

## ARVN Units, 25th Inf Avn Join To Hit VC

CU CHI. (25th INF-10)—Recent operations, conducted by Vietnamese Army units and supported by 25th Infantry Division helicopters and the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds, are showing excellent results in the Bao Trai area south of the division's base camp here.

Operating under the buddy system, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers are using American helicopters and troops for support and security. By combining mobility, strength, and knowledge of Viet Cong in the area, Wolfhound and ARVN advisors feel that they can conduct more successful operations.

Ground assaults have proven difficult for the Vietnamese units in Bao Trai. When an intelligence report comes in, it takes too long for the ARVNs to reach their destination and their target has time to leave the area. Also, the area is so flat that the Viet Cong see the ARVNs coming, fire a few rounds from a distance, and leave before action can be taken against them.

To remedy the situation, the Wolfhounds arranged for a series of ARVN heliborne operations.

Recently, the 3rd Battalion, 49th Infantry, 25th ARVN Division, was dropped by air into three landing zones in the Bao Trai area. The helicopters gave the unit an element of surprise over the Viet Cong and in one of the landing zones, the ARVNs

pushed two guerrilla platoons into the open where gunships chewed them up. The VC retreated back to the tree line where the 49th hit them again. When contact was broken, 20 VC lay dead.

Three days later, the same unit was dropped into an area slightly north of Bao Trai while the Wolfhound's Company A provided security for them. Captain John Harrell, the advisor to the 3rd of the 49th, said they were given security because it is hard for an infantry unit to provide its own security and conduct a search at the same time. The operation netted one VC killed and one captured, a communications radio and two bundles of important documents, were also captured.

Major Le Van Dan, commanding officer of the 49th ARVN unit, said that the helicopters helped them kill and capture the Viet Cong. "At one time," said the former commander of the 41th ARVN Ranger Battalion (Black Tigers), "the gunships fired within 30 meters of our troops during a support mission. I've never seen such well organized support. It was quite a morale booster to my men."

"We hope," concluded Captain Harrell, "that with the help of the Wolfhounds and 25th Division helicopters, we can have this area almost Viet Congless within a few months. As a matter of fact, we know we can."

## USAECV F

TAN SON NHUT. (USAECV-10)—The first Army Engineer Command in the Republic of Vietnam, and the second such command in the history of the



CHANGE OF COMMAND—Major Ramee during change of command ceremony at Tan Son Nhut. General Ploger has a newly created U.S. Army Engineer Command (USAECV). (Photo by Sp4 N

## New York Community Gives Jukebox, Records To 25th Unit

Now to keep the jukebox busy.



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in the best way pos-  
sible. Kochersperger is  
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Kochersperger was in-  
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to Company B, 1st  
5th Infantry, 25th In-  
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men of his company.

company was hit re-  
Viet Cong ambush  
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to Capt. Thomas R.  
e battalion sur-  
ialist Kochersperger  
old that he does not  
out with the line units,  
stantly volunteers to  
them.  
spoken medic says

Back in base camp, Specialist  
Kochersperger settled on his  
bunk and picked up the book he  
had been reading, "Peace With  
God." Dec 31, 1966

# Choppers Lift Out Troops

NHA TRANG, (17th AVN-IO)—  
Automatic weapons fire and gren-  
ade bursts, bore witness that the  
small Army patrol had estab-  
lished contact.

The outnumbered infantrymen  
had radioed for a lift out and  
were battling to keep the VC off  
their backs until Hueys of the  
155th Assault Helicopter Com-  
pany could get there.

Four days earlier, the 155th,  
of the 52nd Aviation Battalion,  
had carried this small force into  
some of Vietnam's roughest ter-  
rain, 50 miles northwest of Pleiku  
in Operation Paul Revere IV.  
Now airpower was needed to  
break the enemy attack so the  
men could be extracted.

Air Force F4C Phantoms tore  
in, strafing the Cong positions.  
One dropped a 50 pound bomb  
that ripped a hole in the foliage  
just big enough for a line to be  
later dropped through by heli-  
copter to lift out the ground  
troops.

treasury check to  
Christmas, an allotment  
son, PFC Walter C  
member of E Troop,  
of the 173rd.



**WATCH YOUR**  
2nd Battalion, 50  
charge up a steep  
while behind them  
load of troops in  
(Photo



# Ring Of Steel Surrounds 25th Div's Cu Chi Camp

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO) — There is a ring of steel around the 25th Infantry Division base camp which no one can see but the Viet Cong know it's there and have felt it.

Cu Chi, 20 miles northwest of Saigon, is surrounded by woods, dense brush and elusive VC. For the three Tropic Lightning Division artillery units, this presents no problem for, as Capt. Michael J. Lombardo, 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery, notes, "We've got this area all plotted out. All we need is a target or a call."

