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Triple Deuce Double Deals To Whip VC

CU CHI - Soldiers of the 2d Bn (Mech), 22d Inf along with ARVN Rangers and reinforced by elements of the 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav and 3d Bde, 101st Airborne Div, accounted for 45 enemy dead in two separate engagements near Trang Bang.

The first encounter occurred 48 kms northwest of Saigon during a reconnaissance-in-force sweep involving B Co of the Triple Deuce and A Co of the ARVN 34th Ranger Bn.

The combined force made contact in a densely wooded area about 8 kms north of Trang Bang. They received heavy RPG, machine gun and small arms fire from well-fortified positions, occupied by an estimated 150-200 North Vietnamese Army Regulars.

An hour earlier, the Allied force had received a few rounds of sniper fire with no friendly casualties sustained. As the force approached the heavily vegetated area about noon, Captain Malcom G. Waitt, CO of B Co, from Erie, Pa., deployed his armored personnel carriers on line. The ARVN Rangers walked between and to the front of the vehicles.

According to Waitt, "Everything was quiet until we got about 300 meters into the treeline. Then they opened up with everything they had, to include RPG's, .51 caliber machine guns, and small arms fire." Waitt continued, "Because 'Charlie' was in such well-fortified positions and had very good fields of fire, I pulled my forces back and pounded the area with artillery, gunships, and air strikes."

After a heavy exchange of fire for 20 minutes, the Allied force was reinforced by the Triple Deuce's Alpha Co and C Trp of the 3d Sqdn, and sporadic fire continued until 6:55 p.m. Artillery fire continued to pound the area into the night.

A sweep of the battle area the following morning revealed 21 enemy bodies and several items of North Vietnamese equipment and ammunition.

Two days later and 15 kms northwest of the first encounter, A Co, 2d Bn (Mech), 22d Inf, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters.

Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two VC suspects were detained by the Tropic Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a CHICOM machine gun.



ALMOST - Specialist 4 Bryon Longero of Sacramento, Calif., a grenadier for the 2d Bn, 14th Inf puts his best foot forward but misses his objective by scant inches and lifts himself out of the muck to continue his mission. (Photo By SP4 Larry Weist)

Careless VC Pointman Ambles Into An Ambush

2D BDE - The Recon Plt of the 25th Inf Div's 1st Bn, 27th Inf Wolfhounds sprang an ambush killing a Viet Cong point man who walked unknowingly into their midst in the early morning hours.

The platoon had set up their ambush along the Hoc Mon Canal near the Saigon River.

Private First Class Donald Hastings, El Paso, Tex., said, "I had positioned myself in a canal drainage ditch so I could see both up and down the canal and a nearby trail. We thought both were likely avenues of approach."

"A little after midnight I saw movement to my front. From what I could see it appeared to be a VC point man," Hastings reported. "I passed the word back, and we waited awhile as the man came closer to us. Soon three more men appeared."

"I allowed the point man to pass by me hoping that we could get the others in our kill zone. Before the three could get in range the point man saw that he was in the middle of our ambush. I opened up with my M-16 on the point man while the rest of the platoon reconned by fire the area where the other three had taken cover," Hastings recalled.

While sweeping the area the following day the Wolfhounds discovered one VC body.

The end of an era!

July will see the last copy of the 25th Inf Div magazine, Lightning 25, distributed to division personnel.

A new magazine, published quarterly, with a larger format and full color photography is under way.

"Thunder, the Voice of Tropic Lightning" will be seen for the first time in September.

Don't miss it!

A Touch Of Stateside Comes To Cu Chi

A new facility has been added to Cu Chi Base Camp for use when 25th Inf Div troops come in from the field. The new Ilikai East Service Club officially opened June 30.

The new club, covering 8,000 square feet of ground, is air-conditioned and capable of serving 300 soldiers at one time.

Major General F. K. Mearns cut the ribbon in the main doorway at 1330 hours, opening the doors to division troopers on a seven day a week schedule.

In a short dedication message, he said, "This is a house of recreation, amusement and delight and ... I hereby dedicate it to that aim."

Among the club's facilities are an art room, tape room, library, projection room, two music rooms, two television lounges, a central patio, game room, stage and auditorium, kitchen and serving windows.

In the game room, four pool tables, a German football game plus table games are available. Musical instruments are ready to be checked out and there are plenty of chairs for relaxation.

