

Helicopter team sniffs infiltrators

KATUM—Five NVA infiltrators were killed when they were sniffed out by the people sniffer team from the 334th Assault Helicopter Co., 145th Combat Avn. Bn., 1st Aviation Brigade, operating near the Cambodian border north of here.

The five NVA soldiers were attempting to cross an opening that had brought them into the Republic of Vietnam, when they were spotted by a people sniffer team composed of a UH-1H and two Cobra helicopters. Capt. Ed Nielson first sighted the activity and radioed the rest of the team into action. Within seconds the team was making its approach for the kill. As Nielson put it, "We rolled in and opened up with our miniguns and 40mm grenade fire."

The ground was shaking and stirred with activity as the projectiles and grenades searched their targets. The enemy soldiers attempted to scramble back into the woods and brush but were immediately raked with more minigun and grenade fire.

On the second pass all activity on the ground had ceased and as the smoke cleared it was obvious that the people sniffer team had scored another success.

Two NVA officers and three regulars were killed in the action. All five of the enemy carried weapons and rocket-propelled grenade rounds. It was reported that one of the RPG rounds was exploded by minigun fire. No other weapons were observed.

Nielson said, of the action "These missions are pretty routine and with the most advanced type of military hardware for us to use, we are able to make NVA infiltration a costly maneuver to the enemy."



PREPARING TO UNSLING a tractor Eng. Bn. The equipment was used in the from the CH54 Flying Crane are soldiers A Shau Valley, where the engineers built from the 101st Airborne Division's 36th an airstrip.

Alert medic prevents cholera and plague epidemic

PIET TOT HAN RING — What might have been serious bubonic plague and cholera epidemics in this village were checked recently when the 4th Infantry Division Civil Affairs team of the 1st Bn., 14th Inf., discovered one case of each disease here.

Both cases were found by Spec. 4 Jack Litzmann as he was making routine house calls in the village. The medic, who worked for a year with a missionary team in South America, explained that he was being especially watchful for plague cases. "I know from my experience with

the Indians of the Amazon Basin that such diseases as plague and cholera are especially likely during the rainy season.

"During the monsoon, the Montagnards stack firewood under their homes," continued Litzmann, "and this makes ideal breeding conditions for rats. The rats carry fleas and the fleas carry plague."

Litzmann discovered the plague case first. "It was fortunate that we found the woman with plague when we did," he said. "One more day would probably have been fatal."

Immediately after the plague case

was discovered Sgt. Orlan Hall, the Civic Affairs team leader, notified Phu Nhon district authorities, who dispatched a medical team to quarantine and inoculate the villagers.

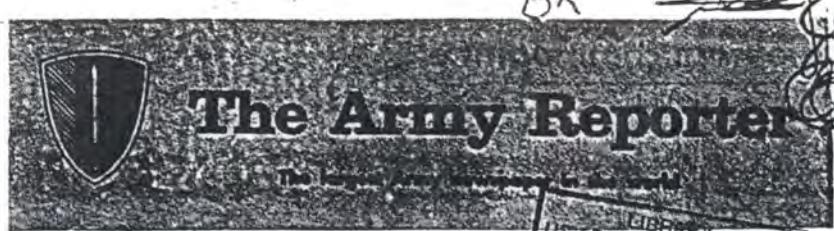
While the Vietnamese shot team vaccinated villagers against bubonic plague, Litzmann double checked all the dwellings in the village, searching for any sick he might have missed.

It was then that he discovered a young woman suffering from cholera. Litzmann immediately took action to lower the woman's extremely high fever. Later an ambulance arrived and both of the ill

were evacuated to the Phu Nhon District aid station.

Many of the villagers were not present when the Vietnamese medical team visited and thus, did not receive an inoculation. The Vietnamese medics agreed to leave the remaining plague and cholera vaccine with the American Civic Action team.

The next day a Psyops team arrived to explain the importance of the shots to the villagers. Litzmann then continued the inoculation program. Within a few days the people were safe from the deadly plague and cholera bacteria.



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NVA battered twice

America kills 148 enemy

FB WEST—Two companies of America Division infantrymen killed 148 NVA regulars in two battles which raged simultaneously through the afternoon and late into the evening south of here.

The 4th Inf. Battalion's Co. D made initial contact with an estimated company of NVA sol-

diers and killed eight enemy soldiers in a brief fire fight.

Then about a mile southwest of here they found and fought a larger, though as yet undetermined size, NVA unit.