He should know, for he is the fire direction officer for the "On Time" Battalion. He is completely confident in his team in the operations center. He said, "We have been working together since April in Vietnam and for four to six months in Hawaii, the same 18 men. Fire missions have gotten to be second nature to us."

This isn't idle boasting because recently the captain, taking a

turn as aerial observer, saw his team's efforts pay off.

After routine patrolling and registration firing, the OH-23 helicopter and its two occupants were ready to call it a day. Then Captain Lombardo noticed four people, widely separated, harvesting rice in an area where people are not even supposed to be.

Within two minutes, confirmation was relayed back and two rounds fired. The high explosive shells landed near two of the VC, causing all four to scatter. As additional rounds were called for and fell into the area, the pilot noticed something directly below.

Standing in the middle of a swiftly flowing stream in a straight line, were at least 20 Viet Cong.

The small helicopter flew directly away from the enemy group as the captain quickly called a fire mission.

Thirty-five seconds after the rounds left the two 105mm howitzers of Battery B at Cu Chi, they landed along the sides of the stream.

"Here is where the VC made their fatal mistake," Captain Lombardo said. Instead of splitting up as the first groups did, they stayed together and moved down the stream under a large tree and several smaller ones.

"That tree was a good target, something to adjust fire on. When my high explosive rounds hit it, I could see wood and steel flying all over."

The first two shells hit the tree. The next eight were in the same spot.

"I stopped the fire then," the captain commented, "and we took a quick look. I could see three bodies there and we saw the rest of the group take off again along the stream."

Captain Lombardo continued, "I knew they couldn't get away because if they went backwards we would be able to see them in the devastated area. If they left the water and entered the rice paddies along the stream, it would have put them in the open."

"We fired six high explosive shells, every 50 meters for 250

meters along that stream.

"The artillery tore up the stream bed, sending chunks of mud, metal and wood sailing high in the air, along with a cloud of dirty black smoke."

"After the ground settled back to earth, the helicopter made a swift-low pass and four more dead enemy were noticed along with numerous white hats floating in the water and bits of clothing."

According to Captain Lombardo, the two minutes it took to clear the mission to be fired is nowhere near the record. "In an emergency, where some of our people or the Vietnamese Army is getting hit, we can put rounds on target within 20 seconds."

The steel wall around Cu Chi is tight, swift and mobile. Charlie tested it and Captain Lombardo provided them with a bad case of fragments for their trouble.

## 184th Avn Co Boosts Civic Action Role

BIEN HOA, (145th AVN-IO) The 184th Aviation Company (SAL), which recently arrived in the Republic of Vietnam, has not only come to fight the war but also has initiated a very active civic action program. The program is centered around the Phu Loi area where the company's aircraft are a common sight.

Fifty school children, accompanied by their school teachers, were recently invited to the 184th for a party and a tour of the unit's facilities.

Major Charles E. Halstead, company commander, welcomed the group. Party snacks and gifts for the children were arranged by 1st Lt. Thomas W. Hollomon, the civic action officer.

The children had an enjoyable time with games, the gifts, and sitting in the unit's aircraft.

Winning the hearts of the Vietnamese citizens is the goal of the 184th. The joyous squeal of a happy child will achieve this goal.

## Concrete To 1st Inf

DI AN, (USAECV (P)-IO) — A concrete plant built here by Company A, 168th Engineer Battalion (Combat), is speeding construction support to elements of the 1st Infantry Division.

The plant has two, 2½ ton hoppers mounted on a wooden platform, and sand and gravel stockpiles in bins nearby.

The new facility, operated by an eight-man team from the 168th, is presently turning out 25 cubic yards of concrete a day.

## Water For Refugees

PLEIKU, (4th INF-IO) — As a result of the efforts of Civil Affairs Team 8, 41st Civil Affairs Company, several Montagnard villages and a temporary holding area for Montagnard refugees near the 4th Infantry Division base camp will soon have an adequate water supply.

Volunteer laborers from nearby native villages are aiding the team in constructing a series of spillways to trap water. A water pipe network is also being laid.

could result in a serious aircraft accident," stated Lt. James R. Harvey, laboratory officer.

The base laboratory, the only one of its kind in Vietnam, performs scientific tests on all petroleum products used by the Free World Forces in Vietnam's I and II Corps areas.

When a sample of a product, such as aviation fuel, arrives at the laboratory for testing, it is placed for two hours through eight different tests to determine whether it meets the standards of quality demanded by the Army.

When a fuel is found to be below standards, it is blended, downgraded or disposed. The petroleum laboratory assists in these operations by providing technical assistance and the laboratory facilities.

