

Eagles react, kill 61 near Hue

Activity during the week ending July 26 again focused on I Military Region, the northern quarter of South Vietnam.

In the mountainous jungles of western Thua Thien Province July 23, an element of the 2nd Bn., 506th Inf., of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), was hit with RPG, 82mm mortar and small arms fire from an unknown-size enemy force. Artillery and air strikes supported the Screaming Eagles in the battle 25 miles west of Hue.

The combined efforts resulted in 61 enemy soldiers killed.

4th Inf Div

Action increased sharply for soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division during the week ending July 26. Division troops killed a total of 43 enemy soldiers in their II Military Region July 24 alone.

An element of the 7th Squadron, 17th Cav., working in support of the 1st Bn., 12th Inf., made contact with an enemy element of undetermined size 18 miles northwest of An Khe.

Repeated contacts ensued throughout the afternoon in the area. Supported by artillery and air strikes, the battalion's infantrymen killed 39 enemy soldiers before contact was broken late in the afternoon.

In other division action that day, a Ranger team from Co. K, 75th Inf. killed four enemy soldiers in Tuy An District of Phu Yen Province. They also captured three AK47 rifles.

In three scattered incidents in the Central Highlands July 25, division elements killed four enemy soldiers and detained one.

Infantrymen from Co. C, 1st Bn., 12th Inf., killed two enemy troops and detained one 17 miles northeast of An Khe. Later, Companies A and B, 1st Bn., 14th Inf., each killed one enemy soldier.

1st Cav Div

Skytroopers from the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) reported killing 24 enemy soldiers in two separate actions July 24.

Operating 19 miles east of Phuoc Vinh, the troopers from Co. A, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav., established contact with an enemy force of undetermined size. Air strikes and artillery supported the men. Twenty enemy soldiers were reported killed in the action.

Earlier, Co. A fought an estimated squad-size enemy element in the same area, killing four of the enemy.

Enemy cache sites located in the area yielded two mortar tubes, one heavy machine gun, six 122mm rockets and 475 rounds of assorted ammunition.

Units of the division's 2nd Bde., supported by air strikes, killed 15 enemy soldiers on an old trail system 13 miles northeast of Song Be July 25.

Crews from the 1st Cav's 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav., accounted for six enemy soldiers killed in action throughout the Skytroopers' III Military Region area of operations. Three of the enemy killed were engaged 19 miles east of Phuoc Vinh after being spotted during an aerial reconnaissance flight.

Division soldiers from Co. A, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav., located an enemy cache 20 miles east-northeast of Phuoc Vinh July 22. The cache yielded 76 120mm mortar rounds, 124 60mm mortar rounds, 197 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 162 rifle grenades, 76 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, two 82mm mortar rounds, three double 107mm rocket launchers, 25 pounds of explosives, five RPG rounds and nine cases of fuses and charges.

Throughout the division's area that

day, 17 enemy soldiers were reported killed by helicopter crews. Twelve of the enemy were killed by crews from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cav., six miles southeast of Duc Thong.

Skytroopers killed 12 enemy soldiers July 20 and captured four individual weapons.

Helicopter crews from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav., killed five enemy soldiers 15 miles east of Phuoc Vinh.

Twenty-eight miles southeast of Song Be, crews from A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav., killed a lone enemy soldier after spotting three enemy soldiers in buildings. A damage assessment of air strikes in the area revealed three additional enemy soldiers killed.

Three more Communists were killed by Skytroopers in scattered actions throughout the division's operational area.

Skytroopers killed 10 enemy soldiers July 21 in scattered actions.

Troops from Co. A, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav., operating 13 miles east of Phuoc Vinh that day, found an enemy cache containing 78 mortar rounds, 13 B41 rockets and 56 hand grenades.

Division soldiers reported killing a total of 14 enemy soldiers in actions July 23.

Operating 300 yards from the cache site discovered July 21, Co. A found

another cache yielding an 82mm mortar, a 60mm mortar, a .51 caliber machine gun and six 122mm rockets.

Making a sweep of the same general area July 26, the Co. A Skytroopers located another enemy cache, this one containing 164 SKS rifles, 74 Bangalore torpedoes, six Chicom claymore mines, 164 sets of NVA web gear, 200 picks, 200 shovels and 75 wire cutters. One enemy soldier was killed by Skytroopers that day.

