

Vietnam Communique

Americal Division

Three Americal cavalry troops, currently participating in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa, reported killing 148 enemy by body count on a sweep after a battle which took place west of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province. Twenty-two of the enemy killed were identified as North Vietnamese soldiers while the rest were Viet Cong.

The action began when gunship crews from the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry made contact with an unknown size enemy force. Two armored platoons from a troop of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry were immediately sent to the scene of the contact area. Later, two more platoons from another 1st Squadron troop were sent to reinforce.

Gunship crews and tactical airstrikes reportedly killed over 40 of the enemy while 99 of the kills were credited to the armored ground units. There were two U.S. soldiers killed and 14 wounded and evacuated.

Air and ground units of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade recorded 11 enemy killed in contacts near the cities of Quang Ngai and Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province.

Two pilots from the brigade's 'Primo Aviation Limited' aviation section were piloting their light observation choppers over an area, six miles east of Quang Ngai City, when they spotted seven armed Viet Cong soldiers on the South China Sea coastline.

One of the pilots, CWO Gil Honda, dropped a smoke grenade to mark the area and alert the other ship, piloted by WO Allen Levy. At that time the choppers received enemy automatic weapons fire. The two pilots then made several firing passes over the area and reported killing five VC.

25th Inf Div

The 25th Infantry Division's 2nd and 3rd Brigades were in sporadic contact with enemy forces while conducting reconnaissance-in-force missions throughout the area in the north-

west of Saigon.

Tankers of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor reported killing 36 Viet Cong during a contact with an unknown size enemy force about 14 miles northwest of Saigon. The action was supported by tactical airstrikes and artillery.

Several brief contacts with enemy soldiers still in the area resulted in one U.S. soldier killed along with seven wounded and evacuated. Enemy losses were unknown.

Among items picked up by the tankers were six rocket grenade launchers, 12 rounds of ammunition, two light machineguns, four assault rifles, and 6500 pounds of rice, enough to feed a 500-man enemy battalion for nine days.

The 10th Battalion, 9th Infantry, operating six miles north-northwest of Saigon, killed 12 Viet Cong in three brief contacts. The U.S. infantrymen captured two 122mm rocket tubes, 2160 rounds of ammunition and 300 pounds of rice. They also destroyed 18 enemy bunkers. During the sweep, two American soldiers were killed while seven were wounded and evacuated.

Gunship pilots of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry reported counting five VC dead after directing artillery fire into an area seven miles northwest of Saigon.

Division medical personnel treated 289 general medical patients and inoculated 1574 Vietnamese against plague. Civil affairs soldiers distributed 4000 pounds of other foodstuffs to refugees and ARVN dependents.

1st Cav Div

Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division reported light, scattered action throughout their Jeb Stuart area of operations resulting in 25 enemy killed.

While patrolling an area five miles west of Hue, a scout helicopter from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry spotted a group of armed enemy soldiers moving along a trail. The pilot rolled his chopper in on the group, engaging them with miniguns and reported killing 14 Communist soldiers.

199th Inf Bde

Infantrymen from Company C of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade's 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry discovered the bodies of nine enemy soldiers while conducting a reconnaissance-in-force operation three miles east of the 199th's Camp Frenzell-Jones.

1st Inf Div

Company D of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry located a 12,900-pound enemy rice cache near Di An, about nine miles northeast of Saigon. The rice, which was stored in 100-pound bags, will be distributed to Vietnamese refugees. Officials stated that the rice was enough to feed a 500-man enemy battalion for about 17 days.

Five miles north of Saigon Company B, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry found the bodies of 11 Viet Cong soldiers who had been killed by artillery fire.

5th SFG

A reconnaissance patrol from the 5th Special Forces 'A' Detachment at Thuong Duc engaged 12 Viet Cong recently. The two U.S. soldiers and 30 Camp Strike Forces soldiers engaged in a brief firefight and the enemy withdrew. Five enemy were killed in the engagement.

Also, Green Beret troopers from the 'A' Detachment at Ba Tho conducted a search and destroy mission near their camp. While on the mission, the soldiers made contact with a Viet Cong platoon, resulting in 10 VC killed. The mission continued and the Special Forces soldiers destroyed 20 military structures.