Materials for the water project are being supplied by local sources through coordination with the USAID representative for Pleiku Province and the Le Trung district chief.

The civil affairs team, working in conjunction with the 4th Infantry Division G-5 (Civil Affairs) Section, plans to expand the water project to include as many villages as possible in the vicinity of the 4th Infantry Division's Base Camp.

## 3 Saved By Cav Sgt's Quick Action

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) — It was a routine search and clear operation thirty miles north of Qui Nhon during Operation Thayer II.

Suddenly, without warning, Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, of the 1st Cavalry Division encountered a well dug-in Viet Cong force.

The company commander was seriously wounded.

Lieutenant Robert S. Franks, platoon leader of the 3rd platoon took command of the company and left SSgt. George D. Jones in charge of the platoon.

Minutes after taking charge, the lieutenant saw the platoon's medic rush out in front of the unit's positions to aid two wounded Cavalrymen.

Sergeant Jones rushed forward to give covering fire and summoned the rest of the platoon to follow.



**CIVIC ACTION**—Captain Fred M. Roberson, flight surgeon from the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, hands some candy to a Vietnamese child during a civic action program at Binh Co. Looking on is Sp4 John D. Becker.

(Photo by Sp4 D.M. Korchenko, 145th AVN-IO)

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1st Logistical Command's 14th Inventory Control Center. The data processing equipment is used to speed up the resupply process. (Photo by 1st LOG-IO)

Dec 31, 1966

# 145th Avn Bn Train VN Pilots

**BIEN HOA, (145th AVN-IO)**—The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, although accustomed to accomplishing a multitude of varied tasks, is presently involved in a project that is unique for a combat zone unit. The 71st Assault Helicopter Company and the 118th Assault Helicopter Company, both of the 145th, are jointly training Vietnamese Air Force helicopter pilots to fly the UH-1B and UH-1D Huey aircraft.

These aviators are not novices; they were trained to fly the CH-34 Chickasaw by the US Air Force at Tan Son Nhut Airbase. They were then returned to their parent unit, the Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) 41st Air Wing, located at Da Nang Airbase. All are veterans of numerous combat flights in the I Corps area.

The three pilots arrived at Bien Hoa in November and immediately began their training. First Lieutenant Chau Truong Ngoc is working with the 71st; 2nd Lt. Dinh Nguyen Van and 2nd Lt. The Nguyen Duy are with the 118th. These officers live, eat, work, and train with the American officers of each company.

Each will receive 27 hours of ground schooling and then transition flying in the two Hueys. This will culminate with on the job training—namely, flying combat assaults with the companies.

The end result of this project will be twofold: first to familiarize the VNAF pilots with the concepts and tactics of American airmobile operations, and secondly to promote better understanding between Vietnamese and Americans, which follows naturally from working together as a team.

## Ivy Men Relax In Dayroom

**ULEIKU, (4th INF-IO)** — The men of the 4th Division's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry are firm believers in advance planning to insure a more pleasant future.

When they arrived at this base camp with the Ivy Division's 3rd Brigade, they found their company area pretty barren. But they had come prepared. Soon a large structure housed not only the orderly room and quarters for the company commander and executive officer, but a spacious day room as well.

Ample tables and chairs give the day room a finished appearance. Shelves with more than 800 books — plus Army field manuals—offer reading material

tions officer. "As stocks are converted to card system, that 230 will increase."

Explaining how a quest is processed initiated by a unit supply Captain Crimmins, manually prepared go to the direct support would then issue, if available, or forward to the appropriate depot would then issue. In high priority cases the depot is out of stock card request is pre forwarded to the 14th.

"When we receive the card, we check the record other depots to determine have the item in stock issue it to the original. If so, shipping instructions prepared and the request. If the item is not available either of the other depots prepare and dispatch a the 2nd Logistical Center Okinawa or to the State.

In addition to American soldiers who work at the unit employs over 75 Vietnamese men and women. As Col. Ralph M. Berg, unit's commander, Vietnamese women are adept at learning and key punch operations of the system requiring concentration and accuracy.

## Booby Traps No Bother

**AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO)** — A member of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade recently demonstrated his lack of fear for enemy booby-traps during Operation Thayer II.

