



DUST A MENACE TOO—The noise of the chopper and the dust swirled up from the wash of the rotors force these troops to "cover up." The action is during Task Force Oregon near Chu Lai. (Photo by Mr. Hong Song Chan)

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June 10, 1967



LITTLE REFUGEE—A barefooted Vietnamese boy, recently evacuated from a village in the An Lao Valley, sits next to his family's possessions. The boy and his family were evacuated by the 1st Cavalry Division. (Photo by Sp4 Jere Smith, 1st CAV-IO)

'Mayday' Brings Quick Help For Downed Chopper Crew

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-10) — It was 7:40 p.m. as the hurried words, "Mayday, Mayday," came over the radio at the 153th Assault Helicopter Company Headquarters at Camp Coryell.

Warrant Officer Dennis M.

3 Villages Overrun

DUC PHO, (25th INF-10) — During the first week of Operation Baker, the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, which is a part of Task Force Oregon, overran three well-fortified enemy villages.

On the second day of the operation, Company B met heavy resistance from the first village during a search and destroy mission.

Air and artillery strikes were called in while the company maneuvered around the village's outskirts. But the enemy was well dug in and continued to resist. The following morning, the infantrymen broke through the fire and took the town.

The second and third villages were taken in the same manner. Enemy in both fought back with automatic weapons and grenade launchers. At night the villages were surrounded and taken the following morning.

After the first week, 80 enemy were killed, 60 captured.

Trux, commander of the UH-1D Huey helicopter, and his pilot, Robert D. Muldoon, gave their position as 20 miles southeast of here. The aircraft had a power failure at 9500 feet.

Within a few minutes the Camp Coryell standby flare ship, a wrecker ship, a standby gunship, and a medical evacuation helicopter became airborne.

Meanwhile, Trux was desperately trying to bring his craft down in the safest possible manner under the trying conditions. Determined to salvage the helicopter as best he could, Trux maneuvered the aircraft to the only opening, a tight one in some trees. With his rotor blades clearing the bushy branches by inches, he made a successful touchdown.

On the ground, Trux tried to make radio contact but the choppers electrical system was dead. He next tried the survival radio from the aircraft's survival kit, but it was on the blink.

Since there had been reports that 400 hard-core enemy regulars were in the immediate

vicinity, Trux marked the downed ship's position with a blinking light and the crew moved away from the ship to take up defensive positions. Trux and his crew members did not come into contact with the VC although they spent more than an hour on the ground.

At 8:30 the wrecker ship spotted the light. Flying closer, the chopper encountered enemy ground fire but confirmed the downed ship's location.

At 8:45 the flare ship began to illuminate the area. The pilot reported that the aircraft was spotted, intact, and the crew had escaped unhurt.

Then minutes later a chopper of the 498th Medical Company began its approach to the dimly blinking light.

Trux originally tried to wave the rescue craft off, electing to brave the hostile jungle rather than allow the ship to attempt such a hazardous landing. But the dust-off made it and the uninjured crew was safely extracted. The downed ship was recovered the next day.

Use Army (AVN) soldiers in a six-hour battle recently, five miles from the Cambodian border.

There were 30 Americans killed, 31 wounded, and one reported missing.

Company B, while on patrol, spotted several enemy soldiers. As the company attempted to encircle the enemy, it began to receive small arms fire. The enemy pinned the company

everything they had. Gunships also supported the company as flare ships lit the evening sky.

Company A was air-dropped into the area to reinforce the unit as air strikes pounded the enemy.

Company A swept the area trying to locate Co. B's lost platoon, but the dense elephant grass and darkness made it impossible.

Shortly after midnight Co. B received several rounds of 82mm mortar fire. A few hours later it was hit by five rounds of rocket fire.

The men of the lost platoon were found early in the morning. Eight wounded soldiers were evacuated. The men said they laid in the grass playing dead, each thinking he was the only survivor.

"I was lying on my stomach playing dead," said one soldier. "One enemy soldier came over and sat on my back. He placed his hand under my shirt to see if I was breathing. I could hear my heart pounding and veins popping, but he must have thought I was dead, because he got up, kicked me in the side, and walked away."

Bien Hoa Helped By FAC

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—When the Bien Hoa Air Base was being attacked by enemy mortar and rocket fire, the 1st Infantry Division headquarters put out the call for a Forward Air Controller (FAC).

Less than 15 minutes after the call, U.S. Air Force (USAF) Maj. Robert Savage, 2nd Brigade Air Liaison Officer, and USAF Capt. Geoffrey Engles, a brigade FAC, took off from the Di An airstrip.

Although neither of the officers were familiar with the area, they flew directly to the thickly-vegetated site north of Bien Hoa where the enemy guns were located.

Aided by a flare ship, the fliers spotted and drew fire from five .50 caliber machineguns hidden under the jungle canopy.

