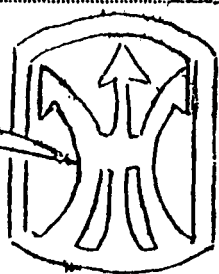


11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE



TRIDENT

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 21

DUC PHU, VIETNAM

JUNE 21, 1968

TWO WEEKS NET WARRIORS 110 VC KILLS

Enemy action the past two weeks in the 11th Brigade's operational area netted 110 enemy kills, 219 suspects detained for questioning, and 26 individual weapons captured as action continued light and scattered.

The "Jungle Warriors" conducted a combat assault into the Song Tra Khuc Valley 18 miles southwest of Quang Ngai, June 19. 1LT John P. Nolph's "Always First" company killed a total of 12 enemy and captured three K-44's and a carbine. All the VC were dressed in blue and green uniforms and wore pistol belts. "Shark" companies covering the op-
(RAP-UP Cont. on page 3)

1/20 PATROL PENETRATES ENEMY HELD PERIMETER

Students of modern warfare insist that since battle lines and trenches are a thing of the past, there is no such thing as "no man's land" in Vietnam. But don't try to sell that bill of goods to 2LT Douglas M. Falck and seven of his men from the 3d Platoon of the 11th Brigade's A Company 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry.

During a recent operation with the 198th Infantry

Brigade's 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, Alpha and Bravo Companies of 1st of the 20th and two companies of 1st of the 6th were charged with the task of dislodging a combined VC-NVA force from a ridgeline 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The ridgeline was a series of hilltops connected by saddles, and the estimated battalion-sized enemy force was firmly entrenched and equipped with mortars and automatic weapons.

"It took us three days to take that first hill," LT Falck recalled. "Heavy enemy machine-gun fire kept supporting gunships and resupply choppers away and we had a heck of a time getting up there with four companies."

When the task force moved to the second hilltop they found the enemy had abandoned it, but immediately began receiving heavy mortar and machine-gun fire from the third hill.

"We knew we had to take that hill in a hurry," CPT William Adams, A Company commander said, "because we were sitting ducks where we were."

Electing to employ some of Charlie's own tactics, A Company and a detachment from Delta, 1st
(1/20 Cont. on page 3)



SWIFTIES GUARD CHINA SEA

The South China Sea which washes the coastline of the southern I Corps of the 11th Infantry Brigade's area of operations is more than just a vast body of salt water; it is the very lifeblood of hundreds of villages and thousands of Vietnamese.

As such, the coastal waters of Vietnam have been, over the centuries, a second home for Vietnamese fishermen, and their fleets of sailing junks and sampans constitute a great floating village that lies off shore in areas that ground troops can never patrol.

This is where the mon of the U.S. Navy's Coastal Squadron One come in. Working with ships of the U.S. Coast Guard and Vietnamese Navy, the squadron's "Swiftboat" flotilla has become the seaborne equivalent of the 11th Brigade's search-and-clear and recon units.

Every morning, four of the flotilla's eight PCFs (patrol craft - fast) sail out of Chu Lai to take up stations for the next 24 hours. They meet the other boats of the detachment coming in from their patrol for a day of maintenance and "stand-down" in harbor.

The PCF-81 is one of these craft. Commanded by
(SWIFTIES Cont. on page 3)

COMMAND INFORMATION

In the Republic of Vietnam during 1967, traffic accidents cost the lives of 200 soldiers. More than 2,500 soldiers received disabling injuries.

In the Americal Division from December 26, 1967 to March 25 of this year the office of the Provost Marshall recorded 335 traffic violations. Of this total 133 were traffic accidents, including those involving civilians. Total traffic fatalities over this period in the Americal Division were 24. Five United States soldiers were killed and 45 injured. Also, 19 Vietnamese civilians were killed and 29 injured.

Why? One word, carelessness. In the Americal Division the two main causes of traffic accidents are failure to maintain control of the vehicle and improper backing. These two causes are the most constant recorded reasons for traffic accidents. When you drove back in the world you had to drive in accordance with regulations and conditions set down by your state. When you drove in another state you had to adhere to that state's regulations. Also, you had to alter your driving methods when road

conditions changed.

