

Ambush Clicks, VC Die

In the night-blackened jungle outside Tan Phu Trung, the four men of the ambush patrol were crouched and waiting; intelligence reports indicated that VC would pass this way returning to their village where they would spend the night with their families.

The VC appeared suddenly, moving silently through the jungle, sometimes coming within inches of the concealed ambushers. At this time, a cough, a sneeze, a slight movement by any member of the patrol would have meant death for himself and his comrades.

Opened Fire

When the last VC had passed a few feet beyond their position, the squad opened fire. Two VC were killed instantly and the others—at least eight VC were involved—fled leaving a trail of blood behind them.

The patrol which routed the VC was composed of one American, one ARVN and two Popular Forces soldiers.

Recalling how close he and his men were to the VC that night, SSG Alfred Knopsnyder of Markleton, Pa., 2nd Bn, 14th Inf. says, "I couldn't move my rifle for fear of bumping one of the guerrillas."

It's Effective

About the success of the patrol, the sergeant had this to say: "In the dense vines, and bushes of the jungle, the only way for the enemy to discover a concealed soldier is to directly stumble over one. That is why the well-concealed and planned ambush is so effective."

Booby-trap Factory Discovered

DUC PHO — Infantrymen of the "Tropic Lightning" 3rd Bde, conducting search and destroy operations southwest of Duc Pho captured what was believed to be a small booby trap factory.

The VC working in the small shop were evidently surprised by the U.S. soldiers and abandoned the area and their equipment to avoid contact.

The "Cacti" of the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, were searching an area of constant enemy activity when a concealed trail leading into heavy underbrush was located. LT Roger G. Ladd, the platoon leader, ordered his men to search along the trail. The infantrymen did not go far when they found a small "hootch" and the necessary equipment to construct booby traps and grenades. The find included fuses for grenades, a container full of small pieces of metal to be used as shrapnel, gun powder, commo wire and 18 rounds of .30 cal. ammo.

Also found were parts of weapons, two tons of rice, documents and maps, and a sight for an anti-aircraft weapon.

Although the enemy had fled the area, the confiscation of the booby trap material may well be more important.

Booby traps, planted with devious ingenuity, have plagued the infantrymen since arriving in Duc Pho.



Duc Pho—A 106mm recoilless rifle, protecting LZ Liz, forward fire base of the 2nd Bn, 35th Inf. unleashes another round at a suspected enemy location on the coastal plain north of Duc Pho. (Photo by PFC Peter Daly)

School Built By Villagers

The villagers of Ap Mui Lon in Quan Nghia Province are using the material and technical assistance made available through the 25th Div's Self-Help Program to build an addition to their school.

The school serves the rice-rich countryside just south of the district seat of Cu Chi. The children presently attending classes range in age from 6 to 12.

The structure, now about two-thirds finished, will double the capacity of the school when completed. The teachers are anxiously awaiting the finished product because of the overcrowded conditions in their classrooms.

To get the project off the

ground 1LT William Henderson of Everett, Wash., civil affairs officer of the 25th Supply and Trans Bn, first obtained the cooperation of the people in the hamlet. Then arrangements providing for new teachers were made with the Provincial primary education chief who is comparable to a superintendent of schools in the United States.

In the past, S-5 officers have had the problem of building schools and then not being able to provide teachers. "This tended to irritate rather than please the people," said Henderson. "That is why the procurement of teachers is high on the priority list," he explained.

Henderson stated, "The materials are made available at little or no cost, but the people must involve their own time and labor. By making them provide that, they take more pride in the improvement and are less likely to let it be abused by anyone, VC included."

Soldiers of the Month

SP4 Warren Lee Holton and SP4 Stanley J. Domian have been named Soldiers of the Month for the 25th Supply and Trans Bn, for the months of June and July, respectively.

The men were picked to represent their companies in battalion competition on the basis of their past records and present performances. Each was then chosen as Soldier of the Month on the basis of his performance before a question and answer panel of Senior NCOs.

"Cacti" Kill 8

DUC PHO—A small breather hole in the side of a rice paddy dike was the first sign "Charlie" was in the area. LT Homer Krout II, platoon leader of the Recon Plt, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf, immediately established a perimeter and began searching the area.

Conducting an early morning combat assault, the Recon Plt was following an agent who said he could lead them to a tunnel complex.

Arriving at the location it appeared that the agent was mistaken. "At first we couldn't find anything. Then one of my men saw the breather hole."

The Recon men began to enlarge the hole. Suddenly, four grenades were hurled from the tunnel. Diving for cover, no one was injured. The ensuing fight resulted in eight enemy killed and four weapons captured.

Next, the Vietnamese agent reported that he knew where another tunnel was located. "We arrived in the area but were unable to find a tunnel," stated Krout. "We were ready to give up the hunt when the Vietnamese agent became suspicious of a basket with bamboo shoots growing from it. He moved the basket and revealed the entrance to a tunnel." A search of the area revealed an empty tunnel.

As the choppers were coming in, two VC sprang from a spider hole next to the LZ. Throwing grenades at the infantrymen they attempted to escape across a rice paddy. Surprised, the infantrymen whirled around and ended the escape attempt.



ICELANDIC EYEFUL—The costume may not be right for the weather in Iceland, but it certainly shows why Gudrun Petursdottir was chosen to represent her country in the 1967 Miss Universe competition.