

BACK TO THE NEST—Helicopters supporting the 173rd Airborne Brigade return to their base after a days work during operation Greely in the central highlands. (Photo by Sp4 Michael J. Pappas, 173rd ABN-IO)

Aerial Recon Co's Bird Dogs Cover Huge Killer Swamp

PHU LOI, (1st AVN-IO) — There is a swamp in Vietnam which appropriately fits its name. It is known as the Rung Sat. Literally translated, it means "killer jungle."

It lies to the southeast of Saigon, covers hundreds of square miles, and is vitally important to the economic and military life of the Republic of South Vietnam. Through the middle of it runs the only shipping channel to Saigon ports.

This area has most of the features of any swamp — alligators, snakes, crawling insects of unlimited description, and malaria-ridden mosquitos. But there is an added attraction.

The Rung Sat is infested with Viet Cong elements. Virtually every phase of their guerilla-style warfare may be found there.

The pilots of the 74th Reconnaissance Airplane Company, an outfit flying the Bird Dog, have a mission they call the Rung Sat Special. They provide continuous daylight aerial coverage, seven days a week.

Tasks in this mission vary.

Bundle Startles Soldier

RACH KIEN, (9th INF-IO) — A sharp-eyed soldier from the 9th Infantry Division spotted a bundled, camouflaged enemy uniform concealed under a bush during a recent search and de-

The men check the movement of shipping in the channel; they locate possible ambush sites; and they fly low-level operations looking for the VC, his supply points, bunkers, and trench lines.

They also direct Huey gunships against enemy positions, and call and adjust artillery on enemy installations, sampans, and troop movements.

With the cooperation and coordination of the Assault Helicopter Companies in the 143rd Combat Aviation Battalion, of which the 74th is a part, the Bird Dog pilots are able to give almost every type of aviation support the ground troops need.

Enemy Surrounds 4th Inf Team; Rescued By Choppers

OASIS, (4th INF-IO) — "One of my team members alerted me that there were NVA nearby. And in a few minutes we were surrounded."

Staff Sergeant Sherman T. Tilley was at first skeptical of his scout's warning because the 4th Infantry Division soldiers had passed no fresh enemy signs all during the early part of their patrol. The men were searching for suspected enemy concentrations.

"We didn't have to find Charlie," continued Tilley, "he found us."

"As soon as we heard the bushes moving we jumped into a small ditch along the trail and set up a small perimeter. I immediately called the 2nd Bat-

alion, 8th Infantry to let them know the enemy was moving up on us."

Gunships were dispatched to aid the beleaguered 2nd Brigade group along with an extraction chopper.

As the ships circled the Ivy-men, the pilots could see an estimated three squads of North Vietnamese Army soldiers (NVA) slowly encircling them in preparation for an assault. The gunships engaged the enemy with machinegun fire and rockets.

"They instructed us to move

to a small clearing towards the North where there was a hovering chopper," said the sergeant.

Fighting their way to the area, the men were snatched aboard the ship - as enemy rounds buzzed past. In the air they spotted four bodies lying in open areas.

"It's the closest call I've had yet," concluded Tilley, "and I don't want to repeat it."

On every mission that Tilley has lead, the patrol has had enemy contact.

"I suppose," he shrugged, "I could be developing bad habits."

Arty Comes To Aid 101st Abn Company

CHU LAI, (TFO-IO) — Captain Peter Pepper's men were mad. Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, had been hit by an enemy platoon and had taken casualties.

"We want Charlie and we want him bad!" said Sp4 Jeffery Flournoy. As he spoke these words, his radio crackled, "One Bravo!! One Bravo, this is Three Bravo — request artillery — in enemy base camp — heavy automatic weapons fire coming from bunkers."

Captain Peter Pepper, company commander and acting artillery forward observer, immediately plotted coordinates and told the supporting artillery force to fire.

"I hope they get them," whispered a bearded machine-

gunner.

"Drop five-zero," shouted Three Bravo. The message was relayed and the distant booming of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery's 155 mm howitzers was heard.

