



IT'S A WAITING WAR—And it is also an action war. Staff Sergeant Stewart E. Nelson, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, sits in his assault vehicle waiting for word to move out on an operation.
(Photo by 1st Lt. Dave Loehr, 11th ACR-IO)

Tiny Scout Ship Aids Cav Platoon

BONG SON, (1st CAV-IO) — Hand grenades and strafing from a tiny OH-13 scout ship gave a 1st Cavalry Division platoon the opportunity to reorganize and set up defensive positions near here recently.

Lieutenant Walter T. Bolton II, was leading his platoon on

New Radio Is Tested

WASHINGTON, (ANP) — A small radio transmitter that can signal the location of supplies air-dropped into dense jungle vegetation is being tested in Vietnam by the Army.

The transmitter, called AN/GRT-13, is activated by a timer 30 to 60 seconds after an air-dropped bundle leaves the aircraft.

It marks the landing site with a tone-modulated signal of sufficient strength to be detected through one-half mile of jungle growth. Ground forces can home in on the signal with a special antenna attached to a standard very-high frequency FM radio.

The instrument, which weighs less than 20 pounds, is being evaluated by the Army Concept Team in Vietnam. At the same time, the Army Test and Evaluation Command is conducting tests at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

a reconnaissance-ambush mission when the men from the 1st Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, clashed with a heavily entrenched communist force near the village of Phoung Du.

After setting up hasty defensive positions, Bolton and two of his men, Spt William H. Hill and PFC Glen Montgomery, moved to a forward vantage point where they received machinegun and small arms fire.

Bolton radioed the brigade's aviation scout section, which responded immediately. The aircraft kept the enemy at bay until the arrival of aerial rocket artillery, which, the scouts directed on target.

Commenting on the effectiveness of the aerial scouts and their small but deadly helicopters, Bolton said, "You can't beat them. They move fast and come in low, completely knocking the enemy off balance. This isn't the first time they've helped us, and I'm sure it won't be the last."

Hostile Contact

RUNG SAT ZONE, (5th INF-IO) — A 9th Infantry Division company missed contact with the Viet Cong, but did flush some hostile airborne warriors recently. Twenty men from Company A, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry lost a one-sided battle with a swarm of wasps.

Three-Day LRRP Mission Almost Ended On First Day

CHU LAI, (196th INF-IO) — Sergeant Michael W. Daniels of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) recently led his team on a three-day recon mission which almost ended the first night.

Daniels and his LRRP team were flown by helicopter to a hill northwest of here to set up a three-day observation post. As the team began the 72 hours of cautious watching, they heard shots from across the ridge. Another LRRP team, headed by Cpl. William Davis, was on a hill on the other side of the ridge and Daniels thought the men were trying to signal him.

He had his men fire some rounds in the air to acknowledge the signal. More shooting came from the other hill which did not sound like M-16 rifle fire. When the men heard M-79, machinegun, and carbine fire join in the chorus, they realized that Davis' team was under attack.

After several minutes of anxious listening, Daniels and his men saw the other LRRP team being extracted from their hill-top position by helicopter.

Daniels wondered if they had given their position away by signaling Davis on the other hill.

There was nothing to do but sit out and hope the Cong attacking Davis had not noticed Daniels' fire.

Soon, though, the worst began to happen. Sniper rounds began zinging into Daniels' exposed hilltop position from a hillside about 800 yards away. The LRRP team quickly called in artillery on the sniper. The first rounds were on target.

Knowing that they were in for a long night, the men put out their trip flares and claymore mines. About 9:15 that night, they saw two flashlights bobbing around where their chopper had landed. Soon the men with the flashlights began following the trail the team had taken to reach its position. "We just watched and held our breath," recalled Daniels. "We didn't want to make contact and could only hope they wouldn't see us in the dark."

The "no contact" rule went out the window in the next few minutes when PFC Mark Brennan heard men moving toward him from less than 50 yards away. Brennan shot a hand illumination flare which exposed two VC, both armed. The LRRP killed them instantly.

Then the rest of the VC, who had remained at the bottom of the hill, opened up on the LRRP with carbines and automatic weapons.

Daniels, meanwhile, was calling for helicopter gunships from Task Force Oregon. Two Firebirds from the 161st Aviation Company answered the call with machineguns and blazing rockets, working over the sides and bottom of the hill. Enemy fire knocked a machinegun half off its mount. The gun went wild and sprayed a stream of tracers over the hilltop and into the LRRP's position. None of Daniels' men were hit.

The VC, who began to retreat, received a parting shot when Daniels called in artillery. Illumination rounds from the guns enabled the LRRP to direct the deadly explosives on the enemy, who were fleeing into the woods.

The LRRP quickly moved to another side of the hilltop, hoping to prevent more probes. Later in the night the men heard whispered talk on the hillside and on the hilltop. Not wanting another encounter with the large force of VC, each man lay silent. Their silence paid off and the probing element finally decided the Americans had left.

Vietnam Communique

173rd Airborne Brigade-Operation Greely, a battalion-sized operation south-southwest of New Dak To, reported light contact until June 22. Early that morning a reinforced company on a search mission engaged two battalion-sized NVA forces. The paratroopers were reinforced by two additional companies in a battle that lasted for seven hours. Reports list 105 enemy and 76 paratroopers killed. Thirty-four men from the 173rd were wounded. Twenty-eight individual and four crew-served weapons were captured.

1st Infantry Division-Operation Billings was terminated recently. This was a search and destroy operation 45 miles north of Saigon. The multi-brigade operation resulted in 347 enemy and 45 infantrymen killed. Four individual and four crew-served weapons were captured along with 15 grenades.

1st Cavalry Division-Search and destroy Operation Pershing centering on Phu My has reported scattered contacts with the enemy. Eighty-four enemy and 12 cavalrymen were killed during three days. In the An Lao Valley and on the Bong Son Plain, also in the "Pershing" operational area, 44 enemy have been killed as opposed to one American.

9th Infantry Division-Operation Entebbe reported heavy contact with what was believed to have been the 5th Viet Cong Local Force Battalion. A battalion from the 9th Inf. and Navy River Assault Force units were operating in Long An Province. During a six hour and 40 minute period, 250 VC and 48 infantrymen were killed, three suspects detained, and nine individual weapons captured. Operation Pershing, in Binh Dinh Province, reported 17 enemy and 17 infantrymen killed during one day's contacts.

25th Infantry Division-The 3rd

Brigade, part of Task Force Oregon, reported two days of contact with the enemy south of Quang Ngai City. Seventy-five enemy were killed and six infantrymen wounded. Three individual weapons were captured.

Free World Forces-The 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment terminated seven-day Operation Geraldton recently 15 miles east of Ba Ria. One enemy was killed, 16 suspects detained, and two individual weapons captured. The 26th Regiment, Capital Republic of Korea Infantry Division engaged an unknown-sized enemy force near Song Cau for two and one half hours and killed 43 enemy. There were no friendly casualties.

