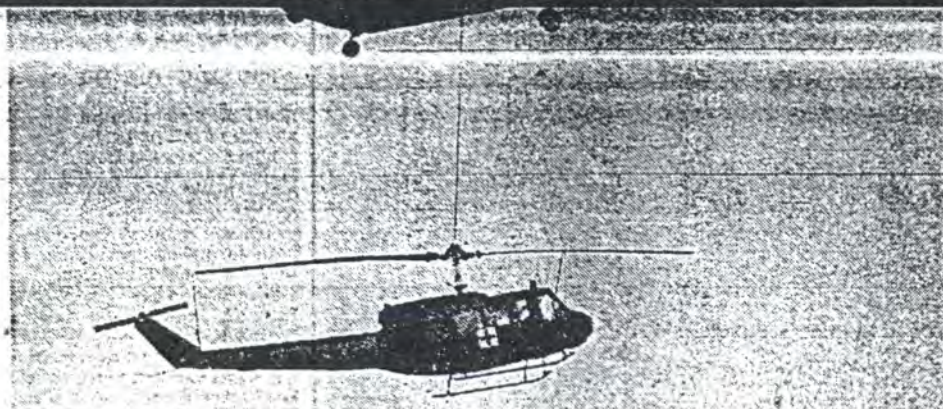




**CHOPPER SAVES CHOPPER**—A disabled dustoff chopper is recovered by its big brother, the CH-47 Chinook. The dustoff helicopter was shot down by enemy fire near Rach Kien, the base camp of the 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade.

(Photo by Sp4 Gary Bipes, 9th INF-IO)

## 'A' Team Cuts Into VC Area

**TRA BONG, (5th SFG-10)** — The Special Forces Camp at Tra Bong lies in a long narrow valley in the central mountainous region of I Corps Tactical Zone, in the center of a major cinnamon production area.

The Viet Cong became active in this area in the spring of 1965, trying to gain control of the harvest in the valley. In the autumn of 1966, a Special Forces A team moved in and began extensive search and destroy missions. Many pre-planned operations succeeded in severing any control the VC had gained prior to the team's arrival.

The main mission assigned to the camp at present is that of reconnaissance — locating the enemy and tracking his movements. The areas to the north and south of the camp are known infiltration routes for the North Vietnamese Army.

### Lighten The Economy

Help the Vietnamese economy. Pay no more than the posted fair price for an item or service. Tip when appropriate but do not overtip.

## Huey Pilots Slay 5 'Green' Enemy

**BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-10)**—As elements of the Vietnamese 23rd Infantry Division swung into operations east of Ban Me Thuot in conjunction with the 101st Airborne Division, pilots of the 155th Assault Helicopter Company, who began supporting them in early April, found they had some training to conduct.

It seemed the Viet Cong the aviators encountered here were not the veterans they were accustomed to during their support of Operations Paul Revere and "Sam Houston" in the Pleiku area. There VC were green to the power of Army aviation.

Warrant Officer Jack L. Finn initiated the training program while flying a command and control ship for Colonel Anh of the 23rd Division. Earlier in the morning the helicopter company had lifted two platoons of Civilian Irregular Defense group (CIDG) forces into a position along a heavily-mined road southeast of Ban Me Thuot. Anh wanted to check on the progress of the action, so Finn flew him to the landing zone. About 55 yards from the zone he spotted five VC in the open.

His crew chief began to fire at them, but they did not run. "They just walked down the road, casually taking pot shots at us," Finn said.

Finn took the enemy's assault as a personal affront to his aircraft's capabilities. But not wanting to endanger his passengers, he took evasive action. Then he turned to his most powerful weapon—his radio. Calling in an artillery spotter who was in the vicinity, he directed the pilot to the target. Within five minutes the nearby Vietnamese artillery had registered and destroyed the unwary enemy.

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

## Song Mae Airfield Restored In 3 Months

**CAM RANH BAY, (USAECV-10)**—A badly deteriorated airfield at Song Mae has been transformed into one of the most functional forward support areas in Vietnam by three months of around-the-clock work by Company B, 87th Engineer Battalion, 25th Engineer Group, United States Army Engineer Command.

The work began when an engineer advanced party arrived at an airfield that consisted of badly deteriorated pierced steel planking. Equipment and mate-

rial for combat zone resupply for the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, has been solved by a team of three men called the Forward Area Supply Team (FAST).

The team, developed by the battalion a year ago, has worked successfully during this period, and has reportedly been adopted by other units.

