

Thieu Presents Award

2nd Bde Gets Pres. Citation

HUE—South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu presented Col. John H. Cushman and the paratroopers of the division's 2nd Brigade Task Force the Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation here recently in recognition of their combat record while operating in northern I Corps during the last five months.

In front of COMUSMACV, Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, and other allied military commanders, including 101st Airborne Division Commander, Maj. Gen. O. M. Baraniti, Thieu stepped down into the hot sun and attached a special streamer to the brigade's colors and pinned the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm on Cushman's chest.

During the ceremony the entire citation was read first in Vietnamese, then in English. The citation read in part:

"During Operation Carentan II conducted from 19 April to May, 1968, in the Delta of Quang Dien District, the 2nd Brigade Task Force bravely attacked and destroyed the enemy command post and completely stopped any further enemy attempt to attack Hue.

"During Operation Nevada Eagle, the unit was successful in defending the people's troops, causing many casualties to hostile units of the 8th Viet Cong labor camp and destroying the 863rd Regiment of the 324th NVA regular forces.

"As a result of these operations, 2,382 enemy were killed, 257 suspects were detained and 724 weapons were captured."

Thieu chose the Republic of Vietnam's Armed Forces Day for the occasion of presenting the distinguished unit citation.

Maj. Gen. Ngo Quang Truong, commander of the ARVN 1st Infantry Division, and his troops were also presented the same citation for their participation in operations in the 11th Division tactical zone in northern I Corps.

Highlight of the 2nd Brigade's tactical operations during this I Corps fighting was the highly successful corridor of Thon Phuoc Yen village in Tons Thien province. During that five-day battle, 389 NVA regulars were

killed and 104 gave themselves up to paratroopers from each of the 2nd Brigade battalions.

Division elements that formed the 2nd Brigade Task Force that are now eligible to wear the Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation include: 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf.; 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf.; 1st Bn. (Abn), 503rd Inf.; 2nd Brigade Headquarters; 1st Bn. (Abn), 321st Arty.; 2nd Bn. (Abn), 322nd Arty.; 17th Cav. Co., 328th Eng. Bn. (Abn); B Co., 328th Med. Bn. (Abn); E Co., 501st Sigs. Bn. (Abn); 2nd Ptl., A Co., 501st Maint. Bn. (Abn); Forward Support Element, 501st Supply Co.; 2nd Ptl., 101st M.P. Co.; 2nd Ptl., 285th Radio Research Co.; and members of the 34th Public Information Detachment.



HIGHEST TRIBUTE—Col. John H. Cushman, commander of the division's 2nd Brigade, receives the Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation from President Nguyen Van Thieu during the republic's Armed Forces Day celebration in Hanoi recently. The 2nd Brigade Task Force was awarded the citation for its outstanding performance in northern I Corps during Operations Carentan II and Nevada Eagle. (Photo by Spec. 4 Robert Johnston)

The Screaming Eagle



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THE STALKER—101st Airborne Division trooper Staff Sgt. Robert S. Harris, York, Pa., uses the quick kill position in landing C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. in a reconnaissance-in-force mission during Operation Nevada Eagle being conducted north of Hue. (Photo by Spec. 4 Richard McLaughlin)

Four Generals Praise Eagles Role In Operation Delaware

CAMP EAGLE—Maj. Gen. O.M. Baraniti, division commander, received messages here from four generals lauding the Screaming Eagles' performance in Operation Delaware completed recently.

"On behalf of the Joint General Staff of the RVN Armed Forces, I wish to extend my deep appreciation and warm congratulations to all those who took part in the remarkable series of actions at A Chau and Aluoi," said Gen. Cao Van Vien.

"To the remarks of General Vien, I add my personal congratulations for a job well done," said Gen. William C. Westmoreland. "The professional competence displayed by the officers and men who participated in this achievement reflects great credit on themselves, this command, and the United States forces."

A message from Lt. Gen. R.E. Cushman, commander of the III Marine Amphibious Force, also praised the para-

troopers for their "military professionalism."

The fourth message was from Lt. Gen. W. B. Rosson, provisional corps commander. "Congratulations to the Screaming Eagles for another magnificent combat accomplishment," he said.

In a recent communique the division commander told his men, they had every right to feel proud of themselves and their unit.

900 Enemy Dead In Nevada Eagle

CAMP EAGLE—Paratroopers from the division's 1st and 2nd Brigades killed 95 and recovered 37 enemy bodies from previous actions during a week of light and scattered contact near Hue recently.

The kills pushed Operation Nevada Eagle's five-week toll on the enemy to more than 900. More than 1,800 weapons were captured during the time span also.

In the largest recent action, airborne troops from the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 527th Inf. killed 37 as they engaged an estimated enemy company southwest of the Imperial city.

The infantrymen called in artillery and tactical air strikes on their well-entrenched foes during the fierce fighting. A final paratrooper assault drove them from their positions and into the dense jungle, where contact was lost shortly before dark.

A sweep of the battlefield found 27 enemy bodies, 30 weapons and a 122mm rocket launcher.

Viet Cong Rally

Psychological Operations paid a dividend also when a Viet Cong village chief rallied to the government because all of his soldiers had been captured by division elements.

Meanwhile Screaming Eagle forces captured 31,000 pounds of rice in one day as they continued the rice denial phase of the operation.

The rest of the week's action featured successful ambushes of small enemy elements northwest of Hue.

A patrol from the 2nd Bn.

(Abn), 501st Inf. engaged a small NVA force from an ambush position four miles northwest of Hue, killing four. The next day four Viet Cong were killed in a night ambush by a patrol from the same battalion.

Ambush Patrols

Ambush patrols from the 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. and the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. had earlier made contact with an unknown enemy force three miles further north. The infantrymen returned fire and called for artillery support. A sweep of the contact area revealed five enemy bodies.

Elsewhere troops from 1st Bn. (Abn), 527th Inf. drove the enemy from a bunker complex and seized more than 1,300 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel.

20-Year Wait

HUE—Boasting back through 30 years of their Army careers, General William C. Westmoreland and Sergeant Major A.B. Cannon of San Angelo, Tex., met at the division headquarters here recently for some unfinished business.

Sgt. Maj. Cannon, of the 2nd Brigade, had orders making him a Master Parachutist dated 15 June, 1948. There was no signature above Westmoreland's name block.

As Westmoreland signed the special order Cannon had kept for so long, he said, "From looking at the order, I see you were a staff sergeant in 1948 and I was a lieutenant colonel. I guess we've both come up a bit."