Air-ground attack accounts for 11 VC

By SP4 Terry Williamson
LZ STINSON (11th Inf. Bde. 10) — Eleven Viet Cong were killed and seven enemy weapons captured as a company of the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade teamed up with helicopter gunships in a combined air-ground attack on several pre-selected enemy locations south of Chu Lai.

Delta Company of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry employed one platoon to make aerial insertions into two suspected enemy locations while the rest of the company acted as a ground force to check out another location.

The helicopterborne rifle platoon drew a blank card on their first insertion, but on the second location things quickly improved.

"We had just made our second landing when I received word over the radio that gunships had spotted two Viet Cong entering a bunker near our position," said First Lieutenant Daniel J. Boccolitti of Buffalo, the platoon leader. "We began moving in that direction until we found the bunker complex."

The "Ready Rifles" maneuvered towards the bunker and received sporadic fire from the structure. Sergeant George Macakel of Manhattan, Kan., moved in closer while the rest of the platoon covered him with M-16 fire. When the firing lifted, Sergeant Macakel threw two hand grenades into the bunker and killed both enemy soldiers. A .45 caliber pistol was recovered in the action.

The platoon was then inserted to beef up the main element of Company D which had already made contact with another enemy force. Three Viet Cong were spotted trying to evade to a nearby woodland from a small hamlet. One of the enemy was killed as the infantrymen engaged the fleeing VC with small arms fire.

One squad from the "Ready Rifles" pursued the other two enemy into the woodline. Specialist 4 Larry Taylor of Valley Park, Mo., heard a shot from an AK-47 crack behind him and turned. Proud to see two Viet Cong hiding in a foxhole. With a quick burst from M-16, Specialist Macakel brought down both enemy soldiers and captured the enemy weapon.

By this time the "Ready Rifles" were receiving sporadic fire from the area of contact. A sweep was organized as gunships from the 174th Aviation Company pounded the area with rocket and machine gun fire.

The infantrymen fired into the area as they moved across the sparsely vegetated terrain. As the sweep continued, the infantrymen found one Viet Cong killed by the gunships and five more killed by their ground fire. Five more enemy weapons were taken from the area.

In all, 11 Viet Cong were killed and two "Ready Rifles" captured two AK-47 rifles, one SKS rifle, one grenade launcher, one carbine, one automatic weapon, and a .45 caliber pistol. All the weapons were extracted to a nearby LZ.

"The plan worked without a flaw," said Captain Perry Kaiser of Youngstown, Ohio, the company commander. "And the men reacted quickly to each engagement. I think it's a tribute to the company that the men accomplished this mission without sustaining one friendly casualty in the entire operation.

Division recap

Action was 'moderate'

Action was moderate this week as the men of the American Division accounted for 44 enemy soldiers in ten combat engagements concentrated in the Frederick Hill area of operations manned by the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, Brigade.

The 2nd Battalion, 52nd Infantry engaged enemy positions on the heights of Frederick Hill during the week, the men of the 196th Infantry killed 36 enemy soldiers and captured 3,800 rounds of .300 rounds of 12 and 200 rounds of corn and 500 pounds of tobacco.

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry observed and captured two two VC killed two VC and captured 1,500 rounds of rice and 100 pounds of corn while taking the same area.

The "Firebirds" gunships of the 71st Assault Helicopter Company were credited with eight kills this week as they supported Regional Forces south of the Tet Line in 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 2nd Battalion, 20th Infantry observed and engaged two Viet Cong. The results of the action were one VC killed.

The "Warlords of the 122nd Aviation Co., observed one VC carrying a pack in the foothills southwest of Quang Ngai City. The infantrymen engaged and chipped up a kill.

Flying over the lowlands southeast of Phuoc Tuy City, the "Warlords" again claimed one VC kill and a quartet of VC later that afternoon.

Two companies of B, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, observed two two VC killed after a brief firefight southeast of Quang Ngai City.

continued on page 6

Jungle Warriors get 10

By SP4 Gregory Wright
FSB BRONCO (11th Inf. Bde. 10) — Following a day's work west of Iron Mountain, the "Jungle Warriors" of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry clashed with NVA elements three times in one night of fast action, killing ten of the enemy.

As darkness was falling in the Song Ve Valley, Company E, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Infantry, was told to move forward into a suspected enemy area. But as the men advanced, the VC began firing B-50 rifles. When the enemy fired, one 20th Infantry, observed a couple of VC killed after a brief firefight southeast of Quang Ngai City.

