

lery and air support. When the dust had settled, a body count revealed one dead enemy.

A snare for Charlie was on the move. Southwest of the 2nd Bn. in the lower Phu My Valley, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry was on search and destroy missions. Meanwhile, both Companies A and B of the 2nd Bn. encountered a large force of the 7th Battalion, 18th North Vietnamese Regiment.

panies.

A sweep through the battle area uncovered 66 bodies and eight individual weapons, ammunition, and documents indicating that the doomed force had been elements of the 9th Battalion, 18th NVA Regiment. A final body count at the operation's end revealed more than 230 NVA and local Viet Cong dead—a major portion of the entire regiment.

1500th Enemy Killed By Bde Task Force

DUC PHO, (25th INF-10) — For the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Task Force, a Viet Cong sniper became the 1500th enemy killed since the area here was closed as part of Task Force Oregon.

More than 444 weapons have been captured in the 103 days of search and destroy operations.

During the period, the brigade has 13 times battled company-sized or larger units. Over 540 smaller skirmishes have also been reported.

This rich, rice-producing coastal plain in lower Quang Ngai Province has long been under control of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army units.

In the first week of operations, American soldiers loosened the enemy's grip and have provided security while the local villagers harvested their rice without fear of VC terrorism.

Patrols by ground units and helicopters caught enemy units by surprise. Large contacts were immediately followed by combat assaults of more troops, each time mauling enemy units.

The disorganized enemy units took to their underground sanctuaries in tunnels and bunkers and moved only at night.

But the underground hiding places no longer provide the VC safety. Artillery has provided harassment fires which turn the night into day, and the infantrymen have quickly learned how to locate the tunnels and spider holes, destroying the VC

infrastructure.

Thus far, 257 Hoi Chanh have rallied. Each tells of fear of constant patrols, lack of food and medical supplies, and their continual movement to avoid detection.

With the help of brigade civil affairs teams, refugee centers have been built here. These centers now house more than 13,000 people.

The answer to these questions lies on the shoulders of one MSgt. Alvah D. White of the 1st Logistical Command's Procurement Agency.

White has been appointed a contracting officer for the U.S. Armed Forces. It is believed that he is the first non-commissioned officer in the history of the Army to earn such an appointment. Normally this job is left to a commissioned officer.

Vietnamese civilians under his control go to markets in places such as Dalat, Pleiku, Phan Rang, Qui Nhon, and Saigon to find out asking prices on foodstuffs. When prices have been quoted, White asks for sealed bids from the individual markets.

The lowest bid is usually accepted if quality standards are met. Purchases are paid for the day following delivery.

Although limited to small purchase procedures for the procurement of fresh fruits and vegetables, he is authorized to make single purchases up to \$2500.

pected that we will spend more than \$12 million for these products."

The bulk of these foodstuffs are bought in South Vietnam, but some of the vegetables and fruits come from Japan, Taiwan, and Australia.

Such things as apples, oranges, potatoes, and dry onions are brought in from the States because they cannot be grown locally.

this project at the Pleiku orphanage. They are devising a system of special filters to chemically saturate and purify all the drinking and cooking water.

The battalion's help is part of a civic action program designed to win the support of the people for their government and to show them that they can achieve a better way of life in a free nation.

1st Inf Div Mustangs Find, Hit VC Mortars

PHO LOI, (1st INF-10) — Seconds after the first mortar round landed near the airstrip, a Mustang scramble was in operation.

The helicopter cavalry of the 1st Infantry Division's Troop D, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, was airborne while enemy hands were still dropping the initial rounds into their mortars.

The Mustangs headed for an

area two miles north of their position. Combining the dark jungle, the armed helicopters located the VC within a half hour after their takeoff.

Artillery, directed by the Big Red One's aerial cavalry, stopped the attack less than an hour after it had begun.

Gunships circled the area, watching for any possible ground attack. At dawn, small, bubble-type choppers, flying at tree level, spotted the mortar site.

"We knew we had the rocket sites located when we saw what apparently was two VC," said Sp1 Michael Sutter. "It turned out that one was still alive. He was taken prisoner by the infantry sweeping the area."

Other choppers sniffed out the main enemy force, which was said to be a regiment.

The artillery was kept busy the rest of the day as it blasted the suspected area.

