

## Abn Bde Medics Visit Village Struck By Terrorists

(173rd ABN-IO) — Early morning rain in tiny hamlet in Phuoc Tuy and of Viet Cong from the dark-  
villagers — four men — wounded and spread fear.

Later another group made its way out to Suoi Chan. It was a Medical team from the 173rd ABN-IO. The medical team, accompanied by a military band, could be seen in the village, as always, with shouts.

to Capt. Albert Civil Affairs of the community when the village, since the

Vietnamese fear retribution from the VC. But by an American show of strength we hope the villagers will realize that they can count on the government for support."

Interpreter Duong Van Vo helped convey the intentions of the medical team. Vo worked closely with the doctors to detect the ailments of the people. "Most of the children," said Capt. Joseph Grosso, a 173rd

physician, "are treated for skin conditions, while a majority of the adults treated are malaria and tuberculosis patients."

In three hours, the medical team had treated over 70 men, women and children. They also passed out medicine for their ailments.

When the paratroopers moved out of Suoi Chan, the inhabitants — young and old alike — were smiling.



**MASS MIGRATION**—With all their worldly belongings on their backs and in their arms, members of a remote central highland Montagnard village climb aboard a 179th Assault Helicopter Company Chinook. In recent weeks over 2000 refugees have been moved by aviators from enemy-threatened areas in Pleiku Province to the safety of government refugee centers. (Photo by CWO Donald Joyce, 1st AVN-IO)

## Korean Veteran With 25th Inf Div Has Run Of Bad Luck In Vietnam

**DUC PHO, (25th INF-IO)** — Sergeant James A. Hull, five time recipient of the Purple Heart, has had his share of ups and downs.

He had received four Purple Hearts in Korea, and three weeks after he arrived in Vietnam he was in the hospital with malaria.

He returned to his unit, Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry (the same battalion he was with in Korea), only to trip a Viet Cong booby-trap. Wounds from the shrapnel sent him back to the hospital where he was presented his fifth Purple Heart.

Hull went back to his unit for a third time. A week later, as he sat behind a clump of brush reading a letter, three laughing North Vietnamese Army regulars, returning from a fishing trip, approached him. Hull opened up and brought them to the ground with a burst from his M-16.

## Ivy Division Troops Meet, Kill 2 Enemy

**PLEIKU, (4th INF-IO)** — Riding on their noisy personnel carriers or quietly walking through the dense jungles, the 4th Infantry Division troops can still surprise the enemy. Recently, two enemy were surprised and killed by the Ivy men.

Company A, 2nd Battalion, (Mechanized) 8th Infantry was in heavy contact after discovering a strongly fortified enemy

bunker complex near the Ia Meur River in the Ia Drang Valley.

Ammunition was running low and a call went out the Reconnaissance Platoon for resupply.

The platoon soon arrived with the needed ammunition and was on its return trip to the units forward fire support base. Enroute two north Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers were spotted in the brush.

"I saw the NVA coming through the brush and I began firing at them," said PFC David Tanner. Tanner blasted one of the NVA with his M-16 while PFC Allan Werley killed the other with an M-79 grenade launcher.

The NVA were caught by surprise and did not even have a chance to return fire.

Further up the trail two of the armored personnel carriers (APC) were hit by NVA B-40 rocket launchers. The damage was not sufficient to stop the APCs, who called in artillery on the NVA troops.

## VC Learn Of Power Of Hueys

**BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-IO)**—While supporting the Vietnamese 23rd Division, WO Jack Finn, pilot with the 153th Assault Helicopter Company, discovered there are still some Viet Cong that are not aware of the power and capabilities of Army aviation.

Flying the command and control ship, he was taking the ground commander into a landing zone to observe the progress of a troop lift when he spotted five VC. His crewchief immediately opened fire as Finn maneuvered the aircraft safely out of small arms range. In relating the story, Finn said, "They didn't run. They just walked down the road, casually taking pot-shots at us."

Turning to his most powerful weapon, Finn radioed an Air Force Forward Air Controller and directed him to the area.

"Sure, I've been fired at before, and taken hits," Finn reported, "but these Viet Cong didn't show the least respect. They've got a lot to learn about our innocent looking Hueys."

## Aged Det Provides Care Field Force Soldiers

**NI, (II FFV-IO)** — Medical Detachment is with care for more

over, said, "We have dental, minor surgery, X-ray, and laboratory and pharmacy facilities."

## 9th Inf Div MEDCAP Gives Dental Care To Village Youths



**MANGROVE LOUNGE**—An infantryman with the 9th Infantry Division's 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry wedges himself into mangrove branches to keep dry during a break. (Photo by 9th INF-10)

ly that his luck just will not give up.

