

Heroism earns four highest honor

WASHINGTON — Four members of the U.S. Army have been awarded the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

The four, Maj. Patrick H. Brady, Capt. Jack H. Jacobs, Capt. James M. Sprayberry and Sgt. Robert M. Patterson, were presented the awards by President Richard Nixon in a White House ceremony.

Brady, who had previously won the Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, was a member of the 44th Medical Brigade when he evacuated 51 seriously wounded men from enemy held territory. Brady was piloting an ambulance helicopter near Chu Lai when he volunteered to rescue the men who were in a fog-shrouded, enemy-held area. He

made three evacuations in his chopper before it was damaged by enemy fire.

Acting as a second helicopter, he made several more runs before a mine detonated near that aircraft, disabling it. With a third ship he evacuated the remaining wounded.

Patterson, serving as a fire team leader of a platoon of the 17th Cavalry, 82nd Airborne Division, moved forward under a hail of enemy fire to destroy several NVA bunkers with grenade and machinegun fire. Ignoring the warning of his comrades, he assaulted and destroyed the position.

The sergeant singlehandedly destroyed with rifle and grenade fire five enemy bunkers, killed eight enemy soldiers and captured seven weapons.

Jacobs was on an operation in Kien

Phong Province when his unit, part of the 9th Infantry Division, came under heavy machine gun and mortar fire from a VC battalion. The unit formed into an attack formation, but was halted by intense enemy fire. Due to the intensity of the fire and heavy casualties sustained by the command group, the attack stopped. Although wounded by mortar fire, Jacobs assumed command of the company, ordered a withdrawal and established a defensive perimeter. Despite profuse bleeding from head wounds which impaired his vision, he returned under intense fire to evacuate a seriously wounded advisor. While making several trips to rescue wounded, he encountered enemy soldiers on three separate occasions, singlehandedly killing three.

While with the 1st Air Cavalry Divi-

sion, Sprayberry organized a rescue party to evacuate his wounded commander and a member of his men.

He led a volunteer night patrol to eliminate the intervening enemy bunkers. Crawling within close range of a bunker from which fire was pinning down his force, he silenced the machine gun with a hand grenade.

When grenades were hurled at him from another enemy position, he charged that position, killing its occupants with a grenade. He crawled forward and neutralized three more bunkers with grenades, then killed an enemy soldier who charged him from a concealed position.

In the seven-and-a-half-hour operation, Sprayberry killed 12 enemy soldiers, eliminated two machine guns and destroyed numerous bunkers.



BARKING ORDERS from the top of his command APC, Capt. Arthur Minnifield of Co. C, 4th Bn., 23rd Inf., 25th Infantry Division, directs action during a skirmish at the base of Nui Ba Den.

String clue exposes enemy

CU CHI — Hammock strings tripped up the enemy recently, bringing the full wrath of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Bn., 14th Inf., down on the NVA soldiers, killing 36.

Co. A combined forces with an element of the 49th ARVN Regiment and came into contact with an NVA unit. The scope of action was near FB Patton.

Evidence of enemy preoccupation in the area was discovered when the unit found strings from hammocks tied to trees. The NVA

unit apparently did not have time to untie the hammocks and just tore them from their moorings.

At this point the infantrymen began to receive a heavy volume of fire, including RPG rounds.

Air strikes and artillery were called in, but enemy fire flared up again as soon as the strikes ended. An encore by the Air Force however, slowed enemy fire to sporadic sniper rounds.

An hour and a half after the

first enemy fire, it was quiet enough to permit a sweep of the area, which found 22 enemy killed by artillery and another 14 killed by air strikes.

The gunships opened up with minigun fire and rockets killing six more of the enemy. WO Kenneth Meyer dove in and killed two others.

That night, a ravine near LZ Hard Times was the area of a

visual reconnaissance by a 2nd Bde. Forward Air Control (FAC) plane. A large number of NVA soldiers were spotted scattered among the treelines.