Three girls will staff the club and organize functions for battalions returning from the field. Regular activities, such as indoor movies, cook-outs and patio parties are also planned.

A full kitchen facility including pizza ovens and waffle irons will lend themselves to such functions. Games for prizes will be held frequently.

Built by C and D Cos, 554th Engr Bn, in cooperation with volunteers from the Adjutant General's office, Military Police, 1st Logistical Command and Vietnamese national labor, the building has taken a year to build and features walnut stained walls, cement floor and rattan furniture.

The club will be open Mondays from 1300 to 2200, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1200 to 2200; and Sundays from 1000 to 2200 hours.



ILIKAI EAST - Music ranges from cool to hot; and it's strictly stateside. Opening day finds troops really enjoying a touch of home. . . . And it's here to stay!

Decorated

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

LTC A. M. Dean, HHB, 1st Bn, 8th Arty
MAJ Roger McLeod, Co A, 25th Avn Bn

WO1 Jon M. Barnhill, Co B, 25th Avn Bn
WO1 Wesley J. Ashenbrenner, D Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav

CPT Terence M. Henry, 116th Aslt Hel Co, 269th Avn Bn
 CPT James L. Jaap, Co A, 25th Avn Bn
 1LT David E. Henard, Co B, 25th Avn Bn

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (HEROISM)

BG Donald D. Dunlop, HHC, 25th Inf Div
 LTC Thomas C. Lodge, HHC, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
 MAJ Gordon G. Corcoran, HHC, 2d Bn, 27th Inf
 MAJ Robert E. Yoos, HHC, 2d Bn, 14th Inf
 CPT Peter E. Gleszer, HHC, 2d Bde
 CPT William E. Shaffer, C Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 CPT Tobert L. Hemphill, HO, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
 1LT William A. Bates, Co B, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
 1LT Rodney S. Nishimura, A Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 1LT Gary J. Stevens, Co D, 2d Bn, 27th Inf
 1LT James R. Brown, Co B, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 1LT William S. Fulcher, Co D, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
 1LT Mickey R. Miller, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
 1LT Charles J. Boyle, Co C, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
 1LT Antonio F. Sanpere, Co B, 2d Bn, 14th Inf
 2LT Michael Donnelly, Co C, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
 WO1 Mackie A. Webb, D Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SGM Charles Buster, HHC, 2d En, 34th Armor
 PSG Salvatore F. Pesta, Co A, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 SSG Robert L. Carden, B Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SSG Robert Featherston, Co A, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
 SSG James Coleman, Co A, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
 SSG Ray I. Russler, HHC, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
 SP5 Richard J. Hopkins, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
 SGT William B. Babin, Co A, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
 SGT Richard A. Walters, 44th Inf Pit (Sct Dog)
 SGT Natal V. Acevedo, Co D, 2d Bn, 27th Inf
 SGT Theodore W. McDuff, Co A, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
 SP5 Wincel A. Morris, HHC, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 SP4 Howard L. Hayden, HHC, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
 SP4 Herbert J. Bergman Jr., Co D, 2d Bn, 27th Inf

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (HEROISM)

MAJ Billy R. Vinson, D Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 1LT Michael C. Long, Co D, 2d Bn, 14th Inf
 WO1 Peter Webb, D Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 WO1 Charles P. Eastes, D Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 WO1 Bruce F. Wood, D Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav

SP5 Edward T. Lyons, Co B, 25th Avn Bn
 SP4 Daniel L. Thacker, Co A, 25th Avn Bn
 SP4 Robert L. Hollister, Co A, 25th Avn Bn

