

H Troop 17th Cavalry Compilation of Vietnam Articles

Forwarding note from Leslie Hines, ADVA Vietnam era historian for 2007.
Updated in 2014 with new materials obtained from 198th Bde newsletters.

The Americal Division Veteran's Association Historical Data Base contains many articles and reports relating to units that served with the Americal Division. H/17th Cav is well represented in the ADVA historical data base. However, this extract information provided is an example of what can be found for H Troop. It would takes weeks of effort to review and add all references to this file.

One purpose for the historical data base is that a computer scan can be performed to extract information regarding the unit. As an illustration I have scanned and extracted the Americal Division Information Office articles relating to H Troop 17th Cav activities. This includes the "Pacific Stars & Stripes" and the "Army Reporter" which published many of the articles provided by the Americal Division Information Office. The original transcriptions are on the ADVA historical data base with more information regarding the source of the materials and etc. Images of the original documents and photos may be available upon request. I have scanned some photos found in performing the extraction and have inserted some of these into this document to illustrate what might be available if someone would like to work with me.

For H/17th Cav veterans I may have doomed the data base to being ignored. Since there are over 200 pages of articles on H/17th Cav why would anyone bother to look further. The answer is that the articles are only a small sample of the information available for H Troop 17 Cavalry. There is much more information available regarding the unit than would be found in the looking only for Information Office articles. In fact there is so much that it is really difficult to extract and summarize the information. Many of these reports are 200-500 pages each and contain significant details about the unit. Reports such as the Division TOC and the Division ORLL reports would be of great interest.

I received this from an H/17 Cav veteran.
Carl Ahland sent me this article and I thought you might want it also.
He said that it was in a paper, (did not remember what one), sometime in
1970 Carl was in 3rd Platoon, H Troop, 17 Cav., 69-70.

CAV TEACHES PAINFUL LESSON TO NVA

By 1LT Rob Kresge
198th Brigade PIO

LZ BAYONET-- Soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army operating in the 198th Inf. Bde. area recently learned that it doesn't pay to "mess around" with the cavalry.

They learned that bitter lesson in the "Horseshoe" area along the Tra Khuc River, 20 miles south of Chu Lai. The "teachers" were the men of H Troop, 17th Cavalry, who were sweeping the area at the time.

The action began early in the morning when the armored personnel carriers (APCs) moved out of their night defensive positions. The 3rd Plat., commanded by 1LT. Paul Wiekell (State College, Pa.), saw two NVA out of range on the other side of the river.

"But four more popped up ahead of us," said SP4 Herbert Brady (Norwich, Conn.), a combat photographer from the 523rd Sig. Bn. who was riding on the lead track.

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

The .50 caliber machineguns and smaller weapons killed one of the NVA and wounded another, who was captured along with two AK-47s and two Chinese Communist hand grenades.

The 1st Plat., following immediately behind the 3rd, came across a vast tunnel complex. When an NVA sniper opened up on the vehicles from a spiderhole, the cavalrymen returned fire, killing an enemy soldier and capturing another AK-47 and two more Chicom grenades.

Dismounting, the troopers moved to check out another complex. Tunnel rats moved through the maze, clearing the way with fragmentation grenades. A search of the complex turned up 7 dead NVA, 6 AK-47s, 27 Chicom grenades, 4 RPGs and 4 full rucksacks.

Turning south, the troop proceeded further into the Horseshoe and soon came across another set of tunnels, this one apparently deserted. A search yielded a small quantity of ammunition, rucksacks and web gear. The troopers remounted and the APCs lurched forward, grinding over tunnels and bunkers.

"We were crossing the trenchline," said 1LT Stanley Bolger (Magee, Miss.), H Troop Executive Officer, "when I saw the end of an RPG launcher moving in the grass. I shouted a warning to the 3rd Plat. medic, and he jumped down and tried to get the NVA to 'Chieu Hoi.' But he wouldn't come out, so I tossed a 'frag' (grenade) at him. He was wounded in the leg, but came up pointing the launcher at our track. Then we let him have everything we had."

The combination of .50 caliber and M-60 machineguns, M-16s, grenade launchers and hand grenades tore up the grass in chunks. When the smoke cleared, the cavalymen found two dead NVA and both their weapons -- an AK-47 and the RPG launcher with seven rounds.

Turning north, a track commander saw 10 NVA fleeing up a hillside, and Bolger called for gunship support. As the APCs moved cautiously into the area to check out the results, they came upon yet another base camp-living area.

"There were a lot of hooches and tunnels," said SP4 Brady. "There was even a bicycle with sacks of rice on it. Before we left, we burned the hooches and blew up the tunnels."

But H Troop was still running up a score -- two Viet Cong suspects, one of them wounded, were found near the base camp. As they headed for a new night defensive position, the troopers could account for 11 NVA killed and three enemy captured.

H Troop took no casualties.

List of commanders of H Troop 17th Cavalry from the H Troop 17th Cavalry Web-site:

H Troop 17th Cavalry Commanders

Capt. Walter E. Reasor	October 1967-July 1968
Capt. Alfred R. Chioffe	August 1968-March 1969
Capt. James W. Watts	March 1969-May 1969
Capt. John R. Dethorn	May 1969-November 1969
Capt. Max K. Natzet	November 1969-February 1970
1st Lt. Daniel E. Gooding	March 1970-June 1970
Capt. Oliver L. Croom, Jr.	June 1970-November 1970
Capt. Ronald L. Barnable	November 1970-February 1971
Capt. Paul R. Davis	February 1971-April 1971
Capt. Stanley F. Cherrie	April 1971-May 1971
Capt. Randall F. Jarmon	May 1971-August 1971
Capt. Daniel J. Cox	August 1971-October 1971

From a summary of incidents from the 1/52nd Infantry Battalion (198th Inf. Bde) Daily S2/S3 reports: **Date** **Time** **Location**

Source
 5/23/69 Geneva Park news
 Co. C, 1-52 Inf. found two NVA killed, one by air strikes and the other by a cratering charge the company used the day before in blowing a tunnel. In the same area, eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai, H Trp., 17th Cav. found one NVA killed by artillery fire. Co. C, 1-52 Inf. later in the day found an additional 1500 pounds of rice in container hidden in bushes.

S2/S3 1/52 Inf LZ Stinson 0001 11 Aug 70 2400 11 Aug 70
 Page 1 of 2 BS 540825

01	0001	Journal Opened.	
02	0001	Fr 1/52 to TOC RTO: Foxhole Strength	
		UNIT MAN OPR REAR PFD	
		A Co 0 60 7 67	
		B Co 49 6 7 62	
		C Co 47 8 11 66	
		D Co 69 5 8 82	
		E Co 0 59 6 65	
		HHC 13 65 69 147	
03	0100	Fr BTOC to TOC RTO: F Trp 8 th Cav, DTG 102130 to 110130, Read Out on Night Hawk: Rec SAF from .30 cal, 26 NVA KIA wearing green and blk. 19 KIA to 198 Bde, 7 to 11 Bde. At 230645 along river to 305616.	BTOC-Lark
04	0730	Fr D Co and A Co to TOC RTO: D Co CA 1 st PZ 0653, Last LZ 0715. A Co CA 1 st PZ 0813, Last LZ 0838.	BTOC-Lark
05	0805	Fr BTOC to TOC Ha Thanh Trail Dust Mission, DTG 130900 in Box 80A, BS300500 to 395500 to 410648 to 284648.	BTOC-Lark
06	0830	Fr S-3 to TOC RTO: VR Snatch, DTG 120600 to 121800 at 4486 to 5086 to 5081 to 4881 to 4879 to 4479. Night Hawk Box DTG 111800 to 120600 at 4985 to 5685 to 5680 to 5380 to 5281 to 4981. Based on intel of Rcn contact of 10 Aug. 3 sets of gunships took fire on 10 Aug.	BTOC-Lark
07	0850	Fr E Co to TOC RTO: Obs 10xVN children and 1xVN female moving from the base of LZ Stinson to NW. Did not engage. Kept under observation.	BTOC-Pleten
08	0950	Fr C-36 to TOC RTO: Found 4xmakeshift packs and documents at BS454886. Will evac.	BTOC-Pleten
09	0950	Fr BTOC to TOC RTO: Div Air Cav Box 44 DTG 120600 to 121800 at UL 3803 LR 5098. Div Night Hawk Box 49 DTG 111900 to 120600 at UL 4886, LR 5480. Approved by S-3.	BTOC-Pleten
10	1000	Fr Son Tinh to TOC RTO: OP 1 at 102225 at 516774, the 3/1 and an RF #30 rec 3-4 82mm rds in NDP. Ret w/SAF and arty.	BTOC-Pleten
11	1015	Fr Son Tinh to TOC RTO: PF Plt 57 made contact w/VC while on ambush. 1xPF WIA. Neg DO from contact area at 608775.	BTOC-Pleten
12	1150	Fr D Co to TOC RTO: D 36 engaged and killed 1xNVA that was moving west on a trail at 450789 prox 25m. Had a pistol belt, canteen, grenade, pack and canned milk and food. Was	

		wearing pith helmet and ho chi minh sandals. Had resupply list of 20 grey shirts and 5500 in piasters.	BTOC-Horsch
13	1425	Fr BTOC to TOC RTO: AO Ext Req for LRRP Box #2 for LRRP Recon G Co of 75 th Rangers UIL 4396, LR 4692 DTG 130600 to 201200. Approved by S-3.	BTOC-Masten
14	1450	Fr BTOC to TOC RTO: URI at BS651868. Larger than Code C.	BTOC-Cruz
15	1600	Fr D 16 to TOC RTO: As the element was putting out a mech amb at 430790, a VC dressed in blk w/a bush hat was moving SE on a trail prox 100m SE and was engaged w/SAF. The VC evaded SE and was followed by D 16. A blood trail was found. VC had neg wpn but had a pack.	BTOC-Masten
16	1715	Fr D 16 to TOC RTO: Obs 4xVC w/neg packs or wpns wearing blk, green, or white moving west along a trail at 433796 prox 600m NE. Fired 81mm and arty. VC evaded SE.	BTOC-Masten
17	1730	Fr BTOC to TOC RTO: Agt Rpt C-3. Tonight at 0230, VC will launch a ground attack on Son Tinh subsector and mortar Binh Son Dist HQ. The units participating in the attack are C21 LF, 95A LF, 2 guerrilla platoons from Son Tinh Dist and one Co from 48B. K51 local force heavy wpns unit will mortar Binh Son. This unit is presently loc vic 680939.	BTOC-Horsch
18	1800	Fr BTOC to TOC RTO: Air Cav Box 45, DTG 120600 to 121800 at UL 5490, LR 5983.	BTOC-Pleten
19	1820	Fr BTOC to TOC RTO: HHH Bde req a time ext on AO Ext 1227 to 152400. Approved by Maj White.	BTOC-Bonsack
20	1918	Fr Blue Ghost Black to TOC RTO: PZ 1800 LZ Stinson. Last LZ 1918 at 523863. PZ 1918 of Blues at 523863. Found a well used trail and a trench line.	BTOC-Bonsack
21	1910	Fr C Co to TOC RTO: C Co had a mech amb set off at BS459883. 1xVC KIA w/neg pack or wpn. KIA was 18 yrs old. While checking mech amb 2xVC at site and eng w/SAF prox 75m. VC evaded E w/neg results.	BTOC-Lark
22	1845	Fr BTOC to TOC RTO: A/S at BS435955 at 120900. Cleared by S-3.	BTOC-Bonsack
23	2225	Fr B Co to TOC RTO: Act on Sensor string B-1 IR in front of Bks 19-20. Alerted bkr control and bunkers. Neg sightings.	BTOC-Bonsack
24	2300	Fr Binh Son to TOC RTO: PF 09 and H Trp while on patrol obs 1xVC and eng w/SAF. Results are 1xVC KIA at BS565917. Neg pack or wpn.	BTOC-Bonsack
25	2300	Fr Binh Son to TOC RTO: H Trp , M-13 and RF Co 713 while in NDP rec 1x60mm rds that landed 60m outside NDP. Returned w/SAF and 81mm. Neg cas. Enemy grid 518876.	BTOC-Bonsack
26	2315	Fr B Co to TOC RTO: Activations on Sensor string B-2 in front of Bks 1 & 2. Alerted bks and rd eyes. Neg sightings.	BTOC-Bonsack
27	2400	Journal Summary: A Co was on LZ Stinson. At 0815 A Co CA'd to 454826 and 468825. B Co was at NDP at 519856 with mech amb and at 0825 B Co moved to Stinson. C Co was at NDP 472884 with amb at 461892, 445884, and 451882. Mech amb were at 472886, 471884, 475885, 462893, 460891, 462880, 442882, 448882, 449883, 445884, and 450884. D Co was at NDP at 528832 with amb at 520838, 515832, and 528840. E Co and Rcn were on LZ Stinson. Plans: A Co will conduct area rcn in O 4485, LR 4881. B Co will remain on LZ Stinson. C Co will conduct area rcn in AO 91 N, Suoi, Saou River E, Tra Bong River S, and	

AO bdry W. D Co will conduct area ren in AO UL 4281, LR
4677. E Ren will conduct OP's in AO UL 5387, LR 5685.
D.C.Morvai 1 LT TOC Duty Officer
Journal Closed.

28

2400

01 0001 (U) JOURNAL OPENED. DKK
02 0100 (C) Bn SITREP neg, loc same. CO,S3 DKK
03 0200 (C) Bn SITREP neg, loc same. Bde,CO,S3 DKK
04 0300 (C) Bn SITREP neg, loc same. CO,S3 DKK
05 0400 (C) Bn SITREP neg, loc same. Bde,CO,S3 DKK
06 0500 (C) Bn SITREP neg, loc same. CO,S3 DKK
07 0600 (C) Bn SITREP neg, loc same. Bde,CO,S3 DKK
08 0615 (C) Co A 1st plat 3d sqd amb closed LZ UPTIGHT Bde,CO,S3 DKK
0600 hrs w/neg results.
09 0618 (C) Co A 2d plat 1st sqd amb closed LZ DOTTIE Bde,CO,S3 DKK
0615 hrs w/neg results.
10 0620 (C) Rec rept from SFC Gross, Bde SDNCO, re CO,S3,S2 DKK
activities in Div AO; 3/1 Inf KIA 1 VC,
cptr 4 VC; 4/21 Inf KIA 3 VC; Co C 1/46
Inf rec est 40 rds mort; **H Trp 17 Cav**
rec mort & RR fire on Hill 69 - 2 UH WHA.
11 0628 (C) Co C 2d plat 3d sqd & 2d sqd amb closed Bde,CO,S3 DKK
LZ BUF 0628 hrs w/neg results.
12 0635 (C) Co D amb closed NDP 0635 hrs w/neg res. Bde,CO,S3 DKK

Name and Grade of Officer on Duty Signature
A J LIPPHARDT, 1LT Inf (A. J Lipphardt)

This is an excerpt from an S2/S3 report from the 1/1st Cavalry Regiment: S-3, 1st 1st Cavalry

CHU LAI RVN 0001 24 Mar 70 2400 24 Mar 70

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BT550020

01	0001	LOG OPENED.	L	APM	
02	0001	Duty NCO SGT Verigan & RTO SP/4 Milonas.	L	APM	
03	0005	Commo check to Division on Secure.	L	APM	
04	0100	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	APM	
05	0100	A trp. 3 rd plt. tracks on Bunker Line.	L	APM	
06	0200	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	APM	
07	0300	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	APM	
08	0310	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	APM	
09	0400	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	APM	
10	0405	Neg. sitrep tracks on bunker line (A trp. 3 rd plt.).	L	APM	
11	0500	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	APM	
12	0600	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	APM	
13	0600	Neg. Sitrep with track on Bunker Line (A trp. 3 rd plt.).	L	APM	
14	0605	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	APM	
15	0606	Check out of CLDC Net.	L	APM	
16	0700	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	APM	
17	0730	CLDC, Chu Lai Air Tower, 1/6 Infantry, 198 th Infantry were all notified of Sheridan Main Gun Firing.	L	ECV	
18	0800	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	ECV	
19	0810	Range 42 now opened.	L	JLW	
20	0900	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	JLW	
21	0955	Range 42 closed.	L	JLW	
22	0955	Range 42 closed, all vehicles back in area, all Range Equipment returned to this location.		L	JLW
23	1000	MAJOR GARROTT back in area.	L	JLW	
24	1100	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	JLW	
25	1130	Requested C&C to arrive at HAWKS NEST PAD at 1430 hrs.	L	JLW	
26	1135	Called Division Aviation and requested they add 2 hrs of blade time on the 198 th for resupply of 1/1 Cav.	L	JLW	
27	1200	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	JLW	
28	1300	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	JLW	
29	1335	Trp. Cos notified to be here at TOC prepared for VR at 1430 hrs. They must have map of first A.O.			to A, B, &C JLW
30	1435	Minuteman 10 on station. Going on VR Mission.	L	JLW	
31	1500	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	JLW	
32	1600	Duty NCO SSG Naylor.	L	AS	
33	1610	Intelligence from Division, MAJOR HILLIER: H trp. 17th Cav at BT675948 engaged 15 VC. Results: 3 enemy KIA, 2 captured and captured 1 M-16 and 1 M1 Carbine.	L	AS	
34	1700	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	AS	
35	1710	COLONEL GRAVES & MAJOR GARROTT returned to this location on C&C. They requested vehicles at VIP Pad.	L	AS	
36	1720	COLONEL GRAVES & MAJOR GARROTT at this location.	L	AS	
37	1720	PLANS FOR TOMORROW: 1/1 Cav SP's CHU LAI 0830 hrs, becomes OPCON to 198 th Bde. Road marches to CORD: vicinity 639764, where HQ & Trans. elements and C trp. will deploy. Remaining two Cav. trps, B&A trps, will continue on to Operational Area, southwest of LZ Stinson vicinity of OPI.	L	AS	
38	1800	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	AS	

39	1800	Checked into CLDC Net.	L	AS
40	1900	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	AS
41	1910	Called 176 AVN reschedule C&C for tomorrow to 0700.	L	DPF
42	1930	Division wanted to know where CP would be located also A&B trps. location. Lt Margrave gave information to them.	L	DPF
43	2000	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	DPF
44	2005	Reference Item #42: Lt. Margrave gave Division the following information: Our CP would be located 608714, A trp. 495765, B trp. 528832, C trp. Chu Lai.	L	DPF
45	2100	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	DPF
46	2200	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	DPF
47	2300	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	DPF
48	2400	ALL UNITS: NEG. CHANGE LOC & NEG SITREP.	L	DPF
49	2400	SUMMARY: CLDC, Chu Lai Air Tower, 1/6 Infantry, 198 th Infantry were all notified of Sheridan Main Gun Firing. At 0810 Range 42 was opened. At 0955, Range 42 was closed. INTELLIGENCE FROM DIVISION, MAJOR HILLIER: H trp. 17th Cav BT675948 engaged 15 VC. Results: 3 enemy KIA, 2 captured and captured 1 M-16 & 1 M1 Carbine. PLANS FOR TOMORROW: 1/1 Cav SP's CHU LAI 0830 hrs, becomes OPCON to 198 th Bde. Road March to CORD: vicinity 639764 where HQ & Trans. elements and C trp. will deploy. Remaining two Cav trps, B&A trps, will continue on to Operational Area, southwest of LZ Stinson vicinity OP1. Division wanted to know the location of the following: Our CP would be located 608714, A trp. 495765, B trp. 528832, C trp. Chu Lai.	L	DPF
50	2400	LOG CLOSED.	L	DPF

Name and Grade of Officer on Duty
ROBERT W. GARROTT JR. MAJ, Armor, S-3

Example of Americal S2/S3 TOC report reference to H Troop 17th Cavalry.

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346)				PAGE NO 14	NO OF PAGES 15
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION AMERICAL DIV TOC			LOCATION CHU LAI, RVN	PERIOD FROM DATE HOUR 0001 25 May 68	COVERED TO DATE HOUR 2400 25 May 68
ITEM NO	TI IN	ME OUT	INCIDENTS MESSAGES ORDERS ETC	ACTION TAKEN	INI- TIALS
101			(cont'd) 26 NVA killed by Air; 17 killed by arty; 31 killed by SA; 12 killed by gunships. Total results: 86 NVA KIA. No count of wpns avail at this time.	ADCA, C/S, G3	
102	2330		196 th , LRP Aunt Mabel at 2015H obs 20 lights moving NW across river at 823375 Eng w/cal .50. Lights went out. At 2200H obs 50-75 sctd lights at 845865, moving W. Called arty and eng w/cal .50. Recd SA fire; lights went out.		RHB
103	2340		198 th , C-1-46, BT379154 at 2315H Bau-Bau Bridge receiving mtr fire at this time. 20 60mm rds. All hit in and around PF Camp - non hit on bridge. C-31 rpts seeing mtr flash at 378168. Calling arty on mtr pos. Ly Tin Dist Hqs rptd VC MG pos at BS367174. Firing arty on pos. Firing stopped at 2330H. NCD. Total is now 40 60mm at 260105H.	ADCA, C/A, G3	RHB
104	2345		<u>198th, C-5-46, H-17, BS534958, H Trp and C-5-46 receiving sniper fire at BS534958. NCD. Stopped at 2345H. NCD.</u>		RHB
105	2400		Opns Summary: Americal Div Units contd cbt opns in zone w/hvy contact in Wheeler/Wallowa AO and light contact in the rest of the AO. In Opn Wheeler/Wallowa on 242350H FSB West (AT990250) recd 12 rds of 122mm rkt fire, 4 duds, 3 WHA(evac). At 242354H FSB Center (BT052253) recd 12 rds of 122mm rkt, 3 duds, NCD. At 242354H LZ Ross (BT027342) recd 7 rds of 122mm rkt w/an additional 8 rds of 82mm mtr w/no dam or cas. Beginning at 242143H A-3-21 vic BT087314 recd grd probes followed by atks until approx 250100H, resulting in 12 NVA KIA, 2 US KHA, 3 WHAevac). This contact resulted in the delay of the 3-21sts move fm LZ Colt (BT114375) to FSB Ryder (AT 945344) and into Antenna Valley. At 0707H D-1-52 vic BT020515 came in hvy contact w/an unk size force. C-1-52 moved into the contact area w/B Co 1-52 following. Contact was brkn approx 1240H w/4 US KHA, 7 WHA(evac); enemy		

TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OF OFFICIAL ON DUTY

Clark H BENN, MAJ, GS, ASST G3

SIGNATURE

Clark H Benn

DA FORM 1594 (ADVA transcription)

Excerpts from Operation Muscatine report:

26 March 1968: In an operation conducted by one platoon from A Co 1-52 Inf and H Trp, 17th Cav at BS 650945 1 man was wounded when he stepped on an M-14 mine at 1010 hrs.

16 May 1968: One platoon from D/5-46 and one platoon from H Trp, 17th Cav conducted a combat sweep in the Muscatine AO with negative contact.

17 May 1968: H Trp, 17th Cav reported hitting an M-16 mine at 0945 vic BS 667928 causing minor damage to APC and no casualties.

Operation Russell Beach report has too many references to H Troop 17 Cav to excerpt here.

Americal Division Daily Newsheets from January, February, March, April, May, and July of 1969 include several references to the actions of H Trp 17th Cav. There are too many to excerpt here.

An Article published in the Americal Division Veteran's Association "Journal"
AMERICAL NEWSLETTER **VIETNAM COMBAT**

Hell in A Small Place:
The Blue Ghost Incident Of 3 June, 1969

The Mission

The mission seemed simple enough. 1LT David Taylor's, 2nd platoon, C Company, 5/46th Inf., 198th L.I.B would air assault onto a section of a dirt road, south and parallel to the Tra Bong River, northwest of Quang Ngai and west of Binh Son. They would then sweep the road east for mines so an engineer contingent could be extracted from the Tra Bong Special Forces camp in the mountains to the west.

Taylor's platoon would push east to link up with a similar element, pushing west from Binh Son. At 0630 hours on 3 June 1969, the platoon air assaulted onto their sector of the Tra Bong road. The assault was accomplished without incident, no incoming fire. But the platoon found the walk east to be very slow, the attached engineers were finding more mines than anticipated. After moving 400 more meters on the road, the platoon came under continuous sniper fire from a wood line 300 meters south of the road.

Bird Is Down!

Taylor received a call from a Blue Ghost (F Trp, 8th Cav) mission commander arriving overhead. "We understand you are having some problems. We will be in the area awhile, can we help?" "Roger", Taylor replied, "There are bad guys south of my position about 300- 400 mikes, can you take a look?"

Captain Richard Wayne Watson, "Blue Ghost Red", of Goldsboro, NC piloted the light observation helicopter (LOH), OH-6A, that would sniff out the area while his support (AH-1G Cobras) circled above. With him was door gunner PFC Paul Wayne Miller of San Diego, CA and an unidentified rifleman from the aeroscout platoon, along for the ride.

Watson radioed another message as he flew a short distance inside the tree line, "I see NVA uniforms hanging on a clothes line. I'm going in for another look". In a matter of seconds the radio cracked again, "I'm taking fire!" as he made a frantic attempt to evade multiple bursts of automatic weapons fire. Suddenly a big bang shook the air and a large cloud of black smoke was seen. The LOH pitched straight in on its top. "Bird is down!, bird is down!" radioed the mission commander and immediately the cobra's began circling the ground around the downed craft, firing everything they had to protect the crew.

Watson tumbled out of the OH-6A and, although seriously wounded, helped the rifleman out of the burning craft and began crawling to safety.

When he realized that his door gunner was not with them he moved back toward the flaming wreckage while still under heavy fire.

Watson found the burning door gunner and extinguished the fire with his own hands. As he carried him away from the aircraft, they were both cut down by automatic weapons fire.

Not more than a minute after the crash, the 5/46th's battalion commander, along with Taylor's company commander, landed on the road in his command & control (C&C) UH-1D. The battalion commander's orders to Taylor were given with a look of grave consequence: "I want you to take some men on my bird and go in to protect that crew until I can get some reinforcements in."

Taylor surveyed his platoon and the selection began. "Italiano!" (Harry Italiano, Suitland, MD - machine gunner), "Sandman!" (Mitchell

Sandman, Syosset, NY - assistant gunner), "Scherf!, (Michael Scherf, Golden, CO - squad leader).

Taylor then turned to his RTO, "Let's go!"

As they moved towards the UH-1D another squad leader, Randy Backovich of Vallejo, CA ran up to Taylor. "Need some extra help?" Surprised that someone would volunteer, Taylor welcomed the help. "Yea, get on the bird". It was a decision that was to save the platoon leader's life and live with him forever.

The Rescue Team Goes In

As the 5/46th's C&C flew the short distance to the crash site Taylor yelled instructions over the noise of the aircraft, "get behind something when you hit the ground and cover me. I'll check out the crew". Knowing for sure that the NVA were waiting, but not sure how many, he did not want his men wandering around offering themselves as targets.

With the downed LOH in sight just inside a small open plot of ground, the rescue ship headed straight for the crew lying next to it. The cobras lined up in trail behind the C&C as it descended into the open area. The bird immediately came under automatic weapons fire. In the last seconds before landing, the gunships told the C&C, "left turn!, left turn!". Touching down, the pilot saw a small ditch about 30 meters from the LOH and came to rest beside it. At the same time the cobras let loose with 40mm cannon fire to cover the rescue team.

Taylor was the first one off the bird and ran to the crashed LOH, the 40mm cannon exploding around him. The RTO, Backovich, and Scherf followed him out and jumped into the ditch. Encumbered by the M-60, Italiano and Sandman exited the opposite side. The NVA lifted their heads, and both soldiers were cut down by automatic weapons fire. The pilot of the C&C had hoped to get the crew on board with the team and depart. That hope was lost when the pilot was shot in the foot while the team was jumping out. Afraid he would be shot down on top of the men in the ditch, he ordered his co-pilot to pull out.

Taylor ran to the downed LOH. Both Watson and Miller were lying side by side, their bodies burned from the crash. Under automatic weapons fire, Taylor moved to the rifleman who was 10 feet away. Lying face down, he had been shot in the stomach and neck, and was being used for target practice until the rescue team arrived. Taylor thought he was dead and turned to leave when he saw the soldier's right hand slowly making a fist, twice. He was signaling he was alive but was too weak or afraid to move. Taylor then received a burst of fire from his front and returned the fire, emptying his magazine.

While this occurred, Sergeant Backovich saw the machine gun lying in the open and knew they needed it to survive against the heavy fire around them. He leaped from the ditch to retrieve it and met a NVA soldier coming out of the bush with the same idea. Backovich was quicker on the draw and downed him with his M-16. Grabbing the M-60 he leaped back to the ditch, pouring out fire in all directions to supplement the fire of Scherf and the RTO.

Taylor kept firing to his front to protect the wounded rifleman. But he was outgunned. As he loaded a third magazine he was hit in his left side, pitching him backward. A bullet ripped a hole in his left side 6 inches wide. Making a dash to the ditch, he yelled, "cover me!" Two feet from the ditch he was hit by an AK-47 round in the lower right leg, the bullet entering one side and exiting the other, smashing the tibia and fibula. He tumbled into the ditch.

Backovich, Scherf and the RTO kept firing. The team was now fighting for its own life. A grenade was thrown into the ditch but Backovich threw it out in time. 1Lt Robert Wiggins, "Blueghost 26" flying above recalled, "I saw the NVA hit the rescue team with automatic weapons fire. The contact was so close we had a hard time using our rockets. We made pass after pass to get the NVA to shoot at us instead of those on the ground."

Scherf crawled to Taylor who was in intense pain. The tibia and fibula were sticking out of his leg, the leg throbbing from the impact of the AK round. Scherf stabilized the leg by taking a boot-lace and tying both legs together. Scherf then assured him "I'm going to get you out of this mess". At that moment he was hit in the head by an AK round, lowered his head on Taylor's feet, and died.

By this time a Forward Air Controller was circling overhead. Fighters with 500-pound bombs had scrambled at Chu Lai. The FAC asked Backovich where to drop it. Backovich, not one to waste words and counting the seconds he could hold out, answered "anywhere and everywhere, they're all around us!" The bombs were dropped at close range. The pilots saw groups of NVA running in every direction.

Another Rescue Team

By now another rescue element entered the fray. Three armored personnel carriers, of the 2nd platoon, H troop, 17th Cav. were supporting the road clearing operation with the element heading west from Binh Son. Depleted in strength, they had to grab cooks and clerks for the mission. PFC Larry Baker from Benton, Ill recalled, "there were only two of us on the three tracks who had any experience". This was not a mission Baker wanted to be on. The next day he was scheduled for R&R, to see his wife in Hawaii.

After the rescue team had dropped into the area the three tracks were also tasked to go in and get the Blue Ghost crew. They were unaware another team had gone in and was fighting for its life. In the ditch the RTO, new to the field, was unable to do much. Taylor could not move with Sgt. Scherf laying on his feet. It was, at this time, Sergeant Backovich against the NVA. Backovich was firing as fast as he could but was running out of ammunition.

The tracks broke through high elephant grass, into the tree line and into the small plot of hell. The enemy fire had subsided but was still coming in. As Baker departed his track he heard screaming from the ditch, saw the dead machine gun team lying in the open, and realized others had been trapped as well.

Baker and his men quickly pulled everyone into the tracks. Backovich got into the same track with Taylor, the dead were piled on the ramp to protect the living from incoming fire and the tracks pulled out. Baker felt lucky, "I think the elephant grass was too high and too thick, the NVA could not get a bead on us with their RPG's". The tracks headed back to the Tra Bong Road and a medevac waiting to land. During the brief ride Taylor told Backovich, "I'm going to put you in for a medal". Backovich replied, "I'll trade it for a few days in the rear".

Aftermath

1LT David Taylor spent a year recovering from his wounds at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. He served a tour of duty at Ft. Jackson, SC, then entered the Army Reserve Special Forces, where he pursued a 22-year career, retiring in 1993. He lives in Medina, Ohio.

Sergeant Randy Backovich completed his Vietnam tour in October 1969, wearing Staff Sergeant Stripes and earning the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars. He resides in his hometown of Vallejo, California.

1LT Robert Wiggins, "Blue Ghost 26" is very active in the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and resides in Panama City Beach, Florida.

The status of the rescue team's RTO and the wounded rifleman from the LOH, are unknown.

PFC Larry Baker of H Troop got his R&R the next day. A month later, on July 4th, 1969, his track hit a mine and he lost his right leg. This was his third Purple Heart. Baker resides in his hometown of Benton, Illinois, with his wife of 31 years.

Americal Division Magazine - May, 1969

AMERICAL Cover - Colorful Green photo - Soldiers from the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., 11th Bde., cross a rock strewn stream through knee deep water.

Page 8 THE NOOSE AROUND BATANGAN

(With graphic of a hangman's noose around the title)

By 1LT CECIL GREEN

The morning of Jan. 13 was an infantryman's nightmare.

The angry, silver-black clouds covered the sky with an ominous glow and unleashed monsoon deluges, which soaked everything and made rain gear useless.

The mud was already there from earlier storms, but the new rains gave it a life that infantrymen dread. One rifleman described it as "trying to walk through a mountain of C-ration peanut butter."

But the day was D-Day, and the hands on the clock were nearing H-Hour-0800.

Things began to happen rapidly:

Infantrymen from the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. moved into action like foot soldiers down through the ages., slogging across the muddy hills and flooded lowlands toward their goal.

The 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., 11th Inf. Bde. moved from their encampment near Quang Ngai City to waiting helicopters that would churn through the lowering skies in a massive combat assault.

Marines, two battalions strong, arrived aboard a flotilla of ships in the South China Sea. Two companies climbed down the nets into landing craft while others swarmed over the decks of the USS Tripoli into helicopters that would carry them ashore.

Two battalions of soldiers from the 2nd ARVN Division also shouldered their packs and headed into the region.

Navy swift boats roared into life and plowed through the swelling sea, forming a water blockade.

The fighting men from the two countries had a common objective: the Batangan Peninsula, a mushroom-shaped VC stronghold for the past 20 years, jutting into the South China Sea about 20 miles southeast of Chu Lai.

Their tactic was a textbook example of a cordon an 11 1/2 mile solid ring of men and firepower across the neck of the peninsula. The circle was completed with Navy ships. At the action's peak, almost 8,500 men choked off the Batangan Peninsula. This was the start of Operation Russell Beach.

The Marine participation was called Operation Bold Mariner, but after the ground troops reached a phase line on Jan. 25, the maneuver became Operation Russell Beach entirely. BG Howard H. Cooksey (Alexandria, Va.), Americal assistant division commander, was the overall commander of the Army and ARVN forces forming Task Force Cooksey.

The phases of the combat/pacification program were clearly defined: deception, establishment of the cordon, psychological operations (PSYOP), collapse of the cordon, and pacification.

Intelligence experts reported that the area was a popular

B&W photo - soldiers walking in front of an ACAV. Photo Caption "Wary infantrymen and watchful cavalymen move into place in the tangled underbrush to seal off the Batangan Peninsula. photo credit - Norland

VC supply route. Tacticians learned that enemy troops in the area, when running from a pitched battle, always headed for the peninsula's heart. The deception phase of the operation actually began about 10 days before D-Day," explained BG Cooksey.

"The 5/46 and the 2nd ARVN Div. began conducting sweeps far away from the peninsula, working their way closer as the starting time drew near. We were taking advantage of the enemy's tendency to head for his sanctuary when faced with combat."

The rain, cursed by the GIs on the ground, was actually an important consideration in the opening moves of the operation. "We wanted the start of the operation to coincide with the monsoon rains, so the enemy's tunnels would be flooded and no good to him," the task force commander stated.

The weather tactics worked. "Although we were uncomfortable, I believe it was worse on the VC," said LTC Ronald R. Richardson (Colorado Springs, Colo.), CO of the 5/46. "My men were near a river during the PSYOP phase and we had a number of suspects come out of flooded tunnels and holes just in front of us. They had been in water so long that their skin was shriveled up like a prune."

"By D-Day we figured there might be a good-size VC force trapped out there," related LTC Jack C. Davis Maudlin, Ark.), CO of the 4/3. "But even if there were just a handful, the plan was still to clear the area on foot, step by step, to locate every tunnel and bunker, destroy the minefields and empty Charlie's' breadbasket."

Noon of D-Day found the soldiers of the cordon line still chest-deep in water in the flooded rice paddies with mud as their toughest enemy. The men, less than 10 meters apart, were in visual contact along the entire route. By late afternoon, the weary infantrymen got the order to dig in for the night. The human wall was formed.

But for more than 20 days, night did not come to the Batangan Peninsula.

"There's just no such thing as night out here," a rifle-man noted. "Those flare ships do a good job."

The flare ships remained on station overhead throughout the night hours of operation; dropping an average of 600 flares per night.

"The flares were very significant in this operation," said CPT John R. Blanks Jr. (Macon, Ga.), the commander of D Co., 4/3. "They took the night away from the enemy and made any fighting on our terms. The light also made the infantrymen more secure and boosted morale."

After the cordon was established, the operation reverted to a battle of words for four days as PSYOP crews went to work on the ground and in the air with broadcasts and printed leaflets.

The most important phase of the operation was beginning-evacuation of as many people as possible from the peninsula before any fighting actually began.

"There were no reliable statistics available on how many people made their homes on the peninsula," related CPT Banta York (Sumter, S.C.), 198th PSYOP officer, "but we were concerned with evacuating as many as possible because Russell Beach is a pacification operation. And

B&W photo caption - "Brave and Bold" soldiers of the 198th Brigade's 5th Bn., 46th Inf., always expecting the unexpected on Batangan, use everything from rifles to mine detectors to make certain that Charlie's vital supplies and deadly mines and booby traps are located.

to be successful, you must have the people."

A helicopter specially equipped with a homemade 1,000-watt transmitting system was rigged up at the 198th S-5 office. It cruised over the peninsula area up to eight hours a day, sometimes as low as 400 feet. The Kit Carson Scouts and interpreters aboard each flight told the people over and over where to move, how to move, and what to bring (clothing, identification papers, and one day's supply of food).

As the refugees moved through pre-arranged checkpoints on the cordon line, they were gathered at temporary detention centers located at each battalion C P.

A medical team was stationed with each battalion for emergency treatment, and each refugee received an initial inspection to insure that none with serious diseases were housed with the larger groups.

"The first refugees to arrive were, very naturally, confused and scared," CPT, York recalled. "They told our interpreters that the VC had threatened them and warned that anyone who went to the Americans would be put in labor camps at Cam Ranh Bay.

"As the first helicopter loads of refugees were taken from the battalions to the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center (CHIC) near Quang Ngai City, they were positive that they were at Cam Ranh and refused to leave

the helicopters. When the province chief heard this, he came out personally and talked to the people until they realized they were less than 12 miles from their homes." The CHIC was a key factor in the success of Russell

Beach. "This is where many of the refugees first became aware of the South Vietnam Government," CPT York stated.

At the CHIC, each refugee was carefully interrogated by GVN officials to locate and isolate VC prisoners of war, members of the VC infrastructure, VC suspects, possible Hoi Chanh, and innocent civilians.

As the slow process to determine and separate each group continued throughout the operation, the GVN provided medical care, clothing, and hot food, in addition to drama teams, speakers, newspapers, and music, all stressing patriotism and unity.

2 B&W photo captions - "CPT Banta York examines 'home-made' transmitting rig that later called many Vietnamese from their tunnels and hiding places during frequent psychological operation broadcasting." photo credit (1) Shingledecker and (2) Hebert.

"The success of the PSYOP operation became a reality after we convinced the first doubtful refugees that they would be well treated and safe with us," CPT York said. "After they saw what was happening, many of them gladly

made tape recordings to their families and neighbors which we played from our helicopters over the areas they indicated. Those tapes were invaluable."

To show the people that they could trust and believe the American and GVN forces, CPT York personally landed his chopper in insecure areas.

"One man was obviously wounded, but was waving a white flag on a pole at us," the captain recalled. "When we landed to pick him up, his entire family trooped out of a nearby bunker to go aboard."

Several large groups—one of them numbering more than 700 persons—requested to be moved out, and Chinook pilots also landed on beaches and in insecure areas to get them all.

By late February, the population at the CHIC was near the 12,000 mark, with 257 Viet Cong infrastructure, 190 VC suspects, 104 prisoners of war and 32 Hoi Chanhhs. Of the 11,377 innocent civilians moved to the CHIC,

1,057 were men, 3,354 were women and 6,966 were children (under 15 years of age).

Officials at the CHIC reported that their population continued to grow even when no new refugees were coming in; more than 30 babies were delivered there by U.S. and Vietnamese doctors.

After the first four days of PSYOP, combat operations started on the Peninsula as the cordon line began to tighten.

The tactical situation had the 2nd and 3rd Bns. of the 26th Marine Regt. in the northern sector of the line, the 5/46 and the 4/3 in the middle, the ARVNs to the south and Co. D, 4/3 and a platoon of ACAVs from H Trp., 17th Cav. anchoring the right flank of the line.

The idea behind the entire operation was to move slowly and carefully, and the goal was no more than 500 meters per day.

"Ordinarily, this figure would be very insignificant," said BG Cooksey, "but on the Batangan Peninsula, it

took quite a while just to move a yard because the men literally looked under every rock and behind every bush."

And there was plenty to find. "Just like a big Easter egg hunt" was the way one rifleman described it. Tunnels were everywhere. By the time the combat phase of the operation ended on Feb. 9, more than 14,000 meters of tunnels had been blown up, mainly by 26th Engineer Bn. teams assigned to each infantry platoon.

Nearly every village had a large tunnel complex honeycombed under its simple huts and dirt paths. Many tunnels were hundreds of meters long with sleeping niches cut out of the walls every four or five meters, and every tunnel had to be checked out before it was blown to locate any hidden enemy or civilians.

"If some of the refugees and Hoi Chanh hadn't volunteered to show us some of the tunnels they knew about, we may never have found them," LTC Richardson stated. "In one case a Hoi Chanh took us to an area we had already swept through. He then pointed to a dirt embankment where he said several VC had covered up the entrance to protect their friends below. Once we explored it, we found that it had four different levels with a winding staircase-type entrance hole. It was very elaborate."

Several hundred "homemade" mines and booby traps were encountered during the 27 days of the combat phase of the operation, either by early detection or accidental detonation. Most U.S. and ARVN casualties were due to mines.

"I've been over here in the field for about eight months now, and this is the most treacherous area I've seen," said 1LT Mark S. Richards (Los Angeles), a platoon leader with A Co., 4/3. "Some mines were found less than 10 meters from our encampments, where we had been walking back and forth for several days."

On Feb. 3, the units had completed their slow search and clear and were on the South China Sea coast. Then, after a week of back-tracking and more searching, the combat phase of Operation Russell Beach officially ended (Feb. 9), and the pacification phase began.

More than 210 VC were killed in action on the peninsula by late February, besides the prisoners of war, VCI, and VC suspects held at the CHIC.

Also in their totals, the allied forces captured 15.5 tons of salt, 2 tons of corn, 13 tons of rice, and 59 individual and 6 crew-served weapons. Twenty-three sampans were destroyed as they tried to evade through Navy craft patrolling the peninsula waters.

"The resettlement of the peninsula and indoctrination of the people may take a long time," CPT York concluded, "but we can already call Operation Russell Beach a definite success as we've effectively separated the VC from the people. There's no more VC strong arm rule on the Batangan now."

2 Color photo captions - A 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. 'Old Guard' patrol examines one of 59 individual weapons found. Below, another 11th Brigade platoon reaches the South China Sea coast as the operation's cordon phase concludes.

Extracted from the Americal Division Magazine - Fall, 1970
(Colorful magazine published by the Americal Division Information Office in 1970)

July

July was marked by light sporadic contacts with the enemy, resulting in the quietest month of the quarter despite the mass Allied assault into the Kham Duc area.

Stepped up psychological operations payed off in numerous ways in the first couple weeks of July for the 198th Infantry Brigade. The results being Vietnamese children turning over 220 mortar rounds, 12 artillery rounds and 22 anti-personal mines to H Troop, 17th Cavalry among other smaller amounts of arms and munitions.

Americal Division Magazine - Fall 1971 (published by Americal Division Information Office)

We thank....Paul Bigham for loaning an original copy for scanning and transcription in April 1999.

Cover is White background with Red, yellow, green, blue and turquoise stripes running through the center. "AMERICAL FALL, 1971" appears in large blue letters in the upper right corner. Many colorful drawings adorn the cover. An Americal soldier in green is calling on a handset while holding an M-16 at the ready; A Cobra gunship is launching rockets; A crew is pulling construction material on a trailer with a tractor, and an ACAV is shown driving away with a crew sitting on top of the vehicle; and at the lower left there is a piece of the American flag showing,

FEBRUARY 1971

At the peak of Operation LAMSON 719, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry was responsible for the eastern portion of the AO, just south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry operated in the eastern portion of the AO, with responsibility for preventing enemy infiltration, and maintaining the security of QL-9.

1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry was responsible for the coordination and execution of the defense of Khe Sanh, H Troop, 17th Cavalry was to provide convoy security along QL-9, and also act as a brigade reaction force. F Troop, 8th Cavalry provided gunship cover for convoys, and an aero rifle platoon for use as an immediate reaction force.

Support units from the 23d Infantry Division also redeployed to support the division's combat units. Their mission was made much more difficult by the distances involved and by the short notice prior to the start of LAMSON 719. Initial problems were overcome, however, and the mission was accomplished.

MARCH 1971

On March 1, Headquarters, 11th Infantry Brigade moved north, taking with it the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, H Troop, 17th Cavalry and the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery. Later in LAMSON 719, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry came under control of the 11th Infantry Brigade.

In non-LAMSON 719 action, Operation Frederick Hill, conducted by the 196th Infantry Brigade in close cooperation with the 5th ARVN Regiment, terminated March 1.

The purpose of the operation had been to increase the overall effectiveness of the pacification operations near the coastal area, and the destruction of Main Force NVA units operating in the western portion of the combined tactical area of responsibility. The results of the operation, which had lasted 23 months, were 7,514 enemy killed, 1,848 weapons captured and 192 crew-served weapons captured. March 1 also saw the end of Operation Geneva Park, conducted by the 198th

Infantry Brigade and the 6th ARVN Regiment, which had also lasted 23 months. Its mission had been to secure the major lines of communication, and the destruction of enemy forces posing a threat to Quang Ngai City and the Chu Lai Combat Base. The results of the operation, were 2,337 enemy killed, 532 weapons captured and 49 crew-served weapons captured.

Operation Nantucket Beach, conducted by elements of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry and the 6th ARVN Regiment, within the 198th

Three color photos. Photo 1: Soldier with jungle hat, OD T-shirt, and M-16 watches his step as he moves through the heavy foliage. Photo credit Rockoff. Photo 2: Gun crew standing near a load of warheads. Photo credit Grambergu. Photo 3: Soldier on break reading mail. Photo credit Grambergu.

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LOG Continued...

Infantry Brigade tactical area of responsibility on the Batangan Peninsula, was terminated on March 1. The mission of the operation had been to further enhance the pacification program of the government of Vietnam. The operation, characterized by light and scattered action, had lasted eight months. The enemy suffered 630 killed, 207 weapons captured and five crew-served weapons captured.

Operation Iron Mountain ended March 1. The operation had lasted 23 months, and had concentrated on the security of major lines of communication and furthering the goals of pacification throughout the combined tactical area of responsibility. It was conducted in Quang Ngai province by the 11th Infantry Brigade in close coordination with the 4th ARVN Regiment. Iron Mountain resulted in 4,466 enemy killed, 1,1130 weapons captured and 94 crew-served weapons captured.

Operation Pennsylvania Square, initiated on June 29, 1970, ended on March 1. The operation in the open terrain in the northeastern portion of the 23d Infantry Division, was ideally suited for the employment of cavalry.

The responsibility for the operation had been entrusted to the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry with F Troop, 17th Cavalry attached. Contact was light to moderate throughout the operation. The results of Operation Pennsylvania Square were 216 enemy killed, 95 weapons captured and three crew-served weapons captured.

Two color photos on right two-thirds of page. Photo 1. Large howitzer being fired by crew. Photo credit Baombard. Photo 2. Soldier riding in helicopter presumably on an a combat assault. Two helicopters can be seen out to the right.

Page 29

APRIL 1971

On April 6, Operation LAMSON 719 was officially terminated. On April 8 the 11th Infantry Brigade with 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry; H Troop, 17th Cavalry and direct support units, began movement back to the 23rd Infantry Division AO. Between March 28 and April 8, all 23d Infantry Division aviation assets returned to Chu Lai.

1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry passed to the operational control of the 101st (Airmobile) and did not return to the 23d Infantry Division until April 30.

As of April 11, the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry had the record of rice captured under existing operations. They had collected 108,330 pounds of rice.

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Sp4 Jim Thornberry.....Reporter
PFC Jack Burke.....Reporter

03Aug68-Vietnam Communique

Americal Division

Americal Division soldiers killed 124 enemy in a week of heavy fighting in scattered actions throughout their area of operation.

Fighting increased in the 198th Light Infantry Brigade's area of operations as the infantrymen killed seven enemy. An action fought by elements of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry and H Troop, 17th Cavalry six miles northeast of Quang Ngai resulted in seven enemy killed. Four of the kills were credited to the cavalrymen, who also captured several weapons and a quantity of ammunition. Airstrikes called in by a forward air controller working in the area killed two enemy and the infantrymen accounted for one enemy killed.

Soldiers of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade continued to encounter heavy fighting as they killed 14 enemy in scattered skirmishes. Riflemen of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed six Viet Cong soldiers in five separate engagements while conducting reconnaissance missions 11 miles west of Tam Ky. Artillerymen from the 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery fired on a group of VC seen moving through an open area west of Landing Zone West. Four NVA were killed in the action. A battery from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery killed one VC west of the landing zone. Three more enemy were killed in widely scattered skirmishes throughout the brigade's operational area.

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14Sep68-Vietnam Communique

Americal Division

The Americal Division soldiers killed 141 enemy in a week of moderate contact.

Units of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, along with supporting elements, accounted for the major action of the week. In a series of scattered encounters, troopers of the various elements of the squadron killed 18 NVA soldiers and one VC, while apprehending three suspects and capturing two crew-served and six individual weapons in an area centered nine miles west of Tam Ky.

Units of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade killed eight Viet Cong when H Troop, 17th Cavalry called in artillery on a group of VC 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky, resulting in three enemy killed. A reconnaissance element of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed two VC seven miles south of Hoi An. The battalion commander and control helicopter killed three VC in separate contacts four miles south of Hoi An.

The largest Army newspaper in the world

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30 June 1969 - Infantrymen knock NVA from hill

LZ STINSON - Pop! Pop!

The men of Co. C, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., knew those sounds and hit the dirt. Seconds later an enemy mortar barrage sprayed dirt and rocks over their position in the thickets near this LZ, forward firebase for the Americal Division's battalion.

Earlier the company had been dispatched from their night laager to silence these same 82 and 60mm tubes which for several hours had lobbed rounds into the LZ.

