

F Troop 17th Cavalry (Armor) Compilation of Vietnam Articles

Forwarding note from Leslie Hines, ADVA Vietnam era historian for 2020.

The Americal Division Veteran's Association Historical Data Base contains many news articles, reports, unit albums, casualty reports, KIA information, videos and maps relating to units that served with the Americal Division. My work on this effort began way back in the 1990s. Many items came from veterans sharing their news articles with me or from tedious efforts to locate and transcribe the text and images from microfilm copies. Today the data base now holds only approximately 40% of the stories of our service in the Americal Division and supporting units. But it is the result of my best effort.

I have realized that it might be difficult for a veteran to find stories about their unit from the data base if they did not have some computer skills. This compilation may come too late for some, but it is always something that I hoped that would be done by a unit's web master or some other helpful soul as I continued to add more material to the data base. But it is time that I start making the effort. If for no other reason than to illustrate what can be done if someone makes the effort to compile their own unit stories from the data base.

This compilation had to be limited in scope. Items were selected from "Pacific Stars & Stripes" and the "Army Reporter" which published many of the articles provided by the Americal Division Information Office. It also includes brigade command newsletters (196th LIB), the division daily newsheets, the Americal Division magazines (12 issues), the Americal Division Book (printed in July 1970), and 117 issues of the "Southern Cross" published in Vietnam were included. Notable sources of stories that were *not included* in the compilation were the ADVA Newsletter/Journal stories. Some of the ADVA "Newsletters" have been scanned as read only images. The issues of the ADVA "Journal" can be searched electronically and currently is complete. It would be possible to select several more articles if I had time to research stories that did not provide the company name. For example a story might only refer to the action of a unit of the Americal Division or the 196th Bde engaging the enemy. If the story indicated their were 23 enemy killed and a cache of 12 B-40 rockets I might be able to identify that the unit was **F Trp 17th Cavalry**. from the Division S2/S3 TOC reports. Without this extra research we only know that the action involved a unit that might or might not have been **F Troop 17th Cavalry**.

Note: References to photos may indicate that we have an image taken from microfilm or xerox copy. These may be found in PDF files in the historical data base or you may request copies of the images the ADVA historian.

Four military yearbooks exist that include **F/17th Cavalry**. These books are similar to high school year books. These were created under the direction of the officer assigned duties as historian for the battalion. A 1966 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Ft. Devens) yearbook was published with a captioned group photo of the men from F Troop 17th Cavalry.



F Troop, 17th Cavalry

From left to right, Row 1: Secor, J.E., 1st Lt.; Roon, C.W., Capt; Crowder, B.B., 1st Sgt; Dahl, A., 2nd Lt. Row 2: Kachelmyer, W., Sgt; Cozanos, E.E., Pvt; Depew, J., SP4; Jones, A.M., Pvt.; Lefevre, G.J., Pfc; Lockwood, A., Pfc.; Huebschen, C., Pfc; Gaffney, K.H., Pvt., Broadway, S., Pfc. Row 3: Holman, W.C., SSgt.; Smith, H., Pvt; Neal, R., Sgt; Wilkinson, D., Sgt; Stravado, R.A., Pvt; Szpila, R.S., Pvt; Martinetti, P.M., Pfc; Buss, R.L., Pfc; Mitchell, J.T., Pfc; Ordway, R.F., Pfc; Mulligan, M.E., Pvt. Row 4: Poe, M.J., SSgt; Clark, D.W., Pfc; Sanderfoot, G.T., Pvt.; Mosley, B.W., Pfc; Fox, T.D., Pvt; Heard, O., Pvt; Whitfield, R.R., SP5; Fenner, W.L., Pvt; Jodoin, W.J., Pvt.; Wilde, L.R., Pvt.; Ackley, B.F., Pfc; Travers, P.J., Pvt.; Moeller, T., Pvt. Row 5: Fisher, L.D., Sgt; Dixon, R.L., Pfc.; Murray, J.T., SP5; Kreuger, R.J.,

Pvt.; Milligan, W.P., Sgt.; Morris, D.M., SP4; Pinault, R., SP4; Kopustiak, A., Pvt.; Rommel, E., SP4; Wismer, J.C., Pvt.; Moys, D.L., Pvt.; Zechmann, H., Pvt.; Van Loan, V.J., Pvt.; McNamee, G.R., Pvt.; Carlton, G., Sgt. Row 6: Bird, D.E., SSgt.; Burns, J.A., Pvt.; Schwedhelm, R., Pvt.; Steffen, G.A., Pvt.; Kokemueller, K., Pfc.; Petrowski, T., Pvt.; Schuda, R.A., Pvt.; Kays, H.R., Pfc.; McCardell, J.R., Pvt.; Hattenstein, C., Pfc.; Fontana, J., Pvt.; Gardner, R.J., Pvt.; Sarver, K.L., Pvt.; Harris, A.R., Sgt.; Rodriguez, J. PFC; Raines, L.V., Pfc.; Janicek, R., Pfc.; Sims, E., SSgt. Row 7: Brando, D. E., SSgt; Schultz, G.H., Pvt.; Sartore, D., Pfc.; Raymond, D.B., Pvt.; Allen, D.R., Pfc.; Perlinski, D.V., Pvt.; Jackson, G.D., Pfc.; Sroka, R.A., Pfc.; Kociszewski, D., Pvt; Kirklin, D.A., Pfc.; Harrison, M.T., Pfc.; Savard, P.F., Pfc; Solgueiro, F.W., Pfc.;

Barnett, J.A., Pfc.; Longworth, L.D., Pvt; Lathrop, P.L., Pvt.; Wills, A.L., Sgt. Row 8: Rosie, P., Sgt; Munson, E.L., SP4; Carter, B.E., Pvt.; Hughes, F.T., Pvt.; Ruthenberg, R.A., Pvt.; Moran, T.P., Pvt.; Piparo, J., Pvt.; McGurn, J.W., Pfc.; Tighe, C.E. Pvt.; Hagenkord, J., Pfc.; Shaw, T. Pfc.; Norris, C., Pvt.; Peoples, M.L., Sgt.; Wiggins, R.C., Sgt.; Bergen, T.V., Pvt.; Mazika, A.E., Pvt.; Leger, W., Pfc.; Gniech, R.P., Pvt; McCollum, N.V., Pfc.; Francki, R.J., Pfc. Row 9: Lamphere, R.E. PSgt.; Miller, R.E., Psg.; Valenti, C.J., Pfc.; Fritschka, J., SP4; Sives, R.S., SP4; McCurdy, D.J., Pfc.; Bush, D.L., SSgt.; Stewart, E.S., SP5; Gibbs, J.H., Pvt.; Mitchell, T.C., Pfc.; Benavides, S., Pfc.; Combs, S.D., Pfc.; Ouring, J.A., SSgt.; Austin, J.E., SFC; Turner, H.H., PSgt.



A 1967 196 Light Infantry Brigade yearbook was published with a listing of the men who were serving with F Troop 17th Cavalry. This is an edited version of the list found in the year book:



TROOP F, 17TH CAVALRY

CPT Ronald A. Lane
Commanding Officer



| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1LT Ronald B. Mattioli | SP4 Robert J. Bauer | PFC Alan D. Cox |
| 1LT Michael R. Harvey | SP4 Samuel L. Benavides | PFC William E. Crank |
| 1LT Gerald A. Reason | SP4 James C. Betts | PFC Gray L. Dalton |
| 2LT David L. Bush | SP4 Calvin M. Carpenter | PFC Robert R. Decker |
| 2LT George S. Middleton | SP4 Thomas H. Clement | PFC Joseph J. DeRico |
| 1SG Billy B. Crowder | SP4 Joseph J. Clouid | PFC David T. Diaz |
| PSG Richard E. Lamphiere | SP4 Jerry L. Cox | PFC Charles G. Flores |
| PSG Richard E. Miller | SP4 Philip K. Davis | PFC Andre C. Foptier |
| SFC Richard A. Nolan | SP4 Patrick L. Dawson | PFC Jose P. Garza |
| PSG Hal H. Turner | SP4 Robert J. Franecki | PFC Robert L. Haase |
| SSG Dennis E. Bird | SP4 Tommy J. Franks | PFC James W. Golden |
| SSG Ronald Boston | SP4 Robert J. Gardner | PFC James B. Hamlyn |
| SSG Tommie Burgess | SP4 Francis Gilbride | PFC Ronnie E. Hammock |
| SSG Robert Jackson Jr. | SP4 Dieter Goldschmidt | PFC Delbert L. Hamrick |
| SSG Gus T. Johnson | SP4 Alejandro Gonzales | PFC Robert D. Hass |
| SSG William E. Kachelmyer | SP4 Daniel L. Haffner | PFC Otis Heard |
| SSG Joseph W. McCulloch | SP4 Molina H. Hernandez | PFC Anthony Hebert |
| SSG Herpert H. Morgan | SP4 James A. Hollaway | PFC Larry A. Holtrey |
| SSG Billy E. Mount | SP4 Chester Hottenstein | PFC Gerald D. Huffman |
| SSG Richard Neal | SP4 Gary D. Jackson | PFC Robert S. Jenkins |
| SSG Allen J. Oshersky | SP4 Harry R. Kays | PFC Terry D. Kersey |
| SSG Ralph M. Pennington | SP4 Derald A. Kirklín | PFC Daniel Koislewski |
| SSG Mason J. Poe | SP4 Thomas P. Kitchin | PFC Coleman D. Lanning |
| SSG Robert J. Scott | SP4 Richard J. Krueger | PFC Guadalupe Ledesma |
| SFC Harless C. Sharp | SP4 Gary J. LeFevre | PFC John M. Loconsolo |
| SSG Lee W. Stapnader | SP4 Jesse T. Mitchell | PFC James V. Lucas |
| SSG Edward S. Stewart | SP4 Ben W. Mosley | PFC Kenneth Miller |
| SSG Aloysius L. Wills | SP4 Francisco T. Munguia | PFC Theodore Moeller |
| SGT Joseph A. Barnett | SP4 James P. McCardell | PFC David A. Moore |
| SGT Francis L. Brown | SP4 David J. McCurdy | PFC Thomas P. Moran |
| SGT Ronald P. Dinsmore | SP4 Michael A. Muscarella | PFC James W. Nance |
| SGT Jesse A. Edmond | SP4 Ernest L. Neel | PFC Brunell A. Norford |
| SGT George C. Edsell | SP4 Charles Norris | PFC Charlie Norris |
| SGT Larry D. Fisher | SP4 Ralph F. Ordway Jr. | PFC Bohimer J. Orsarg |
| SGT Willis H. Frerich | SP4 Robert Oplandi | PFC Agapito B. Palomino |
| SGT Roger L. Hildebrant | SP4 David V. Perlinski | PFC Robert A. Plunkett |
| SGT Charles P. King | SP4 Theodore Petrowski | PFC Roy Rivada |
| SGT David M. Morris | SP4 Donald B. Raymond | PFC Stanley K. Roche |
| SGT Joseph Rodriquez | SP4 Farrell Salguerio | PFC Ronald Rosodo |
| SGT Eugene Rommel | SP4 Paul F. Savard | PFC Mark E. Russell |
| SGT George T. Sanderfoot | SP4 Robert S. Sives | PFC Kerry L. Sarver |
| SGT Robert D. Stevenson | SP4 Henry A. Smith | PFC James L. Saunders |
| SGT Robert A. Valencia | SP4 Charlie Spillman | PFC Jerome L. Scott |
| SGT Desmond Wilkinson | SP4 David Sortore | PFC Cary L. Starkey |
| SP5 John T. Barner | SP4 Gary A. Steffen | PFC Robert A. Stravato |
| SP5 Olie W. Daye | SP4 Mickle C. Wallace | PFC Charles E. Tighe |
| SP5 Roblero J. Fuentes | SP4 Earl West | PFC E. Veliz-Martinez |
| SP5 Nolan O. Kelly Jr. | SP4 David G. Wyllie | PFC Dennis J. Unterreiner |
| SP5 James T. Murray | PFC Gregory L. Baker | PFC James F. Vincent Jr. |
| SP5 Dillard E. Rye | PFC Jeffrey L. Baker | PFC Ronald L. Walquist |
| SP5 Rivera I. Valez | PFC James E. Bates | PFC Mayo L. Weaver |
| SP5 Roy R. Whitfield | PFC Thomas V. Bergen | PFC James C. Wisner |
| CPL Charles D. Rother | PFC John E. Bowman | PFC Glen A. York |
| SP4 Byron F. Ackley | PFC William E. Brehm | PVT Lee C. Bryson |
| SP4 David R. Allen | PFC Stanley L. Claycomb | PVT Andrew Gentile |
| SP4 Brian C. Barker | PFC Michael D. Clayton | |

List of men serving in F Troop 17th Cavalry
from the 1968 196th LIB Yearbook

A 1971 1/1st Cavalry Yearbook was published with a small section of photos for men serving in F Troop 17 Cavalry. And a 1972 1/1st Cavalry & F Troop 17th Cavalry yearbook was published with a section with a section of individual photos for men serving in F Troop 17th Cavalry.

The photos are too numerous to provide here. You will want to see the PDF files made of these two yearbooks to peruse through the photos.

A 155 page document has been made of the Americal Division S2/S3 report entries that referred to actions of F Troop 17th Cavalry. This document covers a period from October 22, 1967 through November 11, 1971. The entries will not be duplicated in this document. Another source that has not been worked is the news releases sent to home town newspapers with stories about our veterans.



**Troop F, 17th Cavalry
(Reconnaissance)**

Arrived Vietnam: 26 August 1966

Departed Vietnam: 31 March 1972

Previous Station: Fort Devens

| Authorized Strength | 1966 | 1968 | 1970 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Troop | 151 | 195 | 210 |

Troop F, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element of the 196th Infantry Brigade (Light) and was collocated with the brigade throughout its service in Vietnam.

This is the information about Troop F, 17th Cavalry service found in the "Stanton Order of Battle" reference book.

Unit awards for F Troop 17th Cavalry (Armor).

SOURCE: Department of the Army Pamphlet 762-3

Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register

(1960-1978)

Dated: May 1980

RVNGC16 Apr 68 - 28 Aug 69 DAGO 6, 1974
RVNGC24 Aug 69 - 31 Aug 69 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC31 Mar 70 - 30 Jun 70 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC1 Apr 71 - 30 Jun 71 DAGO 6, 1974

ABBREVIATIONS:

| | |
|---------|---|
| DAGO: | Department of the Army General Order |
| PUC: | U.S. Army Presidential Unit Citation |
| VUA: | U.S. Army Valorous Unit Award |
| MUC: | U.S. Army Meritorious Unit Citation |
| RVNGC: | Republic Of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation |
| RVNCAHM | Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal - First Class |
| | Unit Citation |
| N-PUC | U.S. Navy Presidential Unit Citation |
| N-MUC | U.S. Navy Meritorious Unit Citation |
| HHC | Headquarters & Headquarters Company |
| HHB | Headquarters & Headquarters Battery |
| DETACH | Detachment |

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1578

16 February 1970

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR

1. TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

SPECIALIST FOUR Hal Smith.

Troop F, 17th Cavalry, 196th Infantry Brigade APO 96256

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Date of service: 26 December 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1952

Reason: For heroism in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Smith distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 26 December 1969 while serving as a medical aidman with Troop F, 17th Cavalry. On that date, the troop was engaged in combat operations when it came under heavy fire from an enemy force of undetermined size. In the initial exchange of fire, a vehicle was hit by a rocket propelled grenade round which caused several casualties. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Specialist Smith ran through the enemy fire, and went to the assistance of his wounded comrades. With the aid of a fellow soldier, Specialist Smith moved the wounded driver of the vehicle from his position, and administered aid to his comrade. Continuing to expose himself to hostile fire, Specialist Smith treated three other wounded soldiers. He remained in a vulnerable position to care for the wounded men until a MEDEVAC aircraft arrived, and they were extracted from the site. Through his timely and courageous actions, Specialist Smith was instrumental in the swift evacuation of his wounded comrades. Specialist Smith's personal heroism, professional competence, and devotion to duty 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.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

T. H. TACKABERRY
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

(signed Larry D. Flowers)

LARRY D. FLOWERS

CPT, AGC

Asst AG

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 23rd Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5376

12 May 1971

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR

1. TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

FUNE, CLARENCE E., SSAN xxx-xx-xxxx), SPECIALIST FIVE
F Troop, 17th Cavalry, 23d Infantry Division, APO 96374
23rd Infantry Division, 96374

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Date of service: 4 March 1971

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive
Order 11046, 24 August 1952

Reason: For heroism in connection with ground operations against a hostile
force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Five Fune
distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on
4 March 1971 while serving as a Medical Aidman with F Troop,
17th Cavalry. On that date, while in a Night Defensive Position
near Tien Phuoc, the platoon came under attack from an enemy force
employing Rocket-Propelled Grenades, mortars, small arms fire,
and 57MM recoilless rifle fire. One of the vehicles in the per-
imeter received a direct hit by a Rocket-Propelled Grenade, set-
ting the vehicle afire and wounding several of the crew members.
Although Specialist Five Fune had been painfully injured in a
prior engagement, without regard for his own personal safety and
despite the hostile fire and imminent danger of secondary explo-
sions from the flaming vehicle, he repeatedly entered the burn-
ing vehicle until all crew members were successfully evacuated.
He then administered aid far above what is normally required of
a Medical Aidman. His actions undoubtedly saved the lives of his
wounded comrades. Specialist Five Fune's personal heroism, pro-
fessional competence, and devotion to duty are in keeping with
the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great
credit upon himself, the 23rd Infantry Division, and the United
States Army.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

WILLIAM R. REICHARDSON
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

(signed L. D. Cummings WO1
BERT A. ROSEFIELD
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

DISTRIBUTION:

F
1-CO, USA Pers Svc Spt Cen,
ATTN: AGPE-F,
Ft., Benj. Harrison, Ind. 46249

F Troop 17th Cavalry participated in these operations:

Operation Cedar Falls
Operation Fitchburg
Operation Hood River
Operation Attleboro
Operation Junction City I & II
Operation Wheeler Wallowa
Operation Caroline Hill
Operation Frederick Hill
Operation Geneva Park
Operation Pennsylvania Square
Operation Middlesex Peak
Operation Lam Son 719

(tentative list to be reviewed)

Operation Benton
Operation Gadsden
Operation Pocahontas Forest (TF Oregon)
Operation Oregon
Operation Malheur I
Operation Malheur II
Operation Benton
Operation Cook
Operation Wheeler
Operation Nebraska Rapids

F/17th Cavalry conducted the final U.S. armored combat patrol in RVN.

This section will hold the articles published by the Americal Division Public Information Office.
The first of four publications processed will be the "Southern Cross" weekly Newspaper.

(page 6 June 68 Southern Cross)

'Charger's Strike

Unit Kills 123 NVA

LZ BALDY - Ground units of the 196th Inf. Bde. coupled with heavy artillery and air support to kill 123 enemy soldiers during 24 hours of continuous heavy contact in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa recently.

The fighting marked a sharp increase of enemy activity in the "Charger" area northwest of Tam Ky.

The most significant action involved the men of Co. D of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., who were attacked on a sweep operation and killed 86 enemy soldiers with only light casualties to themselves.

Men in a brigade observation post saw some 60 North Vietnamese soldiers moving towards the American unit from the north and a company-sized element advancing on it from the northwest.

Artillery and air strikes pounded the oncoming enemy, and the infantrymen reinforced by another company from their battalion and a platoon from **Trp. F of the brigade's 17th Cav.**, moved in for the mopping up.

Fighting continued until dark, when the badly-beaten enemy force moved back, leaving 86 of its dead behind. The action brought a letter of praise for the men of the battalion from GEN William C. Westmoreland, commander of US. forces in Vietnam.

The other kills for the brigade came in scattered action throughout the day.

LZ BALDY-For whom does the bell toll?

It was supposed to toll for an element of the 196th Inf. Bde., according to a sign placed by the Viet Cong northwest of Tam Ky recently.

The men of **Trp. F of the 17th Armd. Cav.** were on a search and clear operation when they discovered a bell with a sign reading:

"Americans! Ring this bell and the VC will come and slit your throats." After checking the bell thoroughly for booby traps, the cavalymen accepted the challenge and rang it several times.

No Viet Cong showed.

30Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 6. Page 4-5 Full page spread
'Chargers' Fight On In Wheeler/Wallowa (photo of 196 LIB patch).

Story By

SGT Paul S. Forman

Art By

SP4 Brian C. Bardwell

Photos By

196th Inf. Bde

LZ BALDY--When the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, the Army's first light brigade, landed on the beaches of Vung Tau in mid-August, 1966, it was the beginning of continuous and successful contact for the "Chargers" throughout Vietnam.

The Brigade originally set up its base camp four miles west of Tay Ninh City on the edge of Communist War Zone C. In heavy combat, the "Chargers" scored impressive victories over the Viet Cong in Operations ATTLEBORO, CEDAR FALLS, JUNCTION CITY, GADSDEN and LANCASTER, killing more than 700 VC and destroying numerous enemy base camps and supplies.

First Move

In the first of many moves, the 196th came to Chu Lai in April 1967, to reinforce the III Marine Amphibious Force units in I Corps.

As the first major Army unit in I Corps, the "Chargers" assumed responsibility for defense of the Marine air base at Chu Lai.

During the first few months in Chu Lai, the Brigade opened two major highways to Allied travel, while killing 400 VC and disrupting enemy plans.

In November, 1967, after becoming an organic brigade of the newly-formed Americal Division, the 196th moved again. This time it moved to Hill 35, north of Tam Ky, which brought with it the responsibility for Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA.

In this, the Brigade's longest sustained operation, the "Chargers" have accounted for 3,500 enemy soldiers killed and 1,100 weapons captured.

In the first major contact of the new operation, "Polar Bears" of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., teamed up with "F" Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry in a three-day battle. The action cost the 2nd NVA Division 118 dead and 56 enemy weapons captured.

Two weeks after the contact, known as the Thanksgiving Day Battle, a 38-member VC unit surrendered under the Brigade's Chieu Hoi program.

The "Gimlets"--of the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., presented the Brigade with its finest Christmas present by uncovering an enemy cache containing 140 weapons.

Tet Offensive

The new year brought the "Chargers" into their heaviest contact with the 2nd NVA Division. The action left another 466 enemy killed, as the stepped-up offensive by the NVA failed.

In early February the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., was called upon to support the 1st Marine Division in defense of Da Nang. In a three-day battle, the "Legionnaires," in Task Force MIRACLE, dealt a swift and decisive blow to NVA elements trying to infiltrate the Da Nang Military Complex. In a brief contact, 317 NVA regulars were killed and 33 weapons captured.

In March, the Brigade moved to LZ Baldy and the surrounding landing zones. Contact quickly picked up as artillerymen from the 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., joined Brigade infantrymen in a 10-hour battle. Pinpoint artillery fire supported the ground action and accounted for 34 of the 78 enemy killed.

(continued)

Large Weapons Cache

In April, a former NVA soldier led Bravo company, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., to a well-camouflaged hospital. After securing the complex, an intensive search turned up 225 enemy weapons--28 of which were crew served--and a massive quantity of ammunition.

Soon the Brigade was again on the move. The planned invasion of the NVA stronghold in the A Chau Valley brought them to Camp Evans, north of Phu Bai. During Operation DELAWARE, the Brigade provided security for the 1st Air Cavalry Division base camp.

As the operation was drawing to a close, the 3/21 "Gimlets" moved north of Dong Ha to engage the enemy in a fierce 10-day battle. Part of Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE, the battalion killed 579 NVA regulars and captured 129 weapons.

Returning to LZ Baldy and Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA the brigadesmen combined artillery, air strikes and fierce ground fire to whip a determined NVA force. The three-day battle for Hill 406 and two other hills west of Baldy netted 30 enemy killed and numerous weapons captured.

The "Chargers" are under the command of COL Frederick J. Kroesen.

Photo Captions:

1. Pencil Drawing of two soldiers walking with their M-16s at the ready in full gear including helmets.
2. Photo - 196th medic treats boy
3. Photo - Resupply chopper brings goods to the field.
4. Photo - 'Charger' cautiously enters tunnel
5. Photo - Elusive enemy constantly sought. (Men riding on ACAV with .50 caliber and M-60 machine guns at the ready.)
6. Smoke marks the spot for approaching choppers.
7. 'Flying Red Horsemen' blast away at NVA. (Note 3/82nd Artillerymen observe their 105mm rounds impacting way out in the valley below them.)

30Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 6. Page 6

SCOUT HONORED

LZ BALDY-A Kit Carson Scout of the 196th Inf. Bde. was honored by his commander here recently for outstanding service.

Dinh Mua, a scout with **"F" Troop, 17th Armd. Cav.**, was cited by 1LT Angus Macaulay "as contributing more than any other man in the troop in explaining to the Vietnamese the objectives of the Republic of South Vietnam."

PF Volunteers Aid F/17

Find Cache in Village

CHU LAI--The formula could read F + PF = trouble for the enemy.

This formula stands for F Trp., 17th Cav., 196th Inf. Bde. plus a South Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) unit, and it recently added up to an ordnance and weapons cache and two detainees.

The two units got together during a recent reconnaissance-in-force patrol when the Popular Forces requested to accompany the cavalrymen, who were conducting blocking force operations approximately eight miles southwest of Hoi An.

Welcome Volunteers

An F/17 platoon leader, 2LT Charles C. Carefano (Fleminton, N.J.), stated, "This is the first time I have worked with a PF unit that had volunteered to work with us."

He explained that he knew there was a PF unit working in the area, but had no instructions to meet with them or join them. "We welcomed their help," the lieutenant said.

In one village the combined force of **F/17** and PF soldiers found a Viet Cong cadreman, one NVA officer, fourteen 60mm Chinese Communist rockets, four bangalore torpedoes and seven 10-pound land mines wrapped in plastic.

Find Weapons, Bodies

After questioning the two detainees, the allied troops found three additional individual weapons and nine enemy bodies believed to have been killed in a helicopter strike the day before.

"When we returned to the infantry unit we were working with before, the PFs were left to clean up the area," remarked 2LT Carefano, who was impressed by their work. He added he was looking forward to working with them again.

Combat In Review

128 Killed In Turkey Shoot

196th Recalls 1967 Battle

LZ BALDY--The memory of Thanksgiving 1967 for most infantrymen of the 196th Bde. is filled with turkey dinners, their families, and good friends. But those "Chargers" who were in-country a year ago remembered something entirely different.

NVA forces had been infiltrating into the then newly launched "Operation Wheeler/Wallowa" area and it was the brigade's job to stop them. In the first major confrontation between these soldiers and the "Chargers," called the "Thanksgiving Day Battle." 128 enemy were killed (including 36 by air strikes) and 47 individual and nine crew-served weapons were captured.

NVA Move In

Intelligence reports had indicated that the 3rd NVA Rgt. which was on R&R along the coastal plains of Thang Binh Dist., had moved into the mountains west and northwest of LZ Ross to regroup, train, and receive replacements.

To repel them brigade units moved out early on Thanksgiving morning to Hill 63, a thickly vegetated peak, 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

As soon as **B and D Co.s, 4th Bn. 31st Inf.** began to advance, they came under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from strongly fortified NVA positions.

The enemy was dug in directly to the front of the "Chargers" and to the west on scattered islands.

Cav Connects

The infantrymen, with support of vehicles from **A Trp., 1st Cav.** and **F Trp., 17th Cav.**, pounded away at the enemy who were firing from one and two-man foxholes just above the rice paddy level of the islands.

Marine and Air Force jets dive-bombed and strafed the NVA and forced them to seek cover. Seventy-five tons of bombs were dropped.

At night artillery concentrations hit enemy escape routes.

Mopping Up

On Nov. 24, the combined infantry-tank units resumed their slow methodical clearance of the islands. That night, the artillery again continued firing.

On the third and final day of the battle, "Charger companies gathered weapons, documents, equipment, and bodies from the contested area. Then they gathered up their own equipment and went back for a delayed but welcome Thanksgiving dinner.

**UNCLE BEN'S RICE
RAIDERS REMOVE DIET
FROM VC/NVA
PANTRY**

LZ BALDY - Discovering 51 tons of critically needed enemy rice, Cavalrymen from **F Troop., 17th Cav.**, severed an important VC/NVA resupply chain.

While on a routine search and clear mission seven miles southwest of Thang Binh, the cavalry from the 196th Inf. Bde. entered a hootch and uncovered a small quantity of rice concealed in camouflaged crocks.

Shortly after this initial discovery, the rice raiders engaged and killed a VC nearby.

While searching a cement building, one of the men began to tap on the walls and floor, testing and probing. Something didn't sound right.

Pressing his examination, he discovered a hidden basement containing five tons of unpolished rice.

The "Chargers" called the brigade's civil affairs action and asked for rice sacks.

While part of the platoon stuffed rice into 100-pound satchels the next day, the rest of the unit looked for more caches of the grain. They weren't disappointed.

Rice Everywhere

In a series of false graves, bushes, hootches, almost everywhere the men looked, they found rice. More than 13 tons were gathered by late afternoon.

1LT Charles C. Garefino (Flemington, N.J.) now suspected his platoon was well on the way to unveiling a major enemy rice distribution and storage point, which served both VC and NVA elements in the area and was controlled by local guerrillas.

The Americal rice rogues began to encounter a new problem. How to get the rice out of the area and back to Thang Binh for distribution.

They talked the pilot of their resupply chinook into flying a few extra missions, carting off many pounds of bagged rice.

Pilots/Protest

First the men crammed bags inside the chopper till it reached capacity, then hung more rice in nets under the craft.

In mock displeasure, the chinook pilots threw handfuls of rice at the cavalrymen everytime they tried to shove more on helicopter.

The 196th soldiers uncovered six tons the next day. By this time, the men had dubbed 1LT Garefino "Uncle Ben."

Winding up their rice hunt the next day, the soldiers gathered 21 tons of unpolished rice. In the process, two enemy were killed by **F Trp.** and the PFs accounted for another enemy KIA.

Returning to their base camp that evening, the men raced to the mess hall for a good hot meal. You guessed it--they were served rice.

Stork Stats

PFC VICTORY W. HOWELL, 723rd Maint. Bn., son born June 11, Savannah, Ga. SP4 STEVEN SAVAGE, 4-21 Inf., daughter born June 16, Quincy Mass. SP5 ROBERT WARNER, 723rd Maint. Bn. daughter born June 18, Northhampton, Mass, 1LT TED M. KELLY, 2-1 Inf., daughter born June 18. SP4 STEVEN MOODY, 5-46 Inf., daughter born June 18, Everett, Washington, SP4 RONALD D. DUNNING, 5-46 Inf., daughter born June 18, Seattle, Wash. SP4 REGINALD ASPLT, HHC 11th Bde., son born June 18, Sayer AFB, Michigan, PFC WILLIAM M. JONES, HHC, son born June 19, Flat River, Mo. 1LT KIRK SWENSON, HHC, son born June 19, Trenton, Neb. SP4 MICHAEL MANNING, Cbt. Center, son born June 19, Spencer, Iowa. PVT LEWIS WILSON, 26th Engr. Bn., daughter born June 19, Jacksonville, Fla. SGT THEODORE H. ROSOVICH, 3-1 Inf., daughter born June 20, Tuscon, Ariz. SP4 JUNIOR HELTON, 5-46 Inf., son born June 20, Savannah, Ga. **PVT JOHN G. ONOFRYTON, F Trp., 17th Cav.**, daughter born June 20, Detroit, Mich. PFC ALVIN CORNELIUS, 39th Engr. Bn., daughter born June 20, New York, N.Y. SP4 TERRY E. GODFREY, 1-52nd Inf., daughter born June 21, Tulsa, Okla. SGT CECIL G. SPENCER, 3-18 Arty., son born June 21, Jackson, Tenn. SGT DONALD M. MONTGOMERY, 523rd Sgn. Bn., daughter born June 21, Long Beach, Calif. SFC LARRY B. MARTIN, 723rd Maint. Bn., son born June 21, Ft. Polk, La. PFC PETER M. MORFOID, 1-52nd Inf. Inf., son born June 22, Amsterdam, N.Y. SP4 ARTHUR S. PERKINS, 335th Trans. Co., daughter born June 22, Tuscon, Ariz. MAJ GEORGE A. INGLERIGHT, 4-3 Inf. daughter born June 23, Florance, Ala. SP4 EUGENE P. BECK, 295th Ord. Co., daughter born June 23, Columbus, Neb. SP4 RAYMOND L. NETTLES, 4-21 Inf., son born June 23, Palestine, Tex. SP4 JAMES W. THEFORD, 4-31 Inf., son born June 24, Hamilton, Tex. SP4 JAMES L. FINEFROCK, 174 Avn. Bn., son born June 24, Canton Ohio, 1LT D. JOHNSON, 4-31 Inf., son born June 24, Dothan, Ala. SP4 BRUCE NOENNICH, 2-1 Inf., son born June 24, China Lake, Calif. PFC SCOTT A. BROMAN, 3-82 Arty., son born June 25, Rockford, Ill. SSGT LARRY STIPE, 1-1 Cav., daughter born June 25, Temple, Tex. SP4 FREDDIE LEONARD. Cbt. Center, daughter born June 25, Altus, Okla. PVT LEE S. SCARBOROUGH, 59th IPSD, 11th Bde., daughter born June 27, Janesville, Wisc. SSG THURMAN VINCENT, 123rd Avn. Bn., son born June 27, Hopkinsville, Ky. SP4 RONALD F. LABRIE, 75th Inf., daughter born June 27, Beverly, Mass. PFC ELMER J. KELLY, 3-21 Inf., son born June 27, Kewanee, Ill. PFC LEONARD CLARK, 178th Aslt. Hel. Co., daughter born June 27, Chicago, Ill. SP4 STEPHEN K. HOENER, 126th S&S Co., daughter born June 29, Quincy, Ill. SGT DONALD R. RAHM, 55th Arty., daughter born June 30, Seattle, Wash. SP4 GLEN MCBEIGH, 14th Avn. Bn., son born June 30, Elyria, Ohio. PFC BARRY C. SMITH, 71st Avn. Bn., daughter born June 30, Beaumont, Tex. SP4 Richard Haskins, 1-4 [1-14?] Arty., daughter born July, Onawa, Iowa.

CHU-LAI-Ingenuity, raw materials and imagination are making leisure time pass more quickly for the men of the **F Trp., 17th Cav.**

To break up lull periods, the men decided to Vietnamize the Parker Brothers parlor game of monopoly.

SP4 Gary Potter (San Francisco), the originator of the game, said, "we use brass cartridges of different sizes for tokens. We also use chewing gum for houses and the gum boxes for hotels." Chu Lai with a gum box is the highest rental property on the board,

One of the changes in the game is that "States Avenue, Virginia Avenue, and St. Charles Place" are now the PX, EM Club, and the mess hall, "Chance" has remained the same but "Community Chest" has been transformed into Troop Fund. **(Americal IO)**

Proudly Serving Our

Action
Army
SGM Paul K.
Shaffer
Reenlistment
Supervisor
Amcal Div.

Photo above

By MSG H. A. Bonesio

AMERICAL Division career counselors reenlisted 46 soldiers during a one-week period. Thirty-four of these were in the First Termer category with the majority-choosing guaranteed reenlistment options. Most of the career personnel chose "choice of CONUS station" program.

Division Troops retained SFC Warren B. Pollard and SSG Leander Cooper, **HHC, Americal**; SP4 Larry Chard, HHT, 1-1st Cav.

Support Command was represented by MSG Willie Stevens, HHC, 23rd SGT; SSG Delmas Pautdo, 23rd Admin. Co.; SSG William Cutler, D Co., 23rd Med. Bn.; and from the 723rd Maint. Bn., SP5 James Sirmans, SP4 John Harrigan, and PFC Hiram L. Henderson.

Division Artillery keeps SFC Wilmot E. Kaufman, Btry. B, and SSG Parnell M. Wasnuk, HHB, **1-14th Arty**; CPL Willbert C. Jackson, B Btry. 3-82nd Arty; PFC Dewey W. Gibson, **B Btry. 1-82nd Arty**; PFC Kenneth Blizard, **C Btry., 3-18th Arty**.

The **16th Combat Aviation Group** had MSG Volley Cole, HHC.

The 11th Infantry Brigade reenlistees were PFC Robert A. Davis, C Co., **4-3rd Inf.**; from **3-1st Inf.**, PFC Larry D. Kutzner, PFC William R. Metts, and PFC William Mead, A Co.; PFC Alex J. Carter, C Co., PFC Gary H. Buskol, D Co., while **1-20th Inf.** had PFC Kenneth A. Beekley, A Co., PFC Robert F. Arney and PFC Dale Hyndman, B Co.; from **4-21st Inf.**, PFC Dannie Hardaway and MSG Thomas Denn, B Co., PFC Charles Piner, D Co.

The 196th Infantry Brigade re-upped PFC Terry D. Hixon, **F Trp., 17th Cav.**; PFC Louis Lumpkin and PFC Leonard Morgan, A Co.; PFC Albert Retzlor, PFC Victor B. Moore, PFC Harold Johnson, and PFC Thomas Casteel, **B Co., 1-46th Inf.**; from **4-31st Inf.**, PFC James McDaniel, A Co., PFC Thomas E. Miller, PFC Dale Brown, and SP4 William Rozier, C Co.; **2-1st Inf.** had PFC Peter W. Hrutky and PFC Robert L. Gray, A Co., PFC Darrell Witcher, B Co.; while from **3-21st Inf.**, PFC Glenn Miller, HHC, MSG Eugene Lyons, B Co., SFC Okey Blankenship, C Co.

The 198th Infantry Brigade was represented by SFC George Gonzalez, HHC, and from HHC, **5-46th Inf.**, MSG Norman C. Bunch.

Combat In Review

Soldier-Team Folds

Battered Viet Cong

By 1LT David Coffman

LZ HAWK HILL -- As the ARVN tanks surged toward them, the VC broke and ran. Elements of the 196th Inf. Bde. combined with Korean Marines to block escape routes. U.S. jets pounded the retreating enemy.

When the fight was over, the 5th Regiment, 2nd ARVN Div., working 13 miles north of Tam Ky, had killed 56 VC and taken 90 prisoners.

The battle started when the 5th Regt.'s 2nd Bn., probing east toward the Truong Giang River, came into heavy contact with VC units. Though there were U.S. forces in the area, the Vietnamese soldiers wanted to go after the enemy themselves.

"They felt its was their operation," said LTC Robert E. Wallis (Washington, D.C.), senior advisor to the 5th ARVN Regt. "The Americans therefore assumed a supporting role."

During the early stages of contact LTC Pham The Vinh, commander of the 5th ARVN Regt., insured that his enemy would not escape.

He positioned the 3rd Bn., 5th ARVN Regt., to the east as a clocking force. The regiment's Recon Co. guarded the south. **F Trp., 17th Cav. and A Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** -- both from the Division -blocked the northwest route of escape. Korean Marines clocked to the northeast.

Eventually, mauled by air strikes and continual pressure from the 2nd ARVN Bn., the enemy tried to withdraw. But by this time they were trapped.

Colonel Vinh had been quietly massing his armor to the south. Now, with his antagonists battered and weary from two days' fighting, he unleashed 3rd Trp., 4th Armored Cav Sqdn., upon the enemy's rear.

Taken by surprise, the VC first wavered, then broke. Soon they were in headlong retreat; the bitterly fought contest had become a rout.

The ARVN soldiers pressed on. When the bewildered enemy found their retreat blocked by the Truong Giang River, they began to surrender in droves. Helicopters were brought in to evacuate the prisoners.

"They were so eager to give themselves up," said LTC Wallis, "that they fought to get on the helicopters." (196th IO)

Hiep Duc Supply Push

LZ HAWK HILL -- A convoy of 18 Vietnamese trucks recently set out from Tam Ky with one mission: to resupply the refugee center at Hiep Duc.

Leaving Tam Ky early in the morning, the trucks rolled down highway 535, protected by elements of the divisions' 196th Bde.

Soldiers from **4-31st Inf.** held key sections of the road. APC's from **F Trp. 17th Cav.**, rumbled alongside the convoy during the entire trip, while helicopter gunships, provided by **F Trp., 8th Cav.** hovered constantly overhead.

The enemy did not challenge the array of firepower, and the convoy safely reached Hiep Duc by later afternoon.

The success of the convoy may have had some far reaching results.

"It definitely showed the people at Hiep Duc that the Government of Vietnam is concerned about them," asserted MAJ. James Y. Iha (Whaiawa, Hawaii), civil affairs officer, 196th Bde.

"The Viet Cong cadre in that area have claimed for a long time that they are winning the war," said CPT. William H. Marty (Santa Cruz, Calif.), PSYOPS officer, 196th Bde., but "the convoy's success hurt their creditability." (196th Bde IO)

SOUTHERN CROSS

Vol. 3, No. 08 CHU LAI, VIETNAM February 27, 1970

Division Troops Kill 239 Enemy

LZ HAWK HILL - Division soldiers were recently combined with Vietnamese forces to seriously disrupt enemy plans for a winter offensive in eastern Quang Tin Province.

In a series of sharp encounters, the allies ground elements of the 31st NVA Regiment to shreds, killing 239 enemy in the span of 11 days.

"WE received good intelligence and were able to both formulate an effective plan and get our forces into position," said Colonel James M. Lee (Wilmington, N.C.), commanding officer, 196th Infantry Brigade.

The allies initially deployed their units from north to south along the eastern sector of Quang Tin.

"We anticipated that the NVA would try to attack the populated areas around Thang Binh and Tam Ky," said CPT Robert Russell (Carson City, Nev.), assistant operations officer, 196th Inf. Bde. "The mission of our units was to block the enemy's attempts to enter these regions."

Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, made the first contact in open country five miles west of Tam Ky.

The allies hit back hard, and after several hours, the enemy withdrew, leaving 45 dead.

Alpha's M551 Sheridan Assault Vehicles, in their first real test, had played a large part in the troop's success.

"That 152mm gun really hurt them," said Sgt James M. Mullins (Danville, Va.), track commander.

The next contact came a day later, 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Seven tracks from **F Troop, 17th Cav.**, were moving in a column, accompanied by a platoon from D Company, 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry.

The 196th Bde. soldiers spotted movement in a woodline, and the infantry dismounted to check things out.

"Just as we started to search the area," said SSG Tony Alfieri (Jamaica, N.Y.) Co. **D, 3d Bn., 21st Inf.**, "they cut loose with automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades."

The tracks lined up and assaulted the woodline, raking the enemy with canister rounds and machinegun fire.

The infantry followed, rooting out isolated pockets of resistance. After moving 200 meters the Americans returned to search the area.

"I didn't realize how many we had killed till we started to look around," said SSG Eugene Hodge (Locust Grove, Va.), machinegunner of the command track.

The Americans found 39 NVA bodies as well as 16 AK-47 rifles, four rocket propelled grenades, a 60mm mortar and over 70 Chinese Communist (Chicom) grenades.

In the same general area, Co. **A, 3d Bn., 21st Inf.**, killed 12 NVA in isolated skirmishes throughout the afternoon. The next day Alpha spotted a large enemy force moving into a woodline. Artillery accounted for 15 more dead.

The next operation came several days later. A task force under the operational control of the 196th Bde. moved through "Pineapple Forest," six miles west of Tam Ky.

The task force consisted of **Alpha and Bravo Troops, 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.**, accompanied by one platoon each from **D Co., 1st Bn., 46th Inf.** and **B Co., 2d Bn., 1st Inf.**, accounted for 15 enemy dead in two days of fighting.

However, the biggest fight came after the operation was supposed to be over.

The task force had taken its last objective and was on the way back to Tam Ky, when it ran into an estimated NVA battalion.

The tracks and infantry pulled on line and assaulted the rice paddy to their front. They overran the enemy positions, then went into a laager as night fell.

The next day a search of the area revealed 52 NVA dead, but even this count was conservative.

Further south, the 5th Regiment, 2d ARVN Division, continued to be active. The ARVN soldiers killed 61 NVA in nine days of fighting.

There were several reasons for the allies' success but, "Most important," said COL Lee, "was the splendid performance of the American and Vietnamese soldier once the fighting began." (196th IO)

Proud Men Serving

Our
Action
Army

Photo SFC Raymond
A. Boyles
16th Combat Avn Bn
Career Counselor

By MSG H. A. Bonesio

Thirty-two of the 38 reenlistees in the Americal Division during a one-week period were First Term soldiers.

Most of the new careerists chose guaranteed assignments or CONUS choice of station options.

Division Troops was represented by SP5 David Thole, **1-1st Cav.**

Support Command had SFC Wallace Andersen and PFC Charles Williams, 23rd Admin. Co.

Division Artillery retains MSG Ray Pauley, HHB, SSG Larry Scott, A Btry., **3-16th Arty.**; SP4 Billy Hartsfield, B Btry., 1-14th Arty.; SP4 Perez Gonzales, **G Btry., 55th Arty.**

The 16th Combat Aviation Group keeps PFC Roy Withers, HHC, SFC Jesse Wallis, HHC, **14th Cbt. Avn. Bn.**; SGT Leroy Gist, **B Co., 123rd Avn. Bn.**; SP5 Joseph Anderson, 335th Trans Co.

The 11th Infantry Brigade reenlistees were SP4 Robert Williams, HHC; from **3-1st Inf.**, PFC Hardy Rose, A Co., PFC Milton Avery, E Co.; from **4-21st Inf.**, SGT Ronnie Sanders, D Co.

The 196th Infantry Brigade re-upped PFC Galen Fish, **F Trp., 17th Cav.**; from **2-1st Inf.**, SP4 Robert Rendon, PFC Larry Westphal, PFC Jerry Shields, SGT Thomas Long, SFC Doterto Aguigui, all from A Co.; SP5 Francisco Rosas-Ramos, HHC, SP4 Ronald Gibson and SP4 William Moon, E Co., **4-31st Inf.**, from **1-46th Inf.**, PFC Charlie Strong, A Co., SGT Elmer Perry, B Co., PFC Richard Knoble and PVT Ernest Johnson, D Co.

The 198th Infantry Brigade was represented by 1SG Jess Boyd, HHC, **1-6th Inf.**, from the same battalion, SP4 Carroll Johnson, A Co., PFC David Wallace, C Co., SGT William Schroeder, E Co.; from **1-52nd Inf.**, SGT John Lucas, HHC, SP4 Franklin Creswell, SSG Joseph Michaud, PFC Daniel Copeland, PFC Ronnie Chaffin, E Co.

Combat In Review

RTO Becomes Instant FO

LZ CENTER-When his unit accidentally stopped to rest in an NVA base camp, a 19 year-old Division soldier found himself busy as both Radio Telephone Operator (RTO) and Forward Observer (FO) in a battle that lasted eight hours and cost the enemy 40 killed.

SP4 Richard Fosler (Hamlet, Ind.) a member of **C Battery, 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery** was acting as both FO and RTO with **F Troop, 17th Cavalry** on their recent operation west of LZ Hawk Hill.

The two platoons of F Troop had been joined by a part of **D Company, 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade** on their operation to flush out the enemy in the area.

They had met little resistance during the early morning hours, but when they decided to take a break under some trees they triggered a fire fight that would mean the success or failure of their mission.

An NVA soldier was spotted sneaking from behind a tree only 30 meters from the resting Americans. The NVA ran into a hooch neatly concealed by thick underbrush.

Within seconds the Troops was warned. Backed by four Sheridan tanks, they opened up with .50 caliber and M60 machineguns.

Receiving directions from the commander of **F Troop**, CPT Klein Harris (North Little Rock, Ark.), the platoon immediately reversed its attack and retaliated with small arms and hand grenades while moving behind trees and high grass for cover.

SP4 Foster grabbed his radio and began calling to B Battery, 3d Bn. 82d Arty.

The big gun firepower was used to protect the rear of the American forces and also cut off any means of escape for the now pinned down enemy.

The enemy had been caught completely off guard and had not had time to use their mortar tubes. With the artillery support their fortified bunkers could not protect them.

When the battle was over the Americans found 15 AK-47s, four RPG launchers and countless Chicom grenades.

The net result of the battle was one NVA base camp destroyed and one RTO/FO very aware of what an officer goes through as a regular FO. (Div Arty IO)

VC Rice Captured

LZ CENTER -- Infantry-armor teams have proved a difficult combination for the enemy to handle, and a recent 196th Brigade operation was no exception.

Bravo Company, **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, and F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, recently killed seven VC, seized almost three tons of rice and captured several enemy documents, all in a single day.

Early in the morning, the soldiers found 500 pounds of unpolished rice near a built-up area. The men went on to search the structures and found several enemy documents inside a false wall.

In the early afternoon they found 5,000 more pounds of rice in a village. the rice was sent to Nui Loc Son refugee settlement.

Two hours later one of the men spotted seven VC scurrying into a tunnel. The Americans covered the entrance.

"Our Kit Carson scout went up and tried to get them to surrender," said PFC Clark Taylor (Leesburg, Fla.).

The VC refused to surrender. The Americans hurled grenades at the enemy.

Combat In Review

Cav. Troops

Take Enemy

Food Supply

LZ HAWK HILL - Viet Cong working in the Tam Ky area may have to tighten their belts further in the coming weeks.

Four Tons of Rice

F Troop, 17th Cav., 196th Inf. Bde., working with Vietnamese Popular Forces, recently found four tons of rice eight miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The division soldiers were sweeping an open field when they came upon the unpolished grain. It was strewn all about the area.

Empty Bags

"There were a lot of empty bags lying about," said SSG Robert Sabrie (Louisville). "Evidently Charlie had been bagging up the rice and had been scared away by the sound of the tracks."

Taking advantage of the enemy's helpfulness, the men of **F Troop** used the bags to pack the rice. They then turned the cache over to the Vietnamese allies for distribution. (196th Bde IO)

Cache Find Helps Viets

LZ HAWK HILL - A 196th Inf. Bde. civil affairs team used a recently discovered rice cache to help 950 homeless Vietnamese refugees from the pain of hunger.

The project began when a defective stove exploded at Thang Binh Refugee Center 10 miles north of Tam Ky. Forty-foot flames raced through the bamboo and grass living structures.

"The fire started at 3:30 in the afternoon," said 1LT William Bacon (Roswell, N.M.), civil affairs officer, **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.**, 196th Inf. Bde. "By 5:00 p.m. dirt mounds and scorched pieces of tin were all that was left," added the officer.

The 29th Civil Affairs Co., working in the Thang Binh area, would require at least three days to gather supplies. The refugees on the other hand, needed food immediately.

Five miles to the west **F Trp., 17th Cav.**, working under the operational control of 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., had just uncovered 22,000 pounds of enemy rice.

"I heard about the fire at Thang Binh an hour and a half after the blaze occurred," said 1LT Bacon. "I arranged to have 8,000 pounds of F Trp.'s rice sent to the refugee center the following morning."

The next day a convoy of 2 1/2 ton trucks rumbled down the rutted dirt road to Thang Binh. By 1:00 that afternoon the trucks had arrived that the refugee center with the desperately needed rice. Soon, smoke from hundred of cooking fires drifted over the rubble as rice pots were again filled.

Help came from other sources. The equivalent of American Boy Scouts, Buddhist Scouts from Thang Binh helped the refugees clear away the rubble.

"They helped put up temporary shelters made of tin and whatever else they could salvage," related Bacon.

The Government of Vietnam supplied construction material and the refugees were able to rebuild their living quarters. Things are now back to normal at Thang Binh, but the refugees have not forgotten the help that came when it was needed.

"When people are in a bind like that, we try to help them out," said SGT Jim Callahan (Washington, N.J.)

Unit Snags Rice

LZ HAWK HILL - Division soldiers recently uncovered a 22,000 pound rice cache, one of the largest ever discovered in Southern I Corps.

F Trp., 17th Cav., working with the **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** near Hawk Hill, discovered the 11-ton cache while moving towards a suspected enemy structure area.

"We had seen several Viet Cong in an area near Hawk Hill the day before," said CPT Roscoe J. Cartwright (Cincinnati), commanding officer of **F Trp.** "We didn't go after them at the time, because we had other commitments."

The suspected enemy complex was on a small hill to their front. As the cavalrymen drew closer, they observed that the hill was dotted with bunkers and living quarters. Artillery was called in; the tracks waited online as the shells ripped the enemy structures. Then **F Trp.** resumed its advance.

"As we went up the hill," said SP4 Duane Zentner (Mott, N.D.), machinegunner of the command track, "we saw loose rice scattered all around."

CPT Cartwright decided to search the area thoroughly, and deployed the tracks around the hill in a semi-circle, facing out to cover possible routes of enemy attack, while the troop's infantry squads dismounted to search the area.

"We found rice everywhere," said SGT Robert Landman (Orange, Calif.) first platoon. "It was piled up in bunkers, 55-gallon drums and trenches."

With the hot tropical sun beating down on them, the infantry squads went to work loading the 11-ton rice haul onto helicopters for transportation to Hawk Hill. (196th Bde. IO)

Proud Men

**Serve
Our
Army
SFC Edwin K.**

Photo **Crawley
Career Counselor
11th Inf. Bde.**

By MSG H. A. Bonesio

Thirty-six of the 46 soldiers reenlisting in the AMERICAL Division during a one-week period, were in the First Termer category.

Division Troops was represented by MSG John R. Bayroth, **HHC, Americal**; SFC Masayoshi Tanno, **635th MI Co.**; SGT Henry Sherwood, **D Co., 26th Engr. Bn.**; SSG Frank Bechtold, **A Trp., and** PFC James Glaser, **HHT, 1-1st Cav.**

Support Command had SFC Bobby Bramlett and SSG Gerald Mills, **23rd Admin. Co.**; SGT Douglas Brooks and PVT Elton Parks, **23rd AG Repl. Co.**; PSG Mitchell Lewis, **HHC, 23rd S&T Bn.**; SFC Lester Dunn, **B Co., 23rd Med. Bn.**

Division Artillery retains SP4 Jackie Riley and SP4 Francisco Lubin-Cazares, **B Btry., 1-14th Arty.**; SFC Harold Strawderman, **HHC, 3-18th Arty**; SP4 George Green, **B Btry., 1-14th Arty.**

The 16th Combat Aviation Group keeps SP5 William Arrington, **A Co., 123rd Avn. Bn.**

The 11th Infantry Brigade reenlistees were SP4 Steven Foster, **HHC**; from **1-20th Inf.**, SP4 Hershel Weathers, **B Co.**, PFC Frank Garcia, **C Co.**; from **4-3rd Inf.**, PFC Michael Kemper and SGT Martin Paterson, **A Co.**, PFC Edward Lauver, **C Co.**, PVT Robert Jones, **E Co.**; from **3-1st Inf.**, PFC Larry Flickinger, **D Co.**; from **4-21st Inf.**, PFC Howard Dehann, **HHC.**

The 196th Infantry Brigade re-upped PFC Paul Fredenburg, **F Trp., 17th Cav.**; from **1-46th Inf.**, PFC Lawrence DeLair, PFC Clair Gaskins, SP4 Thomas Blyth, all with **B Co.**, PFC Steven Berrier and PFC Arnold Galacia, **D Co.**; from **2-1st Inf.**, PFC Jose Pizarro-Pizarro, **C Co.**, PFC Stephen Lyon, **D Co.**, PFC Larry Yeager, **E Co.**; from **3-21st Inf.**, PFC John Williams, **C Co.**

The 198th Infantry Brigade was represented by MSG James Courtney, **HHC**; from **1-6th Inf.**, PFC Robert Manna, **HHC** PFC Thomas Spaulding, **B Co.**, SP4 Samuel Parker, **Co Co.**; from **1-52nd Inf.**, SGT Paul Tittle and SP4 Galen Wanderschied, **D Co.**; from **5-46th Inf.**, MSG Arthur Newton, **HHC**, PFC Michael Somner, **A Co.**



Moving Out

With the coming of a new day a tank from the Division's F Trp., 17th Cav. prepares to leave its night laager. The cavalrymen are on a sweep for VC in an area 25 miles north of Tam Ky.
(Photo By SP4 Gerald Paulin, 523d Sig. Bn.)

