

**Americal Division**—The three-day battle between the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Regiment, 2nd North Vietnamese Army Division accounted for 117 enemy and seven Americans killed. The contact began with sniper fire on a company from the brigade and ended with three companies assaulting enemy positions. In other Americal action, the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division has had sporadic contacts in Opera-

tion Wheeler/Wallowa. Gunships from the brigade accounted for 16 enemy deaths during a day's action near Que Son.

**25th Infantry Division**—Multi-brigade-size Operation Atlanta in the Iron Triangle has met with stiff enemy resistance, but the infantrymen are continuing to push the Viet Cong out of their strongholds. One base camp revealed bunkers containing over 88,000 pounds of rice which was evacuated to the

division base camp. The 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry also found a 1950 Ford sedan, without wheels, during one of their sweeps.

**4th Infantry Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade**—Operations in the Dak To area have been concerned with the taking of enemy-held hills and blocking the withdrawal of the NVA forces to the Cambodian border. Paratroopers, with the aid of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry from the 4th, have taken Hill 875. Earlier the men had taken Hill 830, three miles east of 875. Lieutenant General William B. Rosson, commanding general of I Field Force, stated the Dak To battle was the "greatest single battle yet fought in the Central Highlands." He added that the allied forces have splintered four NVA regiments.

**1st Cavalry Division**—The enemy body count in Operation Pershing has gone over the 4200 mark. Fighting has been scattered but heavy in the 1300 square-mile operational area. Elements of the Cav., working with National Police Field Forces, spent one day searching 340 houses, screening 396 people, and detaining 13 during cordon and search operations.

**9th Infantry Division**—Infantrymen of the 2nd Brigade continue Operation Kien Giang in northern Cam Son Secret Zone. Mobile riverine forces from the 3rd and 4th Battalions, 47th Infantry initially assaulted the beach from Navy armored troop carriers of Naval Task Force 117. Later, the men boarded helicopters for airmobile assaults into the zone.

**11th Armored Cavalry Regiment**—Blackhorse troopers continue searching a former Viet Cong sanctuary in the May Tao Mountains as part of Operation Santa Fe. The cavalrymen have been securing areas for engineers to clear the vegetation with Rome plows. The area is 50 miles east of Saigon. Destroyed have been 615 bunkers and 144 fortifications.

Republic of Vietnam, have set up 15 permanent medical clinics which operate daily throughout the province.

One of the dispensaries which contributed to the record-breaking 35,000 Vietnamese people being treated in the brigade for the month of October was the dispensary here.

The dispensary, which treats an average of 150 patients a day, covers three areas of operations. It supports and maintains dispensaries at the Chlier Hoi Center and the Thu Duc Orphanage.

Fifty percent of the patients are new each day, while the remainder are those with recurring illnesses requiring daily or periodic treatment.

The normal work day at the Cat Lai Dispensary is from eight to five, but there is seldom a normal day. The staff consists of one U.S. medic, one Vietnamese medic, and four Vietnamese registered nurses.

## Crane Lifts Wet Chinook

**VUNG TAU, (1st AVN-10)**—Ingenuity by members of the 1st Aviation Brigade's 222nd Aviation Battalion resulted in the recovery of a Chinook helicopter after it had settled into five feet of muddy water.

A Chinook from the 147th Assault Support Helicopter Company lost its front rotor power while placing beams of a new bridge being built some 20 miles southwest of Can Tho.

Acting quickly, Maj. Bobby Machen of the 171st Transportation Detachment, rigged, with the aid of a scuba diver, the Chinook for lift by a Flying Crane.

Realizing that an enormous amount of lift would be needed to overcome the weight of the flooded Chinook, Machen had another Chinook hover next to the pick-up site and direct its 100-mile-per-hour rotor wash into the Flying Crane, adding to the Crane's lifting force.

most prevalent are skin diseases, lacerations, dental, and abrasions. Disease is caused mainly by a poor sanitation.

Most patients are ARVN dependents from the Cat Lai area, but people come from the five surrounding hamlets, and as far away as Saigon.