NVA bathers get surprise

By SP4 James Tabata
FSB BRONCO, Vietnam (11th Inf. Bde. 10) — Bathing during duty hours recently cost three NVA their lives and weapons as infantrymen of the 23rd Division's 11th Infantry Brigade sprang a hasty ambush five miles west of FSB Chippewa.

The CP (Command Platoon) and Fourth Platoon of Company D, 4th Battalion, 11th Infantry went moving along a trail contouring a sparse ridge covered 2,150 feet Private First Class James Gibson of Gaston, N.C., heard voices and spotted four NVA bathing in the river below. "The river, full from recent rains, was muddy and covered the sound of our moving into position," said Specialist

LZ Dottie — Captain Philip LaGuidice of Modesto, Calif., battalion surgeon of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry shows the tender touch of his profession as he treats a cut on the knee of a child at the Binh Son Orphanage.

(U.S. Photo by SP4 Terry Williamson)

Four Dan Shockey
With security out to the flanks, the hasty trip was set and the firepower of individual and crew served weapons surprised the enemy.

The Mountainmen quickly moved down to the area of contact and found three NVA dead, an AK-47, a 2.9mm Chinese Communist pistol and the blood trail of the fourth NVA leading up the river into the water. A thorough search of the area was made, but the wounded enemy soldier was not found.

The body was washed by river, used as a sleeping position, yielded four pounds of rice, food stuffs, hammocks, five machine guns, two AK-47 magazines. All items, including the weapons, were evacuated to Chu Lai.
Join the Army To see the sea

By SP5 William Hayes
CHU LAL, (23rd Inf. Div. 10) — Shortly after he entered the Army, Specialist 4 Virgil W. Lucado of Princeton, W. Va., laughed at a friend who enlisted in the Army to work on boats. "Man," Lucado said at the time, "the Army doesn’t have boats."

The Army has boats, Lucado ended up working on them. Assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division’s 544th Medium Boat Transit Company, he works as a machinist engineer a board an LCM-8 (Mike 8). He’s responsible for keeping the 40-foot boat’s four Diesel engines running smoothly.

"I like the job. It’s something different from what I did before," he said as he climbed out of the crowded engine room.

Before he entered the Army, he was already a skilled auto body repairman. After he completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., he was assigned to a motor pool at Fort Bragg, N.C. But when he came to Vietnam, he was put in an on-the-job training program aboard a Mike 8.

He wasn’t sure if he would be able to explain how he got his new job to his wife, Audrey Kay, he said.

Lucado’s job is not without its advantages, though one of them is born out of necessity. "I may be one of the few guys who are not wearing a button down a shirt on," he said. "After we’ve been running four or five hours, the engine room heats up to about 160 to 170 degrees."

As for the boat itself, the specialist commented, "we can run the boat at about eight knots, but we don’t like to push it any more than that, we’re just not built for speed."

The squared-off prow of the craft can be lowered for loading when the craft is beached. But the boat isn’t exactly built for comfort, either. Its only below-decks space is full of engines, so the crew sleeps topside. "We usually lock out doors there in the cargo well," the specialist said as he pointed down to the steel deck below the waterline.

What the boat lacks in speed and comfort is compensated for by its armament. The craft is armed with 50 caliber machineguns mounted forward of the boatswain’s platform on either side. The whole platform at the stern is surrounded with armed bulwarks. Observation slits let the helmsman navigate even while crouched out of the way of any enemy fire.

By SP4 Terry Williamson
CHU LAL, (195th Inf. Bde 10) — Few infantrymen ever wish that they could participate in the boat, but only carry after basic training, but a wounded soldier in the 198th Infantry Brigade got a free ride from a daring medic who raced to the wounded man’s position, and carried him in the heavy machineguns to cover under intense enemy fire.

A platoon of Delta Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry while maneuvering northwest of Chu Lai, was taking heavy enemy fire when Specialist 4 Donald R. Betton from Highpoint, N.C., platoon medic, waded through heavy AK-47 and 30 caliber machinegun fire to administer aid to a wounded soldier.

"When I was running toward the wounded man, all I was thinking about was who could it be that was hit," said Specialist Betton. "When I got there, I found three men had been wounded, but only one was unable to walk, so I thought I had better get him out."

Betton picked up his patient piggy-back style and raced to the rear of the element where there was better cover, and finished his treatment. The wounded soldier had received a wound in his right foot and was unable to walk, but it was not serious.

The other two men had received grazes wounds, and they continued firing at the enemy position, and did not require much treatment. As a result, the enemy soldiers were quickly dispersed by thunderous fire from the "Professionals."

"I began to worry about what I had done only after it was all over," said the specialist. "I really didn’t think about what I was doing at the time, after all that is my job."