The team consists of a section sergeant, a radioman, and a helicopter landing man. It travels with the battalion on all combat assaults so it is able to call in needed supplies at any hour of the day or night.

"Supplying a battalion in combat with all that is needed and yet allowing them to travel light used to be a real problem," said the unit's supply officer, Capt. Dale Bergsten.

"The FAST team consolidates all resupply requests and radios the requests to the battalion rear on a special logistical network and then directs incoming helicopters to the landing zone," explained Bergsten.

The team has direct communications with the choppers by radio or they can guide them in by using smoke and hand signals.

"Just to make sure everything goes where it should, we hold classes for men in the companies on helicopter landing techniques," said the support platoon leader, 1st Lt. Albert Cito. "That way the company can receive material at any time, even when separated from the battalion."

Material includes everything from mortar rounds to dry socks. Heavy weapons such as machineguns and mortars are flown in at night. They are used for night defense and are extracted in the morning.

"The men have duffel bags

ing for a whole squad," said Cito. The bags are also brought in at night and removed in the morning.

"The FAST team has proven its worth to the 'Wolfhounds' under fire time after time," said Bergsten. "They have worked with choppers, trucks, and boats to provide the 2nd Battalion with the best in resupply."

## 1st Inf Locates Cong HQ

**PHU LOI, (1st INF-10)**—A vast underground Viet Cong Headquarters which yielded large quantities of documents, equipment, and a hospital complex containing seven operating rooms was uncovered by Company B, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division recently.

Discovered seven miles south of Phu Loi, the main tunnel complex stretched more than 500 yards and contained numerous intersections with other tunnels. This find came directly on the heels of a Viet Cong underground headquarters discovery by the same Black Lion unit six days before.

More than 125 spider holes allowed entrance to the unique stronghold. Only one entrance proved to be large enough for wounded personnel to gain entry. Several of the smaller entrances were reinforced with concrete.

Several of the rooms contained heavy lumber with which the Viet Cong had apparently planned to make floors and siding. Air holes placed about 20 yards apart throughout the complex were lined with metal.

The discovery was made by the 3rd Platoon of Company B when they encountered the numerous spider holes revealed by bull-dozer leveling surrounding jungle growth. Also discovered was 200 pounds of rice.





turned out to be North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers.

The Brigade's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol began its mission by leaping from a chopper hovering over a small landing zone 13,000 yards north of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry's forward fire support base.

The team was pleased to find a stream and filled their canteens with fresh water. "After we had our fill, we moved down the west bank," explained Sp4 David Cabeceras, radio-telephone operator. "That was real thick stuff, so we couldn't help but make noise," he pointed out.

"As we approached a bend in the creek I heard this 'flopping' in the water," recalled Sp4 Joseph L. Seals. "I thought it was a duck — or maybe hoped it was a duck. At any rate, I was wrong."

blue shots and exploding bombs, was trying like hell to get out of the water. They'd been crossing from the east.

"I cut loose with a burst and hit that one across the head and back," recalled Seals. "Then we came under automatic weapons fire," said Sgt. Cornelius Strothers. "That's when Cabeceras and I opened up to cover Joe."

The patrol made their escape through the clearing. "That's the part I really didn't like," said Sgt. Steve Steffens, "but there was no other exit."

Following a 500-meter uphill escape the patrol's radio operator reported to the 1st Bn., 2nd Infantry's headquarters. A forward air controller was dispatched to locate a landing zone for their extraction while 105mm and 175mm artillery fire zeroed in on the scene of the firefight.

rooster crowed, warning the Viet Cong that strangers were near. Minutes later a company of men from the 1st Infantry Division was plucked down in an intense enemy crossfire.

The company, called the Black Lions of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, was moving toward a known enemy base camp in a bleak, abandoned rubber plantation near the edge of the Iron Triangle when it was hit.

They call it the Bol Lol Woods and the land here has long been a Viet Cong sanctuary, a resupply depot for regiments of enemy soldiers operating in the area.

But the sanctuary was turned into a bloody battlefield by Big Red One infantrymen during the operation Manhattan.

Two shots rang out. The com-

yelled, "Medic! Up here. A man's been hit!"

The enemy, hard-core Viet Cong guerrillas making a last ditch stand to protect their home base, were located in five well-fortified bunkers, three in front and two on the right flank of the company's forward elements.

The Black Lions cut loose with everything they had. The steady chatter of machineguns and the "whoomp" of grenades filled the moist, jungle air.

