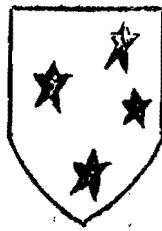


AMERICAL

news sheet



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Friday

March 22, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Partly cloudy Saturday with little change. Winds variable at 5-10 knots per hour. High Saturday 95. Low Saturday 73.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL-10) — Operation Wheeler/Wallowa's enemy body count surged over the 7,000 mark yesterday as Americal Forces killed 137 Viet Cong and captured 28 weapons in heavy fighting approximately 25 miles northwest of Chu Lai. Operation Wheeler/Wallowa which began as two separate offensives in the early fall were combined on Nov. 11, 1967. Americal forces are conducting the operation in the northern part of Quang Tin Province and the southern portion of Quang Nam Province. As of yesterday 3,335 NVA soldiers and 3,806 Viet Cong have been killed. There have been 1,089 individual weapons and 238 crew-served weapons captured. Americal forces have suffered 521 soldiers killed in the six month old offensive.

Besides the 137 Viet Cong killed by Operation Wheeler/Wallowa forces yesterday another Americal element reported three VC kills. Nineteen infantrymen were wounded and evacuated as a result of yesterday's fighting.

The village of Ap Bon (1) approximately three miles northeast of LZ Baldy was the scene of heavy fighting yesterday in which 112 VC were killed and 26 weapons were captured. The opposing forces consisted of a heavily armed and well dug-in fortified enemy force and elements of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry and supporting APCs from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry.

The time was mid-afternoon and "Charlie" was ready to spring his surprise ambush. As elements of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry entered the village on a cordon and search operation, the main force VC unit opened up with small arms fire and grenades. The action sharpened as the enemy poured in RPG and heavy machine gun fire. The Americal forces reacted quickly and effectively and fought the enemy until 7:30 p.m. when contact broke. The APCs from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry using their superior firepower killed 50 of the enemy. A platoon of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry led by 2LT Richard A. Arrington had accounted for 45 of the kills and a reconnaissance element of the "Regulars" led by 2LT Thomas Bradbury had recorded 17 kills. The 14 crew-served weapons captured included nine RPGs, one RPD, one Chicom machine gun and three recoilless rifles.

The 12 individual weapons were six AK-47s, four rifles, one SKS and an M-1 carbine.

Elsewhere in the 196th area of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa, "Charger" elements killed 10 enemy soldiers and detained 11 suspects.

A company of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry commanded by CPT Robert D. Leinen, Sr. (Auburn, N.Y.) killed one VC in a tunnel. The tunnel contained two M-26 hand grenades, one Chicom hand grenade, one 60mm mortar base plate and an NVA shirt. The company also detained six suspects. "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry operating in the same area killed two VC, captured one K-44 and detained four suspects.

In other action yesterday a reconnaissance platoon of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry found a small enemy communications cache hidden in a hut. One RPG rocket launcher and 500 rounds of linked 7.62 ammunition were also discovered in the hut.

A company of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry commanded by CPT Daniel R. Mellon (Fairbanks, Alaska) killed two more VC from an ambush site. Another company of the battalion led by CPT Larry R. Byers (Des Moines, Wash) found the body of a VC killed by artillery.

A gunship from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed one VC while flying in general support of the 196th ground elements.

A reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry killed one VC carrying a gas mask, a VC pack and some documents. Another company of the "Syke's Regulars" detained one suspect who was evacuated for questioning.

In other Operation Wheeler/Wallowa action Americal's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and supporting gunships met scattered enemy resistance yesterday in an area seven miles northeast of Thang Binh where 111 VC were killed Wednesday. Yesterday the 1st Cavalry units and gunships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed 15 VC as they continued operations in the area.

Naval gunfire and air strikes were called in on suspected enemy locations Wednesday night. Yesterday morning the Americal forces went in to police the battlefield and began a sweeping opera-

AMERICAL (Continued)

tion to the north and east. Throughout the day sniper and light small arms fire was reported. By dusk the 1st Cavalry units had recorded three VC kills. "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry gunships were responsible for 12 of the day's enemy body count as they flew close support and screening missions to back up the ground units.

Three VC were killed yesterday by Americal's 11th Brigade in action in Operation Muscatine and in the Duc Pho area. The "Jungle Warriors" also detained four suspects for questioning.

A "Shark" gunship from the 174th Aviation Company killed an enemy soldier in the morning while flying support for a combat assault four miles north of Quang Ngai. The VC was carrying a pack, an M-26 hand grenade, and documents.

The brigade's command and control ship was responsible for a VC kill in the afternoon 10 miles southeast of Quang Ngai. The aircraft went in to evacuate the enemy soldier who appeared to be wounded. As the helicopter touched down, the soldier hurled a grenade which bounced off the side of the aircraft and killed the VC.

A VC detainee led a unit of the 11th Brigade to a weapons cache. When he opened the entrance to the cache, an explosion occurred, killing him.

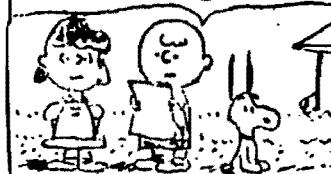
A company from Task Force Barker found and destroyed eight hand grenades and a 60mm mortar round during operations 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai.

Light enemy activity was reported yesterday in Americal's 198th Brigade area near Chu Lai and no enemy were killed.

Civic action soldiers and medics of the "Brave and Bold" Brigade treated 558 Vietnamese in area medical visits yesterday.

SNOPPY

\$120 million a year is spent on medical care for dogs.



I don't believe it.

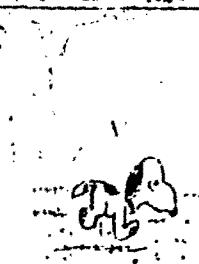
It says so right here.



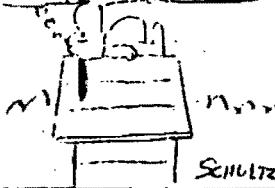
\$120 million a year JUST FOR DOGS!!



ON DOGS!! JUST DOGS!!



Why do they make a person feel so guilty.



AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

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