

## **Rangers Get Double Kill**

As published in the *Cavalair* 17 Feb 71

From Glen McCrary

FSB BUTTONS – Ranger Team 61, H Co., 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers, recently claimed the lives of two unwary NVA soldiers who walked into an ambush approximately 10 kilometers east of FSB Audie.

The Ranger team, working on the fourth day of a routine reconnaissance mission, had set up an ambush along a jungle trail when the two unlucky enemy soldiers blundered into their position.

“We were marking a trail at about 9 o’clock in the morning when they came bopping along,” explained Sgt. John W. O’Neal, assistant Ranger team leader. “We had set up our claymores for an ambush,” O’Neal added, “when the two of them came walking right it to it.”

O’Neal surmised the unfortunate duo was probably the point element of a larger group. Shortly after the contact was made, the Rangers found themselves in a fire fight with a larger group of NVA.

“After we blew the first two away, the rest of their squad tried to engage us,” added Sgt. Paul L. Middleton, Team 61’s leader.

“They tried to flank us,” continued O’Neal, “but they failed and we engaged them with small arms for about ten minutes.”

But fire support for the Rangers soon tipped the balance on the firefight. “I called a RASH bird in to work over the area where they were firing at us, and soon we heard no more from them,” commented Middleton.

Shortly after, the Blue Plt. of A Trp., 1<sup>st</sup>. Sqdrn. 9<sup>th</sup> Cav was inserted to reinforce the Ranger team and assess the damage done to the enemy. A sweep by the Rangers and Blues produced two AK-47 rifles from the bodies of the slain NVA, plus their rucksacks which contained rice, medicine and personal gear. Among the items being carried was a copy of this year’s January edition of “Sports Illustrated Magazine”.