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Sp4 Rod Challenger.....Staff Writer

03Jun67-

Vietnam Communique

1st Cavalry Division - Operation Pershing has accounted for more than 1500 enemy killed since it began in mid-February. U.S. casualties stand at 222 dead. Cavalrymen have captured 316 individual and 17 crew-served weapons. Two elements found two enemy arms caches. The 7th Cavalry found one 9 miles southwest of Duc Pho. It contained 10 Bangalore torpedoes, 6000 rounds of small arms ammunition, eight individual weapons, and 500 pounds of explosives. The other cache was uncovered by the 2nd Brigade 11 miles west-southeast of Duc Pho. It had 4500 rounds of small arms ammunition, 105 rounds of recoilless rifle ammunition, 600 pounds of explosives, and two cases of electrical blasting caps.

25th Infantry Division - The 3rd Brigade and the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade, part of Task Force Oregon, supported by air strikes, gunships, and artillery killed 23 enemy during two engagements. Ten enemy were killed four miles southeast of Duc Pho during the first battle. Six Americans were killed and 10 were wounded. Meanwhile, 13 miles northwest of Duc Pho, 13 enemy were killed by a company from the 3rd Brigade. There were no friendly casualties.

4th Infantry Division - North Vietnamese Army soldiers attempted to pierce the perimeter of a division company 30 miles west of Pleiku. The company participating in Operation Francis Marion, called in artillery and air strikes, which forced the attackers to withdraw. Eighteen NVA soldiers were killed. Six individual weapons and 31 grenades were captured. Seventeen Americans were killed and 66 wounded. Two other companies were attacked by NVA forces 10 miles west of New Plei Djereng. Artillery and air strikes were called in again. After three hours of intense fighting the enemy withdrew, leaving 61 dead. Four suspects were detained while 17 rifles, two rocket launchers, grenades, and mortar rounds were captured. Ten Americans were killed and 74 wounded.

9th Infantry Division - During Operation Palm Beach a company of the 2nd Brigade overran an enemy position 11 miles west of Dong Ta. Three enemy were killed and one individual weapon captured. Seven Americans were wounded. About an hour later, the company met an unknown-sized enemy force in the same area. Reports indicate 70 enemy killed. In Operation Enterprise a company of the 3rd Brigade killed nine enemy five miles south of Tan An. There were no U.S. casualties.

11th Armored Cavalry Regiment - A Cavalry convoy was ambushed six miles east of Xuan Loc on Highway 1. During the battle 16 cavalrymen were killed and 20 wounded. Thirty enemy were killed and 16 suspects detained.

5th Special Forces Group - During a three-day period 49 contacts with enemy forces were reported. A total of 78 enemy were killed, 39 suspects detained, 17 individual weapons and one 60mm mortar captured. Reports indicate Green Beret casualties were light. At least eight Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) soldiers were killed and 31 others wounded.

1st Infantry Division - The 1st Brigade has begun Operation Dallas north of Bien Hoa. Elsewhere, a mechanized infantry unit discovered an enemy base camp 25 miles north of Saigon in the dense Ong Dong jungle. Found in the heavily-booby-trapped camp were one ton of rice, rifle, and mortar and artillery rounds.

101st Airborne Division- The 1st Brigade, part of Operation Malheur's Task Force Oregon engaged an unknown-sized enemy force eight miles west-northwest of Duc Pho. Four paratroopers and six enemy were killed. Another unit made contact with an enemy force the same day 10 miles west-southwest of Duc Pho. Artillery and gunships were called in and forced the enemy to withdraw. Twenty enemy and three paratroopers were killed. During the truce caused by the celebration of the birth of Buddha, the 1st Brigade was fired upon by an estimated enemy company 14 miles north-northeast of Quang Ngai. the enemy hit the paratroopers with small arms fire, grenades, and claymore mines. The troopers were supported by gunships and Dragon ships. Enemy casualties were unknown. Six Americans were killed and nine wounded.

03Jun67-Recon Teams Almost Land In Center Of NVA Campsite

LE THANH, (4th INF-IO) -

"It was the closest call we ever had," explained PFC Douglas M. Thompson, a long range reconnaissance team member for the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade.

Thompson was talking about an evening when two teams were sent out to reconnoiter near a suspected enemy location but ended up being dropped almost in the center of a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) campsite.

Sergeant Ronald K. Hahn's team was the first to be inserted in the area. His team was to have served as a radio relay on high ground while the second team nosed around at a lower level. The second team was inserted 45 minutes later on the other side of the hill that Hahn's team landed on.

"We weren't there 25 minutes," said Hahn, "Before we heard two shots about 215 yards in front of us." Then they heard dogs barking and voices headed in their direction. "It was obvious that the enemy spotted the helicopter when it dropped us off. We called for extraction," said Hahn.

Meanwhile, PFC John S. Hyers was leading his team away from its landing zone on the other side of the hill. Hyers, Sgt. Alvin R. Groves, PFC James W. Homeyer, and Thompson were headed down into a draw on their side of the hill when the other team began to hear the enemy.

Then Thompson began to hear voices around his own team. "They were 135 yards away in one direction and 75 yards away in the other direction, forming a horseshoe as they closed in on us," he recalled. The second team called for extraction.

"That 20 minutes seemed like forever," said Hahn as he remembered the time between his call for extraction and arrival of the ships.