## Pilot In Hot LZ 5 Times

**CU CHI, (25th Inf-10)**—Knowing the landing zone was under enemy fire, 1stLt. Larry Plunkett, 120th Aviation Company, still began a helicopter flight taking him and his crew from a routine mission to one of extracting wounded men and carrying in badly needed ammunition.

Plunkett was approaching the forward base camp of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry deep in the Ho Bo Woods, 35 miles northwest of Saigon, to pick up an American television crew.

The battalion had made contact with a Viet Cong force a few miles away and had several casualties, and the radio message Plunkett had intercepted was the call for dustoff choppers.

The helicopter dropped into the landing zone, which was still under small arms fire, picked up three seriously wounded men, and flew them to the 25th Infantry Division's base camp here.

He then flew to the chopper resupply point and picked up a load of ammunition and headed back to the landing zone.

Three more times Plunkett and his crew made the trip—taking out wounded and bringing in ammunition.

A few hours later, the VC withdrew and Plunkett returned to the forward base camp to pick up his scheduled passengers.



Dec 11, 1967

sance Platoon made contact with an estimated company of the 271st VC Regiment killing 14 enemy.

The ammunition cache, which was uncovered during the sweep, consisted of both large and small arms ammunition. Included in the find were 300 rounds of ammunition, 25 rocket rounds, 20 boosters for the rocket, 150 pounds of explosives, 200 feet of detonating cord, five grenades, and one mortar, sight.

away during the

## Dak To Battle Explained

DAK TO, (MACV-10)

—The Dak To area is a cross-roads complex in the Central Highlands province of Kontum. It is regularly

garrisoned by Army of the

Republic of Vietnam units and elements of the U.S. Special Forces-trained Civilian Irregular Defense

Group.

The Battle of Dak To began when it became apparent from intelligence reports that the North Viet-

namese Army units in the area were preparing battle-field positions from which to attack the garrison.

The 4th Infantry Division immediately deployed troops into the area. Additionally, the 173rd Airborne Brigade was sent into the area to reinforce the 4th Division units.

As the battlefield was developed, U.S. and ARVN troops, supported by Air Force aircraft and Army helicopter gunships, made and maintained contact with the enemy.

Breaking the enemy's thrust, the U.S. forces then pursued his withdrawal.

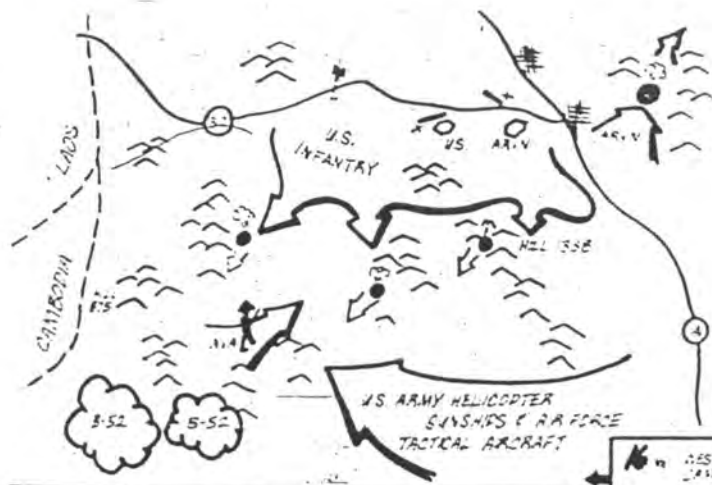
In addition to the pressure from the ground troops and air power, B-52 bombers struck repeatedly at the enemy support bases and along his escape routes to the west.

U.S. and ARVN forces in blocking positions in the northwest and northeast repulsed enemy units attempting to enter the battle area to relieve the pressure on the NVA elements in contact.

