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For nearly a week

Fourth locked in combat

CAMP ENARI — Combat activity increased greatly throughout the 4th Infantry Division's area of operations.

Attention remained focused, however, on an area 20 miles north of Plei Djereng, where two companies of the 1st Bn., 35th Inf., initiated contact and

remained locked in combat with North Vietnamese military forces for most of the week.

Contact began with Co. D penetrating a hastily-evacuated enemy base camp in the thickly jungled area north of Plei Djereng. It was estimated that the camp quartered at

least a platoon-sized unit. Twenty-five fortified sleeping positions and a hut were destroyed and 20 60mm mortar rounds were evacuated.

The following day Co. A, found one NVA body in the area, while nearby Co. C, following a blood trail, discovered a large cave complex housing numerous documents, thirty-one field packs, fifty NVA uniforms, an undisclosed amount of machinegun ammunition, two NVA pistols, over a ton of rice, and several photos.

The following day Co. D reported itself engaged in a heavy, day-long contact with an enemy of unknown size. NVA small arms and mortar fire was countered by US gunships and artillery throughout the day.

Co. A linked with Co. D in an effort to crush the enemy. The fighting continued on as the two companies expended a withering volume of fire against a well-entrenched enemy force.

Two separate incidents were reported approximately 25 kilometers northwest of Kontum. In the early morning hours the Co. C, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. perimeter was probed by
Please turn to page 16



Americal Photo

PREPARING TO ASSAULT a nearby island, these Americal soldiers drag their fully loaded boat to the river. They were participating in the division's Operation Russell Beach on the Batangan Peninsula, 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

'Lightning' strikes VC at Phuoc Luu

TAY NINH—Ability and teamwork were key factors when the 4th Bn., 9th Inf., and the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cav., with support from helicopter gunships and elements of the 29th Artillery combined to turn back an estimated reinforced VC company's attack on their night laager near Phuoc Luu.

When the fighting had ended, 25th Infantry Division soldiers had killed 15 enemy and detained one suspect in the action that took place near Phuoc Luu, five miles southwest of Go Dac Ha.

B Troop of the Cavalry was already in place and had received hostile fire when 4th Bn. Infantrymen moved in to bolster the blocking force.

By midnight the 25th Division soldiers were entrenched in fighting positions with overhead cover, mechanized tracks and two artillery pieces.

The fast work paid off. At about 1:30 a.m. the VC let loose. Pfc. Michael W. Tanner, a radio-telephone operator for Co.

C remembered it this way: "I finished digging my bunker and had maybe half an hour's sleep before the stuff started coming in. They were throwing everything you could think of at us."

Capt. Ramon T. Pulliam, commander of Co. C, shifted his 90mm recoilless rifle team to knock out the enemy forces zeroing in on the cavalry tracks. Nearly 100 recoilless rifle rounds were fired by the Lightning Division troopers during the battle.

"Things were pretty hairy there for a while," Pulliam recalled. "I was carrying ammo out to a bunker when an RPG rolled right in front of me. I held my breath, but it didn't go off."

Gunships added firepower, and flares stole the night from Charlie.

A sweep of the area the next day turned up 15 dead enemy, three AK47 assault rifles, 35 ChiCom hand grenades, 26 mixed B40 and B41 rifle grenades and a light machine gun. One suspect was detained.

Village seal turns to fighting as troops trap N. Viet force

LAI KHE — First Infantry Division soldiers with air and artillery support made heavy

contact with an NVA unit nine miles west of Quan Loi in a battle lasting more than four hours.

Under the operational control of the 1st Air Cavalry Division Co. B of the 2nd Bn., 2nd Inf. was engaged in the search and seal of Ap Charac, a small village suspected of housing enemy troops. During the battle the soldiers killed 41 NVA.

"The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Platoons were sealing the village while the 1st Platoon had the mission of sweeping and clearing a road to the south," recalled Capt. H. Hanson, the commander of Co. B.

The 1st Platoon met with heavy grenade and automatic weapons fire, as the enemy fired from a bamboo thicket near the road south of the village.

