correspondents recently returned from Op. "Waialua."

While searching a suspected 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.

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 22nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment throwing five battalions of enemy soldiers at the forward element of the 3rd Brigade participating in Operation "Junction City" — they never made it.

Ever since the brigade established its base camp near the tiny hamlet of Dau Tieng, the 22nd has been under constant surveillance. On nearly every operation the infantrymen took part in, evidence of the regiment's presence was found.

The enemy unit was one of the

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., Wolfhounds 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 "Waialua," 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 perimeter defense and the other half had taken off boots, socks, shirts, and in some cases pants, trying to get them dried out after crossing canals and rice paddies earlier.

"When the firing started, someone 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 hopping 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 toward 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 decided 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 Operation "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 warehouse were uncovered.

A company of the 173rd Airborne 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 assortment of weapons including four carbines and one Thompson submachine gun. The other camp had 50 bunkers and three huts and appeared to have been used in the last 36 hours.

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

VC's Finest Regiment Falls to US

Viet Cong's best organized and equipped regiments in South Vietnam. Its morale was exceptional and its fighting ability was worthy of high praise. Their fire power consisted of scores of recoilless weapons plus great quantities 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 22nd Regt. was that it severely underestimated the guts of the American soldier.

Engagement of the 22nd Regt. was one objective of the 3rd Brigade. It was hoped that large scale contact would occur, rather than the sporadic contact of the past.

During the recent Guam Conference the Viet Cong wanted and

needed a large scale victory. The 22nd Regt. and attached forces were sure they could score a major conquest against the Americans. The massive attack was well planned and carefully prepared, and as captured documents later showed, it was to bring hope to the Viet Cong objective, 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 really participated in a large battle, but when the VC regiment hit the American perimeter the 4th Div. proved itself as a fighting unit.

X

SILVA

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.

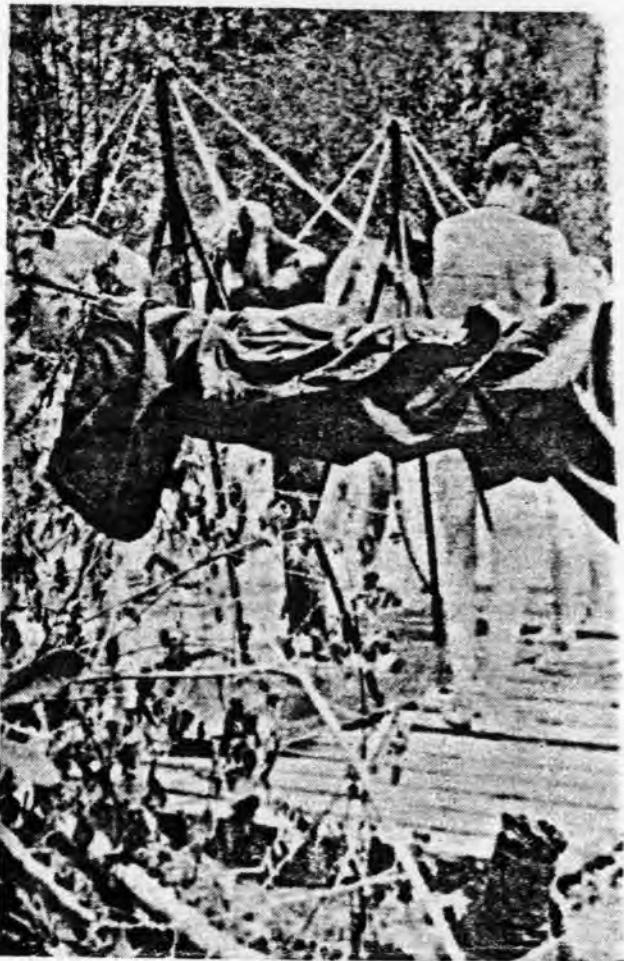
When it comes to making life easier or being comfortable, the American serviceman has no equal for the wild ideas and schemes he comes up with.

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.