Later, an estimated enemy company attacked a convoy and security force that was moving back to Thuong Duc. Heavy fighting erupted and a reaction force of Special Forces troopers and a Vietnamese Marine unit were deployed as reinforcements.

A sweep was made after the enemy broke contact and 24 enemy bodies were found.

In a joint effort, several Army



Support Command maintenance units at Cam Ranh Bay repaired 33 five-ton tractors and returned them to service in a 24-hour period.

Major Kenneth M. Martin, the Cam Ranh Bay Support Command Director of Maintenance, stated that the record of 33 "five-ton" returned to service surpassed the average returned in one day by 55 percent.

Participating in the joint project were the 69th Maintenance

Battalion, and the 36th Transportation Battalion.

1st Log Cmd

The five-ton truck is the backbone of 1st Log Command convoys hauling supplies to Army units throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

Approximately 150 Vietnamese citizens attended three Vietnamese language entertainment films shown recently by an audiovisual team from the 4th PsyOps Group at Xom Moi Go Vap, a Saigon area orphanage/refugee center. The team also played 30 minutes of music for the audience.

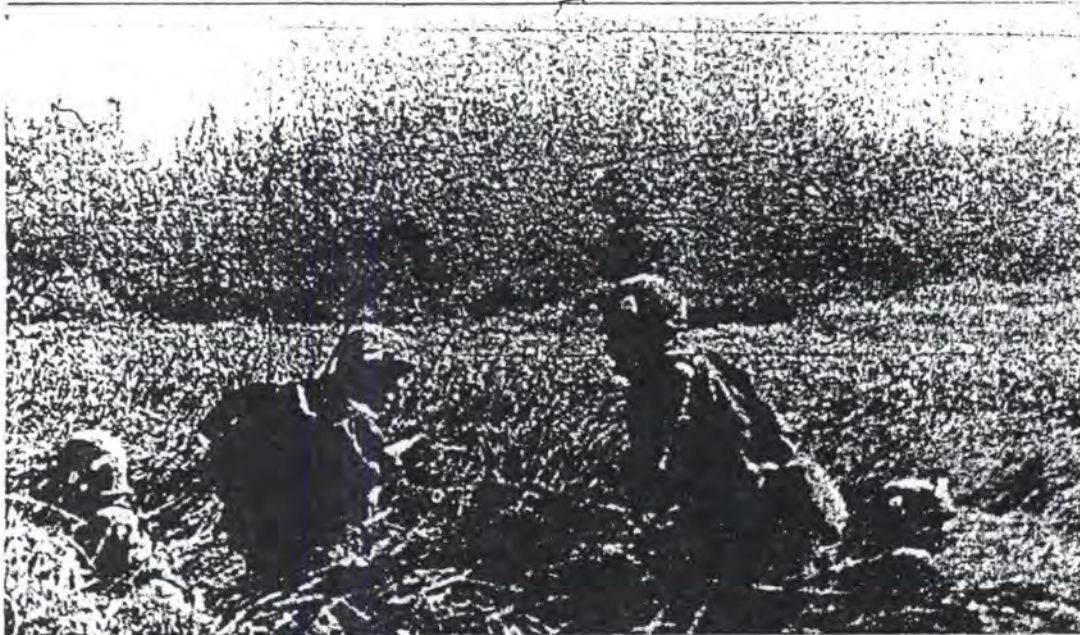
Later, the team traveled to the Vietnamese Ordnance School where two films were shown to over 450 students, staff members and dependents.

The 4th Group's 'Bomb Squad' packed 66 aerial containers with 2,300,000 leaflets for high altitude air-drops during the week of February 18-21. In addition, squad members boxed and shipped 6.4 million leaflets—6.2 million to the 7th PsyOps Battalion, and 200,000 to the 8th PsyOps Battalion.

4th PsyOps Gp

Members of the 8th PsyOps Battalion disseminated approximately 5 million leaflets during 22 aerial missions in support of the 4th Infantry Division; 1st Cavalry Division; 173d Airborne Brigade; 101st Airborne Division, and the 22nd ARVN Division operating in the II Corps Tactical Zone. The battalion also logged 13 hours of taped Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) and surrender appeals.

Soldiers of the 6th PsyOps Battalion at Bien Hoa distributed 2,434,000 leaflets and did over 11 hours of loudspeaker broadcasts in flights throughout Long An, Bien Hoa, Phuoc Long and Binh Duong Provinces.



