



Division "jump"

01st ABN-IO)

25 Aviators Awarded Silver Stars, DFCs

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-IO)

Twenty-five men of the 13th Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade have been decorated for their actions during a recent Army of the Republic of Vietnam operation which killed 142 Viet Cong. Seven Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFC) and nine Silver Stars were among the awards.

The 13th Bn. was supporting the 9th ARVN Infantry Division which was fighting guerillas who had attacked the district capital of Tam Binh in the Mekong Delta before dawn recently.

The 13th's heaviest action was at a landing zone near a VC position. Two Americans were killed

and three choppers were lost at the zone.

Warrant Officer Richard J. Daly and Major Juri Toomepuu were awarded Silver Stars. Daly was the pilot of a Smokey chopper, an armed transport mounted with a .50 caliber machinegun and a smoke dispenser. His chopper made repeated low level passes to screen for the operation. He and his crew have been credited with single handedly making rescue procedures from the landing zone successful.

Three of Daly's crew, WO Lawrence F. McDonald, Sp4 Barry White, and PFC Ernest Kaste, earned the DFC.

Toomepuu was one of several commanders who picked up survivors and he also supervised the loading of downed crewmen under heavy enemy fire. Four others getting DFCs were Maj. William J. Meehan and Maj. John D. Kennedy, Maj. Patrick Feore Jr., and Cpt. Frank Y. Sasaki.

Major Donald Casper was the co-pilot on Col. John T. Dempsey's command chopper when Dempsey was killed by VC fire. Casper was wounded twice trying to recover the body from the aircraft. He received the Silver Star.

Silver Stars were awarded to two majors, William A. Gebhardt Jr., and Robert H. Millward, and to one lieutenant, David L. Eastman, who landed their aircraft during intense fire to pick up downed crews.

Sgt Awarded Service Cross

serving as an ad-
mbined American-
it earlier this year
was attacked by a
uperior Viet Cong

atoon leader gave
ull back, Sergeant
d the attacking
tted covering fire
l could set up de-
is on a hill. Once

his men reached cover, he with-
drew through a hail of bullets to
the perimeter where he shouted
orders and directed the battle.

When the platoon leader was
killed, Tilley took command,
tightened the perimeter, and
called for air strikes within 20
meters of his position. Disregard-
ing his safety, he constantly ex-
posed himself to enemy fire while
encouraging the defenders and

Apr 15/1961

Carries Water Tank

TUY HOA, (USAECV-10)

Recently, troops in the Tuy Hoa area were frantically taking pictures and commenting on a strange unidentified flying object in the afternoon skies. What was it? Nothing less astonishing than a 6400-pound, 10,550-gallon water tank suspended by a hook beneath a CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

The sight came about because of a requirement to place such a tank on top of a 36-foot tower to provide potable water for the 400-bed 91st Evacuation Hospital. High winds prevented assembling the tank on top of the tower or raising it by crane.

Faced with a problem, Capt. Richard F. Hill, commanding officer of Company B, 577th Engineer Battalion (Construction), 45th Engineer Group, and 2nd Lt. Robert L. Herndon, whose platoon constructed the tank, hit upon the idea of using a lifting device hooked to a Chinook.

On the first three attempts at placing the tank, serious vibrations occurred in the rig as the hook began to hover over the tower. The tank was set down, and in order to prevent damage to the chopper, a 20-foot nylon suspension strap was added to minimize the vibration.

Once again airborne, the huge tank was soon hovering over the tower platform and the tank was placed squarely on the mark.

The much appreciated "Sky Hook" was provided by the 180th Aviation Battalion at Tuy Hoa.

Through

PHAN THIET, (1st LOG-10)

The 1st Logistical Command's Forward Support Area (FSA) here is a relatively small operation. But since its establishment in August 1966, it has been vital to combat operations in the Binh Thuan Province, 150 miles north-east of Saigon.