"There were some pretty anxious moments for a while, but when somebody called for a medic, Betton passed me before I had time to turn around and look for him," said First Lieutenant Henry C. Hunter, platoon leader from San Francisco. "When I saw him carrying the wounded soldier on his back, I really did a double take."

A Medivac helicopter was quickly on the scene, and the wounded soldier was safely taken to a Chu Lai hospital. Specialist Betton remained behind to continue his daily routines, but it was a relief to know that he didn’t need a refresher course in the man carry.

PFC enters a shrine: finds booby-trap

By SP4 Zin Balaban
LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf. Bde. 10) — While searching an areas north of Tam Ky, Private First Class Patrick W. Hutchinson of Palm Beach, Fla., came upon one of the numerous religious shrines dotting the Vietnamese countryside.

Third platoon leader First Lieutenant Dennis A. Colton of Baraboo, Wis., told Colonel Winchell in the pointman to probe the small temple.

"I approached it cautiously, knowing that there could very well be a bomb trap in the area," said the PFC. "However, I was really surprised to find something so large as the 200 pound bomb there which was booby-trapped with a pressure-release type device."

A closer examination also revealed four 155mm rounds and numerous small arm rounds—all booby-trapped. The platoon eliminated the hazard.

"The next morning we were returning to the main trail to resume our search of the area," continued Hutchinson, "All of a sudden something inside me silently screamed ‘DANGER’, and I froze in my tracks. At the same time, I heard a tiny ‘cling’ like metal striking against metal."

Sergeant Norman K. Gault of Alexandria, La., a squad leader with the third platoon was walking close behind, heard the noise also. A careful examination of the nearby brush uncovered a fragmentation grenade with the pin pulled.

He noticed that kept it from going off was a bit of weed tangled around the handle," said the sergeant.

It was also discovered that the trip wire which triggered the device broke pulling the grenade completely out of the weeds. Luck? Undoubtedly. But PFC Hutchinson firmly believes that it was his sixth sense that saved him.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized, unofficial weekly publication of the Americal Division Information Office for division units in the Republic of Vietnam. It is printed by the photo-offset process by Pacific Stars and Stripes. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division, APO SF 96374, Tel: Chu Lai 2414. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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January 1, 1971
The IG-- what can he do for you??

By SP4 Rick Holloway

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV 10) - "I'm going to see the IG."

You've probably heard this declaration more than once from your American soldier. But what does the statement mean to you? What is an IG? What role does he play in your life and in the U.S. Army? Should you take your problems to the IG, or try to solve them on your own unit commander? The role of the IG, as it developed during the intervening years, and stated today is: "To inquire into and report upon the matters which pertain to the performance of duty and state of discipline, efficiency, and efficacy of the command, installation, or activity in which they serve." In deciding which problems should be presented to the IG and which to your commanding officer, consider the following facts:

1. Each member of the U.S. Army has a right to receive complaints orally or in writing with the inspector general.
2. Service personnel are encouraged to discuss their problems or grievances with their unit commander.
3. Any person, under the guise of presenting a legitimate complaint to an inspector general makes statements which are proved to be knowingly untruthful, will be subject to disciplinary action.
4. Any type of disciplinary or other adverse action against an individual for registration of a complaint, except as provided above, is prohibited.

In addition to receiving complaints, inspector general are available for assisting in the resolution of personal problems which may concern service personnel. Actions of this type are termed "Requests for Assistance" and should not be confused with complaints.

With these facts established, to whom should you present your complaint? Your first stop is your commanding officer. He like every commander of unit in the U.S. Army, is vitally concerned with ensuring that his unit's mission can only be accomplished through dedicated and devoted service of every individual in the Command. If your complaint, request for assistance, or grievance is of such a nature that it can be corrected by your commanding officer, then present it to him first and give him a chance to clear the matter up.

If, after presenting your problem to your commander, you do not consider his action to be adequate or the problem is of such a nature that he cannot resolve it, then contact his acting IG or Division IG for assistance.

At present there is a problem vital to the interests of every member of the U.S. Army in Vietnam. A portion of the personnel serving here are not taking advantage of the command and IG channels and are presenting their grievances directly to members of Congress and to the President. Actions of this nature result in a serious drain on the United States.

Under our democratic system of government you have the undeniable right and privilege to communicate directly with any member of our government. However, you will find that your problem can normally be solved more quickly and easily if presented to your commanding officer and then to your local IG, if you are not satisfied with the actions of your unit commander.

6. The unit commander holds an open door session in which he may go along with you, or he may have you avail yourself to this opportunity if you have a problem.

