

Vietnam Communique

25th Inf soldiers kill 340 enemy

25th Inf Div

In the heaviest fighting of the week Tropic Lightning soldiers reported killing 340 enemy.

Heavy fighting broke out as enemy forces launched mortar attacks on several 25th Division positions near the provincial capital of Tay Ninh and a ground attack near Dau Tieng in Binh Duong Province.

The largest action began when an estimated enemy battalion initiated a ground and mortar attack on the defensive position of an element of the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry. The enemy attempted to breach the southern perimeter of the position, located three miles southwest of Dau Tieng on the edge of the Ben Cui rubber plantation in Binh Duong Province.

Artillery and helicopter gunships were called in and additional units of the battalion reinforced. The enemy withdrew and the mechanized infantrymen counted 99 enemy bodies in front of their positions after the battle. American casualties were light.

Soldiers of the 25th repulsed a pre-dawn attack on Fire Support Base Buell II killing 76 enemy.

Following an intense mortar barrage, an unknown size enemy force hurled itself at the position two miles north of Tay Ninh City. At the height of the attack, more than 50 mortar rounds per minute were striking the base. The American defenders employed more than a thousand rounds of artillery fire along with supporting airstrikes to break the one-hour assault.

In the same area where they killed 99 earlier in the week soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry killed 42 enemy in another action.

Once again their base camp was hit by enemy small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and RPG fire. During the three-hour battle, the enemy force mounted three ground attacks against the camp

but were unable to penetrate the perimeter.

America Div

In a week of heavy action elements of the America Division reported killing 227 enemy soldiers.

Fighting flared in Operation Champa Grove, as elements of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry and 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry killed 62 enemy soldiers.

They engaged an enemy force late in the afternoon five miles west of Quang Ngai City. When contact was lost in early evening, 61 enemy had been killed and 12 individual and four crew-served weapons captured.

On another day infantrymen and cavalrymen of Task Force Galloway killed 38 enemy and captured 14 weapons in the same operation.

In the day's largest action, a troop of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry engaged an enemy force six miles west of Quang Ngai City and killed 20 NVA soldiers. Other elements killed 15 NVA soldiers and one VC in action centered six miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Helicopter crews from the 123rd Combat Aviation Battalion reported killing 27 enemy soldiers while flying in support of the America's 198th Light Infantry Brigade. The gunship crews found an estimated enemy company in the open nine miles south of Chu Lai shortly before dark. The helicopter crews engaged the enemy with machinegun fire. As the VC withdrew, ground troops inserted into the area counted 22 bodies and captured three individual weapons.

1st Avn Bde

Helicopter crews from the 1st Aviation Brigade reported killing 36 enemy soldiers and destroying numerous structures and sampans.

Elements of the 104th Combat Aviation Group reported killing 26 enemy soldiers while flying in support of ARVN

infantry units in the Mekong Delta.

Helicopter crews of the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion's 336th Assault Helicopter Company reported killing 11 as they supported soldiers of the 9th ARVN Infantry Division 13 miles southwest of Tra Vinh.

Helicopter crews from A Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry killed four Viet Cong 12 miles north of Sa Dec. In the same area, they destroyed 21 enemy fortifications and sank 14 sampans.

1st Inf Div

In a week of heavy fighting Big Red One soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division reported killing 181 enemy soldiers.

In one action near Loc Ninh they killed 113 NVA soldiers. Contact was first made by a company from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry and elements of the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The armored cavalry assault vehicles were moving along a road north of Loc Ninh when they received heavy automatic weapons, small arms and RPG fire from enemy concealed in rubber trees. The cavalrymen returned the fire, and the enemy withdrew. While sweeping the area, 1st Division soldiers engaged the NVA force and killed 17.

Later in the day, elements of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry engaged a number of enemy in the dense jungle near Loc Ninh. The enemy withdrew with the U.S. force in pursuit. As the infantrymen moved through the jungle, they received heavy mortar, small arms, automatic weapons and RPG fire from three sides.

The enemy tried to overrun the 1st Inf position several times but were driven back by the infantrymen and helicopter gunship crews. A sweep of the area after the battle yielded 75 NVA bodies.

A short time later, another company of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry came under heavy fire on a ridge west of Loc Ninh airstrip. The infantrymen backed by artillery and gunships, killed 20 NVA soldiers.

5th Inf (Mech)

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) reported killing 56 enemy soldiers in light action during the week.

