



# REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

Vol. 2, No. 12

June 17, 1970

## 5/12 Find 375 Tons Of Rice

By SP4 Peter Nagurny

FSB MYRON -- Over 375 tons of rice and more than 187,000 AK-47 rifle rounds were among the food and equipment seized by elements of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf in two separate cache areas in the "Fishhook" region approximately 105 miles north of Saigon.

"Enough supplies to arm and feed an NVA Regiment for two years," exclaimed one high ranking officer as he described the contents of the two caches discovered by the "Warriors."

### One of the Largest

An element of Alpha Co made the initial find by uncovering a small weapons cache on May 17th. The 3rd platoon reported finding 24 new SKS rifles hidden in a jungle supply area. A number of opened weapon boxes were also discovered in the same cache.

The following day the 1st platoon of Alpha Co seized one of the largest food caches found since the beginning of the Cambodian Campaign. Over 250,000 pounds of rice was

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A mortarman of Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf holds on to his rifle in the aftermath of an NVA attack on FSB Sun May 28th.

(Photo by SP4 Todd Weber)

## 'Warriors' Heist 'Charlie's' Arms

By SP4 David Hauser

FSB NANCY -- Keen sight and quick action on the part of "Eagle Warriors" 4th Bn, 12th Inf resulted in the capture and removal of an estimated two ton arms cache 26 miles northeast of Xuan Loc May 23rd-25th.

A total of 155 weapons were uncovered. The cache, containing 129 individual and 26 crew served weapons, was discovered in two separate locations just a few meters apart and less than two clicks northeast of the point where "Apache Warriors" found eight tons of rice recently.

After climbing nearly 200 meters in steep mountainous terrain the day before, the "Eagle Warriors" had nearly completed a sweep of trails May 23rd along a ridge line when they discovered the first cache.

"I thought we had come upon the enemy," asserted Sergeant Terrance Woodrow, squad leader from Minnetonka, Minn. Private First Class Bill Tipton, pointman from Maneca, Calif., came back to tell him of the poncho covered hootch over the stream bed to their front.

Woodrow added, "After hearing signal shots all day as we moved along we were looking for a fire fight." But much to the surprise of the "Warriors", a check of the area assisted by their scout dog team revealed no evidence of the enemy's immediate presence.

As they carefully set up security around the area Private First Class William Knight from San Diego, Calif., moved up closer to the hootch to see what

was inside and reported back to the squad that there weapons not enemy inside.

"We just couldn't believe what we saw," exclaimed Private First Class John Lowe a machine gunner from Bellflower, Calif. "We were amazed that they humped all this stuff up there!"

After checking the cache for possible booby traps, a closer look inside the hootch revealed 22 AK-47 rifles, 12 60mm mortars with 10 sights, six Chicom light machine guns, and an assortment of ammo

magazines along with web gear.

Next day, May 24th another squad moved out on a sweep of the high ground to the west while one squad stayed behind to secure the cache.

"We had moved about 100 meters into a bamboo thicket when we saw another identically built hootch on the side of a hill," recalled Sergeant George Honea, squad leader from Magnolia, Miss.

An RTO with the command post, Specialist Four Donsil

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Part of a huge weapon cache captured by 4/12 "Warriors" 26 miles northeast of Xuan Loc May 23rd.

## 'Cottonbalers' Repulse NVA Attack; Inflict Heavy Enemy Losses

By SP4 Dave Schaffer and SP4 Todd Weber

FSB SUN -- "Cottonbalers" of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf supported by Bravo Btry of the 2nd Bn, 35th Arty, elements of the 5th Bn, 35th Arty, and an element of the 720th Regional Forces repulsed a large scale attack on their position here May 28th, killing 43 enemy soldiers.

A mortar attack started what was to be a sporadic six hour battle.

Shortly before midnight, 60mm and 82mm mortar fire from the northwest impacted at the base. The small base received less than 25 rounds.

"Twelve rounds hit near our area," said Sergeant Charles Watkins, NCOIC of Echo Co's radar from Marion, Ind. "We had detected movement on radar and had Charlie Co's mortars fire at the radar sightings."

### Counter Fired Incoming Rounds

Reacting instantly, Charlie Co counter fired the incoming mortar rounds. "First we fired at the area of the radar sighting," explained Specialist Four Charles Weaver from Orange Beach, Ala., squad leader with Charlie mortars, "then we brought the tubes up and fired into the tree line around the perimeter."

In less than two hours the Charlie Co mortarmen fired 640 rounds and then rushed to positions on the berm to continue the fight.

Immediately following the mortar attack, an estimated three companies of NVA attacked the perimeter. The enemy attacked with RPGs, B-40 rockets, 51 caliber machine guns, a 75mm recoilless rifle, and small arms fire.

### Responded Immediately

The "Cottonbalers" returned the heavy enemy fire with combined 155mm howitzer at point blank range, two Dusters, two quad 50 caliber machine guns, automatic weapons, and small arms.

"Men on the perimeter responded immediately to the sudden attack," said Sergeant Tom Bogart a squad leader with Echo's 4.2 mortar from Racine, Wis. "This gave the mortars and 155s the critical amount of time to effectively engage the source of enemy fire."

### Lull In The Fighting

Typical of the instant reactions of everyone at "Sun" during the attack was the case of Specialist Four Wesley Rasmussen, a cook with headquarters Co from Schiller, Ill., "When the mortars started coming in I grabbed my weapon and ran to the berm and started firing."

About 2 a.m. a lull in the fighting allowed emergency resupply and dustoff helicopters to come in. The choppers were fired upon as sporadic fighting continued until about 5:30 a.m. when mortars fell again. Less than eight mortar impacted near the area. The enemy did not follow with a ground attack.

### Enemy Withdraw

The enemy withdrew leaving 36 of their dead behind. Two wounded detainees were taken and nine individual weapons were captured. Regional Forces casualties were light and US casualties were 19 wounded.

Subsequent sweeps of the area around "Sun" over the following few days uncovered seven more bodies raising the total killed to 43. Also found were nine AK-47s, six 60mm mortar rounds, four 82mm mortar rounds, 12 B-40 rounds, five B-40 launchers, four 25 pound Chicom claymores, 400 rounds of 7.62 machine gun rounds, and 23 AK-47 magazines.