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Combat In Review

Photo Caption: Moving out

With the coming of a new day a tank from the Division's **F Trp., 17th Cav.** prepares to leave its night laager. The cavalrymen are on a sweep for VC in an area 25 miles north of Tam Ky. (Photo by SP4 Gerald Paulin, 523d Sig. Bn.)



Taking A Break

Silhouetted by the afternoon sun, members of the Division's F Trp. 17th Cav. take a break during a recent search and clear mission 25 miles north of Tam Ky.

(Photo By SP4 Gerald Paulin, 523d Sig. Bn.)

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Combat In Review

Photo Caption: Taking A Break

Silhouetted by the afternoon sun, members of the Division's F Trp. 17th Cav. take a break during a recent search and clear mission 25 miles north of Tam Ky. (Photo by SP4 Gerald Paulin, 523d Sig. Bn.)



Division armor from F Trp., 17th Cav. move onto line and prepare to sweep into a woodline. The cavalymen are on a search and clear mission 25 miles north of Tam Ky.
SOUTHERN CROSS

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Combat In Review

Photo Caption: Division armor from F Trp., 17th Cav. move onto line and prepare to sweep into a woodline. The cavalymen are on a search and clear mission 25 miles north of Tam Ky.

Americal reports

continued from page one

Helicopter) as "Shark" gunships turned a routine combat assault into a two hour air-ground battle.

While the company's "Dolphin" utility ships were lifting in one battalion of the **4th ARVN Regiment** and a rifle company of the **3rd Battalion, 1st** into landing zones 20 miles northwest of Duc Pho, a heavy fire-team of gunships spotted fresh .51 caliber gun emplacements, bunkers and structures thought to be a rice collection point.

"While we were marking the enemy positions with smoke grenades we spotted movement. We saw, engaged and killed three NVA who were trying to evade along a river." recalled Captain Stephen S. Riddle, Weaverville, N.C.

"Our rocket fire must have hit a command post because a company element of confused NVA split into large groups and ran in all directions."

It was then that the gunships were able to take full advantage of their lethal firepower.

Elsewhere "**Warlords**" of the **123rd Aviation Battalion** and **Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** combined forces to kill three NVA and one VC near the Song Gianh River 16 miles northwest of Duc Pho. One enemy rifle was confiscated in the brief action.

Recon, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, National Police Field Force and "**Shark**" gunships recently teamed up to kill 15 VC while detaining ten of the enemy.

Three AK-47s and three SKS rifles were captured in the action which took place in the lowlands six miles north of Duc Pho.

"Shark" gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** also accounted for three VC killed during an insertion. According to Warrant Officer James A. Reich, Wilmington, N.C., "We were circling overhead while the lift ships were inserting. Suddenly a VC with a pack and weapon was spotted running toward a mountain and dove into a bush. So we started firing up the area pretty good." Three VC soldiers were found killed by the gunships.

Frederick Hill

In the hills 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Delta Company had one VC inadvertently walk into their day laager position. The 18 year old wanderer had wounds in both hands and legs from an earlier contact with Delta's second platoon. He was evacuated to Hawk Hill.

A combined VC/NVA unit fared badly in the 196th Infantry Brigade's AO following a run-in **with F Troop, 17th Cavalry.**

The enemy unit was moving near the Tien Phuoc Road six miles south-west of Tam Ky when the cavalry troops surprised them. They opened up with a .50 caliber machine gun killing two VC and three NVA soldiers.



Mud is no obstacle to the determined tanks from F Troop, 17th Cavalry. They just have to get some solid approach and it is off again in search of the VC. The armor unit was on a sweep 25 miles north of Tam Ky in search of the enemy.

(Photo by SP4 Gerald Paulin)

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Photo Caption: Mud is no obstacle to the determined tanks from **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**. They just have to get some solid approach and it is off again in search of the VC. The armor unit was on a sweep 25 miles north of Tam Ky in search of the enemy. (Photo by SP4 Gerald Paulin).

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 struck 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

Late May costs enemy 207

By SP4 Dennis Selby

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - As May came to a close, Americal soldiers closed the door on 207 enemy soldiers. Action was highest in the 196th Infantry Brigade as the "Chargers" killed over 100 enemy soldiers in scattered action. The 198th Infantry Brigade discovered a base camp and supply cache which cost the enemy valuable foodstuffs and medical supplies. "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade captured 20 60mm mortar rounds when they overpowered two NVA.

Geneva Park

While maneuvering in the mountainous terrain 15 miles west of Chu Lai, **Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry** received enemy small arms fire and several CHICOM grenades from an unknown number of NVA.

The "Brave and Bold" soldiers returned fire and swept the area to find one 9mm pistol, one shoulder rocket and a blood trail that which initiated the discovery of an enemy basecamp.

Following the blood trail, the company discovered 10 bunkers sheltered by thatched overhead covering. Each bunker measured ten feet in width and 15 feet in length. Twenty fighting positions surrounded the enemy complex. After repulsing an attack by two or three NVA, the infantrymen moved in to find a cache within the base camp.

The find consisted of medical supplies, two transistor radios, one camera and film, 200 pounds of rice, an assortment of documents and maps, 25 hammocks, 10 CHICOM grenades, several flashlight batteries, five anti-personnel mines, one 60mm mortar round, 900 blasting caps and one carbine.

Elsewhere in the "Brave and Bold" area, **Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry** discovered a tunnel 70 feet long and 12 feet below the surface. The tunnel, located near a hooch 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai, was well camouflaged by rough boards and pottery.

The Bravo men searched the tunnel and found 27 sand bags filled with rice and two five gallon drums which were also filled with rice.

Frederick Hill

The heaviest action of the week occurred within the 196th Infantry Brigade in Operation Frederick Hill with the brigade soldiers killing over 100 enemy in scattered fighting.

Shortly after noon, **Charlie Company from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** teamed up with a Marine gunship in locating and killing six Viet Cong.

Operating 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky, the men of Charlie Company came under fire. Pinpointing the enemy location, the men maneuvered to engage the enemy at closer range. At 30 yards, they were pelted with (continued on page 6) CHICOM grenades. The Marine gunship was in the vicinity and by following the instructions of Infantrymen, it rocketed the enemy position. After the helicopter had fired all of its ammo, the "Gimlets" swept the area and found the six enemy dead and three AK-47 rifles.

A row of practice targets told the **1st Battalion, 46th Infantry** that the enemy had been in the area recently.

Minutes afterwards, the soldiers saw nine NVA in the fading afternoon light. They slowed their approach and opened fire on the enemy. At least 25 figures rose from hiding and scrambled away. Moving in the Americal troops found nine enemy dead.

At daybreak recently, the third platoon of Delta Company, **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** swept a suspected enemy location 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky. They came across a vacated hooch area which yielded a 2,000 pound cache of unpolished rice stored in 100 pound bags. The rice was extracted to Landing Zone Karen.

A combined effort by **Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** and **F Troop, 17th Cavalry** made Army tactics work with tailor made results recently. The two 196th Infantry Brigade units accounted for 25 enemy killed and seven individual weapons captured in an operation 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Bravo Company was acting as a flushing element along a river with **F Troop** blocking either side when a force of 20-30 NVA enemy soldiers were spotted as soon as the Charger units were set up.

As the enemy soldiers were avoiding the infantryman's thrust, they found themselves within 50 yards of **F Troop's** flanking movement.

The cavalrymen engaged the enemy with automatic weapons fire killing eight and wounding one. Five more enemy were detained in the fierce skirmish.

F Troop also captured an AK-50 rifle, two AK-47s, one carbine and eight full magazines of ammunition. Ten CHICOM grenades were destroyed. "It was amazing just how well it all worked," said Private First Class James Brandal from Albers, Ill. He is serving with Bravo as a rifleman. "Our plan worked perfectly."

Iron Mountain

The 11th Infantry Brigade experienced a week of relatively light action. **Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** killed two NVA and captured two AK-47s. Also captured were twenty 20 60mm mortar rounds and one base plate for a 60mm mortar. The action took place in the lowlands five miles south of Duc Pho.

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CHARGES COLLECT 22 NVA
By PFC Richard Campbell

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade recently used infantry-armor tactics to perfection in a firefight 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Chargers" talk force killed 17 NVA, detained five more and confiscated eight weapons.

Company B 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, was sweeping along a river while the armored vehicles of **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, blocked to either side. Shortly after the movement began, the Americans spotted a force of 20 to 30 NVA near the river. "They saw us coming and tried to get away before we got any closer," related Sergeant Larry Carr, Boone, Iowa. However, the retreating enemy suddenly found themselves within 50 meters of **F Troop's** blocking position.

The cavalrymen opened up with automatic weapons fire. By the time the skirmish was over **F Troop** had killed eight enemy, detained five and confiscated four weapons. Eight fully loaded magazines and 10 Chinese Communist grenades were also found.

"It's amazing just how well our plan worked," remarked Private First Class James Brendel, Albers, Ill., rifleman with Company B. "We got them out of the vegetation along the river, and the tracks picked them right up."

As the task force continued to move, a track from F Troop crashed through a hedgerow, almost running over a hidden NVA. Rifle fire cut down the enemy as he tried to escape.

Still moving along the river, a platoon from **Company B** spotted four NVA. "I opened up as soon as I sighted them," recalled Private First Class Frank Ratliff, Eden, N.C., pointman. "However, my weapon jammed after I fired the first shot." Private Ratliff dropped to his knees to fix his M-16. The remainder of the platoon fired over his head, dropping three enemy. "I'm glad the other guys picked up the slack," said Private Ratcliff, "because I was useless."

The remaining NVA ran from the village. First Lieutenant Leland Klein, Des Plaine, Ill., spotted one enemy headed toward the river bank. Lieutenant Klein ordered two men to flush the lone NVA from his hiding place.

The two infantrymen abandoned the thick vegetation alongside the river and moved through chest-high water.

"After walking about 300 meters in the river," said Specialist Four Gary Guerra, Fresno, Calif., "we saw a group of bushes shaking."

Then they saw the silhouette of the partially concealed NVA. Specialist Guerra sprayed the bushes with M-16 fire, and the shaking stopped. The hidden NVA was badly wounded.

"It was a long and tiring day," reflected Specialist Four Michael Fritts, Springfield, Ill. "The guys were really beat, but we all felt like we had accomplished something."

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.

(Continued)

(Continued)

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.

UNIT IMPROVED BY REUNION
by 1Lt DAVID COFFMAN

LZ HAWK HILL 196th INF BDE IO)

An chance reunion of two Army veterans has brought about a striking improvement in the maintenance program of a 196th Infantry Brigade cavalry troop, Lieutenant Colonel Richard M. Meyer, Dupont, Wa., and First Sergeant R. O. Varnum, Sheffield, Ala., had previously served together with the same squadron in the states-Colonel Meyer as squadron commander and Sergeant Varnum as a troop first sergeant.

As executive officer of the "Chargers" Colonel Meyer was concerned about lowering the deadline rate of **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, the brigade's cavalry troop. At about the same time Sergeant Varnum arrived at F Troop to serve as first sergeant.

"We drew up a program similar to the one which our squadron had used in the states," said Sergeant Varnum. "We had seen what this program could do."

The program is simple in outline but complex in execution. Basically, it consists of pulling a platoon out of the field every three months for a weeks maintenance.

"It serves as a quarterly service for the tracks," says Sergeant Varnum. "Each month we bring one platoon out of the field.

On the first day of the scheduled service the vehicles are off-loaded and cleaned. Quarterly services begin in the afternoon and continue-in conjunction with other activities-throughout the week.

As the work progresses, the ammunition is inventoried and rotated. A complete inventory of the platoon hand receipt is taken and all radio equipment is checked.

"The program is doing a lot of good," says Specialist Four Leslie Roe, Walcott, Iowa, 2nd Platoon. "After our week on the hill I had a lot more confidence in my track .and its weapons."

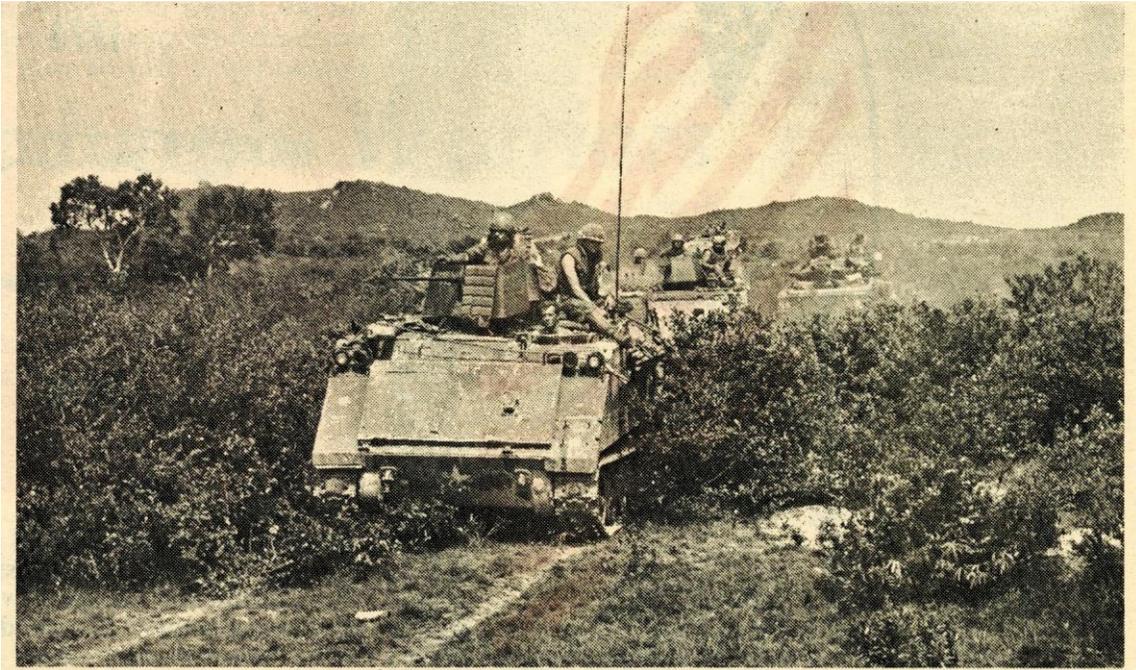
The week is not entirely devoted to maintenance. The clothing and field gear of each soldier are checked for serviceability. Clothing forms are updated. There is also an opportunity for each individual to check his finance record and Form 20.

Before going back to the field, the platoon moves out on a road march. Each weapon is test-fired.

The success of F Troop's program is reflected in the cold, black and white figures of the Brigade's deadline report. Before they started the program, F Troop had as many as 15 tracked vehicles on deadline.

The Figure subsequently shrunk to two.

"People think that programs instituted in the states have no application over here," says First Sergeant Varnum. "I think we showed that isn't necessarily true."



Breaking through a hedgerow is an armored personnel carrier from F Troop, 17th Cavalry. The cavalymen are in an area 25 miles north of Tam Ky searching a suspected VC population. (Photo by SP4 Gerald Paulin)

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Photo Caption: Breaking through a hedgerow is an armored personnel carrier from **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**. The cavalymen are in an area 25 miles north of Tam Ky searching a suspected VC population. (Photo By SP4 Gerald Paulin)

Do unto thyself . .

By SGT Bob Nordyke

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - One good turn deserves another so it was recently for an operation near Barrier Island 12 miles north of Tam Ky.

A crew from a **196th Infantry Brigade Light Observation Helicopter (LOH)** stopped **Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** from walking into a VC ambush. The favor was soon returned when the company rescued the three man LOH crew after it had been forced to land with an AK-47 round in the tail rotor.

Working the flat sparsely vegetated area, Bravo Company had requested the LOH to fly in front of their sweep.

Early in the afternoon, the LOH's M-60 machine gunner spotted a Vietnamese near a rice paddy dike crouched in some tree roots.

"I kept watching him but could not fire because there were some Popular Forces working the area," said gunner Sergeant Leonard Marshall of Mears, Mich.

He observed the lonely enemy soldier as Bravo Company neared his position.

"I saw him move and he had a string of CHICOM grenades," he continued.

then he started to bring his AK-47 up to shoot at the company's point man. I killed him when the point man was only four or five feet away."

The ambush the VC had set was ruined, so the enemy opened up on the LOH from a hooch only 10 yards from the would be VC ambusher.

"Fire was coming from all over the area," related Specialist 4 Buster Gandy, Ft. Worth, Texas, the LOH crewchief on the left side of the helicopter. "Two VC came to the door of the hooch. I got both of them with my M-16."

The LOH took several hits and was forced to return to LZ Hawk Hill. Seventeen holes were counted in the chopper's hull. In a few minutes the entire crew changed LOHs and were back to the fight.

"The VC had moved about a 100 yards." said Sergeant Marshall, but their fire was still heavy." It was also lucky. One round hit the LOH's tail rotor and forced it to the ground.

It was now the infantry's turn to do a good deed.

"We went down in a little open area surrounded by a six foot dike," said Specialist Gandy. "B Company got to us in about ten minutes but it seemed like six years."

The helicopter crew then got a little taste of ground combat. They stayed with the company for about three hours continuing the sweep under heavy sniper fire.

Just before dusk, the infantry company lined up with **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**.

"We finally got out of there about 6:30," explained Sergeant Marshall. "We caught a helicopter flying for **F Troop** (Note: this would be referring to F/8 Cav) and got back to Hawk Hill intact."

F TROOP 17TH CAV GETS BUSINESS

By SP4 Thomas. Neville

LZ HAWK HILL (AMERICAL IO) - There seems to be a lot of "monkey business" being conducted around **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, here and word has it that it's been going on for more than three years now.

Staff Sergeant George Gauthier, Jaffrey, N.H., is the NCO in charge of the unit's monkey business. But his duties resemble those of a curator of a zoo more than an NCO. The troop he is primarily concerned with is a rusty-brown and very temperamental primate known as "Linda."

No stranger to the Army and **F Troop** in particular, Linda has been stationed with the cavalry unit since 1967. According to Sergeant Gauthier, the monkey was found by members of a track crew when the unit moved from Tay Ninh to LZ Baldy three years ago.

"We built a little swimming pool for her on a brook at Baldy," recalled Sergeant Gauthier. "I just took charge of Linda that year until I finished my tour in October, 1968," he added.

Last November Sergeant Gauthier returned to Vietnam and when he reached F Troop he was surprised to see that Linda was still cavorting with the men. Even more amazing was the fact that Linda recognized her old friend. "I didn't think she would remember me, but she did," he beamed.

One characteristic of Linda's species is the absence of a tail. That fact, spiced with a little jealousy, could be the reason why she doesn't get along with the dogs which roam around the base.

The men feed her vegetables and fruits but Linda's favorite delicacy is fruit cocktail, straight from a C-Ration can. She knows a good deal and everytime she wanders off into the countryside, she always returns-usually around meal time.

Sergeant Gauthier, who is in charge of the maintenance shop for the tracks, said that Linda enjoys the same social activities as the GIs. High on her list of fun things to do is beer drinking. However, the frisky lassie has been known to over-indulge, adding to her already unpredictable female temperament.

First Sergeant R.O. Wamum, Sheffield, Ala., said that he is having a brand new cage built for **F Troop's** mascot. He noted that Linda receives the best medical care also. "We just had her up to the dispensary for chest x-rays and fortunately they proved negative," he stated.

Men of F Troop will come and go and each new man will learn to accept Linda as a member of the unit. But the mischievous monkey isn't concerned with her DEROS. She has her "choice assignment" at LZ Hawk Hill.



Staff Sergeant George Gauthier, Jaffrey, N.H., seems to have the mascot of F Troop, 17th Cavalry, "over a barrel." The pet is affectionately named "Linda," and has been with the outfit for more than three years. Sergeant Gauthier took charge of Linda when he was here in 1967 and resumed those duties when he returned for another tour last November.

(Photo by SP5 Richard Merritt)

Photo Caption: Staff Sergeant George Gauthier, Jaffrey, N.H., seems to have the mascot of F Troop, 17th Cavalry, "over a barrel." The pet is affectionately named "Linda," and has been with the outfit for more than three years. Sergeant Gauthier took charge of Linda when he was here in 1967 and resumed those duties when he returned for another tour last November. (Photo by SP5 Richard Merritt)

CAV CHARGE ROUTS ENEMY

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - A lightning-like charge through tangled jungle and dry rice paddies into the midst of an NVA mortar platoon recently netted a 196th Infantry Brigade cavalry troop 16 enemy killed, four prisoners and numerous weapons and ammunition.

Reacting to intelligence reports on the location of an estimated NVA mortar platoon, **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, received orders to move to a sandy, brush covered coastal area five miles north of Tam Ky.

"We moved 16 miles in barely over an hour," said Captain Roscoe Cartwright, Cincinnati, F Troop commander.

Working with helicopter gunships from the **71st Assault Helicopter Company**, F Troop approached the suspected enemy location and as they deployed into assault position immediately began receiving rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire.

"We saw two NVA trying to escape as we entered the woodline and opened up on them," said Sergeant William Liggio, Queens, N.Y. As the two enemy soldiers fell the cavalry continued the charge.

The enemy had tried to fight from the low level sand dunes and brushed jungle but the intensive fire from the gunships and cavalry troop had cut them down.

As the tracks entered the woodline the second time they encountered little enemy resistance and began counting dead enemy soldiers.

Confiscated weapons included nine Ak-47 rifles, 300 rounds of small arms ammunition, a Soviet pistol, five packs, and 25 CHICOM grenades.

17th Cav gets 9000 lbs of rice

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - The village was full of VC sympathizers, the Vietnamese Regional Force (RF) platoon evidently expected to find something and the bamboo mats were still green.

First Lieutenant David Miller, platoon leader from the 196th Infantry Brigade's **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, ordered the mats ripped away, as the Lansing, Mich., native watched, more than 9,000 pounds of polished rice was uncovered before his eyes.

"We were moving down a trail through a village," said Lieutenant Miller, "struggling through a thick bamboo growth by a stream."

"We saw six NVA in green uniforms the day before," added Specialist Four Randall Carver, Three Oaks, Mich., "we fired, but they got away."

Those were food scroungers it was thought. So the Cav started their own hunt with a platoon of **RF soldiers**. They struck sunken treasure seven miles southwest of Tam Ky.

"The RF were going ahead of our tracks just outside the ville," said Specialist Carver, "and we were past the last house and moving up toward a little creek."

A Vietnamese saw the carefully placed bamboo first. He motioned for his squad and the Americans. The pits were dug near the bank of the stream, reinforced like fighting bunkers and topped by thatch.

Kit Carsons are lifesavers

By PFC Don Newton

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - Sixty to 70 Kit Carson Scouts work the 196th Infantry Brigades area, Mr. Keith Donahe, Milwaukee, Ore., who maintains this strength level and administers the scouts at this firebase, says he would trust any of his Scouts with his life.

His faith remains rooted in over six months of daily contact with Kit Carson Scouts.

"At one time these men worked for the NVA or VC, and that means they're great for spotting the enemy and his booby traps," explained Mr. Donahe, a member of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Warrant Officer Rudolf P. Abendroth, El Paso, Texas, officer in charge of the program, feels Kit Carson Scouts are invaluable if their training is correctly used. "Kit Carson Scouts should not be considered just another gun," said WO Abendroth. "They'll do a job on the enemy if their skills are properly utilized."

Here in the Division these Scouts undergo three weeks of training and are then sent back to work in the areas in which they are familiar. Their training includes studies in English and a wide range of field tactics.

Nguyen Dac, former Viet Cong and now Kit Carson Scout, is one of the many outstanding individuals Mr. Donahe cited for bravery and skill. "Dac received a Bronze Star earlier this year for bravery in the Hiep Duc district," said Mr. Donahe. "After receiving a severe stomach wound, he crawled over 25 yards, so he could suppress the enemy's fire."

On that occasion Dac was walking point on a patrol for **Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry**, when an ambush opened up on both sides.

Dac fell wounded, and so did the second man who carried an M-79. While enemy fire kept the rest of the platoon pinned down Dac crawled back to the M-79 and gave cover fire for his unit to advance.

Nguyen Dac remained hospitalized for several months. Doctors doubted that he would return to the field.

Upon release from the hospital he was given a less strenuous job as aerial scout for the **16th Aviation Group** in Chu Lai. But within a short time Dac traded his new assignment for his former "number one" job. Currently Dac works Kit Carson Scout for the **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry**.

Trinh Thu, an ex-NVA now assigned to **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** had four years of college in Hanoi, speaks and reads two Chinese dialects fluently. A good man to have our side.

Thu, like Dac, takes his job seriously. He was recently wounded in action near LZ Siberia and was sent to Chu Lai for recovery. One of the old-time Kit Carson scouts for the brigade is Danh Mula who graduated from the first training program held in Chu Lai.

After working three years with **F troop, 17th Cavalry**, Mula's talents were transferred to Chu Lai, where he served as an instructor at the Kit Carson Scout training center.

Mula worked his new job easily, but he requested to be transferred back to the "number one" job.

Mr. Donahe commonly refers to the Kit Carson Scouts as his friends.

A few weeks ago the Infantry Brigade soldier helped gather and transport lumber to a village just south of Da Nang for one of the Scouts. The Kit Carson's home had been burned to the ground by NVA, leaving his family stranded.

"It's the least I could do, explained Mr. Donahe. "After all, Kit Carson Scouts save American lives."

C Co, 23rd Med

deals in seconds

By SGT Bob Nordyke

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) -- The men of **C Company, 23rd Medical Battalion**, 196th Infantry Brigade, operate on a paradoxical relationship with time. Hours pass, unaccounted for as one day merges with another. Yet, certain minutes and seconds are counted with singular importance--those involved in life/death situations.

The cycles of the clock speed, slow--accelerate and ease down again...

First Lieutenant Roger Coffin is acutely aware of these fluctuations of time. His job, in Army rhetoric, is Brigade Medical Operations Officer. More accurately, Lieutenant Coffin is an efficiency expert, a dealer in minutes and seconds.

"I am a liaison between the doctors and the RTO's" explains Lieutenant Coffin. When a dust-off is coming in, I have to know how many doctors and what we need to have ready on the chopper-pad the instant the bird lands. We may need litters, a resuscitator, or whole blood; I'm responsible for making sure we immediately have adequate supplies and personnel to cover the situation."

Lieutenant Coffin is also a traffic controller. When casualties are ready to be evacuated to Chu Lai or Da Nang, he sees that they are loaded on the helicopter, by priority. Done properly, it saves minutes and lives.

"The most serious patients go on the chopper last," says Lieutenant Coffin. "That way, they get off first in Chu Lai and are treated first."

The mission of **C Company** is stated simply in its motto--"We Strive To Save Lives." It is superficially, an obvious statement of purpose, but its operation is rather unique in Vietnam. Technically, C Company's home is not a hospital, but a clearing station, where vital, skilled emergency treatment is given, enabling serious combat casualties to make it alive to the large hospitals in Chu Lai and Da Nang.

Captain Jerry Rodgers is one of two physicians assigned to C Company.

"We are in position here to save a lot of lives." explains "Doc" Rodgers. "here, close to the forward area, we can give casualties emergency treatment to stabilize the patients so they get to the hospital alive.

Captain Rodgers is a tall good-natured Texan from Dallas who is skilled efficient, and respected. He knows what time means to a wounded soldier. Medic Specialist Four James Claywell, Texas City, Texas, has often worked with him.

'I was helping 'Doc' Rodgers with a guy who was hurt pretty bad, Specialist Claywell recalls. He needed a tracheotomy which is a pretty difficult operation. 'Doc' Rodgers just made a couple of moves, made the incision and had the guy fixed up. He was so fast it was unbelievable."

Serving in a role where speed is of vital importance, the Medevac choppers are essential. Besides the two dust-off choppers permanently stationed at the clearing station, helicopters from the 236th Dust-Off in Da Nang and Phu Bai help cover C Company's area.

"Every bit of time possible is saved with two birds here," explains Lieutenant Coffin. "Most casualties can be picked up, brought here, treated, stabilized, and ready for evacuation within 45 minutes."

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**C Co, 23rd Med
deals in seconds**

C Company has time for the routine too. Seven Vietnamese women file in the rear of the emergency room, their children perched precariously on their hips. A young mother with two infants lowers her brood to the cement floor. Backgrounded by a wall of shelves filled with medical supplies, she sits, waited on by a doctor and two medics. The children are crying, trying to hide in the arms of their mother afraid of the strange surroundings, the Americans. The doctor talks quietly, reassuringly.

The medical staff has learned the Vietnamese phrases they need, "sit up, lie back down, where do you hurt."

One of the medics comes forward with two boxes of licorice. The children reach instinctively, their fear suppressed. The doctor cleans, treats, and bandages the child's head wound with no further trouble.

Time is slowing...a rapid talking soldier limps to the front desk, holding his medical records. His fatigue pants rolled high on his legs, exposing a heavily bandaged knee.

"What happened?" he laughed quickly, "Boils."

At the desk, a medic known as "Airborne" is handling a clerk's job. The medics at **C Company** are stretched thin. The eight hour shifts they now work may have to be extended to 12 hours. There is a 30-bed ward to be attended, daily sick calls, and lab work. The medics are performing other Military Occupational Specialties (MOS)--on the job training. Three work as radio operators, one is the pharmacist at the hospital, others are working as lab technicians, clinical technicians, and x-ray technicians; the hospital has all these facilities.

Eight men are with **C Company from F Troop, 17th Cavalry**. They all volunteered for three weeks training at the hospital to go back to their unit as medics. Private First Class Calvin Hutson, Muenster, Texas, is one of the volunteers. His reason for volunteering is an understatement of the attitude of most of the medics at **C Company 23rd Med**. "They just needed medics," he says, "so I said OK."

Recently, at an Annual General Inspection found out exactly how unexpectedly time can shift gears at **23rd Med**. Their inspection was interrupted by a mass casualty situation.

The inspecting officers were no longer checkers, graders; they had to help carry litters, supplies--they saw the doctors and the medics do what they do best, save lives. When the pace slowed and the wounded had been treated, there was no doubt in anyone's mind about passing the inspection.

The hours are long, whether screaming by in minutes of emergency or dully dragging by in the routine. But pride and confidence in their own ability to perform their mission has become second nature to the doctors and medics of **C Company, 23rd Med**.

Division sees light action

By SP4 David Goodrich

Action was extremely light during the week in the Americal area of operations as heavy rains and the New Year's ceasefire period slowed activity in all areas. In all, the troopers under the Southern Cross accounted for 31 enemy kills and a relatively large number of detainees and Hoi Chanhs.

IRON MOUNTAIN

The 11th Infantry Brigade killed 10 enemy soldiers during the week, despite no action during the first three days of the month.

At the beginning of the week, while patrolling the foothills west of Duc Pho, Company D of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged and killed one Viet Cong. An AK-47, a pack and 20 pounds of cord were captured.

Through the combined efforts of the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, Company B of the 123rd Aviation Battalion** and Tu-Nghia MACV officials, 14 Hoi Chanhs were successfully picked up on December 31st.

Some days later, while working in the lowlands west of Duc Pho, **Company B of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** detained five Vietnamese trying to evade them. The detainees were questioned by an interpreter and evacuated to Duc Pho.

In the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho, **Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** observed two enemy soldiers evading east of their location. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire killing one and capturing the other, who was wounded in the action. Captured were an SKS, a pistol and one rucksack.

The next day while operating in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho, **recon of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** observed 15 enemy soldiers. The enemy troops were engaged with artillery fire from C Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery and gunships from the **174th Aviation Company**.

A sweep of the area of contact revealed two NVA, who had been killed by artillery fire. Continuing the search the infantrymen spotted two Viet Cong which they engaged and killed. A short time later, the unit encountered two more NVA, killing them both. A seventh enemy kill was credited to the 174th Aviation Company.

At the end of the week, **Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** found a total of 11 enemy huts containing an assortment of Viet Cong equipment, during a day sweep in the lowlands west of Duc Pho. The company finished their long day by killing a lone VC who was detected hiding in a tunnel.

In other action, **Company A, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** detained five Vietnamese while recon of the battalion detained two.

GENEVA PARK

Action was light in the 198th Infantry Brigade AO during the week. Nine enemy soldiers were killed during the week and brigade infantrymen uncovered a large weapons cache.

Late in the week, **Company A, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry**, while patrolling an area northwest of Chu Lai, found a weapons cache apparently belonging to a heavy weapons unit of the enemy. Included in the find were two AK-50 machineguns, three other automatic weapons, three rocket-propelled rounds (RPGs), 25 mortar rounds, three cases of AK-47 ammunition, and 600 machinegun rounds.

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Division sees light action

By SP4 David Goodrich

Heavy rains and cease fire limit enemy fatalities (Continued from page 1)

The captured equipment was all extracted to Chu Lai. Earlier in the week. Company A had found a Chicom grenade, which they destroyed.

Also late in the week, **Company B, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry**, working northwest of Chu Lai, observed and engaged a small group of enemy soldiers. The infantrymen killed one enemy and captured one AK-50 rifle, two Chicom grenades, two AK-47 magazines, a helmet and 20 pounds of rice.

While on a patrol southeast of Chu Lai, **Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry** engaged a group of Viet Cong with small arms fire at a distance for 200 meters.

The enemy evaded, but the "**Regulars**" swept the area and found and followed two blood trails. On further search, the infantrymen engaged and killed a lone Viet Cong and captured an AK-47.

Earlier in the week, **Company C of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry**, while patrolling south of Chu Lai, killed one VC in a brief encounter. Earlier, the company had detained a VC suspect south of that location. He was sent to Chu Lai for questioning.

In other action in the 198th area, a doorgunner from the Division's **174th Aviation Company**, participating in a combat assault with ARVN forces, engaged an enemy element with machinegun fire.

Troops were inserted into the area and the ARVN infantrymen found six Viet Cong killed by the accurate fire of the doorgunner. Two automatic weapons and three packs were taken in the action.

FREDERICK HILL

Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade accounted for nine enemy kills during a week of almost continuous rain.

The **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry**, while on a search and clear mission, killed two VC with small arms fire as the enemy attempted to evade from a nearby structure.

While in their day defensive position that afternoon, the company observed and engaged four enemy soldiers. Results were a detainee.

Later in the week, the company stayed active, killing two VC while on a sweep near a suspected enemy base camp west of Tam Ky.

In mid-week, **Company A of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry** while on a sweep with a Hoi Chanh. They found a hospital complex and engaged three VC spotted near the area. One of the enemy was killed and the other two wounded in the action.

The "Professionals" ended the week in a finale of action by killing a lone VC attempting to hide in a partially camouflaged bunker.

Later in the day, **Company A** found two Vietnamese males near an enemy structure. The suspects, who are extracted to Hawk Hill, claimed they had been forced to labor for the VC.

Soldiers in the **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** accounted for two detainees this week west of Tam Ky. One detainee was found by Company C, as the 40-year old male was making a booby trap.

Charger 13 of brigade aviation engaged six VC, killing four of them while on a visual reconnaissance mission. Two of the VC escaped to a nearby woodland.

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Division sees light action

By SP4 David Goodrich

Heavy rains and cease fire limit enemy fatalities

In the **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry's** area of operations, Company C, while on a sweep northwest of Tam Ky engaged and killed one NVA with M-16s.

By mid-week another sweep by the company resulted in one VC detained and extracted to Hawk Hill. **Company A of the "Legionnaires"** wrapped up this week's action for the battalion when they found one VC killed by artillery on a sweep northwest of Tam Ky. The kill was credited to 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery.

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE

Action was also light for the troopers **1st Squadron 1st Cavalry** in the Pennsylvania Square AO as the men of the Army's most battlehonored unit killed three enemy soldiers and captured one.

In the week's only significant contact **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, killed two VC when small arms fire caused the bangalore torpedo they were carrying to explode. The troop killed another VC by processing artillery fire.

In other activity elements of the 1st Cavalry destroyed 11 mines, 15 mortar rounds, 1 RPG round, a law, 49 CBU's and captured over a ton of rice.

196th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, **196th Infantry** was constituted on June 24, 1921. It was in the Organized Reserves until ordered to active service on June 9, 1942. During World War II, the unit saw service in the Pacific Theater and occupation duty in Japan. It was inactivated at Osaka, Japan, on February 16, 1946.

The unit was activated again on September 15, 1956, as the 196th Light Infantry Brigade at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. The basic mission of the brigade at the time of its activation was to train the 2,000 recruits who would make up the unit, and to reach a combat-ready posture by May, 1966.

In April, 1967, the "Chargers" became part of the first U.S. Army troops in I Corps when they arrived in Chu Lai to join the newly formed Task Force Oregon. While carrying out their primary mission of securing the Chu Lai airfield complex, the brigade also conducted Operation Benton during August and September 1967. In September, 1967, Task Force Oregon was reconstituted and redesignated the Americal Division, and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade became an organic part of the Americal Division.

On November 25, 1967, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade departed the Chu Lai area and relieved the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. At the same time, the brigade continued Operation Wheeler/Wallowa which had begun earlier. This major operation did not end until November, 1968, one year after its initiation. During that time elements of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division; 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry; and the 198th Light Infantry Brigade joined the 196th "Chargers" in southern Quang Nam and northern Quang Tin Provinces.

The heaviest engagement of 1969 in the Americal Division took place near Hiep Duc during August and September.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade presently consists of the **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry**; the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry**; the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry; the **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry**; and **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**.

The brigade is presently stationed in the northernmost sector of the 23rd Infantry Division area of operations and has its headquarters at LZ Hawk Hill.

The 17th Cavalry was constituted in the Regular Army and organized July 1, 1916 at Fort Bliss, Texas. On September 26, 1921, the unit was inactivated at the Presidio of Monterey, California.

On July 1, 1940, the unit was redesignated the 17th Cavalry Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, **17th Cavalry** consolidated in March 1951 with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Armored Cavalry Group.

On August 14, the Troop arrived at the Port of Vung Tau to find the Brigade would take up residence at the city of Tay Ninh approximately 60 miles northwest of Saigon. Combat operations commenced almost immediately with troop operation consisting mainly of route recons, night and fire support base security. In 1967 the unit became a part of the Americal Division.

Since its arrival in Vietnam, **F Troop, 17th Cavalry** and the 196th Infantry Brigade have continued to uphold the high traditions of the US Army and have participated in numerous combat operations which netted thousands of enemy dead.

Weekly recap

196th Brigade kills 25

By Sp/4 Richard Kerr

DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) -- In scattered action during the week of May 12 thru 18, enemy soldiers were killed in the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operation.

While working in the 196th Brigade's AO, **Helix 17** observed 15 to 20 NVA evading toward a treeline. The aircraft immediately processed an air strike on the enemy's position. The air strike caused the demise of 15 soldiers and the destruction of two bunkers.

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, while in their night defensive position early that week, engaged and killed one NVA with small arms fire. Captured in the action was a K-54 pistol.

While working an area southwest of Da Nang that week, Ranger Team 07 received small arms fire from approximately 15 to 20 enemy soldiers. An air strike was processed and artillery was called in on the enemy's location. **Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.**, later swept the area, finding two dead NVA and numerous bunkers.

Co. A, and Bn., 1st Inf. and B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, killed two NVA that week during a joint operation southwest of Da Nang. The first kill occurred when the two elements were sweeping the area and engaged a woodline with small arms fire and .50 caliber fire.

A search of the area revealed the dead enemy soldier. Upon continuing their sweep they came across four enemy structures and one bunker. A hand grenade was dropped into the bunker, killing the second enemy soldier. The four structures were searched then destroyed.

While patrolling an area south of Da Nang, **A Troop, 1st of the 1st Cav.**, engaged five NVA with small arms fire. As a result two enemy soldiers were killed as the other evaded.

F Troop, 17th Cavalry, while working an area west of Da Nang, engaged two VC with small arms fire. As a result one enemy soldier was killed and the other wounded. The wounded VC was taken prisoner and extracted to 95th Evac.

Company **C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry**, while in their night defensive position, engaged three enemy soldier with small arms fire. As a result two NVA were killed as the other evaded. One AK-47 rifle was captured in the action.

While on a search and clear mission, **Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.**, found one NVA killed by artillery. **Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery** was credited with the kill for a fire mission in the area earlier in the month.

Later that week while moving to their night defensive position southwest of Da Nang, **Co. C of the "Gimlets"** engaged and killed one VC with small arms fire. A rucksack containing miscellaneous items was recovered in the action.

**CRIME
DOESN'T
PAY**

Contrary to his plea of not guilty, Private Ronnie Jones, **F Troop, 17th Cavalry** was convicted by special court-martial on 16 May 1971 for willfully disobeying orders from his superior noncommissioned officers. Following announcement of the findings of guilty, he was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge and confinement at hard labor for three months. He is presently serving the sentence to confinement in the USARV Installation Stockade, Long Binh, RVN.

196th Brigade reports 24 kills in Action

DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) - The "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade accounted for 24 enemy deaths, and uncovered several enemy caches in moderate action.

F Troop, 8th Cavalry, while on an air cavalry mission early this week, inserted the Blues into an area west of Da Nang. The Blues swept the area and observed two VC soldiers evading northwest. They engaged the enemy with small arms fire, killing both enemy soldiers. Two rucksacks containing miscellaneous clothing, 12 rice knives and a small amount of medical supplies were captured in the action. The captured supplies were extracted to Da Nang.

Later the same day, while working in an area southwest of Da Nang, **Company A, 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry**, engaged three VC soldiers with small arms fire. As a result, one enemy soldier was killed as the others evaded west.

F Troop, 17th Cavalry, while working the 116th PFs (Popular Forces), observed four to five VC soldiers approximately 350 meters west of their position. They engaged the enemy with small arms fire and processed artillery on the enemy's location. The PFs then swept the area and found three VC soldiers killed in the action, and detained another. The detainee was taken to Da Nang for questioning.

The **reconnaissance element of 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.**, while on patrol southwest of Da Nang, came across a structure next to a cave. The cave was searched and the "Gimlets" found 50 pounds of rice, one AK-50, 150 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, three RPG boosters, three RPG tail assemblies, miscellaneous clothing and eight Chicom grenades. The AK-50 was extracted to a nearby LZ and the rest destroyed.

While on patrol west of Da Nang, **F Troop, 17th Cav.** found two 122mm rockets and 190 pounds of rice. The rice was inedible and was destroyed along with the rockets.

B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, while in their night defensive position early this week, received five RPG rounds and observed four VC soldiers evading southwest. "**Blue Ghost**" was on station and spotted an unknown size enemy force. "Blue Ghost" engaged the enemy, killing two as the other evaded.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, while patrolling west of Da Nang this week, found two caves containing 680 pounds of rice. The rice was extracted to Da Nang.

A LOH from **F Troop, 8th Cavalry**, while on a VR (visual reconnaissance) mission received small arms fire from a structure. Gunships, which were flying with the LOH, then engaged and destroyed the structure. The VR ship later observed another structure and engaged and destroyed it. The Blues were inserted and swept the area, finding a cave containing 500 to 600 pounds of rice. Due to the technical situation, the rice was unable to be extracted and was destroyed.

While checking an artillery impact area this week, **Company C, 3d Bn., 21st Inf.** found one AK-47 rifle with two magazines containing 60 rounds and five rucksacks containing two ammunition pouches, four magazines with 80 rounds, one Chicom grenade, one 9mm pistol belt with clip, two canteens, one mess kit, an unknown amount of NVA money, 30 pounds of rice and one civilian ID card. The entire find was extracted to a nearby LZ.

(Continued)

196th Brigade reports 24 kills in Action

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Company C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., while patrolling an area west of Da Nang, spotted six enemy soldiers moving to their front. They engaged the enemy with small arms fire, killing three as the other evaded northwest.

While on patrol this week the 116th RFs (Regional Forces) found a tunnel that had collapsed because of artillery fire. Upon searching the tunnel, the RFs uncovered the bodies of 12 VC soldiers. The kills were credited to Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 15th Artillery, for fire missions.

Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, while patrolling an area west of Da Nang, found 300 pounds of marijuana hidden under a parachute. The find was destroyed.

Company B, 1st Bn., 46th Inf., while on patrol west of Da Nang, found one enemy structure containing 1000 pounds of rice stored in sandbags. The rice was extracted to Da Nang.

Later in the same area, **Company D, 1st Bn., 46th Inf.**, while on a search and clear mission, discovered two cache sites containing 100 pounds of rice. Five hundred pounds of the rice was inedible and was destroyed, while the remaining 500 pounds was extracted to Da Nang.

While in their day defensive position this week, Company G, 75th Rangers, had a mechanical ambush detonate. Upon checking the area, they found one dead VC soldier and recovered one AK-47 rifle.

F Troop, 8th Cav., while on an air cavalry mission later this week, inserted the Blues into an area west of Da Nang. The Blues swept the area and captured an enemy soldier hiding in a cave. A search of the cave uncovered one SKS, one 9mm pistol, four rucksacks, one AK-47 magazine, 15 rounds of AK ammunition, three sets of NVA fatigues, nine batteries, a metal box containing 21 radio tubes, 200 feet of detonator wire, miscellaneous medical supplies, assorted food stuff and various cooking utensils. The enemy soldier and all the supplies were extracted to Da Nang.

196th, 198th see moderate - light action

196th Bde kills 23

DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) -

In moderate action recently the 196th Infantry Brigade "Chargers" killed 23 enemy soldiers and found over 4500 pounds of rice.

B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, while in their night defensive position west of Da Nang, has a mechanical ambush detonate. The following morning Troop B searched the area and found two VC soldiers killed.

Later the same day **B Troop** spotted five enemy soldiers moving north and engaged them with small arms fire. As a result, three VC soldiers were killed as the others evaded. Captured in the action was one AK-47 rifle and ten rounds of AK-47 ammunition.

The following day, while checking a bunker complex, **B Troop** observed one VC soldier evading into one of the bunkers. The enemy soldier was engaged with small arms fire and grenades. As a result, the enemy was killed.

Late in the day, **B Troop** observed seven VC soldiers and engaged them with organic weapons. Red Baron 40 was flying in the area and adjusted artillery on the enemy's location. As a result two enemy soldiers were killed. One of the kills was credited to **Battery A, 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery**, and the other kill was credited to **Battery A, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery**.

Radar from an LZ near Da Nang detected five persons moving southwest. F Troop, 8th Cavalry, while on a **night-hawk** mission, checked the area and spotted four enemy soldiers, F Troop engaged the enemy, killing all four.

While working an area west of Da Nang this week, **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, had a mechanical ambush detonate. A search of the area revealed that three enemy soldiers were killed and one wounded. The wounded soldier was extracted to 95th Evacuation Hospital for treatment.

Captured in the action were three AK-47 rifles one RPG (rocket propelled grenade launcher), two RPG rounds six Chicom grenades, one anti-tank weapon and three AK-47 magazines with 140 rounds of ammunition. The weapons were extracted to a nearby LZ and the munitions were destroyed.

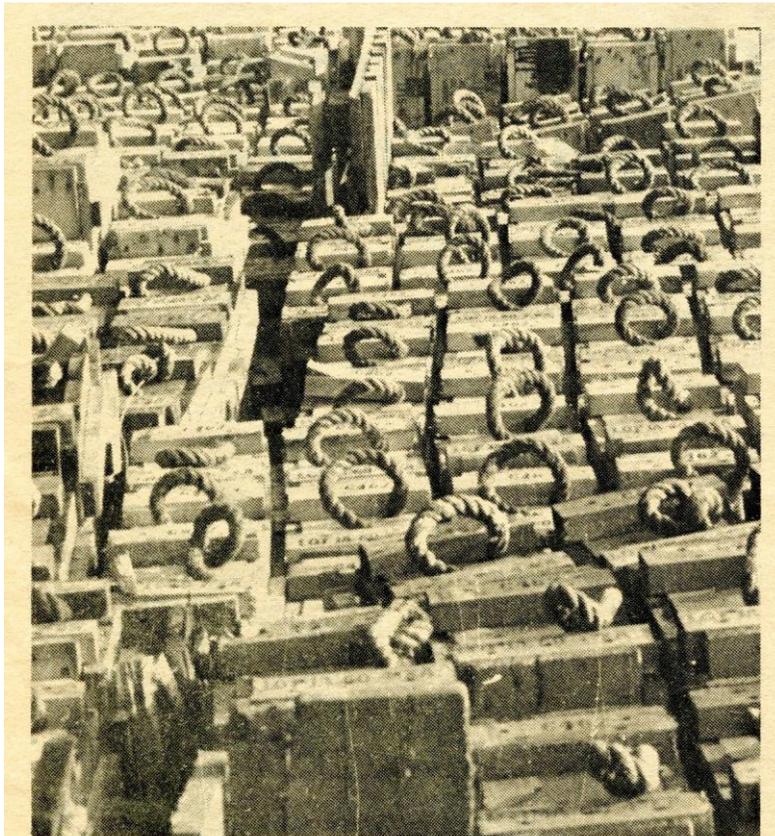
Red Baron 32, an **artillery observation helicopter**, while working in an area west of Da Nang, observed two VC soldiers hiding in a bunker, and called in artillery. As a result, both enemy soldiers were killed. One of the kills was credited to **Battery A, 3d Bn., 82d Arty.**, and the other as credited to **Battery A, 3d Bn., 16th Arty.**

Company **A, 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry**, while moving to their pick-up zone, observed and engaged one NVA soldier with small arms fire. As a result the enemy soldier was killed and 700 pounds of rice, three Chicom grenades, five rucksacks and one pistol belt were captured. Due to the tactical situation, the rice and grenades were destroyed. The rucksacks and pistol belts were extracted with the element.

The Integrated Observation System on a hill near Da Nang spotted seven VC soldiers with packs and weapons. Artillery was called in on the enemy's location, resulting in five VC soldiers killed. The kills were credited to **Battery A, 3d Bn., [83d sic] 82d Arty.**

While on a search and clear mission, **Troop C, 1st Sqd., 1st Cav.** found three enemy structures. Upon checking the structures C Troop uncovered 900 pounds of rice in a bamboo container and also found a basket containing another 500 pounds of rice.

About 50 meters southwest of the structures they found 2500 pounds of rice hidden in a gully. All 3900 pounds of rice were extracted to the orphanage at Que Son.



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)

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 a typo. 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company (Hercules) is likely the correct unit.] Oct 7.

The 11th Brigade and its **1st Battalion, 52nd 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, 3rd 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.

This section contains articles from the Stars & Stripes that related to F Troop 17th Cavalry.

Stars & Stripes Page 6. Sunday March 9, 1969

89 Reds Die in Futile Attacks on GI Outposts

By SPEC. 4 JAMES LINN

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON -

---Americal Div. soldiers of **F Troop, 17th Cav**, working with South Vietnamese Popular Force militiamen near Tam Ky uncovered an enemy cache containing 15,000 pounds of rice. The grain was found in false graves and under the floor boards of several huts.

23Feb70-Sergeant Fills 2 Hot Spots In Bitter 8-Hour Fire Fight

LZ CENTER, Vietnam (Special) -

When his unit accidentally stopped to rest in an NVA basecamp, a 19-year-old Americal Division soldier found himself busy as both radio telephone operator (RTO) and forward observer (FO) in a battle that lasted eight hours and cost the enemy 40 killed.

Spec. 4 Richard Fosler, a member of **C Battery, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty.**, was acting as both FO and RTO with **F Troop, 17th Cav.**, on a recent operation west of LZ Hawk Hill (A.K.A-"Hill two-niner").

The two platoons of **F Troop** had been joined by a part of **D Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.**, 196th Inf. Brigade on their operation to flush the enemy out of the area.

They had met little resistance during the early morning hours, but when they decided to take a break under some trees, they triggered a fire fight that would mean the success or failure of their mission.

An NVA soldier was spotted sneaking from behind a tree only 30 meters from the resting Americans. The NVA ran into a hooch neatly concealed by thick underbrush.

Within seconds, the troop was warned. Backed by four Sheridan tanks, they opened up with .50 caliber and M60 machine guns.

After almost an hour of heavy fighting, a brief lull enabled a platoon from the 21st Inf. to move into the tree line and investigate.

They immediately discovered three dead NVA and a 60mm mortar tube. Moments later they found a .30 caliber machine gun.

Again they came under heavy AK47 fire, this time, from both the tree line and the trench network behind them. One of the RTOs from the **21st Inf.** was wounded as the enemy began to hit the American position with grenades.

Receiving directions from the commander of F Troop, Capt. Klein Harris, the platoon reversed its attack and retaliated with small arms and hand grenades while moving behind trees and high grass for cover. Fosler grabbed his radio and began calling to **B Battery, 3rd Bn., 82 Arty.** on LZ Center for artillery support.

The big-gun firepower was used to protect the rear of the American forces and also to cut off any means of escape for the now pinned-down enemy.

The enemy had been caught completely off guard and had not had time to use their mortar tubes. With the artillery support, their fortified bunkers could not protect them.

When the battle was over, the Americans found 15 AK47 rifles, four Rocket Propelled Grenade launchers and countless Chicom grenades.

The net result of the battle was one NVA base camp destroyed and one RTO/FO very aware of what an officer goes through as a regular FO.

22/23Feb70-Fire Victims Eat Red Rice

Timely Cache Feeds 950

LANDING ZONE HAWK HILL, Vietnam (Special) - It was a case of great timing. Ask any one of the nearly 1,000 Vietnamese refugees in the burned out village near Tam Ky.

The villagers were left homeless after a defective stove exploded and flames raced through the Thang Binh Refugee Center 10 miles north of Tam Ky.

The fire broke out in the afternoon, and in 90 minutes 950 people had lost their homes along with most everything else they owned.

"Dirt mounds and scorched pieces of tin were all that was left," said 1st Lt. William Bacon, civil affairs officer with the American Div.'s **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.**, 196th Inf. Brigade.

The 29th Civil Affairs Co., working the area, offered to help, but would require at least three days to get supplies to the refugees. The homeless, however, had to have food immediately.

Just five miles away to the west of the fire scene, the American Div.'s **F troop, 17th Cav.**, had made a timely find - the unit had uncovered and seized 22,000 pounds of rice stashed by the enemy.

Lt. Bacon, hearing of the blaze and the rice cache at about the same time, arranged to have 8,000 pounds of rice sent to the village the next morning.

Next day, a convoy of trucks rumbled down the dirt road into Thang Binh with four tons of the desperately-needed rice. Before the trucks were completely unloaded, smoke from hundreds of cooking pots was curling up above the rubble.

More help came, Buddhist scouts came in to help clear away the charred rubble. The government in Saigon sent materials for temporary shelters.

Things are now more or less back to normal for the 950 residents of Thang Binh, if life in a war zone can be called normal.

"When people are in a bind like that," said civil affairs worker Sgt. Jim Callahan, "we try to help them out . . . They really appreciated that rice."

Plea Works- With a Bang

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON – An aerial want-ad brought a 10-year-old boy and a 250-pound bomb to the attention of American troopers in a convincing display of psychological operations effectiveness.

Only 30 minutes after a 196th Brigade chopper had broadcast a plea for information about Viet Cong activities near Tam Ky, a boy walked up to a Kit Carson Scout with F Troop, 17th Cav. The boy pointed to a spot 20 feet in front of a command track.