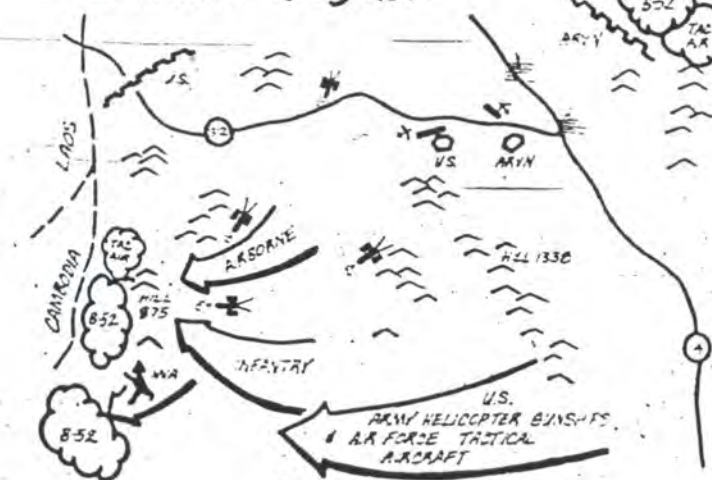
The last major engagement was Hill 875. There the NVA chose to stand and fight for four days. During the four-day period 1641 NVA troops were killed—433 by the ARVN troops and 1208 by U.S. forces.

The weapons captured included 275 individual weapons, and 94 crew served weapons.

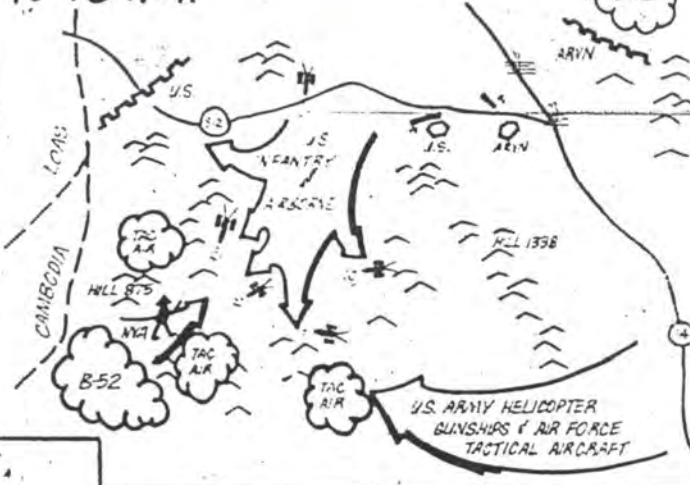
### CONTACT 1-14 NOV.



### U.S. ATTACK AND NVA WITHDRAWAL 19-23 NOV.



### DEVELOPMENT OF BATTLEFIELD 15-18 NOV.



## THE BATTLE OF DAK TO

DURING THE PERIOD 1-26 NOVEMBER

1641 NVA KILLED

433 BY ARVN & 1208 BY U.S.

379 WEAPONS TAKEN

105 BY ARVN & 264 BY U.S.

#### ORDER OF BATTLE...

ARVN: 2ND & 3RD AIRBORNE BATTALIONS  
42ND INFANTRY REGIMENT  
U.S.: 1ST BRIGADE, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE  
NVA: 24TH, 32ND, 66TH & 174TH  
NVA REGIMENTS

#### U.S. & ARVN FIRE SUPPORT

1,829 USAF TACTICAL AIR SORTIES  
1,101 U.S. ARMY ARMED  
HELICOPTER SORTIES  
32 USAF B-52 STRIKES  
137,991 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY

CONTACTS & AREAS OF BLOCKING FORCES

ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORT BASES



**AROUND THE OOZE**—Through a muddy field, this armored personnel carrier of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, avoids a sticky situation by staying out of the inroads made by the preceding APC. (Photo by Sp4 James Friar, 25th INF-10)

## Bonus Sale

The Vietnam Regional Exchange has announced the second sale of the Fall season, to take place throughout its 300 retail outlets.

The Christmas Bonus Sale will offer merchandise such as electronic equipment, jewelry, cameras, and watches reduced in price.

As each outlet completes preparation for its sale, the sale will begin with savings in time for Christmas.



Letters

## Troopers Dig Him Out

# Well Conceals VC

**CU CHI, (25th INF-10)**—Leaping from their helicopters and assaulting through brush, the Aero Rifle Platoon killed four Viet Cong and detained two suspects recently.

The quick reaction platoon from the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry dropped into the landing zone after helicopters had sighted movement in the thick hedgerows.

