

Vietnam Communique

101st Airborne Division—In a heavy contact with the enemy, a company from the 1st Brigade fought a well-armed force north-west of Chu Lai and killed 60 in a day-long battle recently. Following an initial mortar attack, the enemy force initiated a two-pronged assault, cutting off one platoon. Other elements of the 101st broke through the enemy ranks in hand-to-hand

fighting. Another company and a reconnaissance platoon were sent in to aid the paratroopers. Twenty-one individual weapons, a Russian light machinegun, a 60mm mortar sight, and assorted rockets were found after the battle.

1st Cavalry Division—The 1st Cav. continued Operation Pershing, with scattered contacts still being made in Binh Dinh

Province. The Skytroopers have now killed 3562 enemy since the operation began. In other activity, civil affairs teams continued their work throughout the division's area of operation, holding sick calls and distributing food and clothing. During the month of September, the civil affairs personnel and their medical teams treated more than 3800 Vietnamese, and distributed more than 36,000 pounds of rice and 4500 pounds of salt.

25th Infantry Division—The large scale 1st Brigade operation in Ho Bo Woods continued to sweep the area for Viet Cong and their hiding places. The combat engineers on the massive clearing operation went over the 4500-acre mark recently in clearing the dense jungle vegetation. Additionally, psychological operations dropped 542,000 safe conduct passes and Chieu-Hoi leaflets throughout the division's area of operations.

9th Infantry Division—Troopers from the 33rd Cavalry found a major weapons cache recently. Included were 12 U.S. 45 cal. submachineguns, seven carbines, four French machineguns, three Browning automatic rifles, two machineguns of unknown origin, one German machinegun, one British machinegun, a British automatic rifle, a French automatic rifle, one 75mm recoilless rifle, and an 82mm mortar tube. In the same vicinity, the 86th Engineer Platoon found a hospital and operation room stocked with medical supplies and equipment. Further exploration by the engineers resulted in the location of large quantities of rice, live hogs, and chickens. They also found maps, clothing, communications equipment, and Chinese and Russian weapons with ammunition.

4th Infantry Division—Soldiers of the 4th Inf. continued search and destroy missions east and west of Pleiku. As a result of two minor skirmishes, two units turned up several pieces of miscellaneous enemy equipment.

Mammoth Engines Repaired

LE THANH, (4th INF-IO)—Specialist Four Roger Prosser rolled out from beneath the greasy monster, cursing the stubbornness of an obscure nut, and wiping the grease and grime from his face with an equally greasy rag.

Prosser and Sp4 Ronald Kingrey of Company D, 704th Maintenance Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, were stripping down a mammoth engine recently removed from an engineer tank. "We get about three of these jobs a month", Prosser said.

The huge engines powering the various track vehicles in the 1st Brigade area take a terrific beating.

When the big power plants in the vehicles begin to lose compression or show signs they're ready for replacement, they're taken out of the vehicle and the mechanics from the 704th go to work, cleaning them off, separating them for shipment.

When the engine is ready, it is crated up and conveyed to a pickup point and shipped to Okinawa, the Army repair depot for the Far East area.

"This particular engine we're working on," said Prosser, "is one of the bigger ones."

The engine, at 7900 pounds, weighs the equivalent of four Volkswagens, and the transmission tips the scales at 4250 pounds, as much as a Chevrolet sedan.

17th Aviation Group Helps Korean Aviation Company Get Off Ground

NHA TRANG, (1st AVN-IO)—Ever since coming to Vietnam in 1966 to assist the Free World Forces, the Republic of Korea Army commanders have been looking ahead to the time when they could provide their own troops with organic aviation support.

Just recently, their dreams have come true when the ROK

Forces Abroad Teams.

Air Force B-52 jet bombers pounded a suspected VC base camp in the area of operations while ground forces blocked escape routes.

Then Special Forces soldiers dropped into the bombed-out area and engaged a VC company. The fighting raged for 90 minutes before the enemy withdrew, leaving behind eight bodies.

Documents discovered at the scene identified the dead as members of the 274th VC Regiment.

Only light contact was reported during the remainder of the operation as Allied elements crushed tunnel hideouts and blew up enemy base camps and fortified bunkers.

Villagers Complete School

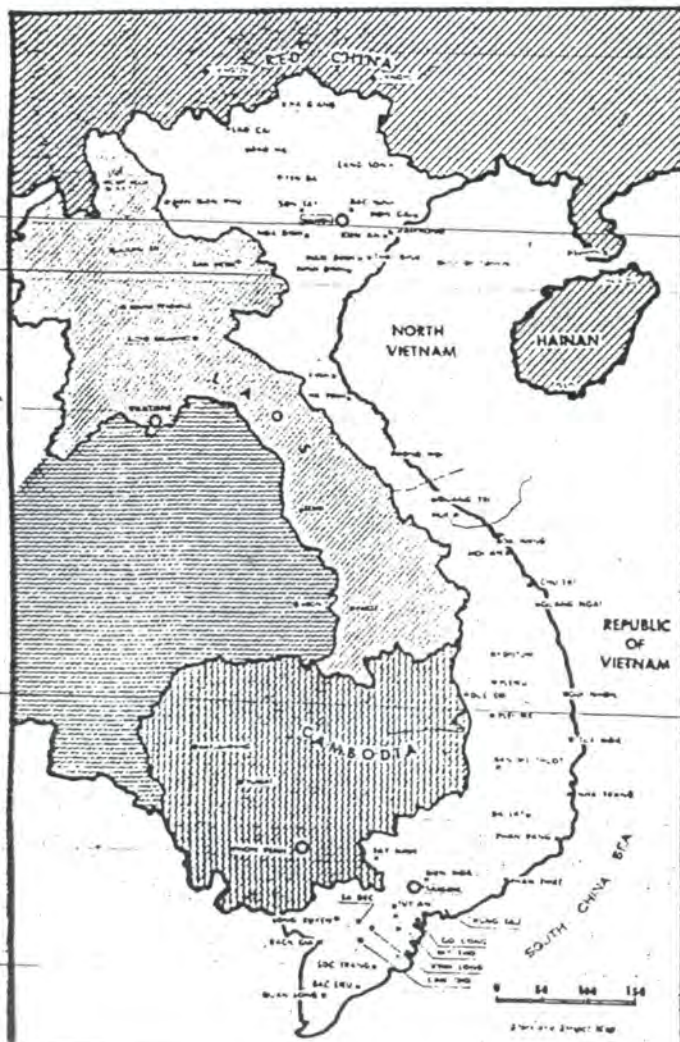
LONG BINH, (II FFV-IO)—In Honai Village, on the outskirts of Bien Hoa, a self-help school project was recently completed by the families of Tra-Co II Hamlet. The project was supported by Headquarters, II Field Force, Vietnam (II FFV) artillery.

Captain Richard Hahn, civil affairs officer, said the people provided all of the labor to build the structure.

Like many other Vietnamese schools, it operates on a split-shift day, with half the children attending morning classes and the other half attending classes in the afternoon.

11th Aviation Company, under the 100th Log Command here, was born with the assistance of the 17th Aviation Group.

Twelve of the 19 Korean pilots were trained at Army aviation schools in the U.S. They have seven Huey helicopters from the 17th Grp's 52nd Aviation Battalion.



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