

Heavy fighting erupts near DMZ

Elements of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) killed 178 NVA soldiers in three days of heavy fighting Nov. 11-13 at the northern tip of I Corps, three miles south of the DMZ.

Infantrymen from the division with tanks and APCs were searching the region along the DMZ when the fighting, often at close range, erupted.

The abortive assault, the single largest along the DMZ since the U.S. bombing halt, was led by members of the 26th NVA Regiment which had been operating just south of the DMZ for the past several months.

1st Cav Div

Gunships from Co. D, 229th Aviation Bn., 11th Avn. Group, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) teamed with Air Force fighter-bombers to destroy a large NVA bunker complex nine miles northwest of Tay Ninh City on Nov. 10, killing 37 of its occupants.

The enemy installation, first discovered on Nov. 7 by LOHs from the 1st Cavalry Division, was the target of numerous bombing runs which destroyed the triple canopy jungle concealing the bunkers revealing the complex to be much larger than first anticipated.

The complex was estimated to cover an area of at least 1,000 yards square and contain from 150 to 200 bunkers.

Infantrymen of Co. A, 1st Bn., 12th Cav., working an area 22 miles northwest of Phu Khuong engaged an unknown number of enemy soldiers on Nov. 11. Eighteen enemy were killed in the hour-long fight involving artillery fire and tactical air strikes.

On Nov. 16, troopers of Co. A, 1st Bn., 7th Cav. on a routine patrol 16 miles northwest of Song Be received fire from an NVA force in bunkers and radioed for artillery and gunship support.

During the 90-minute fight that ensued, the patrol killed 16 enemy soldiers.

Two days earlier, men from Co. C, 1st Bn., 12th Cav., with gunship and artillery support, killed 16 enemy soldiers.

Less than two miles away, men of the battalion's Co. B killed five enemy soldiers in a brief fire fight, while troops of Co. D killed three men of an estimated platoon-sized enemy force 12 miles west of Song Be.

On Nov. 13, gunships of Co. B, 229th Assault Helicopter Bn. and artillery fire from Fire Base Grant each were responsible for killing five enemy soldiers one mile east of Nui Ba Den.

Seven soldiers were killed on Nov. 12 by gunships of A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav., in two brief actions 20 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City.

On Nov. 14, a gunship team from the 229th Assault Helicopter Co. spotted several lights filtering up through the dense jungles 10 miles northeast of Tay Ninh. The choppers engaged the targets and the bodies of nine enemy soldiers were seen in the illuminated strike area.

1st Bde, 5th Inf

Companies B and C, 1st Bn., 61st Inf. and Co. D, 1st Bn., 11th Inf., 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) pursued an enemy force over three mountains and killed 11 Communists three miles south of the DMZ on Nov. 11.

Two enemy soldiers were detained, two RPG launchers, five RPG rounds, one light machine gun, eight AK47 rifles, one SKS rifle and 27 Chicom grenades were captured in the action.

1st Inf Div

Nineteen NVA regulars were killed and seven suspects detained on Nov. 11 by members of Co. A, 1st Bn., 18th Inf., 1st Infantry Division 12 miles east of Lai Khe in an ambush which trapped an estimated 35 to 40 enemy soldiers.

On Nov. 10, a hunter-killer team from D Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cav. killed five enemy soldiers on a trail 20 miles east of Lai Khe.

The same day, men of D Troop fought and killed five enemy moving near a stream bed in a swampy region five miles east of Lai Khe.

Later in the week, two platoons of Co. C, 1st Bn., 26th Inf. found a munitions cache in the Song Be Corridor, 10 miles northeast of Lai Khe.

Buried along the east bank of a stream, the infantrymen found the cache containing 58 82mm mortar rounds, 20 RPG7 rounds with 17 boosters, three 107mm rockets and nine other assorted rocket rounds.

Men of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. discovered a deserted enemy base camp 13 miles northeast of Lai Khe on Nov. 13. The base camp contained 15 enemy bunkers, eight B40 rockets, three B40 boosters, 100 pounds of rice and 25 AK47 rounds.

101st Abn Div

Soldiers of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 501st Inf., 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), moved to the scene of a recent clash with NVA forces and located the bodies of 19 enemy soldiers on Nov. 16.

The same day, men of Co. D, 3rd Bn., 187th Inf. killed three NVA soldiers in a brief skirmish 22 miles northwest of Hue.

A day earlier, men of Co. A, 1st Bn., 502nd Inf. killed a lone NVA soldier six miles south of the division's base camp at Camp Eagle.

On Nov. 11, one VC was killed and a VC finance officer with 50,000 piasters was detained by soldiers of Co. A, 3rd Bn., 187th Inf.

25th Inf Div

Forward air controllers of the 25th Infantry Division flying machine gun and rocket armed observation planes report-

ed killing eight NVA soldiers on Nov. 11 in the Ho Bo Woods, nine miles northwest of Cu Chi.