Fanning out, the platoon received small arms fire from the hedgerow. Fire was returned until two Viet Cong came into the open with their hands in the air.

Platoon Sergeant James Price and his elements found the body of a third VC. Two carbines were also seized.

The helicopters of D Troop

# 24-Hour, Danger-Filled Day Just Routine For EOD Team

**CAM RANH BAY, (1st LOG-10)** — "To a lot of people it may seem like dangerous work, but to us it's routine."

Master Sergeant Doyle W. Nichols is a disposal supervisor for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team.

The team is responsible for evacuating and disposing of dangerous explosives here.

Attached to Cam Ranh Bay Support Command's 191st Ordnance Battalion, the EOD team works 24 hours a day answering calls that range from collecting captured explosives returned from combat operations to disarming or exploding bombs that have been dropped but failed to detonate.

"It's a lot like working for a fire department," remarked Nichols, "because you never know exactly what to expect until you get there."

"It may be a very dangerous explosive, or it may be a false alarm, but we have to be prepared for either possibility."

Maintaining control over arms in Vietnam is important

in avoiding accidental injuries. Much of the EOD's workday involves collecting various explosives, arms and munitions that filter back from combat areas.

On occasions, however, the team is called to the field to handle very dangerous explosives.

Recently the team was called into a combat area where a bomb had been dropped during a battle but had failed to detonate. After checking the weapon the team members exploded the bomb on the spot.

In similar cases, the disposal men may decide to disarm the weapon and return it for later use or disposal.

In these instances, one member of the team will actually work on the explosive while an-

other stands nearby as an observer to record the procedures.

This method allows the EOD teams to check their procedures and report to EOD Control in Saigon that a certain procedure works under certain circumstances.

In addition to answering emergency calls and disposing of dangerous explosives, EOD personnel also conduct classes for unit representatives to teach basic weapons disposal procedures.

"We try to have a man in every company," explained Nichols, "who knows the simple facts about explosives disposal. This helps us to eliminate the number of false alarms and to get accurate information in case of a real emergency."

# Marines Rescued By Army Copters

**DA NANG, (1st AVN-10)**—Two Army gunships made a night rescue of four Marines in a flooded lowlands area west of Hoi An recently.

The gunships, from the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company, 212th Combat Support Aviation Battalion, were returning from a twilight river combat mission when they received a request to pick up four stranded Marines whose truck had run off the road into eight feet of water.

By the time the gunships arrived in the area, twilight had faded into darkness and a steady rain was falling. Using their landing lights, the gunships searched the area until they finally saw a Marine waist deep in water.

Captain Danny Pope brought his Huey to a hover for what he thought would be a routine pickup.

The Marine slogged toward the chopper, but plunged into water over his head. The crew chief, Sp4 Jeffrey J. Perez, tried to grab the scrambling Marine, but he began to sink under the water again.

The second gunship tried to

rescue the Marine next, but again the Marine stepped off into deep water and sank. When the Marine came up again he was able to locate some floats and held on until a rope was dropped and he could finally be hauled in.

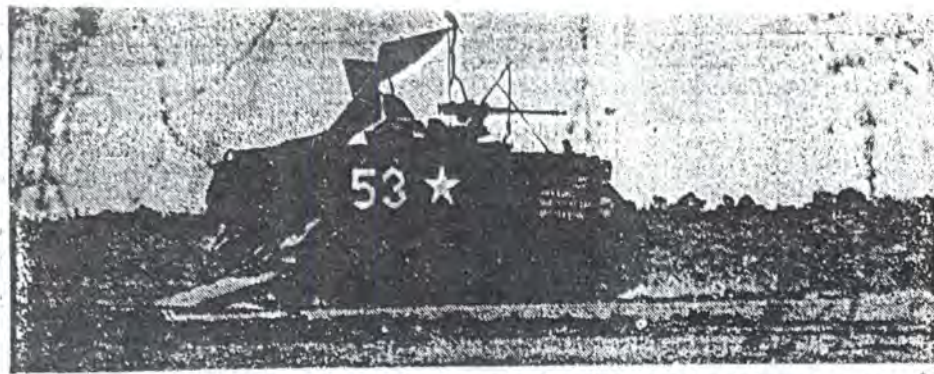
The other three Marines were spotted on a make-shift raft and picked up without complications.