"We estimated later," said Osborn, "that there was at least a company of NVA soldiers there. We found them among eating tables, where food was set out. The enemy was more or less stretched out on a ledge, as if sun bathing."

The FAC plane marked the area for the gunships as they moved in once again, strafing the retreating enemy force. An aero-rifle platoon assessment sweep through the destroyed camp brought the total enemy killed for the day to 34.

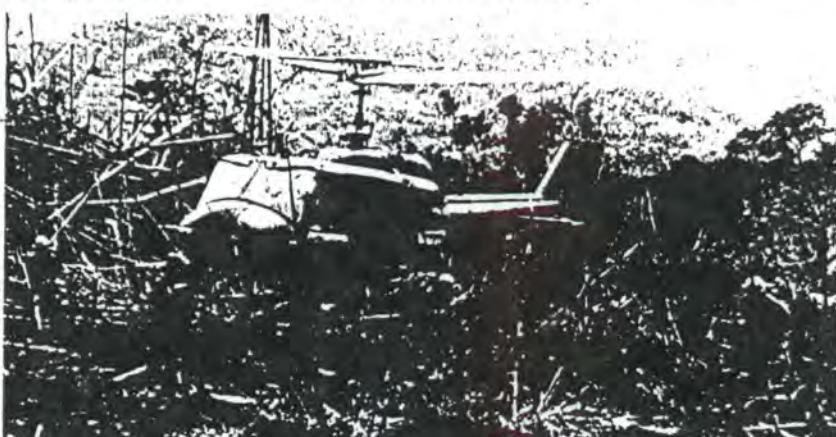
As the cobras moved through the air toward home, they were notified that LZ Hard Times was receiving enemy rocket fire. The gunships spotted the position and quickly destroyed it, adding four more enemy killed to their list.

Firefight rips VC

TRANG BANG — The area northwest of Cu Chi known as the Citadel buzzed to the tune of miniguns, crackled with small arms fire and rumbled with armored personnel carriers as infantrymen, mechanized units and helicopters combined fire power to crush an already scattered enemy force, killing 33.

The action, which began with several sightings by gunships of the 25th Infantry Division's 116th Assault Helicopter Co. and a light scout team, was centered approximately two miles southeast of here. Immediately after the first engagements, elements of the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf., were airlifted into three of the hotspots.

A total of 33 enemy soldiers fell during the action. Besides the 33 soldiers killed, 12 AK47 rifles were captured as well as two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, one camouflaged sampan and other equipment.



HOVERING OVER the hot LZ a chopper inserts a squad of 4th Infantry Division soldiers who quickly scramble for cover. The instant the men are safely on the

ground the chopper quickly moves out so that gunships can lend their full support to the infantrymen.

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Hunter-killer teams in action

Cobras clobber NVA position

CAMP RADCLIFF — In three separate actions, A Troop, 7th Sqdn., 17th Cav., 4th Infantry Division, killed 34 NVA soldiers three miles southeast of LZ Hard Times.

WO James Chapman, piloting a light observation helicopter in support of 4th Infantry Division operations, spotted several individuals among six enemy structures.

"I called in for cobras," said Chapman, "since we really had the enemy out in the open."

Lt. Don Osborn dove in with his cobra gunship, hitting the enemy location and destroying three of the structures. Passing over the NVA location, Osborn attacked the area, once again catching the fleeing enemy and killing two.

"Another cobra," he said, "came on station and both of us were able to kill four more."

Forty minutes later, they turned towards another valley, not far from the previous contact area, where again the enemy was sighted in sparse overgrowth.

"We found a few NVA regulars along a trail. You could tell that they were NVA soldiers by their khakis, pith helmets, packs and AK47s."

The gunships opened up with minigun fire and rockets killing six more of the enemy. WO Kenneth Meyer dove in and killed two others.

That night, a ravine near LZ Hard Times was the area of a

Vietnam communiqué

Tankers repulse NVA hilltop charge

Tankers from Co. B, 1st Bn., 77th Armor, 1st Bde., 5th Infantry Division killed 22 members of an estimated NVA company which tried to storm their hilltop position, 15 miles northwest of Quang Tri on Oct. 2.