A day later men of Co. B, 3rd Bn., 22nd Inf. found a cache of 21,000 .30 caliber tracer rounds 12 miles northeast of Go Dau Ha.

On Nov. 15, gunships of the 269th Combat Aviation Bn., 116th Assault Helicopter Co. and the 25th Division's 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav. combined to support elements of the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. and the 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. to kill 12 NVA in a number of small clashes in the Citadel region.

The same day, track-mounted soldiers of the 4th Bn., 23rd Inf. killed seven enemy soldiers in a clash eight miles east of Tay Ninh City.

Elsewhere, a Hoi Chanh led men of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav. to a large weapons and munitions cache 10 miles northwest of Cu Chi.

Found in the enemy arsenal were two complete 60mm mortars, 12 light machine guns with 15 spare barrels, 42 cases of .30 caliber brass and seven wheel mounts for machine guns.

On Nov. 16, pilots of the division's Tactical Air Control Party reported killing four enemy in three air-to-ground actions nine and 10 miles southwest of Go Dau Ha.

199th Inf Bde

On Nov. 11, men of Co. M, 75th Inf., 199th Light Infantry Brigade engaged an estimated NVA company 22 miles northwest of Xuan Loc and killed five NVA regulars in a 15-minute skirmish.



CHECKING IN, an infantryman communicates with his unit as he combs the "Trapezoid" 25 miles northwest of Saigon for the remnants of a broken NVA regiment. The soldier's unit, the 1st Squadron, 4th Cav., 1st Inf. Division, was working with LOH-Cobra (hunter-killer) teams.

3rd Bde, 9th Inf

Infantrymen of Co. C, 5th Bn., 60th Inf., 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division came under small arms fire while on a patrol three miles northeast of Tan An on Nov. 13.

Artillery, Air Force jets and helicopter gunships of the 118th Assault Helicopter Co. and A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cav. were called in and blasted the enemy for three hours. Nineteen enemy soldiers were killed, five AK47 rifles and one Chicom grenade were captured in the action.

Two days earlier, men of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 47th Inf. engaged an unknown-sized enemy force at midnight four miles southwest of Tan An, killing 10 enemy with the aid of artillery and 81mm mortar fire.

The same day, infantrymen, supported by gunships of the 190th Assault Helicopter Co. killed 10 VC soldiers who were building bunkers five miles east of Tan An.

On Nov. 14, Companies A, C and D of the 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. battled a well-entrenched VC platoon for two hours six miles east of Tan An, killing nine enemy soldiers.

Eight VC were killed on Nov. 12 by elements of the 6th Bn., 31st Inf. supported by gunships 12 miles southeast of Saigon.

1st Avn Bde

On Nov. 13, gunships of the 335th Assault Helicopter Co., 17th Avn. Group, 1st Aviation Brigade patrolling six miles northwest of Tra Vinh attacked several enemy concentrations throughout the day and crews reported killing 36 enemy soldiers and destroying 24 enemy sampans.

Aero-rifle platoon members and LOH pilots of the 17th Combat Avn. Group, operating in support of the 4th Infantry Division out of Camp Radcliffe in the Central Highlands killed three NVA soldiers and detained five enemy suspects on Nov. 10.

America Div

Infantrymen of Co. D, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., America Division killed five enemy soldiers six miles northwest of Tam Ky on Nov. 10.

The same day men of Co. D, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. directed America fire down on five enemy killing all five in an action 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Nine VC were killed on Nov. 13 by gunships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Co. after two battles 16 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Elsewhere, soldiers of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. found 2,000 pounds of rice seven miles northwest of Tam Ky hidden in wicker baskets and jars.

4th Inf Div

LOHs and gunships from A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cav., 4th Infantry Division aided by U.S. Air Force jets killed 23 NVA soldiers and destroyed 77 bunkers, 40 foxholes and four huts in an afternoon of air-to-ground action on Nov. 20 miles from the Cambodian border.

On Nov. 14, soldiers of Companies C and B of the 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. fought with an estimated platoon of NVA regulars in the hills 20 miles northwest of Pleiku City, killing 15.

3rd Bde, 82nd Abn

Five enemy soldiers were killed by elements of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division in an air-to-ground clash in the Iron Triangle northwest of Saigon on Nov. 15.

5th Special Forces Grp

Green Berets of the 5th Special Forces Group found an abandoned enemy bunker complex eight miles northeast of Dau Tieng on Nov. 16, containing an assortment of enemy weapons.

Included in the find were 60 82mm mortar rounds, five Chicom claymore mines, five B40 rockets, 104 82mm mortar fuses, 220 pounds of rice, and five pounds of soap. The bunkers and the munitions were destroyed, the other items evacuated.