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Widow gets MOH at Pentagon

Ivy NCO inspires platoon

WASHINGTON, (USARV) — The Medal of Honor has been awarded posthumously to a 4th Infantry Division sergeant who, despite fatal wounds from enemy rifle and rocket fire, helped his platoon beat off a savage attack in Vietnam.

Platoon Sgt. Elmelindo R. Smith distinguished himself during combat operations on February 16, 1967 with the 1st platoon, Co., C. 2nd Bn., 8th Inf.

The citation accompanying the award gave this description of the action:

"During a reconnaissance patrol his platoon was suddenly engaged by intense machine gun fire hemming in the platoon on three sides. A defensive perimeter was hastily established, but the enemy added mortar and rocket fire to the deadly fusillade and assaulted the position from several directions.

Disregarded own safety

"With complete disregard for his own safety, Sgt. Smith moved through the deadly fire along the defensive line, positioning soldiers, distributing ammunition and encouraging his men to repel the enemy attack.

"Struck to the ground by enemy fire which caused a severe shoulder wound, he regained his feet, killed the enemy soldier and continued to move about the perimeter. He was again wounded in the shoulder and stomach but continued moving on his knees to assist in



Platoon Sgt. Smith

the defense.

Enemy massing

"Noting the enemy massing at a weakened point on the perimeter, he crawled into the open and poured deadly fire into the enemy ranks. As he crawled on, he was struck by a rocket. Moments later, he regained consciousness, and drawing on his fast dwindling strength, continued to crawl from man to man.

"When he could move no farther, he chose to remain in the open where he could alert the perimeter to the approaching enemy.

"Sgt. Smith perished, never relenting in his determined effort against the enemy. The

valorous acts and heroic leadership of this outstanding soldier inspired those remaining members of his platoon to beat back the enemy assaults."

Mrs. Jane N. Smith received the nation's highest award for valor on behalf of her husband during a ceremony at the Pentagon. Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor made the presentation.

Smith entered the Army at Honolulu, Hawaii on June 3, 1953 and served with the 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division during the Korean conflict.

He served two tours in Korea during his Army career and also saw duty in Okinawa, Italy, Hawaii and Ft. Lewis, Wash.



25th Inf Photo

DOORGUNNER WATCHES closely as Wolfhounds of 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. conduct combat operations in the Saigon area.

'Miracle Division' Choppers pull two Marines from sea

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL) — Americal Division helicopter crews plucked two downed Marine pilots out of the South China sea recently in a daring display of interservice cooperation.

The two pilots, Maj. Daniel Carroll and Lt. Ralph C. Brown Jr., were returning from a mission north of Chu Lai when they realized that there was a malfunction in their landing gear.

"I contacted Chu Lai and told them to go ahead and 'foam' the runway," Carroll said. After about 10 or 15 minutes, the two directed their F-4B Phantom jet towards the runway and the cross deck arresting gear pendant, which will cause the aircraft to come to a complete halt after about 200 to 250 feet.

Out of control

"Our speed was slowed down to about 80 miles per hour, when suddenly the pendant broke, causing our aircraft to go out of control and start to skid sideways," Carroll continued. "My choice at this time was to hit the burners and attempt to get the aircraft off the ground. I believe we did a first in aviation history, when we got the aircraft off the ground without landing gear."

"While I prepared for our ejection, Brown headed the aircraft out towards the sea. We both ejected about a half mile from shore."

The first chopper to the scene was that of WO1 James M.

White from the Americal Division's 176th Aviation Co. Having spotted the red flare Carroll sent up, he proceeded to begin the rescue of the major.

Carroll commented later on the rescue. "The pilot hovered over me beautifully at about three feet and his crewmen tossed me the rope. White did a fantastic job of holding the chopper steady and his crew really humped in getting me into the chopper. The job was so proficient that it seemed that they had trained for years at air-sea rescues."

