



Dau Tieng Attacked; Choppers Repel VC

CU CHI. (25th INF-10)—Captain Charles A. Robinson, helicopter pilot in the 25th Infantry Division, dug his face into the soft dirt of the bunker and waited.

He squirmed as red ants began to crawl inside his fatigues, biting him as they moved. Once more, from outside, came the deadly whooshing sound, then the explosion.

The Viet Cong were making a night attack on the Dau Tieng airstrip, the base of Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry.

The first round from the VC barrage had landed on the edge of the trees, just beyond two tents where the helicopter crews were sleeping. Fragments had made a ripping sound against the canvas.

The second round had exploded less than 100 meters away, on the far side of two parked gunships. The VC gunners had a bracket,

with the tents and helicopters in the middle.

The next mortar round failed to split the bracket. Pilots and crews sprang from the bunker, ran to the two aircraft, and began to pull a pre-flight inspection for damage, ignoring the rounds which continued to fall close by.

Seven minutes after the first round had landed, the two choppers were airborne, searching for their targets.

Team leader, Capt. Francis X. Dely, spearheaded the attack, his weapons systems spitting rockets and solid tracer from the pylon-mounted machineguns. Hot on his tail was Robinson's ship, which blasted the area with rockets and 40mm grenades.

The gunship pilots had more to worry about than just mortars. The VC were executing coordinated ground attacks on several isolated outposts outside the perimeter of the camp.

Heavy enemy fire ripped into an armored column on its way to reinforce the outposts.

As the pilots swooped in low to lay fire into the enemy positions, the VC turned their automatic weapons skyward. "Every now and then I'd hear a crack," recalled door gunner Sgt. Robert E. Price. Each door gunner fired some 5000 rounds that night.

Four hours later, it was all over.

The armed helicopters of Troop D, based here, provide nighttime counter-mortar standby teams for both Cu Chi and Dau Tieng base camps on a regular schedule. They share this duty with the 25th Aviation Battalion and the 116th Hornets Aviation Company.

Division troops from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Division, were in the paddy prior to a sweep operation, PFC [Name] was underwater. When the order was [Name] (Photo by Sp4 Gary Bipes, 9th SIG BN)

Medic, Rifleman Team Up; Wounded To Safety

(9th INF-10)—When the weapons fire was in full swing, members of the 1st platoon, 9th Infantry Division, were in the paddy. A rifleman made six trips to get the wounded men back to the rear.

Both men were in back of the platoon formation when the lead squad came under fire from three sides.

Cries of "Medic!" brought Kuhn forward to tend four men wounded in the initial volley.

Wilson noticed the medic trying to get the wounded back and braved heavy fire to go forward to assist.

The two managed to move all four men to the rear and while Kuhn prepared the men for evacuation,

Wilson picked up an M-79 grenade launcher and again moved forward to fire at the VC.

Wilson fired the M-79 until his ammunition gave out, then picked up one of the wounded men's rifles and fired nearly 150 rounds.

In the meantime the heavy Viet Cong fire was hitting more American soldiers, and Kuhn was again called forward. For the second time the two men teamed up to help five men move to the rear.

As the men got the last of this group to the hut, artillery fire and increased friendly rifle fire enabled the unit to evacuate the wounded.

Joseph D. Kuhn, 4th Cavalry, and Jerry L. Wilson, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, both of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division, were in the paddy.

3 Units Cited For Support Efforts

TAN SON NHUT. (USARV-10), Company of the 35th Engineer, June 1965 to May 1966.

173rd Airborne Brigade made the first American combat parachute assault in 16 years to initiate Operation Junction City, the battalion was again on the move. Again, too, it was in War Zone C. Along with the 1st and 4th Battalions, the 2nd was beginning Phase II of the multi-division operation, the largest to date in Vietnam.

US Chopper Evacuates Wounded Viet Marine

TAY NINH, (196th INF-IO)—The jungle canopy rose to 300 feet. Below, in a small clearing, not large enough to hold the Huey orbiting overhead, Republic of Vietnam marines waited for the cargo aboard to be delivered.

The aircraft commander, WO Fred E. Startz of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, knew the cargo had to be delivered because the marines were badly in need of the radio batteries he had aboard. The only solution was to drop the batteries from the Huey into the small clearing. The "air drop" was on target.

Mission completed, Startz and his pilot, 1st Lt. Robert E. Crawford also with the brigade's aviation section, were told by the ground troops a dust off was needed for a wounded marine. Though the medical evacuation (med-evac) helicopter had been requested, the two pilots sensed the difficulties that could be involved in the evacuation and orbited their ship on station.

