

DAU TIENG, VIET NAM DEC 14, 1966

new then in South Vietnam since 1964

Hãy trở về
với gia đình

Họ đang
nhớ thương
cần đến bạn

Enemy forces, meanwhile, launched heavy attacks against the district capital of Dau Tieng at the edge of the old Michelin rubber plantation, 40 miles northwest of Saigon, and overwhelmed defenders at Hoai An, another district capital in the Central Highlands.

Military officials said "the situation at Dau Tieng looks very bad," adding the city likely would have to be abandoned in the face of any heavy North Vietnamese attacks because of the lack of manpower in the region.

5 YEARS LATER APRIL 1971

JUNE 24, 1967
**VC Mortars
Wound 40 GIs**

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—Viet Cong launched a 100-round mortar attack on the Dau Tieng airfield late Saturday, causing moderate aircraft damage and wounding 40 U.S. soldiers.

Authorities said the field, 28 miles northwest of Phu Cuong, was still operational.

3d Bde, 4th Inf Now 3/25th

DAU TIENG — After being under the operational control of the 25th Inf Div for more than nine months, the 3rd Bde, 4th Div is now carrying the Tropic Lightning name, as the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div.

Prior to coming to Vietnam, most of the men of the 3rd Bde were raw recruits, just drafted into the Army. They were sent to Fort Lewis, Wash. where they received basic and advanced individual training. Twenty-two hundred draftees in December 1965 became the core of the fledgling brigade.

In Vietnam, the training continued as the brigade first sent out small unit patrols around the Bear Cat base camp. This progressed into company-sized operations, and then to the first multi-battalion operation—"Bremerton."

Designed to clear Viet Cong out of the Rung Sat Special Zone and also to promote the revolutionary development pro-

gram in that area, the 3rd Bn, 22nd Inf and Btry C, 2nd Bn, 77th Arty continued their search and destroy mission in the Rung Sat while the rest of the brigade moved the base camp to its present location at Dau Tieng.

Since the brigade's arrival at Camp Rainier, November 1966, it has been under the control of the 25th Inf Div in such combat operations as "Attleboro, Cedar Falls, Gadsden, Junction City, Ahina," and "Diamondhead." These operations covered large sections of the dense jungle and swampy marshland of War Zone C.

In a single engagement during Operation Junction City, the 3rd Bde decimated the Viet Cong's 272nd Regiment in hand-to-hand fighting at a small fire support base 35 kms northeast of Tay Ninh. When the four-hour battle was over, 647 Viet Cong regulars had lost their lives.

The brigade is now responsible for the majority of War

Zone C including the Tay Ninh and Dau Tieng base camps and the large expanse of dense jungle north and west of Dau Tieng to the Cambodian border.

The 3rd Bde is commanded by COL Kenneth E. Buell and consists of three infantry battalions and one artillery battalion. The 3rd Spt Bn provides logistical support for the large brigade.

The 2nd Bn (Mech), 22nd Inf, commanded by LTC Ralph W. Julian provides the mechanized punch for the brigade operations while the two other infantry battalions, the 2nd Bn, 12th Inf, and the 3rd Bn, 22nd Inf, scour the jungles with the thoroughness only the man who is walking, and at times, crawling through the jungle can achieve. The 2/12 "White Warriors" are commanded by LTC James F. Greer, while LTC James E. Hilmar leads the 3/22 "Regulars."

Artillery supporting fires are provided by the 2nd Bn, 77th (Continued on Back Page)



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244-435-67

So describes the biggest battle of Operation Junction City by Lieutenant Colonel John A. Bender, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry—the unit that took the brunt of a suicidal “human wave” Viet Cong attack near Tay Ninh.

Colonel Bender, a West Point graduate with the class of 1949, was personally awarded the Silver Star by General W. C. Westmoreland after the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division unit repulsed an attack by the elite 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment, killing, at last report, 631 enemy soldiers.

It was Colonel Bender's second such award during his 24-year Army career.

“The team work was the one thing that turned the battle,” the colonel said as he scanned the battle site. “They came in at us on three sides after hitting us with mortars.”

The colonel, sitting bare-chested in the hot afternoon sun, said a number of mortar and rocket rounds fell into the fire support base when the VC had already started their “human wave” attacks. His hammock, and poncho liner were filled with tiny shrapnel holes.

There wasn't a tree in the area that wasn't marred by bullets, fire or shrapnel. The four-hour battle was one of the most vicious the war has seen.

“This was the first big fight these men have engaged in and they were magnificent. No one shirked his duty.”

Married and the father of four children, Colonel Bender

platoons and companies from falling back, and making sure

scanned the camp with a clear concise stare. “The men were magnificent,” he said.

1/22nd Ivymen Uncover Weapons Cache In Hut

Plei Djereng—One of the largest weapons caches to be discovered by personnel of the 4th Division during recent months was found by men of the 2nd Brigade's Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry during a recent search and destroy mission west of Plei Djereng.

Under the direction of Captain Christopher Keuker, former Company A commander, the munitions were found concealed in a long Montagnard-style hut approximately 5,500 meters north of the unit's forward fire support base. Many of the cos-

moline-covered weapons were new and all were protected by waterproof wrapping.

Unusual items included in the cache were a U.S. manufactured .50 caliber machine gun, four linking machines for machine gun ammunition and a voltage regulator.

Also in the ordinance find were 10,000 rounds of 7.9mm ammunition, 46 rounds of 75mm ammunition, 24 rifle grenades, nine French light machine guns, one German heavy machine gun, three anti-aircraft mounts for .50 caliber weapons, and more than 500 pounds of documents and pamphlets.



BALANCING ACT

Specialist 4 Duane L. Garlock (Yakima, Wash.) tries to keep his balance as he crosses a footbridge while on a search and destroy mission during Operation Junction City. Specialist Garlock is a RADIO-TELEPHONE OPERATOR.

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FOR CO. C, 2ND BN, 112TH INF
3RD BDE. (USA PHO) 0
BY HARRY AUGSBURGER

nes and secure edges