

Tunnel Rat' Belts Shirtless Viet Cong

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — The 1st Platoon of Company C, 1st Cavalry Division, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division was given the mission of searching a village in the Viet Cong infested Bong Son region during Operation Thayer.

The 26-man patrol led by Lt. Frank T. Orlovich made its way unnoticed into the village, and before the inhabitants realized what was taking place, had begun a house-to-house search for evidence of VC or weapons.

Specialist Four Anthony B. Appleton, an ex-Special Forces trooper, along with PFC Aubrey Moore and PFC Samuel Smith, entered the village temple.

In one wing of the temple, they discovered an entrance to what appeared to be an underground storage area. A Vietnamese woman standing at the entrance to the tunnel halfheartedly tried to discourage the men to enter the tunnel.

Appleton, known in Co. C as the "Tunnel Rat," lowered himself into the abyss armed only with a flashlight and a bayonet. "The tunnel was full of rice storage containers," said Appleton and movement was difficult in the confined area.

While searching several containers for weapons, he noticed some matting behind them which he removed, revealing an entrance to another passageway. This tunnel went straight for about ten feet and then curved to the left for another three feet.

"As I made my way in, my flashlight revealed a man crouching in the corner," Appleton said. "We grappled for a while until I got the upper hand and then I

backed out of the tunnel dragging him after me."

When Appleton got into the open, he noticed that the man was shirtless. He was positive that the man had been wearing a shirt in the tunnel. Reentering the tunnel, Appleton found it.

In the pocket was a VC safe conduct pass dated from September 1966 through September 1967. The man admitted later he was a VC.

Polar Bears Score Well

TAY NINH, (25th INF-10) — In a battalion size operation eight miles west of here, elements of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Division killed two Viet Cong and captured a cache of arms, equipment, and supplies.

Operating in dense jungle, the Polar Bears of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry uncovered a total of 5000 pounds of rice. They also discovered a 300-foot multi-layer tunnel, the largest tunnel complex yet found by the brigade. It had evidence of occupancy within 48 minutes of the unit's arrival. Cooking and eating utensils and fresh leaves were found.

The Polar Bears also captured 13 rounds of 2.75mm ammunition, mortar rounds, one rifle, two grenade launchers, 250 rounds of .45 cal. ammunition, 312 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 45 rounds of .30 cal. ammunition, and one type-



MARTHA TURNS NURSE—Martha Raye, Hollywood personality, still dressed in a surgical gown after helping doctors in the 13th Aviation Battalion Dispensary at Soc Trang for 14 hours, accepts thanks from Chaplain Todd. She also gave blood to a critically wounded sergeant. (Photo by 1st AVN-10)

Chopper Crew Escaped Charlie—Greeted By Martha

SOC TRANG, (1st AVN-10)—A gunship pilot and two crew members of the 121st Airmobile Company, 1st Aviation Company evaded Viet Cong hunters in the jungles for 19 hours after their chopper was shot down and the co-pilot killed.

Major Raymond T. Nutter, the

pilot, Sp5 David Olson, crew chief, and SSgt. Rodger Swindler, door gunner, were rescued by troops of the 21st Army of Republic of Vietnam after they killed four VC, captured two, lived through an American air strike, and spent the night in a rice paddy.

They have been awarded the Bronze Star with V Device.

Their mission began at a rendezvous point for gunships and slicks airlifting 100 Vietnamese troops. The landing zones were in the middle of a dug-in VC battalion, and the gunships were covering the zones.

Two med-evac choppers attempting to evacuate wounded men were driven off by intense VC fire. Nutter called for more men, gunships, artillery, and air strikes. Meanwhile, he and his crew decided to try to get the wounded men out.

As they started in, their ship was riddled by fire. The co-pilot was killed and the controls shot away, leaving the ship on its own. It crashed near a mangrove swamp, but the crew was not injured. The VC closed in and the three went into the swamp.

It was now about 2 p.m. They were moving through the underbrush when they came face to face with a VC. A bullet from Swindler's rifle killed him. They met a second VC and Olson hit him with his rifle butt. The men moved through the jungle in a canal, hanging onto trees along the bank.

