

Vietnam Communique

9th Inf hits enemy hard

9th Inf Div

Soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division and supporting elements reported killing 369 enemy during a week of heavy action. The largest action took place Feb. 14 when 2nd Bde. elements killed 58. Other division units killed 22.

In that action soldiers from the Mobile Riverine Force's 3rd Bn., 60th Inf. surrounded an estimated VC company four miles south of Ben Tre. The action began early in the afternoon when the battalion command-and-control helicopter spotted six VC on a trail. Infantrymen were air-assaulted into the area just south of a canal and killed two enemy. Gunships from Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cav. moved in, killing two more enemy. Then another battalion element, inserted on the north side of the canal, killed eight enemy trapped in a woodland.

A division forward air controller directed two flights of Air Force F-100 Jets from the 306th and 310th Tactical Fighter Squadrons onto the enemy position. The airstrikes accounted for 15 VC killed. Meanwhile, artillery fire from the 3rd Bn., 34th Arty, pounded the area, killing three more enemy. In scattered actions at dusk, ground troops killed 13 VC who were trying to escape under cover of darkness.

On Feb. 16, 46 enemy were killed by the 1st Bde. with gunship support. Other division units killed 25 more enemy.

Riflemen of the brigade's 4th Bn., 39th Inf. teamed with gunship crews of Troop C, 7th Squadron, 1st Cav., to engage and kill 17 VC in the Plain of Reeds about 12 miles west of Moc Hoa.

At the same time, elements of the 2nd Bn., 39th Inf., working with Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cav., killed 15 enemy in several contacts six miles west of Cai Be.

Another company of the battalion, working with other cavalrymen from Troop B, were inserted five miles west of Dong Tam after recon elements reported several VC in the area. Ten VC were killed in the encounters.

American Div

In widely scattered action soldiers of the American Division killed 198 enemy.

On Feb. 14, division elements killed 44 enemy. Soldiers from the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., killed 28 VC in scattered actions centered seven miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. In the heaviest fighting, 16 VC were killed in a single encounter at 11 a.m. 4 miles from the city. The infantrymen detained 31 suspects in the same area.

Feb. 16, American soldiers supported by artillery and gunships killed 38 enemy in scattered actions, prior to the suspension of offensive operations for the 24-hour Tet truce.

In that action elements of the 196th Light Infantry Bde. accounted for 17 Viet Cong killed and found 3,300 pounds of rice in three caches. Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. killed nine enemy in actions 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Gunship crews from F Troop, 8th Cav., added three VC in two encounters west of Tam Ky, while other brigade elements accounted for five additional VC.

Thirty-seven enemy were killed by American soldiers on Feb. 10.

Of that 37 the 11th Light Infantry Bde. and supporting units were credited with 18. A brigade forward air controller reported seven enemy killed in airstrikes nine miles north-northwest of Duc Pho. Infantrymen of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. killed six in actions 18 miles west of Quang Ngai City, while an element of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., added two in Operation Vernon Lake. Soldiers from the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. killed one VC and detained

13 others in an action northwest of the city.

1st Avn Bde

Helicopter crews of the 1st Aviation Brigade reported killing 156 enemy in moderate action during the week.

On the heaviest day of fighting, Feb. 12, 58 enemy soldiers were killed.

Gunship crews from the 334th Armed Helicopter Co. reported killing 27 enemy and causing four secondary explosions in that action during firefly missions eight miles east of Bien Hoa.

The 192nd Assault Helicopter Co., 10th Combat Aviation Bn., 17th Combat Aviation Group reported killing 12 enemy the same night. The gunships were scrambled early in the morning to engage an estimated battalion-size enemy force moving toward an RF-PF compound northeast of Phan Thiet.

In the Delta, the same day, crews from the 16th Combat Aviation Group killed 19 Viet Cong and sunk 27 sampans in scattered action. Gunners from the 175th Assault Helicopter Co. reported killing 10 enemy and sinking eight sampans in action centered west of Vt. Thanh, while chopper crews from the 121st Assault Helicopter Co. added two more enemy and three sampans. Gunship crews from Troop A, 7th Squadron, 1st Cav., reported killing seven VC and sinking 13 sampans in actions southwest of Can Tho, while other squadron gunners accounted for nine sampans in two actions elsewhere.

