



# 11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

# TRIDENT

"JUNGLE WARRIORS"



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 9

DUCK PHO, VIETNAM

MARCH 9, 1969

## "SYKES REGULARS" CLASH WITH NVA



### BRIGADE ACTION HEAVY-69 KIA

Action continued heavy this week in southern Quang Ngai Province as the 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" killed 69 enemy, detained 34 suspects, and captured five weapons.

The heaviest action on February 24 was encountered by A Company, 3-1, led by CPT Rodney J. Alligood (San Jose, Calif.), as the "Always First" soldiers killed three VC in an area 18 miles southwest of Quang Ngai. Three more kills were reported by Helix 33 when an airstrike was put into an area three miles north of Duc Pho early in the evening.

On February 25 B Company, 1/20, commanded by CPT John R. Hill (Winchendon, Mass.), accounted for five kills and detained a total of seven suspects.

E Troop, 1st Cav. also saw action as they captured three VC seven miles south of Quang Ngai. They also captured an SKS and an M-1 carbine from the insurgents.

The 3/1, command and control helicopter, com- (WRAP UP Cont on page 3)

Soldiers from an American Division platoon may have walked into one of the enemy positions which has been responsible for the rocket and mortar attacks which have hit LZ Bronco recently.

The platoon from Company B, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, led by SGT Dean W. Moehring (Naperville, Illinois), was on a recon by force patrol four miles northwest of Duc Pho.

As the platoon came upon a village, heavy enemy fire greeted them from three directions. The NVA had been trying to keep their positions undetected.

Their efforts were, however, totally in vain. SGT Moehring spotted one of the enemy in a hedge-row. Twice he yelled "lai day" at the man. It was at this time that the enemy opened up.

The front of the platoon was charged by five of the enemy, but these men were quickly disposed (B1/20 Cont on page 4)

### VERNON LAKE II COMPLETED

Since the beginning of Operation Vernon Lake II, the 11th Brigade's "Jungle Warriors" have continued to cripple the enemy by killing large numbers of him on the battle field, denying him sanctuary by uncovering his basecamps, and diminishing his ability to fight by finding and destroying his war material.

Sweeping the coastal lowlands and probing through mountainous jungle in southern I Corps, "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Bde. have amassed an impressive list of their efforts against the enemy.

Since the inception of Operation Vernon Lake II on November 1, 1968, 143 NVA and 313 VC have been eliminated. Six confirmed NVA and four confirmed VC have been captured in action during that time.

Also, 139 personal weapons, including Chinese, (VERNON LAKE II Cont on page 2)

# COMMAND INFORMATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second article in a series dealing with THE ENEMY YOU FACE.)

The enemy has received varying degrees of military training and intensive political indoctrination. Until he sees otherwise, he is convinced he is fighting to liberate the South Vietnamese people from "U.S. aggression."

## HOW IS HE TRAINED?

By American standards, the enemy had it easy in basic training. The best trained are NVA regulars. They receive about 30 days of basic training, although this period may have been shortened, as in Qui's case, due to recent manpower shortages caused by heavy casualties in the South.

The NVA recruits' training usually includes about 15 hours of instruction on a basic North Vietnamese weapon. He is taught how to achieve a sight picture and how to field strip, load and fire the rifle. Some soldiers may fire three or four rounds, but most only "dry fire" the weapon.

Viet Cong recruits undergo similar training--when possible. However, many VC receive only theory in classes and get practice in actual battles.

Exceptional trainees are selected for instruction on the light machinegun, recoilless rifle, mortar or heavy machine-

gun. The most outstanding trainees selected for NCO positions, which they assume immediately after completing training.

Most of the older officers commanding NVA and some VC units are veterans of the older officers commanding NVA and some VC units are veterans of the French-Indochina war. The younger officers have been chosen from civilian ranks on the basis of family standing or educational achievement.

All officers attend a military academy where they are taught tactics, principles of guerrilla warfare, and fundamentals of weapons and leadership. All officers and "enlisted" men receive "political training" in North Vietnamese ideology.

