

Gunships, ARVN's blast 102 enemy

In a four-hour battle on Nov. 17, 102 enemy soldiers were killed by helicopter gunships of the 17th Combat Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade and 22nd ARVN Infantry Division soldiers near the Civilian Irregular Defense Group Camp at Bu Prag 110 miles northeast of Saigon.

Gunships of the 155th Assault Helicopter Co. were supporting the ARVN infantrymen in a sweep of the camp's perimeter where the fighting broke out. As the battle developed, gunships from the 170th, 92nd and 48th Assault Helicopter Companies moved in to support the Vietnamese forces. Seventy-two of the enemy were killed by gunship tactical air and artillery strikes.

1st Cav Div

In a battle two miles east of Bu Dop on Nov. 17, gunships of B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Air Cav., 1st Cavalry Division (airmobile), supported by cannon and tactical airstrikes, killed 28 enemy soldiers in concealed jungle positions.

A day earlier, six enemy were killed by a pair of Bde. LOHs in the jungles 18 miles east of Song Be.

In another area, infantrymen of Co. A, 1st Bn., 70th Av. walked unopposed into a complex of well-fortified bunkers several miles north of FB Jerri, where they found the bodies of 22 NVA soldiers killed by artillery strikes 10 days earlier.

Three sappers were killed the same day by men of Co. E, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. before they could penetrate the perimeter of FB Ellen.

Elsewhere, a ranger team of Co. H, 75th Inf. killed five NVA soldiers in the jungle 10 miles north of Song Be.

Eleven enemy soldiers were killed by gunships from Co. D, 229th Assault Helicopter Co. and six more were killed by U.S. Air Force air strikes in the thick jungle 12 miles southeast of FB Buttons on Nov. 23.

A day earlier, gunships of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav. killed seven enemy soldiers one mile south of FB Buttons.

Four enemy soldiers were killed on Nov. 21 by members of Co. H, 75th Infantry four miles southeast of FB Jamie.

1st Inf Div

A ground reconnaissance team from Co. A, 2nd Bn., 28th Inf., 1st Infantry Division killed 20 enemy soldiers with the aid of air-assaulted infantrymen of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. on Nov. 23, four miles southeast of Dau Tieng.

A day earlier, men of Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. found an abandoned enemy base camp, 12 miles north of Lai Khe. The camp which the men destroyed, contained 17 bunkers which were arranged in a circular configuration with interlocking trails.

On Nov. 17, a Hoi Chanh led infantrymen of A Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cav. and the 775th RF Co. to an underground munitions cache six miles southeast of Lai Khe.

The cache contained 63 60mm mortar rounds, 40 B41 rockets with 21 accompanying boosters, 31 B40 rockets, eight 82mm mortar rounds and 17 82mm fuses, four Chicom anti-personnel mines, two Chicom claymore mines three AK47 rifles and two carbines.

1st Log Cmd

On Nov. 22 a 300-vehicle 1st Logistical Command resupply column was making its way along Highway 14 on a run from Phouc Vinh to Song Be when it was hit by an NVA force.

Gunships from Co. D, 229th Aviation Bn., and men of Co. D, 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav., engaged the enemy and 14 NVA soldiers were killed in the unsuccessful ambush attempt.

199th Inf Bde

Men of Co. C, 5th Bn., 12th Inf., 199th Light Infantry Brigade killed an NVA rifleman during a mid-morning sweep on Nov. 18.

The soldier was guarding 100 sleeping positions embedded in the tangled jungle 16 miles northwest of Xuan Loc.

A day later, infantrymen of Co. C, 4th Bn., 12th Inf. discovered an apparent enemy finance center 12 miles northwest of Xuan Loc.

On Nov. 21 men of Co. C, 4th Bn., 12th Inf. detained three suspects and captured one AK47 rifle, one pistol and three rucksacks.

They also found four enemy bodies killed in a previous fire fight.

Earlier in the week, Redcatchers of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade destroyed six bunkers 10 miles northwest of Xuan Loc.

25th Inf Div

Men of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf., 25th Infantry Division engaged an estimated NVA platoon on Nov. 22 on a combat patrol in the Ho Bo Woods, 10 miles west of Ben Cat. With the aid of artillery strikes from the 1st Bn., 8th Arty. and gunships from the 116th Helicopter Co., eight NVA soldiers were killed.

The same day, another element of the same unit surprised a NVA force seven miles northeast of Trang Bang, killing seven enemy soldiers.

A day earlier, infantrymen of Co. D, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. killed seven enemy 10 miles northeast of Trang Bang and men of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. killed five more Communists in the same area a short time later.

Earlier in the day, soldiers of Co. A, 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav. killed three NVA regulars eight miles northeast of Trang Bang.

On Nov. 17, seven NVA soldiers were killed by helicopter gunships of D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav. in a contact seven miles north of Cu Chi.

Six NVA soldiers were killed on Nov. 19 by men of the 1st Bn., 27th Inf. working with gunships of the 116th Assault

Helicopter Co. five miles west of Cu Chi.

A day earlier, elements of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav. killed three NVA regulars and detained another three in action seven miles northeast of Trang Bang.

