

Mar 11, 1967

However, even as the work continued, convoys had to be brought through. Often the brute force of an HD-16M Bulldozer was used to pull those vital supplies and equipment through the mud and through rice paddies. The men of Co. B were determined to keep the road open.

After four weeks the rains began to lessen and the effort turned from emergency measures to the systematic approach of developing the road so that future problems of this kind could be averted.

The men of Co. B saw the result of their efforts as supplies and equipment moved on to units that needed them.

116th Fliers Set New Time Mark

CU CHI, (1st AVN-10) — The 116th Assault Helicopter Company during the month of January, established an all time record for total hours flown by an automobile company in the 12th Combat Aviation Group. The 5048 flying hours surpassed the previous 12th Group high.

The 116th Hornets, commanded by Maj. James H. Patterson, established their record breaking performance while supporting every major unit in the III Corps area. Missions were also flown for MACV, USAID, II FFV, the 1st Australian Task Force and numerous ARVN units.

Ivy Div Sgt, PFC Silence NVA Machinegun

PLEI DJERENG, (4th INF-10) — Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division received word at 1:30 p.m. one day recently that Company A was under intense enemy sniper and machinegun fire and in need of aid.

The unit immediately moved out with more than 4000 meters of dense central highland jungle between them and their objective. Three and one-half hours later, the men crossed a winding trail leading to Co. A's position. Intelligence sources had previously warned the unit that the route was infested with North Vietnamese Army troops and was to be avoided.

Moving approximately 50 meters below the trail, the unit was alerted by machinegun fire. Then a division helicopter flying in sup-

port of Co. A was hit crossing over the trail.

Hawaii R & R: Be Careful!

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10) — Going to meet your wife in Hawaii on that upcoming Rest and Recuperation (R and R) trip? Great idea, but suppose your plane gets held up here or there's some sort of administrative delay.

Personnel planning to rendezvous with their wives or families in Hawaii during R and R are reminded that such plans must be made entirely at their own risk. No commander or supervisor will be held responsible for personal inconvenience or financial hardship resulting from failure to make the planned rendezvous in Hawaii.

Just recently, a flight scheduled for departure from Tan Son Nhut was delayed 48 hours because of mechanical difficulties with the plane—a new engine had to be flown in from Hong Kong.

Those personnel nevertheless planning to rendezvous with dependents in Hawaii should advise their dependents to contact the Hawaii Fort Detrusy R and R center for information and assistance.

Company C moved to the trail's edge where the chopper had been hit. Moments later automatic weapons fire pierced the jungle's silence and the unit point man fell to the ground. The company commander advanced and was also killed by a burst of fire.

Staff Sergeant Edward K. Apo, weapons squad leader, positioned an M-60 machinegun forward off the trail and opened fire on the NVA stronghold. Upon receiving aid, Apo crawled to the rear of his unit and returned with another machinegun. With PFC Terry A. Sorvik feeding ammunition to both guns, the two poured fire into the enemy position and silenced the weapons.

Apo then organized his squad

Recovery Of Downed Chinook Not Easy Job

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — Whenever a helicopter of the 1st Cavalry Division's 15th Transportation Battalion goes down, SFC Able Van Dover and his five-man crew must recover it.

During Operation Thayer II a Chinook was crippled with by .50 caliber machinegun bullet which ripped into the transmission. Dover faced the task of recovering it from An Lao Valley.

The main task was to make it light as possible for the Ch-54 flying crane to lift it out. Removing the eight 288-pound rotor blades would make the Chinook lighter and less resistant to wind.

It takes three men just to remove the main pin that holds the blade to the shaft and two to throw it off the top of the Chinook.

The armor plating from the cockpit was removed and the fuel was drained. Then nylon straps were attached to the top of the ship for lifting and a parachute

to the rear to keep it from twisting under the crane.

As the crane hovered the downed ship, two men hooked up the ships. Once hooked up, the men ran from the ship against the 100 mile per hour rotor blast. As the two aircraft took off, the men had to run behind them until the parachute was airborne.



