

Troopers Stick To Post, Save Company

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-10)—Two determined paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division refused to leave their position and saved a company from sustaining heavy losses when they were attacked by an estimated 200-man North Vietnamese Army (NVA) force near here recently.

The hazy light of a crescent moon shone down upon the troopers of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry. From dug-in positions on a grassy hill, the Americans strained to see through the dark. Only the

chirpings of tree crickets could be heard from the jungle fringe at the bottom of the hill.

Specialist Four Luis Lopez, an M-60 machinegunner for 2nd Platoon, checked his sector of fire while his buddies slept within the perimeter behind him. Then, the tree crickets stopped chirping.

An alert paratrooper on the perimeter saw two khaki-clad NVA soldiers dash behind a cluster of bushes. He threw a grenade and crouched low in his foxhole. The resulting explosion triggered an attack by the

enemy forces.

Showers of grenades began exploding within the company perimeter. Aroused paratroopers grabbed their weapons and quickly occupied positions within the circular defense.

"Everything happened so quickly," said Lopez. "All four platoons were hit at the same time. First came the grenades, then they opened up with automatic and small arms fire."

The second platoon was farthest down the slope and took the brunt of the attack. "They charged us on line, shouting

threats in perfect English," Lopez said.

As the attack mounted, the platoon was ordered back to tighten up the perimeter.

As the platoon fell back, Lopez stayed with his gun, firing point blank into the human wall of charging North Vietnamese soldiers. Screams filled the night as the rounds, from his machinegun found their mark.

The fire from Lopez's machinegun forced the enemy to take cover behind clusters of boulders spotting the battlefield.

Private First Class Jack Quinlan kept feeding ammunition into the gun as Lopez fired.

"When our ammunition dwindled down to 100 rounds, Lopez sent me back for more," said Quinlan. "Only when his

ammo was gone did he move back to our tightened perimeter."

Shortly before dawn, four hours after the battle started, the enemy broke contact and fled into the jungle.

Eighteen enemy lay dead, numerous blood trails led into the jungle. Twelve rifles, a Russian machinegun, two Russian rocket launchers, and a Russian flame-thrower were captured.

Around the position where he had spent most of the night, Lopez counted five enemy dead within an arms reach.

"If they had come any closer, I would have been forced to start throwing rocks," Lopez said.



EMWIDTB—"Excuse Me While I Do The Boogaloo;" a 9th Infantry Division soldier and his Vietnamese partner dance the boogaloo during a jam session at the Dong Tam base camp. The latest Western dances were performed when the girls visited the Ponderosa Service Club and found a combo and at least this one willing partner.

(Photo by Sgt. James Derrick, 9th INF-10)

III Corps Uses Aerial Artillery

BIEN HOA, (1st AVN-10)—Two pilots from the 334th Armed Helicopter Company, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, have introduced the concept of aerial artillery to the III Corps area.

The aerial artillery principle was used on the Viet Cong by

Soldier Gets

the 1st Cavalry Division in the II Corps area. It has been adapted to local conditions by Capt. George H. Thurmond and Capt. Robert A. Regan.

On a recent mission near Duc Hoa, this team had a chance to demonstrate the effectiveness of this system.

The light fire team of Huey helicopters were covering an Army of Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) search and destroy

mission. One ship had a rapid-fire 40mm grenade launcher while the second gunship was armed with forty-eight 2.75-inch rockets.

In the course of one hour, the two helicopters destroyed 25 heavily fortified VC bunkers.

One bunker was an ammunition storage area, and the aerial rocket attack triggered an explosion that shot flames and debris 40 feet into the air.

80-Ft Bailey Bridge Replaced By 1st Inf

DI AN, (1st INF-10) — 1st Infantry Division engineers recently replaced an 80-foot Bailey bridge along Highway 16, reopening the route from Tan Uyen to Phuoc Vinh. The bridge had been destroyed by a Viet Cong demolitions squad.