199th Inf Bde

In their III Military Region area of operations July 21, Redcatchers from the 199th Light Infantry Brigade's Co. B, 5th Bn., 12th Inf., found and destroyed a cache containing 1.5 tons of rice 14 miles northeast of Tanh Linh.

101st Abn Div

Gunships from B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Air Cav., flying in support of Screaming Eagles of the 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), killed two enemy soldiers who were manning a machine gun position 25 miles west of Hue July 20, just three days before division troops killed 61 enemy in the same area.

The gunship crews also destroyed 20 enemy bunkers in the same general location that day.

1st Avn Bde

Crews from the 1st Aviation Brigade, 13th Avn. Bn., operating in IV Military Region, killed 26 enemy July 21.

Crews of the 191st Assault Helicopter Co. killed 12 enemy soldiers 40 miles west of Can Tho that day.

Aviators from the 2nd Reconnaissance Airplane Co. accounted for another nine of the enemy. Four were killed five miles southeast of Can Tho and three more 20 miles southeast of Soc Trang. The other 221st enemy kills occurred in the southern tip of An Xuyen Province.

In other battalion action that day, crews of the 16th Air Cav. killed 10 enemy soldiers in a battle 10 miles southwest of Can Tho.

Thirteen enemy soldiers were killed by men from C Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cav., in other IV Military Region actions seven miles southeast of Ben Tra.

Battalion crews reported killing nine enemy soldiers July 20 in their area of operations.

Seven of the enemy killed were credited to crews of the 221st who were operating about 10 miles southeast of Can Tho.

Two enemy troops were killed by the crews of the 16th Air Cav. in an area 10 miles south of Can Tho.

In other action, gunship crewmen from the 336th Assault Helicopter Co. killed four enemy soldiers five miles south of Vi Thanh, and men of D Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cav., killed five more enemy seven miles southeast of Sa Dec.

Another 12 enemy soldiers were reported killed by 13th Combat Avn. Bn. crews July 25.

Pilots from the 221st killed six enemy soldiers in two separate encounters in Kien Giang Province.

Approximately 15 miles west of Phung Hiep, five enemy soldiers were killed by crews of the 162nd Assault Helicopter Co.

Crews from the 16th Air Cav. killed a lone enemy soldier 25 miles southwest of Vi Thanh.

Battalion firepower killed nine enemy soldiers July 23. Six of the enemy killed were credited to the crews of the 121st Assault Helicopter Co. The action took place 10 miles southeast of Can Tho.

In other action that day, crews from C Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cav., killed a single enemy soldier seven miles southeast of My An.

Another four enemy soldiers fell before battalion guns July 24. Three were accounted for by rocket-firing Birddogs of the 221st. The fourth was killed by crews of the 16th Air Cav., 10 miles south of Vi Thanh.

Aviators of the 221st reported killing three enemy soldiers five miles southwest of Phung Hiep July 26. Two miles east of Phung Hiep, crews from the 162nd killed one additional enemy soldier.

Battalion crews from the 221st killed three enemy soldiers July 22. The enemy were killed in separate actions 10 miles west of Soc Trang, 10 miles southeast of Soc Trang and 15 miles southeast of Vi Thanh.

In other battalion action, men from the 191st Assault Helicopter Co. killed a lone enemy soldier five miles southwest of Ca Mau.

August 10, 1970





DRIVING RAIN doesn't hinder a pathfinder of the 68th Assault Helicopter Co. as he takes a last look at the landing zone before popping smoke so choppers can insert 199th Light Infantry Brigade troopers.

Tired trucker: 'We're sitting ducks out here'

LONG BINH -- The road ahead stretched out in a thick red carpet of mud. The powerful five-ton truck sliced and churned, slowed by the foot-deep mire. One truck made it through a particularly slick curve, but the second one was slowed to a dangerous crawl. The trailer, the giant wheels began to spin. The tractor was stuck.

fc. Howard Stewart, driving the next truck, immediately made contact and began pushing the other vehicle out. When the first three trucks had made it rough, they stopped about 300 yards on the road to wait for the rest of the convoy. The drivers got out and checked their trucks. Both sides of the road were covered by thick vegetation.

