

Triple Deuce Double Deals To Whip VC

CU CHI—Soldiers of the 2d Bn (Mech), 22d Inf along with ARVN Rangers and reinforced by elements of the 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav and 3d Bde, 101st Airborne Div, accounted for 45 enemy dead in two separate engagements near Trang Bang.

The first encounter occurred 48 kms northwest of Saigon during a reconnaissance-in-force sweep involving B Co of the Triple Deuce and A Co of the ARVN 34th Ranger Bn.

The combined force made contact in a densely wooded area about 8 kms north of Trang Bang. They received heavy RPG, machine gun and small arms fire from well-fortified positions, occupied by an estimated 150-200 North Vietnamese Army Regulars.

An hour earlier, the Allied force had received a few rounds of sniper fire with no friendly casualties sustained. As the force approached the heavily vegetated area about noon, Captain Malcom G. Waitt, CO of B Co, from Erie, Pa., deployed his armored personnel carriers on line. The ARVN Rangers walked between and to the front of the vehicles.

According to Waitt, "Everything was quiet until we got about 300 meters into the tree-line. Then they opened up with everything they had, to include RPG's, .51 caliber machine

guns, and small arms fire." Waitt continued, "Because 'Charlie' was in such well-fortified positions and had very good fields of fire, I pulled my forces back and pounded the area with artillery, gunships, and air strikes."

After a heavy exchange of fire for 20 minutes, the Allied force was reinforced by the Triple Deuce's Alpha Co and C Trp of the 3d Sqdn, and sporadic fire continued until 6:55 p.m. Artillery fire continued to pound the area into the night.

A sweep of the battle area the following morning revealed 21 enemy bodies and several items of North Vietnamese equipment and ammunition.

Two days later and 15 kms northwest of the first encounter, A Co, 2d Bn (Mech), 22d Inf, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The en-

(Continued On Back Page)



Byron Longero of Sacramento, Calif., a grenadier for the 2d Bn, 14th Cavalry, is positioned in a canal drainage ditch so he could see both up and down the canal and a nearby trail. We thought both were likely avenues of approach. (Photo By SP4 Larry Weist)

VC Pointman into An Ambush

Pvt of the 27th Infantry, Hastings, El Paso, Tex., said, "I had positioned myself in a canal drainage ditch so I could see both up and down the canal and a nearby trail. We thought both were likely avenues of approach."

"A little after midnight I saw movement to my front. From what I could see it appeared to be a Viet Cong platoon. (Continued On Back Page)

The end of an era!
July will see the last copy of the 25th Inf Div magazine, *Lightning* 25, distributed to division personnel.

A new magazine, published quarterly, with a larger format and full color photography is under way.

"Thunder, the Voice of Tropic Lightning" will be seen for the first time in September.

Don't miss it!

Touch Of Stateside Comes To Cu Chi

Among the club's facilities are a full kitchen facility including pizza ovens and waffle irons.

7-15-68

Unit of The Week

Proud Past Spotlights 2/34

The history of the 2d Bn, 34th Armor Regt is the story of valiant men performing valiant deeds, from the beaches of Normandy to the streets of Berlin, to the rice paddies of Vietnam.

The 34th Armor was activated on October 1, 1941 at Fort Knox, Ky. After extensive training in Kentucky, California and New York, the regiment moved overseas to the Wiltshire area in England where it continued preparations for 'D' Day and the landing on the French coast as part of General Patton's 3d Army.

Spearheading the 5th Armor Div throughout the drive across Europe the 34th Armor added Normandy, Belgium, Luxembourg, Faleise, The Siegfried Line, Hurtgin Forest and Roer River to its battle history. On September 11, 1944 the 2d Bn, 34th Armor was the first unit to dispatch word to higher headquarters that American soldiers were fighting on German soil.

In these campaigns, the 2d Bn, 34th Armor was awarded five campaign streamers for actions in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alliance and Central Europe. In addition, the battalion was awarded two decorations; Distinguished Unit Citation, Embroidered Roer River Dam and streamer, Croix De Guerre, Embroidered Luxembourg.

Recalled to battle on August

21, 1966, the 2d Bn, 34th Armor was called upon and deployed for combat in the Republic of Vietnam. The battalion reached Vietnam in September of 1966.

Once aground, the battalion was split, A Trp attached to the 25th Inf Div at Cu Chi and B Trp attached to the 1st Inf Div at Phu Loi. The battalion, with its remaining two troops moved to a permanent base camp at Long Binh.

In October, 1966, the battalion moved out on its first operation. Operation Shenandoah had begun and the battalion's name first appeared in the speech of

the units it supported. Other operations came along, Attleboro, Lancaster, Cedar Falls, Ala Monana and Junction City.

From Operation Junction City came one of the most famous battles of the Vietnam war, the battle of Soui Tre, later called the battle of LZ Gold. For its part, the 2d Bn, 34th Armor was recommended for the Presidential Unit Citation.

Since then, through operations Yellowstone, Saratoga, Resolved to Win and Certain Victory, and recently, Quyet Thang and Toan Thang have seen the fighting spirit of the 2d Bn, 34th Armor.

Wolfhounds Return After 73 Hard Days

2D BDE — After 73 days on combat operations, the 1st Bn, 27th Inf Wolfhounds returned to Cu Chi for four days of rest and a change of command ceremony.

During their extensive combat activities the "First of the Wolfhounds" were credited with killing 230 enemy. They tallied some 40,000 pounds of rice captured and destroyed 377 enemy bunkers. Also during their operations they captured

88 rifles, carbines and pistols, 84 rockets and mortars and numerous enemy documents along with one 75mm recoilless rifle and 132 grenades.

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ernest F. Condina, the Wolfhounds operated in the Saigon-Hoc Mon area since last leaving Cu Chi on March 28.

Condina praised his men saying they performed "in an outstanding professional manner" during the 2½ months of long, hard fighting.

While at Cu Chi the Wolfhounds held a change of command ceremony during which Lieutenant Colonel Stanford M. Touchstone received the colors of the Wolfhound battalion from Condina.



Sure machines'll replace me...
After they work us to death!

Buy Bonds

Triple 2...

(Continued From Page 1)

enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters.

Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two VC suspects were detained by the Tropic Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a COM machine gun.

Point...