One example of where the commanding officer didn't believe his subordinates was complaining of his back, that it was a strain to carry the pack. The CO, after personally believing that the men were not keeping sending them on patrols. The man finally went to the IG, told him the problem and the CO had him evaluated at a VA hospital. The man was found to have bad back and was given a job where he wouldn't have to go to the field.

In cases of course neither the commanding officer or the IG can help. In one such case a soldier had a back injury. The men at the NCO school was required to extend his enlistment so that he would have enough time left in to fill his commission. The man thought that the NCO school was going to sign for the extra time because the people at the school were against it, so he went to the IG. The Inspector general looked into the matter and found that this time the government was right and there was nothing they could do about it.

The IG notes that most of these complaints come in when there is either more work having to be done, or a change of command. In a combat situation of the unit is short of men, more work will have to be put on the individual soldier, nothing can be done about it until replacements come in.

When there is a change of command and the new CO changes all the policies, and you don't like them, if he is your commanding officer, you are stuck with that decision. If you don't like the new policies, check to see if they are written regulations before you go to the IG.

Help yourself, help the Army, and help your country by consulting your commanding officer first and then if necessary the Inspector General.

Ex-sapper is Number 1

By SP4 Joseph Alward

LZ DEBBIE, (11th Inf Bde 10) - Poor leadership, lack of support from the populace and a succession of aborted offensive operations led to his disilllusion. Explain Pham Van Binh, 19, whose enthusiastic approach to his present duties as a Kit Carson Scout for the 23rd Infantry Division and the Brown Star for Achievement and Valor.

As a flegding member of a VC sapper company, Binh says he could not have lived this long in the boon if he had left his life of his comrades and chose the course of action which led to a chance of uniform.

"I have been with us for ten months now, and has shown himself to be a non-nonsense guy," explained Pham Van Binh, 19, whose enthusiastic approach to his present duties as a Kit Carson Scout for the 23rd Infantry Division and the Brown Star for Achievement and Valor.

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Wear the latest

By Sgt Chuck Mierzinezki

FSB BRONCO (11th Infantry Bde. 10) - Now that Indian summer has ended with a bang, Dykes' Regular have turned their attentions to the latest fall fashions.

One of the most popular items this season, the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry troopers, say, is the monsoon sweater, also known in some supply rooms as the jungle sleeping garment. This durable, heavy duty pullover may be worn indoors or out, it is particularly useful in the humid or rainy season. From colors-in order of popularity-are deep OD, OD and faded orange. Sizes range from 2-4 to 2-6.

Another item in the well-dressed infantryman's wardrobe this autumn is rain pants. Referred to in the current issue of Gentlemen's Quarterly as "leather pants," it is a rain pant designed to protect the legs and torso from November showers.

It has two pockets, one in front and one on the outer side, and has straps to suspend on the back. It is available in blue, Dac Pho green and $15 brown ($15 is a valley with a particular hue the 11th Bighorn?"

Rain jackets complement the Farmer Browns by enabling the wearer to don a stylish, matching set. The water-resistant jacket comes with a front zipper and two big pockets at the front, hanging on one's head. The lightweight jacket is lined: therefore, it may be worn even on sunny, crisp November afternoons. The most popular colors are also green, brown, and foot grey.

Infantrymen in the forward fighting areas of Saigon, Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang will have an opportunity to see these fashions modeled by a touring USO show. Other interested parties should contact their supply sergeant or refer to the Bowtay 500 and Brooks Brothers add in the current Equire.

Medic delivers baby in chopper

By SP4 Tom Mano

LZ HAWK HILL, (196th Inf Bde 10) - Years from now a small Vietnamese boy will look up to his mother and ask with fascination, "Mama, when did you deliver a baby in a helicopter?" He will tell him about this world. His mother will tell him about a soldier from across the ocean who worked feverishly to insure his safe birth.

Specialist 4 Charles R. Harris, an air-ambulance medic with the 23rd Medical Battalion, Greenville, N.C. was that soldier.

The air was crisp and alive as the medevac helicopter took off on a routine flight to Chu Lai. It carried Harris, three other crew members, a Vietnamese girl who the specialist described as "about 25 and pretty good-looking," her ARVN husband, and the baby in her womb.

"The baby wasn't supposed to be born until we arrived in Chu Lai," said Harris. "But I guess that nature doesn't always listen to doctors."

About halfway to Chu Lai Harris noticed the girl was having labor pains. "Her facial expressions and the tightening of her muscles betrayed her condition," he explained. "She was really grimacing and straining."

