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Dau Tieng history

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**HIGH AND DRY**—Private First Class James Bolin of Cincinnati, Ohio, keeps his weapon and radio hand set high and dry as he crosses a canal five miles northwest of Saigon. Bolin is a radio-telephone operator with the 25th Infantry Division's Company B, 2d Battalion, 14th Infantry. (PHOTO BY SP4 LARRY WEIST)

## SSG Jones Sets High In Re-up Bonus

**CU CHI** — A tax-free reenlistment bonus of \$9,540 was recently awarded to Staff Sergeant Larry A. Jones assigned as a rotary wing section chief for the 25th Division Artillery's aviation section.

According to the division reenlistment office, this tops any bonus paid thus far by the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam.

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# Military Police Spot and Stop Enemy Advance on Dau Tieng

**3D BDE** — Military police from the 3d Platoon, 25th Military Police Company drove off an undetermined number of Viet Cong who were attempting to approach the 25th Infantry Division's base camp at Dau Tieng.

As the 3d Brigade MPs were closing their check point at the edge of the Michelin Rubber Plantation one evening the often routine task of monitoring the flow of natives in and out of the

village of Dau Tieng was broken when they spotted a force of armed Viet Cong slinking toward the community.

They immediately engaged the enemy with machineguns and small arms as the Viet Cong replied with a fusillade of rifle and rocket grenade fire.

The enemy pinned down Specialist 4 Wayne Luke, a machine gunner, who despite the heavy enemy fire changed barrels on

the weapon, burning himself in the process, and resumed blasting away at the enemy.

A reaction force was dispatched from the base camp as soon as the contact was reported and deployed at the embattled checkpoint.

With darkness falling it became necessary to close the checkpoint and withdraw into the Dau Tieng base camp for the night.

William McMongle of Colorado Springs, Colo., who placed security around the bunker and thoroughly checked the entrance for booby traps. "I looked as best as I could into the bunker and saw the words 'safety fuze'," stated McMongle, "and knew we had latched onto something good."

## Night Ambush Is Much More Than Expected

**1ST BDE** — A hastily sprung night ambush five miles east of Cu Chi by a 25th Infantry Division rifle platoon resulted in greater findings than expected.

The ambush was sprung when the 2d Platoon of A Company, 2d Battalion, 14th Infantry, spotted movement to its front. "After our initial burst, we couldn't see or hear anything in front of us the rest of the night," commented McMongle.

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Private First Class Benton A. Hoard of Salem Ill., volunteered to enter the dark bunker for a closer look. Armed with a .45 caliber pistol in one hand and a flashlight in the other the Tomahawk tunnel rat entered. The sweat rolled as he probed for booby traps that might be connected to the poncho covering the munitions. Then he shouted: "There's all kinds of good stuff in here."

The 1st Brigade infantrymen began hauling out the mortar rounds, claymore mines and hundreds of grenades. After over an hour's work, the munitions were extracted, and a count was made. The Tomahawks counted 617 grenades of various types—"little beer can," "big beer can," "potato mash-er," and "torpedo" grenades. In addition there were 20 six-foot bangalore torpedoes, 81 82mm high explosive mortar rounds, 31 cans of mortar charges, 12 twelve-inch claymore mines, eight satchel charges and two "black box" antitank mines.

The Tropic Lightning infantrymen carried the cache to their night defensive position and laid the munitions in a foxhole just outside the perimeter. There, the cache was blown in place all at once. "When we left it was an ordinary foxhole, but after the explosion," said Captain Henry Montgomery of Memphis, Tenn., the Company A commander, "it looked as if a 1,000 pound bomb was dropped there."