

# 146 foe die attacking three bases

Cannoneers, clerks, cooks and helicopter gunners of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) killed 146 enemy soldiers during a 24-hour period starting early Nov. 4 as Fire Bases Ike, Buttons and Ellen were hit with almost simultaneous mortar and sapper attacks.

Forty-eight enemy soldiers were killed at FB Ike, 16 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City, by men of the 2nd Bn., 5th Cav., 1st Cavalry Division, aided by gunships of A and B Troops, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav., an Air Force C119 gunship and ARVN artillery.

Sixty-three enemy soldiers were killed at FB Buttons, three miles southwest of Song Be, by clerks of the 1st Bn., 77th Art.

Thirty-five enemy soldiers were killed in the attack of FB Ellen by Skytroopers of Co. E, 1st Bn., 8th Cav., four miles southwest of Phuoc Vinh.

One hundred-seventeen retreating Reds were killed near the three bases in several separate contacts before mid-night Nov. 4 and 20 NVA regulars were killed on Nov. 5, for a total of 289 enemy killed in a 48-hour period.

## 4th Inf Div

On Nov. 6, the command post of the 1st Bn., 14th Inf., 4th Infantry Division, located 19 miles south of Pleiku City was hit by Communist forces. The 4th Infantry Division soldiers, supported by helicopter gunships and a U.S. Air Force C119 gunship from the 14th Special Operations Wing, killed 40 members of an estimated enemy company during a five-hour battle.

In addition, one suspect was detained, 11 individual weapons, five RPG launchers, four home-made B-40 launchers and 61 satchel charges were captured.

In other action the same day, elements of the 3rd Bde. were set upon by an unknown-sized enemy force 14 miles southwest of Kontum and three enemy soldiers were killed.

A day earlier, gunships from B Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cav., killed 15 enemy soldiers in three separate engagements eight miles southwest of Duc Lap.

## 1st A&V Bde

Helicopter gunships from C Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cav., 1st Aviation Brigade, killed 24 enemy soldiers in an hour battle with an unknown-sized enemy force five miles southeast of Tri Ton on Nov. 7.

Three days earlier, gunship crews of the 114th Assault Helicopter Co., 13th Combat Aviation Bn., 1st Aviation Bn., on a visual recon mission, attacked an unknown-sized enemy force in a bunker complex three miles southeast of Tieu Can killing 12 enemy soldiers, destroying 15 bunkers and eight other structures.

On Nov. 8, gunships of the 240th Assault Helicopter Co. killed seven VC soldiers in the marshy jungle 10 miles south of Long Thanh Village.

The same day, another light fire team killed four VC soldiers while working with a patrol of the 25th ARVN Infantry Division 15 miles south of Saigon.

## 25th Inf Div

Companies A, B and C, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf., 25th Infantry Division, and gunships of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav., killed 26 NVA in a nine-hour battle on Nov. 5 in the dense woods six miles northeast of Trang Bang. Six AK-47 rifles, two K54 pistols, one SKS rifle and one RPG launcher were captured in the action.

In other action the same day, four NVA were killed 10 miles north of Cu Chi by gunships of the 116th Assault Helicopter Co.

Fourteen enemy were killed on Nov. 6 seven miles west of Ben Cat by patrolling soldiers of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf.

On Nov. 3, men of Co. B, 4th Bn., 9th Inf., killed three NVA soldiers seven miles west of Go Dau Ha.

Gunships of the 116th Assault Helicopter Co. killed four enemy in a clash three miles east of Trang Bang on Nov. 7. Later in the day, soldiers of Co. D, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf., killed another four enemy in the same area.

A day later, soldiers of the 2nd Bn.,

14th Inf., and gunships of the 116th Assault Helicopter Co. killed three NVA regulars three miles north of Cu Chi.

The next day, infantrymen of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf., killed two enemy soldiers attempting to hide in a hedgerow nine miles northwest of Cu Chi.

## 199th Inf Bde

On Nov. 8, 16 enemy soldiers were killed by elements of Co. C, 3rd Bn., 7th Inf., 199th Light Infantry Brigade, and soldiers from the 176th Regional Forces Platoon of Binh Phu Village in a battle five miles east of Xuan Loc.

In other action the same day, Redcatchers killed three NVA, detained one enemy soldier, destroyed 12 bunkers and captured an AK47 rifle, 1,600 pounds of rice and 300 pounds of tea.

A day later, riflemen of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf., killed two NVA regulars in the jungle five miles southeast of Xuan Loc.

Elsewhere, men of Co. C, 3rd Bn., 7th Inf., destroyed 30 to 40 enemy sleeping positions and 15 cooking positions in a sweep 18 miles northwest of Xuan Loc.