Company E, 1st Engineer Battalion was airlifted by Chinook to the bridge site, approximately 26 miles northeast of Saigon. "By flying in, we almost doubled our working time," commented Capt. J. W. Chism.

The VC explosives destroyed four sections of paneling on the bridge, but the structure did not completely collapse due to make-shift supports installed by the Vietnamese defenders.

The bridge was completely rejuvenated in less than two days by a 35-man crew.

In constructing the new bridge, Co. E jacked up the disabled structure and removed the twisted sections. The new panelings were then added section by section, with the bridge being slowly forced out over the river with the addition of each section.

During the first work day at the bridge site, Sp4 Elmer Owens saved the life of a Viet-

namese boy when the youngster fell from a small footbridge into the river.

The 500th Panel Bridge Company supplied the paneling and other parts for construction of the bridge.

USARV 'Turns' Green

LONG BINH, (USAECV-10) — Engineers from Company C, 92nd Engineer Battalion, 159th Engineer Group are presently working on project "Green Thumb" at the U.S. Army, Vietnam, and 1st Logistical Command headquarters here.

"Green Thumb" has the engineers landscaping and seeding the hills leading to the headquarters. Four inches of topsoil is being applied to the laterite sub-base and proper drainage is being completed.

Much improvised or non-engineer equipment such as a farm tractor, a spike harrow and rakes constructed by the unit's Company A, two drags made of weighted cyclone fencing, had rollers of concrete filled drums, and a mechanical

VN Nursery Reconstructed



DUAL ROLE—Team Leader SFC Willie B. Carr, doubling as the radio-telephone operator on a 1st Infantry Division long range reconnaissance patrol, straddles a dike between two rice paddies as he calls in a message. (Photo by Sp4 Phil Stitt, 1st INF-IO)

Recon Copters From 4th Inf Net Rest Area, Rice, Ammo

VUNG DAT AM, (4th INF-IO)—What started out as a typical visual reconnaissance mission south of the base camp here ended up netting the troop a Viet Cong rest and staging area and a cache of enemy rice, cooking utensils and scattered ammunition recently for D Troop 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division.

Two OH-23 light scout helicopters skimmed close to the

ground toward the target area while their big brother, the UH-1D gunships provided cover.

Major Lloyd R. Kendricks, commander, accompanied the quartet in his helicopter, directing the helicopters toward the area, establishing the boundaries for the day's reconnaissance and picking out suspected trails and treelines for detailed observation by the maneuverable, little OH-23's.

After several hours of aerial meandering, checking abandoned grass-covered bunkers, and vainly searching the lush jungle for a big find, Kendricks and his troopers struck it rich.

"I think I saw three persons in light-colored clothes down there," one of the scout pilots reported. "They looked like they were laying on the ground."

"Keep that area covered," Kendricks called to the remaining helicopters as he completed a sweeping turn, heading back

to base camp for more fuel. "I'm going to get the aero-rifle platoon down there."

After a quick fuel stop the commander returned with the earth-bound part of his troop in tow. The quick-reacting rifle platoon unloaded rapidly from the hovering helicopters.

Multi-colored smoke grenades were tossed out to guide the platoon toward their objective.

Meanwhile, with the help of his doorgunners, Sp4 Jim Kincaid and Sp5 Jim Deaton, Kendricks had spotted a well-camouflaged complex of crude thatched huts on an adjacent hillside near his advancing rifle platoon.

The platoon arrived at the huts.

"What's down there," Kendricks radioed. "About 500 pounds of rice, some cooking utensils and fresh vegetables, ammunition, and some tunnels and bunkers," came the reply.

Cavalry Division has been engaged in combat with elements of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) for over two years now, it was only recently that cavalrymen got any pertinent leads into the character and living habits of the "typical" Communist soldier.

In a week-long search mission, through an NVA battalion headquarters in the Song Re Valley, elements of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry uncovered nearly a dozen caches hidden in hootches, bunkers, and tunnel complexes.