## Ambush Patrol Strikes Sampan

**LONG THANH, (9th INF-10)**—An ambush patrol from the 9th Infantry Division killed eight Viet Cong and detained three suspects recently during an early morning clash on the Dong Noi River 15 miles northwest of here.

Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry identified a sampan loaded with armed VC shortly before dawn, and opened fire from their jungle-ambush site.

Later, a daylight search of the area turned up the eight Viet Cong bodies, and three suspects found in the vicinity were detained.



**DOUBLE PROTECTION**—With concertina wire forming an outer defense, an armored personnel carrier from the 4th Infantry Division guards a helicopter resupply pad near Pleiku. (Photo by CWO Don Joyce, 1st AVN-IO)

## 9th Finds Another Cache

# Air Strike Uncovers Bunker

**LONG THANH, (9th INF-IO)** — A platoon from the 9th Infantry Division's 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry recently discovered a Viet Cong cache containing 16 weapons, including two mortars, in jungles 25 miles east of Saigon.

Troop D's Aero Rifle Platoon also recovered 41 magazines, 71 hand grenades and 500 rounds of ammunition.

The aero rifle platoon, alerted daily to locations throughout the 3d Sqn., 5th Con. area of operations for reconnaissance, search and destroy and security missions, entered the area after an air strike had peppered the jungle with bombs.

Staff Sergeant Conley West Jr. found that one of the bombs had exposed an enemy bunker.

A trail from the bunker led to the weapons.

"The first thing we found was a bucket," he said. "This concealed a 60-mm mortar, so we checked the area further and found more weapons. They all were up on wooden platforms booby trapped with grenades."

Besides the 60mm mortar, they found a French 81mm mortar, eight rifles of various makes, three 9mm French sub-machineguns and three machineguns. Also confiscated were eleven 60mm mortar projectiles, two Bangalore torpedoes, 10 detonators, five machinegun mounts and 400 feet of electrical wire.

Captain Carter D. Brooks, platoon leader since July, said the two different kinds of mor-

tars led him to believe that several units were using the area for storage, but that the total find would "more than support a heavy weapons platoon."

## Ivymen Make Friend Because Of Mistake

**PLEIKU, (4th INF-IO)** — The Regulars made a new friend here recently because of a mistake.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry had been conducting cordon and search operations in the village of Ban Rang, when a bubble chopper landed on the edge of the village square. In addition to the pilot, the chopper had another passenger, a most bewildered Montagnard.

The pilot escorted the confused Montagnard to the military information team which was working in coordination with Co. C on the mission, and spoke to him through the team's interpreter.

The Montagnard had approached the Military Police and had tried to speak with them. The MPs thought that he was trying to tell them about VC activity in the area, so they whisked him into a chopper to be questioned by the military information team.

As it turned out, the Montagnard had received some help from members of an engineer team in building a fence, and wanted to find them and offer his thanks.

The misunderstanding had a happy ending.

The interpreter translated for

(1st CAV-IO) — Fourteen Vietnamese walked the three miles from a dark, dank cave where they had been hiding for 10 months to the perimeter here and asked that the Chieu Hoi passes they clutched in their hands be honored.

The guerrillas said that they had not taken part in combat operations since late 1966, after the 1st Cavalry had moved into the An Lao Valley.

Several of their guerrilla comrades had been wiped out in these operations, they said. Refugees had been moved out of the valley and they thought it best not to fight any more.

Later they saw North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers in the area. They knew it would only be a short while before the 1st Cav. would be back in the area after the NVA, they said. To avoid the Cavalry again, the guerrillas set up a kind of home in the cave near the village of Hung Long.

They stayed there 10 months taking only short trips out of their cave home to gather food from nearby rice fields. One of the retired guerrillas told

Popular Force troop, infected to the VC, became of the VC, and hit up activity he really enjoyed cutting hair.

He seemed to have no outlets for his profession in the cave. All of the m Chanh were freshly t when they showed up Mustang.