Staff Sergeant Billy I. Hammon was patrolling with Company A of the 3rd Brigade's 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry near here when he stepped on a grenade booby trap.

Shouting a warning to his platoon he carefully removed the deadly explosive package and moved on. The booby trap malfunctioned.

Shortly afterward he found himself face to face with an enemy claymore mine. Before he could jump to safety, the mine was detonated. But only the blasting cap exploded.

Minutes later the platoon sergeant stepped onto another grenade booby trap. The striker had been tripped but the defective grenade failed to explode.

Later, while he was rechecking the spot where the claymore mine had been detonated, he found himself staring at an anti-personnel mine. He had nearly stepped on the triggering mechanism.

"I must have a lot of luck," sighed the harried platoon sergeant when the operation was over.

May 27, 1967

# Vietnam Communique

**Operation Junction City**—Operation Junction City has terminated. The operation, which was located 20 miles north of Tay Ninh City, began Feb. 22. It was a II Field Force, multi-division search and destroy operation in War Zone C and was under operational control of the

25th Infantry Division. During the operation 2728 enemy were killed, 491 individual and 100 crew-served weapons captured. American casualties were reported at 282 killed. Before the operation ended, the 4th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade five support base five miles east of Tay Ninh was hit by enemy mortar fire. The caliber and number of rounds were unknown. Counter-mortar fire and Air Force Dragonships struck back at suspected enemy positions. Seven Americans were killed and 26 others were wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown.

troops made 50 contacts with enemy forces in the past week. Enemy killed totaled 127. A total of 18 individual weapons were captured. CIDG casualties were light, two Green Berets were killed and nine others wounded.

**1st Infantry Division**—The 1st Brigade base camp at Phuoc Vinh 34 miles north of Saigon was hit by 25 rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire. Three Air Force strikes, and artillery, struck back. One American was wounded and light damage was reported to aircraft and facilities. There were no enemy casualties reported.

**25th Infantry Division**—The 2nd Brigade terminated Operation Ala Moana. The search and destroy operation centered on an area 25 miles northwest of Saigon and began Dec. 1, 1966. It accounted for 382 enemy killed, ninety-three individual and five crew-served weapons were captured. There were 47 Americans killed and 158 wounded.

**4th Infantry Division**—Two enemy base camps were located in separate incidents during Operation Francis Marion. A 2nd Brigade company located one camp 22 miles west-southwest of Pleiku containing eight bunkers, miscellaneous small arms ammunition, and hand grenades. The other camp was found 34 miles northeast of Ban Me Thuot in Darlac Province by a 1st Brigade company. The area contained four mess halls, 22 huts, and 25 bunkers.

**9th Infantry Division**—A company from the 2nd Brigade located an enemy base camp 21 miles east-southeast of Saigon containing five three-man huts. Inside the huts were found 48 rounds of 60mm mortar ammunition, 26 individual weapons, small arms ammunition, and assorted supplies.

**1st Cavalry Division**—The 3rd Brigade saw four days of action in Operation Pershing. A reconnaissance force and gunships from the 9th Cavalry accounted for 16 enemy killed and four weapons captured in the An Lao Valley. Two cavalrymen were wounded. Another unit found an enemy weapons cache in a cave 19 miles north of Nong Son. The cache consisted of 23,500 rounds of small arms ammunition, 21 rounds of 57mm recoilless rifle ammunition, four field telephones, two radios, four machineguns, and 20 pounds of explosives. The brigade engaged an enemy company nine miles southwest of Duc Pho. Artillery, helicopters, and a multi-company force entered the battle also. Twenty enemy were killed. Seven Cavalrymen were killed and 17 wounded. In Operation Byrd two platoons from the 7th Cavalry engaged an enemy force eight miles south-southwest of Song Mao while on a search and destroy mission. Twenty-four enemy were killed, 10 suspects were detained, and eight individual weapons captured. There were no friendly casualties.

**5th Special Forces Group**—Special Forces and Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG)

Commented, Ngo, "The Chien Hot program is more than promises. It offers more security and a better life. It means freedom. This is exactly what I'm trying to tell the Viet Cong."