"We're sitting ducks out here," Stewart commented. The other drivers knew what he meant and carefully scanned the surrounding undergrowth.

Though all were seasoned truckers, this was a new experience for them. To most of the men of the Saigon Support

Command's 534th Trans. Co., 7th Bn., 48th Trans. Gp., the roads and terrain were unfamiliar, and there was no way of knowing where or when Charlie might hit.

It was only the fifth convoy in 4 series of runs that Saigon Support Command personnel had made into II Military Region. They were running roadbuilding materials 106 miles to Camp Smith near Bao Loc. The material was to be used by the 815th Engr. Bn. and A Co., 19th Engr. Bn., both of the 20th Engr. Bde., to finish paving a road from Saigon to Cam Ranh.

The truckers had been delayed by the mud, but were now coming to a hard-surface section of the road. As the convoy approached II Military Region, the terrain became hillier and the undergrowth closed in until it hugged the side of the road, cutting off visibility. It was impossible to tell what lay behind the bushes.

None of the previous four convoys had

run into trouble, but this was the fifth one, and maybe the enemy had discovered something was up.

As the convoy crossed into II Military Region at the small village of Kon Tin, the presence of the sheriffs of Co. C, 720th Bn., 18th Military Police Brigade, gave a feeling of security. Their gun jeeps and armored reconnaissance vehicles provided the firepower, backed up by chopper gunships and artillery.

Suddenly, the lead MP jeep whipped around, racing toward the rear of the convoy and waving the trucks on as it passed. Something had happened in the rear and the MPs were racing to the scene.

When the lead jeep arrived at the action, the men in the center gun jeep were out waving the trucks on and firing into the nearby brush, where a machine gun had opened up on the convoy. The trucks that had not yet entered the "kill zone" were stopped.

The encounter was brief. Enemy fire had been directed at the center gun jeep.

Total casualties: One radio antenna.

The incident was minor, but there was still several miles of similar terrain ahead.

Shortly after noon, the convoy pulled into Camp Smith. The truckers unloaded their trucks and hooked up the empty trailers left from the day before.

After reloading, the convoy headed back to Camp Brown, about an hour's drive. The mud and enemy snipers had slowed the convoy enough to force it to remain overnight at the camp. Though it was only 3 p.m., the truckers kept a wary eye for signs of activity, for it was between Camp Smith and Camp Brown that they had been hit before.

But the convoy pulled into camp without incident and prepared for the return trip the next morning.

The run back to Long Binh was better, not as much mud and no enemy. The truckers rolled into Long Binh, had their trailers inspected, refueled, and pulled maintenance. Another run was over.

Spec 4 aids girl

It's a long way from Vietnam to Carlisle, Ohio, but the distance seemed considerably shorter when 1st Squadron troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry pooled more than \$2,500 to help pay for an operation for a 15-year-old Carlisle girl.

It all started when Spec. 4 Gary Gose of the Squadron's communications section read a story about a Lilian Roach in his hometown paper. The girl was suffering from a kidney disease and had just undergone the first of two expensive transplant operations.

He immediately went to work. In a short time plans were made and each unit was in on the project. "On the first day we collected \$560 from one troop," said Gose. "The men have given more money than any of us expected."

Shoe fit, so he wore it

LZ ARMAGEDDON -- Spec. 4 Fred Foley is a man who uses and appreciates his own product. Back in Randolph, Mass., Foley made jungle boots for the U.S. military in Southeast Asia.

Here in Vietnam, he puts a lot of wear and tear on his boots, since he is an infantryman with the 4th Infantry Division's 22nd Infantry. But the well-made footwear has taken all the rough pounding that Foley has given it in his nine months of humping as radioman and rifleman for the Regulars.

"I've found the boots to be a lot handier than regular combat boots in this climate," said Foley. "There's just one suggestion I might have for my bosses when I get back -- it would sure be nice if they came in half-sizes."

He has high praise for the quick-drying and spike-resistant capabilities of these boots. "They definitely have their advantages," he said with an air of understatement.



MUSCLE-STRAINING work is called for in setting up Fire support Base Trai Bi by men

of Btry. C, 2nd Bn., 12th Arty., as they set up their 155mm howitzer.