As the infantrymen, along with members of H Troop, 17th Cav., approached the hill, the NVA mortarmen turned their tubes on the oncoming soldiers.

"We were moving out when we heard the pop of the tubes," said Spec. 4 Gary P. Tamagni, a machinegunner with H Troop. "Three of my buddies just got through the rear door when two 82mm rounds slammed behind our track. Another came in to the right, then two 57mm recoilless rounds hit the track on our left. They had us zeroed in."

Within minutes the unit had called in mortar and artillery fire on the hill. And the infantrymen were answering the enemy with small arms and automatic weapons fire.

The fight was over in twenty minutes when the NVA broke contact.

The troops then assaulted the enemy bastion with the ACAV's (Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles) sweeping through the hedgerow from which the communist forces had directed their recoilless rifle attack earlier.

"We then ran into a wall of machinegun fire," said the 3rd platoon leader, Lt. Carl W. McDaniel. "We got right up against them when they started throwing grenades. It took three air strikes to soften them up."

After the airstrikes, the Americans continued their push and soon silenced the enemy's menacing mortar fire.

Sgt. Jerry W. Collins, a squad leader in the 3rd platoon, led the attack, charging three separate spider holes and killing three enemy soldiers with his M14 and hand grenades.

"He was wounded by one of the several grenades thrown at him," said McDaniel. "But it was Collins' effort that got us to the enemy's mortar tube and their ammunition."

Along with the 82mm mortar, the soldiers also captured a 60mm mortar tube they had taken fire from earlier, a Chinese Communist machinegun, and an AK47 rifle.

The largest Army newspaper in the world

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EDITORIAL STAFF

SSgt. John Ward.....Editor
Sp4 Mark Follansbee.....Reporter
SP4 Larry JohnsonReporter
Sp4 Jim Thornberry.....Reporter
PFC Jack Burke.....Reporter

7 July 1969 - **Vietnam communique - June 16-22**

Americal Div - A combination of gunships and infantrymen killed eight North Vietnamese Army soldiers June 18, five miles west of Duc Pho. Teaming up for the fight were infantrymen from Co. B, 1st Bn., 20th Inf. and gunships from the 123rd Aviation Bn.

Three days earlier, a division forward air controller and mechanized troops teamed up to kill 13 NVA soldiers. The forward controller, flying an aircraft of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade, was flying over hilly terrain 10 miles southwest of Duc Pho when he received fire from an unknown number of NVA troops concealed in the dense jungle below. The aerial observer called the NVA position to tankers of the 3rd Platoon, H Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry, and armored personnel carriers were immediately dispatched. The artillery and helicopter gunship fire directed by division troopers killed 13 of the enemy.

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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 Americal 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 Wiekkel, 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, they came upon yet another base camp living area.

But the troop was still running up a score - two VC suspects, one of them wounded, were found near the base camp. As they headed for a new night defensive position, the troopers could account for 11 NVA killed and three enemy suspects detained.

10 November 1969- **Vietnam communiqué - October 20-26**

Americal Div - Soldiers of H Troop, 17th Cav., Americal Division, killed seven NVA soldiers in the grasslands 15 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City and captured seven RPG rounds, one RPG launcher and four AK47 rifles Oct. 26.

On Oct. 22, gunships of F Troop, 8th Air Cav., operating six miles northwest of Tam Ky killed four enemy soldiers.

Two days earlier, four enemy soldiers were killed in a brief fire fight four miles southwest of Duc Pho by men of Co. C, 4th Bn., 21st Inf.

Later in the week, a reconnaissance element of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., killed four enemy soldiers and captured an SKS rifle, an AK47 rifle, a pistol and a carbine five miles north of Quang Ngai City.

The Army Reporter

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20Jul70 Vietnam communique June 29-July 5

Crews kill 15 south of Ca Mau.....

Americal Div

Americal Division soldiers killed 19 enemy soldiers June 30 in scattered actions in their southern I Corps area of operations.

Working southeast of Chu Lai, men of H Troop, 17th Cav., found a cache that included one antitank mine, and antipersonnel mine, two 500-pound bombs and 1,200 pounds of rice.

Americal soldiers of Co. C, 1st Bn., 20th Inf., that day found and evacuated two tons of locally grown, unpolished rice five miles northwest of Duc Pho.

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21Sep70- Yards join Americal in search Page 12

LZ BAYONET - Leaving their vehicles to attain the element of surprise, cavalrymen from the 198th Inf. Bde., working with local Montagnards, killed five Viet Cong and captured two weapons as the combined team conducted a successful search of a village northwest of Quang Ngai.

"We moved out early in the morning to allow us enough time to reach the village by daybreak," said Lt. James G. Zack, a platoon leader with H Troop, 17th Cav. "Outside the village we split up into three groups. One element moved to the left side of the village, another moved to the right side and my element, containing several Montagnards, moved down the middle."

As the elements approached the center of the village, checking hootches along the way, they suddenly encountered enemy small arms and machine gun fire from their front.

"We must have surprised them," said Zack, "because the fire was coming from several different locations and we saw several VC running with weapons from the hootches to the north."

"I was carrying the radio," said Spec. 4 Gordon Heathcoe, a radio operator with H Troop. "When they fired on us, I got down and saw several Viet Cong running from the village."

Several of the Montagnards assaulted the enemy machine gun position, and forced the VC gunner to run into the woodline with his weapon. Following the assault, the cavalrymen and Montagnards quickly maneuvered toward the fleeing enemy and caught several running across a rice paddy toward the woodline.

"We caught them just before they entered the woodline and opened up to five before they could escape," said Zack.

Later, as the combined team swept the area of contact, they found two carbines lying near the bodies and one recently used mortar pit at the south end of the village. The weapons were evacuated and the mortar pit was destroyed.

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12Oct70- Montagnard outpost Page 3 joint force function

LZ BAYONET - It takes teamwork of a specialized nature to build an outpost from scratch, and a new Montagnard outpost now under construction on the Tra Bong Road northwest of Quang Ngai City in the Americal Division's 198th Inf. Bde. area is getting that specialized treatment.

The Montagnards of Regional Force Platoon 73, the Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) 13, and H Troop, 17th Cavalry are working together to construct and secure the new installation.

The multibunker complex will serve as a base from which the Montagnards will be able to secure a portion of the Tra Bong Road. Since being reopened last May after over a year of inactivity, the road is now a major resupply route over which Americal Division and South Vietnamese convoys travel regularly.

"We began building the outpost in early August," said Lt. Robert L. Elton, team leader of MAT 13. "The project is coming along well and we are pleased with the progress. Most of the building supplies for the outpost are obtained through coordination with our team and are delivered by Vietnamese convoys over the Tra Bong Road."

After the outpost is completed, a new pacification village will be constructed near the outpost.

"Because of previous combat operations," said Elton, "many of the local residents had to move from the area. These people can soon return to work their land, which will be secured by the Montagnards."

The outpost is now being secured by the Montagnards and H Troop. During the day there is extensive combined patrolling of the area, and at night, vehicles from H Troop comprise part of the defensive perimeter around the post.

"We have worked with the Montagnards on many occasions," said Sgt. Dan McCall, a track commander with H Troop. "And our combined operations have been very successful."

The Montagnards live with their families on the post. A MEDCAP team from 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., working with Vietnamese civilian workers, recently administered inoculations for cholera and treated the Montagnards for minor cuts and bruises. A majority of the families participated.

"If we continue to progress as well as we have in the past," explained Elton, "we should have the outpost completed at any time and the construction of the hamlet will be the next step. With the continued cooperation of the Montagnards and H Troop, we should have little difficulty in reaching that goal."

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01Feb71- One rallier pays dividend Page 1

LZ DOTTIE - Infantrymen from the 23rd Infantry Division's 198th Inf. Bde. learned that the Government of Vietnam's Chieu Hoi (open arms) program helps decrease enemy forces in two ways.

The most obvious way was evidenced when a rallier turned himself over to H Troop, 17th Cav., thus giving the allies in the area one less guerilla to fight.

But the big payoff came when the rallier volunteered to lead another brigade unit to a Viet Cong resting spot and helped decrease the VC population by two more.

After turning himself in to H Troop, the rallier was extracted to a nearby fire base where he expressed interest in leading a U.S. patrol to a spot he felt several Viet Cong would be sleeping that night. The offer was accepted and the rallier was taken to the field position of Echo Recon, 1st Bn., 6th Inf.

"We didn't know what to expect from him at first," said Lt. Thomas W. Tardy, the platoon leader. "He told us he wanted to walk point even though he knew we wouldn't give him a weapon." When it got dark enough, the unit moved out, with the rallier moving at the head of the column.

"As he walked, he checked every hedgerow for booby traps," said Tardy. "Finally, after about 1,000 meters, he halted and motioned toward a spot next to a wooded area." Through the interpreter, the rallier told Tardy that this was the enemy resting point.

"I had my men drop their packs and move on line," Tardy said. "We had been there only a few minutes when we spotted about three enemy soldiers crossing a rice paddy to our front and moving directly toward us."

The enemy soldiers walked right up to the infantrymen's positions and thinking the members of Echo Recon were other Viet Cong, began to speak to them. A split second later, the enemy realized they were talking to the wrong people.

The infantrymen opened up and killed two in the brief fire fight. Captured were one AK50 rifle, an automatic rifle, and eight Chicom hand grenades.

"I'd like to work with that rallier again," Tardy said. "He really knew what he was doing."

08Feb71 - Former VC's live appeal Page 1
brings in eight new ralliers

CHU LAI - The psychological operations program (Psyops) of the 23rd Infantry Division's 198th Inf. Bde., a proven savings program in terms of casualties for both sides, paid an extra dividend recently when eight Viet Cong soldiers turned themselves in to the government in a single day.

At least one of the returnees turned himself in as a result of a unique "live" helicopter broadcast made the day before by another former Viet Cong who had previously rallied. This was believed to be the first time in the division area that a returnee had flown on a Psyops mission and made a live appeal to his former guerilla mates.

The eight ralliers, all former guerrillas in Binh Son District, turned themselves in to a Popular Forces outpost southeast of Chu Lai. All stated that the Psyops program of the 198th had influenced their decision to return to the government, according to Lt. William Cain, the brigade civil affairs officer.

"We have been running an intensive Psyops program in that area for some time," said Cain. "We were particularly interested in appealing to the village guerrillas who set booby traps and attempt to harass the pacification projects. These eight all told us that because of our broadcasts and allied operations in the area, they had decided to rally."

Two days before the eight returned to the government, a lone Viet Cong turned himself in to the brigade's H Troop, 17th Cav., which was working in the area. The troop sent him to a nearby fire base where the former guerilla expressed his willingness to go up in the Psyops helicopter to make an appeal for his friends to rally.

The next day, the normal schedule of broadcasting taped messages in the brigade area was suspended and the helicopter was utilized for the live message by the rallier.

"We normally use only taped messages in our broadcasting," Cain said. "But this time the opportunity presented itself for us to make a direct live appeal. Our interpreter, the rallier and the civil affairs officer of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, got together and composed a short but effective message for the rallier to broadcast."

The next evening, the eight turned themselves in to the Popular Forces.

"Our Psyops program has been extremely effective this month," Cain said. "By employing this new twist of live messages, we hope we can have a few more days of receiving eight ralliers in a single day."

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13Dec71- Americal units complete standdown Page 12

By MSG Bill Pickett

CHU LAI - The actual standdown of the 23d Inf. Div. (Americal) was accomplished Nov. 27, when the division command group escorted the colors to Fort Lewis, Washington for the official deactivation of the unit and retirement of the colors.

The action brought to a close an enormous redeployment task which began in earnest with the announcement of the standdown of the 3d Bn. 18th Arty. and the 71st Assault Helicopter Company on Sept. 8.

Planning for the entire operation began much earlier under the supervision of the Keystone Operations Center whose personnel were responsible for the coordination and scheduling of all standdown activities.

A personnel out-processing center was established adjacent to the Chu Lai Airfield, and this operation, although deterred one day when Typhoon Hester leveled the center, averaged 200 persons per day through its doors, destined for reassignment in-country or return to CONUS for further assignment or ETS.

Also in September, units of the 23d Med. Bn. and maintenance and engineer companies began standdown, many utilizing the facilities of the Division Combat Center of [or?] the former 27th Surgical Hospital area through which most of the division members would pass during their standdown period. These locations were provided exchange and club facilities to serve Americal soldiers during their standdown.

On Sept. 17 H Troop, 17th Cav. began its standdown, and during October most maneuver elements of the division also began their standdown operations.

It was during this period that Task Force Americal began to take shape under the command of Col. Robert J. Malley, former DIS COM commander. Mission of Task Force Americal (TFA) was to prevent the enemy from establishing bases from which to rocket Chu Lai Combat Base and to keep the enemy from massing troops for attack.

Between Oct. 24 and 30, those units of Division Artillery which had not begun standdown were returned to rear areas to begin processing, and on Oct. 30 Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of Division Artillery closed out

its mission as it received standdown instructions.

The 1st Bn., 6th Inf.--which had been replaced in the mountains west of Chu Lai by the 3d Bn., 21st Inf. -- became the last infantry maneuver element to commence standdown when it was ordered to the rear on the last day of October.

Division support units, including the 23d Supply and Transportation Bn., 26th Engineer Bn, 723d Maintenance Bn. and Division Support Command began standdown during the first week in November.

Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company was the final unit to conduct standdown activities, and as the colors were escorted to COMUS [CONUS?] late in November, only the 196th Inf. Bde., under the command of Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough remains.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, Americal Division
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1605

12 December 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BANDY, WILBERT R. RA 13 429 668 (SSAN xxx-xx-xxxx), STAFF SERGEANT E6, United States Army, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, 198th Infantry Brigade (Light) APO 96219

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 3 December 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 3 December 1967

in the vicinity of Binh Son, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Bandy distinguished himself while serving as armored cavalry track section leader on a mission, to secure the Binh Son Bridge. During the early morning hours, an estimated Viet Cong company attacked the bridge in conjunction with other enemy units attacking the Binh Son district headquarters. Sergeant Bandy's section, which consisted of two armored cavalry assault vehicles, engaged the enemy. Almost immediately, one of the vehicles was struck by recoilless rifle fire which wounded the vehicle commander and two crewmen. Sergeant Bandy quickly redistributed his remaining men which enabled both vehicles to continue fighting effectively. Noting the location and direction of the enemy advance, Sergeant Bandy called in artillery. He adjusted the artillery fire despite intense enemy small arms, mortar and recoilless rifle fire while simultaneously directing the action of his two vehicles. During the battle, Sergeant Bandy allowed a small force of Viet Cong to maneuver in close to his vehicle in order to deliver machinegun fire on them. Due to Sergeant Bandy's heroic action and leadership during the five hour battle, the bridge was denied to the enemy. Staff Sergeant Bandy's unquestionable valor and aggressive devotion to duty while engaged in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division and the United States Army.

Authority. By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

ROBERT H. MUSSER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

DONALD Y. B. CHUNG
LTC, AGC Adjutant General

Press Release
No. 198-60-67
Dec 17, 1967

Information Office
198th Light Infantry Brigade
APO San Francisco 96219

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(CHU LAI, VIETNAM - IO) SSG Wilbert R. Bandy (Alloy, W. Va.) has become the first 198th Light Infantry Brigade soldier to be awarded the Silver Star in Vietnam.

Bandy, a section leader with the 198th's Troop H, distinguished himself during a battle for the Binh Son Bridge in the Americal Division's area of operations.

Early in the morning on December 3rd, a Viet Cong force, estimated to be a company or larger, attacked the bridge in conjunction with an attack by six Viet Cong companies at the Binh Son District Headquarters.

SSG Bandy ordered his track section, consisting of two Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles to engage the enemy. Almost immediately three of the crewmen were injured by small arms fire and a 57mm recoilless rifle round.

SSG Bandy noted the direction and location of the enemy advance and called artillery on the area. He continued to adjust the artillery while under heavy enemy small arms, mortar and recoilless rifle fire. In addition, numerous times he was forced to run while under fire between vehicles to control fires and avoid tying up the radio network.

By the next morning the men on the two APC's had killed 14 Viet Cong.

Major General S. W. Koster, Americal Division commanding general, presented the award to Bandy three days after the battle.

Press Release
No. 198-38-67
Dec 17, 1967

Information Office
198th Light Infantry Brigade
APO San Francisco 96219

by 2LT Stephen L. Meehan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

(CHU LAI, VIETNAM - IO) There were 10 of them to start with. Three were wounded by the Viet Cong and then there were seven - a "Magnificent Seven".

In front of them lay an overrun Binh Son and elements of six hard core Viet Cong companies.

Neither Yul Brynner, John Wayne nor Lee Marvin was in charge - just Staff Sergeant Wilbert R. Bandy, a cavalryman from Montgomery, West Virginia, who had traded a hoss and Winchester '73 for a Hellcat and a triple pair of machineguns.

In five hours, Bandy a member of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade's H Troop, and his seven men killed 14 Viet Cong and kept the bridge they were guarding untouched.

Earlier in the night, section leader Bandy positioned his two Hellcat Armored Personnel Carriers in defense of the Binh Son Brigade - a vital steel link across the Song Tra Bong River on Highway One in northern Quang Ngai Province.

Bandy and his men were supporting a small group of Popular Forces when the six VC companies hit the Binh Son District Headquarters and drove through the village toward the bridge in the Americal Division area.

The enemy opened up with a barrage of small arms and mortar fire that rattled Bandy's APC. "When I heard the fire I knew this was going to be it," he said

-- more --

Press Release No. 198-38-67
MAGNIFICENT SEVEN Add 1-1-1-1

"I told my men to get on their tracks and start throwing lead," Bandy said. Within two or three minutes the two tracks were peppering the enemy with two 50 calibers, four M 60 machineguns, two M 79 grenade launchers and M-16 rifles.

Within the next hour two men, including the track commander, in the accompanying Hellcat were wounded by machinegun fire. Another man was injured when a 57 mm recoilless rifle round smashed through the same APC.

Throughout the night Bandy called in artillery and directed the fire of his machine gunners. Numerous times he was forced to run the 30 meters between the two Hellcats to check the situation and avoid tying up the radio.

Once the Viet Cong, firing from three directions, moved within 75 meters, but the seven cavalymen held, and the enemy was driven back.

As daylight came at the battle for the Binh Son Bridge, 14 bodies were found within range of the two APCs' weapons. Seven more were killed by artillery fire.

The enemy had been repelled. The bridge was untouched. The Magnificent Seven returned to their base camp.

news | *| sheet
|* *|
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MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Fair to Partly cloudy with isolated late afternoon showers. Winds at 10 knots from the Northeast. High Monday 100. Low Sunday night 80. (B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL - IO)--Action increased yesterday in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone as Division forces killed 178 NVA, 30 VC, detained 18 suspects, captured 18 individual weapons and seven crew-served weapons.

In the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry's area of operations "Dragoons" and supporting elements killed 177 NVA, captured 16 individual weapons, four crew-served weapons and one flare gun.

Approximately 0910 hours yesterday morning a platoon of "A" Troop led by 1LT Thomas M. Ginz (Cheshire, CT) was operation [sic] with the ARVN 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry on a reconnaissance mission four miles west of Tam Ky. The 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry on a reconnaissance mission four miles west of Tam Ky. The 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry on a reconnaissance mission four miles west of Tam Ky. The 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry made initial contact and the platoon engaged an unknown size enemy force. Within a few minutes it was determined that it was a main force of NVA. "C" Troop was then committed.

As the battle intensified the remainder of "A" Troop made contact approximately the same time with an estimated NVA company northwest of the initial contact.

There were numerous air strikes, artillery missions conducted and "Blue Ghost" aerial scout teams were committed.

Action continued until about 1925 when the enemy broke contact.

"A" Troop elements commanded by CPT George R. Kaczor (Seattle, WA) were credited with 89 NVA kills, "C" Troop with 9 NVA kills, "Blue Ghost" with 3 NVA kills and tactical air strikes credited for 75 NVA killed.

There were two 75mm recoilless rifles, two RPGs, two light machine guns, eight K-44s, four AK-47s, one Thompson machine gun, one 32 caliber pistol, and one flare pistol captured.

"F" Troop, 8th Cavalry engaged a group of NVA killing one.

Heavy fighting continued in the Quang Ngai Province yesterday as 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" reported 20 VC killed, 18 VC suspects detained, two individual weapons captured, one crew-served weapon and one hand grenade captured.

Following a mortar attack of 81mm and 82mm rounds on LZ Bronco from 0245 to 0315 a "Shark" gunship of the 174th Aviation Company with SP4 Gordon L Knight (Los Angeles, CA) as gunner, observed and killed seven VC evading from a suspected mortar position near hootches one mile north of Duc Pho.

Later in the morning a sweep was conducted by a squad of a company of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry led by SGT Kermit Williams (Clinton, N.C.) resulting in the recovery of the seven VC killed by the "Shark" gunship plus the capture of an 82mm mortar, three 81mm rounds and one M-2 carbine. The squad later killed one VC dressed in a NVA uniform near the same site.

In action near Quang Ngai City, 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry killed 11 VC and detained 12 suspects yesterday.

A company of the battalion killed two VC trying to break through their southwest perimeter and captured a carbine and one home-made grenade.

During separate actions later in the day the company killed two evading VC, one of them in a sweep of an area after an air strike that left six of the enemy dead.

Another company of the battalion killed one evading VC while another company of the "Always First" detained 12 military age suspects.

Other action resulted in one VC suspect detained by a 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry company near a stream 8 miles south of Duc Pho.

The "Sykes Regulars" also captured medical supplies, documents, an AK-47 cleaning kit, one Chicom grenade, two empty AK-47 magazines and one 30 caliber ammunition belt with 65 rounds on the well armed suspect.

(Cont'd on Col. 1 page 2)

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Gerald D. Hill, IO

Telephone: Chu Lai 3212 or 2414

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Page 2 AMERICAL NEWS SHEET Vol. 2 No. 128 August 25, 1968

(Americal News Cont'd from page 1)

Troops of another 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry company detained five suspects three miles northwest of LZ Bronco. Another Battalion company found one VC body later yesterday afternoon.

Action dropped in the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operations yesterday as soldiers accounted for 9 VC killed and three sampans destroyed.

"Polar Bears" of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry observed three sampans on a river. Mortar fire was called in destroying three sampans.

"Gimlets" of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry observed five VC in the open. Artillery was called in killing one VC, 15 miles northwest of of Tam Ky.

Another company of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry while following a blood trail, spotted three VC evading. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire, killing one VC 15 miles west of Tam Ky.

"Gimlets" of a 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry company observed a group of VC in the open 15 miles west of Tam Ky. An artillery fire mission was called, killing two VC.

Another 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry company observed one VC evading. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire, resulting in one VC killed.

Yet another company of the battalion observed a group of VC moving west. The group was engaged, resulting in one VC killed eight miles west of Tam Ky.

A reconnaissance element of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry received small arms fire. Three enemy were spotted. The element returned the fire, killing three VC four miles south of Hoi An.

Action slowed down yesterday in the 198th Infantry Brigade's area as one VC and one NVA were killed.

An element of "H" Troop, 17th Cavalry on Highway 1 spotted a group of NVA. The NVA opened fire and fled. "H" Troop returned the fire killing one NVA.

A company of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry commanded by Cpt John Sprague (Atlanta, GA) killed one enemy in the jungle highlands of the Operation Burlingotn Trail area. The enemy was found following a search through an area of a one hour battle between the "Professionals" and an unknown size VC force.

Other units of the Brigade reported several sniper incidents.

Division forces suffered two soldiers killed and 26 wounded and evacuated for treatment.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

The Secretary of the Army, Honorable Stanley R. Resor recently visited the Americal Division. In a letter to General Gettys, Mr. Resor made the following remarks about the men of the Division:

I enjoyed very much my visit iwth you and the members of the Americal Divison. The briefings were well prepared and I was greatly impressed with the caliber of your people and the job they are doing. It was particularly impressive to visit your LZ's and to observe the determination and tenacity of the foot soldier in the difficult jungle fighting that characterizes your operations.

My heartiest congratulations on the progress being made by the Americal Division. I found it most encouraging.

DATELINES----UPI

MOSCOW--President Svoboda of Czechoslovakia is in Moscow. The Soviets say he holding talks with Russia's rulers in a "Frank and comradely atmosphere."

S N O O P Y by CHARLES M. SCHULZ

- Lucy says, "See that building there? That's the library." to Linus.
- Lucy continues, "If you ever want to borrow a book, all you have to do is go in there and tell them which one you want and they'll let you take it home!".
- Linus is skeptical and says, "FREE?". Lucy reemphasizes, "ABSOLUTELY FREE!".
- Linus ponders this and says, "Sort of makes you wonder what they're up to!".

Vol. 2. No. 131 Wednesday August 28, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds at 10 knots from the Northeast. High Thursday 100. Low Thursday night 80 (B-6).

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)- Action slowed in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday as Division forces accounted for 16 NVA and 14 VC killed, three NVA detained, two crew-served weapons and seven individual weapons captured.

Action in the 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry's area of operations slowed yesterday as "Dragoons" and supporting elements accounted for 16 NVA and two VC killed, three NVA detained, two crew-served weapons and six individual weapons captured in an area centered seven miles west of Tam Ky.

"A" Troop accounted for eight of the NVA killed, three AK-47s and two 12.7mm anti-aircraft guns captured.

A company of the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry engaged a group of NVA late yesterday, killing four NVA 13 miles west of Tam Ky.

A company of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry accounted for two NVA killed, three AK-47s and one NVA detained.

"F" Troop, 8th Cavalry killed two NVA and two VC.

In scattered light action yesterday the 196th Infantry Brigade killed six VC.

A company of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry received two hand grenades on their perimeter early yesterday morning. Flares were fired and the enemy was engaged with small arms fire and hand grenades, resulting in four VC killed 23 miles west of Tam Ky.

A company of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry observed two VC evading 13 miles west of Tam Ky. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire, killing both VC.

198th Infantry Brigade soldiers killed two VC during light scattered action yesterday.

"H" Troop, 17th Cavalry found the body of one VC yesterday morning. The cavalrymen had killed the VC earlier in a brief contact south of Tam Ky.

A company of the 39th Engineer Battalion, working in support of the 1st Battalion, 52d Infantry killed one VC attempting to evade south of Chu Lai.

11th Brigade infantrymen reported four VC killed and two suspects apprehended as light action continued yesterday in the Duc Pho area.

"Always First" rifle platoons of the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry led by 1LT Vincent Satriano (Chicago,IL) and SSG Raymond Sampier (Valley, Station, KT) killed two VC in separate contacts while conducting combat sweeps north of Duc Pho.

A company of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry killed two VC south of Chu Lai.

"Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company responding to a call from 2d ARVN Division soldiers in contact with an estimated VC company yesterday six miles east of Quang Ngai, destroyed ten fortified structures and two machine gun positions with rockets and machine gun fire.

Division forces suffered two soldiers killed and 17 wounded and evacuated for treatment.

JOHNSON STILL IN CHARGE

AUSTIN TEXAS --- President Johnson expressed the hope Tuesday the Vietnam policy of the Democratic Presidential nominee would not be much different from his own.

Johnson expressed the hope in a birthday interview only hours before the Democratic National Convention was scheduled to convene in Chicago to take up the party platform and its controversial Vietnam plan.

In talking to reporters, Johnson said that there would not be much progress made in negotiations to end the Vietnam War until the convention was over. Even then, he said, he would be in charge of the country and its policies until January 20.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

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AERS-ARS CAMPAIGN

Payday, 31 August 68 is the last chance to contribute to the Army Emergency Relief for this year. This organization is one of the best aids personnel in the Army have. It has helped the soldiers in the Americal Division with \$7,782.00 this past year. We have in turn contributed only \$4,876.55. If we each give a dollar on payday we'll exceed donations of \$20,000 for the Division. Help the Army help itself and you! Give your \$1.00 to AER on PAYDAY!

DATELINES---UPI

PRAGUE--A free Czechoslovak radio Monday night said a Soviet armored unit officer shot and killed a tank driver who refused to drive over anti-Soviet demonstrators in his path near Kosice.

Radio free Kosice said a superior officer arrived after the killing,praised the officer and shoved the slain driver off the tank into the midst of the sitting Czechoslovaks.

STOCKHOLM--The Swedish aliens commission Tuesday granted asylum to three more American Vietnam deserters but decided to expel a fourth because of his criminal record.

HONG KONG- Five American servicemen, caught smoking an herb they thought was marijuana, had their leave cut short and were shipped back to Vietnam, officials said Tuesday.

Laboratory analysis later showed that the Chinese herb they bought from a street vendor was actually a commonly used blood thickening agent that sells for about eight U.S. cents an ounce.

CHICAGO--Police sprayed tear gas onto thousands of hippies, yippies, and antiwar demonstrators early Tuesday to rout them from Lincoln Park for the third successive night.

The militant ragtag bands roved the city through the day and early evening, carrying their anti-establishment protest to the Democratic national convention hotels before returning to the park for their confrontation with police.

HONG KONG -- Japan has replaced Communist China as Hong Kong's chief supplier of imported goods, trade figures showed Tuesday.

Japan's textiles, electric appliances and other hardware outsold Chinese imports, mostly food, by more than 12 million U.S. dollars in the first six months of this year.

Snoopy by Charles M. Schulz - Charlie Brown puts Snoopy in his baseball team's lineup.

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds at 10 knots from the northeast. High Sunday 95. Low Sunday night 72. (B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) --- Action increased in the Americal Division southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday as Division forces and supporting elements accounted for 23 VC and one NVA killed and five individual weapons captured.

Elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade killed nine VC and captured three individual weapons in their area of operations yesterday.

A reconnaissance element of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed one evading VC with small arms fire yesterday 10 miles south of Hoi An. Later the element killed another VC with grenades in the same area.

In an area centered eight miles south of Hoi An a company of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed a total of four VC in three separate incidents. Another company of the battalion found one carbine in bushes 11 miles south of Hoi An.

A company of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry engaged a group of NVA with small arms fire, killing one NVA four miles northeast of Que Son.

A company of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry engaged two evading VC with small arms fire killing one VC 25 miles west of Tam Ky. Later another company of the battalion spotted a group of VC in the open. Artillery was called in, killing one VC 26 miles west of Tam Ky.

A reconnaissance element of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry found one M-1 carbine and one SKS rifle in a hut 24 miles west of Tam Ky.

Infantry and Cavalymen of 198th Infantry combined with "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Aviation Battalion, killed six VC and captured one individual weapon yesterday in the Operation Burlington Trail area.

"Aero Scouts" flying in support of the 198th Infantry Brigade yesterday killed three VC in the Operation Burlington Trail area. Later the "Aero Scouts" killed another VC southwest of Chu Lai.

A company of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry killed one VC and captured one M-1 carbine when they returned fire on a sniper in the Operation Burlington Trail area.

Yesterday morning "H" Troop, 17th Cavalry engaged a group of VC south of Vinh Son, killing one VC.

Action in the 11th Infantry Brigade's area of operations remained scattered yesterday as the "Jungle Warriors" and supporting elements killed six VC, captured one weapon, and detained two suspects.

A gunship from "Primo Aviation Limited" killed one evading VC 12 miles north of LZ Bronco.

In the jungle eight miles southwest of Duc Pho, SP4 Alberto Rodriguez (Kerrelville, Texas), point man for a reconnaissance element of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, encountered two VC. The two VC fired at Rodriguez and fled. Rodriguez returned fire, killing one of the VC. One K-44 rifle was taken from the dead enemy.

Yesterday afternoon the Command and Control helicopter from the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry detained one VC suspect 11 miles north of the "Jungle Warrior's" home.

The 11th Brigade's 52nd Military Intelligence Detachment killed two evading VC in rice paddies four miles north of Duc Pho.

Action in the 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry's area of operations increased slightly yesterday as "F" Troop, 8th Cavalry killed two VC and detained two VC suspects.

Americal Division forces suffered one soldier killed and two wounded and evacuated for medical treatment.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Gerald D. Hill Jr., IO

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THE END OF REFORM

PRAGUE---The political crackdown on Czechoslovakia is underway and an atmosphere of hopeless fear has swept over the people of Prague. The tremendous spirit of resistance and outspoken belief that they could retain at least some of the liberties gained in the past seven months has been replaced by sullen silence and a "leave me alone" attitude.

Freedom of the press began dying Friday. The key publication of the nation issued what it called its last edition. "Literarni Listy," the magazine in whose pages the drive for reform was spearheaded until the Soviet bloc invasion on August 21st, said in Friday's edition, "We will not publish unless we can write freely."

It went down fighting. The final issue distributed in Prague featured a cartoon of a Soviet soldier standing atop a tank and holding a machinegun. The caption read: "Workers of the world unite--or I'll shoot you!"

Soviet Purge

Communist sources said the Soviets are going to purge everyone from party leader Alexander Dubcek on down. Then they will slowly discredit Dubcek and his followers.

One Czech put it briefly: "We know the score, and we know the pattern. Next comes purges, people lose their jobs, and the Soviets gain control. There is no hope now."

According to sources in the Kremlin, the Soviets are demanding the Dubcek reformers oust many of their own number from high party office and replace them with pro-Moscow comrades trusted by the Soviets.

Smrkovsky Speaks

All this was reflected in the sorrowing tones of public statements from Dubcek and other reformers, all pleading with lumps in their throats for Czechs to live with Soviet occupation.

Over the radio Smrkovsky addressed his fellow citizens: "I beg you to show understanding for us, on whose shoulders has rested the heavy burden of negotiating and of making decisions. We too had to act and decide in the shadow of tanks and aircraft stationed on our territory."

Later, National Assembly President Smrkovsky told a western diplomat there were 900 Soviet tanks in the Prague area alone. "In this situation what do you expect us to do?"

PEKING--Communist China's official New China News Agency, Hsinshua, Friday condemned Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia: "After its flagrant occupation of Czechoslovakia by force of arms with the tacit consent of U.S. imperialism, the Soviet revisionist renegade clique has ruthlessly suppressed the Czechoslovak people by fascist means and whipped the Czechoslovak revisionist renegade clique into line with bayonets and cannons, thus once again nakedly exposing the real features of the Soviet revisionists as social-imperialists."

Also, the official Chinese Communist Party newspaper denounced Alexander Dubcek and his Czech reformist followers as traitors to the Czechoslovak people, because they "have knuckled under and capitulated under the bayonets of the Soviet revisionists and have accepted the terms of surrender which forfeit state sovereignty."

AT TOKYO U. TOO?

TOKYO--Education Minister Hirokichi Nadao Friday sternly criticized student violence at Japan's prestigious Tokyo University and urged school authorities to "courageously expel the offending students." The anarchic state of affairs at the university has become more than we can tolerate."

A groups of 200 diehard student activists have taken possession of the main building of the university and paralyzed the administrative facilities.

MAO and PATE DE FOI GRAS

PHNOM PENH--Cambodian Chief of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk has asked Chinese Communist Party Chairman Mao Tse-Tung to stay out of Cambodia. In an interview in Phnom Penh Sihanouk said, "I respect and admire Mao, but I want him to stay in China, not outside."

He explained that he had problems in some of the provinces because of a handful of communists calling themselves "Maoists." But, he added, that the Maoists in his country would soon disappear because the people supported him; Cambodia would never turn communist.

In another press interview Sihanouk showed his bank books and bills to counter a charge made in communist tracts that he was "living on the sweat of the people". The books showed Sihanouk's biggest personal expenses were for food.

"Anyone should be allowed to offer himself a can of truffles or pate de foi gras from time to time," the prince said.

Vol. 2. No. 146 Thursday September 12, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy skies with scattered afternoon and evening showers.

High 92, low 77. Winds northeast at 10 knots. (B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)---Action remained scattered in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday as Division forces and supporting elements accounted for 22 VC killed and one weapon captured.

Operation Champaign Grove began on 4 Sept. in an area 20 miles west of Quang Ngai City. Elements of the 11th Inf. Bde. and the 2nd ARVN Div. have killed 110 VC and 13 NVA, detained 27 suspects, and captured one crew-served and 14 individual weapons in the combined operations.

Light action in Quang Ngai Province yesterday resulted in eight VC killed, one suspect detained and one weapon captured during operations by 11th Inf. Bde. "Jungle Warriors".

The U.S. Air Force accounted for two VC killed yesterday morning when a forward Air Control plane returned fire on two ground gunners, killing both nine miles west of Quang Ngai.

Troops of a 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company found three VC killed by air strikes 10 miles west of Quang Ngai City.

Infantrymen of a 1st Bn., 20th Inf. company detained two VC who led them to a near tunnel near huts nine miles north of Quang Ngai City. Soon after the two VC entered the tunnel there was a large explosion, killing both VC. Later they killed another VC in the same vicinity.

"Old Guard" soldiers of another 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company found one automatic weapon in bushes by a trail 11 miles west of Quang Ngai City.

Cavalrymen of "E" Troop, 1st Cav. detained one VC suspect by a trail near a mortar site which had been used to attack LZ Bronco. The mortar site was less than two miles west of the "Jungle Warriors" home.

Elements of the 196th Inf. Bde. killed nine VC yesterday in the Operation Wheeler/Wallowa area.

A reconnaissance element of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. in three separate actions yesterday killed a total of six VC nine miles south of Hoi An.

Two 3d Bn., 21st Inf. companies killed three more VC in the same area in two separate contacts.

Two air strikes were flown in support of the 196th yesterday resulting in one secondary explosion.

Action centered west and northwest of Chu Lai yesterday in the 198th Inf. Bde's. area of operations as one light contact, the discovery of a rice cache, and one VC killed highlighted activity.

A 5th Bn., 46th Inf. company commanded by 1LT Nicholas Holmes (St. Cloud Minn.) found 400 pounds of rice yesterday during a search and clear mission in the Burlington Trail area. The rice was booby-trapped with two M-26 grenades which were discovered and destroyed.

A reconnaissance element of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. accounted for one VC killed yesterday.

In other action a 1st Bn., 6th Infantry company commanded by CPT. Francis X. Brennan (Boston, Mass.) ran into an unknown size enemy force in bunkers on the "rocket ridge" west of Chu Lai. Two air strikes were called in on the NVA unit which was firing on the "Regulars" with automatic weapons and rolling grenades down a hill into the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. soldier's positions. Results of the contact are unknown at this time.

The remainder of the Bde's action centered south of Chu Lai where a 1st Bn., 52d Inf. company commanded by CPT Peter L. Lawson (Taunton, Mass.) discovered two M-16 anti-personnel mines, several spider holes, and documents during a search and clear mission.

"H" Troop, 17th Cav. soldiers operating with the "Ready Rifles" found and destroyed one 8 inch dud round.

Civic Action soldiers of the Bde. treated 301 Vietnamese yesterday during five MEDCAPs.

The 1st Sqdn., 1st Armored Cav. reported four VC killed yesterday in the Burlington Trail area. "F" Troop, 8th Cav. accounted for three of the VC killed and "C" Troop, 1st Cav. accounted for other VC killed.

Division forces suffered two soldiers killed and 35 wounded and evacuated for treatment.

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Baseball League standings as of 9/11/68
Snoopy cartoon. Snoopy steals Linus's blanket.

WASHINGTON(UPI)--Senate gun control supporters appealed to Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts for help in strengthening a gun control bill to include licensing and registration provisions.

Kennedy, who returned to the Senate for the first time since his brother, Robert F. Kennedy, was shot to death by an assassin, said he was undecided whether to take part in the gun control debate.

The Senate was expected to take up the legislation Thursday.

"Senator Kennedy said he'll be there," said Sen. Joseph Tydings, Democrat-Maryland, a sponsor of a strong bill.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat-Conn., another supporter of gun controls, said he was "certain" Kennedy would take part in the floor debate.

Tydings said he would try to attach mandatory gun licensing and registration provision to the bill and kill judiciary committee amendments which weakened some of its original provisions.

The measure would extend to rifles, shotguns and ammunition the same controls which Congress earlier placed on pistols. It would outlaw [sic] interstate mail order sales and sales to former criminals, alcoholics, children, drug addicts and other incompetents. The House has passed a weaker version of the measure.

Last May 7 the Senate defeated a rifle and shotgun control bill 53-29 despite a plea for passage by Edward Kennedy.

NEW YORK (UPI)--Israel has warned the United Nations Security Council Tuesday that urgent action is required to prevent another big outbreak of fighting in the tension-packed middle east.

Israeli spokesmen also reported new firing across the Suez Canal at the spot where a more than five hour artillery battle killed and wounded more than 150 persons on Sunday.

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

MONDAY

Cloudy Skies Afternoon and Evening Showers. High 89 Low 75

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone increased yesterday as Division forces accounted for 38 NVA and 18 VC killed and four crew-served and 16 individual weapons captured.

Attacks by 11th Inf. Bde. soldiers resulted in 38 NVA and four VC killed, two suspects detained, and four crew-served and 16 individual weapons captured yesterday in Quang Ngai Province.

Soldiers of a 1st Bn., 20th Inf. company led by CPT William J. Adams (Madison, Ind.) killed 31 NVA, captured four crew-served and 16 individual weapons and detained one NVA suspect during heavy action south and west of the Ha Thanh Special Forces Camp 15 miles west of Quang Ngai City.

The "Sykes Regulars" attacked an NVA force in fortified bunkers and tunnels at the base of a hill near Route 58, less than one mile south of Ha Thanh, killing 25 NVA. The following weapons were captured: 11 AK-47 rifles, one RPG-7, one RPG rocket launcher, one 57mm recoilless rifle, two flare pistols, one RPG light machine gun, and one .45 cal. pistol.

Earlier yesterday, the company came across two NVA playing dead, near Route 58, one mile southwest of Ha Thanh. The "Sykes Regulars" killed them both and captured one carbine. Troops of the company also detained one NVA suspect in a hole near the same site.

The company also killed four NVA in two other contacts and captured one AK-47 rifle.

'Aero Scouts' of the 123d Avn. Bn. killed seven NVA near the location of yesterday's action south of Ha Thanh.

In other action yesterday troops of a 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company detained one VC suspect six miles north of Duc Pho.

A battery of the 6th Bn., 11th Arty. accounted for four VC killed Northwest of Duc Pho.

"Charger" units of the 196th Inf. Bde. along with elements of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Armored Cav. killed 11 VC in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. and Burlington Trail yesterday.

While destroying spider holes with a bulldozer 10 miles west of Tam Ky, "Dragoons" of a Trp. of the 1st Sqdn. 1st Armored Cav. killed one VC hiding in one of the spider holes.

Another Trp. of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Armored Cav., came under RPG fire which caused light damage to an armored personnel carrier. Then a Kit Carson Scout and a US soldier leaped from the APC and charged the enemy position killing three VC.

A 3d Bn., 21st Inf. company engaged and killed one VC with small arms fire 10 miles west of Tam Ky. Another company of the battalion killed one VC with small arms and M-79 fire nine miles west of Tam Ky.

A 4th Bn., 21st Inf. company engaged and killed with small arms fire one evading VC nine miles south of Hoi An.

A 1st Bn., 52d Inf. company spotted several VC in the open. Gunship in the area moved in killing one VC nine miles west of Tam Ky.

Action increased in the 198th Inf. Bde. yesterday as "Brave and Bold" soldiers killed four VC in scattered action throughout their area of operations.

"Professionals" of a 5th Bn., 46th Inf. company killed one VC while defending their fire support base south of Chu Lai during a mortar and small arms attack Saturday night.

A battery of the 1st Bn., 14th Arty. commanded by CPT Elvus J. Farrow (Shidler, Okla.) killed two VC who launched a satchel and grenade attack against their position north of Chu Lai shortly before day break yesterday morning.

Armored personnel carriers of "H" Trp., 17th Cav killed one VC and captured nearly 500 pounds of explosives near Tam Ky Saturday night. The VC who was apparently on a demolitions mission, was killed as the "Hell Cats" spotted him in a boat moving down a river.

Division forces suffered five soldiers killed and 40 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
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DATELINES AROUND THE WORLD (UPI)

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (UPI)--Sweden was honored Sunday at the San Antonio World's Fair with a 19-gun salute to Ambassador Hubert de Besche and a special performance by the Idla Girls, a Swedish ballet troupe bound for the Mexico Olympics.

During ceremonies at the Hemisfair Amphitheater Texas Secretary of State Roy Barrera welcomed de Besche, Swedish Ambassador to Washington, and his wife. Berrera was acting for fair commissioner general Gov. John Connally of Texas.

A performance by the 18 Idla girls immediately after the welcoming ceremonies before an audience of some 1,000 was cut short because of the intense heat on the stage.

The girls normally perform barefooted, but the open-air stage got so hot under the bright Texas sun that after two numbers the performance was halted.

Carina Lindquist, 22 was sent to a San Antonio hospital to be treated for burns on her feet. Several other girls complained of painful blisters.

Ballet Master Ernest Idla of Stockholm said the burns were not serious. The girls gave two performances Saturday evening when the stage was cooler.

The Idla Troupe was scheduled to leave San Antonio Monday for Mexico City. Their first performance at the Olympics is set for Oct.

Remember to take your Malaria pills daily.

GREENWOOD, MISS. (AP)--The Leflore County board of supervisors has had its fill of Billie Joe McAllister.

A new ordinance makes it illegal to jump from the Tallahatchie Bridge-or any other bridge in the county-in imitation of the character in the song, "Ode to Billie Joe." Violation of the ordinance carries a fine of up to \$180.

An estimated 40 to 50 youngsters have leaped from the bridge 20 feet above the Tallahatchie River since the song by former Mississippian Bobbie Gentry came out. But unlike Billie Joe, none of the youngsters has met death.

Join the Americal Division Veterans Association. Check with your First Sergeant or Information Office.

SNOOPY by Charles M. Schulz. Charlie Brown is upset because the city won't let dogs run loose anymore. All the dogs in the city have to be kept tied up. Lucy asks Charlie if he has tied Snoopy up. Snoopy is then shown lashed to a tree with a funny look on his face.

Vol. 3. No. 22 WEDNESDAY January 22, 1969
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
THURSDAY

Forecast for tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with intermittent rain in the morning and showers in the afternoon. Winds from the northeast at 5-10 knots. High temperature of 81' with a low of 70'. Moon will rise at 1059 hours and will set at 2147 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Co. C, 4-3 Inf. killed more VC in slightly over five hours than all Americal units had killed in eight days as Operation Russell Beach and the VC body count sky-rocketed yesterday.

Co. C killed 17 VC trying to break the joint assault force cordon of the Batangan Peninsula to highlight the heaviest action in weeks in southern I Corps where Americal forces killed five NVA and captured seven individual and two crew-served weapons.

At 0850 hours, Co. C, part of an 11th Inf. Bde. unit OPCON to the 198th Inf. Bde. for Russell Beach, engaged and killed three VC to begin a string of seven incidents behind the cordon line. Co. C killed one VC at 0905 and another at 0915. All fell 6 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

At 1005 and 1115, two more VC were killed a half-mile nearer Quang Ngai City. At 1350, the "Old Guard" troops used 81mm mortar fire to kill six VC and, 10 minutes later killed four more VC with a second 81mm mortar barrage.

Co. C, led by 1LT Ralph Burkhart (Kansas City, Mo.), upped the Americal's Russell Beach total to 30 VC killed. Capture of five weapons by Co. D, 5-46 Inf. brought to 11 the number of individual weapons taken in the operation.

Over-all Russell Beach totals, including those of Marine, Navy, and ARVN elements, are now 83 VC killed and 24 individual weapons taken.

Co. D, led by CPT Michael R. Smith (New Lebanon, O.), was taken by two Hoi Chanh to separate weapons caches and seized two M-2 carbines, two BARs, and an M-1 rifle.

PSYOP teams also had a prolific day as 1771 refugees streamed out of the cordon area and through the processing center behind the line. In nine days, 6335 refugees have moved out of the area, and 119 of those have been identified as members of the VC infra-structure.

In the only other action in the 198th area, "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. killed two VC in separate incidents 8 1/2 miles south and 12 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

With two units accounting for eight VC apiece, the 11th Inf. Bde. killed five NVA and 24 VC and captured one individual and both crew-served weapons.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. struck first and last in the area to kill eight VC in three incidents. At 0930, the "Sharks" engaged and killed four VC 8 1/2 miles north of Duc Pho. At 1730, two VC were killed in the same place and, 10 minutes later two more were caught six miles north of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 4-21 Inf. found fresh graves of eight VC, five of whom had been killed by small arms fire and three by artillery six miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 4-21 Inf. continued its sporadic encounters with an unknown-size NVA force 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Co. B added five more NVA kills in three incidents after killing three NVA in Monday fighting in the same area.

Between 1445 and 1640 yesterday, Co. B registered an incident and hour, first killing three of an unknown number of NVA and capturing an AK-47 rifle, and then engaging and killing one each and taking an RPG launcher.

A half-mile away, H Trp., 17th Cav., OPCON from the 198th to the 11th killed three VC and captured an RPG launcher.

An element of the 4-31 Inf. killed four VC in two actions four and 9 1/2 miles west of Quang Ngai City, and the "Aero Scouts" added their third VC kill 11 miles north of Duc Pho.

The 3-21 Inf. reported its third best day in the last 21 by killing 10 more VC to run its January total to 116

page 2 AMERICAL NEWS SHEET (Cont'd.) Vol. 3 No. 22 WEDNESDAY Jan. 22, 1969

as the 196th Inf. Bde. killed 15 VC, captured one weapon, and welcomed seven VC bearing Chieu Hoi passes.

The 3-21 recon unit killed six VC in two encounters 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Gimlets" killed on VC and captured 750 pounds of rice at 1330 and later engaged and killed five VC.

Co. D killed three VC in two incidents 12 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. A killed one 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. A and the recon unit of the 1-46 Inf. killed the remaining VC in two actions. At 0741, Co. A engaged and killed three 116 miles northwest of Tam Ky and, in a delayed report, the recon element engaged and killed two at 1940 Monday a mile further northwest.

Operating 24 miles west of tam Ky, an Americal Long Range Patrol spotted four NVA and VC moving 156 meters from the concealed LRP position. After detonating a claymore mine, the team recovered the blood-stained AK-47 rifle.

Near the LRP incident, Co. C, 2-1 Inf. found and destroyed 15 camouflaged huts and eight bunkers.

Four miles closer to Tam Ky, Co. A, 4-31 Inf. came upon seven VC waving a white flag and Chieu Hoi passes. The visitors were accommodated.

Four Americal Division soldiers were killed, and seven were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

***** YOUR FAMILY SHOULD KNOW

Tell a responsible member of your family that, if you die while on active service and particularly as a result of performing your military duties, survivors could receive or might be eligible for some or all of the following benefits:

- * All outstanding pays and allowances.
- * A death gratuity of six months pay (minimum \$800, maximum \$3,000)
- * Burial expense payments.
- * Your Serviceman's Group Life Insurance.
- * Transportation for family members and household effects to a home of choice.
- * Monthly payments called Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- * Monthly social security benefits. (To dependent children and

a widow caring for them or, in the absence of eligible children, to widows 60 or older or disabled widows 50 or older. In certain cases a divorced wife is also now eligible for social security survivor benefits; dependent parents may also be eligible.