### Impact Awards Presented

Impact awards were presented the next day by Colonel Robert W. Seltzer, commander of the 199th. Awards presented included 10 Bronze Stars for Valor and three Army Commendation Medals for Valor to members of Charlie Co, and eight Bronze Stars for Valor and five Army Commendation Medals for Valor to members of Echo Co.

## 'Cottonbalers' Kill Five

By SP4 David Schaffer

HAM TAN -- Elements of Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf entered a bunker complex 45 miles east of Xuan Loc May 18th to investigate when they engaged an enemy unit of an unknown size, killing five and recovering 2 AK-47s, one 82mm mortar, and two sewing machines.

"Our platoon was set up on a day ambush on a trail leading into a bunker complex," explained Specialist Four Ed Suffel, a machine gunner with the third platoon from Flint, Michigan. "About nine o'clock the first platoon went into the bunker complex and made contact."

The enemy initiated small arms fire against the first

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## Drug Abuse

Drug abuse has a particularly important consequence for the Armed Forces. Unlike civilians, those in the military service have a special dependency on each other. Each member of a patrol is dependent on his comrades for survival in a combat situation. No one can trust the fate of his unit to a man who may be under the influence of drugs.

The drug abuser in military service leaves himself open as a security risk—for example, he can be blackmailed by threat of exposure. He also can be led to sell or give away classified information to support his drug habit. Also, while under the influence of narcotics he may overlook or ignore proper security measures.

In the past several years there has been an increase in the misuse or abuse of beneficial drugs as well as dangerous drugs. The dangerous drugs, of primary interest here, can lead to psychological dependence, acute and even long lasting mental illness, panic, paranoia, recurrence, accidental death, and several scientists have reported that chromosomal damage or change can result.

A 1967 study of narcotic addicts from city areas showed that more than 80 percent had previously used marijuana. Of the much larger number of persons who use marijuana, scientists agree that few go on to use morphine and heroin. No direct cause-and-effect link between the use of marijuana and narcotics has been found. Researchers point out, however, a person predisposed to abuse one drug may be likely to abuse other, stronger drugs.

Marijuana is the drug most widely abused by Americans in Vietnam. Its use is particularly hazardous. While under its influence, concepts of time and space can be radically distorted, and response to an emergency becomes unpredictable.

The issues surrounding the use of dangerous drugs are many. Not the least of these is the law. The law breaking use of illicit drugs can jeopardize not only health but the pursuit of careers.

An arrest of conviction for marijuana possession or use of—is a felony. Conviction for a felony can prevent a person from being able to enter professions such as medicine, law, or teaching. Be aware of the social and legal facts about getting involved with drugs.

The Army sponsors a continuing Amnesty Program under which an individual may turn in his supply of the drugs he uses and go to his chaplain or surgeon for help. So long as he is not already being investigated or prosecuted for drug abuse, no one will say a word against him, and he will get the help he needs without fear of punishment.

The dangers of drug abuse is increased in Vietnam because the soldier finds himself in a combat zone where the lives of his friends may depend on him. The degree to which you meet and fulfill your duties in Vietnam will be a measure of your own maturity and your pride in yourself as a man.

### Seven States Offer Vietnam-era Bonus

Seven states have authorized a Vietnam-era veterans bonus.

Eligibility information may be obtained by contacting the appropriate offices in each state.

Connecticut: Office of the Treasurer, Vietnam Bonus Division, 15 Lewis St., Hartford, Conn. 06115.

Delaware: Veterans Military Pay Division, 1224 King St., Wilmington, Del. 19801.

Illinois: Illinois Veterans Commission, 211 W. Jefferson

St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

Louisiana: Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, Vietnam Bonus Division, Old State Capitol, Baton Rouge, La. 70801.

Massachusetts: Treasurer's Office, Room 227, State House, Boston, Mass. 02133.

Pennsylvania: Vietnam Bonus Bureau, 19 S. 2nd St., P.O. Box 415, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108.

South Dakota: Veterans Department, State Capitol, Pierre, S.D. 57501.

## LTC Crancer Commands 'Warriors'

By PFC Mark Robinson

FSB MYRON -- The 199th's 5th Bn, 12th Inf became the first unit to conduct a battalion change of command ceremony since allied military forces entered Cambodia.

Colonel Robert W. Selton, commander of the 199th, passed the "Warrior" battalion colors from the outgoing commander Colonel David A. Beckner to Lieutenant Colonel John W. Crancer at a ceremony held here May 26.

Col Beckner who has led the 5/12 "Warriors" since November 17, will assume the duties as the G-5 of II Field Force. He was promoted to his present rank May 13 while serving as the unit's commanding officer in Cambodia.

Present for the occasion was Major General George W. Casey, Commanding General of the 1st Cav Div. GEN Casey awarded Beckner the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action for his part in the aerial resupply mission flown May 13 while the unit was enroute to the 1st Cav Div.

COL Selton presented the former commander the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with "V" device, and Air Medal with nine oak leaf clusters.

LTC Crancer was the operations officer for the Brigade before assuming his new post with the "Warriors". The battalion will be his second command within the Brigade. Crancer was commander of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf.

Crancer is a 1955 graduate of the United States Military Academy. He is presently serving his second tour in Vietnam. The former member of the "1st Team" holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and CIB.

His wife and four children presently reside in Elizabethtown, Ky.

### The Chaplain Speaks

## The Man Who Forgot God

By Chaplain (CPT) Kendrick A. Gould



involved in your own little world that God is crowded out of your life?

The man forgot that every ability we have is a gift from God. Many people in the world do not have eyes to see with, feet to stand on, or clear thinking brains to make plans with. Our success in life comes only as a result of being able to use God-given abilities.

The man also forgot that God is more interested in the individual himself than He is in the individual himself's accomplishments. If you are only a private, God is just as interested in you as He is in the man who has attained the rank of general. God wants to be a part of your life. He wants to help you achieve true success in life.