THE CIDG LEARN—Sergeant Duong, a Civilian Irregular Defense Group soldier, makes an adjustment for firing the 4.2 inch mortar under the supervision of SFC Louis E. Wardlow, Special Forces weapons instructor and supervisor of the Gia Vuc Special Forces camp. Next to him is Lt. Hoang, the executive officer of the camp. (Photo by SFC M. L. Crigger, 5th SFG-10)

through 1st Sig. to headquarters in Saigon. After a flight by helicopter or transport plane, they arrive at places with names like Monkey Mountain, Hon Mot Island, and Pr' Line to begin business in earnest.

Unit strength has increased to nearly 400 men, all of them either infantry men or military policemen. While the infantry men watch for and defend against attack, MPs enforce and maintain sound internal security practices.

Organized in June around a nucleus of the 24th Security Platoon, the unit is not untried in combat. Convoys protected by signal security guards have been ambushed, sites have been subjected to mortar and recoilless rifle attack and are frequently harassed by sniper fire.

Test Firing Of M-16 Alerts Choppers To Nearby VC Unit

NHA TRANG, (1st AVN-IO)—An urge to test fire his M-16 rifle may have saved the life of an unidentified Army sergeant and his work detail near Pleiku recently.

The sergeant headed a seven-man fence building detail stringing barbed wire around an artillery position northwest of the city. Strolling away during a break, he decided to test his rifle on automatic fire.

The land to his front was uninhabited and a small knoll ahead would stop the slugs. He fired a few bursts and returned to work, unaware that the noise had

caused, startled artillerymen inside the perimeter to report being shot at by enemy automatic weapons at close range.

A spotter plane and two armed helicopters of the 17th Combat Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Group, charged off the Army airfield at nearby Camp Holloway to find and destroy the attackers.

When the O-1 spotter from the 219th Aviation Company, 223rd Battalion made a low pass over the fence building detail, the pilot noticed not far away a heavily armed Viet Cong patrol setting up an ambush for the work party. He called the gunships and fired a smoke rocket on the VC position.

The guns of the 119th Assault Helicopter Company, 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion, turned for the smoke. Vietnamese rice farmers in paddies along the choppers' path, knowing what to expect, stoically stood their ground and waved to the gunships roaring toward them. It meant they were unafraid and had nothing to hide.

The gun pilots had no reason

to doubt them. They would not harm the workers and their door gunners returned the wave.

Less courtesy was shown the VC patrol, hidden now in thick trees with only the spotter's smoke showing where they had been and his radioed instructions telling where they had moved.

Rotating-barreled miniguns began hurling their 4500 round-a-minute fusillade at the VC hiding place as the armed pair flashed over the farmers' heads. High explosive rockets ripped the tree-line. Three firing passes by both ships assured that scarcely an inch of the target area escaped their saturation fire.

A subsequent sweep by ground reconnaissance elements turned up five VC bodies, with weapons, suggesting that there may have been no survivors.

Had there been any, they might still be wondering what made the death-dealing aircraft show up when they did. For only when the sergeant's fence detail returned, and all accounts of the affair were in, was it learned that no one but Americans had done any shooting.

The VC had done nothing to give themselves away.

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Population will be es really an Shearer around ho searched will do it way you c least the pe aren't sup particular

Ask the Sarge!

March 11, 1967



NEW FWMA PATCH—A new patch recognizing Free World Military Assistance Forces has been accepted by the Military Assistance Command Vietnam. All servicemen in Vietnam may wear the patch over the left breast pocket. The patch is a green shield with a lighter green globe with a white upraised sword in the center. Vietnam's sovereign colors, red and yellow, comprise the banner across the top.



WRENCH

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ming Reference M1. W/E FSN 1240-066-6065 ment. Meantime, use the M14 Aiming Post with the red and green light.

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in the grass to his right. The man had a grenade in his hand. The specialist quickly killed him with a burst from his M-16 rifle.

When the patrol had reassembled, Hollins noticed he had received a small wound in his leg from a grenade fragment. He returned to base camp and SSgt. Alf Mills Jr., the platoon sergeant, continued the mission.

The point man for the patrol soon noticed a hut tucked against the side of a cliff. As the unit deployed to investigate the area, two men were seen running from the hut toward the bushes.