The armormen burrowed around the spot and found a camouflaged 250-pound bomb.

Pacific Stars and Stripes
Saturday, March 28, 1970

20Apr70- Photo Caption - **Silhouette in War Drama**

Tank crewmen from **F Troop, 17th Cav.**, are silhouetted atop their vehicle during an operation 25 miles north of Tam Ky, near the coast in northern South Vietnam. (USA).

Pacific Stars & Stripes
02Jul71 Page 6
Friday

3 GIs Killed, 8 Hurt in Ammo Truck Explosion S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON - Three U.S. soldiers were killed and eight wounded Wednesday morning when a three-quarter-ton truck loaded with C4 explosive and ammunition blew up at Camp Faulkner, three miles southeast of Da Nang, U.S. Command spokesmen said.

Four buildings were destroyed and four other damaged in the blast which occurred in the unit area of the 196th Brigade, 23rd Inf. Div., spokesmen added. The cause of the explosion has not been determined.

Command spokesmen said Wednesday that 12 additional GIs were hurt Monday when an Army AH1 Cobra gunship fired rockets on a unit of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cav. Div., during a battle about 60 miles east-north-east of Saigon. Earlier, three men were reported killed and 19 wounded in fighting with an enemy unit.

Two Americans died Monday when their Army OH6 helicopter was downed and destroyed by enemy ground fire 17 miles southeast of Da Nang, spokesmen said.

[Historian Note: 196th Bde Avn OH-6A #417 was found down by D/1/1st Cav searching for the missing helicopter at 1605H at location, AT875550. LOH was called in missing at 1400H, while working for 5^{1st} ARVN Regt. Blues were inserted at 1600H to secure it. F/17th Cav (armor) has a platoon enroute to area. Blues found 1 US KIA (OFF) & 1 x US WIA(E) (EM). Dustoff completed 1640 to 95th Evac. Also found 3 VC KIA. All female and several expended AK47 cartridges & 1 AK-47 captured. Extraction at 1735H when 1/F/17 arrived. The UH-1H that was extracting the OH-6A detonated unknown type mine, resulting in damage to main rotor blade and fuel cell. The OH-6A was a combat loss extracted at 1745 to Da Nang. Documents found on VC were extracted to Chu Lai. (WO1 Donald L. Delaplaine and SP5 Charles W. Cook were listed as KIAs from the 196th Bde Avn by the VHPA for this day. Tail number was reported 67-16417 tail number listed by VHPA matches Americal Division TOC report.)].

This section contains stories printed in the "Army Reporter that related to the F Troop 17th Cavalry" unit.

TAY NINH, (196th, INF-IO) - When one platoon of **Troop F, 17th Cavalry**, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, was pinned down by an enemy force recently, another platoon of the troop came hastily to the rescue.

The **3rd Platoon** was on patrol not far from the brigade's base camp here. Dusk was setting in as the 11-man patrol separated with five men going to the right and six going left looking for hidden Viet Cong supplies.

Suddenly VC fire poured in from three sides, pinning down both elementsmissing sections of the rest of story. (Sperlazza name mentioned)

11Feb67-Two Close Brushes With Death Enough

TAY NINH, (196th, INF-IO) - Sergeant George C. Edsell must be living right.

Twice he has been in the jaws and death and has emerged practically unscathed. The first time, he was with his unit, **Troop F, 17th Cavalry**, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, on a reconnaissance mission near the base of the Black Virgin mountain near Tay Ninh.

As Edsell's scout jeep moved along a dirt road close to the mountain, automatic fire poured in on the patrol. One round smashed into the sergeant's M-16 rifle, spraying fragments and wounding him slightly.

Luck or whatever stepped in again for Edsell during the Operation Cedar Falls. This time, a Troop F platoon was guarding a culvert that had been blown up by the VC twice a month for the past year.

Crawling close to the platoon's position, a VC threw several grenades into the perimeter. One of the grenades landed a few feet in front of Edsell, wounding two men.

Specialist Four Robert J. Gardner heard the grenade hit and threw the sergeant to the ground. Fragments whistled near the sergeant's head, but his steel helmet lying a foot from his head stopped the deadly shrapnel Edsell later mused. "If it wasn't for this steel pot and Gardner's quick reaction, I could have been killed."

Looking at his chewed up steel pot. He considers himself of the luckiest men in the brigade.

18Feb67-Lucky Shot Gets 2 VC

TAY NINH, (196th INF-IO) - Nui Ba Den, the "Black Virgin" mountain, thrusts its jungle-covered head 3200 feet above the flat terrain around Tay Ninh. Although the Special Forces maintain a fortified camp on the mountain summit, the slopes are Viet Cong dominated.

Recently, elements of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade again challenged the VC's hold on the "Black Virgin." Recoilless rifles of **Troop F, 17th Cavalry**, brought fire on suspected VC cave positions. Specialist Four Brian C. Barker, gunner on a 106mm recoilless rifle, put his first shot into the mouth of a cave. "I didn't think anybody was in there," he recalled.

Later that day, Civilian Irregular Defense Group forces began searching the caves. As it turned out, Barker's hot had entered a cave, killing two VC hiding in it and smashing their weapons.

In commemoration of his lucky shot. Barker painted two small VC silhouettes on the tube of his recoilless rifle.

12Aug67-Cong Add Realism to Class

CHU LAI, (196th INF-IO) - Training at the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's Charger Academy took on an air of realism recently when a class on the academy's rifle range was fired on by Viet Cong snipers.

The class, consisting of officers and senior NCOs, and three instructors from the academy received fire from positions on the hills overlooking the range.

Three instructors, SSgts, Rex Cornette, Iran E. Castilo-Santiago, and Floyd J. Woods, got the new replacements out of their predicament.

All veterans of combat as regular infantry squad leaders before they came to the academy, the three NCOs led the group to safety and then returned the enemy's fire, checking it until **F, 17th Cavalry**, arrived to take over.

19Aug67-196th Inf 'Anti-Tank' Platoon Patrols 4-Mile Thunder Road

CHU LAI, (196th INFO-IO) -Thunder Road, well named by the men who travel it is a lonely, unpredictable, and dangerous strip of road linking **Headquarters, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry**, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and outlying infantry companies.

It is a necessary, but wicked stretch of twisting, winding road that only the men of the battalion's Anti-Tank Platoon, who patrol the four mile distance with their 106mm recoilless rifle jeeps, can accurately describe.

"We travel the distance of the road ten times or more each day," says Sp4 Larry T. Sheddy, "and a day without an incident is rare."

"We have had many close calls," said PFC Vernon J. Stingly "but two incidents stand out the most. The road had been swept and we had gone up and returned twice in our jeep.

"Shortly after our last trip, a Marine armored vehicle hit amine that we had previously driven over four times. A similar incident happened some days later.

"We had passed over this mine eight times before a heavier vehicle caused it to go off. Both times pieces of plastic and banana leaves were found."

Local Vietnamese have also been victims of VC mining activities.

Specialist Four Clarence Leclair recalls waking up one morning "when I heard the guard at the gate yelling for someone to bring a jeep down to him. I got up and jumped in the jeep and drove down to the gate. There I saw two badly injured little girls and an old woman who had carried them from down the road. We rushed them both to the aid station.

"The old woman managed to tell us that there were still two other children out there that were hurt. the road hadn't been cleared yet and I didn't have any idea where to find them, but the medic and I took off down the road and soon spotted a wounded boy near a clump of bushes.

"The medic began to administer first aid and I continued down the road a ways to see if I could locate anyone else. I didn't, so I turned around, picked up the child and brought him back to the aid station where he too was evacuated to a hospital.

"We later learned there were only the three of them. They'd been picking berries and had tripped a booby trap planted by the VC. The little girl died a few days later.

"A half hour after I'd been on the road, at the exact spot where I had turned around after looking for the fourth child, the brigade's Troop F, 17th Cavalry was ambushed," Leclair concluded.

16Dec67-2nd NVA Division Dented By Brigade In Three-Day Battle

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-IO) - Infantrymen of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade put a dent into the Second North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Division recently when the Americans killed 118 enemy and captured 56 weapons in a three-day battle.

Initial contact with the NVA force was made by **Company D, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry**, when they received sniper fire as they approached several huts.

Hearing gunfire, the second and third platoons of F Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry and Company B, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., moved toward the area of contact.

First Lieutenant James S. Dickey, first platoon leader in Company B, said, "As we approached the area of contact, one of my men saw a weapon pointing out of a hole. He dropped a grenade into it, which resulted in the death of a NVA officer and the capture of an assault machinegun."

"Within 25 yards, my men spotted another hole which contained two more NVA soldiers," Dickey continued. "After an exchange of fire, two more NVA troops were killed and we captured two rifles."

With the contact increasing **Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** and **Company C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.** were combat assaulted into the fighting zone.

Contact continued until the early evening hours. Artillery fire from the **3d Battalion, 82d Artillery** and air strikes and gunships from the **71st Aviation Battalion** ([sic] 71st Assault Helicopter Company) supported the ground troops in the moderate to heavy contact with NVA forces.

Confirmed body count at the end of the first day was 40. The following morning, **Company D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.** again started to receive enemy fire.

As the tempo increased, **Company D, 3d Bn., 21st Inf. and Company D, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry** were combat assaulted into the area.

Fighting continued throughout the day by all units until early evening when NVA elements broke contact.

Once again, air strikes and artillery fire supported ground troops. Contact was sporadic the third day as the Americans pressed their hunt for NVA soldiers. By nightfall, 118 enemy bodies covered the battlefield and an assortment of enemy weapons, mostly automatic weapons, had been captured.

24Mar69-Vietnam Communique March 3 to March 9

Post-Tet Red toll rises

Americal Div

Americal Division soldiers continued to punish the enemy during the week, in addition to turning up significant rice caches over a four-day period.

At 6:35 a.m. March 4, enemy soldiers firing from concealed positions launched about 10 122mm rockets at the division headquarters at Chu Lai. Damage was light and there were no casualties.

Gunship crews from the **123rd Combat Aviation Bn.** discovered the enemy launch site and five suspects were caught in the area. Then elements of the 198th Light Infantry Bde. discovered 11 other launch sites in the area.

In a four-day round of cache, discoveries that started on March 6, soldiers of **F Troop, 17th Cav.**, working with Vietnamese Popular Force units in the Tam Ky area, turned up more than 45 tons of rice.

22Jun70- **Combined tactics slay 17 enemy** page 12

LZ HAWK HILL - Americal Division soldiers recently used infantry-armor tactics to perfection in a fire fight 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The 196th Inf. Bde. Task force killed 17 NVA, detained five more and confiscated eight weapons.

Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., was sweeping along a river while the armored vehicles of **F Troop, 17th Cav.**, blocked to either side. Shortly after the movement began, the Americans spotted a force of 20 to 30 NVA near the river.

"They saw us coming and tried to get away before we got any closer," said Sgt. Larry Carr. the retreating enemy, however, suddenly found themselves within 50 yards of **F Troop's** blocking position.

The 196th Inf. Bde. cavalrymen opened up with automatic weapons fire. By the time the skirmish was over **F Troop** had killed eight enemy, detained five and confiscated four weapons. Eight fully loaded magazines and 10 Chicom grenades also were found.

"It's amazing just how well our plan worked," remarked Pfc. James Brendel a rifleman with **Co. B.** "We got them out of the vegetation along the river, and the tracks picked them right up."

As the task force continued to move, a track from **F Troop** crashed through a hedgerow, almost running over a hidden NVA. Rifle fire cut down the enemy as he tried to escape. The soldiers confiscated an AK47 rifle and two "banana-clip" magazines.

13Jul70- 196th soldiers kill 128 Page 1

LZ HAWK HILL - In a week of hard fighting, soldiers of the 196th Inf. Bde. Americal Division killed 128 enemy.

Men of the **1st Bn., 46th Inf.**, took the heaviest toll of the enemy, accounting for 68 NVA dead.

The biggest action took place when **Companies B and C**, operating in Hiep Duc Valley, met a large enemy force. **Co. B** became involved in a bitter bunker-to-bunker fight lasting all morning. When the fight was over, **Co. B** had accounted for 33 NVA.

Working the high ground, **Co. C** came under intense mortar fire. The Americans continued to return fire, killing four of the enemy.

Later in the day, **Co. B** spotted another large NVA force in an open area. The Americans called in another gunship from the **71st AHC**, which proceeded to strafe the area. The Americans counted 10 enemy dead there.

In the days that followed, ARVN soldiers sweeping the area of contact found more enemy dead. Eleven of the NVA found were credited to **Btry. C, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty.** Ten more were credited to **Co. C, 1st Bn., 46th Inf.**

In scattered incidents throughout its area of operations, the **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.**, killed 28 enemy.

In one day of fighting, **Co. D** killed seven VC, detained six and confiscated two AK47 rifles. Later in the week, the same unit, after killing two more NVA, found an ammunition cache of 20 60mm mortar rounds and 15 Chinese Communist grenades.

Working with an evening Popular Forces patrol one mortarman from **Co. E** was instrumental in the killing of 10 VC. Serving as a mortar forward observer, the soldier spotted two squads of VC. Helicopter gunships were called in, killing three men in the squads.

The **3rd Bn., 21st Inf.**, counted 16 enemy killed for the week. Early in the week, **Co. A**, while searching a recently used base camp, found eight NVA graves. The eight kills were credited to **Btry. B, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty.**

Later action was scattered. **Co. B** found 14 RPGs while operating 20 miles west of Tam Ky. The rounds were lying off a trail under a poncho. Conducting search missions 24 miles west of Tam Ky, **Co D. 4th Bn., 31st Inf.** found the graves of four NVA, which were credited to **Co. A's** earlier contact. Two NVA had been killed by **Co. A** and two by **Btry, C, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty.**

Operating five miles northwest of Tam Ky, **F Troop, 17th Cav.**, killed four VC and captured 4 1/2 tons of rice in sorties at the end of the week.

12Oct70- Kit Carson namesakes just as trusty Page 3
joint force function

LZ HAWK HILL - Sixty to 70 Kit Carson Scouts work the Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade area. Keith Donahe, 196th Inf. Bde., who maintains this strength level and administers the scouts at this fire base, says he would trust any of his scouts with his life.

His faith is rooted in more than six months of daily contact with Kit Carson Scouts.

"At one time these men worked for the NVA or VC, and that means they're great for spotting the enemy and his booby traps," explained Donahe.

WO Rudolf P. Abendroth, officer in charge of the program, feels Kit Carson Scouts are invaluable if their training is correctly used. "Kit Carson Scouts should not be considered just another gun," said Abendroth. "They'll do a job on the enemy if their skills are properly utilized."

In the Americal Division, Scouts undergo three weeks of training and then are sent back to work in the area with which they are familiar. Their training includes studies in English and a wide range of field tactics.

Nguyen Dac, former Viet Cong and now Kit Carson Scout, is one of the many outstanding individuals Donahe cited for bravery and skill.

"Dac received a Bronze star earlier this year for bravery in the Hiep Duc district," said Donahe. "After receiving a severe stomach wound, he crawled over 25 meters so he could suppress the enemy's fire."

On that occasion Dac was walking point on a patrol for **Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.**, when an ambush opened up on both sides.

Dac fell wounded, and so did the second man, who carried an M79. While enemy fire kept the rest of the platoon pinned down, Dac crawled back to the M79 and gave cover fire for his unit to advance.

Dac remained hospitalized for several months; doctors doubted that he would return to the field.

Upon release from the hospital he was given a less strenuous job as aerial scout for the 16th Avn Gp. in Chu Lai. But within a short time, he traded his new assignment for his former "number one" job. Currently Dac works as a Kit Carson Scout for **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.**

Trinh Thu, an ex-NVA now assigned to the **4th Bn., 31st Inf.**, had four years of college in Hanoi, speaks and reads two Chinese dialects fluently.

"Within four months Thu learned enough English to carry on an intelligent conversation," said Keith.

One of the oldtime Kit Carson scouts for the 196th Bde. is Danh Mula, who graduated from the first training program.

After working three years with **F Troop, 17th Cav.**, Mula's talents were transferred to Chu Lai, where he served as an instructor at the Kit Carson Scout training center.

Mula worked his new job easily, but he requested to be transferred back to the field, as did Dac-back to the "number one" job.

(Note: The reason why units other than the Americal are listed is units from the Americal participated in Lam Son 719 under the 101st Abn Div. For example half the helicopter assets of the Americal Division (14th Cbt. Aviation Bn. were assigned to the 101st). 3/82nd Artillery, 1/1st Cav armor and 11th Bde infantry units also participated).

Darkhorses net 34 in delta action.....

101st Abn Div

In Quang Tri Province of Military Region 1 during the evening of Feb. 28, an element of the 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), while in a night defensive position one mile west of Gio Linh, received fewer than 30 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. The incident resulted in light casualties with no fatalities and no materiel damage.

Two significant indirect fire attacks occurred in Military Region 1 against an element of the 1st Bde. in a defensive position two miles northwest of Gio Linh. The first attack occurred early in the morning of March 2 when the unit received fewer than 15 round of 82mm mortar fire. Fifteen additional rounds were received later in the afternoon. Casualties were light with no fatalities and no materiel damage.

In air operations over Laos in support of Operation Lam Son 719, on the morning of March 2, helicopter gunships of the 101st, while on a visual reconnaissance mission 18 miles southwest of Lao Bao in Savannakhet Province, observed an enemy storage depot with numerous huts, bunkers and storage pits.

The enemy area was engaged with onboard ordnance and artillery fire. One enemy five-ton truck was destroyed and numerous secondary explosions and sustained fires were observed. There were no friendly casualties.

23rd Inf Div

In Quang Ngai Province of Military Region 1 on the night of Feb. 28, an element of the 11th Bde., 23rd Infantry Division, in a night defensive position 19 miles southeast of Quang Ngai City, was engaged by seven enemy. Helicopter gunships supported the action which resulted in five of the enemy killed. There were no friendly casualties. (Note: from the Americal ORLL report 3 KIAs credited to D/1-1st Cav, & 2 KIAs credited to B/1-20 Inf.)

The next morning, an element of the 196th Bde., while in a defensive position 21 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, received fewer than 15 rounds of 60mm mortar fire resulting in light casualties with no fatalities and no materiel damage. (Note: ?typo? D/1/52 Inf of the 198th received 10 rounds

60mm mortars with 4 casualties working along the coast in the southernmost area of the Americal, which is normally 11th Bde. AO).

To the north in Quang Tin Province in the early morning hours of March 4, an element of the 196th Bde., while in a night defensive position 10 miles west of Tam Ky, received fewer than 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire resulting in light casualties with no fatalities and light materiel damage. (Note:

Americal ORLL Report- F Troop 17th Cav. of the 196th Bde received 5x81mm, 4 RPG rounds, casualties 5 WIA(E) & 1 KIA on March 4, 1971)

Shortly after midnight on March 5 in Quang Ngai Province, helicopter gunships of the 23rd spotted and engaged an undetermined-size enemy force with onboard ordnance. The action took place 25 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City and resulted in five enemy killed. There were no friendly casualties.

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23rd Inf Div

In Quang Nam Province of Military Region 1 on the afternoon of May 10, an element of the 196th Bde., 23rd Infantry Division, engaged an unknown-size enemy force nine miles west-southwest of Hoi An. Enemy casualties are unknown.

To the south in Quang Tin Province on the evening of May 13, an element of the 198th Bde. engaged an estimated enemy platoon seven miles west of Chu Lai. Four of the enemy were killed. U.S. losses were one wounded.

Again in Quang Nam Province, on the afternoon of May 14, an armored personnel carrier assigned to an element of the 196th Bde. detonated an undetermined-type mine 14 miles west-southwest of Hoi An. Five U.S. personnel were killed and the APC damaged. (*Americal ORLL report:*

F/17th Cav sustained 5 U.S. KIA May 14 in a mine incident)

The following morning in the province, an element of the 196th Bde. was engaged by an unknown-size enemy force 10 miles west-southwest of Hoi An. Four of the enemy were killed. U.S. casualties were two killed and five wounded. (*Americal ORLL report May 15: A/2/1st Inf. Bn. had 2 VC KIA, 2 NVA KIA, 2 U.S. KIA, and 5 U.S. wounded).*

CAMP FAULKNER -- Most American soldiers in the Republic of Vietnam come here, to do their jobs, put in their time and happily go home. Spec. 4 Patrick Horay, a soldier in the 196th Inf. Bde.'s **1st Squadron, 1st Cav.** is an exception. come here, do their jobs , put in their time and happily go home. orphans at the China Beach Protestant Orphanage located next to the Officers' R&R Center at China Beach, is an area called My Khe.

Horay was inducted as a conscientious objector in November, 1970 and applied for a conscientious objector discharge in June, 1971.

"When I was inducted, I thought that as a medic, I could maintain neutrality-be uninvolved in the destruction of war. Soon after I arrived in-country, I found this to be impossible," he stated.

Horay is a former Peace Corpsman. He served on Wotje Atoll in the Marshall Islands from June 1967 to June 1969. He was working on a Master of Arts degree in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Kansas when he was drafted.

Horay arrived in Vietnam after training at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., and was soon assigned to a line-unit-**F Troop, 17th Cav.** an element attached to **1/1 Cav.** It was here that he became disillusioned.

"I felt I was encouraging destruction, even though I was a medic... I rejected the feeling of 'enemy', and I couldn't be depended on to always act in the best interests of my unit," he says of his time in the field.

After he applied for his discharge, he was, so to speak, out of a job. "I was trying to find something I could put my heart into...I made a few trips out to the orphanage with the former squadron chaplain and thought that maybe I could do some work there similar to the work I had done with the Peace Corps. I asked at the orphanage, and they said they thought it was a fine idea."

After that, Horay got the permission of the squadron surgeon, squadron chaplain and squadron commander. Soon he was teaching English at the orphanage.

"I go there every day except Sunday," says Horay. He teaches twice a day, for two hours in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. The classes are made up of fifth, sixth and seventh graders, "who are very appreciative and anxious to learn," he says.

Because he speaks very little Vietnamese, Horay has had to think up some of his teaching methods. He uses the "Aural" method, which is based on listening and repeating syllables, words and phrases.

"It's a situational learning type class. I teach them songs, which they really like. Some of them I made up myself, but most are old songs like 'You Are My Sunshine'.

Founded in 1962, the orphanage is operated by the United Welfare and Relief Serves Division of the United World mission, based in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Horay feels that his real job is "sharing feelings and just being with the children. There is so much more to be learned than to be taught here...I've been exposed to new personal relationships with the Vietnamese. It's been very satisfying-mutually," he says. "I am glad I have had the opportunity to see the real Vietnamese people.

Horay feels that too many soldiers are exposed only to a limited view of the life of the Vietnamese people.

"For a soldier in Vietnam, a program like this holds a potential for a person-to-person contact instead of a person-to-enemy contact so typical over here," he asserted. "It's one kind of tie than can last long after you leave Vietnam."

"We wish there were more G.I.'s like him," says Miss Diana Read a missionary nurse at the orphanage.

Horay hopes to continue teaching at the orphanage until he leaves Vietnam.

This section has articles related to F/17th Cavalry printed in the 196th LIB Brigade Charger Newspaper.

Page 4 196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEP)
Vol 1, No. 2 CHARGER November 11, 1966

Jeep nets four v.c.

Of the many jeeps in the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. **Troop F, 17th Cav.** motor pool, one in particular stands out from the rest. For on its sides are painted silhouettes of four little men.

These little men represent four VC killed by the crew of the 106mm recoilless rifle-mounted jeep. It all happened while Troop F, was on an operation conducted by the "Chargers" near a Viet Cong stronghold around Nui Ba Den in Tay Ninh Province. The cavalry unit's recoilless rifles were to support an assault around the bottom of the mountain. Staff Sergeant Dennis E. Bird, of Hot Springs, Va., was in command of the jeep.

Moving along the base of Nui Ba Den as part of a motorized column, they were ambushed by heavy machine gun fire from the mountainside. A claymore mine was set off and jeep driver, Specialist David E. Sartere, of Belfest [Belfast], New York, wasted no time getting the vehicle out of the killing zone. "The only thing I was thinking about was speeding up and getting the vehicle behind cover."

Just then a VC recoilless rifle opened up, missing the jeep behind Sgt. Bird but still shaking up its crew. Sartere [sic], meanwhile, had raced his jeep to a concealed firing position. From there SP4 Ralph Ordway, of Providence, R.I., the Jeep's gunner, spotted the cave from where the VC were spewing deadly fire.

He fired two spotting rounds, then cut loose with the big gun. Four VC and their recoilless rifle went flying into the air.

"We didn't have time to think," recalled Sgt. Bird after the battle. The training had made us react automatically. The crew functioned as a well trained team."

Troop "F" supports cidg mountain assault

Nui Ba Den is a Viet Cong mountain stronghold northeast of the City of Tay Ninh. At its summit is a U.S. Army Special Forces "A" Team camp.

Recently, the VC domination of the mountain was put to the test by the 196th Light Infantry Bde., this time by the brigade's Troop F, 17th Cavalry, and units of the Civilian Irregular defense Group.

Troop F and the CIDG forces spent the night prior to the operation at Soui Da, a village at the base of Nui Ba Den, which is also a Special Forces camp. At daybreak the CIDG forces boarded armored personnel carriers and rendezvoused with two platoons from Troop F.

Meanwhile at the summit, another CIDG company prepared itself for its sweep down the ridge toward the northwest as airstrikes and artillery fire pounded the enemy emplacements.

Taking its cue, the combined F Troop and CIDG forces moved in along a dirt road close to the northern slope of the mountain. As the column progressed, it was hit by a claymore mine, immediately followed by small arms and recoilless rifle fire.

Quickly marshalling his forces, Troop F commander, Cpt. Clyde W. Roan, directed a 106mm recoilless rifle on a VC cave position on the mountain slope. The 106mm rifle fired two spotting rounds, then let loose, killing four VC.

By now the full fire power of Troop F's recoilless rifles and machine guns smashed into the VC positions, netting another VC.

As the fire slackened, the CIDG forces began moving up the mountain as a diversionary force for the CIDG unit moving down from the summit.

Later in the day, F Troop moved by road to the eastern slope of the mountain, coming under small arms and 60mm mortar fire. Immediately, F Troop's 106 returned the fire, resulting in the destruction of a VC 60mm mortar and more enemy casualties.

The CIDG forces sweeping the mountain netted four VC kills.

Troop "f" ballad honors cavalry

Soldiers throughout the years have long come up with songs that not only help pass the time of day, but also help to express their emotions and esprit de corps.

Troop F, 17th Cavalry, 196th Lt. Inf. Bde., is no exception. It, too has a song of its own, thanks to PFC Anthony V. Sperlazza of Howard Beach, N.Y.

The 23-year-old grenadier put it this way: "We often go out on two or three day operations. Trying to stay awake at night in my foxhole, I make up songs in my head. This song is about our troop and what we go through."

Appropriately called "F Troop," the ballad is sung to the tune of "This Land is My Land," With the assistance of SGT. Davie M. Morris of Queens, N.Y., one of the scouts in the troop, who sings and plays the song on his guitar. It is becoming increasingly popular among the cavalry troopers.

Awards and decorations

Bronze Star Medal (Valor) SP4 R. R. Marchese, C-4/31
SP4 Dick S. Raczka, C-4/31
PSG Richard Green, C-8th Spt PFC Ray O. Spivey, C-4/31
SP4 Ed. J. Lister, C-8th Spt PFC Ron E. Krahl, 175th Eng
SP4 Bob A. Sroka, F-17th Cav CPT Jere J. Riggs, HHC-4/31
2LT Bob E O'Brian, HHC-4/31
Army Commendation Medal(V) SSG Herb J. Slamin, HHC-4/31
SSG Jim W. Sweat, HHC-4/31
2LT Jim G. Mikesell, C-3/21 SP4 Fred Jenkins, HHC-4/31
SGT Terry P. Lucas, C-3/21 PFC Mike Farmer, HHC-4/31
SP4 Gerald J. Nitka, C-3/21 CPT Jim Bouldin, A-4/31
SP4 Larry E. Trzupeck, C-3/21 CPT Antonio Sola, D-4/31
PFC Joe C. Mrzlock, C-3/21 SFC Paul W. Page, A-8th Spt
SP5 Tim W. Sands, A-8th Spt
Army Commendation Medal(M) SP4 Gerald Hansen, A-8 Spt
SP4 Randy Jackson, A-8 Spt
SFC Sid L. Moran, HHC-3/82 SP4 Jack D. Murphy, A-8 Spt
MAJ John F. Clark, HHC-8Spt PFC Dave Lawson, A-8th Spt
PFC Bufford Rowe, A-8th Spt
Purple Heart PFC Ray N. Sears, A-8th Spt
PFC Dave Treese, B-8th Spt
SP7 Tom Holland, C-8th Spt SSG Ron G. Knott, F-17 Cav
SP4 Dick Clark, A-8th Spt SP4 L.D. Longworth, F-Cav [F-17 Cav]
WO1 Jim A. cook, HHC-3/82 SP4 Ed Perl, Trp, F-17 Cav
SP4 Dennis Berky, C/4-31 PVT Vern Au Clair, C/3/21

machine gunner receives bronze star

SP4 Robert A. Sroka, an assistant machine gunner with the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde's **Troop F, 17th Cavalry**, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device.

He was cited for valor while serving with a security force protecting the perimeter of an artillery battery. When the perimeter came under mortar attack, he was hit in the chest and left arm. In the fighting that developed, his machine gun ceased to fire. Disregarding his wounds and personal safety, he exposed himself to enemy fire to obtain more ammunition and return to the gun position.

cavalry gets bugle

What's a Cavalry troop without a bugle?

It's for sure **Troop F, 17th Cavalry**, 196th Lt. Inf. Bde., won't get caught with its guns holstered on this one. The newest addition to the rusty relics of "Fort Courage," home of Troop F at the brigade's base camp, is a gift from listeners of radio station K-I-N-G in Seattle.

It happened this way.

Mrs. Lucille Kachelmyer, wife of SSgt. William E. Kachelmyer of Troop F was listening to radio station K-I-N-G which at the time was playing "Themes from TV Comedies," a record album popular in Seattle. The theme of the popular TV series, "F Troop," was heard several times and prompted the sergeant's wife to call the station. She wanted a copy of the "F Troop" theme.

Talking with disc jockey, Bob Swanson, live over the air, she mentioned that there really was an F Troop, and that it was stationed in Vietnam. She further told Swanson and his listeners that her husband was serving with the unit, and that the men of the real life troop had even adopted the TV show, naming their two mascots dogs Sergeant O'Rourke and Corporal Agar[n]. Finally she told them of Troop F's exploits in Vietnam.

After the conversation, Swanson appealed to his listeners to send in a bugle, having learned that Troop F was void one.

A few days later, Mrs. Kachelmyer received a letter from the disc jockey. "Thanks for your call of about a week ago," he wrote. "I've had a lot of fun with this on the air. I'm sending you the album and the bugle.....couldn't come up with any feathers."

To all of this SSgt. Kachelmyer was reported to say, "Well, now that we've got a bugle, I guess somebody is going to have to get up real early in the morning to play reveille for us." CPT. Clyde W. Roan, Troop F, commander, has bigger ideas for the bugle. "I'm going to get a bugler, and have him ride with me on our operations."

Seventeen receive gallantry crosses

Seventeen officers and men of the "Chargers" who distinguished themselves in Operation ATTLEBORO, have been awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. The Crosses were presented by Vietnamese Lt. Generals Le Van Thueu, Chief of State; Nguyen Huu Co, Defense Minister; and Le Nguyen Khanh, III Corps Commander.

Heading the list of awards recipients was Brig. Gen. Richard T. Knowles, Brigade Commander, who received the cross of Gallantry with four palms. Lt. Col. Charles E. Weddle, brigade executive officer, was awarded the Gallantry Cross with one palm.

Gallantry Crosses with Gold Stars were presented to Lt. Col. Charles K. Nulsen, 3d Bn., 21st Inf. commander; Lt. col. Graham M. Sibbles; 8th Support Bn. commander; and Lt. Col. James H. Leonard, brigade S-3.

The twelve men who received the Gallantry Cross with Silver Star were: Maj. Cedric L. Blackwell, former brigade S-2; Cpt. Clyde W. Roan, Troop F, 17th Cav.; 2Lt. George Kovac, Jr., Battery A, 3d Bn., 82nd Arty.; SFC Patrick Campbell, Co. C., 2d Bn., 1st Inf.; SSgt. Dennis E. Bird, Troop F, 17th Cav.; SP/5 James J. Mariano, Headquarters Company, 196th Brigade; SP/4 Robert H. Teall, Company A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.; SP/4 Johnny B. Brownstead, Co. C, 3d Bn., 82d Arty.; PFC Charles E. McIntosh, Co. A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.; and PFC William R. Sherman, Co, C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.

On had for the ceremony were General William C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV; Lieutenant General Jonathan C. Seaman, II Field Force Commander and Major General Fred Weyand, 25th Inf. Div. Commanding General.

Troop F SGT.**Lives Right**

SGT. George C. Edsell (Norristown, Pa.), must be living right.

Twice he has been in the jaws of death and has emerged practically unscathed. The first time, he was with his unit, **Troop F, 17th Cav.**, on a reconnaissance mission near the base of the 3200-foot "Black Virgin" mountain near Tay Ninh.

As Sgt. Edsell's scout jeep moved along a dirt road close to the mountain, automatic fire poured in on the patrol. One round smashed into the Sgt's rifle spraying fragments and wounding him slightly. The rifle had blocked the bullet preventing it from doing any serious damage.

Luck or whatever, stepped in again for Sgt. Edsell during he brigade's Operation CEDAR FALLS. This time, a Troop F platoon was guarding a culvert that had been blown up by the VC twice a month for the past year.

Crawling close to the platoon's position a VC threw a grenade into the perimeter. One of the grenades landed a few feet to Sgt. Edsell's front wounding two men.

SP4 Robert J. Garner (Milwaukee, Wisc.) heard the grenade hit and threw the Sgt. to the ground. Fragments whistled near the St's head but, miraculously, his steel helmet lying a foot from his head stopped the deadly shrapnel. Sgt. Edsell mused, "If it wasn't for this steel pot and Specialist Gardner's quick reaction, I could have been killed.

Looking at his chewed up steel pot, he considers himself one of the luckiest men in the brigade.

Ground Surveillance Radar

protects troop f perimeter

A VC moves stealthily along a woodline. Suddenly mortars drop in and a VC falls. Being so far from the American's perimeter, how was he detected or killed?

The unlucky VC was the victim of ground surveillance radar, which can detect movement at great distances. A trained operator can pinpoint movement as he sweeps the perimeter with the radar. Range and azimuth data enable weapons to be brought to bear on the enemy's location.

Friendly patrols can have their front and rear protected by the ground surveillance team. Rain and fog do not interfere with the radar's effectiveness.

Unique is Troop F, 17th Cavalry's five-man ground surveillance radar team equipped with two radar sets.

After the team makes sure of the noise source and its location, this information is sent to the Troop F command post. The team goes wherever the Troop goes and is an important factor in overall night defense.

TROOP F 106's blast VC from caves

Nui Ba Den, "The Black Virgin" mountain thrusts its jungle - covered head 3,200 feet above the flat terrain of Tay Ninh. Although the U.S. Army Special Forces maintain a fortified camp on the mountain summit, the slopes are VC dominated.

Recently, elements of the brigade again challenged the VC's hold on the "Black Virgin". Recoilless rifles of Troop F, 17th Cav., brought fire on suspected VC cave positions on the mountainside. SP4 Brian C. Barker (Tacoma, Wash.), gunner on a 106mm recoilless rifle, put his first shot into the mouth of a cave. "I didn't think anybody was in there," he recalled.

Later that day, CIDG forces began searching the caves. As it turned out, Barker's shot had entered the cave, killing two VC hiding in it and smashing their weapons.

In commemoration of his "lucky shot", Barker painted two small VC silhouettes on the tube of his recoilless rifle. Considering the size of the weapon, there is room for quite a few more.

TROOP F sergeant receives vietnamese cross of gallantry

Troop F, 17th Cavalry carries out a variety of missions while operating with the brigade. During a recent operation, a Troop F scout squad killed four VC kidnapers.

Staff Sergeant Peter N. Rosie (Ayer, Mass.), a scout squad leader with troop F, received intelligence reports that a Vietnamese civilian had been abducted by VC terrorists in the hamlet of Ap May Dang.

While moving toward the village, the squad came under heavy automatic weapons fire.

Returning a murderous shield of fire, the Troop F cavalrymen immediately cut down four VC. Under intense fire, Sgt. Rosie crawled along a ditch and captured four VC claymore mines. His squad continued to pour deadly fire on the enemy keeping them pinned down until artillery gunships and additional troops could be brought in.

For his actions Sgt. Rosie received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

The "CHARGER" (Mounted knight with 196th crest on his shield.)
196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEP)
Vol 2, No. 4 Tay Ninh, Vietnam January 27, 1967

TROOP F

OPENS NeW

EM CLUB

Troop F, 17th Cavalry opened the doors of its elaborate new NCO club recently. The grand opening featured free steaks, beer and champagne, with music provided by a six-piece band from the Philippine Action Group.

The new club features a twenty-six foot mahogany bar. A red veneer adds a touch of class to the outside. Troop F cavalymen especially enjoy the club's patio with its swaying palms.

How is the new club doing? Staff Sergeant Elmer Quist (Colorado Springs, Colo.) says, "I wish I had a business like this back in the States."

The complete issue of the Charger is not available. Only this article was found on the F/17th Cav. Web-site created by Robert Decker.

The "CHARGER" (Mounted knight with 196th crest on his shield.)
196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEP)
Vol 2, No. ? Tay Ninh, Vietnam February 19, 1967

Two Decorated for mountain heroics

The 3,200 foot "Black Virgin" mountain near Tay Ninh has long been a Viet Cong stronghold. The slopes are honeycombed with caves and tunnels.

Recently Troop F, 17th Cavalry, was given the mission of supporting a Special Forces assault on the Viet Cong's mountain positions. As the Troop moved down a road near the base of the mountain, heavy small arms and 75mm recoilless rifle fire raked the patrol. The troop immediately returned fire with their 106mm recoilless rifles, and wiped out the VC ambush positions.

The Special Forces commander on the other side of the mountain then called on Troop F, recoilless rifles for fire support on VC cave positions. The Troop's commander, CPT Clyde W. Roan (Daytona Beach, Fla.), and 1st Lt. Ronald B. Mattioli (Charleston, SC), platoon leader, led a small security force 8000 meters down an enemy controlled road to assist the Special Forces elements there.

The 106s spit deadly fire, destroying two VC bunkers. The VC then unleashed a barrage of mortar and small arms fire on the cavalymen. During this time, CPT. Roan and 1LT Mattioli constantly exposed themselves to enemy fire to complete the mission and enable the Special Forces detachment to continue its operation.

For their heroism, Cpt. Roan and 1LT Mattioli have been awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device.

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On the way up

F TROOP 17th CAV

STAFF SERGEANT

Robert Bauer

SERGEANT

John Bernardo

Michael Boehner

James Daly

Larry Morigan

Danny Renolds

Charles Rhodes

Joseph Schaefer Jr.

SPECIALST 4

Jonathan Blanton

Garry Davis

Donald DeLong

Philip LePorte

Donald Schultze

William Tsikana

awards

F TROOP 17th CAV

BRONZE STAR

SSG Ronald Ames
SSG Walter O'Neal
SSG Nick Santini
SSG Eugene Smith
SGT Alfred Hill
SGT William French
SGT Steven Jarrett
SGT Charles Rhodes

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SSG Walter O'Neal
SSG Nick Santini
SP4 Jerry Ashby
SP4 Charles Curtis
SP4 David Fangrow
SP4 Michael McDonald

PURPLE HEART

SSG James Sursley
SP4 Williams Barnes
SP4 Bernie Meyer
SP4 Joseph Pagart
SP4 James Potter
PFC George Justice

On the way up
F TROOP, 17th CAV

STAFF SERGEANT

Lee Kujawa
Cecil Wellman

SERGEANT

William Barnes
Robert Bishop
Howard Collier
Robert Gabreski
Francis Kelly
Robert Ramsey
Steve Sisler
Charles Walters

SPECIALIST 5

Sarkis Batermagian
Arthur Brooks
William Fong
Thomas Holt
George Yearwood

Graphic Art: drawings of different Army medals.

awards

F TROOP 17TH CAV

BRONZE STAR

SGT John Barbardo

SGT Larry Sanders

SGT James Daly

SGT Joseph Schaffer

SP5 Lee Kujawa

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP5 James Green

SP4 Joseph Maldonado

SP4 Arnold Goffey

SP4 Robert Snow

SP4 Tommy Smith

SP4 Gerald Skipton

SP4 Michael Beohner

SP4 David Hackly

Medic serves as Viet teacher

By SP4 Sam Rousso

CAMP FAULKNER - Most American soldiers in the Republic of Vietnam come here, do their jobs, put in their time and happily go home.

Specialist Four Patrick Horay (Kansas City, Kan.), a soldier in the **196th Infantry Brigade's 1st Sqd., 1st Cav.**, is an exception.

Since September, Horay-a medic-has been teaching English to Vietnamese orphans at the China Beach Protestant Orphanage, located next to the Officers' R&R Center, in an area called My Khe.

Horay was inducted as a conscientious objector in November 1970, and applied for a conscientious objector discharge in June, 1971.

"When I was inducted, I thought that as a medic, I could maintain neutrality be uninvolved in the destruction of war. Soon after I arrived in-country, I found this to be impossible," he stated.

Horay is a former Peace Corpsman. He served on Wotie Atoll in the Marshall Islands from June 1967 to June 1969. He was working on a Master of Arts degree in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Kansas when he was drafted.

Horay arrived in Vietnam after training at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., and was soon assigned to a line unit—**F Troop, 17th Cav.**, an element attached to 1st Sqd., 1st Cav. It was here that he became disillusioned.

"I felt I was encouraging destruction, even though I was a medic. I rejected the feeling of 'enemy' and I couldn't be depended on to always act in the best interests of my unit," he says of his time in the field.

After he applied for his discharge, he was so to speak, out of a job. "I was trying to find something I could put my heart into. I made a few trips out to the orphanage with the former squadron chaplain and I thought that maybe I could do some work there similar to the work I had done with the Peace Corps. I asked at the orphanage, and they said they thought it was a fine idea."

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Because he speaks very little Vietnamese, Horay has had to think up some of his teaching methods. He uses the "Aural" method, which is based on listening and repeating syllables, words and phrases.

"It's a situational learning type class. I teach them songs, which they really like. Some of them I made up myself, but most are old songs like 'You Are My Sunshine'. Currently, I'm teaching the children Christmas carols," he explained.

Presently there are 325 children at the facility, 241 boys and 84 girls, ranging in age from five months to 16 years. Two-thirds are ethnically Vietnamese, the rest are Montagnard children. They come from the central and northern parts of the Republic of Vietnam.

Horay feels that his real job is "sharing feelings and just being with the children. There is so much more to be learned than to be taught here...I've been exposed to new personal relationships with the Vietnamese. It's been very satisfying-mutually," he says. "I am glad I have the opportunity to see the real Vietnamese people."

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"We wish there were more GIs like him," says Miss Diana Read (London), a missionary nurse at the orphanage.

Thunder returns to abandoned Rawhide

By SP4 Steve Brooks

FIREBASE RAWHIDE. Rawhide thunder rolled over the Arizona Territory, and it was like old times on the once abandoned firebase.

Ghosts of grunts and redlegs from the past jumped aside and cheered as elements of the 3d Bn, 82d Arty, 2d Bn., 94th Arty, 196th Engineer Co (Pro) and F Troop, 17th Cav. returned to the hill to blast suspected enemy locations in nearby valleys.

For the 196th, the success of maintaining an effective defense posture around the city of Da Nang means keeping the enemy off-balance.

An artillery raid accomplished this by carting artillery batteries out to strategic positions where they bombard suspected enemy positions and interdict supply routes. Then, just as quickly the artillery moves back to their previous defensive positions. All this can take place in the space of a single day.

Operating with less than 24 hours notice, the surprise artillery raid was the first time the base, called Hill 65, had seen any action since it was closed down in October 1971. This particular mission lasted three days.

It didn't take long to occupy the hill-the first engineer units were clearing the road to Rawhide at 8 a.m. and the guns were being laid in on the hill by noon of the same day.

This section is for articles that were printed in the 3/21st Inf. Bn. "GIMLET".
The "GIMLET NEWS" Upper left Americal Division patch.
Upper right 196th Inf. Bde. patch.
Vol 2, No. 1 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry January 15, 1970

BUSHMASTERS

Jan 4, LZ Center: "Today has been a real successful one for Bravo Company working with **F Troop, 17th Cav**. They found three tons of enemy rice, some enemy documents and engaged and killed seven Viet Cong in separate incidents."

Thus Captain Jaques Oayere (Santurce, Puerto Rico) of the Battalion S-3 office summed up the day's activities of B Co and F Troop working in conjunction out in the flatlands.

The surge of events began early in the day with the infantry/cav team finding 500 pounds of unpolished rice in a structure area. Also several enemy documents were found concealed in false walls. These were taken to LZ Center for further examination.

Afternoon two and one half tons of rice were extracted from a nearby village to Nui Loc Son.

A few hours later seven Viet Cong were seen dashing into a tunnel entrance. The Bushmasters, spotting a second tunnel opening, closed off this route of escape.

Then according to PFC Clark Taylor of Leesburg, Fla, "We had our Kit Carson come up and attempt to persuade them to surrender. But the Viet Cong remained silent."

When they were sure the enemy would not surrender, the Bushmasters engaged them, killing all seven.

The "GIMLET NEWS" Upper left Americal Division patch.
Upper right 196th Inf. Bde. patch.
Vol 2, No. 2 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry February 15, 1970

BLACK DEATH
ELIMINATES NVA

During early January, members of the 2d Platoon of Black Death and elements of armored cavalry killed 39 NVA and confiscated a large weapons cache in bitter fighting 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

D Company, 3-21 and F Troop, 17th Cav were moving along in a column when they spotted several NVA moving into a woodline.

After returning small arms fire the infantrymen moved in to search the area.

"Within minutes," said SSG Steve Rive???gh (Mesa, Ariz.), "they started firing automatic weapons and RPG rounds at us."

The Americans hit back hard. While the infantrymen continued to shoot back, the tracks poured machine gun fire and canister rounds at the enemy.

The Americans then assaulted the woodline. Armor and infantry moved side-by side They pushed 200 meters before the terrain became rocky.

A subsequent search of the area revealed 4 RPG's with launchers, 2 machine guns, one complete 60mm mortar, and 16 AK-47 rifles.

The "GIMLET NEWS" Upper left Americal Division patch.
Upper right 196th Inf. Bde. patch.
Vol 2, No. 3 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry March 15, 1970

G I M L E T S M A K E N E W S

from THE OBSERVER 6 Mar 70 "196th Inf Seize Papers." LZ Center: Infantry - armor teams have proved a difficult combination for the enemy to handle, and a recent 196th Infantry Brigade operation was no exception.

Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry and Troop F, 17th Cavalry, recently killed seven Viet Cong, seized almost three tons of rice and captured several documents.

Early in the morning, the Americal Division soldiers found 500 pounds of unpolished rice near a hooch area. The men went on to search the hooches and found several enemy documents inside a false wall.

In the early afternoon they found 5,000 more pounds of rice in a village. The rice was sent to Nui Lac Son refugee settlement.

Two hours later one of the men spotted seven Viet Cong scurrying into a tunnel. The Americans covered the entrance. A second opening was spotted and it was also locked.

"Our Kit Carson scout went up and tried to get them to surrender," said PFC Clark Taylor of Leesburg, Fla., Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry.

The Viet Cong refused to come out. The Americans hurled M-26 grenades at the enemy, and by the time action had ceased, all seven lay dead in the tunnel.

Troop "F" Supports CIDG Mountain Assault.

Nui Ba Den is a Viet Cong mountain stronghold northeast of the City of Tay Ninh. At its summit is a U.S. Army Special Forces "A" Team camp.

Recently, the VC domination of the mountain was put to the test by the 196th Light Infantry Bde., this time by the brigade's Troop F, 17th Cavalry and the forces of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group.

Troop F and the CIDG forces spent the night ??? to the operation at (???Chua) Ba, a village at the base of Nui Ba Den, which is also a Special Forces Camp. At daybreak the CIDG forces boarded armored personnel carriers and ???used in the village with two platoons from Troop F.

Meanwhile at the summit, another CIDG company prepared itself for its sweep down the ridge toward the northwest as airstrikes and artillery fire pounded the enemy emplacements.

Taking its cue, the combined F Troop and CIDG forces moved in along a dirt road close to the northern slope of the mountain. As the column progressed, it was hit by a claymore mine, immediately followed by small arms and recoilless rifle fire.

Quickly marshalling his forces, Troop F commander Cpt. Clyde W. Roan, directed a 1 106mm recoilless rifle on a VC cave position on the mountain slope. The 106mm rifle fired two spotting rounds, then let loose, killing four VC.

By now the full fire-power of Troop F's recoilless rifles and machine guns smashed into the VC positions, netting another VC.

As the fire slackened, the CIDG forces began moving up the mountain as a diversionary force for the CIDG unit moving down from the summit.

Later in the day, F Troop moved by road to the eastern slope of the mountain, coming under small arms and 60mm mortar fire. Immediately, F Troop's 106 returned the fire, resulting in the destruction of a VC 60mm mortar and more enemy casualties.

The CIDG forces sweeping the mountain netted four VC kills.

This section is for articles published in the Quarterly Americal Magazines (12 issues published from May 68-Fall 1971). The log section references all the units and articles may need to be trimmed down....

Americal Division Magazine - May, 1968

This is the inaugural issue of the Americal Division Magazine

THE THANKSGIVING DAY BATTLE

B&W map drawing - Near Hill 63 in the Que Son Valley about 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky. credit - J NICHOLSON

B&W photo - Soldiers watching the billowing dark smoke roll up from an Air strike. photo credit - us army

Infantrymen from the 196th Brigade used their support elements to full advantage last Thanksgiving Day to surround and crush two companies of the 3rd Regiment of the 2nd North Vietnamese Army Division in the Que Son Valley near Hill 63, about 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The foot soldiers, accompanied by armored vehicles from the **1st and 17th cavalries**, swept the area where intelligence reports had indicated a sizable enemy force was hiding, while artillery shelled possible escape routes and provided illumination and Air Force and Marine aircraft dive-bombed the enemy to force them from their cover.

Some 128 enemy soldiers were killed and numerous weapons captured in the joint action, which was a part of the division's Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

page 16

July, 1969

Page 2 AMERICAL LOG

A QUARTERLY RECAP OF MAJOR ACTION

Combat action followed a cyclic pattern in March, April, and May, a period which debuted on the seventh day of the enemy's post-TET offensive and was characterized by standoff rocket and mortar attacks of brief duration and several abortive attempts at ground probes of Americal installations.

The offensive dragged into mid-March and, despite increased casualties, Americal forces beat back every enemy attack and lost no ground while scoring an over-whelming kill ratio against NVA and VC units.

.....
By SP5 BILL ELSEN

MARCH

The first and last weeks of March were characterized by moderate action while mid-month brought renewed standoff and ground attacks on Americal positions and Vietnamese population centers.

By March 6, **A Co., 1/46**, 196th Bde. had killed 36 VC in seven days and **F Trp., 17th Cav.**, working with Popular Force platoons near the **1/46** northwest of Tam Ky, had begun a remarkable four-day series of rice discoveries.

On March 6, F Trp. killed five VC in three incidents and found 7-1/4 tons of rice 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Almost four tons were found in false graves, false hut floors, and buried crocks and baskets.

A day later, F Trp. turned up 12- 1/2 tons of rice five miles nearer Tam Ky, and a Regional Force element discovered 18-1/2 tons nearby.

In the same spot on March 8, **F Trp.** located 20 tons buried in crocks and, on March 9, the troopers collected 6-1/2 tons hidden in hedgerows and huts 10 miles from Tam Ky.

On the battlefield, a sapper attack was smashed at LZ Ross, and NVA regulars were stymied in several places. Four miles west of Duc Pho, **C Co., 4/21**, 11th Bde. killed 15 NVA and captured two RPG launchers and a Chicom machinegun in a one-day firefight.

AMERICAL

April, 1970

Page 2 - **AMERICAL** A QUARTERLY RECAP **LOG** OF MAJOR ACTION

Combat activity during the quarter of December, January, and February was characterized by small to moderate sized unit contacts. Major company and battalion sized engagements were centered around the Tam Ky area.

Americal troops killed more than 1,500 enemy soldiers; captured 244 weapons, 25 crew-served; and destroyed or evacuated more than 22,000 pounds of the enemy's food staple-rice.

A temporary halt in the December monsoon weather allowed allied forces to bring full air and ground power to bear on the few enemy strongholds left in southern I Corps.

The beginning of the New Year saw action flare throughout the Americal AO. In three separate actions soldiers of the 196th Brigade along with members of **1st Cav. and F Trp., 17th Cav.** combined for a total of 350 enemy soldiers killed in action and two large weapons caches confiscated.

In February, light to moderate action prevailed, with the enemy activity waning as the Americal forces pushed deep into the enemy entrenchments.

JANUARY

On January 4th Americal troops of **B Co., 4-3 Inf.** fought off an enemy mortar and sapper attack against their night defensive position. The infantrymen withstood the intense mortar barrage and ground attack and killed 29 of the insurgents.

A Trp., 1-1 Cav. combined with the **15th Regular Force Group** to defeat an estimated two companies of VC. A Trp. working in an area three miles west of Tam Ky killed 43 of the enemy in the engagement.

Contact was maintained through the next day as elements of **F Trp., 17th Cav. and D Co., 3-21 Inf.** operating northwest of Tam Ky accounted for 39 NVA kills and confiscated a large weapons cache.

Action erupted, when (the NVA) "started firing automatic weapons and RPG rounds at us," explained SSG Tony Alfieri (Jamaica, N.Y.). The Americal soldiers hit back hard with machinegun and automatic weapons fire.

"After a while they were pretty well in a hurt," said SSG Eugene Hodges, a tank commander from **F Trp., 17th Cav.** Armor and infantry moved side-by-side crushing the enemy as they assaulted the woodline.

A search of the area produced four RPG's with launchers, two machineguns, one 60mm mortar, and 16 AK-47 rifles in addition to the 39 enemy deaths.

Fierce action was reported in the 196th AO once again on January 13-14.

A task force, consisting of **A and B Trp., 1-1 Cav.** and a platoon of each of **D Co., 1-46 Inf. and Co., 2-1 Inf.**, overran the enemy position resulting in 40 enemy killed and a large quantity of munitions confiscated.

196th Brigade soldiers found themselves in the thick of it the next day as they recorded a total of 62 NVA soldiers killed in action in the "Pineapple Forest" area near Tam Ky.

Sporadic contact continued in southern I Corps during mid-January with the only major contacts centering around Tam Ky and Duc Pho.

"We received small arms fire while inserting an infantry element," recalled WO1 Richard Hughes (Atlanta, Ga.), pilot of a **123rd Avn.** gunship.

"We maneuvered to the location of the fire and engaged an enemy force with machinegun fire."

This sequence of events led to the deaths of seven NVA.

The gray clouds of January hung forebodingly over Quang Tin Province. The 196th Infantry Brigade had received a steady flow of intelligence about enemy intentions from Hoi Chanhs, detainees and captured documents.

