

Independence Day:

Legacy To World

Almost two centuries ago the Declaration of Independence was set forth by representatives of the thirteen American colonies. Born with this document was a new nation and a new concept—that all men have the right to be free and to choose their own form of government; and that it is the duty of a government to protect the rights of the people against all threats. This blueprint for democracy drawn up by our Founding Fathers is a legacy that America has given the world.



General Palmer

Freedom for the United States of America was won by citizens willing to sacrifice their wealth, their homes, and their very lives. It is an inescapable truth that freedom demands a willingness of individuals to make any sacrifice to preserve it. Our American soldiers in Vietnam know this full well.

On this Independence Day of 1967, all Americans can feel only pride for our men whose selfless courage and devotion to duty are demonstrated daily on the field of battle. So long as our country is blessed with such citizen-soldiers, we Americans will enjoy the "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" held so precious by our forefathers.

Bruce Palmer Jr.
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Commanding Gen.

Choppers Plaster VC Unit

LONG THANH, (2d INF-10) — An estimated platoon-sized enemy force, which had surrounded a small 5th Infantry Division patrol, was mauled in a 30mm rocket and mini-gun attack by two Crusader gunships recently.

During the one-sided battle, the ground reconnaissance team killed two enemy and saw an enemy squad of about 10 absorb direct hits from 2.75-inch rockets and the mini-guns. The Americans suffered no casualties.

The recon experts spotted the enemy force attempting to encircle them in open marshland.

The Crusaders, gunships from D Troop, 3rd Recon Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry, scrambled and five minutes later were raking the enemy positions. A member of the recon team recalled, "During one of the passes we saw rockets exploding in the middle of the enemy squad".

While the gunships struck, the encircled ground soldiers killed two enemy soldiers. At another point in the action, members of the patrol pitched hand grenades at another enemy squad approaching from the rear.

During the contact no more than about 70 yards separated the opposing forces, but "the rockets and mini-guns were right on target and we even got splattered by mud as they exploded," recounted one of the men on the patrol.

A rescue helicopter extracted the team as the gunships were turning for final passes. Later, artillery pounded the area.



Vol. 3, No. 25

Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam

July 1, 1967

196th Rescues 25th Inf Units; Officer Wins SS

CHU LAI, (196th INF-10) — First Lieutenant Billy J. Tucker, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, who led his platoon to the aid of an American unit pinned down by a well-entrenched Viet Cong force, was recently awarded the Silver Star.

Tucker's 3rd Platoon, Company A, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry was moving north with the rest of his company when it was ordered to go to the aid of elements of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. The Wolfhounds were pinned down approximately 300

yards south of Tucker's position.

"We had gone about 1500 meters through unbearable jungle when the platoon on our left ran smack into a Viet Cong position," said Tucker. "My front element also came under heavy fire and I made an attempt to maneuver one squad up on line to try to break up the VC vantage point."

"With the rest of my platoon securing the right flank, I took a five-man fire team and rushed one of the VC bunkers, hoping to force the Cong to break con-

tact before dark. We wiped out the position but the VC refused to give up. They still had the platoon on the left pinned down. We tried to swing around to give the other platoon support, but the jungle was extremely thick. In order to keep from shooting each other, we were forced to hold back."

Finally the VC broke contact, allowing the relief force to continue toward the Wolfhounds. As they moved out, the infantrymen found three dead VC and captured several weapons.

Because of the fast-approaching darkness, the force was ordered to pull back to a nearby road and wait until morning before continuing. "It was really dark out there," said Tucker. "You couldn't see the person next to you. We had to form a sort of 'daisy chain' where the men held on to each other's packs. I still don't know how we made it to the road without losing anybody."

The companies moved out early the next morning with Tucker's platoon in the lead. They received sporadic fire all through the day, but no major contact was made. "Then just

(Continued on Back Page)



ONE DOWNED—Men of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division rush to the wreckage of a helicopter shot down by machinegun fire. Radioman at left maintains contact with circling gunships. (Photo by Sp5 J. P. Morgan, 1st CAV-10)

Attacking Enemy Force Stopped By Well-Prepared 4th Div Unit

VUNG DAT AM, (1st INF-10) — The attack that night was to be "a sure thing."

The night before, the men of Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division had been alert, but nothing happened. That evening they were prepared again. It was raining. The men huddled under ponchos and parkas while they waited.

The outpost, which had been prepared rapidly the evening before, was now more heavily fortified. Bunkers were stronger. Fields of fire were cleared. Booby traps with trip flares had been set out.

Around 11 p.m., the "sure thing" was on. The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) hit with B-40 rockets. One hit the only tank in the outpost.

"The rocket was the best

warning we could have had," said the company commander. "If someone was walking around, they immediately found a hole when that thing hit."

Two minutes later, 82mm mortar rounds began peppering the camp. "My listening posts (LP) requested to come in because they could hear rounds flying over their heads," said Lt. David E. Irizarry, 1st Platoon leader. "I couldn't let them move because the rounds were falling in our portion of the perimeter also."

"I could hear movement to my right and front," recalled PFC Bertram Brown, who was on an LP. "When the mortars stopped, I blew my claymore and made it."

Sixty to 80 mortar rounds had fallen within the confines of the

outpost when the enemy began their ground attack.

"We were waiting for Brown to get inside the perimeter," said Sgt. Dorris C. Miller. "Just as he made it, some VC tripped a flare about 15 feet behind him."

"As soon as the flare went off, I opened up with my M-60," said Sp4 Maurice J. Laws. "Then all I could see were bullets hitting in front of my position."

"One NVA was stumbling around and setting off all the flares," Miller said. "I don't know how Brown made it past the trip wires, but this VC was making up for it. The VC seemed in a daze. Finally he picked up a live claymore, igniting another flare, and began

(Continued on Back Page)

Command Marks 10th Year

TAN SON NHUT, (USARP-10) — The United States Army, Pacific (USARPAC) celebrates its tenth anniversary today. The command was born in Hawaii on July 1, 1957.

USARPAC's area of responsibility ranges from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea to the humid jungles of Vietnam. The sizes of the commands run from a few men on a small atoll manning a communications site to the quarter-million men comprising the United States Army in Vietnam.

The USARPAC soldier is defending the security of America in the Pacific. His mission also is to deter and contain the communist threat to peace whenever it arises and to help nations in the Pacific that want to be free from foreign domination.

USARPAC is the Army component command of the joint Pacific Command (PACOM). Before the organization was a year old, its advisors to the Republic of China were coming under fire at Quemoy and Matsu. Now in its tenth year, soldiers in Vietnam are under fire.

Battle-hardened and time-tested, the men of USARPAC defend the Pacific flank of the United States.