I lifted the blanket and saw the outline of the baby's head, I knew he wasn't even going to wait until we got to Chu Lai," he continued.

As the chopper flew over Chu Lai, Harris held his head and body level as he had been taught so well.

"Surprisingly, he wasn't small like Vietnamese are," he said. "He wasn't breathing so I cleaned his mouth out with my finger. Then I wiped the mucous off his face because it tends to dry and clot when it hits the air."

Not authorized to cut the umbilical cord, Harris laid the baby level and sat back on a litter to wait until the chopper came to the 27th Surgical.

In five or six minutes the chopper was descending into Chu Lai. "We've got one pregnant mama-san," was the pilot's message to the 27th Surgical.

A quick correction came from Harris, "Actually, we need two mama-sans." At the 27th Surgical, he was relieved that the patient was delivered by the medical staff.

"I never got to visit them after they were unveiled, but I heard that everything turned out perfectly," he said. "It is a great feeling to see a healthy mother and baby."
An aerial defense

by SGT Matt Gryta

If you happen to look up one day and spot an immense helicopter toting what looks like a small house under its belly, have no fears; division headquarters isn’t moving out from under your nose.

Its defense system is merely being rearranged to a certain extent.

Since the end of October, working in conjunction with the Chu Lai Defense Command, the third platoon of Company C, 29th Engineer Battalion has been involved in the re-location of guard bunkers and watch towers along the Chu Lai defensive perimeter.

The engineers have seen the air movement of nine bunkers and one fifty-foot tower to date.

“A typical bunker lift recently took place when an abandoned bunker was moved more than two miles from the southern tip of the perimeter to a position on the Combat Center beach,” explained 1st Lieutenant Michael L. Shaw, Forest Park, Ga., platoon leader.

“A similar bunker situated there had been washed away during Typhoon Kate.”

Before a structure can be safely lifted by the helicopter, they must be partially dismantled, Lt. Shaw pointed out.

“Prior to lifting the structure we have to remove the outside revetment walls and sandbags,” he said. “A CH-47 ‘Chinook’ can lift the small bunkers but a CH-54 ‘Flying Crane’ is required to transport the much heavier guard towers.”

The engineers have the airlift technique down to a science now, but it wasn’t always so.

“We learned that when moving a bunker by air it’s a good idea to paint an arrow on the roof showing the direction of placement,” noted Lieutenant Shaw.

“Some of our first attempts landed with the entrance way facing the enemy, and perpendicular to the enemy, a few were set down as they should be with the door away from the enemy.”
Finally the troops will have a supply of new numbers to pull from to complete the jobs.

Presentation of the numbers is included from the end of the well as from below.

To download, now the ladders can be removed from the new bank position.
48
continuing die last week

From page 1.
In the middle of the week, the infantrymen discovered 3,000 pounds of rice in the foothills southwest of Phu Dinh. The rice was evacuated to Mo Duc.

Towards the end of the week, members of the 1st Battalion, 207th Infantry, set up a booby trap for the enemy in the brief action.

A light artillery and truck "Warlord" gunship of the 153rd Aviation Company spotted and engaged two VC. The fire was two VC dead.

Elements of Company C, 1st Battalion, 207th 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, a 2nd Platoon, engaged, and killed a VC. Reaploon platoon of the battalion dug in the constructed tunnels with a fresh water well and went back to a view of the valley floor, in the foothills southwest of Phu Dinh. They encountered another VC.

Earlier in the week, a "shark" gunship of the 19th Infantry Brigade spotted one VC in the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai, and engaged, and killed one enemy. His AK-47 was captured. Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry, killed one NVA and found two on a roadblock near the town of an unfinished rice field alongside a trail while patrolling the foothills southwest of Phu Dinh.

In separate actions, the companies of that battalion continued the pattern of fire missions later in the week, and then, while checking a base camp in their sector before leaving for enemy soldiers almost too late. The enemy engaged them at 50 meters, but the infantrymen recovered returning small arms fire control to the enemy. Within a period of four hours, the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry (Airborne) killed three VC, which had been engaged during the previous day.

Cough killed Charlie
by Sp4 Joe Alward

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Cough killed Charlie
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FSB BRONCO (11th Inf Bde 10) — Ineffective noise and light discipline on the part of an unknown force force resulted in three Viet Cong their lives during a pre-dawn, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, and search operation southwest of Phu Dinh.

"We were to condon a small hamlet and sweep through before dawn, looking for a VC rice-ripping party thought to be in the area," said Company Commander, Captain Michael K. Palttta, San Diego, Calif. He noted that an advance party had engaged a group of Viet Cong with rockets.