While moving towards a village, the Sky Troopers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cav-





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members of Company A, 1st Battalion, 503rd  
push tightly as they wrestle a cow to the ground.  
VC during Operation Waco.  
(Photo by PFC Donald G. Hall, 173rd ABN-IO)



COMING UP—One of five cows captured by elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade  
is lifted off the ground as it begins its journey to the village of Bao Ham. The  
helicopter crew is from the 335th Aviation Company, 173rd Abn. Bde., nicknamed the  
"Cowboys."  
(Photo by PFC Donald G. Hall, 173rd ABN-IO)



members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, gets the unit's shoulder  
cow's head in Sgt. Leonard Spangler. The cow is being readied  
(Photo by PFC Donald Hall, 173rd ABN-IO)



BUILDING A COW IN VIETNAM—Former rodeo star Sp4 James  
Wesley Blue tries his skill out on a Vietnamese cow captured from the  
VC by the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Blue was trying to prepare the cow  
for transport to a Vietnamese village.  
(Photo by PFC Donald Hall, 173rd ABN-IO)



## Just One Letter— 25 Feet Long

**NHA TRANG (1st LOG-10)**— Came mail call and PFC Rickey C. Sanders, an auto mechanic with the 1st Logistical Company, 63rd Maintenance Battalion here, only received one letter but he was still literally swamped by mail. The letter, from the fifth grade class of his hometown grade school in Osburn, Idaho, was over 25 feet long.

Mrs. Jean Riedle, who teaches the fifth grade, found out that Private Sanders, her former student, was serving in Vietnam so her pupils adopted him into their class with the marathon letter.

Nine year old Janis Wellman wrote, "As you know the holiday was just the other day and I went visiting. I had lots of fun and I got lots of candy. I bet all the dentists like to see these holidays come!"

Ten year old Jean Morgenson commented on how the class is going to help win the war: "In a couple of weeks we are going to write poems to you," she said. "Don't read them! Throw them at the enemy... They are so bad that anyone who reads them will turn as hard as a stone."

Another letter, from Jeanine Bailey, informed Sanders on

## Do What She Says

**PLEI DJERENG, (4th INF-10)**—At the close of her afternoon show, Martha Raye wished the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade "good hunting". Company A, 1st Battalion, 12 Infantry must have received the word in advance as they repulsed a mid-morning attack of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars.

While on a search and destroy mission, the lead squad was traveling 75 meters ahead of the patrol when it came under heavy automatic and small arms fire. They were pinned down as the

what seems to be the most important event that happened in Osburn recently. She wrote: "A couple of days ago, when my brother Rick came home from school on the bus, he told Dad he saw an elk at the dump. Dad got his rifle, got in his pickup and took off. When he got there, he found out he was chasing a mule. Dad came home so mad it was funny."

The Osburn soldier and his buddies in Headquarters and Company A of the battalion really enjoy hearing from the children. They spend much of their free time answering the children's letters.

## Tropic Lightning Patrol Turns Tables On Enemy

**CU CHI, (25th INF-10)** — A 25th Infantry Division ambush patrol, taking part in Operation Ala Moana, recently wheeled and assaulted a Viet Cong reconnaissance patrol spotted following them.

Staff Sergeant Jesus M. Garcia was leading the patrol from the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds from the forward base camp of the division's 2nd Brigade in the Trang Giang area.

Sergeant Garcia related that the patrol passed through friendly lines around 8 p.m. and had gone 80 yards beyond when he

first learned of the VC following them. According to Garcia, Sp4 Charles A. Young, his rear security man, spotted them first.

Young said "I stopped and watched. There were five armed VC paralleling our course to the left and behind. As soon as I was certain of what I was seeing, I went ahead and passed the word up to my squad leader."

Sergeant Garcia reasoned that the VC were following them to learn the site of their ambush, then call for reinforcements and attack. He radioed his company commander for instructions.

Back came the word to turn and assault.

The patrol came on line and advanced to within 50 yards of the enemy before opening fire on a pre-arranged signal. As the squad charged through the thin underbrush, guns blazing, the night skies opened up and visibility was cut by the heavy rain.

The mortar section forward observer, Sgt. Raymond A. Schmidt, called in 75 rounds of mortar fire to catch the VC as they tried to escape, and to provide protection in case the VC counter-attacked.

Sergeant Garcia had high praise for his men. "Half the squad are new men and this was their first time under fire. They worked out real well, just like old hands."

## 22 Get Medical Training

**HON QUAN, (5th SFG-10)** — Twenty-two students have received certificates for completing six weeks of medical training under the Village Hamlet Health Worker's Training Program here. The program is part of the Special Forces advisory program. The principal instructors are two Green Beret medical specialists, Jesse A. Black and Sgt. William Rhue. Together with their interpreter, they form a three-man team capable of training selected young people from the surrounding villages in basic medical and health care. The students are all volunteers and are selected for





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While on a search and destroy mission, the lead squad was traveling 75 meters ahead of the patrol when it came under heavy automatic and small arms fire. They were pinned down as they returned a volley of steel.

An air strike by Air Force jets and Army gun ships was called in while A Company pursued the fleeing enemy. Entering the NVA camp site, they found hot coals which had not been extinguished by the retreating enemy.