Their contents are reflective of a certain style and demeanor.

First of all, it appears that Private Joe NVA may be a trifle vain. Over 500 small hand mirrors were discovered by the Sky Troopers.

If there is no Godliness among the Communists, there certainly seems to be an emphasis on cleanliness. Over 742 boxes of toothpaste and an equal number of unused toothbrushes were found in one hootch.

The battalion's Company C accidentally stumbled into a sunken mess hall in the side of a mountain.

The dining facilities, on three levels, included long picnic tables and running water — a clear cool stream ran through the mess hall.

Though dining facilities seem comfortable, the daily menus might not please most soldiers.

Around 1000 pounds of 14,000 pounds of salt were

Engineers Beat Rac With Rin

LONG BINH, (USA)

A new method for plastering during the monsoon is being used by Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Group here for filling billets, warehouse floors.

The engineers have advantage of past experience with the monsoon rain incorporated the "ring" system which will absorb wind and rain of concrete floors.

Instead of first laying concrete base that can be damaged by the weather, engineers pour a narrow called a "ring" footer the perimeter of the building.

After the walls and the building are finished concrete floor can be without weather damage.

Using this new method, the engineers completed a 500-man for the Saigon Supply and demand here.

Trooper Flies As Stand-By

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO)—After a wild-swinging ride 400 feet in the air, SSgt. Jacob Ortiz was mighty glad UH-1D helicopters have landing skids.

Ortiz was on a combat sweep 30 miles northwest of Saigon with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. The sweep had produced nothing but a few bunkers.

The company regrouped in an open field for pickup and as the helicopters approached the men, Viet Cong automatic weapons and small arms fire erupted from the edges of the field.

Ortiz ran for the helicopter he was supposed to be on but it was already full. Then he ran to a second helicopter, but it took off before he could reach it.

Nearly exhausted, he charged back to the first ship which was by then lifting away.

He lunged for a skid, caught it, and hung on.

The doorgunner and several men in the ship grabbed him by the collar and back of the shirt as the ship swept over hedgerows and began climbing.

They were nearly 400 feet in the air before they managed to pull him into the helicopter.

"I wasn't too scared until I thought about it," Ortiz said later, "then I had to sit down for a while."



RESUPPLY CHOPPER—Men of Company C, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry unload a resupply helicopter of provisions to continue their sweep and destroy mission north of Chu Lai with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

(Photo by Sp4 Rusty Melton, 196th INF-IO)

Mobile Van Follows Engineers Into Field

DI AN, (1st INF-IO)—The 1st Infantry Division's 1st Engineer Battalion owes a great deal of its operational success to a mobile shop van that is capable of performing up to third echelon maintenance.

The shop van, which is

mounted on a 2½-ton accompaniment, the engine field sites.

The field maintenance carries a crew of two: K. Premus and F. E. Canavan, who perform duties of machinists, light and heavy lathe workers, electricians.

The van is equipped with acetylene, and capabilities, and its own power from a 240-cc generator. The output is to run the machinery.

The shop truck has popular throughout channels. However, said "We have done no work with it here this year." Premus served bile van for nine months.

"It carries all its tools such as brass fitting keys, nuts, and bolts, summarized.

The van has all the machinery and tools to up to and including the maintenance, and echelon maintenance categories.

The van also boasts complete master mechanic and micrometers, as other measuring instruments.

Premus and Canavan forded their own living built into the rear of the van, allowing the two to stay with their 24 hours a day.

The van has parties two major operations, and Cedar Falls.

Gunships Stop VC Assault

DA NANG, (1st AVN-IO)—Intense and accurate close fire support from Army helicopter gunships helped break up a two-Viet Cong company assault recently on a Vietnamese regional outpost west of Tam Ky, 320 miles northeast of Saigon.