Three helicopters, two gunships, and one slick, hovered above the first team's location. The gunships made a pass around the landing zone, filling the brush with rocket and machinegun fire. As the first gunship came around for a second pass, the slick hovered five feet from the ground and the men jumped onto the skids and pulled themselves into the cabin.

The second slick pilot wanted to come down while it was still light, before the gunships had completed providing cover for the other extraction. But he was advised to wait for the gunships, which were almost ready to escort him down. They were there in a flash but the landing zone was not as large as the other one. The gunships had to sweep the area and then the slick would have to go down alone.

Hyers held up a strobe light to guide the helicopter in. The chopper pilot could not turn on a searchlight until he was almost in position to receive the second team. As the helicopters went in, its rotor hit the trees, shearing part of the blade.

The pilot continued bringing in his wobbling bird to an unsteady hovering position. The men jumped up and in.

The extraction was followed by heavy artillery fire and an air strike which killed at least 26 NVA soldiers.

03Jun67-Chinook Answers FAC Pilot's Call

VUNG TAU, (1st AVN-IO) - During a recent support mission, a CH-47 Chinook of the 147th Assault Support Helicopter Company received a radio call from an Air Force Forward Air Control (FAC) pilot for help in evacuating four Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers.

The Hillclimbers' chopper was sling hauling a load of equipment to a construction site north of Saigon when the FAC pilot reported that the wounded men were in a jungle area about five miles northwest of the construction area.

The Chinook, piloted by Capt. Lloyd D. Mason and WO Marvin Johnson, proceeded to the construction site, released their load, then went to a nearby area to refuel and to hastily rig a rescue hoist for the new mission.

Upon reaching the rescue scene, the exact spot for pickup was pointed out by the FAC. An area approximately 50 feet square had been cut out in the jungle growth for the pickup. Dense trees 75 feet high encircled the area, making a landing impossible. The Chinook hovered over the tiny spot in the jungle just below the tops of the trees and lowered the rescue hoist to bring up the wounded men.

Five times the hoist descended and each time it came back to the ship with one of the four wounded men with the extra trip containing the men's equipment.

The entire rescue operation from the time of takeoff until completion, required 45 minutes, 20 of which were spent in a tightly controlled hover over the rescue zone.

30Jun67-Chopper Lands On Sea Craft

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-IO) - First Lieutenant Richard A. Sperling, a member of the 155th Assault Helicopter Company, recently showed the versatility of his chopper when he landed on a disabled junk at sea.

Sperling was on a routine flight to Cam Ranh Bay early one evening. As he swung out over the water on his approach to the airfield, he noticed a Vietnamese junk bobbing in the breakers about a mile out from shore. The men on the junk shot a hand flare.

Sperling decided to get some information about the junk's possible mission before plunging to its aid. Orbiting the boat, he contacted the local flight operations center. Minutes later the center called back with word that Navy sources had requested him to check the situation out. Making a low pass over the junk, he noticed a white flag flying. The sailors waved frantically at him and pointed to their engine.

The flat roof of the cabin offered enough room for his skids, but what about the rocking motion of the small craft - and its drift?

Sperling carefully approached the rolling junk. Hovering over it, he gently placed his skids on the cabin floor. A smiling U.S. Navy lieutenant scrambled aboard. The engine was dead, fuel line broken, and the prospect of spending the night alone in these waters was apparently not too pleasing.

Contacting the Navy officer's headquarters, Sperling relayed the request for help. He then flew the lieutenant to port and returned to his home base here.

03Jun67-**Photo Caption - WATER CARRIER** - A water trailer is harnessed to a Chinook helicopter for movement to a forward element of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment which participated in Operation Manhattan (Photo by PFC John Olson, II FFV-IO)

03Jun67-82nd Med Det Provides Med-Evacs For Delta

Dust-Off Teams Supports US, Allied Personnel

SOC TRANG, (1st LOG-IO) - One of the more important aspects of Army aviation in the Mekong Delta is the 82nd Medical Detachment, the helicopter ambulance "service."

More commonly known as the dust-off team. It helps cover 12,000 square miles in the IV Corps area supporting U.S. and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops.

Seven dust-off choppers make up the 82nd, supporting three ARVN divisions. U.S. advisory groups, Special Forces camps, and four assault helicopter companies.

One chopper remains at Dong Tam for an alternating three-day period supporting the 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division.

When a dust-off chopper is on a mission, it hovers a battle area waiting for the call. It has two gunships providing suppressive fire.

Once the pick-up is made, usually in less than a minute, the patients are evacuated to the nearest hospital. When surgery is requested for the ARVN soldier, he is taken to Can Tho or the ARVN hospital in Saigon. A serious U.S. casualty is taken to Can Tho or Soc Trang where a doctor can stabilize his condition-make him ready to evacuate-before he is taken to a hospital such as the 93rd Evacuation Hospital at Long Binh.

The aidman aboard the dustoff is trained to do just about anything a doctor could do in a chopper. There are exceptions such as tracheotomies or heart massages. In such cases, doctors go out with the chopper.

This is possible because U.S. advisors on the ground, part of the team, brief the pilots on the various injuries before the pickup is made. This makes the aidman and pilot aware of the urgency of the med-evac before they see the patient. Thus, the aircraft commander, normally a Medical Service Corps pilot, knows where and how fast he must get a patient to a hospital.