FIRE-ON—Sniper fire from nearby treeline forces 9th Infantry Division soldiers to hit the ground. Action occurred near Tan Tru, 26 miles southwest of Saigon, as elements of the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry conducted a reconnaissance-in-force mission.

(Photo by Sp4 Don Cordi, 9th INF-10)

Editorial

VN Vets Priority

The most recent additions to the list of veterans' benefits, tendered by a grateful nation to the men who have helped defend it are the special opportunities for Vietnam veterans to obtain priority employment with the government and further their education at the same time.

These opportunities, set forth in an Executive Order, make Vietnam veterans eligible to enter federal employment in transitional appointments at the five lowest civil service levels without taking an examination.

For those veterans who have completed less than one year of education beyond high school and who meet all other civil service standards, this program offers an incentive for them to increase their education under the GI Bill while holding a full-time job.

The individual's continued employment in a transitional appointment is contingent upon successful completion of at least one school year of full-time approved education.

The transitional appointees who successfully meet the educational conditions of their employment after one year of current, continuous employment may then be converted to career-conditional or career employment status, automatically acquiring a competitive status.

In the words of President Johnson, "America holds some of its greatest honors for the men who have stood in its defense, and kept alive its freedoms. It shows its gratitude not only in memorials... but more meaningfully in the programs which care for him."

Pass In Review:

Awards And Decorations



CONGRATULATIONS — Major General Charles P. Stone, 4th Infantry Division commander, congratulates ARVN Capt. Nguyen Thong, 22nd ARVN Ranger Battalion, after the Vietnamese officer was presented the Bronze Star for valor at Dak To during a recent combined awards ceremony at Camp Enarl.

(Photo by Sp4 Ron Uozak, 4th Inf-10)

Awards

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

PSgt. John K. McDermott
SSgt. Frank J. Walker
PFC Gary G. Wetzel
Capt. Frank M. Wroblewski

SILVER STAR

Sp3 Sebern D. Groyes
Sp3 Jack C. Huth
WO Clifford L. Watson
1st Lt. Sammy L. Littleton

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Capt. George A. Helm
CWO Paul L. Pagano
Maj. Patrick H. Brady
Capt. Alan J. Flory
Sp4 Floyd E. Calkins
Sp4 Ernest W. Becker
1st Lt. Harvey H. Hueter
Sp5 Harry L. Tyson

BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR

1st Col. James T. Vance
1st Lt. Kenneth F. Stovall
1st Gen. Frederick C. Weyand
Sgt. Dale R. Bramwell
1st Col. William H. Cole
SOLDIER'S MEDAL
Sp4 Jerry Lawhorne
Sp4 David A. Dershlimer
SSgt. Joseph S. Bennett
SSgt. Walter R. Johnson
MSGT. Lawrence Odenbaugh, Jr.

Your Reach Should Exceed Grasp

By Chap. (Maj.)
Paul F. Haefner

Doubtless you will recall from your basic training days the many instructions, lectures and classes that you had familiarizing yourself with your weapon. After all the talking and taking the weapon apart, so that you knew it forwards and backwards, out to the range you went to qualify.

A soldier and his weapon are synonymous. A soldier having a weapon is important, but a sol-

idier in and about trainfire and targets in general are aware of the absolute necessity of having a sharp eye and taking accurate aim.

It would be a terrible misfortune if a soldier, after being decorated with an expert's medal, cared less about the all important aim of his life.

Aim for the stars! Even though your aim is far off the target or the target is so far away that you miss the mark by miles. If a man doesn't have

less than mediocre.

It should be a great consolation to know that God is the only boss who rewards anyone for trying—even though nothing much. If anything, is accomplished. So set your sights high, as far as living a self-rewarding and tremendously satisfactory life is concerned.

"A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a Heaven for?" So who wants to be a hero, who wants to be an expert, who wants to be a specialist? The whole lot of us are just ordinary

Most Colossal Political Failure

Bryan Belonged In A Pulpit

By Sp5 Richard Steins
William Jennings Bryan was unquestionably the most gifted orator of his day. He controlled the Democratic Party for almost 12 years and was nominated three times for President. He served for two years as Secretary of State, and through his widespread speaking engagements and writings earned almost a million dollars.

