

Viet Cong Ambush Averted By 173rd

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-10)—A flight of HUH-1H helicopters, heavily laden with troops in full combat gear, skimmed the high jungle canopy of Long Khanh Province.

Seconds later the Hueys touched down in a marsh clearing known as Landing Zone Brazil. In the northeast corner of "Brazil", Company A, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry disembarked. The battle-hardened paratroopers charged for the thick green undergrowth surrounding the LZ. Initially, there was no enemy contact.

Working with four maneuver platoons Capt. Jack Kelley, CO of the 173rd Airborne Brigade company, moved his troops forward to begin the search for the Viet Cong.

Forward movement was painfully slow. The sunlight sifting through the treetops 100 feet overhead formed checkerboard patterns over the terrain. Already, it was uncomfortably hot. The air in the jungle was still and the vegetation too thick to allow the passing of even the slightest breeze.

The platoons moved across the terrain. Strangely quiet, the jungle seemed to envelope the cautious troops. The built-in alarm system of combat veterans began sounding in each of the men. Forward movement slowed even more. Hearts began throbbing and each man strained to find the tell-tale clue which would disclose the enemy's deathtrap.

Suddenly, a machine gun barked; the enemy was found. Automatic weapons fire cut into the advancing ranks of A Company's 3rd Platoon, and an entire platoon of paratroopers disappeared in the blessedly concealing high grass. A sheet of lead so thick it literally mowed down everything before it was thrown back at the well-fortified positions of the Viet Cong.

Unknown to SSGT. Thomas Cooney, who was acting as platoon leader, 300 meters behind the position where initial contact was made was a Viet Cong base camp, well fortified with bunkers and trenches. Sergeant Cooney contacted the company CO by radio and requested artillery support. Responding rapidly the artillery poured round after round on the enemy position.

The Viet Cong, alarmed that their base camp had been discovered, quickly deployed a force

to surround Sergeant Cooney's third platoon.

Captain Kelley grabbed the hand set from his RTO. And directed all platoons to converge on the 3rd Platoon position.

The trap was sprung. The Viet Cong was falling prey to their own favorite tactic: surround and destroy with a superior force.

The 2nd Platoon, lead by SSGT. Nathaniel Brown, moved in from the west. Still heavily engaged, the 3rd Platoon hammered away at the Viet Cong. Artillery continued to pour on the enemy... blocking his escape. Sighting the Viet Cong, Sergeant Brown's platoon reached the enemy's rear. The paratroopers began methodically chopping away the enemy

resistance.

The enemy was engaged at two positions. Planning an easy victory over what appeared to be a small American force, he had weakened his rear, which was being quickly decimated by the fire and movement of the American paratroopers. His "certain victory" had been replaced with sudden alarm. The easy prize was reinforced with another platoon. Company A's 1st Platoon had reached the third. Typically, Charlie decided to flee.

Leaving a small resistance force he attempted to move to the north. Captain Kelley directed the 4th Platoon to establish a block-in force. The Viet Cong shifts to the south and west, and Cap-

tain Kelley calls in a barrage of artillery to prevent escape.

The small pocket of resistance left by the retreating Viet Cong to fight Sergeant Brown's 2nd Platoon was knocked out by grenades. Charging the machine gun positions, SGT. Frank R. Perez and Sp4 Ronald Palmer destroyed bunker after bunker with Airborne determination.

The firing stopped. The paratroopers had overrun a Viet Cong main force battalion. The 1st and 3rd platoons consolidated.

Documents and map overlays were found and quickly forwarded to the intelligence section. The rapid translation prevented, by minutes, a planned Viet Cong ambush of an ARVN force.

The Tropic Lightning Division feels that snipers will be particularly useful in harassing Viet Cong movements, eliminating their VC counterparts and adding extra protection around the base camp perimeter.

Lieutenant Colonel Truman E. Boudinot, assistant chief of staff for operations, has charge of the project. The proposed organization consists of several two-man teams. All men are to be qualified snipers. One man on each team will be in the sniper position while the other is an observer coach. After a certain period they rotate positions.

The sniper's job is to put immediate fire where the observer tells him to. The observer's duties are to scan the areas under surveillance, select targets and adjust fire if more than one round is needed.

The sniper will use the standard M-14 rifle, fitted with a telescopic sight, while the observer's equipment includes a spotting telescope on a tripod, a radio and an automatic weapon.

Happiness Is A Base Airfield For Big Red One Mechanics

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—As the little OH-13 helicopter with the Big Red One tattooed on its side settles to the ground, two men carrying tool boxes run into the clearing.

The men Sp4 Garland Guffey and Sp1 Daniel Ellis, are helicopter mechanics of the Company B "Longhorns" 1st Aviation Battalion, 1st Infantry Division. Their job is to keep Longhorn 368 and her sister ships flying safely.

As the light fades the two crew chiefs begin their work. Since the observation helicopters are often flying from dawn to dusk, the task of performing the required maintenance and post-flight inspection is not easy.

Without the aid of a well lighted, well equipped maintenance hangar the men go about their task with grease gun, oil can, and flashlight, keeping a keen eye for discrepancies.