- * Orphan's education assistance.
- * Continuing medical care.
- * Home, farm, or business loans.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding
MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO
SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor

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P E A N U T S by CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Snoopy is sitting up and begging food from Linus, as Linus chomps away. This doesn't work.....So Snoopy makes a fierce "GROWLL" that doesn't disturb Linus one bit.....Snoopy walks away with a "SIGH".

Vol. 3. No. 23 THURSDAY January 23, 1969
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
FRIDAY

Forecast for tomorrow: Fair to partly cloudy. Winds east to southeast. High temperature of 86' with a low of 68'. Moon will rise at 1135 hours and will set at 2147 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--The 3-21 Inf., pushing its average daily body count to almost six, yesterday added 10 more VC kills to an impressive January total as action in southern I Corps turned moderate and scattered after Tuesday's high incident and enemy casualty rate.

Americal forces reported killing seven NVA and 26 VC, detaining nine VC suspects, finding just under six tons of rice, and capturing four weapons, one crew-served.

Operation Russell Beach also returned to relatively normal action as Co. C, 4-3 Inf., which killed 17 VC Tuesday, logged the only two killed yesterday.

Four elements of the 3-21 Inf., led by the recon unit for the second consecutive day, provided the 196th Inf. Bde. with the major portion of its 13 VC kills. Four rice caches totaling 700 pounds were also found.

The 3-21 recon unit, working 13 - 13 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky, killed one VC at 0930 and engaged and killed four at 1300. One of the four was killed in the first burst of fire while the other three dove into a tunnel. Ignoring the advice of the recon's Kit Carson, they refused to reappear and were killed in the tunnel.

Co. B spotted six VC moving 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky and directed artillery fire to kill two. A half-mile away, a 3-21 observation post called artillery on two VC and killed one. Co. C found a VC killed by artillery 9 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky and Co. A, working near the recon unit, killed one of four VC engaged.

A Vietnamese civilian led a platoon of Co. C, 1-46 Inf. to locate the body of a VC killed by small arms fire within the previous 24 hours and 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

A Short Range Patrol of Co. A, 1-46 Inf. killed a VC 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and Co. A found the four small caches of rice, hidden nearby in packets, 55-gallon drums, and five-gallon pails.

Co. C, 4-31 Inf. killed one of four VC engaged 20 miles west of Tam Ky.

In Operation Russell Beach, Co. C, 4-3 Inf. continued operations behind the cordon of the Batangan Peninsula and again caught VC trying to flee the besieged area.

At 1255 hours, Co. C engaged five VC five miles northeast of Quang Ngai City and killed two in a firefight. Meanwhile, forward air controllers of the 198th Inf. Bde. directed air strikes in support of the cordon and observed two secondary explosions and 12 secondary fires.

In a delayed report, Co. D, 5-46 Inf. rounded up 81 refugees at 1920 Tuesday after the Vietnamese had crossed a river to surrender. They were moved to the operation's Combined Holding and Interrogation Center near Quang Ngai City.

The CHIC yesterday welcomed 559 more refugees who brought the nine-day total to 6894, including 119 identified as members of the VC infra-structure.

Dr. John Connelly, senior medical advisor in Quang Ngai Province, also reported welcoming a visitor. "We delivered our first baby at CHIC today!"

Americal units in the operation have killed 32 VC and captured 11 individual weapons, while combined Americal,

(Cont'd on page 2)

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Marines, Navy, and ARVN totals are 90 VC killed and 25 weapons captured.

Elsewhere in the 198th area, seven VC were killed and two individual and one crew-served weapons captured. Five tons of rice were also found.

Co. A, 5-46 Inf. killed three VC and took two AK-47 rifles and an RPG launcher in a VC attack on an observation post at 0417 hours 5 1/2 miles south of Chu Lai. American losses were described as light.

An element of the 1-52 Inf. killed two of the three VC engaged 9 1/2 miles south of Tam Ky, and Co. C, 1-52 Inf. killed a VC 8 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky. H Trp. 17th Cav. killed a VC six miles west of Chu Lai.

Working 8 1/2 miles south of Chu Lai, Co. D, 1-6 Inf. discovered five tons of rice and evacuated the cache to the Russell Beach CHIC.

Cos. A and B, 4-21 Inf. and the NVA continued their encounters 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Seven NVA were killed in three incidents, while other units killed four VC, detained nine VC suspects, and destroyed a weapon.

At 1530, Co. B killed an NVA and, 30 minutes later, found the badly-burned bodies of five NVA killed in air strikes within the previous 24 hours. Cos. A had killed an NVA at 0720.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed one of two VC seen running nine miles north of Duc Pho. The other, carrying an Ak-47 rifle, scooted into a tunnel which was promptly destroyed.

An element of the 3-1 Inf. twice spotted single VC running in the open and killed both. One was near the Song Tra Khuc 12 miles west of Quang Ngai City and the other on a trail eight miles southwest of Quang Ngai City.

Five Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 20 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

WEAPONS SAFETY

SP4 Hohn J. Snixelfitzens was attempting to clear his .45 when it discharged. His carelessness resulted in his hospitalization with a wounded foot. Don't let this happen to you.

INCOME TAX INFORMATION

Military personnel serving in Vietnam do not have to file tax returns while stationed here. they may wait to file a tax return up to 180 days after leaving the Republic of Vietnam.

P E A N U T S by CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Charlie Brown comes upon Snoopy sleeping with his chin resting on a coon skip cap. Charlie observes, then screams, "REMEMBER THE ALAMO!!". Snoopy does a somersault. Charlie Brown then walks off wearing the coonskin cap, while Snoopy is left all shook up.

Vol. 3. No. 24 FRIDAY January 24, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SATURDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: Fair to partly cloudy. Winds variable from the southeast at 5-10 knots. High temperature of 86' with a low of 68'. Moon will rise at 1211 hours and will set at 0020 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--For the fourth consecutive day, units of the 4-21 Inf. tangled with element of an unknown-size NVA force 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City--and yesterday the Americans were clear winners.

Action elsewhere in southern I Corps was average as Americal Division forces reported killing seven NVA and 29 VC, detaining eight VC suspects, and capturing three weapons, one crew-served.

For the first time, significant numbers of military-age males turned up in the steady stream of refugees leaving the Batangan Peninsula area in the face of Operation Russell Beach.

Co. B, 4-21 Inf. killed five of the seven NVA to run the 4-21's total to 20 in four days. Other units of the 11th Inf Bde. killed two NVA and seven VC and captured two weapons, one crew-served, while detaining seven VC suspects.

Co. B, which recorded seven NVA kills Wednesday, added its five by killing two in a firefight and finding three killed by air strikes within the previous 24 hours. No 4-21 soldiers were killed or wounded. Those incidents and discovery of a Chicom machinegun and an AK-47 rifle in a small cache occurred 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

In the same area, Co. B, 3-1 Inf. found another NVA killed by air strikes and B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. found an NVA dead in a bunker. Both had died less than a day ago.

Another element of the 3-1 Inf. killed six VC in three actions. Three were killed after attacking the 3-1 element with heavy automatic weapons fire 11 1/2 miles west of Quang Ngai City. Two were killed 16 miles southwest and one 18 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City within five minutes in the afternoon.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed a VC in support of the 1-20 Inf. seven miles north of Duc Pho. The 1-20 also detained six VC suspects.

Of 8205 civilians at the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center (CHIC), 6776 are males as more military-age males begin to drift out of the Batangan Peninsula area where two Americal battalions have joined Marine, Navy, and ARVN units in a cordon operation, Russell Beach.

In addition to the 8205 civilians, the CHIC contains 304 refugees, most of whom are being detained as enemy suspects. VC suspects number 129 while 124 have been identified as members of the VC infra-structure.

Yesterday's operation action saw Co. C, 4-31 Inf. catch VC behind the cordon line for the third straight day and kill two. The incident occurred 5 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City where Co. C has killed 21 VC in three days.

Late last night at 2210 and 2330 hours, H Trp., 17th Cav., moving into the Russell Beach area for the first time, killed four VC in two incidents eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Forward air controllers of the 198th Inf. Bde. directed air strikes inside the cordon area and reported two secondary explosions and seven secondary fires.

A rear position of Co. C, 4-3 Inf. behind the cordon received eight 82mm mortar rounds at midnight Wednesday, and U.S. casualties were described as light. A nearby refugee holding center, not the CHIC, received 10 rounds of 60mm mortar fire and small armsfire. There were no casualties.

No other major incidents were reported in the 198th Inf. Bde. area.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO

SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor

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page 2 AMERICAL NEWS SHEET (Cont'd.) Vol. 3 No. 24 FRIDAY Jan. 24, 1969

Once again, the 3-21 Inf. spent much of the day harassing VC as three of its units accounted for nine VC killed to raise the 3-21's January total to 135. Seven VC were killed and a weapon captured elsewhere in the 196th Inf. Bde. area.

Co. A, 3-21 Inf. killed six VC in three encounters 11-12 miles west-north-west of Tam Ky. At 1015 Co. A engaged four VC and killed three and, at 1400, engaged and killed one. At 1300, a recoilless rifle team on an observation post killed two VC seen moving near the OP.

Co. D killed two VC in separate incidents at 1030 and 1115 hours 12 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. C killed a VC nearby at noon.

At 2045 Co. A, 4-31 Inf. engaged four VC, killed one and captured the other in a firefight 24 miles west of Tam Ky. Two miles nearer Tam Ky, an element of the 4-31 Inf. killed one VC.

Co. C, 1-46 Inf. ran into an unknown-size enemy force 15 miles west of Tam Ky in the morning and killed three and captured an M-1 carbine.

Co. B, 4-31 Inf. patrolling 28 miles west of Tam Ky, found an abandoned enemy base camp and destroyed 15 fighting positions.

One Americal Division soldier was killed, and 16 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

SERVICEMAN'S CHILDREN BORN OVERSEAS

Although a child born overseas to two American parents is a U.S. citizen, proving it may become somewhat slow and complicated process when the child enters school or the Armed Forces or seeks employment in the United States-unless the parents have taken the proper steps following birth and upon reentry into the United States.

Here's how to avoid future difficulties for yourself and your child born in a foreign country.

- (1) Obtain at least eight copies of the birth certificate if the country issues birth certificates.
- (2) Register the child's birth at the nearest American Consulate.
- (3) Upon return to the United States, file Department of Justice Form N-600 (Application for Certificate of Citizenship) with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which will issue the requested documents upon verification of the facts.

For further information on this subject, consult your legal assistance officer.

WEAPONS SAFETY

SSG Goya Sniferfromper was on an area recon when a soldier fired an M-79 too close to friendly troops. Result: SSG Sniferfromper is now in the hospital because of the carelessness of someone else.

A WEAPON WITH GRIT MAY ON CLICK WHEN A HIT IS NEEDED RIGHT QUICK.

P E A N U T S by CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Lucy is lecturing Snoopy....From now on when I speak, you listen!

Snoopy raises his paw and marches around with a stern look on his face. Lucy has a defeated look on her face in the last frame.

Vol. 3. No. 25 SATURDAY January 25, 1969
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
SUNDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy. Winds easterly at 5-10 knots. High temperature of 85' with a low of 68' Moon will rise at 1249 hours and will set at 0111 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Five days of hit-and-run encounters ballooned into a full-scale cordon operation backed by air strikes and artillery fire as four Americal units surrounded and began to rout more than 100 trapped NVA yesterday near Quang Ngai City.

Americal Division forces reported killing 16 NVA and 20 VC, detaining nine VC suspects, and capturing 17 weapons, five crew-served, in southern I Corps.

In Operation Russell Beach, Marine and ARVN elements were halved and joined and joined two Americal battalions on line as the cordon of the Batangan Peninsula narrowed in its steady sweep to the sea.

After the 4-21 Inf. had killed 20 NVA in sporadic action over four days, three more units moved in yesterday to establish a triangular cordon near a small village 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Fifteen NVA and one VC were killed with three weapons captured.

Elsewhere in the 11th Inf. Bde. area, nine VC were killed.

Joining the 4-21 were elements of the 3-1 Inf. and B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., while gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. worked overhead with Air Force and Marine jets, which devastated the well-fortified area with 2000-pound bombs. The area within the cordon covered approximately one mile.

Ground troops moved to sweep the area after air strikes which left gigantic craters, uprooted jungle growth, and burning huts and debris in their wake. Enemy resistance in the area continued even after the heavy bombing.

Tunnels ranging to 40 feet in depth with six-foot entranceways and eight-foot thick ceilings were uncovered. NVA trenches rimming the area were built in zigzag patterns to permit enemy riflemen to fire rapidly from one direction, the next.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. found five NVA killed by artillery, killed a sixth in the area, and captured a Chicom machinegun and an AK-47 rifle. Co. C, 3-1 Inf. killed an NVA.

Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed two NVA in firefights, found one killed by artillery, and seized a Chicom machinegun. Co. A also found the lone dead VC, an air strike victim. Co. B, 4-21 Inf. killed an NVA, as did another 4-21 element.

B Trp. killed two NVA in separate incidents, and F Trp. "Blue Ghosts" killed one while working with B Trp.

The five-day fight has produced 35 NVA and nine VC killed and six weapons, four crew-served. Only one American was wounded yesterday, and five-day casualties were described as light. There were no American casualties Thursday.

In other 11th action, Co. A, 1-20 Inf. killed three VC in incidents 6 1/2 and 8 1/2 miles north of Duc Pho, and a 1-20 patrol killed on 13 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

Co. D, 3-1 Inf. killed a VC on a hill 14 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, and another 3-1 element killed three VC in two actions three and four miles further southwest. "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. killed the other VC 2 1/2 miles southwest of Duc Pho.

On battalion apiece of Marine and ARVN troops joined the 4-3 Inf., 5-46 Inf., and H Trp., 17th Cav. in Task Force Cooksey at noon as Operation Russell Beach continued its strangle hold on one or more VC battalions being slowly pinched toward the sea on the Batangan Peninsula.

What had been an 11 1/2 mile wide cordon when the operation began 12 days ago has narrowed to less than five miles in the eastward sweep that has killed 109 VC and processed 8967 refugees, more than 300 of whom are proven or suspected VC.

Nine VC were killed and one weapon taken in five incidents involving Americal units yesterday. H Trp. killed its fourth VC within 2 1/2 hours at 0030 nine miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Co. A, 4-3 Inf. killed three VC in two incidents 5 1/2-6 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City, and Co. D, 4-3 Inf.

killed two in one encounter near the H Trp. action. An element of the 5-46 Inf. killed the seventh VC and captured an M-1 carbine.

There were no major incidents reported elsewhere in the 198th area.

Co. C, 3-21 Inf. killed two VC and found 13 weapons, three crew-served to top a relatively light day in the 196th Inf. Bde. area. Other units killed one NVA and a VC.

After the second platoon of Co. C had killed an NVA and captured his AK-47 rifle, the third platoon led by 2LT Donald R. Hains (San Jose, Calif.), found a weapons cache behind a large rock in the same area 10 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky.

Captured were six French 7.5mm submachineguns, two Chicom submachineguns, a British Bren .303-cal light machinegun, a U.S. .30-cal machinegun, a 60mm mortar tube with tripod and two sights, and a BAR. Various rounds, mines, magazines, and equipment were also located. Everything was heavily greased to protect against dampness.

Co. C, 2-1 Inf. killed an NVA 24 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and an element of the 4-31 Inf. killed a VC 20 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky. Co. V, 4-31 Inf., working 29 miles west of Tam Ky, found and destroyed one bunker and 40 feet of tunnel.

No Americal Division soldiers were killed, and eight were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

MILITARY PERSONNEL CLAIMS ACT

Following necessary claims, you can be reimbursed for personal property that is lost, damaged, or destroyed when shipped under orders in connection with travel under orders or during the performance of military duty. But if you fail to protect your property while it is still in your possession, or if you neglect to file a claim as soon as possible, your right to repayment may be lost. Consult your claims officer for detailed information on forms and filing procedure.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
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S N O O P Y by Charles M. Schulz

1. Snoopy is interested as a single musical note floats his way.
2. Snoopy smiles as he sees two more notes come his way.
3. Snoopy starts walking to the source of the music as three more notes float by.
4. Snoopy races away in retreat as a torrent of musical notes stream by.

Vol. 3. No. 26 SUNDAY January 26, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SUNDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: Mostly cloudy to partly cloudy. Winds southeasterly at 5-10 knots. High temperature of 86' with a low of 70'. Moon will rise at 1331 hours and will set at 0202 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--keeping up northwest of Quang Ngai City and north of Tam Ky, and getting ready to mop up in Operation Russell Breach--that was the story in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing four NVA and 37 VC, detaining eight VC suspects, and capturing three individual weapons in moderate action.

Elements of the 4-21 Inf. and 3-1 Inf. continued their sweep of the cordoned Buff Triangle area 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City where more than 100 NVA have been subjected to a heavy land and air bombardment since Monday.

Two NVA and two VC were killed yesterday to bring the six-day total to 37 NVA and 11 VC killed. Co. C, 3-1 Inf. found and NVA and a VC killed by artillery and killed an NVA who walked into an ambush at 0230 hours. Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed the other VC.

Near a small village, the triangular cordon enclosed a one-mile area described by observers as "looking" like the face of the moon" after air strikes and artillery shelling. Laced with tunnels and bunkers, the village area apparently served as staging quarters for between 100-200 NVA troops.

Cos. A, C and recon of the 4-21 Inf., and Cos. B and C, 3-1 Inf. found and destroyed six tunnels measuring 170 feet in length and destroyed 1850 pounds of rice in four caches yesterday. Another half-ton of rice was evacuated. Co. A also found a K-44 rifle and an unidentified submachinegun in a tunnel.

More NVA bodies are thought to be in the triangle. Tunnels up to 40 feet deep have been discovered, and scattered resistance has been met since the air strikes.

Seven VC were killed and eight VC suspects detained elsewhere in the 11th Inf. Bde. area.

Gunships accounted for three kills as "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. killed two VC in separate incidents seven miles west and 12 miles south of Quang Ngai City and "Sharks" of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed one 5 1/2 miles north of Duc Pho. As the "Shark" worked overhead, the recon unit of the 1-20 Inf. rounded up six VC suspects.

Co. D, 1-20 Inf. found fresh graves of three VC killed by artillery within the previous 24 hours 9 1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho.

An element of the 3-1 Inf., working 12 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, killed a VC trying to hide a bicycle in a hedgerow. The bike had been rigged to carry rice or mortars.

In the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area north of Tam Ky, F Trp., 8th Cav. had its best day in weeks. The "Blue Ghost" gunships killed 13 VC in seven incidents from 12 1/2 - 15 1/2 miles north. F Trp. killed a 14th VC nine miles west of Tam Ky.

The largest encounter came at 1335 when F Trp. engaged and killed five VC 12 1/2 miles north where three more VC were killed later. Four were killed in three actions 14 miles north and one 15 1/2 miles away.

One kill came in the Hardin Falls operation area.

Co. D, 4-3 Inf. killed three VC in as many incidents and captured a weapons as the joint forces cordon of the Batangan Peninsula neared a final push forward.

(Cont'd on page 2)

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

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Page 2 AMERICAL NEWS SHEET (Cont'd) Vol. 3 No. 26 SUNDAY Jan. 26, 1969

The line of Americal, Marine, and ARVN troops has narrowed from 11 1/2 miles at the start of Operation Russell BEach to just under three miles wide. Once about eight miles from the sea, the cordon is now within 2 1/2 miles of forcing an estimated one or more VC battalions into fighting or swimming.

As Marines and ARVN elements joined Americal's 4-34 and 5-46 Infs. and H Trp., 17th Cav. on line yesterday, the cordon plowed ahead through dense minefields, booby traps, and tunnel complexes.

Co. D, 4-3 Inf. killed one VC trying to escape the cordon in a smallboat and later killed two more VC in the same area nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. In a tunnel, Co. D found five VC suspects, two of them female, a French submachinegun, and three grenades. One young VC surrendered earlier to Co. D as a Chieu Hoi.

An element of the 3-25 Marine Regt. met 420 civilian refugees at the northern end of the cordon and took them through the line. As of 1600, 9523 refugees had been moved off the peninsula, with 137 of them confirmed VC infrastructure members and 153 VC suspects.

Americal totals in the 13-day operation are 49 VC killed and 14 individual weapons taken. Over-all totals show 113 VC killed and 29 weapons captured.

Elsewhere in the 198th Inf. Bde. area, "Aero Scouts" killed two uniformed NVA 14 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky, and Co. A, 1-52 Inf. found a VC killed by fire from C Btry., 1-14 Arty three miles nearer Tam Ky.

The 3-21 Inf.'s January body count rose to 142 as Co. A killed three VC and Cos. B and C one apiece in the 196th Inf. Bde. area. The kills came within 12-14 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

In other 196th action, the 71st Aslt. Hel. Co. engaged and killed three VC 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and Co. A, 1-46 Inf. killed two VC in separate incidents a mile nearer Tam Ky.

Cos. A and B, 4-31 Inf. relocated 26 and 19 refugees, respectively, to Nui Loc Son from areas 24 and 30 miles west of Tam Ky.

No Americal Division soldiers were killed, and four were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. Twelve Marines were killed, and 38 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial report.

A WEAPON WITH GRIT MAY ONLY CLICK WHEN A HIT IS NEEDED RIGHT QUICK. KEEP THAT WEAPON CLEAN.

S N O O P Y by CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Snoopy is out in the grass away from Charlie and Lucy who are talking. Snoopy takes a bite of the grass. He ponders the taste, the spits it out with a BLAHH!!.

Vol. 3. No. 27 MONDAY January 27, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

TUESDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: Fair to partly cloudy. Winds from the southeast at about 10 knots. High temperature of 88 with a low of 70. Moon will rise at 1415 hours and will set at 0254 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Two units of the 11th Inf. Bde., supported by gunships stayed at the heels of scattering NVA and VC west-northwest of Quang Ngai City, and cavalry units joined Operation Russell Beach to highlight Americal Division action yesterday.

Americal forces reported killing nine NVA and 28 VC, finding one VC body, detaining 10 VC suspects, and capturing four individual weapons and 3450 pounds of rice in southern I Corps.

Day-long sweeps in an area 7-8 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City from the Buff Triangle south of the Song Tra Khuc netted three NVA and 10 VC killed and two weapons captured by elements of the 3-1 Inf. and 4-21 Inf. and "Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.

Elsewhere in the 11th Inf. Bde. area, other units of the 3-1 Inf. killed six NVA and four VC.

Yesterday's sweep came after six days of fighting an NVA force concentrated in a one-mile area 6 1/2-7 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Americal troops swept that area and from 2-3 miles south to the Song Tra Khuc.

Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed two NVA and captured their rifles, an M-16 and an AK-47, and Co. B, 3-1 Inf. killed the other NVA and found 1850 pounds of rice.

Co. A also killed two VC in one incident, while the 4-21 recon unit killed three VC in as many encounters. Cos. B and C, 4-21 Inf. each killed a VC and another element of the 4-21 also killed one.

Co. C, 3-1 Inf. killed one VC, and the "Sharks" killed the other in the sweep area.

Three units of the 3-1 were involved in all action beyond the sweep. In two incidents, Co. D killed four NVA of seven engaged and then one VC 14 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. A half-mile away, the 3-1 recon unit engaged 10 NVA and killed two with mortar fire.

Another element of the 3-1 killed three VC in two actions 17 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City.

A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. and H Trp., 17th Cav. joined Americal, Marine, Navy, and ARVN forces early this morning as Operation Russell Beach continued to press forward and the cordon of the Batangan Peninsula where one or more VC battalions are reportedly trapped.

Cavalry units made a beach landing to link with Americal's 5-46 Inf. as part of the cordon waited on the western bank of the Song Chau Me Dong, last natural barrier to a sweep to the sea.

Units of the Americal's 4-3 Inf. killed a VC and captured two weapons in slim action yesterday as the cordon advanced cautiously through mined and tunnel-laced areas. The 4-3 recon unit killed the VC 9 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City, close to two spots where Co. D found an M-1 rifle and M-1 carbine.

The carbine was turned up in a tunnel after two Hoi Chanhs told D Co. they had seen a VC intelligence representative in the area carrying a U.S. carbine. A reinforced D Co. patrol found the carbine and personnel items in the tunnel but failed to locate the VC.

Near that find, the patrol discovered a large tunnel complex dug into the side of a hill. Tunnel rats reported searching 400-500 meters and finding cubbyhole sleeping niches carved every

(Cont'd page 2)

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO

SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor

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five meters. Estimates were that more than 300 people could sleep there and that the tunnel had been used within the previous 24 hours.

Refugees continued to pour out of the area as 829 more were removed to the holding center where 10,357 refugees have been processed, with 142 confirmed as VC infrastructure members and 192 classified as VC suspects. Twenty-four babies have been born in the 14-day existence of the refugee center.

No major incidents were reported elsewhere in the 198th Inf. Bde. area.

Three ground units and "Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed 11 VC and found one VC body in scattered action in the 196th Inf. Bde. area.

Co. B, 2-1 Inf. directed artillery fire to kill three of four VC seen moving 24 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky. In a day-old report, Co. A, 2-1 Inf. found the grave of a VC killed 30-40 days ago by small arms fire a half-mile further northwest.

Co. D, 4-31 Inf. killed two of three VC engaged during a search and clear operation and discovered 1600 pounds of rice in a tunnel 24 miles west of Tam Ky where Co. C, 4-31 also killed a VC. The 4-21 recon unit killed a VC 20 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky.

"Blue Ghosts" killed three VC in separate actions, 12, 17 and 17 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. C, 3-21 killed one VC 10 miles west of Tam Ky.

Co. B, 4-31 Inf. relocated 23 refugees to Nui Loc Son from an area 26 miles west of Tam Ky.

"Blue Ghosts" also killed two VC in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area nine and 11 miles north of Tam Ky. The kills were F Trp.'s 15th and 16th in the 1-1 area in the past two days and upped its two-day total in all areas to 19 VC killed.

One Americal Division soldier was killed, and 22 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. Seven Marines were killed, and two were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial reports.

MEDAL OF HONOR PENSION

Each surviving recipient of the Nation's highest recognition of exceptional bravery, the Medal of Honor, is entitled to receive a special pension of \$100 a month for life. Under present law the pension can be paid to the person following award of the medal of Honor. The Secretaries of the Military Services have established procedures for payment of the pension.

S N O O P Y by CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Snoopy is trotting along up the sidewalk when he is surprised.

Lucy zips by on roller skates looking out of control.

As Snoopy follows Lucy with his eyes "WHAM".

Snoopy continues on thinking, "Boy, there's nothing like having four feet!".

Vol. 3. No. 28 SUNDAY January 28, 1969
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
WEDNESDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: Fog in the morning in valleys and low areas. Fair to partly cloudy. Winds from the southeast at 5-15 knots. High temperature 90' with a low of 70'. Moon rise at 1503 hours, set at 0347 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--It's a case of "any day now" in Operation Russell Beach and a case of "every day now" to the west-northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Preparations for a final surge forward continued yesterday on the Batangan Peninsula while, some 12 miles west, units of the 11th Inf. Bde. pounded scattered VC elements in the 11th's biggest day in weeks.

Americal Division forces reported killing 64 VC, detaining 15 VC suspects, and capturing slightly over a ton of rice in southern I Corps. For the first time in 14 days, no NVA were encountered.

Three companies of the 5-46 Inf. crossed the Song Chau Me Dong to join A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. and H Trp., 17th Cav. on the east bank in preparation for today's Russell Beach probe of approximately 1 1/2 miles between cordon and sea.

When the entire cordon moves across the river, Cos. B, C, and D, 5-46 Inf. will line up with Co. D, 4-3 Inf. and two Marine companies to lead the way. Other 5-46 and 4-3 Inf. units remain behind the narrowing line to conduct sweeps with Marine and ARVN elements. Navy ships still stand off shore.

In four brief skirmishes yesterday, Co. C, 4-3 Inf. killed three VC behind the cordon 5 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City, and Co. B, 5-46 Inf. found a VC killed by small arms fire in the cordon area four miles further northeast. Cos. C also found a 600-pound rice cache.

Marine units discovered the intricate tunnel complexes in the immediate cordon area. Co. M, 3-26 Regt. searched a 25 by 30-foot complex consisting of 10 tunnels leading to a large center area recently occupied, and Co. L, 3-26 entered a 500-foot tunnel complete with brick and concrete reinforcements and branch tunnels.

PSYOP missions encouraged 334 more refugees to leave the peninsula area and brought to 10,691 the number who have fled since Russell Beach began 115 days ago. More than 350 refugees are confirmed VC, and 121 VC have been killed in the operation.

Elsewhere in the 198th Inf. Bde. area, Co. C, 1-52 Inf. engaged three VC and killed two 8 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky, and Co. D, 1-6 Inf. found 1000 pounds of rice six miles south of Chu Lai.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding
MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO
SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor

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Vol. 3. No. 30 THURSDAY January 30, 1969
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
THURSDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: Partly to mostly cloudy in the morning, with occasional showers in the afternoon. Winds will be variable at 5-10 knots till noon, then becoming northeasterly at 5-15 knots. High temperature of 87' with a low of 74.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Tunnels, mines, and booby traps to the front and signs of VC to both front and rear that's the situation today as Operation Russell Beach enters its 18th day on the Batangan Peninsula.

Americal and Marine units reported 14 VC killed and 13 weapons captured, five of them crew-served, yesterday in addition to 10 incidents in which tunnels, bunkers, mines, booby traps, supplies and ammo were found.

Including Russell Beach, Americal forces throughout southern I Corps reported killing one NVA and 45 VC, finding three VC bodies, and capturing 22 weapons, five crew-served.

All VC kills and weapons captures in Russell Beach came in eight incidents involving four Americal units and a Marine company.

At 0005 hours, an estimated VC squad struck an Americal night position two miles behind the main cordon line on the peninsula. Co. C, 4-3 Inf.; H Trp., 17th Cav.; and Co. B, 26th Engr. Bn. received RPG, 82mm mortar, and automatic weapons fire and a ground probe.

Return fire killed six Vc and led to capture of two AK-47 rifles and an AK-50. No Americans were killed.

In separate incidents nearby, Co. C, 4-3 Inf. killed two VC and captured two .30-cal machineguns and a 60mm mortar tube after digging up a grave. In a nearby rice paddy dike, Co. C found 200 M-60 rounds, 400 .30 cal rounds, and a 25 pound shaped charge.

Marine Co. K, 3-26 Regt. found the bodies of five VC killed by air strikes in two graves 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City near the cordon line. Co. K later killed a VC in a tunnel.

Other weapons caches were found well behind the cordon 7 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City by HQ Co., 4-3 Inf., and H Trp. HQ turned up five M-1 carbines, and H Trp. found a rocket launcher and a BAR.

Among other items found were six beer cans fashioned into concussion grenades packed with explosives and tipped with blasting caps, two tunnels so new that tools use to dig them were found nearby, two 20mm casings with .50 cal rounds attached to form booby traps, and a collection of pots and pans.

No other major incidents were reported in the 198th Inf. Bde. area.

Units of the 196th Inf. Bde. killed an NVA and 11 VC, captured 14 individual weapons, and broke up a late-night VC party.

In a delayed report of Tuesday action, Co. A, 4-31 Inf. investigated noise near its night position and discovered 30-40 VC partying. Co. A scattered the group, killing one VC detaining 22 more, and confiscating 15 gallons of liquor and 900 pounds of rice in the action 24 miles west of Tam Ky.

A half-mile further west, Co. C, 4-31 Inf. engaged and killed three VC yesterday and captured an AK-47 rifle and an SKS rifle. Co. A killed another VC near the scene of the party.

Co. B, 2-1 Inf. killed an NVA, destroyed five bunkers, and captured K-54 Chicom pistol 22 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky and later engaged four NVA and took a K-44 rifle. Nearby, Co. A, 2-1 Inf. found a small cache containing three K-044 and two SKS rifles. Co. C killed a VC 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

(Cont'd on page 2)

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding
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Page 2 AMERICAL NEWS SHEET (Cont'd) Vol. 3 No. 30 THURSDAY Jan. 30, 1969

In two incidents, Co. C, 3-21 Inf. killed a VC and found a 12-gauge shotgun, two French MAT rifles, and two K-44 rifles 10 miles west of Tam Ky.

Co. B, 3-21 Inf. engaged and killed three VC 9 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. A killed a VC 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The recon unit of the 4-21 Inf. spent a third successful day above Quang Ngai City and recorded five more VC slain as units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed 11 VC and found three VC bodies.

Led by 1LT Robert McEldowney (Hilo, Hawaii), the 4-21 recon unit killed a VC 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City and then engaged and killed four VC a half-mile away. Recon has accounted for 21 VC dead in three days.

Operating in the area where prolonged fighting occurred last week, Co. A, 4-21 Inf. found three more VC, all killed 5-7 days ago five miles north-northwest of Quang Ngai City.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed a VC 12 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. There and six miles further southwest, an element of the 3-1 Inf. killed five VC in two actions.

Two troops of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. joined F Trp., 8th Cav. to kill nine VC in five incidents in the 1-1 area.

B Trp. killed three VC in two incidents nine miles north of Tam Ky, and C Trp. called in artillery to kill three of four VC seen 17 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky.

"Blue Ghosts" of F Trp. killed a VC eight miles north of Tam Ky and another a mile from C Trp.'s encounter.

One Americal Division soldier was killed, and 14 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. Four Marines were killed, and three were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial reports.

HEALTH BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS

In September 1966 the President signed legislation expanding the program of civilian inpatient and outpatient care. Care in civilian facilities was also authorized for the moderately or severely mentally retarded and seriously mentally retarded and seriously physically handicapped spouses and children of Armed Forces members on active duty.

Get a copy of Department of Defense Pamphlet PA-3A, "Uniformed Services Health Benefits Program." Your family will have readily available information on the program.

S N O O P Y by CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Snoopy is distressed as looks at his dog food bowl.....

Snoopy begins pushing his bowl of food with his nose.....

Charlie Brown and Linus hear, "KLUNK! BUMP! BUMMP! bumpety-bump CRASH!!

Linus says, "What in the world was that!

Charlie says, "I guess it was Snoopy. If he doesn't like his supper he just pushes it down stairs.

Vol. 3. No. 32 SATURDAY February 1, 1969
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with showers in the morning and afternoon. Winds will be generally from the northeast at about 10 knots. High temperature will be 80' with a low of 67'. Moon will rise at 1835 hours and set at 0703 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Increased action behind the cordon of the Batangan Peninsula, another encounter with a large NVA force, and discovery of a weapons cache highlighted a busy day for Americal Division forces in Operation Russell Beach and throughout southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal units reported killing 15 NVA and 41 VC, finding two VC bodies, detaining nine VC suspects, and capturing 29 weapons, 13 crew-served.

Americal and Marine elements killed 14 VC, found a VC body, and captured an M-1 carbine in three incidents near the main cordon line and three for to rear [sic].

H Trp., 17th Cav. engaged a large group of VC trying to escape behind the cordon near the beach and killed 10 at 1425 hours seven miles east-northeast of Quang Ngai City. At 1550, H Trp. killed another evading VC and took the carbine.

Co. C, 4-3 Inf. found a VC killed within the previous 24 hours by gunships seven miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Some four miles ahead on the cordon, Marine Cos. L and M, 3-26 Regt. accounted for the other VC kills. Co. M found the body of a VC killed by small arms fire and , an hour later killed a VC in a firefight. At 2100, Co. L engaged two VC on line and killed one.

In delayed Thursday reports, Marine Co. K, 3-26 Regt. found and destroyed three tunnels in early afternoon on line, while Co. M located a tunnel containing nine cattle. Co. B, 5-46 Inf. found and destroyed five tunnels with cots and eating facilities yesterday, and Co. B, 4-3 Inf. evacuated 5000 pounds of rice from well behind the line to a refugee center.

Co. B, 26th Engr. Bn. yesterday brought its Russell Beach totals to 269 bunkers, 83115 meters of tunnels, 45 structures and 61 mines, dud rounds, and booby traps destroyed.

Refugees processed off the peninsula now total 11,270, with 218 confirmed members of the VC infra-structure and 92 VC suspects. Through the first 19 days of the operation, Americal units have killed 73 VC, Marines 59, and ARVN 19.

Elsewhere in the 198th Inf. Bde. area, Co. C, 1-52 Inf. scrapped with an unknown-size NVA force 10 miles south-west of Tam Ky. Nine NVA were killed by air strikes Thursday at 1905, and five more died in an artillery barrage yesterday at 1045.

Action began Thursday when Co. C. watched a large NVA force moving toward its night perimeter and then received several 82mm mortar rounds. Air strikes drove off the attackers. Artillery was called in yesterday to kill five NVA seen running into a hootch. An AK-47 rifle was taken.

Following a trail and its instincts paid off for Co. C, 3-1 Inf. which discovered a hastily-concealed enemy weapons cache in the area of last week's heavy fighting 6-7 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Including Co. C's find, units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed one NVA and 24 VC, found a VC body, detained four VC suspects, and captured 27 weapons, 13 crew-served.

Shortly afternoon, Co. C found an apparent enemy observation post and began following a trail out of the Op area. Discovery of a rock formation that appeared to have been used as a sleeping position prompted a closer search, and the cache was found poorly hidden under rocks and bushes nearby.

Crew-served weapons found included nine BARs, two U.S. .30-cal machineguns, a French machinegun, and a French M-29 automatic rifle. Also found were six M-1 rifles, four K-44 rifles, two French MAS-36 rifles, and two Russian submachineguns.

Various supplies and ammo were also taken in the cache. Later, Co. C found

the body of a VC killed by artillery.

Only four units accounted for the rest of the action as the command and control helicopter of the 3-1 Inf. killed 13 VC in six incidents and the recon unit of the 4-21 Inf. killed ten VC in four encounters.

The C&C engaged small groups of VC throughout the day in areas ranging from 11 1/2 miles southwest to 21 1/2 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai City. The recon kills came between 8-11 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City where action has increased since last week's fighting nearby.

An Americal Long Range Patrol killed an NVA 116 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai City, and "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. killed a VC 4 1/2 miles west of Duc Pho.

Action was unusually light in the 196th Inf. Bde. area as Co. B, 3-21 Inf. killed two VC nine miles west-northwest of Tam Ky in the only major incident. F Trp., 17th Cav relocated 101 refugees to Que Son from an area 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

"Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed a VC 8 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky in the only action in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area.

One Americal Division soldier was killed, and 24 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. One Marine was killed, and 20 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial reports.

WAR SOUVENIRS

Mine detectors are now being used in APOs to find weapons and other contraband items being mailed illegally. Government property and "War Souvenirs" found either in the mail or in a soldier's held baggage will result in disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Prohibited items include all U.S. Government property, hand weapons larger than .45 cal., sawed-off shotguns, rifles with barrels less than 16 inches, zip-guns, automatic weapons, silencers, explosives, tanks and airplanes.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO

SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor

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PEANUTS by CHARLES M. SCHULZ - Windy day Lucy's friend says, "Good Grief..... I HATE WINDY DAYS!.....THE WIND BLOWS YOUR HAIR ALL OVER!.....SHE OBSERVES SNOOPY ALL MUSSED UP FROM THE WIND AND SAYS, "I GUESS IT BOTHERS EVERYBODY.

Vol. 3. No. 33 SUNDAY February 2, 1969
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
MONDAY

Mostly cloudy to cloudy with showers throughout the day. Winds will be variable at 5-10 knots. High temperature will be variable at 5-10 knots. High temperature will be 81' with a low of 67'. Moon rise will be at 1928 hours and will set at 0744 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Operation Russell Beach's most successful day yet and capture of more weapons than on any day since mid-December made news yesterday in southern I Corps.

Americal and Marine units combined to kill 25 VC and capture seven weapons as action heated up on the Batangan Peninsula, while Co. C, 3-1 Inf. found a large weapons cache for the second consecutive day northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Throughout southern I Corps, Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and 49 VC, finding two VC bodies, and capturing 40 weapons, three crew-served.

Two Americal units and three Marine companies provided the action in Operation Russell Beach as Marine Cos. K and M, 3-26 Regt. reached the northern edge of the peninsula while other elements continued the mop up to the rear.

At 0215 hours, Co. I, 3-26 Regt. saw armed groups of 50 and five VC trying to evade the cordon 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. A mortar and small arms attack killed 11 VC. At 0930, Co. I engaged six VC moving into a nearby treeline and killed three.

Co. M, 3-26 Regt. killed two VC and found a booby-trapped M-72 LAW rocket in separate incidents on line, and Co. L searched a nearby tunnel to find a K-44 rifle and four VC killed by small arms fire and then turned up another LAW, an M-1 rifle, and an M-1 carbine in the vicinity of the tunnel.

Two miles behind the cordon, Co. C, 4-3 Inf. voided a grenade tossed out of a tunnel, then killed two VC evading the tunnel. Inside, Co. C found 25 VC suspects, including 18 military-age males and seven females, and a K-44 rifle. Co. C later killed a VC nearby.

In a delayed report of Friday action, H Trp., 17th Cav. found two VC killed by small arms fire and took an M-1 rifle 6 1/2 miles east-northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Another delayed reported credited Co. L, 3-26 Regt. with evacuating 39 Vietnamese found in a tunnel near the line Friday.

Elsewhere in the 198th Inf. Bde. area, Co. A, 1-6 Inf. killed an NVA and a VC and captured two weapons nine miles west of Chu Lai.

At 0850, Co. A engaged an unknown size NVA force, killed one, and took an AK-47 automatic and small arms fire and returned it to kill a VC and capture and M-1 carbine.

After finding 27 weapons under bushes Friday, Co. C, 3-1 Inf. discovered 32 more yesterday along a hedgerow eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Other units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed eight VC and found two VC bodies.

Co. C, led by CPt William J. Straub (Mt. Kisco, N.Y.), found three crew-served weapons-a French machinegun, a U.S. .30-cal machinegun, and a BAR, Individual weapons included nine M-1 carbines, seven Thompson submachineguns, six M-1 rifles, four SKS rifles, and three .45-cal grease guns.

Also found were 555 SKS rounds, 63 Chicom grenades, a 250 pound shaped charge, and three mines made of five gallon cans two-thirds full of TNT.

In a cave, Co. B, 3-1 Inf. found the bodies of two VC killed by small arms fire two days ago seven miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, while a UH-1 helicopter, working with the 3-1, killed five VC in four incidents 10-12 1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Co. A, 1-20 Inf. killed two VC with small arms fire and called in the 6-111 Arty. to kill a third in two incidents 11 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Two battalions accounted for 12 of 15 VC killed in the 196th Inf. Bde. area where two units of the 3-21 Inf. killed seven VC and two of the 4-31 Inf. killed five.

Co. B, 3-21 Inf. killed six VC in four actions 11-11 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky, and Co. C added the seventh 12 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky. Co. A, 4-31 Inf. killed four VC in three encounters 21 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky, while Co. D used artillery support to kill one VC 24 miles east of Tam Ky.

At 0740, Co. B, 1-46 Inf. killed two of three VC engaged 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and F Trp., 17th Cav. first killed a VC, then found and destroyed a tunnel and 200 pounds of rice 1 1/2 miles further northwest.

Three Americal Division soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, and 11 Marines were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial reports.

PEANUTS by CHARLES M. SCHULZ

1. Snoopy awakes from sleeping.....2. Snoopy seeks out into the next room.....3. Snoopy spies Linus sleeping with his blanket in hand..... 4. Snoopy clomps on the blanket and dashes off.....5. Linus does not let go, even when Snoopy goes out the door...6. Snoopy pounces on Linus.....7. a tug of war between Linus and Snoopy over the blanket takes place on a hill...8. Linus wins tumbling down the hill..9. Linus bops down the hill....10. battleworn Linus lets out a "Whew" as he comes back in the house.....11. Lucy rants, "Are you crazy! It's cold outside! You could catch pneumonia rolling around out there in the snow! 12....Linus says, "The struggle for security knows no season!".

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG CHARLES M. GETTYS, COMMANDING
MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO
SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor
Telephone: Chu Lai 3212

This News Sheet is published under the supervision of the IO, Americal Div-

Vol. 3. No. 34 MONDAY February 3, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

TUESDAY

Tomorrow's forecast calls for partly cloudy skys. Winds will be northeasterly at 5-10 knots. High temperature will be about 85' with a low of 68'. The moon will rise at 2019 hours and will set at 0823 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Scattered resistance and moderate action prevailed as Operation Russell Beach yesterday wound up its third week on the Batangan Peninsula with two Marine companies on the northern beaches and more Americal and marine units nearing the central and southern coasts.

Action was also moderate throughout southern I Corps as Americal Division forces reported killing 41 VC, finding one VC body,, detaining 18 VC suspects, and capturing six weapons.

marine Co. I, 3-26 Regt., working behind the cordon, and three Americal units found, three VC suspects held, and six M-72 LAW rockets taken in Russell Beach.

At 0550, Co. I killed two VC 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City and, nearly 15 hours later, engaged eight VC nearby and killed four. Co. I was cleaning up behind Cos. K and M, 3-26 Regt. which moved to the northern edge of the peninsula Saturday.

Co. C, 4-3 Inf. found and M-72 nine miles northeast of Quang Ngai City and , two hours later, found the body of a VC killed several days ago by small arms fire nearby. Another 4-3 element killed a VC a mile further back.

H Trp., 17th Cav., working with an ARVN unit, caught three VC suspects carrying five M-72 LAWS on the southern edge of the beach nine miles east-north-east of Quang Ngai City.

Co. M, 3-26 Regt., poking through a small village on the northern coast, found a VC hiding, 150 pounds of rice and 150 of corn, and an ammo can rigged into a booby trap with an 82mm mortar.

Near the central coast, Co. D, 5-46 Inf. discovered and destroyed two small tunnels and found three tunnels caved in by previous air strikes in the area.

There were no Americal or Marine casualties on the peninsula.

Led by "Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed 20 VC and detained 12 VC suspects in seven incidents.

Between 0820 and 0855, "Sharks" killed nine VC in three encounters seven miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Nearby, Co. B, 4-21 Inf. found and destroyed a tunnel 160 meters long.

In mid-afternoon, Co. D, 3-1 Inf. received heavy small arms fire and returned it along with an artillery barrage to kill six VC 19 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. Six miles closer to Quang Ngai, the 3-1 recon unit engaged four VC and killed two.

Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed a VC and detained a VC suspect, and Co. B, 4-21 Inf. detained six VC suspects 7 1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City. Co. B, 1-20 Inf. killed two VC 5 1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Military Police at 11th Inf. Bde. headquarters detained five military-age males.

The 3-21 Inf., opening the new month in the same way it performed throughout January, accounted for all 10 VC killed in the 196th Inf. Bde. area.

Co. A killed five VC in three incidents, including three in one action 15 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky. Single kills were recorded 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. C encountered four VC at 0730 and killed three in a firefight 11 1/2 (Cont'd on page 2)

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO

SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor

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miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. B engaged and killed two VC 11 miles west-north-west of Tam Ky.

F Trp., 8th Cav. and B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. killed four VC in the 1-1 area. After E Trp. killed two VC 15 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky, each troop killed a VC eight miles north of Tam Ky.

Two Americal Division soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. For the second consecutive day, no Americal or Marine soldiers were killed.

TASK FORCE OLD TIMERS

Correspondents are looking for "Old Timers" from Task Force Oregon, or soldiers who were here when the Americal Division was reactivated. Please contact the Americal Division Information Office by calling Chu Lai 2414 or 3212.

THE SOVIET AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLE

The AK-47 assault rifle was the basic individual weapons of the Soviet Army until the introduction of the 7.62mm assault rifle around 1958.

Copies of the AK-47 are in use by most of the Communist countries and by the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong units in South Vietnam.

The AK-47 assault rifle was adopted by the U.S.S.R. for its forces in 1947. The Chinese Communist production model of the AK-47 is designated the Type 56.

The AK-47 is a well made weapons and is constructed almost completely of machined components rather than from stampings. The weapons features a chromeplated bore.

A pivoted, safety-selector lever on the right side of the receiver allows the user to select the type of fire.

The weapons can be equipped with a fixed wooden stock or a folding metal stock. A cleaning rod is housed underneath the barrel. Weapons equipped with the wooden stock also have a combination cleaning tool within the stock.

The rear sight is adjustable from 100 to 800 meters in 100-meter increments, and has a battle sight setting for 250 meters.

7.62mm, air-cooled, gas-operated, magazine-fed, automatic or semi-auto-matic shoulder or hip weapon. 30 round capacity magazine. Over-all length 34.2 inches. Weight: (loaded) 10.6 pounds. 400 meters maximum effective firing range.

Rate of fire:

(semiautomatic) 40 rds/min.

(automatic) 100 rds/min.

Muzzle velocity - 710 meters/sec.

SNOOPY by CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Lucy says to Snoopy, "Don't you ruffle your fur at Me! Put it down!"

When Lucy's back is turned as she walks away, Snoopy ruffles his fur again.

Lucy suddenly turns and says to Snoopy, "PUT IT ALL DOWN!".

Vol. 3 No. 46 SATURDAY February 15, 1969
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
SUNDAY

Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair skies. Winds will be southeasterly at 8-15 knots. High temperature will be about 86° with a low of about 68°. Moon rise will be at 0646 and will set at 1831.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Cos. A and B, 4-3 Inf. yesterday discovered one good reason why they've been retained to operate in the 198th Inf. Bde. area since the combat phase of Operation Russell Beach ended earth this week.

Normally part of the 11th Inf. Bde., the two "Old Guard" units encountered a large VC force in a three-mile area northeast of Quang Ngai City and killed 26 while detaining 31 VC suspects.

Including those totals, Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and 44 VC, detaining 42 VC suspects, and capturing three individual weapons as action increased throughout southern I Corps.

Between 1030 and 1730 hours, Cos. A and B, 4-3 Inf. engaged VC seven times from 4-1/2-6-1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. Those actions accounted for all but four VC kills in the 198th area where six more VC suspects were also detained.

At 1930, Co. A engaged and killed five VC, and Co. B dominated action from 1100 to 1730.

In sequence, Co. B engaged five VC and killed three, engaged and killed 11, killed one, engaged 10 and killed four, killed one hiding in the false wall of a hut, and found a VC killed by small arms fire within the previous 24 hours.

The 31 VC suspects included several military-age males without ID cards and were weeded out of a group of more than 600 people detained in the area throughout the day. The vast majority were quickly released.

In other 198th action, Co. D, 1-52 Inf. backed by artillery support, killed three VC and detained two VC suspects after encountering an unknown-size force 10-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky, and H Trp., 17th Cav. killed a VC 9-1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai on the Batangan Peninsula.

Co. A, 5-46 Inf. and the 2-5 ARVN Inf. teamed to blow a tunnel and detain four VC suspects in another tunnel on the southern end of the peninsula.