A combined infantry and armor force from the Red Devils killed 43 enemy soldiers while suffering one U.S. soldier wounded in action near Con Thien.

Elements of the 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry were conducting a sweep near Con Thien when they received fire from a large enemy force occupying fortified positions. Artillery and airstrikes were called in and tanks from the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor moved in to reinforce the infantrymen.

After nearly seven hours of fighting, the enemy withdrew and contact was lost.

In other action, the brigade's 5th Battalion, 4th Artillery destroyed an enemy observation tower in the Demilitarized Zone. It had been the target of sporadic shelling for a week.

9th Inf Div

In moderate action soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division killed 127 enemy during the week.

Infantrymen and helicopter crews from the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry reported killing 47 enemy soldiers.

The action started when helicopter gunships engaged an estimated 10 enemy three miles northwest of Can Duc. Two companies of the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry were inserted into the area and began to close on the enemy from the north and south of the Ben Ba River.

As the infantrymen approached the enemy's position in a palm grove, the VC ran. "The VC seemed to want to avoid contact with the infantrymen at all costs," said Captain Billy J. Miller, the liaison officer from the air cavalry squadron.

Early in the afternoon, two more companies from the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry and one from the 2nd Battalion, 80th Infantry moved into an area near the Yen Ca Dong River to trap the enemy.

Other elements were inserted to strengthen the cordon.

101st Abn Div

Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division reported killing 81 enemy soldiers in light action during the week.

Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry killed 11 enemy while operating six miles southwest of Huie.

During reconnaissance-in-force operations two miles northwest of Huie, cavalrymen from the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed 11 enemy soldiers.

Troopers of the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry engaged enemy forces in Vinh Loc District, 10 miles east of Huie in several engagements. Ground elements supported by the door gunner of the battalion command and control helicopter killed 26 enemy. In addition, the paratroopers detained 18 suspects and captured 19 weapons. Eleven VC with ten weapons surrendered to the airborne forces.

A unit of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry killed nine VC, detained 10 suspects and captured three weapons in a sharp encounter seven miles northwest of Huie.

173rd Abn Bde

Elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade encountered light resistance in their area of operations.

Units of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor observed an estimated 12-man, enemy force while on search-and-clear operations 60 miles north of Qui Nhon. Assaulting the position, the tank crews killed eight VC and destroyed 12 bunkers.

Units of the 173rd Airborne Brigade's 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry killed six NVA soldiers in two engagements near the Duc Lap Civilian Irregular Defense Group Camp. Early yesterday morning, the paratroopers engaged an estimated 20 enemy two miles north of the camp. Two enemy were killed in the engagement. Later in the day, a reconnaissance element of the battalion contacted another force in the same area and killed four NVA soldiers.

Other Action

Skytroopers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry killed three NVA soldiers in the jungles 13 miles west of Hue. The crews later led troopers from the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry to three more enemy nearby. The ground forces killed one of the NVA soldiers.

Helicopter crews from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry observed 30 enemy 13 miles northwest of Hue. A platoon was air assaulted into the area. Three NVA soldiers were killed in the immediate action and one suspect detained.

Redcatchers from the 199th Light Infantry Brigade continued reconnaissance-in-force operations south of Saigon.

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry found eight NVA bodies two miles from the Ben Het Special Forces Camp. A patrol from the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry found another three miles southwest of Dak To.

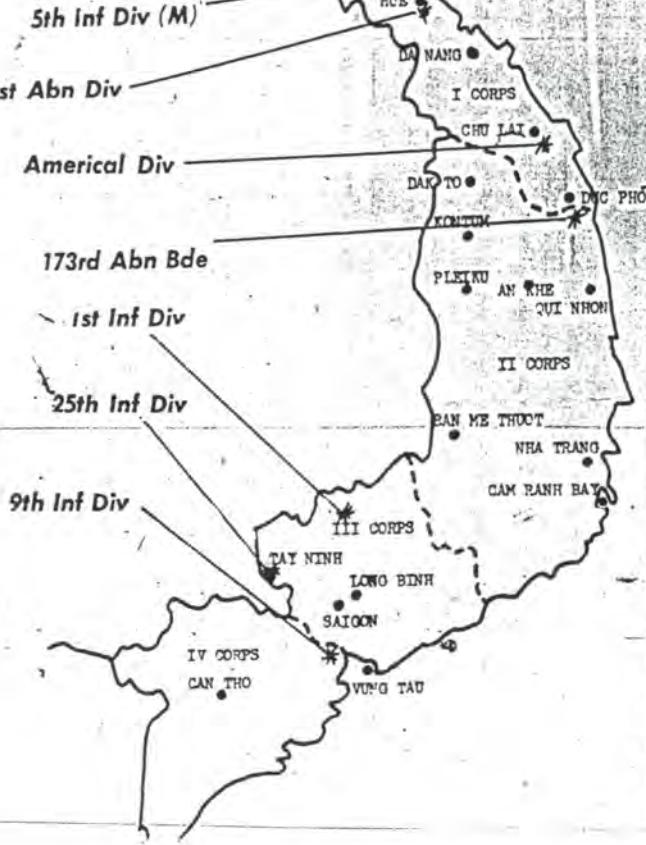
A light fire team from B Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry returned ground fire, killing two VC. The helicopter crew was flying support for ground units of the 199th.

Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry detained 24 suspects and units of the 5th Battalion, 12th Infantry detained five during operations southeast of Saigon.

A combined action fought by ARVN rangers and troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment north of the Long Binh-Bien Hoa complex resulted in 10 enemy killed.

Fighting began when elements of the 36th Ranger battalion began to seal off the village of Thien Tan, seven miles northeast of Bien Hoa, in preparation for a cordon-and-search operation.

A number of VC tried to break through the cordon. Blackhorse cavalrymen moved to assist the rangers, while artillery and helicopter gunships supported the action. When the fight ended seven suspects had been detained and 10 VC killed.



Vietnam communique

25th Inf kills 347 enemy

25th Inf Div

Tropic Lightning soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division killed 347 enemy soldiers in the heaviest fighting of the week.

Paratroopers from the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, attached to the 25th Division, fought off a pre-dawn attack on Fire Support Base Pope, 15 miles northwest of Cu Chi, killing 131 enemy.

Following a half-hour mortar and rocket bombardment, an estimated 400-man force launched a shoulder-to-shoulder assault against the camp shortly after midnight. Soldiers of the 38th Battalion, 187th Infantry thwarted the attack with small arms fire, and the 2nd Battalion, 319th Artillery, supported by other artillery units, tactical airstrikes and gunships, poured 105mm fire into the enemy ranks.

Three crew-served and six individual weapons were captured in a sweep of the area. Four Americans were killed and 48 wounded in the fighting.

Elements of the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry while in night defensive positions three miles southwest of Dau Tieng, also repulsed a coordinated mortar and ground assault, killing 49 enemy soldiers.

The mechanized infantrymen were supported by artillery, a light fire team, gunships and tactical airstrikes in the three-hour battle.

Later in the week the 1st Bn, 5th Inf again came under attack.

The enemy employed small arms, automatic weapons, RPG and mortar fire as they attempted ground probes of the camp's perimeter on the north and east sides. Again artillery fire, helicopter gunships and tactical airstrikes supported the infantrymen.

This was the fourth attack on their position in 10 days. The 37 NVA soldiers killed in this attack raised the total number of enemy killed in the series of attacks to 227.

America Div

In a week of moderate action soldiers of the America Division reported killing 185 enemy soldiers in the southern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone.

Action flared in Quang Ngai Province as soldiers from the 11th Light Infantry Brigade accounted for 42 enemy killed.

Infantrymen of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry killed a total of 25 NVA soldiers, captured six weapons and detained one suspect in two actions south and west of the Ia Thanh Special Forces Camp, 16

miles west of Quang Ngai City. Attacking an NVA force in fortified bunkers and tunnels at the base of a hill less than one mile from the camp, the unit killed 10. Another company from the battalion, operating in the same area encountered an unknown number of enemy and killed 15.

Elements of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade accounted for 17 enemy dead in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

In numerous small contacts centering on an area seven miles south of Hoi An, the reconnaissance platoon from the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed 13 Viet Cong.

A company of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade working in Operation Champaign Grove engaged and killed three NVA soldiers. Later, the unit found a cache containing three weapons and 2,100 rounds of small arms ammunition.

1st Avn Bde

Helicopter crews from the 1st Aviation Brigade reported killing 191 enemy soldiers in a week of moderate action.

Gunship crews of A Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry, 164th Combat Aviation Group made heavy contact with enemy forces while supporting the 9th ARVN Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta.

In the largest action, gunship crews sighted an estimated 30 enemy, wearing tree branches as camouflage. They were fording a canal nine miles north of Can Tho. The gunners engaged the enemy with rockets and minigun fire, and then inserted ground troops. The ground troops found 21 enemy bodies and detained three suspects.