## HOW IS HE ORGANIZED?

In accordance with Communist doctrine, the military is controlled by the political structure. For the NVA, this is quite similar to the organizational structure of the U.S. Army. The supreme tactical military authority in the U.S. is responsible to the Secretary of the Army who is responsible to the Secretary of Defense, who is responsible to the President, who is also head of the political structure. At the highest level, the NVA military is answerable to the Vietnamese Communist Party, called "Lao Dong" in the North.

Viet Cong activities are controlled by the National Liberation Front. (Next week we will continue with THE ENEMY YOU FACE PART II)

(VERNON LAKE II Cont from page 1)

French, and vintage American carbines were captured from enemy troops, while three crew-served weapons were found.

Two ammunition caches were uncovered as operations continued which contained 1,253 mortar rounds, 43 RPG-7 rounds, 196 rockets, 115 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, 83 hand grenades, and 23,665 rounds of small arms ammunition.

The enemy found himself hard-pressed in other areas also. The "Jungle Warriors" uncovered 121 tons of rice and one ton of salt, 964 uniforms, one POW camp, 76 bicycles, 578 bottles of medicine, 28 bottles of plasma, two cases of instruments, three hospitals, 176 packs, 254 first-aid kits, 964 uniforms, two typewriters, seven sewing machines, and other assorted equipment.



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# GRPS. MAX.

CACHUWA AND SUPER GOOK GET A CHANCE TO AMBUSH SOME AMERICAN PATROLS. THIS GIVES THEM A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF THEIR GREAT LEADERSHIP ABILITY.



CACHUWA'S AMBUSH PREPARES....



WHEN WE JOIN CA CHUWA HIS AMBUSH IS SET UP AND HE WAITS FOR HIS PREY.

GET READY, HERE COMES THE G.I.S



SUDENLY THEY'RE SPOTTED BY THE AMERICAN G.I.S.



CHIEU Hoi!

HEY! HOLD IT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STOP!

CA CHUWA SLOWLY SLINKS AWAY STILL NOT BELIEVING WHAT HAS JUST HAPPENED.

CA CHUWA! HOW COULD MY COMRADS DO THIS TO ME, NOT UNDER MY LEADERSHIP ANY WAY.

I WONDER HOW SUPER GOOK IS DOING?

## THE "MOUSE" THAT ROARS

The tiny, egg-shaped Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) of Primo Aviation Ltd. has now become the "mouse that roars."

Used extensively in the 11th Infantry Brigade's Area of Operation for Visual Reconnaissance (VR), and often harassed by enemy sniper fire, the Primo ship is now answering "Charlie" with fire from a 7.62mm minigun.

The minigun, which is specially designed for the LOH, is attached to the side of the aircraft and weighs about 240 pounds with ammunition. An electric motor and six rotating barrels make it capable of pouring out 2,000 to 4,000 rounds per minute, and it can be mounted on the aircraft and ready for action in less than 30 minutes. The minigun can be removed from the LOH and replaced without having to be re-bored sighted.

1LT Richard A. Fraser (Casper, Wyoming), a pilot with Primo Aviation Ltd., explained that the minigun (LOH cont on page 4)

(WRAPUP cont from page 1) manded by LTC William J. McCloskey, discovered the bodies of four VC killed by artillery on February 26. The rest of the brigade saw light action as they accounted for four more kills that day.

On February 27 the same 3/1 command and control helicopter discovered the bodies of five VC killed by the quad 50s located on LZ Cork.

C Company, 3/1, found a small hospital about two miles south of Duc Pho that contained blankets, cots, trays, assorted medicine, seven new coffins and several other items.

On February 28 eight VC (WRAPUP cont on page 6)

# GIANT MACHINES BLAST ROCK, MAKE ASPHALT FOR HIGHWAY

The 73rd Construction Support Company, commanded by CPT Kenneth E. Johnson (Auburn, Mass.), located at LZ Lowboy on the I Corps-II Corps border, operates a multi-million dollar operation in support of the 11th Brigade.