A gunship of the "Aero Scouts" Co. of the 123d Avn. Bn., piloted by WO1 Donald McKenzie (Birmingham, Ala.) and working with 198th ground troops, spotted four tunnel entrances and six fresh graves and destroyed two huts in an area some 13 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

**** Cos. C and D, 3-21 Inf. killed five VC in as many incidents to top 196th Inf. Bde. units which totalled seven VC kills.

Co. D, 3-21 Inf. killed three VC 16 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. C, 1-46 Inf. and a UH-1 helicopter working with the 1-46 Inf. each killed a VC 20 and 21 miles, respectively, north-northeast of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 2-1 Inf. relocated 38 Vietnamese refugees to Que Son from an area 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

**** Light action concentrated in the Duc Pho area was again the story for 11th Inf. Bde. units which killed an NVA and a VC, detained five VC suspects, captured a weapon, and destroyed 42 huts.

Co. D, 4-21 Inf., working 10-1/2 miles south-southwest of Duc Pho, engaged two NVA, killed one, and captured a K-50 rifle. A "Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., piloted by WO1 Robert Thomas (Birmingham, Ala.), killed the VC and destroyed 15 huts 6-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

In Operation Vernon Lake II, Co. D, 3-1 Inf. found and destroyed 27 huts 13 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai, and Co. A, 3-1 Inf. found and evacuated 2000 SKS rounds and 15 60mm rounds 16 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

**** "Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav. and C Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. each killed three VC, and C Trp. captured two weapons in four incidents in the 1/1 area.
F Trp. killed four VC in three incidents four and 5-1/2 miles west and eight miles northwest of Tam Ky. C Trp. engaged and killed three VC and captured

Page 2 AMERICAL NEWS SHEET (Cont'd.) Vol. 3 No. 46 SATURDAY Feb. 15, 1969

an AK-47 rifle and an M-1 carbine four miles west-southwest of Tam Ky.
**** Eight Americal Division soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding
MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO
SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor
Telephone: Chu Lai 3212
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WEAPONS SAFETY

Clutch Clumsybum was clearing his .45 when it accidentally discharged. Because of his carelessness, one of his buddies had a wounded hand and another had an injured back. You could be safety conscious, but is your buddy? He is capable of putting you in the hospital or causing you never to see the States again.

****SERGEANT REUP SAYS

Do you want to attend a 40 week electronics school when you DEROS? See your career counselor today.

A WEAPON WITH GRIT MAY ONLY CLICK WHEN A HIT IS NEEDED RIGHT QUICK. KEEP YOUR WEAPON CLEAN
****MALARIA PLAYS ON FAVORITES - TAKE YOUR MALARIA PILL DAILY. THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN.

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

Charlie Brown and Lucy are looking to the right. Charlie Brown says " Oh No! Look who's coming....Pig Pen! The Human Dustbowl!"
Pig Pen runs up from the right with the usual dust trailing after him. He comes up to Charlie Brown and Lucy and says "Good Morning Violet Morning, Charlie Brown." Pig Pen leaves, leaving Charlie Brown and Lucy in a cloud of dust. Charlie Brown is saying " Pig Pen is the only person I know who can raise a cloud of dust on a clean sidewalk." Lucy is coughing. In the next frame, Pig Pen is walking by a sleeping Snoopy. He walks by Snoopy who is now hidden by the dust. In the next frame, all you see is a cloud of dust with "?" and "!" above the dustcloud. Then Snoopy jumps up with his tongue out and ears out. Snoopy they says "Good Grief! I thought I had been buried alive!)

Vol. 3 No. 56 TUESDAY February 25, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDERS

In Company M there's a breach,
From the drowning of Private O'Teeth.
Although he couldn't swim,
His air mattress held him,
Till it swamped half-a-mile from the beach.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Four units of the 3-1 Inf. and two of the 3-21 Inf. led the way as Americal Division troops engaged the enemy 17 times and withstood several assaults on Americal positions in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal units reported killing three NVA and 27 VC, and capturing two individual and one crew-served weapons as both the rate and volume of action dropped considerably after Sunday's hectic events.

Enemy probes against four LZs were reported between 2400 hours Sunday and 0500 this morning. At 1815 yesterday, one sector of the Chu Lai Defense Command received three 122mm rockets which caused no casualties or damage.

**** Nine VC were killed by 3-1 Inf. troops in Operation Vernon Lake II, and another 3-1 unit killed two VC near Duc Pho as 11th Inf. Bde. forces killed one NVA and 14 VC.

A UH-1 helicopter, working with the 3-1, called mortar fire from Co. E, 301 Inf. to kill four VC 12 miles southwest of Quang Ngai, and the 3-1 recon unit killed two VC a mile beyond.

Operating 17-1/2-18 miles southwest of Quang Ngai, Co. A killed three VC in two incidents. Co. B killed two VC in separate encounters barely southeast of Duc Pho.

Air Force CPT Jack Stitzel (Phoenix, Ariz.), an 11th Bde. Forward Air Control pilot, directed air strikes seven miles west-northwest of Duc Pho to kill three VC and destroy three camouflaged huts.

A mortar platoon of Co. C, 1-20 Inf. killed an NVA 6-1/2 miles south of Duc Pho, and Co. C detained three VC suspects without ID cards two miles nearer Duc Pho.

**** Cos. A and B, 3-21 Inf. accounted for nine of 10 VC killed and captured a weapon in the 196th area where 2900 pounds of rice were also found.

In delayed reports of Sunday action, Co. A killed two VC at 1830 and found an AK-47 rifle 15 minutes later 8-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky. In two incidents yesterday, Co. A directed artillery fire on groups of eight and five VC to kill five and one, respectively, eight miles west of Tam Ky.

Co. B killed a VC 13 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky, and a UH-1 helicopter, working with the 4-31 Inf., killed a VC 24-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky.

Co. C, 1-46 Inf. found and evacuated 2900 pounds of rice buried in camouflaged crocks 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

**** Comparative quiet descended on the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area after a frenzied Sunday morning which saw 84 enemy soldiers killed in six incidents. Two NVA and a VC were killed yesterday, and one crew-served weapon was destroyed.

At 1650, B Trp., 1-1 engaged an unknown-size enemy force and killed two NVA three miles southeast of Tam Ky. Another B Trp. element found and destroyed five bunkers 3-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

"Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. flew into .50-cal fire 2-1/2 miles south of Tam Ky and eliminated the problem by killing a VC and destroyed the machinegun.

**** Two VC were killed and an AK-47 rifle taken in the 198th Inf. Bde. area as "Brave and Bold" troops intensified patrolling near Chu Lai and below Tam Ky where several enemy rockets and mortar attacks were launched in the past two mornings.

In three incidents, two LZs reported receiving enemy fire and one attempted ground probe yesterday.

Co. A, 1-52 Inf. rooted out one trouble spot by finding and destroying a tunnel complex in one LZ area 11-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

(Cont'd. on page 2)

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO

SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor

Telephone: Chu Lai 3212

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H Trp., 17th Cav. killed a VC and captured the rifle 11 miles southeast of Chu Lai, and Co. C, 1-6 Inf. ambushed and killed a VC 5-1/2 miles west of Chu Lai.

A UH-1 helicopter of the 176th Aslt. Hel. Co. crashed and burned after receiving heavy .50-cal fire three miles south of Tam Ky. Four Americans were killed in the crash.

**** Seven Americal Division soldiers were killed, one was listed as missing in hostile action, and 33 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

WHAT IS IT?

That strange looking shell rising behind the Chu Lai Officer's Club is not going to be a resort hotel, despite rumors that Howard Hughes is considering the Chu Lai area for investment. It is the future Special Services Handball Court.

Opening day has not been set, but the Special Services R&R NCO is working out the details of operation so that all personnel will get a chance to try this grueling sport. Tentative plans call for a 1300-2200 daily operation. Players will be allowed only one hour on a reserved basis so that a maximum number of men can be accommodated. Reservations will be made on a first come-first served basis the day before play by calling Special Services. When you come in for standdown, check this one out.

HONORARY STAFF SERGEANT'S SCRAPBOOK

A scrapbook recording the Americal Divisions exploits is being compiled for Honorary Staff Sergeant Richie Hall, age 10. Individuals or units wishing to donate pictures for this scrapbook should forward them to Awards and Decorations Branch, Americal Division. Contact 1LT Temple or SP4 Ray (Chu Lai 2119).

SERGEANT REUP SAYS:

SP5 Dale Davis, 14th CAB, drew over \$6600.00 for reenlisting on 20 Feb. Ask your career counselor how you can cash in like this..

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

Linus is walking along looking down when he sees a baseball bat on the ground. Next to Snoopy he cries "AAUGH!" Snoopy thinks "?" Linus picks up the bat and says "TEETH MARKS!" He shakes the bat at Snoopy and says "Have you been chewing on my new bat?!!" "What sort of a stupid dog are you? Don't you have any more sense than to chew on a baseball bat?!" "If you have to chew on something, can't you find a stick or a bone or a fence or something? Do you have to ruin a good baseball bat?! Why can't you...." he concludes as Lucy walks by. As she leaves, she says "He didn't chew on your bat; I used it to hit rocks!" Linus stands there with a stunned look on his face, then gets a sheepish grin and finally turns to Snoopy and says " Do you want a bite?" The final scene shows Linus running for his life with Snoopy chasing him with teeth bared.

Vol. 3 No. 69 Monday March 10, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER
THE SAFEST ACCIDENT
YOU CAN HAVE
IS NO ACCIDENT.
KEEP SAFETY IN MIND

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Elements of the 11th Inf. Bde. for the second consecutive day had heavy engagements near Duc Pho, in which 25 NVA and four VC were killed, 10 enemy suspects detained, and two individual and four crew-served weapons were captured yesterday.

Americal Division units made 22 contacts in the southern I Corps and reported killing 32 NVA and 18 VC, capturing nine weapons, five crew-served.

Co. C, 4-21 Inf., 11th Bde. killed 15 NVA, captured one AK-47 rifle, two RPG rocker launchers, and one Chicom machinegun four miles west of Duc Pho. Co. C also detained nine enemy suspects carrying a dud 60mm mortar round.

3-1 Inf.'s SRP team spotted eight VC 13 miles northwest of Duc Pho and called in artillery which killed four of the enemy.

"Shark" helicopters of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed two NVA three miles west of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 4-21 engaged with two NVA and killed them four miles west of Duc Pho. Co. B detained a woman suspect who Chieu Hoied in the same area.

E. Trp., 1st Cav. killed two NVA one mile away.

Co. B, 1-20 Inf. killed one NVA and captured a RPG rocket launcher 2-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. found one NVA that had been killed by air strikes one-half mile away.

The 196th Inf. Bde. had five NVA and eight VC killed and one weapon captured in its area.

F. Trp., 17th Cav. found 6-1/2 tons of unpolished rice buried in crocks under hootches and hedgerows 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. F Trp. has collected 47-1/2 tons of rice in five days.

The 123rd Avn. Bn. engaged 12 VC and killed eight of the enemy 13-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

3-21 Inf.'s recon unit spotted and killed two NVA, and captured one AK-47 rifle nine miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Co. B, 3-21 Inf. engaged and killed two NVA 12 miles west of Tam Ky.

Co. C, 1-52 Inf. killed one NVA one mile away.

The 198th Inf. Bde. killed six VC and two NVA, captured two weapons, one crew-served in an area south of Chu Lai.

Co. A, 4-3 Inf. killed two NVA and captured one AK-47 and one B-40 rocket launcher 12 miles south of Chu Lai

The recon company of the 4-3 Inf. spotted three VC in the same area and called for artillery which killed the three.

H Trp., 17th Cav. working with the 4-3 Inf. killed three VC in the area.

Nine Americal soldiers were killed, and 35 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Three Americal soldiers were reported missing in hostile action.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO

SP5 Ed Conaway, Co-editor

SP4 Paul Palmer, Co-editor

Telephone: Chu Lai 3212

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SERGEANT REUP SAYS:

Bored with your job? See your career counselor for a different assignment.
(Cont'd on page 2)

Peanuts by Schulz

Lucy and Charlie Brown are bundled up as they walk toward Snoopy, shivering in the snow. They comment on how cold Snoopy looks and think they should stop to cheer Snoopy. Afterwards, they continue walking on after making a big to do over Snoopy, leaving Snoopy wondering what that was all about.

MIRACLE APPEARANCE REMINDER

When your're going to the
Americal Main PX,
Make sure you're cruddy fatigues you do DX.
Put a razor to your chin,
If you expect to get in.
If your sideburns are too long,
In this PX you don't belong.

DID YOU TAKE YOUR ORANGE PILL TODAY?

EVERYDAY VIETNAMESE RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

The "lay" (pronounced "lie") is a hand sign used both as a form of greeting and as the highest gesture of respect. In making this sign the hands are placed together, fingers pointed upwards, in front of the chest. When showing respect to clergy or when worshipping, the hands are raised in front of the face.

Customarily, the lay is performed three times after lighting joss sticks in front of a pagoda. (Unless specifically invited to do so, it is not proper for those of you who are not members of the faith to light joss sticks.)

Funerals vary depending on locality, ethnic groups, religious beliefs and wealth and position.

Normally the chief mourner leads then funeral procession, followed by the hearse, religious objects, pictures of the deceased, women mourners in white a band, and other mourners. Jokes about sickness and death should be avoided and the dead should be treated with the same respect that you would show in our society.

Graves in Vietnam vary from those in regular cemeteries to circular piles of dirt which may dot the countryside in paddies and fields.

Whenever found, graves should be respected and extra trouble taken not to desecrate them. The Vietnamese believe that the desecration of a grave angers the spirits, causing an attack on the living.

The communal house (dinh), along with the pagoda and the market, is one of the places of greatest importance in any Vietnamese community.

The communal house is first of all a place to worship the protective genii of the village.

Secondly, it is the place to receive the king or, in more modern terms, to receive the representative of the government, the province chief or other officials; and a meeting place for the notables of the village.

Lastly, the communal house is a place for keeping memorial tablets to village dead who died without descendants to carry out their ancestor worship.

Over the door to a communal house will be found Chinese characters which mean "Long Life to the King," indicative of its purpose as a place to receive the king.

Spirit houses, little shelters like birdhouses ranging from simple to elaborate, are erected for the happiness of the spirits. They often contain candles and joss sticks. They reflect the belief in ancestor veneration and are vitally important to those who erect them.

VIETNAMES CULTURE

Vietnamese people have a habit of not looking into your eyes when they talk to you. One of the main reasons is that traditionally they do not look into the eyes of those higher in rank when talking to them. This is to indicate politeness.

Vol. 3 No. 80 Friday March 21, 1969
MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER
AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--For the second straight day, activity was increased in the southern I Corps yesterday, with 25 reports of enemy rocket, mortar, recoilless rifle, and small arms fire attacks throughout the area.

The Chu Lai Defense Command area received four 122mm rockets near the Americal Division Combat Center at 2120 hours, with no casualties. Three more unknown type rockets impacted at 0655 today.

LZ Bronco, headquarters of the 11th Inf. Bde., was shelled three times Thursday and has received enemy fire six times in two days. LZ Liz spotted flashes of two 140mm rockets that hit outside LZ Bronco's perimeter and called gunships to the area where the rockets had been fired.

Over 200 rockets, mortars, and recoilless rifle rounds have been fired into Americal Division installations from a few minutes after midnight Thursday, through this morning at 0253 when LZ Fat City received 40 rounds of mixed RPG rockets and 82mm mortars, most received in any one area at one time in two days.

Americal units made 13 contacts with the enemy and reported killing 14 NVA and 27 VC, and capturing seven weapons, one crew-served.

The 198th Inf. Bde. killed 18 VC in the vicinity of Quang Ngai City.

At 1930 hours, D Btry., 1-14 Arty. engaged a force of 60 VC and killed 15 of the enemy, 7-1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai.

H Trp., 17th Cav. working with Co. A, 4-3 Inf. engaged five VC, killing three, 6-1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

Twelve NVA and six VC were killed in the 196th Inf. Bde. area, and six weapons, one crew-served, were captured.

Btry. B, 3-18 Arty. engaged and killed five NVA three miles southwest of Tam Ky.

During a sweep of heavy jungle 23 miles west-southwest of Tam Ky, Co. D, 4-31 Inf. engaged and killed four VC and destroyed two sampans.

An NVA entering a foxhole opened up on Co. C, 3-21 Inf. Co. C returned fire, killing two NVA and capturing two AK-47 rifles 7-1/2 miles west-southwest of Tam Ky.

Two miles southwest of Tam Ky, Co. C, 1-46 Inf. engaged six VC wearing packs in the triple-canopy jungle and killed two and captured a M-16 rifle and miscellaneous documents.

During a sweep of an area 11 miles southwest of Tam Ky, Co. C, 2-1 Inf. found four NVA killed by small arms fire. Co. C also found an AK-47 rifle, a K-44 rifle, and an RPG launcher.

The 11th Inf. Bde. had three NVA and one VC killed and one weapon captured in action in its area.

Co. C, 4-21 Inf. killed three NVA in three incidents near its landing zone 22 miles northwest of Duc Pho. The first NVA was killed five minutes after midnight. An AK-47 rifle was captured when a second NVA was killed nearby at 1100 hours, and a third NVA was killed in the same locale later in the evening.

A Recon patrol of the 1-20 Inf. engaged and killed one VC five miles northwest of Duc Pho.

"Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed two VC in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area 6-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky. This gives F Trp. 15 enemy kills in four days.

Thirteen Americal soldiers were killed and 19 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Five of the 13 soldiers killed were listed as missing in action Wednesday.

There have been 571 NVA and 835 VC killed in the division area since the post-Tet offensive began Feb. 23.

During this time, 113 Americal soldiers have been killed.

HANDBALL COURT OPEN

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

LOCK YOUR VEHICLES

Peanuts by Schulz

Vol. 3 No. 110 Sunday April 20, 1969
MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER
SALT YOUR TROUBLES AWAY
TAKE A COUPLE EVERYDAY.
AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting 20 NVA and 41 VC killed, and four weapons captured, one crew-served.

IRON MOUNTAIN--The 11th Inf. Bde. accounted for 18 NVA and 18 VC killed, and two weapons captured.

The recon patrol of the 4-21 Inf. found 18 NVA killed by air strikes that had been called into the area 10-1/2 miles west-northwest of Duc Pho, the day before the patrol when it spotted an unknown size enemy force moving through the jungle.

"Warlord" gunships of Co. B, 123rd Avn. Bn. killed 11 VC near the Vo River 14-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho. Fifteen minutes later the "Warlords" killed eight more VC and captured an AK-47 rifle and a M-79 grenade launcher a half mile away.

Three VC were killed by Co. D, 1-20 Inf. in a rice paddy three miles northwest of Duc Pho. Co. B, 1-20 Inf. killed two on the coast seven miles southeast of Duc Pho, in two separate actions.

Co. C, 1-20 Inf. killed one VC after engaging two on the coast 11-1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho.

A VC killed by artillery was found by Co. D, 4-21 Inf. in the triple-canopy jungle 12 miles west-northwest of Duc Pho.

GENEVA PARK and RUSSELL BEACH---The 198th Inf. Bde. accounted for 10 VC killed in its area of operation.

In Operation Geneva Park, Co. B, 5-46 Inf. found four VC in a tunnel it had blown the day before eight miles north-northwest of Quang Ngai.

Co. C, 4-3 Inf. engaged and killed three more VC 9-1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

Co. C, 5-46 Inf. engaged five VC killing one and detaining a VC suspect six miles south of Chu Lai.

Another VC was killed by H Trp., 17th Cav. in a rice paddy eight miles north-northwest of Quang Ngai.

Using a hand grenade Co. A 5-46 Inf. killed a VC on the Batangan Peninsula 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai.

FREDERICK HILL---The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. reported 10 VC killed and two weapons captured in its area.

C. Trp., 1st Cav. killed six VC in two separate contacts seven miles west of Tam Ky. In the first contact, four VC were killed and an AK-47 rifle captured, in the other two VC were killed after the troop engaged three, and a 57 caliber recoilless rifle was captured.

F Trp., 8th Cav.'s "Blue Ghost" gunships killed four VC in three contacts from nine miles north to 18 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky.

Two NVA and three VC were killed in the 196th Inf. Bde. area of operation.

Two NVA were killed after a ranger patrol of Co. G, 75th Inf. engaged 10 in the jungle covered foothills 12-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 4-31 inf. killed two VC, one after engaging three in a mountainous region 23-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky, and another in the same location later in the afternoon.

Cont'd on page 2

Co. C, 2-1 Inf. engaged eight VC killing one in heavy jungle 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Three Americal soldiers were killed and 13 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

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Peanuts by Schulz

Charlie Brown is flying a kite which falls on Snoopy sleeping on top of his doghouse. Snoopy becomes entangled in the kite string and Charlie Brown gets drawn into the tangle trying to free Snoopy. Then Linus comes along and also gets ensnared. Then Lucy comes up and also becomes entangled. Finally a voice from the middle of the snarl says "Charlie Brown you can't imagine how glad we'll all be when the kite flying season is over!"

TOMORROW IS ORANGE PILL DAY

TERRORIST TACTICS

Recent intelligence reports and captured documents reveal the enemy has directed increased terrorist acts against Allied servicemen and loyal civilians to counter his battlefield losses.

The establishment of terrorist goals for sapper units and the payment of rewards to individuals for committing acts of assassination and sabotage are examples of this increased effort.

Recently the following tactics have been employed to accomplish such acts:

- A. While riding motorcycles, terrorists will shoot or throw hand grenades into unsuspecting groups of persons standing nearby.
- B. Use of prostitutes to lure servicemen to insecure areas where they are captured or killed.
- C. use of small children to place explosive charges on vehicles stopped in traffic or parked in insecure locations.

When in public stay away from the crowds. Stay alert at all times. Beware of unknown areas.

Vol. 3 No. 134 Wednesday May 14 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 15

Fair to partly cloudy, winds blowing east-southeast 5 to 10 knots and gusting to 20 knots in afternoon. Probable thundershowers over mountains.

Temperature: H 96 L 80

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Enemy activity decreased in the past 24 hours in the Americal Division. Units reported killing 47 NVA and 40 VC and 18 weapons, three crew-served, were captured.

IRON MOUNTAIN--"Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Inf. Bde. reported 40 NVA and 12 VC killed in southern Quang Ngai province yesterday. Six weapons, one crew-served, were captured.

Air strikes accounted for a large portion of the enemy kills in the bde.'s area.

Elements of the 1-4 ARVN Regt. and 4-3 Inf. reported 25 NVA killed by air strikes, 14 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. C, 3-1 Inf. reported finding five NVA killed by air strikes and three more killed by air strikes and three more killed by small arms fire, five miles south of Duc Pho. At 1010 hours the same unit engaged and killed eight VC half a mile away.

After receiving RPGs and small arms fire, Co. B, 1-20 Inf. returned fire to kill four NVA, three miles west of Duc Pho.

Three VC were killed by Co. C, 1-20 Inf. who was on a search and clear mission with E Trp., 1st Cav. in fields five miles west of Duc Pho. Earlier the Cav. unit found one AK-47, one M-1 carbine and a M-14 rifle.

Thirteen miles northwest of Duc Pho Co. A, 4-3 Inf. found two NVA killed by air strikes and captured an AK-47 rifle. The unit later found one RPG launcher and seven rounds, two Chicom grenades and two green uniforms, all in the same vicinity.

A VC killed by 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. was found by the 19th Eng.'s seven miles southeast of Duc Pho. Also found was an AK-47.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. killed one VC in a rice paddy six miles south of Duc Pho.

Five miles further south Co. D, 4-21 Inf. found a large well-built enemy base camp with 25 hootches, each with its own bunker. One kitchen 20 by 20 feet and a 20 by 60 feet mess hall was included. The unit uncovered 500 pounds of rice, 20 entrenching tools, and NVA poncho liners.

* * * *

FREDERICK HILL - Action in the 196th Inf. Bde. areas showed 17 NVA and 7 VC killed and eight weapons, one crew-served captured.

In an area six miles southeast of Tam Ky. Cos. B and C, 3-21 Inf. killed nine VC and one NVA.

Elsewhere, near LZ Baldy gunships of the 176th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed four VC. In the same area the 2-1 Inf. accounted for one NVA killed.

Fourteen miles southwest of Tam Ky, Co. A, 1-46 Inf. engaged and killed one NVA and one VC, captured a SKS rifle and a AK-47 rifle.

Three hours later Co. A working with Recon, 1-46 Inf. killed four NVA and captured two AK-47 rifles and a SKS.

In the same area, Co. B, 2-1 Inf. found and M-72 LAW and one pistol.

Two VC were killed by Co. D, 4-31 Inf. while Co. B, 1-46 Inf. accounted for another one.

C Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. captured an AK-47 rifle and a RPG launcher.

* * * *

GENEVA PARK -Units of the 198th Inf. Bde. killed 11 VC and captured four weapons, one crew-served.

Across open fields dotted with rice paddies the armored carriers of 3rd Plt. H Trp., 17th Cav. rolled.

The unit working with an element of 1-52 Inf. was on a search and clear mission 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

Suddenly they received heavy automatic weapons fire from a woodland area. "We spotted the enemy trying to move up on the 1-52 so we came on line and made an assault," said 1LT George E. Palmer (Waterford, Pa.), track commander.

Cont'd on page 2

Peanut Comic -

- (1) Schroeder is playing with Lucy laying her neck on the miniature piano.
- (2) Music notes are coming from the piano as Lucy turns her head.
- (3) Lucy says, "Beethoven, Phooey he wasn't so great".
- (4) Schroeder says, "What do you mean he wasn't so great".
- (5) Lucy says, "Well he didn't get to be king, did he? Huh?".
- (6) Again Lucy says "Well he didn't get to be king, did he" Huh", as she climbs on Schroeder's piano.
- (7) Schroeder covers his ears and turns away as Lucy says, "Did he get to be King? Huh? Did He? Did He?".
- (8) Lucy gets back off the piano to her original position laying her head on the piano. She continues, "How can anyone be called great if he doesn't get to be king?" To this Schroeder drops his head down on the piano, and says, "Good Grief".

Routing the enemy, the Cav. found nine NVA killed and many weapons littered the area. Forced to rejoin the 1-52 to provide security, they encountered heavy action. Later going back to the woodline they found that all bodies and weapons had been removed.

H Trp. did capture one AK-47 and one Chicom machinegun.

In other action, Co. A, 5-46 Inf. engaged seven VC, killing one 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai on the Batangan Peninsula.

Ten miles northeast of Chu Lai one VC was killed by Co. A, 1-6 Inf.

SGT. Louis Love (San Francisco, CA) found out that malfunctions with weapons sometimes are nice. Love a sergeant with the 1-52 Inf. was face-to-face with death at the hands of attacking VC at LZ Buff early Monday morning. A VC had the drop on Love with an AK-47. "He pulled the trigger three times and each time nothing happened," recalled Love. The VC was then shot by another 1-52 soldier.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO

SP5 Ed Conaway

PFC Ted Mack Co-editors

Telephone: Chu Lai 3212

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SERGEANT REUP SAYS

Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of these who follow and the man who leads that gains the victory. Stay on the team - Stay Army.

Vol. 3 No. 136 Friday May 16, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 17

Fair to partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms over mountains. Winds blowing from southeast 5-10 knots and gusting 15-20 knots in the afternoon.

Temperature: H 97 L 79

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Devastating air strikes and artillery fire accounted for 83 of 126 enemy killed in southern I Corps yesterday as combat action remained heavy.

Americal Division forces reported killing 82 NVA and 44 VC, and capturing 28 weapons, six crew-served.

* * * * *

FREDERICK HILL--The long arm of Americal fire superiority reached out to aid 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers, as 53 NVA met their fate from air strikes, nine miles west of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 3-21 Inf. found the enemy soldiers near Nui Yon. They also captured 16 weapons, three crew-served.

Divarty also did the job in a big way as Btry. B, 3-16 Arty. fired a mission against an unknown size enemy force and killed 30 VC.

The mission, called in by a MACV advisor, occurred two miles southwest of Tam Ky.

In three separate actions, Co. B, 3-21 Inf. accounted for nine NVA killed and captured four weapons, one crew-served. The action took place in an area six miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Co. C, 3-21 Inf. matched her sister company, also killing nine NVA and captured two AK-47 rifles and two unknown type machineguns. The unit was working about three and half miles south of Tam Ky.

Two NVA were killed by B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., three and a half miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Other actions in the "Chargers" area of operations resulted in one NVA and one VC killed.

* * * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--Units from the 11th Inf. Bde. accounted for seven NVA and five VC killed and two weapons captured.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. and E Trp., 1st Cav. working together in an area five miles southeast of Duc Pho engaged and killed four VC in three incidents.

In the mountains, 14 miles west of Duc Pho, Co. C, 4-3 Inf. discovered an enemy basecamp of six bunkers capable of housing 20-25 men and two hootches. They also found 100 pounds of rice and various medical supplies.

Less than a mile from the camp, the company came under heavy small arms fire and RPGs from an unknown size enemy force. The "Old Guard" returned the fire to kill four NVA.

Co. A, 4-21 Inf. engaged and killed there NVA and captured two individual weapons five miles southwest of Duc Pho, and Co. C, 1-20 Inf. killed one VC 3 1/2 miles north of Duc Pho.

* * * * *

GENEVA PARK--One NVA and eight VC were killed, and two weapons captured in the 198th Inf. Bde's area of operation yesterday.

At 1715 hours, the recon element and Co. B, 1-52 Inf. received eight mortar, RPG, and recoilless rifle rounds in an area eight miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai.

The unit retaliated with a heavy volume of small arms fire to kill eight VC and capture an AK-50.

H Trp., 17th Cav. killed one VC and captured his AK-47 weapon while working with recon, 1-52.

* * * * *

Five Americal soldiers, missing in action since early Monday morning, made their way back to friendly troops yesterday and joined Co. B, 1-46 Inf.

Cont'd on page 2

Peanuts Comic

- (1) Snoopy hears a note of music.
- (2) Snoopy begins to enjoy the music.
- (3) Snoopy begins walking toward the music.
- (4) Snoopy begins running toward the music.
- (5) Snoopy is on Schroeder's piano thinking, "Beautiful, Just Beautiful."
- (6) Snoopy begins dancing on the Piano.
- (7) Snoopy is dancing happily on the Piano.
- (8) Snoopy hugs Schroeder and thinks, "Papa Haydn".

They had been evading enemy forces for two days. Each was wounded or injured.***

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A CLEAN M-16 IMPROVES YOUR HEALTH

**

SERGEANT REUP SAYS

Would you like to pull a tour in the land of the frauleins? See your career counselor today.

CULTURAL HINT OF THE DAY

Make an attempt to understand the Vietnamese's English. Some common mistakes in their English originates in Vietnamese language idioms and sentence structure. For example, "Too" is used for "very". A remark like "You are eating too much", or "Your house is too big", may be just a friendly observation.

If the answer is "No", it may come out, "Yes, I do not want any."

Vol. 3 No. 138 Sunday May 18, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 19

Fair to partly cloudy, winds southeast 5-10 knots, gusting to 15 in the afternoon. Winds light and variable after sundown.

Temperature: H 98 L 79

Humidity: H 90% L 50%

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Activity in the Americal Division's southern I Corps was the lowest in several days yesterday, as 10 NVA and 10 VC were killed and eight weapons, one crew-served were captured.

* * * *

GENEVA PARK--The 198th Inf. Bde. recorded the most kills in the division yesterday.

Twenty-seven NVA were killed by artillery and gunship fire, 11 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

Btry. D, 1-14 Arty. fired a mission and gunships of the 176th Aslt. Hel. Co. also fired in the area at enemy soldiers. The bodies were found by H Trp., 17th Cav.

Late Saturday afternoon, in the same area, Co. C, 1-52 Inf. received small arms fire and five unknown type mortars. They returned fire killing one NVA and capturing an AK-47 rifle.

At 0045 hours, elements of Co. C, 1-6 Inf. observed enemy activity outside their perimeter. A search by illumination, uncovered one RPG round, nine Chicom grenades and one AK magazine.

* * * *

FREDERICK HILL -- Nine NVA and one VC were killed in the 196th Bde.'s area yesterday. Six weapons, one crew-served were captured.

In a rice basin, six miles southwest of Tam Ky, Co. A, 3-21 Inf. surprised an NVA platoon, killing seven and capturing a 7.62 machinegun.

After the point element engaged and killed one NVA, the company split and two squads made an assault, while the other two platoons flanked the enemy.

An NVA machinegunner was observed frantically trying to unwrap and prepare his gun for firing.

The gunner and his ammo man were both killed in the assault.

The flanking elements killed four more enemy as they tried to evade.

In addition to the machinegun, the unit found one AK-47, two carbines, and one M-79.

In the same area, Co. D, 3-21 Inf. engaged and killed two NVA and found one flamethrower.

One VC was killed by Co. B, 4-31 Inf., 19 miles west of Tam Ky.

* * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--The 11th Inf. Bde. reported two enemy killed in separate contacts, yesterday. Fourteen miles west of Duc Pho, Co. B, 4-3 Inf. killed one VC and captured an M-1 rifle. E Trp., 1st Cav. reported the other VC kill, seven miles south of Duc Pho. Four VC suspects were detained by "Warlords" of the 123rd Avn. Bn., three miles west of Duc Pho.

* * * *

The past week saw a definite increase in enemy activity within the southern I Corps area, as 374 NVA and 188 VC were killed, and captured 143 weapons, 22 crew-served.

The 196th Inf. Bde. accounted for the most action, killing 326 enemy and capturing 60 weapons.

On Monday morning enemy attacks at LZs Professional and Baldy were repelled by the "Chargers".

Air strikes and artillery fire did a demoralizing job upon enemy forces in the area throughout the week.

Peanuts Comics

- (1) Snoopy is crawling through the grass while he is thinking, "Here's the Fierce Mountain Lion sneaking through the grass."
- (2) Snoopy is bouncing around thinking, "Here is the agile Mountain lion bounding through the ???".
- (3) Snoopy is sitting on top of a large rock thinking, "Here's the proud mountain lion sitting atop a rock."
- (4) Snoopy ears perk up as he thinks, "Suddenly he sees an approaching figure."
- (5) Charlie Brown approaches on a path that leads by the rock where Snoopy hides. Snoopy thinks, "He crouches behind the rock."
- (6) Snoopy jumps up over Charlie Brown as he thinks "He leaps". He makes a loud "GROUGH!" noise.
- (7) Jumping on Charlie's head, he is thinking "Rip, Snarl, Tear" as Charlie appears puzzled.
- (8) Jumping on Charlie's head he is making a pounce, pounce, pounce noise.
- (9) Finally he leans over Charlie's head (while still sitting on Charlie's head) and looks at Charlie eye to eye."
- (10) He walks off with a "Sigh".
- (11) Charlie later writes a letter. "Dear Pencil Pal, On my way home from School today I was attacked by a mountain lion. I was not seriously injured."

In Operation Iron Mountain the 11th Inf. Bde. had similar perimeter attacks achieving the same results, driving off the insurgents with heavy losses.
The 198th Inf. Bde. accounted for 57 enemy killed during the week.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

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TOMORROW IS ORANGE PILL DAY

**SERGEANT REUP SAYS

Victor Romeo Bravo means beau beaucoup loot in your jeans. Ask your career counselor if you qualify.

****CULTURAL HINT OF THE DAY

If you eat with your left hand you may become the object of curiosity while dining with Vietnamese. Some Vietnamese follow the custom of eating only with the "clean" right hand. Others simply regard left-handedness as a physical handicap. Most Vietnamese will accept the explanation that left-handedness is considered normal in America.

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 23

Fair to partly cloudy, thunder showers over the mountains in late afternoon. Winds blowing east 5-12 knots gusts to 15 knots.

Temperature: H 99 L 79

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Eleven NVA and 11 VC were killed and eight weapons, two crew-served, were captured in the Americal Division's southern I Corps yesterday.

* * * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--The 11th Inf. Bde. reported killing seven NVA and capturing six weapons in two separate contacts with enemy forces.

An NVA attack at a bridge, four and half miles north of Duc Pho was thwarted by Co. A, 1-20 Inf., as they accounted for six NVA killed and four weapons captured.

The bridge located between LZ Liz and Mo Duc was guarded by a squad of Co. A, when suddenly the still night air was cut with an enemy barrage of mortars.

The squad radioed to LZ Liz, one and half miles away, for aid as an NVA ground attack began.

As company reinforcements arrived by chopper, they were met with a hail of enemy small arms fire, but were able to coordinate a drive and push the NVA from the bridge, ruining enemy plans to close the bridge.

A search of the area found the six NVA killed in the battle and two AK-47 and two AK-50 rifles.

In other action Co. B, 4-3 Inf. killed one NVA and captured an AK-47 rifle, 22 miles west of Duc Pho.

The company also found and destroyed five huts, one bunker, a mess hall, an aid station, and a command bunker.

Other 11th Bde. units were busy uncovering small caches.

Co. D, 4-3 Inf. found one AK-47 rifle, along with 15 Chicom grenades, one M-26 grenade, three bangalore torpedoes, three RPG rounds, 20 each of hammocks, gas masks, and canteens.

Five hundred pounds of rice was found by the recon element 1-20 Inf., two miles north of Duc Pho. They also found two M-14 mine, 10 time fuses, three M-16 magazines, and assorted clothing.

* * * * *

FREDERICK HILL--Nine VC were killed in the 196th Inf. Bde. OZ yesterday. Co. D, 4-31 Inf., while working in an area 14 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky engaged eight VC with small arms fire, killing five of the enemy.

F Trp., 8th Cav. engaged and killed two VC in separate contacts in an area 18 1/2 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky.

Other 196th Bde. units killed two more VC in yesterdays action.

* * * * *

GENEVA PARK--In the 198th Inf. Bde. area of operations four NVA and two VC were killed and two crew-served weapons captured.

After receiving enemy fire, H Trp., 17th Cav. returned the fire against an unknown size enemy force. A sweep of the area after the fight revealed four NVA dead, and one Russian made machinegun and a 60mm mortar complete and eight rounds for the mortar.

CONT'D ON

PAGE 2

PEANUTS BY SCHULZ

- (1) Charlie Brown carrying a bowl of dog food, "Snoopy!"
- (2) Again, "Snoopy Suppertime".
- (3) Finally, "Where is that crazy dog?"
- (4) He finds Snoopy laying on the floor stomach up.
- (5) Snoopy crawls over on his back and sniffs the dog food.
- (6) Then Snoopy crawls away still on his back. Charlie Brown says, "Good Grief".
- (7) Charlie breaks down with exasperation and says, "I'm getting to be like a housewife. I hate meal time, I hate it!"
- (8) Charlie then says, "Alright I'll give your supper to the cat!"
- (9) Charlie starts to carry the dog bowl away, but Snoopy gets on Charlie's head and starts to eat from the bowl outstretched in Charlie's hand.

The action took place 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

Air strikes in the same general area accounted for one VC killed as well as 10 bunkers and 22 structures destroyed, causing three secondary explosions and fires.

One other VC was killed in the Bde. OZ yesterday by Co. C, 1-6 Inf.

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TAKE EXTRA SALT

DRAWING OF HUEY, Caption "The HUEY" WORKHORSE OF VIETNAM!!

Vol. 3 No. 143 Friday May 23, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 24

Fair to partly cloudy, showers and thunder showers over the mountains. Winds east-southeast 5 to 10 knots gusts to 20 knots.

Temperature: H 96 L 79

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action decreased again yesterday in the Americal's southern I Corps area. Four NVA and four VC were killed and two weapons, one crew-served captured.

* * * *

GENEVA PARK--Four NVA were killed and two weapons captured in the 198th Inf. Bde. area yesterday, as well as a supply cache found.

Co. C, 1-52 Inf. found two NVA killed, one by air strikes and the other by a cratering charge the company used the day before in blowing a tunnel.

In the same area, eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai, H Trp., 17th Cav. found one NVA killed by artillery fire.

While searching a hut in the same area, Co. A, 1-52 Inf. found one NVA killed by small arms fire. They also found a supply cache with one NVA killed by small arms fire. They also found a supply cache with one AK-47 rifle, one RPG launcher complete with sights, four rounds for the RPG, 10 loaded magazines and 900 loose rounds of AK-47 ammo, three Chicom grenades, 62 blasting caps and 15 feet of time fuse, 12 NVA rucksacks, a U.S. compass, clothing, 1000 pounds of rice and miscellaneous documents.

Co. C, 1-52 Inf. later in the day found an additional 1500 pounds of rice in container hidden in bushes.

* * * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--Two VC were killed by "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Bde. in action near Duc Pho.

Basecamp defenders at LZ Bronco killed two VC as they crossed the Song Tra Cau river, a mile from the basecamp early yesterday afternoon.

According to SGT David L. Collins (Odessa, Tex.), "We spotted four or five VC crossing the river in an area from which LZ Bronco has been receiving 75 recoilless rifle fire recently. We called our mortars of Co. C, 1-20 Inf. killing two. I believe another was wounded by carried away."

Co. B, 4-3 Inf. found 500 pounds of rice, 20 miles west of Duc Pho in the mountains.

Four VC suspects were detained by Co. B, 3-1 Inf. in rice paddies four miles south of Duc Pho.

* * * * *

FREDERICK HILL--The 196th Inf. Bde. reported two VC killed in their area of operations.

F Trp., 8th Cav. engaged and killed one VC, 29 miles west of Tam Ky, while the other kill was reported by Co. A, 4-31 Inf. 23 miles west of Tam Ky.

* * * * *

CONT'D ON PAGE 2

PEANUTS by SCHULZ

- (1) Linus is cutting a piece of paper.
- (2) Charlie comes up and asks Linus, "What are you doing Linus?".
Linus answers, "I'm making my own set of flashcards."
- (3) Linus continues, "These are like the ones used in school - a great aid in learning!"
- (4) Linus tells Charlie, "I'll hold them up and we'll see how good a reader you are... Ready?" Charlie listens.
- (5) "Charlie answers, "LOOOK" after studying the flashcard shown. Linus says, "Uh Huh".
- (6) Linus looks at the card and says, "Very good Now try the next card."
- (7) Charlie answers, "TAYBUL". Linus says, "Good and the next."
- (8) Charlie answers, "Kow". Linus says, "Very good now a little faster.
- (9) Charlie's answers are, "Paypur, Dore, Howse, Nife, Spune, Welkom".
- (10) Linus then says to Charlie, "Excellent do want to run through them again."
- (11) Charlie replies, "No I think once is enough."
- (12) Charlie comments as he leaves, "AWL THYS REEDING is HARRD ONN Mi EYYES."

* * * * *

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SERGEANT REUP SAYS

Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of these who follow and the man who leads that gains the victory. Stay on the team - Stay Army.

61st Anniversary U.S. Army Reserve Corps; Drawing of Civil War; WW I; and current dress for U.S. soldiers.

Vol. 3 No. 144 Saturday May 24, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 25

Partly cloudy and warm with a few scattered showers & thunder showers over the area. Winds will be southerly with gusts 5 to 10 knots.

Temperature: H 100 L 80

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Fighting was light throughout the Americal Division's southern I Corps area yesterday, except in southern Quang Ngai Province, where "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Inf. Bde. accounted for 17 of the 34 enemy killed and three of the four weapons captured.

* * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--After several days of only finding small caches, the "Jungle Warriors" yesterday found the enemy in nine contacts.

Along the coast, two miles northeast of Duc Pho, the recon element of 4-21 Inf. engaged and killed six VC and two NVA and captured an M-2 rifle.

Co. B, 4-3 Inf. near the Song De river, 14 miles west of Duc Pho, killed one VC hiding in a tunnel and captured a K-44 rifle.

Later the company discovered eight huts, 35 sleeping positions, one bunker and 700 pounds of rice.

An enemy medical relay station was closed down by Co. G, 75th Rangers, seven miles west of Duc Pho. The NVA station lost its license to operate when the rangers came upon the hootch while searching a stream bed.

"We went to search the hootch and found a bunker beneath with two surprised NVA inside," said SP4 Ralph Cole (St. Louis).

After giving the NVA occupants a taste of M-16 medicine, a search of the area was made, uncovering a large amount of medical supplies and one K-44 rifle.

Other action in the brigade area found artillery pounding away at enemy positions, accounting for four more VC killed.

GENEVA PARK--The 198th Inf. Bde. reported one NVA, five VC killed and one weapon captured.

At 0410 hours yesterday morning, Co. C, 1-6 Inf. suddenly was hit by an unknown size enemy force. They took 15 RPG rounds and small arms fire then called in artillery to silence the enemy forces.

As daylight broke, a search team found three VC killed and captured an AK-50.

F Trp., 8th Cav. working in an area eight to ten miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai, engaged and killed two VC, captured an NVA soldier, and detained four VC suspects.

Eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai H Trp., 17th Cav. found the body of one NVA killed the day before.

A PSYOP team of 1-52 Inf. was dropping Chieu Hoi leaflets, when suddenly a Vietnamese was seen waving one of the leaflets at the chopper. The Hoi Chanh wanted to rally and was picked up.

FREDERICK HILL--Three VC were killed in the 196th Inf. Bde. area of operations in one of the lightest days they have experienced for two weeks.

In rice paddies, 13 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky Co. D, 4-31 Inf. killed one VC trying to evade.

Near Hiep Duc, 24 miles west of Tam Ky Co. A, 4-31 Inf. accounted for the other two VC killed in the "Chargers" area yesterday.

SERGEANT REUP SAYS

Have you found your treasure chest? If you haven't, why not look into the treasures you can get by reenlisting for the post, camp, or station of your choice, with a one year stabilized tour granted.*****

CONT'D ON PAGE 2

Page 2 Vol. 3 No. 144 Saturday May 24, 1969

PEANUTS comic by Shulz

(1) Lucy sitting in a chair, "I Have plenty imagination. It doesn't take having an imagination to see he's crazy.

(2) Lucy, "Of all the brothers in the world I had to get him."

(3) Charlie comes to Lucy and says, "Well, You'll have to admit he's done it again!" Lucy answers, "Huh?"

(4) Charlie tells Lucy, "I said Linus has done it again. You'd better go see for yourself. Lucy has a surprised look on her face.

(5) Lucy walks outside looking to see what is up.

(6) Linus has strung up his blanket to make a hammock in which he is smugly resting.

(7) Linus returns to the house dragging his blanket.

(8) Linus is sucking his thumb holding his blanket closely.

(9) Lucy tells Linus, "You know I can't possibly tell you how sick I get of seeing you drag around that stupid blanket!"

(10) Linus retorts, "It's not stupid.. this blanket has many very practical uses.....".

(11) Lucy, "Ha! That's a Laugh!". Linus walks away saying, "You just have no imagination that's all".

**** AWARDS OF SILVER STAR

MAJ Virgil W. Oglesby - 3-1 Inf.

CPT Reginal P. Fonten - 3-16 Arty.

1LT Charles Curry - C trp., 1-1 Cav.

1LT Mitchel E. Holroyd - 2-1 Inf.

1LT Edward W. Marrs - 4-21 Inf.

1LT Robert L. Unger - 3-21 Inf.

CSM Arthur E. Carver - 11th Inf. Bde

1st SGT Ralph C Lewis - 3-16 Arty

SGT Ronald C. Bleazard - C Trp., 1-1 Cav.

SGT Thomas L. Shahan - 4-21 Inf.

CPL Leslid Powell Powell - 4-21 Inf.

SP4 Sherman A Thomas - 4-21 Inf.

SP4 Mithcel L Witte - 2-1 Inf.

PFC Stanley C. Paige - 1-52 Inf.

EXTRA SALT ORANGE PILL and DEROS

* * * * *

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**AMERICAL HIGHLIGHT

On May 27, 1969 at 8:30 PM AFVN radio will present a thirty minute feature about the Americal Division. TUNE IN

Vol. 3 No. 150 Friday May 30, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 31

Cloudy to partly cloudy with thunder showers later today in the higher elevations. Winds 5-10 knots and variable.

Temperature: H 95 L 77

Humidity: H 95% L 55%

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Scattered light action continued yesterday in the southern I Corps area, as 16 NVA and seven VC were killed, two NVA detained, and six weapons captured.

* * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--The 11th Inf. Bde. accounted for five NVA and one VC killed and one NVA and two weapons captured.

Moving from a clearing into triple canopy jungle, seven miles southwest of Duc Pho, Co. B, 4-21 Inf. received heavy automatic weapons fire.

The "Jungle Warriors" answered the NVA greeting with their own brand of fire power, killing one NVA and capturing another.

According to SP4 Ronald M. Krieg (Plymouth, Mich.), "By quickly maneuvering through the dense jungle, the unit was able to cut off from the rest of his group one NVA soldier, also capturing his AK-47 rifle."

Two NVA were killed by Co. D, 1-20 Inf., three miles northwest of Duc Pho, while Co. C, 4-3 Inf. accounted for two more NVA killed, eight miles west of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. reported the lone VC kill in the brigade yesterday, 10 miles southwest of Duc Pho.

* * * *

GENEVA PARK--Five VC were killed, one NVA, three weapons and a rice cache all captured by units of the 198th Inf. Bde.

At 1800 hours yesterday, Co. A 1-52 Inf. engaged one NVA soldier, six miles north-northwest of Quang Ngai.

The enemy soldier was wounded in the action and taken prisoner. An AK-47 rifle was also captured.

Earlier in the day, the company had found three tons of rice, hidden in a village and later a patrol from the company found an additional 1 1/2 tons of rice in a deserted hootch, six miles north of Quang Ngai.

Co. C, 1-52 Inf. reported three VC killed, two killed by air strikes and the third by the infantrymen, six miles southeast of Quang Ngai.

"Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. easily spanning a large area killed one VC, nine miles southeast of Chu Lai, and later detained two VC suspects seven miles north and four miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

While on a road sweep, eight miles north of Quang Ngai, 3rd Plt., H Trp., 17th Cav. found two AK-47 rifles wrapped in cloth alongside the road.

FREDERICK HILL---In the 196th Inf. Bde. area of operations six NVA and one VC were killed.

In the rugged mountain terrain, 23 miles west of Tam Ky, Co. A, 4-31 Inf. killed a lone VC at 0850 hours.

Cav. units accounted for six NVA in an area four to five miles west of Tam Ky.

A Trp. and D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. each found three NVA killed by small arms fire and air strikes.

* * * * *

LAMAR PLAIN--Five NVA were killed an one weapon captured in the joint operations of Americal units with the 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Division near Tien Phuoc.

The recon element of the 1-46 Inf. engaged two NVA at close range, 11 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky, killing the two enemy and capturing one U.S. .45 caliber pistol.

Cont'd on page 2

Page 2 Vol. 3 No. 150 Friday May 30, 1969

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Air strikes accounted for the other three NVA killed in the area.

Co. A, 1-501 Inf. found one, 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky, while Co. D, 1-501 Inf. found the other two NVA, 10 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO

SP5 Ed Conaway

PFC Terry Mack Co-editors

Telephone: Chu Lai 3212

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LOSS OF WEAPONS

Loss of weapons through negligence has occurred too frequently in the past. Personnel are advised that they may be subject to disciplinary action for such loss.