Soon they met a third VC who was sitting on the bank. They drowned him. They went back into the underbrush and followed a path to a stream. On the opposite bank were two holes with VC peering out of them. Nutter held his gun on them and motioned for them to come out. They were unarmed and the crew tied them to a tree using strips of torn cloth.

Just before dark a VC grabbed Swindler, but Swindler wrestled him to the ground and Nutter knifed him. At dark, they stumbled into a rice paddy, crawled to a small dike in the center, and hid under some small trees in the high grass. They decided to rest here and hoped the VC would pull out during the night.

It was not long before the air strike hit only yards away from their hiding place. They knew the

VC were taking casualties because "you could hear the screams."

At dawn the trio lay on their backs trying to attract attention from the helicopters. In a couple hours, they heard Vietnamese voices and prepared to fight. But Swindler determined they were ARVN and stood up waving.

When they arrived here to have their cuts and bruises attended to, they were greeted by Martha Raye, a Hollywood personality, who was helping at the hospital. She washed off the grime and made them laugh.

Automatic Sandbags Are Great

PLEIKU, (4th INF-10)—Though troops of the 4th Infantry Division still have the soldier's trusty entrenching tool, the Ivy Division has gone mechanical and is using "combat entrenching machines" at its base camp here.

The mechanical entrenching tool is capable of filling an average of 5000 sandbags daily.

Two of the tools are now used in the camp area. One belongs to the division's 4th Engineer Battalion, the other to the 630th Engineer Company (Light Equipment) of the 299th Engineer Battalion near here.

A conveyor belt operates what appears to be a number of miniature steam shovels steadily digging a trench roughly six feet deep by two feet wide. As the machine moves forward, the dirt is hauled out of the trench, ground to a fine texture, and poured into the waiting sandbags.

The only manual labor involved is holding and tying the filled sandbags. Automatic lifts haul the finished product to nearby trucks for transportation to their destination.

"It's a lifesaver," Sp4 Roy Allison, a member of Company D, 4th Engr. Bn. said. "Sweat and toil are lacking. It runs both smoothly and efficiently. Definitely another step forward."

Witnesses of the division's latest wonder agree in unison—"Great."

Vietnam Communique

1st Cavalry Division — Units from the 1st and 3rd Brigades have ended Operation Irving while "Thayer II" and "Byrd" continue. "Irving" accounted for 681 enemy killed as a result of ground contact, air strikes, and naval gunfire support missions. Friendly casualties were light. Ground forces captured 690 enemy, detained 4156 suspects, and seized 191 individual and 19 crew-served weapons. In "Thayer," a

30-minute engagement ended when the enemy broke contact. Five VC were killed, 12 suspects detained, and one individual weapon seized. There were no friendly casualties. Strike pilots have flown 77 sorties in support of "Thayer." Thirty enemy have been killed. Forty-eight VC were killed in one day's action in "Byrd" in Binh Thuan Province.

101st Airborne Division — Operation Seward is over. It was a

rice harvest protection operation in Phu Yen Province. The combined ground-air operation accounted for 239 enemy killed and 34 captured. There were 315 sorties flown during the operation, which began in early September.

1st Infantry Division — Operation Allentown has accounted for 38 dead enemy. Most of the contact with the enemy has occurred after dark as infantrymen ambushed VC who were traveling in sampans along the Saigon River and other fresh water tributaries. Also, the 2nd Brigade Civil Affairs team is conducting Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) in support of "Allentown." Friendly casualties are light as the operation continues with light contact reported.

25th Infantry Division — Elements of the division killed three VC in two light contacts in Hau Nghia Province. An enemy food cache was found in Tay Ninh Province. A unit of the 195th Light Infantry Brigade uncovered 13 tons of rice, 1000 pounds of salt, 2500 pounds of peanuts, and 750 pounds of fish. In another action, a platoon killed one VC during a clash with an unknown number of VC one night 13 miles southwest of Cu Chi.

