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was the center of all Viet Cong activity on Bao Trai District. Wiping it out was comparable to cutting the head of a rattlesnake. The snake cannot bite anymore."

Donlon Honored By Vietnam

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noble example of our joint effort to establish, through our military and civilian efforts, a free country. The spirit of our fighting troops has been superb.

Captain Donlon received the Medal of Honor in July 1964 for bravery in action near Nam Dong. He was wounded four times during the encounter.

CAKE WALK—Sky soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, carefully cross a mined bridge during Operation Toledo near Xuan Loc in Long Khanh Province.

(Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd ABN-IO)

"All Hell Broke Loose"

LAI KHE, (1st INF-IO)—"Suddenly all hell broke loose", said Sp4 John Ramsey as he related a combat incident.

While on a search and destroy mission with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, Ramsey was covering the flank. It was a clear, peaceful day and he had

about decided no contact would be made with the Viet Cong.

Suddenly Charlie hit the company with rifle fire from all directions. Ramsey was trying to place the fire when he was hit. The round hit the left side of his helmet, penetrated the steel, circled underneath, came out the

right side and struck him in the right side of the neck.

Sergeant Albert A. Tranquillo, Jr., Ramsey's squad leader, rushed to his side and pulled him out of the line of fire. A medic, PFC John B. Hamilton, gave Ramsey first aid and called for helicopter evacuation.

Minutes later a helicopter landed. But in place of the familiar red cross was the white longhorn insignia of Brig. Gen. James F. Hollingsworth, assistant commander of the Big Red One, who was on board.

Ramsey was taken aboard and delivered to the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon, where he is now recovering from his wounds.

Close Call For Ranger Advisor

RACH GIA, (IV CORPS-IO)—Sergeant First Class Benjamin Williams, U.S. Army advisor to the 43rd Ranger Battalion, sat in a rice paddy looking at his steel helmet. After a moment he said, "Well, I guess that was pretty

close."

A Viet Cong machine gun the night before had placed a round through the steel pot and the liner and came out on the other side after apparently making a circle around his head.

Williams had run into a rice paddy the evening before to pick up a wounded ranger when the VC spotted him and opened up. He brought the wounded ranger back but left his helmet out in the

paddy until the following morning.

This was part of a multi-battalion operation in the Mekong Delta about 100 miles southwest of Saigon. The 43rd Ranger Bn. was heli-lifted in and fifteen minutes after touching down the Rangers became involved in a heavy fire fight with the VC, who apparently had been trying to escape. The Rangers held and the VC were forced to fall back later on in the evening. U.S. Army armed helicopters of the 13th Aviation Battalion gave support throughout the day.

Early the next morning the battalions began closing in only to find the VC had broken out the night before carrying away their dead and wounded. More than a hundred dug-in positions were found and blood stained the entire area.

Several areas were found that had been used as aid stations. Rolled and folded banana leaves stained with blood were found. The VC were using these as a substitute for bandages.

In mid-morning, more armed choppers caught the VC attempting to clear out of the area by using sampans. The sampans were destroyed by rocket and machine gun fire. The choppers reported they were loaded with armed troops.

During the two-day operation, the Viet Cong lost 132 killed, seven captured and five weapons. Friendly casualties were light.

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guard for his safety, he walked the roadway to draw enemy fire so their positions could be detected. He used his rifle and grenades to destroy sniper and automatic weapons positions.

After marking his unit's position with smoke to enable accurate air strikes, he gave his men first aid and assisted their return to safety.

11th Avn Bn. Lauded

LONG BINH, (II FFV-IO)—The 11th Aviation Battalion has been awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm in a ceremony in Phu Loi.

The ceremony included the pinning of the cross on the battalion colors, and awards of the medal to Lt. Col. John W. Lauterbach, former commander of the 11th, and to Lt. Col. Joseph B. Starker, present commander.

The citation reads, in part, "The 11th Combat Aviation Battalion is cited for outstanding performance of duty, and extraordinary heroism in action in support of Republic of Vietnam Air Force and Allied Forces throughout the II Corps tactical zone during the period from December 1965 to June 30, 1966."

During this period the battalion logged more than 41,000 combat flying missions, airlifted more than 260,000 American, South Vietnamese and other free world soldiers, and Vietnamese refugees, and transported more than 27,000 tons of military equipment and supplies in support of combat operations.

The awards, part of a special organizational day program celebrating the battalion's first anniversary, were presented by Maj. Gen. Le Nguyen Khang, commanding general of the III ARVN Corps.

Scout Dog Captures NVA Troop

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO)—A dog, an infantryman, and a weary North Vietnamese Regular who had subsisted on leaves for 14 days were the ingredients in the capture of the 100th enemy prisoner during Operation Paul Revere II recently in Pleiku Province.

"I'm happy about catching him; happy he didn't catch me," said PFC Ervin Moses of the 3rd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Moses was shotgun for the dog and handler involved in the capture.