Every 100 flying hours, each helicopter must undergo a detailed inspection involving some disassembly and other maintenance at the permanent airfield facility. In a few days, Longhorn 368 and her sister ships will be rotated to the base airfield for maintenance, while others will be

brought to the forward area to replace them.

For a few days, Guffey and

Ellis will enjoy the luxury of working on their aircraft at the

base airfield.



A HELPING HAND—Paratroopers of the Recon Platoon, 2nd Bn., 503rd Inf., 173rd Airborne Brigade assist each other out of a deep ravine—one of several obstacles designed to delay invaders in a VC-controlled village. The village was surrounded by the platoon and then searched. Nineteen suspects were detained for questioning.

(Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd ABN-10)

29 Aug 30, 1966

July 30, 1966



BOMB AND SEARCH—Members of the 1st Bde., 101st Abn. Div. carefully move through a bomb-blasted bamboo thicket after Air Force B-52s pelted the area north of Dak To. (Photo by Sp4 Richard Houghton, 101st ABN-IO)

197th Lightning Bug Team Mauls Charlie's Sampans

BIEN HOA, (12th AVN-IO)—In two nights of lightning action recently, attack helicopters of the 197th Aviation Company blitzed two fleets of Viet Cong sampans near here in one of the most successful air attacks of the Vietnam war.

A single platoon of armed helicopters, utilizing the Lightning Bug technique, destroyed 68 sampans and killed an undetermined number of Viet Cong. (Lightning Bug is a helicopter equipped with seven powerful search lights and supported by heavy artillery.)

On the first night, a team from the 1st Platoon, 197th, spotted a flotilla of river boats in a free-strike area southeast of here. "At first we thought they had to be friendly," said one pilot. "But they were so far into the free-strike zone that it could only have been the VC."

The assault team confirmed identity of the fleet with ground forces of the 25th ARVN Division who gave the order to attack. In the face of intense return fire, the choppers ended the Viet Cong infiltration by blasting 30 of them out of the water.

The next night a second team

from the 1st Platoon answered a call from an outpost that was under attack 10 miles south of Saigon. The choppers strafed to the very edges of the enemy fortress, repulsing the aggression. After re-arming, the Lightning Bug team located a fleet of large sampans, 30 and 40 footers, north-

173rd Private . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

grabbed the platoon radio and began to call information back to the company commander, which enabled him to maneuver other company elements around the flanks of the 3rd platoon, and call in artillery to seal off the VC rear. The platoon medic had been hit, so some members of the platoon that were able, took it upon themselves to provide treatment for the wounded during lulls in the firing.

Private Oates, the most experienced and ranking PFC in the platoon, was abruptly thrust into the role of the platoon leader. "I didn't have time to think about much. I knew I had to keep the firepower on Charlie, and that the troops would need more ammunition, so we took it off the casualties before they were moved off the line." The two platoon machineguns became casualties in the action. PFC Donald Ferguson had to leave his gun after it jammed, and could not be worked free. PFC Thomas Taylor had just fired three belts of continuous fire into the VC position, when a bullet-drilled-the-buffer assembly and put his gun out of business. Both machinegunners picked up M-16 rifles and ammunition off wounded captives, and

west of Tan An. The craft were fully loaded but had been abandoned hastily on the river bank.

Guided by the powerful search beam, the armed helicopters again smashed their target, sinking 38 sampans and getting several secondary explosions. For two miles the river was strewn with wood shreds, all sticks, blasted cloth and twisted outboard motor parts.

After the final count of VC bodies was made, advisors at the outpost reported the mission to be highly successful.

Later reports from US advisors at Tan An Sector revealed that ARVN ground forces trapped a large group of VC attempting to escape the holocaust of the first night's attack and killed 34 insurgents.

'Dud' Bomb W VC Booby Trap

BIEN HOA, (1st Log-IO)—A three-man team of U.S. Army explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) experts narrowly escaped serious injury on Operation "El Paso" while deactivating what ap-

peared to be a aerial bomb "dud" ed out to be a booby trap instead.

The team, from Logistical Comm Ordnance Detachment was called to a location in the Cambodian border area of the Infantry Division who had discovered a apparently undetonated buried in the ground only its tail fin showing.

Aerial Recon On Foot?

NHA TRANG, (17th AVN-IO)—Falling out of the sky into a Viet Cong stronghold didn't discourage Army spotter pilot 1st Lt. Tom Morris. He completed his visual reconnaissance (VR) mission on foot.

Shot down in the course of a low-level VR flight, he and his observer, Sgt. Robert Robles, stepped from the wreckage of the O-1 Bird Dog and thrashed through the jungle for six hours gathering information on VC activity. A helicopter found them that afternoon.

Morris said at one point he and Robles accidentally came within 20 feet of overtaking a VC squad moving through the jungle. "Luckily, they didn't see us," he said, "so we beat as hasty a retreat as we could at a high crawl, and didn't stop crawling until we were sure they were a long way behind."

"After clearing the personnel," said Richard Staude, 1st commander, "I removed the fin and After removing Sergeant Major Solomon a hole . . . and a hole . . . where should have been.

"I had just enough warn my two team (Sp6 Donald Cook, Delbert Feldman) security guard because area was sprayed with net."

Staude and Cook only superficial work the blast. "This is time the VC had trapped a bomb," eant major said, "ness of disarming get 'disarming' at reflected.