In the New Testament, in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells about a man who forgot his relationship with God. The man was a farmer. He was very successful in his occupation. His land yielded such an abundance of crops that his old facilities were not adequate to contain the fruits of his harvest. The man gave all credit for his success to himself. His conversation centers around himself and his accomplishments. He settles back for a life of ease until God reminds him of how foolish he has been.

The man forgot about God. He could not see beyond himself and his own little empire. He did not think about his responsibility to God and his fellow man.

What about yourself? Do you ever find yourself becoming so

## ARVN Build Comm Tower

By SP4 Jon Sweet

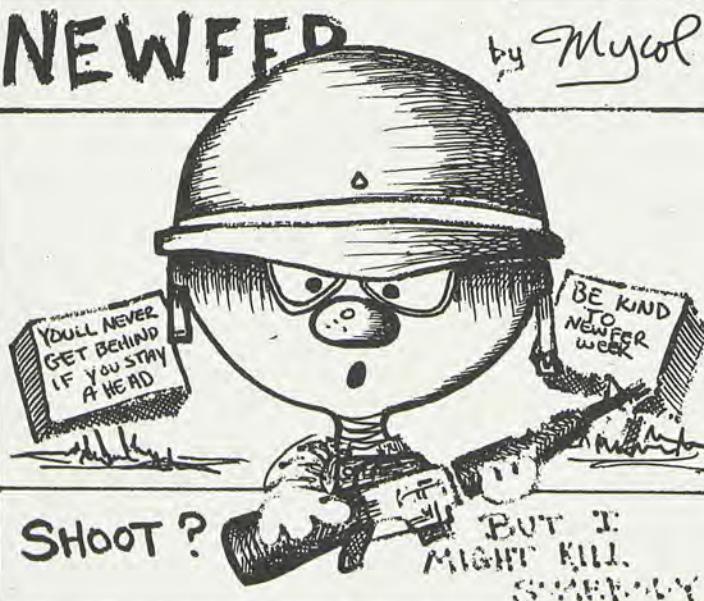
the 33rd DTA and the 18th Division. "It also gives us greater capability and is more reliable and more accurate.

"We can contact any of our units without the aid of a relay station," Maj. Trieu continued. "We can pick up anything within a 45-mile radius loud and clear."

Once before the Division's signalmen had tried to construct such a tower, but failed to complete it.

"All they had was a manual, but that didn't show them all the fine points," said an American advisor. "There's no substitute for the OJT type of training."

MAJ. Trieu said his men were capable of handling minor tower repairs, but have to rely on the 327th's mobile team for complex repairs.



## REDCATCHER!

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## Awards and Decorations

The awards presented the men of the 199th Infantry Brigade are justly earned and are a small reward for the outstanding job done. The men have shown great devotion to the Brigade and to their comrades in their units. The men's actions reflect credit upon themselves, the 199th Infantry Brigade and the United States Army. **Bronze Star Medal (Valorous)**

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: SP4 Wilson M. Martin (10LC); SP4 Mike A. Trevino (10LC); SGT Norman D. Jackson; SP4 Ronald D. Meigs; 2LT Brian F. Schmalz; SP4 John W. Stewart; SGT Edward T. Gardner; 3rd Bn, 7th Inf: SP4 Samuel B. Bridges; PFC Steve Nyberg; PFC Terry Coleman.

4th Bn, 12th Inf: 1LT Robert M. Coles (10LC); SP4 Richard G. Kobitz (10LC); 1LT Thomas G. Taylor (10LC); 1LT Laurie J. Ruggino Jr. (20LC); CPT Frederick J. Hall (20LC); SGT Stephen J. Madejek; SP4 Willie R. Langley; CPT Ralph S. Cless III; PFC Robert McBride; SSG Ross L. Provance.

5th Bn, 12th Inf: SSG Harvey Dixson (10LC); SP4 Robert Wilkerson; SGT Jerry W. Delaney; SP4 Robert Wilkerson; SGT Dennis P. Buemi;

D Trp, 17th Cav: PFC Willie L. McLaughline; PFC Richard W. Mahnken; SP4 Carl E. Garland;

2nd Bn, 40th Arty: 2LT Richard C. Caldwell; Maj James C. Jewell (30LC); CPT Jay W. Grinnell (30LC); SSG Robert E. Smith; SP5 Steven C. Frisbie; SP4 Rodney A. Cardwell; SP4 Joseph R. Braeua;

SP4 Kenneth R. Hazouri; SGT Gene A. Wildey; PFC Steven D. Kranich; SGT Gilbert Weatherly; SP4 Gerogory A. Krivakuta; SGT Mitchell Nelson Ball; SP4 David D. Lewandowski; PFC Harry C. Barnes;

Co M, 75th Inf: SSG Russel G. Wiggins.

**Bronze Star Medal with "V" (Posthumous)**

4th Bn, 12th Inf: SP4 Robert D. Unrue; PFC Gary R. Kieselburg; PFC Donald R. Ledlie.

Air Medal with "V"

HHC, Aviation Section: WO Dudley E. Young III.

**Army Commendation Medal (valorous)**

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: SGT James P. Riedel; SSG Russell H. England; PFC Glenn W. Hudack; PFC Jack Bookout; PFC Otto K. Schultz; PFC Albert D. Cruse; PFC Gwenson Crutcher; SP4 George W. Sickler; PFC Stan D. Zeigler; SP4 James D. White (10LC); SP4 Lawrence W. Peterson (10LC); SP4 Robert H. Callahan (10LC); SP4 J.C. Robbins (10LC); SP4 Jerry W. Bitting (10LC); SP4 Stephen H. Battmer (10LC); SP4 Ronald R. Wilson (20LC); SGT James B. Carter (20LC); SGT Stephen S. Battcock (20LC);

4th Bn, 12th Inf: SGT Albert D. Wallant; PFC William P. Folsom; PFC Thomas P. Boyle; PFC Rovet G. Johnson; SSG Charles H. Huff; PFC Charles W. Carpenter; SGT Gordon E. Bourland; 1LT James E. Eubanks; SP4 Lloyd Stolzmann (10LC); SP4 Richard A. King (10LC); PFC Billy Fair (10LC); SGT Grodon E. Bourland (10LC); SGT Wayne A. Jackson (20LC).

