

go back until the men had reached the point where the two streams merge. Then a claymore mine was detonated at point blank range.

The sampan sank to the bottom of the shallow water. Two enemy were killed.

Early the following morning three more enemy soldiers approached the ambush point.

"They were talking loudly and smoking," said 2nd Lt. George A. Crocker, 3rd Platoon leader. "They didn't have even the faintest suspicion that we were there."

The men waited until the enemy ventured close to their position.

UH-1B Gunships Keep VC Jumping As 9th Inf Lands

RACH KIEN, (1st AVN-10)—A night attack by a combined force of elements of the 9th Infantry Division and the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company resulted in the deaths of 20 Viet Cong recently.

Pathfinders had infiltrated into the area to make a landing zone (LZ) for the helicopters. As the troop-carrying UH-1D Hueys approached the LZ, the pathfinders ignited a landing

and a group of them were caught in the artillery and helicopter gunship fire on them."

BONG SON, (1st CAV-10)—Five men, surrounded by a massive communist force, were rescued from a cloud and fog enshrouded mountain top here in the central highlands by a helicopter gunship pilot.

The rescue occurred seconds

Pershing assault. Pershing is being conducted by the 1st Cavalry Division and the 25th Div's 3rd Brigade Task Force. (Photo by Sp4 John Rolfe, 25th INF-10)

Five Surrounded Troops Rescued By 'Go-Go' Lift

before the mountain was completely enveloped in the mist.

The five men, three Vietnamese soldiers and two U.S. Special Forces men, radioed for support helicopter fire when they were surrounded while patrolling an area between the An Lao Valley and the Bong Son Plain.

Two gunships of the 1st Cavalry Division were immediately dispatched. The gunships were armed Chinooks, called "Go-Go" ships which have the greatest firepower of all 1st Cavalry choppers and are capable of firing in a 360 degree radius.

"There was only one break in the clouds," said Capt. Louis R. Jones, pilot of one chopper. "Fortunately, that's where the men were."

Medevac choppers were called as the two gunships blasted the area with machine gun fire and aerial rocket artillery.

A smoke grenade was popped, and purple smoke billowed up through the fog. Jones radioed the men on the ground to confirm their position. "The radio operator was whispering," said Jones. "That's how close the VC were."

But the smoke grenade had been fired by the enemy in an attempt to confuse the pilots. They apparently thought the pilots would assume it had been fired by the friendly forces and stop firing in their area.

"The fog got worse," said Jones. "We could barely see down there. There wasn't time to wait for the medevac ships to get to the men."

Jones elected to land his large Chinook helicopter. Rough, rocky terrain and steep slopes left no room for Jones to land.

He balanced two wheels of the ship on the rocks and hovered in the air while the other Chinook circled above firing at the enemy.

Specialist Four John B. Gunter, chief gunner, stuck his arm out the rear of the ship to help the men to cover.

The five men, most in shock and unable to speak, were pulled into the craft and flown to medical aid seconds before the mountain top disappeared in the thick mist.

Nameless Pup Dies A Hero

BONG SON, (1st CAV-10)—A dog running through an area being searched by 1st Cavalry Division tripped a booby trap which led to an investigation revealing six more killer devices.

The dog was killed, but his death allowed the members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry to prepare a landing zone without casualties.

"If there is any type of award or decoration authorized for civilian dogs," said 1st Sgt. Joseph P. Morgan, "it should go to that nameless pup."

Chopper Burning; 4 Saved

LONG BINH, (199th INF-10)—The frantic efforts of 16 infantrymen from the 199th Light Infantry Brigade saved the lives of two trapped helicopter pilots and two door gunners from their burning craft recently.

The chopper, a Huey resupply craft, had just lifted off the rice paddy in which Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry was camped for the night. As it rose, the tail dipped and buried into the muddy paddy.

The chopper stood straight up for a moment and then the main rotor blade smashed into the ground. The craft rolled over on its side, the motor still running.

The 16 infantrymen from Co. C ran to the chopper and began tearing at the wreckage to get at the trapped pilots.

One door gunner limped out and was given assistance from medic Sp4 George T. Guy.

Specialist Four Charles Northrop, another medic, found the second door gunner, who was thrown from the craft, and began mouth to mouth resuscitation.

Others tore off the crushed chopper doors to get inside. Specialist Four William R. Kemp jumped inside and began cutting wires and throwing out equipment. A fire started in the engine and spread through the ship.

The pilot was cut from his seat and carried outside. The co-pilot was still trapped underneath the ship.

As the co-pilot was lifted from a mass of tangled wires and smashed equipment, the fuel caught fire and the ammunition aboard began to cook off.