On Nov. 18, an aero-rifle platoon from D Troop killed four enemy soldiers three miles east of Trang Bang.

Five NVA regulars were killed on Nov. 20, men of the 1st Bn., teamed with men of the 940th Regional Forces Co. to kill five NVA regulars in a brief firefight six miles west of Cu Chi.

Americal Div

Gunships of D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cav., Americal Division and a combat-assaulted reconnaissance platoon of Co. E, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. killed six enemy and detained two in a 30-minute fire fight 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City on Nov. 23.

Four enemy soldiers were killed on Nov. 17 by elements of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. in a battle with an unknown-sized enemy force in the flatlands nine miles southwest of Tam Ky.

A day later, gunships of the 123rd Aviation Bn. clashed with a VC force, killing 10.

Elsewhere, seven VC were killed by Btry. A, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty. seven miles north of Tam Ky, and four enemy soldiers were killed by men of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. in a brief skirmish 15 miles north of Tam Ky.

Meanwhile, gunships of F Troop, 17th Air Cav. engaged a small party of VC riflemen 16 miles north of Tam Ky and killed four.

Fifteen miles northwest of Tam Ky almost 20,000 pounds of unpolished rice was found hidden in an abandoned hootch complex by infantrymen of Co. A, 3rd

Bn., 21st Inf., the same day.

On Nov. 22, soldiers of Co. B, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. fought an enemy force in the hills 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky, killing six.

A large enemy base camp containing 65 hootches, 31 individual fighting positions, two reinforced bunkers and a fighting trench which led to a 100-yard-long escape tunnel was found and destroyed by men of Co. B, 26th Engrs., 11 miles south of Chu Lai on Nov. 21.

4th Inf Div

Soldiers of Co. D, 1st Squadron, 10th Armored Cav., 4th Infantry Division silenced 10 NVA regulars during a four-hour firefight in the hills 25 miles south-east of Pleiku on Nov. 20.

The same day, tankers of Co. A, 69th Armor foiled an abortive ambush off Highway 19, 10 miles west of An Khe. Four enemy kills were recorded and one B40 rocket launcher, three B40 rockets, two satchel charges and two AK47 rifles were captured.

Track-mounted men of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. engaged an unknown-sized NVA force in the dense jungle 20 miles north-west of Pleiku on Nov. 22.

At the same time, one-half mile to the north Co. B, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. also engaged an unknown number of NVA soldiers. Six NVA regulars were killed in the joint action.

On Nov. 18, men of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. mounted on APCs were attacked by an NVA force 19 miles northwest of Pleiku.

Two NVA soldiers were killed in the fighting and 13 82mm mortar rounds, fuses, propellant charges, three hammocks, five rucksacks, entrenching tools, an NVA protective mask, two Chicom fields and assorted food supplies were captured.

Elsewhere, soldiers of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. walked unopposed into an enemy bunker complex one-half mile east of the fighting and destroyed 57 recoilless rifle positions.

Five enemy soldiers were killed on Nov. 23 when soldiers of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. were attacked at a night defensive position 16 miles northwest of Pleiku. The 4th Infantry Division soldiers fought off the enemy with the aid of artillery strikes from Btry. A, 4th Bn., 42nd Arty.

101st Abn Div

Soldiers of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 17th Cav., 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) aided as helicopter gunships killed seven NVA soldiers in action 15 miles southwest of Hue on Nov. 21.

Five NVA soldiers were killed on Nov. 22 by gunships of A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cav., 12 miles southwest of Hue by rocket and minigun fire.

1st Avn Bde

Gunships of the 155th Assault Helicopter Co., 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade, killed three NVA soldiers and destroyed one 75mm recoilless rifle on Nov. 18 near Bu Prag.

