

448 (BY THOMAS R. ELLISTON,)

IPS CORRESPONDENT

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SAIGON, -- SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ON A "SEARCH-AND-CLEAR" OPERATION NOVEMBER 5 UNCOVERED A LARGE CACHE OF ENEMY AMMUNITION AND WEAPONS IN A FIELD SOUTHWEST OF THE MOUNTAIN CITY OF DALAT.

THIS IS JUST ONE OF SEVERAL CACHES OF ENEMY WEAPONS UNCOVERED BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND ALLIED TROOPS DURING RECENT WEEKS.

INCLUDED IN THE LATEST FIND WERE 81 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR AMMUNITION.

THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ALSO FOUND 69 ANTI-TANK RIFLE GRENADES; 72 ROUNDS OF 60 MM MORTAR AMMUNITION; 15 RIFLE GRENADE LAUNCHERS; AND 34 CANS OF MORTAR FUSES.

MILITARY AUTHORITIES SAY THERE ARE SIX MORTAR CHARGES TO EACH CAN.

LAST MONTH, TWO YOUNG VIET CONG, WHO HAD COME OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE, LED SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY TROOPS TO A VIET CONG MUNITIONS FACTORY, SO WELL HIDDEN IN THE MEKONG DELTA THAT IT COULD NOT BE SEEN FROM THE AIR. SEVENTEEN WORKERS WERE TAKEN, AND MORE THAN 200 WEAPONS CAPTURED.

ALSO IN RECENT WEEKS OTHER CACHES OF ENEMY WEAPONS HAVE BEEN UNCOVERED.

ONE OF THEM IN SA DEC PROVINCE INCLUDED MACHINE GUNS, PISTOLS, RUSSIAN-MADE RIFLES AND THOUSANDS OF ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION.

ANOTHER CACHE UNCOVERED RECENTLY -- NEAR SAIGON -- CONTAINED 52,000 ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION; 190 RIFLE GRENADES; 98 ROUNDS OF 57 MM RECOILLESS RIFLE AMMUNITION, AS WELL AS RICE AND SALT.

MILITARY AUTHORITIES ESTIMATES THE CACHE IS ENOUGH TO ARM AND FEED AN ENEMY BATTALION. ITEM.