Two-thousand yards away the automatic weapons fire pierced the quiet of the jungle as the battle reached its peak.

"Three Bravo, this is One Bravo — is assistance needed?"

"Negative—end of mission—artillery got them," came the reply.

Smiles and a muffled cheer rose from the men.

"One bravo, this is Three Bravo — three enemy killed — two detainees — no friendly casualties . . . searching base camp — and thank the artillery boys!!!"



Freedom Contest...

(Continued From Page 1)

Forces, have in maintaining and protecting this freedom.

Are Attractions At Mekong Delta Fair

DONG TAM, (5th INF-10)—It was county fair day in the Mekong Delta recently. But instead of hot dogs, agricultural displays, and merry-go-rounds, the attractions were color movies, medical aid, food, leaflet distribution, and entertainment by a Vietnamese culture team.

The extensive civil affairs action was conducted by the S-5 section of the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry in Vinh Kim district, an area three miles west of this 9th Infantry Division camp.

Captain David F. Desjardins, civil affairs officer, said the title of County Fair was given to the program because of the varied activities offered.

The day's work began at Tay Hoa hamlet, where all the activities, except the performance of the culture team, were presented. Late in the afternoon the team was flown to Vinh Kim village from here.

This civilian group—two women and four men—sang both individually and as a group with guitar accompaniment to an audience of 350 for an hour and a half. Both traditional Vietnamese folk songs and modern music were presented.

According to Desjardins, the team was taken to Vinh Kim, one mile from Tay Hoa, because it was safer for them to perform in a large village than in a countryside hamlet.

"The team was and continues to be a prime target for the Viet Cong because many times their songs and skits are anti-VC in nature," Desjardins said. "We feel the culture team is much rarer and much more deadly than soldiers because they appeal to the people, using colorful, peaceful propaganda rather than guns and death."

For both children and adults, one of the biggest attractions was a screening of several Vietnamese language Walt Disney color cartoons. They had themes of health, sanitation, and recreation.

Also distributed were Free World Magazines, which gave the reader news of current events throughout the world and facts about other countries, and 500 paper Vietnamese flags, which Desjardins described as an effort to instill national patriotism in farmers who have never felt closely allied with a central national government.

Written materials, such as the Farm Journal, were distributed. These booklets concerned cultivation methods, the latest ways to improve crop production, and other farm news.

25th Inf Treats 200,000

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — A 78-year-old Vietnamese farmer in the hamlet of Tha La was the 200,000 patient treated by the 25th Infantry Division's MEDCAP.

Nguyen Van Ky was the milestone patient when he requested treatment for a badly infected foot.

For being the 200,000th patient received by the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, he was given three refugee kits—one for himself, his wife, and son—consisting of bowls, chopsticks, cups, and grass mats.

The Vietnam Assistance Committee in Farmingdale, N.Y., which adopted the battalion, donated three bars of soap and toothbrush and toothpaste to each member of his family.

Ky was also given a sewing kit and school kit contributed by CARE.

Avn Gets New Chopper

CAMP ENARI, (4th INF-10)—A new model helicopter has been added to the 4th Aviation Battalion, 4th Infantry Division.

Within the past month eight UH-1H helicopters have been added to the battalion's other models that include the UH-1D, UH-1C, and UH-23. The new model has the same speed as the other Hueys, but the difference lies in its load capacity.

Having a maximum load-

weight of one ton, the UH-1H can move more personnel and material than the other models in the same amount of time.

The division's aviation battalion handles the bulk of flying missions. Top priority is given to combat assault missions, and with the augmentation of the battalion's new model, more troops can be flown into combat per flight than was done previously.

CULTURAL TEAM—Singing Vietnamese folk songs, the Quang Ngai cultural-drama team entertains farmers and villagers near Duc Pho. The troupe has been traveling with the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division medics and civil affairs workers on recent MEDCAP operations.

(Photo by Sp4 Lyle Larson, 25th INF-10)

NVA R&R Center Discovered By Paratroopers Of 101st Abn

CHU LAI, (101st ABN-10) — Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division hacked their way into a jungle clearing near here recently and discovered a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) R&R center nestled on a mountain shelf.