A dust off chopper arrived and relieved the medics already working on the injured and unconscious men.

After the dust off chopper lifted the wounded men out, the chopper burst into flames. Machinegun ammunition and exploding grenades showered the area with flying metal.



KEEPING LOW—Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade move low with water and ammunition as close cover fighter support is brought in to aid elements of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry during Operation Junction City. The paratroopers overran Viet Cong positions shortly afterward. (Photo by Sp4 Paul Epley, 173rd ABN-10)

April 29, 1967

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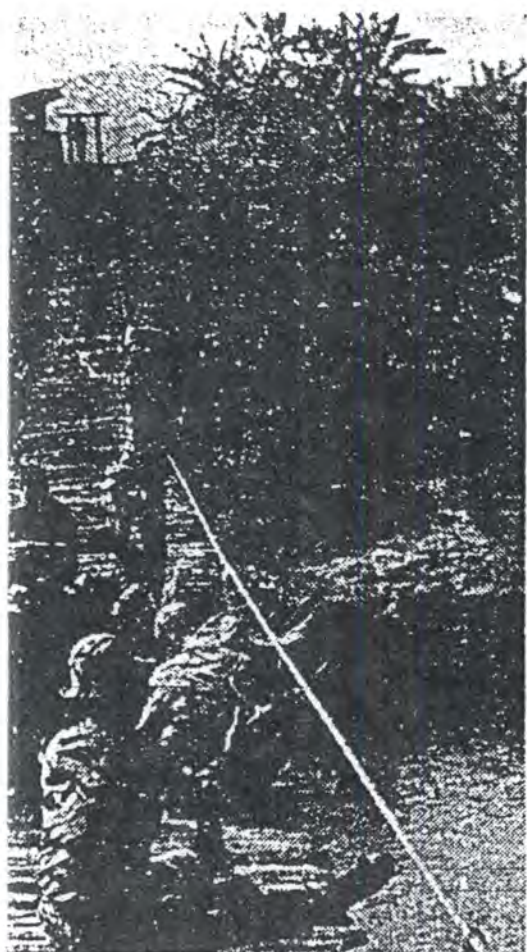
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ETED—Members of the 5th Special
lian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG)
to close the gap of the bridge in the
(Photo by 5th SFG-IO)

temporarily slow elements of the 9th Infantry Division during Operation Enterprise. The soldiers were on a search and destroy mission in the Viet Cong infested delta region south of Saigon.
(Photo by PFC Freddie Duncan, 69th SIG-IO)

4 Avn Cos Set Records

PLEIKU, (1st AVN-IO)

Flying more than 15,000 hours in 52 consecutive accident-free days, four helicopter companies of the 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion shattered all safety records of the 1st Aviation Brigade.

The units are the 119th, 155th, and 170th Assault Helicopter Companies, and the 179th CH-47 Assault Support Helicopter Company.

Flying combat and support missions from their central highland bases during January, February, and March, air and ground crews fought enemy ground fire, bad weather, hazardous night flying conditions.

During the 52-day period, the four companies had an average of 55 Hueys and 12 CH-47 Chinook helicopters flying daily.

199th Troop Pulls Up 'Hot Seat' In Jungle

LONG BINH, (199th INF-IO)—There are many ways to find mines, but sitting on them is not one of the recommended methods.

Specialist Four Alan Wilson, a machine gunner with Company C, 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade, has found 10 mines during operations in the rice paddies of Binh Chanh Province.

Company C had been steadily picking up casualties in the heavily mined and booby trapped area in which they worked. Wilson, using an electronic mine detector for his squad, picked up several of the booby trapped enemy grenades.

The grenades were usually tripped by touching fishing line strung across the narrow dykes a few inches from the ground. The line is attached to the grenade by an open safety pin which slides out at the slightest tug.

Sometimes the detector does not pick up the mines. On one occasion when Wilson was slowly moving forward on a dyke he noticed a slight pressure. He glanced at the flat head of the detector. A thin strand of fishing line, held taut by the pressure of the metal sensing device, was climbing up the red.

"I jumped back about 20

feet," said Wilson. Then realizing that if it were going to blow it would have done so already, he went back to the mine. He was lucky. The safety pin was closed on the grenade.

Another time, his sonad was on a night ambush. They had set out as the sky was darkening. After traveling 1000 yards they were almost at the ambush site.

The squad leader halted the patrol and sent a recon team forward to check out the area. Wilson sat down on the dyke. He noticed something hard and sharp. His left hand carefully searched the ground next to his leg. He felt something metal. After that long second when the earth stopped and he realized he was sitting on a mine, he pulled himself together.

Carefully getting up he passed the word along that the area was mined and then ran for cover. In the second when a trip wire snaps or you hear a muffled pop and realize you have tripped a booby trap, what happens?

