

a company-size contact since May. Until recently, we had not had contact with a VC platoon since mid-June. Hoi Chanhs from one Long An VC battalion told us recently that their battalion has been dispersed into two- and three-man cells throughout the area. These cells are to act as assassination teams but are not to assemble as platoons, or companies until further orders from higher VC headquarters.

The 2d Brigade as part of the Mobile Riverine Force went into eastern Can Giuoc District in June and met another VC battalion head on. In that battle the VC lost 215 men. In July the MRF returned to eastern Can Giuoc and had a couple of stiff contacts that accounted for 120 VC. In late August they returned again with minor contacts, nothing greater than a platoon, while killing 24 VC. In September seven members of this battalion turned themselves in as Hoi Chanhs. They reported that the battalion had been ordered to disperse in five- to seven-man groups and that they would be told when to reassemble. Since these seven VC came from two different groups and turned in at different times, we have reason to believe what they said is true about this VC battalion being dispersed.

Progress? I think you will agree that we have made a great step in reducing the VC threat in Long An Province from battalion-size to platoon-size units or less, and in providing security so that the GVN Pacification Program can proceed. I conclude we have reduced the VC threat not solely because of the VC killed, but from the number of weapons we have captured, from the number of VC who have surrendered under the Chieu Hoi program, and from what these Hoi Chanhs report about the status of their units. Enemy documents verify their reports.

Now this progress is not due solely to our operations. The Vietnamese military forces have played a large part in this. The ARVN participated in the MRF operations in Can Giuoc and both ARVN and RF/PF participate in the 3d Brigade's operations elsewhere in Long An. The VN military have also conducted their own unilateral operations which have helped reduce the VC's capabilities. By and large this has been a combined effort—U.S. and Vietnamese. The time is close approaching when the ARVN can handle the rest of the job in Long An themselves. This in itself is progress.

LTC Haszard wins DSC for heroism

LONG BINH (II FFV IO)—The nation's second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, was presented here recently to Lieutenant Colonel Sidney S. Haszard, a native of Massachusetts. General William C. Westmoreland, top military commander in Vietnam, made the presentation to the 45-year-old officer citing him for extraordinary heroism.

Colonel Haszard, whose wife and son live in Fort Riley, Kan., was cited for action while serving as the commander of the 9th Division's 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry. The action occurred last March.

The Viet Cong launched a massive attack against a fire support base, some six kilometers from Colonel Haszard's base camp area near Bau Bang. Responding immediately, he departed base camp with two medics aboard armored cavalry assault vehicles.

Colonel Haszard jumped to

one of the machine guns mounted on the vehicle and firing at the VC, urged his driver to "get on the way". His decisive action and heavy volume of machine gun fire opened the path for the vehicles to zip through the ambush site, speeding toward the attack site.

When two anti-tank rounds knocked out his vehicle and wounded him, he still held his firing position while the other assault vehicle towed his from its vulnerable spot.

Leaping from the disabled vehicle, Colonel Haszard, despite his wounds, raced from vehicle to vehicle and position to position, encouraging the outnumbered troops and directing their fire.

Serving presently as chief of the Plans Division for Headquarters II Field Force Vietnam, Colonel Haszard came to Vietnam last December with the 9th Division.

Company Collects for widow of AR

RACH KIEN—A company of the 9th Division's 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry recently collected nine thousand piastres (\$76.27) for the family of a dead Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) officer.

The Vietnamese lieutenant was seriously wounded by an enemy booby trap as the American unit

took part in a recent joint operation two miles south of here with the 3d Battalion, 46th Regiment (ARVN). He was evacuated and died on the dustoff helicopter.

"When I heard that he died," said Captain Donald Holmes, 27, of Monterey, Cal. Company B Commander, asked his commander for in-

3d-39th captain use convincing fishing gear

RACH KIEN—Some men use fishing poles to go fishing. Some use spears. Some, like Captain Donald L. Holmes, use a .45 caliber pistol.

Holmes, 31, of Monterey, Cal., was credited with a 100 pound-plus catch recently when he hooked an enemy suspect trying to hide in a river.

The incident began when Holmes, commander of Company B, 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry, was on an "Eagle Claw" flight (low flying choppers that drop troops onto enemy positions for the kill).

Suddenly, Holmes' claw chopper spotted two armed enemy below.

Major Richard O. Brunkow, 35, of Hebron, Neb., tactical operations officer of the 3d/39th, also in the chopper, told the pilot to land. Holmes had not yet

observed the two men who were then fleeing.

As soon as the Huey touched ground, Holmes saw the suspects. He and Brunkow jumped out and took chase.