In addition they may have to pay for the weapon. (SJA)

Peanuts comic

(1) Linus tells Snoopy, "I'll shoot the arrow Snoopy and you chase it okay.

(2) Linus draws the bowstring back.

(3) Linus releases the bowstring only to have Snoopy, "Clomp" on to it a foot away from the release.

(4) Snoopy holds the arrow up for the boy, but he is frowning.

Vol. 3 No. 190 Wednesday July 9, 1969

CHU LAI AREA WEATHER FORECAST--July 10

Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunder showers and thunder storms. Winds from northeast from 3 to 10 knots.

Temperature H 99 L 80

Humidity H 90 L 50

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Soldiers of the Americal Division experienced their tenth straight day of light and scattered action as 11 VC and two NVA were killed and two individual weapons captured.

* * * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--Action began at 0625 in the 11th Bde. area of operations when "Sykes Regulars" from C Co., 1-20, engaged four VC, killing one, while sweeping the coastal plains six miles north of Duc Pho.

C Co., 4-21, engaged and killed one NVA and captured his AK-47, while working in a marsh-covered area four miles south of Duc Pho.

A recon platoon from 3-1, while operating in the jungles five miles west of Duc Pho, received automatic weapons fire.

The platoon returned the fire and killed one NVA soldier.

The last encounter of the day occurred at 1920 hours when D Co., 1-20 engaged three VC, three miles north of Duc Pho.

D Co. managed to bring down one of the VC.

At 0545 hours yesterday morning, LZ Bronco, headquarters for the 11th Inf. Bde., received three 140mm rockets.

No casualties or damages were reported.

* * * * *

FREDERICK HILL--Five VC were killed and the body of another found in the area of the 196th Inf. Bde.

"Blue Ghost" helicopters from F Trp. 8th Cav. reported the heaviest action of the day when they killed three VC while operating in a mountainous region 12 miles west of Tam Ky.

A sister element, D Co., called in artillery on an unknown size enemy force 17 miles northwest of Tam Ky, which resulted in the death of one VC.

A Ranger element from G Co., 75th Inf. (Rangers), while working in the Operation Frederick Hill area, reported killing one VC in the mountains 11 miles west of Tam Ky.

* * * * *

GENEVA PARK--One VC was reported killed by airstrikes in the area of the 198th Inf. Bde.

Air Force CPT Barry G. Flanary (Wilson, Okla.) directed the airstrike five miles west of Quang Ngai City.

H Trp., 17th Cav., while searching an area eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai, found 60 old bunkers measuring eight feet by 10 feet.

In that same area, they also found and destroyed two 500 pound bombs, two 50-pound dud bombs, and an 81mm mortar dud round.

ARVN's working with D Co., 1-52, found a tunnel five miles west-north-west of Quang Ngai.

The tunnel contained documents and was destroyed by B. Co., 26th Engr. Bn.

D Co. also reported finding an M-1 Carbine in that same area.

In their latest VIP effort, the first platoon of C Co., 5-46, reported receiving 10 M-14 mines, nine 82mm mortar rounds, one 81mm mortar round, 30 M-79 rounds, and several Chicom hand grenades.

LAMAR PLAIN--C Co., 1-46, engaged six NVA in the mountains 12 miles south of Tam Ky.
The "Professionals" of the 198th Bde. reported bringing down one of the NVA.

KEEP THOSE JEEPS ROLLING

You like to have that ol' jeep when you're ready to head for the PX don't you, Jack?

Of course you do. Well here's a few small tips that will help keep that jeep in front of the office instead of deadlined in the motor pool.

First of all, remember your M151 is

*****Continued on Page 2

not a hotrod, so take it easy on those wheels. Abuse means less use.

There is no need for popping the clutch in any gear. When you get your jeep moving, keep that big clodhopper off the clutch pedal and keep it off until there's a reason to work it. You're bound to do a real butcher-job on the clutch facing if you ride the clutch.

Another thing, Jack. Why do you drive that beautiful machine at high speed in low gear? Don't you know that you're just asking for trouble? This makes the engine turn faster than it has to.

You've got to keep in mind that this is no high compressioned sports car you are driving. The engine just wasn't designed for that kind of treatment.

Learn when to shift down for an uphill pull or downhill drag. On the down hill use some horse sense. Don't overdo it on the downhill shifting. Use your brakes when possible. It's a lot easier and cheaper to replace brake lining than a clutch.

If you take care of your M151 it will be there when you need it.

TYPHOONS AND TROPICAL STORMS

From 1947 to 1968 a total of 23 typhoons and tropical storms formed or moved into the South China Sea during July, however, none of these storms were close enough to land to significantly affect the weather over Vietnam. This does not preclude the possibility of the tropical storms forming or moving into this area.

The incidence of tropical storms during July in the South China Sea is two every three years.

Drawing showing soldier in dress greens with an arm load of bills
headed toward a door marked Legal Assistance Officer. Caption: Have a problem see your Legal
Assistance Officer.

* * * * *

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, Commanding
MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO
SGT Herb Hartley
PFC Harry Baumann Co-editors
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SERGEANT RE-UP SAYS

Eight months active military service qualifies a person to re-enlist for another job. To the first term RA
this is the same as an 8 month extension with extra cash thrown in.

PEANUTS COMIC BY SCHULZ

(1) Charlie Brown says, "I have a tune that keeps running through my mind".

Schroeder says, "That's strange. I have too, Charlie Brown."

(2) Schroeder continues, "It's that part in Brahms' second where the piano goes "Deedle Deedle Dee
Dee!".

(3) Schroeder continues some more, "And then the orchestra follows with "BAHM BAHM
BEELDE!"

(4) Schroeder continues even more, "And then the piano comes in again, DUM DUM DUM DLUM
TOLUM TLUM and ..". Charlie Brown has had enough. He walks off with a sigh.

01Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 4. Page 1
It's A Girl,
Over

By SP4 E. DAUGHTERY
198th Inf. Bde.

LZ BAYONET- Waiting for one's wife to have her first baby is generally a nerve-wracking experience, but it's even worse when the waiting room is an armored personnel carrier on a combat operation in Vietnam.

It all started when SGT Paul MacNaughton was riding around in the rice paddies near Chu Lai, doing the things track commanders do. Suddenly, the radio squawked for Track 31--McNaughton's vehicle.

He answered expecting maneuver instructions.

"Congratulations, Mac," the voice said.

"Huh?"

"It's a girl, nine-and-a-half pounds of it."

"You mean....Diana hadI'm a father?"

"Well, you ain't a mother."

For the next half-hour, congratulations came pouring over the radio from other 198th Inf. Bde. Trp. H, 17th Cav. track commanders.



Beach Patrol

Armored personnel carriers from the 198th Inf. Bde.'s Trp. H, 17th Cav., move towards their night positions. (Photo by Sp4 Eric Daugherty, 198th Inf. Bde.)

-Beach Patrol

Armored personnel carriers from the 198th Inf. Bde.'s Trp. H, 17th Cav., move towards their night positions. (Photo by Sp4 Eric Daugherty, 198th Inf. Bde.)

Cavalrymen Visit Marine Aviation Flightline

Photo Captions-

(1) AN A-4E SKYHAWK JET roars before taking off for a combat mission, while visiting ground troopers get an earful of the sounds of Marine aviation. (Photo by 1LT Joe Collins, USMC) (Note: Soldiers have their ears covered)



AN A-4E SKYHAWK JET roars before taking off for a combat mission, while visiting ground troopers get an earful of the sounds of Marine aviation. (Photo by 1LT Joe Collins, USMC)

(2) A MARINE PILOT, 1LT John E. Souders of Marine Attack Sqdn.-311 explains his flying equipment to H Trp-17th Armored Cav, soldier, who were guests of the Leathernecks. (Photo by 1LT Joe Collins, USMC)



A MARINE PILOT, 1LT John E. Souders of Marine Attack Sqdn.-311, explains his flying equipment to H Trp., 17th Armored Cav. soldiers, who were guests of the Leathernecks. (Photo by 1LT Joe Collins, USMC)

CHU LAI--Americal soldiers are always glad to be "visited" by Marine aviators when the need for quick tactical air support arises. Recently however, some division soldiers had the opportunity to visit the Marine pilots... on a more personal basis.

At the invitation of LTC Norman B. McCrary, CO of Marine Sqdn.-311, Marine Aircraft Grp.-12, 14 troopers from the 198th Inf. Bde.'s H Trp, 17th Armored Cav. attended an open house held on the squadron's flight line here.

The purpose of the visit was to acquaint the ground troops with Marine aviation and to give them a close look at the aircraft they have grown to appreciate and respect from afar.

Pilots in full gear showed their visitors the fire power carried by the attack jets; while ordnance men loaded bombs ranging from 200 to 2000 pounds on the awaiting planes.

At the conclusion of the inter-service session, the Marine aviators gave each of the Americal visitors an embroidered patch bearing their squadron insignia and a cigarette lighter.

Photo Caption - APC Sweep

Armored Personnel Carriers from H Trp., 17th Cav. move out in support of 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers in a sweep operation west of Tam Ky. (Photo by PFC John Hollenhorst, 198th Inf. Bde.)



APC Sweep

Armored Personnel Carriers from H Trp., 17th Cav. move out in support of 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers in a sweep operation west of Tam Ky. (Photo by PFC John Hollenhorst, 198th Inf. Bde.)

AMERICAL ----- DIVISION

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SOUTHERN CROSS

Vol. 2, No. 04 CHU LAI, VIETNAM February 16, 1969

Russell Beach Task Force Sweeps To Sea

Photo Captions:

1,2,3) AMERICAL SOLDIERS LEADING VIETNAMESE women and children to safety and hot food (above); an Infantryman tensely watching for enemy snipers (left); GIs painstakingly uncovering hidden tunnels (right). This is Operation Russell Beach--a combined Americal, ARVN, Marine, and Navy task force that has uprooted stubbornly-entrenched VC and destroyed mammoth tunnel complexes in the Batangan Peninsula area 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. (Photos by SP4 Steve Shingledecker, 523rd Sig. Bn. More Photos on Pages 4-5.)

CHU LAI-- Americal Soldiers continued their push to the sea in Operation Russell Beach, and as of Jan. 31 were less than two kilometers from reaching the end of the Batangan Peninsula south of here.

Action on the peninsula 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City began Jan. 13 when almost 9,000 Americal soldiers, marines, 2nd ARVN Div. soldiers, and Navy swift boats encircled the area.

After four days of PSYOP leaflet, drops and aerial broadcasts urging civilians to evacuate the peninsula, the massive allied force began their march toward the sea.

Joint Operation

Division units included the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. and H Trp., 17th Cav., 198th Inf. Bde.; the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., 11th Inf. Bde.; and A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., which came ashore in Navy landing craft to add more firepower to the final phase of the operation.

The discovery of many elaborate tunnel complexes and scattered mines and mine fields made progress slow. Special care was taken to move deliberately so that every tunnel discovered could be checked for weapons caches, food, or VC.

Through Jan. 31, 151 VC had been killed in skirmishes on the Peninsula, including 73 by Americal Infantrymen, 59 by the Marines, and 19 by the 2nd ARVN Div. elements.

The number of civilians evacuated through the cordon line and flown to the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center (CHIC) in Quang Ngai City increased gradually throughout the operation.

At press time, 11,257 Vietnamese had been processed by government officials at the CHIC.

Of this number, 48 were held as VC prisoners of war, 218 were identified as VC infra-structure, and 111 were listed as VC suspects, pending further interrogation. Thirty-two persons rallied to the government as Hoi Chanh.

The remaining 10,848 persons were classified innocent civilians at the CHIC.

Capture Supplies

As the allied forces pushed through the rolling hills and rice paddies on the peninsula, they uncovered 43 individual weapons, four crew-served weapons, more than 10 tons of rice, and more than 15 tons of salt.

The Batangan Peninsula has been a major enemy storage area and base camp since the war with the French, and earlier minor probes of its defenses have almost always resulted in fierce fighting.

16Feb69-Southern Cross Vol. 2 No. 04 Page 1
OBLITERATE NVA TROOPS
IN BUFF TRIANGLE AREA

DUC PHO-Supported by devastating air, artillery, gunship, and APC barrages, 11th Inf. Bde. soldiers smashed an NVA battalion-sized force seven miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, killing 45 NVA and destroying mammoth tunnel complexes.

Executing a village cordon tabbed "Buff Triangle," elements of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. and 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. swept through the region after a week of fighting enemy troops concentrated in the area.

NVA Open Up

Action began when the "Jungle Warriors," moving close to the village, received intense small arms, mortar and RPG fire from the enemy,

"We weren't in the village two minutes before they opened up on us," said PSG Jose J. Fernandez (Bridgeport, Conn.), acting platoon leader of the 1st Plt., A Co., 4/21. "We called in gunships and pulled back so that air strikes could come in."

Fierce Barrages

In a matter of minutes, the tactical jet fighters were on the scene dropping their explosive cargo with pinpoint accuracy-so close that the infantrymen could hear shrapnel whizzing overhead.

"You could hardly get your head out of your foxhole for all the air strikes, artillery, and 50-caliber fire from the tracks, (H Trp., 17th Cav., 198th Bde.)" remarked SGT Rick Snoderly (Pocatello, Idaho), platoon sergeant of 2nd Plt., B Co., 3/1. "They really knocked the hell out of the place."

As the 11th Bde. soldiers set up a cordon which sealed the fate of the trapped enemy force, artillery and air strikes continued to pulverize the area throughout the day.

During the night, continuous flares illuminated the area to preserve the integrity of the cordon.

Pitted Like Moon

The next morning, after artillery fire from the 6th Bn., 11th Arty. prepared the area and ACAVs of B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. swept through the "Jungle Warriors" moved in.

They discovered a landscape so covered with craters that it resembled the surface of the moon.

The infantrymen found huge interconnected spider holes in each of the hedgerows, some extending 40 feet deep.

1LT Thomas L. Smith (Hicksville, N.Y.), commander of A Co., 4/21, described it as "the biggest set of tunnels I've ever seen. According to the engineers, they are even bigger than the tunnels found on the Batangan Peninsula."

Fortified Bunkers

"They were really dug in," said SP4 Dean Bonde (Portland, Oregon), an RTO with B Co, 4/21. "Some of their bunkers had steel doors on them that even a direct hit with a 106mm recoilless rifle wouldn't blow."

In addition to the 45 confirmed kills, it is suspected that as many as 200 enemy dead are in the collapsed bunkers.

Intelligence reports indicated that the decimated NVA battalion was a forward fighting element in position for an attack on Quang Ngai City.

GUNNER IGNORES EXPLOSIONS
TO SAVE TRACK COMMANDER

LZ BAYONET--A 21 year old machine-gunner for the 198th Inf. Bde.'s H Trp., 17th Cav. ignored the danger of an exploding armored assault vehicle and rushed inside to free his vehicle commander moments before the track burst into flames.

PFC Raymond A. Brinkman (Debois, Ind.) was blown clear of the track when the vehicle hit an estimated 200-pound mine.

Saves Commander

"Brinkman jumped back into the track to help the track commander out," explained CPT Jim Watts (Jonesboro, LA.), H Trp. commander. "Minutes after that, the thing blew up."

Track commander SP4 Gilbert A. Norton (St. Paul, N.C.) was the only seriously-injured man among five riding the vehicle. He suffered two broken legs.

"I know one thing," said CPT Watts. "If it weren't for Brinkman, that track commander would have been burned alive."

The personnel carrier had completed 10 days in the field in support of the 4th Bn., 3d Inf., when it hit the mine.

Three Thrown Clear

When the mine exploded, three crewmen atop the track-Brinkman; machinegunner SP4 Richard H. Goolsby (Apopka, Fla.); and grenadier PFC Jerry W. Martin (Los Angeles) -were thrown clear.

The driver, SP4 James E. Baker (McHenry N.D.), immediately crawled to safety as the heavily-armed vehicle began to burn. Meanwhile Norton, also riding on top, fell into the track's belly.

Moments before a series of secondary explosions began, Brinkman pushed Norton out of the track and, with the help of a medic, carried him to safety. (198th IO)

Combat In Review

198TH BRAVES BARRAGE,
DRIVES VC FROM HIDING

LZ GATOR-Elements of the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 5th Bn., 46th Inf. cordoned off a tiny hamlet west of the Batangan Peninsula recently and killed 15 VC using the hamlet as a firebase and hideout.

After learning of enemy presence B Co., 5-46 conducted a combat assault of the area, meeting heavy automatic weapons fire as they closed on the hamlet.

As darkness began to fall four combat assault vehicles of H Trp., 17th Cav. were dispatched from LZ Minuteman on the nearby Batangan Peninsula along with third platoon of A Co. to assist in the cordon.

Sporadic fire from the village continued through the night. As dawn broke, the brigade's PSYOP team dropped leaf leaflets urging the enemy to surrender.

Soon after the infantrymen swept through the hamlet destroying the fortified bunkers and a tunnel complex 700 meters long.

The VC killed were believed to be part of a local force battalion which has long eluded allied soldiers in the area west of the Peninsula.

(198th IO)

Combat IN Review

**NVA Abandons Hill,
Resistance Smashed**

LZ STINSON--Pop! Pop!

The men of C Co., 1st Bn., knew the sound and hit the dirt. Seconds later an enemy mortar barrage spewed dirt and rocks over their position in the thickets on this forward firebase.

C Co. was dispatched from their night laager to silence those same 82mm and 60mm tubes which for several hours had lobbed rounds on the LZ.

The infantrymen, with members of H Trp., 17th Cav. approached the hill, and the NVA mortarmen turned their tubes on the oncoming soldiers.

"We were moving out when we heard the pop of the tubes," said SP4 Gary P. Tamagni (Detroit), a machinegunner with H Trp.

"Three of my buddies just got through the rear door when two 82mm rounds slammed behind our track, one on the right, and two 57mm recoilless rounds hit on the left.

"They had us zeroed in," he exclaimed.

Mortar and artillery were called on the stormy hill, and the "Ready Rifles" were answering with a rain of small arms and automatic weapons fire.

The fight was over in twenty minutes when the NVA broke contact.

The troops assaulted the bastion with the ACAVs sweeping through the hedgerow where the communists had directed their recoilless rifle attack earlier.

"We then ran into a wall of machinegun fire," said 1LT Carl W. McDaniel (Mountain Park, Okla.), 3rd plt. ldr. of C Co. "We got right up against them when they started throwing grenades. It took three air strikes to soften them up."

After the air strikes the "Brave and Bold" continued their push still under fire and silenced the enemy's mortar fire.

SGT Jerry W. Collins (Jenkins, Ky.), a squad leader, charged three separate spider holes and killed three enemy soldiers with his M-16 and grenades.

"He was wounded by one of the grenades thrown at him," said 1LT McDaniel, "but it was Collins' effort that got us to the enemy's mortar tube and their ammunition."

Along with the 82mm mortar, the soldiers captured a 60mm mortar, a Chinese machinegun, and an AK-47 rifle. (Americal IO)

Example from an issue of the 198th Bde "Bayonet" newsletter:

198th INFANTRY BRIGADE (printed above outline of a bayonet)

"THE BAYONET" (printed within outline of a bayonet)

"BRAVE + BOLD" (printed below outline of bayonet)

h trp., pass colors

LZ BAYONET - H Troop, 17th Cav. changed commanders in a recent ceremony held at the troop headquarters here. Out-going commander CPT John A. Dethorn (Jersey City, N.J.) passed the colors to the in-coming CO, CPT Mau K. Natzet (Bronx, N.Y.), as 1SGT Donald B. Stoddard (Hughes, Ark.) and the men of H troop stood by. (Cont. on Page 4)

VOL. 1, NO. 22 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 20 November 1969

h/17 Cav. (Continued from Page 1)

Dethorn moves to brigade headquarters to become an assistant operations officer.

Natzet comes to the brigade from the Americal Div's 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., where he commanded Hq & Hq Troop.

Completing his eighth year in the Army this month, he arrived for his second tour in Vietnam in late May. He previously was a MACV advisor in Quang Duc, 96 miles northwest of Saigon on the Cambodian border. He has also served overseas with the 1st Cav. Div. in Korea and the 3rd Armored Cav. Regt. in Germany.

His wife and child, Max, Jr., 2, currently reside in Makaha, Hawaii.

Departing from H Troop, Dethorn said, "They're a great bunch of men; I really hate to leave them."

Natzet agreed, saying, "They're by far one of the best troops I've ever seen."

VOL. 1, NO. 3 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 26 May 1969

198th aids binh son orphans

BINH Son—The Binh Son Orphanage, run by Catholic sisters in this village south of LZ Bayonet, is about 15,000 piasters (\$125) richer today thanks to the men of the 198th Infantry Brigade.

The “Brave and Bold” soldiers donated the money recently to help Sister Paulina maintain the upkeep of the orphanage which is home and school to more than 30 youngsters.

COL Robert B. Tully (San Antonio, Tex.), 198th Brigade commander and brigade chaplain, Father (Major) Patrick J. Dennigan (New York City), presented the money to Sister Paulina during a recent visit to the orphanage.

“This is going to help us a lot and we are very thankful,” said the 60-year old (continued page 6)

(Cont. from page 1)

sister, who is a member of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartree. Although born in Hanoi, Sister Paulina has served for 40 years in the Chu Lai-Da Nang area.

The money was gathered through donations at church services throughout the 198th Brigade area of operations during the previous month, said Chaplain Dennigan.

Sister Paulina and her charges also visited LZ Bayonet shortly after Easter for a party at the Headquarters Company motor pool.

Waiting for the youngsters were 45 dozen eggs hidden in the motor pool. The eggs were colored by SSG Ronald L. Fry (Dayton, O.), Mess Steward of H Troop, 17th Cavalry and his staff. In addition the men of the motor pool had contributed candy, cookies chewing gum, soft drinks and an assortment of toys to include badminton equipment, a complete basketball set with ball and hoops, a croquet set, and a volleyball setup.

“The men mostly watched the children play; they enjoyed themselves and got a tremendous boost in morale,” said SFC Cedric F. N. Smith (Bridgewater, Mass.), the Motor Sergeant. “My men hid the eggs around the motor pool, but the kids found them quickly enough.”

“Language wasn’t much of a barrier,” SFC Smith said, “They all understood what was going on and knew that someone was being good to them. And it was good for us, too.”

198th INFANTRY BRIGADE (printed above outline of a bayonet)
"THE BAYONET"(printed within outline of a bayonet)
"BRAVE + BOLD" (printed below outline of bayonet)

VOL. 1, NO. 8 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 4 July 1969

1/52 sends Nva packing

By PFC Bill Eftink 198th Brigade PIO

LZ STINSON- "If they had known we only had 43 people attacking their camp, they could have really given us some trouble," said the veteran Americal division infantry officer.

First Lieutenant Michael Anderson (Kingston, N.Y.), leader of the 3rd Platoon of Alpha Company 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, was referring to a recent battle in which his company attacked and overran an NVA basecamp containing about 60 dug in defenders.

In routing the enemy from their fortified positions, eight NVA soldiers were killed. The "Ready Rifles" also captured one 60mm mortar with five rounds, 17 RR rounds, one AK-47 (Cont. on

page 6) **1/52 sends nva packing** (Cont. from page 1)

assault rifle, eight 82mm mortar rounds and various small arms ammunition.

"We tried to overrun them twice, but had to pull back and call in airstrikes. The third time we came at them we had six tracks from the H troop, 17th Cavalry with us. We really hit'em hard with a lot of firepower, and kept moving so they didn't know how many men we had," explained Anderson.

A later search of the area disclosed documents putting the number of people in the camp at 57 at the time of the attack.

The infantrymen also destroyed over 100 meters of enemy tunnels.

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"THE BAYONET"(printed within outline of a bayonet)
"BRAVE + BOLD" (printed below outline of bayonet)

VOL. 1, NO. 14 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 7 September 1969

hhc takes it again wins 3rd "best mess"

By SFC Herb Nesmith 198th Brigade PIO

LZ BAYONET—HHC 198th Mess hall again this month rolled up the top score, and took an unprecedented third straight win in the brigade "Best Mess of the month" competition.

HHC cooks broke a two-consecutive-wins tie with the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. mess in ringing up their three-in-a-row mark to set a new record.

August results in the cafeteria contest showed HHC posting a 91.75 percentage score, while the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. edged past the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. by a slim one-fourth of one per cent, 89.50-89.25, in a tight runner up race, the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. followed with 78.75.

Commenting on the new Best Mess record set by HHC, COL Jere O. Whittington, brigade commander, observed, "They put a lot of effort into getting their first win, and they haven't let up on that effort."

With H Troop, 17th Cav. cooks bolstering the HHC mess staff, the brigade is top kitchen has a powerful starting lineup. HHC Mess Steward SFC James A. Roberts (Mena, Ark.) outgoing H/17 Mess Steward and SFC O. H. Hubbard (Sherman, Tex.) and incoming Cav. stewards SFC Aurthur W. Johnson (Gulfport, Miss.) and SSG James E. Ingram (St. Louis) have between them a total of 74 years' experience in food service.

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VOL. 1, NO. 1 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 11 May 1969

5/46th cordon hamlet kill 15 viet Cong

By SP4 Bob Kunkel 5th Bn., 46th Inf.

LZ GATOR—Riflemen of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry cordoned off a tiny hamlet west of the Batangan Peninsula recently and killed 15 Viet Cong who had used the hamlet as both a firebase and hideout.

After the Americal Division infantrymen learned of the communist position through intelligence sources they conducted a combat assault of the area, meeting "heavy automatic weapons" fire as they closed in.

"We moved two platoons from the north and two more on the south of the village," said Captain Timothy A. Hoover (Ypsilanti, Mich.), Company B commander. "One of my platoon started to get heavy automatic weapons fire forcing us to stop outside the village." (Cont. page 6)

5th Bn. 46th Inf. kill 15 viet cong in hamlet (Cont. from page 1)

outside the village."

The infantrymen then cordoned off the hamlet. As darkness began to fall four combat assault vehicles of H Troop, 17th Cavalry were dispatched from LZ Minuteman on the nearby Batangan Peninsula, and the Third Platoon of Co. A, 5/46 helped in the cordon.

So it remained during the night, as sporadic fire continued to come from the village. As dawn broke, Brigade Psychological Operations dropped leaflets urging the communists to surrender.

Shortly thereafter the infantrymen swept through the hamlet, destroying the fortified bunkers from which heavy firing had come the day before. In all, 15 enemy soldiers were killed, some of them as they attempted to sneak out of the hamlet before sunrise.

"They were entrenched in that village all right," said Captain James B. Peres (Fresno, Calif.). "We found a tunnel complex about 700 meters long in the hamlet." The tunnels were blown by a team from Company B, 26th Engineers.

"I think we got most of them in the village," said CPT Hoover, "but then I really can't tell how many were there in the first place."

The Viet Cong that were killed in the village engagement were believed to be part of a local force battalion which has for a long time been able to elude allied infantrymen in their searches of the area west of the Batangan Peninsula.

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VOL. 1, NO. 7 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 22 June 1969

H TROOP PUSHES NVA FROM HAMLET

By PFC Bill Eftink
198th Brigade PIO

LZ STINSON - The call crackled over the radio: "Helix receiving fire from village four clicks (kilometers) southwest of your position. Take your element over to check it out."

That started the chain of events which was to end in 11 North Vietnamese soldiers killed and various supplies captured by the men of H Troop, 17th Cavalry while supporting the 198th Brigade.

Immediately following the call eleven tracks swung into action. Rumbling across the marshy fields toward their goal the two platoons spotted a conspicuous forest covered island in the watery rice paddies.

"We decided to surround it and check it out before we went on to the
(Cont. on Page 6)

H TROOP CAV PUSHES NVA FROM HAMLET (Cont. from page 1)

village," explained Sgt. Gerald Carlyle (Bowling Green, Ky.), a track commander. "As soon as we closed in on it, NVA began to run out on all sides. We got three of them before we continued on."

As the line of armor approached the village all was well until they got within 50 meters or so of its outskirts.

"We started getting recoilless rifle fire and had to pull back," Carlyle continued. "We saw them jumping out of holes and running from hootches and just generally going in all directions.

"The cavalymen caught the fleeing enemy by surprise and opened up their M-60 machineguns and .60 caliber machineguns.

After the tracks had pulled away air strikes were called into the immediate area. Shortly they entered the village and found eight of the NVA soldiers dead. Also found were 14 packs, a ton of rice and various small arms ammunition.

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VOL. 1, NO. 16 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 05 October 1969

H TROOP WINS Safety award

LZ BAYONET- H Troop, 17th Cavalry is the first winner of the 198th Bde's new monthly safety award. H/17 C.O. CPT John A. Dethorn (Jersey city, N.J.) received the initial award in the safety competition from COL Jere O. Whittington, brigade commander, in a recent ceremony here.

In presenting the award Whittington congratulated the cavalrymen on their efforts, and stressed the importance of continuing emphasis on field safety.

Dethorn cited troop policies of checking each track daily and platoon leaders' personal inspections of all weapons after a firefight as being instrumental in reducing accidents.

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VOL. 1, NO. 17 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 13 October 1969

dad: "come fly with me"

By PFC Bill Eftink 198th Brigade PIO

LZ BAYONET—for a soldier in Vietnam, having a father who flies 'freedom birds' for a living has its advantages.

SP4 Terry Whitaker (Long Beach, Calif.) pointed this out recently when he told his buddies in H Troop, 17th Cav. that his father was arriving that afternoon at their basecamp here for a two-day visit.

Continental Airlines pilot Capt. W. C. Whitaker, who had landed his Boeing 707 'freedom bird' at the Da Nang airport two days earlier, received a five-day vacation to visit his son in H Troop.

When his father arrived at the Chu Lai Airport, Terry was given his CO's jeep to pick up Dad and (Cont. on Page 6) (Continued from Page 3)

show him around the basecamp.

"The whole thing really worked out well," Terry explained as he set with his father and other members of his platoon. "Our entire troop just returned to the LZ yesterday, so Dad has plenty of time to see my track and meet the rest of the guys."

It wasn't long until the older Whitaker had met most of H/17's 2nd Plat., and the conversation turned to airplanes, armored personnel carriers (APCs) and war stories. Not to be outdone by the troopers, the ex-World War II bomber pilot recalled a time when the formation he was flying in was attacked by German fighter planes.

"Suddenly I heard a loud popping noise in the cockpit. When I looked up I saw my co-pilot with his window open blazing away at the fighters with his .45!"

After the war Capt. Whitaker became a civilian pilot and logged over 4,000 hours of flight time in DC-3 passenger planes. this is the civilian version of the AC-47's now used as 'Spookey' gunships, Whitaker explained.

For the last five years he has been flying on average of two trips monthly to Vietnam in the giant 707 jets.

"It's always a thrill to take a load of men home," he said. "As strange as it may sound, the men going over seem to be a lot louder and more excited, until we start to land. That's when everything becomes hushed. On the way back to 'the world' it's just the opposite. The men are usually quiet or sleeping until we touch down at Washington or California, and then all kinds of hell breaks loose."

Both father and son are hoping that they will be able to make Terry's return trip home together five months from now. The 21-year-old Whitaker says, "I'd like to be able to fly home with Dad; but as soon as they tell me I can go, if his plane is not the first one available that's just too bad."

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VOL. 1, NO. 48 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 27 October 1969

Bde. begins "3rd tour" in vietnam

LZ BAYONET—Two years ago Thursday more than 3,000 soldiers of the 198th Inf. Bde. first set foot on Vietnamese soil at Chu Lai. This marked the end of five months of building a brigade and started what has been two years of accomplishments on the battlefields and in the villages of Vietnam.

On May 10, 1967 the Department of Defense announced that a new infantry brigade would be sent to the republic. The new unit, the 198th Inf. Bde., would be formed from elements of both the 1st and 2nd Armored Div.'s at Ft. Hood, Tex.

Although referred to as a "new" brigade, the 198th has a rich history dating back to the 1920s.

Formed June 24, 1921 in the Organized Reserves as HHC, 198th Inf. Bde., the unit was an element of the 99th Inf. Div. In the Second World War it received campaign credit for the operations in the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. Awarded the Belgian Fourragere, the company was cited by the Belgian Army for action at Elsenborn and in the Ardennes.

After a series of conversions and redesignations, the unit was inactivated Sept. 38, 1945, and again assigned as a reserve component of the 99th Inf. Div.

Reactivated in May 1967, the brigade was to be organized along stronger lines than the two light infantry brigades already serving in Vietnam (the 196th and 199th). In addition to having 1800 (Cont. on Page 5) (Continued from Page 1) more men, the 198th would be [e]quipped with more armored personnel carriers, heavier guns and more support.

A week after the DoD announcement of reactivation, training began at Ft. Hood. The emphasis was on air mobility. Five months later the brigade boarded the Navy's military Sea Transport Service ships USS Gordon and USS Upshur at Oakland, Calif. Arriving at Da Nang 15 days later, the "Brave and Bold" the following day were carried by Navy LSTs to Chu Lai. Three days after the arrival, the 198th witnessed the first Americal Div. change of colors since the division's inactivation in December 1945, less than four months after World War II ended with the Japanese surrender aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Soon the green troops were split up for further training in Chu Lai and Duc Pho. Completing their in-country training early in November, 2,300 men of the 4,000-man brigade were airlifted to Duc Pho. The remainder stayed to defend Chu Lai and its strategic Marine air base. At that time the 198th consisted of the 1st Bn., 6th Inf.; 1st Bn., 46th Inf.; 1st Bn., 52nd Inf.; 1st Bn., 14th Arty.; H Troop, 17th Cav.; and the 555th ('Triple Nickel') Engr. Bn. (now Bravo co., 26th Engr. Bn.). The 5th Bn., 46th Inf. arrived in late March of 1968. (The 1/46 later—after several months under the operational control of the 196th Bde.—was reassigned to the 196 on July 1, 1969.)

With the arrival of the 11th Bde. Dec. 20, 1967, the 198th elements at Duc Pho returned to Chu Lai, relieving the 196th at LZ Bayonet.

In a short time reports which had appeared in newspapers as "Ft. Hood, Texas—On the second day of the three-day exercise, the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. made an aerial assault on the Mayberry Pa4rk area south of the main post," would soon be reading "Ye Nen, Vietnam—Less than 48 hours after it had been landed by helicopters from Chu La, the 1st Bn., 6th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde., was counting its confirmed NVA and Viet Cong kills in the hundreds."

In its impressive two-year history in Vietnam, the 198th has accounted for over 3,600 enemy killed and participated in several operations, including the pacification of the Batangan Peninsula in early

1969 which brought more than 12,000 Vietnamese farmers and fisherman previously dominated by the VC under GVN control.

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VOL. 1, NO. 20 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 03 November 1969

cav teaches painful lesson to NVA

By 1LT Rob Kresge 198th Brigade PIO

LZ BAYONET - Soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army operating in the 198th Inf. Bd. area recently learned that it doesn't pay to "mess around" with the cavalry.

They learned that bitter lesson in the "Horseshoe" area along the Tra Khuc River, 20 miles South of Chu Lai. The "teachers" were the men of H troop, 17th cavalry, who were sweeping the area at the time.

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 1LT Paul Wiekell (State College, Pa.), saw two NVA out of range on the other side of the river.

"But four more popped up ahead of us," said SP4 Herbert Brady (Norwich, Conn.), a combat photographer from the 523rd Sig. Bn. who was riding on the lead track.

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

The .50 caliber machineguns and smaller weapons killed one of the NVA and wounded another, who was captured along with the AK-47s and two Chinese communist hand grenades.

The 1st Platoon, following immediately behind the 3rd, came across a vast tunnel complex. When an NVA sniper opened up on the vehicles from a spider hole, the cavalry men returned fire, killing an enemy soldier and capturing another AK-47 and two more Chicom grenades.

Dismounting, the troopers moved to check out the complex. Tunnel rats moved through the maze, clearing the way with fragmentation grenades. A search of the complex turned up 7 dead NVA, 6 AK-47s, 27 Chicom gre- (Cont. on Page 6) (Continued from Page 1) ades, 4 RPGs and 4 full rucksacks.

Turning south, the troop proceeded further into the Horseshoe and soon came across another set of tunnels, this one apparently deserted. A search yielded a small quantity of ammunition, rucksacks and web gear. The troopers remounted and the APCs lurched forward, grinding over tunnels and bunkers.

"We were crossing the trenchline," said 1LT Stanley Bolger (Magee, Miss.), H Troop Executive Officer, "When I saw the end of an RPG launcher moving in the grass. I shouted a warning to the 3rd Platoon medic, and he jumped down and tried to get the NVA to 'Chieu Hoi.' But he wouldn't come out, so I tossed a 'frag' (grenade) at him. He was wounded in the leg, but came up pointing the launcher at our track. Then we let him have everything we had."

The combination of .50 caliber and M-60 machineguns, M-16s, grenade launchers and hand grenades tore up the grass in chunks. When the smoke cleared, the cavalymen found two dead NVA and both their weapons—an AK-47 and the RPG launcher with seven rounds.

Turning north, a track commander saw 10 NVA fleeing up a hillside, and Bolger called for gunship support. As the APCs moved cautiously into the area to check out the results, they came upon yet another basecamp-living area.

"There were a lot of hooches and tunnels," said SP4 Brady. "There was even a bicycle with sacks of rice on it. Before we left, we burned the hooches and blew up the tunnels."

But H Troop was still running up a score - two Viet Cong suspects, one of them wounded, were found near the base-camp. As they headed for a new night defensive position, the troopers could account for 11 NVA killed and three enemy captured.

H troop took no casualties. *[Historian note from ORLL report: On 26 October, H Troop 17th Cavalry in the vicinity of BS481772 at 0900H engaged an NVA squad. The results were 10 NVA KIA, 7 individual weapons and 1 crew-served weapon captured. From Division TOC report: On 26 Oct, H/17 Cav, vic BS 481772, engaged 7 NVA resulting in 7 NVA KIA and miscellaneous equipment CIA.]*

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VOL. 1, NO. 22 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 17 November 1969

CAV. Men Win Soldier's Medal

By SFC Herb Nesmith 198th Brigade PIO

LZ BAYONET—Three men from H troop, 17th Cav. were presented the Soldier's Medal in recent ceremonies here. The decoration—ranked between the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star—was awarded for their acts of heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy.

SSG Werner H. Hunley (Caryville, Tenn.), SGT Steven R. Wells (Ruth, Calif.) and SP4 Edwin A. Jensen (West Sacramento, Calif.) received the awards from CPT John A. Dethorn (Jersey City, N.J.), then commander of H Troop. Two other men, SP4 Stephen M. Hanson (Savannah, Ga.) and SP4 Henry C. King (Shelbyville, Tenn.), both medics were also awarded the Soldier's Medal. The decorations have been forwarded to them in the U.S.

The troop was on a search and clear mission southwest of Binh Son on the day of the action, when it was assigned to move to another location and secure an LZ where ARVNs were to make a combat assault. To reach (Continued on Page 6) (Continued from Page 1) the area, the tracks had to cross a stream with 6 to 8-foot banks. The lead vehicle had crossed and just climbed the bank when the second vehicle detonated an enemy mine in the stream. The blast killed the driver and overturned the armored vehicle, which then caught fire and began shooting flames 20 to 30 feet in the air. Less than five seconds later its small arms ammunition started to explode.

Hunley and Hanson jumped off the lead track, Wells and Jensen quickly dismounted from the number three vehicle on the other side of the stream, and King came running up from another track further back [in] the line. All rushed to the banks and began searching for survivors in the area of the burning track. Ammunition continued to explode, sending rounds flying in all directions.

Spotting two crewmembers, Hunley and Hanson swung into action. "We more or less reacted automatically. We didn't stop to think about it; we just grabbed our flak jackets and went down to get them out," Hunley said. The two injured soldiers were quickly carried up the bank to safety. On the other bank Wells, Jensen and King spotted the remaining members of the crew, and removed them from the danger area.

"I don't know if any of the rounds came close," Hunley recalled. "We were just concentrating on getting them out of there."

Within five minutes the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. commander's helicopter had landed and two of the injured had been loaded when word came that the dust-off helicopter was on the way and would arrive in less than one minute. Remaining on the ground, LTC Reed E. Davis Jr. (Omaha, Neb.), then 1/52 commander, immediately dispatched his chopper on an evacuation flight.

The dust-off then picked up the other two wounded men from the opposite side of the stream. Less than a minute later the flames from the burning vehicle reached its store of explosives (grenades, M-79 rounds, LAWs and demolition materials, and the track exploded with a huge force which would have killed anyone in the immediate area.

All four of the injured crewmen survived the action. The five members of H troop who risked their lives to save them each earned a well-deserved Soldier's Medal.

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VOL. 1, NO. 2 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 18 May 1969

tracks rout NVA

By PFC Bill Eftink
198th Brigade PIO

LZ BAYONET—The end of another long hot day seemed near for the men of the 3rd Platoon of H Troop, 17th Cavalry recently when a group of NVA convinced them to extend their working day for a couple of hours.

"We were sweeping across a rice paddy when we began to receive small arms automatic weapons fire from a treeline," said platoon Leader 1LT George E. Palmer (Waterford, Pa.). "We spotted about 20 or 30 NVA trying to sneak up behind Company B of the 1/52 Infantry, which was nearby.

The armor platoon swung its eight tracks on line and "opened up" with .50 caliber and M-60 machine guns. Rumbling forward behind their own wall of (cont. on page 6)

tracks rout nva (Cont. from p1)

lead, the cavalymen soon routed the enemy soldiers from the darkened woodline.

"When the searching the area we found nine dead NVA and saw numerous weapons and blood trails around hte area. All we could grab was one AK-47 and a Chicom machinegun before we started receiving RPGs and mortar rounds, and more automatic weapons fire," explained 1LT Palmer.

A later search showed the NVA had used this time to recover the weapons that had been left in the area after the original encounter.

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VOL. 1, NO. 5 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 8 June 1969

1/52nd silences mortars near lz stinson

By PFC Marshall B. Rowland
1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry

LZ STINSON- Pop! Pop!

The men of Charlie Company, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. knew these sounds and hit the dirt. Seconds later an enemy mortar barrage spewed dirt and rocks over their position in the thickets near LZ Stinson.

Earlier Charlie Company had been dispatched from their night laager to silence these same 82 and 60mm tubes which for several hours had lobbed rounds into the nearby LZ.

As the infantrymen, along with members of **H Troop, 17th Cavalry** approached the hill the NVA mortarmen turned their tubes on the oncoming soldiers.

"We were moving out when we heard the pop of the tubes," said SP4 Gary P. Tamagni (Detroit), a machine-gunner with H Troop. "Three of my buddies just got through the rear door when two 82mm rounds slammed behind our track. Another came in to the right, then two 57mm recoilless rounds hit the track on our left. They had us zeroed in." (Cont. page 6) -mortars silenced- (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Within minutes Charlie Company had called in mortar and artillery fire on the stormy hill. And the "Ready Rifles" were answering the enemy with their own rain of small arms and automatic weapons fire.

The fight was over in twenty minutes when the NVA broke contact.

Brigade troops then assaulted the enemy bastion with the ACAVs (Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles) sweeping through the hedgerow from where the communist forces had directed their recoilless rifle attack earlier.

We then ran into a wall of machinegun fire," said Charlie Company's 3rd Platoon leader, 1st Lt. Carl W. McDaniel (Mountain Park, Okla.). "We got right up against them when they started throwing grenades. It took three airstrikes to soften them up."

After the airstrikes the "Brave and Bold" continued their push still under fire, and soon silenced the enemy's menacing mortar fire.

Sgt. Jerry W. Collins (Jenkins, Ky.), a squad leader in the 3rd Platoon, led the attack, charging three separate spider holes and killing three enemy soldiers with his M-14 and hand grenades.

"He was wounded by one of the several grenades thrown at him," said Lt. McDaniel, "but it was Collins' effort that got to the enemy's mortar tube and their ammunition."

Along with the 82mm mortar, the soldiers also captured a 60mm mortar tube they had taken fire from earlier, a Communist Chinese machinegun and an AK-47 rifle.

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VOL. 1, NO. 5 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 8 June 1969

198th men are top two in leadership at division school

CHU LAI—Two 198th Infantry Brigade soldiers ranked first and second in a class of 43 persons recently graduated from the 12-day Combat Leaders Course at the Americal Division Combat Center.

SP5 Michael D. Coleman (Alexandria, Va.), B Company, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. was the top graduate while SGT Craig R. Singer (Kersey, Pa.) A Company, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., was second.

Both men were promoted to E-5 upon graduation.

Other 198th men completing the course were: SP4 (Cont. on page 6) **198th men are top two in leadership** (Cont. from page 5)

Clifford M. Bridges, SP4 George H. Eckhardt both of the 5/46th; SP4 John T. Dryman. SP4 Jessie M. Rendon, 1/52; PFC David O. Seiben, SP4 Elvis R. Weatherly, SP4 James L. Weathers, 1/6 SP4 Wayland W. Rupp, 1/46; and SP4 Pete A. Wherk III, H Troop, 17th Cavalry.

These men will return to their units to serve as squad leaders.

Highlites in GIMLET History

'Battle of the Triangle'

Responding to a series of intelligence reports of heavy NVA infiltration into the area surrounding Quang Ngai City, the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry reestablished and rebuilt Fire Support Base Buff, located 9 miles north-west of Quang Ngai City. On the morning of 20 January 1969, GIMLET Companies Alpha and Bravo conducted a combat assault into four landing zones around the triangular shaped hamlet of Chau Ngai(2). The ensuing battle will be remembered as the most significant pre-Tet actions in the I Corps and the demise of an entire NVA battalion. contact with enemy raged the entire day. By nightfall, companies Bravo and Charlie of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry were placed under the operational control of the GIMLETS and the village was completely cordoned.

On the 21st of January B Troop, 1st Cavalry and **H Troop, 17th Cavalry** entered the fight--again under the operational control of the GIMLETS. The Battle of the Triangle was fast becoming a conventional piece in the Americal Division.

After 4 days of heavy contact, continuous battlefield illumination at night; 2,000 rounds of artillery and 648,000 pounds of aerial bombs, the hamlet of Chau Ngai was again quiet. Captured documents and POWs confirmed the enemy as the 9th Battalion, 22nd NVA Regiment. The night cordon had prevented the NVA's escape and the "Battle of the Triangle" had destroyed the preponderance of the 9th Battalion.

For it's valorous action the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry was recommended for a Presidential Unit Citation.

Field Safety

Award Given

LZ BAYONET -- COL Jere O. Whittington (McLean, Va.), 198th Inf. Bde. commander, presented the brigade's first monthly safety award to H Trp., 17th Cav. Accepting the award was CPT John A. Dethorn (Jersey City, N.J.), H Trp. commander.

CPT Dethorn's unit was cited for the enforced policies of checking each track daily and having platoon leaders check each weapon personally after a firefight as instrumental in reducing accidents. (198th IO)

Pilot Visits Son

Dad Flies Freedom Birds To-From Vietnam

By PFC Bill Eftink

LZ BAYONET -- For a soldier in Vietnam, having a dad who flies 'freedom birds' for a living has its advantages.

SP4 Terry C. Whitaker (Long Beach Calif.) pointed this out when he told his buddies in H Trp., 17th Cav. that his father was arriving that afternoon at their 198th Inf. Bde. basecamp for a two-day visit.

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Not to be out-done by the division troops, the ex-WW II bomber pilot recalled the time when the formation he was flying was attacked by German fighter planes.

"Suddenly I heard a loud popping noise in the cockpit. When I looked up from my instrument panel, I saw my co-pilot with the window open blazing away at them with his .45 cal. pistol."

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AMERICAN ——— DIVISION

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SOUTHERN CROSS

Vol. 2, No. 33 CHU LAI, VIETNAM November 14, 1969

Cavalry Crush NVA In Horseshoe

By 1LT Robert R. Kresge

LZ BAYONET -- Soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army operating in the 198th Inf. Bde. area learned that it doesn't pay to mess around with the cavalry.

The NVA learned their bitter lesson in the "Horseshoe" area on the Song Tra Khuc River, 20 miles south of Chu Lai. The "teachers" were the men of H Trp., 17th Cav., who were sweeping the area.

The action began early in the morning as the APCs were moving out of their night defensive positions. The third platoon, commanded by 1LT Paul Wiekkel (State, College, Pa.), spotted two NVA on the other side of the river, however they were still out of range.

"But four more popped up ahead of us," said SP4 Herbert Brady (Norwich, Conn.), a combat photographer from the 523rd Sig. Bn. who was riding on the lead APC.

The .50 cal. machineguns and smaller weapons killed one of the NVA and wounded another who was captured along with two AK-47s and two Chicom hand grenades.

The first platoon, following closely behind the third, came across a vast tunnel complex. When an NVA sniper opened up on the vehicles from a spider hole, the cavalymen returned fire, killing the enemy soldier and capturing another AK-47 and two more Chicom grenades.

The troopers dismounted and began a thorough check of the tunnels. Tunnel rats moved through the maze, paving the way with fragmentation grenades. A search of the complex turned up seven dead NVA, six AK-47s, 27 Chicom grenades, 4 RPGs, and four loaded rucksacks.

Complex of Tunnels

Turning south, the troop proceeded further into the horseshoe and soon came across another complex of tunnels, this one apparently deserted. A search yielded a small quantity of ammunition, a rucksack and web gear.

We were crossing the trench line," said 1LT Stanley Bolger (Magee, Miss.), executive officer of the troop. When I saw an RPG move in the grass, I shouted a warning to the third platoon medic and he jumped down and tried to get the NVA to 'chieu hoi."

Pointing The RPG

"But he failed to convince him," said Bolger, "so I tossed a frag at him. He was wounded in the leg, but he came up pointing the RPG at our track. Then we let him have everything we had."

The combination of .50 cal. machineguns, M-60 machineguns, M-16 rifles, grenade launchers and hand grenades tore up the grass in chunks. When the smoke cleared, the troopers found two dead NVA with their weapons -- and AK-47 assault rifle and the RPG launcher with seven rounds.

Ten Fleeing NVA

Turning north, a track commander saw 10 NVA fleeing up a hillside and Lt. Bolger called for gunship support. As the APCs moved cautiously into the area to check out the results, they came upon yet another base-camp-living area.

"There were a lot of hooches and tunnels," said SP4 Brady. "There was even a bicycle with sacks of rice on it. Before we left, we burned the hooches and blew up the tunnels."

But H Trp. was still running up a score -- two VC suspects, one of them wounded, were found near the basecamp. As they headed for a new night defensive position, the troopers could account for 11 NVA killed and three enemy detained. But H Trp. had taken no casualties that day. (198th IO)

CAV. UNIT GAINS POWER
WITH SHERIDAN'S ARRIVAL

CHU LAI-"Prreesnt Arrmms," and the soldiers of the H Troop, 17th Cav, snapped to attention as the general mounted the platform. MG Lloyd B. Ramsey (Somerset KY), Americal commanding general, had arrived to present nine shiny new General Sheridan assault vehicles to H Trp.

"You have here one of the finest pieces of equipment that modern technology and skilled workers can produce.