Disregarding the enemy barrage, the officers continued to survey the area and called in air strikes. They directed nine jet strikes over a four-hour period.

In addition to halting the shelling of Bien Hoa, the strikes destroyed enemy mortar positions which had been harassing Army of the Republic of Vietnam posts in the vicinity. A search of the machinegun nests also uncovered an extensive Viet Cong bunker network.

Snipers Hit 196th

CHU LAI, (196th INF-10)—A Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, moved stealthily through the double canopy jungle of War Zone C, deadly accurate sniper fire began pouring in on the lead elements.

Maneuvering against the snipers, the 1st Platoon came under fire from the front and both flanks. Fire started coming from bunkers and trench lines as well, and already several men had fallen from the sniper fire. Company A had uncovered a Viet Cong base camp.

Captain Robert C. White, the commander, maneuvered his 2nd Platoon to the left to outflank the VC position. It became engaged in a heavy firefight.

Artillery and air strikes were called in to help root the VC from their well-concealed tunnels and trenches. As the supporting fire ceased, the unit moved into the area and found four dead VC. The men destroyed the camp.

Co Renovates



Pass In Review:

Awards And Decorations

PFC Earns Silver Star

PLEIKU, (4th INF-10) — A 4th Infantry Division soldier recently received the Silver Star for carrying two non-commissioned officers through an enemy mortar barrage to an evacuation helicopter.

Private First Class Marvin E. Martin and his platoon, part of Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, which was the lead element of a company-sized sweep, came under heavy automatic weapons fire from an unknown sized North Vietnamese Army force.

In the early moments of the battle, the platoon and squad leaders were wounded. Martin exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire to move them to temporary safety.

As the intensity of the battle increased, friendly mortar and artillery fire were called in. Martin, meanwhile, called for a dust-off to get the wounded men out of the area.

Realizing his comrades were not able to defend themselves, Martin moved forward, positioning himself between the enemy and the wounded. His steady volume of fire kept the enemy from advancing.

When the helicopter arrived, the enemy fired mortar rounds at the landing zone. Knowing that time could be critical to the lives of the two wounded men, Martin carried each man and his equipment through bursting mortar rounds to the chopper.

Charging Sgt Awarded SS

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — A 1st Cavalry Division sergeant was awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award, recently after he single-handedly charged four Viet Cong and



AWARD WINNER—Specialist Four John D. Baca of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry receives the Bronze Star from Col. Donald Rattan, 1st Brigade commander. Baca won the award for his actions during Operation Pershing. (Photo by 1st CAV-10)

killed three of them.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry was slowly moving along a valley two miles north-east of Landing Zone Hammond during a sweep and clear mission.

Sergeant Richard E. Lour, who was then a specialist four, spotted four VC and immediately opened fire, killing one. The enemy returned the fire and started to withdraw.

As Lour rushed after them, his weapon malfunctioned. But he continued his charge while struggling to get his weapon in working order.

Finally, after fixing his weapon, Lour spotted and dropped another VC. He continued his pursuit, and, in a close exchange

of fire, killed the third enemy. Lour continued his search, but the fourth enemy escaped into the underbrush.

1st Cav Pilots Receive DFC

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — Two officers from the 1st Cavalry Division were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross recently for their actions During Operation Paul Revere II in the Ia Drang Valley.

Captains Jack L. Gulnn and Phillip A. Kinney of the 2nd Brigade flew their craft at tree-top levels as they pin-pointed enemy movement for ground forces. While relaying the data, their ship was hit by enemy machinegun fire.

As the enemy pulled out of the area, the men directed artillery fire on North Vietnamese soldiers concealed below the jungle canopies.

Chaplain's Column:

The Tragedy Of Life

Chaplain (Maj.)
Howard T. Lee

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Sniper School Founded

CHU LAI, (196th INF-10) — The 196th Light Infantry Brigade has established the Army's first modern sniper school.

The school, originally scheduled to open in April but delayed because of the brigade's move to Chu Lai, recently graduated its first class.

The 12 graduates attended six days of classroom instruction and live- and dry-firing practices with the snipers' weapons, a telescope-mounted M-14 rifle and the XM-148 rifle with grenade launcher.

The school uses instructors from the brigade's Charger Academy and a make-shift rifle range at the brigade headquarters here.

Sergeant First Class Herbert L. Donally, one of the school's founders, attended the Marine sniper school at Da Nang, which formed the basis of the 196th course.

The men learn to detect and identify targets, determine ranges, and calculate the effects of wind and weather on accuracy. They are also taught map reading, radio-telephone operation, and the mission of a forward observer.

The men practice their marksmanship on stationary and moving camouflaged targets at distances up to 760 yards.