One platoon spotted several Viet Cong advancing under the cover of a herd of water buffalo, recalled Sergeant Paul E. Covington, Jr., Bensonberg, Ind. "After a short firefight, they rushed into a nearby village.

The 11th Infantry Brigade engaged a patrol during a daylight patrol walking the shoreline and alerted the rest of the unit.

"They were on the beach, but when we arrived they had moved," said Lt. Jerry A. Crawford of Port Gibson, Miss.

Covington said his team remained near the point of contact and saw no further action.

"We had one VC killed in action about 20 meters from us, and we heard someone on the trail just before it got light," Covington concluded.

A first-light sweep of the area initially revealed two Viet Cong killed in action, one with a flashlight hanging around his neck, and the other with a can of warm rice and fish and a bag of medical supplies.

The third KIA was found under his backpack in knee-deep water.

Geneva Park

The battalion, 19th Infantry Brigade and garrisons from Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, killed one enemy for the week, as action was moderate in the area.

The "Ready Rifles" of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, killed one enemy during the week. The action occurred southwest of Chu Lai in which nine Viet Cong were killed.

With their might defensive position, the battalion’s platoon started recovering AK-47 fire from a group of VC 400 meters to the east. The company returned fire and called for gunfire and artillery illumination. Cobra gun ships and close air support dropped down three enemy with "Ready Rifles" then swept the area and found six additional VC their organic small arms had killed.

Earlier in the week, Charlie Company saw some VC moving to the west some distance away. A contact element was attached to the area in which engaged two of the NVA soldiers.

The 19th Infantry engaged a group of VC at a tunnel with one 105, white a move to a position. One VC was captured and one killed in the area.

Operating south of Chu Lai, Bravo Company of the "Ready Rifles" engaged and killed one Viet Cong in a brief firefight.

The "Professional" of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry had light fire from three another day they killed four NVA soldiers and wounded three.

While on patrol southwest of Chu Lai, Company B killed two and wounded engagement with a small NVA element. Later, the company engaged and killed two enemy soldiers.

The "Preachers" of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, killed six enemy soldiers during the week, while patrolling the region of weapons southeast of Chu Lai.

Early in the week, Echo Recon killed another two VC while on a night patrol. Two rifles, two machine guns, and one 81mm mortar were captured in the action.

One company was observed and killed one more VC along a small trail.

In another action, III Troop, 17th Cavalry received three rifle platoons during the week. Two of the others were engaged.

Company B of the 26th Infantry, based at Chu Lai, received 47 gas rounds and four mortar rounds from a group of VC. The action was southeast of Chu Lai. All the munitions were destroyed.

Pennsylvania Square

Moderate action continued throughout the week on Pennsylvania Square last week as the "Blackhawk" and "Ready Rifles" killed five enemy soldiers and captured two more.

Bravo Troop of the 1st ranks ahead, building fire and killing two VC. Two days later, a company attacked a tunnel, killed one enemy soldier and wounded another, who was captured and killed in the area.

Farther to the South, Troop A, in contact, killing one VC and wounding another who was evacuated. Later in the day a 1st Battalion to 800 pounds of rice. The next day another Hol Chin led the troop in an ambush, wiping out the enemy with a shot, the killed 600 pounds.

C Troop of the 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry, engaged and killed two VC, one of the fighting positions and captured one anti-personnel mines, 7 artillery rounds, and 14 M59 rounds.

Regulars get there first

By Sgt Chuck Merzinski

FSB BRONCO (11th Inf Bde 10) — A 4th Battalion, 19th Infantry, at the San Jose, recently tried to pick up a car and found it was a group of vacationers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry killed four and detained one.

The patrol read selected a large mound 60 meters from the South China Sea for their NDP because it was covered by a tunnel and advantage in observing extensive beach area.

Just before guard duty, PFC Mike Garrett of Grinnell, Iowa, called the patrol the NVA patrol walking the shoreline and alerted the rest of the unit.

"They were about 45 meters away when we started watching them," said Spec. 4 Ron Shadrak of Stevens Point, Wis. "There were 14 enemy and from them they hit an illumination round and killed, the patrol would squad down. They began thinking it might be a friendly element until they came closer. But when they were 30 meters from our position and three men started toward the mound as they were to be cut out, the patrol and PFC John Crawford of Port Gibson, Miss.

Covington and a fellow regular, PFC Ron Sullivan of St. Joseph, Mo., killed an AK-47 carrying VC who came within 20 meters of their position.

The patrol platoons firing at the main VC patrol which had taken cover behind a small sand hill. Then the platoon split into two elements and maneuvered as the enemy tried to escape along the beach.