Armed helicopters of the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company, 212th Combat Aviation Battalion, were out on a fire fly river patrol mission during the early morning hours when the sector operations advisor at Tam Ky asked flight leader Capt. Danny E. Pope if he could divert missions and help the beleaguered outpost.

Within five minutes, Pope and his three-helicopter team were deeply embroiled in the fight.

The enemy was already in the assault when the 1st Aviation Brigade chopper team arrived. Spotting enemy concentrations with the aid of helicopter-mounted searchlights, the gunships fired rockets, 40mm grenades, and machineguns within 50 yards of friendly troops.

According to Pope, "They fired everything they had at our light ship, and every time they did we poured rockets and machinegun fire on them. Pretty soon, they stopped."

At daybreak, 20 VC bodies were found near the compound.

No Doctors Until Cav's

Viets Receive Care

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO)—Until the 1st Cavalry Division established its base camp here, the people in western Binh Dinh Province had no doctors.

The division's doctors, realizing this deficiency, now devote part of their time to treating the people in the area. One of the physicians is Dr. Robert Provost.



SKY LADDER—It's straight down for these soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division's 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry as they climb from a Chinook into the muddy rice paddies near Mekong Delta village of Binh Phuoc.

(Photo by Sp4 Gary Bipes, 9th INF-IO)

Tropical Lightning Patrol Hits Enemy Twice In Same Spot

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO) — It was a busy night for the 25th Infantry Division ambush patrol; two different ambushes, with enemy contact both times at the same location.

The patrol left the 1st Battal-

ion, 5th Infantry forward base camp just as darkness set in.

"It was supposed to be a roving patrol," explained 2nd LT Jerry Yasher, platoon leader. "We were prepared, though, to set up a hasty ambush."

As the patrol crept along a woodland bordering a wide rice paddy, the point man heard noises to the front.

Fifteen minutes later, three armed VC walked right into the trap and were killed by machinegun and grenade fire.

The patrol returned to the

Language Aids Inf

RACH KIEN, (9th INF-IO) — A 9th Infantry Division wireman with a flair for the Vietnamese language felt that he wasn't putting his linguistic talents to full use.

So he volunteered to become a rifleman and his skill with the Vietnamese language has already saved his buddies once.

Private First Class Romie Staggs learned to speak Vietnamese by attending classes at the Bearcat Service Club and studying during his off duty hours with Company C, 9th Signal Battalion.

"Just learning ten words every day built up my vocabulary tremendously," said Staggs. "But as a wireman, I didn't have much opportunity to meet the Vietnamese people and talk with them," he explained.

So Staggs volunteered to join the 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry located in the Mekong Delta region as a rifleman-interpreter.

During the short time he has been with Company B, Staggs has used his language ability at

base camp for ammunition resupply and at one o'clock in the morning, they set out again.

Just after passing through their earlier ambush site the point man again spotted enemy, this time a group of 25 armed VC, all walking toward them.

The platoon leader directed the men back where they set up, exactly in their first ambush position.

"They kept getting closer and closer," said PFC Earl Mack, "so we opened up with rifles and grenade launchers."

also be post-surgical complications because many of the patients have other diseases like malaria and worms, which weaken them and slow down their recovery."

Provost believes that Western medicine can play an important role until the Vietnamese can train enough doctors to care for their people. At the present time,



oe Nail

or read the poem which tells of a horseshoe nail." There regards to military service in so small or so insignificant military and political objectives

stance to the people of South economically. The presence ntry enables the Vietnamese problems of government, re- and agriculture in a con-

to build a nation. Every ry is making a significant ighly, his contribution ssible effort on the job and .S. in his contacts with the

st he can give because he ph it. By comparison, his the Pacific or Europe dher spent half that time in

what they accomplished in

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upport for our nation's ob- eedom for those who strive

ls—military, economic, and This is not the place for the upathy and indifference. in Vietnam any more than struggled to form a nation (MACV)

hen Ask

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s perfectly proper to pray to for help in our need. He us to! But we have to re- ber that God is not a traffic who suddenly holds up his l in the middle of the street er and stops all the normal se of things, holding back laws of nature while our ion goes screaming through motorcycle escort.