5th Bn, 12th Inf: SGT David E. Cook; CPT Gordon R. Lee; SP4 Terry Appleby; PFC Richard Haughton (10LC); SP4 Kenneth R. White (10LC); SP4 Donald T. Miller (10LC); SP4 John G. Gierlack (10LC); SP4 Raymond Nesbitt (10LC).

2nd Bn, 40th Arty: SSG Steven P. Henig; PFC Melvin K. Tomas; SP4 Bruce W. Owens; SP4 Bernard J. Ramos; SP4 Anthony J. Ferraro; PFC Wallace Alicea Jr.; SP4 William L. Graul III (10LC).

D Trp, 17th Cav: PFC Juan A. Vega; SGT Cecil Daniel.

Co M, 75th Inf: SGT Hunter L. Beall; SSG Joesa F. Acosta.

## 2/40 Plays Strategic Role

By SP4 Andy McCullough

**FSB BROWN** -- After spending an unprecedented six months in a single location, elements of Delta Battery of the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty left behind such luxuries as shower stalls, square hootches with comfortable interiors, and a newly opened bar-clubroom to begin their May 3 drive toward Cambodia to provide fire support for elements of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf.

Over a period of eight days, the battery moved in and out of three bases--FSBs Lee, Buttons and Snoopy.

Answers 'Charlie'

At FSB Buttons during the early part of one evening, a quick barrage of rockets exploded inside the perimeter. Rising to the occasion, Gun Section Two set an unofficial record of rapid fire for the battalion by firing 72 rounds within a 12 minute period in retaliation to the enemy threat.

In that short period of time a total of 356 rounds were fired by the battery on target. The bunker complex from which the rockets were fired was later discovered to be obliterated.

## 2/3 Medic Wins Three Bronze Stars

By SP4 Jerome Wadian

**FSB MACE** -- In ceremonies here May 23rd, Specialist Albie J. Wyce Jr. from Waterford, N.J. received his third Bronze Star for Valor.

Wyce, a medic with a recon element of 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, has exemplified the extraordinary performance and devotion to duty as a medic.

### First Bronze Star

He earned his first Bronze Star last August 23rd after spending less than a month in the field. On that day Wyce crawled through heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire to reach a wounded comrade. He not only gave first aid, but further risked his life to drag the man out of danger.

On November 11 Wyce was with his unit when they came upon an enemy occupied base camp of regimental size. During the heavy contact which ensued, the unit's RTO was hit. Courageously, Specialist Wyce maneuvered 40 meters through enemy fire to reach the wounded man.

### Evacuates Comrade To Safety

Completely disregarding his own safety, he managed to give first aid and evacuate the man to a safe position. His actions not only saved the man's life, but were instrumental in inspiring his unit as they refused to withdraw.

Wyce, for his courageous and inspiring actions, received his second Bronze Star.

### Spotted Under Intense Fire

Less than a month later, on December 8th, the twenty year old medic was again putting his skill and courage to the test. His unit was on a sweep operation when it collided with 20 NVA soldiers. The pointman was hit and Wyce sprung into action. He sprinted 25 meters over open ground under intense fire to reach the man. His quick action and alertness was credited to saving the man's life.

It is for this action that Specialist Wyce was presented his third Bronze Star for Valor Award.



Gun section one of 2/40 Arty's Delta Btry responds with rapid counterfire at recent attack on FSB Brown. (Photo by SP4 Peter Nagurny)

## In the Field

## Brigade Summary

May 19:

"Fireball" aircraft 113 engaged and killed three enemy approximately 20 miles south of Xuan Loc.

May 20:

An element of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged two enemy at 30 meters with small arms fire. One enemy soldier was killed.

May 21:

A "Fireball" aircraft operating 30 miles east of Xuan Loc sighted five enemy trucks and engaged two of the trucks, receiving ground fire. Two trucks were destroyed and two enemy were killed.

May 22:

An element of "Charlie Horse" 3rd Sqd, 17th Air Cav killed 20 enemy with organic weapons 35 miles east of Xuan Loc.

Aerial Recon Patrols were inserted to sweep the area. Helicopter and air strikes supported the operation. One LOH was lightly damaged. Three AK-47s, two SKS rifles, four grenades, 300 rounds of AK-47, and 5,000 pounds of rice were captured.

While directing an air strike 40 miles east of Xuan Loc a USAF forward air controller aircraft, received ground fire from an unknown size enemy force. Return fire was initiated and four enemy were reported killed.

May 23:

Recon elements of Echo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf found a cache 23 miles northeast of Xuan Loc consisting of six light machine guns, 22 AK-47s, two .51 caliber machine guns mounted on wheels, 50 AK-47 magazines, 11 60mm mortar tubes, 20 ammo pouches, 25 pieces of enemy web gear, 30 AK-47 vests, two .51 caliber barrels, and 10 mortar sights. The cache was evacuated by the unit.

Recon elements of Echo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf found a cache 23 miles northeast of Xuan Loc consisting of six light machine guns, 22 AK-47s, two .51 caliber machine guns mounted on wheels, 50 AK-47 magazines, 11 60mm mortar tubes, 20 ammo pouches, 25 pieces of enemy web gear, 30 AK-47 vests, two .51 caliber barrels, and 10 mortar sights. The cache was evacuated by the unit.

Later elements of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged and killed one enemy soldier 23 miles southwest of Xuan Loc. One SKS, one rucksack, eight pounds of rice, and one pistol belt, were captured.

Guardsmen" were supported by 2nd Bn, 40th Arty. Two enemy were killed, one AK-47, one SKS, and three AK-47 magazines were captured.

May 24:

While operating 30 miles east of Xuan Loc, an element of Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged three enemy with small arms killing three and capturing two AK-47 rifles.

A recon element of Echo Co 4th Bn, 12th Inf located a cache 23 miles northeast of Xuan Loc consisting of 17 bolt action French mauser rifles, 85 SKS rifles, a 7.62 modified anti-aircraft heavy machine gun, 75 cases of web gear, 17 rifle sights, six metal mortar boxes, a mortar cleaning kit, six sub-machine guns and six barrels for Chicom .51 Caliber machine guns.