Startz recalls, "When we were told that they (RVN marines) needed a dust off, we knew it (the med-evac chopper) would have trouble getting in."

Startz and Crawford knew the importance of getting the wounded marine to medical treatment as soon as possible. They had flown this type mission many times before. Something had to be done. The med-evac still had not arrived.

The dense jungle hid their position and the pilots instructed the

and secured each landing zone against harassing fire from well concealed snipers.

The 2nd was setting up blocking positions along a vital stream in the jungle stronghold of the zone while the other two infantry battalions, along with a battalion of armor, swept the Viet Cong from the south and smashed the enemy's resistance against the anvil

marines by radio to ignite a smoke grenade at the position of the wounded man so his exact location could be determined. Minutes later the smoke became visible. A small clearing, created by a bomb from an earlier air strike, was spotted by the pilots some 300 meters from where the wounded man lay in the heavy jungle.

The marines were given the azimuth to the bomb crater and advised to move the wounded marine to that location.

The job of the two American pilots had just begun. The clearing was too small to let in the Huey, and even if they got in, there was no place to set down. Slowly Startz and Crawford inched the chopper into the tiny clearing as the door gunners kept watch to insure that the tail rotor blades would not strike the trees.

The downward blast of air from the main rotor helped clear the way for the descent, pushing the branches and limbs out of the way. The chopper was lowered to within feet of the jungle floor, and the wounded marine was placed aboard the craft.

Lifting up and out of the 200-foot deep jungle "well" challenged the skills of both pilots. "Going in, we had the rotor wash to push some of the trees and undergrowth aside, but coming out we had no rotor wash," said Startz as he told of the experience.

landing zone was secured, effective action was being taken against the snipers, and the engineer squad had constructed a footbridge across the stream.

Within several hours, all companies had moved to their positions, set up strong, tight defensive perimeters, and sent out patrols looking for the elusive VC.

Armored units of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, moved by road down the eastern side of the operational area to deny that escape route.

At the same time, the 1st and 4th Battalions began a careful and thorough search of their assigned areas. Moving at a steady pace, the paratroopers set out into the jungle determined to let nothing or no one escape the search.

Four VC were almost always in the village, two of them armed. They would fire on U.S. aircraft, thus forcing the villagers to take the effects of artillery and air strikes from U.S. forces.

Recently, a sweep mission by the Cav's 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry through the area in which the village was located chased the VC into the jungle.

It was at this point the chief decided to move out.

Taking everything they could carry, they departed, leaving 15 families behind, along with all livestock except chickens.

When they reached the Popular Forces camp, men of the brigade provided rice, captured from the VC, clothing, and other foods.

The next day, a medical team

responsible for keeping the main road routes open to and through the operational area.

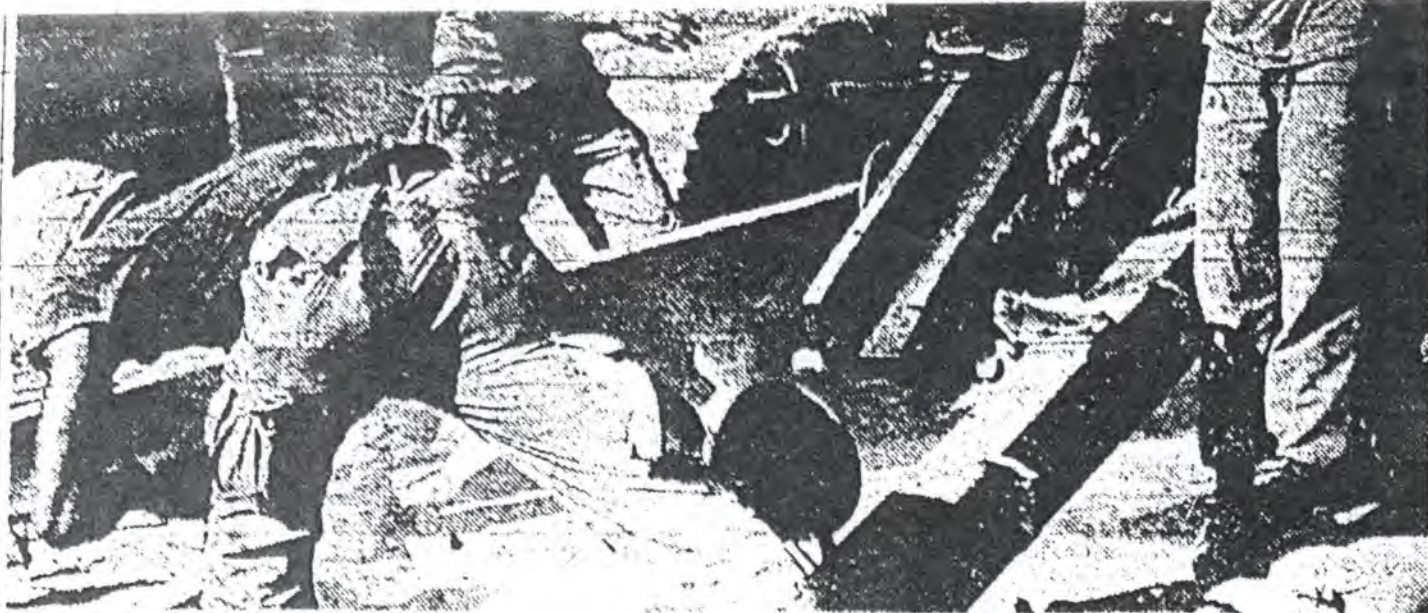
The first platoon of the engineers opened the operation by clearing the access road of mines and improving it to allow the infantry and artillery to pass. In one day they placed more than 300 cubic yards of fill, placed three culverts, and built a 45-foot float bridge to initially open the road.

