

Vietnam Communique

Nov. 25-Dec. 1

1st Cavalry kills 264 enemy

1st Cav Div

The 1st Cavalry Division killed 264 enemy in a week of heavy fighting.

Elements of the 2nd Bn., 2nd Inf., 1st Infantry Division, under the operational control of the 1st Cavalry Division, killed 78 NVA regulars in a four hour battle Nov. 29 four miles northeast of Loc Ninh. Which brings the total to 207 enemy killed in three significant actions in the area during the last three days.

November 25, 53 NVA soldiers were killed early in the morning when they tried to overrun a night defensive position 21 miles northwest of Tay Ninh City. The action started just before 6:30 a.m. when elements of the 1st Bn., 7th Cavalry began receiving enemy mortar rounds on their night perimeter. The attack was followed by ground probes on three sides.

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Contact was lost at approximately 8:30 a.m., but was regained at 9 a.m. when the troopers pursued the enemy and engaged an estimated platoon nearby. Action continued until 10:30 a.m., when the enemy evaded and withdrew. After the enemy withdrew, a sweep produced 53 NVA bodies, six wounded detainees and 20 individual and 17 crew served weapons.

The fighting started about mid-morning when the mechanized infantrymen encountered an estimated enemy battalion firmly entrenched atop a hill. The NVA soldiers fired a heavy volume of small arms, automatic weapons and grenade rounds at the U.S. forces as they advanced up the hill. The American forces countered with aerial rocket artillery, mortars and tactical airstrikes. The enemy forces withstood the aerial assaults in the bunkers and fought for four hours until the U.S. cavalrymen were almost on top of them. At 3:30 p.m., the enemy soldiers who were still alive in the bunkers fled to the southeast, leaving behind 78 dead.

American Div

In a week of heavy fighting the American Division killed 155 enemy in their area of operations.

The troopers reported killing 39 enemy Nov. 27, in scattered actions in the southern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone.

Artillery from the 198th Light Infantry Brigade's Battery C, 1st Bn., 14th Arty., killed 19 enemy in two fire missions eight miles west of Tam Ky.

Units from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade killed 13 enemy and found the bodies of five others killed in previous action in the Hoa An Tam Ky area. Other division units accounted for one other enemy soldier killed.

The battleship New Jersey has been providing support for the 198th for the past five days. The naval bombardment from the Jersey's 16-inch guns has killed 11 enemy and destroyed 122 structures, 55 bunkers and seven automatic weapons positions in the brigade's area of operations.

1st Avn Bde

Pilots and gunners of the 1st Aviation Brigade killed 245 enemy in support of ARVN and Free World Forces.

Helicopter gunship crews from the 164th Combat Aviation Group reported killing 34 enemy Nov. 30, as they operated in the Mekong Delta. They also reported sinking one sampan and destroying 51 enemy structures.

Cobra gunship crews from the 307th Combat Aviation Bn.'s 235th Armed Helicopter Co., walked away with the lion's share of the action as they reported killing 30 enemy in a series of strikes throughout the day. They also destroyed 51 structures during the day's action 13 miles southeast of Can Tho.

The remainder of the kills were reported by C Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry as they operated 19 miles

southwest of Noc Hoa.

1st Inf Div

Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Bn., 28th Inf., killed 44 NVA regulars early Sunday morning, Dec. 1. The NVA tried to overrun the battalion's night defensive position seven miles west of Ben Cat.

The three hour battle began shortly after 3 a.m. when an estimated enemy battalion hit the position with a barrage of 60mm mortars followed by a ground attack from all sides.

At one point, 16 enemy breached the perimeter on the south side. A machine gunner killed 8 of the enemy within 10 feet of his position.

At one point, a company commander and six of his men crawled out to a forward position and put down a suppressive fire, allowing men in the forward positions to withdraw to more secure areas.

4th Inf Div

A 4th Infantry Division recon patrol from the 3rd Brigade engaged three NVA soldiers 14 miles southwest of Ben Het Dec. 1. During a brief exchange of fire, two of the enemy were killed. While on a patrol 22 miles southwest of Pleiku Nov. 27, a recon element from the 1st Bn., 22nd Inf., flushed three VC from a village and killed one. A platoon from the 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., killed one NVA soldier after making contact with an estimated squad-sized enemy force three miles west of Duc Lap Nov. 29.

1st Bde, 5th Inf

Action in the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division's area of operations has been extremely light during the past week. However, a group of Vietnamese boys swimming in a lake one mile south of Quang Tri uncovered a small store of ammunition buried at lake's edge. During the past three days, the youngsters have turned over to the U.S. troops 220 Chicom grenades and 50-feet of electrical wire with a detonating cap at the end.