May 25:

An element of Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf operating 15 miles south of Xuan Loc engaged two enemy with small arms, automatic weapons and artillery fire resulting in one enemy killed in the contact. Two rucksacks and 20 pounds of rice were captured.

May 27:

Operating 35 miles east of Xuan Loc, elements of Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf found a medical dispensary containing five hootches, eight bunkers, 10 beds, one oven, and two fighting positions. The structures were destroyed by the "Cottonbalers."

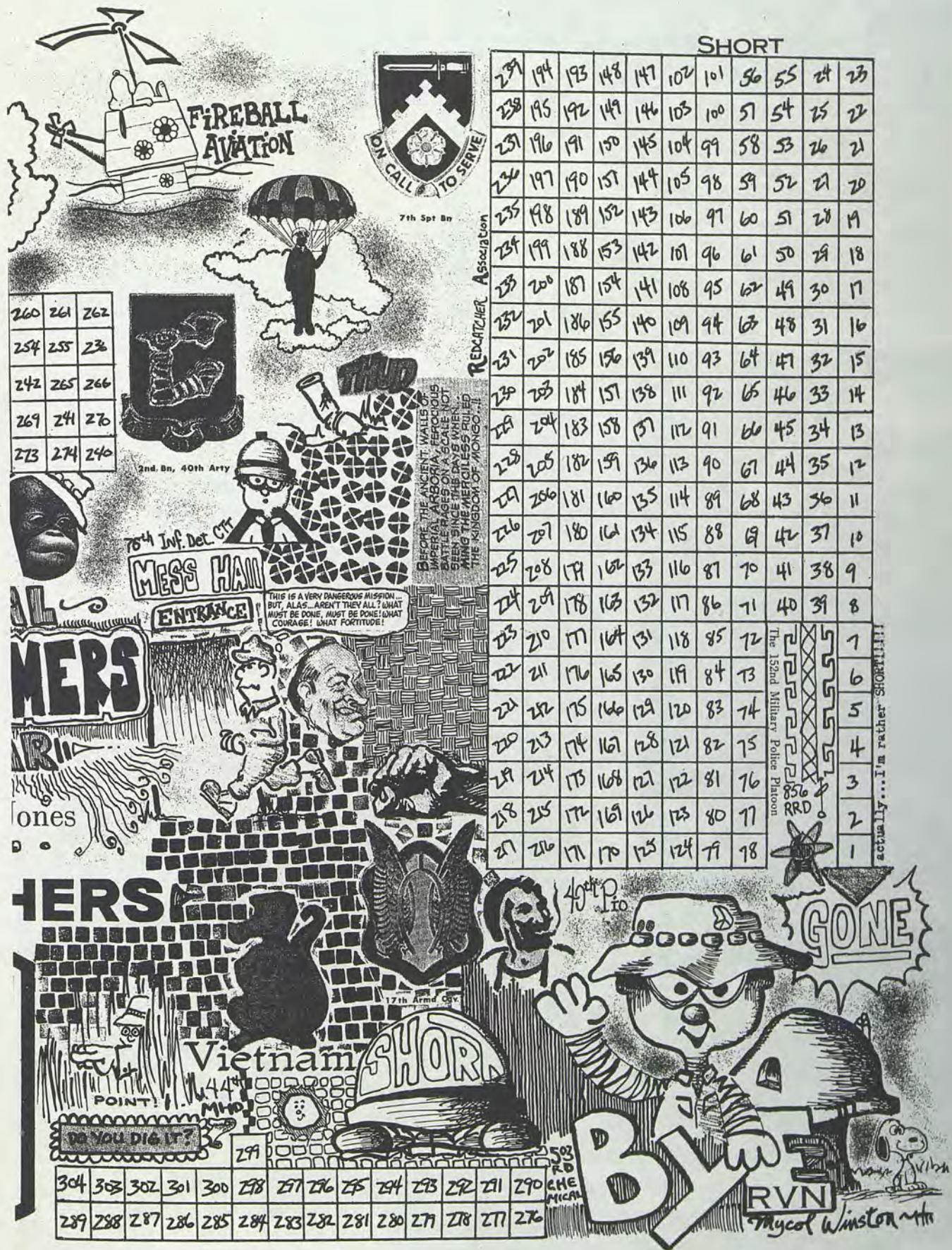
Elements of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, operating 20 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, engaged an unknown number of enemy with small arms fire. There was no return fire and four enemy were killed, 75 pounds of rice, medical supplies, drugs, assorted clothing, three flashlights, a diary, pistol belt, three shovels, and school books were captured.

Later elements of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged and killed one enemy soldier 23 miles southwest of Xuan Loc. One SKS, one rucksack, eight pounds of rice, and one pistol belt, were captured.

(Cont'd on Page 8)