The FSA, part of the Cam Ranh Bay Support Command, is a small-scale supply depot and provides everything necessary for the support of combat troops in the area.

There are 13 detachments in the FSA supplying rations, ammunition, petroleum, oil, lubri-

cants, ter maintenance, administration, utilities, and detachments.

The laundryment provides hot showers for troops, and the mess hall keeps the units supplied with food.

The general personnel difficulties in Thiet is like you're always out in one soldier.

Soldier 'Digs Up

CU CHI, (25th INF-10)—While the 25th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry was participating in Operation Junction City, the mortar platoon overcame a slight problem.

Naturally, while men are fighting in dense jungles, they are bound to gather a little dirt. They do not, however, like to use the water flown in with the resupplies. This is used primarily for drinking purposes, as water is rationed.

One of the ingenious crew members noticed the high water table probability in the area and set out digging. This went unnoticed, as many other people in the area were digging foxholes and bunkers. They noticed something a little out of the ordinary, though, when water began spouting out of the hole.

The soldier had dug approximately four feet below the surface and struck water. He sank a steel

helmet into the nozzle of a pump to run by the by his arm and was pu

VN S

NHA T
The Vietn (LLDB) D here rece week. M Course for fense Gro

Fourteen four Spec III Corps from the will return camps and as mecha personnel, pairing m

82nd Arty's Fire Direction Center Relies On Teamwork And Skill

TAY NINH, (196th INF-10) — "Enemy platoon in woodland... Fire for affect."

To the men of the Fire Direction Center (FDC), 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, these words crackling over the radio mean only two things: fast work and intense concentration.

To handle fire missions against the Viet Cong during the day, and control Harassment and Interdiction fires at night, the battalion FDC has two teams of nine men each. Included on each shift is a fire direction officer, a team chief, two computers, two chart and two radio-telephone operators and a switchboard operator.

To process the numerous fire missions against the enemy, teamwork and skill are the first essentials. Next is speed.

The speed with which a fire mission is processed could often mean the lives of the forward observer (FO) requesting the mission and the infantrymen with whom he is operating.

But at no time can speed mean recklessness. Before a single round leaves the tube of one of the battalion's 105mm howitzers, the men of the FDC will have plotted the location of all friendly units in the area, and will have made sure the forward observer is exactly where he thinks he is. A mistake by the forward

observer in the report of his position could mean calling down an artillery barrage on himself.

To safeguard against this, the FDC has perfected a method called a navigational round, which can be requested by the FO to pinpoint his location.

Traveling through thick jungles and rugged terrain with no distinguishable landmarks, the FO can lose himself easily. To find himself on the map again, he merely picks a landmark he believes to be nearby, but which he cannot see, and requests a navigational round fired at that location.

The round emits a puff of white smoke, allowing the FO to take an azimuth to the air burst and re-orient himself.

When the FO calls in a fire mission, the FDC must be able to quickly and accurately take the information from him, convert it into degrees of elevation and deflection for sighting the howitzers and pass the sight settings on to the gun crews. An error in calculation of only ten mils, which is about two-thirds of one degree, can result in disaster in the close-quarter fire fights common in Vietnam.

The computer and chart operators know that one slip of the slide rule, or a plot in the wrong place on the map, may mean firing hundreds of meters from the desired location.

Functioning together, these men are one of the reasons the VC greatly fear the word artillery.

Quick-Acting Engrs Widen Hwy Bridge

TUY HOA, (USAECV-10) — Quick thinking by engineers of Company A, 59th Engineer Battalion, 45th Engineer Group enabled the widening of a bridge on Highway QL-1 north of Tuy Hoa.

The 38-foot concrete "T" beam bridge was too narrow to carry the desired traffic load and two steel piles had to be driven on

each side of the structure at mid-span.

The only problem was that the 64-foot hollow steel piles were too long to be reached by the pile driver. Realizing that the piles come in sections, the 2nd Squad of the 1st Platoon quickly improvised by taking off the 24-foot nose cone and attached one of the bearing plates on the crane's outriggers as a pile cap.