4th Infantry Division — A company of the 2nd Brigade killed 17 enemy and captured four in a two-hour battle during Operation Paul Revere IV one day in Kontum Province. In another action, a company engaged a VC company in Pleiku Province. Artillery hit the enemy by the light of a flareship. The enemy was using small arms and mortars. Friendly casualties were light in the action. Fifty-four enemy have been killed in the combined ground and air operation, with 15 enemy captured. Strike pilots have flown 81 sorties in support. Overall friendly casualties are light.

172nd Airborne Brigade—No major actions reported.



Chinook Rescues Chinook-9000 Pound Lighter

VUNG TAU, (1st AVN-IO)—A Chinook helicopter that was downed by Viet Cong ground fire in the Rung Sat Special Zone was airlifted out by another Chinook. Only one other time has one Chinook airlifted another and that was in the States.

The Chinook had been lifting Army of Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers into action and when it went down, two platoons threw up a perimeter around it to provide security through the night against the Viet Cong.

The next day a maintenance crew headed by Sp5 James M. Stuteville determined it would have to be flown out for repairs. A Flying Crane was requested from the 1st Cavalry Division, but one would not be available for three or four days.

The ARVN ground commander said the VC would try to destroy it before then and it was decided another Chinook would attempt the evacuation. It was too heavy to be lifted by a sister ship. Stuteville was appointed chief of the maintenance team that would prepare the crippled chopper for

evacuation.

About 9000 pounds would have to be stripped. Major components such as rotors, engines, transmissions, armor plates, ramps, armament, and doors would have to be removed with a reasonable symmetry of weight distribution for proper balance maintained. Stuteville and his 10-man crew

stripped the machine in one day. The men were Sp5s Roy B. Smith and Arthur W. Hayman, Sp4s George D. Jones, Rimvydas J. DeDinas, Jimmy M. Johnson, and Charles S. Duncan, and PFCs Thomas M. Krause, Donald W. Burney, John R. Lang, and Roger D. Pritt.

Cowboy 'Falcons' Give Punch To Opn. 'Robin'

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-IO)—Like a Falcon poised for a screaming dive, the armed helicopter soared above the convoy, alert for the slightest sign of trouble among the trucks rolling along the highway in a cloud of dust.

Gunships of the 335th Aviation Company, 173rd Airborne Brigade were giving armed air escort to the convoys transporting recently arrived troops and equipment of the 4th Infantry Division from the port of Vung Tau to Bear Cat, southeast of Saigon. The 173rd had the job of securing 30 miles of the route the convoy would use.

The brigade began Operation Robin two days before the first convoy of new troops moved down Interprovince Highway 15 by moving along the road in a convoy of its own and setting up checkpoints and base positions. The infantry immediately began securing the route with clearing and ambush patrols while the armed jeeps of the 17th Cavalry patrolled the highway.

Meanwhile the Cowboys of the 335th were giving the brigade air support on the operation. They immediately began the daily courier runs between the forward area and the rear at Bien Hoa.

The Cowboys gave an air escort service for each convoy traveling down the highway, providing the trucks with air observation and command and control, besides additional firepower if needed. All available aircraft were also kept on standby, ready to fly troops of the brigade from one location to another.

The 335th kept three choppers on standby for an emergency evacuation of the brigade's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols

(LRRP).

One team of the LRRP is grateful that the Cowboys were ready. It was moving from an ambush position along a small back road when it discovered that a platoon of Viet Cong had an ambush set up on the other side of the dirt track. The LRRP team was chased for almost a mile before it reached a clearing where a helicopter, protected by two circling gunships, was waiting to sweep them out of danger.

Besides the operation, the Cowboys also must resupply the patrols who keep the 173rd's Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) free of VC activity. They also have to be ready to resupply the operation if the roads are made impassable.

ROKS Replace 101st 'Eagles'

TUY HOA, (101st ABN-IO)—The 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry moved out of the Hieu Xuong River Valley last week turning over their mission of protecting the Vietnamese rice harvesters to the men of the 28th Regiment of the Republic of Korea's famed White Horse Division. The Korean troops will continue the "Screaming Eagles" mission of guarding the rice harvest from the Viet Cong tax collectors.