The same day, elements of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cav., destroyed 12 bunkers, two 50-yard trenches and two camp fire sites in the dense vegetation 11 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

Three NVA were killed by soldiers of Co. A, 3rd Bn., 7th Inf., on Nov. 7 in a two-hour running battle with an unknown-sized enemy force 10 miles south of Xuan Loc.

Earlier in the week, two enemy soldiers were killed by elements of Recon Team E, 3rd Bn., 7th Inf., in the jungle seven miles east of Xuan Loc.

## 173rd Abn Bde

A fire support base 10 miles north of Bong Son was attacked on Nov. 3 by an unknown number of enemy sappers. Men

of Co. A, 4th Bn., 503rd Inf., 173rd Airborne Brigade, and elements of the 3rd Bn., 319th Arty., stopped the sappers with direct artillery, small arms and automatic weapons fire killing 18.

The same day, FB Stinger, occupied by elements of the same 3rd Bn., 319th Arty., received heavy fire from all sides by an estimated enemy company nine miles northwest of Bong Son.

Eight enemy soldiers were killed in the attack, one detained, two individual and three crew-served weapons and 25 grenades captured.

On Nov. 8, elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade's, 3rd Bn., supported by an aero-rifle platoon of C Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cav., 1st Aviation Brigade, detained 30 VC suspects after landing in an area 11 miles northeast of Phuoc Vinh.

The soldiers of the inserted platoon found a tunnel complex containing a munitions cache of 12 individual weapons, one crew-served weapon, three B40 rockets, assorted clothing and web gear.

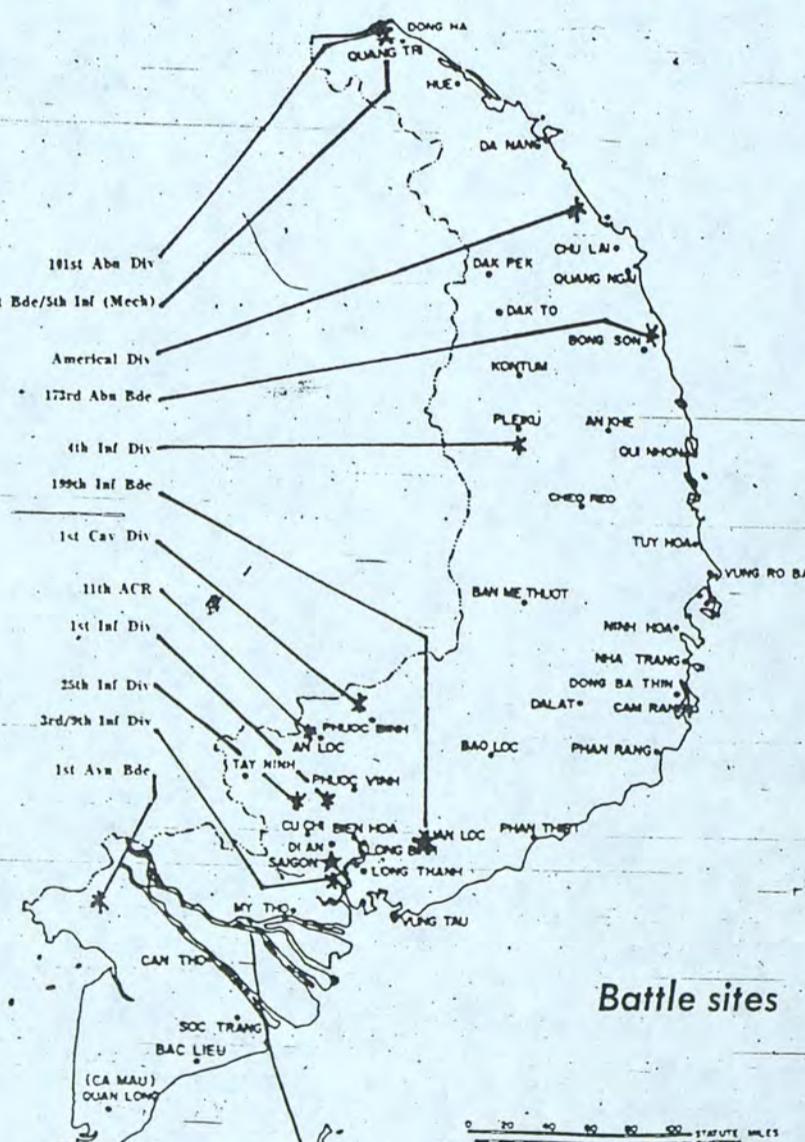
## 11th ACR

Elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment detained one VC suspect, destroyed four enemy mines and captured four plastic-wrapped mines Nov. 4 on Highway 13 near An Loc.