Rescue Fails

Brown's rescue was a little more exciting. A Marine CH-34 chopper first appeared to pick-up the remaining pilot. The chopper, having Brown all hooked-up, began to pull him up out of the water, but then the craft began to lose power. The downed pilot was dragged by the CH-34 as it sank to the water. He disengaged himself, then the chopper regained its power and moved out of the way.

All this time another Americal chopper, piloted by Capt. Herman Castle from the 71st Aviation Co., was circling the area. When he saw that the Marine chopper was unable to make the pick-up he immediately lowered his craft to about two feet above the water.

There was no rope aboard Castle's chopper so the pilot was forced to hold onto the

skids. Brown said, "The crew pulled me up and I hooked my elbow over the skid, and locked the other arm to it through my harness. Then we headed for the beach."

Traveling at a speed of 50 knots, the Huey flew just above the surface of the water to carry Brown a mile to land. "Because of an injured ankle, I let go in about three feet of water rather than over solid ground."

Praises Crew

Following his unusual rescue, Brown was quick to praise the professional ability of the pilot and crew of the Army chopper. "He did a beautiful job of flying... held it steady as a rock two feet above the water."

But Carroll's and Brown's day was far from over. That night the two "Leathernecks" went down to the 176th Aviation Co. Officer's Club and bought refreshments for the company and especially for White, Castle and their crews. Carroll concluded by saying, "It was just our way of thanking the Army for helping out two Marines."

Plow uncovers unusual harvest

DAU TIENG, (25th Inf) — To engineers driving Rome plows, the job is for the most part routine, but not for Spec. 5 Richard Strubberg.

Working with the 588th Engineer Bn. from Dau Tieng, Strubberg was driving a Rome plow, cutting down rubber trees near a village in the Ben-Cui Rubber Plantation. He was clearing a night location for the 1st Bn. (Mechanized), 5th Inf. near the site where human wave and mortar attacks had occurred four times in the last 10 days.

"We had been cutting down rubber trees there the day before," stated Strubberg. "and we had left a row of trees standing near the villagers' garden."

"We planned to cut the rest and then cut down that last row without damaging the villagers' crops. I started plowing down the row, when I pushed over one big tree and it came out of the ground, roots and all. Then I saw a hole underneath the tree."

"I raised up in my seat and saw it was a well-made bunker

and noticed a leg sticking up. "I grabbed my rifle, hopped off the plow and went over to the bunker to check it out. I thought it was a dead VC," he went on, "and then all of a sudden it moved!"

"I just about jumped out of my skin. I called Lt. Ward Hamlin, my platoon leader, who called out security team, the recon platoon of the 5th Mech. and in the meantime I started digging him out."

"I had caved in the bunker, almost suffocating him. When I got him out I waved my shirt over him to give him air. He was wounded in the hand, arm and head, but was well bandaged. He was real young and dressed in an NVA uniform."

A dust-off was called and they took him to Tay Ninh. Lt. Ward Hamlin stated, "The 5th Mech. killed 37 VC and NVA here last night when they hit our night lager position. No doubt he was one of the wounded."

"He probably saw that remaining row of trees and figured we wouldn't cut it down, but we surprised him."

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Vietnam Communique

25th hits hard at NVA

25th Inf Div

The 25th Infantry Division reported killing 184 enemy soldiers in a week of moderate to heavy fighting.

In a battle near Trang Bang, elements of the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. were sweeping out from their night defensive positions when they made contact with a large North Vietnamese force. The infantrymen hit the enemy with small arms and automatic weapons fire while artillery, gunship crews and Air Force tactical fighters pounded the NVA force. The action accounted for 105 enemy deaths.

Thirteen enemy soldiers were killed in an unsuccessful attack on a division fire support base north of Duc Hoa. The 1st Bn., 8th Artillery met the ground and mortar attack with howitzers in the 60-minute battle. Nineteen enemy troops were killed on the same day in other scattered actions.