The pile was now short enough to be driven and when this was finished, the 40-foot steel sections were added.

Airman Gives 4th Infantry Full Security

PLEI DJERENG, (4th INF-10) — An airman at the 4th Infantry Division fire base plays an important roll in providing constant security against sudden attacks from the surrounding jungle of vine-rope trees and heavy undergrowth.

Airman First Class Berl L.

9th Division's Roving Bookmobile Brings Men Reading Materials

LONG THANH, (9th INF-10) — Volunteers, a borrowed 2 1/2-ton van, and 2500 books have received a special cultural assignment with the 9th Infantry Division.

Earl W. Fillingham, NCOIC of Special Services.

A huge sign with a colorful AG crest is hung on the side of the van. It reads: "AG Bookmobile Special Services." The art work



EVACUATING WOUNDED—Captain John H. Peyton (with mounted radio) aids a wounded CIDG soldier from a sampan into a helicopter during a search and destroy mission near Tuyen Nhon.

(Photo by SSgt. Odell Hacker, 5th SFG-10)

SF, CIDG Combine To Rout Viet Cong

TUYEN NHON, (5th SFG-10) — Special Forces troops and Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) soldiers teamed up during a recent search and destroy mission to rout a group of Viet Cong near here.

The CIDG units infiltrated into an area suspected of Viet Cong activity. Two companies were positioned along a canal as blocking forces while another company acted as the assaulting force.

As the assaulting element moved into the area, one of the blocking forces received sporadic

Captain John H. Peyton and SSgt. Mervin Moats, advising the assaulting company, moved their men into contact with the unsuspecting enemy. After a 15-minute fight, the VC broke contact, leaving three dead, 25 sampans, seven weapons, and six anti-personnel mines.

First Lieutenant Emmett Dixon, advisor to the blocking forces, immediately called in air strikes on the fleeing enemy.

When Mines

man 225V generator to an American 12 gauge shotgun.

Sergeant First Class Billy J. Vilbert of Company B led his squads into a platoon-size VC base camp. The soldiers, though not invited to lunch, found freshly prepared food on the table in a hut.

Sergeant Frederick Wain followed communication wires leading off from one of the huts to a foxhole containing two telephones, a switchboard, 300 pounds of rice, and documents, including a letter addressed to an individual in Hanoi.

The next day Sgt. John J. Conner, leading his squad single file near a narrow jungle trail, encountered intense machinegun fire from his front. Conner immediately had his radio telephone operator (RTO), PFC James K. Lewis, contact platoon leader Lt. Billy J. Murphy to make certain that no friendly units were in the area on his front.

When this had been assured, air strikes were called in on Charlie which soon silenced the machinegun.

After the fighter-bombers headed south, Conner's men moved

It was at this camp that Sgt. James D. Hall went into a 20-foot tunnel and discovered the generator and the shotgun.

Company C scoured the underbrush surrounding the enemy camp and found 30 miles of communication wire, a Chinese radio, one homemade Claymore mine, a U.S. Army radio, and five cases of ammunition.

Company A added to the fast growing pile of supplies with 9200 pounds of rice discovered along a jungle trail. Hidden with the rice were several bags of blood-soaked clothing.



A WELCOME SIGHT—Helicopters of the 1st Cavalry Division come in to land on the Bong Son Plain during Operation Pershing. (Photo by Sp4 Pat Christian, 1st Cavalry Division)

Tell-Tale Wisp Of Smoke Gives Viet Cong Away To Gunships

PHU LOI. (1st AVN-10) — A thin wisp of smoke rising from the jungle led to destruction of a Viet Cong base camp by a helicopter fire team of the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company during Operation Junction City.

Flying a reconnaissance by fire mission for the 1st Infantry Division northeast of Soui Da, the gunships, led by Maj. Richard C. Anglin, armed platoon commander, blasted two full loads of rockets and 40mm grenades

into the enemy position, leveling five thatched roof structures and damaging several bunkers.

