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## 2 Hoi Chanh, 2 Rifles Less

DUC PHO—There will be two less weapons shooting at the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, because of two Hoi Chanh.

Recently the two former Viet Cong surrendered themselves to the Duc Pho District Headquarters. They said they each had a weapon and were willing to lead American troops to where the rifles were hidden.

With the assistance of an interpreter, the ralliers led Co A, 1/35th, directly to the cache. The infantrymen uncovered two MOS 36 bolt action rifles.

### **Jewish Service**

Jewish Church Services are now being conducted at the Division Memorial Chapel. Regularly scheduled services are held on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m.

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# Tunnel Rats Kill 6, Detain 5 Viet Cong

By CPT Don Morton

DUC PHO, — Working with entrenching tools, a flashlight and armed with .45 cal. pistols the "Tunnel Rats" made trip after trip into tunnels searching for Communist guerrillas and equipment.

After a long day of digging and probing the banks of a small stream near Duc Pho, the "Cacti" platoon had searched seven tunnels, killed six VC, captured three weapons, five detainees and numerous hand grenades and ammo.

"We moved in here purely on an educated guess," said 1LT John G. Denino. "We had been receiving sniper fire from this location so we decided to make a thorough search."

Dividing into search teams, the 3rd Pltn, Co A, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf, set about the tedious mission of hunting the entrenched enemy.

"The area was full of spider holes and tunnels," related PFC Andrew MacGregor of Brooklyn, N.Y. "We had to search them all and many were hard to find."

Most of the tunnels were along the banks of a small stream. The entrances were well camouflaged behind bamboo and dense vine thickets. The infantrymen cautiously probed each thicket looking for a path which might give away the location of the entrance. A door made of either sticks or boards covered

by dirt and grass concealed the exact location.

It was mid-morning when MacGregor and PFC Herman E. Bowers of Mt. Vernon, Tenn., discovered a worn path leading into a bamboo thicket. The duo had barely started digging when they hit the sticks covering the entrance. As one stick was removed, PFC Gearld McAfee of Tulsa, Okla., who had joined the pair, caught a glimpse of a weapon muzzle. Rifle fire tore into the entrance followed by grenades.

Next PFC Benjamin Chavet, a tough little soldier from Van

Nuys, Calif., and the platoon's ace tunnel rat, went to work searching out the tunnel. Three VC were killed and three weapons captured.

However, the day was just beginning. "Keep searching, there must be at least a squad," was the order from Denino.

The search teams once again set about the hot and tedious task. Probing the bamboo thickets again proved fruitful as another tunnel was discovered. Again the call went out for Chavet. Although the VC had abandoned the tunnel, grenades and new boxes of ammo were captured.

Moments later another tunnel was located. Quickly the men sprang into action. This time it was occupied. As a grenade was hurled from the entrance the men dove for cover. Rifle fire drove the VC from the entrance and grenades were tossed in. Three VC, web gear, and grenades were taken from the tunnel.

Not more than 15 meters away still another tunnel was found. Very little time was wasted as each man knew his job. Chavet was ready to enter the tunnel when he was really surprised. Someone started crawling from the entrance. Chavet jumped back with his pistol cocked waiting to see if he was armed. Unarmed the man was followed by four more. The platoon now had five detainees.

A chopper was called and the five were lifted to the forward tactical command post of the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, where they were subsequently classified as Viet Cong.

It was quite a day for the 3rd Plt. Accounting for more than a squad of guerrillas they certainly lived up to the B's motto "None Better."

## Enemy Trapped

DUC PHO — The night began like an ordinary night for the Recon Plt. of the 1st Bn 35th Inf.

Late in the night, two unsuspecting Viet Cong were spotted moving toward the well-hidden ambush. Anxious moments passed until the enemy was trapped. The infantrymen opened fire and instantly killed the two guerrillas. A search of the area produced two pistols and several documents.

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