Elements of the 12th Combat Aviation Group encountered sporadic heavy action as they inserted infantrymen from the 1st Infantry Division into a series of hot landing zones.

While flying support and insertion missions for the 1st Division five miles north-northwest of Lai Khe, gunship crews of the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company, 11th Combat Aviation Battalion encountered heavy automatic weapons fire from scattered locations.

Engaging the enemy, the chopper gunners reported killing 15 enemy and destroying four bunkers containing the machinegun positions.

5th Inf Div (M)

Red Devils of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division encountered light resistance during the week and killed 63 enemy.

A company of the 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry conducting a sweep one mile north of Con Thien sighted an estimated enemy platoon in the open. The infantrymen called in artillery, which resulted in 10 NVA soldiers killed.

The brigade's 5th Battalion, 4th Artillery was credited with 16 enemy killed while firing in support of the 3rd Marine Reconnaissance Battalion west of Quang Tri.

A company from the same battalion conducting a sweep in the same area received small arms and mortar fire from an entrenched enemy force. They called in airstrikes and artillery as armor units moved to reinforce. Nineteen enemy soldiers were killed in the action.

Artillerymen from the 5th Bn, 4th Arty fired in support of the U.S. Marines 1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion in Operation Napoleon Saline when an observer reported seeing a rocket cache. A large number of secondary explosions were reported. A sweep of the area revealed the bodies of 10 NVA soldiers killed by the artillery.

9th Inf Div

In a week of light action infantrymen of the 9th Infantry Division reported killing 109 enemy.

Elements of the 9th Infantry Division's Mobile Riverine Force encountered scattered contacts as they conducted air-

mobile operations in Kien Hoa Province.

Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry were pursuing an enemy force which had been spotted in the rice paddies nine miles southeast of Ben Tre by gunship crews of the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry. Three times during the day Old Reliable Infantrymen went into hot landing zones but each time the enemy withdrew after a brief fight.

By the end of the day, the ground troops had killed 12 enemy soldiers while gunship crews reported 14 more killed in the hit-and-run fighting.

Reacting to intelligence reports and helicopter-sightings, a reconnaissance element of the 1st Brigade was airlifted into the Plain of Reeds five miles east of Moc Hoa. In a half-day of pursuing the enemy in the open, infantrymen of the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry killed 10 VC. Air elements of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry reported killing five.

Combining with an ARVN battalion, riflemen of the Mobile Riverine Force's 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry were air and water-assaulted into an area seven miles north of Long Toan. This marks the first time U.S. forces have penetrated the swampy, heavily vegetated area, thought to be a major VC supply, rest and training area.

101st Abn Div

During the week Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division encountered scattered resistance and reported killing 59 enemy soldiers.

In scattered contact in Operation Nevada Eagle paratroopers from the 101st Abn Div and 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division killed 22 enemy soldiers.

A reconnaissance team operating seven miles southeast of Hue killed four VC soldiers and captured two individual weapons during a brief clash with a small enemy force.

Helicopter crewmen from the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry reported killing six enemy two miles east of Hue. In the same area, soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 505th Infantry killed another.

Various elements of the 1st Battalion, 505th Infantry killed five NVA soldiers in a series of encounters.

Gunship crews from the 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion, flying missions in support of an ARVN company south of Hue, engaged and reported killing 10 enemy. Another fire team from the battalion reported killing one enemy while supporting a combined action east of Hue.

Other action

Action for the 1st Cavalry Division remained light for the entire week.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry killed four enemy while conducting combined operations with units of the 1st ARVN Infantry Division 11 miles south of Quang Tri.

In a series of contacts south of Camp Evans gunship crews from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry reported killing four enemy soldiers.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry engaged in a combined operation with ARVN troops made contact with an estimated enemy squad. After a brief exchange of fire, the enemy withdrew leaving four bodies behind.

Elements of the 1st Infantry Division reported light contact in their area of operations during the week.

An ambush patrol from the Big Red One's 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry received small arms fire from several enemy in a bunker while the infantrymen were moving to their ambush position. In the ensuing fire fight, two enemy were killed.

Elements of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, conducting a reconnaissance-in-force four miles southeast of Lai Khe, made contact with four VC. The infantrymen were moving across a rice paddy when they sighted the enemy behind a paddy dike and killed one of the VC.