Fourteen enemy soldiers died when

helicopter gunship crews from the 116th Assault Helicopter Co., 269th Combat Aviation Bn., joined elements of the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. in a four-hour battle south-east of Dau Tieng.

9th Inf Div

Ninth Infantry Division troops killed 180 enemy soldiers, including 138 in a two-day operation in the Mekong Delta.

The operation began when Co. B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. was inserted into a "hot" landing zone. In the ensuing firefight, three helicopters were downed by small arms and automatic weapons fire. Six more companies from the 3rd Brigade were brought into the area and succeeded in surrounding the enemy. Airstrikes and artillery were called in to pound the enemy.

A sweep of the area began the next morning, and contact was quickly re-established. As the pressure of the sweep mounted, the enemy began leaving their bunkers in an attempt to infiltrate

through the lines of the advancing soldiers. But once outside their protective bunkers, they became targets for ground forces and gunship crews from Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cav. In addition to the 138 killed, eight Viet Cong surrendered under the Chieu Hoi program.

In another action, eight miles northwest of Tan An, soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division teamed with elements of Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cav. to pursue an estimated enemy battalion. They killed 16 enemy soldiers.

Americal Div

Americal forces reported 108 Communists killed in a week marked by the launching of Duke's Glade, a reconnaissance-in-force operation which accounted for 19 enemy fatalities in the first five days.

The operation is being conducted by a unit from the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. under the operational control of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. The mission is centered in a mountainous region 11 miles southwest of Hoi An.

In other action, elements of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf., supported by gunships from the 123rd Combat Aviation Bn., accounted for 11 Viet Cong killed and one suspect detained in a day-long series of contacts 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. Other division forces killed 19 enemy and detained 16 suspects on the same day during scattered action throughout the southern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone. On one previous day, Americal troops had killed 26 enemy soldiers in the same I Corps area.

23rd Artillery Gp

Cannoneers of the 23rd Artillery Group supported a Mobile Strike Force in heavy contact in the northwestern portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone, accounting for 100 of the 151 enemy killed in the encounter.

A platoon from Battery A, 2nd Bn., 11th Artillery blasted the enemy force during the contact mission approximately 20 miles northwest of Tay Ninh City. The remaining 51 enemy were reported killed by airstrikes.

1st Inf Div

Elements of the 1st Infantry Division killed 79 enemy soldiers during seven days of moderate fighting.

Elements of the 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cav. made contact with an estimated NVA company in the thick rubber trees two miles southwest of An Loc. Later, Troop A moved into the area to search for the enemy force and encountered grenade and small arms fire from a well-entrenched enemy force. Several hours of close contact resulted in 24 enemy killed.

When the cavalrymen encountered the enemy force, Troop B moved in to reinforce. As the troop swept toward the contact site, it also received heavy fire from a different enemy force. The troopers called artillery on the enemy positions. After the barrage lifted, the unit swept the area, finding 19 enemy bodies.

1st Avn Bde

Helicopter gunners from the 164th

Combat Aviation Group accounted for 26 Viet Cong dead and sank 30 sampans in a day of scattered encounters throughout the Mekong Delta. The group reported 77 enemy deaths during the week.

In a series of contacts five miles south of Sa Dec, helicopter crewmen of the 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry's Troop C reported killing 14 Viet Cong soldiers. Ground units sweeping an area seven miles southwest of Rach Gia, the scene of an earlier strike by gunships, located the bodies of eight VC evidently killed in that action.

101st Abn Div

"Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division killed nine enemy troops and captured 14 individual weapons during one day of scattered contact in Operation Nevada Eagle, climaxing a week in which 66 enemy deaths were attributed to the division.

In the Dong Truoi Mountains a company of the 1st Bn., 327th Inf. killed two enemy troops, and after the contact another company of the same battalion killed one more enemy soldier while searching a small hut complex in the same area.

