35th Infantry Platoon Chow, Called Short

DUC PHO—"This underbrush is so thick, we have to cut our way through to move," the squad leader's voice spoke over the radio.

CPT Jacky A. Burr of Tulsa, Okla., picked up the horn.

"Keep pushing," he said.

The 3rd Plt. of Co. A, 1st Bn., 35th Inf. had just stopped for a rest and some chow when they heard automatic weapons fire and M-79 grenade rounds going off on a hill directly to their front. The 1st Plt. had made contact with elements of the NVA.

Chow was called short, and Burr moved his men out to aid the forward platoon.

They were faced with the task of moving through dense vegetation up the finger of the mountain just to the west of the action.

A noon-day sun spread its heat over the entire area; sweat blurred vision; thorns tore at the skin. Often the men had to crawl through the brush to avoid becoming entangled as they moved steadily upward.

Word came over the radio that contact had been broken and that a recon group sent out had discovered a large cache of polished rice, six illuminating 60-mm mortar rounds and various pieces of NVA field equipment.

Burr halted his platoon while he continued to receive reports on the findings and reports of numerous sightings of enemy positions and enemy in the open.

Soon it was to become a job for the artillery—"an artilleryman's field day," as Burr phrased it.

Then the 1st Plt. radioed that they saw three NVA soldiers bathing in a nearby stream with at least five more men in the immediate area. He called in artillery fires. Direct hits were reported by gunships surveying the area.

The 3rd Plt. then proceeded to an LZ to set up for the night. Their next day's work was an cut out for them: policing up the battlefield and bagging the twenty-six tons of polished rice they had uncovered for transport to the Duc Pho refugee center.

LTC Ladd CO of 'Golden Dragons'

The 'Golden Dragons' have a new battalion commander.

LTC James Von K. Ladd of Perrysburg, Ohio, took over command from LTC Charles A. Gilles May 18.

While fighting in Korea with the 3rd Inf. Div. Ladd won the Distinguished Service Cross and Bronze Star.

The 1946 graduate of West Point attended the Command and General Staff College and taught Military Science at Dartmouth College for two years.

He attended the Army Language School where he studied Thai. In 1962 he assumed the duties of Senior Advisor of Counterinsurgency with JUSMAG in Thailand.

From 1964 to 1967 he worked as staff officer of the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff in Washington D.C.

The former CO of the 2nd Bn., 14th Inf., left for an assignment attending Tulane University Graduate school in New Orleans.

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# of Hard Times, Why Return

issued strong warnings to their men not to be caught with any government information in their possession.

Despite this, the enemy troops have become avid readers of the leaflets according to Hoi Chanh. Rewards are given as incentives for information regarding the whereabouts of enemy mines and booby traps and for turning in weapons.

For the past 15 years the Duc Pho District of Quang Ngai Province has been a free movement area for NVA and VC.

Suddenly the tide has turned and the enemy is no longer free to roam and terrorize the villagers.

One former VC squad leader, now a returnee, stated, "I was in a firefight this morning just before dawn and for every round I fired, twenty men fired back at me. With odds like that I knew I never could win."

Since the 3rd Bde. closed the Duc Pho area on April 19, more than 120 Hoi Chanh have rallied. Thirty-three returned in a

lie to my people. I tell them we are winning and we lose.

"I tell them food, clothing and medicine are coming but it never arrives for them or me. Your men seem to have a will to win because they have something to fight with and for."

The Psyops team has taken many such returnees and given them the things which the Communists fail to give.

They are taken to the Chieu Hoi center in Quang Ngai. There the government relocates them and, if necessary, educates them in a trade so they will become useful citizens of Vietnam.

When asked how he felt about the sudden influx of returnees, Beck replied, "For every Chieu Hoi that comes in I know our work has not been in vain, and we are doing a good job of reaching the people. This is a never ending job yet it is one where there is real satisfaction.

"We realize that Psyops alone cannot do the job but with the help of combat forces and civic

65th Slices Thru Boi Loi

The last phase of Operation "Manhattan," that of clearing the heavy tropical secondary growth of the southern Boi Loi woods, will be completed by next week, reports a 65th Cbt. Engr. Bn. spokesman.

To date 3500 acres have been cleared by Co. C, aided by elements of the 588th Engr. Bn. Security for the engineers and their heavy equipment has been the responsibility of the 4th Bn., 23rd Inf.

MAJ William Borum, battalion plans and operations officer, definitely feels that by clearing the Boi Loi area, Allied forces are denying the communist-led guerillas the use of what was the center of terrorist activities and a major supply point.

Hundreds of bunkers, tunnel complexes and trench lines, containing tons of weapons, ammunition and food caches have been uncovered.

Many of the underground fortifications, according to 1LT Jack Hansman, Co. C commander, are old but show signs of recent improvement.

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