1st Cav Div

In moderate action Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division reported killing 117 enemy soldiers.

In the largest action of the week 38 enemy were killed by division soldiers and supporting airstrikes Feb. 13.

In the day's largest action, 2nd Bde. scouts fired on an enemy spotted in a bunker one mile north of Loc Ninh. The machinegun fire hit a 55-gallon fuel drum which exploded. In a subsequent pass over the site, the chopper crew counted 11 enemy bodies. In two encounters nearby, the gunners killed three.

That same day, gunship crews from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cav. spotted six VC 20 miles southeast of Phuoc Vinh. Firing miniguns and aerial-rocket-artillery, the crews killed all six. Later in the afternoon, they killed two enemy and reported five NVA soldiers killed in an airstrike.

Feb. 10, soldiers of Co. D, 2nd Bn., 8th Cav., found two rice caches near Tay Ninh. Early that day, the unit discovered a cache of 32,400 pounds of rice and 2,500 pounds of salt. That afternoon they found an additional 65,000 pounds of rice. The finds brought the unit's total of rice captured in the two-day period to 83 tons.

25th Inf Div

Forces of the 25th Infantry Division reported killing 63 enemy and capturing 60 tons of rice during the week.

The largest rice cache, 35 tons, was found Feb. 13. Task force elements from the 1st Bn., 3rd Inf., and the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. found the division's largest cache of the day. The find was discovered during a sweep through the northern Ilo Bo Woods seven miles northeast of Trang Bang. In a heavily wooded area, the 2nd Bde. soldiers found 645 100-pound bags of polished rice. Part of the rice was in the open while most of the bags were covered by brush, bamboo and tree limbs. A heavily travelled ox cart trail skirted the area.

Two miles to the west, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cav. troopers found 6,600 pounds of rice in a bunker and tunnel complex.

1st Inf Div

In widely scattered actions Big Red One soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and supporting elements reported killing 58 enemy.

Feb. 13, an element of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment working under the operational control of the 1st Division reported that airstrikes on a bunker complex five miles northwest of Tan Uyen

Feb. 10 to Feb. 16

killed seven enemy and destroyed 23 bunkers.

That same day, infantrymen from Co. C, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. uncovered a cache of enemy munitions five miles south of Phu Lot. Included were: 238 RPG rounds, one RPG launcher, one Chinese light machinegun and assorted munitions.

173rd Abn Bde

Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade reported killing 39 enemy soldiers.

Feb. 14, brigade soldiers killed 29. In a half-hour battle elements of the 2nd Bn., 503rd Airborne Inf. killed 19.

Documents found on a dead VC told of an afternoon meeting that day. Two platoons were combat assaulted into a hot landing zone, and blocking forces were set up. The men made a sweep toward the meeting place and encountered resistance. After the battle 19 bodies were found in addition to the five killed in the initial incident.

23rd Arty Gp

Firing cover for the extraction of a downed helicopter's crew, artillerymen of the 23rd Artillery Group killed 30 enemy northwest of Phuoc Vinh. After the crew was extracted they continued to fire into the area to block the escape routes of the enemy that had downed the helicopter.

101st Abn Div

Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division killed 19 enemy while encountering light resistance to operations.

Soldiers from the 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. killed two enemy and captured two weapons near Nui Ke. Battalion elements operating 11 miles southeast of Hué captured 12 weapons.

4th Inf Div

Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division and supporting elements killed 17 in light action.

A company from the 1st Bn., 14th Inf. killed six NVA soldiers northeast of Plei Djereng. The Ilymen again received automatic weapons fire. Returning the fire, they called for artillery support. The results of the artillery fire were not determined.

In the same area the 1st Bn., 12th Inf. found a weapons cache. It included 148 mortar rounds and 10,000 AK-47 rounds.