VC Navy Thinned

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO) — Viet Cong river traffic on the Oriental River was thinned out by Tropic Lightning soldiers last week. One company of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, destroyed 25 sampans in a Viet Cong area six miles southwest of here.

Fifteen of the sampans were

found hidden in tall reed swamps and the other in sheds in the surrounding areas. First Sergeant Solomon said the vessels well built and up to length. "There were boats near or around the boat blew them up," said Solomon.

VN Child Will Live

DI AN, (1st INF-IO)—"Mother and child doing well," thanks to the skill and kindness of Capt. Leonard J. Kut.

The small child, wounded by Viet Cong mortar blasts near Long Thanh, was brought into the clearing station of Company 2, 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.



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TOWARD BETTER THINGS—Specialist Five Ronald Romines and Sgt. Maj. John Bittorie, 1st Bn., 327th Infantry, assist refugees evacuated from Viet Cong infested jungles of Kortum Province north of Dak To.

(Photo by Sp4 Robert Lloyd, 101st ABN-IO)

VN Children Tell All To 'Bac Si'

AP PHU TRUNG, (25th INF-IO) — "Bac Si, Bac Si," the word flashed by village grapevine for it was Saturday and time for the American MEDCAP team to arrive.

The "Bac Si" or doctor had arrived and was ready to set up in the village school of Ap Phu Trung to treat the people of Ap Ben Do hamlets. No loudspeaker trucks and no leaflets were needed for the people of Ap Ben Do had come to know and trust the Medical Civic Action Program of the 25th Infantry Division.

Silently they came, down the road and across the rice paddies. Young, old, sick, curious; they came to see the "Bac Si." Gone were the reluctance and frowns that first greeted the MEDCAP team from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, many weeks ago. There were smiles, and soft words for old friends.

"Where's my friend, the village

chief?" asked 1st Sgt. Robert Carmack. A young man stepped out from the gathered villagers anxious to try his newly learned English. "He is gone Cu Chi, come back soon to see you."

"Well, we'll go ahead as we have a special surprise for the children," said First Sergeant Carmack, the 5th Battalion civil affairs sergeant. The special surprise was soon unpacked along with the medical kits, stretchers and medicines. It was a box of many colored, stuffed toy animals; a gift from the Future Homemakers Class of McKinley High School, Honolulu, Hawaii.

As the afternoon wore on, prescriptions for vitamins, aspirin, soap, penicillin shots and other medicines were joined by prescriptions for a stuffed toy animal to light the eyes of a little girl or boy. When the short afternoon ended, over 80 villagers had been seen and treated by the two doctors.

Heads Up!— 'Sorry Bout That' Charlie

DAK TO, (101st ABN-IO) — "We were marking a landing zone for the heliborne assault coming in when we noticed something odd about a clump of brush," said Capt. Richard Akre, platoon leader of the 117th Aviation Gunship Platoon.

"We dropped a couple of smoke grenades and out popped a pair of 'Charlies'," he added.

The gunships orbited the area holding the two Viet Cong at bay until an element of A Troop, 17th Cavalry could arrive on the scene and take the two into custody.

The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division paratroopers then called in a helicopter to return the captives to the Brigade Command Post for interrogation.

July 30, 1966

101st ABN-IO

Mailman Has Nothing On Avn. Mechanics

BIEN HOA, (145th AVN-10) — Through blistering sun, stinging sand, torrential rain, water, mud and coming darkness they worked. More dedicated than the mailman is an aircraft field maintenance team repairing a downed helicopter in a combat situation.

The 573rd Transportation Detachment proved it recently in a five-hour battle against weather and time in War Zone D. The 573rd was on a combat assault mission in support of its parent 118th Assault Helicopter Company when they were faced with the task of repairing a bullet-damaged fuel tank on an armed UH-1D helicopter that had been hit by ground fire and landed at Phuoc Hoa.

The repair crew, Sp6 Clifford Hawkins, Sp5 Walter Breakons, Sgt. Jimmie Pirtle, and Sp4 Richard Elsinger tried in vain to patch the holes in the tank.

Major Philip Williams, commanding officer of the 573rd, radioed for a replacement fuel cell and other parts as the crew began taking out the damaged cell, which involved removing most of the aircraft's belly. Boiling sun and blowing sand hampered progress. Team members had to take turns because of the toxic effects of fumes from spilled jet fuel.

When the cell had been removed, maintenance technician CWO Albert Smith arrived with news that there were no spare cells in Bien Hoa.

It was a choice to either repair the fuel tank or leave the aircraft overnight in the notorious Zone D where it would be a prime target for the Viet Cong.

Someone remembered a wrecked UH-1D helicopter that had been left at Phuoc Vinh for months. Could they use the fuel tank from the chopper? It was worth a try.