Yet if Bryan is to be measured by the causes he advocated, and the success he enjoyed in making them reality, he ranks as the most colossal political failure in American history.

He was born in Salem, Illinois, in 1856, earned his law degree in 1883, and moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1887. Four years later he was elected to Congress, where he became an immediate champion of the silver advocates.

At the 1896 Democratic convention, Bryan delivered his famous "Cross of Gold" speech which so captivated the dele-

gates that he was nominated in a stampede, even though he was only 36 years old.

Bryan traveled far and wide across the United States, but he was unable to create the famous "South-West" coalition which he hoped would guarantee him the election. He was defeated by William McKinley.

In 1900 he was again nominated, and once again, was defeated by McKinley. Undaunted, he prepared to seek a third nomination.

Unable to control the party in the 1904 campaign, Bryan was forced to accept the compromise nomination of Judge Alton Parker. Parker's resounding defeat, at the hands of Theodore Roosevelt, once again threw the Democratic Party into Bryan's lap, and in 1908 he was again nominated—and again defeated, this time by the little-known William Howard Taft.

The country had not merely rejected Bryan. It had opposed the very ideas he stood for. But Bryan was the perpetual optimist; his beliefs in government were as rigid as his fundamentalistic faith. He could no more alter them than he could command the sun not to rise.

Incredibly, the humiliation of three defeats did not deter him from seeking the nomination for a fourth time. But the Democrats wanted a winner, and Bryan was the number-one candidate for rejection.

Although Bryan failed to receive the nomination in 1912, Wilson's victory assured Bryan of a high position in the new Democratic administration. In early 1913, Wilson asked him to become his Secretary of State. Bryan accepted, and embarked on what was perhaps the most tragic period of his life.

Bryan resigned in 1915, in disagreement over Wilson's position toward Germany. The President was seeking to preserve neutrality during the World War, but it was fast becoming impossible to ignore the wanton German attacks on American shipping.

Bryan could not comprehend the fact that America's interests were at stake. Instead, he accused the President of not trying hard enough to preserve neutrality. It was a sad episode in his career.

In 1925, he was drawn into the Scopes Trial—the "monkey

trial"—at which time he sought to defend the State of Tennessee in its attempt to prosecute a teacher for instructing his students in the doctrines of evolution. Bryan permitted himself to be humiliated—his religious beliefs, his convictions about the world were dragged into the spotlight—and the whole world laughed.

Two weeks later he died, shortly after having eaten one of his famous gargantuan breakfasts. Bryan died in a world which had outgrown his ideas. Indeed, he sought to advance his career in a world which did not accept his ideas.

Bryan was most at home in the podium. He could sway people with words, but he could never sway a majority to vote for him. Perhaps H.L. Mencken was right when he commented that Bryan belonged in the pulpit—not in the White House.



Letters

(Editor's Note: Department of Defense policy prohibits the sending of names of servicemen to citizens of the United States. The Army Reporter, however, will publish the names and addresses of persons wishing to write to servicemen in Vietnam.)
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Miss Linda Leake
P.O. Box 1600
Radford College Station
Radford, Virginia 24141
Miss Sandy Mohr (20)
Carthage College
College Center, Box 722
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140
Miss Candy Heuer (20)
Carthage College
College Center, Box 423
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THE ARMY REPORTER is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Office, United States Army Vietnam and is an authorized Army publication. The command newspaper has a circulation of 85,000 and is printed by PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES in Tokyo, Japan.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. This newspaper utilizes the facilities of the ARMED FORCES NEWS BUREAU and ARMY NEWS FEATURES. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to: THE ARMY REPORTER, USARV-10, APO 96375 or telephone Long Binh 4204/5311.

Gen. W. C. Westmoreland Commanding General
Lt. Gen. Bruce Palmer Jr. Deputy CG
Col. E. O. Post Information Officer
..... Information Officer



NEW HOME—When the 199th Light Infantry Brigade establishes a forward patrol base, there is always much air traffic bringing in supplies and equipment. A D-6 Bulldozer is brought into the new base by a Flying Crane as a Chinook floats by with a trailer of supplies.

To Build 199th Forward Base

Flying Crane Moves 'Dozer

LONG BINH, (199th INF-10)—Members of the 87th Engineer Company recently dismantled a 12-ton (D-6) bulldozer so that it could be airlifted by sections into a new forward base camp for the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

In little more than an hour, the bulldozer was reassembled and ready to begin digging gun positions and bunker emplacements

at the camp site in Bien Hoa Province.