## Wire Is Deadly

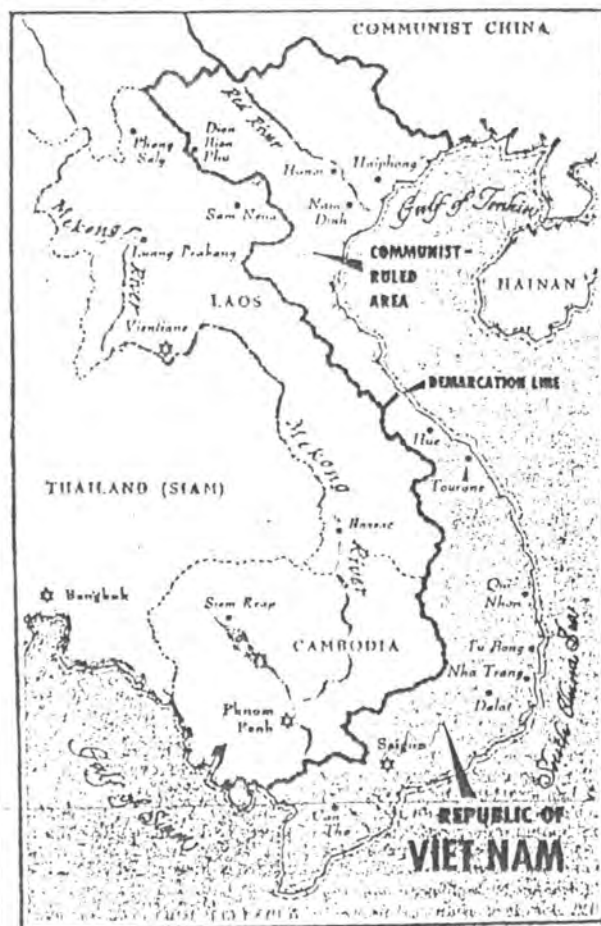
**LE THANH, (4th INF-10)**—Communication is essential on the field of battle, but it proved to be fatal for a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) squad during a recent encounter with "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.

Under the direction of Capt. James B. Stapleton Jr., three reinforced squads of the battalion company C were conducting a sweep the day following contact with an estimated NVA company.

"We could smell bodies all over the place," recalled Sgt. James F. Lawson, an 81mm mortar forward observer. "We found fresh commo wire across an air strike area so we blocked the trail and called for artillery."

"Four of them came down the path," said Sgt. Dale R. McClain. "I let a burst of 20 go and then everyone opened up."

"It all lasted about 10 minutes, but it seemed like days," concurred Lawson. "We caught one later and he said his squad had been detailed to police up bodies. I don't know about that, but if it hadn't been for the commo wire we might have walked right into a trap."



of our armed forces have made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

As we honor those dead we know that we cannot discharge our solemn obligation to them with mere words of praise. They did not die for words. They gave their lives for the right of people every where to be free and to help insure freedom for future generations.

The American soldier is fighting and dying in Vietnam in the same selfless way as he has fought and died in other wars on other distant battlefields. We who are fortunate enough to be alive owe an everlasting debt of pride and gratitude to our fallen comrades. They shall not be forgotten.

BRUCE PALMER, JR.

Lieutenant General, USA

Deputy Commanding General

## DFCs To Airborne Soldiers

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-10)—A helicopter door gunner and an aviator in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, who helped rescue a beleaguered Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) team during Operation Junction City, were both recently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross here.

Specialist Five Richard F. Jackman, of the Brigade's Aviation Platoon laid down a tremendous rate of suppressive fire, while 2nd Lt. William M. Reynolds piloted the ship which allowed the patrol to be extracted without casualties.

Lieutenant Reynolds' UH-1D helicopter had just returned from a command and control mission with Col. Robert C. Shaw, then deputy brigade commander of the 173rd, in War Zone C, near the Cambodian border. Minutes later, after receiving a flash radio message, Colonel Shaw dashed back to the ship, saying, "The LRRP's in trouble. Let's go!"

Arriving at the scene, Reynolds made a tree-level pass at the enemy position. The Viet Cong cut loose at the lone chopper with a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire. Colonel Shaw lobbed a red smoke grenade to mark the area.

Specialist Jackman immediately grabbed his M-60 machinegun, and sent round after round accurately toward the enemy position. Forgetting about the LRRP team, Charlie raked the low-flying chopper with murderous bursts of automatic weapons fire.

Lieutenant Reynolds continued making a long series of low-level passes at the VC, from just above the jungle canopy.

With Jackman on one gun, and the crew chief, Sp5 Dennis Bradley, on the other, the ship hovered over the area, right in the tree line. Taking time out only to reload their machineguns, the gunners soon gained fire superiority over the enemy force. After about 15 minutes of slicks and gunships arrived in the area.

As darkness enveloped the area, the reinforcing light fire team carried out the extraction of the patrol without incident.