Photo Caption 1 - TEAMWORK SAVES LIVES - U.S. Army advisors and ARVN aidmen put a casualty aboard a waiting ambulance after the dust-off brought him in from an operation. (Photo by 1st LOG-IO)

Photo Caption 2 - EVACUATION CHOPPER - Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division carry a wounded buddy to a med-evac chopper. The man was wounded during a fight with an estimated Viet Cong company. (Photo by 1st INF-IO)

Photo Caption 3 - A WOUNDED INFANTRYMAN - Only moments away from the battlefield, is unloaded from a dust-off helicopter at the 3rd Surgical Hospital at Bien Hoa. The wounded man goes first to "Pre-Op" where he is prepared for surgery. Dust-off choppers make major surgical facilities a short haul away from the combat zone. (Photo by Sp4 Jack Germeau, 1st LOG-IO)

Photo Caption 4 - ARVNS LOAD WOUNDED - Army of the Republic of Vietnam aidmen rush a casualty to a waiting ambulance after a dust-off brought the patient from an ARVN operation near Soc Trang. (Photo by 1st LOG-IO)

Photo Caption 5 - DUST-OFF TRAINING - Specialist Five William G. Tucker and Sp4 Anthony A. Tunious, both members of the 82nd, simulate a night evacuation mission as part of their constant training program. (Photo by 1st LOG-IO)

03Jun67-Flying Escort, 162nd Assault Chopper Makes 3 Med-Evacs

PHU LOI, (1st AVN-IO) - A helicopter from the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company recently made a triple med-evac during a mission five miles west of Lai Khe.

A "Vulture" ship, piloted by WOs David L. Farenkamp and Richard P. Freslan?, was flying escort for the 1st Infantry Division during road-clearing operations, when a call for a med-evac crackled across the radio.

The chopper crew went to the scene of a mine-damaged tank. As they touched down, a second explosion ripped the air as another armored personnel carrier ran over a mine 200 yards away.

Quickly recovering all the wounded from both damaged vehicles, the crew administered first aid as they raced to the hospital at Lai Khe. As the delivered the wounded, the radio once again carried the call for an emergency med-evac.

Returning to the same area, they found one man dead and another critically wounded in a mine-torn truck. Once more, the Vulture raced to the hospital.

An Infantry officer commented, "Those choppers are lifesavers. Several men would have died in this mess if it wasn't for that ship and crew."

03Jun67-Pilots Capture VC

NINH HOA, (1st AVN-IO) - While flying the shoreline north of here on a resupply mission for a Korean unit, WOs Jack L. Finn and Bradford M. Jones noticed something developing on the beach below.

A figure dressed in black pajamas and burdened with a pack was scurrying along the sand.

The pilots landed not 10 feet from the surprised fugitive. Two Korean sergeants jumped out and took the man captive. During questioning, the man admitted that he was a VC and expressed his displeasure at his unfortunate turn of events.

03Jun67-'Firefly' Loses Friend

BIEN HOA, (1st AVN-IO - "Firefly" lost a good friend in Domingo Escalante Jr.

Although Sp4 Escalante, a member of the 334th Armed Helicopter Company, had been in Vietnam less than six months, he had already been awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the Silver Star. His Silver Star was awarded for an action taking place only one week before he died in the crash of his Firefly ship.

Night after night, Escalante patrolled the swampy waterways around Saigon with the armed chopper teams that bring "instant daylight and sudden death" to the Viet Cong.

One night, when Escalante's actions led to the Silver Star, his helicopter landed to recover abandoned enemy equipment. He voluntarily jumped from the hovering aircraft into the dark swamp. Disregarding sporadic sniper fire, he waded through the marshes with valuable equipment and documents he had retrieved.

Even though he could not swim, Escalante entered a swift flowing canal to search a damaged VC sampan on the opposite bank.

Escalante stood on the skid as the aircraft hovered across the canal. Then, once again he jumped into the water. Despite the darkness and hostile fire, he searched the area alone and unarmed, refusing to give up until assured that all valuable intelligence material had been gathered.

10Jun67-Gunships, APCs Assist Infantry; Trounce Enemy

DUC PHO, (25th INF-IO) - "We're in contact, how about some gunships and APCs!" came the call over the radio from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

The call was received by C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry and immediately the armored personnel carriers whipped into action and rumbled to the scene.

It was a surprise for Charlie. As two North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers ran toward the five charging tracks, 1st Lt. Robert H. Gardner ordered machinegun fire.

The tracks surged forward and by the time they reached the action area, the gunships from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry had the enemy on the run. It was a bloody game of hide and seek and it seemed as if there were NVA behind every bush and tree. Again the choppers played an important role as the Huey's buzzed overhead contouring the ground and pointing to where the enemy was hiding and firing.

Still under fire. Gardner's command track came upon two more NVA. One was dead and the other seriously wounded. Specialist Five Allen A. Wyatt leaped from the vehicle and began to aid the wounded enemy.

The enemy forces had first been sighted early one morning by the Recon Platoon of the 2nd Bn. The platoon had reported seeing at least seven persons dressed in uniforms.

The report brought out the helicopter recon unit of the squadron which was able to observe groups of two to 15 armed men. The groups were immediately engaged by both air and ground forces.

While sporadic firing continued throughout the day, the main battle lasted four hours, resulting in 31 enemy killed and two captured. Thirteen weapons, including two machineguns, and a radio were taken.

