

Vietnam communique

July 21-27

Americans smash Red bunkers

SOLDIERS FROM THE 11TH Armored Cavalry Regiment under the operational control of the 1st Infantry Division smashed an abandoned Communist 60-bunker arsenal 10 miles northwest of Lai Khe July 22.

Gunships from the 1st Infantry Division raced to the aid of an 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment tank element, upsetting a VC ambush 10 miles north of Lai Khe.

Gunship pilots from the 1st Aviation Brigade tore up three NVA base camps clustered 15 miles northeast of An Khe July 21.

Airmobile soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division rappelled into the A Shau Valley July 23, near Fire Base Airborne, 30 miles southwest of Hue and landed in the middle of an abandoned NVA base camp.

America Div

America Division infantrymen, in a day-long cordon operation of a village two miles southeast of Duc Pho July 23, found and destroyed four enemy tunnel systems, killing 12 VC and two NVA soldiers.

Just after sunrise, soldiers from Co. C, 4th Bn., 21st Inf. and the battalions' reconnaissance element teamed up to sweep an area around the hamlet, and discovered a telltale air vent. A further search of the area revealed that the entrance to this tunnel complex lay below the waterline of a nearby lake. Hand grenades were dropped down the air vent and after the explosions, the Americans dug up the bodies of the enemy soldiers.

Division soldiers killed 13 VC and four NVA soldiers July 25, throughout the area of operations.

July 27, division infantrymen killed three NVA and six VC soldiers, and found the bodies of two more VC soldiers killed by air strikes.

1st Cav Div

Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division accounted for 21 Communist deaths July 23 and uncovered two sizeable food and munitions stockpiles. A helicopter from the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav, spotted four VC soldiers wandering across a wide clearance in the jungle nine miles east of Quan Loi. The VC soldiers froze as the helicopter passed overhead, hoping the pilot hadn't spotted them. The helicopter wheeled in and shot down all four. Artillery was called in to pepper the area and four more enemy soldiers were killed.

Division soldiers from the 1st Bn., 12th Cav, came across an NVA bunker complex 15 miles northeast of Tay Ninh which the Air Force had smashed. Besides finding the bodies of six NVA soldiers, in the complex, the Americans found 32 rocket-propelled grenades, 6 rounds of 82mm mortar and 4 Chinese Communist Claymore-type mines.

Division soldiers killed 25 NVA and five VC soldiers July 27, sustaining no American casualties, as division helicopter gunships accounted for the bulk of the enemy death toll.

1st Inf Div

Gunships from the 1st Infantry Division's D Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cav, July 23 raced to the aid of an 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment tank element, upsetting a VC ambush 10 miles north of Lai Khe.

The regiment soldiers were hit shortly before noon while sweeping the wooded area in Sheridan assault vehicles and armored cavalry assault vehicles.

When the brief fight was over, 12 Communist soldiers were found killed.

Other 1st Division soldiers on a reconnaissance mission the same day found a 138-bunker complex 15 miles west of Lai Khe. In the complex were the bodies of seven NVA soldiers killed about three months ago.

4th Inf Div

A patrol from the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Bde, engaged a reinforced NVA squad along a jungle trail five miles northwest of An Khe July 24, killing two.

The team had been on the ground less than an hour when they made first contact. After a brief exchange of fire, the enemy broke contact, and a few minutes later made contact again. The patrol leader called for extraction, and the patrol moved toward the landing zone. Popping smoke to guide the troop helicopters into the landing zone, the Americans again came under enemy fire. Gunships hovering overhead sprayed the area, silencing the attackers, and the team was safely extracted.

Engineers from the division destroyed a 51-unit enemy bunker complex July 24. The complex was located earlier in the day by soldiers of the 3rd Bn., 12th Inf., eight miles southwest of Kontum City.

Division soldiers found the bodies of 30 Communist soldiers July 26, 18 miles northeast of An Khe.

25th Inf Div

A patrol of 25th Infantry Division soldiers from the 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. came upon an estimated 20 VC soldiers four and one-half miles east of their Cu Chi base camp July 22. Setting up a hasty ambush, the Americans engaged the enemy with Claymore mines, M16 rifles and M79 grenade launchers. The Americans killed seven VC soldiers.