But the enemy was too well dug-in to get at effectively. Five minutes after the first round was fired, Capt. Donald Sawtelle ordered his men to withdraw.

Minutes later, as the weary men were stumbling through the thick brush toward an old landing zone where they could regroup, a battery of artillery fire was called in as a blocking force.

The captain then radioed for an air strike to hammer the enemy bunkers and base camp. A helicopter gunship assault followed.

An hour later Captain Sawtelle ordered his men to move back to the ambush site and root out any Viet Cong that might have survived the attack.

The air strike had been more than 100 meters off target. He decided to move in anyway.

One-hundred sixty yards into the jungle the lead element drew sniper fire. Seconds later a grenade was pitched at the

a warning to the "Hear that? The cock that yelled when we were hit. 1st Sgt. James climbed over a tree."

The lead element way another 100 yards thick growth of vines and vines, alert but fighting red as much as the jungle.

Suddenly, automatic fire opened up on Ambush! A machine and fell, six slugs. A medic crawled was shot through bow. Though unable to give the morphine, but saw machinegunner.

The men had caught by enemy Viet Cong had. They were perched ing downward. bunkers. And the tunnel complex nades at the men other.

Four Chinese were detonated, the air they br shrapnel. The grew.

But the Black back with all the pitched grenade enemy and main lead between the Viet Cong so wounded could be a landing zone.

As the "Lions"illery was called the infantrymen to avoid being hit.

Sixteen Black one killed was.

"I guess there Charles in the couldn't get at was thick. You men had a hard ing in it," explained Scott, who on his steel post writing the day.

"But I'll tell those machine counted for the. They did an keeping those backs and proba lives. Hey you, (Command Post casualty list me ing to bed," he

## Ambush

RACH KIEN, Team work but bush squads of Division here in one enemy weapons captured.

An ambush reconnaissance pl Battalion, 39th ruffled when the squad attempted.

The second fired at the they passed.

When the platoon area the follow they found two munition and no

JOIN UP... JOIN IN

SUPPORT YOUR RED



OREGON—A company in Task Force Oregon prepares to spread out after landing by assault helicopters. The men are on a search and destroy mission just south of the DMZ. (Photo by AP)

## Big Red One Sergeant Receives Silver Star At Battle's Conclusion

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-10)—Sergeant John McClain received the Silver Star from 1st Infantry Division's commanding general Maj. Gen. John H. Hay only moments after intense contact with part of the 9th Viet Cong Division.

The recon platoon of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, where McClain is a squad leader, was on patrol in War Zone C in an area that was completely controlled by Viet Cong. The patrol crossed a large open area without incident, and began patrolling the woodland. Suddenly the popping sound of automatic weapons sent the platoon hurtling to the ground. Their radio

operator, Sp4 Doris Hland, relayed to McClain that the platoon leader was hit by small arms fire.

The husky sergeant then led the platoon, now under heavy fire, to a defensive position. Making sure that all the wounded men were evacuated, he called in his exact position to enable air strikes and artillery to smash the enemy.

"I was worried at first, realizing I had a lot of new men, but they all proved themselves," said McClain. Specialist Four Dennis Domurad recalled, "the sergeant acted like he had been

our platoon leader for several months." "He had us working like a team out there," joined in Sp4 Bennie McManus.

Company B was sent to support McClain's hard fighting recon men. As the fighting became more severe, Company A besieged the enemy's left flank. After five and a half hours of heavy combat, the combined effort saw the hard core Viet Cong forces reeling in retreat leaving 86 dead on the battlefield.

McClain then led his men back to the battalion perimeter, where General Hay greeted him with the medal.

## VC On 'Television' As They Meet US Patrol

CU CHI, (25th INF-10)—"It was like watching the whole thing on television," said Sp4 Wayne Force of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry's 4.2 Mortar Platoon, after he watched two Viet Cong walk into an American ambush patrol.

Specialist Force was in charge of the battalion watchtower on the bunkerline at Cu Chi base camp of the 25th Infantry Division. "I was watching to the front through a highpowered

scope when I spotted a man moving in the open. It was getting dark, but I could see him clearly," said Force.

The man laid down in the brush, but could still be seen from the high tower. Force reported the incident to his operations center and waited, watching all the time.

"A little while later I saw a second man walk over to the first and take cover. A few mo-

ments later I could see what looked like a firefight with tracers flying. It was too dark to see just what was happening," he said.

The firefight, too far away for Force to hear, was an ambush patrol of the 2nd Battalion running onto the two dark figures.