SP4 Nelson E. White, Co A, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
 SP4 Douglas L. Edwards, Co D, 2d Bn, 27th Inf
 SP4 Charles A. Rouse, Co A, 2d Bn, 27th Inf
 SP4 Ronald N. Boyd, A Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Alvin E. Veldkamp, Co A, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
 SP4 Jerome N. Custer, HHC, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 SP4 John M. Uzarski, Co B, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SP4 Larry D. Stewart, HHC, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SP4 Mark A. Madden, Co A, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
 SP4 Terry R. Willingham, Co D, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
 SP4 David L. Chrestiansen, D Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Cecil E. Guthrie, HHC, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
 SP4 Michael H. Mellman, HHC, 2d Bn, 27th Inf
 SP4 Carl E. Pfromm, Co B, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 SP4 Jerome D. Spence, HHT, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Rodric L. Schultz, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
 SP4 Edgar Ryan, Co B, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SP4 Warren Fien, HHT, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 PFC Edward Runge, Co C, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
 PFC Charles W. Payne, Co B, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 PFC William Wilson, Co B, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 PFC Richard Marrero, HHC, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
 PFC Robert J. Tinnetti, Co D, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
 PFC Douglas Hill, Co D, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
 PFC Jack O. Baumstark, Co B, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 PFC Donald R. Elverd, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
 PFC Tommy W. Johnston, HHC, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
 PFC William A. Kestell, HHC, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
 PFC Ronald M. Grim, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
 PFC George A. Sloan, Co B, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 PFC Patrick S. Clark, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Inf

SFC Charles E. Jackson, HHC, 2d Bde
 SSG Willard Schweninger, Co D, 2d Bn, 14th Inf
 SSG Robert E. VanCleave, D Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SSG Fergus E. Bohen, HHT, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SSG David B. Xanten, B Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav

DoD Expands Action Against Military Housing Discrimination

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford has ordered two new actions in the Defense Department's campaign to eliminate housing discrimination against military men and their families.

Secretary Clifford announced these orders:

"After July 31, no member of the Armed Forces stationed at a base in the United States will be authorized to enter into a new lease or rental arrangement at an apartment or trailer court near his base if the owner follows a discriminatory policy in leasing to servicemen."

"Procedures will be established as quickly as possible to make legal advice available to any serviceman who experiences housing discrimination. This help will include counseling him, if he so wishes, on his right to bring a law suit against a discriminatory landlord under the 1866 law upheld this week by the Supreme Court."

In the final session of its 1967-68 term, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that the 1866 law to which Secretary Clifford referred bars all racial discrimination, private as well as public, in the sale or rental of property.

In reporting on the year-old intensive campaign against discrimination in apartments and trailer courts near military installations, Secretary Clifford said:

"In July, 1967, only 61 per cent of these rental units were open to all servicemen regardless of race or color. Now 83 per cent are open to all members of the Armed Forces. This is a gain of 247,000 open housing units.

"We are gratified by the progress in the last 12 months, but unfortunately there are still some landlords who discriminate on the basis of color against men who wear the uniform of their country. This is an intolerable injustice."

Subdued Insignia Ok'd For Army Field Clothes

Members of the U.S. Army around the world have been authorized to Wear subdued insignia on field jackets, tropical combat uniforms, fatigues and OG (olive green) shirts.

The subdued items may be worn as they become available beginning July 1, and they will be mandatory effective July 1, 1969.

Soldiers in Vietnam already are wearing subdued insignia of grade, which prevent easy identification of leaders by the enemy.

Officer insignia of grade and branch is to be pin-on or sew-on subdued insignia. Silver insignia of grade will be black on olive green, and gold insignia of grade will be russet (reddish brown) on olive green background.

Enlisted insignia of grade are to be pin-on subdued insignia, to be worn on both collars of the uniform and on field and pile caps instead of distinctive insignia. In addition, the pin-on insignia are to be worn on the white uniforms of medical and mess personnel.

Also authorized are subdued organizational shoulder and sleeve insignia and subdued pin-on and sew on combat and special skill badges. (ANF)

Did You Know?

Did you know that although a Betsy Ross commemorative stamp has been issued by the U.S. Post Office Department, most historians, in view of the lack of documentary evidence, now doubt that she made the first flag?

Army Draft Set At 18,300 For August

The Department of Defense has requested the Selective Service System to provide 18,300 inductees to be assigned to the U.S. Army in August.

The Defense Department said the request supports currently approved force levels and will assure timely flow of replacements for men completing their terms of service.

The Mission In Vietnam

In describing the war in Vietnam recently, President Johnson through his description, made a capsule outline of the United States mission in this country.

"There is the face of armed conflict - of terror and gunfire - of bomb heavy planes and campaign-weary

soldiers.

"The second face of war in Vietnam is a quest for political solution - the face of diplomacy and politics.

"The third face . . . is, at once, the most tragic and hopeful. It is the face of human need. It is men and women, many without shelter, with rags for clothing, struggling for survival in a very rich and fertile land."

