

THE ARMY REPORTER

Long Binh, Vietnam

Aug. 5, 1967

ciated Prisoners Freed By Abn

Div Discovers Factory

INF-10) — Infantry Division, conducting operations here, captured a small

when they found a small hootch and the necessary equipment to construct booby-traps and grenades.

The find included fuses for grenades, a container full of small pieces of metal to be used

as shrapnel, gun powder, commo wire and 18 rounds of .30 cal. ammo.

Also found were weapons parts, two tons of rice, documents, maps, and a sight for an anti-aircraft weapon.

Trooper Shocked By 2 Men's Poor Condition

Story by 1st Lt. Barry Hana

DUC PHO, (101st ABN-10) — "God, they were a mess," said one paratrooper. "They looked like something out of those World War II prison camps."

The 101st Airborne Division trooper was shocked at the physical condition of two South Vietnamese soldiers liberated from a Viet Cong prison camp near here during Operation Malheur II.

The prisoners were emaciated, haggard, and beaten. Eyes and cheeks were sunk into their gaunt faces and their voices weak and inaudible due to lack of strength. Both suffered from malnutrition and exhaustion.

"They were in pretty bad shape," said 1st Lt. Corky Boswell. "The VC had beaten them, used them for laborers, and fed them just enough to keep them alive. And that wasn't very much."

The two soldiers, Pvt. Quang Nguyen Xuan, 22, from Binh Thuan Province, and Popular Forces Trooper Nguyen Nhl, 17, from Xuan Binh Hamlet in Quang Nghia Province, were found during a sweep by the 1st Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry.

The paratroopers destroyed the prison-bunker complex, killing three Viet Cong and two North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers. They also captured four NVA soldiers and freed the two friendly Vietnamese.

Xuan was captured in September, 1966 when his outpost with

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the 2nd Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division was overrun.

The 22-year-old soldier tried to hide when he saw the large VC force overpowering his position, but the concussion from a grenade blast knocked him unconscious and he was captured.

The VC beat him severely during his imprisonment and forced him to dig many of the intensive tunnel systems the paratroopers encountered throughout the area. He was a captive for 10 months.

Nhl was a member of his hamlet's Popular Forces platoon. Captured by the VC four months ago, he was beaten and subjected to propaganda classes during his imprisonment.

Captain John Lawton, intelligence officer for the battalion, interrogated the friendly Vietnamese soldiers for information applicable to immediate actions against the VC in the area.

The two former prisoners, exhausted and limited in their knowledge of enemy movements, were little help.

"We can't help you," said Xuan. "We just dug tunnels. They watched us carefully all the time and never talked in front of us."

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WET RESCUE—It is raining from the ground up as the rotors from these Huey helicopters stir up water in a rice paddy. Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, 25th Infantry are being extracted after a search and destroy mission near Duc Pho. (Photo by PFC Peter Daly, 25th INF-10)

Abn 1st Sgt Hit 3rd Time

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-10) — World War II, Korea, Vietnam and three Purple Hearts haven't slowed down a 24-year veteran now with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

First Sergeant Owen R. Schroeder will receive his third Purple Heart for a wound he sustained when his company fought a three-hour battle with two North Vietnamese Army companies near Dak To.

Company A, 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, was scaling a hill during a search and destroy operation when four enemy machineguns sent the Sky Soldiers sprawling for cover.

Seeing a young paratrooper shot through the jaw brought the first sergeant to the rescue. "When I reached the wounded man," said Schroeder, "shrapnel from a bouncing grenade hit me in the shoulder."

Ignoring the wound, the paratrooper helped the wounded man down the mud slick hill to

Servicemen Cautioned About Special Leave

SAIGON, (MACV-10) — Servicemen returning to the States on special leave should use government or government procured transportation to the fullest extent possible upon their return to CONUS.

Payment of mileage (six cents per mile) for travel in private vehicles to and from leave address is not authorized.

If travel by private vehicle is necessary for a portion of the distance to and from leave address, servicemen may be reimbursed for the actual cost of such travel.

Receipts for such costs as gas, oil, official telephone calls, tolls, etc., should be obtained and presented to finance officers for collection.

In the event that such receipts are not obtained, a statement signed by the serviceman indicating expenditure, type of purchase, place, and date of purchase, is required.

Special leaves are granted to personnel who voluntarily extend their tour in Vietnam by at least six months.

Tunnel Find Luck

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — Sometimes finding a Viet Cong tunnel is more chance than anything else.

For Sp4 Donald R. Webb, all it took was one false step.

Webb was searching a village 15 miles west of Saigon with other members of the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry when his foot broke through the thin straw covering of the back entrance to a VC tunnel.

Armed with only a .38 cal. pistol and flashlight, he waded his way into the tiny entrance. Six feet of tunnel and one corner later, he came face to face with an enemy soldier.

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AEV-10) — As Artis T. member of Group, has distinguished country's second valor. signed in the award for 1st Platoon, Engineer Bat-

Kenneth W. platoon leader Star dur-

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