

Cong Get Hot End Of Huey

PHU LOI, (1st INF-10)—The tactical emergency call came at 3 p.m. Within minutes, four fire crews of Company A, 1st Aviation Battalion, Rebel Platoon were scrambling for their armed Huey helicopters. Another mission in Operation Junction City was under way.

A battle was raging 25 miles north of Tay Ninh, where 1st Infantry Division troops of the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry had encountered the enemy practically on top of a long sought Viet Cong base camp. The Rebel platoon leader, Maj. George Fish, was in the lead ship escorting 11 choppers filled with infantrymen from the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry who were coming to reinforce the 1st Bn., 24th Inf.

Approaching the landing zone, Fish and his wing companion, Capt. Ronald Minnich, dropped in to take the area with their mini-guns, rockets and machine-guns.

Moments later the choppers dropped into the cleared landing zone and unloaded the support companies.

But the job of the armed Hueys was far from over. Fish, Minnich, and two other ships, piloted by WO's Larry McKinnon and Richard Macey, circled overhead, providing fire support where needed. Several times the choppers slanted in on the enemy emplacements, firing away, and receiving automatic ground fire in return.

"On many passes I could see our tracers shining in between the 50 caliber ground fire tracers coming at us," Fish said.

Finally, with their ammo expended, fuel getting low and darkness coming on, the Hueys returned to Phu Loi.

3 Camps Found By Inf Units

RUNG SAT, (9th INF-10) — Three companies of the 9th Infantry Division's 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry uncovered an enemy ammunition supply area and three base camps in less than four hours during a search and destroy operation recently about 22 miles southeast of Saigon near the village of Nom Ly Trung.

Shortly after noon Company B discovered the enemy ammunition supply area. A 75mm recoilless rifle with 200 rounds of ammunition, three .45 caliber submachineguns, fifty 82mm and two 81mm mortar rounds were seized.

A half hour later Company C destroyed a small base camp containing seven bunkers, five huts, and 12 foxholes. Seized was an enemy sampan engine.

Company A then uncovered another base camp. In addition to a quantity of documents bearing recent dates, 43 grenade booby traps and rifle silhouette targets were found. The unit destroyed 30 bunkers and eight huts.

Company C found the third enemy base camp with several rounds of small arms ammunition, a sampan and several pounds of rye grain.



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42nd Artillery Captain Wins Distinguished Service Cross

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10) — For his role in the defense of an artillery fire base under construction, Capt. Harold V. Floody Jr. of Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division

has been awarded the nation's second highest award for valor in combat, the Distinguished Service Cross.

After being helilifted into a landing zone with an advance reconnaissance team, the cap-

tain saw another helicopter shot down by nearby enemy emplacements. Floody exposed himself to enemy fire to direct the landing of two howitzers and immediately engaged the enemy positions, knocking them out of action.

Despite sporadic enemy attacks the next day, Captain Floody coordinated the establishment of the artillery fire base and an infantry command post. That night, a reinforced North Vietnamese Army battalion unleashed a mortar attack on the base.

When the initial barrage disrupted communications, the captain left his covered position and ran through the exploding mortar rounds to the command post. Determining the location of the hostile positions, he charged back across the ravaged area to his battery and began directing the return fire.

Seriously wounded twice in the back by shrapnel, Floody continued to direct the defense of the base through the remainder of the 13-hour battle until the attacking force was beaten off.

Accident Gets VC

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-10) — "They were so close to me I couldn't warn anyone without being heard," said Sp4 Boyd R. Wilson, an assistant machine-gunner, in the 1st Infantry Division.

It was about 8:15 p.m., and the division's Company B, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry had set up an ambush about three miles north of Lai Khe.

Specialist four Glendon M. Milligan, a machinegunner, and Wilson were on guard when Wilson noticed two Viet Cong running across the road and up the trail toward him.

Quietly he tapped Milligan on the shoulder and pointed to the enemy. They waited for the precise moment and then detonated their claymores, killing both insurgents.

Then, PFC Jerry G. Wallace, a rifleman, noticed three enemy approaching his position, intent on helping their fellow soldiers. Wilson also saw them and threw a grenade in their direction while Wallace set off his claymore, killing two. The third tried to escape but Wallace quickly stopped him with his rifle.

After downing the five VC, everything quieted down. Specialist four David J. Pelstera, a radio operator, was sent to each position to see if everyone was all right.

After reaching Wallace's position, he accidentally sat down on the firing device to a claymore mine. Two more enemy who had infiltrated to near the position died.

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MINE SWEEPERS—Company D, 65th Engineers conducts a mine sweeping operation on recently completed Highway 506. The engineers, part of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division, constructed and now maintain the road which runs through once-controlled Viet Cong territory.

(Photo by PFC Eric Schmidt, 25th INF-10)

12-Year-Old VN Boy Saves Men Of 199th

LONG BINH, (199th INF-10) — The stubbornness and bravery of a 12-year-old Vietnamese boy may have saved the lives of many men of the 199th Infantry Brigade's 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry.