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MAJ Andrew J. Sullivan . . Information Officer
2LT Don A. Eriksson Officer-in-Charge
SP4 Stephen Lochen Editor
SP4 Bill Berger Editorial Assistant

Page 3

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

July 15, 1968

Page 3 of this issue, which has not been included as part of this on-line reproduction, contains a list of state poll dates, offices open for nomination, qualifications for voting, voting registration dates and information on requesting absentee ballots and information on returning the ballots.

Page 4-5

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

July 15, 1968

MP's Checkpoints Spell 'NIX' For Contraband And 'Charlies'

**Story And Photos
By
SP4 Mike Brodinsky**

1ST BDE - Alone, miles from an Allied base, the 25th Military Police Company's Resources Control Team daily checks the flow of contraband on the roads in Tay Ninh Province.

Operating out of the 25th Inf Div's Tay Ninh Base Camp, the three-man team works with Vietnamese National Police to pick up Viet Cong suspects and seize black market contraband and supplies destined for enemy hands.

With more than 500 miles of road to cover, the team has set up checkpoints as far west as the Cambodian

border, as far north as the base of Nui Ba Den, and as far as 20 miles south of Tay Ninh.

Their method is simple but effective. Each day, sometimes before the sun is up, the team joins their Vietnamese counterparts at the National Police compound in Tay Ninh. Here, they receive the exact location of the day's checkpoints.

The location is kept secret until the MP's move out, because the enemy has made no secret of the fact that they would like to be rid of the Resources Control team. And if word of the next day's checkpoint leaked out, the enemy might get their wish.

At a different spot each day, the MP's wait until the Vietnamese police clear the checkpoint area with a mine sweeper before the day's work begins.

Then as vehicles come down the road and through the checkpoint the policemen search them. Contraband can be carried anywhere, so the search must be thorough. And because the individuals on the roads could be Viet Cong, they are also checked for identification.

If a person has no ID card, he is detained by the Vietnamese police and brought back to the consulate station. Likewise, if in the judgement of the team, an individual ought to be detained because of the type or amount of contraband he is carrying, he is also detained and then interrogated by the National Police.

According to team leader Specialist 4 Bobby Fowler from Bayonne, N.J., 65 percent of the people they detained during the three months following the inception of the resources program were later found to be confirmed Viet Cong. Lately, the team has detained about 40 suspects a month.

How can the team determine what is contraband? The Vietnamese government has set a 20-kilo limit on rice that is carried on the roads. If an individual has more than that amount, he must have in his possession papers showing that he obtained the rice legitimately and that the rice will not be used by the enemy.

Some items are obviously contraband. C-rations destined for black markets, batteries and wire when found in excessive quantities, ammunition, shrapnel and uniforms are confiscated.

Rice is the contraband item most taken by the team. In fact, they have seized more than 125,000 pounds of it, or enough to feed more than 50 enemy battalions for a month. Contraband medicine is also seized in large amounts - antibiotics being seized in the biggest quantities.

The work of the Resources Control Team not only deprives the enemy of desperately needed food and supplies. The team also supplies intelligence information.

Is the team's job dangerous? To talk to the men on the team, you wouldn't believe it was. But, one of the team members' has been individually threatened by name in an enemy report received through intelligence channels. However, the 1st Brigade soldier involved is SP4 Fowler who shrugs off the threat.

Another team member philosophized about the danger. Specialist 4 John Kevilly from Washington, D.C., stated that being shot at or threatened is just another indication that the team is doing its job and doing it well.

But the team doesn't need this kind of indication. The record speaks for itself. The Resources Control Team has been remarkably efficient in hurting the enemy's war effort in the 1st Brigade's area of operations.



CONTRABAND - As more vehicles approach the checkpoint, the Resources Control Team searches for contraband goods carried on the roads of Tay Ninh Province. The team checks over 1,200 vehicles a week for contraband goods.

ID CHECK - A Vietnamese policewoman asks a woman who passed through the checkpoint for identification. Team Leader Specialist 4 Bobby Fowler, asks the policewomen to help when females are checked for identification and contraband.



CHECKPOINT - Resources Control Team Leader, Specialist 4 Bobby Fowler, and a Vietnamese National Policeman scrutinize papers carried by a Vietnamese man who attempted to pass through the checkpoint with two large packages of camouflaged uniform material.

