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10 p.m., 26 men had scrambled from

solidated my people, appointed a point we started searching," related Lieutenant Stockinger. "We had radio contact with out darkness and the fact that we were rely strange area without a map com- things. Normally our scout platoon fore we insert, but we went into this

"I left a machine gun and radio at the base of the hill—in case Chuck was after us," elaborated Lieutenant Stockinger, "and we headed for the LRPAs as fast as we could."

Before long, Specialist 4 Larry Young of Rutland, Va., and Specialist 5 Andrew Carasco of Longview, Wash., the platoon medics, were tending the wounded. Flares were scarce. With the help of a cigarette lighter, Specialist Young applied first aid to one man while Specialist Carasco tended another.

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VC VALLEY, east of Pleiku near Firebase Blackhawk, presented this scene as Ivymen from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry moved into the area. A part of an allied camp site is silhouetted against exploding artillery in background. (USA Photo by SP4 Fred S. Grandenetti)

Scouts Finger Rice Cache

BAN ME THUOT — A large cache of Viet Cong rice was discovered in a practically deserted village north of here by two Kit Carson scouts attached to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, commanded by Captain Walter L. Corey of Concord, N.H.

The two scouts, Vung Van Loc and Dao Pham Xuan, found the rice in barrels hidden under the floors of huts throughout the village. When all of the rice had been collected, there were 52 barrels containing an estimated seven tons.

The unexpected find occurred during a routine cordon and search of the village of Mewal. Lieutenant Colonel Joseph S. Sulenski of Chicago, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, emphasized, "The alertness of the Kit Carsons triggered the finding of this important cache which otherwise might have been overlooked."

The men of Alpha Company were equally lavish in praising the scouts. "The Kit Carsons just walked around saying there is rice here, and here, and here.

They were really squared away," said Sergeant David W. Kemple of Jeffersonville, Ind.

Captain Corey said that interrogation of the few villagers present indicated that Mewal has been used as a Viet Cong resupply center. "There has been a squad that comes in here at night to rest and eat."

"Any rice which is hidden belongs to the VC," continued Captain Corey. "Rice is supposed to be stored in the open. If it is, we will not disturb it. We will give the captured rice to war refugees."

Jan 1969
Ivy Leaf