

1st Div Ambush Hits NVA Force

LAI KHE, (1st INF-10)—In a heavily-wooded area east of Lai Khe, 1st Infantry Division soldiers executed a successful night ambush recently, killing five Viet Cong.

A 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry

Folklore Identifies Lam Son

DA NANG, (I CORPS-10) — Vietnamese military units prefix many of their numbered operations with names. Sometimes it is the name of a province, frequently the prefix is Quyet Thang, Resolved to Win.

The Vietnamese Army's 1st Infantry Division uses the prefix Lam Son.

Armed with the scant knowledge that Lam Son had to do with a mountain, one American adviser did a bit of spade work and turned up an explanation from Vietnamese history which gives significance to the use of "Lam Son" as a title for the division's aggressive operations.

Lam Son, or Green Mountain, is the name of a village in Thanh Hoa Province. There, in 1418, the Vietnamese national hero Le Loi led an uprising against an early day invader from the north.

Le Loi defeated the army of Chinese Emperor Minh, crushing him at Lam Son and establishing Vietnamese independence.

The 1st Division commander, Maj. Gen. Ngo Quang Truong, feels the title appropriate. Modern battles of Lam Son, fought this time in the two northern provinces of I Corps, are helping to assure continued independence for the Republic of Vietnam.

platoon, led by 1st Lt. Quarlie Jackson, carefully planned the ambush site, strategically placing their Claymores and providing adequate cover for themselves.

"We had just finished setting up our Claymores when, a reinforced NVA platoon walked right into our kill zone," commented Sp4 Thale Goodman.

Jackson gave the command and the ambush was sprung. The platoon fired its first row of Claymores and saturated the area with firepower from small arms, machineguns, hand grenades and M-79 grenade launchers.

Almost as suddenly as it began, the firing stopped. Sergeant Gary Gordon called for flares as he heard movement about 25 yards from his position.

"When we fired the hand flares, the NVA soldiers must have been confused. Suddenly they started firing up in the air and all over the place. We then poured it on and they broke and ran for a tree line about 40 yards away," said Gordon.

Jackson then pulled his platoon back into a newly-bombed crater to prepare for a counterattack. Ten minutes later, Gordon detected movement about 10 yards to his front and Goodman jumped to his knees, firing several bursts from his M16 in the direction of the movement. A dead VC was found later in that spot with a hand grenade in his hand.

Enemy soldiers opened fire again, this time from about 30 yards away. The VC were crawling toward the platoon position. Moving rapidly from position to position to get a better shot PFC Eddie E. Kempton placed fire on the advancing enemy. Suddenly the enemy broke and ran.

A search of the area the next morning revealed five NVA bodies and five individual weapons, including a Chinese Communist sniper rifle. There were signs that about six or seven bodies had been dragged away.



A 1st Infantry Division helicopter hovers low to drop a new supply of grenades to ground troops of the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry.

(Photo by Sp4 Dale Howell, 1st INF-10)

Near Cholon

Patrol Battles Enemy Squad

CAMP FRENZEL-JONES, (199th INF-10) — A patrol of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade fought a Viet Cong squad before dawn recently, killing five enemy and capturing their rifles, ammunition and grenades.

The action occurred outside of Saigon's Cholon outskirts when a squad of the 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry's Company A, moved into a night ambush position during a light rain.

"When we smelled incense burning, we suspected enemy troops nearby and set up at a different location," said Sp4 Raymond Booth, squad leader.

Specialist 4 Gerald Donohue located a better site hidden in palms with a commanding view of the surrounding rice paddies. After the squad waited 30 minutes for the enemy, a Viet Cong crawled near the position and threw a grenade. It failed to explode. A Claymore mine was detonated killing the ene-

my grenadier.

The Redcatcher Infantrymen, using Starlight scopes to see the enemy maneuvering around them, raked the area with M79 grenades, rifle and machinegun fire.

Resupplied with ammunition from their company, the squad continued defending their position throughout the night. An early morning sweep of the area uncovered the dead and their weapons. There were no U.S. casualties.

Captured documents revealed the incense which had alerted the patrol was being burned for a VC killed two days earlier by Co. A.

Radar Units Provide Against Bombardment

LONG BINH, (II PFV-10) — To provide counter-mortar and counter-rocket protection for the Dong Nai sub-sector is the mission of the 248th and 9th Field Artillery Detachment of II Field Force's 8th Target Acquisition Battalion.

155th Co. Supports ARVNs

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-10) — Since its creation in June of 1965 the 155th Assault Helicopter Company has developed a close working relationship with ARVN forces in Vietnam.

Last year, the 155th flew over 24,000 combat hours, flying 60,000 sorties, carrying 90,000 passengers and 2,800 tons of cargo for ARVN troops.

In addition to their supply and troop transport duties, combat assaults are another important mission of the 155th. The 155th's versatility was displayed during the recent Tet offensive when they were notified of heavy contact between enemy and ARVN troops northwest of the compound. Flare and gunships were dispatched immediately in response to ARVN request for support.

The VC had enough of the 155th when two gunships skimmed under the treetops of a Ban Me Thuot street firing into the buildings on both sides.

The units, located at Bien Hoa, are the only two of their kind in Vietnam that are located together.

Chief Warrant Officer Marion L. Branham, officer in charge of the units, in explaining the operation said, "Two beams of energy go out from the radar set. When a mortar is fired and passes through the beams it causes a splash of light to show up on the radar scope. The spot where the light shows up, is then marked. After leaving the lower beam, the projectile will travel to the upper beam.