20Jun67-Vietnam Communique

4th Infantry Division-Units of the 1st Brigade swept Hill 521, 33 miles southwest of Pleiku for three days during Operation Francis Marion. Cumulative results for that contact are 98 North Vietnamese Army soldiers and 10 Americans killed, 54 infantrymen wounded, 20 individual and 10 crew-served weapons captured. Operation Diamond Head, a multi-battalion operation by the 3rd Brigade, began on May 18 northwest of Tay Ninh City. No major contacts have been reported. Two enemy and 14 Americans have been killed in scattered actions. Three individual weapons have been captured and three suspects detained.

25th Infantry Division-The 3rd Brigade, part of Task Force Oregon, had a day-long battle with an enemy of unknown size five miles northwest of Duc Pho. AT the end of the day, 47 enemy soldiers were dead compared with one American death. Three crew-served weapons, 16 individual weapons, and a 60mm mortar tube were captured. The first Brigade is engaged in battalion-sized Operation Barking Sands 22 miles west-northwest of Saigon. The casualties from May 18 when the operation began are two enemy and 14 U.S. infantrymen killed, with 31 American soldiers wounded and three suspects detained.

1st Infantry Division - The 1st Brigade has terminated Operation Dallas. During the operation, the Big Red One killed 17 enemy, detained six suspects, and captured nine weapons, 53 tons of rice, 500 pounds of salt, 515 rounds of small arms ammunition, 35 claymore mines, 54 grenades, 53 mortar rounds, and destroyed 101 bunkers, 16 military structures, three tunnels, and two sampans.

5th Special Forces Group - Special Forces and Civilian Irregular Defense Group troops made 21 contacts with the enemy in one day. The result was 21 enemy killed, 13 suspects detained, and six individual weapons captured. Friendly casualties were light including one Green Beret wounded.

1st Cavalry Division - Light contacts with the enemy during four days of Operation Pershing along the Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh border resulted in 47 enemy killed.

101st Airborne Division. Troops of the 1st Brigade have raised the total number of enemy killed in Operation Malheur to 336. The action near Duc Pho, has resulted in 27 tons of rice and some 1500 enemy uniforms captured.

9th Infantry Division-Elements of the division conducted a search and destroy mission eight miles northwest of Dong Tam with only light, harassing fire throughout a recent morning. That afternoon, however, heavy contact was made in several locations. Soldiers killed 19 enemy in ground actions while helicopter gunships accounted for 12 more enemy killed.

196th Light Infantry Brigade. A platoon of Task Force Oregon observed 12 Viet Cong moving toward their position and, when the VC reached the platoon perimeter, the soldiers killed three of them, captured a machinegun, four pressure mines, and a bag of hand grenades.

10Jun67-Aviators Help Out

LONG BINH, (1st AVN-IO) -A grass fire recently got out of control directly across Highway 1 from 12th Aviation Group Headquarters.

Noticing the fire, 12th Group chaplain, Maj. Dalton H. Barnes, and Sp4 Gale L. Metcalf dashed across the highway to help put out the fire.

When the fire was finally put out, the home of a Vietnamese war widow with five children had been burned to the ground. All possessions were destroyed.

Metcalf, a member of 12th Group's civic action team, assessed the situation. Momentarily leaving the still smoldering ruins, he returned to the group's headquarters. Within 15 minutes he was back on the scene with food and clothing. He distributed 200 pounds of rice, 100 pounds of corn meal, cooking oil, dry milk, and clothing to the family.

10Jun67-Pass In Review:

Awards And Decorations

PFC Earns Silver Star

PLEIKU, (4th INF-IO) - A 4th Infantry Division soldier recently received the Silver Star for carrying two non-commissioned officers through an enemy mortar barrage to an evacuation helicopter.

Private First Class Marvin E. Martin and his platoon, part of Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, which was the lead element of a company-sized sweep, came under heavy automatic weapons fire from an unknown sized North Vietnamese Army force.

In the early moments of the battle, the platoon and squad leaders were wounded. Martin exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire to move them to temporary safety.

As the intensity of the battle increased, friendly mortar and artillery fire were called in. Martin, meanwhile, called for a dust-off to get the wounded men out of the area.

Realizing his comrades were not able to defend themselves, Martin moved forward positioning himself between the enemy and the wounded. His steady volume of fire kept the enemy from advancing.

When the helicopter arrived the enemy fired mortar rounds at the landing zone. Knowing that time could be critical to the lives of the two wounded men, Martin carried each man and his equipment through bursting mortar rounds to the chopper.

10Jun67-**1st Cav Pilots Receive DFC**

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) - Two officers from the 1st Cavalry Division were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross recently for their actions. During Operation Paul Revere II in the Ia Drang Valley.

Captains Jack L. Guinn and Phillip A. Kiney of the 2nd Brigade flew their craft at treetop levels as they pin-pointed enemy movement for ground forces.

While relaying the data, their ship was hit by enemy machinegun fire.

As the enemy pulled out of the area, the men directed artillery fire on North Vietnamese soldiers concealed below the jungle canopies.

10Jun67-'Mayday' Brings Quick Help For Downed Chopper Crew

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-IO) - It was 7:40 p.m. as the hurried words, "Mayday," came over the radio at the 155th Assault Helicopter Company Headquarters at Camp Coryell.

Warrant Officer Dennis M. Trux, commander of the UH-1D Huey helicopter, and his pilot, Robert D. Muldoon, gave their position as 20 miles southeast of here. The aircraft had a power failure at 9500 feet.

Within a few minutes the Camp Coryell standby flare ship, a wrecker ship, a standby gunship, and a medical evacuation helicopter became airborne.

