

Ho Bo Woods Cleared

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — The dense jungles of the Ho Bo Woods, 35 miles northwest of Saigon, no longer exist.

A 56-day combined land-clearing and search and destroy operation conducted by the 25th Division's 1st Brigade has leveled 90 percent of the 13,000-acre former Viet Cong sanctuary.

Specially equipped helicopters made daily flights over the woods spraying the secondary growth with defoliating chemicals.

The mission began September 17 as the monsoon season campaign portion of Operation Barking Sands.

Rome plows from the 27th Land Clearing Team, escorted by armored personnel carriers from the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry and tanks from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, began uprooting trees and dense undergrowth in the northwestern sector of the woods.

Leading the plows were infantrymen from the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry and 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, who hacked their way through the jungle searching out Viet Cong.

Although fighting from a maze of tunnel and bunker complexes and never attacking in force, 109 of the enemy were slain.

Working with the infantry were elements of the 65th Engineer Battalion, who used explosives to destroy the trenches, bunkers, and tunnels that were uncovered. The engineers also upgraded the portion of the main supply route running near the area with tons of laterite and bridge spans.

stream near Chu Lai during
2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry.
(Photo by 1st CAV-IO)

In Month

A doctor is on call 24 hours a day and is able to treat most cases except for the serious ones, which are taken to a Vietnamese hospital.

Every disease from a sore throat to leprosy is seen at the clinic, but most ailments fall into four main categories. The most prevalent are skin diseases, lacerations, dental, and abrasions. Disease is caused mainly by a poor sanitation.

Most patients are ARVN dependents from the Cat Lai area, but people come from the five surrounding hamlets, and as far away as Saigon.

Pilot In Hot LZ 5 Times

CU CHI, (25th Inf-IO)—Knowing the landing zone was under enemy fire, 1stLt. Larry Plunkett, 120th Aviation Company, still began a helicopter flight taking him and his crew from a routine mission to one of extracting wounded men and carrying in badly needed ammunition.

Plunkett was approaching the forward base camp of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry deep in the Ho Bo Woods, 35 miles northwest of Saigon, to pick up an American television crew.

The battalion had made contact with a Viet Cong force a