I want you to learn all that you can about this vehicle "said the general.

The Armored Reconnaissance Airborne Assault Vehicle (Sheridan) is equipped with a 50 caliber machinegun, two 7.62mm coaxial machineguns, and a 152mm gun that can fire either conventional rounds or the Shillelagh missile.

The Sheridan is not new to the Americal Div though it was only introduced to southern I Corps a few months ago H Trp, immediately got its mechanized infantrymen training on the uses and capabilities of the new weapon. Members of the 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav ushered them into the week long training period that includes firing, driving, maintenance, and safety. At the close of the presentation, drivers mounted the Sheridans and moved them for the first time out to the training site. The Sheridans and H Troop were rolling.

(Americal IO)

Combat In Review

Cannines Bring Enemy

In Hands Of Soldiers

CHU LAI -- On the morning of March 3, a team from the Division Support Command's 63d Inf. Plt. (Combat Trackers) was requested to aid H Trp., 17th Cav., who had made enemy contact west of Chu Lai.

Tracker team leader, SGT Philip E. Rouch (Columbus, Ohio) remarked, "when we arrived, the 'Cav' asked us to make an area reconnaissance to search out enemy tracks."

After covering 300 meters, the visual tracker spotted 3 VC in a tree line. The enemy opened fire with small arms-three armored personnel carriers, supporting the tracker team returned fire immediately. The VC broke contact.

The dog team tracked the VC for approximately one hour until they came upon a blood trail. The visual tracker followed this trail for 75 meters where he found a dead VC.

The tracker team continued area reconnaissance for three more hours. They spotted two VC who were leading seven women, bearing supplies, down a trail. When the VC saw the Division soldiers moving up on them, they ran for cover.

The support element from H Trp. flushed out one of the VC and took him into custody. Papers in his possession stated that he was a Viet Cong Lieutenant. This was confirmed by the Kit Carson Scout working with the team. (DISCOM IO)

Photo Caption: A Real Shampoo. Shampoo's where you get one, and this soldier from the Division's H Trp., 17th Cav. is aided by a villager. The Cav. was in the area southwest of Chu Lai on a search and clear mission (Photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)



A Real Shampoo

Shampoo's where you get one, and this soldier from the Division's H Trp., 17th Cav., is aided by a villager. The Cav. was in the area southwest of Chu Lai on a search and clear mission. (Photo By PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)

Photo Caption: True Trailblazers

Edging their way through thick tropical growth are tracks of the Division's H Trp., 17th Cav. They are on a search and clear mission of the 198th Inf, Bde, area of operations. (Photo By PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)



True Trailblazers

Edging their way through thick tropical growth are tracks of the Division's H Trp., 17th Cav. They are on a search and clear mission in the 198th Inf. Bde. area of operations. (Photo By PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)

Four-legged Aid for Cav.

Dogs Guard Against Ambush

CHU LAI - A combat tracker team from the Division's 63rd Infantry Platoon protected a cavalry unit from an enemy ambush, stopped a Viet Cong supply run and captured a VC supply officer during a recent operation west of Chu Lai.

The team was sent to aid H Trp., 17th Cav. after the unit had established enemy contact.

"When we arrived, the cavalry asked us to make an area reconnaissance to search out enemy tracks," said the team's leader, SGT Phillip E. Roach (Columbus, Ohio).

After searching for 300 meters, the visual tracker spotted three VC in a tree line, who opened fire immediately. Three armored personnel carriers supporting the tracker team returned fire, forcing the enemy to break contact.

The tracker team picked up the VC escape trail and followed the man-spoor [main spur?] for an hour until they discovered a blood trail. Within 75 meters, they found a VC, dead as a result of wounds received during the firefight.

Continuing the reconnaissance, the team surprised two VC leading seven female supply bearers. Both soldiers tried to evade, but one was flushed from a concealed position by a cavalry element and detained.

Papers in his possession and the team's Kit Carson scout indicated that he was a VC lieutenant.

All the supply bearers were detained and questioned by the Kit Carson scout, and admitted that they were carrying supplies.

Div. Recap, Action in late

April high, enemy loses 143

CHU LAI (Americal IO) - Division soldiers accounted for 143 enemy soldiers killed during the last week of April as action remained light until the last day of April when it rose sharply.

In the 11th Infantry Brigade area of operations "Warlords" of the 123d Aviation Battalion spotted and engaged two VC on a hillside overlooking the Ve River 10 miles northwest of Duc Pho. Two SKSs and one AK-47 were captured in the action.

Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry found two wounded VC in a tunnel two miles south of Duc Pho. The 11th Brigade soldiers detained the two enemy and confiscated nine hand grenades.

The next day Alpha Company again saw action when they combined with Primo Aviation to kill four VC in the lowlands three miles south of Duc Pho. Two SKSs and one AK-47 were captured in the action.

Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry found two wounded VC in a tunnel two miles south of Duc Pho. The 11th Brigade soldiers detained the two enemy and confiscated nine hand grenades.

The next day Alpha Company again saw action when they combined with Primo Aviation to kill four VC in the lowlands three miles south of Duc Pho.

Meanwhile, Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged three NVA who appeared to be collecting food from villagers. One of the enemy was killed and an SKS rifle confiscated in the action which took place in the Ve River Valley, two miles southwest of Duc Pho.

Alpha Company, also of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry surprised four NVA soldiers who were swimming in the Tra Cau River five miles west of Duc Pho. One of the enemy was killed and two wounded and detained by the 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors."

Action in the 198th Infantry Brigade area of operations was very light during the last week of April.

An element of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, was led to a heavily booby-trapped area by a Vietnamese boy.

Under the boy's direction, the infantrymen found four 82mm mortar rounds buried at 50 meter intervals along a trail. One 82mm mortar round was placed on top of a buried 105mm artillery round. The booby traps were destroyed in place.

In an area 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, an element of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry observed three VC wearing black shirts and blue shorts.

As the enemy crossed an open rice paddy and tried to hide in a tree line, one of them was spotted by an alert rifleman who opened up with M-16 fire, killing him.

"He was running and had just entered the woodline," said Specialist Four Edward R. Crown, Flora, Ill. "When they got him." The infantrymen also captured one pack with ten pounds of rice.

Later in the week H Troop, 17th Cavalry discovered an enemy grenade factory while sweeping through low coastal (continued on page 2)-(continued from page 1) hills just east of the Tra Bong River.

An artillery forward observe, working with the cavalrymen 10 miles southeast of Chu Lai, spotted the entrance to a spider hole. The men who checked out the hole, dug into one wall and found a boarded up section which opened up to the factory.

In a room ten feet by six feet by three feet high, the cavalrymen unearthed one CHICOM hand grenade, two homemade bangalore torpedoes two bags of empty soda and C Ration cans, two bags of Chicom hand grenade handles, one Chicom bangalore torpedo, four empty torpedo canisters, one 105mm high explosive artillery round and one pressure type firing device. All of the munitions were blown in place.

The 196th Infantry Brigade area of operations saw the heaviest action during the last week of April.

"Professionals" of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry uncovered a moderate size cache in the rugged highlands 18 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Discovered in a camouflaged enemy shelter were 130 pounds of potatoes, 25 pounds of rice, five chickens, two pounds of salt, two pounds of fish and 25 pounds of beans.

Nearby, 400 garden hoes, 20 shovels and an enemy semi-automatic rifle were discovered.

Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, working seven miles northwest of Tam Ky, spotted and engaged five VC. As Alpha Company opened fire, one VC was killed while the remainder scattered into nearby woods.

Later in the afternoon, a VC rallied to the village chief at the base of Hill 74, 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. After questioning, it was learned that the enemy killed earlier by Alpha Company was a team leader for a VC sapper squad.

An NVA patrol wandered into a Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry night attack position 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. "We saw them when they were about 25 meters away and set off two claymore mines," said Specialist Four Ronald Tanner, Missoula, Mon. "We checked out the area, and found two dead NVA and two AK-47 rifles."

The infantrymen also found one pack, two CHICOM grenades and other small items of enemy equipment.

F Troop, 17th Cavalry came across a cache of approximately one ton of rice. The rice was packed in bags in an area five miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The troop gave 500 pounds of rice to Regional Force soldiers and the remainder was extracted to Hawk Hill.

Action increased sharply on the last day of April as 196th Brigade soldiers and allied and support units killed four VC and 39 NVA.

The action began at 2:00 a.m. when NVA sapper units [s]truck simultaneously at an American firebase and an ARVN support base 25 miles west of Tam Ky. The bases were shaken by RPG fire, 60mm mortar fire and enemy small arms fire.

The attackers carried satchel charges and continued to fight without slacking for almost an hour after daylight at both bases. Mortar poundings followed as the enemy were eventually repelled.

American artillery and infantry units teamed up to kill ten NVA at LZ Siberia.

Division Recap

Children reveal caches

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - In Operation Geneva Park several Vietnamese children lead troopers of H Troop, 17th Cavalry to an impressive cache of 96 mortar rounds, 60 mines, and a variety of other highly explosive ordnance. Elsewhere in Operation Fredrick Hill the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, accounted for three-fourths of the brigades 43 enemy killed for the week. In Operation Iron Mountain the 174th Aviation Company killed 34 NVA in a two day action.

Geneva Park

In an action eight miles north of Quang Ngai, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, received incoming mortar rounds, rifle-propelled grenades and small arms fire when an undetermined number of Viet Cong assaulted their night defensive position early Friday morning. The company repulsed the attack with small arms fire and 81mm mortars. Also on station were gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry, which supported the infantrymen in the battle. At first light the company swept the area and found 14 CHICOM grenades, one rifle, two rifle-propelled grenades, and one booby trap. The company also killed one sapper.

The following day, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, spotted four to five enemy soldiers carrying packs moving through the mountains 22 miles west of Quang Ngai. The company unleashed a heavy barrage of small arms fire to kill two. The infantrymen then swept through the area and discovered three burlap packs containing medical supplies, 34 cans of condensed milk, six time fuses and some rice.

Working in the same area, Alpha Company, came upon one Viet Cong killed and the capture of several miscellaneous documents.

Elsewhere, several Vietnamese children turned over to H Troop, 17th Cavalry, an impressive cache of munitions. The total cache consisted of 96 mortar rounds, 60 mines, two 2.74 inch rockets, two 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, two rifle-propelled grenades, one CHICOM grenade, four artillery rounds and six fuses. H Troop, maneuvering in an area 12 miles northeast of Quang Ngai, destroyed the munitions.

Also, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry received three artillery rounds, one mine, one booby trap, one mortar round, and 60 small arms rounds from Vietnamese children in an area 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. The 39th Engineer Battalion, working with Alpha Company, received two artillery rounds, one fuse, and two mortar rounds from the children.

While maneuvering in an area 22 miles west of Quang Ngai in the early morning, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, encountered two to three NVA in green uniforms in the thickly vegetated mountainous terrain. The company responded with automatic weapons to kill one and capture one AK-47, two AK-47 magazines, 70 pounds of salt, and several items of miscellaneous field gear.

In another action, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, while maneuvering in an area 14 miles northeast of (continued on page 6) (continued from page 1) Quang Ngai, came upon four Viet Cong carrying packs and weapons maneuvering in the low coastal plain. The company engaged the enemy with small arms fire to kill one. Also captured was one pack.

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Division Recap

Children reveal caches

In an area 15 miles southeast of Chu Lai, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, found one .51 caliber ammunition box hidden under some hedges. The box contained two fragmentation grenades, one 60 volt battery, one green NVA uniform, documents, and other miscellaneous items.

Elsewhere, incoming mortar rounds, rifle-propelled grenades and CHICOM grenades pounded the night defensive position of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry eight miles north of Quang Ngai. The infantrymen repulsed the sapper attack with a heavy barrage of small arms fire, grenades and 81mm mortars. Gunships were called on station to saturate the outer perimeter as flareships maintained intensive illumination. The infantrymen swept the area later to find several CHICOM grenades and rifle-propelled grenades scattered about the perimeter.

In an area 22 miles southwest of Chu Lai, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, discovered one freshly dug grave. The NVA kill was attributed to the contact the unit had the previous day.

Elsewhere, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, found signs of recent enemy activity in an area 12 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. At the location of the infantrymen found 13 cans of mackerel, four three-pound bags of rice and one butchered calf.

Late Wednesday evening, a large cache was discovered when a rallier led Echo Recon, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, to the site, 15 miles northwest of Chu Lai. The cache, hidden in a camouflaged hooch, consisted of nine AK-47's, one rifle, one carbine, 31-60mm mortar rounds, five rifle-propelled grenades, five sticks of dynamite, one CHICOM grenade, 18-60mm mortar fuses, three containers of TNT, four 10-pound shaped charges, one fuse setter and two magazines.

Fredrick Hill

Significant action took place when elements from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed 12 enemy soldiers while suffering no losses.

Early that morning D Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry found itself operating in the thick vegetation 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Gimlets" encountered a lone NVA with a pack. The engagement and death of this lone NVA soldier triggered what was to be a black day for the hard-luck enemy.

Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, operating in the same area engaged and killed one Viet Cong, and then moments later sweeping through another woodline observed and engaged 10-12 NVA. the stumbling NVA fled into the closest vegetation. Bravo Company, not to be out maneuvered, quickly surrounded and pinned down the enemy. Soon, however, the "Bushmasters" received five to six incoming mortar rounds. Undaunted they held their ground and called for support from Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, along with gunships. Four enemy kills were confirmed.

As they were checking out the "kill zone" they began taking round from another enemy position. Again they called in artillery and were rewarded with a secondary explosion. Six more NVA were confirmed killed.

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Division Recap

Children reveal caches

A search of a village turned up the weeks only rice cache five miles northwest of Tam Ky. One-half ton of rice was confiscated by Bravo "Legionnaires", 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, two hundred pounds of which was polished and hidden in huge ceramic pots in a tunnel.

Support from F Troop, 8th Cavalry and F Troop, 17th Cavalry, accounted for two enemy killed, both in searches of tunnel complexes.

Iron Mountain

The Recon platoon of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged two VC in the early morning hours and picked up an SKS at the site of the engagement. Pursuing a blood trail until early afternoon, the recon element spotted three VC and killed one. The action took place in the mountains six miles southwest of Duc Pho. Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, wounded and detained two VC while working in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed one VC. The kill came in the foothills seven miles south of Duc Pho. Recon 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry accounted for one VC killed with claymores in the mountains six miles south of Duc Pho. In action lasting two days, Sharks of the 174th Aviation Company killed 34 NVA while flying in support of the 4th ARVN Regiment. The action which took place near Nghia Hanh, 18 miles northwest of Duc Pho, netted one enemy light machine gun, two .51 caliber enemy machine guns and an AK-47.

A Kit Carson scout working with the ARVN said the enemy force was the remains of his battalion, or about two companies.

Recon, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged an undetermined number of NVA with supporting artillery fire from B battery, 6th Artillery. The artillery barrages continued through the evening and a morning check of the area by the Recon element turned up two dead NVA and one AK-47. The action took place in the mountains seven miles southwest of Duc Pho.

Company B engaged three of the NVA in the early morning hours when they set off a trip flare in front of the company's NDP. Small arms fire and hand grenades thrown from the company's defensive position accounted for one NVA killed. One pistol was confiscated in the action, which occurred in the foothills six miles west of Duc Pho.

Company A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, while working along Song Tra Khuc (Tra Khuc River) 25 miles northwest of Duc Pho, engaged and killed on VC across the river. A short time later, Alpha engaged three on the opposite bank, killing two. Bravo and Delta Companies, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry engaged eight VC, killing two. One pistol was confiscated by Company B in the action, which occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry engaged two VC in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho. One of the enemy was killed, and one was wounded and detained.

The detained VC was carrying a pressure-type firing device.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry observed and engaged two VC when the enemy came out of the jungle in the lowlands 16 miles north of Duc Pho. Both enemy soldiers were killed in the action.

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Division Recap

Children reveal caches

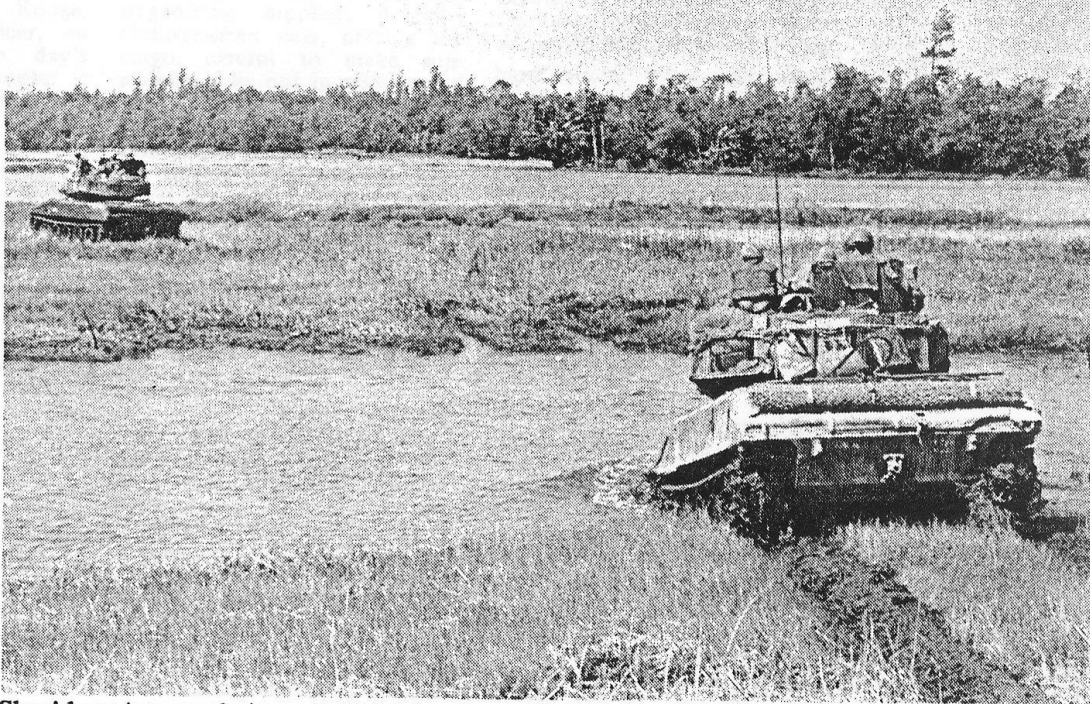
The Recon platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry was led to an arms cache by a Hoi Chanh. The cache consisted of two heavy automatic weapons, two carbines, one SKS and a CHICOM submachine gun. The weapons were located in a cave 22 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Company D observed two VC evading and engaged them, killing one and wounding one. The action took place in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

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Photo Caption: Sheridan Armored Assault Vehicles from H Troop, 17th Cavalry cross the Song Diem River during Operation Nantucket Beach. The 198th Infantry Brigade was conducting its operation about 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. (Photo by SGT Thomas C. Elmer)

Some adjustments of personal has to be done. And if you should find yourself sitting out on a train
checks drawn in U.S. dollars. at this time, the collar can be turned up and the clothing buttoned.



Sheridan Armored Assault Vehicles from H Troop, 17th Cavalry cross the Song Diem River during Operation Nantucket Beach. The 198th Infantry Brigade was conducting its operation about 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. (Photo by SGT Thomas C. Elmer)

SOUTHERN CROSS

June 26, 1970

Henrietta

The officers's lady

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) -- One unit from the 198th Infantry Brigade recently brought home "the bacon" after a mission near Chu Lai. "The bacon" was Henreitta, a sow and now the mascot of H Troop, 17th Cavalry.

It wasn't exactly a "pig" deal the way First Lieutenant Stanley L. Bulger, McGee, Miss., executive officer of H Troop explained. "We are often called the "Hog Troop" by other units in the 198th Brigade because we frequently return very dirty from a mission. Therefore, we chose a pig as our mascot."

The sow was willing; she evidently was tired of being a "grunt" and now enjoys the life of the cavalry. She sleeps under Lieutenant Bulger's bed, dines on favorites like rice and beans - and even eats pork when the troops have it. Furthermore Henrietta enjoys being the center of attraction and, so far, has not show up on the duty roster.

Her name hasn't always been Henrietta. "At first we called her our 'DEROS pig', said the Lieutenant, because we were going to feast on ham and eggs when some of us DEROSed. Now that she has become such a morale booster, she would be hard on the stomach."

Sergeant Earl C. Snyder Jr. from Plainville, Conn. explained that the enlisted men call her the "the officer's Lady" for a while. But then we decided that Henrietta would be more appropriate."

Henrietta may or may not be showering the troops with good luck but she certainly is wallowing in it. And that's better than what she used to wallow in.

AMERICAN ——— DIVISION

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SOUTHERN CROSS

Vol. 3, No. 27 CHU LAI, VIETNAM July 24, 1970

Photo Caption: Here elements of the 198th Infantry Brigade's, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry cross an open field southwest of Chu Lai. The "Ready Rifles" accounted for 20 of the Brigade's 33 KIA in last week's action. In addition they captured 1100 pounds of rice. (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

112 KIA

Div Recap: Action increases in AO

Operation Geneva Park was highlighted by Vietnamese turning over 127 mortar rounds to H Troop, 17th Cavalry. The "Brave and Bold" also accounted for 33 enemy killed as action increased in the 198th Infantry Brigade's area of operation. Elsewhere in Operation Frederick Hill action decreased as the "Chargers" killed 56 enemy soldiers and captured 6800 pounds of rice.

Geneva Park

Early in the week H Troop, 17th Cavalry, received one rocket and 127 mortar rounds when Vietnamese near Binh Son brought the munitions to a vehicle used to relay messages among the troop's components. "We had established a good relationship with the people in the area," Sergeant Walter Clifton, Dallas, Texas, a radio operator said. "And they kept bringing the rounds in to us."

While in their night defensive position southeast of Chu Lai a day later H Troop killed one Viet Cong as the enemy approached their location. Later that morning, H Troop killed another Viet Cong in the same area and captured one rifle, one pistol, three magazines and one pith helmet. Several hours later the troop killed another Viet Cong as the enemy moved toward their location. Captured in this action was one field pack.

Elsewhere, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry searched a hooch northwest of Quang Ngai to find eight artillery rounds, one anti-tank weapon, 200 pounds of unpolished rice, and 300 pounds of potatoes. The munitions were destroyed and the rice was evacuated to a nearby landing zone.

In a late evening contact, Bravo Company observed three NVA dressed in blue uniforms approaching their location. The infantry engaged the enemy with automatic weapons to kill (continued on page 6) **Hard hitting 'Chargers account for 56 foe** (continued from page 1) all three. Captured in the action was one hammock and two ponchos.

The next day Echo Recon, saw one Viet Cong sitting near a tree in an area south of Chu Lai cleaning his weapon. The infantrymen fired on the enemy to kill him.

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112 KIA

Div Recap: Action increases in AO

Later the same evening, Alpha Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, saw six NVA maneuvering in mountainous terrain west of Chu Lai. The company fired on the enemy and called on artillery support. A sweep of the area turned up one NVA killed and one CHICOM grenade.

While on a routine patrol the next day, Alpha Company, observed a platoon sized enemy force maneuvering in the heavily vegetated mountainous terrain west of Chu Lai. The company unleashed a heavy barrage of automatic weapons fire to kill five and capture one AK-47.

While in their night laager southwest of Chu Lai the same evening Bravo Company 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry killed two Viet Cong as the enemy approached their location. Captured in the action were two AK-47s, two magazines, one grenade launcher and one field pack containing miscellaneous documents.

Elsewhere in an area northwest of Quang Ngai, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, the next day killed two Viet Cong as the enemy approached their laager. Captured were two AK-47 rifles.

In an action northeast of Quang Ngai, H Troop, 17th Cavalry found 1000 pounds of polished rice hidden in various containers. The rice was bagged and evacuated to a nearby landing zone for distribution to orphanages and refugee centers.

In an area south of Chu Lai, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry found 900 pounds of unpolished rice hidden in three 55 gallon drums concealed in a hooch. The infantrymen bagged the rice and loaded it on a helicopter for evacuation.

Late in the week H Troop, 17th Cavalry received three artillery rounds, 18 mortar rounds, 16 booby traps, five grenades and two anti-personnel mines from Vietnamese in the area.

In scattered light contacts throughout the week the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, accounted for nine enemy killed in as many actions. The 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry tallied four more enemy killed and the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry were credited with two more killed in the same number of contacts.

Frederick Hill

Early in the week Company B, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, killed one evading VC as they moved toward their night defensive position. Company C while conducting search and clear missions in the same area discovered 1600 pounds of rice hidden in a large box in an old French built house.

Later in the week Company A and Company C discovered large rice caches while continuing to search for the elusive NVA.

Elements of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry netted a weekly total of 15 NVA killed in action while conducting operations west of Tam Ky.

Echo Recon killed three NVA during a small firefight southwest of Tam Ky. The "Assassins" reported engaging the enemy after siting six NVA wearing uniforms and one VC guide in black pajamas moving along a main trail. Three NVA packs were recovered following the incident.

Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry observed four VC later in the week in an area northwest of Tam Ky. They engaged the enemy with small arms fire and with the help of gunships killed three.

122 enemy fall

**Div Recap: Week's
action increases**

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Action in Southern I Corps saw a slight increase over the previous week's action as the soldiers of the Division accounted for 122 enemy killed. In Operation Frederick Hill the "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade killed 43 enemy, confiscated 17 individual weapons, and uncovered an 18-bed hospital and dispensary. Elsewhere in Operation Geneva Park the "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade accounted for 20 enemy killed. Operation Iron Mountain saw the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade kill 28 of the enemy and detain 22 in increased action for the week.

Frederick Hill

Continuing their mission at Kham Duc, in the mountains 35 miles west of Tam Ky, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, inserted a platoon to search a suspected enemy location. The infantrymen soon found and engaged an estimated platoon of NVA.

In the ensuing firefight, supported by helicopter gunships, four NVA were killed, three AK-47 rifles and one light machine gun were captured.

The next afternoon, the 2nd Platoon of Delta Company made an important medical find, an 18-bed NVA hospital and dispensary. Inside were eight metal boxes containing medical supplies.

The following day, Bravo Company flushed two NVA out of hiding while on a sweep. Both enemy were killed and two AK-47 rifles captured along with 120 rounds of ammunition.

The "Gimlets" of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, accounted for 15 enemy killed in several scattered incidents northwest of Tam Ky.

In three days, Delta and Charlie Companies killed six enemy. A six man recon patrol from D Company engaged and routed a squad of NVA, killing (continued on page 6) **'Regulars' hit hot LZ, kill 5** (continued from page 1) one and capturing five packs, two large military radios, assorted communications equipment, and a small hand generator.

In scattered action the "Polar Bears" of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry total 12 enemy killed and two large food caches confiscated.

Early in the week, 50 pounds of rice and 450 pounds of corn were discovered in a concealed shelter by the 1st platoon of Alpha Company on a sweep west of Tam Ky.

The following day nine more enemy were killed and a large rice cache was uncovered by the company.

In the middle of the week while working with a CIDG force, Company D uncovered a 4,000 pound rice cache from large woven wicker baskets while sweeping across a small hill covered with heavy vegetation.

Geneva Park

During the week in light sporadic action the "Professionals" of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry accounted for seven enemy killed.

Early in the week Delta Company while maneuvering in the mountainous terrain west of Chu Lai discovered five freshly dug graves. The five kills were attributed to an action the company had several days prior.

Action for the "ready Rifles" of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, was very light in the past week's action as they accounted for two enemy killed and the capture of miscellaneous items.

Late in the week Echo Recon, while searching a village west of Quang Ngai City, found 600 feet of barbed wire, eight heavy metal tubes and seven canteens hidden within the structures. The company evacuated the materials.

In the lightest action of Operation Geneva Park the "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry accounted for three enemy killed.

Late in the afternoon the next day Bravo Company met heavy enemy resistance as they were inserted into an area southeast of Chu Lai. "They took us under fire as soon as we hit the LZ," said First Lieutenant Winston W. Moody, Houston, Tex., platoon leader. "We returned fire with small arms and machineguns and the VC evaded." The enemy evaded to a nearby location and the infantrymen re-established contact, killing two. A short time later, gunships, providing support for the company, sighted more VC and fired on them with automatic weapons and rockets to account for three more enemy killed. Bravo Company swept the area to find three field packs and three pistol belts.

Late in the week several Vietnamese turned over to H Troop, 17th Cavalry, four booby traps, one fragmentation grenade and twelve mortar rounds.

Iron Mountain

In moderate action the "Gimlets" of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed 14 enemy soldiers, detained nine and confiscated numerous miscellaneous items.

Early in the week Recon engaged an unknown size VC element in the early morning hours, killing four of the enemy. Nine VC were detained as they fled in the area, adjacent to the South China Sea, south of Duc Pho.

The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry accounted for five enemy killed and 13 detained in the weeks action. The "Sykes' Regulars" combined with the 26th Engineer Battalion to give the enemy two set backs by uncovering as many caches.

Late in the week Company D made contact with an undetermined size enemy force on a mid-day insertion in the lowlands north of Duc Pho. As a result of the action three VC were killed and 10 enemy suspects were detained.

The same day Company and the 26th Engineers dealt the enemy two blows with out firing a shot during the day, while working in the Song Ve River delta north of Duc Pho. Company B found two AK-47s while patrolling a treeline in the area. Later the combined elements uncovered a tunnel and bunker complex. One bag of explosives, one bandoleer of loaded rifle magazines, one bag of explosives, one bandoleer of loaded rifle magazines, one bag of metal frag pieces, 25 pounds of corn, an assortment of booby-trap firing devices, and two CHICOM grenades were found in the complex, which was destroyed.

In light contacts throughout the week the "Old Guard" of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry killed five enemy soldiers and captured several weapons.

Late in the week D Company uncovered an enemy bunker complex while working in the mountains northwest of Duc Pho.

ON THE ROAD TO TRA BONG

By SP5 A.C. Barnett

CHU LAI (DIVARTY IO) - A convoy is like a roller coaster. It has only one direction, forward-and one sided, fast. You buy a ticket to ride the roller coaster but on a convoy the price you pay may be your life.

Tying the bandoleers of ammunition around their waists and adjusting the straps on their protective masks, the men congregated around their trucks. At this point their mission was classified as secret.

Convoys are big business. A lot of men's lives, valuable vehicles and essential supplies are at stake. Exposed on narrow treacherous roads for long, periods of time these metal chains cannot stop to fight, they must shake off any attack and push on. Security elements are assigned specific sectors where they can repel any enemy that attempts to attack the main body. No detail must be overlooked.

For the past four days 27 armor-plated tracked vehicles from H Troop, 17th Cavalry, had swarmed over a desolate 17 mile stretch of road. Part of the 198th Infantry Brigade these mighty Sheridan tanks and their assistants the scrappy 'A' Cavs had swept the road, a road that had not been cleared for over a year and favorite location for enemy mines.

In their trucks the men waited for the final word from the convoy commander who was in radio contact with H Troop. At last it came and 116 starters wound up their engines, 116 emergency brakes were released, almost 300 men struggled into their flack jackets and steel helmets. As the convoy moved out the main gate the metallic snap of weapons being loaded broke the constant rumble of the straining engines.

The real business at hand only became serious again when they traded the smooth highway for the rutted dusty trail, leading due west to Tra Bong.

The first track and several trucks were met everywhere by excited children and curious adults. The parade seemed endless. The last vehicle of the chain went almost unnoticed, the people had entirely enough of the dust and diesel fumes.

Watching the helicopters reconning their flanks and seeing the infantrymen rambling out of their holes to take pictures the men of the convoy began to feel uneasy. Why the heavy air support? Why the unusual interest by the infantrymen? The reason was soon revealed. A Sheridan tank completely destroyed lay smoldering on its side, the turret 20 yards away on the other side of the road. Drivers and guards became very aware of the meager protection provided by the sandbags under their feet.

After more than four hours on the road the convoy entered Tra Bong the half-way point and old tensions were exchanged for new pressures.

The trucks with artillery ammo peeled off and headed to the storage area of Alpha Battery. Other vehicles sped to the Caribou runway where they disgorged their tons of asphalt to the waiting engineers. More than ten tons of rice for the local Vietnamese were handed over to the authorities.

The MPs waived the lead vehicles back to the road. The run home.

Mission completed successfully; another convoy safely home. The artillery will continue to fire, the Caribou will continue to fly, and the hungry villagers will be fed.

But how do you measure a convoy? The logistics people must record the number of miles, and vehicles, tons of payload and casualties, but the real yardstick is comprised of sweatbands, duty nostrils, heartbeats and hot sodas. The heroes, as always, unseen, are the men of H Troop, who made it possible and paid the price. (Continued)

(Continued)

ON THE ROAD TO TRA BONG

Story and photos by SP5 A.C.

Barnett and SP4 Louis Featherman

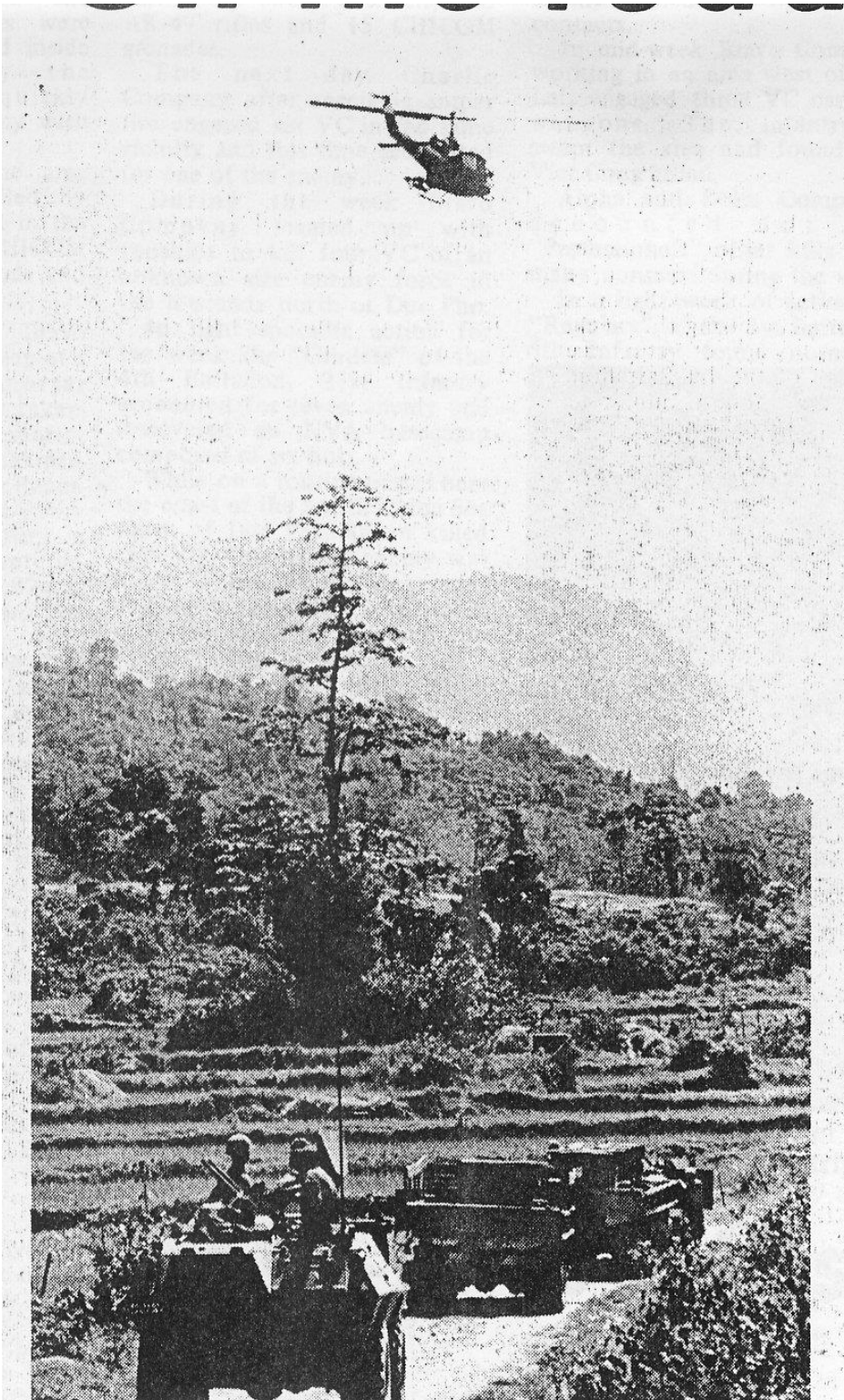
Photo Captions:

- 1) Vehicles of the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion move along the Tra Bong Road in a convoy delivering supplies to the Special Forces advised Civilian Irregular Defense Group camp. The road had not been used in over a year.
- 2) On the return trip a wrecker with the convoy moves in position to give a disabled vehicle a lift back to Chu Lai.
- 3) Men of the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion inspect their weapons before embarking on a convoy delivering supplies over the Tra Bong Road to the Special Forces advised CIDG camp. (Note: soldiers wear bush hats, flak vests, as they sit next to M-60 mounted on jeep)
- 4) Watching the endless parade, these local Vietnamese soon became tired and lost interest. The convoy on the way to Tra Bong had 116 vehicles in it and over 300 men.
- 5) A gunship provides security for vehicles of the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion on the recent convoy. The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry and H Troop 17th Cavalry, both of the 198th Infantry Brigade, assisted in securing the road.
- 6) A jeep and a V-11 armored vehicle provide ground security for the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion on the convoy to Tra Bong Special Forces advised CIDG camp. The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry and H Troop, 17th Cavalry assisted in securing the road which had not been used in over a year.

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A jeep and a V-11 armored vehicle provide ground security for the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion on the convoy to Tra Bong Special Forces advised CIDG camp. The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry and H Troop, 17th Cavalry assisted in securing the road which had not been used in over a year.



A gunship provides security for vehicles of the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion on the recent convoy. The 1st Battalion, 52 Infantry and H Troop 17th Cavalry, both of the 198th Infantry Brigade, assisted in securing the road.

NIGHT HAWK NET 49 IN HEAVY ACTION

CHU LAI (AMERICAL 10) -- Action increased sharply in Southern I Military Region as Division units accounted for 193 enemy killed. Highlighting the week's action in Operation Geneva Park, "Night Hawk" and gunships From F Troop, 8th Cavalry killed 16 NVA north of the Quang Ngai River. Despite a week of light action, soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade In Operation Frederick Hill tallied 33 enemy dead and discovered an enemy hospital. Elsewhere gunships of the 71st Aviation Battalion were kept busy the past week as the "Night Hawks" accounted For 23 enemy killed

in Operation Iron Mountain.

Geneva Park

In mid-week, "Night Hawk" ships accompanied by gunships from F Troop 8th Cavalry conducting aerial patrols over the southern section of the 198th Infantry Brigade's AO with their powerful search lights, spotted a large number of NVA congregated on the ground below near the Quang Ngai River. After taking light machinegun fire, the pilots and gunners from F Troop went to work killing 26 enemy. The kills were credited to Operation Geneva Park.

Early in the week, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, working south of Chu Lai, moved out early in the morning to cordon and search a village. The cavalrymen, using textbook-like tactics, trapped several Viet Cong killing three of them. Captured in the action were six CHICOM grenades two AK-47 rifles, three AK-47 magazines and a carbine with two magazines.

Early the next day incoming mortars, rocket propelled grenades and satchel charges erupted the early morning calm at LZ Fat City west of Chu Lai, as sappers firing automatic weapons, attempted to assault the firebase. The artillerymen located at the LZ and infantrymen from C Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry returned the fire with automatic weapons and mortars and called in gunships and flareships. At first light the defenders swept the area to find one VC dead, four satchel charges, and nine CHICOM grenades.

Along the coast northeast of Quang Ngai, naval guns fired on an undetermined number of Viet Cong. Aerial observers from Division Artillery later flew over the area to confirm eight VC had been killed by the fire originating from the ships in the South China Sea.

The next day, Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, picked up a rallier and killed two VC in two separate incidents. The "Ready Rifles" engaged several VC evading southwest of Chu Lai and brought down one VC as another rallied. About thirty minutes later, Recon killed another VC and captured an AK-47, two banana clips, two CHICOM grenades and a poncho.

Later in the week while working northwest of Quang Ngai, Delta Company killed one VC and later found a hooch. The hooch contained 350 pounds of rice and 350 pounds of potatoes.

Delta Company of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry also found a small cache of 1000 pounds of rice hidden in crocks and metal containers, southeast of Chu Lai Frederick Hill. In mid-week activity the "Gimlets" of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed six enemy in a single day as a result of four contacts in a thickly vegetated area west of Tam Ky. Four of the kills resulted when the enemy walked into well camouflaged defensive positions set up by the "Gimlets."

Company C received credit for the first of these four kills. The Reconnaissance platoon scored in a similar manner when they struck down three more NVA a short time later.

(continued)

NIGHT HAWK NET 49 IN HEAVY ACTION

The fifth and sixth dead NVA for that day was credited to Company A. In that engagement the enemy was spotted trying to escape into a woodline west of Tam Ky, when the company blanketed him with small arms fire.

"Gimlets" momentum continued to increase. Near the week's end Company A found a large enemy structure west of Tam Ky with a tunnel system, shortly after killing an NVA in the same area. The tunnels which were used as a hospital, contained a large quantity of medical supplies plus 750 pounds of rice.

Success again marked Recon platoon when they wrapped up a busy week three NVA killed. The incident occurred when the enemy walked into Recon's defensive position set up west of Tam Ky.

The "Legionnaires" of 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry registered several enemy dead. Two of the kills resulted cleverly placed defensive position set up in the triple canopy jungles west of Tam Ky. "Charlie" lost once to the Recon platoon, and again that afternoon to Company B. A search of the area by Company B revealed six enemy bunkers.

Company D concluded a week of enemy contact when they fired on several VC who were walking down a trail in the dense jungles near Kham Duc. Firebird gunships flew in to assist in the firefight which resulted in four VC killed.

The "Polar Bears" of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, proved themselves homebreakers when Company A found an enemy bunker complex large enough to accommodate two platoons. The approximately seven week old complex contained seven bunkers.

Also in that area Company D found eight Viet Cong suspects--four female adults and four children hiding in their hooch. The infantrymen caught two of the females as they were attempting to hide a small amount of military equipment.

Iron Mountain

Early in the week while working in a river valley northwest of Duc Pho. "Night Hawks" of the 71st Aviation Battalion received fire from two NVA in a sampan. Return fire from the gunships accounted for both enemy killed. The sampan was destroyed following the action. Later in the evening the "Night Hawks" received small arms and .51 caliber fire from two directions. Fourteen NVA were found dead following the action which saw two hooches destroyed.

Later in the week while working in the same area "Night Hawks" engaged by an undetermined size enemy force as they moved along the river. Braving small arms and .30 caliber machinegun fire, the gunships accounted for seven enemy.

While conducting a search and clear mission in the lowlands south of Duc Pho, Company A, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry discovered a rice and potato cache near two huts. The rice was in 11-55 gallon drums and the potatoes were in four 55 gallon drums. An intensified search of the area turned up eight more tons of rice.

PSYOPS nets enemy munitions

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) - A psychological operations (PSYOPS) program encouraging Vietnamese civilians to turn over munitions they find paid off recently when several 198th Infantry Brigade units received a large amount of enemy weapons and ammunition.

"We conducted several operations in the area where the munitions were turned in," said First Lieutenant Richard H. Greenhagen, Masapequa, N.Y., assistant civil affairs officer. "We flew several night broadcasts using loud speakers, several daytime leaflet drops, and we also used special tapes to broadcast the messages."

Shortly after the PSYOPS missions were flown, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, maneuvering on a search and clear operation along the Tra Bong Road, ten miles south of Chu Lai, began receiving the munitions from the Vietnamese children.

"At first we received only a few mortar rounds from the children," said Private First Class Stephen Hickey, Flushing, Mich. "Then they spread the word and we began receiving all kinds of munitions. This continued for two days."

The total cache turned in by the children consisted of 96 mortar rounds, 60 Bouncing Betty mines, two 2.75 inch rockets, two 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, two rifle-propelled grenades, one CHICOM grenade, four artillery rounds and six mortar fuses.

Also working in the same area and benefiting from the broadcasts and leaflet drops was Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, which received four artillery rounds, one anti-personnel mine, one booby trap and one mortar round. The 39th Engineers Battalion working with the company received two artillery rounds and two mortar rounds.

Division recap

196th Bde finds

enemy basecamp

Action decreased noticeably in the past week's action as units of the Americal killed 103 enemy soldiers. In Operation Frederick Hill "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade killed 40 enemy soldiers and destroyed an enemy basecamp. Elsewhere in Operation Geneva Park the "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade also found and destroyed a large enemy basecamp and tallied 31 enemy soldiers. In Operation Iron Mountain the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade also found and destroyed a large bunker complex consisting of 30 bunkers and from 50 to 70 fighting positions.

Frederick Hill

An enemy base camp, believed to be less than two months old, containing over 50 hooches, numerous medical supplies and a large rice cache, was seized by Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry early in the week northwest of Tam Ky.

First Lieutenant Sammie M. Bush, Snyder, Okla., company commander reported one of his patrols came upon some well used trails near an extremely steep draw in the densely-wooded, triple-canopy jungle.

"The found a blood trail and some used bandages strewn along one of the trails and followed it up the draw to the enemy base camp." said Lieutenant Bush.

Approximately two hours after spotting the camp, Company C staged an[d] assault.

After a fierce firefight the enemy fled. Four blood trails were later found leading to the (continued on page 6) **All three brigades uncover large basecamps** (continued from page 1) camp.

Confiscated from the enemy base camp were 4,500 pounds of rice, 40 pounds of assorted medical supplies, five NVA ruck sacks and one AK-47 rifle.

The next day the "Gimlets" of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, killed three VC who walked into their defensive position west of Tam Ky.

Later in the week Company D engaged 10 NVA in thick jungles northwest of Tam Ky. The infantrymen called in gunships to assist. A later sweep of the area revealed two NVA dead.

In areas southwest of Tam Ky, Company C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry while on a search and clear mission found graves containing three NVA, dead approximately seven days [old].

Company D scored on two more NVA with small arms fire later in the week capturing one AK-47 in the process.

Geneva Park

Early in the week H Troop, 17th Cavalry, moving into a village on foot, engaged and killed five VC as the enemy attempted to evade the cavalrymen's search. "When my men entered the village," said Captain Oliver Croom, Garland, N.C., troops commander, the enemy tried to evade,. But we got five before they could make it to a nearby treeline." The troopers also destroyed a mortar pit in the action.

The same day, Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry observed three VC moving west of Quang Ngai City. The "Ready Rifles" killed two and continued maneuvering. A short time later, the Recon element spotted two more VC and killed them.

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Division recap
196th Bde finds
enemy basecamp

The next morning Charlie Company, while working in a heavily vegetated area southwest of Chu Lai, discovered a large enemy basecamp. The complex contained 10 bunkers, each having two or three entrances. There were also 50 fighting positions on a 400 yard stretch of trail leading to the camp. The infantrymen destroyed the entire complex.

The same day an aerial observer from the 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery, observed two VC on the ground below. The gunner opened up with automatic weapons to kill both.

The next day Bravo Company, 123rd Aviation Company inserted an aerial rifle platoon south of Chu Lai which found and killed five VC.

In mid-week action a long range reconnaissance patrol from G Company, 75th Rangers, on a mission northwest of Quang Ngai, discovered a battalion sized basecamp. The camp consisted of 130 to 180 bunkers, each containing a two man fighting position.

The next day the Rangers still working northwest of Quang Ngai engaged and killed three enemy and captured 45 bags of salt and 80 kilos of rice (Note: about 180 pounds of rice).

To conclude the action for the week Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry maneuvering in an area northeast of Quang Ngai, spotted four VC moving across a rice paddy. The "Regulars" fired on the enemy with automatic weapons killing one.

Iron Mountain

Early in the week Recon, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry discovered a massive bunker complex on a search and clear operation in the mountains southwest of Duc Pho. The complex consisted of 30 bunkers which were well camouflaged and had overhead cover. From 50 to 70 fighting positions were evident throughout the complex which was fortified with 16-inch logs.

The next day while working in the lowlands north of Duc Pho., Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry engaged an estimated six VC in a treeline. Three of the enemy were killed in the engagement and three AK-47s and one grenade were confiscated following the action.

The same day the "Sharks" of the 174th Aviation Company accounted for five VC killed in action in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho.

In the middle of the week Company C, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry discovered a 300 pound rice cache in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. The rice was found buried in a 55 gallon drum in an out hooch.

The next day Company D netted two VC with a stay behind ambush at their old NDP in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. Two AK-47s were confiscated in the engagement.

Concluding the week's action the "Sharks" of the 174th Aviation Company observed and engaged four NVA. Two of the enemy were killed in the action.

Textbook trap tallies four

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) - In a combined operation south of Chu Lai, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, 198th Infantry Brigade, working with three Popular Force Platoons maneuvered in textbook fashion to trap and kill three Viet Cong, and capture several weapons and munitions. Later in another area, another platoon of the troop received one rallier who turned over one AK-47 and other miscellaneous items.

"We had moved out early in the morning to search the hamlet," said Captain Oliver L. Croom, Garland, N.C., troop commander. "Several hundred meters from the hamlet we met two Vietnamese boys who told us there were Viet Cong there."

Captain Croom instructed his second platoon to approach the hamlet from the north, while the first platoon moved in from the south. The point elements were to converge on the west while the Popular Force platoons and several cavalrymen swept through the village from the east moving toward the converging elements.

"When the men started sweeping through the hamlet," said Sergeant First Class Nemour P. Egana Sr., New Orleans, maintenance sergeant with the second platoon. "The Viet Cong tried to evade and ran straight into the second platoon. Seeing the cavalrymen, the enemy then fled in the opposite direction and ran into the first platoon."

One of the Viet Cong, realizing there was no way out of the perfectly executed trap, opened up on the first platoon with an AK-47. The cavalrymen returned fire with automatic weapons and killed three VC as the enemy attempted to evade across a rice paddy.

The cavalrymen then dismounted their tracks and picked up six, CHICOM grenades, two AK-47 rifles, three AK-47 magazines, one carbine with two magazines, and several bags of medical supplies.

Meanwhile, the third platoon working 1500 meters to the west, received one rallier.

Weekly recap, 92 killed

Decrease in Division action

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Action was light for the week as units of the Americal killed 92 of the enemy in numerous small engagements. The "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade, in Operation Geneva Park killed 17 enemy soldiers and confiscated several weapons and munitions. The "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade, in Operation Frederick Hill claimed 41 of the enemy. Elsewhere in Operation Iron Mountain the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade had a light week as they inflicted 10 casualties on the enemy.

Geneva Park

At the beginning of the week, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry engaged six evading Viet Cong northwest of Quang Ngai. The "Ready Rifles" swept the area and found six field packs containing rice and food. Later while following a blood trail in the same area, Alpha found a large hooch containing an SKS rifle.

