

DAU TIENG, VIET NAM DEC 14, 1966

New them in
South Vietnam since 1965

Hãy trở về
với gia đình

Họ đang
nhớ thương
cần đến bao

Enemy forces, mainly NVA, 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.

Flames also flared Wed-

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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 cas-

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.



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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.