When they begin operations in the field, the sharpshooters will work in two-man teams. One man will use the M-14 while the other will use the XM-148 for "closer fighting." With the help of a 20-power spotting scope, the men will also be able to detect movement at extreme distances.



STEADY TROOPS—These two men from a Republic of Korea Marine brigade appear calm and steady as they guard against any enemy surprise attacks.

(Photo by Mr. Hong Song Chan)

Cong Kept Away From Harvesting

DUC PHO, (25th INF-10) — Operation Golden Fleece, conducted by the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division, has enabled refugees from Duc Pho District to harvest their rice crop for the first time in several years.

Along the Sang Tra River, villagers planted their rice as usual. But when it ripened, the Viet Cong sniped at the villagers each time they tried to harvest the crop. The villagers were

forced to sit idly and watch their rice crop rot.

In late April, companies from the 1st Battalion and 2nd Battalions, 35th Infantry, with other elements of the 3rd Brigade, began sweeping the area as part of Operation Golden Fleece.

Captain Kenneth Barton, commander of Company B, 1st Bn., 35th Inf., said, "The snipers are hardcore VC and they don't scare easily. But we're keeping them in the background and out of the rice harvest for the time being."

While the brigade has been patrolling here, the villagers are harvesting more than three tons of rice daily.

Aviators Help Out

LONG BINH, (1st AVN-10) — A grass fire recently got out of control directly across Highway 1 from the 12th Aviation Group Headquarters.

Noticing the fire, 12th Group chaplain, Maj. Dalton H. Barnes, and Sp4 Gale L. Metcalf dashed across the highway to help put out the fire.

When the fire was finally put out, the home of a Vietnamese war widow with five children had been burned to the ground. All possessions were destroyed.

Metcalf, a member of 12th Group's civic action team, assessed the situation. Momentarily leaving the still smoldering ruins, he returned to the group's headquarters. Within 15 minutes he was back on the scene with food and clothing. He distributed 200 pounds of rice, 100 pounds of corn meal, cooking oil, dry milk, and clothing to the family.

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MEDCAPs, Bridges, Pagoda All Involved In Delta Civic



Three Vietnamese civilians, victims of a Viet Cong terrorist's attack on the Tho Province Hospital. The terrorist threw the grenade at the civilians watching television in the Than Phu village market (Photo by IV CORPS-IO)

and the one pointed to with pride by 1st Lt. Louis Beck, leader of the 245th Psychological Operations (Psyops) Company team attached to the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division, has been the success of psychological warfare on the Communists.

"I heard you talking from airplanes and read the leaflets you've dropped," explained many of the returnees.

The leaflets dropped contain statements and pictures of other ralliers and show them the power of allied forces.

Among the leaflets dropped are National Safe Conduct Passes which allow dissatisfied

even as incentives for information regarding the whereabouts of enemy mines and booby traps and for turning in weapons.

For the past 15 years, the Duc Pho District of Quang Ngai Province has been a free movement area for North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops and VC.

Suddenly the tide has turned and the enemy is no longer free to roam and terrorize the villages.

One former VC squad leader, now a returnee, recently stated, "I was in a firefight this morning just before dawn and for every round I fired, 20 men fired back at me. With odds like that I knew I never could win."

Since the 3rd Bde. closed the Duc Pho area in April, 121 Hoi Chanh have rallied. Thirty-three returned in a two-day period, one of which was an NVA political officer who stated, "I am returning to the Government of Vietnam because I can no longer lie to my people. I tell them we are winning and we lose."

"I tell them food, clothing, and medicine are coming but it never arrives for them or me. Your men seem to have a will to win because they have something to fight with and for."

Vietnam Communique

4th Infantry Division—Units of the 1st Brigade swept Hill 521, 33 miles southwest of Pleiku, for three days during Operation Francis Marion. Cumulative results for that contact are 98 North Vietnamese Army soldiers and 10 Americans killed, 54 infantrymen wounded, 20 individual and 10 crew-served weapons captured. Operation Diamond Head, a multi-battalion operation by the 3rd Brigade, began on May 18 northwest of Tay Ninh City. No major contacts have been reported. Two enemy and 14 Americans have been killed in scattered actions. Three individual weapons have been captured and three suspects detained.

25th Infantry Division—The 3rd Brigade, part of Task Force Oregon, had a day-long battle with an enemy of unknown size five miles northwest of Duc Pho. At the end of the day, 47 enemy soldiers were dead compared with one American death. Three crew-served weapons, 16 individual weapons, and a 60mm mortar tube were captured. The 1st Brigade is engaged in battalion-sized Operation Barking Sands 22 miles west-northwest of Saigon. The casualties from May 18 when the operation began are two enemy and 14 U.S. infantrymen killed, with 31 American soldiers wounded and three suspects detained.