The tracks immediately moved on line and began an assault on the bunkers from which the enemy fire was coming. The 3rd Platoon swung in on the left flank while the 2nd Platoon moved around to the rear and formed a "U".

After about 20 minutes of fighting Co. C and the reconnaissance element pulled up to lend support.

"Recon" came in from Co. B's east and headed north. "Just as we made the turn 15 NVA crossed our right flank,"

commented Lt. George Costango, "We fired at them and received fire from our left flank. It was then that we discovered we had trapped 30 enemy between Co. B and ourselves. We engaged them with small arms killing eight instantly."

Co. B and "Recon" then began a sweep of the contact area. They ran into more NVA still firing from bunkers, engaged them, and called in air strikes.

Later, a sweep of the area resulted in 41 enemy bodies, three detainees and numerous weapons and ammunition captured.

Saves comrades from blast, Spec. 4 gets highest medal

WASHINGTON—The Medal of Honor has been awarded posthumously to Spec. 4 George A. Ingalls in a ceremony at the office of the Secretary of the Army.

Ingalls, an infantryman with Co. A, 2nd Bn., 5th Cav., 1st Cavalry Division at the time of his death, was cited for his act of throwing himself on a hand grenade, thus saving the life of his comrades.

On April 16, 1967, he accompanied his squad on a night ambush mission near Duc Pho. Shortly after the ambush was established, an enemy soldier entered the unit's zone and was shot when he tried to evade capture.

Other enemy soldiers were expected to enter the area, and the ambush was maintained in the same location.

Two hours passed without incident. Then suddenly a hand grenade was thrown from the nearby dense undergrowth into the center of the squad's position.

The grenade did not explode, but shortly thereafter a second grenade landed directly between Ingalls and a nearby comrade. Although he could have jumped to a safe position, Ingalls threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast.

The explosion killed Ingalls, but his act was credited with saving the lives of the remaining members of his squad.

Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor presented the medal to Mrs. Maud M. Ingalls, the soldier's mother.



Spec. 4 Ingalls

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Vietnam Communique

Jan. 27-Feb. 2

Americal Div kills 337

Americal Div

Americal Division soldiers ran up a total of 337 enemy kills in scattered fighting in the I Corps Tactical Zone during the week.

Soldiers of the 11th Light Inf. Bde. accounted for 40 of the 64 enemy killed by the division Jan. 27. In the largest single action, a recon patrol from the 11th Bde.'s 4th Bn., 21st Inf. encountered an estimated 13 enemy, killing 11 of them in the ensuing firefight seven miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Three days later, as the total kills for the day rose to 55, elements of the 11th Bde. killed 32 Viet Cong and five NVA soldiers in scattered actions around Quang Ngai City.

The next day, Jan. 31, "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Bde. accounted for 22 enemy killed and the discovery of a cache containing 27 weapons. The brigade followed this up with the discovery on Feb. 1 of another weapons cache in the same area near Quang Ngai City.

By Feb. 2, the 198th Light Inf. Bde. and Marines under the brigade's operational control had run up a total of 147 enemy killed in Operation Russell Beach. The operation also had netted 230 members of the Communist infrastructure captured, 91 suspects detained and 32 Hoi Chanh. The northern sector of the cordon had reached the South China Sea, while the rest of the forces were within a quarter-mile of the beach.

9th Inf Div

The 9th Infantry Division's "Old Reliabilities" saw heavy action during the week as they killed 268 enemy and uncovered several large caches.

They killed 71 enemy on Jan. 31, when 1st Bde. soldiers and supporting elements accounted for 42 enemy dead in ambushes and operations around Cai Lay.

The following day, infantrymen of the 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. and supporting gunships engaged an enemy force 10 miles north of Tan An in an action that accounted for 28 of the 9th Division's 56 enemy dead that day. Contact began in the afternoon when a battalion element

conducting sweep operations engaged an unknown-size enemy force. Two more companies were inserted later in the evening and during the ensuing fight, the infantrymen killed 21, while gunships of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cav. killed seven. Continuing the action the next day, sweeps found the bodies of 27 NVA soldiers and the two-day enemy toll put at 55 dead.

