

## Ruthless Riders Take Toll

# Ivy Units Kill 41, Detain 56

**CAMP ENARI**—Aggressive units of the Famous 4th Infantry Division, intent upon uprooting firmly entrenched enemy forces from the division area of operations, were credited this week with 41 enemy kills and 56 detainees.

Attention was focused on the hotly-contested area near a bend in the Ya Krong Bosah River, 28 kilometers north of Plei Djereng, where American units reported heavy contact throughout the week.

On Saturday, Feb. 1, Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry found one enemy body in the area of last week's heavy fighting.

A sweep of the enemy infested jungle continued throughout the morning. During the afternoon, a Short Range Patrol (SRP) of the company exchanged heavy small arms fire with several small enemy units. Following these exchanges, sweeps turned up another NVA body.

The following morning, C Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry detected from the air four huts and one bunker complex which they judged had been used within two hours prior to detection.

### Platoon Destroys Complex

An aero-rifle platoon was inserted to destroy the complex, and in the process, two sampans, one raft, and three enemy packs containing documents were captured. Nearby, another enemy body was found.

Elements of the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry continued to bear the brunt of the fighting north of Plei Djereng throughout the remainder of the week. They reported another incident near a bend in the river on Feb. 3.

One of the unit's aircraft commanders spotted an NVA soldier moving cautiously over open terrain. Minutes later an aero-rifle platoon was inserted to scour the area.

By afternoon, heavy contact was established as gunships from Troop A combined fire power with the ground unit to rake suspected enemy positions. After a thorough sweep, 13 NVA bodies were tallied.

On Friday, an LOH from Troop A drew heavy automatic weapons fire from fortified ground positions while on a routine mission. Although the aircraft took two hits, the crew members kept the aircraft aloft and returned fire, killing two NVA soldiers.

Gunships were quickly called on station and expended in the area, directing air strikes which killed nine more enemy soldiers and destroyed at least 40 of the bunkers.

Several significant contacts were reported in other sections of the division area of operation.

On Feb. 1, 20 kilometers southwest of Camp Enari, Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry reported sporadic contact with an estimated

platoon of Viet Cong. When the fighting subsided, one enemy soldier was detained.

Later in the day, two contacts were reported about 50 kilometers east of Camp Enari.

A LRP team observed 15 three-man bunkers showing signs of recent use. The bunkers were well-stocked with rice, tobacco and rice wine. The team waited patiently in the area and four hours later their suspicions were confirmed as they drew fire from a band of Viet Cong. One enemy was killed and his weapon recovered.

Nearby, Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, while on a routine mission, took three NVA soldiers under fire, killing two.

LRP activity continued on Feb. 2 as a team working an area 40 kilometers east of Camp Enari made contact with 20 Viet Cong. The enemy fled, leaving behind two dead after the brief, but heavy exchange of small arms fire.

Meanwhile, Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry observed from the air three huts and 50-55 bunkers joined by interlocking trench networks. Gunships peppered the area, but enemy casualties remained unknown.

### Rice Caches Found

Four substantial rice caches were found during the week. On Feb. 3, Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, operating 25 kilometers southwest of the Oasis, secured nearly a ton of rice stored in baskets.

Three days later, Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry detained one Viet Cong suspect south of Camp Enari while uncovering a rice horde weighing 1,000 pounds.

A total of 1,800 pounds of rice was found on Feb. 6 and 7 by two companies of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry in separate caches southeast of Camp Enari.

On Feb. 4, 18 kilometers northwest of Plei Mrong, Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry engaged an enemy unit of unknown size. A LOH of Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry was on the scene for support, as four NVA soldiers were killed and two detained in action.

Two days later, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, engaged four NVA soldiers in the same locale, killing one and capturing his AK47 and personal documents before contact was broken.

In a cordon and search mission of a village 45 kilometers from Ban Me Thuot, one company of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry and National Police detained 39 suspects on Feb. 4.

The week's total for detainees was raised to 56 on Feb. 7 as Company C, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, in cordon and search with National Police missions of three small villages in the Plei Mrong area, detained 12 more enemy suspects.

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Ivy Leaf