Specialist four Charles Steinmetz fired immediately, killing one of the Viet Cong. The other

up positions in the village. The fourth side, bordered by a river, was blocked by river patrol boats of the 28th ARVN Boat Company.

After the cordoning elements were in position, a loudspeaker-equipped helicopter warned the villagers they were surrounded and not to leave their homes until instructed to do so.



WAITING—Watching the jungle activity, two members of the 11th Regiment stand by their .50 caliber (Photo)

11th ACR Frees Binh Loc

XUAN LOC, (11th ACR-10)—A hamlet used as a Viet Cong stronghold for offenses against this city has been freed and turned over to Republic of Viet-

nam control.

"Glen Burnie" was a one-day operation to clear Binh Loc of VC, VC sympathizers and supporters, and draft dodgers.

After a raise at the of Vietnam Ranger ing force

Armor 11th Arm moved in sides. The spaced t could be vehicle.

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Vietnam Communique

Operation Junction City—Major elements of II Field Force continue this operation in War Zone C north of Tay Ninh. Thirty-seven enemy were reported killed in one day's scattered small unit contacts. Air Force pilots supporting

the operation were credited with 12 enemy kills in 171 sorties during the same day. Elements in the operation are the 1st, 9th, 25th, and 4th Infantry Divisions, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 11th

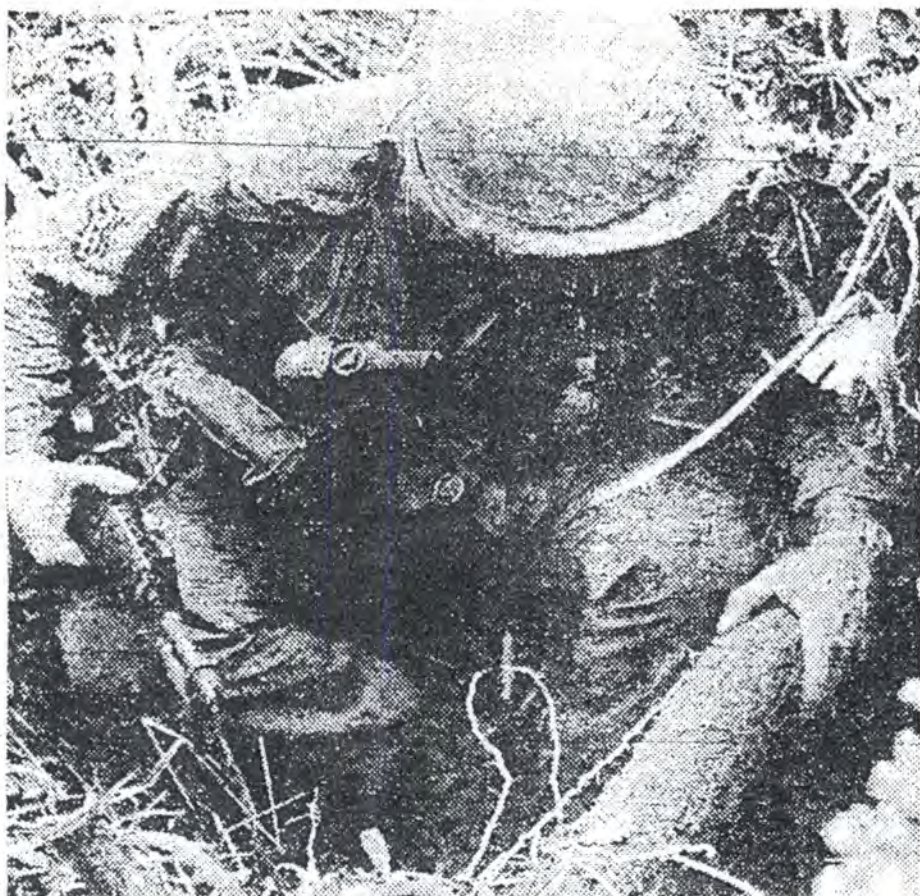
Armored Cavalry Regiment. The 7th Air Force and the 12th Combat Aviation Group are supporting. Light friendly casualties are reported.