"We anticipated that the NVA would try to overrun the populated areas around Thang Binh and Tam Ky," said Captain Robert Russell assistant operations officer, 196th Inf. Bde. "The mission of our unit was to block the enemy's attempts to enter these regions."

American and Vietnamese forces deployed on a north-south line to meet this threat. Screening Thang Binh was **Task Force 3-21**, consisting of **Alpha and Delta Companies, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, and F Troop, 17th Cavalry**. Further south were infantry units from **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry**. A task force under the operational control of Quang Tin Province was screening Tam Ky, The task force consisted of **Vietnamese Popular and Regional Forces** along with **3rd Troop, 4th Armored Cavalry Squadron, 2nd ARVN Division, and Alpha Troop, 1st Cavalry**, AMERICAL Division. At the southern tip of the screen were two battalions from the 5th ARVN Regiment.

On January 6 **Alpha Company, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.** was moving towards a suspected NVA basecamp. Along the way they met steady enemy resistance, and each outpost they encountered had to be assaulted. As the men of **Alpha Co.** pushed through the high grass, they were hit by intensive AK-47 rifle and .30 caliber machinegun fire. The Americans called in artillery and the dug-in enemy soon found themselves caught in a deadly rain of 105mm and 8-inch shells. Helicopter gunships from **F Troop, 8th Cavalry**, raked the NVA positions from above. After the firing had ceased, the Americans swept the area and found 22 enemy dead. They had found the basecamp.

The next morning **Alpha Co.** spotted another large group of NVA in the distance. Artillery accounted for 15 more kills.

But the day's biggest battle was developing one mile south. Seven tracks from **F Trp., 17th Cav.**, were moving in column, accompanied by the Second Platoon of **Delta Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.** A Scout observer on the command track, Specialist Four Larry R. Gibbs, spotted a lone NVA.

"He was running into a woodline to our right," said Spec. 4 Gibbs. "We wheeled around toward the woods and opened up."

The men of **Delta Co.** dismounted and moved after the enemy. The infantrymen found two abandoned Rocket Propelled Grenade Launchers and a complete 60mm mortar near the edge of the jungle. The NVA had been eating, and the food they left behind was still hot.

The infantry pushed on into the dense, tangled woods.

"Just as we started to search the area," said Staff Sergeant Tony Alfieri, **3rd Bn., 21st Inf.**, "They cut loose with automatic weapons and RPGs."

The infantry assaulted the enemy positions. A large group of NVA were in a trench line, and the Americans charged in on top of them. A series of vicious hand-to-hand encounters followed. When the American left, the ditch was strewn with enemy dead.

Meanwhile the armor, under the command of Captain Klein S. Harrison, had moved in and linked up with the infantry. The vehicles barreled through the jungle, grinding trees and brush beneath their tracks. The roar of enemy fire was deafening. An RPG round whistled past the command track, tearing off the antenna. The enemy was well-entrenched in a maze of ditches and bunkers barely visible through the thick vegetation.

"You couldn't spot where they were until you were right on top of them," said Specialist Five David Crevitz, medic for **F Trp., 17th Cav.**

But the Cav rumbled on, with the infantry on line. The M113A1, "A Cavs" raked the NVA with machinegun fire. The new M551 Sheridan Assault Vehicles lobbed one deadly round after another into the enemy's midst. As the assault gained momentum, air strikes and artillery were called in to cut off any retreating NVA.

While the machinegunners and drivers stayed on the tracks, Capt. Harrison and others leaped to the ground. They moved alongside the vehicles with the infantry, hurling grenades and rooting the NVA out of underground hiding places.

The enemy fire died down to a whisper, then ceased altogether. The Americans began to search the area. A total of 39 enemy dead were found in bunkers, ditches and brush. In addition to the weapons they had captured earlier, the Americans turned up 16 AK-47 rifles, two machineguns, two more RPG launchers and over 70 Chinese Communist grenades.

In two days the 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers had killed 95 enemy and destroyed two base camps.

In the next few days the allies continued to take their toll of enemy in a series of isolated encounters. In the largest of these, **Alpha Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.**, combined with **3rd Troop, 4th ARVN Cav. Sqdn.**, to kill 13 NVA and capture 11 AK-47 rifles.

by this time the 196th Inf. Bde. had received information that the enemy was engaged in another troop build-up in "Pineapple Forest," five miles west of Tam Ky.

To meet this, **task force 1-1** under the operational control of the 196th was formed. The task force consisted of Alpha and Bravo Trps., 1st Cav., with one platoon each from **Delta Co., 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry**, and **Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Inf.** This force was to drive north and push the enemy into blocking positions held by **Alpha and Charlie Companies, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.**

The first encounter came earlier than the Americans anticipated. "We were sweeping towards a woodline," said Private First Class Earnest Harrison, "when we spotted a bunker to our front."

Rifle and machinegun fire spewed from the enemy emplacement. The Americans dove for cover, then opened up with M-16 rifles. A lone soldier rushed the bunker from its blind side and tossed a hand grenade through the portal. Four NVA were killed, including two officers. Another enemy opened fire from a spider hole, and he too was brought down by grenades.

By this time the entire hillside had erupted with enemy fire. The **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.**, soldiers had come upon the enemy force which they were supposed to block. The Americans halted their advance and called for air and artillery support.

"The air strikes lasted all day," said Specialist Four James Steele. "The whole side of the hill was covered with smoke."

The next morning the Americans found no trace of the savage enemy resistance encountered the day before. The NVA had abandoned their fortifications during the night.

The NVA had had ambitious plans for Quang Tin Province. A 196th Inf. Bde. intelligence report written in late January reads:

The general enemy effort appears to have been directed at neutralizing the GVN (Government of Vietnam) pacification gains of 1969....with the political objective of destroying civilian confidence in the power of the GVN to protect them.

The enemy plans had turned to ashes. In a week of fighting the allies had killed 253 enemy while Thang Binh and Tam Ky remained untouched. Several ingredients had gone into the allies' success, and these were summed up by Colonel James M. Lee, at that time commanding officer of the 196th Inf. Bde.

"We received good intelligence and were able to formulate an effective plan. Most important of course, was the splendid performance of the Vietnamese and American soldier once the fighting started."

AMERICAL LOG - Prologue

Combat activity in Southern I Corps increased considerably in the quarter of March, April and May. Major battalion and company-sized contacts again centered around Tam Ky and the resettlement village of Hiep Duc.

More than 2,000 enemy soldiers were killed by Americal Division units during the three-month period, while 503 weapons were captured, 28 of which were crew-served.

In March, combat action was quite heavy, though sporadic throughout the division as Americal units accounted for more than 680 enemy soldiers killed.

In the month of April, fewer enemy were killed, but an increase in the size of unit contacts was noted.

In May, a sharp rise in enemy activity was noted with several rocket attacks on Chu Lai and a flare up of fighting in the resettlement village of Hiep Duc, 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

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By SP4 DENNIS SELBY

MARCH

The first two weeks of March saw light to moderate action, with the Americal cavalrymen playing an important role in several skirmishes with the enemy.

On March 9, a task force of **Bravo Company, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. F Troop, 1-1 Cav., and Delta Co., 3-21 Inf.** killed 15 enemy soldiers in a seven hour battle, 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

An element of **Bravo Company, 2-1 Inf.** and **F Troop** swept the southern bank of a stream; while other elements of the same units moved along the northern edge of the waterway.

Contact was made almost immediately with the enemy. "We were next to the water when a VC ran across a trail and dove for the cover of a spider hole," said SP4 Charlie Callahan (Imperial, Mo.).

The 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers brought down the enemy with a barrage of hand grenades. Moments later, **Bravo Company** flushed three enemy from the heavy foliage. "They ran into the stream and tried to reach the woodline on the other side," stated Callahan. A burst of M-16 fire brought down the three foe.

"We kept making contact all day," said PFC Larry Lamoreaux (Sergeant Bluff, Iowa). "We had at least ten fire-fights throughout the day and killed 12 enemy soldiers."

On March 19, Major General Lloyd Ramsey, commanding general of the Americal Division was hoisted from the thick jungle where he had been stranded overnight following the crash of his command and control UH1 helicopter in which two men were killed and six injured (One of the men killed was Ray Murphy **A/123rd Avn Bn**).

Army and Air Force rescue units flew to the area and an infantry element of the **1st Bn., 6th Inf.** was airborne to within two miles of the crash sight.

Radio contact was lost at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 and was not regained until 8 a.m. when Major Tommy P. James (unit-**71st AHC**)(Bixby, Okla.) arrived in the area in a helicopter.

Major James was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his outstanding actions in the successful rescuing of the downed personnel.

On March 22, following the injury of General Ramsey, Major General A.E. Milloy (Fayetteville, N.C.) assumed command of the Americal Division.

MG Milloy, a distinguished combat veteran of three wars and a master parachutist, assumed command of the

B&W centerfold photo- showing soldier standing up in tall vegetation and firing an M-16. His ruck sack lays on the ground in front of him.

America following seven months as the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division.

While large enemy contacts were few in the last two weeks of March, an aerial broadcast paid rapid dividends to cavalry soldiers of the 196th Inf. Bde.

The brigade light observation helicopter made a "VIP" broadcast the morning of March 24 near Tam Ky, urging local villagers to bring forth information concerning VC activities in the area.

Within 30 minutes, a 10-year-old Vietnamese boy approached a Kit Carson Scout from **F Troop, 17th Cav.** The boy explained that there was a 250-pound bomb only 20 feet in front of the command track. The well-camouflaged bomb was destroyed in place, leaving a crater five feet wide and three feet deep.

"Without the boy, we would have run right over the mine," said CPT Roscoe Cartwright (Cincinnati) commanding officer of **F Troops** and riding on the command track at the time. "That would have been number 10." (Note-number 10 was slang for really bad).

APRIL

The month of April was ushered in with several attacks on firebases of the 198th Inf. Bde.

Incoming small arms fire, RPG's, 60mm mortar fire and satchel charges erupted in the early morning hours of April 1, as an undetermined number of VC were repulsed following a futile attempt to penetrate LZ Bayonet, headquarters of the 198th Inf. Bde.

The 30-minute mortar barrage which initiated action one mile south of Chu Lai, sent the ready-reaction force to the bunker line.

Artillery, mortar and gunships teamed up to saturate the outer perimeter of Bayonet with deadly fire, killing one VC.

In similar action, two platoons of **B Co., 5-46 Inf.** fought off a fierce ground attack on LZ Fat City, five miles northwest of Chu Lai the same morning. The action accounted for one VC killed, one VC detained and an AK-47 captured.

On April 16, infantrymen of **C Co., 2-1 Inf.**, gunships and ground troops of **F Troop, 8th CAV.**, teamed up to bring down eight VC in an operation 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The action began when a "**Blue Ghost**" gunship located six VC. The ship swooped down, guns ablaze and killed the six enemy.

The **Blue Ghost** infantry platoon was inserted into an area as **Charlie Company, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** swept in from the other side. The Blue Ghost platoon made instant contact, killing two more VC, with small arms fire.

On April 20, twenty-two NVA fell to rocket and gunfire of the **174th Avn. Co.** (Assault Helicopter) in the 11th Brigade area of operation as the "Shark" gunships turned a routine combat assault into a two hour air-ground battle.

While the company's "Dolphin" utility ships were lifting in one battalion of the **4th ARVN Regiment** and a rifle company of the **3rd Bn., 1st Inf.** into landing zones 20 miles northwest of Duc Pho, a heavy fire-team of gunships spotted fresh .51 caliber gun emplacements.

Said CPT Stephen S. Riddle (Weaverville, N.C.), "While we were marking the enemy positions with smoke grenades, we spotted movement. We saw, engaged and killed three well-equipped NVA who were trying to.

evade along a river. Our rocket fire must have hit a command post because a company-sized element of confused NVA split into large groups and ran." It was then that the gunships were able to take full advantage of their lethal firepower and kill 19 more enemy soldiers.

In an action the following day, April 21, the recon element of the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.**, National Police Field Force and "Shark" gunships teamed up to kill 15 VC while detaining 10 VC suspects.

Three AK-47 rifles and three SKS's were confiscated in the action which took place in the lowlands six miles north of Duc Pho.

In a "non-action" in the 11th Brigade area of the 22nd of April, Bravo Company, **4th Bn., 3rd Inf.** uncovered a 10 to 15 ton salt cache in the mountains six miles west of Duc Pho. The cache was discovered in a pit inside a well-camouflaged hooch. The hut was located near a well-used trail.

MAY

Ninety NVA/VC were killed Friday, May 1 by the **2nd ARVN Division** supported by an **aero-scout company** of the Americal's **123rd Avn Bn.**

After fierce fighting for two days, the ARVN unit re-claimed the re-settlement village of Hiep Duc from the NVA, killing 44 of the enemy. According to an ARVN report, approximately 15% of the village had been destroyed by fire and several civilians had been killed by the enemy.

The Americal **aero-scout company** supporting the ARVN attack accounted for 46 enemy kills.

"We came in hot with rockets on a .51 caliber machinegun position and knocked it out," explained the aero-scout commander, MAJ Stalker (Enterprise, Ala.), "there were four large secondary explosions after the attack."

At mid-afternoon the same day, the **1st Co., 1st Bn., 5th ARVN Regt.** waged a fierce battle with an unknown number of NVA. The fight resulted in 18 NVA killed. A search of the area exposed six enemy weapons including two AK-44s and one MAS-36. Also found were a Chicom submachinegun 2,000 rounds of ammunition and 60 Chicom grenades.

May 13 proved to be an unlucky day for an NVA Company in the 196th Inf. Bde's area of operation as **Alpha Battery, 3rd Bn., 82 Artillery** reported killing 25 enemy soldiers.

While cutting their way through thick vegetation nine miles north west of Tam Ky on May 23, the point element of the recon platoon of the **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** decided to attend a VC garden party even though they were not invited, after they heard voices in the jungle.

"the voices were coming from about 10 meters on the other side of a hedgerow," said SP4 Larry Hardin (Steger, Ill.) pointman for the recon element. "Our Kit Carson Scout could tell they were Viet Cong by what they were saying. Their weapons were lying on the ground."

The VC were working in a large garden that apparently supplied a battalion of enemy soldiers.

The "Legionaries" crashed into the hedgerow and came face to face with 15 enemy soldiers. "We killed two before they even knew what hit them," said Hardin. "And we dropped five more as they scattered."

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and in her hair

Graphic - Ink drawing with color fill. 1CAV1 A28 Tank. Graphic Credit by Andrewjeski

Clouds of dust swirl in the intense heat, filling the tankers' lungs and coating their skin. Seven armored personnel carriers (APCs) and three Sheridan tanks lumber along the main road out of landing zone (LZ) Hawk Hill. **F Troop, 17th Cavalry** is on the move.

Before joining the 196th Infantry Brigade in mid-February, 1971, **F Troop** had worked with **1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry**. Since September it has recorded 41 kills, 54 enemy detained, and captured 45 weapons and 7,500 pounds of rice.

Equipped with fire power equal to that of an infantry battalion, **F Troop** cruises at about 10 miles per hour when on reconnaissance in an area of operations (AO). Traveling in column formation, each track commander (TC) sits with his head jutting through the open hatch, scrutinizing his path for mines and booby traps.

Even though the tanker knows that any moment could bring the explosion of a mine, he can't afford to dwell on it. "You really can't think about mines", said Sergeant James Wheaton, a tank commander. "If you do, you might get nervous and miss one."

Though mines and booby traps are **F Troop's** most dreaded problem, they are never short of others. One of the ever-present problems is simply getting stuck.

On first glance most people might think that a rice paddy would present a most formidable problem to the trackman. But Sergeant Eddie Smith, on his second tour with tanks in Vietnam, knows better. "In a rice paddy there are two to three inches of silt and the ground becomes hard, but we've gotten stuck in sand and mud up to three feet," he said. "There was one Sheridan bogged down for five hours."

Despite all the hardships in the field, many of the tankers would rather be there than in the rear. "Staying back can get boring as hell," remarked Smith. "I wouldn't even accept a clerk-typist job. I couldn't stand to sit in an office and do the same thing everyday."

"At least in the field you get to ride around and have some adventure," added Wheaton. "I've been

back in the rear for two to three weeks and I'm going out of my mind."

"Some guys would like to be out there seven days prior to their DEROS," continued Smith.

"There's nobody really messing with you. If you're not doing anything, you can sleep all day."

Riding in the "sweatbox" can be a gruelling experience, but the men of **F Troop** still try to retain some of the luxuries of life. Cameras, tape recorders and radios are secreted in the tanks to preserve memories and provide musical enjoyment.

Some tracks carry as many as nine cases of soda and ice when they are available. "Usually if you have ice, you don't have soda and vice-versa," added Smith.

But companionship is what the men really crave. **F Troop** has become sort of a moving zoo. At last count there was a monkey and "at least ten dogs that I know of, or that I shouldn't know of," mused First Sergeant Donald McLean.

But knowing how to raise puppies isn't all it takes to be in **F Troop**. One must be able to play the role of a grunt, tanker, scout or mechanic at a moment's notice. Knowing your track and the men around you causes the esprit de corps in a cavalry unit to be extremely high and F Troop is no exception. "I think it's because they work harder and are closer together," said McLean. "We have a spirit of teamwork and we're a damn good team."

"Another man who came into country had a profile for his back, but wavered it to go out to the field," related McLean. "He was lucky. He stepped on a 250 pound mine that failed to detonate. Now he's in the world because his back got worse."

F Troop's job is not confined to reconnoitering flat areas, but sometimes involves rescue missions, like when a chinook (CH-47) helicopter's sling broke, the tracks could be sent to retrieve a water trailer, a conex or a number of blivets (water bags).

The role of **F Troop** in the 23d Infantry Division is largely support and recon, but their necessity and value should not be underestimated. "When the fireworks start," related a 196th Brigade infantryman, "those tracks look mighty pretty."

Page 9

....she wore a yellow ribbon

graphic. Pencil drawing of ACAV, Tank, and Tanker with helmet. Graphic credit to Andrewjeski

AMERICAL LOG
By SP4 MARK A SCHULZ

Color Photo of a Sheridan tank with men crew standing on top. Photo credit Richardson.

Action in the 23d Infantry Division's (Americal) area of operations (AO) slacked off slightly between June, 1970 and June 1971 except for action during certain periods, as more emphasis was placed on pacification and Vietnamization, especially toward the end of this period.

During this 12-month period, five long-standing operations were ended and three new operations were initiated.

Operations Frederick Hill, Pennsylvania Square, Geneva Park, Nantucket Beach, and Iron Mountain, all ending in April, accounted for 15,208 enemy killed, 3,812 weapons captured and 342 crew-served weapons captured.

These operations were replaced on March 1 with Operations Middlesex Peak, Finney Hill and Caroline Hill

JUNE 1971

The soaring temperatures of southern Military Region 1 in June did not stop soldiers of the 23d Infantry Division's three brigades as they accounted for 222 enemy killed.

The heaviest action of the month occurred in the area 22 miles southwest of Tam Ky in Operation Frederick Hill. Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade uncovered one of the largest enemy rice caches ever found in Military Region 1. The men of **C Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** conducted an intensive nine-day search operation that produced 97,000 pounds of rice along the coastline, ten miles north of Duc Pho.

In June, a new operation was launched as part of the Division's answer to an enemy offensive. Operation Pennsylvania Square was begun on June 29 by the **1st Cavalry and F Troop, 17th Cavalry**. The operation was successful in countering the enemy threat to the coastal area north of Chu Lai.

JULY 1971

The most severe threat of 1970 had developed in April and May. The 2nd NVA Division launched a campaign in the Hiep Duc Valley to regain control of the area and use it as a springboard into the coastal plains. The enemy challenge was met swiftly. Moderate to heavy contacts developed throughout June and July. By the time the enemy withdrew in July without accomplishing his mission, he had suffered 1,166 dead.

The same pattern occurred to the south of Chu Lai, in Quang Ngai Province, where the 11th Infantry Brigade conducted Operation Iron Mountain. The "Jungle Warriors" met light resistance in early 1970 as they continued to deny the enemy the resources in the heavily populated and rice-rich area around Quang Ngai City.

Contact with the enemy increased sharply in May, June and July as the enemy mounted a threat to Quang Ngai City. The "Jungle Warriors" successfully repulsed the enemy and killed 535 NVA and VC soldiers during the three-month high point.

To the west and southwest of Chu Lai, the 198th Infantry Brigade continued **Operation Geneva Park** and operations on the Batangan Peninsula. Until May, contact was relatively light as elements of the brigade systematically searched out the enemy forces in the area and destroyed his supply caches, routed out the VC infrastructure and denied the enemy the resources of the area.

During the month of July, units of the 23d Infantry Division teamed up with units of the 2nd ARVN Division to air assault the Kham Duc area near the Laotian border. The joint operation established a fire base and accomplished the reopening of the airstrip at Kham Duc.

Operations began around the old Special Forces camp at Kham Duc on

Color photo: U.S. soldier in rice paddy with an M-16 holding a smoke grenade in his hand. Smoke grenade (yellow) is held upside down. (Weren't these too hot to hold; alternative is that grenade did not work well under rice paddy water.).

July 12. The purpose of the operation was to break up the enemy supply and logistical system supporting the enemy offensive and destroy any large NVA forces in the area. The initial phases of the operation began when the **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** and the **6th ARVN Regiment** seized the camp. No large battles developed, but the operation did successfully disrupt the enemy's logistical system.

AUGUST 1971

As a result of the spring offensive's failure, enemy activity decreased and contact was light throughout the remainder of the year. The enemy began to re-emphasize guerilla type operations. Responding to the enemy trend, units of the 23d Infantry Division began to emphasize small unit operations. Squad size patrols, able to operate independently and with stealth, saturated the AO.

The men of the Division discovered they could operate at night as effectively as the enemy, as night operations were stressed. These techniques proved very effective. Numerous daily contacts caused the enemy a steady loss of personnel. The enemy also lost a steady flow of supplies he could ill-afford to lose, as more caches were discovered. The enemy's knowledge that he had no safe havens, at any time of the day, had a tremendous defeating effect on him.

SEPTEMBER 1971

Operations around Kham Duc ended on September 19. The operation had successfully interdicted the enemy's lines of communication and had contributed to the destruction of Main Force units. Final results were

Two Color Photos at the top of the page. Photo 1: Two soldiers walking in the shadows of the undergrowth. One man is the RTO. Photo 2: Man is reviewing a map. Photo Credit Grambergu.

107 enemy killed and 60 individual and crew-served weapons captured.

OCTOBER 1971

Severe tropical typhoons Kate and Joan seriously curtailed military operations during the period of Oct 15 to 26. 23d Infantry Division troops and material assets were diverted to engage in disaster relief operations in conjunction with 2nd ARVN Division units

NOVEMBER 1971

The 23d Infantry Division continued the assistance program in November to bring relief to thousands of refugees created by typhoons Kate and Joan. Large quantities of food and building supplies were provided and engineer units cleared roads and rebuilt bridges.

DECEMBER 1970

Pacification operations, always an integral part of the 23d Infantry Division's program, received extra impetus in the latter part of 1970. The number of combined operations was increased monthly, reaching a high of 560 in December.

Particularly successful were the rice denial operations conducted with Regional Forces and Popular Forces in the Geneva Park and Iron Mountain AOs.

As the year closed, the men of the Division could look back proudly on their accomplishments. Every threat had been aggressively thwarted. Although it was evident that the American efforts in the war would decrease, a high level of operations was sustained and the division moved toward 1971 with the same competence and professionalism that earned it many successes in 1970.

Two color photos. Photo 1: Gun crew firing cannon. Photo credit Grambergu. Photo 2: Photo of Paul Bigham of the **1/52nd Infantry**. Paul is carrying the M-60 at the ready with a belt of ammo over the shoulder.

LOG continued

JANUARY 1971

The new year was characterized by light to moderate action, but the year started off with heavy activity when **LAMSON 719** began.

Operation LAMSON 719 was a large, complex operation designed to sever the enemy's supply lines and destroy the stockpiles along his supply routes in Laos. American forces were to reopen QL-9 through Khe Sanh to the Laotian border. ARVN forces would then attack into Laos to interdict the enemy's supply routes.

Logistical and airmobile support would be provided by the United States. To insure the security of QL-9, a shifting of American forces westward toward the Laotian border had to occur.

The 23d Infantry Division was called upon to place forces under operational control, and augment those of the **101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)** and the **1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division**. Elements of the 23d Infantry Division began moving north on January 29-the date of movement depending upon the unit. **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** moved north on January 29, **1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry** arrived at Tam Ky on January 30. **F Troop, 8th Cavalry** moved north on January 29, as did the 116th Assault Helicopter Company, 176th Assault Helicopter Company and the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company.

Headquarters Company, **71st and 174th** Assault Helicopter Companies moved north at the same time, and

Color photo left two thirds of page. Soldier hanging tough in the heat carrying a ruck.

formed the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Also, **1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery** was moved north to support operations for Jefferson Glen and LAMSON 719.

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.

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.

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.

MAY 1971

May was the most inactive month of the 12-month period, as only extremely light, light and moderate action was reported. The war seemed to be grinding down and most interest centered on rice denial and pacification programs.

JUNE 1971

June was also a slow month as only one day of heavy action was reported.

On June 30, Operation Middlesex Peak terminated within the 198th Infantry Brigade AO. The operation resulted in 461 enemy killed, 121 weapons captured and 16 crew-served

Two color photos left two thirds of the page. Photo 1. Men patrol along a rock strewn stream bed. Photo credit: Grambergu. Photo 2. Crew of ACAV. Photo credit: Richardson.

weapons captured.

Operation Caroline Hill, also ending June 30, was under operational control of the 196th Infantry Brigade. Results were 161 enemy killed, 81 weapons captured and three crew-served weapons captured.

Operation Finney Hill, also ending on the above date, was controlled by the 11th Infantry Brigade. Results of the operation were 453 enemy killed, 240 weapons captured and 33 crew-served weapons captured.

Totals for the three operations, which included cavalry and artillery units in support of the operations, was 1,075 enemy killed, 442 weapons captured and 52 crew-served weapons captured.

Operations continued after June 30, but had not operational names and were simply designated by each of the three brigade numerals.

Two color photos on the left two-thirds of the page. Photo 1 two ACAVS parked in the dusk light with crews silhouetted on against the sky. Photo 2: Soldiers on patrol in thick foliage. Photo credit: Boemfer

This section is for F/17 Cavalry articles published in the Americal Division Daily Newsheets. The daily newsheets were published by the Americal Division with stories about actions from the prior day. Many had a weather report for the next day. The articles that appear here are edited so that actions for units in the 11th and 198th Infantry Brigades are not included.

Volume 1 No. 260 Americal Daily New Sheet Friday January 5, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT (for January 6, 1968)

CLOUDY SATURDAY morning with occasional light rain showers. Becoming partly cloudy Saturday afternoon. Winds will be from the north at 5-10 miles per hour. High Saturday will be 74. Low Saturday night 64.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)-Americal Division forces continued to maintain pressure on the enemy yesterday as they accounted for 72 enemy soldiers killed throughout southern I Corps.

In heavy contact yesterday elements of Americal's 196th "Charger" Brigade killed 32 VC in action west of Tam Ky. Since participating in Operation Wheeler-Wallowa the brigade has killed 452 enemy soldiers.

Early in the morning a unit from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry commanded by LTC Fredrick R. Cully (Fort-Walton Beach, Fla) was in heavy contact with an unknown size VC force. The unit in contact was led by CPT Daniel Mellon (Fairbanks, Alaska) and was receiving heavy automatic and mortar fire. At 1:55 a.m., another unit from the 31st Inf, led by CPT Joseph S. Stringham (Appleton, Wis) was moved in to support CPT Mellon's company.

Gunships from the 71st Aviation Company were called to support the heavily engaged infantrymen. The choppers reported receiving heavy automatic weapons fire, 50 caliber fire and possible RPG fire. Contact lasted until 3:10 a.m. CPT Mellon's unit received approximately 40 rounds of 60mm mortar fire during the initial part of the attack and they continued receiving sporadic fire until day light. During the battle CPT Mellon's unit accounted for 15 kills. CPT Stringham's unit killed four VC. Four infantrymen and one interpreter were killed in the action. In other ground action a company led by CPT Jose Feliciano (Baltimore, Md) killed one VC who was engaged in small arms fire. A unit commanded by CPT John F. Connelly (Saugus, Mass) found a dead VC who had been killed by artillery fire from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery commanded by LTC Wayne H. Elliott (Tacoma, Wash). A unit from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry received 15 rounds of small arms fire from approximately 200 meters west of their position. They engaged and killed one VC and captured his weapon.

Scout and gunships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry accounted for 10 VC killed and the destruction of 37 camouflaged VC sampans. In all cases the VC were engaged as they tried to take evasive action.

Fourteen VC rallied to the government's side in the 196th area yesterday.

Americal Daily News Sheets- updated January 2015.
Volume 1 No. 261 Americal Daily New Sheet Saturday January 6, 1968
(Only the Americal Division news was transcribed from this issue)

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT (for January 7, 1968)

Sunday partly cloudy to cloudy. Continued occasional showers. Becoming increasingly cloudy by Monday. Surface winds from the north at 10 miles per hour. High Sunday 81. Low Sunday night 65.

AMERICAL ELEMENTS KILL 99 ENEMY YESTERDAY

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - The enemy body count continues to rise in Wednesday's mortar attacks and in addition to other actions units of the Americal Division accounted for 99 enemy soldiers.

Elements of Americal's 3rd "Garry Owen" Brigade, of the 1st Air Cavalry continued yesterday to chase an NVA force that struck at two brigade bases early on the morning of Jan 3. The bodies of 73 more NVA were found as brigade units searched the areas around LZs Leslie and Ross. The additional 73 bodies raises the actual body count for the one day battle to 319. Two VC were killed by the brigade yesterday.

An element of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry killed one VC two miles west of Que Son in the afternoon. Later a brigade scout helicopter spotted two men running into a cave four miles northwest of Que Son. Aerial rocket artillery hit the cave and the infantry troops examined the area and found one body.

Fourteen tactical air strikes and two B52 raids were called in on enemy automatic weapons positions and fortifications in the Que Son Valley. Most of the strikes were to the west and southwest of Que Son. In a late report both LZs Leslie and Ross were receiving intermittent mortar and automatic weapons fire.

Units of Americal's 196th continued in their pursuit of enemy forces in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa and recorded 16 enemy kills and the capture of three weapons.

A brigade company led by CPT Joseph S. Stringham (Appleton, Wis) spotted seven VC running across a rice paddy into a wood line. Pursuing them they came in contact with an unknown size enemy force. Following an exchange of heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire the enemy broke (Cont'd Page 2 column 2)

contact. Seven bodies and three weapons (AK-47 rifles) were captured. An infantry company led by CPT John T. Thompson (Atlanta, Ga) spotted one VC entering a tunnel. He was engaged and killed. Six individuals who were hiding in the tunnel were detained. Six VC wearing khaki uniforms were spotted by a company led by CPT Dennis A. Leach (Fairmount, Minn). They were engaged, resulting in one enemy death. Another enemy death was recorded by a patrol from an infantry company and "A" Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry killed one VC when he failed to halt when challenged.

Page 2

Volume 1 No. 261 Americal Daily New Sheet Saturday January 6, 1968

"C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry in Aerial support of "Charger" ground units engaged and killed two individuals in grey uniforms who were trying to evade detection. Another VC was killed when he attempted to hide in a bunker. The Air Cav detained two suspects and destroyed 11 camouflaged VC sampans. Two other VC deaths were recorded and another nine sampans were destroyed by gunships from the 71st Aviation Company.

An infantry company led by CPT Jose R. Feliciano (Baltimore, Md.) detained one suspect. The individual had 2,100 piasters in his possession and was believed to be a VC Tax Collector. "F" Troop, 17th Cav detained two suspects for questioning. Another five individuals were detained by a company led by CPT Eugene C. Moor (San Rafael, Calif) after they were discovered hiding in a hut in a village they were searching.

Brigade MEDCAPs treated 150 Vietnamese yesterday.

In a day of scattered contacts Americal's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry accounted for eight VC kills in operations south of here.

One brigade company killed five VC and another killed two in early morning contacts 12 miles south of here. The companies also uncovered one Chicom grenade, a set of NVA web gear, one M-1 carbine, one Soviet made rifle and a booby trap. In other ground action 10 miles south of here a company killed one VC in a late afternoon contact. A total of 2,800 pounds of rice was captured in the day's actions.

Infantrymen of Americal's 11th Brigade reported light contact yesterday.

A brigade company commanded by CPT Ronald A. Tuemerson (Red Bluff, Calif) uncovered a booby trapped claymore mine in an area three miles west of LZ Liz. A company led by CPT Stanley Wisniewski (Sugar Notch, Pa) detained one suspect south of LZ Dragon. Near LZ Thunder a company led by CPT Sario J. Cavalalho (Ewa Beach, Ha) discovered a 155mm round on a beach road. The shell was under a bridge below the water level covered by sand bags.

Units of the Americal's 198th Brigade reported no contact with the enemy in (Cont'd Page 3 Column 1) their area of operations.

Brigade MEDCAP teams took advantage of warmer weather and sunny skies to conduct 10 area visits to treat 607 Vietnamese yesterday.

Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion flew 835 sorties, carried 1,079 combat troops and hauled 210 tons of cargo in support of division units yesterday.

Volume 1 No. 268 Americal Daily New Sheet Saturday January 13, 1968

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Ground forces employed a wide range of combat tactics and accounted for 37 enemy killed. The infantrymen of the Americal Division were in constant contact with both VC and NVA soldiers throughout the southern I Corps yesterday.

A unit from Americal's 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry answered a mortar attack with a ground attack to account for nine enemy killed yesterday.

A company from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry received mortar fire and pursued the enemy and killed six NVA soldiers. Continuing their search they killed three more. A unit from the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry killed one NVA and captured documents he was carrying. Artillery fire accounted for four more NVA kills. Cavalrymen suffered one killed and 14 wounded in yesterday's action.

Numerous ground contacts accounted for 12 VC killed and one weapon captured by Americal's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry yesterday.

A reconnaissance unit of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry took part in the biggest action of the day for the "Bronco's" when on patrol they engaged a small group of VC. Artillery was called in and when they swept the area later they found four bodies. A unit of the 4th Battalion, 3rd located a fortified position. In a search they found an MAT-49 machine gun and ten sandbags of C- Rations. Another company of the same unit received heavy sniper fire in an area southwest of here. After they returned the fire they searched the area, but found nothing. A unit of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry observed one VC later in the day and killed him. They also found two Chicom grenades. The 176th Aviation Company flying in support of the Americal "Bronco" brigade observed a VC from the air and engaged the enemy.

Early morning ambushes paid off for the elements of Americal's 11th Brigade as they accounted for three of six enemy killed by infantry units yesterday around the Duc Pho area. Under sunny skies of the "Pathfinders" also uncovered the brigade's largest single arms cache since arriving in country.

Earlier in the day a company led by CPT Joseph Rhinehart (Canton, N.C.) of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry accounted for three kills as company elements surprised the VC in pre-dawn ambushes. A company led by CPT Patrick Trinkle (Stonewall-on-the-Hudson, N.Y.) killed two VC and detained five suspects after a Popular Force unit received small arms fire while operating 11 miles northwest of Duc Pho. The brigade's first Naval activity was recorded yesterday when a heavy weapons platoon from the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry sank a VC sampan in a lake 10 miles southeast of Duc Pho. In another action in the same area, a reconnaissance platoon led by 1LT William Adams (Madison, Ind) killed one VC, detained three suspects and captured five tons of salt.

In a late afternoon assault 12 miles northwest of Duc Pho, a Hoi Chanh led a platoon commanded by 1LT David A. Trujillo to the brigade's largest single arms cache. The haul included eight-40mm rockets, three carbines, a 60mm mortar, 250 rounds of 30 caliber ammunition, three pairs of binoculars, three detonators, 30 pounds of TNT, 3 bangalore torpedoes and several ponchos. The entire operation from the time the troops were alerted until the brigade's helicopters set them down at LZ Liz took two hours. No enemy was encountered.

With action tapering off from the previous days heavy fighting Americal's 196th Brigade killed five VC in ground action west of Tam Ky.

"F" Troop, 17th Cavalry encountered 10 VC fleeing from their position resulting in four VC killed in the brief contact and the capture of a .45 caliber pistol. "F" Troop detained two suspects who were evacuated to Hill 35 for questioning. The Cav unit also discovered a fortified position containing one NVA pistol, a steel helmet. In other action a company from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry accounted for the other VC kill and the capture of a hand grenade. The unit also found and destroyed two-500 pound bombs.

Brigade soldiers conducted two MEDCAPs and treated 115 Vietnamese yesterday.

Helicopters from Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion flew 1,141 sorties, carried 1,691 combat troops and hauled 396 tons of cargo in support of division units yesterday.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Heavy air activity characterized the continuous destruction and harassment of the 2nd NVA Division in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. More than 25 air strikes pounded on suspected enemy locations. One the ground units of the Americal Division reported killing 18 enemy soldiers and capturing over 20,000 pounds of rice in action throughout the southern I Corps Tactical Zone. More than 7,000 pounds of artillery were fired into suspected enemy staging areas and resupply routes.

Government forces reported killing 19 VC in operations around the Tam Ky area. A Popular Forces ambush killed 12 VC and captured two weapons about five miles west of there. About four miles north of Tam Ky, a Regional Force was attacked late Saturday night. In the exchange of fire, they killed seven VC and captured one weapon.

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The Air Force flew more than 25 air strikes in support of infantry brigades in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. Nine missions were flown in support of the 3rd Brigade destroying one bunker and a fortified-structure. Other assessments could not be made at the time due to darkness.

Elements of Americal's 196th Brigade reported killing three enemy and captured more than 20,000 pounds of rice in action west of Tam Ky yesterday.

A reconnaissance patrol from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry spotted three VC in an area west of Tam Ky. They were taken under fire, resulting in two VC killed and one detained.

A helicopter from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry killed one VC, who was taking evasive action in a valley near Tam Ky. "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry captured over 20,000 pounds of rice west of Tam Ky.

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Volume 1 No. 274 Americal Daily New Sheet Friday January 19, 1968
[Note: only Americal related articles were transcribed]

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Americal soldiers killed 39 enemy in action throughout the division yesterday. Government forces killed 18 VC in joint operations with Americal troops and helicopter support.

In Operation Wheeler/Wallowa Cav unit attached to Americal's 196th Brigade, conducting a joint operation with ARVN troops, killed 11 VC in an operation north of Tam Ky yesterday. Other elements of the "Chargers" killed four VC and detained two, to bring the day's body count to 15.

"A" Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry notched the 11 kills in four separate contacts and destroyed five camouflaged bunkers. The 3rd Battalion, 5th ARVN Regiment accounted for three VC killed in the fighting.

A company from 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry received small arms fire from four VC 150 meters from their position. The infantrymen returned the fire and killed three of them. A unit from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry killed a VC after receiving small arms fire. A company from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry led by CPT Daniel R. Nellson (Fairbanks, Alaska) uncovered graves containing seven NVA bodies. These seven were not counted in the enemy body count of the day.) "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry detained the VC suspects, who were later evacuated to Hill 35 for interrogation.

CHU LAI (AMERICAL-IO) --- The brigade's of the Americal Division operating southern I Corps Tactical Zone reported killing 19 Viet Cong and 33 NVA soldiers in action yesterday. Americal units reported one U.S. soldier was killed and three wounded.

The Americal's 196th Brigade reported killing seven VC and 33 NVA soldiers in action northwest of Tam Ky in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

An Americal element spotted six NVA while patrolling in the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry's area of operation. Spotting more NVA, the patrol discovered they had come in contact with a company size NVA force. In a brief fire fight with the enemy one NVA was killed and one U.S. soldier was wounded. The patrol was replaced by an alert reaction force. Small arms and automatic weapons fire, artillery and air strikes placed effectively on the NVA resulted in an additional 31 NVA kills.

A company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry commended by CPT James F. Humphries (Pacific Grove, Calif) engaged and killed four VC, who were evading the American position in two separate incidents. Another company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry led by C.T Paul Yurchak (Pittston, Pa) killed two more VC and detained two suspects. A reconnaissance platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry engaged three NVA evading resulting in one NVA killed in the Action. A unit of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry captured two hand grenades, 15 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, five 82mm mortar rounds and 57 recoilless rifle rounds during a sweep operation. A n element of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry observed two VC trying to extinguish a smoke grenade dropped by a helicopter from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry. The infantry engaged the enemy resulting in one VC killed. A company of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry detained one suspect and "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry detained two. All three were evacuated for interrogation. A reconnaissance platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry evacuated one Hoi Chanh who had rallied to the GVN. In the most unusual find of the day, an element of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry led by CPT David Spohn Lemoyne, Pa) found a homemade .30 caliber bamboo rifle.

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Volume 1 No. 280 Americal Daily New Sheet Thursday January 25, 1968
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT (for January 26, 1968)

Partly cloudy Friday winds variable at g10 miles per hour. Brief rain showers expected. Becoming increasingly cloudy Friday night.
High Friday 83. Low Friday night 67.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)—Units of the Americal Division reported killing 15 enemy in a day highlighted by the discovery of a large communication cache by a unit operating northwest of Tam Ky in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

Charlie's going to be late tomorrow, we found his alarm clocks yesterday!

A unit of Americal's 196th Brigade uncovered two camouflaged huts four hundred meters apart which contained a large cache of enemy communication equipment 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky yesterday. The find was made by a company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry led by CPT Paul N. Yurchak (Pittston, Pa)

The cache of communication equipment was compiled of six PRC-25 radios, eight telephone sets, six radios, two generators, 20 varied antenna sets and parts, several testers, voltage and ampmeters, two transistor receivers and one circuit board, three switchboard sets, one automatic sending key base, and a few assorted items of electrical and radio equipment, including two alarm clocks.

Elsewhere in the "Charger's" area 196th elements killed eight VC, detained three suspects and captured two weapons in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

A company of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry led by CPT E. Calvin Moore (San Rafael, Calif), killed one VC and detained one suspect while on a cordon and search operation. A check of the area uncovered two K-44 rifles hidden in some bushes. Along with the weapons the company found two ammunition pouches, one gray uniform, 10 rounds of small arms ammunition, one wallet and two ponchos. Another company of the same battalion led by CPT Jose R. Feliciano (Balt, Md) engaged three VC southwest of the company's position, resulting in one VC killed. On the body was found 8,715 piasters and some documents which were evacuated.

"C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed three VC evading their aircraft in two separate incidents yesterday.

A company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry led by CPT James F. Humphries (Pacific Grove, Calif) killed one VC and a reconnaissance patrol killed two more. Another company from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry found a small equipment cache containing one poncho, six bags of bandages, three ammunition pouches and one helmet. "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry detained one individual who was evacuated for interrogation.

Volume 1 No. 283 Americal Daily New Sheet Sunday January 28, 1968
AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Action increased again yesterday as Americal Division forces reported killing 49 VC and three NVA soldiers in a day that saw air support and ground fighting throughout southern I Corps. Americal units reported that two U.S. soldiers were killed and 12 wounded in yesterdays' activities.

Americal's 196th Brigade made contact with enemy forces in the central and eastern portions of the brigade's area of operations in Quang Tin Province during Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. Twenty-four enemy were killed in these contacts.

"C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed 15 VC who were evading the Cav's aircraft in the area of major contact. The air-to-ground contact took place throughout the day, and most of the enemy soldiers killed had web gear or were carrying packs. A platoon of "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry killed three NVA wearing khaki uniforms.

In ground action three companies from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, accounted for one VC kill. Another company from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry observed five VC 1,400 meters northeast of their position. Artillery fire from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery was called in resulting in one VC kill. A company of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry observed and engaged seven VC resulting in two VC kills. A few minutes later two more VC were killed and one suspect detained along with an AK-47 rifle.

"A" Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry accounted for three VC killed in action about six miles west of Tam Ky after the unit received heavy automatic, recoilless rifle fire and mortars.

Six tactical air strikes were flown in support of the 196th yesterday. Damage reported from the missions were 25 fortified structures destroyed and 100 meters of trench line opened up.

Volume 1 No. 284 Americal Daily New Sheet Monday January 29, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT (for January 30, 1968)

Tuesday partly cloudy to fair. No significant change foreseen. Winds north-northeast at 5-10 miles per hour. High Tuesday 81. Low Tuesday night 62.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) Operation Muscatine forces accounted for 22 of the total 38 enemy killed yesterday by units of the Americal Division located in southern I Corps. Americal units reported that two U.S. soldiers were killed and seven wounded in yesterday's fighting.

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Seven enemy were killed yesterday by Americal's 196th Brigade as "Charger" units conducted ground operations in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

"F" Troop, 17th Cavalry captured 16,700 pounds of rice which was later evacuated from an area west of Tam Ky.

A company of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry led by CPT Jose R. Feliciano (Baltimore, Md) killed four VC who were evading the company's position. A platoon from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry killed one VC and artillery fire from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery accounted for two VC kills.

Three tactical air strikes were flown in the 196th area yesterday and six fortified structures and one bunker were destroyed.

Volume 1 No. 286 Americal Daily New Sheet Wednesday January 31, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Wednesday partly cloudy with no significant change. Winds east-southeast at 5-12 miles per hour. High Wednesday 82 Low Wednesday night 67.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)– Air and ground fighting increased as Americal's fighting units killed 69 enemy in action throughout southern I Cops.

Elements of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, operating west of Tam Ky and supported by "C" Troop gunships. Thirteen more kills were reported by 17th Cavalry gunships in brief air-to-ground contacts throughout the day. The remaining four enemy kills were recorded by units of the 1st Cavalry in ground fighting.

In contact yesterday 14 enemy were killed by elements of Americal's 196th Brigade in action northwest of Tam Ky in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

In air--to--ground action "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry saw two VC in foxholes. They passed over the area and received small arms fire. They returned the fire and killed the two enemy. Just a short distance away, "Firebirds" of the 71st Aviation Company sank two heavily loaded sampans. A platoon from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry engaged four VC resulting in one VC kill and the capture of a pistol belt, one M-26 grenade and one medical kit. Later on, "F" Troop and a scout team from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed five VC. A search of the area revealed a .45 caliber pistol, one M-14 rifle and two SKS rifles.

In ground action, an element from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry engaged seven NVA and killed two enemy. Three enemy were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment and interrogation.

Three tactical air strikes were flown in support of the 196th Brigade resulting in 11 structures and four bunkers destroyed.

Viet Cong Attack Chu Lai: Totaling 302 Enemy Killed

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Enemy attacks on the Chu Lai Air Base and other division camps prompted quick reaction fighting that accounted for 302 enemy kills by Americal Division units in southern I Corps yesterday. Five U.S. soldiers were killed and 23 infantrymen were wounded in day long fighting.

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Units of Americal's 196th Brigade killed 27 VC in moderate contacts in eastern portions of the "Chargers" area of operation in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

In the heaviest action of the day "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry engaged a large group of VC killing 12 and detaining 11. In a delayed report from Tuesday night "C" Troop 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed five VC and a company from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry led by CPT John T. Thomason (Severne Park, Md) killed on VC they found hiding in a tunnel. The company also found one wounded NVA soldier hiding near by. He had web gear and ammunition for an AK-47 rifle. He was evacuated for treatment at 2nd Surgical Hospital.

A small reconnaissance unit from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed three VC they spotted fleeing from a hit. A small unit observed four VC with gray uniforms enter a hut. Artillery from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery was called in killing the four VC. A small unit from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry observed eight VC moving down a trail. They called in artillery from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery killing two VC.

The tactical air strikes were flown yesterday in support of the "Chargers". The missions resulted in two fortified structures destroyed, 10 meters of trench opened-up and two bunkers destroyed.

Americal Daily News Sheets-
Vol.1. No. 289 Saturday February 3, 1968

Americal Elements Kill 32 Enemy Yesterday

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Americal Division forces reported killing 32 VC in southern I Corps yesterday. Americal units suffered one soldier killed and three wounded in yesterday's fighting.

Units of Americal's 196th Brigade killed eight VC yesterday in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa being conducted in Quang Tin Province.

"F" Troop, 17th Cavalry found one 500 pound bomb. It was destroyed in place. the explosion killed one VC who ran from his hiding place and tried to disarm the bomb.

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MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Continued cloudy during the morning hours becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon. Surface winds from the east-north-east at 5 to 10 knots per hour. High Monday 82 low Monday afternoon 72.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Forces of the Americal Division reported killing 36 enemy soldiers in a day that saw fighting throughout southern I Corps. One U.S. infantryman was killed and seven soldiers wounded in the day's activities.

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Contact was reported yesterday throughout the Operation Wheeler/Wallowa area as units of Americal's 196th Brigade reported killing six Viet Cong.

Later yesterday morning, brigade artillery from the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Artillery firing in support of an infantry unit, killed one VC after receiving sniper fire. Two platoons from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry killed three VC, who were evading the gunships. A company from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry commanded by CPT Dennis A. Leach (Fairmont, Minn) found and destroyed six camouflaged fortified structures and tunnels. Another company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry led by CPT David D. Spohn (Lemoyne, Pa) observed and engaged three VC 75 meters from their position, killing two of them. They found one SKS rifle during a sweep of the area. A platoon from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry found 2,500 pounds of rice.

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AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Fighting forces of the Americal Division reported killing 35 enemy yesterday while operating in southern I Corps. At approximately 11:45 p.m., -- last night the Chu Lai base received eight to 14 rounds of 122mm rocket fire. Damage was light.

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Elements of Americal's 196th Brigade killed three VC and captured two weapons in action northwest of Tam Ky yesterday in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

An element of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry commanded by CPT Jose R. Feliciano (Baltimore, Md), killed two VC evading the company's position. A check of the area revealed one U.S. carbine, one K-44 rifle, two U.S. hand grenades, one Chicom grenade, and (Continued on Page 3 Column 3) documents. A company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry's "Gimlets" led by CPT Dennis A. Leach (Fairmont, Minn) killed the third VC as they attempted to elude the American force. Another company of the same battalion detained one Vietnamese without an I.D. card. He was evacuated to "Charger Hill" for interrogation. A reconnaissance platoon detained another individual who was discovered hiding in a tunnel under a hootch. "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry destroyed 12 camouflaged spider holes in other action yesterday.

Enemy mortar and sniper activity increased throughout Americal's 198th Brigade's area of operation yesterday. Two VC were killed.

Gunships supporting the brigade killed the two VC yesterday morning northwest of Chu Lai in an area that has been becoming an enemy hot spot since the attack on the air base here during the Tet holidays.

Three separate enemy initiated mortar attacks fell on units throughout the brigade's area and four separate enemy sniper incidents were reported. No U.S. casualties were sustained.

A brigade element operating northwest of here uncovered an enemy bunker yesterday morning that contained web gear and hot food.

Americal Daily News Sheets-
VOLUME 1 NUMBER 301 Thursday February 15, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
FOR FRIDAY

Cloudy Friday morning becoming partly cloudy by early afternoon. Winds will be North-northeasterly at 8-12 knots per hour. High Friday afternoon 82. Low Friday night will be around 65.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS (MIRACLE DIVISION)

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Ground action in southern I Corps stepped yesterday as units of the Americal Division reported killing 51 enemy soldiers. U.S. forces suffered three infantrymen killed and 25 soldiers wounded in the day's fighting.

Thirty-four enemy were killed by elements of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa yesterday.

A company of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry operating north of LZ Baldy observed and encountered a large number of NVA. Mortars and air strikes were called in resulting in ten enemy killed. Later in the day the enemy killed two more enemy and captured 200 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition.

In other ground action an element of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry killed seven NVA and uncovered a large hospital well equipped with medical supplies and radio equipment north of LZ Baldy. A unit of the 4th Battalion, 35th Infantry located three enemy killed by a reconnaissance element of the "Bronco's".

"Aloha Airlines", the brigade's aviation section, killed four enemy (Continued on Page 2 Column 3) in air-to-ground action north of LZ Baldy.

"C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed five Viet Cong while flying in support of elements of Americal's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry in action north of Tam Ky yesterday.

Elements of Americal's 196th Brigade killed three VC yesterday throughout the "Chargers" area of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

A platoon of "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry while on a search and destroy mission received automatic weapons fire northwest of their location. They returned the fire and called for artillery and gunships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry. A search of the area revealed one VC body. A platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed one enemy northwest of Tam Ky. "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry operating in support of the "Chargers" killed one enemy.

Air Force tactical air strikes resulted in eight structures destroyed and three damaged.

Vol. 2. No. 132 Thursday August 29, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

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

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action remained steady in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday as Division forces and supporting elements accounted for 16 VC and 16 NVA killed and nine individual weapons captured.

Action remained steady yesterday in the 198th Infantry Brigade's area of operations as "Brave and Bold" soldiers and supporting elements reported four VC and eight NVA killed and eight individual weapons captured.

Brigade artillery units were credited with the eight NVA killed by artillery Tuesday night.

The eight NVA bodies were found northeast of Chu Lai by a company of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry. The "Professionals" also found three M-16 rifles, three M-1 rifles, one carbine and one AK-47 with the bodies.

"Aero Scouts" of the 123d Aviation Company killed one VC near Chu Lai.

A company of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry killed three VC near Chu Lai.

Civic Action soldiers of the 198th Infantry Brigade treated 68 Vietnamese yesterday during two medical visits.

In action centered in an area nine miles north-northwest of Tam Ky "Dragoons" of the 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry and supporting elements accounted for eight NVA and one VC killed yesterday.

"B" Troop accounted for one NVA killed, "C" Troop killed five of the NVA, "F" Troop, 8th Cavalry killed one of the NVA and one VC and the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry "Guardians" killed the other NVA.

In the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operations "Charger" units killed eight VC and captured one AK-47 in scattered action.

"F" Troop, 17th Cavalry called in artillery on a group of VC resulting in three VC killed 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

A reconnaissance element of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry engaged and killed two evading VC seven miles south of Hoi An.

The command and control helicopter of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry in two separate incidents killed a total of three VC and captured one AK-47 four miles south of Hoi An.

Scattered enemy contact in the 11th Brigade's area around Duc Pho yesterday resulted in three VC killed.

A fire team led by PFC Edward L Zimmerly (Ambey, IL) from a company of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry killed one VC when two VC leaped from a tree and attempted to evade.

Later yesterday a squad from the same company led by SP4 Charles N. Schell (St. Paul, MN) killed two evading VC.

Americal Division forces suffered four soldiers killed and 22 wounded and evacuated for treatment.

Vol. 2. No. 137 Tuesday September 3, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Cloudy skies with occasional light rains. High 94, low 78. Winds northeast at 10 knots. (B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone remained scattered yesterday as Division forces accounted for 18 VC killed, five NVA killed, and three individual weapons captured.

Yesterday in the 198th Inf. Bde's area of operations "Charger" units killed 12 VC and captured 1100 pounds of rice.

"F" Troop, 17th Cav. in three separate contacts killed a total of three VC with small arms fire six miles south of Hoi An.

Reconnaissance elements of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. in three separate contacts killed a total of three VC five miles south of Hoi An.

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Vol. 2. No. 155 Saturday September 21, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SATURDAY

Mostly fair to partly cloudy with showers late afternoon.

High 93 Low 75. Winds variable at 5 knots.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)-Action was light and scattered in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Zone yesterday as Division forces killed 11 VC, captured one NVA soldier, and captured one crew-served and 13 individual weapons.

