



CALLING FOR A chopper after a battle 25 miles south of Saigon, a platoon leader kneels in the deep mud of the Mekong Delta. The soldier, with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 60th Inf., 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, had only a few minutes wait before the chopper arrived.

Action nets 30 NVA

Units pierce bunker complex

CU CHI—While sweeping through the Boi Loi Woods 10 miles northwest of here, Companies A and B of the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf., 25th Infantry Division, made contact with an estimated company of well dug-in NVA soldiers.

With the aid of artillery, air strikes and gunships, the soldiers were able to penetrate the well-fortified enemy position, killing 30.

Helilifted to a northern LZ in the area, the two companies of infantrymen began an on-line sweep to the south.

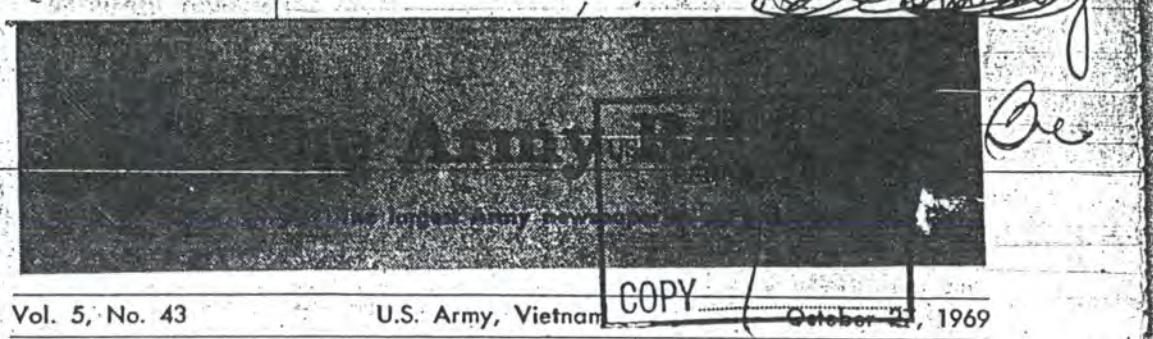
Reports indicated that a large NVA force was in the area. As Co. A came into a clearing, two RPGs sailed directly at the command group including Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Burton

Artillery and then air strikes were called in. The enemy positions appeared to be well saturated so both companies went into an assault.

According to Pfc. Fulton Cunningham, "The fire from the enemy was as heavy as before the air strikes."

Both companies drew back and artillery, four light fire teams and several Air Force fighter-bombers fired on the entrenched NVA soldiers. In the words of Walrath, "We knew we were going back in."

When the support fire decreased, Co. B moved around to the right flank with Co. A and gunships providing cover fire. Co. A then organized a third assault on the enemy.



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Enemy soldier plucked up by hook-wielding chopper

CAMP RADCLIFF — Casting his grappling hook as if he were a seasoned fly fisherman, a quick-thinking helicopter crew chief snared a hapless NVA soldier off the ground while mid-flight in a reconnaissance mission.

The snare took place while A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cav., was flying in support of the 4th Infantry Division in a canyon covered with tall elephant grass

and shrubs 20 miles northeast of An Khe.

On the friendly end of the rope was Spec. 4 Mark S. Bremmer, crew chief for the command and control ship piloted by WO Robert Dahl.

Maj. Ronald G. Maxson, A Troop commander, said the ship was on a special reconnaissance mission when they spotted a freshly-used trail leading into a small enemy rest area.

Maxson was the first to see two NVA soldiers on the trail. He directed the helicopter down to tree-top level, at which time one of the two dove into a ditch, and the other into a thick pile of brush.

"We couldn't physically locate the one in the depression," noted Maxson, "but the other was in plain sight — and apparently playing dead, even though a shot hadn't been fired."

"We wanted to take him alive," said Bremmer, "but we couldn't land on the brush, and we couldn't get him to move."

The crew chief said the helicopter maintained a hover about 45 feet above the man.

"While the pilot hovered, I tossed out my grappling hook. It latched onto his back pack, and I started reeling in the line," explained Bremmer.

The man was pulled from the brush and onto the nearby trail. When he was in the clear, it was evident that all he carried was rucksack and a cylindrical rice carrier.

"We set the chopper down just long enough to get the man on the skids, then lifted off again," pointed out Bremmer. "Once airborne he was pretty cooperative when he realized that the pile of brush was getting smaller each second as the ship moved upwards."

"My crew chief got the man on the deck and plopped him in his lap for safekeeping until we reached the rear, where he was turned over to the proper authorities," prided Maxon.

Artillery routs hilltop

QUANG TRI—Red Devils from the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (mechanized), combined with air and artillery support to kill 24 NVA soldiers in action three miles south of the DMZ.