On July 23, division soldiers reported a series of small contacts that killed 29 Communist soldiers. Infantrymen from Co. C, 4th Bn., 23rd Inf. killed nine NVA soldiers in three engagements on Nui Ba Den mountain northeast of Tay Ninh. Division gunships added 13 more enemy soldiers killed in three separate actions.

Division soldiers killed nine VC soldiers and reported finding the body of another in a 330-yard tunnel less than a mile from the Cu Chi base camp July 25. The tunnel was a two-level complex with

a trap door leading to the lower floor. Three AK47 rifles were found. In the largest action of the day, a reconnaissance platoon from the 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. killed four VC soldiers five and one-half miles northwest of Cu Chi.

The next day, division mortarmen killed two NVA soldiers on the western flanks of Nui Ba Den mountain. Total enemy killed for July 26 was 13.

101st Abn Div

The bodies of seven NVA soldiers were found 32 miles southwest of Hue, July 21 near an NVA encampment discovered earlier in the day by a soldier from the 101st Airborne Division. The enemy soldiers were killed by aerial rocket and artillery fire.

Soldiers from the 3rd Bn., 137th Inf. found the bodies of 13 NVA soldiers July 22. Discovered on a sweep through the heavily-jungled, hilly terrain 32 miles southwest of Hue, the enemy soldiers were dead two months.

Airmobile soldiers rappelled into the A Shau Valley July 25, near Fire Base Airborne, 30 miles southwest of Hue and landed in the middle of an abandoned NVA base camp. Sliding down ropes onto the floor of the triple canopy jungle, the infantrymen from Co. B, 3rd Bn., 506th Inf. were in the process of setting a helicopter landing zone when they found the enemy position.

11th ACR

Soldiers from A Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, under the operational control of the 1st Infantry Division, smashed an abandoned 60-bunker Communist arsenal 10 miles northwest of Lai Khe July 22.

The Americans found 200 anti-personnel mines, 128 Claymore-type mines, 90

hand grenades, 90 rifle grenades, 4 cases of high explosives, assorted small arms rounds and more than 1,000 pounds of rice.

Two Sheridan assault vehicles leading a C Troop, 1st Squadron, reconnaissance mission crushed the wooden cover of a concrete bunker dug into the jungle floor when they inadvertently rolled over it. Found in the bunker were almost 154,000 rounds of enemy munitions.

9th Inf Div

A company of 9th Infantry Division soldiers, supported by artillery, helicopter gunships and Air Force jet fighters, killed 12 VC soldiers in a late afternoon battle July 21 four miles south of Pen Loc.

Responding to intelligence reports of heavy VC activity in the area, infantrymen from Co. A, 5th Bn., 60th Inf. were air-assaulted along the banks of the Van Co Dong River about noon. As they swept toward a nipa palm line, an undetermined number of VC soldiers opened up on the company with small arms fire. The Americans called in artillery and air strikes, and afterwards, a sweep of the area revealed the 12 bodies.

In light battle action July 22, 23 and 24, division soldiers killed 55 VC soldiers throughout the area of operations.

Division soldiers killed 18 VC soldiers in sporadic Mekong Delta fighting July 25, with soldiers from the 3rd Bde, accounting for 13 VC soldiers in a series of skirmishes in Long An Province.

Soldiers from Co. C, 5th Bn., 60th Inf. were about to be extracted from their day holding position, 17 miles southwest of Saigon, when the largest fight of the day broke out. Gunships from B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cav. were called down to reconnoiter the contact and confirmed that the infantrymen had killed three VC soldiers. The gunships accounted for three more, who tried to evade the infantrymen's advance. Sweeping toward the pickup zone, the Americans on the ground found another VC soldier who had been killed by artillery and then came upon two bunkers. The soldiers destroyed them, and in checking through them found the bodies of three more VC soldiers.

The other five VC soldiers killed in Long An Province that day were accounted for by gunships and ground forces of Co. D, 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. on a sweep five miles southwest of Saigon.

