

ASSAULT Bridge, Repulsed by 11th, APCs

DUCT PHO An NVA sniper squad under cover of darkness and protected by an NVA squad of snipers, attacked bridge 95, one mile north of Sa Huynh.

The squad, armed with homemade grenades from discarded beer and Cration cans, satchel charges and RPGs, assaulted the bridge guarded by two squads from the second platoon of C Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf., 11th Inf. Bde.

Enemy Blasts Bunker

"I was sleeping on top of the bunker when all hell broke loose," said SP4 Roger Vyles, (Plainview, Texas). "About twenty homemade grenades were thrown on top of our bunker."

After getting inside the bunker the "Slykes Regulars" then went hit by RPGs.

"The rockets and grenades started both inside and out-

side of the bunker on fire so we left and ran under the bridge where it was harder for the snipers to see us," said S. Rosaling Pizzillo (North Arlington, N.J.), a squad leader.

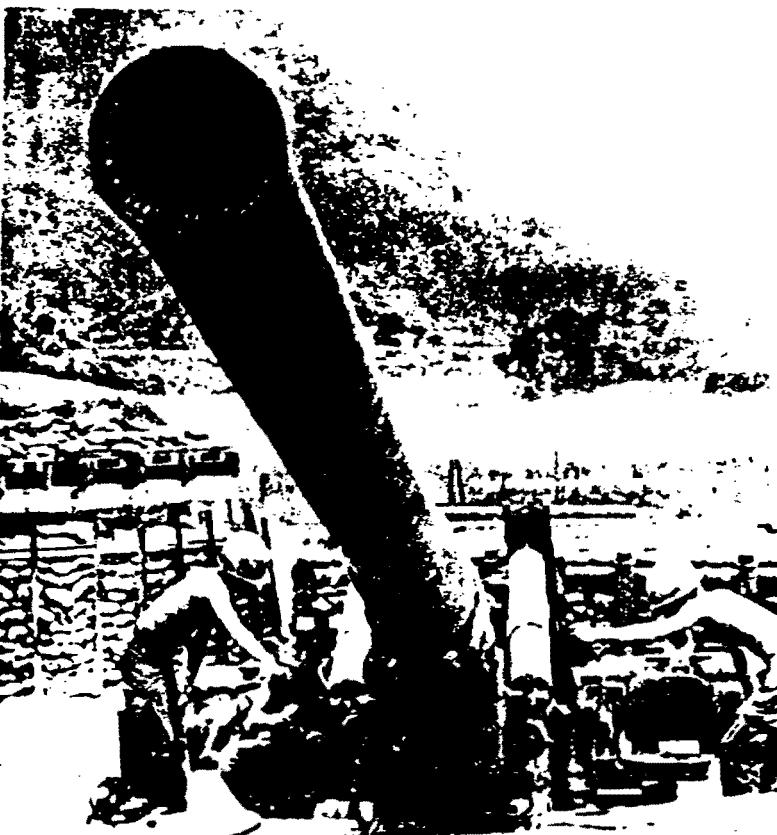
Cav. To Rescue

Fighting continued until the 2nd pl. of C Co. arrived on the APCs of E Trp., 1st Cav. The wounded were evacuated and the remaining men were resupplied with ammo.

For the rest of the night, gun and flare ships of the 174th Avn. Hel Co provided the men on the bridge with illumination and protection.

"All the men kept calm throughout the fight and they all helped turn away a well planned NVA attack," said SGT John Wrigley (Decatur, Ill.), the weapons squad leader of the platoon in 11th IO.

Combat In Review



Big Mouth

The towering mouth of a 175mm self-propelled gun gets ready to speak as "Gun Bunnies" check their sightings. The big gun of A Btry., 3rd Bn., 18th Arty., supports division and South Vietnamese Forces in the mountains southwest of Chu Lai. (Photo by SPS A.C. Barnett, DIVARTY)

198th Braves Barrage, Drives VC From Hiding

LZ GATOR—Elements of the 198th Inf. Bde., 5th Bn., 46th Inf. cordoned off a tiny hamlet west of the Balangan Peninsula recently and killed 15 VC using the hamlet as a firebase and hideout.

After learning of enemy presence B Co., 5-46 conducted a combat assault of the area, meeting

heavy automatic weapons fire as they closed on the hamlet.