54th Arty Gp

Cannoneers of the 54th Artillery Group killed 15 enemy and destroyed numerous enemy bunkers in fire missions Feb. 12. Firing on an unknown-size enemy force and rocket positions eight miles east of Bien Hoa, artillerymen of Battery B, 2nd Bn., 35th Artillery were credited with killing 15 enemy and setting off four secondary explosions. They also fired on enemy positions two miles farther east resulting in 69 secondary explosions.

199th Inf Bde

Redcatchers of the 199th Light Infantry Bde. participated in a cordon six miles southwest of Saigon. The cordon enclosed an estimated 2,200 civilians and is designed to identify and eliminate the VC infrastructure in the area.

The small quasi-military-political structure extends into all facets of civilian life and provides support and information to main force units.

Redcatcher MEDCAP and DENTCAP teams worked with the civilians involved in the operation.

11th Cav Regt

Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment killed five enemy and detained two armed suspects in action 10 miles north of Tan Uyen while operating independently.

Other Blackhorse units worked in support of the 1st Infantry Division.

Task Force South

Paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, part of Task Force South, supported by tanks, along with Vietnamese Regional Force troops and elements of the ARVN 44th Regiment killed 67 enemy near Da Lat.



'Big Picture' tells the Army story

WASHINGTON (ANF) — In its Spring issue of 1962, the "Journal of Broadcasting" stated: "It is doubtful whether any other program — network, local or syndicated — can approach the exposure record of the U.S. Army's Big Picture." Today, that statement is more pertinent than ever.

The Big Picture is scheduled on 370 commercial and educational television stations in the United States and 44 Armed Forces Television stations overseas. A recent survey tabulated the Big Picture's annual TV audience at approximately 200,000,000.

In addition, an official Department of Army compilation recorded 137,563 individual showings of the Big Picture, from April 1, 1967, to March 3, 1968, to active Army personnel, members of the National Guard and Army Reserve, schools and many civic and veterans organizations.

It was in July 1951, during the Korean War that the progenitor of The Big Picture series, then known as The Blue Badge, had its humble beginnings on one station in the Washington, D.C., area. It quickly caught the public interest and, shortly, stations all over the country were requesting the programs.

To fulfill its command information mission, The Big Picture, through the medium of television, is able to reach both active and inactive Army personnel, National Guard, and Reserve, Department of the Army civilians, veterans and families of soldiers. Internally, the logs of the audio-visual support centers (Army film libraries) show a great demand for Big Picture films.

The Television-Radio Branch, U.S. Army Command Information Unit, Washington, D.C., acts as the executive producer of the

documentary film series. Details of physical production are coordinated by the Army Pictorial Center, which provides directorial, editorial, script and laboratory services.

The Big Picture films, in essence, are factual reports of the far flung activities of the U.S. Army soldier in combat and in peace.

The effectiveness of The Big Picture is attested to by the many awards it has won during its 18 years of production. In its very first year, it received the 1951 Distinguished Achievement Award from "Radio-TV Life" magazine for the film "First Forty Days" covering action in Korea.

There followed in steady succession 10 Freedom Foundation Awards, culminating in the presentation of the foundation's Distinguished Service Award. The "Red Diamond," an in-depth story of the 5th Infantry Division, was chosen to represent the United States in the Versailles International Film Festival.