Meanwhile, Trux was desperately trying to bring his craft down in the safest possible manner under the trying conditions. Determined to salvage the helicopter as best he could Trux maneuvered the aircraft to the only opening, a tight one in some trees. With his rotor blades clearing the bushy branches by inches, he made a successful touchdown.

On the ground, Trux tried to make radio contact but the choppers electrical system was dead. He next tried the survival radio from the aircraft's survival kit, but it was on the blink.

Since there had been reports that 400 hard-core enemy regulars were in the immediate vicinity, Trux marked the down ship's position with a blinking light and the crew moved away from the ship to take up defensive positions. Trux and his crew members did not come into contact with the VC although they spent more than an hour on the ground.

At 8:30 the wrecker ship spotted the light. Flying closer, the chopper encountered enemy ground fire but confirmed the downed ship's location.

At 8:45 the flare ship began to illuminate the area. The pilot reported that the aircraft was spotted intact, and the crew had escaped unhurt.

The minutes later a chopper of the 498th Medical Company began its approach to the dimly blinking light.

Trux originally tried to wave the rescue craft off, electing to brave the hostile jungle rather than allow the ship to attempt such a hazardous landing. But the dust-off made it and the uninjured crew was safely extracted. The downed ship was recovered the next day.

10Jun67-**Photo Caption- DUST A MENACE TOO-** The noise of the chopper and the dust swirled up from the wash of the rotors force these troops to "cover up."
The action is during Task Force Oregon near Chu Lai.

17Jun67-'Unarmed Choppers Kill Nine Viet Cong

LONG THAN, (9th INF-IO) - A platoon of aviators from the 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry killed nine enemy recently while flying bubble-topped "unarmed" helicopters.

Responsible for direct support mission such as adjusting artillery or air strikes, the little three-passenger choppers do not usually see much action.

But while supporting the 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry during a two-day battle in Dinh Tuong Province, 45 miles southwest of Saigon, the chopper pilots and passengers of Troop D's Scout Platoon used the birds as gunships, grenade launchers, and even dive bombers to rack up their kills.

The first report came in mid-afternoon of the first day when Capt. Kent D. Converse, pilot spotted a group of enemy soldiers running across a clearing.

He swooped down into a low-level firing pass while his passenger, 1st Lt. Wayne Lovell, opened up with an automatic rifle. Three enemy were killed.

The chopper took eight hits from a .30 cal. machinegun but managed to limp back to the division's 2nd Brigade base camp at Dong Tam, 20 miles east of the battle site.

Later that day Converse cranked up another chopper and headed back to the battle. While performing a resupply mission, enemy ground forces opened fire on his ship. Passenger Sp4 Jerry Cressman returned the fire with an automatic rifle and killed one of the enemy soldiers.

Meanwhile another chopper, piloted by 1st Lt. Henry H. Roll, zeroed in on an enemy position while his passenger, 1st Lt. Rick Stetson of the division's Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon, shot down two enemy.

Another enemy kill was chalked up late in the afternoon when the scout platoon leader Capt. Carter D. Brooks, "bombed" one enemy with a hand grenade.

Shortly after noon the following day, Converse spotted another enemy force heading for a wood line. His passenger, 1st Lt. John L. Swanson, used his M-79 grenade launcher, killing one of them.

The last kill was made by Brooks and his gunner. Sp4 Rudi Mayr, when they swooped down on one enemy.

17Jun67-Vietnam Communique

9th Infantry Division - Operation Palm Beach was terminated early this month by the 2nd Brigade. This was the first operation in the IV Corps area by the ARmy. Cumulative casualties for the operation were 570 enemy and 51 Americans killed and 98 suspects detained. Ten tons of rice and 57 individual weapons were captured. The 3rd Brigade, engaged in Operation Enterprise, has accounted for 32 more enemy killed. Seven infantrymen were wounded during that period.

1st Cavalry Division - A tank-infantry team met the enemy on the coastal plain 10 miles north-northeast of Bong Son. The enemy was strongly entrenched in a fortified bunker complex. Air strikes and artillery supported the infantrymen who accounted for 77 enemy killed at the end of the day. Seven cavalrymen were killed. 14 suspects detained and 12 individual and two crew-served weapons captured.

4th Infantry Division - The 2nd Brigade engaged with an unknown-sized force of the enemy during Operation Francis Marion 20 miles southwest of Plei Djereng. After a 10 minute firefight, the enemy broke contact leaving eight dead. One infantryman was killed and five wounded. Six individual weapons and two rocket launchers were captured. In other ground action the men of the Ivy Division killed six enemy and destroyed a base camp.

25th Infantry Division - The 3rd Brigade, part of Task Force Oregon, encountered an enemy force near Duc Pho. The enemy fired 100 mortar and recoilless rounds and a heavy volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire. Mortars, artillery, and gunships fired back. After 10 hours of contact, 30 enemy and three Americans were killed. Two suspects were detained and 13 enemy weapons captured.

101st Airborne Division - The 1st Brigade is engaged in Operation Malheur under "Task Force Oregon. In separate actions around Duc Pho, the paratroopers killed 24 enemy. Eight of the Screaming Eagles were killed. Ten individual weapons and one crew-served weapon were captured along with a 54-ton cache of rice.

199th Light Infantry Brigade - Six enemy were killed, 24 suspects detained, and four individual weapons were captured during Operation Rang Dong southeast of Saigon. The brigade was supporting an Army of the Republic of Vietnam pacification program. Four infantrymen were killed.