The enemy force launched a coordinated rocket, small arms and RPG attack on the night encampment about 2 a.m.

The main body of the enemy company attacked from the north with small thrusts hitting both the eastern and western sides of the company position.

Two infantrymen at a listening post outside the perimeter detected the NVA soldiers and all guns on the perimeter fired on the oncoming enemy, turning them back into the valley below. The enemy soldiers were later identified as members of the 27th NVA Regiment.

A "first-light" sweep of the hill revealed the bodies of 22 enemy soldiers. Also discovered were seven RPG launchers with 30 accompanying rounds, four AK47 rifles and 60 Chicom grenades.

25th Inf Div

Infantrymen of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf., 25th Infantry Division killed 44 members of an estimated NVA reinforced company during a series of all-day battles Oct. 3-14 miles northwest of Cu Chi.

The same day infantrymen of Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav., 25th Infantry Division, killed nine NVA in a battle 11 miles northwest of Cu Chi on Oct. 3.

In other actions, men from Co. D, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf., killed 15 soldiers in a two-hour fight.

On Sept. 29, a platoon from Co. C, 4th Bn., 9th Inf., engaged an equal-size enemy force 11 miles southwest of Tay Ninh. Following a 10-minute exchange of small arms fire, six NVA regulars were killed and the remainder of the enemy retreated.

The next day, infantrymen from the 2nd Bn., 22nd Inf., killed three NVA regulars they spotted walking down a trail toward their position six miles north of Trang Bang.

Six VC were killed on Oct. 4 by gunships from the 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav., one mile north of the 25th Infantry Division's base camp at Cu Chi.

The same day, four enemy soldiers were killed by Tropic Lightning gunners less than two miles from the Vietnamese-Cambodian border.

A day later, four to five NVA soldiers were spotted prowling about FB Crook, eight miles northwest of Tan An. Artillery of the 25th Infantry Division killed two and scared the others off.

1st Avn Bde

On Oct. 3, a pair of 17th Combat Aviation Group Cobra gunship crews broke the back of a VC ambush of an ARVN mechanized column on Highway 14, 15 miles north of Pleiku.

Three enemy were killed in the encounter and an estimated VC platoon was driven off by the gunships.

1st Cav Div

On Oct. 4, the men of the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry, scoured the jungles 25 miles north of Quan Loi and came upon an estimated NVA company in hastily-built fighting positions.

Troopers of a 1st Cavalry Division aero-rifle platoon were air-assaulted into the area and 24 NVA soldiers were killed.

A flight of 1st Squadron gunships was called in to reinforce the riflemen and Air Force jets made two sorties over the area.

On Oct. 1, seven enemy riflemen were killed by soldiers of Co. B, 1st Bn., 12th Cav., 12 miles northeast of Nui Ba Den.

A day later, three NVA soldiers were killed by men of Co. D, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav., 20 miles northeast of Tay Ninh.

On Oct. 5, troopers of Co. C, 1st Bn., 5th Cav., fought and killed three enemy soldiers in a night ambush position north of Tay Ninh City.

Earlier in the week, a 1st Cavalry Division aero-rifle platoon killed three enemy soldiers 12 miles southwest of Katum.

1st Inf Div

On Oct. 4, a patrol of 1st Infantry Division APCs and Vietnamese Regional Force soldiers reconning four miles north of Phu Cuong found what was thought to be an abandoned enemy base camp site.

Entering the camp, infantrymen of A Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cav., began receiving a heavy volume of small arms and RPG fire from an estimated squad of VC soldiers in a tunnel-complex on the far side. They returned the fire, killing six and detaining nine VC suspects.

In other action, Big Red One soldiers killed 11 enemy in sporadic fire fights throughout their zone of operation Oct. 1.

In the largest action of the day, gun jeep-mounted members of HQ Co., 1st Bn., 18th Inf., killed four enemy soldiers they observed moving through scrub brush nine miles east of Ben Cat.