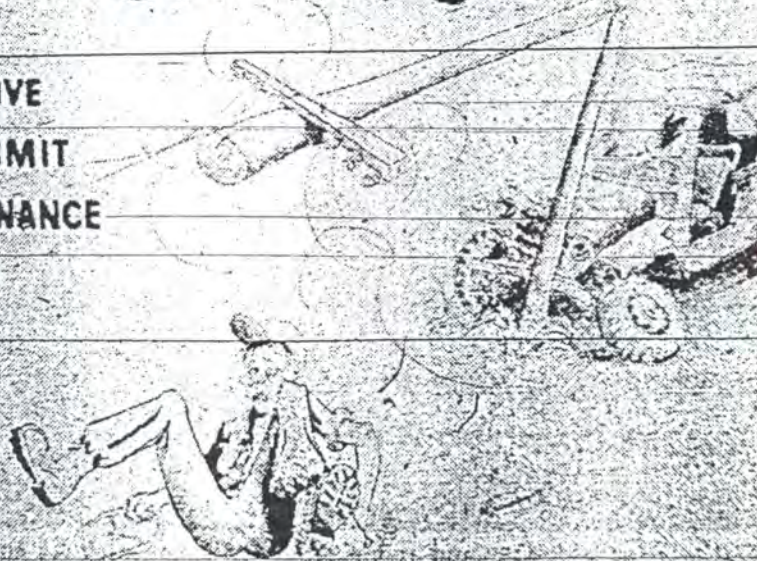
New Supply Point Opens

CAN THO, (1st LOG-10) — Saigon Support Command's 53rd General Support Group recently opened a new 138,000-square-foot supply point here.

A 96 by 144-foot warehouse is used to store dry rations. A block of ten 1600-cubic-foot refrigerator units are used for storing frozen and chilled food items.

RULES FOR FOOLS

DRINK AND DRIVE
EXCEED SPEED LIMIT
AVOID MAINTENANCE
TAKE CHANCES
HOG THE ROAD



Bennett met the 11-year-old girl several months ago and then Bennett's mother, Mrs. Christine Bennett, Panama City, Fla., sends his best girl clothes and writes to her.

(Photo by PFC Andrew Rust, 1st CAV-IO)

(tourist) class tickets are good for only 15 days from time of departure until time of return.

orders with the completed certificate on the reverse side to his wife before she begins travel.

Servicemen from some commands have reported that short notices make it difficult to contend with the time factor involved in sending orders to their wives for the trip to Hawaii.

Commands that fill Hawaiian R and R quotas on a quarterly basis will allow most servicemen more than 30 days for making firm plans to meet their wives, the spokesman said. To ensure himself of sufficient advance notification, however, a married man could request a date later in the quarter — the second or third month.

Detailed information may be obtained from R and R coordinators and from MACV Directive 23-2.

Quick Fire At 4th Inf

PLEIKU, (4th INF-IO) — A "quick-fire" course at the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry fire support base is giving the infantrymen practice in firing their M-16s at elusive targets.

The course was laid out recently by the men of Company A in the jungle terrain close to the firebase. Eight pop-up targets are carefully hidden in the foliage. The targets are activated by a grader, who follows each rifleman.

Psychological Operations Men Capture Entire Cong Squad

DUC PHO, (25th INF-IO) — The power of psychological operations was displayed recently when Team Nine, 24th Psyops Company, attached to the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, captured an entire squad of Viet Cong without firing a shot.

The psychological reactionary force, consisting of SFC Heyward-Rourke and a Vietnamese interpreter, were called into action when company A, 1st

Battalion, 14th Infantry chased the heavily armed squad into a tunnel complex north of here.

It was only a matter of minutes before the Psyops team had their portable loud speaker system positioned at the tunnel entrance.

Rourke, working through his interpreter, instructed the VC to surrender within five minutes or they would be killed by the waiting infantry unit.

When the time limit was up, one Communist emerged from the tunnel, dragging his rifle behind him.

The VC walked up to the sergeant and handed him his weapon.

The threats were followed by words of encouragement, and seeing that the Americans had no intention of harming him, the VC willingly talked the others in the tunnel into surrendering.

Along with four more prisoners, the American soldiers col-

lected grenades and an M-1 carbine with grenade launcher.

The squad leader, the first man out of the tunnel, directed the friendly forces to a nearby cave which concealed the other four members of his squad.

Upon a command from the squad leader, the four gave themselves up and added two rifles, one machine gun, and a rocket launcher to the weapons haul.

Adoption Celebrated By Inf Bn, Chopper Co

LONG THANH, (9th INF-IO) — A combat battalion of the 9th Infantry Division cemented a grateful relationship with an assault helicopter company during a recent Sunday afternoon barbecue here.

During the festivity, the 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry adopted the 191st Assault Helicopter Company.

The two units have teamed up for 14 airmobile operations in the Mekong Delta since late May when the helicopter company arrived in Vietnam.

To show his appreciation for the cooperation given by the 191st, Lt. Col. Allen S. Flynn, battalion commander, proposed that his unit adopt the aviation company.

Major Clarence Patnode Jr., 191st commander, gladly accepted the offer and made arrangements for a cook-out to celebrate the event.

Ten helicopters landed at the Binh Phuoc base camp of the 5th Bn. shortly after noon and a contingent of infantrymen scrambled aboard for a ride to the aviation company's headquarters at the 9th Div. base camp.

When they arrived, Flynn addressed the combined units and read the proclamation of adoption. He presented Patnode a 1917 Springfield rifle captured from the Viet Cong during a recent operation.

Patnode gave the 5th a bullet-scarred synchronized elevator,

a small wing on the tail of Huey helicopters, in exchange for the rifle.

The elevator was ripped by enemy ground fire during one of the joint missions of the two units.

General Wounded . . .

(Continued From Page 1)
had things under control on the ground, I was going to call the ship back to pick us up.

"But before we could do this, the VC opened up on us with machinegun fire. Tracers were flying everywhere.