Three companies of the 2nd Bn., 505th Inf. and 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. rescued the pilot and co-pilot of a light observation helicopter which crashed in the Dong Truoi Mountains. The two wounded men had managed to evade the encircling enemy before being evacuated.

1st Cav Div

Elements of the 1st Cavalry Division turned up several rice caches, killed seven VC and detained 13 suspects found in a bunker during a day of activity as part of Operation Jeb Stuart III. The week's total of enemy killed by members of the division in light fighting was 17.

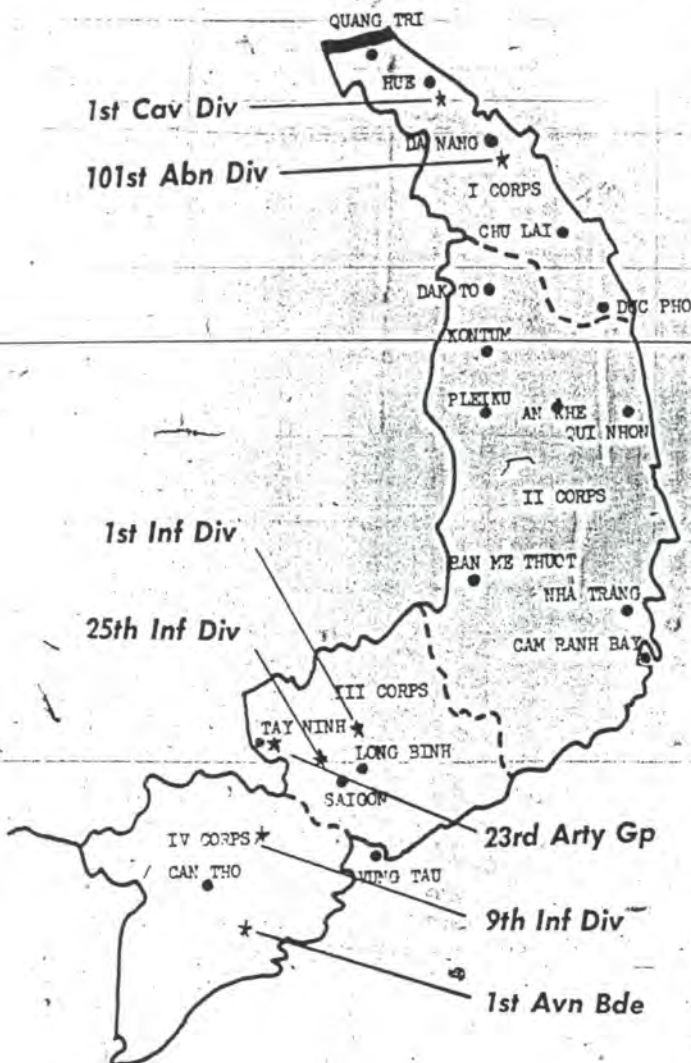
South Vietnamese Popular Forces, working with elements of the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav., engaged Viet Cong forces in a graveyard six miles northeast of Camp Evans. The VC, who were bunkered in a sandy area, were quickly flushed out by the Vietnamese soldiers. Seven VC were killed in the action.

Other Action

"Redcatchers" of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade saw limited action in reconnaissance-in-force operations and continued to destroy enemy fortifications. The nine bunkers destroyed brought the total for operations in the "Pineapple Region" south of Duc Hoa to 1,732 bunkers destroyed since action began in that area in mid-August.

By special hookup with Armed Forces Network in Los Angeles the World Series was broadcast to military radio stations throughout South Vietnam, thanks largely to efforts of the 1st Signal Brigade.

The broadcasts went from St. Louis or Detroit to AFN, taped and sent by undersea cable to Nha Trang and on to Vung Tau, where they were picked up by the 1st Signal Brigade communication systems. They were then relayed to Armed Forces Vietnam Network in Sai-



1st Avn crews kill 152 enemy

1st Avn Bde

Helicopter crews from the 1st Aviation Brigade reported killing 152 enemy soldiers in moderate action during the week.