1st Cav Div

Thanks to the efforts of "Skytroopers" of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the enemy ladders were going to be bare for some time to come. More than 100 tons of rice were uncovered by 1st Cav. soldiers in a series of cache discoveries during the week.

The week also saw the "Skytroopers" kill 135 enemy in a number of actions in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

On Jan. 31, the division killed 47 enemy and uncovered one of the large food caches, in addition to a large weapons cache.

In the day's largest action, a light observation helicopter from the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry received automatic weapons fire 16 miles southeast of An Loc. The ship engaged the bunker and artillery and airstrikes were ordered, destroying 10 of the 30 bunkers in the complex and killing 34 enemy.

25th Inf Div

Action through the week was generally light for "Tropic Lightning" soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division.

The major actions of the week occurred on Feb. 2, a day when the division accounted for 52 enemy killed. In fighting four miles north of Go Dau Ha, elements of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav, supported by the 1st ARVN Marines, killed 34 VC.

At about the same time, soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf., a unit of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade under operational control of the 25th Division, encountered an estimated VC company 22 miles north of Saigon. A sweep conducted after airstrikes were ordered revealed 18 enemy killed.

Elsewhere that day, the 1st Bn., 5th Inf. uncovered a 12,000-pound rice cache seven miles northeast of Cu Chi, while men of the 3rd Bn., 22nd Inf. found a weapons bunker and a small VC hospital containing rice and medical supplies.

1st Inf Div

"Big Red One" soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division encountered light and scattered action while killing 39 enemy during the week and destroying a number of bunkers.

On Feb. 1, two battalion-sized NVA forces initiated a ground attack on the 1st Division's Oran base camp. In an early-morning sweep of the area, seven miles northeast of Dau Tieng, elements of the 1st Bn., 26th Inf. and 1st Bn., 28th Inf. discovered the bodies of 14 NVA soldiers, fatalities in the allied counter-attack.

Infantrymen of the 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. found and destroyed 47 enemy bunkers and 77 fighting positions 13 miles east of Lai Khe, while on another day, the infantrymen destroyed an enemy base camp with 29 bunkers south of Phuoc Vinh.

11th Armored Cav Regt

Blackhorse troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry killed one enemy and detained three suspects in an incident near Lai Khe Jan. 29. The action began when a regimental reconnaissance helicopter crew spotted an enemy bunker in a heavily wooded area. Blackhorse ground troops joined the battle after enemy fire was received by the chopper.

1st Bde, 5th Inf Div

Elements of the 1st Bn., 77th Armor engaged an estimated platoon size enemy unit Jan. 27 approximately nine miles south of Quang Tri. Contact was lost at an unreported time when the remaining enemy withdrew. Three enemy bodies were found in a sweep of the area. One U.S. soldier was wounded.

3rd Bde, 82nd Abn Div

Ten miles north of Saigon Jan. 28, elements of the 1st Bn., 505th Inf. en-

gaged five VC moving south. One of the enemy was killed during the firefight. There were no U.S. casualties.

199th Light Inf Bde

"Redcatchers" of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade reported killing 26 enemy in a week of light and scattered contacts.

On a cordon operation 12 miles north of Tan An, a company from the 3rd Bn., 7th Inf. killed six VC in several contacts. That same day, elements of the 4th Bn., 12th Inf., operating less than nine miles southwest of Saigon, detained three suspects and captured nearly 12 tons of enemy rice and 1,400 pounds of ammonia nitrate.

101st Abn Div

Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) continued probing enemy base areas during the week, killing a total of 24 enemy.

In one day's actions, "Screaming Eagles" of the 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. killed six enemy and captured two weapons in the coastal area west of Phu Loc, while a similar search and clear operation seven miles southeast of Camp Eagle resulted in two more enemy killed by soldiers of the 1st Bn., 327th Inf.