With illumination, the platoon followed signs of two bodies being dragged. "We followed the trail for about 500 meters until it lead to the shore," said Sullivan, adding, "We assumed they dragged the bodies into the water to hide them.

The sweep continued, and one VC was captured on only 50 meters from where the trail led into the water. The insurgents was found even though he attempted to partially bury himself in the sand.

Bunnell spotted a sampan on the beach and said he could see a backpack behind the boat. "I figured it was booby-trapped so we stayed away from it and circled around one side of the sampan," he said. "We then saw a VC pop out of a hole next to the beach and from behind a grenade. One of the rounds killed the VC and the men snatched the pack and found an AK-47 and several Chicom grenades.

"I can’t figure out why he didn’t use his rifle," commented Bunnell. "He was lucky for me, but I think it might have been defective." After returning to the initial contact site, the platoon discovered 30 Chicom grenades, clothing, equipment, supplies and food inside packs that had hastily discarded by the fleeing VC.

Staff Sergeant James Gregory followed by Sergeant Bill Platt, both of B Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry move across an open field about nine miles northeast of LZ Dottie. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC James Dunn)

Enemy provides meal

By Sgt Louis Miller

CHU LAI, (19th Inf Bde 10) — When infantrymen of the 19th Infantry Brigade are cold, tired, and wet, one of the few things that makes their day more enjoyable is a hot home-cooked meal. Even if it is Viet Cong style, at the enemy’s expense, and at an enemy R&R center.

On a patrol east of the Ky Tra Valley, Echo Recon of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry found five hooches, and three bunkers located along a river in a heavily vegetated area.

Cautiously entering one structure, Sergeant George Scoek of Raytown Mo., a squad leader, and Private First Class David Mullen from Oshawa found themselves in the middle of an enemy mass gun position.

Taking advantage of the situation, the two men followed the aroma to the rear of the structure and found corn, rice, and ill-stocked bartering counter.

"I must have been their R&R center," remarked PFC Mullen. "The house was all sixty feet long and thirty feet wide, but there weren’t many fighting positions. It was hot and tasted good. What more can you ask from the enemy?"

THE SOUTHERN CROSS
January 1, 1971
This is the Southern Crosses' way of trying to give you everything you need for a happy New Year. Lovely Diane Barnett is the 1971 San Francisco National Sports and Boat Show Queen.
Orphans receive Merry Christmas

By SPA Terry Williamson
CHU LAI (19th Inf. Bde. 10) -- Several hundred Vietnamese orphans will receive gifts this year by the Christmas spirit of the 23rd Division's 19th Infantry Brigade.

The soldiers of the "Brave and Bold" are sponsoring twosome of orphanges this Christmas and virtually hundreds of gifts will be distributed to the children at Binh Son and Camp Phu Chanh Trinh.

The whole thing started as a Division project and the brigade civil affairs offices were asked for help in procuring money for the worthwhile cause. Soldiers of the 19th responded by reaching down in their pockets and producing $2,727 for the project, tops in the division. Altogether, the Division collected nearly seven thousand dollars.

One brigade soldier said, "I don't really have anyone over here to buy Christmas gifts for, and this is the way I can feel it's really Christmas in Vietnam."

Similar sentiments were expressed throughout the brigade as the program met hearty support and the dollars poured in. The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry led the way with over ninety thousand dollars collected, but each unit came through with hefty sums.

"We spent one day visiting the orphanages in the field and got a support bases collecting the contributions," said First Lieutenant Ross J. Johnson, the brigade Civil Affairs Officer from New Castle, Ohio. "We were getting a great response, and even the helicopter crew that flew us seemed caught by the spirit. They donated $8.10."

The success of the toy fund was not entirely due to the Christmas spirit, however. The brigade has always had close ties with the Catholic orphanage at Binh Son. Medics are run there weekly, and often former members of the brigade now in the states send gifts to the children.

Americans have always been welcome at the orphanage and the Christmas spirit provided another outlet for the infantrymen to express their feelings and concerns for the children.

The association with the orphanage at Camp Phu Chanh Trinh is new for the brigade, but officers feel that the start they are off to with the Christmas fund will lead to closer future ties.

The civil affairs office will purchase the gifts from the local market as long as the supply holds out. Other gifts will be purchased elsewhere when the supply around Chu Lai dwindles.

The toys will be put into individual packets and distributed in a traditional Christmas party at the orphanage.

Professionals rob the enemy blind

By SGT Matt Gryza
LZ YOUNG (23rd Infantry Division 10) -- The southeastern sector of Tam Ky District has proven to be a veritable supermarket in terms of communist supplies and munitions for one 23rd Infantry Division battalion since its recent move here.