The First and Second Platoons continued improving the main supply road and by the end of the operation three days later 1425 cubic yards of fill and 15 culverts had been placed in the road.

The 14th Battalion is in the 35th Engineer Group (Construction) of the Army Engineer Command Vietnam (Provisional).



LOTS OF HUSTLE—Men of the 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment unload 55-gallon drums of fuel that have been air lifted into their positions in War Zone C. (Photo by SSgt. Ray Boswell, 17th PI DET)



READY TO FIRE—An assistant gunner from the Ivy Division's 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, waits expectantly for the word to send his personal message to Charlie during a recent operation. The artillery unit was providing covering fire for advancing infantrymen
(Photo by SSgt. Bill Whitis, 4th INF-IO)

Soldier Show Held By 4th Inf Div

PLEIKU, (4th INF-IO) — Specialist Four Tony Bruno's lively performance of "This Could Be the Start" got the Famous Fourth Soldier Show off to a rousing start. The Sunday afternoon show was viewed by a small but responsive audience at the Ivy Bowl.

All talent on the show's bill came from the ranks of the Ivy Division. Professionals and ama-

teurs performed under the warm sun.

One of the outstanding performers of the afternoon was Spt Jim McDuffie of the 4th Engineer Battalion. McDuffie, who sang professionally at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, kept the crowd swaying to the sounds of rhythm and blues. One of the show's highlights was his driver's pantomime which broke the audience

into laughter.

The other comic entertainment of the day came from Sp5 Don Castellanos of the 4th Administration Company. Castellanos assumed the role of a PFC with three years in grade . . . "they keep telling me there's no slot." His comment about money, "I've no money problems—I get an allotment from home," was humorous, but to some troops it was true. Of Army chow he said, "The food grows on you . . . like fungus."

Carl Michel, Rick Fuller, and Rick Baker, a folk singing trio from Support Command, were "in" with the "In Crowd."

Sergeant Luther West and Sgt. Sidney Mayers of the 4th Engineers pleased these musical tastes leaning towards country and western.

Captain Michael Lucky, master of ceremonies and officer in charge of the Armed Forces Television Channel 11, commented about the two singing engineers' performance with, "It's the first time two NCO's could harmonize for so long."

The Fourth Division Band, directed by CWO William Ramsay, provided musical background.

More shows are being planned by the division's Special Services.

Helicopter Crew's Quick Action Saves Wounded Jeep Driver

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO)—An explosion shattered the still air and the jeep carrying two 1st Cavalry Division troopers on the deserted Vietnamese road near Qui Nhon disappeared in a cloud of belching smoke.

When the smoke cleared from the twisted wreckage, the passenger, who had been hurled from the jeep, was already trying to free the trapped driver from the overturned vehicle which had been blown into a rice paddy.

The driver did not die.

The entire incident was observed from the air by two men of the division's 11th General

Support Aviation Company—who had just left Qui Nhon in a Huey helicopter.

Warrant Officers Richard Haglof and Joseph Sours radioed the nearest cavalry landing zone while they circled and landed next to the smoking jeep.

The battered steel was lifted from the wounded man and he was carried to the waiting helicopter and rushed to landing zone English where medical treatment was waiting.

It was later found that the explosion detonated by the moving jeep was from a Viet Cong mine made from a 105mm artillery shell.



guns bursting. The incoming VC rounds ceased, and shortly afterward the helicopters departed.