4th Inf Div

Light and scattered action was reported during the week by the 4th Infantry Division.

"Ivymen" were credited with killing nine enemy, while uncovering 500 pounds of unpolished rice in a cache that was discovered nearly eight miles northwest of Plei Me.

173rd Abn Bde

Elements of the 173rd Airborne Bde. killed 18 enemy in scattered actions during the week.

An armored element of the 173d Airborne Brigade killed seven VC during a pitched 2½ hour battle shortly after midnight near Tuy Hoa.

The action began when an RF/PF platoon came under fire from an estimated enemy company hidden in an abandoned village.

Five armored personnel carriers from the 6th Armor reinforced the local force troops and counter-attacked into the village.

Helicopter and Air Force 'Spooky' gunships supported from the air.

23rd Arty Gp

Artillery fire from elements of the 23rd Artillery Group resulted in a reported 23 enemy dead.

High explosive rounds from an eight inch gun battery of the group accounted for four enemy dead and extensive damage to enemy fighting positions.

During five separate fire missions on an area 11 miles north of Tay Ninh, cannoneers from the 2nd Bn., 32nd Artillery fired over 100 rounds.

A 1st Cavalry Division aerial observer reported 36 bunkers destroyed, and four secondary explosions.

Blasting the enemy with its huge eight inch guns, 2nd Bn., 32d Artillery reported five enemy killed approximately seven miles southwest of its Tay Ninh base camp.

From their position just east of Cu Chi, artillerymen from the unit poured 105mm howitzer fire into an area five miles northeast of their location. Four enemy were reported killed.

1st Avn Bde

At 6:30 p.m. Jan. 28 a light fire team from the 134th Assault Helicopter Co., 268th Combat Aviation Bn., was called to an area northwest of Song Cau by "Hawkeye" aircrews of the 223rd Combat Support Aviation Bn. While the light fire team engaged the area with rockets and miniguns another light fire team from the same company joined the action which lasted until nearly 8 p.m. The aircrews reported seven enemy killed, 30 structures destroyed and five secondary explosions.



SCREAMING EAGLES of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. step with care as they cross a flimsy bamboo bridge near Phu Bai. The 101st Airborne Division

company was moving into an ambush site outside the city.

101st Abn Photo



101st Abn Photo

KEEPING A CLOSE watch for enemy activity is Spec. 4 S.D. Harris, of Co. F, 58th Long Range Patrol, 101st Airborne Division. The soldier was moving through the jungle on a 101st Division mission near Camp Eagle.

Military personnel offered cash awards

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — Former President Johnson signed an Executive Order which makes it possible for military personnel to receive cash awards from civilian agencies of the Government for suggestions, inventions, or scientific achievements that benefit those agencies.

Basically, it puts into effect the inter-departmental awards phase of the program authorized in the military cash awards law of 1965 (PL 89-198).

Under the law's military service provisions, members of the armed forces have been eligible to receive awards for suggestions adopted within the services.

Tangible benefits of over \$119,000,000 have already been realized as a result of the awards program. Now members of the military will be eligible for awards on essentially the same basis as civilian employees. As much as \$25,000 is awardable for a single suggestion or achievement under the terms of the President's order (Executive Order 11438).

The action is expected to encourage even greater participa-

tion by members of the armed forces in the Government's highly successful incentive awards program, with the resulting improvements benefiting the American taxpayer.

The Act, passed by the 89th Congress (H.R. 8333), amends Title 10, United States Code, "to provide for the establishment of a program of cash awards for suggestions, inventions, or scientific achievements by members of the armed forces which contribute to the efficiency, economy, or other improvement of Government operations."

Specifically, the 1965 Act states:

"The Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy (now under the Department of Transportation), may authorize the payment of a cash award to, and incur necessary expense for the honorary recognition of, a member of the armed forces under his jurisdiction who by his suggestion, invention, or scientific achievement contributes to the efficiency, economy, or other improvement of operations or programs relating to the armed forces."