ow many of us as we stretch our hand toward God know well that God finds our ls soiled with sin, yet we ask God to fill our hands with ors. Should we not first clean before we dare to speak?

ff-Years Count Too

Responsible Voting Is Voting In All Elections

Pass In Review:

Awards And Decorations

VC Held By Lone Gunship

BONG SON, (1st CAV-IO)— Major Thomas H. Harvey Jr. has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for actions on April 16, 1967, while at Duc Pho with Americal Division.

On that day, Harvey, who commands C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, was flying support and recon missions for infantry troops on the ground. As he flew over the rolling rice paddy and patchy jungle area near Duc Pho, he spotted a North Vietnamese Army unit.

He made numerous gun runs, even hovering over the enemy position, allowing his doorgunners to place fire after his rockets were expended. Holding the enemy in place with his 40mm grenade launcher, he allowed the infantry troops time to form up and make contact.

Although his aircraft was hit by enemy fire, Harvey continued to stay in the fight until his fuel ran low. The citation read in part, "After returning to his base to change aircraft, Major Harvey flew back to the battle area. Again locating the enemy in the open, he made a tree-top level rocket pass into the face of heavy fire. His rockets failed to fire, so again he hovered over the hostile forces while his doorgunners emptied their weapons, inflicting heavy casualties."

In addition to his DSC, Harvey has received one Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, 28 Air Medals, the Army Commendation Medal and the Purple Heart.

Turn Back?

It is rumored that Russia is to erect memorials to the sailors who wanted Columbus to turn back before he discovered America.



PURPLE HEARTS—Lieutenant Colonel Augustine L. Merolla (left), commander of the 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery, congratulates PFC Thomas M. Housmann after awarding him two Purple Hearts for wounds received in defense of Marine positions along the Demilitarized Zone. Housmann was one of nine artillerymen awarded the medal in a ceremony recently at Dong Ha.

(Photo by Sp4 Gordon W. Gahan, USARV-IO)

AWARDS

Distinguished Service Cross
Sp4 John H. Worthington
Capt. Thomas K. Hightower
Lt. Col. Robert G. Stevenson

Silver Star
PFC Stephen L. Thomas
1st Lt. Paul A. Ferguson
SSgt. Elbert L. Sledge
PFC Michael L. Row
PFC Jerry Rivera
SSgt. Henry Slater
Lt. Col. Gordon J. Duquemin
Maj. Richard L. Mills
1st Lt. Robert S. Franks
1st Lt. Richard E. Maloy
Sp4 Michael Vaughan
SSgt. Ronald Kast
Sp5 Michael J. Seigler
Sp4 Allen M. Portnoy
1st Lt. James P. Thomas

Distinguished Flying Cross
Capt. Homer L. Clark
Sp5 Randall P. Goldman
WO William S. Asselin
1st Lt. Francis A. Pommert Jr.
SSgt. Donald A. Dortch
Lt. John G. Cheatham
Maj. William W. Redman
Capt. John D. Honaker

Soldier's Medal
Capt. Bobby D. Latimer
Sp4 Michael A. Jenkins
Sp5 Richard R. Billings

Sp4 Michael L. Vance
2nd Lt. Joseph A. Kucera
Bronze Star With "V"
Sgt. Patrick Zicaro
Sp5 James W. Graves
SFC Manuel Gomez
Lt. Col. Donald H. Jersey
Sp4 John H. Bradley
1st Lt. Garrell E. Sutherland
Sgt. Keith D. Allen
Sp4 Michael Alfieri
1st Sgt. George Bickelman
Capt. Martin W. Walsh Jr.
1st Lt. Malcolm S. Gilchrist
SFC Raymond W. Barlow

Army Tug Wins 'Best Boat' Title

SAIGON, (1stLOG-IO) — The ST 2112, a 65-foot Army tug boat, was recently presented the 4th Transportation Command Port Services Division's "Best Boat" award for the second consecutive month.