Vietnam's roads were not built for the trucks and equipment the U.S. Armed Forces use. One day on Vietnamese roads will tell you that.

Since the roads here were not built for you and YOU ARE A GUEST in the Republic of Vietnam, it is your responsibility to adjust your driving to meet the local conditions.

Driving rules in Vietnam do not vary much from those you learned in the states. There are differences, but there are differences when you drive from state to state back in the world.

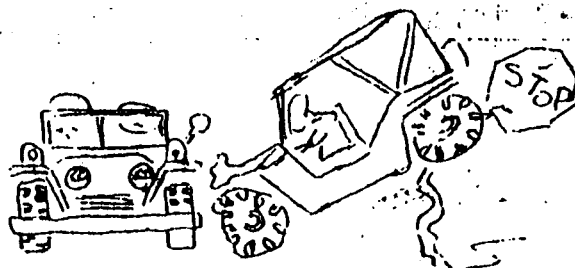
Learn the traffic regulations of the Republic of Vietnam and apply the driving skills you already know and you will have no problem.

The office of the Provost Marshall will be happy to answer any of your questions concerning

traffic rules in Vietnam.

Driving safety is everybody's responsibility. It saves lives and limbs. And those lives and limbs it saves, could be your own.

(Excerpted from Amcal Division Command Information Fact Sheet--TRAFFIC SAFETY)



BUY A SHARE IN FREEDOM

June is the second month of the annual campaign to encourage participation in the Army Savings Bond Program through the payroll savings plan.

The object of the "1968 Share in Freedom Campaign" according to Lieutenant General Bruce Palmer, USARPAC Dep. Comd. General, is to encourage all personnel, both military and civilian, to purchase U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares (U.S. Savings Notes) through the payroll savings plan. Those who are already participating in the program will be given the opportunity to increase their present deduction.

Our support in Vietnam of the Army Savings Program has been recognized by the Army Chief of Staff, who stated that our participation rate has set an example in leadership for the rest of the Army to emulate; and by the

Commander in Chief, U.S. Army, Pacific, who announced that the USARPAC participation rate is largely a reflection of our rate.

This year's "share in

freedom campaign" is important to all of us. The need for wise dollar management of the public debt, for protecting the value of the dollar, for providing economic as well as military strength--these are challenges for every citizen, but especially for those who serve in the Armed Forces.

Buy Savings Bonds to help the future of the U.S.

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2
(1/20 Cont. from page 1)
of the 6th moved across the saddle to the third hill in the early morning hours and set up in fire support positions while LT Falck and his group began a probe of the enemy position.

"We left the woodline about 3:30 in the morning and made for a small knoll about halfway to the top," PFC Gerald Rudolph, Falck's RTO related. "When we reached the knoll LT Falck took a look through the starlight scope and spotted two VC, so we stopped and called in artillery fire."

When he looked again he saw nothing and the patrol set out again and passed unchallenged through three barbed wire barriers.

"We reached the top of the hill and started checking bunkers, but no one seemed to be around," LT Falck continued. "We had almost decided that Charlie had abandoned this one too, when a VC suddenly poked his head out of a bunker just as I poked my head into it. We both stood there looking at each other for a stunned moment, and then I shot at (1/20 Cont. on page 4)

GUNSHIPS SURPRISE ENEMY

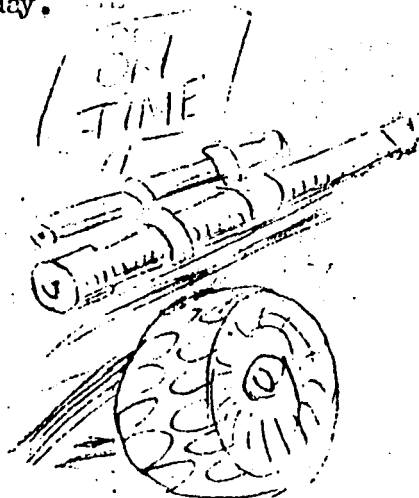
(WRAP-UP Cont. from page 1)
eration, engaged and killed three VC as the ground unit moved into the valley.