Section 2 Executive Order signed Dec. 3, states:

"An executive department or agency that adopts or uses the suggestion, invention, or scientific achievement of a member of the armed forces who is not under its jurisdiction may recommend to the Department of Defense or to the Department of Transportation, as appropriate, a cash or honorary recognition of the number and shall justify its recommendation with appropriate documentation and explanation of how the suggestion, invention, or scientific achievement contributes to the efficiency, economy, or other improvements of the operations of the Government of the United States. Awards shall be made under regulations to be

prescribed by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Transportation, as appropriate.

"The regulations of the Department of Defense and Department of Transportation may include designations of officials to whom authority for receiving, evaluating, and making awards may be assigned."

The 1965 incentive awards legislation (PL 89-198) has been implemented by the Defense Department and the separate services. The President's Executive Order signed Dec. 3 is now in the process of being implemented by the Defense Department.

Book on Americal available

LONG BINH — An Americal Division scrapbook, "for fighting men too busy to keep their own," has recently been published by the U.S. Army Command Information Unit, Washington, D.C.

Issues of the scrapbook covering the Americal soldier's period of duty are available to all officers and enlisted men upon their return to the United States.

To request a copy, write to the U.S. Army Command Information Unit, Washington, D.C. 20315.

Your full name, rank, service number, former unit (division, brigade, regiment), stateside address with zip code and inclusive dates of tour in Vietnam should be included.

Scrapbooks representing other units in Vietnam in addition to Americal, may be obtained from the same address.

Naturalization Act amended

Soldier citizenship rushed

WASHINGTON (AFPS)—The Immigration and Naturalization Act has been amended to provide for expeditious naturalization of foreign nationals serving in the armed forces of the United States during the Vietnam conflict.

In addition, the amendment applies to any future period designated by the President by Executive Order as a period in which the armed forces of the United States are or were engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force.

The amended Act was originally bill H. R. 15147, and signed into law by President Johnson on Oct. 24, 1968. It now is Public Law 90-633.

It applies to foreign nationals who have served on active duty with the armed forces at any time during a period beginning Feb. 28, 1961, and ending at a future date to be designated by the President, or who may serve in any future period of hostility so designated by Presidential Executive Order.

No minimum period of service is required, however, the service must be characterized as satisfactory.

The requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act with regard to age, residence, physical presence in the United States, court jurisdiction, the 30 day waiting period after filing of the petition and payment of naturalization fee are waived for all eligible alien service members.

In addition, the requirement that a foreign national be lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence is waived if the alien service member has at any time enlisted, re-enlisted or been inducted into the armed forces within the territorial United States, the Canal Zone, American Samoa, or Swains Island.

Foreign nationals serving in the armed forces who desire to obtain United States citizenship and who may benefit by the liberalization of these provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act are encouraged to consult a local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service or their legal assistance officer for information and assistance.

Project sells skills of military retirees

WASHINGTON (ANF) — A strengthened program to assist the more than 51,000 enlisted military personnel and approximately 13,000 officers who retire from active duty each year was recently announced by the Department of Defense (DOD).

The average age of military personnel who retire is 45.

The new plan, called Project Referral, was developed in recognition of the fact that increasing numbers of military personnel will be retiring in the years immediately ahead.

For some years, the Department of Defense, in cooperation with other government agencies, notably the Department of Labor, has been conducting a program to counsel retiring military personnel on potential employment opportunities.