The tug is skippered by Warrant Officer Milton T. Morgan.

Judging criteria for the award cover seamanship, maintenance, appearance, and efficiency.

Helicopter Crew Joins Fray With Marine Platoon

DA NANG, (1st AVN-10) — An Army helicopter crew landed their disabled gunship just outside an embattled Marine platoon perimeter during the early morning hours recently and fought off Viet Cong attacks with the Marines, 30 miles west of here.

The armed Huey, from the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company, 212th Combat Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade, had gone to the area as part of a three-ship fire fly team earlier in the night.

Diverted from its mission, the team was assigned to help keep the Marine platoon from being overrun by the VC.

With its back to a bend in the river and VC on the three flanks, the platoon had enemy miniguns near their outpost when the gunships arrived.

The choppers soon began pouring rockets and machinegun fire around the Marines' position to help them break up the attack.

Resuming the mission soon after refueling, the gunships found the platoon still under fire. As one of the gunships

made its third firing pass, a violent vibration shook the aircraft.

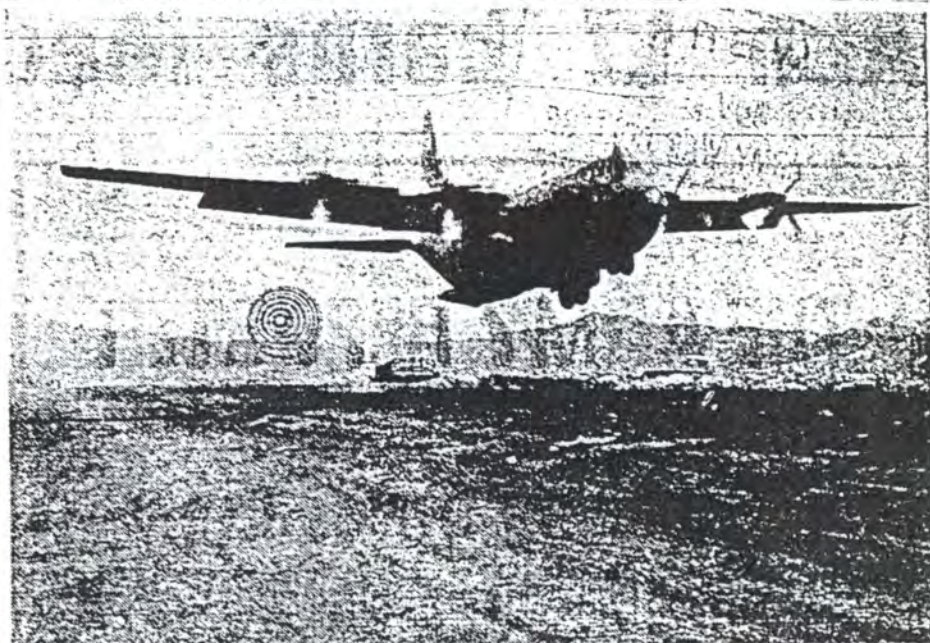
Helicopter platoon leader Capt. Danny Pope radioed to the hit ship that its rocket pod was on fire. The crew jettisoned the rocket pod, but the helicopter still spewed flames and was forced down.

As the Marine platoon readjusted its defenses to protect the downed gunship, crew chief Sp4 Glenn A. Ellis and gunner Sp4 Roger G. Johnson removed the machineguns from the ship and joined the Marines on the perimeter.

The pilots ran to the platoon command post to help adjust the remaining two helicopters of the fire fly team to make gun runs as close as ten yards from the positions.

Shortly, other 282nd gunships arrived at the area and started their attack on the enemy troops.