"Charger" units of the 196th Inf. Bde. killed five VC in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa yesterday.

"F" Trp., 17th Cav. killed one VC with .50 cal. machine gun fire yesterday 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

A 2d Bn., 1st Inf. company killed one evading VC with small arms fire 17 miles west of Tam Ky. In the same area the command and control helicopter of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf. engaged and killed one VC.

Vol. 2. No. 167 Thursday October 3, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

FRIDAY

Mostly Cloudy Chance of Showers High 89 Low 76 (B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces accounted for 21 VC and seven NVA killed and ten individual weapons captured in action in the southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday.

In the 196th Inf. Bde's area of operations yesterday, "Charger" units killed 13 VC and captured nine individual weapons.

In the largest contact of the day, a 4th Bn., 21st Inf. company spotted a group of VC evading into a tunnel seven miles southwest of Hoi An. The enemy was engaged, resulting in nine VC killed.

A search of the area resulted in the capture of three SKS rifles, two M-1 carbines, one M-16 rifle, and one Chicom sub-machine gun.

In the same area another 4th Bn., 21st Inf. company engaged and killed a total of three VC in two separate incidents.

In other action, a 196th Inf. Bde. aerial observer called in artillery on one VC, resulting in one VC killed 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

"F" Trp., 17th Cav. captured two M-72 LAWs eight miles south of Hoi An.

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Vol. 2. No. 191 Sunday October 27, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

MONDAY

Partly to Mostly Cloudy Occasional Showers

Tonight High 86 Low 70 No Moon light-2331-1305

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) --Americal Division soldiers accounted for 36 VC killed, 12 suspects detained, and nine weapons captured in southern I Corps yesterday.

The 1st Sqdn., 1st Armored Cav. reported five VC suspects detained by "Dragoons" of C Trp. four miles southwest of Thang Binh.

In the 196th Inf. Bde. area of operations, "Charger" units killed 22 VC, captured eight individual weapons, detained two suspects, and captured 12,425 pounds of rice.

A total of seven VC were killed in five separate contacts by the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. recon. plt., in an area centered five miles south of Hoi An.

"Gimlets" of a 3d Bn., 21st Inf. company engaged a small group of VC 24 miles west of Tam Ky, killing one.

Another company of the battalion killed a total of two VC in two separate actions in an area centered nine miles west of Tam Ky.

A Long Range Patrol killed a total of four VC in two separate actions in an area centered nine miles west of Tam Ky.

A Long Range Patrol killed a total of four VC in two separate actions in an area centered 26 miles west of Tam Ky. All four of the VC were killed by artillery fire directed by the patrol.

F Trp., 17th Cav. killed five VC in a cave 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky when the enemy refused to come out and surrender.

The troop later killed another VC in the same area when he refused to come out of a cave.

The 71st Avn., Co combined with 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers to kill two VC six miles south of Hoi An.

"Guardians of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf. captured a total of 6,800 pounds of rice in three separate caches 24 miles west of Tam Ky.

"Gimlets" of a 4th Bn., 31st Inf. company found 5,625 pounds of rice in several huts 26 miles west of Tam Ky.

A 2d Bn., 1st Inf. company engaged two VC 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Both VC were wounded and detained. One K-44 rifle was captured in that action.

Under the Voluntary Informant Program (VIP), Vietnamese civilians turned in three M-79 rounds, one Chicom grenade, three smoke grenades, one 60mm mortar round, 1/2 pound of C4, 1/4 pound of Flex-X, and 1/4 pound of C3 to "Gimlets" of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf (?3rd Bn., 21st Inf are Gimlets).

Friday the 3d Bn., 21st Inf. received one .45 cal. pistol and six M-72 LAWs from Vietnamese civilians under the VIP.

The Division suffered two soldiers wounded and evacuated for medical treatment.

Vol. 2. No. 192 Monday October 28, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

TUESDAY Partly to Mostly Cloudy Occasional Showers

Morning

High 84 Low 79

-----AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS-----

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Units of the Americal Division accounted for 31 VC and 20 NVA killed, eight suspects detained, and one crew-served and seven individual weapons captured in southern I Corps yesterday.

"Charger" units of the 196th Inf. Bde. killed 17 VC and one NVA, captured one crew-served and four individual weapons, found 2,800 pounds of rice, and detained two suspects.

The 2d Bn., 1st Inf. command and control helicopter killed a total of two VC in two separate incidents 18 miles southwest of Hoi An.

F Trp., 17th Cav. killed a total of four VC in three separate actions in an area centered 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

In the same area F Trp., 17th Cav. found a tunnel with one dead VC in it. A further search of the cave revealed to female VC suspects hiding in the complex.

A 4th Bn., 21st Inf. company killed five VC in a cave eight miles southeast of Hoi An. Two 25-pound blocks of explosives were found in the cave.

The company later engaged a group of VC seven miles southwest of Hoi An, killing one.

Another 4th Bn., 21st Inf. company killed one VC southwest of Tien Phouc.

A 3d Bn., 21st Inf. company engaged a group of VC fleeing a hut nine miles west of Tam Ky, killing three.

The company later killed one NVA in the same area.

F Trp., 17th Cav. found one SKS rifle buried in the ground 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Later a detainee led them to a second SKS near a stream in the same area. A further search of the area revealed one M-60 machinegun hidden in a stream.

A 2d Bn., 1st Inf. company found 50 bags of rice totaling 1,600 pounds 20 miles southwest of Hoi An.

A 4th Bn., 31st Inf. company found 1,200 pounds of rice in a bin next to a hut 20 miles west of Tam Ky.

Vietnamese civilians turned in to the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., under the Voluntary Informant Program, 17 105MM howitzer rounds, five 81mm mortar rounds, 16 M-79 rounds, and two M-72 LAWS.

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SATURDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: partly cloudy with chance of scattered morning showers.

High temperature of 83 and low of 71 moon rise 1337 moon set --0227 (on 27th)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces reported killing two NVA and 25 VC, discovering the bodies of two VC and two NVA, detaining 21 VC suspects and capturing seven weapons as action picked up yesterday following the Christmas standdown in southern I Corps.

Action was heaviest in the 196th Inf. Bde. area where infantry, cavalry, and Mobile Strike Force units killed one NVA and 15 VC and discovered two VC bodies.

Elements of the 1-46 Inf. and 4-31st Inf. accounted for nine VC dead in two incidents west of Tam Ky. An NVA doctor and his nurse were detained by Co. C, 4-31st Inf. in the same general area, and the doctor indicated that his aid station had been destroyed previously. In a pack he carried penicillin and documents.

Recon elements of the 3-21st Inf. killed two VC in separate incidents near Thang Binh, and soldiers at an observation post of the 2-1st Inf. killed one VC about 100 meters from the base.

F Trp., 8th Cav., working part of the day in the 196th area, killed two VC in mid-morning action near Tien Phuoc. F Trp., 17th Cav. discovered two VC bodies, apparently dead several days.

Mobile Strike Force 14 killed one NVA 12 miles west of Que Son in the morning and killed a VC by calling in artillery support nearer Que Son in the afternoon.

Vol. 2 No. 253 SATURDAY December 28, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SUNDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: partly cloudy to cloudy. High temperature of 85 and low of 69. Moonrise 1443 moon set --0337.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces reported killing 16 NVA and 33 VC, discovering 1 VC body, detaining 38 VC suspects and capturing eight individual and one crew-served weapon, and 4 1/2 tons of rice in heavy action in southern I Corps yesterday.

Two NVA and 15 VC were killed, 53 refugees relocated and 4500 pounds of rice captured in the 196th Inf. Bde. area.

The day's largest single encounter with enemy troops occurred outside Cobra, an observation post of the 2-1st Inf. west of Tam Ky. Cobra observed seven VC enter a nearby hooch and called in artillery fire which killed all seven. To the northwest, Tiger another 2-1 OP, located a ton of rice in a hooch.

Co. A, 1-46th Inf. joined the rice harvest by collecting 2500 pounds in three finds 11 miles southwest of Hoi An. Two caches of 800 pounds each were found in two woven baskets and behind a paddy dike while 900 more pounds were unearthed in a hooch.

Troops of the 3-21st Inf., operating in company, OP, and recon groups, accounted for six dead VC northwest of Tam Ky. Co. A killed four VC moving west and took documents from their packs. A 3-21 recon platoon killed one VC scrambling into a hole, while a 3-21 OP called in artillery fire to kill a VC in a bunker complex.

Artillery fire also killed two NVA after Co. A, 4-31st Inf. spotted three NVA in khaki uniforms going west at a point 22 miles west of Tam Ky.

Cavalry units working with 196th troops relocated refugees, and killed two VC northwest of Tam Ky. **F Trp., 17th Cav.**, moving with the 4-31st Inf., helped relocate 53 refugees who asked to be moved from an area 23 miles west of Tam Ky. They were taken to Que Son.

A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., OPCON to the 2-1st Inf., killed two VC moving west, both were carrying M-26 fragmentation grenades.

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

TUESDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: partly cloudy skies. High temp. of 85 and low of 69 degrees. Moon rising 1452 hours and setting at 0317.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces reported killing 21 VC, detaining 10 VC suspects and capturing one weapon and almost six tons of rice in moderate action in southern I Corps yesterday.

The value of **cavalry** and air support was obvious in the 196th Inf. Bde. area where gunships, artillery and ground troops combined to kill five VC and capture one AK-47 rifle and 1850 pounds of rice.

"Blue Ghost" gunships of the 8th Cav. killed two VC 15 miles west of Tam Ky and nine miles further west, an aerial observer working with the 4-31st Inf spotted six VC in the open and directed 3-82 Arty. fire to kill one.

The 3-82 also answered a call from Co. C, 2-1st Inf. after a large group of VC were spotted in a ravine 18 miles southwest of Hoi An. One VC was killed by small arms fire and the gathering routed.

Infantrymen of Co. D, 4-31st Inf. accounted for the other VC kill when they trapped an enemy soldier fleeing a hut five miles from the battle area in the ravine.

Rice caches were seized by **F Trp., 17th Cav.** working with the 4-31st Inf., and a patrol from Tiger Base, A 2-1st Inf. observation post.

F Trp. gathered 1300 pounds of rice from an area in and around hooches 26 miles west of Tam Ky. the OP patrol, moving 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky, found two crocks containing 200 pounds of rice apiece and then discovered cans holding 150 more pounds in a rice paddy area.

Vol. 2. No. 257 Wednesday January 1, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

THURSDAY

Tomorrow's forecast partly cloudy skies with widely scattered showers after 11300. High temp. of 75 and low of 70. Moon rising at 1620 and setting at 0500.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and 38 VC, discovering the bodies of one NVA and one VC, capturing one VC, four individual weapons and a ton of rice, and relocating 84 refugees in heavy action yesterday in southern I Corps.

Action was light as units of the 196th Inf. Bde. operated between Hoi An and Tam Ky and killed eight VC and captured one in six incidents, detained two VC suspects, relocated 84 refugees, and found a ton of rice.

Co. C, 1-46 Inf. relocated 57 refugees from an area 22 miles south of Hoi An to Nui Loc Son, and Co. C's second platoon found 1800 pounds of rice nearby. Later, F Trp., 17th Cav. raised to 85 the number of refugees it has relocated to Nui Loc Son in the past four days by moving 27 people from an area 18 miles west of Tam Ky.

Three VC were killed in one fire-fight with a recon element of the 3-21 Inf. 16 miles west of Tam Ky. All were attempting to flee north. Nearby, Co. C, 3-21 Inf. killed a VC in a khaki uniform as he ran west. Further west, a 3-21 recon element located 200 pounds of rice in hootches.

One VC was killed by Co. D, 1-46 Inf. as he started to lob a grenade near the unit's perimeter 17 miles south of Hoi An. Later, the "Professionals" captured a VC and his AK-47 rifle six miles southwest of Hoi An.

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

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT SATURDAY Tomorrow's forecast: Mostly cloudy with chance of rain showers in the morning. High temp. of 83', low of 68'. Moon rise at 1855 set at 0755.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Increased contact with NVA forces and the largest weapons discovery in almost two weeks highlighted a day of moderate action for Americal Division forces in southern I Corps yesterday.

Division units reported killing six NVA and 13 VC, finding the bodies of four VC, capturing 14 individual and one crew-served weapons and 1000 pounds of rice, detaining 19 VC suspects, and relocating 161 refugees.

Of 15 incidents reported involving contact with enemy forces in the 196th Inf. Bde. area, 10 occurred within a two-mile square area 24 miles west of Tam Ky. There, and throughout the 196th area, five NVA and nine VC were killed, four VC bodies were found, and six weapons were captured.

Action centered around units of the 4-31 Inf. which were involved in eight contacts that accounted for eight enemy dead, four found dead, and all six weapons.

Co. C, 4-31 Inf., working with the 2-1 Inf., ran into small arms fire from an unknown enemy force and killed four NVA in the ensuing firefight 24 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Captured in the action were a .30 caliber machinegun, an SKS rifle, and an AK-47 rifle.

Later in the same area Co. C killed another NVA and took his AK-47.

Slightly further west at 0755 hours, Co. D took on three VC and killed one. At 1340, Co. D engaged an NVA a mile nearer Tam Ky and got his AK-47 and, two hours later, found the bodies of three VC killed by artillery fire.

Co. B killed a VC in the same area at 1420 hours and, six hours later, a recon element of the 4-31 killed a VC there. At 2110 hours, the recon element engaged an NVA and captured his SKS rifle.

Units of Co. A, 3-21 Inf. killed four VC in four small arms firefights from 11-13 miles west of Tam Ky. Other VC kills in the area were credited to **F Trp., 17th Cav.** and "Blue Ghosts" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. Co. A, 2-1 Inf. discovered the body of a VC killed by artillery.

Amidst its contacts with the enemy Co. D, 4-31 Inf. found time to help relocated 105 refugees to Tam Ky from an area 25 miles to the west. Fifty-six more refugees were taken from an area 22 miles west of Tam Ky to Nui Loc Son by F Trp., 17th Cav.

The half-ton of rice was found in two crocks by Co. C, 1-46 Inf. in a search of two hootches 11 miles southwest of Hoi An.

Vol. 3. No. 4 SATURDAY January 4, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SUNDAY

Tomorrow's forecast: Mostly cloudy with rain ENDING ABOUT 1500 HOURS. High temp. of 83' with a low of 72'. Moon rise at 1748 and set at 0822.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Only moderate action was reported throughout the Americal Division yesterday with the companies of the 198th Inf. Bde. accounting for more than half of all enemy soldiers killed.

Three NVA and 25 VC were killed 19 VC suspects detained, seven individual and one crew-served weapon captured 145 refugees relocated, and more than 14 tons of rice discovered in southern I Corps.

Co. A, 3-21 Inf. and Co. A, 4-31 Inf. engaged 22 VC and killed 15 in seven incidents, all firefights, as 196th Inf. Bde. units killed three NVA and 17 VC, captured four weapons and 4200 pounds of rice, and moved 145 refugees.

Co. A, 3-21, led by CPT Thomas Ruffing (Pittsburgh, Pa.), raised its two-day total of VC dead to 11 by killing seven in six incidents during a seven-hour search and clear mission in a rice paddy area 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 4-31 Inf. engaged 12 VC and killed eight 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky and captured two M-1 carbines, an AK-47 rifle and documents.

A recon element of the 4-31 Inf. killed two VC and an NVA in three incidents 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Items captured in the actions included an AK-47 rifle, five magazines, and 150 round of small arms ammunition.

Two NVA were killed by fire from Btry. B, 3-16 Arty. 19 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Vietnamese refugees were relocated in three large groups by F Trp., 17th Cav. and Co. B, 4-31 Inf. F Trp. moved two groups totaling 105 refugees from an area 25 miles west of Tam Ky to Nui Loc Son, while Co. B relocated 40 from 29 miles northwest of Tam Ky to An Hoa.

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

Vol. 3. No. 12 SATURDAY January 12, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with intermittent showers. Winds northeasterly at 10 knots, gusting 20 to 25 knots. High temperature of 85' with a low of 70'. Moon will rise at 0152 hours and set at 1335 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Companies of the 3-21 Inf. continued their personal assault on the enemy as Americal Division forces reported killing three NVA and 29 VC, finding one NVA body, detaining 19 VC suspects, and capturing one individual weapon and 6 1/2 tons of rice in southern I Corps yesterday.

Cos. B, C, and D of the 3-21 Inf. raised their three-day body count to 29 by killing 14 of 21 VC who died in the 196th Inf. Bde. area. In addition 196th units captured 6 1/2 tons of rice and relocated 100 refugees.

At 1000 hours, Co. D, 3-21 Inf. engaged and killed four VC 12 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky and, in two late afternoon encounters, killed two more VC in the same area. Co. C killed three VC in as many incidents 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. B, with 11 kills Thursday and Friday, added five more yesterday. At 1815 hours, Co. B spotted seven VC 9 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky and adjusted artillery fire to kill three. Earlier, the "Gimlets" had found a VC killed by artillery near the same area and, a half hour later, killed a VC with small arms fire.

An element of the 4-31 Inf., operating 20-21 miles west of Tam Ky, killed six VC in three contacts within 20 minutes. The other VC kill was credited to **F Trp., 17th Cav.** which surprised a VC at 0545 hours 20 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

In addition to its three kills, Co. C, 3-21 Inf. captured 4500 pounds of rice 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky in the largest of seven rice discoveries totaling 6 1/2 tons in the 196th area. Units of the 4-31 Inf. accounted for 2700 pounds taken farther west.

Cos. B, C, and D of the 4-31 Inf. also relocated 100 Vietnamese refugees from an area 23-26 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky to Nui Loc Son. Co. D moved 74 refugees, Co. B 20, and Co. C 6.

Five Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 24 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 13 SUNDAY January 13, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT TUESDAY Cloudy to mostly cloudy with showers in the afternoon. Winds will be variable becoming northeasterly in the afternoon at 5 to 10 knots. High temperature of 82' with a low of 67'. Moon will rise at 0254 hours and set at 1425 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Although the body count dipped slightly, the enemy took a beating in his own backyard as units of the 196th Inf. Bde. moved into three base camps to destroy fortifications and confiscate sizable stores of ammunition and equipment to highlight activity in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and 24 VC, finding five NVA bodies, capturing three individual weapons and 5800 pounds of rice, detaining two VC suspects, and relocating 193 Vietnamese refugees.

Cos. C and D of the 2-1 Inf. discovered the base camps, and units of the 3-21 Inf. and 4-31 Inf. totaled 11 of 17 VC killed in the 196th Inf. Bde. area. All 193 refugees moved, and five NVA bodies and 4800 pounds of rice found were also credited to the 196th.

At 0958 hours, Co. C, 2-1 Inf. discovered a base camp 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky in a mountainous jungle area and destroyed 15 hootches and 15 bunkers. Captured were three 12.7mm anti-aircraft gun barrels, 80 .51 caliber rounds, an M-2 carbine stock, a crossbow, machine-gun cleaning equipment, and documents.

At 1225 hours, Co. D, 2-1 Inf., operating 27 miles northwest of Tam Ky under 1LT James R. Sanders (Arvada, Colo.), located another base camp in a thick jungle area. Seven bunkers were destroyed, and 80 more .51 caliber rounds, a bangalore torpedo, five flashlight batteries, two NVA canteens, clothing, and documents were taken.

At 1450, Co. D struck again three miles nearer Tam Ky to find a camp serving as an apparent NVA commo station. Sixty-nine bunkers, 20 hootches, and two tunnel complexes were destroyed.

Among items captured were nine NVA field phones, two portable switchboards, a PRC-10 radio, two NVA 45-volt batteries, a commo repair kit, 20 NVA uniforms, six NVA rucksacks, six NVA gas masks, 10 M-79 rounds, and 100 pounds of rice.

Cos. A, C, and D of the 3-21 Inf. killed six VC in five incidents in an area 14-16 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky. Elements of the 4-31 Inf. killed four VC in the same general area and one southwest of Tam Ky.

Co. C, 3-21 Inf. killed one VC running in a rice paddy at 1400 hours and, 20 minutes later, killed two more and captured enough food, still warm, for five people. Cos. A and D killed single VC in brief firefights.

One element of the 4-31 Inf. killed two VC while the recon unit and Cos. B and C killed one apiece. All the incidents involved small firefights, except that of Co. B which caught three VC with hand grenades in a tunnel and killed one.

F Trp., 17th Cav. discovered five VC killed by artillery fire in the previous 24 hours in a rice paddy 1 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Eight hours later and 2 1/2 miles further away, Co. C, 2nd Inf. found the bodies of five NVA killed in air strikes in mid-December.

The other VC killed was by a "Blue Ghosts" gunship of F Trop., 8th Cav., also 15 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

F Trp., 17th Cav. and Co. B, 4-31 Inf. moved four groups of refugees from 23 and 28 miles northwest of Tam Ky respectively. F Trp. relocated 104 to Nui Loc Son and 72 to Que Son, while Co B moved 17 to Nui Loc Son.

Co B also found and sent to Nui Loc Son 4800 pounds of rice taken from two hootches 28 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Other 196th units reported finding

"Blue Ghosts" gunships got their second and third VC kills of the day in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area. At 1450 hours, one VC was killed 5 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky and, at 1530, the other was killed seven miles north of Tam Ky.

One Americal Division soldier was killed, and 13 were wounded and evacuated, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 16 THURSDAY January 16, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT FRIDAY Mostly cloudy to cloudy with showers in the morning. Winds from the northeast less than 15 knots. High temperature of 82° with a low of 68°. Moon will rise at 0614 hours and set at 1736 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Twenty three of 30 weapons, more than were captured in the previous 11 days combined, and a large supply of parts and ammunition were uncovered by two companies of the 2-1 Inf. during light action in the southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces also reported killing three NVA and 12 VC, finding three VC bodies, detaining 22 VC suspects, and capturing almost eight tons of rice in two caches.

The light action extended to Operation Russell Beach as joint assault troops again concentrated on removal of Vietnamese civilian refugees from the area before pushing forward to root out enemy troops and fortifications.

Acting on a tip from an NVA prisoner, Cos. C and D, 2-1 Inf. combed an area 23-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky to uncover a cache of 14 individual and nine crew-served plus parts and ammo for those and other weapons.

Other action in the 196th Inf. Bde. area saw two NVA and two VC killed, two more weapons and 13,800 pounds of rice taken, and 21 refugees relocated.

Co. D, led by 1LT James Sanders (Arvada, Colo.) made the main discovery at 1430 hours by turning up 10 SKS rifles, five Chicom light machineguns, a 12.7mm anti-aircraft machinegun, a 7.62mm heavy machinegun, an RPG-7 launcher, and an M-16 rifle.

Also captured were two 81mm and one 60mm mortar sights, an 81mm mortar mount, a Chicom recoilless rifle mount, an M191A1 tripod for a .30 caliber machinegun, two AK-47 rifle barrels, 14 bangalore torpedoes, and 700 electrical blasting caps.

An hour earlier, Co. C. took a .50 caliber machine gun, 75 rounds of RPG-7 ammo, 1600 rounds of 12.7mm ammo, and 1000 feet of det cord. Co. C also destroyed 55 huts and 40 bunkers.

Co. D continued digging and found 13 B-40 rockets, 12 82mm mortar rounds, two shields for a 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun, 1000 more feet of det cord, and an undetermined amount of AK-47 ammo.

Nearby, the third platoon of Co. D raided a hootch and left with an 82mm mortar sight found with aiming sticks and a bore brush, 12 NVA packs, six NVA gas masks, five NVA rucksacks, and a U.S. steel pot.

In the morning, Co. D had killed two NVA in a nearby firefight and captured two AK-47 rifles. The other weapon taken was a .38 caliber pistol used by a VC wounded and captured by Co. A, 4-31 Inf. 20 miles west of Tam Ky.

The VC kills were by Cos. D and C, 3-21 Inf. 11 and 14-1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky. Co. B, 3-21 Inf. located 13,800 pounds of rice, including six tons found 9-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky. Three tons went to the refugee center at Nui Loc Son. Co. B also destroyed two new NVA hootches in the vicinity.

F Trp., 17th Cav., which destroyed three recently-used hootches and ferreted miscellaneous enemy equipment from a tunnel, also moved 17 refugees to Que Son from an area 22 miles west of Tam Ky. Co. C, 4-31 Inf. moved four refugees from than area to Nui Loc Son.

"Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav., killed five VC in four incidents west-northwest of Tam Ky, and A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. killed one VC west of Tam Ky in comparatively heavy action in the 1-1 area.

Seven Americal Division soldiers were killed and 15 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 17 SUNDAY January 17, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with showers in the morning and afternoon. Winds will be from the northwest in the morning and from the northeast in the afternoon at 5-8 knots. High temperature, 81', lows 67'. Moon rises: 0715, set 1844.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Major contact with an NVA force southwest of Quang Ngai City, and the first big step forward in Operation Russell Beach highlighted increased enemy contact in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing nine NVA and 21 VC, detaining 29 enemy suspects, and capturing 11 individual weapons and 7200 pounds of rice.

Led by three companies of the 3-21 Inf., units of the 196th Inf. Bde. killed one NVA and nine VC, and captured one weapon and 3800 pounds of rice.

Co. B, 3-21 Inf. killed three VC in two contacts 9 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky. Co. C killed two in separate firefights 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and Co. A engaged three and killed two in one incident 13 miles west of Tam Ky.

An element of the 1-46 Inf. spotted two VC in the open and killed them 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky; and **F Trp., 17th Cav.** saw three NVA running southwest, killed one with small arms fire, and captured his AK-47 rifle 21 miles west of Tam Ky.

F Trp. also moved 73 Vietnamese from the same area to the refugee center at Que Son.

Co. C, 2-1 Inf. and Co. B, 4-31 Inf. discovered 2000 and 1800 pounds of rice, respectively, and Co. C added 300 pounds of salt.

C Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. engaged and killed a VC 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky in the only incident reported in the 1-1 area.

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

Vol. 3. No. 20 MONDAY January 20, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

TUESDAY

Fair to partly cloudy. Winds from the southwest by west at 5 knots. High temperature of 86' with a low of 65'. Moon will rise at 0943 hours and will set at 2147 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--A surprise attack on the 3-1 Inf. headquarters and more activity than usual in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area highlighted moderate action in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing four NVA and 20 VC, detaining 38 VC suspects, and capturing two individual weapons.

Americal units in Operation Russell Beach moved their cordon forward on the Batangan Peninsula and killed on VC while destroying numerous enemy fortifications, mines, and booby traps.

At 2335 hours Saturday, the 3-1 Inf. headquarters received 35-40 rounds of 80mm mortar fire and a ground attack. An estimated two sapper squads infiltrated the perimeter and detonated hand grenades, satchel charges, and RPG rounds.

American casualties were described as light while enemy casualties were unknown. Enemy RPG fire was directed at the same site late last night but impacted outside the perimeter.

Two troops of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. killed one NVA and four VC and captured an AK-47 rifle, and F Trp., 8th Cav. killed an NVA in the busy 1-1 area.

C Trp. engaged six VC at 1445 hours and killed three 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky. At 1115, A Trp. killed an NVA and took his AK-47 six miles southwest of Tam Ky and, three hours later, killed a VC a half-mile away.

The F Trp. "Blue Ghosts" killed and NVA seven miles west of Tam Ky just after noon.

Three battalions of the 196th Inf. Bde. killed two NVA and six VC and captured one weapon. Units of the 2-1 Inf. killed four of the enemy, and two companies of the 3-21 Inf. killed three.

An element of the 2-1 Inf. engaged and killed two VC 18 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky. In Operation Fayette Canyon, Cos. C and D, 2-1 Inf. killed one NVA apiece in an area 22-23 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Co. C recovered an AK-47.

Co. C, 3-21 Inf. killed two VC in separate incidents 11 1/2 and 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and Co. D, 3-21 Inf. killed one 11 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky. The other VC kill went to a recon unit of the 1-46 Inf. in a brief firefight 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

F Trp., 17th Cav. and Co. C, 4-31 Inf. relocated 75 refugees. F Trp. moved groups of 19 and 33 and 1000 pounds of rice from 22-23 miles northwest of Tam Ky to Que Son. Co. C moved 23 refugees to Nui Loc Son from 23 miles west of Tam Ky.

Three Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 15 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 21 TUESDAY January 21, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy. Winds from the east at 5-10 knots. High temperature will be about 85' with a low of 68'. Moon will rise at 1022 hours and will set at 2240 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--More and heavier contact with NVA troops and continued success in operation Russell Beach that included discovery of almost 15 tons of salt, culminated a busy day in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing 14 NVA and 22 VC, finding two VC bodies, detaining 45 VC suspects, and capturing two individual weapons plus 29,110 pounds of salt and 7450 pounds of rice.

Topped by the 3-21 Inf., one of the Americal's most active units this month, the 196th Inf. Bde. totaled 10 VC killed, 1100 pounds of rice taken, and 37 refugees relocated.

Three units of the 3-21 killed six VC to bring the battalion total VC kill to 106 through the first 20 days this month. On only one day in that period did the 3-21 fail to kill at least one VC, with its high coming Jan. 11 when 14 VC were killed.

The 3-21 recon unit killed four VC in three incidents yesterday. One died at 1115 hours 14 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky and , at 1530, the unit registered kills in two places---one where the morning action occurred and 1 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

In Operation Fayette Canyon, an Americal Long Range Patrol surprised and killed three VC 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and Co. B, 1-46 Inf. killed a VC two miles nearer Tam Ky.

F Trp., 17th Cav. and Co. A, 4-31 Inf. found rice caches of 300 and 800 pounds, respectively, and Cos. B and D, 4-31 Inf. moved two groups totaling 37 refugees from an area 27--28 miles west of Tam Ky to Nui Loc Son.

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

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

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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.

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.

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.

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.

Vol. 3. No. 39 SATURDAY February 8, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SUNDAY

Tomorrow's forecast calls for cloudy to mostly cloudy skies. Winds will be variable at 5-15 knots. High temperature of 75' with a low of 65'. The moon will rise at 2340 hours and will set at 1132 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--A day of firefights for Co. A, 3-21 Inf. and a day of discoveries for F Trp., 17th Cav. gave the 196th Inf. Bde. the best overall showing among Americal Division units yesterday.

Throughout southern I Corps, Americal forces reported killing 57 VC, detaining 10 VC suspects, capturing five individual weapons, finding 9 1/2 tons of rice, and relocating 260 refugees as action increased sharply.

Co. A, 3-21 Inf., led by CPT Thomas Ruffing (Pittsburgh, Pa.), killed 14 VC in six incidents, and F Trp., 17th Cav. found 19,000 pounds of rice in two caches, three sugar cane factories, and an abandoned VC marketplace. Other 196th elements killed four VC and captured three weapons.

Between 0930 and 1345 hours, Co. A engaged VC elements six times from 12 1/2 - 13 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky. eight VC were killed in three actions in the same place.

Co. C, 3-21 Inf. killed a VC 16 miles west of Tam Ky, and the 3-21 recon unit killed a VC 12 1/2 miles west-south-west of Tam Ky.

Co. B, 2-1 Inf. fired on its perimeter after two trip flares were ignited at 2019 Thursday night. A daylight check revealed one VC killed 24 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

An Americal Long Range Patrol, operating 24 1/2 miles west-southwest of Tam Ky, killed a VC fleeing an attempt to capture him.

In a hole covered by weeds, Co. B, ?-46 Inf. found three BARs three B-40 rockets, and a bangalore torpedo.

Cos. B and C, 2-1 Inf. moved the major refugee groups- 89 and 148 people, respectively--to An Hoa from an area 24 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky. Recon and Co. C, 4-31 Inf. moved 23 more refugees in three groups to Nui Loc Son from 21-23 miles west of Tam Ky.

F Trp. discoveries were made in a small area 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky. At 1900 Thursday, F Trp. found 150 abandoned huts containing nine tons of polished rice and, yesterday, F Trp. turned up nine 100-pound bags of dried potatoes in one hut and nearby found 1000 pounds of sandbagged rice in graves.

F Trp. also found three abandoned sugar cane factories, each 30 by 40 feet with grinding wheels and vats and 4500 pounds of brown sugar. One factory was in operating condition and had been used recently. Six small bags of vegetables and eight bags of dried fish were also taken.

Arranged on both sides of a trail were 15 huts forming a marketplace nearby. A sign on one hut urged Vietnamese people to rebel against American and South Vietnamese and "rally" to the VC cause. The structures were destroyed and the signs extracted.

"Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed five VC in as many encounters in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area.

Two kills occurred 14 1/2 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky. The others took place nine miles west-northwest and seven and 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

MALARIA PLAYS NO FAVORITES--REMEMBER TO TAKE THAT MALARIA PILL DAILY.

Vol. 3. No. 41 MONDAY February 10, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

TUESDAY

Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds will be from the east-southeast at 5-10 knots. High temperature will be about 86' with a low of about 65'. The moon will rise at 0146 hours and will set at 1311 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--One of the largest weapons caches found by an Americal Division unit in the Vietnam war was discovered yesterday by Co. C, **1-52nd Inf.** to highlight a day of moderate action in southern I Corps.

Americal forces reported killing 39 VC, detaining 15 VC suspects, and capturing 66 weapons, three crew-served. Also, 68 refugees were relocated, and 3500 pounds of rice were found and destroyed.

Nine VC were killed in seven actions in the 196th Inf. Bde. area where 3500 pounds of rice were found, and 68 refugees were relocated.

In Operation Fayette Canyon, Co. B, 2-1 Inf. killed a VC 26 1/2 miles west northwest of Tam Ky and, with Co. C, 2-1 Inf., moved the refugees in three groups from that area to An Hoa.

A UH-1 helicopter of the 26th Engr. Bn., working with the 3-21 Inf., took ground fire and returned it to kill two VC 14 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

The recon unit of the 1-46 Inf. found 3500 pounds of rice in two caches in wooden crocks 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Nearby, Co. A, 3-21 Inf. killed a VC and, 11 miles west of Tam Ky, Co. B, 3-21 Inf. also killed a VC. Two miles beyond the recon unit, Co. A, 1-46 Inf. killed a VC.

The second platoon of **F Trp., 17th Cav.** killed two VC after they threw a grenade out of a spider hole 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and F Trp., 8th Cav. killed a VC 21 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Four Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 14 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Volume 2 No. 42 Americal Daily New Sheet TUESDAY February 11, 1969
[Note: only Americal related articles were transcribed]

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds will be southerly at 5-15 knots. High temperature will be about 86° with a low of about 66. The moon will rise at 0251 hours and will set at 1411 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)— F Trp., 17th Cav. and Co. B, 2-1 Inf. working separately, yesterday killed two NVA and three VC without suffering a casualty in Operation Fayette Canyon.

A good ratio ? as good as can be, and it's indicative of what's been happening in the 196th Inf. Bde. operation designed to root out enemy troops in a mountainous jungle area some 25 miles west and northwest of Tam Ky.

Throughout southern I Corps yesterday, Americal Division forces reported killing seven NVA and 30 VC, detaining 70 VC suspects and capturing 12 weapons, one crew served.

Including the Fayette Canyon success, 196th units killed two NVA and 14 VC and captured an SKS rifle.

F Trp., 17th Cav. killed three VC in two incidents 24 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and Co B killed two NVA in separate actions 25 and 25 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Those kills brought to 173 NVA and 78 VC killed and 65 NVA and five VC bodies found the totals for the 57 days since Operation Fayette Canyon began Dec. 15. In that time, only two Americal soldiers have been killed, placing the over-all ratio at slightly better than 160 to 1.

Fayette Canyon has also produced 34 enemy suspects, four NVA prisoners of war, three Hoi Chanh, and 69 weapons, 14 of them crew-served.

Elsewhere in the 196th area, Co. A, 3-21 Inf. chased three VC who escaped into a spider hold [sic] 12 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky. When they refused to emerge, the three VC were killed along with a fourth VC already in the hole with an SKS that was seized. The 3-21 recon unit killed three VC at the same distance but west-southwest of Tam Ky.

Co. C, 4-31., working with Popular Force troops, killed two VC in separate incidents 24 miles west of Tam Ky and then helped 13 refugees more from the area to Nui Loc Son. Co. A, 4-31 Inf. relocated 44 refugees to Nui Lac Son from an area 13 miles west of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 1-46 killed a VC 16 miles west of Tam Ky and found 1500 pounds of rice beneath the floor of a nearby hut. A mile nearer Tam Ky, the 1-46 recon unit killed a VC.

Working with the 1-46 Inf., an element of F Trp., 17th Cav. found 2100 pounds of rice in two caches in a hole camouflaged with brush 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Co. D, 4-31 Inf. found 500 pounds of rice 20 miles west of Tam Ky.

"Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed an NVA and a VC in a 25-minute span 3 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky to account for all the action in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area. Neither kill occurred in Hardin Falls, the 1-1's current combat operation north-northwest of Tam Ky.

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

Vol. 3 No. 44 THURSDAY February 13, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

FRIDAY

Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds will be from the south-southeast at 5-15 knots. High temperature will be about 85 with a low of about 65. Moon will rise at 0357 hours and will set at 1623 hours.

Americal Division News

CHU LAI (Americal IO)---In surprisingly light action, Americal Division forces reported killing nine VC, detaining seven VC suspects, and capturing an individual weapon in southern I Corps yesterday.

Not since Christmas Day have fewer enemy kills been reported in the Americal area, and the total of nine has been equaled only twice since, most recently on Jan. 13.

Four elements of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed four VC and captured an M-72 LAW rocket in four incidents in the Duc Pho area.

Co. A, 1-20 Inf. engaged and killed two VC 12-1/2 miles north-northwest of Duc Pho and, at the same time nearby, E. Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. killed one VC.

A mile north of Duc Pho, **Co. B. 1-20 Inf.** killed a VC while, a half-mile closer to Duc Pho, Co. C, 3-1 Inf. discovered the LAW rocket.

The recon unit of the 4-3 Inf., OPCON to the 198th Inf. Bde., engaged four VC and killed three 8-1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City in the lone contact with enemy troops in the 198th area.

A half-mile further northwest, Co. B, 4-3 Inf. discovered five 60mm rounds, four 81mm rounds, two M-79 rounds, a mine, and two beer cans filled with explosives. All the ammo was blown in place.

The 1-15 ARVN Inf., working with the **1-52nd Inf.** seven miles south-southwest of Tam Ky, found an ammo cache in a tunnel. Captured were four B-41 rockets, nine B-40 rockets, 72 M-26 grenades, four 60mm rounds and 2000 AK-47 rounds.

Near the ARVN find, choppers of the 176th Aslt. Hel. Co. destroyed five structures.

Two VC were killed, and an NVA base camp and hospital complex was found in the 196th Inf. Bde. area.

At 0800 hours, Co. B, 3-21 Inf. killed a VC 11-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky and, at 1615, F. **Trp., 17th Cav.** killed one of two VC engaged 12-1/2 miles s??est-northwest of Tam Ky.

The NVA complex was turned up by Co. A, 4-31 Inf. on patrol 25 miles west-southwest of Tam Ky. In the area was a mess hall featuring 10 tables, an NVA banner, and a picture of Ho Chi Minh. In large cooking pots in the kitchen were 500 pounds of rice.

In addition to assorted medical supplies, the hospital included 15 beds and an area for making crutches and artificial limbs. There were also three huts with sleeping positions.

No Americal Division soldiers were killed or wounded.

Vol. 3 No. 45 FRIDAY February 14, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SATURDAY

Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies in the morning, becoming mostly cloudy in the afternoon. Chance of isolated rain showers in the afternoon. Winds will be southwesterly at 5-15 knots. High temperature, 84°, low, 65°.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--F Trp., 17th Cav. and Popular Force soldiers, working together, were the most productive units during a second consecutive day of very light action in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and 10 VC, finding one VC body, detaining eight VC suspects, and capturing eight individual weapons.

F Trp. and the PF's killed four VC in three incidents that comprised all the action in the 196th Inf. Bde area.

At 0850 hours, the two units detained two VC suspects and killed one when he tried to escape. Another escape attempt was foiled at 1330 when two VC were found hiding in a hole and were killed when they tried to flee.

At 1130, a tunnel found in a river bank was cleared with grenades. One VC was killed, and three VC suspects were detained. The latter two actions occurred 11-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky and the first a half-mile further away.

Forward Air Control pilots of the 198th directed five air strikes that destroyed three structures and damaged two, destroyed 50 meters of trenches, and caused one secondary fire.

**** "Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed a VC 9-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky in the only incident in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area.

**** A UH-1 resupply helicopter crashed and burned after striking a steel utility pole on takeoff 4-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky. Exploding ammo inside the chopper caused the fire. Eight Americans were injured and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. [14th Avn Bn, BT353184 at 1345H. 1) Resupply chopper lifting off from CAP 113 position struck telephone pole, crashed and burned. 2) D/O comp for 8 NBW (E) to 312th Surg.]

Excluding the chopper crash, three Americal Division soldiers were killed, and nine were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 47 SUNDAY February 16, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

MONDAY

Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds will be east-southerly at 5-15 knots. High temperature will be about 85° with a low of about 68°. Moon rise will be at 0733 and will set at 1930.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--"Shark" and "Aero Scout" gunship pilots provided strong air support, and the 6-11 Arty. joined elements of three battalions on the ground to help the 11th Inf. Bde. total 18 VC kills in 10 scattered incidents yesterday.

Throughout southern I Corps, Americal Division forces reported killing 33 VC, detaining nine VC suspects, and capturing one individual weapon.

Co. B, 3-21 Inf. killed five VC in three incidents to top 196th Inf. Bde. units which totaled nine VC killed in six encounters.

At 1130, the first and second platoons of Co. B each killed two VC 11-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky. Co. B added a fifth VC kill at 1910 a half-mile nearer Tam Ky.

The recon unit of the 4-31 Inf. killed two VC 21 miles west of Tam Ky, and "Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav. engaged two VC and killed one 23-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky. **F Trp., 17th Cav.** also engaged two VC and killed on 9-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Units of the 198th Inf. Bde. killed six VC and captured one weapon, while a Forward Air Control pilot and another "Aero Scout" pilot used air strikes and the gunship to raise havoc with enemy fortifications.

An Americal Long Range Patrol engaged seven VC, killed three and captured a Springfield model 03 rifle in a brief skirmish 11 miles southwest of Chu Lai.

Near the Batangan Peninsula, Co. B and recon, 4-3 Inf. killed three VC in two incidents six miles northeast of Quang Ngai.

Air Force CPT Jack L. Dickens (Madison, W. Va.) directed 12 air strikes throughout the 198th area to destroy 13 structures and damage one, and cause seven secondary fires and a secondary explosion.

"Aero Scout" pilot 1LT Thomas O'Hara (Boston, Mass.) destroyed 26 huts some eight miles southwest of Tam Ky.

**** In the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area, B Trp., 1-1 found and destroyed a tunnel complex, two new bunkers, and trench lines in areas 4-1/2 and six miles west of Tam Ky.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

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This News Sheet is published daily under the supervision of the IO, Americal Division APO 96374 as an authorized Army publication. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

**** The South Vietnamese Government yesterday announced a 24-hour allied standdown starting at 1800 hours today. Enemy forces had previously declared a seven-day truce beginning yesterday in observance of the TET holidays.

**** One Americal Division soldier was killed, and seven were wounded and evacuated for medial treatment, according to an initial report.

In the past week, 12 VC and 189 NVA were killed in the Americal area. Fewer than 10 Americal Division soldiers were killed.

Vol. 3 No. 54 SUNDAY February 23, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDERS

Why did SGT Dimball carry eight passengers in a jeep? We'll never know-he ran off the road and rolled over twice.

****Stop signs are for your protection. Obey them.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)----Striking with small arms fire, recoilless rifle, mortar, and rocket fire, enemy forces directed 37 attacks against 30 allied positions in southern I Corps between 0117 and 0700 hours this morning.

NVA and VC elements, sometimes working together, made ground probes at six sites, three of which were manned by Regular Force units and one of which is an ARVN OP.

The Chu Lai Defense Command area was hit at 0152, 0230, and 0700 hours by 82mm mortar and 122mm rocket rounds. The first barrage included 18-20 82mm mortars, the second three 122mm rockets, and the third brought at least 12 rocket rounds approximately 40 minutes after daybreak.

Other Americal Division positions attacked by the enemy included the following LZs: Bronco (four attacks), Bayonet (two), Gator, Cork, Dottie, Liz, Buff, Hawk Hill, Baldy, Hill 69, Professional, and Hill 38. Among other sites hit were Binh Son, Tam Ky, Song Tinh, and the An Tan bridge area.

First reports showed at least 19 enemy soldiers killed, and at least 16 individual weapons captured. Fifteen kills and all the weapons were recorded by A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. which subdued a large enemy force slightly west of Tam Ky at 0740.

Fewer than 10 Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 51 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to initial reports. A preliminary assessment of Americal positions under attack indicated that damage was light.

**** Action before 2400 hours in southern I Corps was moderate and divided almost evenly throughout the Americal's three brigade area. Twenty-six contacts with enemy units were made.

Americal forces reported killing six NVA and 29 VC, detained 26 VC suspects, capturing seven individual weapons, and evacuating 4350 pounds of rice.

**** Four elements of the 4-31 Inf. and two of the 2-1 Inf. killed five NVA and five VC and captured four weapons in the 196th Inf. Bde. area. A sixth NVA was also killed.

Co. D, 2-1 Inf. and its companion Popular Force team were involved in the area's largest single encounter at 0822 hours when an unknown-size enemy force sprang an ambush 20-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

After receiving 15-20 rounds of automatic weapons fire, Co. D and the PF's returned fire to kill two NVA and a VC. A later sweep of the rugged area turned up two SKS rifles and two M-16 rifles.

In three actions, Co. D, 4-31 Inf. killed an NVA and a VC and Co. B, 4-31 Inf. killed two NVA 26 miles west of Tam Ky. Co. A engaged three VC with mortar fire and killed one a mile closer to Tam Ky while a UH-1 helicopter with the 4-31 killed a VC 18 miles west of Tam Ky.

A 2-1 Inf. observation post spotted seven VC nearby and directed artillery fire to kill one 19 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The remaining NVA was killed by Co. A, 1-46 Inf. 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

F. Trp., 17th Cav., working an area 14-1/2-15-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky, found and evacuated 4350 pounds of rice in five caches ranging from 600 to 1700 pounds apiece.

"Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed three VC in as many incidents in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area between 1642 and 1735. The actions occurred 6-1/2 miles and eight miles west of Tam Ky and 10 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Prior to 2400, one Americal Division soldier was killed, and 12 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 58 THURSDAY February 27, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

There once was a GI named McGuire,
Who threw live ammo in the fire.
It was an accident they all said,
But poor McGuire is dead,
And now his commands come from much higher.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action returned to a more normal pace yesterday as the newly-proclaimed enemy offensive slogged through its fourth day in southern I Corps.

In 15 ground contacts and nine by air, Americal Division forces killed one NVA and 27 VC, found five VC bodies, and captured three individual weapons.

The first three days of the latest enemy push, termed an "offensive" yesterday by the U.S. command in Saigon, have resulted in 184 NVA and 288 VC dead in the Americal area.

Enemy units continued to harass Americal positions yesterday and early this morning by shelling three LZs, an Observation Post, and a province capital. One sector of the Chu Lai Defense Command area received two 122mm rockets which caused no casualties or damage at 2315 hours yesterday.

**** In seven incidents, elements of three battalions killed an NVA and five VC, found 15 VC bodies, and captured three weapons in the 198th Inf. Bde. area.

Five VC were killed and 1800 pounds of rice found in the 196th Inf. Bde. area.

Co. D, 4-31 Inf. killed two of four VC engaged 24 miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. B, 4-31 Inf. killed a VC four miles nearer Tam Ky.

F. Trp., 17th Cav. killed a VC 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and Co. C, 2-1 Inf. killed another 3-1/2 miles further northwest.

Co. B, 1-46 Inf. found and evacuated 1000 pounds of rice 20 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky while Co. A, 2-1 Inf. found 800 pounds of rice 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

**** "Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed eight VC in seven incidents in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area. Four kills occurred 5-9 miles north, two 15-15-1/2 miles north-northwest, and the last eight miles northwest of Tam Ky.

155 mm howitzers from B Btry., 3rd Bn., 16th Arty., commanded by CPT Reginald Fontenot (Lake Charles, La.) fired 54 rounds in support of Civilian Irregular Defense Group forces at Tien Phuoc CIDG Camp. One secondary explosion, which produced a huge fireball, was recorded. A large number of enemy soldiers were believed to have been killed.

**** Six Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 15 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

****An M-16 rifle is good only as a club if it won't fire. Take care of your rifle, and it will take care of you.

Vol. 3 No. 59 FRIDAY February 28, 1969
MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER
Blow your Mind on R&R,
Not your live ammo in the trash dump.

Four on the floor with a power shift means a Report of Survey-which ain't no gift.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Cos. A and C, 1-46 Inf. and a UH-1 helicopter working with the 1-46 killed 16 VC to highlight moderate action in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces engaged enemy units 17 times and reported killing 38 VC. One weapon was found but not during enemy contact.

In the fifth day of their offensive, enemy forces mortared or rocketed LZs, one observation post, two night defensive positions, one Special Forces camp, and one district headquarters in the Americal area.

Enemy losses total 840 killed and 120 weapons captured since Sunday in southern I Corps. Fewer than 25 Americal soldiers have been killed.

**** In addition to the 1-46 Inf.'s 16 kills, three other units and a Forward Air Control pilot killed eight VC in the 196th Inf. Bde. area. A K-44 rifle was also captured.

In five incidents between 0930 and 1315 hours, elements of Co. A, 1-46 Inf. killed seven VC 19-20-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The major encounter at 0930 left three VC dead, and another was killed 15 minutes later.

Not far from Co. A, the UH-1 killed four VC in two encounters 20-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky at 0815 and 0855. Less than an hour later in the same area, the UH-1 confirmed five VC killed in an air strike directed by 196th FAC pilot Air Force CPT Stephen J. Maechtlin (Cleveland Heights, Ohio).

Co. C, 1-46 Inf., operating 16-17 miles northwest of Tam Ky, killed two of an estimated 101-12 VC engaged at 0930 and, at 1845, killed three VC after receiving 75 M-79 rounds from an unknown-size enemy force.

Working with the 1-46 Inf. nearby, **F Trp., 17th Cav.** killed a VC.

The other VC kills went to Co. D, 4-31 Inf. 24 miles west of Tam Ky and to Co. C, 3-21 Inf. 10 miles nearer Tam Ky. Co. A, 2-1 Inf. found the K-44 19 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

**** Eight Americal Division soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

****SERGEANT REUP SAYS:

Mechanics and drivers are in short supply. See your career counselor about OJT in one of these fields.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA

Knowledge of effects and prevention of malaria can save you needless suffering.

There are five rules in the prevention of malaria, that, when followed, will effectively reduce the possibility of contracting the disease, and they are:

1. Keep those sleeves rolled down during the hours of darkness.
2. Use an insect repellent on areas of the skin that can't be covered.
3. Use your mosquito netting.
4. Use your insecticide spray whenever possible. Spray tents, buildings, bunkers, and any other kinds of shelters.
5. The fifth, and most important of the rules, is to take "THE PILL." Be sure to take the small white pill daily and the larger orange-colored pill on a weekly basis.

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

Prevent an accident today:

THINK
BEFORE YOU
ACT

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)- Co. A, 1-46 Inf. raised its one week total of enemy killed to 35 to highlight increased action throughout southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces made 22 contacts with the enemy and reported killing one NVA and 46 VC, detaining 11 enemy suspects, and capturing one crew-served weapon.

In addition to seven VC killed by Co. A, 1-46 Inf., units the of the 196th Inf. Bde. killed six VC, relocated 29 Vietnamese refugees, and found and destroyed 2200 pounds of rice.

Co. A's action came in five encounters between 0730 and 1315 hours 18-1/2 miles and 18 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky. Co. A has accounted for two NVA and 36 VC killed since Feb. 27.

Co. C, 1-46 Inf. killed a VC 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and F Trp., 17th Cav., working with 1-46 units, found the 2200 pounds of rice 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky at 1545 and killed a VC there at 1630.

Working 15 miles southwest of Tam Ky, "Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp. 8th Cav. killed two VC. F Trp. was supporting 3-21 Inf. elements.

Co. D, 4-31 Inf. killed a VC 24 miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. D, 2-1 Inf. killed a VC 18 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

"Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. scored their third kill of the day when they caught an evading VC in the 1st Sqdrn, 1st Cav. area 9-1/2 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky.

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

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

You're a clunker
On guard in a bunker
If you'd abuse
The weapon you use.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--- Elements of the **1-52nd Inf.**, the 3-21 Inf. and the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. joined the 6th ARVN Regt. in a day-long engagement with an unknown size enemy force in which nine NVA and one VC were killed and seven individual weapons captured 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky yesterday.

Throughout the southern I Corps, Americal Division units made 19 contacts with the enemy and reported killing eight NVA and 30 VC and capturing eight individual weapons. **F Trp., 17th Cav** found 12-1/2 tons of rice in four locations northwest of Tam Ky.

F Trp., 17th Cav. found seven tons of rice 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky, three tons were found buried in baskets and the other four in cement crocks under ground. Regional Force troops later found another 18-1/2 tons of rice in the area.

F Trp. discovered five more tons buried in cement crocks seven miles northwest of Tam Ky, and another 1,000 pounds buried in cement crocks under hedgerows 20-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The rice will be extracted.

Co. A, 1-46th Inf. spotted and killed four VC 20 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

In the 11th Inf. Bde. area, 15 VC were killed.

At 0830 hours, 3-1 Inf. SRP team spotted an unknown size VC force and called for support from Btry. C, 3-18 Arty. which killed five VC.

At 1350 hours, "Shark" helicopters of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. spotted five VC three miles northwest of Duc Pho and killed four wearing packs. Flying the gunships were WO1 John Pennington (Newark, Ohio) and WO1 John Gendreau (Bellflower, Calif.).

Co. A, 3-1 Inf. spotted and killed one VC and captured one unidentified weapon 11 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Three of five VC killed in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area went to "Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. in scattered action north and northwest of Tam Ky.

F Trp. killed three VC in separate incidents, nine and ten miles north and 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. killed two VC 6-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Six Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 42 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 68 Sunday March 9, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

Sleep set in

From eye to eye

And, in less than a wink

Charlie slipped by.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Elements of the 198th and 196th Inf. Bdes and the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. engaged an unknown-size enemy force 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky for the second consecutive day in which nine NVA were killed and four weapons captured yesterday.

Americal Division units made 24 contacts with the enemy in southern I Corps and reported killing 19 NVA and 21 VC, while detaining six enemy suspects, and capturing 10 weapons, one crew-served.

F Trp., 17th Cav. found a 20-ton rice cache in an area 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

F. Trp., 17th Cav., working with 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky found 20 tons of unpolished rice buried in crocks under hootches in the hamlet of An Binh. The rice was extracted. The find brought to 41 tons F Trp.'s total rice discovery in the past week.

Co. A, 3-21 Inf. of the 196th Inf. Bde. killed three NVA and captured two AK-47 and one K-50 rifles two miles away. Co. D, 3-21 killed one NVA seven miles southwest of Tam Ky.

B. Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. killed done VC a half-mile away.

In other action by units of the 196th Bde., Co. A, 1-46 Inf. killed five VC and captured an SKS rifle 20 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky.

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

Ten Americal soldiers were killed and 60 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

In the past week, 49 NVA and 189 VC were killed in the Americal Division area. In that time, 35 Americal soldiers were killed.