1st Avn Bde

A gunship pilot from A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cav., 17th Combat Avn. Group, 1st Aviation Brigade spotted three NVA camps clustered 15 miles northeast of An Khe July 21. The light observation helicopter pilot was flying a routine observation run over the jungle terrain, when he drew ground fire. He swung the craft around and his door gunner killed two NVA soldiers firing from a base camp. Three air strikes razed the enemy fortification of 20 bunkers and hootches.

Other gunships tore up a second base camp nearby, and a third camp — a platoon-size hide-away made up mostly of bunkers — also was destroyed.

199th Inf Bde

Three Viet Cong soldiers were killed by a ranger team attached to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade July 26. A reconnaissance team from Co. P, 75th Rangers, attached to the 199th Brigade, was inserted 21 miles northeast of Xuan Loc and immediately found a freshly broken trail. The rangers moved down the path and waited for the larger killer team to land behind them.

The three enemy soldiers were spotted walking toward the reconnaissance team's position, so the Americans began firing and killed all three. Then they started pulling back to join the rest of the ranger team. A nearby VC platoon started an assault, apparently thinking they had a small unit on the run. The charging Communists ran into the American team and scattered quickly after losing two more soldiers.



ADJUSTING AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY from a position hidden in the thick jungle is Capt. Francis J. Probet, commanding officer of Co. D, 5th Bn., 7th Cav., 1st Cavalry Division. The target was near Landing Zone Ellen.



PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU of the Republic of Vietnam tries out the driving seat of a Soviet-made scout car captured by the 101st Airborne Division during an operation in western Quang Nam Province last April. The car was rebuilt and refurbished by the 101st and presented

to President Thieu by Major General John M. Wright Jr., the 101st commanding general, who sits on President Thieu's right. Lieutenant General Melvin Zais, behind the president, commanded the 101st at the time the car was captured. He now commands XXIV Corps.

Five soldiers awarded DSC for valorous acts under fire

LONG BINH — Five soldiers were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross recently for extraordinary heroism.

Receiving the award were Lt. Col. James A. Michienzi, Hq., Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., 2nd Inf., 1st Inf. Div., and Lt. Gary L. Tucker, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 2nd Inf., 1st Inf. Div.

Awarded the cross posthumously were Pfc. Walter Nutt, who served with Co. D, 4th Bn., 39th Inf., 9th Infantry Division; Capt. Bertrand J. Dacey, of the Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; and Sgt. Clarence Sizemore, of Co. A, 1st Bn., 20th Inf., 11th Infantry Bde., Americal Division.

Nutt distinguished himself in action on April 28 during a reconnaissance-in-force mission near Fire Base Danger in Giao Duc District in Kien Phuoc

Province. As his platoon maneuvered through a densely vegetated area, Nutt was walking behind the leading members of the file, when suddenly an enemy force initiated an ambush with a volley of shots that killed the first two men in the patrol and wounded four more. Nutt rushed through hostile fire to administer lifesaving aid to the injured. As he made his way toward a third injured man, he was struck by enemy rounds and mortally wounded.

Dacey was awarded the cross for action on April 27 while he was flying a reconnaissance mission in a light observation helicopter seven miles southwest of Quan Loi in Tay Ninh Province. An infantry company was pinned down by a North Vietnamese force and another helicopter had flown to the conflict

area but was shot down. Dacey immediately flew to the battle site and began making low passes over the hostile force, marking them for air strikes. On his seventh pass, his aircraft was struck by a burst of machine gun fire and crashed in flames, killing him instantly.

On May 31 Sizemore distinguished himself while in charge of a bridge security force near LZ Lix at Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province. In the early morning hours his position was attacked by a North Vietnamese sapper platoon. After he had killed one enemy soldier and repelled the attack at the north end of the bridge, he returned to the opposite end to resupply his ammunition and discovered that the hostile force had overwhelmed several nearby bunkers. Sizemore rushed one of the captured bunkers, obtained rounds for his rifle and was racing back toward the northern end of the bridge when an enemy grenade detonated near him, spraying his legs with shrapnel.

Michienzi received the cross for valorous actions during the period May 23 to 25 while serving as battalion commander of operations in An Loc District, Binh Long Province. During three days of intense combat, he led his forces to three major victories over the North Vietnamese. In each engagement, he was at the forefront of the battle, directing his forces, adjusting artillery fire and air strikes, personally engaging and killing the enemy and destroying hostile bunkers with hand grenades. He charged enemy fortifications, eliminated machine gun emplacements and killed an enemy battalion commander.