The 3rd Platoon started patrolling a hilly jungle area near the western border of Vietnam during early morning, with Moses, the handler, and scout dog in the lead. "Duke," a brown and black German shepherd, and PFC Ronald M. Barber, his handler, are assigned to the 25th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) here.

Upon advancing, the trio found a North Vietnamese Regular stretched out on the ground with his eyes closed. Moses guarded him as other platoon members advanced.

It was learned that he was part of a mortar crew that elements of the 1st Cavalry Division had either killed or scattered. The North Vietnamese had been eating leaves for the last 14 days just to stay alive.



ONES—Private First Class Larry policeman of the 173rd these two Vietnamese children rocks in Long Khanh Province children are being taken to a her was captured with papers Cong leader.

nt Zawacki, 173rd ABN-IO)

a joint effort of the people of Manhattan Beach, Calif., and the Civic Affairs Section of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division.

Gleeful youngsters were puzzled and overjoyed as they opened the array of gifts which included school kits, educational toys, skirts, blouses, sandals and enough toilet articles to fill the needs of 200 families.

"Operation Tan Lai" was organized by Mrs. L. C. Corbin and sponsored by Liberty Village Women's Club of Manhattan Beach, of which she is a member. Businessmen, local citizens, schools, and 60 organizations had a hand in the project.

Soon after Capt. Roger S. Talmadge, the battalion civil affairs officer, wrote to Mrs. Corbin asking her club's help in the project.

Former VC Now 'Ranger'

TRAI BI, (III CORPS-10)—A year ago, the young man was a Viet Cong platoon leader. He fought in a raging battle at Duc Lap Ranger Training Center. Today he's a rifleman in the same Ranger battalion which beat his VC regiment. He's proud of it.

The former communist, who rallied to the Government of Vietnam through the Chieu Hoi "Open Arms" program shortly after the famous battle at Duc Lap, joined the Vietnamese Army and told officials; "I decided after that terrible night at Duc Lap that the only fighting I would do from then on would be with a South Vietnamese battalion."

He got his wish. He's joined the winning team of freedom fighters in Vietnam.

DFC Awarded To Army Specialist

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10)—Specialist Four William J. Whartenby has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while participating in aerial flight near Vi Thanh.

Whartenby was serving as CS dispenser operator on a UH-1D "Huey" in support of a Vietnamese ground unit which was pinned down by a well-concealed Viet Cong force.

Although repeatedly exposed to intense hostile fire, Whartenby dropped CS grenades on the insurgents with precision during three tree-top level passes over heavily defended Viet Cong fortifications. On the third pass, his aircraft sustained several hits.

With apparent disregard for his safety, he continued his perilous task. When the ship made a sharp 180-degree turn to begin another run in the opposite direction, the aircraft flew directly over a known Viet Cong machinegun position. The chopper again received multiple hits, wounding Specialist Whartenby in both legs.

Despite the severity of his wounds, Specialist Whartenby, with professional competence and courage, continued to attack the Viet Cong with CS grenades until his supply was expended.

Through his heroic efforts, the mission was successfully accomplished and the Viet Cong guerrillas were routed from the area.

Sept 17, 1969

Receives "Big" Letter

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-IO)—Every soldier in Vietnam loves to get mail and plenty of it, but SSgt. Kenneth Oekten of the 173rd Airborne Brigade is especially lucky. He just received a letter from La Mars, Iowa, which was signed by 455 people—that's a lot of letter.

The La Mars Municipal Band and the American Legion Post No. 241 jointly sponsored a series of concerts dedicated to four men from their area who are serving in Vietnam. Volunteers from the American Legion Post collected signatures on a letter for each of the four soldiers.

Sergeant Oekten, the mess sergeant for Company A (Admin) of the 173rd, received the letter just a few days after he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his outstanding work while assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

The father of nine children, he has been in Vietnam since May. "I'm glad to be over here, really doing something for my country," he said. "That is my job and the job of every soldier, doing whatever is necessary."

Receiving the letter was a real treat for the sergeant. "A soldier, any soldier, really appreciates it when he knows that people are thinking of him and are concerned about him," he said. "I wish I could personally thank each and every one of those 455 people who were kind enough to

think of me."

Sergeant Oekten recognized many of the signatures on the letter from the small, mid-western town in which he grew up. He found names of childhood friends, neighbors and relatives. "The only thing wrong with the letter," said Sergeant Oekten, "is that it makes me homesick."

Choppers Take Deadly Toll

TAN SON NHUT, (1st AVN-IO)—Army helicopters supporting tactical operations in Vietnam amassed a confirmed kill total of 6386 Viet Cong while flying combat sorties during a recent six month period. Army choppers also accounted for the destruction of 1083 enemy sampans and damage to 1500 more. The suppressive fires of armed UH-1B gunships also destroyed 4028 Viet Cong structures and damaged at least 3753 more.

The 6386 dead Viet Cong were attributed to the aerial fire of helicopters belonging to units of various combat divisions and to the 1st Aviation Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. G. P. Seneff, Jr.

There is one instance on record where Republic of Korea troops credit two Army Huey gunships with the destruction of an entire 30-man Viet Cong platoon in a single engagement.

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