The Chieu Hoi pass been dropped near the ca a month ago. They sa they had heard loudspee psals from helicopters them to return to the ment of Vietnam. They Cav's PsyOps officer th were impressed by GVN tives as stated over th speaker, so they got ne cuts, left the cave, and down to Landing Zone M

## Three Nation

(Continued from Pa)

next eight days. Highlighting the oper date was a sizable weap by the ARVN's 3rd B 52nd Regiment at the the Nay Tao Mountain Tuy Province.

Eighteen 60mm mor sub-machineguns, and French rifles were from the underground a

Figures for the 13-da also credited Allied un demolishing 739 bunker ing 115 enemy structu destroying 40 Viet Co nades.

In addition, 102 sma nearly 4000 rounds of arms ammunition, 123 medical supplies, and th of rice were seized f enemy.

## Gunships, Mortars, Inf Break Up Enemy Attack

**BAN BLECH, (4th INF-IO)** — Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry dealt a severe blow to the ranks of an attacking North Vietnamese Army company in a fierce battle 72 miles south of Pleiku.

Under the cover of an intense mortar barrage, the attacking NVA force began its attack on the eastern edge of the fire support base.

"As the attacking force broke out of the woodland," remarked Sp4 Domingo Rivera, "they were right in front of my bunker, so I opened up with my M-60."

The attack on the eastern edge of the firebase was stopped by the fire from the "Regular's" weapons backed by the punch of two twin Dusters.

After the initial mortar attack, the Regular's 81mm mortar section quickly unleashed its own mortar barrage that silenced the enemy mortars for the rest of the action.

As soon as the NVA attack was repulsed on the eastern edge, a second attack began on the western edge of the firebase.

Throughout this attack, gunships from Company B, 4th Aviation Battalion raked the enemy positions with a constant stream of tracers and rockets.

The NVA left behind 25 dead. Several machine guns, rifles, and other weapons were left behind. Grenades and several B40 rockets and launchers were also recovered.

## Ho Bo Woods Cleared . . .

(Continued from Page 1) up some 157,000 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition, 134 individual weapons, 59 tons of rice and eight crew-served weapons. Even a late-model Simca sedan was uncovered, camouflaged in a field.

The 14th Bn., 23rd Inf. also discovered what was described by brigade officers as the Viet Cong propaganda center for the Hlau Nghia-Saigon area.

The center consisted of two

tunnel complexes located in the same general area. From one, the "Tomahawks" brought three 35mm cameras and a movie camera; a photo-enlarger, photographic chemicals, printing paper and film. From the other came two portable printing presses and 800 pounds of type in both English and Vietnamese.

In the last 16 days of the operation, the focus shifted to the Filhol Plantation area. On the north and eastern edges,

meters wide between the woodland and the Saigon River, depriving the enemy of concealment.

Meanwhile the 4th Bn., 9th Inf. and 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. roamed the area, killing ten Viet Cong in their first four days in the Filhol.

"We've successfully denied the Ho Bo to the Viet Cong," summed up Col. Edwin H. Marks, brigade commander. "In doing so, we've deprived him of an important sanctua-



**VROOM, VROOM**—Youngsters from the village of Dong share a new toy given to them by the men 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery. The children receive monthly as part of the battalion's civic action pro (Photo by Sp4 T. H. Decker, 1

# Vietnam Communique

**9th Infantry Division** — The 2nd Brigade Mobile Riverine Force and the 5th Vietnamese Marines killed 235 Viet Cong during a day's action in Operation Coronado IX. The joint forces landed from armored troop carriers 65 miles southwest of Saigon and put a cordon around the Viet Cong's 502nd Local Force Battalion. The Vietnamese Marines accounted for 134 of the VC killed, approximately 90 of those kills came when the Marines overran the enemy position. Eleven soldiers and two Navy personnel were killed. Vietnamese casualties were moderate. In the 3rd Brigade's Operation Sante Fe I, 60 miles east of Saigon, Rome plows of the 86th Engineer Battalion have cleared more than 2000 acres of jungle.