The patrol was on its way to a night ambush position when the hidden men were spotted. One VC was killed in the fight that followed.

## RAAF Pilots Arrive

WASHINGTON, (DOD) — A contingent of Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) pilots, flying Martin Canberra bombers, has arrived at Phan Rang Air Base. Number Two Squadron joins two other RAAF squadrons in Vietnam. Besides providing support for Australian Army forces, the squadron may also fly as part of Allied combat contribution in support of other ground forces.

May 22, 1967



oe, Ramirez took two steps forward. His answer came when one of the men took aim and fired a single shot at the lieutenant.

The lieutenant made a quick

bullet pierced the flag 31 times.

The rifle that almost killed him was presented to the lieutenant along with the bullet-riddled flag as a reminder of the day he almost died.

# Vietnam Communique

May 20 1967

**1st Infantry Division** — During 11 contacts with enemy forces 22 miles east-southeast of Tay Ninh, soldiers from the Big Red One and the 25th Infantry Division killed 11 enemy and captured 163 tons of rice during Operation Manhattan. Two Americans were killed and 19 were wounded. Meanwhile other units of the 1st Div. found two and a half tons of wheat in Hau Nghia Province during a sweep and destroy mission.

**25th Infantry Division** — a 3rd brigade company engaged an unknown-sized enemy force 14 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Twenty-one enemy were killed and nine individual weapons, grenades, and ammunition were captured. Two Americans were killed and 16 wounded. In Operation Manhattan, units of the 25th Div. and the 1st Infantry Division reported killing 14 enemy, detaining four suspects, and capturing five individual weapons, 19 miles northeast of Phu Cuong. Seven Americans were killed and 36 wounded.

**4th Infantry Division** — Elements of the 2nd Brigade fought a day-long battle with an enemy battalion entrenched in bunkers and caves 21 miles southwest of

**TIGHT SQUEEZE**—Captain John A. Turner of pany B, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division enters a tunnel. The tunnel leads to a Viet hospital. (Photo by PFC M. F. Robinson, 1st IN

## Signalman Gets Out In Time

**TAN AN**, (9th INF helmet sported a gap and the area where he sleeping only minutes looked like swiss cheese the explosion of two grenades nearby. But PFC Christensen did not scratch on him.

The incident occurred the pre-dawn hours enemy force attacked Infantry Division's 3rd base camp here.

Christensen, from 1st Battalion, when he saw his tent-mates crawling

ter. Seconds later he saw flash. He crawled outside his buddies in a foxhole flashes hit the area.

When the "all clear was given, Christensen to his tent.

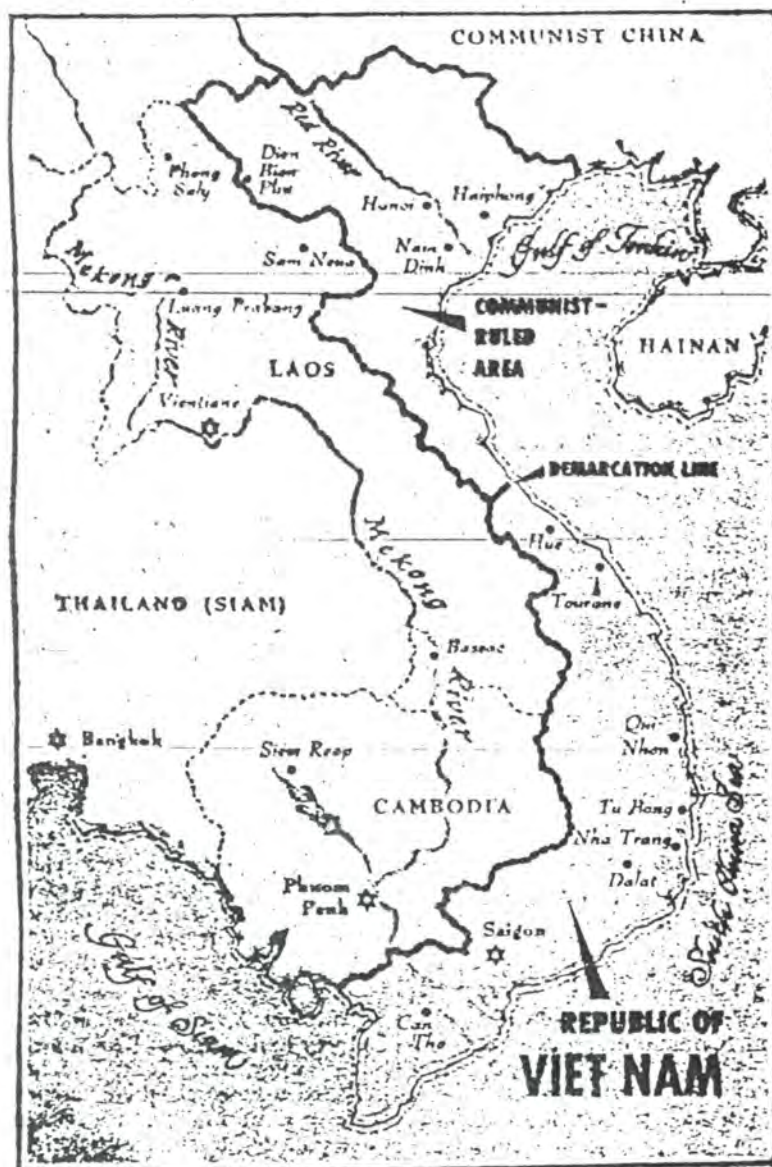
"The mosquito netting my bunk was torn to he said as he described damage. "My clothes ripped and the sides of locker looked as if it hit by machinegun fire