Later that morning A Company was joined by B Company. During their northward sweep, they found two NVA troops hiding in their bunker.

After the encounter, the Red Warriors added 14 North Vietnamese killed and seven automatic rifles captured.

Yes, it was a good day for hunting.



**THE MARK OF DOOM FOR CHARLIE**—Is left by these paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade as they complete an operation in War Zone D. The men left the mark to remind Viet Cong that they had once again been defeated by the 173rd.

(Photo by PFC Paul Epley, 173rd ABN-IO)

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After six weeks of classroom work, the students receive an additional six weeks of on-the-job training. They are being trained to work with the Special Forces "A" team medics in remote areas of Binh Long Province. Sergeant Black stated that the students, who vary in age from 15 to 25 years, are very enthusiastic about the training.

After completing the training program at Hon Quan, the three-man medical team will go to Hau Nhia Province, where they will conduct another six-week training program.

## Firefly Spotlights VC In III, IV Corps Area

**BIEN HOA, (145th AVN-10)** — In the spring of 1965 it became apparent that the majority of Viet Cong logistical and tactical movements in the III and IV Corps areas of South Vietnam were being conducted at night, primarily on the inland waterways of those two tactical zones. Build-up of enemy equipment and personnel and increased night attacks on outposts in these areas pointed to a growing need for new methods of night interdiction of the insurgent's main supply routes.

The problem was presented to all the services located in the two regions: develop and put into effect a system to destroy or deter the movement. One of the units to receive this assignment was the 334th Armed Helicopter

Company (then the 197th Armed Helicopter Company). After several attempts at low level search with available light and artificial light from flares, the 197th determined that a more effective means of illumination was required, and set out to develop the present Firefly system.

After several months of research the company finally settled on the use of Air Force C123 Provider landing lights. The most difficult part of the project was mounting the lights in the UH-1B Huey. The company armament officer spent several weeks in the design of a mount which would allow the lights to focus, have some movement while attached to the aircraft, and also be retractable so that the organic weapons system on the aircraft

could be used if needed. The system was designed and a prototype was produced in Vietnam.

With the means of illumination solved, Firefly debuted in June 1965. Various methods of employment were tested along with numerous combinations of escort aircraft. The Firefly was used primarily on the large rivers in the II Corps area: the Saigon river north of Saigon, the Vam Co Dong, and the Vam Co Tay west of Saigon.

The initial results were surprising, with the lights locating and destroying as many as thirty sampans in one night. As the Firefly became more familiar to the Viet Cong it became more susceptible to ground fire. The need for a versatile heavy weapon to protect the low-level search and

destroy team was obvious. This system needed the capability to provide immediate and continuous suppression on point-type targets. Again the company armament officer was called upon, and a side-mounted 50 caliber machinegun was installed. By virtue of its range, accuracy, and ability to suppress ground fire, it proved to be an extremely effective weapon to cover Firefly. Now the team was complete. It consisted of a light ship (standard M-6 rocket and machinegun system with light), the 50 caliber ship, and a third ship equipped with the M-5, M-3 subsystem (40mm grenade launcher and 2.75 inch rockets). Firefly continued to increase in effectiveness and it soon became a nightly mission of the

company. Toward the end of 1965 a decrease in the number of sampans sighted and destroyed was noted. It was obvious the Firefly had succeeded in its initial mission: destruction of insurgent river traffic and deterrence of renewed enemy night activity by its constant presence.

During a recent month, the 25th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division at Duc Hoa received repeated reports of extensive movement west of the Vam Co Dong River up to the Republic of Vietnam border. Coordination between the Firefly team and the 25th ARVN Division resulted in making this area a free strike zone. This area proved to be very lucrative and 196 sampans were destroyed.



# Vietnam Communique

**1st Cavalry Division** — During Operation Thayer II, one platoon of the division encountered an enemy force 22 miles northwest of Qui Nhon and killed 6 enemy and captured 2. In other action in the operation, division units killed 78 enemy in an encounter eight miles southwest of Bong Son, and killed 61 North Vietnamese Army regulars about 38 miles north-northwest of Qui Nhon. The 61 enemy killed were part of an estimated North Vietnamese battalion. Friendly casualties during the battle, that lasted one day and night, were described as moderate. In other

action in the same area, two different battles accounted for 15 more enemy killed. Two enemy were killed when an unknown size force attempted to ambush two division jeeps on Highway 19 near Miang Giang Pass between Pleiku and An Khe. Operation Thayer II has accounted for 669 enemy killed and 22 captured.

**4th Infantry Division**—A company of the 2nd Brigade engaged an estimated North Vietnamese Army company during Operation Paul Revere IV and killed 17 of the enemy. The battle occurred in Kontum Province, 18 miles

west-northwest of Plei Djereng.