"I told the pilot to pull out because there was no sense endangering the rest of the crew with all that lead flying around.

"Just about that time Hilton said 'I'm hit!' You could hear the bullets thunk into the craft several times.

"A couple of seconds after Hilton said he was hit, I said 'I am too.'

"Sergeant Major Akridge jumped over to Hilton and put a tourniquet on his legs to stop the bleeding. I was hit in the lower part of the right leg. The co-pilot gave me a belt for a tourniquet.

"I think what really saved us was the skill of the pilot who got us out of there fast, and the right door gunner, Stanley, who fired back at the VC very quickly. I think his suppressive fire kept us from getting it much

worse. It was a miracle he was not hit. He was in a very exposed position.

"From there the chopper took us to Tan Son Nhut, where an ambulance was waiting for us."

The battle on the ground continued to rage. The infantrymen called for close air support about the same time the brigade's D Troop, 17th Cavalry was alerted for possible movement into the area from the forward base camp at Cat Lai.

After the air strikes and brief artillery barrages, the cavalry moved in to block an east-west road in the area in an attempt to block the enemy from escaping with the oncoming darkness. But as the sun fell, fighting diminished as the VC slipped across a river just north of the battle site.

The VC left 19 dead. Nine others were detained. Captured were one automatic weapon, one carbine, 211 rounds of small arms ammunition, a 60mm mortar, five 60mm mortar rounds, two Chinese communist grenades, and two pounds of sugar and rice mixed.



GIFT OF FOOD—Chaplain Rene Luedee presents food collected for distribution to needy people in the Di An area to Father Joseph Co of the Di An Parish. Captain Luedee explains that the food is "for the people of your parish."
(Photo by 1st INF-IO)

7/23/92 BAK

1st Inf Aerial Patrol Chases VC Snipers

PHU LOI (1st INF-10) — Returning from a reconnaissance mission, an aerial patrol of armed helicopters spotted a group of people who thought that a helicopter makes a nice target.

The helicopters of the 1st Infantry Division's Troop D, circled over the Viet Cong and soon found out that they were indeed hostile as automatic weapons fire began popping around the choppers.

Team leader of the scout helicopters, Lt. William Livingston, changed his team's direction and headed for the VC who were running for a ravine.

Radioing for the Aero Rifle Platoon (ARP), WO1 L.E. Gessell said, "We've got them cornered, come and get 'em."

The gunships were keeping the guerrillas pinned down when they suddenly broke from the ravine and disappeared into the jungle 400 feet away.

After the men from the ARP landed, Spt Mike Sutter was the first to spot the Viet Cong in their new position.

He directed the ARPs to the Viet Cong who were now breaking and running in all directions.

Chasing the enemy up a stream, the soldiers soon came upon a large cache of equipment.

Loading the gear onto Living-

ston's chopper, SSgt Melvyn Finnegan said, "Even if they ran too fast for us, we still made a pretty impressive haul with this equipment."

Gift Boxes Help Viets

LONG THANH (9th INF-10) — Nearly 13,000 pounds of clothing, home articles, and farm tools donated by the citizens of Kansas are being distributed to needy Vietnamese families by the 9th Infantry Division.

Early this year state residents were asked by the then Kansas governor, William H. Avery, to contribute to Operation Kansas — a project designed to collect supplies for the Vietnamese people.

Boxes of clothing, farm tools, soap and cooking utensils collected by Operation Kansas accompanied the division to Vietnam and are currently being distributed.

The operation distribution program here is under the control of Capt. Lloyd Young, division civic action officer. Articles are issued to the Vietnamese through unit civil affairs sections, he explained.



YOUNG IS AT IT AGAIN—The helicopter engine starts to whine as Sp5 Barry Young opens his impersonation of a helicopter and its crew. Delighted Vietnamese children gather around the 1st Cavalry Division radio reporter whenever he travels into Bong Son, the division's forward command post. (Photo by Sp4 Pat Christian, 1st CAV-10)

Vietnamese Children Thrilled By 'Pied Piper Of Bong Son'

Story by Sp1 Pat Christian
BONG SON, (1st CAV-10)—
"Ba-dap, ba-dap, ba-dap. Listen, there in the laundry. It's a penguin! No, it's a helicopter!"

No, it's a .50 cal. machinegun!" No! Afraid they're all wrong. It is Sp5 Barry Young, the Pied Piper of Bong Son, doing impersonations to the delight of local Vietnamese children.

Young is better known among 1st Cavalry Division soldiers for his interviews on Radio An Khe, the Cav's official station. But his ratings among Vietnamese children probably surpass his radio ratings.

When he brings his laundry

Of course, Young does all the parts, including the helicopter's rotor represented by a stick perched on his head.

The Huey invariably experiences mechanical trouble. It starts with a super-flustered pilot whose two hands are tightly, but kinetically, attached to the control stick.

"Ba-dap, ba-dap, ba-dap . . . cough . . . sputter . . . sputter . . . cough. It looks as if our helicopter is in trouble."

Veterinarians Fix Smashed Jaw, Treat Injured Army Scout Dog