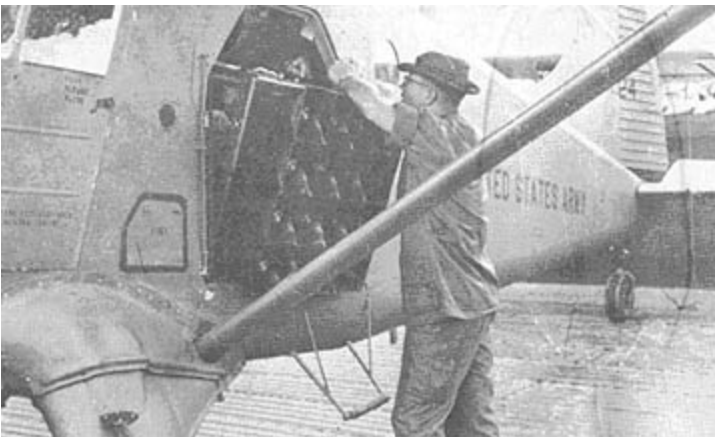
SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE - Specialist 4 John Kevilly of Washington, D.C., inspects a suspicious-looking package he found in a bag carried by a Vietnamese woman.





ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE - Contraband can be carried anywhere, so team member Specialist 4 Calvin Buchanan from Washington, D.C., checks for it everywhere. However, Buchanan didn't find anything hidden in the bundles of grass on the back of this man's bicycle.

Psyops -- Weaponless War Of Words



CAPTAIN Audris Endrijonas adjusts the 1,000-watt speaker system mounted in a U6A Beaver, prior to an aerial Psyops mission from the 25th Inf Div base camp at Cu Chi.



HIGH RANKING CHIEU HOI - Lieutenant Colonel Huynh Cu, former Chief of VC Training Section, Military Region V, is pictured on Psyops leaflet encouraging VC guerrillas to rally to the government.

Leaflets And Loudspeakers

Persuasion In Stereo - Allies

CU CHI - In Vietnam, battles are fought daily with M-16 rifles, grenade launchers, helicopter gunships, artillery, and air strikes. But, there's "another" war being fought in Vietnam today. It's not a conflict of guns and bullets, but a war fought with words.

"Never in the history of the United States have we practiced a more extensive use of psychological warfare tactics, than in Vietnam," remarked Captain Audris Endrijonas, 25th Inf Div psychological operations (Psyops) officer.

"Last month," he continued, "we dropped approximately 22 million leaflets over the division's area of operations. Another 30,000 leaflets were disseminated by ground teams, and 98 hours of loudspeaker broadcasts were logged."

The basic purpose of Psyops is to convince the North Vietnamese Army forces and Viet Cong guerrillas that the South Vietnamese government is the true government of Vietnam. "We try to take advantage of a psychological weakness of the enemy in a particular situation," added Endrijonas.

If the VC or North Vietnamese have a large number of sick or wounded on the battlefield, and no medical supplies to treat them, the Psyops teams spring into action.

The teams develop a theme based on that particular weakness and then deliver the message by means of either aerial or ground loudspeaker broadcasts, or printed leaflets.

The message presents an opportunity for the enemy to "Chieu Hoi", or rally to the government of South Vietnam. He is assured he will be treated not as a prisoner but as a citizen of the Republic of Vietnam.

Upon rallying to the government, the former enemy soldier is sent to a special Chieu Hoi center where he learns what the South Vietnamese government stands for and how it functions. After the indoctrination period he may remain at the center if he chooses, or the government will help him find a job.

Not all psychological messages are aimed at enemy forces. Frequently, messages are directed to the family of a VC member. This is an indirect approach, but very often successful because of the extremely strong family ties associated with the Vietnamese society.

Many broadcast messages are made encouraging the Vietnamese citizens to report Viet Cong activity in their area. Leaflets inform the civilians of rewards they may collect for giving information to the whereabouts of enemy troops, equipment, or supplies. Many rewards have been given to villagers for reporting VC weapon caches.

When American or allied fighting units come in heavy contact with enemy forces, a Psyops team flies over the battle scene, saturating the area with propaganda leaflets, and broadcasting taped messages over a 1,000 watt loudspeaker. Both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft are used in the Psyops flights. Ground teams carry 250 watt "back-pack" speakers, which have been used extensively in coaxing the enemy from tunnel complexes.