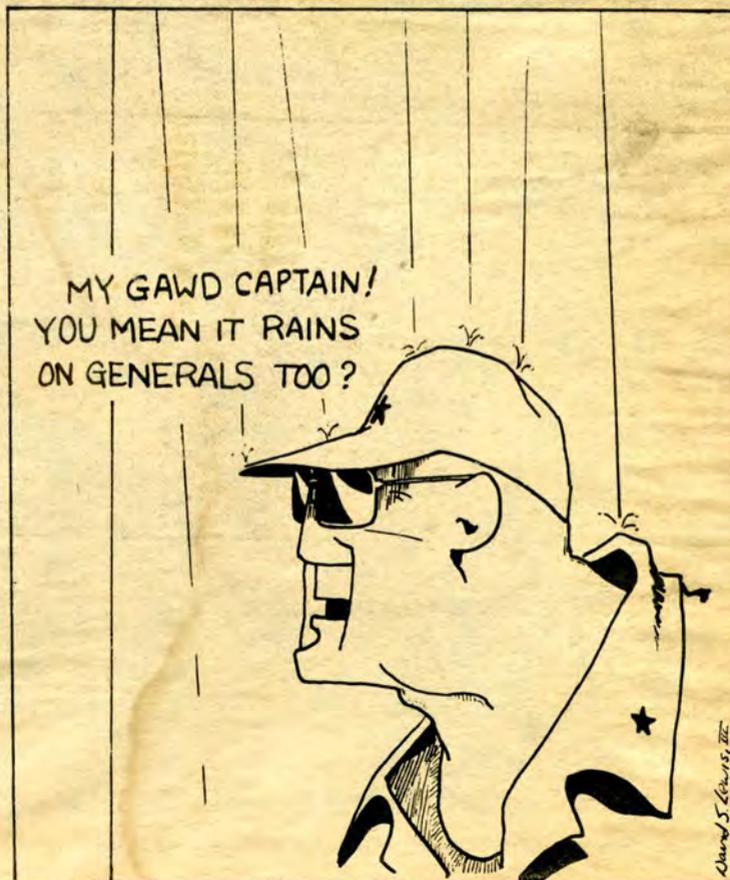
With the aid of computers, the Department of Defense now intends to strengthen the various individual programs conducted by the services to assure that maximum assistance

is provided to each individual who completes a career of military service. The program will be conducted on a voluntary basis.

Under project Referral, a centralized DOD Skill Data Referral Service will be established in existing facilities at Dayton, Ohio.

This activity will consist of an automated skill data bank which will: systematically inventory the skills of retirees, identify areas where such skills could be used to the benefit of both the nation and the individual retiree, and also refer registrants to prospective employers in both the public and private sectors.

Detailed planning and development of automated procedures to support the referral service began last month. A pilot program will be conducted starting in September with full implementation of the program scheduled to begin in the spring of next year.



Radar teams protect cav from enemy night attacks

PHUOC VINH — As darkness fell over a U.S. landing zone and firebase, an unseen line of defense began protecting the tiny LZ from enemy ground attack. The defense unit, a ground surveillance radar team, is a vivid example of how the modern world of electronics is helping the U.S. Army fight the war in Vietnam.

Several miles away, a squad of enemy soldiers moved slowly toward the LZ under an overcast sky. They carried a small mortar tube with 20 rounds. Their job apparently was to move within effective firing range and expend their deadly ordnance upon the small, seemingly unsuspecting firebase.

But this squad of enemy, like many others in recent months, never got close. It was

detected by the radar team several miles away. U.S. artillery pounded them. The results, according to an aerial scout team sent out the next morning, were five enemy killed, and one enemy mortar tube destroyed.

Since the First Team moved south to the III Corps Tactical Zone in late October, the division and supporting fire has killed nearly 1,500 enemy and captured caches of weapons, ammunition, food and medical supplies. Much of the credit for this record can be given to the radar units. This particular unit provides ground radar surveillance for the 2nd Brigade.

"We have the responsibility of providing radar surveillance for any one of several brigade landing zones," explained Spec.

4 Joseph Duffy, one of the radar specialists.

"One of the major reasons we have been operating from this LZ," continued Duffy, "is that it is near one of the main infiltration routes from Cambodia into Vietnam. We are able to detect the movement of men and supplies and direct artillery in on them," he explained.

The past few weeks have kept the radar team busy. "We have had movement just about every night for the past month and a half," said Spec. 4 Arthur Gill.

The set is designed to pick up anything moving upon the ground. One might think that animals would present a big problem to the team, but such is not the case. Man and animals transmit a similar radio sound, but the team is able to distinguish between the two.