The tractor, lifted in two sections, was flown into the new area suspended beneath a Flying Crane.

The steel tracks and blade were the first parts to touch down. Engineers, flown from the dismantling site at Phuoc Vinh, prepositioned the tracks in readiness for the chassis.

When the chassis arrived

a short time later, the engineers began reassembling the tractor by driving master pins in the links where the tracks had been taken apart.

When the diesel-driven bulldozer had been refitted with its heavy blade, it was ready to begin its mission.

According to 1st Lt. James H. Simms, directing the engineers working on the project, the D-6 is the heaviest airmobile bulldozer that the Army transports in this manner.

The D-6 chassis weighs about 15,000 lbs. The tracks and blade section weighs approximately 9000 lbs.

Photos by
Sp5 Jerrold Fisherman
199th INF-10



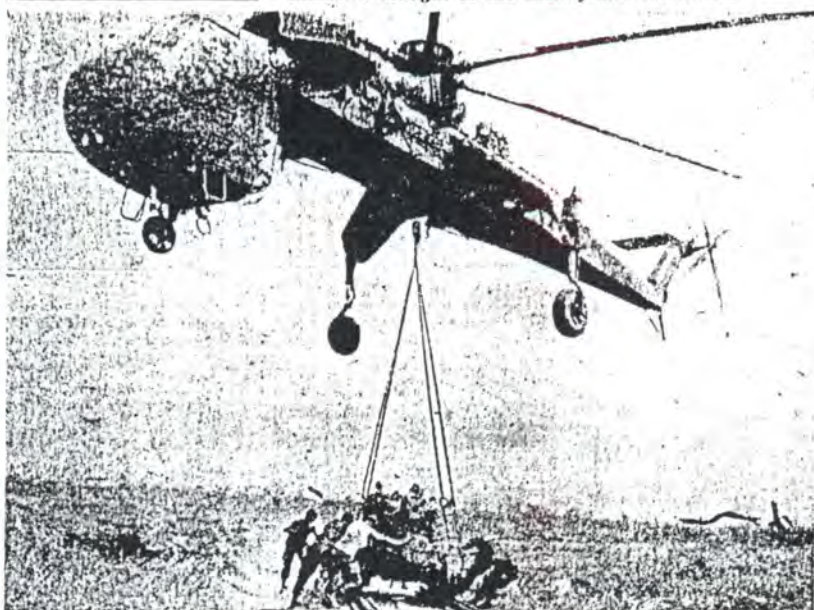
PART OF THE LOAD—Because the bulldozer is too heavy to be airlifted in one piece, the 9000 lbs. of tracks and blade section are transported separately.



COMING IN—A member of the 199th's 87th Engineer Company gives directions as the 15,000 lb. bulldozer chassis is brought to the already laid-out tracks.



REASSEMBLY—In little more than an hour, engineers had the D-6 Bulldozer in operation. The dozer had been dismantled and transported to a new forward patrol base of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.



MUSCLE POWER—Members of the 87th Engineer Company struggle to maneuver the bulldozer chassis onto its tracks.

Inf Plats Hit Cong

YUNG DAT AM, (4th INF-10)

Two platoons from the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry met with enemy fire recently from two squads of North Vietnamese Army regulars 15 miles northeast of the battalion firebase at Throa Tango.

Captain George H. Wilkins, Company D commander, led the two platoons along a ridge line and nearing the top, the unit found a well-used path.

"As we moved along the path we noticed some fresh tracks and a partially dug-out bunker. About that time we started receiving very heavy small arms fire," Wilkins said.

After a short firefight, the captain directed his men down the hill to a more secure position and radioed the battalion firebase for air strikes and artillery fire.

The enemy elements broke quickly when artillery began to clobber them.

When the supporting fires had lifted, the infantrymen moved ahead to find the shattered shell of a battalion-size NVA firebase with more than 50 bunkers.

Wilkins theorized that the enemy had detected the Ivy advances and had sent out a small force as a delaying element while the main unit retreated from the firebase.

"The soldiers that fled were probably an advance party for an even larger enemy force," he continued.