For the remainder of the night, the gunships flew cover for the platoon and at daybreak spotted two VC bodies floating in the river, left behind by their fleeing comrades.



DROP AND CLIMB—An Air Force C-130 climbs after making a Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System (LAPES) drop at the Khe Sanh Marine camp. Army Soldiers, members of the 1st Logistical Command's 179th Quartermaster Air Delivery Company, prepare and retrieve the drops. (Photo by Sp4 Charles N. London, 1st LOG-10)

Hoi Chanh Tells Why

Defection Reasons Revealed

LAI KHE, (1st INF-10) — Recently the 1st Infantry Division confirmed first hand why a fully-indectrinated Viet Cong decides to defect and leave all he has struggled for behind.

After ten years of working for

the VC, Phan Van Quang decided the ideology behind his efforts were not in support of his basic beliefs and his efforts were fruitless.

Rallying to the Big Red One, Quang expressed extreme hardship during the past year with the Viet Cong.

He explained, "For me, the war was becoming more fierce day by day. I could see no victory for my efforts." He added, "I could no longer justify my work for the Viet Cong."

Realizing the hardships he was causing his family by his remaining with the Viet Cong, Quang decided to join the efforts of the Big Red One. With the assistance of wife and family, Quang came to the troops of the 1st Div.

He added that there was suspicion and doubt throughout the ranks of the Viet Cong forces.

One contributing factor in Quang's defection was the constant pressure on the men of his unit by the division, forcing them to split up into smaller units, making their maneuvers and attacks ineffective.

Engineers Try Adobe Mixtures

CAN THO, (USAECV-10) —

Vietnam Communique

1st Cavalry Division — A company from the 1st Brigade detained eight North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers in recent actions. Six of the enemy had been wounded by artillery missions. Two of the detainees flagged down a reconnaissance helicopter by waving white flags.

ular Defense Group forces, elements of the 5th SFG recently killed 64 enemy and detained 18 suspects. In the first action which netted the 64 enemy dead, seven were killed in a short fire fight. Pursuing the enemy, 11 more were killed. One of the

detainees was a nurse. She was taken together with all of her medical supplies and turned over to authorities of the Republic. Later in a contact by "B" Camp members at Gao Lanh, 36 more enemy were killed.

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Quang related to members of the division how he was under suspicion by the VC even while he was a company commander.

Sniper Flees, Choosing To Chuck Chow

CHU PRONG, (4th INF-40) — A recent encounter with 4th Infantry Division soldiers cost a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regular his chow.

A platoon of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry patrolled an area in the mountains here northwest of Pleiku City. The unit had made contact with an enemy force in this area the day before.

From the woodland the men received sniper fire. The sniper fled after firing two shots leaving behind his sandals and part of the stock from his carbine rifle.

Second Lieutenant Lonnie Cagney, platoon leader, and his men followed in pursuit of the sniper, but to no avail.

As the men searched the area they came upon a hole in the ground. The hole went down for approximately four feet, then dropped off into what appeared to be a cavern of some sort.

A thorough search proved it to be only an air raid bunker which had been used earlier by the sniper as a hiding place. The sniper had left behind his hot meal of rice.

He added that there was suspicion and doubt throughout the ranks of the Viet Cong forces.

One contributing factor in Quang's defection was the constant pressure on the men of his unit by the division, forcing them to split up into smaller units, making their maneuvers and attacks ineffective.

Engineers Try Adobe Mixtures

CAN THO, (USAECV-10) — Engineers of the 69th Engineer Battalion, 34th Engineer Group, 20th Engineer Brigade are trying to find a way to use local materials for building supplies in the Mekong Delta.

With the plentiful sand and silt in the delta, the 69th hopes to make adobe bricks for construction.

Sergeant John Downey of the unit's Company D recently finished an experimental batch of 27 adobe bricks, each measuring 4 by 12 by 18 inches. He began with a half sand and half silt mixture which proved too brittle. By using three parts silt to one part each of sand and cement, he found a more stable brick.