## A Frantic To 1st Div

**DI AN**, (1st INF-10) voice on the radio was the 1st Battalion, 26th requested a routine fire Suddenly the voice frantic, "Here they come continuous fire!"

"From that point on body worked like crazy Lt. Roger G. Nastou, fire control officer for B, 1st Battalion, 7th Even the battery commander, Capt. Carl Ha 1st Sgt. Bobby Elam

During the firing, the and dust were so thick tillerymen could not see than a few feet in front. Even so, the soldiers, dirt and grease, cont



Pleiku during Operation Francis Marion. Infantrymen were supported by armed helicopters, artillery, and 33 air strikes.

**9th Infantry Division** — During Operation Enterprise, a 3rd Brigade company four miles north of Tan An was attacked by an enemy company. The Americans were supported by helicopter gunships, artillery, and the Vietnamese Navy. Sixteen Americans and 40 enemy were killed. Forty other Americans were wounded. Meanwhile, during Operation Palm Beach, a 3rd Brigade battalion engaged the 514th Viet Cong Battalion 12 miles northwest of My Tho. Other 9th Div. units and units from the 10th Light Infantry Brigade and Air Force Dragonships and flare-ships supported the infantrymen. The enemy broke contact after an intensive artillery barrage. Reports indicated 181 VC and 18 Americans were killed. U.S. wounded totaled 48.

**11th Armored Cavalry Regiment** — In Operation Manhattan, elements located an underground room 22 miles southeast of Tay Ninh containing 32 Chinese Communist grenades, 13 rounds of 81mm mortars, 150 rifle grenades, 13 cases of small arms ammunition, 22 cases of explosives, one claymore mine, 10 rolls of brown cloth, assorted radio parts, and 1500 pounds of salt. All equipment was evacuated.

**1st Cavalry Division** — Operation Pershing continues with only light contact in Binh Dinh Province 53 miles northwest of Qui Nhon. Scattered actions resulted in 23 enemy killed, 385 suspects detained, and four individual weapons captured. Eleven Americans were wounded. Meanwhile eight miles southwest of Bong Son 21 enemy were killed, 431 suspects detained and seven individual weapons captured. One cavalryman was killed and seven wounded.

**199th Light Infantry Brigade** — The Redcatchers reported six enemy killed as they continued supporting the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) in Operation Rang Dong in Gia Dinh Province. Six infantrymen were wounded.



# 5th Special Forces Sergeant Wins Medals For Gallantry

**NHA TRANG, (5th SF-10)** — Sergeant First Class Leonard W. Tilley was recently awarded both the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star. The presentation was made at a ceremony at the 5th Special Forces Group headquarters here by the group commander, Col. Francis J. Kelly.

Tilley was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action while serving as a Special Forces advisor to a Vietnamese reconnaissance team.

While proceeding toward the objective, the 10-man patrol was ambushed by a platoon of Viet Cong. Tilley immediately ran to the point of fire and treated a badly wounded Vietnamese soldier. With another man, he then moved out in front of the team so that his men could carry the wounded man to safety under cover of his fire. He attacked the insurgents with such determination that they withdrew, leaving two dead.

The Distinguished Service

Cross was awarded for his actions while serving as an advisor to a combined American-Vietnamese platoon during a combat patrol. When the patrol was suddenly attacked by a numerically superior force, the platoon leader ordered the men to pull back.