If you hear it you have undoubtedly "been gone" already. It is usually after you realize you are still in one piece that the built-up tensions are suddenly felt. Then there is a big sigh and maybe a silent prayer.

Chopper Receives First Hit After 18 Months In Action

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO)—One of the oldest Huey choppers in the Army inventory received a wound in the tail after a year and a half of rugged combat duty with the 1st Cavalry Division here.

It was the first time the helicopter has been hit by enemy fire.

The history of this particular chopper goes back to the beginning of U.S. Army use of Huey helicopters in 1962. She was one of the test ships used to determine the feasibility of the use of helicopters in the Army. After extensive testing at Edwards Air Force Base, it was shipped to Alaska to undergo tests in a cold climate.

After brief stays at Ft. Hood, Texas and Ft. Rucker, Alabama, it joined the 1st Cavalry's 227th Aviation Bat-

alion and came to Vietnam, landing at Qui Nhon in September of 1965.

She has participated in every major 1st Cavalry operation, always emerging from the thickest battles unscathed. Then during Operation Pershing she took a bullet through the tail on the Bong Son Plain.

The hole was patched, a new coat of paint applied, and returned to duty.

"No one is afraid to fly this Huey," said Maj. Jimmie B. Kinder, commander of Company B, 227th Aviation Battalion. "She's still one of the best."

**JOIN UP...
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Apr 29, 1967

Vietnam Communique

we
Und

Operation Junction City —

Twenty-five enemy bodies were found in an area 25 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City where an American artillery spotter called in artillery fire on an estimated 60 enemy. Meanwhile a Huey helicopter was hit four times from enemy ground fire 31 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City. One crew member was wounded. In other action in the operation, the 4th Infantry's 3rd Brigade reported killing six enemy during scattered action 19 miles northeast of Tay Ninh

City. Eight Americans were killed and one wounded.

1st Cavalry Division—Several companies reported sporadic fire from an enemy force trapped in a fortified hamlet in northern An Lao Valley 12 miles northwest of Bong Son during Operation Pershing. Ten NVA soldiers' bodies and two weapons were discovered, bringing the total number of enemy killed in the battle to 78. Nineteen Americans have been killed and 27 wounded. Meanwhile the 2nd Brigade and Army gunships

killed 39 enemy during Operation Lejuene 18 miles southeast of Quang Nhay City. Three infantrymen were killed and seven wounded.

9th Infantry Division—Companies from the 3rd Brigade have killed 239 enemy, detained one suspect, and captured a machinegun in action nine miles northeast of Tan An during Operation Enterprise. American casualties are one killed and 25 wounded. Meanwhile the brigade's base camp received eight rounds of rifle grenade fire wounding 12 infantrymen. The following day infantrymen killed 14 enemy. Twenty-two Americans were wounded. During Operation Chapman eight miles west of My Tho the 2nd Brigade killed seven enemy. Two Americans were killed. Then, six miles southwest of My Tho, six enemy were killed and two suspects detained. Three infantrymen were wounded.

4th Infantry Division — One company and a Civilian Irregular Defense Group company made contact with an estimated enemy platoon 21 miles southwest of Pleiku City in Operation Francis Marion. The enemy broke contact when air strikes were called. Three Americans were killed and 15 wounded. Initial reports indicate seven enemy killed.

5th Special Forces Group—CIDG units reported 22 contacts with the enemy. Two Special Forces soldiers were wounded. Twelve enemy were killed and eight suspects detained. The Special Forces camp at Thuong Duc was hit by eight rounds of 82mm mortar fire 21 miles southwest of Da Nang. There were no casualties and no damage. The refugee camp outside the base camp was hit by four rounds killing two Vietnamese and wounding 14.

196th Light Infantry Brigade—The brigade has completed air movement from Tay Ninh Province to Chu Lai in Quang Tin Province. The unit has been assigned operational tasks under the control of the 1st Marine Division. More than 350 aircraft sorties by the Air Force made the move.

THUOC
A large ammunition recently by the 39th Infantry Division. The 24th Infantry Division is in the area while on a mission down the coast.

A search of the 1st Infantry Division's 15th Sub-Group found "grease" munition rifling Browning 60mm recoilless.

Also found mortar claymore mines, 50 arms and explosives caps.

Burn Rece

TAY NINH
A recent Program of the 196th Infantry Division's 8th Infantry Brigade east of the life of a girl.

While the 1st Infantry Division covered the area, Khau, who had been in a brush for months and had caused endangering but her life.

For the 1st Infantry Division made a decision to change burns. After the leg was in phase of healing.

Arrangements were made to step to the next phase of the move.

