



Vol. 3 No. 17 FRIDAY January 17, 1969

AMERICAN DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAN IO) -- Major contact with an NVA force southwest of Quang Ngai City, and the first big step forward in Operation Russell Beach highlighted increased enemy contact in southern I Corps yesterday.

American Division forces reported killing nine NVA and 21 VC, detaining 29 enemy suspects, and capturing 11 individual weapons and 7200 pounds of rice.

An enemy ambush turned into an all-night battle between three companies of the 3-1 Inf. and an unknown-size enemy force near a small village six miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. Seven NVA were killed, four weapons taken, and 22 suspects detained.

Other units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed five VC, captured two weapons, and detained seven VC suspects.

The 3-1 Inf.'s ordeal began late Wednesday night when Co. B was pinned down by heavy machinegun and rocket fire in an enemy ambush sprung as an NVA prisoner walked Co. B into a hail of fire while ostensibly leading the way to a rice cache.

Cos. C and D moved in immediately to relieve the pressure by flanking the village and bottling up enemy troops. Air Force planes circled overhead to provide all-night illumination as isolated action continued.

At dawn, an area sweep began, and Co. B reported killing five NVA. Co. D reported killing two and capturing three AK-47 rifles and a 7.62mm pistol. Co. C detained 21 enemy suspects, and Co. D nabbed one. American units had not killed as many NVA in one day since Dec. 27.

A large supply of documents and assorted military equipment was captured along with an enemy map of the Quang Ngai City area. Scattered incidents continued there yesterday.

Elements of the 4-21 Inf. killed

where it had killed a VC the night before.

Co. A, 1-20 Inf. and a 1-20 recon unit each killed a VC near Mo Duc. Co. A also detained three VC suspects in the area, and Co. B, 1-20 Inf. stopped four southeast of Mo Duc.

"Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav. logged their sixth VC kill in two days in a contact 10 miles west of Quang Ngai City.

After another morning of aid to refugees leaving the Batangan Peninsula area, target of a gigantic assault by American, Marine, Navy and ARVN forces, a platoon of Co. A, 4-3 Inf. crossed the Song Dien Dien to begin the first in-depth probe of the enemy stronghold.

Co. A's thrust came shortly after noon and was supported by artillery fire and gunships of the 176th Aslt. Hel. Co. which raked the small island to which the platoon moved on rubber rafts. Another element of Co. A joined Co. C, 5-46 Inf. on the shore to provide ground cover for the crossing.

The platoon reached its objective, a treeline, on the island and conducted a search of the area. Thirty-nine enemy suspects were turned up in the probe, and several enemy fortifications and underground refuges were destroyed.

Co. A killed one VC with small arms fire at 1250 hours and, 30 minutes later, found two more VC killed in the artillery barrage. Later in the afternoon, Co. D, 4-3 Inf. found an M-1 carbine in a cave and Co. B, 5-46 Inf. was given two M-1 rifles by three VC turned Chieu Hoi.

Cos. A and D, 4-3 Inf. found, and evacuated 3400 pounds of rice to the refugee holding center behind the cordon.

A 176th Aslt. Hel. Co. ship, piloted by 1LT William T. Koehler, killed two VC in the operational area while carrying members of the Payops team assigned to encourage refugee evacuation of the

* MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT *
* SATURDAY *
* Mostly cloudy with *
* showers in the morning *
* and afternoon. Winds *
* will be from the north- *
* west in the morning and *
* from the northeast in *
* the afternoon at 5-8 *
* knots. High tempera- *
* ture: 81°, low: 67°. *
* Moon rise: 0715, set 1844. *

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A large supply of documents and assorted military equipment was captured along with an enemy map of the Quang Ngai City area. Scattered incidents continued there yesterday.

Elements of the 4-21 Inf. killed two VC 20-21 miles west of Duc Pho and took a K-44 rifle. Co. A, 4-21 Inf. recovered an AK-47 rifle from the spot

unit each killed a VC near Mo Duc. Co. A also detained three VC suspects in the area, and Co. B, 1-20 Inf. stopped four southeast of Mo Duc.

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As of 1600 hours, 2449 refugees had passed through Americal check points.

along the 11½ mile cordon line formed by the 4-3 and 5-46, and Marine and ARVN units. Troops on line concentrated throughout the morning on tightening positions for the main sweep toward the sea.

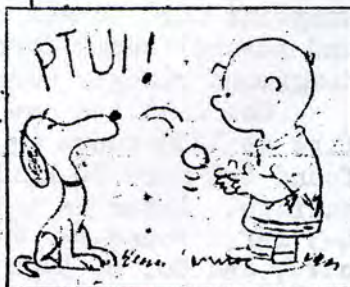
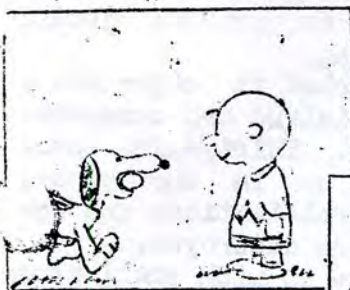
Scattered contacts have produced 10 VC killed and three individual weapons captured by Americal elements in the operation. Joint force totals show 21 VC killed and six individual weapons taken.

Elsewhere in the 198th Inf. Bde. area, "Hero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. killed an NVN running six miles southwest of Tien Phuoc, and the recon unit of the 1-52 engaged two VC, killed one, and captured an AK-47 rifle and documents 6 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

PEANUTS

by

CHARLES M. SCHULZ



Led by three companies of the 3-21 Inf., units of the 196th Inf. Bde. killed one NVN and nine VC, and captured one weapon and 3800 pounds of rice.

Co. B, 3-21 Inf. killed three VC in two contacts 9½ miles west of Tam Ky. Co. C killed two in separate firefights 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and Co. A engaged three and killed two in one incident 13 miles west of Tam Ky.

An element of the 1-46 Inf. spotted two VC in the open and killed them 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky; and F Trp., 17th Cav. saw three NVN running southwest, killed one with small arms fire, and captured his AK-47 rifle 21 miles west of Tam Ky.

F Trp. also moved 73 Vietnamese from the same area to the refugee center at Que Son.

Co. C, 2-1 Inf. and Co. B, 4-31 Inf. discovered 2000 and 1800 pounds of rice, respectively, and Co. C added 300 pounds of salt.

C Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. engaged and killed a VC 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky in the only incident reported in the 1-1 area.

Three Americal Division soldiers were killed, and four were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

WEAPONS SAFETY

PFC Groverton S. Cruddud was climbing on top of a bunker when he dropped his M-16. A round discharged wounding him in both feet. PFC Cruddud could walk today if he had followed instructions concerning the circumstances under which rounds should be chambered. Don't let this happen to you.

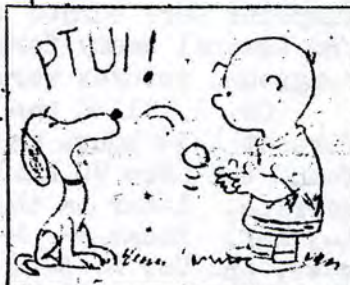
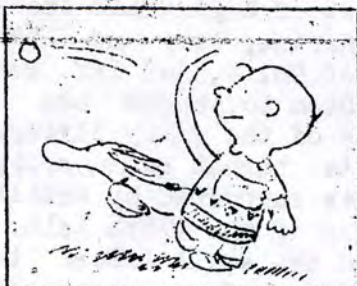
AMERICAN NEWS SHEET
MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding
MAJ Paul D. Perham, IO
SP4 Bill Olson, Editor

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