"I couldn't believe my eyes," said one paratrooper. "The area was beautiful, unlike anything I've seen in Vietnam."

Quickly men from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry put out security and began searching Charlie's hide-a-way.

Twelve thatched buildings

were centrally arranged providing a mess hall, an auditorium which opened onto a tiled patio, classrooms with hardwood benches and podium, immaculate living quarters, and store-rooms.

"The location was ideal," according to 1st Lt. Leonard Anderson. "Towering trees sheltered the village from the sun and observation from the air. Adjacent to the huts were numerous vegetable gardens and rice paddies. Livestock grazed nearby."

"Each hut concealed an underground shelter large enough for 50 to 75 men," related Sp5 Dennis Patrick. "The walls of the huts were about three feet thick."

In the kitchen, paratroopers found meat and vegetables

ready for cooking. A storeroom contained rice, corn, tea, beans, and tobacco. Bundles of NVA uniforms and a cache of small arms ammunition were found in bunkers.

One paratrooper quipped, "All it needed was a volleyball court and theater and I would have stayed!"

Wings Go To Hanoi Sergeant

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-10) — Phan Thai had to come all the way from Hanoi to pin on the silver jump wings he proudly wears today.

At the early age of 13 Thai and his family along with thousands of other refugees gathered up their belongings and moved to South Vietnam to find a new life.

Today, Sergeant Phan Thai, a member of the South Vietnamese Army, is working as an interpreter for the 173rd Air-

35th Eng Bn Uses Special Foliage Plow

BONG SON, (USAECV-10) — A 63-man land clearing platoon, now attached to the 35th Engineer Battalion, 4th Engineer Group is making it hard for

Sept 8 1967

BIEN HOA. (1st AVN-10) — The quick actions of a 1st Aviation Brigade helicopter crew recently saved the life of an Air Force pilot after his jet crashed on take-off here.

Warrant Officer Kenneth Dolan of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, had just landed his helicopter at the heliport of the 118th Assault Helicopter Company when he witnessed the jet crash.

Immediately he took off and proceeded to the crash site.

Private First Class Stephen

Torpey spotted the wreckage on the ground and directed Dolan toward it.

As the helicopter touched down, Torpey raced to the aid of the pilot who was floating face down in a small pond. Torpey pulled him from the water and began treating his injuries while Dolan arranged with an Air Force rescue helicopter to evacuate the injured pilot.

"If it hadn't been for Torpey's fast action in pulling the man

out of the water, he would have drowned," Dolan related.

"Torpey didn't even seem to worry about the jet exploding. He just went right in after the man."

day children line the edge of this road to wave and shout "OK," the standard pidgin English greeting of the Vietnamese children.

The children are a rag-tag

are supplementing their usual income, obtained from the sale of rice and charcoal, by working at the signal site where they also are teaching some of the men their language in return for English lessons.

'Short'-ness Causes Problems For Six

By SP4 Donald Graham

AN KHE. (1st CAV-10)—Only six men in the 1st Cavalry Division are short.

One of them, Sp4 Lowell R. Short of the 11th Aviation Company, says that an average of four or five people daily come up to him and make jokes about his name.

Short, who is scheduled to return to the U.S. in June 1968, considers this unfair.

A reading of the division's roster suggests that the Cav. can drop quite a few other imposing names.

The division, for instance, is well-staffed for its job of fighting a war with one Commander (a sergeant), four Cannons, one Bunker, one Sailor, three Camps, and five Battles on hand.

Two soldiers provide Cover, and others are Strong, Swift, Savage, and Sly. One even serves as a Shield for the division.

The military police are well staffed with one Police and two Copps. The intelligence (G-2) section, on the other hand, has one Cloak but no Dagger.

Names of men in the division suggest other possibilities, such as: open a zoo with a Whale, a Seal, two Swans, a Deer, a Mink, two Hawks, five Crows, four Beavers, a Lamb, three Bask, and a Birdbear.