**25th Infantry Division** — Scattered contact in Binh Duong and Gia Dinh Province resulted in 11 Viet Cong killed. Elements of the 2nd Brigade have killed 2 enemy during Operation Ala Moana. A company from the 3rd Brigade Task Force, participating in Operation Paul Revere IV, killed three North Vietnamese Army soldiers in a brief encounter 11 miles north-northwest of Plei Djereng. Since the operation began, 959 enemy have been killed and 85 captured.

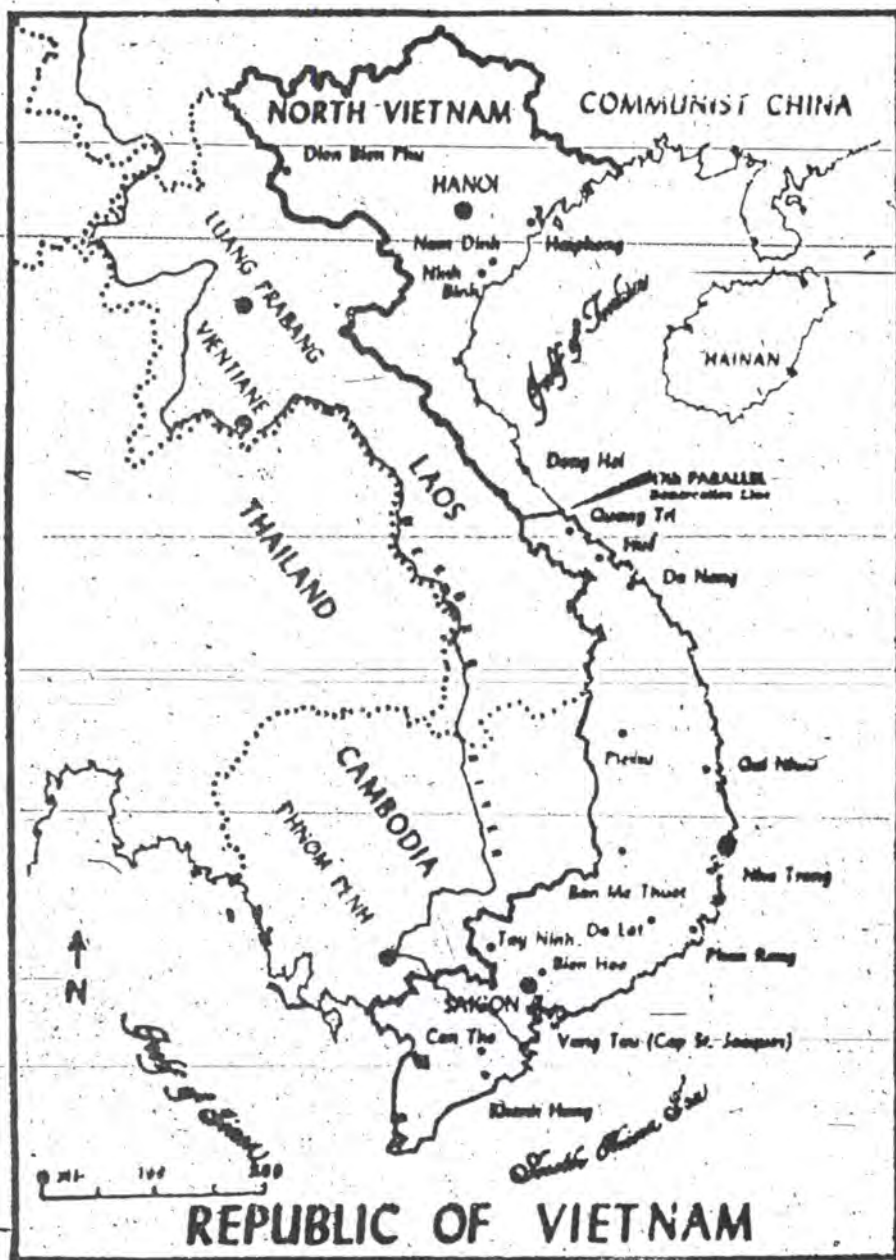
**1st Infantry Division**—Operation Bismark has been terminated with 93 Viet Cong killed, and numerous ordnance seized. The ten-day operation took place between Di An and Phuoc Vinh. US casualties were described as light.

**11th Armored Cavalry Regiment** —A five-vehicle convoy of the regiment came under heavy attack in Long Khanh Province, 48 miles east-northeast of Saigon. The convoy was reinforced, air strikes and artillery fire were called in, and 93 VC were reported killed. Among the enemy weapons captured during the engagement were a 75mm recoilless rifle, two heavy machine guns, three light machine guns, and a rocket launcher. Friendly casualties were reported as light. In another action, the regiment destroyed an enemy base camp in Binh Tuy Province, about 71 miles northeast of Saigon. The enemy camp contained 14 structures, a number of bunkers and quantities of rice and small arms rounds. Closer to Saigon, approximately 30 tons of rice were seized in Bien Hoa Province.