When Downey eliminated the sand entirely and used 90 percent silt to 10 percent cement, he got the best bricks to date.

The high humidity and heavy rains in the delta have a tendency to dissolve the bricks. To help solve this problem, the bricks are coated with a penetrating sealing compound.

If later results prove the bricks worthwhile, the adobe buildings will be cheaper to construct than the buildings now being constructed. The bricks could also eliminate the need for sand bag bunkers since the adobe walls offer protection from small arms fire and mortar fragments.

An additional benefit of adobe buildings is that they will be about 20 percent cooler than the current structures.

Vietnam Communique

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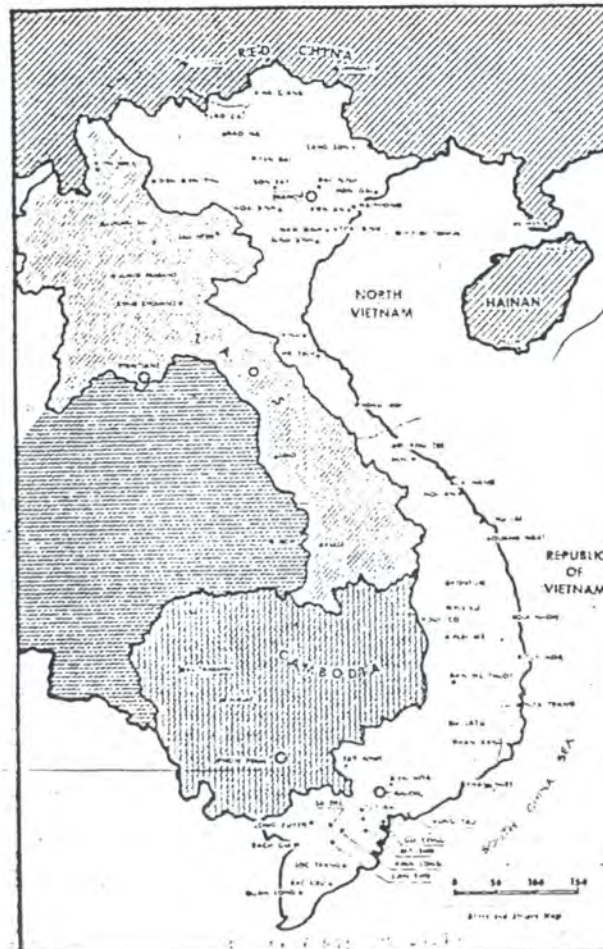
9th Infantry Division — Infantrymen of the 3rd Brigade found 20 shallow graves, each containing one enemy body, about two miles from the large tunnel complex in Phuoc Tuy Province 25 miles east of Saigon. Arms and ammunition continue to be excavated from the tunnels. An additional 22,000 rounds of small arms ammunition has been uncovered, plus mortar and machinegun parts.

1st Infantry Division — Operation Shenandoah II continues in Binh Long Province as elements of the 1st Brigade killed more than 120 enemy in recent contacts. One major encounter occurred as two companies were moving out of their night defensive positions on a search and destroy operation. Less than a mile from the perimeter, the lead element made contact with what appeared to be an enemy platoon. As the engagement proceeded, the enemy group was discovered to be the size of a company. After a violent fire fight, contact was broken.

5th Special Forces — Working with Vietnamese Civilian Irreg-

ular Defense Group forces, elements of the 5th SFG recently killed 64 enemy and detained 18 suspects. In the first action which netted the 64 enemy dead, seven were killed in a short fire fight. Pursuing the enemy, 11 more were killed. One of the

detainees was a nurse. She was taken together with all of her medical supplies and turned over to authorities of the Republic. Later in a contact by "B" Camp members at Gao Lanh, 56 more enemy were killed.



NOV 4, 1967