The 73rd is paving Highway 1 from the border north to the village of Mo Duc. At LZ Lowboy, they operate a quarry, rock-crushing complex, and asphalt machine that furnishes the pavement for the highway.

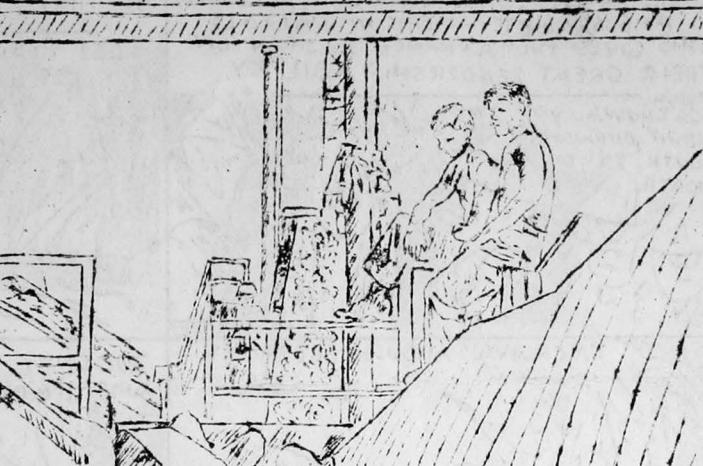
The operation involves the use of gigantic machines which take the granite blasted from the hilly side of LZ Lowboy and crushes it into various-sized rock. After the rock is crushed, some of it is fed into the asphalt maker, while the rest goes to form the road bed.

The asphalt machine is fed this rock (similar in size to gravel) and coats it with a tarry substance to form the asphalt road surfacing.

The 73rd has the responsibility of maintaining its own equipment, which is often a big task. The piston from one of the big diesel engines powering the rock crusher is the size of a man's torso.

Since parts for such specialized equipment are scarce, the 73rd has its own machine shop to fabricate these parts.

It's a big job, but the 73rd Engineers keep working---it's still a long way to Mo Duc.



(B 1/20 'Cont from page 1)

of. The rear of the platoon was hit the hardest.

One man, SP4 Joe Garlinger (Bryant, Indiana), was at the rear of the platoon and was seriously wounded in the initial burst of fire. He kept his wits about him and played dead since he was unable to fire his weapon because of his injuries.

While he played possum an A-10 soldier came upon him, removed his watch from his wrist and picked up an M-60 machinegun as he ran off.

For PFC John I. Barnes (LOH Cont from page 3) (Butler, Illinois) it was his first time out in the field on a patrol. "It all happened so fast," he explained. "All of a sudden the bullets were flying everywhere. I hit the ground. It was the first cracking from an AK-47, and it seemed they were wizzing just over my head."

PFC Barnes reacted to the situation like a veteran, setting up a necessary rear security.

The Recon platoon led by 1LT John J. Burrows Jr. (Roxbury, Massachusetts) set up a blocking force to try and trap the enemy.

(B 1/20 Cont on page 5)

(LOH Cont from page 3)

was added to provide the LOH with more. Obviously happy with the minigun he said, "We now have about four or five times more coverage than we had before with just the M-60."

The weapon is amazingly accurate and really comes in handy on VRs when we receive fire from the ground."

Whenever the pilot spots a target, he simply adjusts an electric arm to his front until he has his sights on that target. An electric motor adjusts the minigun at the same time and allows the pilot to return fire almost immediately.

The motor and the sighting device are the only parts of the system that work electrically; everything else works mechanically.

The LOH's "mouselike" quietness enables the ship to sneak up on the unsuspecting enemy. Coupled with the minigun, the combination promises to be a deadly one.

1LT Fraser describes the system as "simple, trouble free, and very effective."