# 199<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEP) (LT)



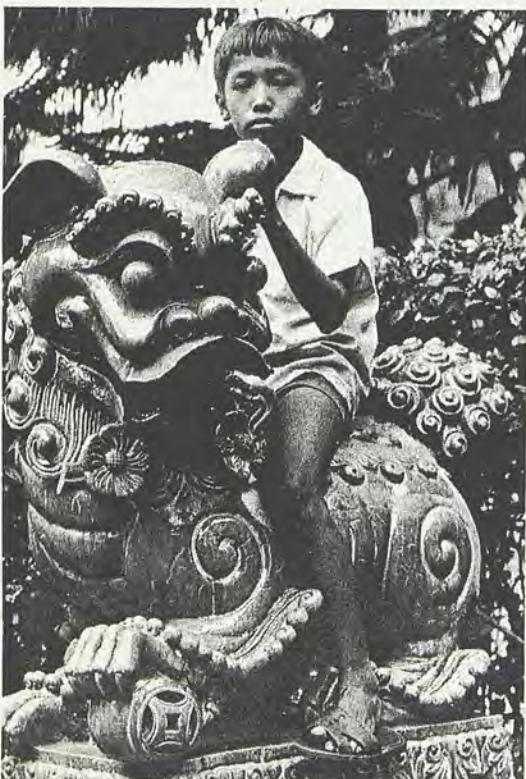




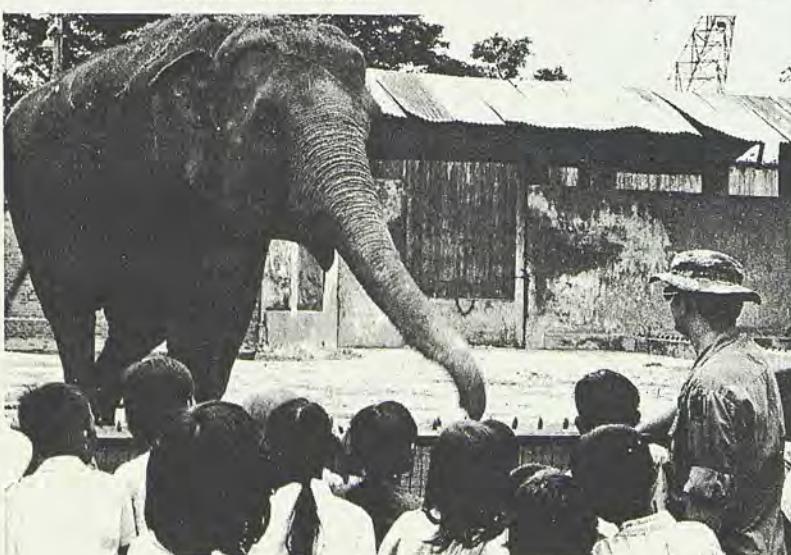
Hungry visitors take a lunch break.



All eyes are on fascinating doe.



Happiness is an Oriental lion.



A young child enchanted with the zoo's creatures.

Photos by SP4 Dave Hauser

Elephant captures the children's attention.

## Building Childhood Memories

By SP4 David Hauser

### SAIGON -- Children.

In a combat zone reflections of childhood are certainly among the least thought of, but do you remember as a child your first trip to the zoo?

"Until recently many children had never been out of their hamlets and many more had never seen a city," said Lieutenant Anthony J. Travaline from Philadelphia, Pa., Brigade assistant civic action officer.

### A Chance To See Places

A program has been set up on a continuous basis with MACV Civic Action explained Lt. Travaline, enabling school children to visit the capital city and the Saigon zoo.

As a result of this program children living in hamlets and villages throughout the Brigade's area of operation are now getting a chance to see places and things that most had only heard talked about previously.

On one such Saturday recently the 4th Bn, 12th Inf Civic Action Team organized their first trip to Saigon for the children at Dinh Quan School.

### Anxious And Excited

"The children were really anxious and excited about the trip as they boarded our trucks that morning," recalled Specialist Four Curtis Courington, a driver for the trip.

Following the 60 mile journey by truck to Camp Frenzell-Jones the group transferred to a transportation motor pool bus which took them into Saigon and to the Brink Hotel where they met their hosts for the day.

An interpreter, Miss Hoa, and two members of the MACV Civic Action Team welcomed the children to Saigon. In a matter of minutes the group was off on a drive by the presidential palace and other Saigon landmarks before finally arriving at the zoo.

### Tour Of Zoo Begins

As the bus pulled in through the gates 50 youngsters slightly dusty but not the least bit dampened in spirits by the long trip, could hardly wait to eat the lunch their sponsor had provided before starting out on a tour of

the zoo.

Miss Hoa led the way as the tour of the animal cages began. Situated among the huge shade trees and myriad of walkways that joined the park-like area were the animals awaiting their young visitors.

### Feed The Animals

First there were the elephants, then the kangaroos, bears, birds and all the other animals.

Some of the children bought sugar cane to feed the elephants, while others tossed peanuts to the hungry monkeys and others bought candy and gum for themselves from the sidewalk vendors.

The children from Dinh Quan did what most children do--they had a full day of fun at the zoo adding to their collection of childhood memories.

# Village Self Development Program Aids Econ Growth

By SP4 William Ludescher

**BINH LOC** - Numerous civic action projects financed both locally and with US help have begun to spark community involvement and raise the standard of living in this village near the 5th Bn, 12th Inf's fire support base "Libby."

Improvement here has been so marked, in fact, that the civil affairs agency of MACV has selected Binh Loc to be the model village in Long Khanh Province.

"Basically, this only means that the village will have to put up with more visits from assorted dignitaries wanting to inspect village projects," chuckled Mr. Steven Kinsley, a Civilian Organization for Rural Development (CORDS) official recently, "but it will probably also make it easier for them to get more funds for their projects here."

#### Rice Mill Purchased

Much of the work

accomplished in Binh Loc uses funds provided by the Village Self Development (VSD) program in addition to local contributions.

A typical project financed this way involves a rice mill purchased last fall that today promises to be a continuing source of revenue for the village for many years to come.

The 45 families involved in the project have organized themselves into a kind of mini-corporation. They charge 120 piasters for each 100 kilograms of grain polished, out of which 35 piasters goes to the cost of operating the mill, the remaining 85 piasters is profit.

#### Tractor from Profits

The families involved have already saved 80,000 piasters since the mill opened last October, and village chief Dao Van Dinh, who has been instrumental getting such village activity off the ground, estimates that this group will be able to purchase a farm tractor

from their profits within six months.

The Village Self Development program was initiated in 1969 in an attempt to channel rural development funds directly to all the villages in South Vietnam. During 1969, the American government earmarked 1,000,000 piasters for every village in the country, regardless of its size, for this purpose.

#### Political Goal

One goal of the program is, of course, economic—simply to help improve the living standard throughout South Vietnam.

The main thrust of the program, however, is political. The villagers must organize themselves, hold meetings to decide what kind of projects they most urgently need, research how much everything will cost, and then actually plan out the execution of their ideas.

"We're trying to give them incentives to work together and assume some of the initiative to improve themselves,"

commented Mr. Kinsley. "We can almost measure the success of the VSD program by the number of meetings the village has to hold and the number of fights the people get into trying to decide how they want to spend their money."

#### 135 Projects Finished

Projects costing less than 50,000 piasters can be planned and executed by the villages themselves, without the approval from the provincial government. However, more expensive endeavors require this authorization.