The same company, working in conjunction with Vietnamese Nationals June 11 killed two enemy soldiers and recovered two weapons during a cordon and search three miles north of Duc Pho.

The element, effected an early morning cordon and observed two VC evading at first light. The enemy ducked into a tunnel where they were killed in an exchange of grenades.

The complex yielded an M1 carbine, two loaded magazines and three hand grenades. Later, moving south, the same unit located another tunnel containing a K44 rifle and a homemade mine.

Another "Always First" unit, commanded by 1LT James O'Herron, killed seven VC in a series of contacts along the South China Sea coast, 15 miles north of Duc Pho the same day.



Artillery from a 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery battery sunk two sampans in the Tra Khuc River seven miles west of Quang Ngai. The "On Time" fire resulted in seven Viet Cong kills.

A 174th "Dolphin" Command and Control helicopter from the 3d of the 1st killed two VC, detained 11 suspects and captured a weapon June 15. The chopper was flying at 1500 feet when, according to the crew chief, SP5 Carl Martin, "The aircraft commander spotted a VC running into a hootch. We dropped down and put a smoke grenade into the hut. The soldier ran out with a weapon and we got him." The dead VC had an M1 carbine, six clips of ammunition and two hand grenades.

June 16 Aero Scout gunships from the 123d Avn Bn surprised a number of armed VC in the open six miles north of Quang Ngai. The Scouts killed three enemy, picked up two M1 carbines, a Thompson Sub-machine gun, 11 hand grenades and 250 rounds of ammo.

An "Old Guard" rifle company, commanded by CPT Kenneth N. Hendrix, killed two VC and recovered an M1 rifle, grenade and pistol belt after receiving heavy automatic weapons fire eight miles north west of Quang Ngai City June 13. Later that day the unit killed three more enemy in the same area.

An ambush patrol from the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry led by 2LT Lawrence R. Bullen, observed (WRAP-UP Cont. on page 4)

SWIFT BOATS GUARD BDE. FLANK

("SWIFTIES" Cont. from page 1)
Lieutenant (j.g.) Stephen D. Daulton and manned by a crew of five petty officers, the 50-foot, 22-ton swiftboat raises a wide wake as it churns south down the coast at a full speed of 27 knots.

PCF-81 often works the Jungle Warriors' coastline and are in frequent radio contact with Brigade units. The boat's three .50 cal. machine-guns and 81mm mortar have been called upon several times to lend fire support to troops on the beach, and the Army reciprocates by sending in "Shark" gunships when the "Swifties" run into something they can't handle.

"We actually have two missions on these patrols," LT Daulton said. "The first, of course, is to prevent the infiltration of arms, men and supplies through the coastal waters to the VC. The second is to support ground units on the beach. We keep up a good liaison with these units, and often act as a blocking force to keep the VC from evading along the beaches or escaping out to sea."

The Navymen also search junks and sampans for contraband and check the fishermen's papers. "Occasionally, we'll find someone who's hiding out in the fishing boats, dodging the draft," LT Daulton said. "One of our units caught two NVA officers that way."

"The 'Swifties' also have several heavy gun-running North Vietnamese trawlers to their credit, including (SWIFTIES" Cont. on page 4)

UP Cont. from pg. 3)
eight VC disembarking from a motor-powered boat June 12th. A brief exchange of fire left one enemy soldier killed. He was carrying a Russian flag, a picture of Ho Chi Minh, and a picture of himself in an NVA uniform.

PSYOPS teams collected 76 mortar rounds, 7 artillery shells, 23 M79 rounds, 8 hand grenades, one claymore, and 750 small arms rounds from Vietnamese citizens during the week.

(1/20 Cont. from page 1)

moment, and then I shot at him and threw a grenade into the bunker."

Then all hell broke loose. The noise roused the other VC and the patrol realized they had penetrated an occupied enemy perimeter.

"The VC must have been as surprised as we were," said SGT Sam Miller, 3d Platoon squad leader. "They started firing out from the perimeter, and each time one would pop up from his position we rolled a grenade down on him so we wouldn't give ourselves away."

When dawn broke, eight VC bodies were left on the hilltop, and several more were counted along their escape route.