Platoon Sergeant Donald Luhnann recalled that "Captain Wilkins and I were checking out the half-dug-out bunker when our front line was hit with enemy fire. Charlie hit us with everything he had."

"We were lucky that the air power and artillery got there in a hurry since we were in a bad position," admitted Sgt. Clarence S. Lacey Jr. "They sure had all their stuff together."

After Co. D's two platoons had reached the enemy firebase, a platoon from Company B joined them to establish and secure the perimeter.

1968 Primary Elections

General elections in all states, the District of Columbia, and territories will be held Nov. 5, 1968.

STATE	PRIMARY	STATE	PRIMARY	STATE	PRIMARY
Alabama	May 7	Maine	June 17	Oregon	May 28 (Also presidential primary)
Second or runoff—June 4		Maryland	September 10	Pennsylvania	April 23 (Also presidential primary)
Alaska	August 27	Massachusetts	September 17		
Arizona	September 10	(Presidential Primary—April 30)			
Arkansas	July 30	Michigan	August 6		
Second or runoff—August 13		Minnesota	September 10	Rhode Island	September 10
California	June 4	Mississippi	June 4	South Carolina	June 11
Colorado	September 10	Second or runoff—June 25		South Dakota	June 4
(May be held)		Missouri	August 4	Second or runoff—June 25	
Delaware	August 17	Montana	June 4	Tennessee	August 1
District of Columbia	May 7	Nebraska	May 14	Texas	May 4
Florida	May 7	Nevada	September 3	Second or runoff—June 1	
Second or runoff—May 28		New Hampshire	September 10	Utah	September 10
Georgia	September 11	Presidential primary—March 12		Vermont	September 10
Hawaii	October 5	New Jersey	June 4	Virginia	July 9
Idaho	August 6	New Mexico	August 27	Second or runoff—August 13	
Illinois	June 11	New York	June 18	Washington	September 17
Indiana	May 7	North Carolina	May 4	West Virginia	May 14
Iowa	September 3	Second or runoff—June 1		Wisconsin	September 10
Kansas	August 6	North Dakota	September 3	Wyoming	August 20
Kentucky	May 28	Ohio	May 7	Guam	None
Louisiana	August 17	Oklahoma	August 27	Puerto Rico	None
Second or runoff—September 28		Second or runoff—September 17		Virgin Islands	September 10

In House-To-House Fight

Ben Tre VC Lose To Inf

BEN TRE, (9th INF-10) — Swamps and rice paddies are the usual battlegrounds for 9th Infantry Division soldiers. In this Mekong Delta city, however, they faced and defeated the enemy in streets and houses.

Four battalions of Viet Cong had held the area in a reign of terror for three days. Rockets and mortars had wreaked devastation on the Kien Hoa Province capital before elements of the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry entered.

The battalion was challenged by an enemy fortified in homes

taken from civilians. The VC could not be blasted from these positions by high explosives because frightened families were huddling inside other nearby homes.

"The men applied common sense to what they did," said Capt. Thomas R. Genetti, commander of Company B.

"When snipers couldn't be routed by M79 grenades or the light anti-tank weapon (LAW), the men would secure the area around the house, then go in and search it."

Private First Class Alfred R. Cuykendall recalled, "We couldn't move without drawing fire."

"The VC had the area pretty well covered with snipers. We'd be looking one way, and receive fire from the rear. Then, we'd turn to the front and there would be sniper fire from the back."

After elements moved in on a house under heavy fire, they would find the house empty. The VC, dressed as civilians, would slip into the streets. When the unit moved out, the enemy would re-enter houses and resume firing.

A number of other things hampered 9th Division soldiers in the day-long battle. M79 rounds bounced off boarded-up windows, exploding outside instead of inside. Barbed wire fencing between yards made line movement impossible.

Enemy snipers were difficult to pinpoint by sound. The crack of rifles would echo off buildings in the area, making it temporarily confusing.

This was a new type of fighting for the Mobile Riverine soldiers. Nevertheless, they met the challenge and killed more than 150 Viet Cong.

Helicopter Crew Aids Filipino Crash Victims

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — Three seriously injured Filipinos, pinned under an overturned truck in a water-filled ditch, were rescued recently by an Army helicopter crew.

The trio was spotted from the air by Maj. Jack O. Johnson, 269th Aviation Battalion aircraft commander, as he approached the Tay Ninh Airfield, 65 miles northwest of Saigon.