**101st Airborne Division**—During Operation Geronimo I, a company of the 1st Brigade killed 15 members of a North Vietnamese Army platoon in an engagement 22 miles west-northwest of Tuy Hoa.

**173rd Airborne Division** — No significant contact reported.

**196th Light Infantry Brigade** — No significant contact reported.





# Gunner Nails 14 Enemy

**PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-10)—**

The sharp eyes and shooting ability of a Huey crew chief from Company B, 1st Aviation Battalion, cost the Viet Cong at least 14 guerrillas during a three-day period recently.

The Big Red One's 1st Brigade commander, Col. Sidney B. Berry Jr., accompanied by Lt. Col. William Haig, approached an area in the young rubber trees near Xa Trum Thap. Their chopper swung off course to check out red smoke and two circling gunships of the 162d Aviation Company, and heard that a 1st Battalion, 25th Infantry, group had taken two VC under fire, killing one.

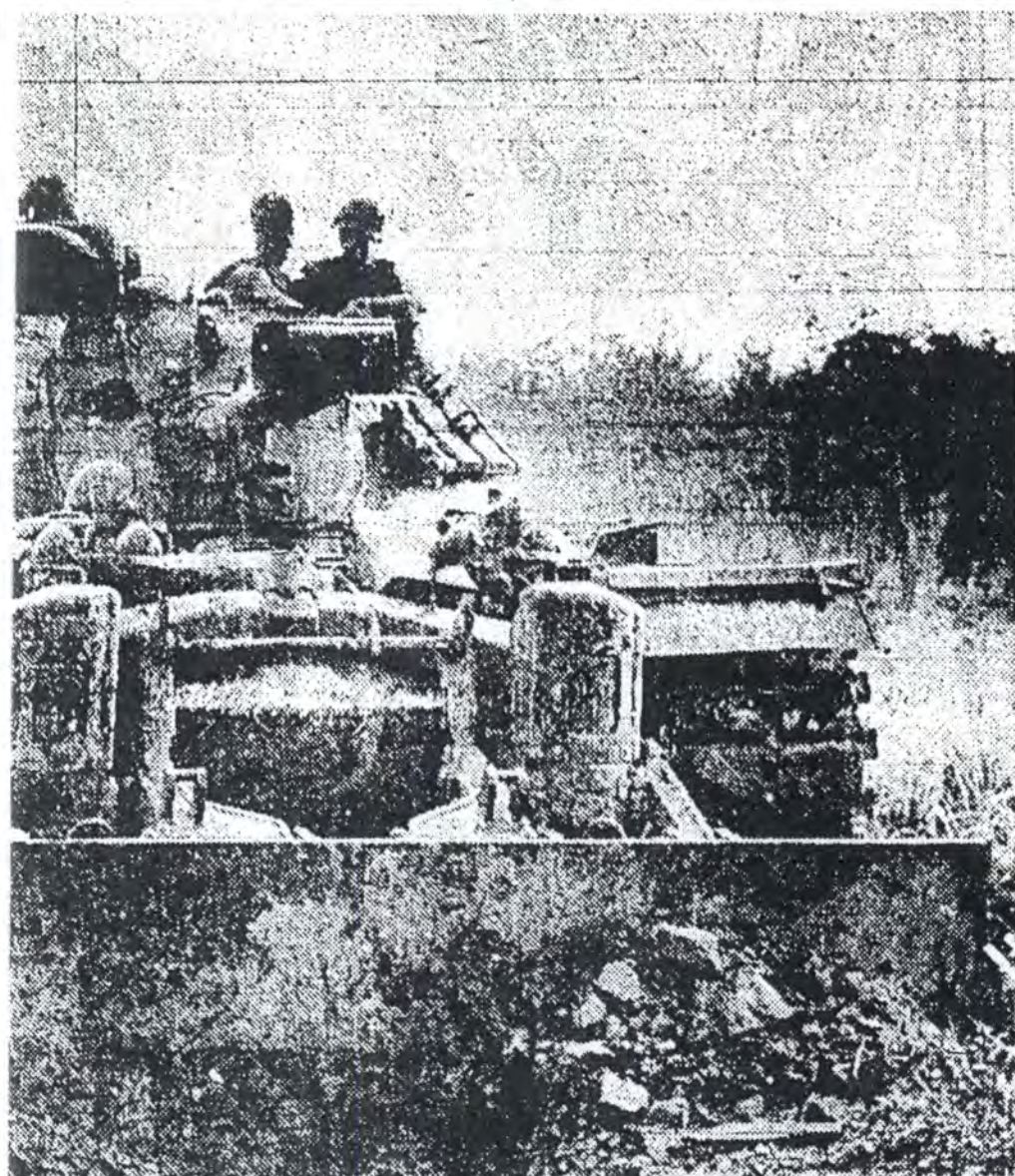
Then, the alert crew chief, Spt Joe Corona glimpsed six, black-pajama clad, VC running toward cover in a gully below. He alerted the pilot, Capt. Warren R. Silva, and began to spray slugs into the guerrillas.