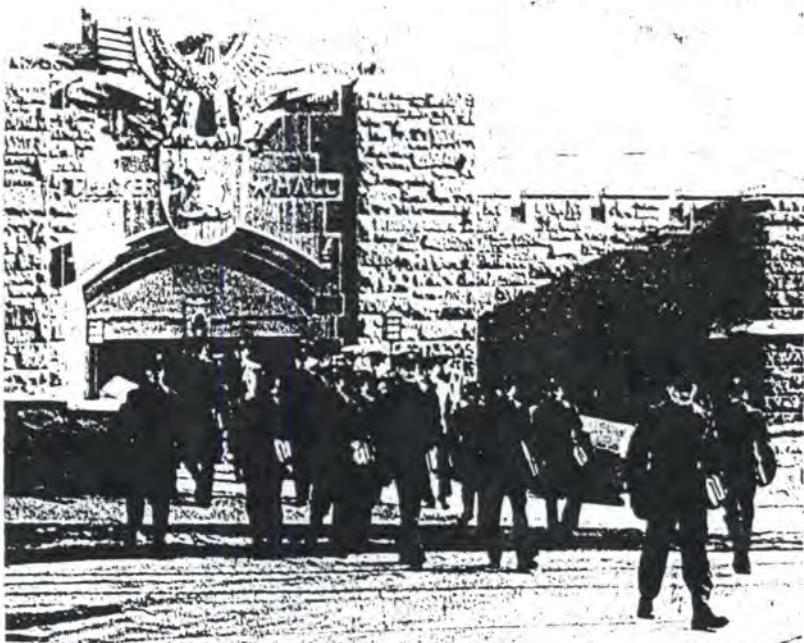
Most recently, "The Song of the Soldier," received an "Emmy" award for excellence in writing and direction by the Washington Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The film was also selected by the Smithsonian Institution for placement in a time capsule, preserved for posterity.

Some of the entertainment world's most famous stars have acted as host narrators for The Big Picture including Bob Hope, Gregory Peck, Paul Newman, John Wayne, Efrem Zimbalist, Jr., Glenn Ford, Robert Taylor and Jack Webb.

The Big Picture can be seen each week on AFVN television. Consult the television schedule in The Army Reporter each week for the day and time of broadcast.



IN RECOGNITION of the countless spiritual services provided the soldier and his family, the Big Picture looks at the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps through history.



NEXT WINTER, the Big Picture will release a new film on the life of a cadet as he progresses through the United States Military Academy. The film will be titled "West Point: The Army Challenge."



HERE REST THOSE who have served America with honor. The film "How Sleep The Brave" is a memorial to those generations of Americans who have died in defense of liberty and justice for all men.

ANF Photos



THE INFECTED EAR of a Vietnamese boy receives special attention from Spec. 5 Robert M. Wheeler, a medic from the 2nd

Bn., 12th Inf., 25th Infantry Division, during a MEDCAP near Cu Chi.

25th Inf. Photo

Twins okay

Medics assist stork

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—A Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) soldier paced outside a 4th Infantry Division dispensary as all expectant fathers do, but his worry was turning into fear.

His wife had never taken this long to deliver his other seven children.

His fears increased when a medic walked out and told him his wife was having complications and would have to be moved to better equipped facilities.

A medevac helicopter soon had the couple headed here to the base camp of the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Bde. and

Co. C, 4th Medical Bn.

"We had everything set up as soon as we heard they were coming here," said Capt. Seymour Leiner.

"Within a few hours after their arrival," Leiner continued, "she gave birth to a healthy, strapping boy but she was having twins and the second child was in an unusual position."

While X-Rays were being taken, the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku and Pat Smith Montagnard Hospital in Kontum were notified to stand by for the mother.

"At both of these places the staff is better trained to handle a case like this," Leiner contin-

ued.

"Besides," he added with a smile, "my medics were getting kind of nervous."

An ambulance sped the woman and her husband to the Pat Smith Hospital where a ninth child was added to the proud father's family.



DOUSING his face with water helps Spec. 4 Robert Krise cool off after an operation in the hot Mekong Delta with the 9th Infantry Division.

MPs learn river dustoff techniques

QUI NHON—The dustoff helicopter, which drops down in the remotest areas, its rotors raising torrents of dust, to pick up and evacuate wounded soldiers, is a familiar sight to men in Vietnam.

But the 93rd MP Bn., 18th MP Brigade has come up with a dustless dustoff to evacuate wounded personnel from the decks of the 127th MP Company's river patrol boats (PBRs) which roam the harbor here.

To familiarize the MPs with the new idea, the members of the 127th were given a class in basic medical evacuation procedures and a practical demonstration.

Maj. Mayo Ellingson from the 498th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance), 44th Medical Brigade, was the instructor. He briefed the MPs on how to use the forest penetrator, a small device with three arms designed to hold wounded personnel during a flight. The penetrator can hold three persons.