Start a restaurant with a menu including, in various proportions, Hamburger, Bacon, Hash, Ham, Beans, Berries, Cola, and even Salt. One Kitchen could be found for three dozen or so Cooks (three of whom are actually cooks).

Certain irregularities can be found in the list of names.

There are two Moneymakers, but only one Profit, (although there are two Prophets). There are three Justices, but only one Jury; a Book with only seven Pages.

Unfortunately, no one in the division is presently named Deros.

VC's Dog Costs Life Of Owner

DUC PHO. (101st ABN-10)—The loyalty of a Viet Cong dog cost his owner and three enemy soldiers their lives recently.

Specialist Four Antonio B. Cardon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, was maintaining surveillance of a river bed during Operation Malheur II when he saw an enemy soldier moving along the shore.

"I pointed the VC out to PSgt. Edward Birmingham," Cardon said, "but suddenly the VC disappeared."

Birmingham and Cardon moved toward the stream and began searching for the enemy.

"I saw a dog lying next to a small tunnel," Birmingham said, "and figured there were people inside."

He shouted for those in the tunnel to come out. There was no response.

Both troopers heaved grenades into the tunnel, just as SSgt. Roy Logue joined them.

"When the smoke cleared away," Logue said, "I crawled into the tunnel and found four dead VC laying on the ground."

4th Infantry Division — The headquarters of the 1st Brigade at Jackson Hole recently came under enemy attack for the first time in three months. North Vietnamese Army soldiers fired approximately 50 rounds of what was believed to be 122mm rockets at the base, but only seven landed inside the perimeter. Brigade officials believe that the rounds came from sites in the Chu Conget Mountains five miles west of the command post. Six artillery batteries supporting the brigade broke up the attack with suppressive fire.

Three days later, the Viet Cong returned to attack the Plei Lin subsector headquarters. Apparently smarting after division artillery broke up their earlier attack plans, the VC returned to launch 50 rounds of mortar fire into the headquarters. In another portion of the Francis Marian area of operations, a reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry made three separate contacts with undetermined-sized enemy forces approximately 11 miles northwest of Pleiku. There were no reports of enemy casualties.

1st Cavalry Division—In recent action, the 2nd Brigade killed 11 enemy and detained 27 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers as they searched a series of caves in the Pershing area of operations. The natural caves and crevices south of the Dam Tro O Lake in the Nui Mieu Mountains, termed the Rockpile by Skytroopers, at one time served the NVA as a battalion level, or higher, headquarters. In scattered action on the Bong Son Plain, the 1st Brigade killed 12 Viet Cong after elements of the brigade reported night-long movement of enemy troops six miles north of the division command post.

Task Force Oregon—Elements of Task Force Oregon continued to press the offensive as they killed 153 enemy in frequent, scattered, but fiercely contested firefights. In the jungles west of Chu Lai, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division killed nine

multi-battalion search and destroy operation, conducted in coordination with soldiers of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's (ARVN) 25th Infantry Division and Ranger and Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) units, reported no contacts with the enemy. In Gia Dinh Province, the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry killed two Viet Cong and destroyed numerous enemy fortifications. The battalion killed one other VC and sank two sampans in Nha Be District.

199th Light Infantry Brigade — Fifteen miles from Saigon, elements of the brigade terminated Operation Shelby. The

Vietnam Communique



Abn Launches Operation Hood River

THE ARMY REPORTER

Long Binh, Vietnam

September 9, 1967

Tho Struck By Cong Mortars

V CORPS-IO) —
city was at-
by Viet Cong
rifleless rifles and
from across
he Bassac River
he southern
city.
which dropped
throughout the
ly ten minutes
k reaction of a
d four armed
t countered the
in five minutes
shell was fired.
an soldiers and
mostly women
sustained injuries
minor to critical.
namese were

killed, 15 of them patients in a
hospital ward that was ripped
by an exploding shell.

Within hours, 145 Americans,
mostly members of the IV Corps
Advisory Group, were volun-
teering blood donations in an
effort to help save the more
seriously wounded casualties of
the early morning attack.