Adding their own figures to the ones of the Vietnamese harvesters, the "Above the Rest" battalion of Lt. Col. Joseph E. Collins, reaped 39 killed, 6 captured, 22 weapons captured and 291 suspects detained. The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division unit also freed 34 Vietnamese that had been prisoner by the Viet Cong.



ONE LIFTING ANOTHER—With the cargo sling securely hooked on, a Chinook of the 147th Assault Support Helicopter Company lifts a downed sister ship from the Rung Sat Special Zone.

(Photo by Capt. John C. Cavender, 772nd MED-IO)

4th Engrs Build Base Despite Rain And Mud

PLEIKU, (4th INF-IO)—Over 600 men from the 4th Engineer Battalion are now engaged in construction of the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade base camp near here.

Elements of the battalion were the first units of the division to move to Vietnam, leaving Fort Lewis, Wash., on July 6, and boarding the USNS Gordon at Oakland Army Terminal, the following day to begin their 12,000 mile voyage.

The Engineer's advance party departed Fort Lewis on July 9, and flew to Na Trang. They later joined the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division to await the arrival of the battalion's men and equipment.

Upon the arrival of the commercial cargo ship, Drango Victory, at the port of Qui Nhon with the battalion's equipment on July 26, 1966, the men began actual operations. A survey of the base camp site at Dragon mountain, about seven miles south of Pleiku, was initiated and the first equipment convoy moved to Pleiku the following day.

The bulk of the battalion's personnel arrived aboard the USNS Gordon at Qui Nhon July 30, 23 days after boarding the ship. They were airlifted to Pleiku the same day and completed the trip to the base camp site by convoy.

Development of the camp was in full swing by early August with the 299th Engineer Battalion lending assistance.

The 4th Engineers initiated a pacification program for Montagnard crops, principally bamboo, rice and pastureland, destroyed in base camp construction.

For more than a month, the battalion has been actively engaged in construction of the base camp. During that time the men have constructed the camp's perimeter barrier and temporary perimeter bunkers, and cleared a 500-meter strip around the perimeter. In spite of continuous monsoon rains which have kept both camp streets and access roads in constant need of repair, the engineers have greatly improved

about two miles of access road leading from the camp to Highway 14, constructed helicopter landing pads and a squad reaction course, and installed numerous culverts within the brigade area.

According to Captain Carl B. Seiple, assistant battalion S-3, construction of the camp is on schedule in spite of the adverse working conditions caused by the heavy rains.

The 4th Engineer Battalion was responsible for establishing plans and schedules for development of

the base camp, which included surveying and marking perimeter roads, the interior road network, and unit areas.

Efforts by the engineers have not been completely confined to camp construction. One platoon is presently supporting activities of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry at Tuy Hoa, while another has been deployed in support of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry which is engaged in a joint search and destroy mission with elements of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

Cav. Medic Is 'Medicine Man' For VN Refugees

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO)—He is called the "medicine man," and to some 535 inhabitants in three refugee villages outside of here, Sp5 Stanley Lerner is just that.

With his interpreter, Trinh Van Tinh, and a jeep loaded with medical supplies, Lerner sets out three mornings a week from here to hold sick call in one of the villages. Occasionally he takes clothing to the villagers.

When villagers spot Lerner's now familiar jeep approaching them on the winding, one-lane dirt road, they flock out of their houses and yards to escort him to the one-room schoolhouse where he holds sick call.

The first patient in line is always a village elder who migrated to An Hoi from North Vietnam in February. Like so many of these people, he has chronic tuberculosis. Lerner estimates more than half the people in his villages suffer from tuberculosis or malaria.

For Lerner, keeping his villagers healthy means taking their temperatures, dispensing pills, treating burns, draining infec-

tions, and delivering babies, if necessary.



BEEP BEEP—Two Sky Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade push through waist-high elephant grass and brush as a second lift swoops onto the landing zone during a heliborne assault in a recent operation.