## 1st Cav Div

On Nov. 3, rangers of Co. H, 75th Inf., 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), while on a recon patrol six miles southwest of Song Be sighted 24 NVA soldiers and radioed for hunter-killer teams from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav. In the 30-minute ensuing battle, 41 enemy were killed.

Eighteen enemy soldiers were killed on Nov. 5, by hunter-killer teams and gunships of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav., 10 miles south of Song Be.



Battle sites

Helicopter gunships of B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav., 1st Cavalry Division, killed 15 enemy in six separate air-to-ground actions six miles south of Bu Dop on Nov. 7.

A day earlier, a LOH from the air cavalry squadron called in gunships, tactical air strikes and artillery on an unknown number of enemy soldiers 11 miles south of Phuoc Vinh killing 18 enemy soldiers.

On Nov. 9, elements of the 3rd Co., 9th ARVN Bn., combining with Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division killed nine NVA soldiers in a five-hour battle 20 miles northeast of Tay Ninh.

## 3rd Bde, 9th Inf

Five VC soldiers were killed on Nov. 6 by members of Ranger Team 24, Co. E, 75th Inf., 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, on a trail 24 miles southwest of Saigon. Gunships of B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cav., assisted the soldiers in the action.

On Nov. 3, an ambush patrol of the 2nd Bn., 60th Inf., killed two enemy soldiers in the jungle northeast of Tan An.

The next day, Go Devils of the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, killed three VC soldiers in a small bunker complex 10 miles northeast of Tan An while men of the 5th Bn., 60th Inf., found three RPGs, two 82mm mortar rounds, two blocks of plastic explosive, one 107mm round, three grenades and an AK47 rifle in the same complex.

A day earlier, a ranger team from the 75th Rangers landed into the dense jungle eight miles north of Song Be and killed six VC soldiers in a 10-minute exchange of small arms fire.

## 101st Abn Div

Gunships from the 4th Aerial Arty., 77th Arty., 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), called in to support ARVN soldiers who were searching for a suspected enemy mortar position 300 yards south of the DMZ near Dong Ha, killed eight NVA soldiers on Nov. 7.

A day earlier, Screaming Eagles killed four enemy soldiers in a trio of contacts.

## 1st Inf Div

Six NVA soldiers were killed on Nov. 8, by men of the 1st Bde., 1st Infantry Division, aided by Navy riverboats of the 593rd River Division. The enemy soldier were killed as they were swimming in the Saigon River seven miles west of Ben Cat.

On Nov. 6, men of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., found an enemy base camp seven miles north of Lai Khe containing 38 82mm mortar fuses, 1,500 homemade grenades, three 16-pound blocks of plastic explosives, two eight-pound blocks of TNT, two M1 carbines, one 15-pound shape charge, one 25-pound shape charge, six Chicom grenades, six concussion grenades, one Bangalore torpedo, four fragmentation grenades, one SK rifle, one Russian-made rifle, two B1 rounds, a Chicom claymore mine and a gas mask.

## America Div

Riflemen of Co. B, 4th Bn., 21st Inf., Americal Division, killed four VC soldiers six miles southeast of Duc Pho on Nov. 5, by destroying a bunker-bomb shelter complex in which the enemy soldier were hiding.

On Nov. 10, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., riflemen killed two VC soldiers nine miles northwest of Tam Ky. Later in the day, Co. C directed artillery killed two more enemy soldiers 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

On Nov. 4, men of Co. C, 1st Bn., 46th Inf., killed three VC soldiers while on a patrol in the low rolling hills 11 miles southeast of Tam Ky.

On Nov. 7, infantrymen of Co. D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., killed two VC soldiers in two incidents 21 miles west of Tam Ky.

## 1st Bde, 5th Inf Div

Red Devils of the 1st Bde., 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), discovered four NVA bodies Nov. 9 in a 10-bunker complex 19 miles northwest of Canh Tri City. The enemy troops were estimated to have been killed by air strikes in the area five to seven days earlier.

# Joint volley blunts attack



**PUMPING HOT LEAD** towards suspected enemy movement, this .50-caliber machine gun shatters the stillness of the hamlet's night. Co. B, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf., 25th Infantry Division, and Vietnamese Popular Forces share the guard responsibilities protecting border villages.

## Single day's action

### Sweep yields 11 NVA dead

**LZ BAYONET** — Soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army recently learned that it doesn't pay to mess around with the cavalry.

They learned that bitter lesson in the "Horseshoe" area on the Song Tra Khuc River, 20 miles south of Chu Lai, headquarters of the American Division. The "teachers" were the men of H Troop, 17th Cav., 198th Bde., who were sweeping the area.