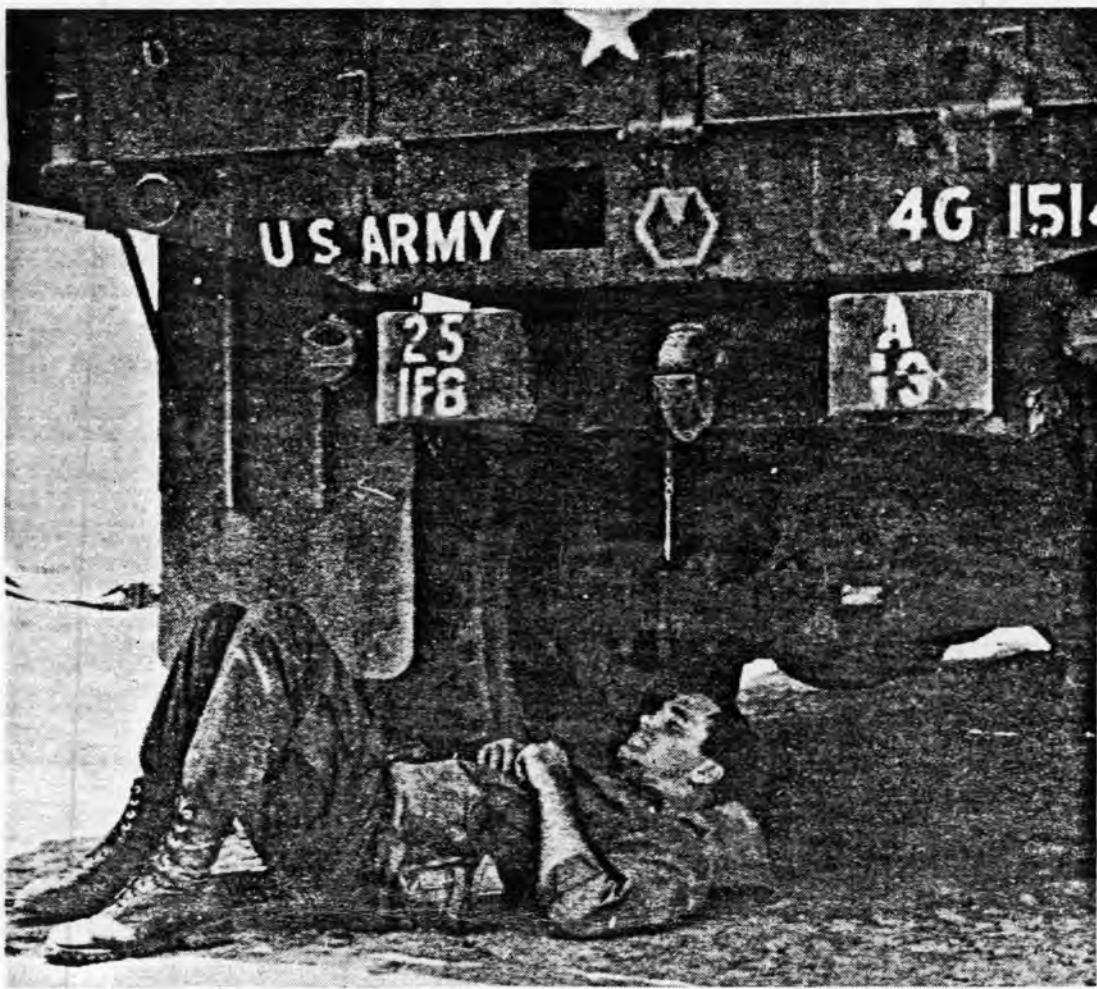
This trooper may not be getting the same cleaning effect as a hot shower in a tiled room, is just as refreshing. After several days of "humping" it, the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. stopped by and made use of the "public baths."



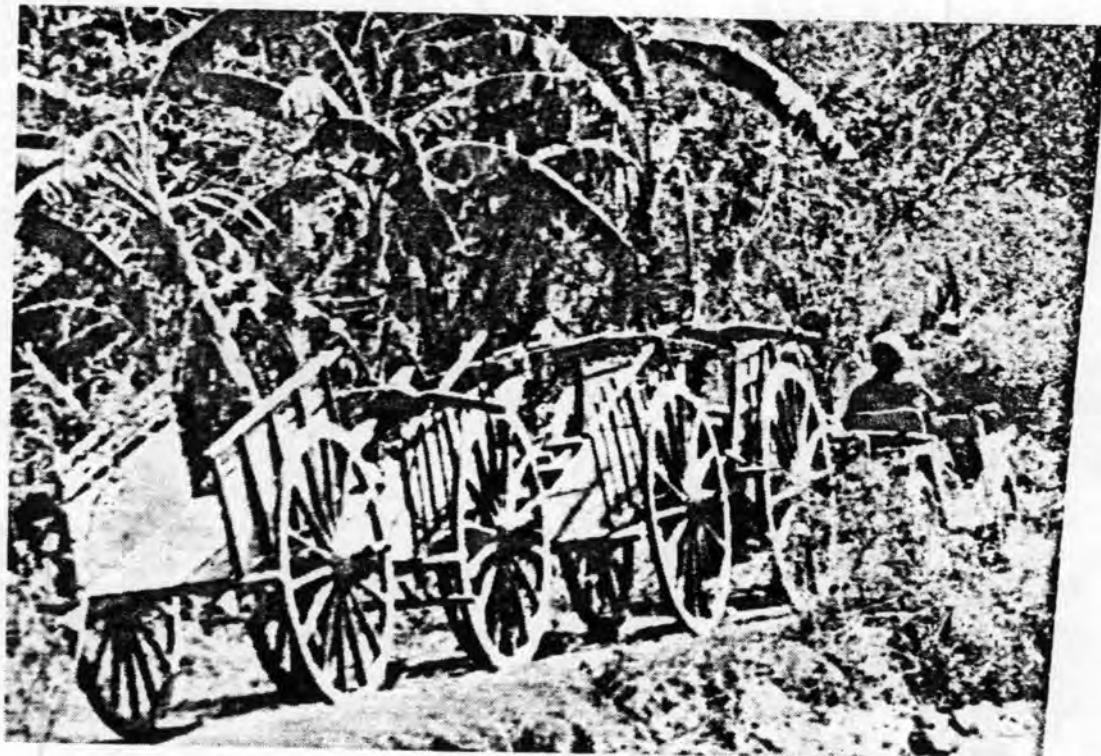
GREAT—Men of the 2nd Bde. enjoy a most refreshing shower in the f "Waialua." The 25th S&T Bn., sometimes known as Shower and Towel for the men who had already been in the field for more than 30 days.



COOL MAN—Leave it to the American soldier to figure out the fastest get a job done. Toting a load of ice just delivered by chopper is just the medics' 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 oxcarts along a jungle trail. The village of Ben Suc was being to a new-life hamlet and the Vietnamese vehicles were being transported to the Saigon River for transportation stream.