In the mountains west of Quang Ngai, Alpha Company observed and engaged six VC, killing one and capturing on[e] AK-47 rifle, 200 pounds of rice, and seven hammocks. Later, Alpha spotted an[d] undetermined number of VC approaching their night position. The infantrymen engaged the enemy, killing three.

Later in the afternoon the next day, Delta Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry engaged an NVA element as the enemy approached their position west of Chu Lai. The "Professionals" swept the area and found four NVA killed.

The next day Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry found several tunnels well concealed by vegetation. The "Ready Rifles" searched the tunnels and found one rocket-propelled grenade round, 59 mortar rounds and four booster rounds.

Late in the week Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry engaged and killed two VC in two separate skirmishes southeast of Chu Lai. Captured were an AK-47 rifle and two AK-47 magazines. Later the "Regulars" of Delta found an SKS rifle badly damaged by shrapnel. And finally, the infantrymen found the body of a VC who was determined to have been killed by gunships working in the area two days prior.

Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry moving from their night position in early morning, received one rallier who led them to a structure where he said several VC were hiding. Just before reaching their objective, the men from the "Ready (continued on page 6) **1st-46th Inf uncovers 1300 pounds of food** (continued from page 1) Rifles" received small arms fire and saw three VC evading from the structure. The infantrymen returned fire, killing one.

Later, an element of H Troop, 17th Cavalry observed and engaged four VC moving south of Chu Lai. The troopers killed two and captured one pack.

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Weekly recap, 92 killed

Decrease in Division action

Frederick Hill

The "Gimlets" of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry maintained their productive pace for the week, beginning with Company A finding a grave with one VC killed. The kill was credited to C Company in a contact they had two [days?] earlier.

By mid-week most "Gimlet" units had made their mark on the enemy. With small arms fire Company B engaged a lone VC while on sweep northwest of Tam Ky. The wounded VC was evacuated to Chu Lai for medical attention.

After being fired on by Company B an NVA quickly surrendered and was extracted for questioning.

Taking their share of action the Recon platoon killed three NVA with small arms fire in the triple canopy jungle northwest of Tam Ky.

Also that day a "Charger" light observation helicopter while on a visual reconnaissance mission called in fire on an NVA who was trying to hide in a spider hole. Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 72 Artillery completed the mission.

Elsewhere in the 196th Infantry Brigade AO infantrymen from Company C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry showed their concern to keep charlie slim and trim when they confiscated 800 pounds of rice and 500 pounds of corn in a shelter southwest of Tam Ky.

While on a visual reconnaissance mission Helix 17 observed 3 enemy soldiers trying to hide in a bomb crater southwest of Tam Ky. Rockets were fired into the crater killing two of the VC while the third escaped into a nearby woodline.

Operating west of Tam Ky Recon platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry found two NVA bodies that were credited to the gunships of the 71st Aviation Company.

Iron Mountain

Early in the week the "Always First" of Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry netted two VC in a stay behind ambush at their old night laager in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho.

While working in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho in the middle of the week Alpha Company discovered a hooch which was being used as a booby trap factory. Found in the hooch were chisels, scrap metal, shrapnel, files and artillery casings.

The next day Alpha Company observed three to four VC evading in the same area. The resulting contact with the enemy produced one VC killed and another wounded and detained.

Early in the week while operating in the mountainous terrain southwest of Duc Pho, Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry discovered an enemy sapper school. The area consisted of classrooms, benches and barb wire. The enemy facility was destroyed by the "Old Guard."

The next day Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry engaged three to four VC while patrolling in the lowlands north of Duc Pho. The ensuing fire fight, which saw "Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company called to station, resulted in one Viet Cong killed and another wounded and detained.

Engrs, Cav team up to kill 4

By SP4 Terry Williamson

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) - H Troop 17th Cavalry quickly answered a call for support from Bravo Company, 26th Engineer Battalion, and with the help of gunships, killed four VC and repelled heavy sniper fire in the division's 198th Infantry Brigade area of operations south of Chu Lai.

The engineers were conducting a road sweep operation when they came under heavy small arms fire from approximately 12 VC from a nearby woodline. H Troop was a short distance away waiting for a convoy for which they were to provide security.

The engineers immediately called for support from the nearby tracks. One Sheridan assault vehicle and three armored personnel carriers quickly answered the call and took a position on a small hill overlooking the woodline that contained the enemy element.

"We opened fire with our .50 caliber and M-60 machineguns," said Sergeant Lucion J. Broadstreet, Gary, Ind. "That stopped a lot of the enemy fire right then, but we were still getting sporadic fire from the woodline."

The Sheridan then moved into position on the small hill and began to unleash a flurry of canister and heat rounds at the point of hostile contact.

"I fired three canister rounds and one heat round into the woodline, and the VC started withdrawing from the area," said Sergeant Donald K. Tate, Norphlet, Ark., a member of the Sheridan assault vehicle crew.

At this point it appeared that the enemy soldiers had evaded to the other side of a river that lay in back of the woodline. Sergeant Tate then made a request for gunship support in an effort to cut off the enemy escape route. Within minutes, gunships from the 176th Aviation Company were raking the area with mini-gun and rocket fire.

"I only saw two of the enemy when we got on top of the hill, and after we had fired on the area, I didn't see any more. But we were still getting a small amount of fire," Sergeant Tate said, "That's when I realized that I might need gunship support if they made it to the other side of the river."

When all enemy resistance had been quelled by H Troop and gunships, the tracks made their way back to complete their former mission of securing the convoy.

A Popular Force team swept the area of contact and found four VC that had been killed in the action. Two of the enemy had been killed in the initial contact by H Troop, and two had been killed by gunships. Also found was on[e] AK-47 rifle.

70 enemy killed in a week of light action

By SP4 David Goodrich

In moderately light action this last week, elements of the Americal Division killed 70 enemy soldiers. In a slightly unusual cache find, the 196th Infantry Brigade found 34,000 pounds of salt.

Geneva Park

Infantrymen from the Division's 198th Infantry Brigade saw moderate action this week as Operation Geneva Park accounted for 21 enemy kills.

The heaviest activity was reported by the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, as the Regulars killed 11 enemy soldiers and wounded another southeast of Chu Lai. Of these 11 enemy k.i.a., nine were accounted for by Company C of the battalion.

An element of Company A observed one Viet Cong evading from a tree line, and a group of the "Regulars" maneuvered to within 100 meters of the enemy and killed him. Later, Company D chalked up a kill after the infantrymen observed a small group of the enemy.

Nine enemy soldiers were killed by the "Ready Rifles" of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry and several weapons and a large rice cache were taken. Late in the week, an eagle flight by Company D resulted in four Viet Cong killed and five detainees taken.

Earlier in the week, the company discovered ten barrels of polished rice buried in the ground near a hedgerow. The barrels were well camouflaged and contained nearly 8,000 pounds of rice. All edible rice was extracted to Son Thinh District Headquarters for distribution to orphanages and refugee centers in that district. In other action, the company killed on VC attempting to evade to the east in an area south of Chu Lai.

A platoon from Company C of the "Ready Rifles" engaged a group of VC at a distance of about 100 meters in a brief contact south of Chu Lai. While attempting to evade, the enemy element ran into a well-placed blocking force of another element of the "Ready Rifles" who killed two enemy soldiers and captured another.

Later in the week, Company C killed two Viet Cong after establishing contact with the enemy and following some resulting blood trails. They led the infantrymen to a spider hole, which they threw hand grenades into, killing two.

H Troop, 17th Cavalry killed one Viet Cong southeast of Chu Lai.

Hawk Hill

In light action this week the men of the 196th Infantry Brigade killed 24 enemy soldiers and found 34,000 pounds of salt.

Company C of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry killed three enemy soldiers during the week's action in three separate encounters.

Company A of the battalion discovered 16,000 pounds of the week's salt finds while on a search and clear mission.

Later in the week, the company came across three large wicker baskets, each containing 6,000 pounds of salt.

The Recon element of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, while on sweep observed 13 enemy to their front and managed to kill two with small arms fire.

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70 enemy killed in a week of light action

Company B of the Battalion engaged and killed three NVA southwest of Tam Ky while on patrol.

Company D of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed one VC after firing in the direction of movement from their night laager position northwest of Tam Ky.

Company A observed three VC evading from a structure, while on patrol. They killed two and the other managed to escape.

While on visual reconnaissance for the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry a member of Brigade Aviation observed three NVA northwest of Tam Ky. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire resulting in all three enemy killed.

IRON Mountain

The men of the 11th Infantry Brigade killed 16 enemy soldiers during the week in light action.

Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry had their hands full when confronted with a number of challenges in the line of duty. In a two day period, a total of four VC were killed in action along with the discovery of a 1,900 pound rice cache.

Working in the lowlands south of Quang Ngai City, Company D of the battalion found approximately 1,000 pounds of unpolished rice stored in metal containers.

Company C found approximately 2,000 pounds of unpolished rice along the coast northwest of Duc Pho, stored in plastic bags buried underground.

Members of D troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry (Air) received small arms fire while riding in a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) along the coast north of Duc Pho. After being cleared for firing, the LOH killed two VC and wounded the third.

While patrolling the foothills northwest of Duc Pho, elements of Company C, 4th Battalion 3rd Infantry engaged and killed one VC.

While patrolling an area along the coast south of Duc Pho, Recon platoon of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry observed two VC in a boat. Subsequent action resulted in one enemy dead and one captured.

The next day, while patrolling the foothills southwest of Duc Pho, the Recon platoon of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry saw five VC coming down a trail. The platoon killed two of the enemy as the rest managed to evade.

Pennsylvania Square

Action increased in the Pennsylvania Square last week as the men of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry killed nine enemy soldiers and captured seven more.

Alpha Troop accounted for eight of the kills and captured six. One contact began as the Troop's supply helicopter spotted a group of VC and directed the ground elements to them. The result was one killed and three captured.

AMERICAL ——— DIVISION

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SOUTHERN CROSS

Division recap Action was 'moderate'

Action was moderate this week as the men of the Americal Division accounted for 84 enemy kills, with heaviest action concentrated in the Frederick Hill area of operations manned by the 196th Infantry Brigade

Frederick Hill

During the week, the men of the 196th Infantry Brigade killed 36 enemy soldiers and captured 3,800 pounds of rice, 200 pounds of corn and 500 pounds of tobacco.

Early this week Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry engaged five Viet Cong with small arms fire while on patrol northwest of Tam Ky, killing five.

Also this week, Company B of the "Gimlets" killed two VC while on patrol northwest of Tam Ky.

Company B observed movement around their night defensive position and fired the area up. A sweep of the area at first light revealed three NVA killed by the night firing.

Upon observing three VC, Company A opened up with M-16s, killing one and wounding another that was then captured.

Rounding out the Gimlet action for the week, Company A on patrol saw three VC which they killed. As they moved forward they spotted another VC and opened up with small arms fire, killing him.

Company D of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry while on a search and clear mission observed three NVA to their front. They called in artillery, searched the area and found one enemy dead.

Company C of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry discovered a hootch area northwest of Tam Ky containing 500 pounds of tobacco, 200 pounds of corn and three sampans.

Earlier in the week, Company C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry found two VC graves, with the kills being credited to them for earlier actions in the area.

The company kill[ed] two other VC southwest of Tam Ky as the enemy walked into the "Professionals" day defensive position. Two AK-47s were captured in the action.

Company D also found two VC killed by artillery and later while working southwest of Da Nang found 1,450 pounds of rice.

Company A of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry discovered 2,150 pounds of rice and 100 pounds of corn while working the same area.

The "Firebirds" gunships of the 71st Assault Helicopter Company were credited with eight kills this week as they supported Regional Forces southwest of Tam Ky.

Iron Mountain

Action was moderate this week as infantrymen serving in the 11th Infantry Brigade accounted for the deaths of 23 enemy soldiers.

Early in the week Company B of the 1st Battalion 20th Infantry observed and engaged two Viet Cong. The results of the action were one VC killed.

The "Warlords" of the 123rd Aviation Co. (B/123rd), observed one VC carrying a pack, in the foothills southwest of Quang Ngai City. They engaged him and chalked up a kill.

Flying over the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai City, the "Warlords" again claimed four kills after engaging a quartet of VC later that afternoon.

Troops of Company B, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry acquired credit for a couple of kills after a brief fight southeast of Quang Ngai City. **continued on page 6**

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Division recap

Action was 'moderate'

- 84 enemy die last week continued from page 1

In the middle of the week, the infantrymen discovered 3,800 pounds of rice in the foothills southeast of Quang Ngai City. The rice was evacuated to Mo Duc.

Towards the end of the week, members of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry caught two VC setting up a booby trap for their benefit. The infantrymen wounded and captured both of the enemy in the brief action.

Earlier in the week, a "Warlord" gunship of the 123rd Aviation Company (B/123rd) spotted and engaged two VC. The results were two VC dead.

Elements of Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry found one VC dead, believed to have been killed during one of the company's previous fire missions.

A day later, while patrolling the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai City, the company spotted, engaged, and killed a VC.

Recon platoon of the battalion found six well constructed tunnels with a fresh water stream and an excellent view of the valley floor, in the foothills northwest of Duc Pho. They were destroyed.

Earlier in the week a "Shark" gunship from the 174th Aviation Company spotted one VC in the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai City. He was engaged and killed. His AK-47 was captured.

Company C of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry killed an NVA and found two one hundred pound bags of unpolished rice alongside a trail while patrolling the foothills northwest of Duc Pho.

In separate actions, the company killed two more enemy later in the week, and then, while checking a base camp in their AO they observed more enemy soldiers almost too late. The enemy engaged them at 40 meters but the infantrymen recovered returning small arms fire and killing one enemy.

Within a period of four hours, the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry found approximately 14 huts of which eight had connecting tunnels, in the mountains west of Duc Pho. Also found were various VC and NVA field equipment. The huts and tunnels were destroyed by the infantrymen.

A couple of days later, Company D of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry observed one VC in the foothills west of Duc Pho. During the short engagement that followed, the VC was killed.

While moving through the mountains west of Duc Pho, men of a recon platoon of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry observed three VC apparently setting up booby traps. Result of the action was one VC killed and one AK-47 captured. The next day, the platoon killed another VC carrying a pack at 300 meters.

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Division recap

Action was 'moderate'

Geneva Park

The men of the 198th Infantry Brigade and gunships from Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry accounted for 20 enemy kills for the week as action was moderate in Operation Geneva Park. The "Brave and Bold" also wounded two enemy soldiers and captured another during the week.

The "Ready Rifles" of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry killed 13 enemy during the week, including a major action south of Chu Lai in which nine Viet Cong were killed.

While in their night defensive position, the battalion's Company C started receiving AK47 fire from a group of VC 400 meters to the east. The company returned fire and called for gunships and artillery illumination. Cobra gun ships arrived on station and brought down three enemy with mini-gun fire. The "Ready Rifles" then swept the area and found six additional VC their own organic small arms had killed.

Earlier in the week, Charlie Company saw some VC moving to the west some distance away. They contacted a recon element in the area who engaged and killed two of the NVA soldiers.

The next day one company engaged a group of VC at a distance of 75 meters while moving to a night position. One VC was captured and one killed in the action.

Operating south of Chu Lai, Bravo Company of the "Ready Rifles" engaged and killed one Viet Cong in a brief firefight.

The "Professionals" of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry had light action for the week as they killed four NVA soldiers and wounded two.

While on patrol northwest of Chu Lai, Company B killed two and wounded another in a brief engagement with a small NVA element. Later, the company engaged and killed two more enemy soldiers.

The "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry killed three enemy soldiers during the week and captured several weapons southeast of Chu Lai.

Early in the week, Echo Recon killed two VC while on a night patrol. Two rifles, two packs and a pistol belt were captured in the action.

Company A observed and killed a lone VC moving along a small trail.

In other action, H Troop, 17th Cavalry received three ralliers during the week. Two of them turned in rifles.

Company B of the 26th Engineer Battalion received 47 grenades 13 gas rounds and four mortar rounds from a group of Vietnamese civilians southeast of Chu Lai. All the munitions were destroyed.

(Continued)

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Division recap

Action was 'moderate'

Pennsylvania Square

Moderate action continued throughout the Pennsylvania Square last week as the "Blackhawks" of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry killed five enemy soldiers and captured two more.

Bravo Troop of the 1st Squadron began the week by destroying five enemy bunkers and killing two VC. Two days later B troop destroyed a tunnel, killed one enemy soldier and wounded another, who was evacuated.

Farther to the South, Troop A made contact, killing one VC and wounding another who was evacuated. Later in the day a Hoi Chanh led the troop to another rice cache, this time of 600 pounds.

C Troop of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and F Troop of the 17th Cavalry together under the V.I.P program received a total of 35 mortar rounds, 13 anti-personnel mines, 7 artillery rounds and 14 M-79 rounds.

Division Recap

Weekly action--division counts 82

By SP4 David P. Goodrich

In moderate action last week, the men of the 23rd Infantry Division killed 82 enemy soldiers. All three brigades had approximately equal contact.

Hawk Hill

In Hawk Hill action 28 enemy soldiers were killed by the 196th Infantry Brigade this week.

Company A of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry initiated the action this week by killing one NVA southwest of Tam Ky. Captured was an AK-47 and a magazine.

While on a search and clear mission Company A of the "Professionals" engaged five VC with M-16s, killing while the others evaded.

Later this week, the company heard movement about 15 meters from their night defensive position southwest of Tam Ky. They covered the area with M-16 fire resulting in two NVA kills.

The Recon element of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry began the week by finding a hospital southwest of Tam Ky. The hospital consisted of four structures.

Half an hour later the unit received 10 rounds of sniper fire approximately 75 meters south of their location. The "Professionals" returned fire, swept the area and uncovered four enemy booby traps. Later in the day, while working with a platoon of RF's Recon came upon three NVA soldiers on a jungle trail. Quick reactions resulted in two NVA killed and two AK-47s C.I.A.

Late in the week, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while on patrol northwest of Tam Ky uncovered a cache containing 500 pounds of rice. About 200 meters farther along the trail they came across another cache of 500 pounds of rice. The rice was extracted to LZ Center.

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry found one VC killed in a tunnel. The kill was credited to them for earlier action in the area. Earlier in the day the company has engaged one and killed one NVA.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry killed a lone VC this week spotted near a tree line in an area southwest of Da Nang.

Charger 13 of the 196th Infantry Brigade, Aviation section killed ? VC ???? while on a reconnaissance mission.

Geneva Park

Infantrymen from the 198th Infantry Brigade saw moderate action during the week as the "Brave and Bold" accounted for 26 enemy kills in operation "Geneva Park". In addition several enemy were captured, and several enemy weapons were taken.

The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry saw the heaviest action during the week as the "ready Rifles" killed 11 Viet Cong soldiers in sporadic engagements.

Gunships of the 116th Aviation Company, flying security for an eagle flight south of Chu Lai accounted for one VC. The Ready Rifles killed another VC while sweeping the area. Two automatic rifles and five fully loaded magazines were c.i.a.

A recon element from the battalion observed and engaged three enemy soldiers south of Chu Lai. The elements killed one and radioed Company C that the other VC were evading in their direction. Company C set p a blocking force and captured the two Viet Cong.

(Continued)

Division Recap

Weekly action--division counts 82

By SP4 David P. Goodrich

(Continued)

Bravo Company of the "Ready Rifles" conducted a series of eagle flight missions south of Chu Lai which proved to be very effective. Bravo was inserted into an area where four Viet Cong had been spotted from the air, and the "Ready Rifles" killed the four VC.

The company was later inserted into another area and engaged two Viet Cong. The "Ready Rifles" killed one and captured another. The captured enemy was extracted to a nearby LZ. Then Bravo made another insertion a tan enemy bunker, site, and killed two more enemy soldiers. The "Ready Rifles" captured two hand grenades in the action.

The 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry killed six enemy soldiers in light action northwest of Chu Lai.

While on patrol, Bravo Company of the battalion heard loud talking in ??????. ????? the Professional maneuvered to a better vantage point and engaged a group of VC. Two enemy soldiers were killed in the action.

Later in separate actions, the company killed two more VC with accurate small arms fire. The next day they engaged yet another VC in the same area and killed him too.

In a night defensive perimeter, Alpha Company of the "Professionals" engaged and killed one enemy soldier as he neared the "Professionals" position.

The "Regulars" fo the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry killed four enemy soldiers in light action southeast of Chu Lai.

In the early morning hours Bravo Company.....engaged several Viet Cong as they neared their laager site. The "Regulars" engaged the enemy with M-79 grenade fire. At the first light, the "Regulars" swept the area of contact and found three dead Viet Cong.

Echo Recon of the battalion killed one Viet Cong on a small trail. Captured in the action were an AK-47 rifle, an automatic rifle, five fully loaded magazines, seven Chicom hand grenades, and two packs. The captured equipment was (Continued page 6) **The action wasn't so light for 82 enemy (Continued from page 1)** extracted to a nearby LZ.

In other action in the 198th Brigade's area of operations, H Troop, 17th Cavalry engaged a group of enemy soldiers. Upon sweeping the area of contact, they found a blood trail that led to a wounded enemy soldier. He was extracted to a Chu Lai hospital for treatment.

While escorting a combat assault west of Chu Lai, gunships from the 116th Aviation Company observed and killed four Viet Cong.

Flying over an area south of Chu Lai, a light observation helicopter from Delta Company, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, received small arms fire from one Viet Cong. The LOH returned fire and killed the enemy soldier.

8 rally in a day

By LT. Mark Tucker

CHU LAI, (198th Inf. Bde. IO) - The Psychological Operations Program (Psyops) of the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade, a proven savings program in terms of casualties for both sides, paid an extra dividend recently when eight Viet Cong soldiers turned themselves in to the government in a single day.

At least one of the returnees turned himself in as a result of a unique "live" helicopter broadcast made the day before by another former Viet Cong who had previously rallied. This was believed to be the first time in the Division area that a returnee had personally flown on a Psyops mission and made a "live" appeal to his former guerilla mates.

The eight ralliers, all former guerrillas in Binh Son District, turned themselves in to a Popular Forces outpost southeast of Chu Lai. All stated that the Psyops program of the 198th had influenced their decision to return to the government, according to 1st Lieutenant William Cain of Burlington, Vt., the Brigade civil affairs officer.

"We have been running an intensive Psyops program in that area for some time," said Lt. Cain. "We were particularly interested in appealing to the village guerrillas who set booby traps and attempt to harass the pacification projects. These eight all told us that because of our broadcasts and allied operations in the area, they had decided to rally."

Two days before the eight returned to the government, a lone Viet Cong turned himself into the Brigade's H Troop, 17th Cavalry, which was working in the area. The troop sent him to a nearby firebase where the former guerilla expressed his willingness to go up in the Psyops helicopter and make an appeal for his friends to rally.

The next day, the normal schedule of broadcasting messages in the Brigade area was suspended and the helicopter was utilized for the "live" message by the rallier.

"We normally use only taped messages in our broadcasting," the lieutenant said. "But this time the opportunity presented itself for us to make a direct "live" appeal. Our interpreter, the rallier and the civil affairs officer of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry got together and composed a short but effective message for the rallier to broadcast."

The next evening, the eight turned themselves in to the Popular Forces.

"Our Psyops program has been extremely effective this month," Lieutenant Cain said. "By employing this new twist of "live" messages, we hope we can have few more days of receiving eight ralliers in a single day."

Photo Caption: 1st Lieutenant William Cain, civil affairs officer of the 198th Infantry Brigade, watches as a rallier makes a broadcast from a chopper to induce his former comrades to rally. (U.S. Army Photo by 1LT Mark Tucker)

Rallier pays off

By SGT Louis Miller

LZ DOTTIE, (198th Inf. Bde. IO) - Infantrymen from the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade recently learned that the Government's "Chieu Hoi" program helps decrease enemy forces in two ways.

The most obvious way was evidenced when a rallier turned himself over to H Troop, 17th Cavalry, thus giving the Allies in the area one less guerilla to fight.

But the big payoff came with the rallier volunteered to lead another Brigade unit to a Viet Cong resting spot and helped decrease the VC population by two more.

After turning himself into H Troop, the rallier was extracted to a nearby firebase where he expressed interest in leading a U.S. patrol to a spot he felt several Viet Cong would be sleeping that night. The offer was taken and the rallier was taken to the field position of Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry.

"WE didn't know what to expect from him at first," said 1st Lieutenant Thomas W. Tardy of Winona, Miss., the platoon leader. "He told us he wanted to walk point even though he knew we wouldn't give him a weapon."

The Recon platoon moved towards a new laager position and waited for dark to begin their search for the VC resting spot. During the wait, the rallier pointed out possible booby-trapped areas on a map.

When it got dark enough, the unit moved out, with the rallier moving at the head of the column.

"As he walked, he checked every hedgerow for booty traps," said Lieutenant Tardy. "Finally, after about a thousand meters, he halted and motioned towards a pot next to a wooded area."

Through the interpreter, the rallier told the lieutenant that this was the enemy resting point.

"I had my men drop their packs and move on line," said Tardy. "We had been there only a few minutes when we spotted about three enemy soldiers crossing a rice paddy to our front and moving directly towards us."

The enemy soldiers walked right up to the infantrymen's positions and, thinking the members of Recon. were other Viet Cong, began to speak to them. A split second later, the enemy realized they were talking to the wrong people.

The infantrymen opened up and killed two in the brief firefight. Captured were one AK-50 rifle, an automatic rifle, and eight Chicom hand grenades.

"I'd like to work with that rallier again," said the lieutenant. "He really knew what he was doing."

'Brave and Bold' Describes the 198th

The 198th Infantry Brigade was formed in the Organized Reserves in Erie County, Pennsylvania, on June 24, 1921. The unit became an organic element of the 99th Infantry Division.

The unit was reorganized and redesignated as the 3rd Platoon of the 99th Cavalry Recon Troop, and on November 15, 1942 was ordered to active military service at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi.

During World War II, the troop fought with the 99th Infantry Division and received campaign credit for operations in the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. The troop was also cited by the Belgian Army for action at Elsenborn and in the Ardennes, and was awarded the Belgian Fourragere. The 99th Cavalry Recon Troop was inactivated on September 29, 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts, and assigned as a reserve component of the 99th Infantry Division.

On August 1, 1962, the 99th Cavalry Recon Troop was relieved from its assignment to the 99th Infantry Division and withdrawn from the Army Reserve. At the same time, the 3rd Platoon of the Troop was converted and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 198th Brigade, and allotted to the Regular Army. This, then was the unit which began training at Fort Hood in May 1967. During this training, jungle fighting techniques and air mobility were emphasized.

In October, 1967, the brigade shipped from Oakland, California, to Da Nang, Vietnam. After arriving in Da Nang, the "Brave and Bold" soldiers boarded troop ships for transportation to Chu Lai, where they arrived on October 22, 1967. Four days later they became a part of the reactivated Americal Division.

On March 18, 1969, the "Brave and the Bold" of the 198th Brigade and the 6th ARVN Regiment embarked upon Operation Geneva Park. The mission was to eliminate the enemy forces within the area of operation while stressing pacification and combined US/ARVN operations. This operation is still in progress.

The 198th Infantry Brigade presently consists of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry; the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry; the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry and H Troop, 17th Cavalry.

The brigade is presently situated in the central sector of the 23rd Infantry Division's area of operations and has its headquarters in Chu Lai.

H/17th: 'Hell On Wheels'

On May 10, 1967, the Department of Defense announced: "A new infantry brigade will be sent to Vietnam." The new unit, the 198th Infantry Brigade, was formed from units of the 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions, Fort Hood, Texas. Of these units from "Hell on Wheels" and "Old Ironsides"., Troop H, 17th Cavalry was one.

On October 22, 1967, Military Sea Transports brought the 198th and Troop H to Da Nang. Upon arrival, the troops and equipment boarded troop ships and headed for Chu Lai.

Troop H, 17th Cavalry is presently assigned to the 198th Infantry Brigade and operates in the Brigade's area of operation. The troop performs its mission with the goal of finding the enemy and defeating him wherever he is found.

Its success has been proven in its outstanding record of accomplishments while serving with the 23rd Infantry (Americal).

Division in light action

By SP4 Steven Elschlager

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO)

- Two weeks ago soldiers in the 23rd Infantry Division saw light action as 84 enemy soldiers were killed with several suspects detained. This week 74 enemy soldiers were killed in the Americal AO with the 11th Brigade witnessing most of the heavy action.

IRON MOUNTAIN

Action in the 11th Brigade two weeks ago was the scene of the heaviest fighting in months as the "Jungle Warriors" along with the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for 48 enemy kills. There was moderate action in the 11th Brigade area of operation this past week as the "Jungle Warriors" along with the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for the deaths of 42 enemy soldiers.

The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry was credited with 12 enemy kills as elements of Delta Company, patrolling the lowlands northeast of Mo Duc, detected an enemy soldier evading towards a shelter of a grove. The VC was killed as he was engaged with small arms fire. Delta Company later made contact in the same area as they engaged five VC resulting in one VC kill. Again, Delta Company was credited with six kills as they discovered six grave sites in an area northeast of Mo Duc. They were believed killed during contact two days before. The remaining four enemy deaths were also made by Delta Company as they engaged an unknown sized enemy force in the lowlands northeast of Mo Duc.

The 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry accounted for five enemy kills as Alpha Company, operating in the foothills west of Sa Hug Nh, engaged the five soldiers with small arms fire at 200 meters.

Bravo Company 123rd Aviation Battalion, accounted for the deaths of 21 North Vietnamese soldiers. The kills were recorded during several incidents in an area west of Minh Long.

This week the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry were credited with three Viet Cong kills as Alpha Company, working in an area west of Sa Huy Nh, detected movement near their position. The infantrymen engaged the suspected enemy area resulting in two Viet Cong deaths. Moments later, they engaged five Viet Cong with small arms fire, killing one VC.

The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry accounted for two Viet Cong deaths in the lowlands north of Mo Duc.

Bravo Company of the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for 37 kills this past week as a ship flying over an area west of Minh Long spotted and engaged one enemy soldier, killing him. The aviators also found and destroyed five huts. Flying over the lowlands north of Mo Duc, a ship observed and engaged 10-15 enemy soldiers, killing two. In the same area, a LOH received enemy fire. Returning the fire, the aviators killed three VC. Later in the same area, elements of Bravo Company engaged the enemy again, and killed 17 enemy, captured two wounded NVA, and picked up a Chieu Hoi. Bravo Company, working in the lowlands north of Mo Duc, engaged an unknown sized enemy force, killing 14 and capturing three.

(Continued)

Division in light action

By SP4 Steven Elschlager

HAWK HILL

Twelve enemy soldiers were killed and two large caches were found two weeks ago in the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operation.

Reconnaissance, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while in an observation post west of Tam Ky, observed four Viet Cong to their front. The VC engaged the "Gimlets" with small arms fire. The Recon element returned fire and killed two VC.

While on patrol Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry came upon a structure containing two VC, both were detained. Upon continuing the patrol engaged and killed on VC with small arms fire. During the action the two detainees attempted to seize one of the "Gimlets" weapons and escape. They were engaged with small arms fire, killing both.

Also this week Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, found approximately 150 weapons in good condition while on a search and clear mission southwest of Tam Ky. (Continued page 6)

Action increased during week

(Continued from page 1)

In action this week the 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers killed 23 enemy soldiers in their area of operations.

While on patrol west of Tam Ky early this week, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, engaged an unknown size enemy force. The "Gimlets" killed one NVA and wounded another.

Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while checking their night defensive perimeter west of Tam Ky engaged two NVA with small arms fire. They killed one while the others evaded southeast.

While in the day defensive position later this week, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, engaged two NVA with small arms fire. Both NVA were killed and two AK-47 rifles, two rucksacks, two ponchos and miscellaneous medical supplies were captured in the action.

GENEVA PARK

Contact with small enemy units increased two weeks ago for the infantrymen from the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade as the Brave and Bold" killed 24 enemy soldiers in numerous engagements in Operation Geneva Park.

The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, saw the heaviest action during the week as the "Ready Rifles" killed 10 enemy soldiers in scattered engagements and captured several enemy weapons south of Chu Lai.

The "Professionals" of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, killed three enemy soldiers and destroyed several military structures northwest of Chu Lai.

(Continued)

Division in light action

By SP4 Steven Elschlager

In other action in the 198th Brigade's area of operation, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, killed a Viet Cong when the enemy soldier neared their night laager position southeast of Chu Lai.

Gunships from Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, observed small campfires and a military structure northwest of Chu Lai. The gunships engaged the targets and destroyed the military structure and killed three Viet Cong.

Action was light in the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade as infantrymen killed nine enemy soldiers in Operation Geneva Par. Several Viet Cong suspects were detained during the week, and several weapons were confiscated.

The "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, killed five Viet Cong in scattered engagements southeast of Chu Lai.

The "Ready Rifles of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, killed three enemy soldiers and detained eight Viet Cong suspects south of Chu Lai.

Over an area south of Chu Lai, a command and control helicopter from the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, engaged a Viet Cong as he evaded toward a tree line. The enemy soldier was wounded in the action and extracted to a Chu Lai hospital for further treatment.

In other action in the 198th Brigade's area of operation, H Troop, 17th Cavalry engaged a group of Viet Cong soldiers. The cavalrymen killed one enemy and captured an AK-47 rifle, an automatic weapon, and two Chicom hand grenades.

An artillery observer from the 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery, flying over an area southeast of Chu Lai, directed an artillery strike on a suspected mine field and bunker complex. Ten bunkers were destroyed and the aerial observer reported 25 secondary explosions.

**Change of command
for 198th's 14[17]th Cav**

By SP4 Thomas Boehler

CHU LAI (198th Inf. Bde. IO) --- Captain F. Cherrie assumed command of H Troop, 17th Cavalry of the 23rd Infantry Division's 198th Infantry Brigade recently replacing Captain Paul R. Davis, who moves to a new job with the Division's 11th Infantry Brigade Headquarters.

Cherrie (Millville, N.J.) joins H Troop after serving at Bad Hersfeld, Germany, where he was the commanding officer of I Troop, 3rd Battalion, 14th Cavalry. On a previous tour in Vietnam Cherrie served as a platoon leader of an armed helicopter platoon.

While serving as H Troop commander, Davis (Jackson, Mich.) received a Purple Heart and two Silver Stars. Operating along QL 9 near the Laotian border where H Troop was keeping the highway open for traffic, Davis' armored personnel carrier was hit by a rocket propelled grenade, wounding him in the arm.

He refused medical attention and led his men in two counterattacks in which the enemy was defeated and suffered heavy losses. For his actions Davis was awarded two Silver Stars.

In his farewell speech Davis cited the outstanding work done by the men of H Troop. He also thanked the cavalrymen for their excellent recent mission against enemy in the northern sector of South Vietnam.

Cherrie praised the spirit of the outgoing commander and men of H Troop. He also pledged his total support to continuing H Troop's success.

Present at the ceremony was Major Frederick I. Wilmoth (Harrisburg, Ill.). Wilmoth is commander of Task Force 23rd Cavalry, (Provisional).

Daily wrapup

'Jungle Warriors' kill seven enemy

Tuesday June 8

H Troop 17th Cavalry of Task Force 23 found and destroyed a row of punji stakes 150 meters long while working east of Mo Duc. They also found and destroyed one punji pit six feet square.

While working northeast of Mo Duc later in the same day, H Troop found a can filled with various military supplies. Later they found and destroyed one bunker while working east of Mo Duc.

Elements of the 11th Brigade collected 18 mortar rounds, one recoilless rifle round and one boobytrap from Vietnamese civilians along QL-1 under the VIP program.

Wednesday June 9

Charlie Company 1/20th Infantry had a mechanical ambush detonate while in their night defensive position northwest of Duc Pho. They checked the area and found one VC soldier killed in the action and they captured one rucksack.

The recon element of 1/20, while on patrol northwest of Nghia Hanh, spotted two VC soldiers walking toward them on the same trail they were on. They engaged the enemy soldiers with small arms fire, killing both VC soldiers and capturing one AK-47.

H Troop, 17th Cavalry found and destroyed one bunker while patrolling northeast of Mo Duc. Continuing to patrol near the same area, they found four NVA ponchos.

Later, H Troop also found five plastic tubes sticking up out of the ground. They thought them to be air vents for an underground bunker. Checking they found and destroyed one underground bunker.

While working with a Popular Forces Company, H Troop detained two females and one male with no identifications. Inside a hootch they found a trip wire and several smoke grenade cans filled with stones. The detainees were taken to Mo Duc.

Continuing to work near the same area, they found and destroyed four bunkers, three spider holes and one hootch.

Bravo Company, 26th Engineers, while working west of Quang Ngai found and destroyed a tunnel containing one 60mm mortar round.

Elements of the 11th Brigade collected from Vietnamese civilians eight mortar rounds along QL-1, under the VIP program.

Thursday, June 10

While flying a helicopter east of Mo Duc, a member of H Troop, 17th Cav spotted one military age male evade into a bunker. A patrol was sent to check the area and they destroyed the bunker. There were no signs of any personnel in the area. H Troop later found and destroyed another bunker in the same area.

While patrolling with an Regional Forces Company, H Troop found and destroyed four bunkers. Inside one bunker they found 200 pounds of rice and 15 pounds of clothing.

Alpha Company, 1/20 Infantry, while patrolling northwest of Mo Duc, found and destroyed a boobytrapped can of petna with a pressure release firing device.

Elements of the 11th Brigade collected 13 mortar rounds and one 40mm round from Vietnamese civilians along QL-1 south of Duc Pho under the VIP program.

(Continued)

(Continued)

Daily wrapup

Friday, 11 June

Bravo Company, 123rd Aviation Battalion, while on a Visual Reconnaissance (VR) west of Ba To, engaged and killed three NVA soldiers with weapons.

H Troop, 17th Cavalry, while working southeast of Mo Duc, found an ammo can filled with miscellaneous military equipment. Continuing to patrol, they found and destroyed two punji pits, one pit contained a can of petna. Following a trail leading from the punji pits they found a bunker. Inside the bunker, they found two black outfits, miscellaneous - clothing, rice bowls and 2 1/2 pounds of petna. All items were destroyed.

Continuing to patrol, H Troop found and destroyed one bunker, 30 pounds of rice, one B-40 rocket, 16 rounds of AK-47 ammo and one 105 round.

E Troop, 1st Cavalry patrolling northwest of Mo Duc, found and destroyed one bunker containing boobytrap equipment and cooking utensils.

Continuing to patrol, they found and destroyed three more bunkers, a can of petna with trip wire firing device and two 2.75 inch rockets. E Troop also found 300 pounds of unpolished rice. The rice was evacuated to Mo Duc.

Alpha Company, 1/20 Infantry found and destroyed a booby trapped 60mm round while in a base camp west of Mo Duc.

The 75th Rangers while patrolling west of Duc Pho, sighted 15 enemy moving southwest of their position. They engaged the enemy and killed two NVA soldiers.

Saturday, June 12

The 75th Rangers, working northwest of Duc Pho, found various medical supplies, eight NVA ponchos, eight NVA pistol belts, five rockets, 300 pounds of rice, 500 AK-47 rounds, two AK magazines, one gas mask, some civilian clothing and twenty hammocks. All items were extracted to a nearby Landing Zone.

Alpha Company, 1/20 Infantry found and destroyed two booby-traps made from 60mm mortars while working west of Mo Duc. the booby-traps had pressure release firing devices.

Echo Troop, 1st Cavalry, while patrolling northwest of Mo Duc, found and destroyed one spider hole while on patrol west of Mo Duc.

Elements of the 11th Brigade collected one mortar round and one 40mm round from Vietnamese civilians along QL-1 south of Duc Pho under the VIP program.

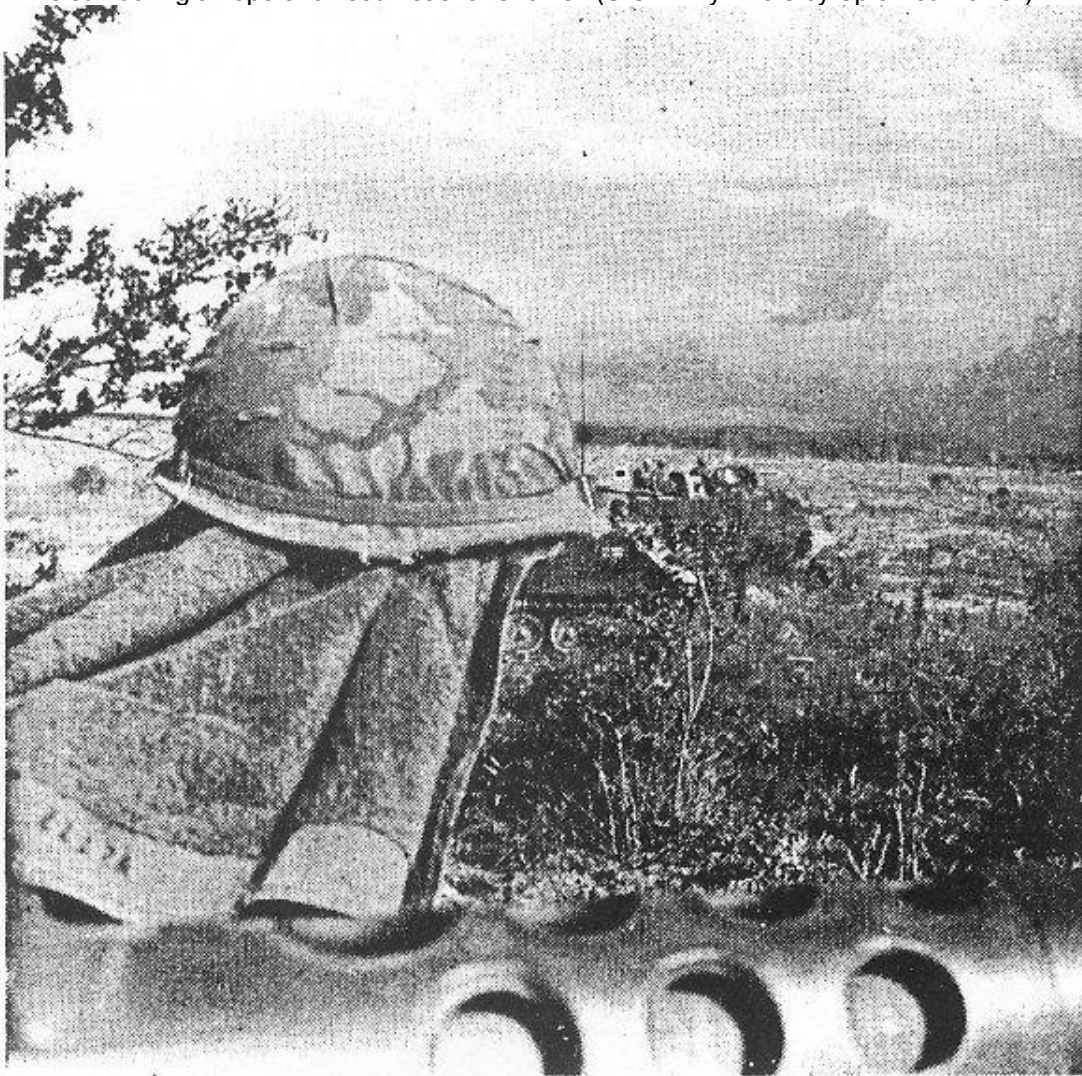
Photo Captions:

1- This Sheridan tank of H Troop, 17th Cavalry stands guard as part of their night defensive perimeter (NDP) 40 miles southeast of Chu Lai. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/5 Ted Powell)



This Sheridan tank of H Troop, 17th Cavalry stands guard as part of their night defensive perimeter (NDP) 40 miles southeast of Chu Lai. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/5 Ted Powell)

2- Using a hand towel plus his helmet, this trooper of H Troop 17th Cavalry tries to protect himself from the sun during an operation southeast of Chu Lai. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/5 Ted Powell)



Using a hand towel plus his helmet, this trooper of H Troop 17th Cavalry tries to protect himself from the sun during an operation southeast of Chu Lai. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/5 Ted Powell)

Cav harasses enemy near Mo Duc

By CPT John J. Hollingsworth

CHU LAI, (11th Brigade IO) - Around the beginning of May a new unit joined the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade and since that time Task Force 23rd Cavalry (Provisional) has harassed the enemy in an area known as the Gaza Strip east of Mo Duc.

The special Cavalry task force consists of two of the original Cavalry troops that came to Vietnam with each of the Americal's Brigades. Echo Troop, 1st Cavalry commanded by Captain James L. Wilson (Kansas City, Kan.) and Hotel Troop, 17th Cavalry commanded by Captain Randall F. Jarmon (Ithaca, N.Y.) comprise the special cavalry task force now operating with the 11th Brigade.

"I think the success is significant, but perhaps difficult to measure concretely," Major Frederick L. Wilmoth, (Harrisburg, Ill.) commanding officer of Task Force 23rd Cavalry, commented.

We have had some good initial successes and we have interdicted a great deal of enemy movement in the area. Echo Troop for example has discovered numerous small arms caches, has captured six of the enemy and has found approximately 20 tons of rice.

H Troop while working with a Popular Forces (PF) element killed two enemy and captured four. Hotel Troop has also collected a substantial amount of munitions under the Volunteer Informant Program, Wilmoth added.

Major Wilmoth attributes the large munitions collection to two things: first, the area Hotel Troop was working in had a lot of munitions around and second Sergeant First Class Longland (Hamburg, West Germany) organized the children in the area and got them in the spirit of turning in the munitions.

Since its forming the task force has been on combined operations with Regional Forces (RF), PF and U.S. Infantry forces. Operations with the 11th Brigade have primarily been with RF and PF elements.

The Cavalry-Infantry team compliments one another very well. The RF and PF like our fire power which gets them into areas they have never worked before, Wilmoth said.

"We like the added infantry protection they provide in heavy bush, plus the capability they add to the team to thoroughly search bunkers, brush lines, villages and tunnel complexes.

"We prefer American Cavalry men to fight mounted where we can maximize our fire power and mobility. Realistically speaking, in the Gaza Strip there is little opportunity to fight this way. The area is trafficable, there are several choke points and access into the strip is limited because we take extreme care not to damage rice fields. This, of course limits our rapid mobility, but in the long run it is a good policy because it doesn't make enemies out of the people.

"We must as the Infantry, ambush, search and clear and engage in and conduct dismounted sweeps. To say cavalry troopers are fond of dismounted actions would probably be incorrect," he added.

Wilmoth thinks it is significant that since the first of the year both Echo and Hotel Troops have operated extensively in three of the four most heavily mined and boobytrapped areas in Military Region 1. He added, "Our combat vehicles have belly armor for added protection against mines."

Mines, boobytraps and rice paddies are a hinderance to the Cavalry Troops, but their record speaks for itself. They have denied the enemy his food and they have captured his weapons-the cavalry is doing its job.

Photo Caption - MOVING SYMBOL – Stacks and stacks of crates and crates are piled high with the equipment and supplies of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) ready to be moved. Crates such as these have become an increasingly familiar sight to men of the Americal, many of whom have been packing their bags in recent weeks to be transferred to other units or to go home. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Final division standdown scheduled at Ft. Lewis

By MSG Bill Pickett

CHU LAI (Special) – The actual standdown of the 23d Infantry Division will not be accomplished until the last days of this month when the division command group will accompany the colors to Ft. Lewis, Wash., for the official deactivation of the unit and the retirement of the colors.

That action will bring to a close an enormous redeployment task which began in earnest with the announcement of the standdown of the 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery and the 71st Assault Helicopter Company on Sept. 8.

Planning for the entire operation began much earlier under the supervision of the Keystone Operations Center, whose personnel were responsible for the coordination and scheduling of all standdown activities.

A personnel out-processing center was established adjacent to the Chu Lai Airfield, and this operation, although deterred one day when Typhoon Hester leveled the center, averaged 200 persons per day through its doors, destined for reassignment in-country or return to CONUS for further assignment or ETS.

Also in September, units of the 23d Medical Battalion, and maintenance and engineer companies began standdown, many utilizing the facilities of the Division Combat Center or the former 27th Surgical Hospital area through which most of the division members would pass during their standdown period. These locations were provided [to] exchange and club facilities to serve Americal soldiers during their standdown.

On Sept. 17, H Troop, 17th Cavalry began its standdown, and during October most maneuver elements of the division also began their standdown operations.

It was during this period that Task Force Americal began to take shape under the command of Colonel Robert J. Malloy, former DISCOM commander. Mission of Task Force Americal (TFA) was to prevent the enemy from establishing bases from **(continued on page 2)**

(continued from page 1)

Official standdown slated at Ft. Lewis

which to rocket Chu Lai Combat Base and to keep the enemy from massing troops for attack.

Major units standing down during October included 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry and 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry on Oct. 5, and 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry and the 123d Assault Support Helicopter Company [Note this must be an error. 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company (Hercules) may have been the correct unit.] Oct 7.

The 11th Brigade and its 1st Battalion, 52d Infantry began standdown on Oct. 10. Two aviation battalions, the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion and 123d Aviation Battalion, went into standdown on Oct. 14.

Between Oct. 15 and 18, the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry; 174th Assault Helicopter Company and 23d Medical Battalion, minus, commenced standdown.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 198th Infantry Brigade began standdown Oct. 19, followed on Oct. 22 by 23d Administrative Company and on Oct. 23 by the 16th Combat Aviation Group.

Between Oct. 24 and 30, those units of Division Artillery which had not begun standdown were returned to rear areas to begin processing and on Oct 30, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of Division Artillery closed out its mission as it received standdown instructions.

The 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry--which had been replaced in the mountains west of Chu Lai by the 3d Battalion, 21st infantry maneuver element to commence standdown. When it was ordered to the rear on the last day of October.

Division support units, including the 23d Supply and Transportation Battalion, 26th Engineer Battalion, 723d Maintenance Battalion and Division Support Command began standdown during the first week in November.

Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company was the final unit to conduct standdown activities, and as the colors are escorted to CONUS last this month, only the 196th Infantry Brigade, under the command of Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough, remains.

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20Jan68-NCO Battles with Boots Off

Hot Brass, and a Dance Is Born

CHU LAI, Vietnam (IO) - Californians are noted for starting the latest dance crazes, but one West Coast soldier in Vietnam has invented a step that not even his fellow Californians could follow.

It's called dancing barefoot on a pile of hot ammo shell casings while 200 NVA and VC charge your position."

Actually S. Sgt. Allen C. Woods of Paso Robles, Calif., of the 198th Light Inf. Brigade's H Troop, 17th Cav., didn't want to invent the dance. It just came about.

"I had my boots off trying to dry out my feet and socks when they hit us," Woods said: "While I was shooting the hot brass from the machineguns fell on the floor of my track."

In the early morning two-hour battle in the Americal Div. area that left 31 of the enemy dead, Woods never did get a chance to get his boots back on.

The attack came at 2 a.m. on the Ly Tin District Headquarters two miles north of Chu Lai along Highway One in Quang Tin Province. Cavalryman Woods was supporting 100 Vietnamese Regular and Popular Force soldiers with 10 men and two armored personnel carriers named "Hellcats" for their firepower.