During 1969, 133 projects costing between 50,000 and 150,000 piasters and 11 costing more than 150,000 piasters were started throughout Long Khanh Province. Of these, 135 have already been completed.

The remaining are awaiting materials for their completion.

#### Often Frustrating

The vast majority of these programs are animal raising efforts involving pigs, cattle, and chickens. Although they are intended to involve a group of families working together to raise the animals and in turn sharing the profits, what often happens is that the families involved will just divide up the assets and go home.

"Sometimes it's really quite frustrating," explained Kinsley, "most of these people still don't understand even simple corporate endeavors. It takes a strong, energetic village chief to preserve the communal nature of a project and prevent the VSD program from turning into just a glorified give-away."

#### Binh Loc Good Example

The village of Binh Loc is an example of just how effective the VSD program can be, given the proper leadership from the village government.

The Montagnard hamlet Tin Nghia in Binh Loc, for example, recently started a poultry raising project. Using 40,000 piasters from the VSD program and 30,000 from their own pockets,

the 16 families involved bought 200 baby chicks in October of last year and raised them to maturity.

Charging 250 piasters per kilogram, they managed to sell 100 of their chickens before the Tet holidays, earning about 50,000 piasters.

#### Invest Profits

They then purchased another 150 chicks from the proceeds in order to continue the business, and split the balance among themselves as profit.

"Although this might seem a fairly small achievement," reflected Mr. Kinsley, "you must understand that normally these people would probably have just divided up the chickens among themselves on the first day and had them eaten within a week."

In theory, the VSD program requires a village to pay for half the expenses of a given project. In practice, however, this is seldom possible—especially for the more expensive undertakings—simply because the people have no way of getting that much money.

#### Six Projects

During 1969, the village of Binh Loc initiated six projects costing a total of 1,420,000 piasters, of which the villagers themselves contributed 420,000. The balance comes from VSD funds.

These projects included the purchase of the rice mill, the poultry raising project, a cattle raising effort, and the purchase of two hand tractors and a four wheeled tractor (which has not as yet been delivered due to assorted bureaucratic delays). The rice mill and the tractors promise to be a continuing source of revenue for further communal endeavors by the villagers.

Although the people of Binh Loc are far cry from being full scale capitalists, they are at least beginning to learn how to re-invest a part of their profits in further self improvement projects.

## ARVN Crush

## 'Charlie'

By SP4 Jon Sweet

**PARROT'S BEAK** -- Units of the Vietnamese 318 Task Force made four significant contacts with enemy elements during the first 18 days inside Cambodia including an eight-hour long contact in which 120 Viet Cong were killed near Kampong Travek.

The clash near Kampong Travek occurred when two ARVN battalions on a sweep pressed an enemy force into a blocking element of units from the 18th ARVN Division, companion unit of the 199th, and the 5th ARVN Division's 15th Cavalry Regiment.

The three-pronged attack was supported by four ARVN air strikes and Medevac ships and US Cobra gunships. It also netted three detainees, 12 AK-47 rifles, two 75mm recoilless rifles, and miscellaneous medical supplies.

In other action, an element of the 18th ARVN Division, charged with defending a fire support base of the US and ARVN artillery batteries north of Svay Reing, withstood a three-hour enemy ground probe coupled with 250 incoming mortar rounds.

"Rounds were coming in from the east and west sides of the perimeter," recalled First

Lieutenant George Drumming, Jr., an ARVN advisor from Philadelphia, Pa. "It was dark out and we had no idea what size enemy force we were dealing with."

One ARVN was killed and three wounded during the encounter. Three US artillery men were wounded. Six enemy bodies were found the following morning.

During the first days of the Cambodian operations, elements of the task force made contact with an estimated 50 enemy defending an empty aid station in Kampong Rou village just inside the Cambodian border.

"We entered the village from the west end," explained Major William R. Nolen, an ARVN advisor from Florence, S.C. "Everybody was waving and smiling at us, and then when we arrived in the eastern section of the village, everything opened up."

During the five hour contact, infantrymen from the 18th Division and units from the 25th Division's 18th Cavalry Regiment killed 17 enemy and took 29 detainees, including two doctors, two medics, and 10 female nurses.

Four days later during an 11 hour battle, units of the 18th Cav and 18th ARVN Division killed 32 enemy



Nancie Phillips, co-starring in Columbia Pictures "Loving" just barely got the role by the skin...

## Rice-

(Cont'd from Front Page)  
discovered by the element in a heavily camouflaged storage area near the first find.

"We were moving down a small hill towards a suspected cache area when my pointman spotted a hootch under some thick bamboo. We dropped our equipment and moved into check the area for enemy activity," said First Lieutenant William Ness of Freemont, N.J., platoon leader.

### Rice And Truck Parts

While moving in Private First Class Timothy Dolan from St. Louis, Mo., the pointman recalled, "after spotting the first hootch the machine gunner covered me as I moved in to get a better look at the camp. I found three more hootches inside the complex."

A search of the four hootches in the complex produced approximately 120 tons of rice. A number of holes containing parts for trucks, including universal joints, drive shafts, and fuel were also discovered by the element.

### More Rice

Subsequent sweeps of the area produced six additional hootches containing more than 500,000 pounds of rice. The recon platoon of Echo Co was credited with the second large cache during the "Warriors" Cambodian operation.

"We had been out for seven days and were ground reconning through the jungle toward Brown. We hadn't seen any trails or signs of enemy activity since our first day out. As the pointman was cutting his way through the thick bamboo he sighted a small hootch in a heavily vegetated area. We set up security and checked the immediate vicinity for booby-traps before entering the hootch."

"A search of the structure produced a large underground storage area containing a weapons and ammo cache," explained First Lieutenant Wayne Ott from Bozeman, Mont., recon platoon leader.

### 66,000 AK-47 Rounds

The structure revealed 324 rounds of B-41s with boosters, 38 120mm mortar rounds with charges and fuses, 10 new SKS rifles, and 66,000 AK-47 rifle rounds.

The platoon spent the following two day extracting the cache from the area.

As the element prepared to continue their march back to "Brown" they found their second cache of the patrol.

All of the enemy supplies were evacuated from the cache sights by the "Warriors."