Landing the aircraft nearby, Johnson found that one of the victims, a man, had been thrown clear of the wreckage, while a second man and a woman were trapped beneath it and in danger of drowning.

Warrant Officer pilot Phillip E. Coates immediately radioed for medical aid, while Johnson and Sp4 James E. Hensley, crew chief, began extricating the

trapped couple.

Private First Class Charles Patrick, door gunner, administered first aid to the second man.

According to Johnson, it took 20 minutes to free the two in the ditch. Since they were unconscious, Patrick had to hold their heads above water.

All three were made as comfortable as possible until a dust-off helicopter arrived to evacuate them to the hospital.

Cav Company Cited For Valor

LONG BINH, (USARV-10) — Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division was recently awarded the Valorous Unit Award for its actions during May 16 and 17, 1966.

Avn Bn Breaks Records

PHU LOI, (1st AVN-10) — The 11th Combat Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade set a record-breaking pace recently when it moved over 3400 troops and 370 tons of cargo in support of 1st Infantry Division operations in the III Corps tactical zone.

In the short span of 10 hours, the three assault helicopter companies of the 11th, the 128th Tomahawks, the 162nd Vultures, and the 173rd Robin Hoods, moved nearly six infantry battalions to locations covering the area from Di An to Quan Loi.

At the same time, the CH-47 Chinooks of two assault support helicopter companies, the 205th Geronimos, and the 215th Black Cats, tackled the massive job of moving the necessary equipment for the support of these troops.

"This is the best movement of troops ever conducted by the UH-1 units of a combat aviation battalion in a one-day operation," stated Maj. Herbert Sink.

There were two battalion-size insertions, two extractions, plus nearly two more battalions were inserted in company-size lifts in the late afternoon. Seven organizations of the 1st Div. were moved to forward positions from Di An to Quan Loi.

"My men moved in impeccable fashion," said Lt. Col. William A. Hobbs, "but this lift could never have been accomplished without the superb organization displayed by the 1st Div. They were completely professional and a pleasure to work with."

Despite heavily mounting casualties, the men of the company held off human wave attacks of a Viet Cong battalion during the search and destroy mission of VC concentrations in Binh Dinh Province.



Air Controller Directs 9th Div To VC Supplies

TAN AN, (9th INF-IO)—An Air Force forward air controller (FAC) helped 9th Infantry Division units wreck an apparent enemy supply mission to aid Viet Cong units in Saigon.

The FAC was flying a night reconnaissance mission over the Plain of Reeds when he sighted a fleet of sampans moving southeast down the BoBo Canal in Long An Province.

When the pilot swooped low for a closer look, the sampan lights were extinguished. Locating them again by moonlight, the FAC called for a helicopter fire team from the 9th Division's 3rd Brigade base came here.

Using searchlights, the gunships discovered approximately 100 sampans loaded with supplies evidently bound for enemy forces in the capital city.

The gunships swiftly opened fire and were aided by Air Force air strikes.

At dawn, a unit from the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry airmobiled into the area to assess the damage and search for any VC who might have escaped.

A systematic search of the area disclosed that the helicopter and Air Force F-100s had destroyed 93 sampans along the canal, about 27 miles west of Saigon and only eight miles from the Cambodian border.

Before the search was halted by darkness, the infantrymen had confiscated four 7.62mm heavy anti-aircraft machineguns mounted on carrier wheels, along with four extra barrels; 97 rocket grenades; 28 82mm mortar rounds; 29 75mm recoilless rifle rounds; more than 200,

000 rounds of 7.62-cal. ammunition; communication wire; demolition blocks; clothing and a sack of flashlights.

Gunships Kill Over 200 VC

PHU LOI, (1st AVN-IO) — Troop-carrying slicks and gunships of the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company, 1st Aviation Brigade and troops of the 1st Infantry Division killed over 200 Viet Cong in seven hours of fighting during recent VC attacks near Phu Loi.

Called upon to bring reinforcements to a unit engaged in heavy contact, the Robin Hoods, troop-carrying helicopters, picked up members of the 1st Div. and commenced what was to be a very short combat assault. The landing zone, under intense rocket, machinegun and small arms fire, was only 1100 yards from the end of Phu Loi's runway.

The VC were dug in for a long siege of fighting.