5th Special Forces Group - Civilian Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG) made 39 contacts with the enemy during a three-day period. The units killed 29 enemy, detained eight suspects, and captured 13 weapons. The Green Berets lost two advisors during that period.

17Jun67-Cavalry Expands Capabilities With First Airmobile Assault

LONG GIAO, (11th CAV-IO) -

The men of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment expanded their capabilities recently when they participated in their first airmobile assault.

The operation was preceded by classes on airmobile warfare which taught the men the advantages and procedures of helicopter assaults. Also participating in the instruction were staff members of the 52nd Regiment, 18th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division.

The men were told the air mobile concept combines speed and flexibility with the element of surprise. It also saves the men's energy for the ground battle.

The classes included instruction on patrolling, preparing a defensive position, and securing a landing zone.

The cavalrymen were briefed on the capabilities and limitations of the aviation section by the chopper pilots and crew chiefs. The gunships, the men were told, can prepare the area which is to be assaulted with rockets and machinegun fire. This will force the enemy to either commit himself or keep low until the landing and unloading is completed.

Once the men are unloaded, the gunships can be called in to supply fire power anywhere the men desire.

The cavalrymen's usual transportation, the armored cavalry assault vehicles (ACAVs) are mounted with two M-60 machineguns, a .50 cal. machinegun, and a grenade launcher.

The choppers carry two 2.75-inch rocket pods holding seven rockets, a 40mm cannon at the ship's nose capable of firing 300 grenades automatically, and the 7.62mm mini-gun, a six-barrelled machinegun that fires almost 6000 rounds per minute. In the tail of the ships are doorgunners with M-60 machineguns.

When the men completed their training, which included mounting and dismounting the ships, they went on their first air assault mission.

The ships prepared the area with thick layers of automatic weapons fire. They landed, the men scrambled off, and the choppers took off to give the cavalrymen more fire support.

When the men completed their mission, the choppers swooped in, snatched up the troops, and evacuated the area.

27Jun67-Seneff Promoted To Major General

TAN SON NHUT, (1st AVN-IO) The commander of the 1st Aviation Brigade, George P. Seneff Jr., was promoted to major general at the brigade's headquarters here recently.

General Seneff, a 1941 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, became commander of the brigade and U.S. Army Vietnam aviation officer in February 1966.

17Jun67-Receives Silver Star

Gunner Saves Downed Crew

DUC PHO, (25th INF-IO) - Under heavy fire from two squads of Viet Cong, a downed crew from a reconnaissance helicopter from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 8th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division owe their lives to the quick action of SP4 Charles R. Cole Jr., the chopper's door gunner.

For his action, Cole received the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award for valor.

The ship was shot down during a low-level reconnaissance mission near here. It broke into four pieces on impact and caught fire, engulfing the crew in smoke and flames.

Cole helped the pilot from the burning wreckage before the crew was separated by the smoke.

Endangering himself, he began searching for the rest of the crew. He located his wounded crew chief about five feet from the chopper and dragged him to safety.

In an effort to secure protection for the wounded man. Cole ran across an open field under enemy fire to grab an M-79 grenade launcher from the burning craft.

Organizing a defensive position behind a rice paddy dike, he held off the VC for 15 minutes before the crew were rescued by other aircraft.

Photo Caption - SILVER STAR WINNER-Specialist Four Charles R. Cole is congratulated upon receiving a Silver Star by Maj. Gen. William B. Rosson. He is credited with saving a crew from a disabled helicopter. Cole is a door gunner with B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, which is attached to the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. (Photo by Sp4 Robert M. Metz, 25th INF-IO)

17Jun67-Fast Trip Made By Evac Ship

NHA TRANG, (1st AVN-IO) - The speed and efficiency of the medical evacuation helicopters were demonstrated recently by the 498th Air Ambulance Helicopter Company.

A med-evac request to pick up a wounded soldier near Ninh Hoa, 18 miles northwest of Nha Trang, scrambled Maj. Warren E. Roller and his Huey. Within five minutes he was heading toward the pickup site.

Not counting the 10-minute orbit. Roller's craft had arrived at the site, extracted, and transported the wounded man to the hospital in 25 minutes.

17Jun67-Airlift Test Completed

LONG THANH (1st AVN-IO) - Aviators, ground crews and engineers recently completed tests to provide information on the airlifting of a four section pontoon-style bridge.

The tests show that the M4-T6 Half-Pontoon Bridge can be slung in a web of nylon straps, attached to the belly of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, and airlifted into position. Ground crews could fasten the two floating sections to two other sections which provide access from the banks of waterways.

The test were conducted at the base camp of the 9th Infantry Division by crews of the 214th Combat Aviation Battalion's 200th Assault Support Helicopter Company. The battalion supports ground troops of the division.

17Jun67-**Photo Caption - LETHAL WEAPON** - A 1st Cavalry Division helicopter, equipped with a mortar weapons system, lifts off from the 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery camp on a fire mission. (Photo by PFC Andrew Rust, 1st CAV-IO)

17Jun67-**12th Avn Gp Sets Airlift Record**

LONG BINH, (1st AVN-IO) - The 12th Combat Aviation Group recently set a record by airlifting 1045 tons of cargo in a single day.

Aviators from the Group's 213th Assault Support Helicopter Company, accompanied by armed helicopters, sling loaded two complete artillery battalions into dense jungle terrain. Chinooks heli-lifted several vehicles to forward positions.

