



Vol. 3 No. 22 WEDNESDAY January 22, 1969

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Co. C, 4-3 Inf. killed more VC in slightly over five hours than all Americal units had killed in eight days as Operation Russell Beach and the VC body count skyrocketed yesterday.

Co. C killed 17 VC trying to break the joint assault force cordon of the Batangan Peninsula to highlight the heaviest action in weeks in southern I Corps where Americal forces killed five NVA and 62 VC and captured seven individual and two crew-served weapons.

At 0850 hours, Co. C, part of an 11th Inf. Bde. unit OPCON to the 198th Inf. Bde. for Russell Beach, engaged and killed three VC to begin a string of seven incidents behind the cordon line. Co. C killed one VC at 0905 and another at 0915. All fell 6½ miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

At 1005 and 1115, two more VC were killed a half-mile nearer Quang Ngai City. At 1350, the "Old Guard" troops used 81mm mortar fire to kill six VC and, 10 minutes later killed four more VC with a second 81mm mortar barrage.

Co. C, led by 1LT Ralph L. Burkhardt (Kansas City, Mo.), upped the Americal's Russell Beach total to 30 VC killed. Capture of five weapons by Co. D, 5-46 Inf. brought to 11 the number of individual weapons taken in the operation.

Over-all Russell Beach totals, including those of Marine, Navy, and ARVN elements, are now 83 VC killed and 24 individual weapons taken.

Co. D, led by CPT Michael R. Smith (New Lebanon, O.), was taken by two Hoi Chanh to separate weapons caches and seized two M-2 carbines, two BARs, and an M-1 rifle.

PSYOP teams also had a prolific day as 1771 refugees streamed out of the cordon area and through the processing center behind the line. In nine days, 6335 refugees have moved out of the

* MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT *
* THURSDAY *
* Forecast for tomorrow: *
* Mostly cloudy with inter- *
* mittent rain in the morn- *
* ing and showers in the *
* afternoon. Winds from the *
* northeast at 5-10 knots. *
* High temperature of 81° with *
* a low of 70°. Moon will *
* rise at 1059 hours and will *
* set at 2147 hours. *

In the only other action in the 198th area, "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. killed two VC in separate incidents 8½ miles south and 12½ miles southwest of Tam Ky.

With two units accounting for eight VC apiece, the 11th Inf. Bde. killed five NVA and 24 VC and captured one individual and both crew-served weapons.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. struck first and last in the area to kill eight VC in three incidents. At 0930, the "Sharks" engaged and killed four VC 8½ miles north of Duc Pho. At 1730, two VC were killed in the same place and, 10 minutes later two more were caught six miles north of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 1-20 Inf. found fresh graves of eight VC, five of whom had been killed by small arms fire and three by artillery six miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 4-21 Inf. continued its sporadic encounters with an unknown-size NVA force 6½ miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Co. B added five more NVA kills in three incidents after killing three NVA in Monday fighting in the same area.

Between 1445 and 1640 yesterday, Co. B registered an incident an hour, first killing three of an unknown number of NVA and capturing an AK-47 rifle, and then engaging and killing one each and taking an RPG launcher.

A half-mile away, H Trp., 17th Cav., OPCON from the 198th to the 11th, killed three VC and captured an RPG launcher.

An element of the 4-31 Inf. killed four VC in two actions four and 9½ miles west of Quang Ngai City, and the "Aero Scouts" added their third VC kill 11 miles north of Duc Pho.

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The 3-21 Inf. reported its third best day in the last 21 by killing 10 more VC to run its January total to 116.

as the 196th Inf. Bde. killed 15 VC, captured one weapon, and welcomed seven VC bearing Chieu Hoi passes.

The 3-21 recon unit killed six VC in two encounters 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Gimlets" killed one VC and captured 750 pounds of rice at 1330 and later engaged and killed five VC.

Co. D killed three VC in two incidents 12½ miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. A killed one 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. A and the recon unit of the 1-46 Inf. killed the remaining VC in two actions. At 0741, Co. A engaged and killed three 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky and, in a delayed report, the recon element engaged and killed two at 1940 Monday a mile further northwest.

Operating 24 miles west of Tam Ky, an Americal Long Range Patrol spotted four NVA and VC moving 156 meters from the concealed LRP position. After detonating a claymore mine, the team recovered the blood-stained AK-47 rifle.

Near the LRP incident, Co. C, 2-1 Inf. found and destroyed 15 camouflaged huts and eight bunkers.

Four miles closer to Tam Ky, Co. A, 4-31 Inf. came upon seven VC waving a white flag and Chieu Hoi passes. The visitors were accommodated.

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

YOUR FAMILY SHOULD KNOW

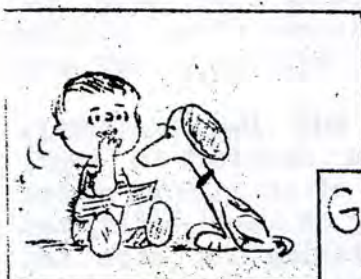
Tell a responsible member of your family that, if you die while on active service and particularly as a result of performing your military duties, survivors could receive or might be eligible for some or all of the following benefits:

- * All outstanding pays and allowances.
- * A death gratuity of six months' pay (minimum \$800, maximum \$3000).
- * The social security lump sum death payment.
- * Burial expense payments.
- * Your Serviceman's Group Life Insurance.
- * Transportation for family members and household effects to a home of choice.
- * Monthly payments called Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- * Monthly social security benefits. (To dependent children and a widow caring for them or, in the absence of eligible children, to widows 60 or older or disabled widows 50 or older. In certain cases a divorced wife is also now eligible for social security survivor benefits; dependent parents may also be eligible.)
- * Orphan's education assistance.
- * Continuing medical care.
- * Home, farm, or business loans.

PEANUTS

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CHARLES M. SCHULZ



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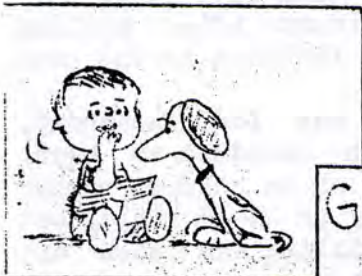
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AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding
 Maj Paul B. Parham, IO
 SP4 Bill Elson, Editor.

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