Tucker distinguished himself Dec. 27, 1968, while he served as a platoon leader during a cord-on-and-search operation north of An Loc near the village of Ap Charac.



from the desk of

Shorttimer Sam

Dear Sir: I recently read in Shorttimer Sam that NGs and ERs may now receive an early out for school. When I was activated into the Army I was attending a Veterans' Administration recognized school, which I believe will accept me for the fall semester. To receive an early out, does one need a certain amount of time in country? If so, how much time is required? I was told that you needed nine months in country. Set me straight. Cpl. R.F.M., XXIV Corps Artillery.

NGs and ERs can get an early out for school the same as everyone else. There is no minimum time needed in Vietnam to qualify for the early out. I have heard of a guy coming here for a short tour and spending only three weeks in-country before getting his early out.

Dear Sam: I have applied for appointment as a warrant officer while in-country. I have been told that USARV has the authority to grant appointments to a warrant. Is this true? If so, how long must I wait? Sfc. R.M., 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

USARV does not have the authority to grant warrants. All applications for warrants go through Department of the Army to the U.S. Army Reserve Company Personnel Center at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind. Inquiries on this should be addressed to them marked to the attention of: RCAP.

Dear Sam: I have five months left in Vietnam and I am a helicopter mechanic. What I would like to know is if upon my return to the States I can go to another school? I will have 18 months left in the service upon my return. Spec. 4 J.P., 1st Aviation Brigade.

Yes, you could go back to another MOS producing school. All Army service school courses are listed in DA Pamphlet 350-10. Criteria for attendance is also listed for each course.

Dear Sir: It would be greatly appreciated if I could obtain copies of USARV fact sheets. I will see to it that everyone in my battery is aware of these facts too. Pfc. T.B., 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

The information office puts out many fact sheets available through your brigade's command information office. I was told that some are on their way.

Dear Shorttimer Sam: My older brother has been bothered recently by the local draft board. He has a four-year degree in music education. His wedding is coming up and he had planned to start teaching this fall. I want to give him the best advice but I don't want to see him in the infantry. Is it possible, after basic, to re-up for an extra year to get the MOS of his choice? Pfc. M.K., 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

When your brother reports to the U.S. Army Reception Station and is inducted, he may enlist for an MOS producing school of his choice according to AR 601-289. If he doesn't want to do this, he may still get assigned to an Army band if he has played an instrument for a number of years. Tell him to give the personnel interviewer all the information on his background and special skills. If he waits until his assignment and/or AIT after basic, he may not be able to change his MOS until he is in the service for eight months when he can reenlist for another MOS.

Dear Sam: My problem is that I think I want to return to school. If I do receive an early release from the service to attend school and then, once beginning classes, decide I have made a mistake, what is my commitment? I can think of any number of things which might arise once I return to the States that might make me feel I have made a decision not in my best interest; things such as family, financial and career considerations. When could I leave school without violating my early separation contract with the Army if these problems were to arise? Spec. 4 R.P.C., Hq., USARV.

You are required to attend school on a full-time basis until your normal ETS date if you received the early out. After that date, you are no longer committed to be in school. Should you drop out of school before the required time, the Reserve unit you were assigned to or your Control Group could decide to recall you to active duty for a period equal to the time you didn't serve because of the early out.

Dear Sam: I would like to know if there is anyway I can replace a Purple Heart I had stolen from me. Spec. 4 D.R.A., 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Yes, you can get another medal according to AR 672-5-1, paragraph 18d. All you have to do is submit a written request to your commanding officer for this. Include in the request a statement that the original was lost, destroyed or rendered unfit for use without fault or neglect on your part. It won't cost you a cent.

Dear Sam: Can you tell me where I might order appliances for use in the U.S.? I want to order a refrigerator and stove at reduced rates while I am here in Vietnam. I would like to be able to choose the color and brand too. Spec. 4 R.B.W., 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

There are several places you could try. The easiest is to try the special orders counter of your local PX. Next is to write for an appliance catalog to PACEX Mail Order, Japan Regional Exchange, APO Inter-area 69323. Another possibility is to buy these appliances at one of the out-of-country R and R sites, such as Japan, Hong Kong, etc.