The night passed slowly. After a couple of hours the tide began to rise. Most of the men tried in vain to find a dry spot.

One of the listening posts heard

from the 87th Engineer Company, set up his hardware. The explosives destroyed two reinforced bunkers, 13 one-man foxholes, 30 steel poles, one newly-built sampan, and two huts.

The mission was completed with a march to the river.

April 6, 1967

5th SFG Is Supported By 281st Helicopter Co

NHA TRANG, (5th SFG-10)— Known as the Intruders, the 281st Assault Helicopter Company has furnished the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) with continuous support since arriving in Vietnam in May.

The Headquarters Company and main operational base is here.

First organized at Ft. Benning, Ga., on Oct. 7, 1965, the Intruders were the first unit of its kind to be placed on the rolls of the active Army.

Eighty per cent of their choppers are kept operational at all times. The percentage of availability sometimes runs more than 90 per cent as its maintenance personnel work around the clock to keep the choppers flying.

Particularly feared by the Viet Cong are the gun ships from this unit. Known as "Hell from Above," they are armed with rockets as well as machineguns to dish out heavy punishment.

Last year these choppers flew more than 41,000 flying hours,

lifted more than 19,000 troops and carried more than 400,000 pounds of cargo.

Sharp Eyes Net VC Rice

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-10)

—A sharp-eyed Bird Dog pilot spotted a hut hidden in the jungle 20 miles northeast of here and resulting searches of it and the area turned up 38 tons of Viet Cong rice.

Captain Roger M. Smith, 183rd Aviation Company, 223rd Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade, was flying in support of a ground operation when he spotted the hut. He informed the ground commander who sent a search party to it.

One ton was found. This spurred Smith to look for other huts and he found one. Again, more rice. He continued turning up rice caches until the end of the day.

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Most of the squid's ammunition was gone, but the only remaining source of fire was the third tilt.

"I threw one grenade in a window and another through the door," Hartman said. The last grenade was thrown into a pile at the rear of the house. After the grenades exploded, the attack was over.

[illegible]

Of the 100,000 people in the immigrant group, the police said, only 10,000 are actually in the country. The rest are in the United States on visas, and the police say that many of them are not in the country at all. They could be in the United States on visas, but they are not in the country at all. They could be in the United States on visas, but they are not in the country at all. They could be in the United States on visas, but they are not in the country at all.

NVH DW Fire

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To rush the
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"At around midnight, two cars were hit with lightning at the same time. The driver of one was killed and continued to burn. I stopped. I don't know what happened."

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MOYNE OUY - 1700 N. 1st St., Suite 100, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1001
Tel: 612-338-1111 Fax: 612-338-1112

VC pulled out and on 12-10-68
the VC pulled in. The VC pulled in
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the VC pulled in.



Y WAY ACROSS—When the water gets too deep, the only way to cross a by ferry. Members of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry, operating near Rach Kien in the Mekong Delta, use sampans equipped lines to cross this stream. (Photo by Sp4 Gary Bipes, 9th SIG BN)

Whiker Turns Out To Be A Soldier Defecting South

(4th INF-10)—"He just another Viet-her looking for a (Capt.) James d. But Hoang Van not. George F. Ridpath was returning elements of ward Due My along. As they turned the L. Thang came out of iving his arms. Shot him until I wasn't carrying a id Ridpath. The vehi-came to a full stop : jumped in the back : saved the driver to He then sat back, puffed the major on t was a happy day had come to the end -oad. n Thang is from a - of Hanoi. In Feb- he was drafted into

Villages' ons Set

(MACV-10)—The Re-etnam will hold elec-ace and hamlet offi-April, May, and June, nistrative officials to-include members of : councils, hamlet-deputy chiefs. Each- will elect one of -as the village chief-on the size of the vil-ained will include from- members. ons will restore self-at the local level, a-lished early in the- nistration. g elections will be held-100 villages and 5500- South Vietnam. The-tions will be held on-uthe Sundays begin- of 2. The hamlet elec-start on May 14 and- five consecutive Sun- Viet Cong consider-ment of a representa-ment in Vietnam a-her political survival, be expected to mount- of terror and intimid-