Hueys transported smaller cargo and lighter loads.

17Jun67-**Photo Caption** - Sky Troopers from the 1st Cavalry Division's Company A, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry leap off a hovering helicopter as they are air assaulted into the An Lao Valley during Operation Pershing. (Photo by 1st CAV-IO)

17Jun67-**44th Med Bde Changes COs**

TAN SON NHUT, (1st LOG-IO) - The 44th Medical Brigade, the Army's first medical brigade to operate under combat conditions, has a new commander.

He is Col. Frank W. Timmerman, who was the surgeon for the U.S. Strike Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. before this assignment he succeeds Col. Ray L. Miller.

17Jun67-**Photo Caption** - **WAITING FOR RESCUE** - A pilot from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division protects his downed chopper while rescue ships are on their way. (Photo by Sp6 James C. Turner, 35th INF-IO)

17Jun67-VC Hit By Cav; 43 Killed

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) - Acting on an intelligence report, elements of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Task Force pounced on a main force Viet Cong company and, in a day-long battle, killed 43 of the enemy.

A Red Team from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry spotted the enemy north of Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province not far from the South China Sea. A Blue Team and elements of two companies of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, under operational control of the 2nd Brigade, also participated.

During the early stages of the battle, 2nd Brigade commander, Lt. Col. Fred E. Karhohs, directed the action from his command chopper. Karhohs and his crew accounted for six enemy killed.

The enemy were wearing mixed uniforms and were well armed. They knocked down one gunship, killing its four-man crew. One other American was killed.

17Jun67-33 Cong Felled by 9th Inf Div

DONG TAM, (9th INF-IO) - Soldiers from the 9th Infantry Division dashed into the Ap Bac Secret Zone in Dinh Tuong Province recently for an airmobile search and destroy operation and swept 33 Viet Cong into a deadly net.

The action occurred in almost the same spot where units of the division's 2nd Brigade killed 195 VC in May.

The firefight was the result of an operation that involved the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry and the 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry.

The Old Reliable were heli-lifted into an open rice paddy area interlaced with treelines and canals 12 miles north of here. The moment they touched down they received sporadic sniper fire which continued throughout the morning.

The soldiers made solid contact in the early afternoon and scattered fighting continued throughout the day. A final body count revealed the 33 enemy dead. Gunships from the 9th Aviation Battalion were credited with 12 enemy kills.

17Jun67-LRRP Kills 7 Before Being Lifted Out; First Battle for 2

PLEIKU, (4th INF-IO)- For two members of the small reconnaissance team the fight was a literal baptism of fire. The entire team came close to death.

The Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) from the 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division had tangled with 15 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regulars. Although the odds were not in the recon's favor, the small unit managed to kill seven of the enemy before being lifted out of the hot spot.

"We were sent in to recon targets of opportunity," said Sgt. Lawrence R. Willey, leader of the patrol. "We could fight ourselves, or if we thought it too much to handle, call in artillery or air strikes."

The little group was inserted at the base of the Chu Go Mountain complex, about 40 miles due south of here, two days before the fire fight. The steep hillsides and ravines, thickly covered with a double canopy, were to be the team's stomping grounds for several days.

Willey was beginning his 14th patrol. Specialist Four Charles Ditterman was on his third, and Sp4 Russell Oliver and SSgt. Loyd W. Lee their first.

"We searched the valley around Hill 600 for the first day but found nothing except some fresh tracks around a small water hole," Willey said.

The following day the group heard movement and saw three NVA in the area. Air strikes were called in and three secondary explosions were reported following the bombing.

Since it was too late to check out the area, the patrol headed for its night location. As they reached the secluded spot and set up for darkness, the men heard noises in the brush moving in their direction. The noises stopped about 100 yards short of the LRRP's night position.

"They were looking for us," said Willey. "They were definitely looking for us." At daylight the searchers continued towards the LRRP position and moved right in on them.

"They thought we were on a hilltop but we were on an abutment just off it. The NVA moved right past us, 15 of them. We killed the first five and moved out," the sergeant said.

With the rest of the team making it for the landing zone Willey stayed behind to cover their flight.

"Two more NVA came over the hill and I cut them down. Then I followed the others," said the team leader.

The escape, as all LRRP exits, was pre-planned, but complicated. All but Willey had received shrapnel wounds during the brief fire fight. But they kept going for about 2000 yards.

At the landing zone there was still a thick canopy overhead, broken slightly by a small hole. A helicopter couldn't land, but a rope could be dropped. While gunships peppered the escape route with machinegun bullets and rockets, the team was pulled, one by one, into the hovering chopper.

"The NVA were still chasing us," said Willey after the extraction, "But those gunships really slowed them down."

24Jun67-Inf Aided Repelling Attacks

TAN AN, (9th INF-IO) - A platoon from the 9th Infantry Division was attacked recently by an estimated enemy platoon and later by an estimated company.

There were no U.S. casualties, the enemy lost 42.

The 2nd Platoon of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry was attacked by an estimated reinforced enemy platoon about 25 miles southwest of Saigon in Long An Province.

Several minutes later two helicopter gunships from the division's D Troop, 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry arrived and the enemy attempted to flee in 25 to 30 sampans. The sampans were attacked by the gunships and 20 were sunk. Thirty enemy were killed.

Later, the same platoon from the 3rd Brigade was attacked by an estimated enemy company. Again helicopter gunships joined by an Air Force ..Dragonship
..... xerox missing rest of article.....