The action began early in the morning when the armored personnel carriers (APCs) moved out of their night defensive positions. The 3rd platoon, commanded by Lt. Paul Wielke, saw two NVA soldiers out of range on the other side of the river.

"But four more popped up ahead of us," said Spec. 4 Herbert Brady, a combat photographer from the 523rd Signal Bn., who was riding on the lead APC.

"The river bank was too steep and they couldn't get down until they came to a break in the bank," said Brady. "The tracks chased them and fired on them as they tried to cross the river."

The .50-caliber machine guns and smaller weapons killed one

of the NVA soldiers, and wounded another who was taken along with two AK47s and two Chinese Communist hand grenades.

The 1st platoon, following immediately behind, came across a vast tunnel complex. When an NVA sniper opened up on the vehicles from a spider hole, the cavalrymen returned fire, killing the enemy soldier and capturing another AK47 and two more Chicom grenades.

Dismounting, the soldiers moved to check out the tunnels. Tunnel rats moved through the maze, paving the way with fragmentation grenades. A search of the complex turned up seven dead NVA soldiers, six AK47s, 27 Chicom grenades, four RPGs and four loaded rucksacks.

Turning south, the troop proceeded further into the Horseshoe and soon came across another set of tunnels, this one apparently deserted.

Turning north, a track commander saw 10 NVA regulars fleeing up a hillside and called for gunship support. As the APCs moved cautiously into the area to check out the results,

**LZ CENTER** — Two 196th Inf. Bde., Americal Division, companies along with artillery from a fire base recently teamed up to prevent an estimated company-sized NVA force from overrunning a fortified hill in Hiep Duc Valley.

A sweep of the area by elements of Co. C later revealed 17 NVA dead attributed to artillery and infantry efforts. Countless Chicom grenades were found intact along with mortar boxes and casings.

Co. A, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., had the job of assisting Co. B, which was in hot pursuit of a company of NVA soldiers near Vinh Dong, a hill one mile southwest of here.

"Once on Vinh Dong, we had a clear view of the valley below," said Lt. Alan Freeman, forward observer from Btry. B, 3rd Bn., 2nd Arty.

The mountainous terrain prevented Co. A from placing effective fire on the Communist mortar platoon. Freeman requested artillery support from his battery here. In no time 105mm howitzer rounds were impacting on the NVA location, silencing the tube and killing seven NVA soldiers.

With the mortar tube knocked out, Co. A figured the enemy had been discouraged.

Late in the evening the Communists moved up the north side of Vinh Dong, shooting sporadic RPG rounds. Again the forward observer requested artillery support. The guns responded with illumination and high explosive rounds.

"It was the first time I ever saw the enemy attack under illumination," said Freeman.

Well secured in foxholes on top of the hill, the 60 men of Co. A blasted the NVA element with a 106mm recoilless rifle, M79 grenade launchers, and CS gas grenades. Meanwhile Co. C, which had been notified of the attack, had moved up behind the enemy and was firing small arms. After 30 minutes of intense fighting the NVA unit retreated.

### Combined firepower routs enemy platoon

**CAMP RADCLIFF** — The combined firepower of artillery, armor, and helicopter gunships was brought to bear and resulted in the deaths of 16 NVA soldiers during a two-hour battle one mile east of An Khe.

A point on Highway 19 between An Khe and Qui Nhon secured by two Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Bn., 69th Armor, was approached by an estimated platoon-sized element of NVA soldiers.

Headquarters Co. opened up with .50-caliber machine gun fire and small arms fire.

The enemy countered with AK47 rifle and B40 rocket fire.

Five more APCs and an M48 tank added their firepower to the skirmish.

Gunrunner "B" model gunships, piloted by WO Robert Bell and WO Lawrence Hanf raked the area with rocket and minigun fire.

During the initial sweep of the area contact was made with an estimated platoon-sized NVA element. Gunships expended rockets and miniguns on the area.

In addition, 105mm howitzer high explosives fired by Btry. A, 2nd Bn., 17th Arty., from here pounded the enemy location.

"The maintenance section reacted quickly and played a major role in the contact," complimented Capt. Rodger Arango, Headquarters Co. commander.

Maintenance APC driver Spec. 5 Raymond Maney was credited with killing one NVA soldier.

A second sweep of the area revealed two four-foot deep bunkers, two fighting positions and an observation post.

Recovered enemy equipment included four AK47 rifles, three RPG rounds, a B40 rocket launcher, three star clusters, two NVA pith helmets, a protective mask, and a spool of communications wire.



**KEEPING A SHARP** eye out for the enemy, this cavalryman from the Americal Division relays what he sees to the command vehicle. His unit, the 1st Squadron,

1st Cav., is making its way through thick tropical jungles near Minh Long, south of Quang Ngai.

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