## Heist Arms-

(Cont'd from Front Page)  
Wright from Columbus, Ohio, could hardly believe what he heard over his radio when Honca's squad reported what they had found.

Wright explained, "I had just said, 'I wish we could find about a 100 rifles' when SGT Honca's squad called in and said they had found another cache with 85 SKS rifles. Everyone was happy about that."

In addition to the SKS find, the "Eagle Warriors" discovered 17 French bolt action Mausers, two 7.62 modified anti-aircraft heavy machine guns, six sub-machine guns, two telescopic sights and 75 cases of web gear.



CPT Sy Markowsky presents the first edition of the *Redcatcher* yearbook to COL Robert W. Selton. The yearbook is presently being distributed to all members of the Brigade at no charge.

## 'Redcatchers' Pause to Pay Tribute

Our nation has for many years paid tribute and reverence to the honored men who have given their lives for our country.

In commemoration of these men and their courage, fortitude and their personal sacrifice, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade staged a Memorial Day service at Brigade Main Base Headquarters. Under the direction of Colonel Robert W. Selton, commanding officer and main speaker, the ceremony was executed with the tradition and importance it so deserved.

After a pause for mutual prayer Col Selton delivered his Memorial Day message:

Today, 30 May, has traditionally been set aside by the American people to cherish and rever the memory of those who have given the last full measure of devotion to their country.

It is significant on this occasion to realize that although the 199th Brigade was specifically organized for the Vietnamese war, the combat arms regiments of the brigade

have been serving their nation with distinction for over a century and a half. One of the infantry regiments represented in this brigade first fought at the Battle of the Fallen Timbers in 1794; all of the infantry regiments represented here today have fought in every war that our nation has fought since the war of 1812. Many of your forefathers in these same regiments have given their lives since the Battle of New Orleans, way before your time, through the most critical battles of World War II and Korea, which many of you remember. In this war in Vietnam, the cost to the Redcatcher Brigade, in fighting for the ideals of freedom, has been grievous. Many of your friends and your brothers have paid the ultimate price of laying down their lives for their country.

At this time when there is much dissent in our country it is fitting to pay our respect to those who did serve their country when called, and to pay particular hommage to that

## Brigade Summary

(Cont'd from Page 3)

May 29:

Shortly after midnight at FSB Sun radar revealed movement. Responding, artillery fired at the radar sighting when enemy elements initiated fire with 82mm and 60mm mortars, RPGs, small arms, and automatic weapons from the north and northwest. Fire was exchanged sporadically for several hours.

The resupply point at Tanh Linh received 82mm mortars, RPGs, machine gun, and small arms fire from the east and the fire support base received 82mm and machine gun fire.

At 4:50 a.m. a light fire team searching an area of FSB Sun received ground fire. "Fireball" aircraft, Shadow, Flareships, and gunship supported ground units throughout the night.

The clash resulted in 36 enemy killed, two suspects detained for questioning, and

captured 9 AK-47s five B-40 launchers, 12 B-40 rounds, three Chicom Grenades, six 60mm mortar rounds, 400 rounds of machine gun ammo, seven B-40 primers, 23 AK-47 Magazines, and assorted web gear.

An element of Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged six enemy with organic weapons and claymores 40 miles east of Xuan Loc killing three enemy soldiers. There were no friendly casualties and one AK-47 with two magazines were captured.

May 30:

A mechanical ambush set up by Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf was sprung killing two enemy 35 miles east of Xuan Loc.

May 31:

Elements of 3rd Bn, 7th Inf reconning the area around FSB Sun found the bodies of seven enemy soldiers killed during the attack on that base May 29th. raising the total enemy killed to 43.

### Kill Five-

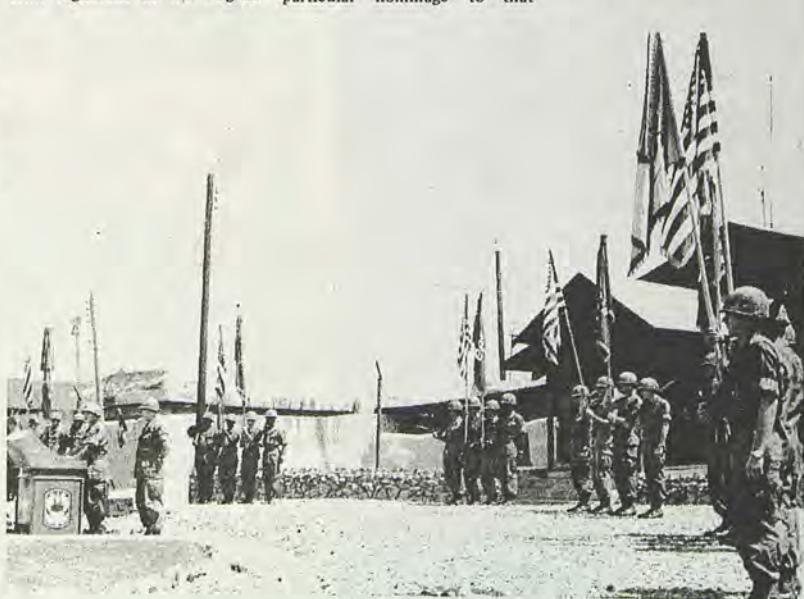
(Cont'd from Front Page)  
platoon, The "Cottonballs" struck back pouring fire into enemy positions killing one of the enemy. Two sewing machines were later discovered in the bunkers.

"After the first platoon's contact the enemy ran down the trail that we were set up along," said Specialist Four Miguel Martinez, a third platoon's machine gunner from Santa Barbara, Calif.

"Not more than a half hour after the contact we saw a point man coming toward us," added Martinez. The third platoon waited until the enemy point man was well into their ambush before the trap was sprung, blowing the claymore.

Immediately after detonating the claymore the platoon opened up with a barrage of fire. When the fire fight was over four enemy lay dead. An 82mm mortar tube and bipod were found with the enemy and a large quantity of clothes in their rucksacks.

There were no US casualties.



"Redcatchers" pay tribute to those who paid the supreme sacrifice in a Memorial Day Ceremony held at Brigade Main Base.  
(Photo by Randall Heidepriem)

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