Helicopter gunships and Air Force fighter bombers supported the infantrymen in a series of clashes which continued to erupt after dark under the glare of illumination provided by artillery and Air Force flare ships.

"I was receiving fire from at least an NVA platoon when air strikes landed on top of the enemy and completely wiped them out," said Capt. John Whittecar, Co. D's commanding officer.

At about the same time Co. D

was in contact with the enemy. Co. B locked up near by with another undetermined-size NVA force believed to be from the same NVA unit.

Again, helicopter gunships and Air Force jets supported the America troopers in numerous fights in the hedgerows and underbrush outside the 196th Bde. headquarters.

Results of the two battles credit soldiers of Co. D with killing 52 of the NVA regulars and Co. B with 91 confirmed kills.

The battalion's reconnaissance platoon working in the area near the FB killed an additional five enemy, bringing the total to 148.

Army-Navy combine against dock blaze

LZ BRONCO — When a flash-fire recently erupted along the Sa Huynh dock sheltering the village fleet 12 miles south of here, Army and Naval support units rushed in to suppress the fire and care for casualties.

Within three minutes, two Naval pusher-boats and two Landing Crafts Medium were manned to capacity by volunteers and were on the scene extinguishing fires aboard numerous sampans moored to the dock.

Reaction time for five America Division medics from the 11th Inf. Bde. who arrived aboard a helicopter with burn medicine from LZ Debbie was seven minutes.

Medics from Co. C, 4th Bn., 21st Inf. and fire trucks from the 19th Engineers arrived shortly thereafter in response to a call for help from Capt. Robert Smith company commander of A Co. A, 4th Bn., 21st Inf.

Coordination between the soldiers and Vietnamese nationals on the river bank and the sailors working the fire pumps aboard the naval boats was superb.

Vietnamese civilians would point out a burning boat which threatened to ignite several others and the soldiers would direct naval craft to extinguish the flames and tow the stricken sampan away from the harbor area.

This three-way basis of understanding saved several boats and prevented possible casualties among the fishermen who were desperate to salvage their livelihood.

Recognizing the loss to the village was severe, Smith requested a civil affairs team from the Duc Pho Detachment, 29th Civil Affairs Co.

"The 15 to 25 boats lost probably represented the cumulative profits of several generations to the present owners," remarked Smith. "We hope civil affairs can help these people get back on their feet after not only their livelihood but their homes aboard the sampans were wiped-out within 30 minutes."



TUGGED FROM ITS muddy bed in the Pineapple Forest area northwest of Tam Ky, this tank from the 1st Squadron, 1st

Cav., Americal Division is pulled out by another squadron tank.

86th Leaves RVN

BIEN HOA — Bien Hoa air base was the scene of departure for 538 members of the 86th Engr. Bn. as they prepared to board the jet transports headed for the United States and home.

The battalion stood formation on the Binh Duc airfield under the blistering Southeast Asian sun for the last time to receive rewards and congratulations from Major General David S. Parker, commanding general of Engineer Troops, Vietnam.

Assembled in a battalion formation, 31 soldiers received honors including the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation medal. During their stay in Vietnam battalion soldiers have been awarded almost 1,000 awards, including 96 purple hearts.

In presenting the awards, General Parker praised the battalion, saying the work it performed on highway QL-4 in Long An Province was of major consequence to the United States' effort in Vietnam.

Following the presentation of awards, General Parker concluded the ceremony with a brief statement of appreciation for the efforts of the battalion and its individuals.

"As engineer soldiers, we build rather than destroy," he said, "and you have left behind a legacy to the people of Vietnam."

Following the ceremony, the battalion made final preparations for the next day's trip to Bien Hoa Air Base and their flight home.

Patience was the word as the men awaited their boarding instructions and waited in line to board the aircraft. There was no jostling and joking while they waited in orderly silence. It was as if they hadn't come to the realization that they were actually going home. As they boarded the planes, the band played the appropriate tune, Up Up and Away.

The battalion arrived in Vietnam in October, 1966 from Ft. Dix, N.J. Since its arrival the battalion has been responsible for several projects, including the Tan An Pier protection, several land clearing operations, the Binh Duc airfield, the Can Gioi Fire Base, Peoples Road and the construction of Dong Tam.

Joint operation benefits American, CIDG soldiers

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — A recent nine-day patrol by Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) troops and 4th Infantry Division soldiers accomplished more than its primary objective.