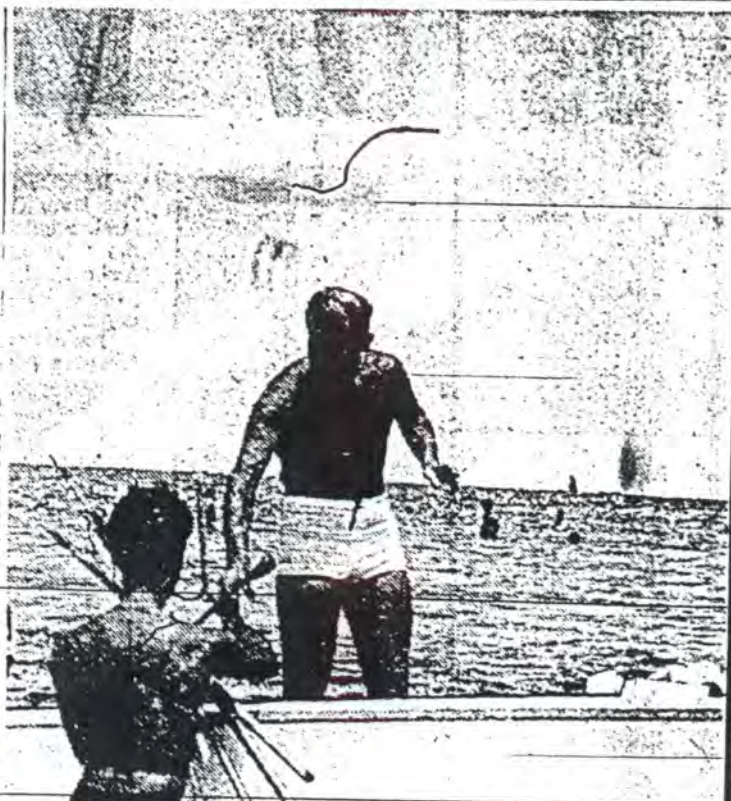
The team flew to Phuoc Vinh and encountered a heavy thunderstorm which forced the pilots to feel their way along at tree-top level. After spotting the aircraft, they managed to make a forced landing. Working in the rain, they removed a fuel cell and several

other parts from the wrecked chopper. All parts looked to be serviceable.

When they returned to Phuoc Hoa with the replacement, the area was four inches deep in water. A drainage ditch had overflowed. The team worked in the quagmire to replace the tank.

Hawkins and Breakons, half submerged in mud and water, finished the job by replacing a fuel boost pump from underneath the helicopter. The task was now finally completed. The weary workers watched as Capt. Niles Clark wallowed under the chopper to inspect the work. They smiled with relief as he gave it his approval.

Using a five-gallon can, the team transferred 45 gallons of fuel to the repaired gun ship. As darkness closed in around the field, the team packed up and flew home with a job well done.



SKIN DIVING—Troops of the 1st Cavalry Division in a boat in the South China Sea during three days of Tau Rest and Recuperation Center.

Vung Tau R&R Center Expands Its Facilities

VUNG TAU, (1st LOG-10)—The 1st Logistical Command's in-country rest and recuperation (R&R) center, located in this delta coastal town 45 miles southeast of Saigon, is expanding its facilities to accommodate up to 2,500 soldiers a month.

"Present plans call for the construction of a new rest hotel annex to be completed this month," Col. Leonard J. Hempling, commanding officer of the Log's Vung Tau Sub Area Command, claimed. "Other building plans include a beach pavillion and snack bar."

Operated by elements of the Log's Saigon Support Command, the recreational facilities include a modern two-story air-conditioned hotel, post exchange, movies, library, restaurant, snack bar and swimming beaches.

Hosting the 1,500 soldiers who arrive at the R&R Center hotel every month is Capt. Paul E.

Zirkle, who directs a staff of 20 enlisted men, 70 Vietnamese employees and six cooks.

"Every soldier who comes here gets red carpet treatment," Captain Zirkle boasted, "and they really enjoy the hotel's maid service and free food prepared to individual tastes."

The center also provides movies, dances and live entertainment each evening in the ball

room, together with billiard, volleyball and ping pong.

Swimming, boating, deep-water fishing and surfboarding are most popular outdoor activities according to the R&R Center director. A mile-long beach has been equipped with table beach umbrellas, motor boats and numerous recreational items ranging from underwater skin diving equipment to fishing poles.

VC No Match For 'Charlie'

TUY HOA, (173rd ABN-10) — The skies over South Vietnam were filled with helicopters as the 173rd Airborne Brigade, a part of II Field Force Vietnam, was airlifted to the jungles for operation "Yorktown".

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, nicknamed "Chargin' Charlie", under the command

of Capt. John Leide was to conduct search and destroy operations deep in rubber plantation country adjacent to the jungle.

As the helicopters descended the landing zone, the expressions of the men were tense. They wondered what they could encounter as they landed. Whatever lay ahead, they were ready. After landing, the men of "Chargin' Charlie" pushed on to their objective through the jungle underbrush, always alert and keeping a sharp watch for snipers and booby traps.

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At first Johnson had trouble. Once he received an electrical shock that knocked him down, but he finally cut the wire and soon the mortar fire stopped.

in the case of powered and remote-controlled models, there are additional hours of fun spent flying or (in the case of boat builders) sailing on the waters of nearby streams:

Youth Rehabilitated

SAIGON, (1st LOG-10) — Personnel of the U.S. Army's 1st Logistical Command are joining in a West German Government effort to rehabilitate 240 wayward Vietnamese youths at the Thu Duc Delinquent-Youth Reformatory Center.

Officers and enlisted men of the 3rd Ordnance Battalion are slated as instructors. The West

German Government is sending a delegation here this month to begin construction plans for the re-habilitation center's programmed expansion.