1st Inf Destroys VC Camp

LAI KHE, (1st INF-IO) —
Members of the 1st Infantry
Division's 2nd Brigade, 28th
Infantry recently swarmed into
a booby-trap-infested Viet Cong
base camp and came out with-
out a scratch.

The unit was on a search and
destroy mission near Phu Loi
when they spotted several empy
VC fighting positions.

When the men entered the
deserted base camp, they real-
ized that Charlie had laid large
numbers of boobytraps before
leaving the area.

A thorough search of the
camp was considerably slowed
because of the boobytraps hang-
ing from the trees. The doors
on several of the huts had also
been boobytrapped.

There was one anxious mo-
ment during the systematic
search of the camp. One of the
traps was harmlessly detonated
when Sgt. Richard Quenell lifted
a bag of rice which had been
connected to a Chinese Commu-
nist grenade.

"Everything possible was
boobytrapped in that base
camp," said SSgt. Clifford
Stokum. "As soon as I realized
so many traps were in the area,
I was afraid to take even one
step."

After the search was complet-
ed, the infantrymen destroyed
the camp.



MED-EVAC—First Lieutenant Peter J. Thomas, a for-
ward observer for Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th
Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, is hoisted out of the
mountainous jungles northwest of Quang Ngai after being
wounded in a battle.

(Photo By Sp4 Bob Towle, USARV-IO)

Former Viet Cong Joins 9th Division

TAN TRU, (9th INF-IO)—The
young man joined the Tan Tru
District Viet Cong three years
ago. Three months ago he joined
a company of the 9th Infantry
Division.

He is no double agent. For
two and a half years he fought
with the VC, suffering many
hardships, he said. In April he
thought it over and decided to
seek amnesty under the govern-

ment's Chieu Hoi (Open Arms)
program.

Now he is protecting the lives
of Allied soldiers that he had
vowed to kill. He works as a
scout for Company A, 2nd Bat-
talion, 60th Infantry—the unit
which had made life unbearable
for him and his comrades since
it arrived in Long An Province
in early March.

Since he joined the battalion
in mid-June, the former VC has
been helping patrols pick their

trail. About 40 yards away the men walked into an
estimated platoon of enemy just
completing an ambush site.

"They were in an excellent
position," said 1st Lt. Norman
E. Fretwell, platoon leader.

"But most of all they had the
element of surprise."

As the platoon's point man
and cover man came within five
yards, of the enemy's position,
automatic weapons fire burst
through the thick foliage. The
point man fell. The cover man
only had time to fire one burst
before he was wounded.

Specialist Five William Acree,
a medic, rushed through the
brush until the enemy's fire
forced him to crawl the remain-
ing 30 yards to the wounded
men.

Later in the battle Acree al-
most lost an eye as he was
crawling to another wounded
trooper. A bullet struck a tree
showing his face with splin-
ters.

As the battle reached its peak,
the enemy began dropping
60mm mortar rounds on the
paratroopers position.

"One landed five feet away
from me," said Capt. Peter
Pepper, company commander.
Why it didn't go off is something
that will be with me for the rest
of my life."

"The enemy must have had
some very old equipment," specu-
lated Fretwell. "We found four
dud rounds. They landed in the
midst of the men while the
fighting was going on."

Suddenly, as the sun began to
dip over the horizon, the con-
stant base of fire the enemy
was setting down stopped.

"We were perplexed," said
Sp4 Wallace Hopkins. "We wait-
ed a few moments and then
rushed the enemy's position. All
we found were a few shell cas-
ings, blood trails and a couple
of rucksacks. Then we found a
Russian carbine and a dead VC.
We are sure that the cover man
killed him."

"The area wasn't secure yet,"
said 1st Sgt. Edward J. Dube,
"and we told the med-evac chop-
per pilots this. But they came
in anyway and got our wound-
ed."

Freedom Contest Nears End

SAIGON, (MACV-IO) — Ap-
proximately two months remain
until the deadline for entry in

le Hearts For Him