The Robin Hoods rapidly picked their way through the huffs of fire and dropped load after load of infantrymen into the battle zone. The foot soldiers and their supporting tanks fought their way across the large field to the VC emplacements.

After seven hours, more than 200 enemy bodies were counted.

Ambush...

(Continued From Page 1)
The APC's continued to pound the enemy after reinforcements arrived.

"It was a long eight hours," said Francisco, "The Viet Cong had surprised looks on their faces when we returned their fire with our machineguns. They thought they were safe in the vacant buildings."

During the fighting, Von Zittwis felt something strike his chest. He remarked, "I looked down and saw a piece of shrapnel buried in my armored vest over my heart."

Contact was finally broken when the combined armored force stormed the Viet Cong positions, driving them from the village. A sweep of the area the following day revealed 97 VC bodies as well as four bunkers, 20 fighting positions, three machineguns, eight rocket-powered grenades, a radio and 1500 pounds of rice.



WOODLINE ADVANCE—Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry moves in on a woodline in pursuit of Viet Cong. Intensive search operations by the Americal's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division unit have forced the enemy to flee to the mountains or seek refuge in tunnels and holes. (Photo by Sp4 Paul D. Halverson, AMERICAL-IO)

Near Phu My

NVA Hit At Lowland Capital

PHU MY DISTRICT, (MACV-10) — Vietnamese and American soldiers combined forces to badly maul an estimated two companies of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars near the Central Lowland district capital of Phu My, 300 miles northeast of Saigon recently.

In an example of close Vietnamese-U.S. coordination, elements of the 22nd Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division killed 77 enemy while suffering only light casualties during the day-long battle.

The fierce fight began early in the morning as an element of the 22nd's 41st Regiment was conducting a search and clear mission some four miles south-east of Phu My in rice-rich Binh Province.

The ARVN soldiers and their American advisors uncovered the NVA force which, after a brief firefight, attempted to retreat to the north. The ARVN unit's advisor, 1st Lt. Thomas R. Morris, called for and directed an artillery barrage that

slammed the door on the enemy's escape route.

An armored personnel carrier (APC) company from the 1st Cav. also responded to the ARVN call for assistance and halted an enemy attempt to escape to the west and forced the enemy back into the ARVN unit's fire.

By mid-afternoon, the ARVN and U.S. units linked up and assaulted the NVA force which had fallen back to prepared positions.

"It was a classic example of ARVN-US cooperation and coordination of firepower," said SSgt. Max G. Rione, also an

advisor to the Vietnamese unit.

While artillery pinned the NVA soldiers in their holes, the ARVN infantrymen and the Cav. APCs supported each other in the final assault. As contact broke at dusk, 37 enemy bodies were counted.

In a sweep of the battle area the next day, 40 more bodies were found, raising the final enemy toll to 77 dead. In addition, numerous machineguns, automatic rifles and enemy rocket launchers were also discovered.

Relief Project Begun

LONG BINH, (USARV-IO) —

In order to assist the Vietnamese victims of the Viet Cong Tet offenses, the period until April 2, 1968, is being used to conduct the Tet Aggression Relief Project, according to the Civil Operations Revolutionary Development Support Office at Headquarters United States Army, Vietnam, here.

Funds collected from interested military and government employee personnel will be retained at organizational levels to be determined by component commanders to provide relief for victims in areas devastated by the attacks.

Utilization of the funds will be coordinated with the senior advisor in each province, according to the CORDS office. No fund goal will be established by any organization.

Persons interested in contributing to the fund should see their company commander.

16 Cents Buys One Grenade!

PHUOC VINH, (101st ABN-IO)—A paratrooper from the 101st Airborne Division paid 16 cents to save a small boy from danger near here recently.

Staff Sergeant Richard Dickie of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry was on a road-clearing operation when he tried to move a group of Vietnamese children out of the way.

One child refused to cooperate. "I told him to go home in three different languages," Dickie said.

The sergeant stopped short when the small boy happily displayed his new toy, an M79 grenade round.

Dickie reached into his pocket for trading material and pulled out 20 piasters. The child eagerly accepted the exchange and walked away.



HEAVE HO—A soldier from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry heaves a grenade into a Viet Cong sniper position near Rach Kien in Long An Province.

(Photo by Sp4 Dennis Strope, 9th INF-IO)