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.

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, **1-52nd Inf.** killed one NVA one mile away.

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.

Vol. 3 No. 70 Tuesday March 11, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

A Viet Cong flag is a prize,
In any shape, form, or size.
But if to it's connected
A charge well selected
It's you,
Not the flag, that'll rise.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was relatively light with most of the action around Duc Pho for the third consecutive day yesterday. The "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed 20 VC and six NVA, and captured 10 weapons, two crew-served.

Americal units made 13 contacts in the southern I Corps area and reported killing 25 VC and eight NVA.

Two Vietnamese boys turned in a boobytrapped M-79 round to a unit of the 2-1 Inf., 196th Bde., for a reward under the VIP program.

196th Inf. Bde. had four kills in light action around Tam Ky.

F Trp., 17th Cav. working with Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) eight miles west-northwest of Tam Ky engaged three VC and killed two. The PF's killed the third VC.

At 0730 hours, Co. C, 3-21 spotted and killed one VC in a marshy and hilly area 10 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Co. D, 3-21 killed another VC in the same area in the afternoon.

F Trp., 8th Cav., with the 123 Avn. Bn., working in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area spotted and killed one VC 12 miles west of Tam Ky.

Five Americal soldiers were killed and 25 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 76 Monday March 17, 1969

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Discovery of 167 enemy bodies, including 152 NVA found in 40 graves, highlighted an otherwise light day of action for Americal Division units in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal forces reported killing four NVA and nine VC, detaining eight enemy suspects, capturing five individual weapons, and finding and destroying 5-1/2 tons of rice.

Yesterday's kills hiked the total of enemy soldiers killed past the 26,000 mark since the Americal was reactivated for Vietnam duty in 1967.

Only two VC were killed in the 198th Inf. Bde. area, but Co. A, 3-21 Inf. reported two discoveries of graves containing 152 NVA bodies 10-1/2 - 11 miles southwest of Tam Ky where several major conflicts occurred last week. In other action, fifteen VC were found in graves, and two weapons were captured.

Co. A's main find came at noon Sunday when patrols, searching a brushy and wooded area, turned up 35 graves containing 140 bodies. The graves ranged in size from six to eight feet long, two to four feet wide, depending on how many bodies they contained.

The NVA had been killed by air strikes, artillery, and small arms fire during several days of fighting with units of the **1-52nd Inf.**, 3-21 Inf., and B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. last week.

At 1330 yesterday, Co. A patrols found five more graves containing the bodies of 12 NVA, also victims of last week's fighting.

Co. C, 4-3 Inf. made a third major discovery at 1430 Sunday when patrols located 15 graves containing the bodies of 15 VC killed in air strikes nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. continued successful operations 5-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky for the second consecutive day by killing three NVA and four VC. B Trp. also made a delayed report of destruction of five tons of rice in the area Sunday.

The first platoon of B Trp., which killed three VC in a tunnel Sunday, resumed its recon mission nearby yesterday. At 1410, 1LT Greg L. Yasovou (Norwich, Conn.), the platoon leader, spotted three VC running near his tracks. Two were killed, and two RPG-7 rounds and a VC flag were found with the bodies.

Some 35 minutes later in the same area, Regional Force soldiers, working with the first platoon, found a tunnel whose occupants threw out grenades.

Platoon sergeant SFC Neil P. Farmer saw the action. "I fired on the VC and pinned them down until two tracks maneuvered near the tunnel and threw in a satchel charge," he said.

Three NVA and two VC were killed and a M-1 carbine captured. The "Dragoons" also found several RPG rounds, eight 60mm mortar rounds, 500 rounds of M-16 ammo, two Chicom grenades, and two gas masks.

B Trp.'s action Sunday had been triggered when "Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. spotted the tunnel complex with green and black enemy uniforms hanging on adjacent vegetation. The kills occurred when the tunnel was satchel-charged.

In other 1-1 area action yesterday, F Trp. killed one of two VC engaged 7-1/2 miles north of Tam Ky and destroyed five sampans, and C Trp., 1-1 killed one VC 3-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Units operating in the 196th Inf. Bde. area killed one VC, captured two weapons, and found and destroyed 950 pounds of rice.

The recon unit of the **1-52nd Inf.** killed the VC 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky while working OPCON to the 196th just as the 1-46 and 3-21 Infs. are now working OPCON to the 198th.

F Trp., 17th Cav. found a Thompson submachinegun and a Chicom carbine hidden in underbrush 20 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. C, **1-52nd Inf.**, working 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky, destroyed the 950 pounds of rice found buried in crocks near a pagoda.

COL. Leslie B. Hardy yesterday assumed command of Division Artillery, the largest artillery element in Vietnam. Outgoing commander COL Lawrence M. Jones, Jr. was awarded the Vietnamese Medal of Honor, First Class, by BG Nguyen Van Toan, commander of the 2d ARVN Division.

Eight Americal Division soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to initial reports.

Vol. 3 No. 77 Tuesday March 18, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--WO1 Thomas R. Shagen (Columbus, Ga.) turned a test flight into the real thing yesterday when he broke his flight pattern to rescue two engineers injured when their bulldozer detonated a pressure mine.

Flying for the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., WO1 Shagen was cruising above Highway 1 a half-mile north of Duc Pho when his crew chief, SP5 Jim Swimson (Houston, Tex.), spotted a cloud of smoke rising along the highway. The chopper dropped to investigate.

"From 500 feet, I couldn't tell what had happened," said WO1 Shagen. "I broke our pattern and flew low. Then I could see the bulldozer overturned after hitting the mine.

"I also saw two men lying in the roadway and went in to pick them up."

Landing on the highway, the chopper loaded the men and whisked them to a nearby LZ for medical treatment. The heavy bulldozer was a total loss, but its bulk prevented serious injury to the two engineers.

Combat action in southern I Corps was light as Americal Division forces reported killing three NVA and 14 VC, detaining five enemy suspects and a Hoi Chanh, and capturing three individual weapons.

Most active among Americal elements were "Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. which killed eight VC in seven contacts and destroyed 29 sampans and one bunker 7-16 miles west, north and northwest of Tam Ky in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area.

Five units killed two NVA and three VC and found and destroyed 850 pounds of rice and salt in the 196th Inf. Bde. area.

Co. A, 3-21 Inf. killed an NVA in the morning and a VC in the afternoon 8-9 miles southwest of Tam Ky, and Co. C, 3-21 Inf. killed a VC and captured miscellaneous documents in the same area.

Working with the 4-31 Inf., **F Trp., 17th Cav.** killed one of two VC engaged in a rice paddy 18 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky. During a subsequent search of the area, a VC jumped out of the bushes, yelled "Chieu Hoi!" and claimed he was a labor leader in a nearby village.

Operating 13-1/2 miles south-southwest of Tam Ky, a recon patrol of the 1-46 Inf. adjusted artillery on 30-40 NVA with packs and weapons. One NVA was found killed.

Co. C, **1-52nd Inf.** discovered the rice and salt buried in two 55-gallon drums and six crocks beneath hootches 21-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

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

Vol. 3 No. 94 Friday April 4, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

There was a young man named Clyde;
under his bunk he thought he would hide;
the rockets came in,
and after the fin,
his hootch-mates found that the rockets had done poor Clyde in.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Light action prevailed throughout southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting nine NVA and eight VC killed in 10 contacts, and 10 weapons, two crew-served, captured.

FREDERICK HILL

The 196th Inf. Bde. reported moderate action in Operation Frederick Hill with five NVA and three VC killed, seven individual and two crew-served weapons captured.

During a sweep through jungle-covered foot hills 10 miles south-southwest of Tam Ky, Co. D, 1-46 Inf. came under attack by an estimated squad of NVA. The "Professionals" returned fire killing three NVA.

Co. C, 1-46 Inf. was working in an area, two miles north when it spotted and killed two NVA soldiers running from a hootch, and captured their AK-47 rifles.

During a search of the surrounding area, the company found another AK-47 rifle, an SKS rifle, two complete 82mm mortars and eight rounds of 82mm mortar ammo, 500 pound of rice, 10 NVA uniforms and numerous documents.

One VC was killed, and his AK-47 rifle captures when Co. D, 3-21 Inf. engaged three VC wearing packs, 10 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

A Recon Patrol of 1-46 Inf. spotted and engaged four VC, killing one, in the triple-canopy jungle 14-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Another VC was killed while trying to slip past **F Trp., 17th Cav.** in the mountains 24 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky. Later in the day, they found and destroyed four 82mm mortar rounds rigged as a pressure mine.

Co. A, 2-1 Inf. found two small caches Thursday. The first was 9-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky, where the "Guardians" found an M-1 carbine, 1000 pounds of rice, a Chinese telephone switchboard, and 20 pounds of documents. The other was a mile and a half away and consisted of six bunkers in which were an M-2 carbine, 20 pounds of maps, and 10 pounds of documents and notes.

The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. reported no enemy kills in its area.

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

WATER PURIFICATION

BECAUSE OF THE PREVALENCE OF HEPATITIS IN THE AMERICAL AREA, IT IS ALWAYS NECESSARY TO USE TWO TO FOUR PURIFICATION TABLETS IN A CANTEEN OF WATER.

THIS SHOULD BE DONE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE WATER IS CLEAR OR CLOUDY.

Vol. 3 No. 98 Tuesday April 8, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

Your margin
of safety depends
on you.

THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Light action prevailed in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting two NVA and 15 VC killed, 12 contacts, three VC bodies discovered and seven suspects detained.

FREDERICK HILL--The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. reported 11 VC killed in its area of operation. H Trp., 1st Cav. engaged and killed three VC among hootches 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The troop killed four more VC in a rice paddy 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

"Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed four VC in four contacts along the coast ranging from 7-1/2 miles north to 16 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky.

The 196th Inf. Bde. had one NVA and two VC killed in its area.

F Trp., 17th Cav. killed a lone NVA in the mountains 22 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

One VC was killed running from a hootch by Co. C, 3-21 Inf. 10-1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

The recon patrol of the 1-46 Inf. observed a VC coming from a hootch and opened up with small arms fire killing the VC 13-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

A Co., 26th Eng. Bn. working southwest of LZ Baldy found and destroyed a pair of mines made from 175mm and 8 inch howitzer rounds.

Co. D, 1-46 Inf. evacuated 70 refugees to Tam Ky, from an area 15 miles south of that city.

Eleven Americal soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 104 Monday April 14, 1969
MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER
Today is orange pill day.
Guard against malaria.
Also remember a salt tablet,
Now that the weather is hot.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Moderate action prevailed in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting eight NVA and 47 VC killed, and three weapons captured in 26 contacts.

FREDERICK HILL--The 196th Inf. Bde. accounted for eight NVA and 19 VC killed as well as one weapon captured in widespread action in its area of operation.

Eleven VC were killed by "Firebirds" of the 71st Aslt. Hel. Co. in five combat assault missions in a mountainous region 29 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Besides killing one NVA, Co. D, **1-52nd Inf.** observed an 18-20 man NVA and VC force in mountains 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and called in air strikes and artillery which killed six NVA.

The recon patrol of the 1-46 Inf. killed one NVA when it engaged three in jungle covered foothills 10 miles southwest of Tam Ky. Earlier the patrol killed two VC when it engaged three in the same vicinity.

Two more VC were killed and an M-1 carbine captured by **F Trp., 17th Cav.** in mountains 23-1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 4-31 Inf. killed two VC with packs 26 miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. C, 3-21 Inf. killed two in heavy jungle 12 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. reported 18 VC killed, and two weapons captured in its area.

For the third consecutive day, B Trp., 1st Cav. has encountered enemy activity on Barrier Island, 20 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky. Sunday, a Hoi Chanh showed the troops where enemy bunkers were hidden among the four to eight foot high dikes which cover much of the island. The troop killed 12 VC in bunkers and captured a BAR and a K-44 rifle that was in one of the bunkers.

"Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed five more VC while flying in support of the 1st Cav. in the same locale.

A Trp., 1st Cav. engaged three VC, killing one, in the same area.

One Americal soldier was killed and 11 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Four Americal soldiers were reported missing in action.

Vol. 3 No. 105 Tuesday April 15, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

Empty weapons kill....

Check your chamber...

Is it empty?

It's those empty weapons

That kill everytime.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting 28 VC killed and two crew-served weapons captured.

FREDERICK HILL--The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. accounted for 16 VC killed and one weapon captured.

Trps. A and B, 1st Cav. encountered VC forces for the fourth consecutive day on Barrier Island. B Trp., 1st Cav. killed 10 VC on the dike covered island 20 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky.

A Trp., 1st Cav. killed three more VC in the general vicinity.

This gives B Trp., 1st Cav. a total of 27 VC killed and three weapons captured on the island since Saturday, and A Trp., 1st Cav. has killed five NVA and nine VC, and captured two weapons. "Blue Ghost" gunships have killed five VC in that area.

Three VC were killed by C Trp., 1st Cav. which also captured and then destroyed an RPG rocket launcher five miles west of Tam Ky.

The 196th Inf. Bde. reported four VC killed and one weapon captured in its area of operation.

In the mountains 24 miles northwest of Tam Ky, Co. C, **1-52nd Inf.** engaged and killed two VC.

Another VC was killed by the recon patrol of the 3-21 Inf. during a sweep of jungle covered foothills 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 4-31 Inf. found a VC who had been killed by artillery a week ago in a small tunnel in a mountainous region 26 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

F Trp., 17th Cav. engaged a seven man NVA force in mountains 23-1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky. A B-40 rocket launcher was captured.

Five Americal soldiers were killed, and four wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Four Americal soldiers were reported missing in action the day before.

Vol. 3 No. 108 Friday April 18, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

If you are feeling tired
and run-down in the after-
noon try a couple of salt
tablets with your lunch.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was moderate in southern I Corps yesterday, 32 NVA and 17 VC killed, and 12 weapons, two crew served, captured.

FREDERICK HILL--The 196th Inf. Bde. reported eight NVA and five VC killed, and four weapons captured in its area.

Co. A, **1-52nd Inf.** engaged and killed five NVA, and captured an AK-47 rifle, an SKS rifle, and a Vz-58P rifle, after a heavy contact in the mountainous region 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. D, 4-3 Inf. killed two NVA when it engaged five amid jungle covered foothills 20-1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky, where the company had killed a VC after he refused to come out of a tunnel.

Another NVA was killed and his AK-47 rifle captured by **F Trp., 17th Cav.** working with P.F.'s in the mountains 23-1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Two VC were killed by Co. B, 2-1 Inf. in two separate contacts 18-1/2 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky, where the company found a ton of rice buried under a hootch.

One VC was killed by Co. D, 3-21 Inf. 11 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky, and the command and control helicopter of the 1-46 Inf. killed another VC 11-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

"Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed 10 VC in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area 17-1/2 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky, west of the Troung River.

Seven Americal soldiers were killed and 24 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST 2 May

Partly to mostly cloudy with thunder showers over the mountains.

High 91 Low 77 -- Temp.

High 98 Low 55 -- Humidity

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light to moderate in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting six NVA and 37 VC killed, nine weapons captured, and 1,200 pounds of rice found.

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FREDERICK HILL-- The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. reported 23 VC were killed in its area of operation.

"Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed 16 VC in 10 contacts. Four VC were killed in a rice paddy 7 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky, and three were killed among pine shrubs 12 1/2 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky. Nine more were killed in widespread actions from eight miles west-northwest to 15 1/2 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky.

B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. killed seven VC in skirmishes on Barrier Island from 11 miles north-northwest to 12 1/2 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky.

* * * * *

The 196th Inf. Bde. accounted for four NVA and 10 VC killed, and eight weapons captured in its area of operation.

Four VC were killed when the recon patrol of the 4-31 Inf. engaged an estimated squad size enemy force in a mountainous region 20 1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

F Trp., 17th Cav. killed two NVA and captured their SKS rifles during a search and clear operation in the foot-hills 15 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

F Trp. also killed a VC while working an area 10 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

The recon patrol of the 1-46 Inf. engaged three NVA killing one and capturing his AK-47 rifle 15 1/2 miles south-southwest of Tam Ky. A half mile away the patrol killed a VC after engaging two as well as capturing another AK-47 rifle.

Co. C, 1-46 Inf. killed one NVA and captured an AK-50 rifle during a sweep a mile northwest.

The recon patrol of the 3-21 Inf. killed a VC and captured two AK-47 rifles 15 miles south-southwest of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 3-21 Inf. killed a lone VC during a search and clear mission 15 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky.

A "Blue Ghost" gunship from F Trp., 8th Cav. killed another VC in the jungle 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 1-46 Inf. found what is believed to be an NVA hospital 15 1/2 miles south-southwest of Tam Ky. The company found 15 hootches which had bandages, medical supplies, NVA uniforms, and nurses uniforms. Also found was a rusty 45 caliber pistol and five Chicom grenades.

Co. A, 2-1 Inf. killed a VC 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

* * * * *

Seven Americal soldiers were killed and 19 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 126 Tuesday May 6, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 7

Fair to partly cloudy with thunderstorms over mountains. Winds southeast at 5 to 10 knots gusting to 20 knots by afternoon. Temperatures: H 93 L 78 Humidity: H 95 L 60

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division units reported 14 NVA and six VC killed, and 26 weapons, 11 crew-served, captured in light action in southern I Corps yesterday.

* * * * *

FREDERICK HILL- Five NVA and two VC were killed, and 14 weapons, 11 crew-served, captured in the 196th Inf. Bde. area.

Co. D, 1-46 Inf. found eleven 122mm rockets during a search and clear mission 16 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky. Many of the rockets still crated were discovered laying on sticks and covered with plastic and leaves. Two rockets were extracted and the rest destroyed. Co. B, 1-46 Inf. was working with two companies from the 4th Inf. Bn., 5th ARVN Regt. in an area 17 miles west-southwest of Tam Ky, when it engaged and killed an NVA, nearby it found three NVA killed by artillery fire.

The recon patrol of the 1-46 Inf. killed another NVA in the dense jungle 15 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky, where it and Co. C, 1-46 Inf. found two carbines and an SKS rifle during a sweep of the area. Co. C also killed a VC earlier two miles north.

Another VC was killed in a rice paddy 18 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky, by F Trp., 17th Cav.

* * * * *

A "Blue Ghost" gunship from F Trp., 8th Cav. killed a lone VC in a rice paddy not far from F Trp., 17th Cav. for the only kill reported in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area Monday.

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Two Americal soldiers were killed, and 15 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

SERGEANT REUP SAYS

A real treasure can be found in a career in the Army. Just some of these are a substantial reenlistment bonus, up to 30 days leave, not to mention the overseas area of your choice, or perhaps the type of schooling you have dreamed about for a long time. See your Career Counselor today.

CULTURAL HINT OF THE DAY

If you ask for assistance or directions, you should ask someone your own age, status or less. Students and other young people are more likely to speak English than older people.

MOTHER'S DAY May 11, 1969

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO

SP4 Paul Palmer, Editor

Telephone: Chu Lai 3212

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JUST THINK Good health is many things, It is taking salt and malaria pills just as much as keeping the old M-16 in firing condition. To return home healthy takes a little time and effort, so make each day a good health day.

Vol. 3 No. 133 Tuesday May 13, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 14

Fair to partly cloudy, southeast winds to 10 knots, gusts to 20 knots in afternoon, a few showers possible over the mountains with a slight chance locally.

Temperatures: H 96 L 79

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)—A marked increase in activity prevailed throughout southern I Corps yesterday as Americal Division units reported killing 112 NVA and 60 VC, capturing 60 weapons, 11 crew-served.

* * * *

FREDERICK HILL--The 196th Inf. Bde. accounted for 71 NVA, 3 VC killed, and 28 weapons, 3 crew-served captured in its area of operation.

At LZ Baldy, 2-1 Inf. defended the 196th Inf. Bde. Hqs. repelling an NVA sapper attack early Monday morning. Forty NVA were killed and 13 weapons and a large number of munitions were captured.

A barrage of RPG rounds, satchel charges, and grenades along with 8 to 10 mortar rounds hailed in on the camp.

Stiff resistance met the enemy assault as the alert fire support base units stemmed the inward flow of the enemy, and erased all routes of escape to the sappers.

Co.'s A and D, 1-46 Inf. killed 26 NVA, captured 12 weapons, two crew-served at LZ Professional while at LZ Center, the 3-21 Inf. accounted for four NVA killed and two weapons captured, one crew-served.

In rapid succession Co. D, 4-31 Inf. killed three VC, and Co. B, 1-46 Inf. found and destroyed a 12 gauge shotgun.

Late in the day **F Trp., 17th Cav.** killed a NVA near LZ Baldy.

* * * *

CULTURAL HINT OF THE DAY

Do know the religion of your Vietnamese friends and associates. Treat Catholic worship and customs in the same way you would in the United States.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding

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SERGEANT REUP SAYS

Bored with your job? See your career counselor for a different assignment in the field of your choice.

USE EXTRA SALT

CHU LAI AREA WEATHER FORECAST - July 14

Partly to mostly cloudy with rain over the mountains and isolated showers along the coast. Winds from NE at three to 10 knots.

Temperature H 97 L 80

Humidity H 90 L 50

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Troops A, B and D of the Americal division's 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., killed five VC in the largest encounter in southern I Corps yesterday.

D Trp. made the first contact at 1700 hours when the unit killed two evading VC, 10 miles west of Tam Ky.

Ninety minutes later, B Trp. killed two more VC, five miles northwest of Tam Ky. A Trp. also got in on the act when they killed alone VC in the same area as D Trp.'s contact.

The remainder of the Americal Division combined to kill two NVA soldiers, one VC, and capture three individual weapons as action remained light.

* * * * *

FREDERICK HILL - "Legionnaires" from A Co., 2-1 Inf, and APC's from F Trp., 17th Cav., teamed up to kill two NVA soldiers in the only contact in the 196th Inf. Bde. AO.

The Americal units killed the two enemy soldiers while on a search and clear operation in the marsh-covered area, 26 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

C Co., 2-1 Inf, captured an unidentified weapon earlier in that same area.

* * * * *

No action was reported in the Lamar Plain area.

* * * * *

Americal Division elements killed 108 enemy soldiers during the past week and captured 26 weapons, two of which were crew-served. Twenty-seven of the enemy kills were NVA soldiers.

The heaviest encounter occurred Thursday when C Co. of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., killed eight VC while sweeping a marsh covered area 19 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

* * * * *

HANDLING CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

When flying around in the wild, wild blue,

Make sure your SOI is firmly affixed to you.

For if attention you're craving and all of us do,

Lose your SOI and see it come true.

You'll have to explain all in detail,

Why you aided the enemy and how you failed.

Don't be one of these whose story is told.

Made carelessness a habit, and is out in the cold.

SERGEANT RE-UP SAYS

Mechanics and drivers are in great demand. Talk to SGT RE-UP about OJT.

A good reminder is to take your salt pill daily and swat it. Also malaria can be and is deadly so take the pill.

Vol. 3 No. 236 Sunday August 24, 1969

CHU LAI AREA WEATHER FORECAST August 25 Winds will be from the south to south-east at 3-8 knots.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Temp. | Humidity |
| High--95 | High--90 |
| Low--97 | Low--50 |

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)---Action tapered off in the Americal Division area yesterday, following intensive fighting that raged earlier in the week.

In Saturday's action, Americal soldiers accounted for 34 kills, 23 of which were NVA, and captured eight weapons.

FREDERICK HILL--Action was significantly reduced in the Hiep Duc-LZ West area, where Americal soldiers killed a total of 12 NVA soldiers yesterday.

Northeast of the Hiep Duc refugee settlement, elements of the 4-31 Inf. with other detached elements, engaged an estimated NVA platoon shortly after noon and killed 11 of the enemy.

In the valley area southeast of LZ West, where infantrymen have encountered a stubborn, dug-in foe for the past five days, an element of the 3-21 Inf. engaged seven NVA early yesterday morning and killed one.

Elsewhere in the 196th Bde. area, cavalrymen from **F Trp., 17th Cav**, killed one VC about five miles northwest of Tam Ky.

An increase in the tempo of fighting in southern I Corps during the past week resulted in 555 kills for Americal Division soldiers, 496 of which were NVA, Twenty-four weapons were also captured, four crew-served.

The heaviest fighting erupted Monday around LZ West, 19 miles west of Tam Ky. 196th Brigade soldiers killed 148 NVA during day-long fighting which lasted into the evening with an unknown size enemy force.

The fighting continued to center around LZ West Wednesday where 35 NVA were killed and 45 more bodies were found as a result of Monday's action.

Heavy fighting erupted again when Americal soldiers were credited with killing 138 NVA in contacts 16-23 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky Thursday.

By midnight Thursday, elements of the 4-31 Inf. and 3-21 Inf. had killed more than 400 NVA in four days of contact in the LZ West-LZ Center-Hiep Duc area.

The fighting, although not as intense as Monday's or Thursday's continued to center around LZ West, Americal soldiers were credited with killing 45 more NVA Friday.

MONDAY IS "PREVENT MALARIA DAY!.....TAKE THAT ORANGE PILL!

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 claim officer for detailed information on forms and filing procedures.

THE AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, Commanding

MAJ John T. Pauli, IO

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CHU LAI AREA WEATHER FORECAST - September 5

Cloudy becoming mostly cloudy with rain-showers in the Chu Lai area. Winds will be variable at 5 knots becoming northeasterly at 10 knots.

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Temp. | Humidity |
| High-95 | High-90 |
| Low-78 | Low-50 |

CHU LAI (AMERICAL) - Action in southern I Corps continued to be generally light Wednesday as Americal units were credited with killing 31 NVA and six VC. One crew-served and four individual weapons were captured in the day's fighting.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR WEAPON—IT'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

Frederick Hill-Cav. units accounted for four kills in as many contacts in the operational zone of the 196th Bde. Wednesday.

Gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. engaged and killed three VC in separate incidents in an area six miles west of Tam Ky.

At 1655, troopers of F Trp., 17th Cav. engaged a lone VC six miles northwest of Tam Ky. The enemy was killed as he tried to evade the Americal soldiers.

In the only other action of the day, Americal forces engaged three VC while working in an area four miles northwest of Tam Ky. One was killed in the mid-afternoon incident.

Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey, Division Commander, presented two Silver Stars for valor to officers of the 196th Bde. yesterday. The men receiving the awards were CPT. Alva R. King (Lexington, Ky.) of B Co. 1-46 Inf and CPT. Jesse C. Sellers (Baltimore) of D Co. 1-46 Inf.

* * * * *

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, Commanding

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This New Sheet is published daily under the supervision of the IO, Americal Division, APO 96374, as an authorized Army publication. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

This section is for the Quarterly Americal Division Operations Report and Lessons Learned. The earlier reports barely referenced individual units below the brigade level. There is information about F/17th Cavalry in these reports that may be useful especially in the reports after 1968. There is a lot of information that was not extracted. The report are available in our data base to read.

AVDF-CG

6 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967.
(RCS-CSFOR) (U)

TASK FORCE OREGON ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

196th Infantry Brigade (Lt)

HHC, 196th Infantry Bde

2d\Bn, 1st Infantry

3d Bn, 21st Infantry

4th Bn, 31st Infantry

Troop F, 17th Cavalry

3d\Bn, 82d Artillery (105mm) (T)

175th Engineer Co (0)

156th Signal Plt, (Fwd Area)

48th Infantry Plt, Scout Dog

27th Chemical Det (CER) ??(CBR)

596th MI Det

408th Radio Research Det

544th MP Platoon

8th Combat Service Support Bn

8th CA Platoon, 2d CA Co

10th Public Information Det

This shows the units from the 196th LIB who participated in operations with Task Force Oregon.

AVHGC-DST
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967
(RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

TASK FORCE OREGON ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
AS OF 31 JULY 1967

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

HHC, 196th Lt Inf Bde
2d Bn, 1st Inf
3d Bn, 21st Inf
4th Bn, 31st Inf
1st Bn, 14th Inf, 3d Bde, 25th Inf Div
2nd Sqdn, 11th Armd Cav Regt
Trp F, 17th Cav
3d Bn, 82d Arty (105 T)
8th Cbt Svc Spt Bn
8th CA Plt, 2d CA Co
10th PI Det
27th Cml Det (CBR)
569th MI Det
408th Radio Research Det
175th Engr Co (Cbt)
156th Sig Plt (Fwd Area)
48th Inf Plt, Scout Dog
544th MP Plt
28th Mil Hist Det
4th Plt (-), Co B, 3d AMTRAC Bn (USMC)

pg 52

This shows the units from the 196th LIB participating in operations with Task Force Oregon as of July 31, 1967.
There was a TRP A, 17th Cavalry serving with the 1st Bde of the 101st Airmobile Division as part of Task Force Oregon.

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26 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967.
(RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

6. (C) 196th LT INF BDE

HHC, 196th Lt Inf Bde

2d Bn, 1st Inf

3d Bn, 21st Inf

4th Bn, 31st Inf

3d Bn, 82d Arty

Trp F, 17th Armd Cav

175th Engr Co (Cbt)

8th Cbt Svc Spt Bn

156th Sig Plt (Fwd Area)

544th MP Plt (OPCON Americal Division)

10th PI Det

27th Cml Det

408th Radio Research Det

569th MI Det

48th Inf Plt, Scout Dog

US Army Combat Tracker Team No. 10 (Prov)

This shows the units from the 196th LIB participating in operations with the Americal Division as of October 31, 1967. There was a TRP A, 17th Cavalry serving with the 1st Bde of the 101st Airmobile Division and TRP H, 17th Cavalry serving with the 198th LIB. These cavalry units were organic to their brigades as was F Trp, 17th Cavalry. The 3rd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division appears to only have air cavalry in their organization.

CONFIDENTIAL
AMERICAL DIVISION TROOP LIST
(AS OF 31 Jan 68)

5. 196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

HHC, 196th Lt Inf Bde

2d Bn, 1st Inf

3d Bn, 21st Inf

4th Bn, 31st Inf

3d Bn, 82d Arty

8th Spt Bn

Trp F, 17th Armd Cav

156th Sig Plat

10th Public Information Det

27th Cml Det

408th Radio Research Det

569th MI Det

48th Inf Plat, Scout Dog

U.S. Army Combat Tracker Team No. 10 (Prov)

This shows the units from the 196th LIB participating in operations with the Americal Division as of January 31, 1968. TRP H, 17th Cavalry serving with the 198th LIB. The 11th Bde was now part of the Americal Division with Trp E, 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav as their organic brigade armor. These cavalry units were organic to their brigades as was F Trp, 17th Cavalry to the 196th LIB. 3 Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division was soon to depart as had the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airmobile Division and the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Airmobile Division had. The 1st Squadron 1st Cavalry (armor) was now part of the Americal Division.

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8 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968

(RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

b. Infusion.

(1) Since the three brigades organic to the Division arrived in-country on different dates, the infusion problem was made even more complicated. Different percentages had to be applied to each brigade in computing rotational humps. Since the 196th was on its second year in-country, it came under the 15% rotational policy. The 11th LIB and 198th LIB having recently arrived in-country, came under the 25% rotational policy.

(2) The 196th LIB, on its second year in-country, cannot rotate more than 15% of its authorized strength in any month. Therefore, that brigade cannot receive more than 15% from the 198th LIB or the 11th LIB. The 196th LIB's hump months of June and July fall in the 198th LIB's and 11th LIB's first year so they can receive up to 25% but are limited to giving the 196th LIB only 15% without creating a rotational hump in the 196th.

(3) The same situation exists with the 198th LIB and 11th LIB. The 11th LIB's hump is in December which falls within the 198th LIB's second year in-country. Consequently, these two brigades can only exchange 15% between each other.

(4) Newly activated units are all considered to be in their first year in-country and therefore come under the 25% rotational hump policy. Infusion plans for these units are being formulated accordingly. Additionally, infusion plans have been formulated for attached units for which this headquarters was assigned responsibility for infusion.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968
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On 23 Nov 67 elements of the 196th LIB contacted the 2nd Bn (aka 8th Bn), 3d NVA Regt, 2nd NVA Div vicinity BT 0832 resulting in 128 NVA KIA and 53 wpns CIA. On 25 Nov 67 the 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div terminated its role in Operation Wheeler and its Op-Con to the Americal Div. From 12 Sep - 25 Nov 67 (Operation Wheeler) the brigade accounted for 793 VC KIA (BC), 39 VC PWs, 5 NVA PWs and 220 wpns captured. The brigade had engaged all three regiments of the 2nd NVA Div during this operation. Since joining the Americal Div (then Task Force Oregon) in April 1967 the brigade has conducted 6 major operations (Malheur I, Malheur II, Hood River, Benton, Cook and Wheeler) accounting for 2046 VC KIA (BC), 383 NVA KIA (BC) 41 NVA PWs, 76 PWs, 15 VC Returnees and 738 wpns captured. The 196th LIB assumed the Wheeler AO from the 1/101st Avn Bde and the 198th LIB moved from Duc Pho to assume the defense of the Chu Lai Base and Americal Div Hqs.

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7 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968.

(RCS-CSFOR-65) (RI) (U).

(10) USARPAC General Order 108, 8 Feb 68, reorganized Troop F, 17th Cav by MTOE 17-57G, PAC 1/68, effective 20 Feb 68.

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(20) The 6th Bn, 31st Inf, previously scheduled to be assigned as the fourth battalion for the 196th Lt Inf Bde was diverted, on arrival in-country, to the 9th Inf Div.

(g) On 1 March 68 the 196th Inf Bde moved from Hill 35 (BT227315) to LZ Baldy (BT133453).

(4) Operation Wheeler/Wallowa continued during the reporting period with sporadic heavy contact during February and March and mostly light scattered contact in April 1968. The Wheeler/Wallowa AO continued to be the most active area in the Americal AO during the period. Heavy contacts were reported on the 9th and 10th of February by the 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div in the northern Wheeler/Wallowa extension. Again on 27 February heavy contact was reported by the 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav vic BT2721. During the period 4-9 March 1968, the 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav again reported heavy contact vic BT1528. On 11 March 1968, elements of the 196th Inf Bde reported heavy contact vic BT0829. On 21-22 March 1968, elements of the 196th Inf Bde and the 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav became engaged southwest of Hoi An. On 5 April 1968, B-4-31st Inf found a large weapons cache vic AT847337. Found were 199 individual weapons and 27 crew served weapons. Results of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa during the reporting period were:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| <u>FRND</u> | <u>ENEMY</u> |
| 157 KHA | 1640 VC KIA(C) |
| 581 WHA(E) | 1070 NVA KIA(C) |
| 369 WHA(M) | 622 IWC |
| | 107 CSWC |

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7 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1968.

(RCS-CSFOR-65)(RI)(U)

(6) Operation Pocahontas Forest was initiated on 6 July 68 in the area west of the Phuoc Chau Valley (center mass AT9909) to find, fix and destroy elements of the 1st Main Force VC Regiment and the 2d NVA Division. The maneuver elements were 4-21 and 4-31 Inf of the 196th Inf Bde (LT), and 4-3 Inf of the 11th Inf Bde (LT). The three battalions and a company of the 26th Engr were designated Task Force Cooksey. Two Marine Battalions and three ARVN battalions also took part in the operation. There was no significant contact made during the operation as the enemy avoided a decisive engagement. One weapons cache consisting of 60 AK47 rifles was found vic AT8021 on 4 Jul. Pocahontas Forest extended into this reporting period four days and terminated on 4 Aug with the following results:

FRND

ENEMY

4 KHA

56 VC KIA (C)

22 WHA (E)

40 NVA KIA (C)

36 WHA (M)

93 IWC

1 CSWC

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 January 1969 (U)

f. Enemy Situation

(1) Quang Tin and Quang Nam: Enemy activity from 1 Nov 68 to 31 Jan 69 was characterized by fire which consisted primarily of mortar and rocket fire against NDP's, LZ's and fixed bases such as Bayonet, Hill 69, Fat City and Hill 54. On 18 Dec 68, elements of the 1st MF Regt, 2d NVA Division were contacted in Que Son (D) and suffered approximately 200 KIA over a week long period. This Regiment suffered sufficient casualties to seriously impair its offensive capability. From 18-21 Dec 68 Chu Lai Base received a total of 14 140mm rockets resulting in 8 KHA. Enemy activity then subsided until 19 Jan 69 when the 2d ARVN Division in Tam Ky (D) contacted a large enemy unit resulting in 30 NVA KIA. Captured documents indicated that the unit was an element of the first Bn, 3d Regt, 2d NVA Division. From 1 Nov 68 to 31 Jan 69 captured enemy documents and agent reports continued to mention a Winter/Spring Offensive that was being planned.

C. Intelligence.

1. (C) Enemy Situation

a. Quang Nam/Quang Tin

(1) For the first three weeks of February 1969, enemy forces were involved in scattered contacts and initiated attacks by fire against isolated LZ's, NDP's, fixed installations, and population centers. Main Force and NVA units continued to avoid contact with Allied Forces while they concentrated on resupplying and retraining for the coming Winter/Spring Offensive. Significant changes in enemy disposition during this period were noted the area of Tam Ky City and Base Area 117. The 70th and 74th MF Battalions moved into defensive positions approximately 14 km west of Tam Ky City; while the V-12 LF Company, the V-16th LF Sapper Battalion, and the 72d LF Battalion were located in the same vicinity, approximately 8 km west of Tam Ky City in order to coordinate upcoming offensive activities. The 3d Regiment, 2d NVA Division moved to a base camp approximately 3 km south of Base Area 117, from where it initiated movement toward the Tien Phuoc USSF/CIDG Camp. From 8 February to 21 February 1969, enemy forces significantly increased attacks by fire and light ground attacks against population centers, e.g. Tien Phuoc (D) HQ's, Que Son (D) HQ's/Que Son Market Place, Nui Lac Son (V), and Phuoc An (V). These attacks were thought to be an attempt to undermine the faith of the populace in the ability of the GVN to effectively protect them. During the first three weeks of February 1969, Allied Forces operating in the Quang Nam/Quang Tin (P) area accounted for a total of 273 enemy KIA. On 22 and 23 February 1969, the 2d NVA Division along with Local and Main Force units initiated the "K" Phase of the Winter/Spring Offensive with well coordinated attacks by fire and maneuver against fixed installations, LZ's NDP's, USSF/CIDG Camps, and population centers in the Quang Nam/Quang Tin (P) area. During this period LZ's Baldy, Bayonet, Hawk Hill, and Professional, the Tien Phuoc USSF/CIDG Camp, and the CLDC received attacks by fire. LZ's Baldy, Professional, and Bayonet, along with the Tien Phuoc USSF/CIDG Camp received ground probes coordinated with attacks by fire. Que Son (D) HQ's, Tien Phuoc (D) HQ's, Ly Tin (D) HQ's and Nui Lac Son (V) were among the population centers attacked on 23 February 1969. Que Son (D) HQ's and Tien Phuoc (D) HQ's were subjected to the heaviest attacks, with Que Son (D) HQ's receiving a mortar barrage followed by a ground attack, resulting in 34 VN civilians killed, 55 VN civilians wounded, and 17 VC KIA. On the afternoon of 23 February 1969, USSF and CIDG personnel from the Tien Phuoc Special Forces Camp accounted for 42 VC KIA while retaking and OP which had previously been overrun by enemy forces late on 22 February 1969. The unit in contact was identified as elements of the 2d Battalion, 3d Regiment, 2d NVA Division. This commitment by elements of the 3d Regiment, 2d NVA Division to the Tien Phuoc Area was an attempt to draw Allied Forces out of the Tam Ky City area, leaving the more

lucrative coastal areas vulnerable to attacks by Local and Main Forces elements. However, this feint was preempted by elements of the 1-1 Cav which accounted for a total of 238 VC/NVA KIA within an area 5 km south and 11 km west of Tam Ky City from 23 thru 27 February 1969. PW's captured during these engagements identified the 72d LF Battalion, 70th MF Battalion, and the V-16th LF Sapper Battalion as the units in contact. According to knowledgeable PW's, the enemy attack plan for Tam Ky City called for elements of the V-16th and 72d LF Battalions to capture Hill 38 (BT 278 2221). Other elements of the 72d LF Battalion were to capture Hill 14 (BT288 189) and Phuoc Tra (V) (BT274 200) in order to set up ambush positions from which they could attack Allied reinforcements moving out of the Tien Phuoc area along Highway 535 (Tien Phuoc Highway) to reinforce the besieged Tam Ky City. While the V-16th LF Sapper Battalion and the 72d LF Battalion were attacking the above positions, the 79th MF Battalion was to move in an easterly direction across the Tam Ky River, cross Highway 1 and proceed north moving on Tam Ky City from the east. As the 70th MF Battalion crossed Highway 1, towards Tam Ky City suppressive fire was to be employed from Hill 38 and the surrounding area by means of 75mm RR and mortar fire. Elements of the V-12 LF Company were to be deployed in the City to create disturbances and destroy the "Province Hall". From 24 thru 28 February 1969, LZ Fat City and Tien Phuoc USSF/CIDG Camp were subjected to intense mortar and rocket fire. On 28 February, LZ Ross was penetrated by an estimated VC Sapper Squad, identified by PW's as an element of GK-35 Sapper/Recon Battalion, 2d NVA Division. This penetration was not preceded by a mortar barrage which seemed to indicate a change in VC/NVA tactics. During the period of 23 to 28 February 1969, Allied Forces accounted for a total of 434 enemy KIA in the Quang Nam/Quang Tin (P) Area.

(2) From 1 thru 31 March 1969, the most significant enemy activity was concentrated within an area from 4 to 8 km south and west of the Tien Phuoc USSF/CIDG Camp, as elements of the 3d Regiment, 2d NVA Division fought from well prepared defensive positions. In many cases, these positions were constructed of concrete and one base camp was found which contained large concrete tunnel entrances. On 15 and 16 March 1969, in an area 2 km east of the Tien Phuoc USSF/CIDG Camp, elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade discovered 40 graves containing 152 NVA KIA from airstrikes and artillery fire. During the latter part of March, contact in the Tien Phuoc area subsided as the 3d Regiment, 2d NVA Division withdrew to the south after sustaining over 400 KIA. Following the failure of the attack on Tam Ky City in late February 1969, the remaining elements of the units involved in this plan (V-16th LF Sapper Battalion, 72d LF Battalion, 70th MF Battalion, and the V-12th LF Company) retreated to relatively secure areas. This was evidenced by the lack of enemy initiated contact in the Tam Ky area during the month of March 1969. From the period 1 to 31 March 1969, a total of 642 enemy were KIA by Allied forces operating in the Quang Nam/Quang Tin (P) area.

(3) The period in which the least amount of enemy activity occurring was during the first two weeks of April 1969 as enemy units successfully avoided major contact with Allied Forces. Contact was limited to light scattered engagements with LF units as Main Force and NVA units continued their withdrawal from the populated coastal areas. The first half of April

AVDF_HL

10 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operation Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1969

1969 witnessed the move of the 3d Regiment, 2d NVA Division from an area 1 Km south of Base Area 117 to its last known location, approximately 5 km south of New Hau Duc Resettlement Hamlet. Prior to the February 1969 Offensive, the 3d Regiment, 2d NVA Division operated in this general area indicating that the unit was carrying out extensive logistical activities. During the period 11-30 April 1969, small unit contact increased significantly in an area 2-8 km northeast of LZ Baldy as elements of the 1-1 Cav and 196th Infantry Brigade accounted for a total of 108 VC/NVA KIA. A PW captured during this series of engagements identified the F-105th LF Company as one of the units in contact. From 13 thru 25 April 1969, in the eastern edge of Antenna Valley AT 9235) to an area 10 km north of this position, a total of 36 VC/NVA were KIA by elements of the F/17th Cav, 196th Infantry Brigade, and ARVN's. In an area 6 to 11 km south of the Antenna Valley (AT9435), elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade accounted for a total of 22 enemy KIA in scattered contact. This increase of enemy activity in this area together with increased sightings of groups of NVA soldiers in the vicinity lends credence to the fact that elements of the 1st MF Regiment, 2d NVA Division were moving in a southerly direction. Increased reports have indicated that the 21st Regt, 2d NVA Division has moved out of Quang Nam/Quang Tin (P) into Quang Ngai (PP west of Base Area 121 possibly to give the 3d NVA Divisions reinforcements for a march on Quang Ngai City in May 1969.

(a) Operation Frederick Hill: On 18 March 69, Operation Frederick Hill was initiated by the 196th Inf Bde, 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav and the 5th ARVN Regt in the northern sector of the Americal/2d ARVN Div AO. This operation was designed to secure population centers along the coastal plain and to conduct combat operations in the highlands to close with and destroy enemy troop concentrations, suspected base camps and routes of infiltration. Contact on the coastal plain remained at a low level as 1-1 Cav and ARVN elements continued area reconnaissance operations and detailed search operations in suspected enemy staging areas, notably Pineapple Forest and Barrier Island. Operating in the Mountainous region to the west, 196th Inf Bde and elements of the 5th ARVN Regt conducted two pre-emptive operations. The first operation was launched on 8 April 69, when a three battalion task force (2 US and 1 ARVN Bn) plus **F Troop 17th Cav** began combat operations designed to neutralize Antenna Valley and its surrounding mountain ranges and destroy troop formations of the 1st VCMF Regt. 1-52d Inf launched a series of coordinated attacks and began a steady maneuver to the south through the Nui Mat Rang Mountains. 4-31st Inf, operating south of Antenna Valley in the Nui Chom Mountains, began detailed search operations maneuvering north towards the Valley. **F Troop 17th Cav**, with 4/5 ARVN Bn, was deployed into the valley to conduct search operations in the valley itself and block routes of egress. Contact with the enemy forces was light as they tended to avoid combat. Small base camps and aid stations were uncovered and destroyed. On 21 April 69, operations in the vicinity of Antenna Valley were ended. On 25 April 69, 1-46th Inf with 2 companies from 4/5 ARVN Bn launched a three-pronged attack against the 3d Regt, 2d NVA Bn in the southern portion of Base Area 117. Two Americal Companies with one ARVN Company maneuvered southeast of the Song Tram River, one Americal Company with a recon platoon maneuvered south through the Ba Su Mountains along the 15' NS gridline; and one Americal Company and one ARVN Company maneuvered south along the 22' NS gridline through the Ba Su Mountains. Initial contact remained light and caches were uncovered in the course of detailed search operations. this operation, it is planned, will continue into May 69. Results of combat operations in the Frederick Hill OZ were as follows:

| <u>Friendly</u> | <u>Enemy</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 56 US KIA | 564 VC KIA(C) |
| 326 US WIA(E) | 168 NVA KIA(C) |
| 87 US WIA(M) | 239 DET |
| | 2 PW/VC |
| | 1 PW/NVA |
| | 3 CH/VC |
| | 49 DIV DEF |
| | 205 IN CIV |
| | 108 IWC |
| | 12 CSWC |

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 October 1969 (U)

(a) **Operation Frederick Hill:** Operation Frederick Hill, conducted by the 196th Infantry Brigade in conjunction with the 5th ARVN Regiment continued throughout the reporting period with contact varying from moderate to heavy through the first half of September, and declined to light and sporadic during the remainder of the reporting period. The reporting period opened with elements of 2-1 Infantry and **F Troop 17th Cavalry** concluding operations on Northern Barrier Island while Regional and Popular forces with elements from the US Marine Corps established blocking positions. Contact with the enemy remained extremely light as the deployment of allied forces into the area caused the enemy to exfiltrate the area avoiding contact. Several staging and harvest areas were destroyed and the northern portion of Barrier Island was neutralized as the operation concluded on 16 August. A two month lull in enemy activity ceased on the evening of 11 August 1969 as the enemy launched a series of coordinated attacks upon US forces, installations and GVN population centers. The focal point of the offensive was in the Frederick Hill AO. Several of the Fire Support Bases and sapper attacks. US casualties were moderate to heavy as they successfully repelled the ground probes and sapper attacks; inflicting heavy casualties upon the enemy. On the evening of 11 August 1969 D/3-21 Infantry vicinity AT973100 received small arms fire followed by a ground probe. They successfully repelled the ground probe employing organic weapons, artillery and gunships resulting in 5 US WIA(E), 50 NVA KIA, 5 NVA CIA, 5 IWC and 7 CSWC. At 0230H the same morning, the GVN population center of Tam Ky received six B-40 rockets and six 82MM mortar rounds scattered throughout the city resulting in 1 PF KIA, 5 civilians WIA, 1 VC KIA and 1 IWC. A half hour later, C/1-1 Cavalry and A/3-16 Artillery, while defending FSB Hawk Hill (BT231315), came under heavy mortar fire as they received approximately 100 rounds followed by a sapper attack that penetrated the perimeter before the attack was repelled by organic weapons fire, artillery and gunships. Results of the encounter were 13 NVA KIA, 4 IWC and 2 CSWC with 7 US KIA, 51 US WIA(E). At 0400H, F Troop 8th Cavalry (Air) vicinity BT228402 engaged and killed 15 NVA. On 13 August 1969 at 0847H, 3-21 Infantry while securing FSB Center (BT052253) received six 82mm mortar rounds resulting in 5 US WIA(E). During the following four day lull in enemy activity, the 1st Marine Division assumed the Quang Nam Province portion of the Americal Division TAOI, establishing a new northern boundary. By 18 August 1969, the first reactive operation of the period was initiated by elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade and the 5th ARVN Regiment as they engaged an NVA Regimental size force in the largest battle during the reporting period. This battle continued to the end of the month (Reference paragraph B(1)). From 1 to September, only scattered enemy contact was made. During the same time period, elements of 2-1 Infantry, 9th Engineers (USMC) and **F Troop 17th Cavalry** and Regional forces from Tam Ky conducted a land clearing operation northwest of Tam Ky (vic BT2524) targeting VCLF/VC. Allied forces met little resistance as they moved into the area. Contact throughout this operation was scattered and light. On 16 September at 1100H, D/3-21 Infantry vicinity BT082206 engaged 10 NVA and killed 6 with negative friendly casualties. At 0001H on 8 September, a three day cease fire was initiated during which time all elements went into a defensive posture. The day following the end of the cease fire, the enemy launched an attack at 0210H on FSB Siberia (AT901232) and Hiep Duc which initiated the second reactive operation within the Americal Division TAOI (reference paragraph B(2)) in which B/4-31 Infantry, Popular and Regional Forces and 2/5 ARVN Battalion, still operating around Hiep Duc, engaged and killed 29 NVA while suffering only light casualties. On 16 September at 1330H, the 71st Aviation Company, flying in support of the 196th Infantry Brigade, engaged 120 VC vicinity BT280380 killing 12 VC. At 1735H on 17 September, A/3-82 Artillery vicinity BT262371 engaged 100 VC and killed 12. On 22 September at 0945H, B/3-21 Infantry combat air assaulted into a hot landing zone (BT043227). They engaged and killed 15 NVA and captured 1 crew-served weapon. Three UH-1 helicopters were shot down as they left the landing zone. Friendly casualties were 5 US KIA and 15 US WIA(E). At 1725H, 176th Aviation near the same area, engaged and killed 10 NVA. Light and sporadic enemy contact continued through the end of September. The monsoon season started at the beginning of October. Continued rainfall throughout the month, with heavy downpours during the first half of the month and scattered showers for the remainder of the month, resulted in limited combat operations. The enemy activity which continued through the end of the reporting period. Only three significant enemy contacts were recorded during the month of October. On 7 October 1868 at 1852H, A/4-31 Infantry vicinity AT940273 received twenty 82mm mortar rounds resulting in 1 US KIA and 6 US WIA(E). On 21 October, C/3-21 Infantry at 0800H engaged an unknown size NVA force vicinity BT090327 resulting in 5 NVA KIA and 2 US WIA(E). On 27 October at 1415H vicinity BT220149, D/2-1 Infantry detonated a booby trapped 105mm artillery round killing 4 US personnel, 7 US were wounded (evac). The reporting period closed with no further significant enemy contacts. Results of operations during the reporting period in the Frederick Hill AO are as follows:

| <u>FRND</u> | <u>ENEMY</u> |
|---------------|--------------|
| 112 US KIA | 417 VC KIA |
| 598 US WIA(E) | 1039 NVA KIA |
| 123 US WIA(M) | 215 DET |
| | 4 PW/VC |
| | 5 PW/NVA |
| | 16 CH/VC |
| | 43 CIV DEF |
| | 141 IN CIV |
| | 140 IWC |
| | 35 CSWC |

k. The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry supported a New Equipment Training Team in conducting crew training for the M551 Sheridan. The training began on 17 Nov 69 and ended 13 Jan 70. This training was conducted for Troop E, 1st Cavalry; Troop F, 17th Cavalry; Troop H, 17th Cavalry; and Troops A, B, and C, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

C. Intelligence:

a. (C) Enemy Situation

a. Quang Tin

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(7) The month of January brought a sharp increase in enemy activity as enemy forces finally initiated their Winter-Spring Offensive. NVA units, which had been resting and resupplying, launched a series of attacks centered mainly in the area west of Tam Ky City along the Tam Ky-Tien Phuoc District border. The main unit involved in the attacks was the 3d Regt, 2d NVA Div, which moved from southern Tien Phuoc (D), into the area at the beginning of the month. Offensive action started during the period 1 - 3 Jan 70. On 1 Jan, A/2-1 Inf, vic BT174287, while in an NDP, received 15 82mm mortar rounds, an unknown number of RPG rounds, SA/AW fire and H/Grenades. Fire was returned resulting in 2 VD KIA and 2 IWC. Documents taken from the bodies identified the 409th MF Sapper Bn as the unit in contact. The unit was apparently moving to a staging area for the 6 Jan attack on LZ Ross. On 3 Jan, R/1-46 Inf, vic BT188026, found and destroyed a base area complex with 80 bunkers, 30 huts, classroom and latrine, all recently used. The base camp was probably constructed by elements of the 3d Regt as an area to prepare for their offensive actions which began the following week. Enemy attacks by fire and ground attacks made the week of 4 -10 Jan the most active one since Aug - Sep 1969. The 3d Regt HQ moved inland to vicinity of the Tien Phuoc-Tam Ky border in order to control the Regt's activities. The 1st Bn, 3d Regt, moved approximately 19 km north to northern Tien Phuoc, vic BT0824, in an apparent effort to lure Americal and ARVN forces out of the area west of Tam Ky City, leaving the area vulnerable to attack by the rest of the Regt. The 2d Bn, 3d Regt, moved approximately 7 km NE to vic BT1127, in southern Thang Binh (D), and the 3d Bn, 3d Regt, moved approximately 15 km north to vic BT1417, near the Tien Phuoc-Tam Ky (D) border. The 70th LF Bn moved to vic BT2144 in northern Thang Binh (D) to form a task force with the C-9 LF Co, and elements of the 72d LF Bn. On 4 Jan, CORDS Camp #2 and 3-4 ARVN Cav compound, Tam Ky City, received 7 unknown type mortar or rocket rounds and SA fire from and UNSEF. On 6 Jan, PF's at Phuoc Long, vic BT243434, received 30 mixed 60mm mortar and RPG rounds from and UNSEF, with NCD. On the same day, 1-7 Marines on LZ Ross, BT027342, received over 200 82mm mortar rounds, SA/AW fire with a ground attack from an UNSEF. The contact resulted in 39 VC KIA, 2 VC CIA, and heavy USMC casualties. In the largest single contact in the Province since 21 Nov 69, A/1-1 Cav, with 3-4 ARVN Cav, PF's and RF's from Tam Ky (D), vic BT2520, south of the Pineapple Forest area, accounted for a total of 96 VC/NVA KIA, (45 by US Forces, 51 by GVN Forces), 2 VC, 22 IW, and 10 CSW CIA. On 7 Jan, D/3-21 Inf and F/17 Cav, received SA/AW fire and 2 RPG rounds from and UNSEF, vic BT113324. Fire was returned resulting in 39 NVA KIA, 5 CSW, and 18 IW CIA. The rest of the week activity consisted of attacks by fire directed at US and ARVN troops and installations. Over 430 mixed mortar and rocket rounds were expended by the enemy at Americal, USMC, and ARVN troops and installation for the week. LZ Hawk Hill, BT231315, received a total of 8 122mm rockets and 3 RPG rounds for the week, resulting in minor damage to the LZ. LZ Young, BT188157, was also attacked during the week. In 7 ABF's, the LZ received 3 unknown type rocket rounds, 1 122mm rocket and 26 82mm mortar rounds.