Helicopter gunners of the 164th Combat Aviation Group reported killing 52 VC in one day in the largest aviation action of the week. The heaviest fighting of the day involved C Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cav.

In an action centered 15 miles southwest of Vinh Long they killed 17 VC and returned later in the day to kill six more in the same area. They also killed nine more enemy in scattered actions four to six miles southeast of the city. The gunships were flying in support of a 9th ARVN Infantry Division operation.

Gunship crews from the 235th Armed Helicopter Co., 307th Combat Aviation Bn., killed 16 VC, sank 28 sampans and destroyed seven structures in three different airstrikes by heavy fire teams.

On another day gunship crews from the 164th reported killing 45 enemy soldiers, destroying 27 fortifications and sinking 30 sampans.

In a battle 12 miles southeast of Can Tho gunship crews from A Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cav killed 37 VC while flying in support of 21st ARVN Infantry Division soldiers and Vietnamese marines.

The crew of a gunship from the 92nd Assault Helicopter Co., 10th Aviation Bn., tasted another aspect of the war when an emergency call sent it scurrying to a jungle mountainside near Bao Loc.

The call was in response to an ARVN appeal to medevac a wounded Vietnamese soldier. The crew quickly stripped the ship's guns and headed for the site. Once on the ground a litter was improvised and the wounded soldier slid into the space separating the pilots from the door gunners' slot. A few minutes later the Vietnamese was receiving aid at the Bao Loc dispensary.

Americal Div

In moderate action during the week Americal Division forces killed 128 enemy.

In their largest action of the week Americal Division soldiers and supporting gunship crews accounted for 38 enemy killed in scattered contacts in the southern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone.

The rugged hills and dense jungles in western Quang Ngai Province were the scene of several contacts as soldiers of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade reported killing 24 VC. The fighting began when a company from the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. encountered an enemy force four miles south of Quang Ngai City. In the brief firefight that ensued six enemy were killed.

A short time later another company from the same battalion was combat-assaulted into the area by helicopter crews from the 174th Assault Helicopter Co. As the ground troops advanced they began to receive heavy fire from an area to their front.

Action continued throughout the morning as the troops fought both severe thunderstorms and the enemy. After contact was broken a sweep of the area produced 12 VC dead, six individual weapons and one RPG launcher.

Soldiers of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade's 1st Bn., 6th Inf. treated 181 Vietnamese following a cordon and search of a village west of Chu Lai.

Americal Division forces reported killing 10 VC, capturing 5,000 pounds of rice and killing one leopard in another day's action.

Late one night Spec 4 Michael L. Rogers of the 10th Infantry Division's 1st Bn., 4th Inf. shot and killed a grown leopard. The leopard came too close to the unit's night position and Rogers brought it down with one perfectly placed shot through the heart.

1st Bde, 5th Inf

Red Devils of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division reported killing 30 enemy soldiers in northern I Corps.

Armor and mechanized units supported by tactical airstrikes and artillery, attacked enemy positions two miles north of Con Thien, killing 26 NVA soldiers.

Brigade forces suffered three killed and 20 wounded.

An element of the 1st Bn., 81st Inf. found an enemy basecamp area consisting of 40 bunkers and several mines three miles northwest of Can Lo. The bunkers and mines were destroyed in place.

In another action, a forward observer spotted seven NVA soldiers walking in an open area about five miles northeast of Gio Linh. Artillery was called in on the position resulting in four enemy killed.

9th Inf Div

Gunship crews and infantrymen of the 9th Infantry Division killed 135 enemy during the week.

In the week's largest action 45 enemy soldiers were reported killed in several actions scattered throughout the Mekong Delta and southern III Corps.

In one of those actions infantrymen of the 2nd Brigade swept an island nine miles south-southeast of Go Cong City. Air cavalry troopers from the 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cav. while sweeping the island, came across and enemy force late in the day and killed seven fleeing VC. A search of the area by infantrymen from the 4th Bn., 47th Inf., resulted in 15 more enemy killed and 20 suspects detained, including two women nurses.