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# Unable To Walk, Medic Continued To Aid Buddie

LONG BINH, (199th INF-10)—Specialist Four Michael Keim, although wounded seriously in the leg, continued to perform as combat medic in Company C, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

During a search and destroy operation recently in Gia Dinh Province, Company C was sweeping across a rice paddy toward a VC position when an enemy claymore was triggered. The explosion knocked Keim, a

squad leader and a team leader, completely off the dike and were crossing and into the

Immediately the company rushed the enemy position leaving only the wounded behind. Keim raised his head out of the water and felt a full throbbing in his right leg. He tried to stand, but his wounded leg wouldn't support him; he sagged into the mud again.

The medic's own crisis came of secondary concern. He saw the limp body of a squad leader lying face down in the mud. Keim then began agonizing fifty yard crawl toward his wounded companion. When he reached him he managed to roll the man over on his back, getting his face out of the mud.

The sergeant was wounded in both arms and had a wound on his right side. Keim quickly bandaged the man's arm and was unable to apply a proper bandage to his chest, but the tape simply wouldn't stick to the mud and slime coating the sergeant's body. There was nothing to do but sit there and forcibly hold the bandage.

The team leader had also been hit but Keim didn't know his condition. Struggling on his knees, he peered over the dike and saw the man's badly mangled left arm, lying in a prone position at the enemy position. He hollered at the rifleman who reassured him that he was doing okay.

The medic, realizing that he might be there for some time, began to give blood to the wounded squad leader.

As the pace of the fighting finally began to slacken, a rescue chopper swooped down, landing only 10 feet away from the medic's position. After insisting that the other wounded be helped before himself, Keim was loaded on the chopper and the three flown to medical care.

The rest of the platoon succeeded in overrunning the base camp and killing several



FIRE SUPPORT—Artillerymen from the 4th Infantry Division's 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery let loose with their 105mm howitzer in support of infantrymen participating in Operation Francis Marion. (Photo by PFC Frederick Schuller, 4th INF-10)

## NVA Charge—A Fatal Mistake

PLEIKU, (4th INF-10)—The Americans were pinned down by a hail of machinegun and automatic weapons fire. The North Vietnamese Regulars (NVA) had victory in sight, but when they charged, they were unprepared for the rapid response of the U.S. soldiers.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division had sent a platoon to check out several well used trails in the area where they were conducting search and destroy operations.

After crossing a small stream the platoon continued up a slight grade. The North Vietnamese soldiers waited until the last man crossed the stream before hitting the group from the rear and left flank.

"I don't know how we did it, but we managed to hold them off for a while," said 1st Lt. Andres C. Ramirez. "Our forward observer, Sgt. Thomas Fetter, quickly called in artillery fire on them."

By the time the first 105mm howitzer rounds had landed on

the enemy, Ramirez had positioned a machinegunner on top of a nearby ledge close to a small waterfall. The machinegun's position had a pretty good view of the surrounding area, and he concentrated his fire on the enemy's positions.

Then thinking of victory, Charlie tried charging the enemy. "That was their mistake. The enemy took a beating doing that," said Ramirez. "I've never seen anyone as fanatical as they were."

Relief finally came for the platoon when another platoon of the company fought its way through to link up with the men.

The relief element took the offensive from the enemy and started to push the NVA back.

Leaving only three men to hold off the American infantrymen, the enemy began to retreat. A machinegunner managed to get two of the remaining NVA. Firing his AK-47 till he ran out of ammo, the last enemy took cover behind a tree and started firing his pistol.

Sergeant First Class Jose T.

Francisco who led the relief platoon said, "I threw seven grenades at him before getting him. Each of the grenades hit within killing range, but he just wouldn't give up. We chased the rest of them for a while before they managed to break contact."

## Cong Attack Civilians

TRANG SUP, (III CORPS-10) — The Viet Cong attacked a civilian community in Tay Ninh Province with more than 50 rounds of high explosives and white phosphorus hitting the southern edge of this hamlet of some 400 people, located along Highway 22 north-west of Tay Ninh City.

The shelling took place in two increments one night recently and killed three members of one family — mother, father and child. Forty people were wounded, 28 of whom were medevaced because of the serious nature of their wounds. Twelve cattle were also killed in the shelling.

The white phosphorus set fire to some of the village homes. However, the reaction of the villagers prevented the fire from spreading, causing further hardship.

The portion of the hamlet housed many of the dependents of soldiers who were training Civilian Irregular Defense Group volunteers at the Trung Sup Camp located south-east of the village on the highway.

The shelling destroyed the village school when it blew out one corner of the building and devastated one of the two main classrooms.