# METEOROLOGY SECTION GIVES WEATHER DATA TO 11TH BDE ARTY

Changing weather conditions in southern I Corps sometimes make life difficult for Americal Division artillerymen who support the 11th Brigade. The men of the meteorology (METRO) section, located on LZ Bronco, have done a great deal to lessen the problem.

METRO's constant examination of the atmosphere provides the 6th Bn., 11th Arty., with needed data to put their rounds on target.

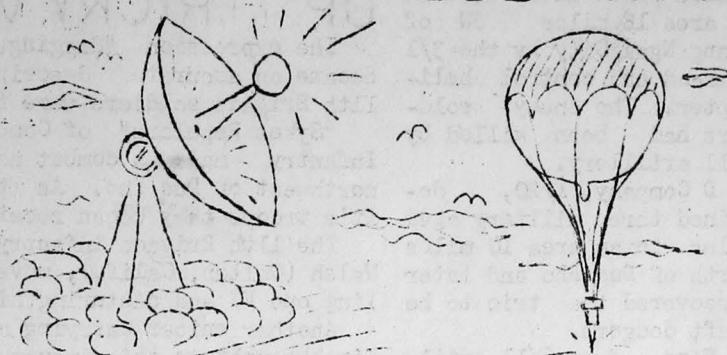
The team is part of the 2nd Bn., 11th Arty., of the 101 Airborne Division, but supports the 11th Bde.

SP5 Robert L. Beattie (Moorhead, Minn.) who heads the team explains its function.

"Our main purpose is to support firing batteries in this area. We gather data that includes temperature, wind direction and speed, and atmospheric density up to 25,000 feet."

METRO sends up a balloon with a radiosonde attached. This transmits a signal back to the team giving humidity, temperature, and atmospheric pressure.

The METRO men then go to work charting the data and later pass it onto the



artillery elements. The Fire Direction Centers (FDCs) of the elements then use the data to adjust their rounds to the varying weather conditions.

"Without our data, "explained SP5 Beattie, "The batteries must compute their targets from a set of weather standards. This, of course, doesn't give them the up-to-date information our section can provide."

How important is it for the artillery units to get the latest weather information?

"Quite important, "says SP5 Beattie, "During bad weather the difference between our computations and the weather standards can change the target as much as 1,500 meters."

SP5 Beattie says, "Without us an error of 15,000 meters can occur."

(B 1/20 Cont from page 4)

The rest of Company B, led by 1LT William D. Castille (Port Arthur, Texas), quickly moved out to aid their men.

Eight air strikes were called in on the enemy. Shark gunships from the 174th AHC worked over the area. Artillery from the 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery also pounded the enemy.

Six APCs from E troop, 1/1 Cavalry moved out with the company. Company B from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry was also CAD into the area to try to cordon the insurgents.

Co. B, 1/20 pushed on with the tracks. At one point contact was made about 10 to 15 meters from a trench line. The enemy's heavy fire was answered in return with heavy fire from the "Sykes Regulars."

During the fire, SGT Patrick Herringa (Cadi- lac, Michigan) moved into the trench line. In the trench line he spotted one dead NVA soldier and a RPG-7 rocket launcher with a round still in it. He picked up the launcher and moved back to his men.

The final count of IAs showed that 11 NVA were killed. CPT Alfred Webb (La Jolla, Calif.), the battalion's S-2 officer, said, "I saw them crawling away. They were as big as I am and were wearing steel pots with camouflage covers, uniforms and heavy vegetation covering their bodies.

## GIMLETS ON SAN JUAN HILL SERVED IN CUBA IN '98 TOO

Seventy-one years later, the "Gimlets" of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry are once again on San Juan Hill. But this time the fighting is not in Cuba and the war is much different from the one with Spain.

Named for the hill which earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for six "Gimlets" in the Spanish-American war, LZ San Juan Hill is one of the 4th of the 21st's fire support bases. It is located 12 miles west of the 11th Brigade's base camp at LZ Bronco.

Along with LZ Manassas and LZ Cedar Mountain, LZ San Juan Hill reflects the proud history of the now Americal Division "Gimlets".