Questions on any subject may be sent to Shorttimer Sam in care of The Army Reporter, Hq., USARV-IO, APO in-country 96375. All questions will be given prompt attention and deep thought. Unsigned or anonymous letters will not be answered.

Shorttimer Sam

Air crew honored for medical mission

LONG BINH—The Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to four men of the 45th Med. Co., 88th Med. Gp., 44th Medical Brigade, all members of a single flight crew participating in an air support mission on February 1 in the Republic of Vietnam.

The four are WO Robert B. Romines, WO Richard W. Obrecht, Spec. 4 Ralph D. Higinbotham and Spec. 4 Walter G. Hettiger.

The action which led to the awards occurred while the crew provided air support for the 2nd Bn., 60th Inf., 9th Infantry Division, during a February conflict. The friendly elements were encircled by a North Vietnamese company and enemy fire from a bunker at the edge of a woodland raked the battle area so heavily that casualties could not be moved back for evacuation.

Twice, however, amid enemy fire which brought several direct hits to the craft, Romines and Obrecht landed their helicopter within 75 meters of the hostile fortification.

Both times Higinbotham and Hettiger jumped from the craft amid the hostile fire and rushed to wounded soldiers trapped by the enemy's circle.

Despite the intense enemy barrage and the direct hits to the helicopter, the crew successfully evacuated the wounded personnel and flew them to a hospital for treatment.

Early morning onslaught centers around bunker 2

LZ JOY—It will never be one of the big stories out of Vietnam.

The attack that night will always seem small in the shadow of Dong Ap Bia Mountain or the long months at Khe Sanh.

Small, that is, unless you were here that night—unless you were with Co. D, 1st Bn. of the 7th Cav., 1st Cavalry Division, defenders of the landing zone.

Pfc. Robert E. Collins was in bunker No. 2 with three other men on the southwest side of the LZ.

Forest surrounds the LZ on three sides, tall and dense trees where the darkness settles first at nightfall.

By the time the enemy hit, it was as black as only the inside of a perimeter bunker can be—as black as their view to the front, toward the trees.

The rockets, mortars and RPG's started at 2 a.m., but unlike most NVA attacks, the barrage did not stop just before the ground attack began. It kept up throughout the night until the last enemy fire ceased at 4:45 a.m.

"After the barrage started, some of our trip flares went off and we saw enemy in the wire. We started shooting at them with our 16's," said Collins.

"Then the wire was blown."

For a while there was no illumination from the artillery.

"It got dark again, and we could hear them crawling," said Collins. Then the illumination came back. . . . They started to run off when we poured lead out at them."

AK47 automatic and light machine gun fire raked over the bunker again and again. And sometime during the fight—Collins is not sure when it happened—the bunker took a hit from a B40 rocket round.

Shortly afterward, said Collins, they noticed movement to their side. The men moved outside and fought from the berm, using M16s and hand grenades.

In the morning there were 35 enemy dead inside the wire. Seventeen of those lay in front of bunker No. 2. Three of the enemy were found less than three yards to the right of the bunker, lying at the foot of the berm.

One of the enemy dead at the berm was clutching a B40 rocket, cocked and armed.

From the dead enemy soldiers, Americans picked 18 AK47s, six light machine guns and over 20 B40 and RPG rounds. Outside the wire, they found drag marks and two hasty graves.

No, it was not a huge battle. People in the States might never hear of it.

To someone sitting and reading about it in Saigon or Chicago, it will not match the aura of Khe Sanh, it will not seem awesome to them.

But, then, they were not in bunker No. 2 on that dark early morning.

Watch rain from box seat

TAN TRU — One of the most versatile pieces of equipment at base camps is the common ammunition box.

When the job for which these boxes were intended is finished, they are discarded, only to be snatched up by eager soldiers.

Probably the most important secondary use of the ammunition box is for protection. The 4.2-inch mortar boxes are filled with dirt and stacked in double rows up the sides of bunkers.

Many less important uses are being discovered every day.

With the coming of the rainy season, company areas have become networks of ammo box walkways.

Walkways and protection are necessities, but the role of the ammo box does not stop there.