"One of the 19 buildings at the center will serve as an auto repair shop with various tools and equipment provided by Cooperative American Relief Everywhere (CARE)," Lieutenant Armstrong added.

Former Dead Men Will Fight Again

July 30, 1966

QUANG NGAI, (USARV-10) — Every day and night U.S. Army medevac teams are saving men who would have died in any other war.

The U.S. Army advisory team to the Vietnamese Army at Minh Long radioed the medevacs here for helicopter evacuation of their radio operator who had been seriously burned by an exploding generator.

The medical evacuation team of Capt. Denne McGuiness, WO Terrell Clark, and Capt. John Manning were airborne 15 minutes later.

Heading southwest along the

Song Be River, the helicopter encountered heavy cloud cover which blackened the whole area. It was impossible to distinguish the land from the sky.

The first mortar flares popped illuminating the camp and surrounding area enough to allow the copter to settle on the flare-marked helipad.

Captain Manning administered aid as the wounded soldier was carried on board.

Lifting off in a steep spiral, the copter entered the clouds. Twenty minutes later the soldier was out of danger and receiving medical treatment at Chu Lai.

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VC Battalion Routed By 173rd Airborne Privates

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-IO)—The point man of the third platoon cautiously stalked his way through the jungle. "We had just changed off, and I was right behind him when we began finding bits of paper and other signs that somebody else was in the area," said PFC Ivery Robins. "Suddenly, a couple of automatic weapons

opened up on us from about 20 meters away, and we all hit the mud."

The day's work for A Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry of the 173rd Airborne Brigade had just begun. Making an early morning helicopter assault onto Landing Zone Brazil, during Operation "Yorktown" conducted south of Xuan Loc in the Long Khanh Province, the company had the mission of searching out and destroying any VC in the area. Company A started their search using three platoons forward, with the third platoon in the center.

Private First Class Freeman Oates immediately deployed his fire-team at the opening burst of fire from the VC position. Many thoughts raced through his mind at this point, but one that never occurred to him was that he would end up that eventful day as the 3rd Platoon leader.

Staff Sergeant Thomas Cooney directed a screening patrol move around the northern flank of the enemy position, and cautioned them to watch out for Claymores and booby traps that were probably rigged in the area. A member of that patrol, PFC Walter Scott figured the VC were pulling the old game of "snipe and run" that had been pestering Alpha Company for the last month.

"This time it was different. The screening patrol had just moved out when suddenly the entire front for a couple hundred meters seemed to open up," said Scott. The two squads and attached machineguns up forward were catching the brunt of the enemy fires. In their search of the area, the

platoon, alerted by the fire from the VC outpost, had attacked directly into the teeth of a battalion-sized trench and bunker system, and "Charlie" had elected to stay and slug it out.

The enemy was well prepared for defensive combat. Claymores were placed out 50 meters, and were controlled by the outpost forward of the trench line. Because, the outpost had been hit so suddenly, the claymores had been forgotten in the haste to evacuate the position. The trench defense was set up with interlocking fires of automatic weapons, 30 cal. and 50 cal. machineguns emplaced to provide a curtain of fire, and 75mm recoilless rifles set to engage any point target that should appear. The 60mm mortars were registered to fill the dead space in the fire plan.

The platoon leader directed the squads to form in a half-moon line, and then called the squad leaders forward to issue orders for attacking the trench and bunker system. During a lull in the firing the platoon had advanced to within 20 meters of the enemy positions. Suddenly, the fires opened up again with murderous intensity. The enemy was using everything they had to turn back the attacking platoon. Recoilless rifles were fired in response to the chatter of M-60 machineguns, and grenades were lobbed in whenever the call "medic" or "more ammunition" was heard.

Within a short time, it became an all-privates' war because the NCO's and specialists of the platoon were added to the roster of casualties. Private Robins (Continued on Back Page)



E-STREAM—Men of Company B, 2nd Infantry Division make their way carefully through water during Operation "Fort Smith". Photo by PFC Don McLean, 25th Inf-IO

Were Quiet—Too Quiet

ABN-IO — "detonator cord with rocks tied on the end to blast a path to the mine victims."

The wounded waited too. They treated their own wounds as best they could. They were quiet — a couple of them too quiet.

The engineers used the detonator cord to blast paths until they were too close to the wounded to use this method. Then began the slower, and more tedious job of probing and marking until they reached each wounded man and pulled him out for evacuation.

With the wounded evacuated and field marked the paratroopers of the Always First Brigade again moved out, disappearing into the thick jungle in their continuous hunt for the Viet Cong.

The engineers used the detonator cord to blast paths until they were too close to the wounded to use this method. Then began the slower, and more tedious job of probing and marking until they reached each wounded man and pulled him out for evacuation.

174th Aviation Co. Ambushes VC Ambush

QUI NHON, (14th AVN-IO) — Using Viet Cong tactics, the 174th Aviation Company killed 10 VC and destroyed their automatic weapons position seven miles north of here.

For several days a small force of Viet Cong had been shooting at helicopters from the 174th Aviation Company which were flying rations and ammunition into remote outposts manned by elements of the ROK Capitol Division. Each day, armed helicopters were dispatched to the scene only to find that the VC patrol had disappeared.