The uncovering of weapons caches has become an almost daily occurrence for the men of the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry in the three weeks the "Professionals" have been operating off this low-lands firebase some six miles West of the district capital along the Tam Ky Provincial Highway.

A greater part of the booty, ranging from 656 homemade Chinese Communist grenades to seventeen tons of granulated salt, has been unearthed in and around the Ban Quan, Dai Do and Dai Tham mountains just South of LZ Young, which guards the sole overland resupply route to the combined Vietnamese garrison at Tam Phuc.

"We've been finding a large amount of heavy weapons among the caches," noted First Lieutenant Edward E. McCoy, New York City, 1/46 Intelligence Officer.

"Apparently the enemy battalions have been stockpiling arms and supplies since the beginning of the monsoon season in preparation for a new offensive and for a possible summer resupply," the Professionals' move off LZ Mary Ann, overlooking the 127mm mortar range of Quang Tin Province was accentuated by air-creased enemy ambushes along the provincial highway.

A large measure of our success in this area can be attributed to our working platoon for platoon with four Vietnamese Regional Forces units," Lieutenant Colonel William P. Doyle, Honolulu, Battalion Commander, pointed out.

Two hundred and six enemy dead have been accounted for since the joint operation began and the "Professionals"...scoreboard of captured weapons reads like a Viet Cong armory's property book.

It includes one 75mm recoilless rifle, four 57mm recoilless rifles, twelve AK-47's, fifteen captured 30 caliber machine guns, five Browning Automatic Rifles, fifty-one Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG's), nine 60mm mortar rounds and 2630 AK-47 rounds.

The 196th Brigade troops have become so adept at finding enemy stores that lately they've been running across the wastes even when they aren't actively searching.

"We got hit by some mortars and small arms fire the night before Thanksgiving as we were moving to our night laager," related Specialist Four Tim Carmichael, Macedon, Mich., a medic with Charlie Company's first platoon.

"The incident made a modest necessary as we were cutting out a landing zone on a heavily wooded ridgeline we came across a large corrugated box lying in some thick bush under a large tree."

The box itself was unusually old, but when we opened it we found three perfectly good 60mm mortar rounds and three 106mm recoilless rifle rounds," said Private First Class Ken Gates, Warren, Illinois.

Alpha Company uncovered two large stores of granulated salt within a forty-eight hour period during a recent search and clear mission along Ban Quan Mountain.

"My second platoon had pulled out a hundred gallon cans of kerosene which had been secreted under a rockpile beneath a mountain waterfal," said Captain Paul S. Sulberg, Los Angeles, Company Commander.

"A further search of the immediate area produced two large cactus baskets covered with poncho's under some thick foliage. Each of the baskets, approximately ten feet in diameter by four feet high, held about 8,000 pounds of salt."

Less than two days later, while working their way down the slope of the ridgeline the men of the second platoon ram across three more wicker baskets containing an additional 18,000 pounds of the white condiment.

During a break in the monsoon rains the salt was airdropped out of the field and turned over to the Province with the understanding that Tam Ky where it was distributed to local villagers.

Television and movie actor Serves 2nd Vietnam tour

FBS BRONCO (11th Inf. Bde. 10) -- When Staff Sergeant Ronald A. Numkena of Wheat Ridge, Colo., a platoon sergeant with the 11th Infantry Brigade's Company C, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry was inducted into the Army in July of 1966, he was 22-years-old and already had eighteen years of experience "harassing hostile troops, executing ambushes and dodging bullets."

Since he first appeared on the Colonel Tim McCoy television show in 1947, Numkena has had a number of minor roles and performed numerous stand-ins on television and in the movies. It was only natural for him to always care what his father was a Hopi and his mother from the Klamath Kreete tribe.

Some of the motion pictures in which Numkena has appeared include Naked Jungle, Pony Soldier, Wall of Noise, Cat Ballou, and the Professionals. In the later film, he was paid three hundred dollars to fall from a one hundred and fifty foot tower. On television, he has appeared in Zorro, Brave Eagle, Advance to the Rear (F Troop) and Bonanza.

Numkena has on several occasions caught a glimpse of his past life. He recalled that one movie he had been watching was interrupted and a segment replayed after someone had recognized him in a particular part. His first tour in Vietnam was with the 4th Infantry Division.

After he gets out of the military picture, Numkena plans on continuing his education in the field of fine arts and eventually become an interior decorator. Nevertheless, he says he will continue to do stunt work on the side.

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