A 105mm howitzer ammo box can be turned on its side and nailed to a wall, making a tiny bookshelf. The same box, with shelves built inside, can be nailed straight up and down to make a fine cabinet, complete with door.

The wider 81mm mortar box is a fantastic find. After building shelves inside, the owner can nail it to the wall with its hinges toward the floor. A chain or rope can be secured to the cover and inside the box so that when the cover is open it remains level. This arrangement makes a fine writing desk or, if you prefer, a bar.

Grenade ammo boxes may be lined and used as coolers for canned drinks.

A cushion of some type nailed to the lid of a grenade ammo box and nicely covered with nearly any kind of material makes an attractive foot locker and stool combination. This stool can also be used in conjunction with your writing desk. Or is it a bar?



DANGLING puppetlike, these American Division Rangers learn how to use the rope-and-pulley device that could be used to extract them from dangerous areas. The testing takes place over the South China Sea near Chu Lai.

Lights give sappers headache

Flares halt enemy's movement

LZ BALDY — Their charcoal-blackened bodies hugging the ground, silent figures crawled slowly through the dark, moonless night toward this American Division fire base perimeter wire.

It had taken the fortified platoon of NVA sappers almost three hours to make its way to the outermost barrier of the LZ, 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky, but their patience would soon pay off.

Now they were within the wire. Behind them more than a dozen trip flares and signal devices had been tied to prevent revealing their presence. Wire cutters snipped at the remaining strands of concertina and they were through!

Splitting into teams of twos, the half-naked figures slipped through the night toward their assigned targets. All around them, the base was quiet.

Suddenly there was a shout and the flash-CRACK! of an M16 from one of the bunkers. A volley of shots rang out. They had been spotted!

From a distant point, the low CRUMP! of a mortar tube sounded, a light popped in the sky and the entire end of the base was bathed in the yellow, oscillating glow of a descending parachute flare. Another and another of the flares burst in the sky until

the entire base shone almost as bright as day.

Rifle and machine gun fire exploded in a staccato clatter as riflemen of the 196th Inf. Bde. found their targets in the bright, yellow light and took a heavy toll among the startled sappers.

In the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., mortar area, men of Co. E had just finished firing a pattern of defensive concentrations around the perimeter from one of the big 4.2 mortars and returned to their bunkers when the rattle of AK47 fire inside the base brought them racing back to their gun positions.

"We aimed the tube right above the top of the hill, cut the charge to 25 and set the fuse for a two-second delay," said acting gunner Spec. 4 William R. Christian. "As soon as we fired, the flares were popping over the battalion Tactical Operations Center. That's where all the action was."

As they fired the first flare, two RPG's zipped over the mortarmen's heads and impacted harmlessly against the hillside behind them, but the crew kept up its barrage of illumination with rhythmic regularity.

"We tried to keep at least a half-dozen flares burning all the time over the part of the base with the worst contact," said Christian. "Each flare is good for about three minutes, but we never time them any-

more. It gets to be a second sense when to fire another to keep up the steadiest 'lum' possible."

Between the first contact at 1:30 a.m. and dawn, the mortarmen blasted 692 flares into the air over the besieged base, interspersed with more than 200 rounds of high explosive rounds fired into possible enemy staging areas beyond the perimeter.

"Before the flare ship arrived on station at 4 a.m., we had two and one-half hours of illumination without a second of darkness," said Capt. Donald E. Bradley, Co. E commander.

Sporadic exchanges of M16 and AK47 fire and broken radio reports through the night told of the deadly struggle in progress around the fire base bunkers. With the first light of dawn, the base defenders began mopping-up the few remaining infiltrators.

In the battle under the flickering flare light, 43 NVA sappers were killed and another three detained. American casualties and damages were light. Thanks to the quick reaction of the defenders and the mortar illumination which left the sappers nakedly exposed within the perimeter wire, most of the NVA failed to reach their objectives before being cut down in a wicked crossfire of individual small arms engagements.



WELL-KNOWN DISC JOCKETTE Chris Noel is on another of her numerous visits to Vietnam to entertain and talk with "the boys in uniform." Although the troops enjoy Chris' shows, they always seem more delighted to just sit and chat with a pretty girl from back home.