the North Vietnamese Army at the age of 17. The army trained him to use the 57mm recoilless rifle. After nine months, his unit began working its way south. Four months later, just a few days after TET, the unit settled near the Kontum area. By April it had picked its way to Phu Yen Province. As time went on, he began to think more about his family than he had before. He could not send or receive any mail. The last time he saw his family together — his mother and three brothers — was at the recruiting station. He wondered what was happening to them. In June 1966, Thang fought the Americans in Phu Yen Province. He saw fellow soldiers die from battle and disease. He caught malaria and was sent to an NVA hospital in southern Phu Yen. All the while, he thought about his family. While Thang saw little improvement in his health, the doctors told him he was better and released him in late January. He was told to be at his unit by TET. Alone and without a weapon, the misplaced soldier worked his way south, sponging food from local Viet Cong wherever he could. He spent a lonely TET in the hills and valleys of Phu Yen hiding from Korean soldiers. Many times Trang had thought about joining the southern forces. He read the psychological operation pamphlets urging the north-erners to return to the south. A foreigner in South Vietnam and without a friend, Thang, with three years minus four days in the NVA, came to Highway 21 and flagged down an American convoy. Thang's uniform looked as though he had worked all his life in a garage without a change of clothes or a bath. The pants that draped his 70-pound body were ragged and torn and showed the flesh that had occupied them before leaving North Vietnam. His olive-green, ragged sneakers were as worn as his hollow body. At the age of 19, Hoang Van Thang surrendered to South Vietnam as a direct result of life in

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10)—Three members of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry have been awarded the nation's third highest award, the Silver Star.

Choppers Knock Out Sampans

RIEN HOA, (1st AVN-10) — Armed helicopters from the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion dealt the Viet Cong another blow recently by destroying 46 sampans at the same location. The 68th Assault Helicopter Company and the 334th Armed Helicopter Company did the job. Armed helicopters, which have long been dreaded by the VC continue to be the scourge of VC shipping in the vital III Corps Zone. Gunships with their maneuverability and vast firepower continually patrol the rivers and canals seeking out and destroying VC sampans, which are one of the enemy's primary means of resupplying their troops.

Captain Edward H. Wagner, Sp4 James M. Silvia and Sp4 James E. Ennis formed a medical team that braved intense enemy fire in efforts to aid and evacuate wounded cavalymen during an air assault operation near Bong Son.

Wagner, the battalion surgeon, and Silvia and Ennis, both medical aidmen took the first available helicopter to the fire-swept battlefield where heavy casualties had already been reported.

Racing 100 yards through heavy enemy machinegun fire, the three reached and treated the wounded squad leader of the point squad and several of his men.

Other men were missing, presumably dead or wounded.

The three, in two trips in front of the friendly lines, located the wounded men and brought them back to the defensive perimeter while repeatedly exposing themselves to the blanket of enemy gun fire.

Darkness had enveloped the cloud covered battlefield when it was reported that a wounded man was still outside the small perimeter.

They again went forward, searching until they located the critically wounded man and carried him back.

Vietnam Communique

Operation Junction City — Sixteen 196th Light Infantry Brigade men were wounded when the forward command post was hit with 20 to 30 rounds of 82mm fire. Artillery and helicopter fire drove the enemy off. Enemy casualties are unknown. About 825 enemy have been killed in the operation. Rice — tons — seized are 610. More than 300 fortified positions including bunkers and tunnels have been destroyed. A 173rd Airborne Brigade unit killed 15 enemy in a three-hour firefight.

4th Infantry Division — Units sweeping the Operation Sam Houston area discovered 29 enemy bodies after a firefight between a battalion of 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and a reinforced enemy company. The enemy has launched three attacks on base camps. Twenty rounds hit the fire support base of a battalion of the 2nd Brigade. A fire support base of the 3rd Brigade Task Force received 60 rounds. A 2nd Brigade command post west of Pleiku took more than 450 rounds. Total casualties were one U. S. dead and 77 wounded.

1st Cavalry Division — In an early morning contact, an ambush patrol of the 7th Cavalry met an unknown-sized enemy force. One U. S. was killed and 10 wounded and enemy casualties were undetermined. Units of the 2nd Brigade netted 43 enemy in one day's action.

199th Light Infantry Brigade — One company found 57 tons of rice in a sweep during Operation Rang Dong. Other units the same day accounted for eight enemy killed and six detained. "Rang Dong" is an Army of the Republic of Vietnam pacification operation in which units of the 199th have killed more than 475 enemy.

101st Airborne Division — Units killed 10 enemy, seized eight weapons and detained six suspects in small unit actions during

took place five to seven miles south of Phan Rang and no friendly casualties were reported. More than 100 enemy have been killed in the nine-week old operation.

25th Infantry Division — A multi-battalion force of the 2nd Brigade began Operation Waiwua

in Long An Province. Eight enemy have been killed. One U. S. soldier has been killed and more than 15 injured at latest reports.

9th Infantry Division — Twelve enemy have been killed in one day's scattered contacts in Long An Province by the 3rd Brigade. The operation is "Enterprise."