On another day gunship crews and infantrymen combined to kill 41 enemy in an action five miles west of Rach Kien.

The action in the Rach Kien area got underway around 9 a.m. when Air Force tactical airstrikes and artillery, acting on reports of enemy in the area were called in. Elements of the 2nd Bn., 39th Inf. were inserted in the wake of the airstrikes and artillery to form a triangle sealing avenues of escape.

The terrain, dense with palm growth, muddy and pocked with artillery and bomb craters, slowed the advancing infantrymen, but they pushed ahead accounting for 25 enemy killed.

Gunship crews from the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cav. were credited with 10 more enemy killed.

Earlier, an element of the 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. engaged seven enemy, killing six.

25th Inf Div

Tropic Lightning soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division reported killing 148 enemy during the week.

The soldiers combined with paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade and supporting gunship crews accounted for 80 enemy in one day's action. The Screaming Eagles soldiers were under the operational control of the 25th Division.

Action began when elements of the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. and paratroopers came under intense small arms and RPG fire at 1 a.m. three miles northeast of Trang Bang. The soldiers returned the fire as artillery supported them. The enemy force, estimated to be a reinforced company, fought back with a 35-round barrage of mortar fire. The contact continued until 4:30 a.m.

At first light the U.S. forces swept out from their positions to comb the area. By 4:40 they had found 80 NVA dead, and 32 individual and one crew-served weapons. U.S. casualties in the action were seven wounded.

Two miles to the north, where 67 enemy were killed earlier, a continuing sweep of the area uncovered 200 60mm rounds, eight hand grenades and a diary. The total for the two-day action stands at 147 enemy killed while U.S. forces suffered eight killed and 13 wounded.

In a continuing action around an enemy force the 1st Infantry Division sol-

diers called in airstrikes and artillery. At first light, the infantrymen started moving into the rice-paddied area north-east of Trang Bang. Fighting raged throughout the morning. A sweep of the area produced 26 enemy bodies, 15 of which were credited to the airstrikes.

1st Inf Div

Big Red One soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division encountered light enemy resistance and killed eight enemy.

Early one morning Co. B 2nd Bn., 2nd Inf. began receiving heavy mortar and RPG fire on its night defensive position east of Lai Khe. With the aid of a light fire team and a gunship the infantrymen battled an estimated 30 VC hiding in a woodland around the company's perimeter. A sweep of the area revealed a tunnel complex containing 25 grenades, nine 60mm mortar rounds, 12 RPG rounds, 12 75mm recoilless rifle rounds and other equipment.

1st Air Cav Div

Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division reported killing eight enemy during the week.

A 7,500 pound rice cache was unearthed by elements of the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav in false graves five miles north of Camp Evans.

4th Inf Div

Ivymen from the 4th Infantry Division killed eight enemy in their area of operation.

An element of the Division's 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. found the bodies of 23 NVA soldiers killed by artillery in the Duc Lap area.

A reconnaissance patrol from the unit found 15 graves southwest of Duc Lap. The graves and bodies were estimated to be two weeks old and the result of a Sept. 30 contact. Another patrol found eight more enemy bodies.

101st Abn Div

Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division reported killing 15 enemy in several actions.

During a mid-morning ambush 25 miles southeast of Hue, a company from the 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. killed one enemy soldier and captured one individual weapon. At the same time another element from the same battalion, killed another enemy as a result of an ambush eight miles southeast of Hue. Later in the same day the same element sprang another ambush, killing two more enemy.

199th Light Inf Bde

Redcatchers of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade killed 16 enemy soldiers during the week.

While on patrol five miles south of Duc Hoa, a light fire team supporting the 199th received ground fire from eight enemy soldiers in four sampans. The helicopter gunners engaged the VC and reported killing six and sinking two sampans.