"Charlie had occupied an old American fire base," LT Falck explained later. "A lot of the fortifications were still intact, and we figured he must have burrowed deep when the artillery started coming in and never expected us to try anything like that. We just walked right on through their perimeter."

A no man's land?...SGT Miller looked incredulous. "I hope to tell you"

(SWIFTIES Cont. from pg 1)
ding one that was chased down and blown up offshore near Duc Pho last March.

The patrol craft are aided in their stop-and-search missions among the fishing and cargo junks by a Vietnamese Navy petty officer who acts as translator and liaison man.

When the swiftboat calls on a boat to heave-to for boarding and search, the men stand ready in helmets and flak jackets, keeping their personal weapons - M16's and a gro-nade launcher - at the ready.

Suspicious behavior by a junk, or failure to halt and get ready to receive boarders, puts the men on immediate alert. "Finding anything out of order is pretty rare," LT Fulton added, "but if a boat's hiding something, the behavior of the crew

HEROIC WARRIORS HONORED

The 11th Infantry Brigade has recently presented the following awards to the persons listed:

The Silver Star Medal has been presented to SP4 Bobby W. Scott, D 4/3; SP4 Craig Stöcum, A, 4/3; LTC James A. Franklin, HHC, Bde; and 1LT Paul L. Sawyer Jr (posthumously).

The Soldiers Medal has been presented to 1SG Kenneth E. Moats, D 4/3; SSG Eddie C. Deyampert, E, 4/3; and PFC Denver A. Bush, D, 4/3.

The Bronze Star Medal for valor has been presented to: 2LT John P. Timbrell, D, 3/1; SSG James H. Stafford, D, 4/3; SP4 Willie A. Johnson, A, 4/3; MAJ John L. Pittman, HHC, Bde; SSG Domingo Domingues, B, 1/20; PFC Robert C. Windsor, D, 3/1; SGT Gordon W. Hough, E, 4/3; SP4 Cavanaugh Pertilla, D, 4/3; LTC James A. Franklin, HHC, Bde; SP4 Richard E. Ploski, E, 1/20; SP4 Joseph D. Williams, D, 4/3.

The Bronze Star Medal for achievement has been awarded to: SGT Bobby F. Reed, B, 4/3; SP4 James P. Babcock, C, 3/1; SGT Billy W. Cox, B, 3/1; SP4 James W. Monchamp, C, 3/1; 1LT George Bryant III, HHC 4/3; and CPT Robert L. Dallas, Jr., HHC, Bde.

The Army Commendation Medal for valor has been presented to: PFC William G. Morris, C, 3/1; HFC Jackie D. Branch, C, 3/1; SP4 Gerald S. House, HHC, Bde; SGTs David L. Johnson and James E. Hutchinson, 11th Signal; SP5 Thomas T. Guth, C, 3/1; and SP4 Otis McKinney Jr., A, 3/1.

will often give it away."

QM2C J.W. Deal, who is also the gunner's mate who handles the vessel's 81mm mortar explained the difficulty in using high-angle fire when the sea gets rough. "You have to keep your eye fixed on the sights, then fire at the exact second the boat steadies on the target." Surprisingly, it works, and units operating on the beach can depend on a fire mission from the PCFs when needed.

Engineman 2d Class Fred Karolczyk is charged with the care of the ship's two 480-hp. V-12 diesels. "We could go all the way to Hong Kong on a full load of fuel, at say, 10 knots," he said. "But we have to move fast a lot of the time. That burns up the fuel in a hurry." He noted that the boats, small as they are, are

tough. "One of the PCFs took a 57mm recoilless rifle hit in the engine compartment," he said. "It knocked out one of the diesels, but the boat still made it back."

Do's'n's Mate 3d Class James Lee, manning the helm in the wheelhouse remarked: "During the monsoons, patrolling in these boats can get pretty hairy. And they're dangerous to handle in the surf. Some PCFs that try chasing 'Charlie' in too close to shore can get caught in the surf and rolled over and over."

At dawn, the men head for the harbor as their relief sails out to take over. The crew starts in immediately with the cleanup and daily maintenance they will pull on board for the rest of the day in harbor, before going to sea again.