AVDF-HL

10 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period
Ending 30 April 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

C. Intelligence

a. Quang Tin

(14) The end of April 70 witnessed a major increase in enemy attacks by fire and sapper attacks in the area of FSB Siberia, Hiep Duc (D). On 27 Apr, PF #137, vic BT216169, received 20-25 unknown type mortar rounds from an UNSEF, resulting in more friendly casualties. On 29 Apr 70, RF #115, vic BT240217, received 10 60mm mortar rounds resulting in NCD. F/17 Cav operating vic BT230160, found and evacuated 8,000 lbs of rice. In the early morning of 30 Apr and progressing into the day, enemy activity concentrated in the Hiep Duc/Thang Binh District area as FSB Siberia, FSB West, and FSB Center received attacks by fire. An UnSEF conducted 7 separate attacks on FSB vic AT 901232. The 1st attack started at 0215H with the last attack at 1850H; consisting of a total of 7 RPG rounds, 12 82mm mortar rounds, 6 75mm RR rounds, unknown number of ChiCom H/Grenades, and SA fire which resulted in minor friendly casualties. FSB West received 6 separate attacks from an UNSEF vic AT 990250. The 1st attack commenced at 0535H with the last attack ending at 2150H. A total of 12 82mm mortar rounds were expended by the enemy with CS agent used in 1 82mm mortar round. FSB Center received 3 attacks from an UNSEF vic BT052253 at 1445H, 1840H, and 1905H. A total of 27 82mm mortar rounds were used resulting in NCD. Also on 30 Apr, PF #136 and #155, vic AT 913239 and AT 912230 respectively, received a ground attack and engaged an UNSEF resulting in 29 NVA KIA and 8 IWC. D/4-31 Inf, operating off FSB Siberia vic AT 901232, found 10 NVA KB/SA, AW and arty fire. Also captured and evacuated were 2 IW, 3 CSW, 80 ChiCom H/Grenades, and 4 satchel charges. R/4-31 Inf, vic AT868233, found 10 NVA killed earlier by air-strikes. There were numerous .31 cal AA incidents vic AT9322 and AT9020 and a total of 13 incidents in the FSB Siberia/Hiep Duc (D) area. A PF outpost was overrun vic AT911245 and the enemy established a .51 cal AA position. The outpost was recaptured later in the day. In the month of April 70, there was a total of 315 VC/NVA KIA and 118 ABF against US NDP's and installations.

c. Operations by AO:

(1) **Operation Frederick Hill**, conducted by the 196th Infantry Brigade in close cooperation and coordination with the 5th ARVN Regiment, continued throughout the reporting period, concentrating on combat operations to increase the level of security of pacification operations near the coastal area. Contact remained moderate. The reporting period included a joint operation conducted by 1-46 Infantry and 5th ARVN Regiment in the vicinity of AT9700, AT9705 from 18 Feb to 27 Feb. Contact was light and sporadic during the operation with one significant exception. This was the capture of the enemy's main Quang Tin Province Hospital by 5th ARVN Regiment. Significant contacts were frequent throughout the rest of the Frederick Hill operation. On 1 Feb, C/1-46 engaged 16 NVA, killing 4 and capturing 2 in the vicinity of BT135001. That same day F/17 Cav engaged an unknown size enemy force, killing 1 NVA and capturing 4 individual weapons. Friendly losses were 4 WIA(E) and 3 WIA(M). US losses, when A/1-1 Cav detonated an unknown type mine, were 2 US KIA and 5 WIA(E). The next day F/17 Cav engaged an unknown size enemy force vicinity BT187330, killing 5 NVA at a cost of 2 minor injuries. The 71st AVN continued the action killing 5 more NVA without a loss. An enemy mortar attack against A/2-1 resulted in 10 WIA(E). Action remained sporadic until 10 Feb, when the NVA launched an attack on A/2-1's night defensive position at BT185241 with mortars, recoilless rifles, small arms fire and hand grenades. The enemy lost 7 killed and 2 weapons captured; US losses were 1 killed and 8 WIA(E). On 11 Feb, B/1-1 Cav detonated a 25 pound mine at BT233288, resulting in 5 US WIA(E). R/2-1 Inf on 18 Feb at BT140230, engaged 15 VC, killing 5. The next day F/8 Cav, vicinity BT121225 suffered 1 US KIA and 9 US WIA(E) from enemy small arms fire. On 20 Feb, F/17 Cav engaged an unknown sized enemy force vicinity BT120323. Casualties were 7 US KIA and 12 WIA(E). Enemy losses were unknown. Later that same evening A/2-1 engaged an unknown sized enemy force at the same location and suffered 5 killed and 10 wounded and evacuated. Enemy losses were again unknown, F/17 Cav later detonated an unknown type of mine and suffered 2 KIA and 5 WIA(E) at BT130320. On the morning of 22 Feb, D/1-46 and A/25 Engr at LZ Mary Ann received mortar, recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire, killing 1 US and wounding 11 who were evacuated. B/3-21 engaged and killed 6 NVA the same day. On 25 Feb, vicinity BT093340, A/1-1 Cav engaged an enemy force, kill 11 NVA at a cost of 5 US WIA(E). The enemy struck LZ Mary Ann again that evening. D/1-46 and A/26 Engr sustained 1 US KIA and 9 US WIA(E). Contact tapered off until 5 Mar 70. A/3-82 Arty engaged 5 VC at BT156278, killing all 5. D/4-31 engaged 11 VC vicinity AT 926268, killing 9. The Aero Rifle Platoon from F/8 Cav engaged an known size enemy force at BT084340 and killed 7 NVA at a cost of 2 US killed and 9 wounded and evacuated. F/8 Cav (Night Hawk) continued the action at BT085335, engaging and killing 6 more NVA. C/1-45 closed the day's fighting in an engagement at BT164032 in which they had 2 US KIA and 8 US WIA(E). Enemy losses were unknown. Action continued the next day as D/3-21 sought to develop F/8's contact and killed 7 NVA at BT085339 while suffering 1 US WIA(E) and 5 US WIA(M). B/3-16 Arty killed 8 NVA at BT176145. On 8 Mar, D/3-21, still seeking the enemy, found 5 additional NVA KIA at BT097510. The next day B/123 engaged and killed 6 NVA at BS822286. A/3-82 Arty added 5 more VC KIA at AT153334 on 11 Mar. On 12 Mar, D/4-31 suffered 1 US KIA, 4 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M) from a booby trap at AT897182. F/8 Cav killed 4 NVA at AT830240 while suffering 1 KIA and 1 WIA(M). That evening A/3-16 Arty engaged and killed 5 VC at BT247453. Artillery continued to punish the enemy on 15 Mar 70 as A/3-82 again engaged and killed 5 NVA. On 19 Mar B/1-1 Cav, working with A/3-21 at BT1001313, detonated a 250 pound bomb rigged as a mine. Nine US were killed and 1 was evacuated with wounds. On 27 Mar the enemy struck at two US units with booby traps. A/1-46 had 6 WIA(E) at BT230094 and C/3-21 suffered 2 KIA, 15 WIA(E) and 4 WIA(M) from a 105mm round which was tripped inside their night defensive position. D/4-31 suffered 8 US WIA(E) at AT982294 in a heavy fire fight with the enemy on 24 Mar. Enemy losses were unknown. During the last days of the month, the enemy was generally able to avoid contact although several serious booby trap incidents were reported. On 30 Mar, however, A/4-31 engaged 9-10 VC, killing 7 at AT840245. A/3-82 killed at total of 9 VC in two separate engagements the same day. On 3 Apr F/8 Cav engaged an enemy unit, killing 14 VC at BT2766403. Two days later D/2-1 ambushed an unknown sized enemy force at BT196272, killing 4 VC. On 6 Apr, A/3-82 Arty fired on a large enemy force in the open at BT226164, killing 20 VC before they could scatter. The next day R/4-31 eliminated a 4 man VC patrol at AT830237. On 9 Apr, C/5-46 at BS283998, killed 7 NVA and captured 3 weapons without loss to themselves. Mines and booby traps continued to take their toll as D/26 Engr and F/17 Cav lost 1 KIA and 8 WIA(E) in two such incidents in the vicinity of BT216167. On 14 Apr, A/3-82 Arty again surprised an enemy force, killing 8 VC of the 20 engaged at BT184309. The next day C/2-1 killed 4 VC at BT110310. On 17 Apr R/1-46 killed 4 NVA and captured

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their weapons in a sharp fire fight at BT171000 while suffering 4 US WIA(E). D/4-31 accounted for 5 VC KIA in 2 actions in the vicinity of AT996287. The next day A/4-31 suffered 5 WIA(E) from a booby trapped hand grenade at AT899229. On 19 Apr, 5 more US were wounded and evacuated when a UH-1H from 71st Avn crashed at BS148996. C/1-46 detonated 2 81mm mortar round booby traps at BT191125. Results were 7 US WIA(E). On 24 Apr B/3-16 Arty killed 6 VC at AT965084. Two days later R/2-1 sustained 6 WIA(E) when they detonated an 81mm mortar round booby trap. The enemy raised the level of fighting sharply on the last day of April. At 215H an unknown size force of NVA attacked LZ Siberia resulting in 3 US KIA and 3 WIA(E). There were 10 NVA KIA. Contact continued throughout the day with no further casualties at Siberia. Sharp fire fights took place throughout the day. D/4-31 killed 4 NVA and 2 VC in four contacts without a friendly loss. R/4-31 suffered 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA(E) at AT867233. Later they killed 4 NVA 300 meters north of this location. At AT86233 they found 9 NVA KBA. B/4-31 engaged 5 NVA at AT871203, killing 3. C/4-31 killed 4 NVA in two contacts at AT929227. 1 US suffered minor injuries. At 1445H LZ Center received 20 81mm mortar rounds, resulting in 3 US WIA(E). Total US casualties for the day were 4 US KIA, 10 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). Enemy losses were 39 NVA and 4 VC KIA, 2 IWC, 3 CSWC and 3 VN detained. Results for operation Frederick Hill for the reporting period were:

FRND

Enemy

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 69 US KIA | 543 VC KIA |
| 398 US WIA (E) | 220 NVA KIA |
| 54 US WIA(M) | 245 DET |
| 2 US MIA | 10 PW/VC |
| | 3 PW/NVA |
| | 3 CH/VC |
| | 0 CH/NVA |
| | 182 CIV DEF |
| | 103 IN CIV |
| | 206 IWC |
| | 15 CSWC |

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 July 1970 (U)

C. Intelligence

1. (C) Intelligence Summary

a. Quang Tin (P)

... (3) On May, 3/5 ARVN, vic AT 925269, received SA fire and an unknown amount of 82mm mortar rounds, followed by a ground attack, from an UNSEF; this action resulted in 12 NVA IA, 2 IW and 2 CSW CIA. That same day, Tam Ky received 200 rounds of 82mm mortar fire and a ground attack, causing heavy civilian casualties. Hawk Hill received 2 122mm rockets. LZ Bayonet received 20 60mm mortar rounds and a ground attack from an UNSEF. On 10 May, F/17 Cav, vic BT 298333, received 15 RPG rounds from an UnSEF; fire was returned resulting in 14 NVA KIA, 4 NVA CIA, 9 IWC and miscellaneous equipment destroyed. A/4-31 Inf, vic AT 868239, received 40-45 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an UNSEF. 3/4 ARVN CAV accounted for 12 VC KIA in a contact with an UNSEF BT300320. On 12 May, Tam Ky (D), vic BT311215, 293328 and 291229, received 3 122mm rocket rounds from an UnSEF. Tien Phuoc CIDG/USSF, vic 1215, received 50 82mm mortar rounds and an unknown number of RPG rounds from an UNSEF. Also RF #118, vic BT253216, received 25 rounds of mixed 60/82mm mortar fire and RPG rounds, followed by a heavy ground attack from an UNSEF. On 13 May, Chu Lai Combat Base received 5 122mm rockets. Later that day, C/2-1 Inf, vic AT 877244, received 15 rounds of 60mm mortar fire. R/1-46 Inf, vic BT231074, engaged an estimated NVA platoon resulting in 9 NVA KIA and 2 IWC. On 16 May, 2/5 ARVN vic AT 880263, received 25 82mm mortar rounds and 15 rounds of unknown type RR fire from an UNSEF.

D. Operations.

1. (C) Operations Summary:

a. General: Americal Division Forces continued to conduct combat operations throughout the Division Tactical Area of Interest during the period 1 May 1970 to 31 July 1970, with contact ranging from light to heavy in Operation Frederick Hill and light throughout the rest of the Americal Division's AO. The main area of enemy activity was in the Frederick Hill area of operations. Operation Frederick Hill, Geneva Park, Nantucket Beach, and Iron Mountain continued throughout the period. In addition, Operations Pennsylvania Square and Elk Canyon were initiated. All operations were conducted in conjunction and close coordination with the 2d ARVN Division.

b. Major Engagements: During the three month reporting period, Americal forces were included in two major engagements with enemy forces. One was reactive in nature and took place in the Hiep Duc area of Operation Frederick Hill during May 1970. Americal and 2d ARVN Division forces combined to drive back a large scale enemy attack on the government's pacification program and inflict heavy casualties on the enemy forces. The second was pre-emptive in nature and was conducted in the Nghia Hanh area of Operation Iron Mountain from 11 May to 14 May 1970 to thwart a planned enemy attack on the Nghia Hanh resettlement center.

c. Operations by AO:

(1) Operation Frederick Hill, conducted by the 196th Infantry Brigade in close cooperation and coordination with the 5th ARVN Regiment, continued throughout the reporting period. Emphasis was on combat operations to increase the level of security of pacification operation near the coastal area and the destruction of Main Force and NVA units in the western portion of the combined TAOR. Contact was heavy at the beginning of the May 1970, but action lessened towards the end of the month and remained light thereafter. The enemy opened an offensive in the Hiep Duc area with a ground attack against C/4-31st Inf, in the vicinity of AT933227, early on the morning of 1 May. The enemy lost 5 NVA KIA and one individual weapon at a cost of 1 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M). Throughout the rest of the day the enemy conducted attacks by fire against various American units. D/1-1st Cav suffered 5 US WIA(E) at BT253190, D/4-31st Inf had 14 US WIA(E) at AT910268, and A/3-21st Inf lost 19 US WIA(E) in the vicinity of AT896250. Americal Aviation struck back that evening as F/8th Cav killed 46 NVA from an unknown sized enemy force in the vicinity of AT9124. Gunships from the 71st Avn Co added 4 more NVA KIA in the same area. The action continued on 2 May, with an enemy attack on A/3-21st Inf and R/4-31st Inf at AT896250. A/3-21st Inf and 9 US WIA(E) and R/4-31st Inf lost 4 US WIA(E). D/4-31st Inf received fire at AT912263 and lost 6 US WIA(E). 123d Avn engaged an unknown sized enemy force at AT912246 and killed 15 NVA. B/4-31 lost 3 US KIA and 2 US WIA(E) in a fire fight at AT892235. The next day F/8 Cav found 5 NVA KIA at AT940228. B/1-1 Cav had 3 US WIA(E) in an engagement that cost the VC 6 KIA, 1 IWC and 2 CSWC. D/1-1 Cav killed 14 NVA from a force of unknown size at AT928258. On 4 May B/1-46 Inf detonated an 81mm mortar round boobytrap resulting in 16 US WIA(E) at BT250107. On 6 May C/4-31 Inf, searching in the vicinity of AT895253, found 22 NVA KIA from previous fighting. The next day LZ Siberia received enemy mortar fire resulting in 2 US KIA and 12 US WIA(E) from C/3-82d Arty. On 8 May the artillery struck back as A/3-82 Arty caught an NVA Company in the open and killed 25 of the enemy before they could scatter. The enemy replied with a mortar attack on B/4-31 Inf in which there were 5 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). Two days later, F/17 Cav was attacked and a total of 15 RPG rounds in the vicinity of BT298333. Results of the engagement were 14 NVA KIA and 9 IWC with no friendly casualties. Later that afternoon the NVA launched a heavy mortar attack on A/4-31 Inf at AT868239. US losses were 5 WIA(E) and 5 WIA(M). The NVA lost 3 KIA in the abortive ground probe that followed. US artillery struck back on 11 May as A/3-82 engaged 25 to 30 NVA at BT231074, killing 9 NVA and capturing 2 individual weapons without loss to themselves. On 14 May C/1-1 Cav suffered 5 US WIA(E) in a fire fight at AT923250. Enemy losses were unknown at the time, but the next day A Company found 6 NVA KBA at the same location. On 16 May F/17 Cav engaged 20 to 30 NVA in the vicinity of BT094362. Results were 8 NVA KIA, 5 detainees and 4 IWC, with no US casualties. On 17 May B/2-1 Inf killed 5 NVA in ambush at BT084323. Boobytraps continued to take their toll as A/3-21 Inf had 6 US WIA(E) on 18 May at BT095225. Action flared on 20 May as C/1-1 Cav killed 3 VC and captured 1 individual weapon at AT947262. US casualties were 5 US WIA(E). That afternoon C/1-1 Cav and elements from D/1-46 Inf came under heavy enemy fire and sustained 4 US KIA and 12 US WIA(E) at AT942270. A/1-1 Cav with elements from D/1-46 Inf reacted, killing 10 NVA and capturing 1 individual weapon in the same area. There were no further US casualties. Two days later R/2-1 engaged 15 VC at BT298146 and killed 7 of the enemy and captured 2 individual weapons without friendly loss. Two days after that B/1-46 found 15 enemy individual weapons at BT276107. On 25 May C/3-21 Inf had 7 US WIA(E) and 1 US MIA in an engagement at AT958229. Enemy losses were unknown. A short time later at BT033209 R/3-21 Inf engaged an unknown sized

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enemy force at AT903222, killing 8 NVA while suffering 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA(E). In a 7 hour engagement at AT987278, D/1-46 lost 2 US KIA, 1 US MIA, 1 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). Enemy losses were again unknown. On 27 May D/3-21 Inf received mortar and heavy small arms fire at AT955228 and suffered 2 US KIA, 4 US MIA and 7 US WIA(E). A/1-1 Cav lost 3 US KIA and 4 US WIA to small arms fire and RPG rounds at AT973273. On 28 May B/3-16 Arty pounded 2 VC companies in the vicinity of BT011126, killing 20 of the enemy. On 29 May E? and D/3-21 Inf found the bodies of 5 US MIA at AT955230. At almost the same location, AT955229, C/3-21 Inf found a like number of NVA KIA. A/3-82 Arty killed 5 VC from a 15 to 20 man enemy force at BT135328. US fire power closed out the month's significant contacts on 30 May. C/3-82 Arty engaged an NVA platoon at AT900246 and killed 5 of the enemy, B/3-16 added 8 VC KBA at AT989989, and the 71st Avn Co killed 5 VC from a 20 to 30 man force at BT119261. On 2 June F/17 Cav detonated a 155mm round boobytrap with 2 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M) at BT 255159. B/2-1 Inf lost 1 KIA and 8 WIA at BT198181 from another boobytrapped 155mm round. R/2-1 Inf caught a mixed NVA-VC force in an ambush that same night and killed 5 NVA and 2 VC at BT131272. The next evening C/3-16 Arty on LZ Siberia had 9 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M) as the result of an enemy mortar attack. A short time later B/3-21 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force at AT976220 and killed 4 NVA. B/3-82 Arty fired in support of the infantrymen and killed 6 more NVA. Early on the morning of 4 June A/4-31 at AT963217 had 9 US WIA(E) in an enemy mortar and hand grenade attack. One enemy crew-served weapon was captured. A/3-82 Arty engaged a suspected enemy location at BT241221 and killed 15 VC. B/3-21 Inf suffered 5 US WIA(E) in a fire fight at AT970230. On 5 June B/2-1 Inf eliminated a 4 man NVA patrol at BT164174 at a cost of 1 US WIA(E). One individual weapons was captured. On 6 June A/4-31 was engaged by an unknown sized enemy force at AT963254. Results of the four hour conflict were 1 NVA KIA, 3 US MIA, and 5 US WIA(E). At the same time, D/4-31 Inf was engaged in a sharp fire fight a short distance away at AT967749. Enemy losses were unknown; US losses were 1 KIA and 3 WIA(E). The next day B/3-21 Inf suffered 1 US MIA and 6 US WIA(E) in a day long battle in the vicinity of AT972221. Enemy losses were 6 NVA KIA. Riflemen from 1-46 Inf on an observation post engaged 10 NVA at BT236114. Results were 7 NVA KIA. A few minutes later they engaged and killed 1 VC at BT236117. C/3-82 Arty eliminated a 7 man VC detachment at AT894220. Later that day A/1-46 suffered 7 US WIA(E) at AT934240 in an engagement with an unknown sized enemy force. Enemy losses were unknown. On 8 June LZ West received recoilless rifle fire. US casualties from E/4-31 Inf were 5 WIA(E) and 3 WIA(M). Mortar crews from E/2-1 engaged 8 VC at BT175355, killing 7. B/1-46 Inf killed 6 NVA at AT953225 and captured 5 individual weapons. Friendly casualties were 4 NVA KIA, 2 US KIA and 7 US WIA(E). B/3-16 Arty caught an enemy force at BT 111266, resulting in 10 VC KBA. Artillery continued to pound the enemy the next day as A/3-82 Arty killed six VC at BT185347 and 5 more at BT 187347 in two early morning fire missions. B/3-82 Arty continued the action, adding 6 VC KBA at BT245370. An enemy attack on C/1-46 Inf at AT958243 left 2 US KIA and 8 WIA(E). Enemy losses were 5 NVA KIA. The enemy attacked again that evening, this time mortaring C Company at AT954245. US losses were 1 US KIA and 5 US WIA(E). Air Force aircraft added their fire power in an air strike at BT170304. The Forward Air Controller, Helix 02, counted 6 VC killed in the attack. On 11 June A/3-21 Inf found 8 NVA KBA from a previous mission fired by B/3-82 Arty at AT972227. That night the enemy struck at C/3-21 Inf with 4 recoilless rifles at AT987221. Results were 1 US KIA and 4 US WIA(E). B/1-46 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force early on 12 June in the vicinity of AT965246. Results of this morning long contact were 1 US KIA, 15 US WIA(E), 33 NVA KIA, 5 IWC and 1 CSWC. C/1-46 Inf accounted for 4 more VC KIA at AT960252. The enemy retaliated that afternoon with 9 US WIA(E) in a mortar attack on C Company at AT959249. 14th Avn Bn gunships flying in support killed 10 NVA from a 40 man enemy force in the same vicinity. A few hours later C/1-46 lost 5 more US WIA(E) in another mortar attack at AT955243. F/17 Cav engaged 6 or 7 VC at BT200204, killing 4 and detaining 2 others. An unknown type of booby trap cost the cavalrymen 5 US WIA(E) later that day at BT253178. D/2-1 Inf engaged an enemy force at BT102238 and killed 6 VC without a loss. On 13 June C/3-21 Inf had 1 US KIA and 16 US WIA(E) in an attack by fire at AT980223. The next day C/3-82 Arty caught an enemy force at AT954253 and killed 6 NVA. On 16 June D/2-1 lost 5 US WIA(E) to a boobytrap at BT147227. C/3-82 Arty continued to punish the enemy, killing 5 NVA in an artillery preparation for 1/6 ARVN near AT951240. On 17 June C/1-1 Cav had 5 US WIA(E) from a large mine at BT236210. A similar incident cost A/1-1 Cav 5 US WIA(E) and A/2-1 Inf 1 US WIA(E) at BT210245. D/2-1 Inf was able to kill 5 VC of the 6 VC engaged at BT149048. On 19 June 3-1 Inf was moved by C-130 aircraft from Quang Ngai to Tam Ky and by CH-47 helicopters from Tam Ky to Tien Phuoc to reinforce 196th Inf Bde elements. The next day C/3-1 Inf seized hill 482 (AT875175) for the establishment of a fire support base for B/1-14 Arty. The rest of the battalion made a combat assault into the vicinity of AT857125. On 23 June E/2-1 Inf killed 6 VC from an unknown sized enemy force they engaged at

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BT182488. Two days later B/3-1 Inf found a cache of 5 individual weapons at AT836130. The company received small arms fire while in the area and suffered 4 US WIA(E). On 26 June D/1-1 Cav inserted the aero rifle platoon at AT962017. One UH-1H helicopter received ground fire and crashed. Casualties were 22 US WIA(E) and 1 US MIA who was later recovered with minor injuries. In the same incident F/8 Cav lost 1 US WIA(E) and a UH-1H. The next day F/8 Cav engaged an unknown sized enemy force at BT168183 and killed 5 NVA. Action continued at a slower pace through the month of July. On 1 July B/3-1 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force at AT853089. The enemy escaped with only 1 NVA KIA but left 5 individual weapons behind. On 2 July 3-1 Inf returned to the 11th Bde and the Iron Mountain area of operation. On 6 July C/1-46 Inf engaged and killed 3 NVA at AS935989. 2 individual weapons were captured while 7 US soldiers suffered minor injuries. A short time later B/1-46 Inf killed 5 NVA and captured 3 individual weapons at AS942988. The next day B/1-46 Inf received 5 Hoi Chanhs in the vicinity of AS961998. More of the enemy surrendered two days later to C/4-31 Inf as seven Hoi Chanhs rallied with 2 individual weapons near AT970131 and six more rallied at AT991113. On 12 July C/3-21 Inf tripped 2 boobytrapped 82mm mortar rounds in the vicinity of BT162179. Total US losses in the twin incidents were 4 US KIA and 12 US WIA(E). Late the next night F/8 Cav nighthawk killed 6 VC in 2 engagements at ZC208150. On 14 July R/3-21 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force at BT138228, with 1 VC KIA, 4 NVA KIA, and 2 IWC. The next evening B/3-21 In received small arms fire and M-79 fire at BT148289, resulting in 8 US WIA(M). On 26 July A/1-46 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force in a day long contact at AT900958. US casualties were 4 US MIA and 8 US WIA(E). The bodies of the missing were recovered the next day with their weapons. Enemy losses were unknown. The next day R/1-46 Inf found 6 individual weapons at AS924992. In an incident starting on 20 July in an area east of FSB Center, vicinity BT104284, gunships from the 116th Avn Co observed 10-15 NVA, resulting in 3 NVA KIA. A short time later, B/3-82 Arty fired on the same area, resulting in 2 NVA KIA. Total enemy losses for the operation were reported as 9 NVA KIA. Results for Operation Frederick Hill for the reporting period were:

| <u>FRND</u> | <u>ENEMY</u> |
|-------------|--------------|
| 47 KIA | 1166 KIA |
| 587 WIA(E) | 1 DET |
| 91 WIA(M) | 20 PW/VC |
| | 6 PW/NVA |
| | 13 RTNEE/VC |
| | 2 RTNEE/NVA |
| | 188 CIV DEF |
| | 107 IN CIV |
| | 270 IWC |
| | 20 CSWC |

(2) Operation Geneva Park continued throughout the reporting period as the 198th Infantry Brigade and the 6th ARVN Regiment concentrated on the security of major lines of communication and the destruction of enemy forces attempting to attack Quang Ngai City or the Chu Lai base complex. Activity was light as Americal units searched the Rocket Pocket around Chu Lai, targeting against elements of the 78th Main Force Rocket Bn. Saturation patrolling, extensive night ambushes, preplanned air strikes, scheduled artillery fires, and sensor devices were used to inhibit enemy attempts to attack the populated areas. Early on 4 May the enemy launched a heavy attack by fire as Chu Lai received 57 122mm rockets resulting in 15 US WIA(E). Prompt reaction by C/5-46 Inf, who conducted a first light CA to BS506976, resulted in the capture of 43 more rockets, in place ready for firing. The next morning the enemy fired 24 additional 122mm rockets. US casualties were 1 KIA and 5 WIA(E). Two days later B/5-46 Inf detonated an anti-tank mine at BT443036, losing 1 KIA and 4 WIA(E). On 8 May LZ Stinson received 60mm and 81mm mortar fire. There were 7 US WIA(M) from C/1-52 Inf and 6 US WIA(M) from D/1-14? Arty. On 11 May ?/17 Cav had 5 US WIA(E) when and M-551 Sheridan detonated a 250 lb bomb rigged as a booby trap at BS564913. The next day A/5-46 Inf had 6 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M) from a boobytrapped artillery round at BT377067. On the evening of 13 May C/1-52 Inf suffered 2 US KIA and 3 US WIA(E) in an enemy mortar attack vicinity BS532898. On 17 May C/5-46 found a weapons cache of 6 individual weapons at BT354047. Four days later the same unit suffered 7 WIA(E) from a boobytrap at BT340074. On 24 May H/17 Cav was again the victim of a boobytrap, losing 5 WIA(E) at BS520869. Mines and booby traps continued to plague the cavalymen as they had 1 KIA and 4 WIA(E) on 26 May when they detonated a 750 Lb. bomb at BS518887?. Two days later they were the victim of an unknown type mine at BS516485, losing 1 KIA and 4 WIA(E). ?/26 Engr Bn also had two men wounded and evacuated in this incident. In early June the enemy initiated several attacks by fire against Americal units. Early on 4 June A/1-52 Inf on LZ Stinson received 20 to 30 82mm mortar rounds, sustaining casualties of 1 US KIA, 3 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M). The next morning the enemy fired 60 to 70 rounds of 60mm and 82mm mortar fire at BS599832, resulting in 3 US WIA(E). Two hours later the enemy added 20 to 25 more rounds, resulting in 3 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). One VC was also killed in this second attack. On 10 June an ambush from C/5-46 Inf suffered 1 US KIA and 7 US WIA(E) at BS515705. Enemy losses were unknown. Also on 10 June R/5-46 found a cache with 11 individual weapons and 1 crew served weapon at BT351064. Three days later R/1-52 Inf suffered 5 US WIA(E) when they detonated an M-16 anti-personnel mine at BS537857. On 20 June R/1-52 Inf detonated a 155mm round boobytrap at BS487852. Results were 3 US KIA, 5 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). The next day A/1-1 Cav engaged an unknown sized enemy force at BT206198, killing 4 NVA and capturing 3 individual weapons while suffering 2 US WIA(E). On 27 June F/17 Cav ambushed an unknown sized enemy force at BT237158, killing 6 NVA and capturing 3 individual weapons without friendly loss. On 7 July R/5-46 detonated an anti-personnel mine at BT297052, resulting in 5 US WIA(E). On 19 July H/17 Cav had 5 US WIA(E) when they detonated an unknown sized mine at BS512886. B/1-52 Inf caught an enemy force in an ambush that evening, killing 5 VC. On 29 July, R/1-52 detonated 2 Bouncing Betty mines tied together with trip wire at 1635 hours vicinity BS574846. This resulted in 6 US WIA(E). On 30 July, C/5-46 detonated a boobytrapped 155mm round while receiving KIA, 16 US WIA(E), 1 KCS KIA, 1 VN interpreter KIA, 3 VN interpreters WIA(E). The results for Operation Geneva Park for the period were :

| <u>FRND</u> | <u>ENEMY</u> |
|-------------|--------------|
| 25 KIA | 200 KIA |
| 247 WIA(E) | 2 DET |
| 39 WIA(M) | 1 PW/NVA |
| | 38 CIV DEF |
| | 60 IN CIV |
| | 68 IWC |
| | 4 CSWC |

AVDF-HL

10 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period
Ending 31 July 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

(5) **Operation Pennsylvania Square** commenced 291200 hours June 1970 as 1-1 Cav, with **F/17 Cav attached**, assumed responsibility for the open terrain in the northeastern portion of the Americal Division AO. That afternoon A/1-1 Cav engaged 8 VC at BT216246, killing 5 of the enemy and detaining one. Two individual and 1 crew served weapons were captured. On 2 July mortars from E/2-1 Inf, firing in support of PF platoon 135, eliminated a 6 man VC unit at BT170470. The PF's reported 1 IWC. Later that morning an ACAV from **F/17 Cav** detonated a 250 lb bomb at BT220161. The vehicle was destroyed and there were 5 US KIA and 1 US WIA(E). On 8 July the 71st Avn Co killed 3 NVA at BT210171 shortly after first light. They returned to the area that afternoon and accounted for 9 more NVA. A/1-1 Cav captured 3 NVA wounded by 71st Avn at BT113322. 3 individual weapons were also captured. On 15 July B/1-1 Cav received 1 RPG round and small arms fire. The cavalrymen returned fire, killing 2 VC and capturing 1 individual weapon and 1 crew served weapon. US losses were 2 WIA(E). On 22 July A/1-1 Cav detonated a nitro starch mine at BT209200 and suffered 5 US WIA(E). Results for Operation Pennsylvania Square during the reporting period were:

FRND

ENEMY

8 KIA
42 WIA(E)

48 KIA
1 DET
1 PW/VC
6 CIV DET
11 IN CIV
18 IWC
2 CSWC

I. Section I. Operations: Significant Activities.

A. Command.

1. (C) Background. The 23d Infantry Div. continued to conduct combat operations throughout the division Tactical Area of Interest (TAOI) during the reporting period. Contact with enemy units ranged from light to moderate throughout the TAOI. Operations Frederick Hill, Geneva Park, Nantucket Beach, Pennsylvania Square and Iron Mountain continued throughout the period. Operation Elk Canyon terminated on 26 August at which time Operation Elk Canyon II commenced. Elk Canyon II terminated 19 September. On 5 September, the 196th Infantry Brigade initiated Operation Nebraska Rapids, a joint operation with the 1st Cavalry Division. The operation terminated on 8 September. on 2 October the 1-1 Cavalry and the 2-1 Infantry formed Task Force Saint. The task force was placed OPCON to the 1st Marine Division for Operation Tulare Falls, which lasted thru 15 October. **On 21 October, Troop F, 17th Cavalry was placed in direct support of the 2d ROK Marine Brigade for an indefinite period.** Task Force Burnett, composed of units from 1-1 Cav and 2-1 Inf was formed on 27 October and placed OPCON to the 1st Marine Division for participation in Operation Hoang Dieu. Joint operations with the 2d ARVN Division, rice denial and pacification continued successfully.

Severe tropical storms and Typhoons Kate and Joan seriously curtailed military operations during the period 15 October to 26 October as 23d Infantry Division Troops and materiel assets were diverted to engaged in disaster relief operations with the 2d ARVN Division.

(5) Operation Pennsylvania Square continued throughout the reporting period, concentrating on security of major lines of communication and supply as well as combat operations to increase the level of security of the pacification operations being conducted along the coast. Enemy activity continued to be light throughout the reporting period as the 1-1 Cavalry continued its operations. On 6 Aug, A/1-1 Cav made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in 4 VC KIA and 2 individual weapons captured at BT 083328. In the early evening of the next day, F/17 Cav detonated a 40 lb nitro starch mine resulting in 7 US WIA (E) in the vicinity of BT 232229. B/1-1 Cav on the morning of the 8th, engaged 8 NVA killing 6 and capturing 6 individual weapons. The next morning at BT 109305, A/1-1 Cav detonated a nitro starch mines resulting in 4 US KIA and 5 US WIA (E) Operation Pennsylvania Square saw light action until 17 Aug when C/1-1 Cav engaged an unknown size enemy force at BT 147287 which resulted in 1 NVA and 2 VC KIA, 2 individual weapons captured and 4 detainees. They also received 1 Hoi Chanh in the action. On the morning of the 21st, **F/17 Cav** detonated a 30 lb mine at BT 206236 resulting in 5 US WIA (E). On the 27th, B/1-1 Cav detained 3 VN received 4 Hoi Chanh and captured 1 individual weapon. On 30 Aug, A, D/1-1 Cav in the vicinity of BT 272126 engaged 17 NVA. The action resulted in 14 NVA KIA, 3 detainees and 3 individual weapons captured. The first day of September witnessed D/1-1 Cav kill 2 NVA and detain 7 individuals in the vicinity of BT 246145. The following afternoon, D/1-1 Blues engaged an unknown size enemy force at BT 080336, killing 9 of the enemy detaining 4 wounded VN and capturing 3 individual weapons. On the 14th of Sep, B/1-1 Cav detonated a boobytrap hand grenade wounding 5 US at BT 1755274. At midday on the 17th, 71st Avn engaged an unknown size enemy force killing 7 VC and capturing 3 individual weapons and 1 crew served weapons in the action. On 25 Sep **F/17 Cav** detonated a mine at BT 130320. Casualties sustained were 4 US WIA (E) and 6 US WIA (M). On the first day of Oct, in the vicinity of BT 1383238, F/17 Cav detonated a mine resulting in 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA (E). On 4 Oct., a combined 1-1 Cav/RF outpost received a ground attack from an estimated VC Company in which 3 US were killed and 4 wounded. The next morning an ACAV from E/1 Cav hit a 65 lb petna mine resulting in 5 US WIA (E) at BT 255187. On 9 Oct D/1-1 observed and engaged 5 VC. Four of the enemy were killed by gunships and 3 individual weapons were captured. Two US were wounded. There were no significant activities until the morning of 24 Oct around 1120 H near BT 206206 when a Sheridan from E/1 Cav detonated an 80 lb mine resulting in four soldiers WIA (E) and 1 Kit Carson Scout WIA (E). The Sheridan was a combat loss. Later at 1155H, at the same location, another Sheridan detonated an 80 lb nitro starch mine. Two US were wounded and again the Sheridan was a combat loss. On 27 Oct, Task Force Burnett was organized as follows: HQ/1-1 Cav; A Troop, 1-1 Cav and D/2-1 Infantry. The Task Force is under operation control of the 5th Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. B/1-1 Cavalry and E/1 Cavalry continue operations in Pennsylvania Square. Both Troops are under operational control of the 196th Infantry Brigade. There were no further significant activities for the remainder of the reporting period. results for Operation Pennsylvania Square were:

US

10 KIA
126 WIA (E)
13 WIA (M)
0 MIA

ENEMY

143 KIA (CONF)
3 KIA (PROB)
0 DET
5 PW/VC
2 PW/NVA
7 RTNEE/VC
1 RTNEE/NVA
66 CIV DEF
71 IN CIV
47 IWC
1 CSWC

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 23d Infantry Division (Americal), Period Ending 30 April 1971, RCS CSFOR - 65 (R3) (U)

(d) Operation PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE, initiated at 291200H June 1970 in the open terrain in the northeastern portion of the 23d Infantry Division, was ideally suited for the employment of armor. The responsibility for the AO was entrusted to the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry with F Troop, 17th Cavalry attached. Through constant combat operations, the operation proved to be highly successful. The operation was terminated at 010600H March 1971. During the reporting period, 1 November 1970 - 1 March 1971, contact was light to moderate with numerous encounters with anti-tank mines and casualty producing booby traps. No contact was reported in the PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE AO on the first and second day of the reporting period (1-2 November). On 3 November, a mechanical ambush was detonated at BT115449, resulting in 1 VC KIA. On 8 November a convoy departed Tam Ky and arrived at Tien Phuoc without incident. An ACAV from E Troop 1st Cavalry detonated a 70 lb mine at BT143299 at 091715H November resulting in 4 US WIA(E). Again at 10100H November (BT239192), a second E Troop ACAV detonated a 100 lb mine resulting 5 US WIA(E) and the combat loss of the ACAV. At 1840H on 12 Nov vic BT240215, an RPG round hit a M113A1 resulting in 6 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). The vehicle was moderately damaged. A Sheridan from A Troop, 1st Cavalry detonated an 80 lb mine at 13182H Nov (BT178140) resulting in 5 US WIA(E). The M551 was a combat loss. No contact was reported in the PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE AO until 20 Nov at which time C/1-1 Cav detonated a 75 lb petna mine resulting in 5 US WIA(E) and a M113A1 declared a probable combat loss. The detonation occurred vic BT209209. There were no further significant events in the AO during the period 20-29 November.. During this period, small unit contacts resulted in 8 VC KIA, 6 IWC and 5 US WIA(E). On 30 November at BT205220 an ACAV from C/1-1 Cavalry detonated an anti-tank mine resulting in 8 US WIA(E), 2 US WIA(M) and the ACAV (M113A1) being declared a combat

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 23d Infantry Division
(Americal), Period Ending 30 April 1971, RCS CSFOR - 65 (R3) (U)

loss. Again on 2 December at 1415H vic BT118250, **F/17** Cav detonated a mine resulting in 4 US WIA(E). There were no other significant engagements in the AO until an ACAV from C/1-1 Cavalry detonated an anti-tank mine at BT240227 on 7 December resulting 2 US KIA, 14 US WIA(E) and 8 US WIA(M). On 11 December, in two separate incidents, C/1-1 detonated two anti-tank mines. The first occurred at 1853H in the vicinity of BT2229232 and resulted in 5 US WIA(E) and moderate damage to a Sheridan tank. At 2010H in the same location, another mine was detonated resulting in 2 US WIA(E). Results of scattered contacts for the period 12-19 December were 1 US WIA(E) and 3 IWC. There were no significant engagements in the PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE AO from 19 December through 241800H December. There were no contacts reported in the AO from 24 December through 30 December. On 31 December at 1025H, while conducting a reconnaissance in force (BT213243), **F Troop, 17th Cavalry** detonated a booby trapped 81mm mortar round resulting in 11 US WIA(E). There were no contacts or engagements reported for the first five days of January 1971. At 0930H, 6 January 1971, B Troop, 1-1 Cavalry, while participating in a reconnaissance in force, vicinity BT215278, detonated a nitro starch mine causing 3 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). On 8 January 1971, activities increased as C Troop, 1-1 Cavalry made three separate contacts in the vicinity of BT176228, BT173230 and BT178228. Results of these contacts were 4 VC KIA, 1 IWC, 2 detainees and no friendly casualties sustained. At about 2130H, E Troop made contact at BT210482 and accounted for 2 VC KIA and 1 IWC, again with negative friendly casualties. Total results for all engagements for the period 20 December 1970 through 10 January 1971 were 16 VC/NVA KIA, 2 IWC and 20 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). During the period 11-20 January action was light in Operation PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE with the exception of 13 January. At 1205H on the 13th, in the vicinity of BT179249, an M113A1 from B/1-1 Cav detonated an 80 lb nitro starch mine that resulted in 4 US WIA(E). An hour later the element received a hand grenade from an unknown size enemy force that resulted in 2 US WIA(E). Total results for the period 11-20 January were 2 VC KIA with 2 IWC and 2 VN detained. The above represent the only US casualties for 11-20 January. During the period 21 through 31 January 1971, the 1-1 Cavalry reported negative contact except for the following: On the 22d, B Troop had a mechanical ambush detonate which resulted in 1 VC KIA. On the 25th, **F Troop, 17th Cavalry** reported a mechanical ambush had been detonated with 2 NVA KIA. The 196th Inf Bde assumed responsibility for Operation PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE effective 260900H January 1971. The totals of all contacts for the period were 1 VC and 2 NVA KIA. On 1 February, D/1-1 Cavalry engaged 1 VC in the vicinity of BT198330 resulting in 1 VC KIA and 4 IWC. The AO was unusually quiet during the period 21 January through 14 February. Total results for the period 1 through 14 February were as follows: 5 NVA/VC KIA and 7 IWC while friendly casualties were 2 US WIA(E). The period from 15 February through 28 February saw an increase in the activities in the PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE Area of Operation. The most significant action occurred on 15 February when **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, searching in the vicinity of BT239479 engaged and killed 6 VC, with 3 IWC and no casualties sustained by the US element. At coordinates BT234464,

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AVDF-HL

15 May 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 23d Infantry Division
(Americal), Period Ending 30 April 1971, RCS CSFOR - 65 (R3) (U)

on 22 February 1971, **F Troop, 17th Cavalry** engaged and destroyed one enemy bunker. A ground sweep confirmed 2 NVA KIA and 4 IWC. **F/17th Cavalry** reported no friendly casualties. **F/17th Cavalry** engaged 6 VC, (BT422064), 28 February 1971 resulting in 6 VC KIA and 3 IWC. There were no friendly casualties. Total results of reported contacts, 15 February through 28 February 1971 are as follows: 17 NVA/VC KIA; 10 IWC and 10 US WIA(E). Operation PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE was terminated effective 010600H March 1971. The results of Operation PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE for the reporting period are:

| <u>US</u> | <u>ENEMY</u> |
|------------|---------------|
| 2 KIA | 70 KIA (CONF) |
| 113 WIA(E) | 0 KIA (PROB) |
| 11 WIA(M) | 207 DET |
| 0 MIA | 2 PW/VC |
| | 3 PW/NVA |
| | 1 RTNEE/VC |
| | 0 RTNEE/NVA |
| | 45 CIV DEF |
| | 25 IN CIV |
| | 31 IWC |
| | 0 CSWC |

Cumulative results of Operation PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE are:

| <u>US</u> | <u>ENEMY</u> |
|------------|----------------|
| 20 KIA | 261 KIA (CONF) |
| 278 WIA(E) | 3 KIA (PROB) |
| 24 WIA(M) | 207 DET |
| 0 MIA | 8 PW/VC |
| | 5 PW/NVA |
| | 8 RTNEE/VC |
| | 1 RTNEE/NVA |
| | 117 CIV DEF |
| | 107 IN CIV |
| | 95 IWC |
| | 3 CSWC |

(g) Effective 010600H March 1971, Operation MIDDLESEX PEAK was initiated under tactical control of Commanding Officer, 196th Brigade. In conjunction and close coordination with the GVN forces in the combined TAOR, emphasis is on continuous and aggressive combat operations, to increase the level of security of pacified areas along the coastal plains and to destroy main force and NVA units operating in the western portion of the AO, and to assist in rice denial operations. At 010955H, a 5 ton vehicle from A/26 Engr, BT015324, detonated a 40 pound land mine resulting in 3 USWIA(E). At 1310H vicinity BT016330 a second 5 ton vehicle from A/26 Engr Detonated a 40 pound mine resulting in 2 US WIA(E). On 4 March 1971 **F/17 Cav**, while operating vicinity BT177248, received 4 RPG rounds and 5 81mm mortar rounds. Friendly casualties were 1 US KIA and 5 US WIA(E). At 040705H in the area of AT818273, R/4-31 engaged 6 VC resulting in 4 VC KIA and no friendly casualties. On 5 March D/3-21 detonated a booby trapped 5 pound can of petna while searching vicinity BT215238. Detonation caused 4 US WIA(E). On 10 March A/4-31 suffered 4 US WIA(E) when a booby trapped hand grenade was detonated at AT970307. On 12 March at BT294115, B/5-46 detonated a booby trapped hand grenade resulting in 5 US WIA(E). Light and scattered contacts were reported until 16 March when C/4-31 engaged 6 VC at AT996296. 5 VC were KIA and 3 IWC with no friendly losses. D/1-46 found a weapons cache at BS096957 on 20 March consisting of 15 IWC. Results of all contacts for the period 1 March through 20 March are 68 VC/NVA KIA, 15 IWC, 2 CSWC, 1 US KIA, 52 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M). On the 21st of March while patrolling in the vicinity of BT227134/230138, A/5-46 engaged an UNSEF that resulted in 5 VC/NVA KIA and 6 VN detained. US forces sustained no losses. There were no significant contacts reported until 280155H March when LZ Marianne received a mortar and sapper ground attack. Elements of CP group, C Company, Recon and Mortars, 1-46 Inf were engaged by an UNSEF which succeeded in breaching the perimeter. Results of the attack are as follows: 12 VC/NVA KIA, 30 US KIA, 82 US WIA(E), 1 155mm Howitzer destroyed and 1 155mm Howitzer damaged. On the morning of 31 March at BT240473 elements of **F/17 Cav** engaged an enemy force of unknown size. During the fire fight, 11 VC/NVA were KIA. There were no friendly casualties. Results of operations for the last ten days of March were reported as: 76 VC/NVA, 14 IWC, 1 CSWC, 35 US KIA, 96 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M). While conducting a search operation on 1 April in the vicinity of AS961998, D/1-46 found and arms cache consisting of 5 IWC and 1 CSWC. **F/17 Cav** operating in the vicinity of BT204517 found seven graves on 5 April and credited the kills to B/3-82 Artillery. On 7 April, at BT213 492, elements of **F/17 Cav** detonated a mine resulting in 1 US KIA, 2 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M). Cumulative results for the period 1-7 April were reported by the 196th Brigade as being: 23 VC/NVA KIA, 8 IWC, 1 CSWC, 24 US WIA(E) and 4 US WIA(M). Light and scattered contacts were reported through 10 April. Effective 111430H April, the 198th Brigade terminated its activities in Operation FINNEY HILL and in conjunction with the 196th Brigade commenced participation in Operation MIDDLESEX PEAK. In a series of unrelated and scattered engagements on 13 April US forces suffered 6 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). Enemy casualties were not determined. At BT205505, 15 April, elements of **F/17 Cav** detonated a booby trapped 60mm mortar round. There were 3 US WIA(E). In all reported engagements for the period 8 through 15 April there were 21 VC/NVA KIA, 8 IWC, 19 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). At 161730H April, C/5-46 had a mechanical ambush detonate in the vicinity of BT255081 resulting in 3 VC/NVA KIA and 2 IWC. In the 198th Brigade TAOR R/1-6, while patrolling in the vicinity of BS457893, detonated a 105mm round booby trapped with a trip wire firing device which resulted in 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA(E). In the 196th Brigade area of operation F/8 Cav at AT966525 received SAF resulting in 3 US WIA(E). Light and minor engagements were reported throughout the AO until the early morning of 21 April when H/17 Cav in night laager in the vicinity of AT966530 received two unknown type explosions at 0015H. 1 US KIA and 5 US WIA(E) were sustained and one M113A1 was declared a combat loss. At 0900H, 22 April E/1-6 detonated an M16A1 mine in the vicinity of LZ Professional which resulted in 12 US WIA(E). E/1-1 Cav at AT967556 engaged an UNSEF on 23 April and received credit for 4 VC/NVA KIA and 1 IWC. Two hours earlier at 1235H, A/1-6 engaged 5 NVA/VC at BT387006 and was credited with 4 VC/NVA KIA. In the 196th Brigade AO at LZ Stinson at 240545H April, Hq Co, 1-52 Inf received 30-40 60mm mortar rounds resulting in 7 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). At 241200H April in the vicinity of BS355777 A/1-52 received an attack by fire with SAF, RPG and B40 rockets.