"When they hit all we had time to do was move into position and let 'em have it with everything we had." Woods said. "It was nip and tuck those first 15 minutes."

In the middle of the battle two enemy 57mm recoilless rifle rounds pierced Woods Hellcat. The first round wounded three of his men.

But the bootless cavalryman kept right on fighting. He spotted the enemy rifle crew and cut them down with a burst of fire from the 50-cal. and two M-60 machine guns.

Finally the enemy withdrew and Woods had time to pull his boots back on. "Those empty shell cases were sure hot on my bare feet," he said. "I don't think I ever want to do that dance again."

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14May68-**Score 14 Kills**

Hellcats Claw VC at Bridge

CHU LAI, Vietnam (IO)-It was almost dark when Armored Personnel Carrier Hellcat 22 moved into position on the Binh Son Bridge.

Most of the people in the village at the south end of the long bridge were in their homes clustered around small oil lamps.

Spec. 4 Cecil A. Smith of Scottsburg, Ind., driver of the Hellcat, noticed that there were fewer people than usual in the streets. He had already spent seven nights guarding this vital link along Highway 1.

He thought his eighth night would probably be the same: block, guard and watch throughout the night. But he was soon to change his mind.

Hellcat 22, a part of the 198th Light Inf., Brigade's Troop H, 17th Cav., was operating in the Americal Div. area in southern I Corps.

A few minutes past 1 a.m., grenades and mortars exploded around the tracks. Small arms and automatic weapons fire opened up on the tracks.

"It all happened so fast," said Smith. "One minute it was quiet and the next thing I new we opened up with all we had."

Shortly after the firing began, Smith's track commander fell wounded in front of him. "He tried to make it back to where I was," said Smith, "but fell. I ran out and carried him back to the track: got him into it, closed the ramp and jumped up to take over the .50 caliber."

Smith was second in command at the time. There were only seven cavalrymen left facing elements of six Viet Cong companies.

"Suddenly I realized that I was in command of the track. I checked commo with (Hellcat 23 and then we gave it all we had. It was our first real fight. Everyone knew his job and knew how to get it done," said Smith.

The battle kept up for five hours, its intensity rising and falling with Viet Cong determination to destroy the bridge. Smith's track took a direct hit from an enemy 57mm recoilless rifle. Toward morning the firing dwindled and the Viet Cong withdrew.

Hellcats 22 and 23 were credited with 14 kills. "There was no doubt about those .50 caliber kills", said Smith. The Hellcat team had three wounded.

The sun finally came up and with it Hellcat 22 moved out to check the area for enemy bodies and enemy equipment.

"I guess eight is our lucky number," said Smith, after seven nights of waiting.

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United States. 02Feb69- **When Red Baron Sees Red - ZAP!**

CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special) - The Red Baron was mad. His voice jumped from the radio with cold fury.

"He doesn't talk like that very often", said the colonel's driver, listening at headquarters of the 26th Combat Engineer Bn. Only two minutes before, Lt. Col. Mathew W. Hoey and his chopper crew had been taking a break from a morning of flying over the engineer work parties of B Co.

Now they were airborne, charging toward the mine sweep team that had called for "dustoff," the emergency medical evacuation helicopter.

The radio crackled with terse messages alerting them to the destruction that lay ahead.

"The roller has been blown up, the driver and the operator were hurt pretty bad," said the platoon leader. "Dustoff's already gone. Looks like a CD (command detonated mine)."

"Roger, We'll try to find who did it. Get your tracks on the defense and we'll work over the area.

With that, now seven minutes from a cup of coffee, the Red Baron (as Hoey was dubbed by his men) began a swooping flight at treetop level. He was looking for the position from which the VC had just blown up the special armored personnel carrier (APC) rigged with a mine detection roller.

"That bunker at 9 o'clock," barked the colonel.

With only the briefest of directions, the pilot whipped the chopper left and right, up and down, to give Hoey the best chance of dropping white phosphorous grenades into jungle grown bunkers, trenchlines or ruined huts where a hidden enemy might be lurking.

With each toss the anger ebbed. The billowing smoke marked targets for the

soldiers on the ground. With each pass, the door gunners strained against their safety straps, leaning into space to spray tracers from above. For 10 minutes lethal fire hosed over the battle area.

"Okay, that's enough. Lets go downstairs."

For the moment combat was over. Action had lowered the intensity of emotions.

"You'll have to stay here until we can retrieve the wreck. They want to evaluate it," Hoey told the officer standing beside the hulk. With that 1st Lt. Mathias J. Kasper issued instruction and Sgt. 1C Edward Robinson had his men and the ACAV's (armored personnel carrier with .50 caliber machine guns) from H Troop, 17th Cav., circle and dig in. This was VC country, and the wagon circle was as effective now as it was in the Indian wars.

B Co. and supporting elements were spread in three areas along the jungle road. Their mission had been to build a road and get the heavy self-propelled cannons of A Btry., 3d Bn., 18th Arty., into Tra Bong. This they had done. A "road" inched along the Tra Bong river. But most of the 17.3 miles from Binh Son to the CIDG camp at Tra Bong was a cow path. Years of war and disuse had allowed the jungle to creep back. The VC mined what was usable.

Three bypasses, two dry span bridges and 1 1/2 miles of pioneer road along with the ever-present mine sweep had been needed.

"We flew airmobile heavy equipment into Tra Bong and started from both ends," commented the colonel. "We were two-thirds of the way by the end of the first day. Then the rain started (13 inches in 24 hours) and really hurt. It took two days to go that last third of the way.

The return trip was worse.

"There isn't any road!" was one soldier's remark.

Now the job was to get themselves back to Highway 1 at Binh Son, and then home. The Combat Engineer Vehicles (CEV) presented a real-challenge in the deep mud. Each of these monsters weighs 60 tons but they are essential to area clearance, ammunition off-loading and augmenting fire power.

The tropical torrent washed out or weakened the road, erasing the previous work. A CEV bogged in the mud when a section built on a paddy dike collapsed. This halted the second party. Landing strip planking was being used at a third stretch of the road so the huge cargo truck, called a "Goer," could go.

Marauding VC also plagued the column. Before they got to their base at LZ Bayonet, three soldiers would be killed and 21 wounded. Seven of the wounded were from H Troop 17 Cav.; the others were from B,C,D, and E companies, 26th Engineer Bn. Sporadic mortar, rocket and sniper fire harassed them every day.

"Those guys are tops," reflected LTC Hoey. "In spite of the mud, rain, floods, washouts, mechanical breakdowns, mines, rockets - you name it, they've been on the receiving end - they can still laugh. I was kidding Lt. John C. Platt about the CEV being buried, and he was still able to grin. The units supporting us have also been outstanding, particularly H Troop, 17th Cav. and the 123rd Aviation Bn.

The Americal Div.'s 26th Engineers again earned the combat in the "combat engineer" title on the road to Tra Bong.

Press Release
No. 198-60-67
Dec 17, 1967

Information Office
198th Light Infantry Brigade
APO San Francisco 96219

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(CHU LAI, VIETNAM - IO) SSG Wilbert R. Bandy (Alloy, W. Va.) has become the first 198th Light Infantry Brigade soldier to be awarded the Silver Star in Vietnam.

Bandy, a section leader with the 198th's Troop H, distinguished himself during a battle for the Binh Son Bridge in the Americal Division's area of operations.

Early in the morning on December 3rd, a Viet Cong force, estimated to be a company or larger, attacked the bridge in conjunction with an attack by six Viet Cong companies at the Binh Son District Headquarters.

SSG Bandy ordered his track section, consisting of two Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles to engage the enemy. Almost immediately three of the crewmen were injured by small arms fire and a 57mm recoilless rifle round.

SSG Bandy noted the direction and location of the enemy advance and called artillery on the area. He continued to adjust the artillery while under heavy enemy small arms, mortar and recoilless rifle fire. In addition, numerous times he was forced to run while under fire between vehicles to control fires and avoid tying up the radio network.

By the next morning the men on the two APC's had killed 14 Viet Cong.

Major General S. W. Koster, Americal Division commanding general, presented the award to Bandy three days after the battle.

Press Release
No. 198-38-67
Dec 17, 1967

Information Office
198th Light Infantry Brigade
APO San Francisco 96219

by 2LT Stephen L. Meehan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

(CHU LAI, VIETNAM - IO) There were 10 of them to start with. Three were wounded by the Viet Cong and then there were seven - a "Magnificent Seven".

In front of them lay an overrun Binh Son and elements of six hard core Viet Cong companies.

Neither Yul Brynner, John Wayne nor Lee Marvin was in charge - just Staff Sergeant Wilbert R. Bandy, a cavalryman from Montgomery, West Virginia, who had traded a hoss and Winchester '73 for a Hellcat and a triple pair of machineguns.

In five hours, Bandy a member of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade's H Troop, and his seven men killed 14 Viet Cong and kept the bridge they were guarding untouched.

Earlier in the night, section leader Bandy positioned his two Hellcat Armored Personnel Carriers in defense of the Binh Son Brigade - a vital steel link across the Song Tra Bong River on Highway One in northern Quang Ngai Province.

Bandy and his men were supporting a small group of Popular Forces when the six VC companies hit the Binh Son District Headquarters and drove through the village toward the bridge in the Americal Division area.

The enemy opened up with a barrage of small arms and mortar fire that rattled Bandy's APC. "When I heard the fire I knew this was going to be it," he said

-- more --

Press Release No. 198-38-67
MAGNIFICENT SEVEN Add 1-1-1-1

"I told my men to get on their tracks and start throwing lead," Bandy said. Within two or three minutes the two tracks were peppering the enemy with two 50 calibers, four M 60 machineguns, two M 79 grenade launchers and M-16 rifles.

Within the next hour two men, including the track commander, in the accompanying Hellcat were wounded by machinegun fire. Another man was injured when a 57 mm recoilless rifle round smashed through the same APC.

Throughout the night Bandy called in artillery and directed the fire of his machine gunners. Numerous times he was forced to run the 30 meters between the two Hellcats to check the situation and avoid tying up the radio.

Once the Viet Cong, firing from three directions, moved within 75 meters, but the seven cavalymen held, and the enemy was driven back.

As daylight came at the battle for the Binh Son Bridge, 14 bodies were found within range of the two APCs' weapons. Seven more were killed by artillery fire.

The enemy had been repelled. The bridge was untouched. The Magnificent Seven returned to their base camp.

Press Release
No. 198-52-67
13 December 1967

Information Office
198th Light Infantry Brigade
APO San Francisco 96219

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REASOR'S RAIDERS
by 2Lt Stephen L. Meehan

(CHU LAI, VIETNAM - IO) On December 2nd, Captain Walter E. Reasor (Berkley Heights, N.J.) went to the 198th Light Infantry Brigade staff meeting. He listened to the usual reports of infantry battalions' kills, then returned silently to his office with General George Patton's picture hanging slightly crooked.

But the next day Capt. Reasor came to the meeting with a smile and when he left he was still talking about - like everyone else in the infantry brigade - the cavalry.

Reasor, the 198th Light Infantry Brigade's H Troop commander had 14 kills to report at the briefing. It was the largest single day kill total by one Brigade unit since the 198th's arrival in Vietnam.

Until December 3rd the question has been, as usual when cavalry is mentioned, just how effective is it. Are the Armored Personnel Carriers just glorified road runners? Reasor knew better. He had already nicknamed the road runners Hellcats.

And Hellcats they were in the early morning of December 3rd when two of them held off elements of six Viet Cong companies from blowing up an important bridge along Vietnam's Highway One in the Americal Division's area of operations.

Until that time the Hellcats had seen little action. They cordoned off areas for searches, escorted convoys, made independent search and clear operations. "Things are never much of a lull around here," Reasor said. "As the battalions become more experienced they think of additional ways to use us."

-- more --

But the basic mission of Cavalry is to fight the Viet Cong. The problem was, and still is, finding Charlie (Viet Cong). The night of the 14 kills the Hellcats were in a defensive position. I find that Charlie has a reluctance to stay in our area, Reasor said. "He gives the 50's (machineguns) as wide a berth as he possibly can."

Thus, it's because of the tremendous firepower of the APC's, one 50 caliber and two M-60 machineguns, one M-79 grenade launcher and one M-16 rifle, that contacts are few and far between.

It was that same firepower, however, that did the job on December 3rd. "I think that battle demonstrates quite graphically the kill potential of the cavalry in Vietnam," Reasor said.

His men, members of Reasor's Raiders, had used the firepower to its greatest effectiveness. Only seven men, three had been injured at the beginning of the battle, were left to fight the oncoming Viet Cong. SSG Wilbert Bandy (Montgomery, W. Va.) section leader for the two Hellcats became the first man in the Brigade to be awarded the Silver Star as a result of his actions that night.

The next afternoon while SSG Bandy was giving his after action report, Reasor called into his first sergeant, "Hey, how about straightening up the picture of Old George (Patton), he's hanging a little crooked."

Press Release
No. 198-404-0?
Dec. 5, 1967

Information Office
198th Light Infantry Brigade
APO San Francisco 96219

By SP5 Jack L. Lutes THE 8TH TIME

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(CHU LAI, VIETNAM - IO) It was almost dark when Armored Personnel Carrier "Hellcat" 22 moved into position on the Binh Son Bridge.

Most of the people in the village at the south end of the long bridge were already gathered in their homes, silhouetted groups clustered around small oil lamps. The track rumbled across the steel bridge. Beneath, the Song Tra Bong River slipped quietly by in the coming night.

Specialist Fourth Class Cecil A. Smith (Scottsburg, Indiana), driver of the Hellcat, noticed that there were fewer people than usual in the streets. He had already spent a scattered seven nights guarding this vital link along Highway One. He thought that this, his eighth night, would probably be much of the same: block, guard and watch throughout the night.

He was soon to change his mind.

Hellcat 22, a part of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade's Troop H, 17th Cavalry, was operating in the Americal Division area in Southern I Corps. It set up for the night 40 meters from its sister track, Hellcat 23. The five-man crew established their guard roster and the wait began. It was seven p.m.

A few minutes past one in the morning, grenades and mortars exploded around the tracks, breaking the silence of the night. Small arms and automatic weapons fire opened up on the tracks.

"It all happened so fast," said Smith, "one minute it was quiet and the next thing I know we opened up with all we had."

Shortly after the firing began, Smith's track commander fell wounded to the ground in front of him. "He tried to make it back to where I was," said Smith, "but fell. I ran out and carried him back to the track; got him into it, closed the ramp and jumped to take over the .50 Caliber."

Smith was second in command at the time. There were only seven cavalymen left facing elements of six Viet Cong companies.

"Suddenly I realized that I was in command of the track. I checked commo with (Hellcat) 23 and then we gave it all we had. It was our first real fight. Everyone knew his job and knew how to get it done," said Smith.

Press Release No. 198-40-0?
THE 8th TIME

The battle kept up for five hours; its intensity rising and falling with Viet Cong determination to destroy the bridge. Smith's track took a direct hit from an enemy 57 mm Recoiless Rifle. Toward morning the firing dwindled and the Viet Cong withdrew.

Hellcats 22 and 23 were credited with 14 kills. "There was no doubt about those .50 Caliber kills", said Smith. The Hellcat team had three wounded.

The sun finally came up and with it Hellcat 22 moved out to check the area for enemy bodies and enemy equipment.

After seven nights of waiting: "I guess eight is our lucky number," said Smith.

The more enlightened of the Viet Cong in the vicinity of the Binh Son Bridge will give the Hellcats a wide berth. They know now, if they didn't before, that a Hellcat can explode with fight and fury at anytime.

Press Release
No. 198-36-37
Dec. 5, 1967

Information Office
198th Light Infantry Brigade
APO San Francisco 96219

By 2Lt. Stephen L. Meehan

Volume 1 No. 331 Americal Daily New Sheet Saturday March 16, 1968

"H" Troop, 17th Cavalry on a search and clear mission northwest of Chu Lai discovered a 90 meter long tunnel which had been used recently. The tunnel along with eight caves, discovered in the same area, were destroyed. Later in the day the cavalrymen came upon an enemy bivouac site and also uncovered one 105mm round at the site.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAVY SLEEPER

(CHU LAI, VIETNAM - IO) Some people are heavy sleepers. Others are deep sleepers.

But Phillip W. Johnson (Wellston, Okla.) is the soundest sleeper of all—for a while not even a war woke him up.

Johnson, a machinegunner with the 198th Infantry Brigade's H Troop, had just come off guard. The Cavalry section was protecting the Binh Son Bridge in the Americal Division's area of operations.

Ten minutes after Johnson plopped down on his cot outside his Hellcat Armored Personnel Carrier (APC), enemy machinegun bullets sprayed the air above him.

SP4 Larry Fox (Shelocta, Pa.) yelled, "Johnson get up we're being attacked." Johnson didn't move. After a few more rounds he woke up and slowly started to fold up his cot.

Then the great awakener, a grenade landed, close enough to Johnson that the sand from the explosion slammed against the back of his legs.

Johnson woke up.

He threw his cot in the APC, jumped behind his M-60 machinegun and started firing.

- more -

Press Release No. 198-36-37
HEAVY SLEEPER Add 1-1-1-1

One and off for the next five hours the men in the two Hellcats kept firing. The Viet Cong on one occasion came within 75 meters of their position.

Twice during the night the M-60's jammed, but Johnson, who is described by the men on his Hellcat as "the greatest" when working with weapons, had them fixed in short order.

"There was nothing to fixing the guns," Johnson said. "It had to be one of two things, and the first one I tried worked." Johnson didn't mention that there are more than one or two things that can go wrong with a machinegun.

By the end of the night the machineguns had done their work. Fourteen Viet Cong were killed.

That morning they returned to the base camp. After a debriefing and some maintenance there would be just a few more hours until the Hellcat would move out on another mission. Move out, that is, if the could get Johnson up—he had gone to take a nap.

Pacific Stars & Stripes
04Jul71
Monday

Photo Caption: ***The Shadow Watchers***

An armored unit of the 23rd Inf. Div. (Americal) is silhouetted by a setting sun as it sets up a night position 40 miles southeast of Chu Lai. The troops were from H Troop, 17th Cav. (USA)

Photo Caption: Soldiers of H Troop, 17th Cav., operating with the Americal Div.'s 11th Inf. Brigade, display part of a haul of stray munitions Vietnamese civilians turned over to them under a new program. In two days, H Troop collected 136 mortar rounds, 48 artillery rounds, 84 M79 rounds, 18 4.5 naval rounds and 16 2.75-inch rockets. (USA).



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Pacific Stars and Stripes

13 May 1968

Score 14 Kills

Hellcats Claw VC at Bridge

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Most of the people in the village at the south end of the long-bridge were in their homes clustered around small oil lamps.

Spec. 4 Cecil A. Smith of Scottsburg, Ind., driver of the Hellcat, noticed that there were fewer people than usual in the streets. He had already spent seven nights guarding this vital link along Highway 1.

He thought his eighth night would probably be the same: block guard and watch throughout the night. But he was soon to change his mind.

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A few minutes past 1 a.m., grenades and mortars exploded around the tracks. Small arms and automatic weapons fire opened up on the tracks.

"It all happened so fast," said Smith. "One minute it was quiet and the next thing I knew we opened up with all we had."

Shortly after the firing began, Smith's track commander fell wounded in front of him. "He tried to make it back to where I was," said Smith, "but fell, I ran out and carried him back in the track; got him into it, closed the ramp and jumped up to take over the .50 caliber."

Smith was second in command at the time. There were only seven cavalymen left facing elements of six Viet Cong companies.

"Suddenly I realized that I was in command of the track. I checked ammo with (Hellcat) 23 and then we gave it all we had. It was our first real fight. Everyone knew his job and knew how to get it done," said Smith.

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Hellcats 22 and 23 were credited with 14 kills. "There was no doubt about those .50 caliber kills", said Smith. The Hellcat team had three wounded.

The sun finally came up and with it Hellcat 22 moved out to check the area for enemy bodies and enemy equipment.

"I guess eight is our lucky number," said Smith after seven nights of waiting.

A Fire-Fight Sleeper

GI Ignores Hot-Lead Reveille

CHU LAI, Vietnam (IO) - Some people are heavy sleepers, Others are deep sleepers. But Phillip W. Johnson of Wellston, Okla., is the soundest sleeper of all—for a while not even a war woke him up.

Johnson, a machine gunner with the 98th Light Inf. Brigade's H Troop, had just come off guard. His section was protecting the Binh Son Bridge in the Americal Div.'s area.

Ten minutes after Johnson plopped down on his cot outside his Hellcat Armored Personnel Carrier (APC), enemy machine gun bullets sprayed the air above him.

Spec. 4 Larry Fox of Shelata, Pay., yelled "Johnson, get up, we're being attacked." Johnson didn't move. Fox yelled again as more fire came in. Johnson didn't move. Fox yelled again, as more fire came in. Johnson didn't move. After a few more rounds he woke up and slowly started to fold up his cot.

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By the end of the night, the the guns had done their work. Fourteen Viet Cong were killed.

That morning the troopers returned to base camp. After a debriefing and some maintenance there would be just a few more hours until the Hellcat would move out on another mission. Move, out, that is, if they could get Johnson up - he had gone to take a nap.

AVDF-HL

10 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period
Ending 30 April 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

c. The M113A1 belly armor modification kit tested during the period was subsequently declared a standard item of issue. Modification kits for all authorized M113A1 vehicles have been requisitioned.

d. During this period continuous operational employment of armored cavalry units, coupled with infrequent operator and organizational maintenance resulted in excessive engine power-train component failures in M113A1 Armored Personnel Carriers and M551 Sheridans. A regularized maintenance stand-down program developed for all divisional armored cavalry units is expected to decrease the overall down-time of these vehicles.

Inserted are extracts of H/17 Cavalry entries logged by the Americal Division Tactical Operations center for May 1968:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
H/17 Cav	All	680505	154	TF Roach, H-17 Cav vic BT429049 at 0945H rec'd 10 rds sniper fire. Res: 2 WHA (E)
H/17 Cav	All	680505	210	TF Roach, H-17 Cav, BT474077 at 1700H while enroute to area where the Chinese jeep was obs; obs 1 VC KIA by arty. Later obs people moving a body. VN said both were VC. Res: 2 VC KIA. Bodies were approx 1 day old.
H/17 Cav	All	680515	7	198th, R-1-46 & 1 plat H-17 vic BT440051 at 0710H have searched rkt firing site, dog team will be ready on LRP Pad for pick up.
H/17 Cav	All	680515	11	198th, TOC – vic BT440051, at 0620H found 2 nose cones, plastic plugs, place where rkts dug in. Think VC moved South. Tracker dog team on site. R-1-46 and H-17 Cav on the ground
H/17 Cav	All	680517	81	198th, H-17, BT452054 at 2321H recd 8 82mm rds and SA fire. Eng w/SA fire. Contact broken at 2330H.
H/17 Cav	All	680519	31	198th H/17th vic BS696935 at 1100H hit two mines 2 WHA (E) 1 was an RTO, 2nd was a interperter. thought to be command detonated Upon hitting mines rec'd sniper fire. Tracks fired back and rec'd hvy SA fire. NO cas from SA fire.
H/17 Cav	All	680519	39	198th H-17 vic BS697935 at 1135H was moving fm area of sniper fire. Hit another AP mine – thought to be command detonated – 1 WHA (E) dustoff time 1135 complete 1155 D-5-46 1245H The WHA (E) was from D-5-46. he was dusted off but died: 1 x US KHA
H/17 Cav	All	680519	61	198th, H-17 Cav, BT434044 at 1820H recd sniper fire fm BT435044. Res: 1 WHA(evac). H-17 checking area at this time.
H/17 Cav	All	680519	72	198th, D-5-46, BS698956 at 1839H hit a mine while searching village. Res: 3 WHA(evac) 1 fm H-17 Cav, 2 fm D-5-46. 1917H: change to read 2 WHA(evac) 3 WHA (minor).
H/17 Cav	All	680520	12	198th H-17 Cav vic BS688945, at 0910H recd 1x rd of sniper fire, neg cas D-5/46 checked area out and CIA 2 VCS & 2 HG still checking area for wpn
H/17 Cav	All	680525	104	198th, C-5-46, H-17, BS534958, H Trp and C-5-46 receiving sniper fire at BS534958. NCD. Stopped at 2345H. NCD.
H/17 Cav	All	680526	8	198th H-17 Cav vic BT436057 at 0151H rpts that at coordinates BT436057 they have one track hit, had 3 WHA; 1 (E) 2 (M), rcd 1 RPG rd
H/17 Cav	All	680527	101	198th, H-17, BT439053, obs 14-18 VC. Called arty and fired cal .50. H-17 is going in to check area of contact. Arty will be fired prior to H-17 moving into area. Res of action unk. Neg res.

Inserted are extracts of H/17 Cavalry entries logged by the Americal Division Tactical Operations center for May 1969:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
H/17	*All	690502	34	(C) 198th Bde, Sgt Fults. 2/H/17 Cav, BS502957 at 1055H ACAV det mine (type: 8" Arty shell-HE rd). Res: 2xUS KIA, 3xUS WIA(E), 2xUS WIA(M). D/O called 1103H comp 1120H. veh combat loss. Notified: C/S, SP Johnson; G3 Sgt Margan; G2 LTC Nelson: III MAF, CPT Stanton; USARV, MAJ Wilkerson.
H/17	*All	690510	63	(U) 198th Bde, Sp Asbill, H/17 Cav, BS583780 at 1450H. ACAV det anti-personnel mine w/NCD.
H/17	*All	690510	73	(U) 198th Bde, Sp Hawkins, D/1-52 Inf, BS525795 at 1810H. Obsr 5-7 VC in open w/packs and wpn. Eng w/4.2" mort w/unk res. Area was checked by H/17 Cav w/neg res.
H/17	*All	690511	56	(U) 198th Bde, Sp Hawkins, 3/H/17, BS4878, BS485779 at 1550H. Obsr 3xVC w/packs and wpns, Helix checked area w/neg res.
H/17	*All	690512	7	(C) 198th Bde, Sgt Fults, 2/H/17th Cav, BS524948 at 0305H. Rec 1xmort rd & SAF. 1xACAV hit, could still fire. Res: unk dam to ACAV, 4xUS WIA(E) fm H/17th Cav & 1xUS WIA(E) fm D/5-46. D/O compl at 0330H.
H/17	*All	690512	120	(C) 198th Bde, Sp Rothermel. D/1-52 & 3/H/17, BS522811 at 1825H. They hit mine made of 105 rd. Res: 2xWIA(E) fm D/1-52. As D/O was leaving area it rec SAF and 1 of D/O crew was WIA(E). They eng susp sniper area w/106 RR and 2xUS trps were KIA fm back blast of 106. 1xfm D/1-52 & 1xfm H/17. Final res: 2xWIA(E) & 1KIA fm D/1-52. 1xWIA(E) fm D/O (Info only) & 1 KIA fm H/17. The KIA's will be evac in morning.
H/17	*All	690513	91	(C) 198th Bde, Sp Ball, H/17th Cav, BS519844 at 1445H. Rec unk amount of mort, RPG's & SAF, rtn fire. Res: 9xVC KIA, 1xAK-47 CIA (SN 5315) & 1xChi Com smg (SN 2231701) CIA, 2xUS WIA(M). Notified: Sp Johnson C/S; G3 Sp Schockly; G2 CPT Malpass; III MAF CPT Dean; USARV MAJ Rolls.
H/17	*All	690514	84	(C) 198th Bde, Sp Hawkins, H/17th Cav/B/ER/1-52, BS551836 at 1805H. Rec AW&SAF fm est 8xVC, rtn fire w/neg assessment. 2220H, rec emergency request fm CPT Gaffney for resupply of small arms ammo to those units. PZ-LZ Bayonet, LZ BS546831. Resupply on 1-52 cmd: Cascade Pulley 55.20. Authorized by Bn CO, 1-52 and 198th Bde CO COL Tulley. Appr by G-3, CPT Smith. Passed to AAE: CPT Mohrenwiser at 2230H. CPT Gaffney called at 2252H to change PZ to LZ Buff, passed to CPT Mohrenwiser at 2252H. Notified: G3 LTC Lawrence.
H/17	*All	690514	85	(C) 198th Bde, Sp Hawkins, H/17 Cav, BS524846 at 1935H. NDP rec 4xRPG rds. Res: 5xUS WIA(E) D/O compl at 2105H.
H/17	*All	690515	39	(U) 198th Bde, SP Stoia, H/17 Cav, BS552837, (en) BS554832 at 1200H. ACAV moving N to make assessments of A/S rec SAF fr the S, neg cas. Helix on station. Will move to check area.

H/17	*All	690515	53	(U) 198th Bde, SP Stoia, H/17 & R/1-52, BS553845, (en) BS557838 at 1320H. Rec unk no mort rds & SAF fr UNSEF fr SE. Res: 5xUS WIA (E). D/O compl at 1327H. 3xWIA (E) fr H/17 & 2xWIA (E) fr %/1-52. Rtn fire w/arty. Checked area. At BS552837 fnd 2xRPG rds, unk amount of food & rice, 1xVC KIA, helmets, 2xentrenching tools, 1xAK-47, 1xRPG charge, 7x83mm mort rds, 10-20 fighting pos, neg unit ID. Notified: C/S Sgt Drosdick; G-3 Sgt Margan; G-2 LTC Nelson; III MAF, CPT Phillips; USARV, MAJ Rolls.
H/17	*All	690515	78	(C) 198th Bde, SP Ball, BS558845, (en) BS563859 at 1715H. Rec 8xrds of unk mort, RPG and 57mm RR rds. Rtn fire, called arty. Res: 8xVC KIA, 1xIWC. Breakdown: H/17 Cav - 7xVC KIA; R/1-52 - 1xVC KIA, 1xIWC, 1xKIA, 7xWIA (E); B/1-52 - 1xWIA (E). Total 8xVC KIA, 1xIWC, 1xUS KIA, 8xUS WIA (E). Notified: III MAF, LT Bishop.
H/17	*All	690517	52	(U) 196th Bde, Sgt Liporto, 17th Cav, with 1/D/2-1, BT115465 at 1655H. Captured 1x50 yr old MAM detainee from vil, neg ID, evac to IPW at LZ Baldy.
H/17	*All	690517	58	(C) 198th Bde, SP Asbill, C/1-52 Inf, BS528877 at 0810H. (1) Rec unk type mort rds and SAF from the east. Res: 2xUS KIA, 7xUS WIA (E), D/O compl 0935H. H(-)/17 Cav is moving to reinforce C/1-52 Inf. (2) 171640H, fnd 1xNVA KIA, 1xAK-47 CIA, BS527881. Contact broken at 1645H. Notified: C/S, SP Johnson; G-3, Sgt Margan; G-2, LTC Nelson; III MAF, CPT Phillips; USARV, MAJ Fitzgerald.
H/17	*All	690517	73	(C) 198th Bde, CPT Brammer, H(-)/17 Cav w/A & R/1-52 Inf, BS524865 at 1230H. In contact w/UNSEF. Rec .51 cal fire, RPG rds and 82mm mort fire. Rtn fire w/arty, A/S. Res: 13xUS WIA (E), (2 NBI), 4xUS KIA, 14xhuts dest, contact broken at 1645H. 1150H, BS500829, Helix 25 obsr 30-40 VC in the open, adj arty and worked G/S in area. Res: 16xVC KBA, 11xVC KBG/S. Notified: C/S; G-3, G-2, LTC Nelson; III MAF, Sgt Straw; USARV, MAJ Wilkerson.
H/17	*All	690518	26	(U) 198th Bde, Sgt Fults, H/17th Cav & R/1-52 at 1230H. See DJF #73. Change: instead of 4xKIA, 13xWIA (E) should read 2xKIA, 17xWIA (E) and Recon 1xWIA (E). Notified: III MAF, Sgt Ski and USARV MAJ Fitzgerald.
H/17	*All	690521	15	(C) 198th Bde, SP Asbill, H/17 Cav, BS555835 at 0830H. Obsr 1xVC w/wpn, eng w/50 cal. Rec 1xRPG rd & unk No of SAF. Res: 2xUS WIA (E), 1xUS KIA. D/O compl at 0855H. Called arty w/unk res.
H/17	*All	690521	48	(C) 198th Bde, SP Ball, H/17 Cav, BS560839 at 1350H. Rec several ChiCom H/gren & SAF. Res: 1xUS WIA (E). D/O compl at 1410H.
H/17	*All	690521	49	(U) 198th Bde, SP Ball, H/17, BS560839 at 1435H. Fnd 1xRussian RPD mg (SN 303825), also spotted & eng 4xNVA w/SAF. Res: 4xNVA KIA. 1x60mm mort compl CIA, 8x60mm mort rds dest.
H/17	*All	690521	58	(U) 198th Bde, SP Ball, H/17, BT565839 at 1630H. (1) Rec 1xRR rd w/NCD. (2) 1705H, rec SAF, rtn fire w/unk res. Res: 1xUS WIA (E). D/O compl at 1715H.
H/17	*All	690522	16	(U) 198th Bde, SP Hawkins, H/17 Cav, BS5583 at 0930H. Fnd 1xNVA KBA, less than 24 hrs ago.
H/17	*All	690523	50	(U) 198th Bde, Sgt Fults, H/17 Cav, BS543838 at 1355H. Fnd 1xNVA KBSAF, wearing green unif.
H/17	*All	690524	70	(C) 198th Bde, Sgt Edmunson, H/17 Cav, BS530859 at 1945H. Rec 1-2xrds of unk type mort. M-60 blew-up while returning fire. Res: 2xUS WIA (E). III MAF, CPL Stanton notified.
H/17	*All	690529	12	(U) 198th Bde, SP Ball, H/17 Cav, BS623862 at 0745H. Fnd 2xAK-47 off road (SN 10088745 & 12049329). Evac to LZ Bayonet. Both wpns were wrapped in protective cloth.

Inserted are extracts of H/17 Cavalry entries logged by the Americal Division Tactical Operations center for May 1970:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
H/17 Cav	All	700501	28	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS662920 at 1020H. While clearing river crossing w/Bangalore torpedo, rec 1xsecondary explo. Res: Crater 10'x12'. Believed to be fr a 250xlb bomb.
H/17 Cav	All	700502	82	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17, BS653946 at 1712H, det 1xhomemade mine w/PRFD. NCD.
H/17 Cav	All	700505	21	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS720820 at 0843H. While towing one M-113 det 1x81mm mort rd w/trip wire. Res: 5xUS WIA(E) & 1xUS KIA. They were wearing flak jackets. D/O compl at 0905H. All were riding outside of the track. The towed veh det the B/T. Ntfy: C/S, COL Hume; XXIV Corps, Sgt Gallagos at 1020H.
H/17 Cav	All	700506	66	198th Bde, CPT Borretti, H/17 Cav, BS495975 at 2045H, obsr red lights. Suspected rkt launch sites. Eng area w/arty. Night Hawk will VR area.
H/17 Cav	All	700507	38	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS485989 at 1050H. Fnd 20xsleeping pos large enough for 1xperson in each, w/overhead cover consisting of grass. Pos used w/in the last 48xhrs.
H/17 Cav	All	700510	93	198th Bde, Sp Burnette, H/17, BS529896 at 1755H, rec SAF f rest 7xVC 200m W. VC evad E. H/17 pursued. 1xVN female CIA. She said she was a prisoner. VC armed w/2xAK-47, 1xM-16, 1xunk type SMG. G/S on station 1755H. Broke station 1820H, H/17 swept area, will evac female to Stinson.
H/17 Cav	All	700511	16	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS564913 at 0820H. One M-551 det 1x250 lb bomb B/T w/pressure type firing device. Res: 5xUS WIA(E). D/O compl at 0840H. They were wearing flak jackets. Dam to veh: 1xtrack & 2xroad wheels were blown off. Ntfy: C/S, Sp Galvant; XXIV Corps, Sgt Gallagos at 1000H; G-4, CPT Tuck.
H/17 Cav	All	700517	74	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS543895 at 1145H. Eng 1xtunnel w/H/gren. Res: 1xsecondary explo.
H/17 Cav	All	700517	91	198th Bde, Sp Burnette, H/17th Cav, BS500891 at 1100H. Fnd & dest 1x105mm rd & 1xChicom H/gren B/T w/trip wires.

H/17 Cav	All	700518	20	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS506898 at 0705H. Fnd 1xdud 105mm rd not B/T. While dest rd in place, 1xUS burned his hand while lighting time fuse. Res: 1xUS WNB(E). D/O compl at 0745H.
H/17 Cav	All	700519	5	(DELAYED) 198th Bde, Sp Burnette, H/17th Cav, BS550903 at 182400HY May 70. A trip flare went off. Eng w/SAF. Swept the area w/neg res.
H/17 Cav	All	700521	23	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS511868 at 0630H. While on a cordon & search op, fnd 1x155mm rd & dtn 1x23 yr old VN female w/Neg ID. Extracted DET to LZ Stinson & dest rd.
H/17 Cav	All	700521	29	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS511868 at 0715H. Obsr & eng 12xVC (4xhad wpns) evading NE. Swept the area & fnd a sign, 4"x8" in VN stating, "Do not come this way, VC." Also fnd blood trails.
H/17 Cav	All	700521	57	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS493855 at 1100H. Fnd & dest 1xM-16 apers mine. (See DSJ #11 22MAY70)
H/17 Cav	All	700521	118	198th Bde, Sp Pleten, H/17th Cav, BS503851 at 1730H, eng 3xVC w/SAF. En evaded E to vil. Swept area w/neg res.
H/17 Cav	All	700522	9	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS500853 at 0615H. Eng 1xVC w/pack & wpn. Res: en evaded NW. Fired arty w/neg res. Dtn numerous suspected. Will interrogate DET in the field.
H/17 Cav	All	700522	63	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H(-)/17th Cav at BS500834 at 0930H. One VN female DET fell off a track while moving to an LZ for extraction. While waiting for a D/O, a VN child was brought to H/17th Cav w/a gunshot wound to the shoulder (unk how wounded). D/O compl for the DET & child at 1005H to 91st Evac.
H/17 Cav	All	700522	107	198th Bde, Sp Pleten, H/17th Cav, BS540968 at 221855H, det 1xunk type B/T w/pressure type firing device. Res: 2xUS WIA(E). D/O compl at 1915H.
H/17 Cav	All	700524	11	196th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS516856 at 0740H. Fnd 1xdead VN female. She died of frag wounds w/in the last 48xhrs.
H/17 Cav	All	700524	32	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS520869 at 1000H. While on recon in force ops, 1xM-113 det 1x8" arty rd B/T w/pressure type firing device. Res: 5xUS WIA(E) & 1xKCS WIA(E). D/O compl at 1020H. H/17th Cav Commander was WIA(E). Right track was blown off & 2xroad wheels broken. Ntfy: C/S, COL Hume; XXIV Corps, MAJ Hradecki at 1120H.

H/17 Cav	All	700525	55	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS685912 at 1200H. Rec 1xRPG rd prox 200m. Rtn AW & M-79 fire. Call arty w/neg res. Res: Dam to water hoses, radiator & possibly oil line.
H/17 Cav	All	700525	57	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav & 39th Engr, BS669918 at 1345H. An M-551 det a 40-50xlb Nitro Starch homemade mine. Res: 9xUS WIA(E). D/O compl at 1400H. Five WIA(E) fr H/17th Cav & 4xWIA(E) fr 39th Engr. M-551 had 2xtracks, several road wheels & idler arm assembly blown off. Crater was 3 ½ ft wide & 2xft deep. Ntfy: C/S, COL Hume; XXIV Corps, MAJ Hof at 1655H.
H/17 Cav	All	700526	94	198th Bde, PFC Bonsack, H/17th Cav, BS518887 at 1300H. An M-113 det a 750xlb bomb w/pressure type firing device on Tra Bong Road. Res: 1xUS KIA & 4xUS WIA(E). D/O compl to 27th Surg at 1420H. The veh was combat loss. Will retrieve ACAV. Ntfy XXIV Corps, MAJ Hof at 1740H.
H/17 Cav	All	700527	41	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav, BS537884 at 1030H. One US was sleeping behind an M-551 when it made a pivot turn. Indiv leg was severed. Res: 1xUS WNB. D/O compl at 1040H to 27th Surg. Ntfy C/S, Sp Heinrich.
H/17 Cav	All	700527	50	(DELAYED) 1st CAG, Cpl Holzer, CAP 1-3-9, BS473876 & 465870 at 262130H May 70. While in vil, rec 1xM-79 rd fr H/17th Cav. Called & asked to cease fire. Rec 1xM-79. Res: 2xUSMC WIA(M). Ntfy C/S, COL Hume; 198th Bde, Sgt Lark.
H/17 Cav	All	700528	20	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, 1/H/17th Cav, BS515878 at 0810H. Fnd 1xfuse can, dest in place. Res: 1xsecondary explosion of approx 40-50xlbs of nitro starch.
H/17 Cav	All	700528	34	198th Bde, CPT Duncan, H/17th Cav at 1145H. Req EOD Tm. Purpose: Check out ordnance in the area where M-551 det a mine. EOD Tm will be at LZ Bayonet Pad at 1500H. Passed to EOD, Sgt Geddy. Appr by G-3, CPT Sherrard. Ntfy 198th Bde, Sgt Lark.
H/17 Cav	All	700528	56	198th Bde, CPT Duncan, H/17th Cav, BS516885 at 0905H. While securing mine sweep tm, M-551 Sheridan det a 40-50xlb Nitro starch mine. Crater: 8' deep & 15' in dia. Res: 1xUS KIA (H/17th Cav) & 3xUS WIA(E) (2xH/17th Cav & 1xB/26th Engr). Sheridan caught fire & ammo cooked off. D/O compl at 0920H to 91st Evac. Mine sweep tm had swept the road, party was returning to check point to link up with another mine sweep tm. Pressure test had not yet been conducted. D-7 bulldozer, while pushing Sheridan off the road, rec shrapnel fr 1x152mm rd which exploded. Res: 3xUS WIA(E) (2xfr H/17th Cav & 1xfr B/26th Engr). D/O compl at 1100H to 27th Surg. Ntfy XXIV Corps, MAJ Hof at 0935H; G-4, CPT Myers.

Inserted are extracts of H/17 Cavalry entries logged by the Americal Division Tactical Operations center for May 1971:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
H/17 Cav	All	710509	45b	198th Bde, LT Bilstrom, H/17 Cav. H/17 Cav departed CHL at 1615H, arrived Tam Ky at 1720H.
H/17 Cav	All	710510	59	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17 Cav left Tam Ky at 1525H and arrived CHL at 1620H.
H/17 Cav	All	710513	24	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17, BS769515, 130810H. Fd 3xbnkrs (8'x10'x5') w/4' thick overhead cover of concrete block, steel and RR ties. Inside fd 1xpistol belt w/Red Star on it, 1xCompass cover, 1xB/T M26 H/gren w/o firing device, 1x.50 cal ammo can full of pol rice (10 lb), 1xB40 rkts. Est used in last 24 hrs. All dest w/C4.
H/17 Cav	All	710513	33	11th Bde, SFC Lane, H/17 Cav, BS766514, 131100H. Fd 2xbnkrs w/4' overhead cover, one bnkr (6'x10'x5') had escape tunnel 10' long leading to spider hole and contained 1xB/T coke can w/petna & shrapnel (not in place). Other bnkr (6'x15'x5') contained 8xVC ponchos, 1xVN jungle hat, 1xM72 LAW. All dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710513	39	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS764513 131315H. 1xM551 Track Vehicle det 1xanti pers mine w/PFD. Res: 1xUS WIA(E). Neg dam to vehicle. Will evac by R/S helicopter. D/O compl 1425H to Bronco.
H/17 Cav	All	710513	41	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS765561 at 131210H. Fd 1xbnkr (10'x15'x5') w/overhead cover. Neg signs rec use. Dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710513	58	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17, BS785507, 131540H, Fd 1xhomemade booby trap w/PTFD.
H/17 Cav	All	710513	59	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, H/17 Cav, BS787507 at 131555H. Fd 1xUS pineapple type H/gren B/T w/PTFD and 1xM26 H/gren in a coke can w/TWFD. DIP. Also at 1617H at BS786508 fd 1xB/T can w/5 lbs petna w/3 twfd running fr it across trail. DIP. Crater 3'x2'.
H/17 Cav	All	710514	6	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17, BS809458 at 140730H. Fd 1xbnkr 4'x4'x4'. Inside fd 1xgrn shirt, 1xlb pol rice. Neg rec use. All dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710514	16	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17, BS793482 at 140915H. Fd 5xstruc, 1/10 acre of unharvested rice, 4xbnkr (4'x10'x6') made of logs and sand, 1xbnkr made fr galvanized culverts. Neg sign of rec use. Bnkr & struc dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710514	47	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17, BS800500 at 141330H. Fd 1x105rd. DIP. Not B/T.

H/17 Cav	All	710515	20	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS830427, 150830H. Fd 3xtunnels. 20'x3' made of culvert and 55 gal drums. Also fd 1xbnkr 4'x4'x4' made of mud & bamboo. Neg signs of rec actv. All dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710515	26	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS832437 at 150855H. Fd 2xbnkr (6'x6'x4') w/4' overhead cover (mud & logs); reinf tunnel, 30' long of galvanized culvert. In area fd 1xcluster bomb unit. Signs of rec use. All dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710515	28	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS831421 at 151020H. Fd 1x"L" shaped tunnel reinf w/logs & steel RR ties. Wooden floor. Inside fd US underwear & towels, 1xM57 H/gren, 1xsandbag w/15lbs rock salt, 1x50' roll commo wire, signs rec use. All dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710515	31	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS830420, 151130H. Fd 2xbnkrs (10'x6') made fr concrete blocks, wooden beams, w/3' overhead cover made of concrete blocks & mud. All DIP.
H/17 Cav	All	710515	61	11th Bde, Sgt Cunia, H/17 Cav, BS829428 at 151715H. Fd 2xbnrks (4'x4'x3') reinforced w/tin. 200m N fd 2xtunnel made fr galvanized culvert running to bnkrs, (6'x6") w/3xentrances. All dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710516	13	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17, BS825431 at 160740H. Fd 2xbnkrs 4'x4'x3', 6'x10'x4'. Neg rec use. All dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710516	24	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17, BS829439 at 160945H. Fd 3xbnkrs 10'x12', 6'x8', and 6'x8'. Neg rec use. Dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710516	31	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS827437 at 161007H. Fd 1xbnkr 4'x10'x6' w/2 escape tunnels leading E. Inside fd 1xNVA poncho and 200 lbs unpol rice. Dest tunnel & bnkr, will extr rice to Dragon.
H/17 Cav	All	710516	32	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17, BS825435 at 160950H. Fd 2xflare fuses & 1xbomb fuse. DIP.
H/17 Cav	All	710516	44	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, H/17, BS822438 at 161145H. Fd 1xbnkr 15'x20' w/4' overhead cover of RR ties, concrete blocks. Inside fd 1xNVA flag, 1xUS canteen, 2xgas stoves, 2x1 gal gas cans, 1xUS 5 gal can, 1xentrenching tool. Food signs of rec use. All dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710517	19	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, H/17 Cav, BS807469 at 0955H. Fd 3xbnkrs (20'x20'x5') made of mud & logs. Inside fd 2x50lb bags charcoal. In area fd 2xbnkrs (10'x20'x4'). Inside bnkr fd 25lb bag rock salt. Signs of rec use. All dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710517	31	11th Bde, LT Smith, H/17 Cav, BS798469 at 1140H. Fd 3xbnkrs (20'x6'x2'), inside fd 1xSKS rifle in poor cond, neg signs rec use. Bnkrs dest.

H/17 Cav	All	710518	14	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS800490 at 180645H. Fd 1x105mm rd dud, neg B/T. DIP.
H/17 Cav	All	710518	23	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS803463 at 180805H. Dtn 2xVN males (age 70), neg ID, one wearing grn over blk, one purple over blue. Evac to Mo Duc.
H/17 Cav	All	710518	31	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS816446 at 181010H. Fd 1x90mm rd and 1x155mm rd. Very old, DIP.
H/17 Cav	All	710518	32	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS799461 at 181030H. Fd 1xpart dest bnkr (6'x8'x6'). Inside fd docu, bnkr dest, docu evac to Dragon.
H/17 Cav	All	710518	33	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS807449 at 180915H. Fd & dest 1xdud flare dropped fr flaeship.
H/17 Cav	All	710518	64	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS800470, 181330H. Dest 1xbnkr (4'x4'x3') w/overhead cover & 10xsleeping pos. Neg rec use.
H/17 Cav	All	710518	91	(DELAYED) 11th Bde, Sgt Smith, H/17 Cav, BS800470. At 181055H, fd 1xcluster bomb unit, DIP. At 181140H, fd 1xbnkr (5'x15'x4') made of mud & logs, inside fd 1xsleeping pos. In area fd 1xM26 H/gren B/T w/TWFD, DIP. CO of H/17 det 1xunk type B/T w/PFD. Bunker dest, signs of use in last 24 hrs. Res: 2xUS WIA(E), 1xUS WIA(M), 1xKCS WIA(E). D/O to Bronco at 1230H, D/O compl 1320H.
H/17 Cav	All	710519	5	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, H/17 Cav, BS815436, fd & dest 1xbnkr (3'x4'x3') w/3' overhead cover Neg signs rec use.
H/17 Cav	All	710521	45	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, H/17 Cav, BS792532, 211230H. Fd 1x105 rd dud, neg B/T, DIP.
H/17 Cav	All	710521	46	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, H/17 Cav, BS781541, 210840H. Fd 1xbnkr (3'x5'x4') with overhead cover, neg rec use, dest.
H/17 Cav	All	710521	81	11th Bde, Sp Rodlan, 211800H. TF 23d Cav's loc. E/1 Cav CP: BS735621, BS732611, BS741614. H/17 Cav, BS795526, 1xplt at Bronco. Ntfy: G3, MAJ Helton.
H/17 Cav	All	710525	38	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS905137, 251245H. 1xRF fr RF group 2/22 showed loc of 1x60mm rd B/T w/10' of wire leading to spider hole for command det. Neg firing device in spider hole. B/T was 2' off QL#1. H/17 went out of Box to dest B/T, then rtn to their AO. DIP.

H/17 Cav	All	710528	24	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, H/17 Cav, BS845365, 281050H. M-113A1 det 1x105mm rd B/T w/H/gren fuse & TWFD, loc 30m off trail. Res: 1xUS WIA(E), 2xPF WIA(E) (PF4th Co, 103rd Bn). D/O compl to Bronco at 1116H. They were riding on top of veh. 1xM113A1 lightly damaged, right rear idle seal. US wearing flak jacket, PF's were not.
H/17 Cav	All	710528	32	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, H/17, BS849365, 281150H. Fd 4xCoke cans filled w/petna, B/T w/PTFD. DIP.
H/17 Cav	All	710531	28	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, H/17 Cav, BS810445, 311045H. Fd 1xbnkr (12'x12') w/2' overhead cover last used prox 3xdays ago, dest.