Upon entering the upper beam, another splash of light is recorded on the radar scope. This splash of light is marked where it appears on the scope. Then our control unit operator finds azimuth and range of both beams and sends this information to a computer. This entire procedure takes only a few minutes from the time of the firing."

The 248th and 9th FA Dets. also provide artillery registration for units located throughout the area.

A third unit, the 67th Infantry Detachment, is located in the same area as the 248th and 9th and is under the operational control of the 8th TAB.

Branham said, "The 67th's mission is to provide ground surveillance for Dong Nai sub-sectors."



Vo-Muoi, a thirteen year old refugee from Hoai Chau village, steadies his dog for an anti-rabies given by Capt. Jonathan L. Wilson, port veterinarian with the 5th Transportation Command. (Photo by PFC Francis Jones, 1st LOG-10)

Vietnam Communique

Americal Div

Soldiers of the Americal Division killed 123 enemy soldiers during the week's fighting. Major contacts occurred while conducting Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

Heavy action occurred when the 196th Infantry Brigade's 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, encountered a VC force south of Hoi An. The soldiers combined with the 171st Assault Helicopter Company, killed 21 of the enemy. Later in the week the same battalion engaged the VC and killed 10 enemy and captured their weapons.

Action in the 11th Infantry Brigade area netted seven enemy killed. A battery of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery, accounted for the kills when they were called to fire on a group of VC who had been spotted one mile north of Mo Duc.

1st Avn Bde

The 1st Aviation Brigade, flying support missions for infantry units, killed 134 enemy during the week.

Gunship crews of the 175th Assault Helicopter Company, 13th Combat Aviation Battalion, supported elements of the 9th ARVN Division south of Tra Vinh. Three elements of the 14th ARVN regiment were positioned as a blocking force while two other units conducted a sweep of the area. Flying close overhead support for the infantrymen, the gunners reported killing 20 enemy.

The 282nd Assault Helicopter Company, 212th Combat Support Battalion, reported killing 15 enemy and destroying 40 structures during action south of Quang Tri.

1st Cav Div

Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division killed 269 enemy during the week with the major amount being killed in one encounter.

The 1st Cav closed and cordoned the village of Binh An, seven miles northeast of Quang Tri City. The action began

when the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry came under automatic weapons fire as they approached the village.

During the night, the enemy tried to leave the village but were contained by the Cav. The soldiers assaulted the village the next morning. The result was 152 enemy killed. The following day a final sweep of the battlefield revealed an additional 73 bodies, bringing the total to 225 enemy killed.

1st Inf Div

The 1st Infantry Division experienced a week of light fighting, killing 25 enemy.

An ambush element of the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry set up an ambush site along a well-used trail 28 miles north of Saigon. The trail had been discovered the previous day while soldiers were conducting recon-in-force operations. The path showed signs of foot and oxcart use.

As the riflemen waited, a group of enemy walked into the kill zone. The infantrymen detonated claymore mines and engaged the enemy with rifle fire, killing six.

4th Inf Div

A week of light fighting for the 4th Infantry Division resulted in light casualties for the unit.

While patrolling an area 10 miles north of Kontum, scout helicopter crews of the 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, flying reconnaissance missions for the 4th Infantry, spotted enemy soldiers trying to evade them. The crew came under heavy fire from the enemy.

Tactical airstrikes were called in twice on the enemy position, resulting in two large secondary explosions. The extent of damage to the enemy could not be determined.

9th Inf Div

The 9th Infantry Division killed 110 in a week of heavy fighting.

The soldiers of the division encountered the enemy twice in a two day period.



Elements of the 1st Brigade, 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry quickly moved in on the enemy after they had been spotted. 16 miles south of Saigon, helicopter crews had been patrolling the area earlier and located a large number of heavily bunkered enemy positions.

While the mechanized infantrymen were moving in from the east, soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry closed in from the north and west, sealing off an estimated NVA battalion against a river. The two day battle resulted in 82 enemy killed.

25th Inf Div

Elements of the 25th Infantry Division killed 82 enemy during a week of moderate fighting.

Airborne infantrymen from the 101st Airborne's 3rd Brigade, operating under the control of the 25th Division, killed 38 enemy in a two-hour battle north of Trang Bang.

The encounter began when a reinforced VC company attacked the night defensive position of the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, 29 miles northwest of Saigon. A suicide sapper squad, armed with satchel charges, assaulted the paratrooper's perimeter.

The two-hour battle was intense, the defender at times lobbing grenades into gaps between their positions to halt enemy infiltration.

101st Abn Div

The 101st Airborne Division killed 82 enemy and captured 82 tons of rice in a productive week of keeping the rice harvest from VC and NVA soldiers.

The division has found 232 tons of rice in enemy caches since May 17.

Paratroopers on a night patrol from the 2nd Battalion, 501st Airborne Infantry, made contact with an enemy force in sampans on the Song Ho River, eight miles west of Hue. The paratroopers engaged the enemy with small arms fire, destroying the sampans and killed eight.



Forcing members of an NVA battalion to keep their heads down while fellow paratroopers from the 101st Airborne attack the enemies spider holes is machinegunner Sgt. Gerald Laird.

(Photo by Sp4 Paul Higgs, 101st ABN-IO)