Holding his position, Tilley engaged the attacking insurgents and provided covering fire until his squad could set up defensive positions on a hill. Once his men had reached cover, he withdrew through a hail of bullets to the perimeter, where he shouted

When the platoon leader was

killed, Tilley took command, tightened the perimeter, and called for air strikes within 20 feet of his position. Then he worked to encourage the defenders and treat the wounded.

As he was preparing to move the patrol to a pick-up zone for extraction, the insurgents attacked his position in force. Single-handedly, Tilley rushed the attackers with his weapon and grenades. Astonished by his aggressive assault, the insurgents were forced to break their attack and the patrol was able to effect a successful extraction. orders and directed the battle.

ing general of II Field Force, has replaced Lt. Gen. Jean E. Engler as Deputy Commanding General of United States Army Vietnam.

General Palmer assumed his new position last Sunday when General Engler left Vietnam for his new assignment with the Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, in Washington.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1936, the three star general came to Vietnam March 24 from Fort Bragg, N.C., where he commanded the XVIII Airborne Corps and Ft. Bragg.

General Palmer was the commander of Task Force 120 and United States Land Forces, Dominican Republic, upon his arrival there on May 1, 1965. On May 7 he was designated Commander, United States Forces, and Commander, United States Army Forces, Dominican Republic, assuming command the same day. On May 23 he signed for the United States the act creating the first Inter-American Forces, later called the Inter-American Peace Force. On May 29 General Palmer became the Deputy Commanding General of the force, in addition to his duties as commander of all American forces in the Dominican Republic. He served in the Dominican Republic until January of 1966.

During World War II, General

Gen. Palmer served Campaign and the Pacific he of Staff for the New Guinea serving in 4 Some of the assignments were 1945 to 1946 and 1963, and at the European and in 1963 best at Fort Bragg ton. General tions include Service Medal Cluster and the al.

## Troop Out Viet

**PLEIKU,** American has than Charlie's Donald William

Soldiers from Battalion, 8th Infantry Division of Pleiku set up ing down the tr handed his rifle Edwards who nearby.

"I was sitting to eat my chow llams. "I look and saw two. They noticed m time I saw the caught off gu rifles were at sl

Williams grab killed one of the messe Army (NV wards shot the

"I searched t and found the been fired. T were full and t grenades," said

After the sho troops in the n on the platoon, men. Lieuten Wheeler was se tion since arriv Under fire, he e side of the pe other checking l

"My radio-tele (RTO) had been a former RTO place," explained had to get our the area," he ad

After reconing the platoon clea zone to extract. Within 30 minut picked up the two

## Gunships' Rockets Blast VC

**PHU LOI, (1st INF-10)**—Early one evening recently Company A, 1st Aviation Battalion, 1st Infantry Division received a call requesting the assistance of its gunship platoon, the "Rebels." Within five minutes the unit had two choppers in the air heading north of here.

They soon spotted a group of about 50 enemy moving down a road with oxen and carts. The enemy had been under surveillance for some time and had decided to keep on the move to avoid attack.

When the first two gunships arrived the enemy had already started heading for cover.

"We made the first sweep," said Maj. George Fish, the Rebels' commander, "and killed 12 of them with rockets."

After a few more passes two more choppers were called in and the four fired on the area until all ammunition was expended. The assault lasted about 30 minutes.

The forward observer from the 23rd Artillery Group, who made the initial call for the gunships, counted 25 dead enemy and said the carts were totally destroyed.

When a check of the area was made the next morning, the area had been completely cleared of bodies and wreckage.



**ASSAULT LANDING**—Men of the Big Red One, the 1st Infantry Division, land from Hueys before they set to work clearing the brush recently during Operation Manhat-tan. (Photo by AP)

## Salute To The Armed Forces

Armed Forces Day is traditionally the day on which the people of America salute the men and women who serve our country in the military forces.

Throughout our nation's history, men and women of the armed forces have ever been ready to defend the cause of freedom. They have given freely of their talents, energy, and even their lives to preserve the right of all people to be free. No task has been too formidable and no sacrifice too great for America's armed forces.

In Vietnam, Armed Forces Day has a special significance for each of us; we are engaged in a fierce struggle to insure that the people of this beleaguered land will have the opportunity to enjoy the same freedom that we Americans hold so dear. The enemy is determined to enslave the people of Vietnam and to deny them the opportunity to forge their own destiny. We are here to help the Vietnamese people defeat the foe who seeks to subjugate them.

**BRUCE PALMER, JR.**  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Commanding General