The actual production of broadcast tapes and writing of propaganda leaflets is handled by Vietnamese interpreters. American teams give the interpreter a general theme to follow, which he writes or records in his own words. According to Captain Endrijonas, "this eliminates the American touch in the messages. We put the ethnic background and inherent language capabilities of the Vietnamese to maximum use."

In addition to furnishing interpreters, the Vietnamese also have their own Psyops teams. These teams from Vietnamese Army units have loudspeaker and audio visual capabilities, as well as the facilities to produce printed messages.

Often a Vietnamese team accompanies American Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP) teams into villages, informing the civilians of the medical attention available. Movies with various propaganda themes and overtones are often shown. The Vietnamese teams tell the villagers the difference between living under Viet Cong rule and the rule of the people.

Is the Psyops program working? There is no sure way of measuring the success of the program, but a significant number of Chieu Hoi's monthly indicates that the messages are getting through to the people.

During 1967, 27,000 enemy troops rallied to the Republic of Vietnam under the Chieu Hoi Program. Of this number, 17,000 bore weapons.

Perhaps an even greater indication can be seen in the demand of the North Vietnamese delegation at the Paris peace talks that the United States end the dropping of leaflets and cease the conduct of all psychological operations in Vietnam.

Story And Photos By SP4 Joe Moore



REPORT VC ACTIVITIES - Member of Vietnamese Psyops team tells villagers 16 kms northwest of Saigon to report any Viet Cong activity to government or allied forces.

PSYOPS TEAM - Vietnamese Psyops team member tells villagers that medical assistance is available at nearby American Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) site.



Story And Photos By SP4 Walt Chaikivsky



SPLASH! - A 25th Inf Div artillery forward observer, Second Lieutenant John Russell (left) of Corpus Christi, Tex., and his radio-telephone operator, Private First Class Steven Murphy of Butte, Mont., call in an unusual "splash"

IT'S DRY - Tomahawks of the 4th Bn (Mech), 23d Inf, 25th Inf Div, find pleasure on a dry berm after eight hours of tromping through swamps 12 kms northwest of Saigon.



Scourge Of The Monsoon Rains; Tomahawks Keep Pushing

2D BDE - With the arrival of the monsoons - and of course the mud - the 4th Bn (Mech), 23d Inf has been forced to leave their armored personnel carriers behind while on reconnaissance in force missions. Without the added fire power of the track-mounted .50 caliber machine guns the Viet Cong might assume the Tomahawks would become stale.

On the contrary they have proven that they are infantrymen in the true sense of the word. Sergeant Major John E. Wise of Petersburg, Va., said: "The 50's are not a crutch for us but rather an additional weapon to complete our mission more efficiently."

From mounted to dismounted, the Tomahawks adapted to the tactics of the "straight leg" not by hour blocks of instruction but rather by assuming the walking game of war, on the ground, on the job.

The unit's first major mission was to seek out the Viet Cong rocket sites menacing Saigon. Choppers replaced APC's as the Tomahawks made eagle flights for the first time in over a year. They learned that mud, rain, and

chest-deep water are the enemies' allies.

But, knowledge of the enemy's tactics enabled the Tomahawks to rout the enemy in the unfamiliar terrain of swamps and canals 12 kms northwest of Saigon.

Within one week nine enemy were killed and several weapons caches were uncovered. The infantrymen found 10 122mm rockets, 82 rounds of 82mm mortar complete with boosters and fuses, over 7,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, an RPG-2 rocket launcher and a dozen RPG-2 rounds - more than enough to equip a Viet Cong platoon.



IF I WERE TALLER - Specialist 4 Luther Williams (right) of Halifax, N.C., a radio-telephone operator with the 4th Bn (Mech), 23d Inf makes the initial "drop" into the swamps 12 kms northwest of Saigon.



THE GOOD WORD - "Enough of these swamps, let's go back," says Captain Henry Montgomery (left) of Memphis, Tenn. The Tomahawks were in search of enemy weapons caches.

CHECK IT OUT CAREFULLY - Company A point man Private First Class Jerry Riggins of Durham, N.C., checks out a hazardous hedgerow.



Unit of The Week

Proud Past Spotlites 2/34

The history of the 2d Bn, 34th Armor Regt is the story of valiant men performing valiant deeds, from the beaches of Normandy to the streets of Berlin, to the rice paddies of Vietnam.