9th Inf Div

Soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division during a week of heavy contact killed 222.

On Nov. 30 the soldiers killed 91 enemy, 70 were killed in one battle.

Division reconnaissance patrols operating northeast of Cal Be located an unknown-size enemy force operating in the area. Scout helicopters flew over the area and observed several small forces in the area. The helicopters engaged an unknown number of enemy they spotted in the open.

Elements of the 2nd Bn., 39th Inf., were inserted into an area to block the enemy escape routes, and immediately made contact. Gunship crews then raked the area with rocket and miniguns. The infantrymen engaged soldiers as they tried to flee the area.

The bodies of 70 enemy were found in a sweep of the battle area. Twenty suspects were detained and 14 individual weapons were captured.

In other action, 3rd Brigade troops killed 15 enemy in night ambushes around Tan An, bringing to 59 the total number of enemy killed in 3rd Brigade ambushes in the last four days. Other division forces killed six enemy Nov. 30.

11th Cav Regt

Aero scouts from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and supporting elements killed 24 enemy in an action eight miles south of Phuoc Vinh Dec. 1.

Pilots aboard a light observation helicopter were flying over the area assessing results of an earlier tactical airstrike when they noticed five enemy soldiers running into a bunker. Eleven men from the Regiment's aero scout platoon were inserted, and in 15 minutes came under heavy enemy fire. The aero scouts responded with small arms fire, killing 13 of the enemy. A few minutes

later, elements from the 1st Infantry Division and gunship crews arrived to support the action. In sporadic contacts the U.S. forces killed 11 more.

25th Inf Div

The 25th Infantry Division killed 104 in a week of moderate fighting with the enemy.

The riflemen from the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. and supporting gunship crews killed 38 enemy Nov. 28. For the second time in the last three days, the night defensive position, came under enemy attack.

At 1 a.m., a battalion element located six miles southwest of Go Dau Ha, in the same position that came under attack two days ago when 14 enemy were killed, came under heavy fire from enemy soldiers on all sides. The enemy employed small arms, automatic weapons and rocket launchers. At one point, it was estimated they were firing four 31 cal. machineguns at the U.S. position.

When the firing ceased, a sweep produced 37 enemy bodies and one suspect detained. The U.S. soldiers also picked up 10 rifles, three light machineguns, nine rocket launchers and 22 recoilless rifle rounds.

3rd Bde, 82nd Abn

Troops from the 1st Squadron, 17th Armored Cavalry, working with National Police units three miles northwest of Saigon, received one Ho Chanh armed with an AK-47 Rifle.

Paratroopers from the 2nd Bn., 305th Inf., conducted a cordon and search of the village of Xuan Thoi Thuong, five miles west of Saigon, and detained 10 VC suspects, including one female.

101st Abn Div

The 101st Airborne Division killed 40 enemy in a week of light contact.

The paratroopers killed 10 enemy

Nov. 26 and captured four individual weapons in scattered actions.

While patrolling an area three miles southwest of Hue, elements from the 1st Bn., 502nd Inf. engaged and killed two NVA soldiers. They also captured three individual weapons and destroyed a small base camp area.

Other division elements spotted eight enemy moving down a trail in the same area. They called for artillery fire from the 4th Bn., 77th Arty., which resulted in seven enemy killed.

An ambush element from the 1st Bn., 501st Inf. killed one more enemy from a concealed position 10 miles west of Hue.

173rd Abn Bde

Paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade killed eight enemy while conducting reconnaissance-in-force operations along the North Central coast of Vietnam.

In four separate fire fights 35 miles north of Qui Nhon, troops from the 1st Bn., 503rd Inf. killed seven NVA. Nearby troops from another element in the same battalion, uncovered a small arms cache. The cache contained 22 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, 59 rockets and one machinegun. Another VC was killed when troops from the 1st Bn., 501st Inf. engaged three VC, 35 miles northwest of Qui Nhon.

199th Inf Bde

Redcatchers of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade killed eight Viet Cong in widely scattered contacts Nov. 26. Elements from the 3rd Bn., 7th Inf. accounted for all the enemy deaths in several brief encounters during a reconnaissance-in-force operation centered ten miles southwest of Saigon. Soldiers from the 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf. on the same day detained four suspects, destroyed three bunkers and found several booby traps eight miles southwest of Saigon.



DEMOLITIONS MAN Spec. 4 Don Jennings with the 4th Engineers, primes a demolition block that will destroy a recently built bunker along an NVA infiltration road.

4th Inf Photo