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AVDF-HL

15 May 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 23d Infantry Division
(Americal), Period Ending 30 April 1971, RCS CSFOR - 65 (R3) (U)

US casualties were 8 US WIA(E). Enemy losses were not determined. 25 April marked the high point of activity in the combined 196th and 198th Brigades AO when in a series of sharp contacts the Brigades reported 15 VC/NVA KIA, 3 IWC and 1 CSWC while US losses were 2 KIA, 14 WIA(E) and 10 WIA(M). At 251610H, BS350784, A/1-52 received SAF and B40 rocket fire causing 5 US WIA(E) and 9 WIA(M). Return fire accounted for 2 NVA/VC KIA. at 1825H, 25 April at AT965523, A/2-1 received and returned an intense volume of small arms fire from an UNSEF. The fire fight resulted in 6 VC/NVA KIA and 1 US KIA with 5 US WIA(E). At BS577895 on 26 April a convoy from 23d S&T Bn received SAF resulting in 4 US WIA(E). **F/17 Cav** on 270820H April, detonated a land mine at BT035395 which resulted in the combat loss of an M113A1 with 2 US KIA and 3 US WIA(E). In the vicinity of BS353798 at 281315H April, D/1-52 engaged 4 NVA. When the contact was broken, a sweep of the area revealed 4 NVA KIA and 1 IWC. On the last day of the reporting period, 30 April, at BS348773, A/1-52 received SAF and two rounds of B40 rockets, inflicting serious wounds to 5 US personnel with 2 US suffering minor wounds. At 0825H, 20 April, at the same location, A/1-52 had received a similar attack by fire resulting in 5 US WIA(E). Total results for period 16 through 30 April for Operation MIDDLESEX PEAK were reported as: 76 VC/NVA KIA, 20 IWC, 3 CSWC, 6 US KIA, 102 US WIA(E) and 19 US WIA(M). Cumulative totals for Operation MIDDLESEX PEAK for the reporting period were:

| <u>US</u> | <u>ENEMY</u> |
|------------|----------------|
| 45 KIA | 274 KIA (CONF) |
| 295 WIA(E) | 0 KIA (PROB) |
| 44 WIA(M) | 118 DET |
| 0 MIA | 10 PW/VC |
| | 3 PW/NVA |
| | 4 RTNEE/VC |
| | 0 RTNEE/NVA |
| | 61 CIV DEF |
| | 9 IN CIV |
| | 83 IWC |
| | 7 CSWC |

(c) **Operation CAROLINE HILL** conducted by the 196th Infantry Brigade continued from the previous reporting period. At 2025 on the first day of May, D/2-1 Inf and A/1-1 Cav were on a search and clear mission in the vicinity of AT930515, when an ACAV detonated a boobytrapped 155mm round with a pressure firing device. Results of this were 8 US WIA(E) and 1 ACAV a combat loss. On 2 May, A/1-1 Cav detonated an unknown type mine vicinity AT970550, resulting in 3 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M). Later that afternoon, HHC 1-1 Cav detonated an unknown type mine in the vicinity of AT945583. The results of this were 1 US KIA, 4 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). C/3-16 Arty, vic AT878578, received 2x122mm rockets resulting in 4 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). In an incident on 031430H May, A/26 Engineers received 1 hand grenade vic AT922572 resulting in 3 US WIA(E). During the period 4 May - 9 May, there were no significant contacts in the operation. On 10 May at 14454H, A/2-1 Inf received small arms fire vic AT986526 from an unknown size enemy force, resulting in 5 US WIA(E). The unit returned small arms fire and artillery with unknown results. C/1-1 Cav, on 12 May at 1010H, detonated an unknown type mine vic of AT947583, resulting in 1 US KIA, 3 US WIA (E). Another element of 1-1 Cav, A troop, engaged 5 NVA at 1100H on 12 May in the vicinity of AT957543. The results were 2 NVA KIA, 3 IWC. On 13 May there were no significant contacts. On 14 May, the action increased. At 1400H, vic ZC180480, a FAC engaged an UNSEF, resulting in 15 NVA KBA. At 1450H on the same day, a patrol from **F/17 Cav** detonated an unknown type mine vic AT947520. Results of this incident were 5 US KIA. On 15 May at 1000H A/2-1 Inf was involved in a significant contact, vic AT987534, when they received small arms fire and hand grenades from an unknown size enemy force. The unit returned with small arms fire, hand grenades and artillery. Results of the contact were: 2 US KIA, 5 US WIA(E), 2 VC KIA, 2 NVA KIA. Cumulative results for the period 1015 May were: 28 NVA KIA, 5 VC KIA, 4 detained and 6 IWC. Friendly casualties were 10 US KIA, 32 US WIA(E) and 6 US WIA(M). there was no contact reported on 16 May. Action on 17 May was light, as A/2-1 Inf at 1830H, vic AT985533, engaged and killed 2 NVA. On 18 May no contact was reported in the operation. On May 19th, action in-creased. At 1456H, a patrol from A/2-1 Inf detonated an unknown type mine in the vic of AT992513 resulting in 1 US WIA(E). B/3-21 Inf at 0915H engaged and killed 1 VC, vic of BT005370. Also on the 19th, a patrol from A/1-1 Cav, at 1345H detonated an unknown type mine in the vicinity of AT961548. Results of this incident were 5 US WIA(E). The action in CAROLINE HILL remained slow on 20 May. At 0900H an element of A/3-21 Inf detained 2 Vietnamese in the vicinity of AT904342. At 1000H, A/1-1 Cav in the vic of AT65558, found a grave containing 4 VC KIA. A/3-16 Artillery, vic AT922364, engaged and killed 1 VC. On 21 May, units of the 196th Brigade again reported light contact. At 2040H, an element of D/2-1 Inf am- bushed 2 VC vic AT008557. Results of this encounter were 2 VC KIA. A/1-1 Cav at 0945H found 1 VC killed by artillery near AT964557. B/2-1 Inf at 1937H, vic AT989473, had a mechanical ambush detonate, resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 IWC. A/2-1 Inf at 00155H, while in NDP vic of AT880580, received 20x 60mm mortar rounds. Results of this engagement were 4 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M). R/2-1, at 2025H on the evening of the 22d, engaged 2 VC near AT981499. Results of this contact was 1 VC KIA. C/1-1 Cav, while on an afternoon patrol, engaged a VC squad vicinity of AT961563, resulting in 2 VC KIA and 1 IWC. On 23 May 196th units noted increased activity in the operation. B/2-1 Inf was involved in two separate incidents. At 1030H, a mechanical ambush detonated vicinity of AT989472 resulting in 1 VC KIA. At 1320H, vicinity AT987460, a patrol from the same element found 1 IW. A patrol from D/2-1 at 1655H, detonated a boobytrapped M79 round in the vic of AT996542. The result of this incident was 1 US WIA(E). At 1030H, B/3-21 Inf engaged 2 VC near AT993372 resulting in 2 VC KIA. C/1-1 Cav in 2 incidents vic AT943557 at 1230H and 1500H killed a total of 2 VC. At 1400H, gunships from F/8 Cav engaged an unknown size enemy force vic BT020596, resulting in 2 VC KIA. Action continued at a moderate rate on 24 May. At 0654H, a patrol from B/2-1 Inf, in the vic of AT987460, found 2 VC KBA. C/1-1 Cav in 2 significant contacts at 1025H and 1205H, vic AT988558, killed a total of 6 VC, and captured 3 individual and 1 crew served weapons. F/8th Cav at 1547H, vic AT926281, detained 1 Vietnamese. The 196th Inf Bde reported light contact on 25 May. In the only contact of the day, a patrol from C/1-1 Cav at 1205H, engaged an unknown size enemy force in vic AT996552. Results of the fire fight were 4 VC KIA. Contact continued light on 26 May as Recon/2-1 Inf at 0120H vic AT981504, had a mechanical ambush detonate, resulting in 1 VC KIA. The 27th of May saw Brigade units report two contacts. At 1610H Recon/2-1 Inf, vic AT961497 engaged an enemy force consisting of 7 VC. In the contact, 2 VC were killed. A/3/16 Arty engaged 4 VC at 1509H in the vic of AT917339. Results of the contact were 4 VC KBA. Light action was again evident on 28 May. At 0600H an element of B/3-21 Inf vic AT986378 received AWF and 4 RPG's, resulting in 1 US WIA(M). G/3-21 Inf at 0900H vic AT9643, detained 4 Vietnamese. At 1155H vic AT984380, a UH-1H from 173d Aviation Co. received SAF and was shot down. The crash resulted in 6 US WIA(E). On 29 May, D/3-21 Inf at 1900H detonated a boobytrapped hand grenade in vic of AT971323 resulting in 1 US WIA(E). At 0955H a FAC in the vic of AT995316 observed 3 VC killed

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by artillery. F/8 Cav at 1045H engaged a bunker near AT788317. Results of the contact were 1 VC KIA, 3 IWC and 5 Vietnamese detained. A/1-46 at 1315H, vicinity AT790-317, engaged a bunker complex resulting in 4 VC KIA. May 30th was an unfortunate day for the 196th Bde. At 2125H, D/3-21 Inf, while in the NDP vic of AT962314, received 7-9 M79 rounds from an unknown size enemy force. This contact resulted in 8 US WIA(M). Recon/3-21 Inf at 0900H detained 3 Vietnamese in the vicinity of AT916372. At 0105H vicinity of BT063724 an element of 1-1 Cav received SAF and 2 RPG's, resulting in 4 US WIA(M). On the last day of May action in CAROLINE HILL was dominated by 3-21 Inf. At 00645H, an ambush from REcon/3-21 Inf, engaged 2 VC near AT914369. Results of the contact were 1 VC KIA. D/3-21 Inf at 0700H detained 3 Vietnamese in the vicinity of AT976317. At 1020H, another patrol from D/3-21 Inf received 1 M79 round and SAF in the vicinity of AT977317, results of the con-tact were 2 US WIA(E). C/3-21, vicinity of AT980334 at 1400H, engaged 2 VC killing one. Results for the period 16-31 May were 9 NVA KIA, 39 VC KIA, 18 detained, 9 IWC and 1 CSWC. US casualties were 2 US KIA, 25 US WIA(E), and 15 US WIA(M). Light action prevailed in the operation on 1 June. Recon/2-1 Inf at 1015 H, engaged an unknown size enemy force vicinity AT986451 resulting in 1 NVA KIA. At 1830H, Recon/3-21 Inf vicinity AT906374, detonated a boobytrapped hand grenade, resulting in 2 US WIA(E). On 2 June the 196th Bde reported moderate contact. D/2-1 Inf in a series of 3 boobytrap incidents vicinity of BT0052, received casualties of 1 US KIA and 6 US WIA(E). Two patrols from D/3-21 Inf at 0730H and 1815H vicinity AT962299 and AT986327, detained 2 Vietnamese. At 1210H a convoy from C/3-16 Arty received SAF and 4 RPG's in vicinity of AT934626, results of the incident were 2 US WIA(M). In a contact at 1720H, an element of F/8 Cav vicinity AT817502 received small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force. Results of the engagement were 2 US WIA(E), 1 Vietnamese detained and 1 IWC. D/1-1 Cav at 022130H engaged 2 VC in the vicinity of AT962542. Results of the engagement were 2 VC KIA. On 3 June contact in the AO slowed. D/2-1 Inf at 0650H, detonated a boobytrapped hand grenade in the vicinity of BT006524, resulting in 1 US WIA(E). At 1200H a patrol from D/3-21 Inf in the vicinity of AT986347, detained 1 Vietnamese and found 1 IW. At 1200H an element of A/1-1 Cav, vicinity AT986347, engaged 2 VC. They swept the contact area and found 1 VC KIA and 1 IW. At 1630H, C/1-1 Cav found 1 CSW in the vicinity of AT964556. 4 June was also a quiet day, as the 196th Bde reported light contact. 2 VC were engaged with Arty vicinity of AT800478. Results of the contact were 2 VC killed by Arty. Results of the period from 1-5 June were 5 NVA KIA, 11 VC KIA, 5 detained, 4 IWC, 1 CSWC. US casualties were 1 US KIA, 11 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M). On 5 June Recon/3-21 Inf while in the NDP vicinity of AT993446, had a mechanical ambush detonate. Results of the ambush were 2 NVA KIA and IWC. C/1-1 Cav, at 1535H, engaged 2 VC in the vicinity of AT948553. Results of the contact were 1 VC KIA and 1 IWC. F/8 Cav, in 2 incidents at 1115H and 1120H, vicinity of AT8251, killed 2 NVA and detained 1 Vietnamese. In the early after-noon of 6 June while searching in the vicinity of AT805630 B/1-46 Inf, established a hasty ambush and engaged 10 VC. Results were 4 VC KIA, 2 detained, 1 IWC, 550 lbs of rice CIA and miscellaneous equipment captured. On 7 June F/8 Cav in the vicinity of AT806461 found 1 IW resulting in 1 IWC. At about 0750H on 8 June in the vicinity of AT879539 B/1-1 Cav engaged 6 VC with SAF. The fire fight resulted in 5 NVA KIA and 3 detainees, 1 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). In a series of light and unrelated contacts on 9, 10 and 11 June, C/3-21 Inf accounted for 2 NVA KIA and 2 IWC in the vicinity of AT976312. At AT816574 D/1-46 Inf detonated a mechanical ambush resulting in 2 NVA KIA and 2 IWC. There were no US casualties. At 1645H, 12 June 71, **F/17 Cav**, detonated an unknown type mine, while operating in the vicinity of AT905540 resulting in 1 US KIA, 4 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). Light and scattered contacts were reported for 13 June through 17 June 71. Cumulative totals for all contacts during the period 6-17 June, were 33 VC/ NVA KIA, 12 IWC, 7 CSWC and 1 US KIA, 11 US WIA(E), and 2 US WIA(M). Action was light on 17 June with no contacts reported. On 18 June, B/2-1 Inf vic AT965457 received unknown amount of hand grenades resulting in 7 US WIA(E). On 19 June F/8 Cav vicinity AT919633 engaged 2 NVA resulting in 2 NVA KBG/S and 1 IWC. Action continued on 20 June as Recon/3-21 Inf vicinity of AT915-395 engaged 4 VC resulting in 2 VC KIA and 1 IWC. A/1-46 Inf vicinity of AT898634 had a mechanical ambush detonate resulting in 1 NVA KIA and IWC. On 21 June **F/17 Cav** vicinity of AT830540 detonated a boobytrap resulting in 1 US WIA(E). 1-1 Cav rear area vicinity BT065725 at 0042H received 13 rounds of 60mm mortar resulting in 3 US WIA(E) and 11 UW WIA(M). The following day 22 June B/3-21 Inf vicinity AT916365 detonated a boobytrap result-ing in 2 US WIA(E). F/8 Cav vicinity ZC179861 engaged 2 VC, resulting in 2 VC KBG/S. Cumulative results for the period 18-22 June were reported as 8 VC/NVA KIA, 4 detained, 5 IWC. US casualties were 13 US WIA(E),, 11 US WIA(M). Action was light on 23 June as F/8 Cav at YC806563, engaged 1 NVA resulting in 1 NVA KIA. The following day, 24 June C/1-1 Cav vicinity of AT860545 detonated an

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anti-personnel mine resulting in 1 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M). On 25 June F/8 Cav inserted their "Blues" vicinity of AT946309, the "Blues" engaged 2 VC resulting in 2 VC KIA and 1 IWC. Once again on 26 June F/8 Cav vicinity BT078687 engaged 5 VC resulting in 5 VC KIA. During the early morning of 27 June C/3-21 Inf, vicinity AT908336, engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA. At 1710H A/1-1 Cav vicinity AT857548, engaged 2 VC resulting in 1 US WIA(E). During the early morning of 28 June A/1-1 Cav vicinity AT875550 found 1 IW and 1 CSW, resulting in 1 IWC and 1 CSWC. D/1-1 Cav vicinity AT875550 found 1 IW resulting in 1 IWC. A LOH from the 198th Bde was shot down vicinity AT875550 resulting in 3 VC KIA, 1 US KIA and 1 US WIA(E). C/1-46 Inf had all the action for the 29th of June when a mechanical ambush detonated vicinity AT852633 resulting in 1 VC KIA and 1 IWC. At 0913H C/1-46 Inf vicinity AT854625 engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in 2 US WIA(E). Later that evening C/1-46 Inf vicinity AT844626 detonated a claymore resulting in 2 US WIA(E). On 30 June it proved to be a good day for C/3-21 Inf when they engaged the enemy vic AT898354 which resulted in 3 VC KIA, 2 NVA KIA and 1 detainee. D/1-1 Cav vicinity AT953528 engaged 1 NVA resulting in 1 NVA KIA. A/1-1 Cav vicinity of AT823-520 hit a command detonated mine resulting in 5 US WIA(E).

Operation CAROLINE HILL was terminated effective 011200H July 1971. Results of Operation CAROLINE HILL during the reporting period were:

| <u>US</u> | <u>ENEMY</u> |
|------------|--------------|
| 15 KIA | 158 KIA |
| 120 WIA(E) | 54 DET |
| 37 WIA(M) | 5 PW/VC |
| 0 MIA | 5 PW/NVA |
| | 0 RTNEE/VC |
| | 0 RTNEE/NVA |
| | 14 CIV DEF |
| | 18 IN CIV |
| | 46 IWC |
| | 10 CSWC |

Cumulative results for Operation CAROLINE HILL were:

| <u>US</u> | <u>ENEMY</u> |
|------------|--------------|
| 15 KIA | 161 KIA |
| 125 WIA(E) | 55 DET |
| 37 WIA(M) | 6 PW/VC |
| 0 MIA | 5 PW/NVA |
| | 0 RTNEE/VC |
| | 0 RTNEE/NVA |
| | 14 CIV DEF |
| | 18 IN CIV |
| | 81 IWC |
| | 10 CSWC |

AVBFHO

7 March 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967.
(RCS CSFOR - 65) (U)

This section has information from the 196th LIB ORLL reports for
1 November 1966 - 31 January 1967 NND903621

(3) LANCASTER (25 Nov - continuing). (Reference OPLAN 25th Div Title: FITCHBURG). LANCASTER has been divided into phases and each phase covers the unit (s) and their area of operation. With the exception of Phase III which was a brigade operation, the remainder were battalion or company size operations. Areas utilized were within the Brigade Tactical Area of Operation (TAOR), the rock quarry vicinity of NUI BA DEN and Hwy 26 located in AO Blue.

(There were many phases to this operation. F Troop played a role in Phase VI and VII.)

(f) Phase VI (7-22 Dec 66) & Phase X (22-26 Dec 66). Task Force 2/34 Armor (Company A and C, 2/34 Armor, **F Troop, 17 Cavalry**, Company A, 4/31 Inf and Battery A, 3/82 Artillery) was attached to the Brigade on 7 December 1966, and conducted search and destroy operations in AO BLUE, and secured Highway 26. Phase X began with 4/31 Inf relieved task force 2/34 Armor in place and assumed the security mission along Highway 26 in AO BLUE from (XT308487) to (XT376425). The operation terminated with limited VC contact.

AVBFHO

7 March 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967.

(RCS CSFOR - 65) (U)

This section has information from the 196th LIB ORLL reports for
1 November 1966 - 31 January 1967 NND903621

(4) **CEDAR FALLS** (5-25 January 1967) The Brigade Task Force consisted of: 2/1 Inf, 3/21 Inf, 3/82 Arty, **F Troop, 17th Cavalry**, 175th Engineers Company, 2/22 (M) Inf, 1/5 (M) Inf, B Troop, 3/4 Cavalry, 2/13 Arty (-) and A Btry 2/77 Arty. The mission of the Brigade was to locate and destroy key VC installations and fortifications, deny the VC the use of the area as a logistical base and headquarters and to establish blocking positions to prevent exfiltration by the VC across the Saigon River. The operation began when the Brigade Command Post moved overland to TRUNG LAP. On 6 January 1/5 (M) Inf moved to secure LZ's vicinity FSB #2 (XT6023) and FSB #3 (XT5925) for an airmobile assault by companies A and B, 3/21 Inf. These two companies provided security of the FSB's and the eventual air-lift by CH-47 of Btry B, Btry C and Btry A, 3/82 Arty to FSB #2 and FSB #3 respectively. Battery , 3/82 Arty and A 2/77 Arty were located at FSB #3. Battery A, 3/13 Arty was located at FSB #1 and secured by Company C, 3/21 Inf. On 7 January 1/5 (M) Inf moved and secured LZ Victor for an airmobile assault by 2/1 Inf. The 2/22 (M) Inf attacked toward Obj C vicinity (XT5631). During the remainder of the operation 3/21 Inf secured FSB #1, FSB #2 and FSB #3 and conducted company sized airmobile assaults to search and clear villages, acting mainly on information received from Returnees. **F Troop, 17th Cavalry** and 175th Engineers Company cleared and secured routes for necessary resupply convoys. The remaining Brigade elements conducted search and destroy operations in zone and established blocking positions along the Saigon River. The 175th Engr Co improved roads from TRUNG LAP and constructed new roads To FSB 2 and 3, permitting ground resupply. the occupation of blocking positions proved highly successful as a large number of VC were killed attempting to flee from the area North of the river and the Iron Triangle. Information from "Returnees" assisted the Brigade in locating caches sites and large tunnel complexes. It was in these tunnel complexes that the most valuable intelligence information was gained. Significant results achieved during Operation CEDAR FALLS by the Brigade included: 220 VC KIA (BC), 66 VC KIA (poss), 21 VC (POW), 357.1 tons of rice and 73 weapons captured, and numerous documents of vital interest to Army Intelligence, including key maps of the battle area, and VC After Battle Reports.

AVBFHO

7 March 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967.
(RCS CSFOR - 65) (U)

**This section has information from the 196th LIB ORLL reports for
1 November 1966 - 31 January 1967 NND903621**

(3) Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.

(a) In order to increase the Brigades' intelligence collection capability, organic highly trained reconnaissance teams were needed. On 2 January 1967, the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Detachment (LRRP) was organized under the operation of the Brigade S2 and administrative control of **F Troop 17 Cavalry**. The current strength of the LRRP is two officers and 28 enlisted men. The proposed TOE strength for the detachment will be two officers and 66 enlisted men.

**This section has information from the 196th LIB ORLL reports for
1 August 1967 - 31 October 1967 showing the response**

2. An MTOE was also submitted on **F Troop 17th Cav**. This MTOE 17-57G was an attempt to place the LRRP in the command structure of the cavalry troop. It was subsequently disapproved at USARV where a separate MTOE action is proceeding to create it as a separate divisional command.

This section has articles from the "Tropic Lightning News"

(The 196th LIB was attached to the 25th Inf. Division).

<http://www.25thida.org/TLN/tln1-25.htm#v1n25p1a>

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196th Joins Div.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate), which landed at the South China Sea port of Vung Tau Sunday, has been attached to the division, making the 25th the largest U.S. combat force in Vietnam.

The brigade, the first light infantry brigade in U.S. military history, will be located at Tay Ninh under

the command of Brig. Gen. Edward H. deSaussure Jr., former assistant division commander (see following story).

Activated at Ft. Devens, Mass., on Sept. 15, 1965, the 196th Bde. underwent eight months of individual and unit training. An estimated 50 per cent of the brigade were inexperienced soldiers when they began training.

The brigade trained its men as a unit, from basic combat training to advanced individual training through large unit tactical operations training. Col. Francis S. Conaty Jr., deputy brigade commander, took the brigade through the rigorous training program.

During the latter stages of the training program, heavy emphasis was put on counter-guerrilla, counter-insurgency training. To authenticate the training, the brigade was supported by a Special Forces (A) team of Vietnam veterans, who organized and trained teams to act as the Viet Cong during brigade-size tactical training exercises.

Major units of the new brigade are the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.; 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.; 4th Bn., 31st Inf., and the 82nd Arty. Bn.

Other units serving with the 196th include the 8th Spt. Bn., the 175th Engr. Co. (Combat), and **F Trp., 17th Armored Cav.**

'F' Troop Not Funny to VC

The mention of "F" Troop brings to mind the comical television show of the same name. The 196th Light Infantry Brigade at Tay Ninh has its own "F" Troop which is not comical, especially for the Viet Cong; for instead of fun, its fame is won by firepower.

Troop F, 17th Cav., has three fast-moving reconnaissance platoons armed with jeep mounted M-60 machine guns and 106mm recoilless rifles. In addition, each platoon has a mortar and rifle squad - quite a deadly combination, to say the least.

Decorated**BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH 'V' DEVICE**

Capt. John M. Harrington, HHC, 4th Bn, 31st Inf.
(Posthumously)

1st Lt. James F. Panzarella, Co A, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.
(Posthumously)

2nd Lt. Edward T. Dappen, Co A, 2nd 'In, 1st Inf.
PSgt. Donald B. Williams, Co C, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

SSgt. Russell V. Stith, Co A, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

Sp4 Manzie Glover Jr, HHC, 4th Bn, 31st Inf.
(Posthumously)

PFC Richard A. Smith, Co A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.
(Posthumously)

AIR MEDAL

Capt. James L. Yoho, HHC, 196th Lt Inf Bde.

CWO Henry L. Luers, HHC, 196th Lt Inf Bde.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SSgt. Roland T. Levesque, Co A, 8th Spt Bn.

PURPLE HEART

Capt. Mitchell L. Leeds, Co D, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

Capt. Franklin S. Pearce, Co C, 4th Bn, 31st 'Inf.

1st Lt. Joseph Calvallero Jr, Co C, 4th Bn, 31st Inf,

1st Lt. James E. Hanks, 769th MI Det.

SSgt. Charles W. Arivett, Co D, 3d Bn, 21st Inf.

SSgt. Willie T. Carpenter, Btry B, 3rd Bn, 82nd Arty.

SSgt. John P. Carvalho, Co B, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

SSgt. Walt S. Cook, Co B, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

SSgt. Albert Hoover, Co C, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

SSgt. Malcolm E. Newton, Co A., 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

SSgt. Charles E. Salisbury, Co C, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

SSgt. Harry B. Taylor Jr, Co C, 4th Bn, 31st Inf.

Sgt. Ventura Cintron, Co A, 4th Bn, 31st Inf.

Sgt. Calvin A. Grams, Co B, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

Sgt. Joseph W. Hertz, Co D, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

Sgt. Earl West, F Trp, 17th Cav.

Sgt. Alois Williams, Co A, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

Sp4 Anthony T. Mazzuchi, Co C, 4th Bn, 31st Inf.

Sp4 Neil V. McColluin, F Trp, 17th Cav.

Sp4 George E. Papachronis, Co B, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

Sp4 Thomas A. Reiches, Co B, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

Sp4 Barney R. Rogers, Co A, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

Sp4 Robert A. Sroka, F Trp, 17th Cav.

Sp4 Vernon D. Wolfe, Co B, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

PFC Juan A. Rosa-Medina, Co C, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

PFC Edwin A. Stokes, Co C, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

PFC Michael L. Weber, Co C, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

PFC Joe J. Wright, Co B, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

VFW Adopts F Troop

Post 8164, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), of Tewksbury, Mass., has adopted **Troop F, 17th Cavalry**, 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

Certain members of the post had become acquainted with Troop F when it was stationed at Fort Devens, Mass., before joining the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam.

In a letter to members of Troop F, the post commander, Mr. Robert F. MacDonald said, "Our national leaders have announced our wholehearted support of the Vietnam war by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We, at the Tewksbury Post, however, feel that lip service is hardly adequate. Consequently, with your permission, we would like to adopt Troop F."

The men, of course, said yes.

TROPIC FLASHES

196th Lt Inf Bde

Troop F, 17th Cav

Troop F has a song of its own thanks to PFC Anthony V. Sperlazza of Howard Beach, N.Y.

The 23-year-old grenadier put it this way: We often go out on two or three-day missions. Trying to stay awake at night in my foxhole, I make up songs. This song is about our troop and what we go through."

Called "F Troop," the ballad is sung to the tune of "This Land is My Land". With the assistance of SSgt. David M. Morris who sings and plays his guitar, it is becoming increasingly popular among the cavalry troopers.

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PFC Edwin A. Stokes, Co C, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

PFC Michael L. Weber, Co C, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

PFC Joe J. Wright, Co B, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf.

Jeep Shows 'War Paint'

Of the many jeeps in the F Trp, 17th Cav, motor pool one in particular stands out from the rest: On its side are painted the silhouettes of four little men.

These paintings represent four Viet Cong recently killed by the crew of the 106mm recoilless rifle mounted jeep.

It happened while F Troop was on an operation near a VC stronghold area near Nui Ba Den in the Tay Ninh Province. The cavalry unit's recoilless rifles were to support around the bottom of the mountain. SSgt. Dennis E. Bird of Hot Springs, Va., was in command of the jeep.

Moving along the base of Nui Ba Den as part of a motorized column they were ambushed by heavy machine gun fire from the mountainside.

A claymore mine was set off and the jeep driver, Sp4 David E. Sartore wasted no time getting the vehicle out of the zone.

At that moment a VC recoilless rifle opened up, narrowly missing the jeep but shaking up its crew.

Specialist Sartore raced the jeep into a concealed firing position. From there, Sp4 Ralph Ordway of Providence, R.I., the gunner, spotted the cave from where the VC were firing.

He fired two spotting rounds, then cut loose with the "big gun." Four VC and their recoilless rifle were silenced,

Monkeying Around

Hunger pains tore at his stomach. The charcoal broiled steaks sizzling on the fire teased the air. Thinking the coast was clear, he sneaked close to the grill.

PFC John W. DePew of Philadelphia, Pa., a cook with Trp F, 17th Cav, 196th Lt Inf Bde, spotted the culprit. Grabbing an old shirt, he threw it over the intruder's head and pinned him against the side of the mess tent.

After a brief struggle, the suspect succumbed to his captor and was taken to the orderly room for interrogation by Trp F Commander, Capt. Clyde W. Roan, who surmised that the captive was merely hungry and out to do no real harm.

The prisoner was given a medical check, and it was decided to let him go free. He was driven to the main gate and set free.

The unfettered meddler sat on a bunker for a minute, looking at his captors, then the foot and a half high brown monkey scampered off into the jungle.



Hungry Monk

Xmas Card is Joy for PFC

"A wish for peace and joy at Christmas and always" read a Christmas card sent to PFC Samuel L. Benavides of **Trp F, 17th Cav**, 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

The sixth-grade pupils of Waukesha, Wis., sent PFC Benavides the card to let him know he was not being forgotten back home.

"We, the sixth grade students of St. Joseph's School, wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," the card read.

The project started after students read a letter written to the priests and nuns of St. Joseph's from a soldier stationed in Vietnam. The children wanted to send "something to the soldier, but then enlarged their project, sending gifts and Christmas cards to U.S. servicemen in Vietnam.

TROPIC FLASHES



196th Lt Inf Bde

Brig. Gen. R. Knowles, CO

Capt. M. Randall, IO

"Chargers"

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Capt. Michael T. Raune of Jersey City, N.J., assumed command of Co C, 4th Bn, 31st Inf, from outgoing Capt. Alfonso Izzi in a recent ceremony at company headquarters. Before assuming command of the "Polar Bear" company Capt. Raune served as S-3 (Air) with HHC, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf.

Capt. Raune's first official business as new company commander was to swear in four enlisted men who reenlisted for a combined total of 17 years.

Capt. Izzi has assumed duties as assistant brigade S-4.

Co A, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf, opened the doors of its new' enlisted men's club recently. Capt. Emil Gregg of Hazelton, Pa., Co A's commanding officer, officially cut the ribbon.

A four-speaker stereo system provided the sounds as the men forgot the war for a while around the tables or relaxed on the sofas and lounge chairs in the TV room.

Meanwhile, Troop F, 17th Cav, opened the doors of its elaborate new NCO club recently. The grand opening featured free steaks and beer, with music provided by a six-piece band from the Philippine Civic Action Group.

The new club features a 26 foot mahogany bar, while a red brick veneer adds a touch of class to the outside. Troop F cavalymen especially enjoy the club's patio with its swaying palms.

How well is the new club doing? SSgt. Elmer Quist of Colorado Springs, Colo., says, "I wish I had a business like this back in the States."

Inter-Platoon Rivalry Ends as 17th Cav Unit Rescues Mates

Inter-platoon rivalry is an old Army tradition often stimulating better morale and increased efficiency. Recently **Troop F, 17th Cavalry**, 196th Brigade, was involved in an action in which rivalry was all but forgotten.

Troop F's third platoon was on patrol not far from the 196th Lt Inf. Bde. base camp at Tay Ninh. Dusk was setting in as the eleven-man patrol separated with five men going to the right and six going left looking for hidden Viet Cong supplies.

Suddenly VC fire poured in from three sides pinning down both elements of the patrol.

PFC Anthony Sperlazza of Howard Beach, N.Y., remembers firing his M-79 grenade launcher, hitting a VC in a tree and watching him plummet to the ground.

At the Troop F command post an urgent message was received from the pinned down patrol. Sgt. David M. Morris was monitoring the radio.

"I ran to the second platoon area and told them that the patrol from the third platoon was pinned down under heavy fire," he said.

Sp4 James R. McCardell of Warwick, R.I., remembers: "We were playing cards in the tent when word came that part of the third platoon was pinned down. We grabbed weapons and web gear and headed for our jeeps. Men were putting on shirts and lacing boots as we went out the gate."

"When we heard our men were pinned down it was the fastest we ever moved out of the area," recalls Sp4 Joseph Rodriguez of Manhattan, N.Y.

In less than four minutes the second platoon relief force was on the scene under the direction of Troop F commander Capt. Clyde W. Roan of Daytona Beach, Florida.

One element of the pinned down third platoon patrol was then able to link up with the second platoon which was now laying down a heavy base of fire.

The second platoon's firepower enabled the rest of the patrol to move to safety. By this time it was completely dark, and the Viet Cong slipped away into the thick jungle.

The men of the third platoon patrol only speak in superlatives of their rescuers, the second platoon, as all feelings of platoon rivalry were set aside.

"Thank heavens for the second platoon," beamed PFC Sperlazza.



CLEAR THE ROAD - Men of Troop F, 17th Cav, observe a suspected VC site in a rubber plantation south of Tay Ninh. The Cav is on a road clearing mission. (Photo by PFC Chris Perales)

17th Cav Trooper Kills 2 Charlies With One Shell

Nui Ba Den, "the Black Virgin" Mountain, thrusts its jungle-covered head 3200 feet above the flat terrain of Tay Ninh. Although the U.S. Army Special Forces maintain a fortified camp on the mountain summit, the slopes are Viet Cong dominated.

Elements of the 196th Lt Inf Bde again challenged the VC's hold on the "Black Virgin." Recoilless rifles of Troop 17th Cav brought fire on suspected VC cave positions on the mountainside. Sp4 Brian C. Barker of Tacoma; Wash., a gunner on a 106mm recoilless rifle, put his first shot into the mouth of a cave. "I didn't think anybody was in there," he recalled.

Later that day, Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) forces began searching the caves. As it turned out Specialist Barker's shot had entered a cave, killing two VC hiding in it, destroying their weapons.

In commemoration of his "lucky shot", Specialist Barker painted two small Viet Cong silhouettes on the tube of his recoilless rifle. Considering the size of the weapon there is room for quite a few more.

Decorated

SILVER STAR

PFC Dale W. Flickinger, CO. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (VALOR)

Capt. James Thompson, HHC, 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. Sp4 Gary Scothon, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.
2nd Lt. James G. Mikesell, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. Sp4 Napoleon Tabora, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.
Inf. Sp4 Barry W. Wood, Co C, 2nd 13n., 1st Inf.
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Sp4 Johnny B. Brownstead, Co. C, 3rd Rn., 21st Inf. PFC Harry A. Mullaney, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.
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SSgt. George M. Lyons, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.
SSgt. Robert. D. Balsler, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. SSgt. Joseph W. McCulloch, Trp. F, 17th Cav.
SSgt. David D. Cornileus. Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. SSgt. Ralph E. Roach, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.
SSgt. Roosevelt Cook. 175th Engr. Co. SSgt. Lester Armstrong, Co C,
SSgt. Garland P. Felton, Co. B. 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.

F Trp. Helps 'Forces' Unit

The 3,200-foot "Black Virgin" Mountain near Tay Ninh has long been a Viet Cong stronghold. The slopes are honeycombed with caves and tunnels.

One of the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde.'s units, **Trp. F. 17th Cav.**, was recently given the mission of supporting a Special Forces assault on the Viet Cong's mountain positions. As the troop moved down a road near the base of the mountain, heavy small arms and 57mm recoilless rifle fire raked the patrol. The troop immediately returned fire with its 106mm recoilless rifles and wiped out the VC ambush positions.

The Special Forces commander on the other side of the mountain then called on Trp. F's recoilless rifles for fire support on VC cave positions. The troop's commander, Capt. Clyde W. Roan, of Daytona Beach, Fla., and 1st Lt. Ronald B. Mattioli of Charleston, S.C., platoon leader, led a small security force five miles down an enemy-controlled road to assist the Special Forces elements there.

The 106's spit deadly fire, destroying two VC bunkers. The Viet Cong then unleashed a barrage of mortar and small arms fire on the cavalymen. During this time Capt. Roan and Lt. Mattioli constantly exposed themselves to enemy fire to complete the mission and enable the Special Forces detachment to continue its operation.

Ambush Ends VC Mining Activity

A major problem encountered on combat operations in Vietnam is the almost constant hazard created by Viet Cong mining activities. The use of mines and booby traps has proven to be one of their most effect weapons. They are masters in the use of both standard and homemade mines.

The 196th Lt. Inf. Bde's Trp. F, 17th Cav., responsible for the reconnaissance, clearing, and security of the roads south of the Iron Triangle during Operation "Cedar Falls," found this operation to be no exception.

Charlie had plenty of mines, and from the first day of the operation, made maximum use of this weapon in an attempt to slow down allied movements in the Iron Triangle.

During the operation, Trp. F. disarmed or destroyed many Viet Cong anti-tank mines, but they found that the best way to eliminate the problem was to stop the Viet Cong who were laying the mines before they had a chance to inflict any major damage. There was only one way – ambush.

One such ambush was set up by Trp. F. about 200 meters south of the village of Lao tao Duoi, on a road leading from Route One to the brigade's forward base camp. This seemed to be one of Charlie's favorite areas for laying mines. The patrol, led by 1st Sgt. Billy B. Crowder and Sgt. Gus Johnson, both veterans of the Korean War, moved into the area and began to set up. Before the last claymore could be positioned, a lone Viet Cong moved toward the patrol's position and was shot down. A search team retrieved the dead VC, an M-2 carbine, two grenades of American and Chinese manufacture, and several documents.

The night's work showed positive results. No more mines were found along the route for the remainder of the operation. Allied troops were thereafter able to move faster and with more safety over the route.

Photo Caption: 196th Infantrymen ready for ambush.

TROPIC FLASHES

196th Lt Inf Bde

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A four-speaker stereo system provided the sounds as the men forgot the war for a while around the tables or relaxed on the sofas and lounge chairs in the TV room.

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How well is the new club doing? SSgt. Elmer Quist of Colorado Springs, Colo., says, "I wish I had a business like this back in the States."

25th Destroys Another VC Base Camp

Photo Caption:

BURNED OUT - A radio operator of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., watches the wreckage of a Viet Cong hut smoldering during Operation "Gadsden." The hut was part of a Viet Cong Base Camp found in War Zone C. (Photo by Sp4 Robert Brown)

New 196th Recon Patrol Scores

Mechanized Unit Kills 6 Viet Cong in Fight

The six men in camouflaged fatigues and floppy hats stared excitedly as artillery rounds crashed into the jungle before them. Just minutes before they had been in that same jungle. Now they were out safe, and they wondered how Charlie was faring amidst the artillery-torn trees and brush.

It had been a successful night ambush for the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde.'s newly formed Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. Their uncontrollable pride belied their modesty later, as they told of how they notched the patrol's first VC kill.

"We were about 50 yards from the woodline when I called a security halt." said Sgt. Anthony Mazzucchi of Blackwater, N.Y., the patrol leader. "I sent SP4 Richard Bologna of Buffalo, N.Y., back to check on our rear element."

Specialist Bologna talked with PFC Caro Velleri of Buffalo, N.Y., the assistant patrol leader, who was rear guard security. PFC Velleri said he heard movement to his rear. Sgt. Mazzucchi called the information back to headquarters, then got orders to move on.

At the woodline, Sgt. Mazzucchi left PFC Velleri and another man at its edge while he and the others searched for an opening which would allow them into the thick brush. The sound of movement PFC Velleri had heard still trailed them.

Once inside the woodline, the patrol set up a hasty ambush and waited for their pursuers. Minutes passed and soon there was movement, but not from the direction they had anticipated.

Coming up along another path were three VC. The patrol waited, then opened up with their M-16's, Sgt. Mazzucchi and Specialist Bologna both tossing hand grenades at the surprised Cong. One VC was killed instantly.

Other groans could be heard as the patrol got up and moved back out to the clearing. A quick check by Sgt. Mazzucchi revealed that none of his men had been hit. Safe in the small defensive perimeter in the clearing, the patrol leader called in artillery on the VC.

Decorated

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SSgt. Joseph W. McCulloch, Trp. F, 17th Cav.

SSgt. Ralph E. Roach, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st I

F Trp. Looks for Mortar Positions

Trp. F, 17th Cav., has provided the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. base camp with reconnaissance in depth by finding Viet Cong mortar positions on more than one occasion.

Trp. F's second platoon recently was given the assignment of searching and destroying VC mortar positions in the area.

The cavalymen, working with coordinates supplied by air observation, found numerous; mortar and surrounding foxholes.

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Charlie had plenty of mines, and from the first day of the operation, made maximum use of this weapon in an attempt to slow down allied movements in the Iron Triangle.

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**PARADROPPED -
A soldier of the
196th Lt. Inf. Bde.
watches as tons
of supplies are
air-dropped from
C-130 aircrafts
into their forward
area during
Operation
"Junction
City." (Photo By
1st Lt. Ambrosio
Sarmiento)**

LRRP, CIDG Hammer at Nui Ba Den

By PFC Mike Heacock

The 196th Lt. Inf. Bde.'s Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) began an ambitious operation on Nui Ba Den Mountain, the "Black Virgin" that dominates the terrain of Tay Ninh Province like a rock pile set on a pool table.

The mountain has been the home of Viet Cong units since the first days of the war. Its many natural and man-made tunnels under the granite blocks that stud the mountainside make it a natural fortification that is almost impregnable to artillery fire and air strikes.

Some of the tunnels are thought to be more like huge caverns, possibly housing whole battalions or regiments of Viet Cong as they pass through the province, with hospitals and arms repair factories hidden deep in the bowels of the mountain.

One tunnel suspected of being a major hideout and storage area for the Cong was recently probed by the LRRP and a Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) reconnaissance platoon, operating as tunnel rats in four-man teams, with two men from each group working together underground.

After clawing their way up the steep side of the Black Virgin, the LRRP, the CIDG platoon, and two security platoons from the 196th Bde.'s Co. A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., moved through the bazaar at the Buddhist pagodas, about half-way up the mountain, and then on about 35 meters beyond.

A United States Special Forces "A" team had previously spotted what they believed to be a large complex at this spot, and it wasn't long before the first of the search teams had entered a minute opening under a huge boulder, into a small underground room with many exits.

Going deeper into the mountainside, the search teams were intrigued by arrows painted on the tunnel walls, apparently used by the Viet Cong as road signs. Many large sleeping rooms were discovered, all showing signs of use. But on the third day, the 300-meter tunnel came to a dead end, about 10-meters above the spot where the men had originally entered.

Undaunted, the LRRP and CIDG platoons immediately searched another tunnel, which had been discovered a little further up the mountain. Accompanied by tunnel rats from Co. A's security platoons, the search teams moved cautiously into the second hole and discovered documents, clothing, cooking utensils and small amounts of recently cooked rice and beans. However, this tunnel also proved to be a dead end and the men descended the mountain to join other units in Operation "Junction City."

There are literally hundreds of tunnels used by the Viet Cong on Nui Ba Den, and probably not all will ever be destroyed. But if they can be discovered, charted, searched and mapped, intermittent harassing fire by the artillery, at the entrances to the holes, can make them too dangerous for the VC to use. And repeated "raids" on selected complexes, by units such as the LRRP and CIDG, will finish whatever usefulness they might have retained.

Plenty Action In Wrecker's Routine Work

Operating a five-ton wrecker may not seem to be the most thrilling job a soldier could have, but in Vietnam there is thrill and danger in almost any occupation. A wrecker's job is one of several occupations which require readiness on a 24-hour basis. He may be called at some odd hour to rescue a truck carrying high explosives trapped in mud up to the fenders. Or he may start out to haul in a truck badly mangled by a hidden road mine, and end up being blown off the road himself. These are just a few of the hazards the three wrecking crews of Co. B, 8th Supt. Bn., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde., must face day by day. Headed by WO Henry F. Lenz of New Britain, Conn., the company's service and recovery leader, the wreckers recover everything from the common jeep to a downed helicopter. They also have an area of responsibility covering the roads between Tay Ninh and Cu Chi, and in the opposite direction clear to the Cambodian border.

On assignments that take the wreckers far out, the drivers are usually given a jeep escort from the brigade's Trp. F, 17th Cav. "There are times, though, when an escort is not possible," commented WO Lenz. "I remember one call that came at noon. At that time we had difficulty getting an escort. We had to go quite a distance, so I gathered up a few of the men, including two welders and a sewing machine operator, and with our M-16s we went along as security."

(The date of this article is probably more like April 1967ish)

196th Joins Marines At New Home in North

The 196th Lt. Infantry Brigade recently completed an airlift to their new home at Chu Lai Marine Base. The brigade, under the command of Brig. Gen. Richard Knowles, began the airlift on April 10 to the area 375 miles northeast of Saigon. The 196th will operate under control of Maj. Gen. H. Nickerson, commander of the 1st Marine Division.

Military spokesmen said the brigade would primarily protect the revolutionary development program in troubled Quang Tri and Quang Ngai provinces, freeing the Marines for direct combat with the new threat arising from the north. This program of developing rural areas has been a favorite target of the Communists.

The 196th soldiers are veterans of jungle fighting in War Zone C near the Cambodian border. It was in this area they inflicted some of the heaviest losses of the war on the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

An Army spokesman said the 196th joined two U.S. Marine divisions and approximately two and one-half Vietnamese government divisions in combating the rising guerrilla activity near the northern frontier.

Decorated

SILVER STAR

1st Lt. Bruce G. McDougal, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Sp4 William J. Schneider, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.
Sp4 Francis L. Lentz, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. PFC Dale E. Pollard, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Maj. Robert L. Roby, HHB, 25th Div. Arty. 1st Sgt. L. C. Bishop, HHC, 4th Bn. (Mech), 23rd Inf.
Maj. Donald L. Winters, HHD, 25th Avn. Bn. 1st Sgt. Charles Padgett, Btry. C, 7th Bn., 11th Arty.
Capt. George W. Arnau, Hq & Co. A, 25th Med. Bn. 1st Sgt. Calvin E. Stanley, HHM, 25th Div. Arty.
Capt. Walter R. Hayes, Hq. & Co. A, 25th Med. Bn. SFC Lucius A. Dewberry, HHC, 25th Inf. Div.
Capt. Charles Johnson, HHC, 4th Bn., 9th Inf. PSgt. Willie Hicks, Co. C, 25th Med. Bn.
Capt. Vaughn Timberlake, HHB, 25th Div. Arty. SFC Wayne Hoffman, Co. E, 725th Maint. Bn.
Capt. Marvin Walker, Hq & Co. A, 25th Med. Bn. SFC David Martin, HHC, 25th S&T Bn.
1st Lt. Michael Rothstein, HHC, 65th Engr. Bn. SFC James Raymond, Co. E, 725th Maint. Bn.
1st Lt. Robert L. Russell, Btry. B, 7th Bn., 11th Arty. SFC Robert Turner, Hq & Co. A, 25th Med. Bn.
SMaj. John B. McMahan, Hq & Co. A, 25th Med. Bn.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Sp4 John J. Schmidt, HHC, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. PFC Larry J. Kralik, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf.
Sp4 Ronald G. Smith, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. PFC Kenneth L. Lunsford, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf.
Sp4 Donald H. Snead, Co. B, 125th Sig. Bn. PFC David Prezenkowski, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf.
Sp4 William Sturdivant, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. PFC Willis E. Price, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf.
Sp4 John T. Thornton, 25th MP Co. PFC Dennis Reiss, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf.
Sp4 Richard L. Wilkins, HHC, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. PFC Alvin Shelborne, HHC, 4th Bn., 9th Inf.
PFC Marion Cole, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. PFC Matthew Vuolo, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf.
PFC John J. Haslam, HHC, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf.

PURPLE HEART

Sp5 James T. Murry, **Trp. F, 17th Cav.** Sp4 Darrel M. Green, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.
Cpl. Dennis McKale, Co. D, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. Sp4 John W. Herron, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.
Cpl. Earl West, **Trp. F, 17th Cav.** Sp4 Donald E. Jones, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.
Sp4 William Ash, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. Sp4 Thomas G. Kirk, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.
Sp4 Samuel Benavides, **Trp. F, 17th Cav.** Sp4 Jerrald K. Lake, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.
Sp4 Charles W. Bolton Jr, Co. A, 4th., 31st Inf. Sp4 Frank Spencer, Co. A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.
Sp4 William Commins, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. Sp4 Paul R. Storer, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.
Sp4 Thomas J. Cox, HHC, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. Sp4 Franklin T. Williams, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.
Sp4 Tommy J. Franks, Trp. F, 17th Cav. PFC Sammy Allen, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.

Plenty Action In Wrecker's Routine Work

Operating a five-ton wrecker may not seem to be the most thrilling job a soldier could have, but in Vietnam there is thrill and danger in almost any occupation.

A wrecker's job is one of several occupations which require readiness on a 24-hour basis. He may be called at some odd hour to rescue a truck carrying high explosives trapped in mud up to the fenders. Or he may start out to haul in a truck badly mangled by a hidden road mine, and end up being blown off the road himself.

These are just a few of the hazards the three wrecking crews of Co. B, 8th Supt. Bn., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde., must face day by day. Headed by WO Henry F. Lenz of New Britain, Conn., the company's service and recovery leader, the wreckers recover everything from the common jeep to a downed helicopter. They also have an area of responsibility covering the roads between Tay Ninh and Cu Chi, and in the opposite direction clear to the Cambodian border.

On assignments that take the wreckers far out, the drivers are usually given a jeep escort from the brigade's **Trp. F, 17th Cav.** "There are times, though, when an escort is not possible," commented WO Lenz. "I remember one call that came at noon. At that time we had difficulty getting an escort. We had to go quite a distance, so I gathered up a few of the men, including two welders and a sewing machine operator, and with our M-16s we went along as security."

196th Yearbook Now Available

The 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. is now taking orders for its 112-page yearbook, "The Second Year."

The pictorial review of the brigade's activity in Vietnam costs \$5. A postal money order may be made payable to: Information Officer, Hq., 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Sep), APO SF 96256. All orders must reach the Information Officer no later than June 5.

Personnel should include their present address and their permanent home address along with their orders.

Anyone may buy a copy of "The Second Year."

(Note: The following page from the yearbook listed the men serving with F Troop 17th Cavalry)



TROOP F, 17TH CAVALRY



CPT Ronald A. Lane
Commanding Officer

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1LT Ronald B. Mattioli | SP4 Robert J. Bauer | PFC Alan D. Cox |
| 1LT Michael R. Harvey | SP4 Samuel L. Benavides | PFC William E. Crank |
| 1LT Gerald A. Reason | SP4 James C. Betts | PFC Gray L. Dalton |
| 2LT David L. Bush | SP4 Calvin M. Carpenter | PFC Robert R. Decker |
| 2LT George S. Middleton | SP4 Thomas H. Clement | PFC Joseph J. DeRico |
| 1SG Billy B. Crowder | SP4 Joseph J. Cloud | PFC David T. Diaz |
| PSG Richard E. Lamphiere | SP4 Jerry L. Cox | PFC Charles G. Flores |
| PSG Richard E. Miller | SP4 Philip K. Davis | PFC Andre C. Foptier |
| SFC Richard A. Nolan | SP4 Patrick L. Dawson | PFC Jose P. Garza |
| PSG Hal H. Turner | SP4 Robert J. Franecki | PFC Robert L. Haase |
| SSG Dennis E. Bird | SP4 Tommy J. Franks | PFC James W. Golden |
| SSG Ronald Boston | SP4 Robert J. Gardner | PFC James B. Hamlyn |
| SSG Tommie Burgess | SP4 Francis Gilbride | PFC Ronnie E. Hammock |
| SSG Robert Jackson Jr. | SP4 Dieter Goldschmidt | PFC Delbert L. Hamrick |
| SSG Gus T. Johnson | SP4 Alejandro Gonzales | PFC Robert D. Hass |
| SSG William E. Kachelmyer | SP4 Daniel L. Haffner | PFC Otis Heard |
| SSG Joseph W. McCulloch | SP4 Molina H. Hernandez | PFC Anthony Hebert |
| SSG Herpert H. Morgan | SP4 James A. Hollaway | PFC Larry A. Holtrey |
| SSG Billy E. Mount | SP4 Chester Hottenstein | PFC Gerald D. Huffman |
| SSG Richard Neal | SP4 Gary D. Jackson | PFC Robert S. Jenkins |
| SSG Allen J. Oshersky | SP4 Harry R. Kays | PFC Terry D. Kersey |
| SSG Ralph M. Pennington | SP4 Derald A. Kirklín | PFC Daniel Koislewski |
| SSG Mason J. Poe | SP4 Thomas P. Kitchin | PFC Coleman D. Lanning |
| SSG Robert J. Scott | SP4 Richard J. Krueger | PFC Guadalupe Ledesma |
| SFC Harless C. Sharp | SP4 Gary J. LeFevre | PFC John M. Loconsolo |
| SSG Lee W. Stapnader | SP4 Jesse T. Mitchell | PFC James V. Lucas |
| SSG Edward S. Stewart | SP4 Ben W. Mosley | PFC Kenneth Miller |
| SSG Aloysius L. Wills | SP4 Francisco T. Munguia | PFC Theodore Moeller |
| SGT Joseph A. Barnett | SP4 James P. McCardell | PFC David A. Moore |
| SGT Francis L. Brown | SP4 David J. McCurdy | PFC Thomas P. Moran |
| SGT Ronald P. Dinsmore | SP4 Michael A. Muscarella | PFC James W. Nance |
| SGT Jesse A. Edmond | SP4 Ernest L. Neel | PFC Brunell A. Norford |
| SGT George C. Edsell | SP4 Charles Norris | PFC Charlie Norris |
| SGT Larry D. Fisher | SP4 Ralph F. Ordway Jr. | PFC Bohimer J. Orsarg |
| SGT Willis H. Frerich | SP4 Robert Oplandi | PFC Agapito B. Palomino |
| SGT Roger L. Hildebrant | SP4 David V. Perlinski | PFC Robert A. Plunkett |
| SGT Charles P. King | SP4 Theodore Petrowski | PFC Roy Rivada |
| SGT David M. Morris | SP4 Donald B. Raymond | PFC Stanley K. Roche |
| SGT Joseph Rodriguez | SP4 Farrell Salguerio | PFC Ronald Rosodo |
| SGT Eugene Rommel | SP4 Paul F. Savard | PFC Mark E. Russell |
| SGT George T. Sanderfoot | SP4 Robert S. Sives | PFC Kerry L. Sarver |
| SGT Robert D. Stevenson | SP4 Henry A. Smith | PFC James L. Saunders |
| SGT Robert A. Valencia | SP4 Charlie Spillman | PFC Jerome L. Scott |
| SGT Desmond Wilkinson | SP4 David Sortore | PFC Cary L. Starkey |
| SP5 John T. Barner | SP4 Gary A. Steffen | PFC Robert A. Stravato |
| SP5 Olie W. Daye | SP4 Mickle C. Wallace | PFC Charles E. Tighe |
| SP5 Roblero J. Fuentes | SP4 Earl West | PFC E. Veliz-Martinez |
| SP5 Nolan O. Kelly Jr. | SP4 David G. Wyllie | PFC Dennis J. Unterreiner |
| SP5 James T. Murray | PFC Gregory L. Baker | PFC James F. Vincent Jr. |
| SP5 Dillard E. Rye | PFC Jeffrey L. Baker | PFC Ronald L. Walquist |
| SP5 Rivera I. Valez | PFC James E. Bates | PFC Mayo L. Weaver |
| SP5 Roy R. Whitfield | PFC Thomas V. Bergen | PFC James C. Wisner |
| CPL Charles D. Rother | PFC John E. Bowman | PFC Glen A. York |
| SP4 Byron F. Ackley | PFC William E. Brehm | PVT Lee C. Bryson |
| SP4 David R. Allen | PFC Stanley L. Claycomb | PVT Andrew Gentile |
| SP4 Brian C. Barker | PFC Michael D. Clayton | |

List of men serving in F Troop 17th Cavalry
from the 1968 196th LIB Yearbook

This article came from a public information office press release from June 1967.

Press Release Public Information Office
Release No. 061767 Hq. 196th Light Infantry Brigade
By SP4 Mike Heacock APO San Francisco 96356
10 June 1967 Telephone Liberator 50

F TROOP PATROL AMBUSHED

CHU LAI, VIETNAM (196th IO) - The road between Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and the battalion's line companies is long, winding through the hills south of Chu Lai.

The Viet Cong in the hills have often mined the road to harass and slow down resupply traffic to the infantry companies. To halt the VC mining activities and discourage the snipers, in the hills, the 2d Platoon of Troop F, 17th Cavalry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, was assigned the mission of patrolling the road with mine sapping teams and security elements.

One recent morning the mine sweep team, accompanied by a rifle squad and machinegun jeeps, found a mine made from a 105mm howitzer round in the same general area where most of the VC mining occurred as the squad destroyed the mine, they were suddenly hit by a furious barrage of small arms and grenade launcher fire from a position on a hill overlooking the road.

The cavalymen returned fire and the machineguns on the jeeps opened up at the VC as the rifle squad leader was hit by fragments from an M-79 grenade round. Specialist Four Loue Masic (Niagara Falls, N.Y.), the medic with the rifle squad, ran to the wounded sergeant where he was pinned down by the side of the road. there was no way to evacuate the man because the enemy fire was peppering the road on each side of them, so Masic did the next best thing, staying with the squad leader and administering first aid, ignoring the hail of bullets striking all around.

At the same time PFC Jim Hamlyn (Waterloo, Iowa) noticed that the rifle squad badly needed another machinegun to counter the advantages of the VC's high position. Hamlyn immediately grabbed the M-60 of one of the gun jeeps and pulled a "John Wayne", charging straight up the road in front of the excited Viet Cong, who used everything they had to try to get him. They didn't, and Hamlyn reached the rifle squad with the much needed weapon, which was immediately swung into the fight.

Two jeeps with 106mm recoilless rifles arrived and joined the battle, and the cavalymen's withering volume of fire convinced the Viet Cong that they had ambushed the wrong people. They fled, leaving behind one dead. Friendly villagers in the area reported later in the day that they had seen wounded VC, leaving blood trails as they hobbled for home.

There have been no mines planted in the road since the ambush.

The following article was not fully identified for the source, but the publication might be identified by the initials L.I. .

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L.I. Pres 2/22/1970 article. This reported action following F/17th Cavalry's heavy losses that occurred on 2/20/1970.

GIs Hunt Reds

Who Sprang Ambush

Saigon, Feb 22 (UPI) - U.S. Army troops fanned out today around Tam Ky city on the northern coast, seeking North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units that inflicted heavy casualties on American forces two days ago.

Troops from the Americal Division's 19th Brigade, the same unit mauled in a Communist ambush last Friday, fought a series of clashes in their sweep around Tam Ky, about 40 miles southeast of the port city of Da Nang. At least 23 VC Communists were killed in the operation, military spokesmen said. The brigade lost at least two dead and 11 wounded.

The Communists battled from hedgerows, bunkers and spider holes, the same type of cover they used Friday to spring the ambush that killed 14 Americans, wounded 29 others and demolished two Sheridan tanks.