His name is Lang and is a buddy of the men of Company E's recon platoon, which he visits daily at the battalion's base camp.

Recently the platoon was sent out on a search and destroy mission two miles from the base camp. Despite his desires to go along with his buddies, Lang was left behind.

But he was too stubborn to take "no" for an answer. He was determined to stay with his friends. Somehow he found the platoon in its area of operation. There was little the men could do but let the boy tag along.

When the platoon reached a sugar cane field, Lang borrowed

a machete from one of his buddies and slipped in front of the platoon to cut some of the sweet stalks.

Shortly after disappearing behind the stalks, Lang started shouting "VC! VC!"

The platoon took cover seconds before automatic rifle fire raked its positions.

Lang had come face to face with a group of VC which was about to ambush the infantrymen. Lang had destroyed the enemy's plan, but had been grabbed by one of the VC in the process.

But Lang was not about to give up that easily. He swung back his machete and slashed the legs of his captor.

The VC, crying out in pain, let loose of Lang, who tried to run back to the platoon. Before he could, however, a fire fight broke out and Lang was caught

Charging VC Met By Sgt

SOUT DA, (4th INF-10)—When the enemy begins to break through the perimeter, everyone becomes a combat infantryman. Sergeant James W. Evans, an artillery gunner, was no exception.

Evans was a gunner for the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery when the 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment unleashed a full-scale attack on the forward base camp of the 1st Division's 3rd Brigade.

The Viet Cong began hitting the perimeter hard and Evans was picked to join a reactionary force.

Going into action, his M-14 jammed and he began working the bolt by hand, firing into the charging ranks of Viet Cong.

When the company he was with was forced to withdraw, Evans grabbed a sandbag filled with hand grenades, placed the bag between his teeth, put a grenade in each hand, and started killing Viet Cong within five meters of his position.

After the company had pulled back, Evans found a new position and began pouring small arms fire into the human waves.

Evans ran forward again with the sandbag clenched between his teeth and started throwing more grenades. He held at the new perimeter line until armored personnel carriers (APCs) from the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry reinforced the 1st Battalion ending the six-hour battle.

But Evans wasn't through yet. He again drove forward behind the cover of the APCs and helped in knocking out small pockets of hiding VC.

By the battle's end he had helped eight Americans to the evacuation site after they were found wounded.

Helicopter Gunner Wins DFC

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10)

— A private first class from the 1st Aviation Brigade was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross recently for his actions which were instrumental in destroying the effectiveness of several Viet Cong units and in killing 108 enemy.

James D. Thompson of the 120th Aviation Company, Capital Aviation Battalion, was a door gunner on a helicopter during an operation near Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

Flying ahead of advancing ground forces the pilot spotted a VC company occupying fortified positions and began making assault passes.

At the end of each pass Thompson climbed onto the chopper's skids and continued to fire under and behind the craft, which helped suppress the enemy fire at his helicopter and provided covering fire for the choppers behind it.

Five VC were spotted in a swamp and Thompson kept them pinned down until the chopper hovered them. Then the gunner jumped into the swamp's waist-deep water, captured the VC, brought them aboard the chopper, and guarded them during the flight back to battalion headquarters.

Aviators Search For VC

PLEI DJERENG, (4th INF-10) — Headhunters are looking for the enemy in the central highlands.

Light plane pilots from the 219th Aviation Company, who call themselves Headhunters, and aerial observers from the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade are teaming up to track down the enemy in the thick jungle from the air.

For the observers to spot the enemy through the massive canopy of jungle vegetation, the Headhunters have to do some fancy flying in their Bird Dog aircraft.

The big advantage of this joining of talents leaves the pilots free to concentrate on the flying while the observers do the scanning.

To complete their missions, says SSgt. Robert C. Kraft, the observers look for movement, positions and live targets.

To help them in their sight-seeing, the pilots fly low along the sides of hills so the observers can look under the trees.

"We come right down on the deck," commented Kraft. "You can see footprints from 100 to 150 feet, but we go lower. We can tell if a bunker has been built recently, if logs are freshly cut and if a group of enemy troops have crossed a stream."

When the enemy is found, the observer calls in artillery fire from the nearest Ivy fire support base. He then stays in the area directing the incoming rounds.



FINAL TOUCHES—Specialist Five Dennis L. Cheatham, a dental technician with the 44th Medical Brigade's 36th Dental Service Detachment, checks the last tooth on a Vietnamese youngster. Cheatham was participating in a dental MEDCAP at the Go Vap dispensary in Gia Dinh Province. (Photo by 1st LOG-10)

3 Lives Saved By Steel Pot

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — There are three men who will not ever complain again about wearing a steel pot. In three days, snipers put rounds through the helmets of the three men from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

Specialist Four John Duffy probably had the closest call. Late one afternoon during Operation Wallua, sniper fire started cracking. Duffy hit the

ground and all of a sudden, "My helmet shot up in the air about four feet. Let me tell you, I started looking for a hole to crawl into."