The 34th Armor was activated on October 1, 1941 at Fort Knox, Ky. After extensive training in Kentucky, California and New York, the regiment moved overseas to the Wiltshire area in England where it continued preparations for 'D' Day and the landing on the French coast as part of General Patton's 3d Army.

Spearheading the 5th Armor Div throughout the drive across Europe the 34th Armor added Normandy, Belgium, Luxembourg, Faleise, The Siegfried Line, Hurtgin Forest and Roer River to its battle history. On September 11, 1944 the 2nd Bn, 34th Armor was the first unit to dispatch word to higher headquarters that Americap soldiers were fighting on German soil.

In these campaigns, the 2d Bn, 34th Armor was awarded five campaign streamers for actions in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Allsace and Central Europe. In addition, the battalion was awarded two decorations; Distinguished Unit Citation, Embroidered Roer River Dam and streamer, Croix De Guerre, Embroidered Luxembourg.

Recalled to battle on August 21, 1966, the 2d Bn, 34th Armor was called upon and deployed for combat in the Republic of Vietnam. The battalion reached Vietnam in September of 1966.

Once aground, the battalion was split, A Trp attached to the 25th Inf Div at Cu Chi and B Trp attached to the 1st Inf Div at Phu Loi. The battalion, with its remaining two troops moved to a permanent base camp at Long Binh.

In October, 1966, the battalion moved out on its first operation. Operation Shenandoah had begun and the battalion's name first appeared in the speech of the units it supported. Other operations came along, Attleboro, Lancaster, Cedar Falls, Ala Monana and Junction City.

From Operation Junction City came one of the most famous battles of the Vietnam war, the battle of Soui Tre, later called the battle of LZ Gold. For its part, the 2d Bn, 34th Armor was recommended for the Presidential Unit Citation.

Since then, through operations Yellowstone, Saratoga, Resolved to Win and Certain Victory, and recently, Quyet Thang and Toan Thang have seen the fighting spirit of the 2d Bn, 34th Armor.

Wolfhounds Return After 73 Hard Days

2D BDE - After 73 days on combat operations, the 1st Bn, 27th Inf Wolfhounds returned to Cu Chi for four days of rest and a change of command ceremony.

During their extensive combat activities the "First of the Wolfhounds" were credited with killing 230 enemy. They tallied some 40,000 pounds of rice captured and destroyed 377 enemy bunkers. Also during their operations they captured 88 rifles, carbines and pistols, 84 rockets and mortars and numerous enemy documents along with one 75mm recoilless rifle and 132 grenades.

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ernest F. Condina, the Wolfhounds operated in the Saigon-Hoc Mon area since last leaving Cu Chi on March 28.

Condina praised his men saying they performed "in an outstanding professional manner" during the 2 1/2 months of long, hard fighting.

While at Cu Chi the Wolfhounds held a change of command ceremony during which Lieutenant Colonel Stanford M. Touchstone received the colors of the Wolfhound battalion from Condina.

The Tropic Lightning troopers again left Cu Chi June 13th to continue combat operations in the Saigon-Hoc

Mon area.

Persistent Enemy Grenade Vs Hard-Headed Medic

2D BDE - Being hard-headed can sometimes cause problems, but for Specialist 4 Bruce Cotta, a medic with the 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf, it saved his life.

The 25th Inf Div battalion's night position 33 kms northwest of Saigon was under heavy enemy mortar and RPG attack when the cry "medic!" rang out. Low crawling, the 21-year-old medic inched his way toward the wounded man.

"Suddenly something hit me on the head," Cotta recalled, "and I saw stars. I felt my head to see if it was still there." It was, along with a big "goose egg."

The flares dropping overhead to light the perimeter revealed a Chinese-made hand grenade on the ground in front of him - the culprit that had just struck him. The Tropic Lightning trooper picked up the grenade and heaved it yelling a warning to those around him.

He continued on but hadn't traveled far when he encountered the villainous grenade again. This time it exploded wounding the Lowell, Mass., medic.

Despite the shrapnel in his leg Cotta moved on to administer medical aid to the wounded man.

"I still don't know why it didn't go off sooner," Cotta said after the incident. "I'm just glad that I have a hard head and Charlie has second rate grenades."

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