Earlier in the week, a former VC led members of Co. A, 1st Bn., 18th Inf., to a large enemy cache which included 24 Chicom light machine guns, two complete 82mm mortar tubes with base plates and sights, and 28 boxes of AK47 rounds.

On Oct. 2, men from Co. C, 1st Bn., 18th Inf., discovered a hastily abandoned enemy bunker complex nine miles east of Lai Khe.

Two days later, an element of the 1st Bn., 18th Inf., killed a lone enemy soldier guarding a munitions cache four miles south of Ben Cat. The cache contained

one 60mm mortar round, two Chicom light machine guns, one RPG launcher and two AK47 rifles.

3rd Bde, 9th Inf

Supported by gunships of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cav., and gunships of the 190th Assault Helicopter Co., infantrymen of the 5th Bn., 60th Inf., engaged small pockets of VC soldiers Oct. 4, killing 10 in four small encounters.

Earlier in the week, men of Co. C, 5th Bn., 60th Inf., supported by helicopter gunships, killed five VC in the swampy regions 10 miles south of Saigon.

On Oct. 5, infantrymen of the 2nd Bn., 47th Inf., killed four VC 23 miles southwest of Saigon in two separate battles.

A day earlier, one enemy soldier was killed as men from the 5th Bn., 60th Inf., fired from U.S. Navy patrol boats 15 miles southwest of Saigon.

On Oct. 1, soldiers of the 6th Bn., 31st Inf., killed three VC in an area three miles southwest of Saigon.

The same day, one VC was killed by the men of the 2nd Bn., 47th Inf., 22 miles southwest of Saigon.

The next day, men of the 2nd Bn., 47th Inf., walked unopposed into a company-sized enemy base camp hidden deep in the Mekong Delta, 28 miles southwest of Saigon.

The complex contained canned rice, food stuffs, fish traps and cooking utensils.

199th Inf Bde

A platoon from Co. C, 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf., 199th Light Infantry Brigade,



ALERT AND READY, a driver with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment starts his Sheridan Assault Vehicle and prepares to move out on an operation in the bamboo and double-canopy jungles of the Quan Loi area.

Sept 29-Oct 5

spotted and engaged four VC soldiers hidden in a heavily timbered area six miles east of Xuan Loc on Oct. 4.

In the short fire fight that followed, all four enemy soldiers were killed and their three AK47 rifles and an RPG launcher were captured.

The same day, other members of Co. C, patrolling 20 miles southeast of Xuan Loc engaged and killed two enemy soldiers.

On Oct. 5, men of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 40th Inf., were patrolling a marsh 35 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, when they saw an occupied enemy bunker. Air strikes were called in and four NVA were killed.

Earlier in the week, while on a reconnaissance mission in the same area, infantrymen of Co. D, 4th Bn., 12th Inf., locked up with an undetermined number of VC soldiers, killing three in a 15-minute fire fight.

American Div

In a 55-minute long contact on Sept. 30, infantrymen of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf., were engaged by an estimated NVA company 25 miles northwest of Pleiku City. Reinforced by artillery, gunships and a company of troops from the Mobile Strike Force, 25 enemy were killed.

American Division infantrymen killed 13 VC and NVA soldiers in six unconnected actions Oct. 3. In the largest action of the day, ground troops of Co. D, 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., fought and killed five NVA two miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Elsewhere, men of Co. D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., killed two members of a four-man enemy force they saw moving through the dense jungle 18 miles west of Tam Ky.

In sporadic contacts around Tam Ky on Oct. 1, American Division soldiers killed 10 enemy soldiers. Infantrymen from Co. E, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., killed six VC soldiers while on a reconnaissance-in-force operation, in the largest action of the day.

On Oct. 4, infantrymen of Co. D, 1st Bn., 46th Inf., killed two NVA soldiers in the jungles five miles west of Tam Ky.

Later in the week, infantrymen from the same unit killed two enemy 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

On Oct. 5, soldiers of Co. G, 75th Inf., surprised five NVA along a jungle trail nine miles southwest of Duc Pho, killing three.