Specialist Four Walter R. Randle had brought his weapon into action by this time. Each time the machinegun bullets cut through the group of VC, another two or three would be flushed out of the trees and foxholes where they'd sought protection. Guerrillas dropped each time the chopper swung down for another pass. After gunner Corona expended his rounds, he continued the steady stream of death with his rifle.

Of the 20 VC sighted during the brief but hectic assault, 10 bodies were left laying in the dust. After the airstrike was completed, another three VC bodies were counted.

Just two days later, Corona repeated his performance, in an almost-identical way, and in almost the same place. This time he took out four of six Viet Cong.

Corona said that he'd picked up his marksmanship on the job and that he'd gone to school at Fort Rucker, Ala., to become a mechanic.



**USES—**During Operation Attleboro, members of Company B, 1st Aviation Battalion, use a H-48A1 tank equipped with a dozer blade to fill in minefield. The road being filled in is in War Zone C.

(Photo by PFC John R. Dittmann, 25th INF-10)

## unique

to dif- west-northwest of Plei Djereng.

or 15 enemy in size h two 9 near Pleiku over II enemy

com- engaged namee eration 17 of

## Silver Star

**TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10)**

—A specialist four from the 1st Special Forces has been awarded the Silver Star for singlehandedly breaking up a Viet Cong ambush.

He is Larry F. Frese of Detachment A-241, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). In late July he was serving as an advisor to a para-military strike force on a patrol near Camp Polei Kleng when his unit was ambushed from the front.

Frese jumped between his unit and the enemy and began placing suppressive fire. The enemy fled without causing any casualties.



# Don't Tangle With Armed Choppers; 300 VC Learn The Hard Way

**SOC TRANG, (336th AVN-10)**

— Some 300 Viet Cong took a lesson in the "school of hard knocks" on a steaming Saturday morning near Ba-Tri in the Delta region recently. Some of the 300 will live to remember their lesson—others died without passing the final examination.

The lesson being taught was "don't tangle with armed helicopters." Teachers of the lesson were members of the "Thunderbirds," the armed helicopter platoon of the 336th Assault Helicopter Company.

The "Thunderbirds" known locally as the "T-Birds," were "scrambled" in response to a report that an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) patrol and its American advisor had been ambushed, and that the outpost of Ba-Tri was threatened by a large force of VC. When spotted by the "T-Birds," the VC were disregarding all previous lessons and were walking in force through the open rice paddies.

Warrant Officer Peter J. Galanos was one of the first to sight a group of VC moving on a dike between rice paddies. "We cut up the head of the column with our shipmounted M-60 machineguns and the rest of the VC jumped into the water," recalls Galanos. After that it was a mad scramble. The VC, in panic, were running in all directions. A few headed toward cover and the "T-Birds" attacked then with rockets and finished the job with machine guns.

While Galanos and his crew were taking care of these VC, another large group was spotted by Lt. Col. James E. Kennedy, commanding officer of the 336th, and Maj. Louis A. Jacquay, flying in the company's command and control ship. They directed another "T-Bird" fire team to intercept this new threat.

Specialist Four Raymond A. Honyoust was observed leaning far out over the helicopter's skids, delivering accurate machinegun fire directly into the midst of the Viet Cong. There were several bullet holes within inches of his legs and even nearer to the one strap that was the life-

line between himself and oblivion.

Specialist Four Chester L. Groce picked up his M-14 rifle and continued to fire when his machinegun ammunition was gone.

With all their ammunition gone the "T-Birds" reluctantly broke off the attack leaving the command and control aircraft to keep tabs on the VC while they

reloaded and rearmed.

After inspecting the helicopters, only one was found to be able to fly back into action; and the crew eagerly volunteered to do just that.

An American sergeant, the advisor with the ambushed patrol, had been captured during the VC attack on the patrol. During the chaos caused by the "T-Bird" attack, he escaped to freedom.



**THE EASY WAY ACROSS**—Troops of the 4th Infantry Division's Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, use a fallen log to bridge a stream near Plei Dejereng. The company was participating in Operation Paul Revere IV. (Photo by Sp4 John Mahoney, 4th INF-10)