Desperately seeking a solution to the problem, the 174th decided to ambush the ambush. An aviator and two volunteers were airlifted into the area where they set up an observation post.

After two days of waiting they spotted the VC patrol getting into position.

When the next helicopter flew a supply mission into the outpost, the VC began to fire.

Armed helicopters, which had been orbiting out of sight were

called in by radio from the small observation post. The armed Hueys arrived on the scene and annihilated the VC patrol before they had a chance to hide.

Subsequent supply flights have been conducted into the outposts without further enemy harassment.

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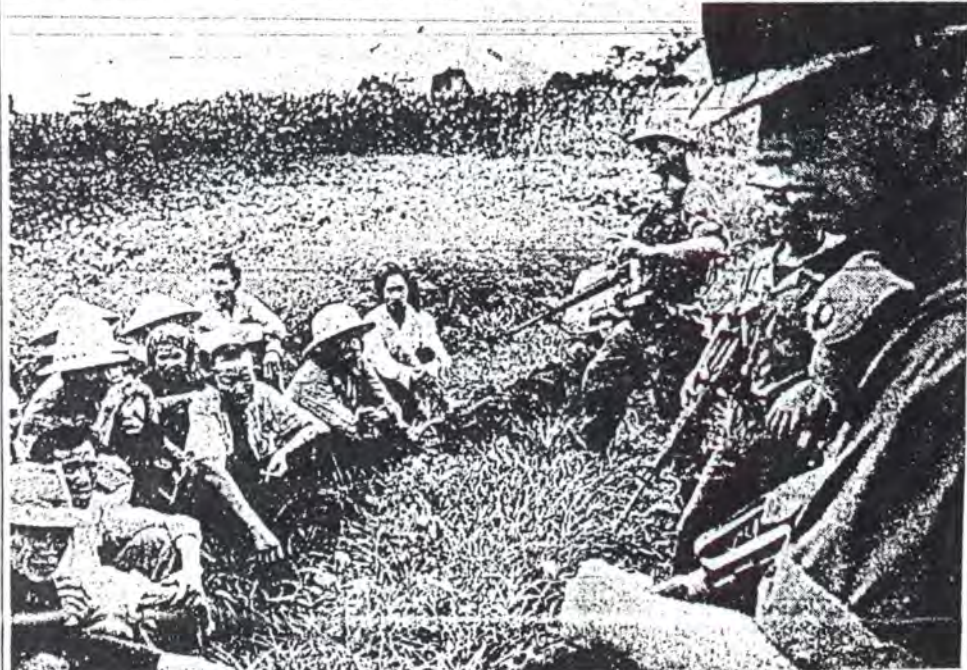
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VIET CONG SUSPECTS—Paratroopers of the Recon Platoon, 2nd Bn., 503rd Inf., 173rd Abn. Bde., keep close watch on VC suspects rounded up during a recent opera- (Photo by Sgt. David Zawacki, 173rd ABN-IO)

Complete
New Pay
Scale
(See Page 4)

VN Government Lauds 13th Avn Bn

CAN THO, (1st AVN-10)—Presentation of the first Fourragere of Gallantry to an American fighting unit was witnessed by a half-mile long formation of Vietnamese and American service men and hundreds of spectators in ceremonies here.

Lieutenant General Tran Van Ninh, Vietnamese Armed Forces Chief of Staff, presented the yellow braid to the colors, officers and men of the 13th "Delta" Aviation Battalion for participation in Vietnamese IV Corps operations.

U.S. officials attending the awards ceremony included Brig. Gen. G.P. Senell, commanding

General of the 1st Aviation Brigade, and Colonel Raymond P. Campbell, commander of the 12th Aviation Group.

The citation credited the 13th Aviation Battalion with flying some 50,000 hours during its first year in Vietnam.

The Army aviation unit was further cited for its participation in three major operations—the battles of Tien Giang, Long Phi, and Dan Chi.

The citation praised the armed helicopter crews of the 13th for their action at Dai Chi, January 28-30 1966, when they repelled five Viet Cong assaults which enabled the Vietnamese 21st Division to route the 306th Viet Cong Main Force Battalion.

The Vietnamese Fourragere adds to a long list of awards won by the 13th, which includes the Vietnam Unit Citation and the Army Aviation Unit of the Year.

Commanded by Lt. Col. William J. Maddox, the 13th has companies of helicopter gunships and troop-carrying "slick ships" located at Vinh Long and Soc Trang.

229,000 VN\$ Donated

SAIGON, (1st LOG-10) — The Children's House of Bles-sing Orphanage has received over 229,000 VN\$ during the past three months from some of the 1st Logistical Command's ordnance soldiers.

Troopers of the 79th Ordnance Battalion have responded to an appeal for help with money and volunteer workers for a new orphanage being constructed in Cholon.

The donations of the soldiers, assigned to the U.S. Army Support Command, Saigon, are being used to construct a wing of the new orphanage which will house 150 children with school and workshop facilities.

The ordnance troopers have an open house for the children every month where they distribute clothes, candy and other needed articles with the monthly donation.



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VC Cheered...