**25th Infantry Division** — Over 215,000 pounds of rice has been captured by Operation Atlanta forces in the Iron Triangle. The latest reported cache was a 27,000 pound find by the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry. Twenty base camps, many of battalion size, have been destroyed by the infantrymen.

**1st Infantry Division** — The 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 33rd Artillery have killed 31 VC trying to take the town of Bu Dop. One night the units received heavy mortar and rocket fire followed by a ground attack. The artillery unit fired into the advancing enemy and caused them to scatter. Three American infantrymen have been killed in the action. Two other division units, the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, also came under heavy enemy mortar attacks.

**Americal Division** — Units of the division have continued to encounter light, scattered contacts throughout the I Corps Tactical Zone. A company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade captured 24 tons of rice while making a search west of Chu Lai. Units of the newly-arrived 198th Light Infantry Brigade

killed 14 VC during a four-hour battle near Qui Son with two APCs bearing the major portion of the three-sided attack by six VC companies on the Binh Son bridge and the district headquarters.

**5th Special Forces Group** — A Civilian Irregular Defense Group unit at Camp Eunard in the III Corps was ambushed by an unknown-size enemy force.

After a 20-minute firefight, the VC broke contact leaving 15 enemy dead. The VC also tried to overrun Trung Dung in the III Corps Tactical Zone. The The Green Beret A Detachment, two Korean companies, and two ARVN Airborne Ranger companies kept in constant contact with the VC resulting in 49 enemy dead and 12 suspects detained.



decided they should help American fighting men. The Help Our Guys Club was formed.

The club's first action was to write to Gen. William C. Westmoreland, military commander in Vietnam, asking for the address of an isolated combat unit.

The general's reply listed the Special Forces team on Nui Ba Den mountain as a good target for these teenagers. The club members then began gathering books, magazines, and anything else they thought the soldiers could use.

Sheerin recalls, "I was really impressed when the package showed up. We spread the stuff out and the guys pored over it. The kids had packed everything from church books to Playboy; there was something for everybody."

"I've been in the service for a long time," Sheerin said, "and never saw anything quite like this. These kids are at the age when they're supposed to be

## VC Receives Inner Tube Love Letter

**CU CHI, (25th INF-10)** — A soldier is a soldier, and no matter what side he is on, mail is a vital part of his day-to-day existence. Only the method of conveyance differs.

A strange, but sincere Viet Cong love letter recently reinforced that point to members of the 25th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry as they swept through the Iron Triangle during Operation Atlanta.

Searching through an abandoned enemy base camp, the 2nd Brigade soldiers came upon an inner tube with writing on its inside.

An interpreter translated the writing as a love letter from a lonely sweetheart.

The infantrymen conjectured the Communist soldier used the love-letter-inner-tube for water wings as he crossed the streams and canals of southern Vietnam.

get laughed at first, because people thought we wouldn't go through with our plans. But we showed them."

## Terminal Even Has Benches

**DAK TO, (4th INF-10)** — The knotty problem of matching men with available helicopter rides from here to Pleiku has been solved by a pair of enterprising 4th Infantry Division Soldiers.

The "Dak To International Airport" passenger terminal, a brainstorm of 1st Lt. Ivan Pierce, 1st Brigade assistant S-officer, and CWO J. R. Walters, the brigade's food advisor, has in two short weeks, almost eliminated the confusion in dispatching men.

"It doesn't look real professional right now," said Pierce gesturing towards the ammunition crate benches. "As we get passengers in daily, we casually detail a few to help build up the terminal. Pretty soon we'll have a nice place."

"This passenger terminal works closely with 'Teeny Weeny Airlines, Inc.' which is actually the 1st Brigade's aviation unit," said Walters.

Presently in early stages of its projected development, the air terminal is outfitted with two parachutes for overheat cover and homemade benches that seat thirty people.

"We are slowly improving though," Pierce said. "We now have a tape recorded message that instructs people to check in, take a seat, and wait for an outgoing aircraft."

Averaging about 40 men a day, the air terminal is handling an ever-increasing load.

"We hope someday to rival the major airports of the world in service," added Walters. "Of course, we're non-profit. We didn't plan it that way, but that's the way it's turned out."