1st Infantry Division—The 1st Brigade has terminated Operation Dallas. During the operation, the Big Red One killed 17 enemy, detained six suspects, and captured nine weapons, 53 tons of rice, 500 pounds of salt, 515 rounds of small arms ammunition, 35 claymore mines, 54 grenades, 53 mortar rounds, and destroyed 101 bunkers, 16 military structures, three tunnels, and two sampans.

5th Special Forces Group—Special Forces and Civilian Irregular Defense Group troops made 21 contacts with the enemy in one day. The result was 21 enemy killed, 13 suspects detained, and six individual weapons captured. Friendly casualties were light including one Green Beret wounded.

1st Cavalry Division—Light

contacts with the enemy during four days of Operation Pershing along the Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh border resulted in 47 enemy killed.

101st Airborne Division—Troops of the 1st Brigade have raised the total number of enemy killed in Operation Malheur to 356. The action, near Duc Pho, has resulted in 27 tons of rice and some 1500 enemy uniforms captured.

9th Infantry Division—Elements of the division conducted a search and destroy mission eight miles northwest of Dong

Tam with only light, harassing fire throughout a recent morning. That afternoon, however, heavy contact was made in several locations. Soldiers killed 19 enemy in ground actions, while helicopter gunships accounted for 12 more enemy killed.

196th Light Infantry Brigade—A platoon of Task Force Oregon observed 12 Viet Cong moving toward their position and, when the VC reached the platoon perimeter, the soldiers killed three of them, captured a machinegun, four pressure mines, and a bag of hand grenades.



Captain Survives Explosion

DUK PHO, (25th INF-IO)—A 25th Infantry Division captain walked away from a grenade explosion recently with a small cut above one eye as his only injury.

Kenneth Barton, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, was leading his men on a search and destroy mission. The Viet Cong opened up on them.

Barton saw a VC run into a bunker and advanced toward it.

Before he could reach it, the VC ran out and threw a grenade near the trio. The captain's web gear was ripped to shreds and his weapon smashed.

"I thought I'd had it when I saw him throw that grenade," he said.

He was taken from the field for treatment, but a few hours later was back commanding his company.

Indian Design

DAU TIENG, (4th INF-IO)—An Indian head design gives a 4th Infantry Division unit a bit more individuality now.

Each Warrior of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry, 3rd Brigade has the design painted on his camouflage cover and weapon butt. Headquarters Company has a black design; Company A, red; Company B, green; and Company C, blue.

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Gunships, APCs Assist Infantry; Trounce Enemy

DUC PHO. (25th INF-10) — "We're in contact, how about some gunships and APCs!" came the call over the radio from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

The call was received by C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry and immediately the armored personnel carriers whipped into action and rumbled to the scene.

It was a surprise for Charlie. As two North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers ran toward the five charging tracks, 1st Lt. Robert H. Gardner ordered machinegun fire.

The tracks surged forward and by the time they reached the action area, the gunships from

the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry had the enemy on the run. It was a bloody game of hide and seek and it seemed as if there were NVA behind every bush and tree. Again the choppers played an important role as Hueys buzzed overhead contouring the ground and pointing to where the enemy was hiding and firing.

Still under fire, Gardner's command track came upon two more NVA. One was dead and the other seriously wounded. Specialist Five Allen A. Wyatt leaped from the vehicle and began to aid the wounded enemy.

The enemy forces had first

been sighted early one morning by the Recon Platoon of the 2nd Bn. The platoon had reported seeing at least seven persons dressed in uniforms.

The report brought out the helicopter recon unit of the squadron which was able to observe groups of two to 15 armed men. The groups were immediately engaged by both air and ground forces.

While sporadic firing continued throughout the day, the main battle lasted four hours, resulting in 31 enemy killed and two captured. Thirteen weapons, including two machineguns, and a radio were taken.

United States Army:

Celebrates 192nd Yr

On 14 June, Americans observe Flag Day and the 192nd birthday of the United States Army. It is altogether fitting that our flag and the Army are honored on the same day, for the history of the Army is inseparable from the history of our country, which is symbolized around the world by the Flag.

In the Revolutionary War, the tiny Continental Army won for America the right to have its own flag. Inspired by the unquenchable spirit of its gallant soldiers, the Nation welcomed its flag in 1777. Since then, the Nation and the Army have grown together. Through nearly two centuries, the Army has defended our great land. It led the way in the opening of the West, advanced the cause of civilization through engineering and medicine, and serves in the forefront of today's technological age.

In the Republic of Vietnam, the United States Army again is heavily engaged in behalf of human justice and freedom. The American Flag continues to be the symbol of hope and liberty. With such a heritage, we soldiers have much to be proud of. We can do no less than to rededicate ourselves to carry on this tradition of courage, honor, and service.

BRUCE PALMER JR.
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Commanding General



GENERAL PALMER

Inf Unit



VC Kill 7,
Wound
40 Viet