(Continued From Page 1)

the VC to block their escape, could not get to them. Sergeant Wijas, heckling and mustering his men led the assault on the VC with his .45 pistol. Having shot and killed one enemy, he was within 15 meters of the line when a VC decided to commit suicide with a grenade rather than be captured by the on-rushing Rangers.

The shrapnel from the grenade struck Wijas in the chest collapsing his right lung. He was evacuated to Saigon. Just before he was evacuated one of the men asked him how he felt. Wijas replied, "It's a little hard to breathe, but 'Ranger Can Do'" (the Ranger motto).

The Rangers continued on, cleaning out the bunkers and when the operation was over, the final count came to 109 enemy dead, 9 prisoners and 41 weapons captured, 7 of which were crew-served. Ranger casualties were light.



COMING ASHORE—Paratroopers of the 4th/503rd debark from the USNS POPE to shore at Vung Tau.

(Photo by PFC Frederick Blanchard, 503rd)

VN Medal Of Honor To SFC Kanelio Pele

PLEIKU, (25th INF-10)—A veteran of three wars, Sergeant First Class Kanelio Pele, and a soldier of 14 months, Private First Class Philippe E. Saunier, were both awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star and Vietnamese Medal of Honor, during the Heroes Day activities at the Vietnamese II Corps Headquarters recently.

Sergeant Pele, a platoon sergeant in Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, was honored for his actions during the battle of "10 Alpha" during the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division's Operation "Paul Revere."

Sergeant Pele distinguished himself in this action against a superior enemy force by single-handedly killing two members of an enemy machine gun crew and forcing the other two North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers to flee. He then carried the machine

gun and ammunition, weighing approximately 200 pounds, back to his company area, disregarding the heavy enemy fire.

Upon reaching his unit area, he realized that a wounded man was left behind at the ambush site.

Again disregarding the enemy fire, he moved across several hundred meters of open terrain to reach the wounded man. When he found the soldier, Sergeant Pele carried him back to the company position, again receiving fire from the enemy force in the landing zone.

Private First Class Saunier was also honored for his action during

the fierce battle (LZ) 10 Alpha.

Saunier was a 81mm mortar crew member and heaviest portion when "Bravo" Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, was under heavy enemy fire and intense ground fire.

He distinguished himself by remaining at his position, continuing to rain down fire on the enemy.

The presentation was made by Lt. Gen. Hguy, Vietnamese Deputy Minister and Minister of Reconstruction.

New TV Shows For

Armed Forces Television, Vietnam announced several additions to its weekly schedule which begin July 18. The new shows run the gamut from animated cartoons to adventure in the skies during World War II.

Joining the schedule are: "THE FLINTSTONES:" An animated cartoon series featuring the prehistoric adventures of Fred and Wilma Flintstone and their neighbors, Barney and Betty Rubble.

"C.B.S. SPORTS SPECTACULAR:" Features such sporting activities as track meets, bowling, game hunting, motorcycle races, swimming and diving, rodeo, billiards, skiing and dog shows.

"BELL TELEPHONE HOUR:" Music from opera, the concert hall, from folk sources and the world of jazz, Broadway and film scores, along with dance from Broadway to ballet—all as performed by the greatest artists in musical-show business — mingle

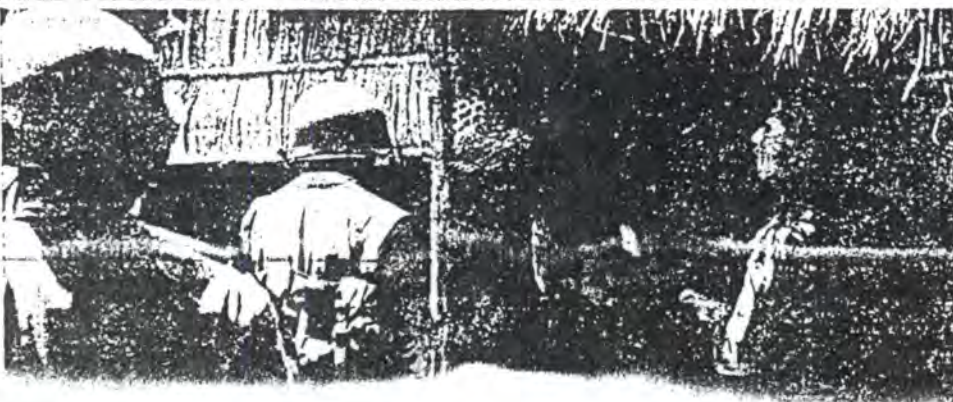
on this program

"BEWITCHED:" Both Montgomery housewife Samantha as her ever-bewitched husband, I and Agnes Moorehead as Samantha's delirious mother, Endora. "CANDID CAM:" Funt is creator of the series; Dur host, Funt's troupe brings vic involving all type and people.

"THE ADDAM:" comedy series with characters, Car Morticia and Gomez.

"THE BOBBY:" The variety series of Nashville, Ten the nation's top-rated western stars, I host.