4th Infantry Division—A unit engaged an unknown sized enemy force one mid-morning and contact continued for about nine hours. Artillery and tactical air strikes supported the company. The Allied Forces accounted 45 enemy killed. Friendly casualties were light. Since the operation began Jan. 1, more than 300 enemy have been killed.

101st Airborne Division—The 1st Brigade killed six enemy in two separate contacts in one day's action in Operation Farragut. Since the operation began in late January, around 75 enemy have been killed.

25th Infantry Division—A company from the 25th and an Army of the Republic of Vietnam platoon attached to the division drew fire from the enemy in an incident. One hundred rounds of 81mm mortar and 60mm mortar were fired. Artillery missions were called in and mortar fire was returned. Thirty-one enemy were killed and the friendly casualties were heavy.

9th Infantry Division—Elements of the 2nd Brigade have ended Operation Greenleaf. It was a battalion sized search and destroy operation which began early last month. It accounted for four enemy detained and one Chieu Hoi returnee. There was no significant contact reported during the operation.



KNOCK, KNOCK—Staff Sergeant Bernard Huntle, Troop K, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, checks a tunnel in Bin Loc during Operation Glen Burnie, a cordon and seize operation.

(Photo by Sp5 Richard Haynes, 17th PI DET)

Mar 11, 1967

's Rifle Fails To Fire; ors VC With Right Hook

AT, (9th INF-apping 9th Infan- squad leader re- ted to man's old- his hands—to hen his rifle mal- He flattened an with a powerful

First Class Jerry a sound leader in of the 4th Bat- n Infantry, was atoon leader and platoon members rendezvous with the platoon, positioned them, a path leading C village-tunnel on an unexpec- C came strolling ms' position.

his rifle and trigger—click! weapon failed to dropped it, to his feet hol- raged after the who had turned els and dashed d the village, in hot pursuit.

ok the pair sec- one of them his shoulder to t his pursuer.

earned the hard to look back, him out with a ook to the head, nd VC paused a few yards

away to observe, but when Adams yelled again, he moved away smartly.

Adams turned the dazed VC over to his platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Michael McCa- son and went back to recover the VC's belongings.

In addition to a 1917 model .30 caliber Eddystone rifle, the VC abandoned several rounds of ammunition, a

SS Goes To 199th Soldier

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-IO)—A private first class who drew Viet Cong fire to himself to relieve the pressure from his platoon, and then was killed when seeking cover, has been awarded the Silver Star posthumously.

Herbert E. Frenzell was the point man for Company A, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade when it was hit by the fire. The main body was caught in the open.

Frenzell realized the unit would take heavy casualties if the VC's advances were not stopped. He decided to draw the VC's fire to himself. Because of the tall ele- phant grass, he had to stand, fully exposing himself.

After the platoon had reached safety, he began to withdraw. He made it about halfway to safety when he was killed.

sack containing clothing, U.S.-made C-rations, and several pounds of fresh pork.



TIGHT SQUEEZE—A dustoff chopper eases into a tight landing zone to evacuate 9th Infantry Division soldiers injured during a recent search and destroy operation conducted by the Old Reliables' 1st Brigade.

(Photo by 9th INF-IO)

Cong Terrorism nts Friendship

st CAV-IO) — An orism close to the near this base 1st Cavalry Divi- named innocent tragedy brought the Allied Forces

ur William Ault of lion, 5th Cavalry, men of his work heir two and one- into a crowded close to the vil- ka.

stand was filled oops and Army of Vietnam (ARVN)

ldies were defend- ment and the ROK is securing a way 19.

1 Class Burton

Heagie, who had remained to guard the vehicle, said that suddenly "the roof just lifted off the hooch, and everybody was pouring out of the place."

A home-made grenade had been pitched into the rear of the building. Private First Class Rogelio Gonzales and Sp4 Steven Hulsling both were injured by the blast.

A Vietnamese woman and her child were immediate casualties and, in the rear of the hooch, a man who had been sleeping was instantly killed.

The ARVN soldiers began to search the area and a ROK medic began to administer aid.