Cedar Mountain saw the 21st Infantry's first test in battle during the war between the states. Manassas, for which the "Gimlets" newest fire support base was named, was the scene of bitter fighting for the 21st Infantry in the war between the states.

FOR REENLISTMENT INFORMATION CALL 235



(WRAPUP cont from page 3)  
bodies were discovered in an area 18 miles SW of Quang Ngai City by the 3/1 command and control helicopter. The enemy soldiers had been killed by 6/11 artillery.

D Company, 1/20, detained three military aged males in an area 10 miles north of Duc Pho and later discovered the trio to be draft dodgers.

Fire from 6/11 artillery killed eight VC on March 1, 18 miles SW of Quang Ngai City. Another kill was recorded by E Troop, 1st Cav at 0700 in an area five miles north of Duc Pho.

"Gimlets" of B Company, 4/21, working in an area nine miles south of Quang Ngai City, killed an NVA soldier and captured his AK-47 and pack on March 2. They also accounted for two Chicom grenades and four bags of small arms ammunition.

## MEDAL WINNERS HEADING HOME

Two soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, are leaving their battalion with an enviable record of awards.

Joseph F. Piotrowski (Oakford, Pa.), who served as a platoon sergeant with B Company, was awarded a total of eight medals for valor and service during his tour with the 11th Brigade.

He was awarded the Silver Star; Bronze Star with "V" Device; Bronze Star for Service; Army Commendation Medal for Achievement; and three Purple Hearts.

Thomas A. Hartman, D Company, served as a Radio Telephone Operator for the battalion commander and later as a platoon sergeant.

He was awarded the Silver Star; Bronze Star with "V" Device; Army Commendation Medal for Achievement; two Purple Hearts; and the Air Medal with 11 Oak Leaf Clusters.

## "SYKES REGULARS" DIG UP TRICKY VIETCONG

The expression "digging 'Charlie' out of the area" became an accurate description of what a company of 11th Brigade soldiers were forced to do recently.

"Sykes Regulars" of Company A, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry made a combat assault in an area 12 miles northwest of Duc Pho. As the last helicopter dropped its troops they began receiving sniper fire.

The 11th Brigade infantrymen, led by CPT David W. Walsh (Colton, Calif.), moved toward the sniper, killing one VC and capturing his SKS rifle.

Another sniper carrying a BAR was spotted. The fire brought on this insurgent wounded him, causing him to drop his weapon as he ran for a tunnel.

"There were several tunnels in the area," explained 1LT Leo C. Beachwell (Princeton, New Jersey). "I found the right one though."

1LT Beachwell had crawled into a tunnel, poking around with a long stick. As he was about halfway in one of the tunnels the stick was grabbed from his hand. "I took this as my cue to move out of the hole," the platoon leader said.

A grenade was thrown into the hole as soon as 1LT Beachwell crawled out, but the VC refused to leave his position. A CS grenade was thrown into the hole. The sniper still refused to budge.

Finally two bangalore torpedoes were placed in the tunnel by SP4 Charles W. Veatch (Des Moines, Iowa), the company's demo man. "We figured that this should do the trick," SP4 Veatch said. "I don't know how he stayed in there, but he did."

Their efforts thwarted in every attempt, CPT Walsh called for the old stand bys, entrenching tools, shovels and picks. The Captain's group went to work on their excavation project.

As they dug they found the tunnel had two entrances. The evader had not escaped, however. As they continued to dig they found that there was another hole at the bottom of the tunnel. This is where "Charlie" had holed up.

CPT Walsh explained that the VC had gotten into the hole and then covered the hole with a board. "The little guy had a wound in each leg and was scared to death," CPT Walsh stated. "He was carrying documents and was plenty eager to talk."

"It was certainly worth the effort to get that guy out of there. There is no telling what valuable information we may get out of him. I think he was pretty happy to get out of the hole too. He must have had a heck of a headache."