3rd Bde, 82nd Abn

On Oct. 5, soldiers of Co. D, 1st Bn., 505th Airborne Inf., on a sweep of an area six miles northwest of Phu Cuong, found the bodies of 14 enemy killed by air strikes.

The 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Division, soldiers walked unopposed into an eight-bunker complex with two tunnels which had been almost completely destroyed by the aerial bombardment.

4th Inf Div

A light fire team from D Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Armored Cav., working under the operational control of the 4th Infantry Division, killed 26 enemy soldiers Oct. 1, 19 miles northwest of Phan Thiet.

On Oct. 2, infantrymen of Co. A, 3rd Bn., 12th Inf., descended on a VC village hidden in the jungles 10 miles east of An Khe and detained six VC suspects.

The next day, members of Co. C, 1st Bn., 35th Inf., skirmished briefly with an estimated eight-man enemy force 14 miles south of Camp Enari. One NVA was killed and the others put to rout.

101st Abn Div

An NVA soldier was killed on Sept. 30 by 101st Airborne Division soldiers on a jungle trail three miles northwest of Huie.

Later in the week, a platoon from the 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf., found a food and clothing cache eight miles south of Huie.

Included in the cache were 55 pounds of rice, 60 pounds of fish, five shirts, two pairs of trousers, two AK47 rifles and 200 rounds of ammunition.

On Oct. 5, troops of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 327th Inf., killed three VC in a battle 30 miles southeast of Huie.



SEARCHING FOR the enemy, a ranger moves away from an Air Cushioned Vehicle while on an operation 25 miles west of Saigon. The craft is ready to respond

should the soldier from Co. E, 75th Inf., 3rd Bde., 9th Infantry Division, require assistance.

Led by wounded commander

ARVN unit batters NVA

AN LOC — Led by a wounded commander, a 5th ARVN Division company wiped out a well-entrenched enemy force in a three-hour, bunker-to-bunker battle 70 miles north of Saigon.

Thirty-two NVA soldiers were killed in the fight, while only one ARVN soldier was killed and 18 were wounded.

The exclusively ARVN operation — which included ARVN armored cavalry and ARVN air strikes — was carried out "just as well as any operation I've ever seen, anywhere, anytime," according to an American officer who witnessed the battle.

The ARVN company commander, Lt. Phan Huan Vu, was slightly wounded three times in the fight but refused to leave his men for medical aid.

The initial contact began in late morning when the 14th Co., 4th Bn., of the 9th ARVN Regiment, ran into the circular bunker and trenchline positions four miles west of here.

While receiving heavy machine gun, automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire, the infantry company fought its way into the complex. Midway through the fight and inside the bunker ring, the ARVN soldiers received an air drop ammo supply from 1st Air Cavalry Division helicopter.

Fighting close in among the "beautifully dug in" bunkers, the ARVN troops silenced one after another of the two-to-four man positions. Resistance ended three hours after the battle had begun.

"It was well done, very well done indeed," said an American colonel.

LOH crew rescued in rain

XUAN LOC — The weather was a bit on the tricky side when a scout team, comprised of a light observation helicopter and a Cobra, went out to search for the remnants of a VC squad. About 10 miles northeast of here, Lt. Bryan Alloway, piloting the LOH, found a lot more

than he was looking for. Alloway spotted a battalion-sized force of NVA regulars.

His triumph was short-lived, however. Just as the weather got worse and it began to rain, the small helicopter was shot down by ground fire.

As the Cobra teammate pro-

vided protection with rocket and minigun fire, a call went back to C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cav., for assistance. Within two minutes, lift ships bearing the troop's aero-rifles platoon were headed toward the downed craft and its three crewmen.

Despite heavy fire from the advancing enemy, the platoon was inserted almost on top of the downed ship. It directed fire on the NVA soldiers while Capt. Robert Howard and Lt. Jerry Spier attempted to extract the crew.