Heagie said, "The incident was over instantly, but we couldn't find who threw the grenade. 'I was lucky, but I'll always remember that ROK medic work- ing over Gonzales and Hulsling."

ploded when his right wing ca-

Florida, a "Headhunter" of the 17th Combat Aviation Group's 219th Recon Company, 223rd Bat- talion, was on an aerial scouting mission 35 miles southwest of Pleiku when a VC bullet struck and detonated one of the phos- phorous target-marking rockets his O-1 Bird Dog carried beneath its wings. The blast ruptured the right wing's forward edge, wiping out the right landing gear and slightly wounding Florio's observ- er, Lt. Ronald J. Pollum of the 4th Infantry Division.

Still 15 miles from the nearest airfield, Duc Co, Florio fought desperately to keep his bird in

dropped his wing flaps to the full-down position, steered hard to the left, and rammed full throttle into his faltering craft.

This move slowed—but failed to stop—his descent. It was all he could do. Now, like it or not, he was coming down. But where—the Duc Co airstrip, or the VC-infested jungle?

Fifteen minutes later the crippled airplane had nearly worked itself out of the sky, but Florio had the field in sight. Whipping across the treetops on final approach, he wrestled his plane down for the risky one-wheel landing forced by loss of his right tire.

When his rolling Bird Dog slowed, and Florio could no longer hold the worthless right wheel off the runway, he braked his left one hard and bumped to a skidding stop.

FAC Ship Riddled, Pilot OK

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO)—Sixteen bullets riddled the O-1E Bird Dog aircraft of Air Force Capt. Malvin Chubb as he circled over trapped Viet Cong unit. The Forward Air Control (FAC) pilot was directing the strikes of Air Force fighters southwest of here in a recent 25th Infantry Division operation.

Laying the day one-engine plane over on one side to get a better view of the enemy, he suddenly felt something strike his helmet. Bits of the radio next to his right arm had flown through the cockpit after the set was hit.

In the next few seconds, 15 more rounds tore through the frail observation plane. Chubb rolled the plane level and flew straight away from where he had been hit. "I would have slowed down too much if I had tried to circle and evade the fire," he explained. "Then I would have been a perfect target."

He flew directly back to here, a little shaken, but unharmed. "Luckily I wasn't carrying a passenger that day." The pas- senger seat area of the plane had been pierced by 10 rounds.

'Routine' Patrol Ends In Firefight

TUY HOA, (4th INF-IO)—What began as a seemingly routine patrol action for 12 men of the 4th Infantry Division ended in a brief jungle firefight that netted the Ivymen one dead Viet Cong, another captured, and an additional prize of 25,800 piasters.

A reconnaissance platoon from the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, led by PSgt Carl D. Harmon left early in the morning to search an area several thousand meters from the unit command post. Moving through the jungle, the point man, Sp4 George Casano, observed fresh sandal prints along the trail. The patrol followed the tracks for 150 meters, crossed a small stream, and started climbing a ridge to their front.

Reaching the top of the ridge, Casano and another man, Sp4

Leo C. King spotted a Viet Cong a short distance away. The two men opened fire, wounding the enemy soldier. Simultaneously, another Viet Cong opened fire with an automatic weapon, pinning down the two Ivymen.

Sergeant Harmon, SSgt. Leon Owens, and two other members of the patrol immediately moved

to their left, flanking the enemy gunner. Seeing this, the VC fled, leaving his wounded partner. The wounded man attempted to flee also, but was brought down by a burst from Owens' weapon.

Upon checking the body of the dead VC, the men found a packet containing 25,800 piasters and numerous documents.

VN Pilot Awarded US Silver Star

SAIGON, (USAF-IO) — A Vietnamese helicopter pilot whose heroic actions saved the lives of many American soldiers during the 1965 siege of Plei Me has posthumously received the Silver Star.

Lieutenant Tran Huu Khoi, an H-34 pilot who flew dozens of medical evacuations during the fierce attack on the Special Forces camp in October 1965, was

killed in a helicopter crash last July.

Accepting the Silver Star from Brig. Gen. Donovan F. Smith, Chief of the Air Force Advisory Group, was Lieutenant Khoi's father, Tran Huu Khuong.

The Vietnamese lieutenant had previously received Vietnam's highest award, the National Order of Vietnam, for his actions.