"We were a good way east of the main operational area," said 1st Lt. Charles M. Hart, who spotted the camp, "and that hint of smoke was out of place."

"We dropped down to take a look and saw a well used trail leading into the trees from a clearing. The entrance was camouflaged. When I saw a bunker I knew we had something."

As the fire team leader maneuvered for a marking run on the bunker, Hart saw the base camp.

"The light must have been just right," he said. "For just a second there it was, a whole nest of huts tucked under the trees."

The crew chief threw out a smoke grenade and the gunship flying wing "put a pair of rockets smack in the middle of the largest structure," according to Hart.

An airstrike was brought into the area, later identified by 1st Division sources as a VC night rest camp.

Bullets Meet Challenge

BONG SON. When he was a middle of a ride Leonard Marak passed word

There was good been challenged Guerrillas.

Marak ad-1155 his M-16 rifle. He VC and then ca fire in case the guerillas in the

"I had my so Marak, "and the me as an Amer wearing my ste dead man now."

Marak is a m Cavalry Division 2nd Battalion, 8th Platoon during Op

2 Sold Save Boy's

TRAI BI. (4th action and quick men of the 2nd Artillery, 3rd Btry Division, saw Vietnamese boy Junction City.

Specialist For Doyle, a clerk i supply section, weapon at the 3 istical base camp he heard an exp

Looking to the a figure lying on immediately he p the figure, stopp his way over a b

Doyle was jo liam Mays, also supply section, a medical kit with the two men beg aid to the inju they had comp the youth and st ing, an ambulan to the area an evacuated to a di he was flown to a

The youth had off a "dud" ha

Vietnam Communique

Apr 15, 1967.

Operation Junction City—U.S. artillery, air strikes, and elements of the 1st Infantry Division teamed up in a two-day battle to kill 581 enemy. The battle took place 25 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City. U.S. forces suffered 10 killed and 64 wounded.

1st Cavalry Division—A con-

pany of the 3rd Brigade, supported by armed helicopters, killed nine enemy after making contact with an enemy force 34 miles northeast of Phan Thiet in Binh Thuan Province. The action, part of Operation Byrd, netted four individual weapons. Twenty-four hours later, not far from the scene

of the first encounter, 40 enemy lost their lives when they tangled with a platoon of the 3rd Brigade conducting a joint helicopter assault with elements of a Vietnamese regiment. Another platoon was brought in to assist. Four suspects were detained and 10 individual weapons were captured. U.S. forces suffered no casualties in the battles.

25th Infantry Division—During a series of battles in Operation Pershing, involving the 3rd Brigade and elements of the 1st Cavalry Division, 48 enemy were killed. U.S. Forces suffered nine dead and 54 wounded in the fighting, which took place 50 miles northwest of Qui Nhon.

101st Airborne Division — Elements of the 1st Brigade have begun Operation Summerall, 44 miles north-northwest of Nha Trang. During the opening phase of the operation, five enemy were killed and 19 suspects detained. U.S. forces suffered one wounded.

9th Infantry Division—A multi-battalion force from the 1st Brigade has joined elements of the 1st Australian Task Force engaged in Operation Portsea. It is the largest search and clear operation undertaken by the Australian forces in Vietnam. Since the operation began, four enemy have been reported killed. In two separate incidents involving the

3rd Brigade, a total of 12 enemy were killed. Nine were killed when one of the brigade's companies made contact with an enemy platoon five miles northeast of Tan An in Long An Province. Several hours earlier, three enemy were killed by a battalion of the brigade nine miles southeast of Tan An.

4th Infantry Division—The 1st Brigade has terminated Operation Adams which began Oct. 26. During the operation, 491 enemy were killed, 2000 suspects detained, and 160 individual and one crew-served weapon captured. Ivy Division losses were 45 killed and 278 wounded.