(Photo by PFC Donald C. Hall, 173rd ABN-IO)

Joint-Service Task Force Finds C-130 Wreckage

TUY HOA, (101st ABN-IO) — Paratroopers from two platoons of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry led an Allied Interservice Task Force in recovery operations of a downed Air Force C-130 Hercules cargo plane recently in the mountains northeast of Phan Rang.

Landing by helicopter, the 101st Airborne Division troopers moved overland through the treacherous jungle terrain to the crash site. Task Force Eagle, commanded by Maj. Jerry C. Scott, Operations Officer, Support Battalion of the 101st, was composed of elements of the 16th Vietnamese Regional Force Company, a company from the Republic of Korea Capital Division, the 14th Munitions Maintenance Squadron, of the U.S. Air Force, Battery A, 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery, the 39th Advisory Team of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam, and engineers from Company A, 326th Engineer Battalion. Air-rescue operations were performed by the 12th Detachment, 35th Air Rescue Service and the Blue Star Platoon of the 48th Aviation Company.

After four hours of marching in the intense jungle, the Screaming Eagles came upon the wreckage site. While the Air Force Munitions Maintenance Squadron checked the wreckage for booby traps, the engineer work party immediately started to clear a landing zone so Air Force investigators could be brought in to determine the cause of the crash. There were no survivors among the five crew members. The wreckage was spread over a wide area on the side of a mountain that required ropes to get down to.

Aviators Donate To VN Hosp.

CAN THO, (IV CORPS-IO) — The 134th Aviation Company and the 269th Maintenance Detachment, which is assigned to the 134th, have donated 50,000 piasters (\$242) to the Phuoc Dinh Provincial Hospital.

The money will be used to repair an old building that was part of the military hospital until late last summer and convert the building into a children's ward. There is no ward at the hospital now.

It is the company's civic action program, and the men have been gathering money for about two months.

Dr. Le Van Khoa, head of the hospital, accepted the money and expressed his thanks to the men. When the ward is finished, a sign will be put up, saying "Compliments of the 134th Co. and 269th Maint. Det.," the doctor said.

Lives Saved

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) — A platoon leader teamed up with a company medic during Operation Irving to save the lives of several South Vietnamese civilians who were caught up in the middle of a battle between 1st Cavalry Division troopers and regulars of the North Vietnamese Army.

Lieutenant Donald E. Grigg saw the civilian wandering aimlessly into the battle area.

Grigg left his position and dashed to the confused civilians. Meanwhile, PFC Jack H. Morris moved forward to an exposed position and provided covering fire.

Although no enemy contact was made, it was constantly expected because many signs were spotted on the way to the crash site and this was the first time Allied units had operated in this particular area. Lieutenant Mark T. Skarstedt said that the terrain was ideally suited for enemy ambushes and he had his 2nd platoon of Company A ready as it moved at the point of the Task Force. Staff Sergeant LeRoy V. Eutsey, 1st Platoon leader, provided rear

security and secured the landing zone. Since weather conditions prohibited bringing the 1st Bde. troopers back before dark, they spent the night near the landing zone, about 300 yards from the crash site. Lifted out by helicopter the next morning, the troops returned to the base camp at Phan Rang and prepared to go forward and continue their mission of protecting the rice harvest in the Tuy Hoa area.



SCATTERED—At the site of a US Air Force C-130 crash in mountains near Phan Rang, Maj. Jerry C. Scott, Task Force commander, and Capt. Thomas M. Schlaak, Support Battalion, discuss their next move in recovering bodies.

(Photo by Sp4 Oddvar Breiland, 101st ABN-IO)

All Kinds Of Information But Charlie Had Vanished

PLEIKU, (25th INF-IO) — Many patrols do not meet the enemy, but do furnish intelligence on him.

One such recent patrol of Company C, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division spent one day in the field and the only action it had was destroying a few hootches and bunkers.

Just 200 yards from the perimeter, the patrol came to a fork. To the left, in the middle of the path, lay a pile of clothes and bones—Viet Cong remains.

Captain Thomas A. Simcox, the patrol leader, sent a force up the right trail. It radioed it had discovered two graves.