3rd Bde, 9th Inf Div

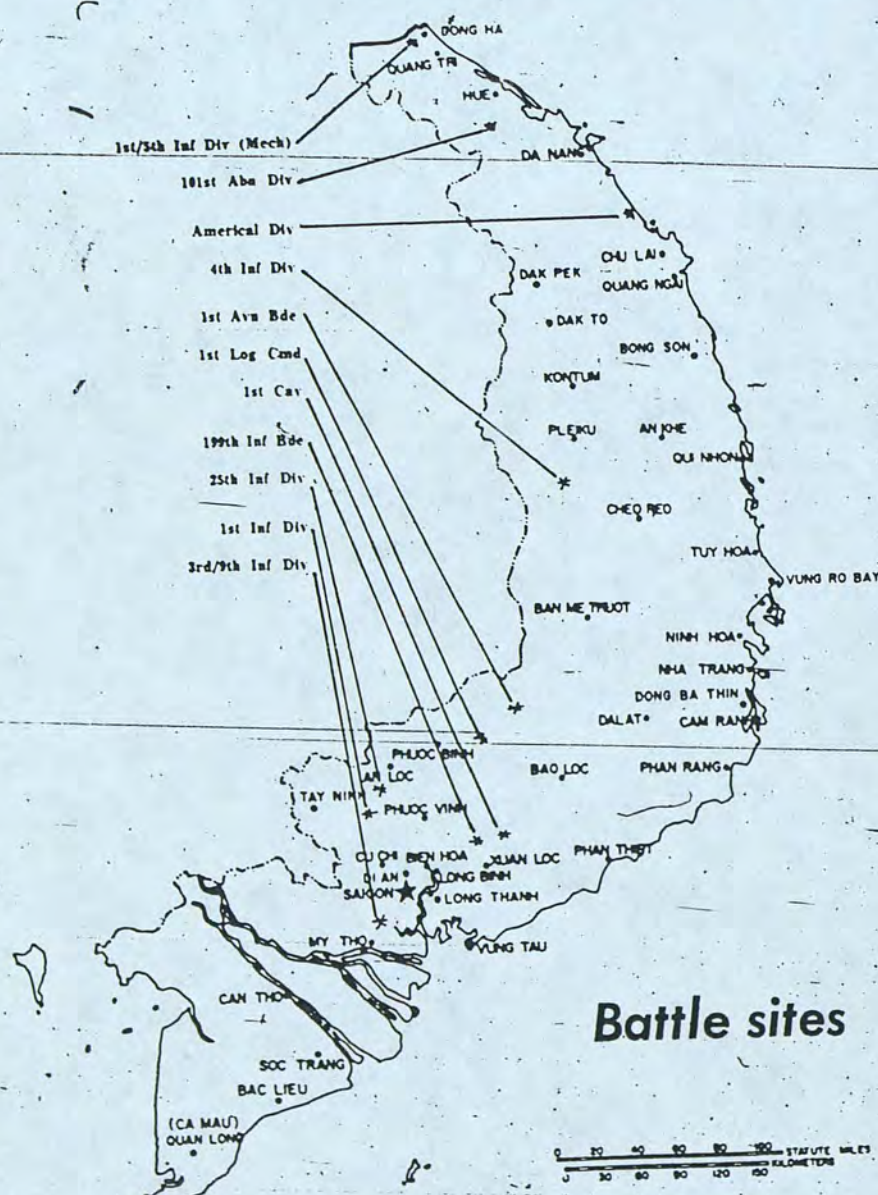
Helicopter gunships of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cav. and the 190th Assault Helicopter Co. combined with soldiers of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division and Republic of Vietnam Regional Forces infantrymen on Nov. 17 to kill 18 enemy soldiers and detain 11 others in an area six miles north-east of the brigade's Tan An basecamp.

A day later, four VC soldiers were killed by gunships of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cav., while supporting 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, infantrymen in an area 12 miles east of Tan An.

On Nov. 23, three enemy soldiers were killed by men of the 5th Bn., 60th Inf. in a firefight nine miles northeast of Tan An.

1st Bde, 5th Inf

On Nov. 20, men of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), patrolling five miles northwest of Cam Lo found the bodies of 11 NVA soldiers killed in a previous clash.



Team rigs chopper for quick extraction

TAN SON NHUT — Rapid location and quick recovery were key features of the Pipesmoke Recovery Team, 520th Transportation Bn., 34th General Support Group, as they extracted a downed Huey Cobra gunship near Tan An recently.

The Cobra, belonging to Co. B, 3rd Squad, 12th Aviation Group, was making a second rocket assault against an undetermined number of Viet Cong when it developed engine trouble and made a forced landing in a rice field.

Within minutes of the Cobra's landing, the Pipesmoke riggers were on their way to the site with the recovery ship, a CH-47 Chinook, close behind.

The four-man rigging team was dropped into the rice field and raced to the Cobra which was being secured by Co. B, 3rd Platoon, 47th Inf. of the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division.

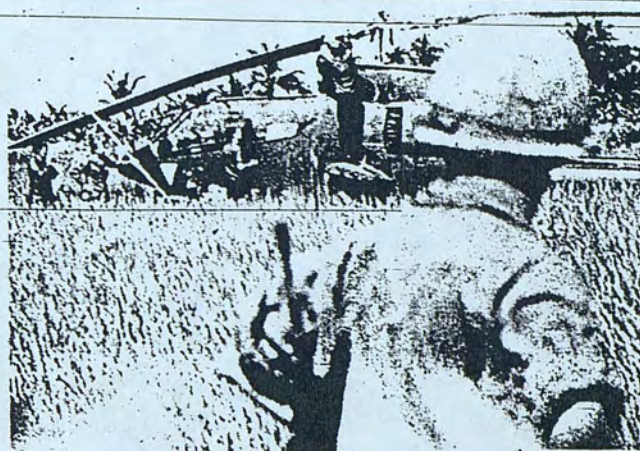
It took only three minutes as the team tied down the blades and harnessed the Cobra, preparing it for pickup.

With the rigging completed, the Chinook dropped from the sky with its umbilical cord swaying beneath. Within seconds the Cobra was hooked up and on its way to Di An for repairs.

Missions such as this save the U.S. millions of dollars by recovering aircraft which otherwise would have been lost or further damaged by enemy action.



Rigger secures blade to tail boom



Team inspects work



The "hook" is attached



Seconds later the Cobra's heading for home