"Many times we pick up a water buffalo or a deer," said Duffy. "The signal is close to that of a man, but there is a slight difference."

The team begins its nightly vigil of scanning the radar screen and listening to the earphones just before sunset and operates continuously until sunrise.

"We operate in three-hour shifts," said Duffy. "Half is spent on the screen and half on the headsets. This gives you a little break. It doesn't sound like a very long shift but sitting in one spot and maintaining 100 per cent concentration on something as small as a radar screen can become quite tiring, especially when you realize that the lives of everyone on the LZ depend upon your ability to do your job well."

"Whenever we pick up something that isn't friendly, we immediately notify the tactical operations center (TOC) on the LZ and give them a grid location," said Gill. "They direct the artillery in on the location. If the situation is an emergency, we may direct fire from the mortar team here on the LZ."



9th Inf Photo

THIS MACHINE GUNNER of the 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade checks the water depth before crossing with a homemade walking staff.

Combat

(Continued from
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a VC force of undetermined size. Two platoons reacted immediately, killing one VC on the wire and destroying one RPG launcher.

Later that morning Co. B, conducting a sweep in the same general area, discovered an enemy medical aid station. The sweep yielded a find of six large huts, each structured with a large, winding tunnel complex beneath, assorted medical supplies including needles and bandages, and an NVA gas mask.

Five miles northwest of Pleiku, guards at the 62nd Motor Transport complex spotted two enemy soldiers moving through the perimeter wire. Employing jeep headlights for illumination, the guards killed the intruders.

Thirty-five kilometers east of Camp Enari, elements of the 2nd Bn., 8th Inf., discovered two caves, one 30' x 50' and the other 29' x 30'.

A more extensive search revealed another natural cave 50' x 60' x 30' containing five large huts capable of sleeping two companies of troops. It was estimated that the cave had been used approximately four hours prior to its detection.

Famous 4th Division LRP's also remained active throughout the week, playing havoc with small enemy units.

A LRP employed a claymore mine to kill one of the two enemy soldiers spotted 15 miles northeast of Kontum. A pack containing two grenades and documents, along with an SKS, were captured. The following day the patrol made contact with 14 Viet Cong. Small arms fire was exchanged, and when contact was finally broken the LRP's counted four dead VC. Five enemy soldiers fell victims to another alert LRP patrol which engaged them with a heavy volume of small arms fire and grenades about 15 miles north of Kontum.

Large cache found in NVA stronghold

CHU LAI — Elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade discovered large caches of enemy ammunition and weapons hidden in well concealed caves while on search and destroy missions in a mountainous NVA stronghold area, located 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

One of the biggest prizes unearthed by the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., was a 12.7mm anti-aircraft

machine gun with 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

Two heavy and four light 7.62mm machine guns were also found along with 100 RPG rounds with launcher, 82mm mortar rounds, Bangalore torpedoes, nine SKS-44 and four AK-47 rifles.

The caches were discovered in caves within a kilometer of each other on the rugged slopes of Hill 953. They were only a short distance from where 218 enemy were killed with the aid air and artillery support the week before Christmas.

It was the biggest find yet in Operation Fayette Canyon, now starting its sixth week in the long time NVA mountain sanctuary.

Company D led by Lt James R. Sanders discovered the first of the week's big finds near a hootch-bunker complex near their night lager. It was to be only one of many reports in a successful day-long treasure hunt.

Within minutes of the discovery, elements of the 2nd platoon engaged two NVA killing them and capturing two AK-47's. Meanwhile, Co., C unearthed 1,000 pounds of polished rice and 1,200 pounds of unpolished rice. They also found 250 pounds of rock salt in storage bins.

That afternoon, an element of Charlie Company moved out on a patrol and were gone hardly five minutes when they stopped to investigate a vine entangled draw above them.

Fanning out from their original morning find, D. Co. in the early afternoon reported the discovery of additional storage bunkers containing what amounted to a small arsenal.



SOLDIERS OF the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Bn., 27th Inf., turn a captured sampan upright.

25th Inf Photo