The round went through the steel pot and liner, put holes in seven letters and three photographs Duffy was carrying in his helmet. There was one more photo and it was next to his head. That photo was not touched.

Private First Class Don E. Brock was just starting to inflate his air mattress when sniper fire made him hit the ground. About the fifth incoming round hit Brock's helmet, grazed the liner, and left a hole as it exited.

Private First Class John A.

Jones was the third man to be convinced that even though a steel pot can get heavy it is a valuable item. There is no hole in his helmet but there is a nice crease right on the top where the sniper round hit.

ASTA Plt Recons Cong

PHU LOI, (1st INF-10) — Helping to give the 1st Infantry Division soldier the upper hand in the fight against Charlie are the men of Aerial Surveillance and Target Acquisition (ASTA) Platoon of Company B, 1st Aviation Battalion commanded by Maj. Cecil Cadile.

With a recon plane and a camera, Sp5 Robert Chandler and Sp4 Daniel Nason pave the way for future destruction of the VC by photographing base camp areas and infiltration routes.

Airfield, Route 4 Finished

PREK K'OK, (USAECV-10) — Despite sniper fire, a nail-biting battle with a multi-battalion Viet Cong force, and time spent helping kill 127 enemy, the engineers of the 73rd Engineer Group completed clearing and opening 18 miles of Route 4 from Tay Ninh to here.

In addition, the engineers of the 168th Engineer Battalion and attached units completed construction of a new Special Forces camp for use by a Civilian Irregular Defense Guard (CIDG) force and an airfield.

The airfield, called Fleetwood Field, was built for easier and faster movement of supplies to units operating in War Zone C. The 3100-foot runway was cleared with bulldozers then graded to allow for drainage during the coming monsoon season.

The airstrip is capable of handling C-130 cargo planes, which will reduce the need for armored convoys to use hazardous Route 4.

While the airfield was under construction, work began on the Special Forces camp. The CIDG force will live in the camp while protecting the airfield.

Oklahoma Resolution Lauds US War Effort

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10) — The Oklahoma Senate and House of Representatives sent to Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Commanding General, U.S. Army Vietnam, a copy of a resolution it created and adopted recently commending the American fighting men in Vietnam and supporting them in their efforts here.

The resolution was sent by its co-author, Senator Donnell D. Garrison, minority floor leader, with a letter which stated, "the overwhelming majority of the people in this country are squarely behind the magnificent efforts of the men in Vietnam who are putting forth."

Garrison was assisted in writing the resolution by House Representative Wiley Sparkman.

In part the resolution stated, "That the American fighting men be praised, commended and completely supported in the great efforts and sacrifices they are making for all of us in the far-off jungles and battlefields of Vietnam."

General Westmoreland said in a return letter of appreciation

Fleet Of Gunships Expanded

DONG TAM, (5th INF-10) — The waterborne fleet of artillery gunships of the 5th Battalion, 24th Artillery here has expanded from one experimental barge to three.

Each barge, armed with two 165mm howitzers and ammunition, can maneuver in the muddy waterways of the Mekong River, providing greater mobility to this 9th Division artillery unit since it can now reach areas of the delta otherwise inaccessible to land-based artillery.

Shortly after the artillery unit moved here, it became apparent that the lack of an adequate road network, the marshiness of the land, and the numerous waterways were going to pose a problem when it came to moving the big guns out for operational support.

The problem was solved by Capt. John A. Beiler, Battery B commander, one day as he stood gazing at a bare Navy barge anchored in the Dong Tam turning basin.

"I could see no reason why the guns couldn't be fired from the barges," Beiler recalled, "but of course there would have to be some modifications made."

First, two circles of steel bracing were welded to the surface of the barge and logs were secured against the inside for bracing.

"These are to support the trails of the gun as they bear the impact of rounds being fired," explained Beiler.

Next came a wall of steel plating around the perimeter of the barge to protect the gun crew from small arms fire. A sand bag bunker for the ammunition followed, and then an LC-1 (landing craft, medium) was tied alongside for preparation.

In time the fleet will grow to six vessels, each packing 165mm howitzers.



SIGHTING IN—Private First Class John H. Forsythe, of the 168th Engineer Battalion, surveys the area where his unit built an airstrip during Operation Junction City. (Photo by 168th ENGR-10)

Oriental Touch Added To Hut

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — Private First Class Bryan Talbert and three of his friends in the communications section of the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division thought that they would give their hut a little "oriental flavor."

Talbert, Sp4 Ronnie Culbertson, PFC John Wynas and PFC Edward Grigs built the split level grass shack while on Oper-

ation Pershing.

The four used bailing wire for a superstructure to hang large bundles of bamboo sheaves, and the pyramid of bamboo leaves hides a split-level bunker which is "home" for the four.

On the four sides of the bunker at ground level are places for sleeping quarters.

From a distance the hut looks like any other Vietnamese grass