Visibility was so limited that "instrument only" flying was indicated, but Howard and Spier managed to reach the crew and quickly extract them.

While protecting the downed craft, the cavalrymen accounted for 21 NVA soldiers.

Scattered action claims 17 enemy

TAN AN — Elements of the 2nd Bn., 47th Inf., 9th Infantry Division, combined with helicopter gunships to kill 17 VC in action scattered throughout Long An Province.

The action began late in the morning when gunships from the 20th Assault Helicopter Co. killed five of the enemy while supporting armmobile operations of Co. B, three miles east of here.

Shortly before 3 p.m., Co. B was sweeping near a woodland two miles northwest of Binh Phuoc when the gunships spotted several enemy bunkers.

After killing two more guerrillas, the platoon withdrew to let Btry. B, 2nd Bn., 4th Field Arty., take over.

"They blew the nipa to pieces," said Lt. Andrew Johnson, the platoon leader. "The artillery dropped more than 200 rounds into that woodland."

Only moments before the artillery barrage began, the command-and-control helicopter of battalion commander, Lt. Col. James Rowe, killed two VC running from the nipa.

"On a sweep afterwards, we found four bodies, two killed by artillery and two killed by small arms plus two AK47s, one SKD rifle, some grenades, documents and other supplies," explained Spec. 4 David Lull, a squad leader.

The final contacts of the day came as the reconnaissance platoon killed one enemy before Co. C ambushed two guerrillas at dusk two miles southeast of Tan An.

LZ HARD TIMES — Cobra gunships cut short an enemy attack on this landing zone and 10 enemy soldiers met their death.

Cobra team leader from A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cav., Capt. George Snyder, flying in support of the 4th Infantry Division, explained the action.

"It was just starting to get dark and normally we would have already set down for the night, but we had some new equipment that needed testing, so we decided to work a little later than usual. As we flew over a ridgeline about one mile north of LZ Hard Times, we saw what looked like the

backflash of a 122mm rocket; then we saw men at Hard Times returning fire.

"We flew along the top of the ridgeline until we got above the enemy position, then I rolled in first with Lt. Donald Osborn right behind me. We hit them with rockets first, then made more passes using our miniguns. After we were sure that we had knocked out the position, we emplaced our load on possible escape routes and positions in the area, then shut down for night," said Snyder.

A sweep of the area the following day recovered the bodies of 10 enemy soldiers.

Spider hole hold gripping suspense

CU CHI — A platoon leader of the 25th Infantry Division's Bde. nearly slipped into a bottomless pit while attempting to elicit a VC spider hole. But instead of quick sand or boiling water pulling him under, it was an enemy soldier.

Air-assaulted into an area near the southern tip of the Loi Woods, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf., working with Vietnamese scouts, began a systematic search of an area suspected of having VC.

The first contact with the enemy proved to be hair-raising platoon leader Lt. David L. Sacket when he attempted to enter a tunnel he believed to be abandoned.

As he lowered himself feet-first into the tunnel, Sacket grabbed around the ankles by an NVA soldier who was determined to pull the startled officer into his underground lair.

Quick reaction by three platoon members started a tug-of-war with a "human rope" that resulted in the rescue of their shaken leader.

Grenades destroyed the tunnel and killed the enemy soldier. Sacket commented on the incident, "I learned today that no man how safe a hole looks, it has to be hit with a grenade before checked out."

Interrogation of a detainee by Vietnamese scouts led to another VC hiding place in the immediate area. "It didn't like anything but a big mound of dirt," said Pfc. John Rzowski. "We started digging into it and broke through into underground bunker."

As soon as they realized that they had been discovered, VC emerged armed with hand grenades from a well-concealed trap door. Both were killed by alert security.

Discoveries included an AK47 rifle, several documents and an NVA diary. Two hundred pounds of rice and a sight for an 82mm mortar were also found.



EMERGING FROM a suspected enemy hide-out near T-1 An after finding it empty, a soldier from the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, heads for another nearby hole to check for VC.

Cobras shorten attack on LZ