There was evidence of use: camp fires, logs placed to form beds, and shallow foxholes. The main force destroyed everything.

It moved on, found, and destroyed another small village.

Just outside a landing zone, a point man found three graves. Another 100 yards up the trail, he discovered another larger zone with fortified bunkers.

Simcox called for mortar because the bunkers were situated

just right for an enemy ambush. After a few rounds with no sign of enemy activity, the area was cleared then and a break was taken for lunch.

In the afternoon more signs of enemy were found: clothes, used small arms ammunition, several shallow graves, fox holes, and places where the enemy had bedded down.

While searching along the trail in a wooded area, the patrol discovered several well-concealed bunkers, a small hut, and a makeshift dam in a small stream. The trees concealed the area from the air.

After destroying the area, the patrol continued. Soon, it heard the roar of the swift-moving Ia Drang River which was the objective for the day.

Engineer Candidates

Turning out Engineer platoon leaders is the objective of the 23-week course at the Engineer Officer Candidate School (OCS).

The candidates learn subjects ranging from topography training to using and maintaining engineer equipment. Map reading and interpreting aerial photographs fall under topography. Military and construction engineering teaches candidates principles and skills of camouflage, reconnaissance, and demolition.

The proper use of materials, fixed and floating bridge structure, and road and airfield construction is taught. In their ninth week, the candidates bivouac and train in combat arms and support, including instruction and practice with individual and crew served weapons.

Would You Believe Lady Luck Was With Vulture CO?

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-IO) — Major A. A. Miyamoto, Operations Officer of the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company, believes that Lady Luck has been his constant companion during his stint in Vietnam.

Recently, while leading the 162nd "Vultures" in an airmobile

assault southwest of Saigon, the choppers began to receive intense automatic and small arms fire. The Major's chopper took 20 hits. One .30 caliber armor-piercing round hit directly into the chopper's plexi-glass shield and entered the officer's chest plate. Fortunately, the force of the bullet was slowed down by his chest plate and stopped short at his fatigue jacket buttons.

"I wish Charlie hadn't ruined those buttons, that was a new jacket," he quipped. The major was not hurt in the incident, but a few minutes later, he received leg wounds from flying shrapnel. He was "dusted off" and spent a week in the hospital.

The 162d, commanded by Maj. Gerald W. Kirklighter, is part of the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion, supporting the 1st Infantry Division in operations. During this particular assault, with the 25th Infantry Division, door gunners and gunships of this elite corps were responsible for confirmed Viet Cong kills.

Major Miyamoto had just returned to duty two weeks prior to the last incident. He had been in the hospital for shrapnel wounds received during an airmobile operation in June this year.

Chieu Hoi's Must Be Treated Well

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-IO) — A leaflet has been distributed giving the Viet Cong and North Vietnam Army personnel rallying instructions.

The leaflet is also being distributed to all U.S. and Free World forces to acquaint them with the procedures.

They are urged to report in the daytime to anyone whom they can expect to be armed. The ones surrendering should hold up their hands to show good will and display a safe conduct pass or leaflet if they have one. If they do not have one, they are to hold their hands upright to help the allied troops understand they want to surrender.

All allied forces should understand that good treatment of a Chieu Hoi is a basis for the program's success. Questioning of returnees indicate that more would defect if they were sure of good treatment.

First Year

PLEIKU, (52nd ARTY-IO) — A battalion armed with the Army's largest artillery gun recently marked the end of its first year in Vietnam.

Over the last twelve months, the 6th Gun Battalion, 14th Artillery (175mm) stationed here, has participated in Operation Lincoln, Mosby II, Paul Revere I, II, and III, and most recently Hastings. It has supported the 1st Cavalry Division, the 25th Infantry Division, the Korean Tiger Division, and numerous South Vietnamese units.

Initially attached to the 1st Cav. Div. when it arrived, the battalion fought as a provisional infantry unit during the battle of Plei Me.

Stationed on Artillery Hill in the II Corps Tactical area, the 6th has fired artillery rounds in support of Free World Military Assistance Forces throughout the central highlands.