As darkness began to fall four combat assault vehicles of H Trp., 17th Cav. were dispatched from LZ Minuteman on the nearby Balangan Peninsula along with third platoon of A Co. to assist in the cordon.

Sporadic fire from the village continued through the night. As dawn broke, the brigade's PSYOP team dropped leaflets urging the enemy to surrender.

Soon after the infantrymen swept through the hamlet destroying the fortified bunkers and a tunnel complex 700 meters long.

The VC killed were believed to be part of a local force battalion which has long eluded allied soldiers in the area west of the Peninsula. (198th IO)

Discover Enemy Basecamp With Big Arms Cache

LZ PROFESSIONAL—An estimated NVA battalion basecamp, containing a huge munitions cache, was found by a company of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. three miles from LZ Professional.

A Co. discovered the basecamp just hours after the enemy had fled, leaving behind the cache of more than 320 rounds of 82 and 60 mm mortars, two mortar tubes, two claymore mines, three rifles, and over 15,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

"They departed in such a hurry they left behind three command radios," said 1LT Ron Piggee (Gary, Ind.), whose 1st platoon was the first unit into the basecamp. "Some of the campfires were still warm."

The basecamp was uncovered only hours after the start of a combined U.S.-South Vietnamese sweep 20 miles southwest of Tam Ky aimed at clearing the enemy from rugged terrain around LZ Professional.

The camp included three large huts and huge cave containing the munitions. It was embedded in a large rock complex covered with triple canopy jungle, hiding the camp from the sky.

Although no enemy casualties were sustained, the 198th Bde. soldiers have taken a home away from Charlie. (198th IO)

Blast Enemy With Grenades

196th Silences Loud NVA

LZ CENTER—An early-morning patrol designed to catch the enemy off guard found three NVA alert but unable to cope with grenade-throwing "Chargers" of the 196th Inf. Bde.

After several days of intense enemy contact in the NVA-infested Tien Phuoc area, the 3d Bn., 21st Inf. began search and clear opera-

tions at dawn throughout Vietnamese villages in the vicinity.

Noisy Enemy

Moving before sunrise, the first platoon of C Co. was on patrol 7½ miles northwest of Tam Ky when the point squad heard loud talking in a hootch area to the front.

Platoon leader 1LT James Gordon (Columbia, S.C.) moved his men forward in an

attempt to seal off escape routes. Within 15 meters of the building, he maneuvered his men to strategic locations.

"In seconds, we were well positioned when bullets suddenly tore through thick grass all around us," said 1LT Gordon.

After returning fire, the "Chargers" began throwing grenades. Several landed close to the doorway and, when all exploded, enemy fire ceased.

Close For Kill

The platoon closed in carefully. "I was several feet away when I spotted an enemy soldier staggering to the front of the hootch," said SGT Chester Shephard (Lufkin, Texas).

The dazed NVA had no weapon and was seized immediately. Other men searched the hootch and found two NVA dead of grenade wounds.

Three automatic weapons and web gear were captured, and the NVA was evacuated for interrogation, making the "Gimlets" early morning efforts pay off. (196th IO)

AWOL Enemy Doc Tries Own Medicine

LZ ROSS—The NVA doctor prescribed a Chicom grenade as a death device for a persistent 196th Inf. Bde. soldier recently. Instead, the GI gave the doc lethal medicine.

Action started when a patrol of C Co., 2d Bn., 1st Inf. moved on a search and clear mission up a mountain slope in an NVA-infested area 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Intelligence reports indicated a heavy concentration of NVA on the mountain top. Surprise NVA

The patrol had run out of trail and point-man SP4 Douglas Chappell (Wampom, Pa.) was looking for a new route when he spotted an NVA at the crest of a ridge. Chappell wounded the man who disappeared into the tangle of brush and rocks.

Ears cocked for the slightest sound, Chappell inched through the brush ahead of the patrol. A faint blood trail glistened on the sandy soil.

Survives Grenade

A smoking Chicom grenade suddenly bounced at the pointman's feet and exploded hardly a meter away. Chappell was scratched by the faulty grenade, but his quarry wasn't as fortunate when Chappell fired back.

A search of the body produced documents showing the enemy soldier had been an NVA doctor with overdue orders to report to a new unit in another area.

He had waited two days too long. (196th IO)