First the major instructed his class on the procedures for strapping a wounded man into the forest penetrator. Then came the practical demonstration.

The PBR was driven some 100 yards from the shore and stopped, facing into the wind. The helicopter arrived shortly and after several passes, lowered the forest penetrator onto the deck.

Then two crewmen, Pfc. Clifford Balcer and Spec. 4 Robert Vaughan, both of the 127th MP Co., strapped the volunteer "victim," Sgt. James C. Hinsdale of the 458th Transportation Co. into the device which carried him to shore.

"The penetrator keeps a sure grip on a wounded man," Ellingson said. "No patient has ever been dropped, no matter how badly wounded."

He added that this medevac procedure will only be used in case the PBR becomes disabled. If the boat is operational, it will bring in the wounded.

Night extraction saves CIDG force

QUAN LOI—Making a contested daylight extraction is difficult, and making a night extraction is even more difficult, but making a contested night extraction is next to impossible," said Maj. Robert S. Frix, operations officer for the 5th Bn., 7th Cav., 1st Cavalry Division.

In the dense, bamboo-clogged jungle, nine miles west of here, a CIDG unit was clearing a bunker complex late in the afternoon. Suddenly, it started drawing sporadic enemy fire. A request for help was dispatched to the 2nd Brigade Headquarters here.

Immediately the brigade sent two light observation helicopters (LOH) from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav. The lightly armored ships found more than they could handle; keeping the NVA down with rapid fire from their mini-guns, they called for gunships.

In less than five minutes two gunships for the 2nd Bn., 20th Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) arrived to give the small ships a helping hand. Armed with rockets, mini-guns, and 40mm cannons, the gunships made short work of the entrenched enemy.

The CIDG force again moved out, with a team from Troop C screening to the front, to finish clearing the bunker complex. Moving only 800 yards, they again found the enemy, now on all four sides. Again the pilots called for ARA. The gunship team arrived on station and expended its full load of ammo. It was replaced by another team to

keep the NVA from overrunning the surrounded CIDG.

Arriving almost simultaneously with the second team of ARA was Lt. Col. John F. McGraw Jr., commander of the 5th Bn., 7th Cav., who had operational control of the CIDG troops at the time of contact. Assessing the problem immediately, McGraw moved the unit back to a position that could be more easily defended. Later, this position became a pickup zone for the besieged troops.

When they moved into the new position the enemy moved with it. With fierce action all around, a team from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cav. found and knocked out two NVA mortar positions. Artillery, ARA and gunships continued to pour in fire, trying to give the CIDG's time to move, but each time they moved the enemy followed.

It was then that the decision was made, "Pull them out," McGraw ordered.

Only nine miles away, with a long hard day of flying behind them, pilots from Company B, 227th Aviation Bn. brought their birds to rest here. When the flight set down McGraw had one more mission for a night extraction.

Just 45 minutes later, with the aid of helicopter flare ships and hand flares, the first bird set down on the one-ship pickup zone (PZ).

But even with Skytroopers turning night into day, it was still a hard place to find.

"On my first pass I couldn't find the PZ, but when I came around again I saw the hand flares. I set down and the CIDG climbed aboard; I tried to pull up, but I couldn't clear the trees. I had to set back down. Three of them got off, and that time I made it," said WO Gary A. Senkar, one of the pilots.

Each ship threaded its way into the tiny PZ, picking up as many as it could handle. Dropping its human cargo safely in nearby An Loc, the ships returned for another load.

The extraction was completed without the loss of a man.

Pope cites American chaplain

BOSTON — Pope Paul VI recently named the American Division Chaplain, Lt. Col. Francis J. Dolan, a Domestic Prelate to His Holiness with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. News of the papal honor was announced here by His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston.

Among the privileges attached to the dignity of this honor is the right to wear the purple robes belonging to the order of bishops in the Catholic Church. It is usually conferred on priests who hold highly responsible positions in the Church and who are noted for their priestly zeal and devotion to the Supreme Pontiff.

A Regular Army Chaplain, Monsignor Dolan came on active duty in August of 1951.