"HAVE GUN, W:" Richard Boone I hired gun who I



1st Aviation Brigade

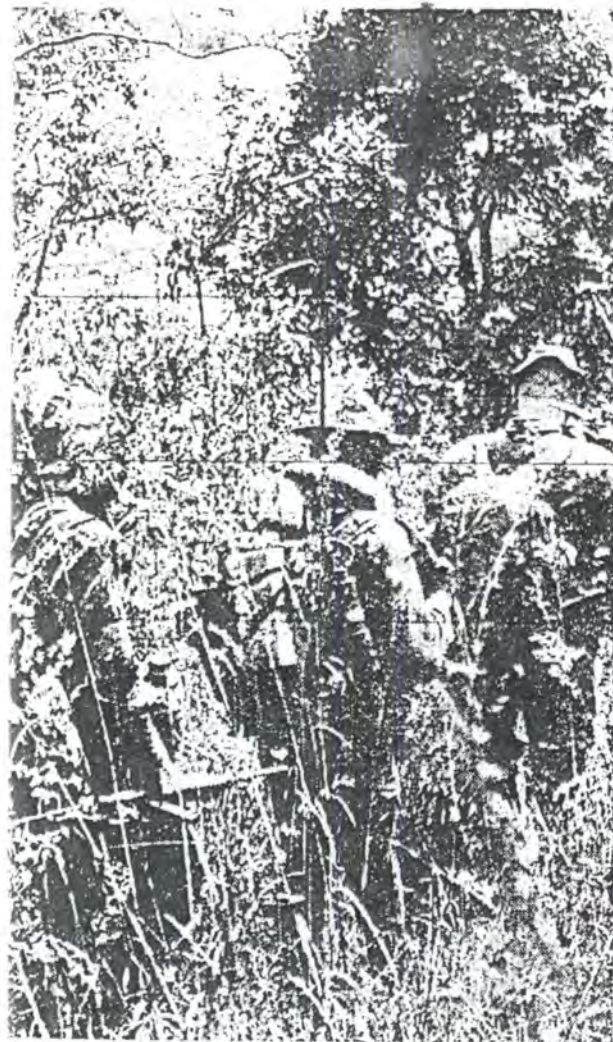
The first Aviation brigade in U.S. Army history was formed in March 1966. The brigade consists of all non-divisional aviation units in Vietnam. It is the largest aviation unit ever to serve with the U.S. Army.

In the eight months from April to December 1965 the number of Army aviation units in Vietnam increased from 13 to 48 companies. The number of aircraft jumped from 430 to more than 1600.

This 400 per cent increase in aircraft and personnel called for the creation of an aviation brigade. The 1st Aviation Brigade controls the 42th and 17th Aviation Groups and the 34th Aviation Group (Aircraft Maintenance and Supply).

Last year Army aircraft flew nearly 900,000 sorties. Army aircraft units have caused more than 14,000 enemy casualties, while suffering only one downed aircraft for every 16,000 sorties.

Information
On 5th SF Gp
Not Available
At Press Time



ON PATROL — Special Forces CIDG troops descend into a Viet Cong valley east of Dong Tre.

(Photo by Sp5 Dick Johnson, USARV-10)

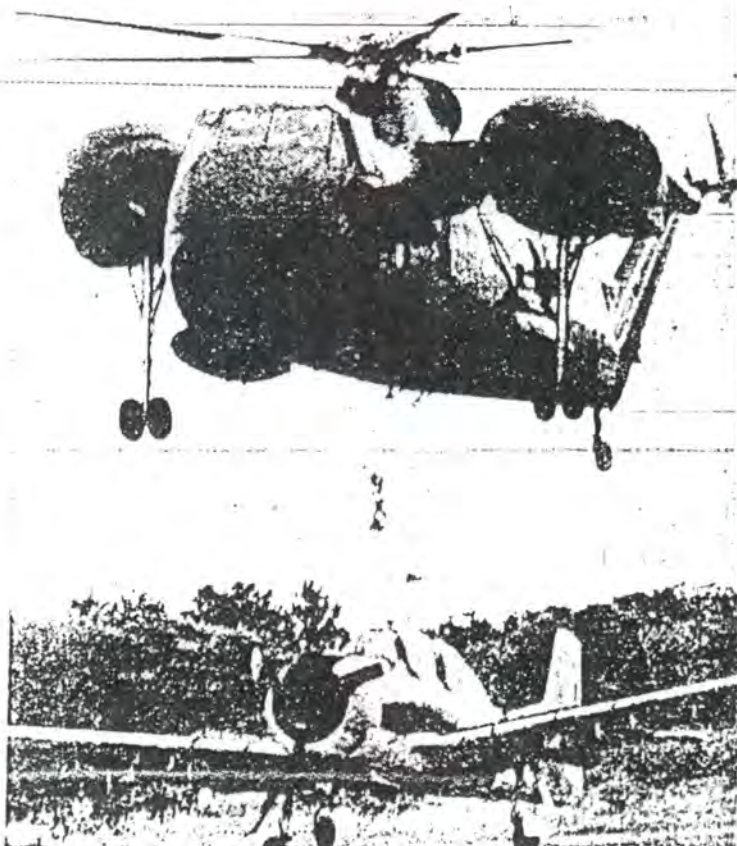


COMING HOME—Helicopters of the 118th Avia Company based at Bien Hoa return to a landing after lifting troops to assault Song Be.

(Photo by USARV-10)



BROWL—American—Special—Forces—advisors in Viet Nam



EASY-DOES-IT—A CH-37—“Mojave”—lifts an A1-H—“Skyraider”