24Jun67-Vietnam Communique

25th Infantry Division - Operation Manhattan, conducted by the 1st Brigade since April 24, terminated earlier this month. The multi-battalion operation accounted for 191 enemy killed, 370 suspects detained, and 614 individual and 14 crew-served weapons captured. These [sic] were 47 U.S. infantrymen killed during the operation. "Manhattan" uncovered more than 950 tons of rice. The brigade has discovered one of the largest single arms caches of the war. It contained more than 297,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 3550 mortar and recoilless rifle rounds, 900 grenades, 300 mines, 135 pounds of explosives, and 370 individual weapons.

1st Cavalry Division - In Operation Pershing, scattered action on one day killed 27 enemy, detained 380 suspects, and captured six individual weapons in the Bong Son Plain. Also during "Pershing" a Hoi Chanh returnee led a patrol to a cache containing 24 individual weapons, assorted small-arms ammunition and weapons parts.

101st Airborne Division - Members of the 1st Brigade under Task Force Oregon terminated Operation Malheur I. During the operation 392 enemy and 51 paratroopers were killed and 171 suspects detained. Operation Malheur II is being conducted by the same forces in the same area.

9th Infantry Division - A multi-battalion force of Vietnamese soldiers and members of the 2nd Brigade have begun Operation Hoptac. The operation provides base security at Dong Tam. Other elements of the 9th, engaged in Operation Enterprise in Long An Province, uncovered 15 enemy graves and 36 claymore mines. During the same operation, a company found three base camps 20 miles southwest of Saigon. The infantrymen destroyed 374 two and three man bunkers.

5th Special Forces Group- Civilian Irregular Defense Group soldiers and their Green Beret advisors report 26 contacts with enemy during one day. Fourteen enemy were killed and 15 suspects were detained. One advisor was wounded.

199th Light Infantry Brigade - Units supporting the Army of the Republic of Vietnam pacification Operation Rang Dong reported killing nine enemy in a day of scattered actions. Two enemy sampans were also destroyed.

24Jun67-1st Cavalry Helicopters Kill 8 Viet Cong In Attack On Huts

BONG SON, (1st CAV-IO) - Eight Viet Cong were killed and more than 20 enemy huts destroyed by aerial rocket artillery helicopters of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery.

Scattered but continuous small arms and automatic weapons fire was received by the seven helicopters as they attacked huts as large as 20 feet by 50 feet.

The ships, armed with 81mm mortars, 2.75-inch rockets, air to ground missiles, and 7.62mm machineguns, destroyed more than 20 huts and caused secondary explosions in nearly every hut. One secondary explosion sent a fire ball 500 feet into the air.

Armed Viet Cong were killed from the air when they ran from their positions.

There was one U.S. wounded when a CH-47 was struck several times by enemy fire.

24Jun67-Aviators Support II Corps

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-IO) -The 155th Assault Helicopter Company, has been in direct combat support of the II Corps advisory effort and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces in the central highlands.

During a three-day period recently, the 155th Stagecoach transport Hueys and Falcon gunships, complemented by a detachment of four Big Windy Chinooks of the 180th Assault Support Helicopter Company conducted combat assaults in three widely spaced areas.

On the first day, the 155th, under the direction of the company operations officer, Capt. Charles T. Pease, moved 331 Special Forces and ARVN Ranger Battalion troops into two blocking locations north of Tan Rai, 100 miles northeast of Saigon.

On the second day, 155th commander, Maj. Charlie P. Fleming, took the choppers to Cheo Reo, 50 miles southeast of Pleiku, and airlifted 785 troops of the 22nd ARVN Battalion.

The last day, 203 combat soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division were transported to field positions.

During the three days, the choppers recorded the following totals: 1319 troops transported, five tons of cargo hauled, 510 sorties logged, and 230 total hours in the air.

A total of six med-evacs were made by Stagecoaches while the Falcons received credit for eight enemy killed.

Following the last troop lift on the last day, WO Larry Craft and a chinook extracted an ARVN H-34 helicopter which force landed the day before.

The aircraft was recovered with no difficulty.

24Jun67-Chinook Becomes Gas Station

PHAN THIET, (1st CAV-IO) - A Chinook of the 1st Cavalry Division has been converted to an airmobile gas station.

When the cavalry was recently equipped with self-propelled 40mm cannons, there was a problem caused by their thirsty tanks. Major Richard C. Dickson, commander of the 3rd Forward Support Element here, went to work on the problem.

A Chinook was equipped with a 500-gallon gas tank to its underside. It was also equipped with a service attendant and pump.

For refueling, the Flying horse hovers the tank while the fuel tank and attendant are lowered to the ground.

24Jun67-Stork Is Assisted By Pilots

CAN THO, (1st AVN-IO) - Warrant Officers Dan Crawford and Jim Miller thought they had flown just about every type of mission in the book in Vietnam until they received an emergency radio call.

The 336th Assault Helicopter Company, 1st Aviation Brigade got a call for an emergency medical evacuation mission from the village of Treyn Nhon, near My Tho in the Mekong Delta. A woman in Treyn Nhon was having difficulty delivering her baby. The local doctor had advised moving her.

After picking up the woman, the pilots headed their Huey toward My Tho with Crawford piloting and Miller on the radio attempting to arrange ambulance service.

Finally reaching their destination, the crew gladly turned their cargo over to the medics, who delivered the baby with no further problems.