The mission, conducted through a suspected enemy infiltrated area nine miles northwest of Kontum City, permitted a bilateral exchange of knowledge, experience and respect among these men. To the Americans who participated, there was a better understanding of the CIDG's competence in the field.

Working out of Landing Zone Bass, the combined patrol made up of elements from the CIDG force and from Co. B, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf., proceeded south along the west bank of the Dak Kotol River toward

a rugged mountainous area. The mission was to locate a reported enemy base camp and search for any enemy movement.

"Besides the main objective of the plan, we accomplished a lot more than I think was originally planned," said Lt. Gilbert Tijerina. "The thing that impressed me most was the professionalism of our counterparts, the CIDG forces. In every aspect of the mission, they proved their competence, and in many instances taught my men and myself better means of operating successfully in this area."

Operating in a valley which symmetrically cuts between the large mountain ranges, the patrol cautiously moved across the area. "Sections of the moun-

tain were reported to be inhabited by the enemy," Tijerina said. "So we were aware that the valley was the main access to the mountains and we were likely to encounter Charlie at any point."

Yet during the entire operation the patrol did not come face to face with the enemy. "It was rather amazing that we never saw any of them," said Platoon Sgt. Ernest Arnold. "I can't say exactly what kept them away, but I'm sure they knew we were in the area."

Enemy occupation of the area was confirmed by a number of discoveries made by the patrol. Again the CIDG troops proved their skills to the Americans. "We uncovered many recently used trails along our route," Tijerina said. "Aware that we were the first friendly forces to

travel through this area in some time, it wasn't very difficult to figure out who had been using the trails."

They also recovered an encampment of 27 bunkers and a large number of fighting positions. "Most of them were quite old and well-concealed, but hadn't been used for months. The CIDG spotted many smaller things, such as trail marks."

The CIDG's ability to notice often unobserved signs and their awareness of what to look for also impressed the Regulars. "I kept thinking that they were the ones who had recently used the trails," said Spec. 4 Dennis Clary, the platoon radio operator. "They seemed to know where everything was and spotted even the most obscured details which were helpful."

Choppers track NVA road, knock out 3 heavy bridges

CAMP RADCLIFF — Helicopters flying a reconnaissance mission in an area 16 miles north of here followed an enemy supply road that lead to the death of eight NVA soldiers.

The helicopters from A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cav., flying in support of the 1st Bde., 4th Infantry Division, located the

eight foot-wide road that was hidden under thick triple-canopy jungle, and while the light observation helicopters followed the road from treetop to treetop, gunships covered them from a higher altitude.

After scanning the road for eight miles the helicopter team found three bridges, each of

which was made of heavy wooden beams, and stretched more than 100 feet long. Expending their rockets, the gunships knocked out the structures.

Following the road for another four miles, the scouts spotted a group of bicycles parked in a small clearing to the right of the road.

"The bikes were loaded down with supplies and there were nine rucksacks sitting behind them," recalled Warrant Officer James Muse one of the pilots.

"As I started to go in for a better look I saw nine men in NVA uniforms, hotfooting it through a ditch just inside a treeline. I dropped a smoke grenade to mark their position, and the gunships dove in, pouring out rockets first, then mini-gun fire."

Air strikers were called in, the helicopter marked the suspected enemy locations and the Air Force dropped their devastating load. The chopper checked out the area once more, finding the bodies of five more enemy soldiers in a well-concealed bunker 55 yards off the road.

101st shells launch site

LZ SALLY — Using information from analysis of a single rocket crater, artillery from the 2nd Bde., 101st Abn. Div. recently killed 50 VC and NVA soldiers.

The chance to strike the lethal blow at the enemy came when LZ Sally, the brigade's base camp, received two 122mm rockets close to the perimeter. An analysis of the crater, conducted by the S-2 section of the 1st Bn., 321st Arty., resulted in a suspected launching sight for the rockets. After combining this information with intelligence from brigade headquarters, a final target grid was plotted.

Three batteries operating out of separate fire bases were selected to fire a Time On Target (TOT) fire mission.

"TOT means that all of the firing batteries fire their guns so that the rounds all hit the target at the same time," explained Spec. 5 Gerald A. Mester.

At the calculated times, each battery fired, placing a total of 96 high explosive and white phosphorous rounds on target.



AN AMMUNITION BEARER from the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division scurries across the marsh to keep up with his fast-moving machine gunner. Much of the operation took place in the muddy marshland.