One of the enemy managed to elude the pair, but Holmes pursued the other, who jumped into the surrounding Ben River.

Holmes brandishing his .45 of the water. The suspect quickly gave up, but successfully discarded his weapon and equipment.

Holmes' comment: "My turned out to be a very persuasive piece of fishing gear."



NINTH INFANTRY

THE OLD

Youth center built from scarred house

RACH KIEN—Volunteers and engineers of the 9th Division teamed up here recently to transform a mortar-scarred house into a youth center.

The youth center, remodeled by men of the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry and Company C, 15th Engineer Battalion, is divided into three sections, a library, a playroom for children and large room for young adults to gather socially.

THE OLD RELIABLE publication under the supervision of the 9th Infantry Division for the Army of Vietnam. Army News Bureau Armed Forces Press Service Bureau material are used necessarily those of the 9th contributions are encouraged. Information Office, 9th Infantry Division, San Francisco 96370. The paper is Pacific Stars and Stripes.

Major General G. G. O'CONNOR
Major RAYMOND E. FUNDERBARK
First Lieutenant FRANK REYNOLDS
Specialist 5 JOHN P. COLLINS
Specialist 4 DONALD O. HEDGECOCK

Christmas 1967

As we celebrate this season of joy and praise, we cannot help thinking of our families from whom we are separated. We remember the generosity of our friends and our exchanges of gifts, because the essence of Christmas is the spirit of giving. God gave us the greatest gift of all, His own Son. I remind you of the gift which you are giving to the people of Vietnam. You can give nothing greater than that which you are now giving; sacrificing yourselves in order to help bring "Peace on earth and goodwill towards men."

May the satisfaction that comes from giving your best to the cause of freedom for all men bring you contentment in this joyous season.

Howard R Fuller, Jr.
HOWARD R. FULLER, JR.
LTC, ARMOR
Commanding

3d-5th covers ground on diversified missions

LONG THANH — Operations covering thousands of land and air miles have filled the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry's first year in Vietnam with the 9th Division.

Within three days after landing in Vietnam, each individual troop found itself participating in combat operations.

During operation JUNCTION CITY, Troop A and parts of Troops C & D tangled with two battalions from the 273d Viet Cong Regiment. The two day battle resulted in 254 VC dead and inspired acts of bravery for which 53 men were decorated.

The year's Viet Cong body count is 600, with 180 credited to one helicopter gunship team of Troop D.

In July Lieutenant Colonel

Howard R. Fuller took over command of the squadron from Lieutenant Colonel Sidney Haszard, the original commanding officer.

Throughout the year the missions of the 3d/5th became more diversified. Troop D took to the air with a force of reconnaissance and gunship helicopters. The long range reconnaissance patrol took the night away from the VC in Bien Hoa Province.

"Our is an aggressive squad attitude. The men have shown outstanding performance in all operations," commented Fuller.

In October, during Operation AKRON III, elements of the squadron were among the first to arrive at the site of tunnel complexes which yielded 1,140 weapons and tons of ammunition.

Feb. 21, 1968

THE OLD RELIABLE

Hoa, Xuan Loc

Page 3

5th Cav turns back six enemy attacks

By SP5 Bruce McIlhenny
Staff Writer

LONG THANH—The Division's 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry Regiment charged to the rescue of two important military bases—Bien Hoa and Xuan Loc—during the week of Jan. 31-Feb. 6.

Troops A and C were employed in turning the tables on six separate Viet Cong attacks. FIRE SUPPORT BASE AP-PIE—Early Jan. 31, Troop A was ordered to relieve Bien Hoa Air Force Base, under assault by a 40-man VC detachment.

The VC commander called down Highway 15 with a force of 12 Armored Personnel Carriers and two tanks.

Waiting along their route to Bien Hoa were three VC attacks. The force had traveled five miles to the village of Trang Bom when the lead tank, driven by Private First Class Joseph L. Evans, 21, of Erie, Pa., was struck by a rifle grenade.

"The grenade hit the right front fender, tore on through and hit my helmet," said Evans. "It drove my head back against the turret so hard that the helmet cracked. I was pretty dizzy but in a while I was able to drive straight."

At the first enemy shot, the column formed a herring bone

pattern on the village road and raked enemy positions with all of its arsenal.

While the .50 cal and M-60 machineguns pinned down the enemy, 90mm cannon fire from the tanks eliminated pockets of resistance.

The column continued on to a Vietnamese Regional Forces outpost near the Air Force base where they were told of a VC position 500 meters down the road.

"Instead of driving into the attack, we flanked it," explained Captain Ralph Garretson, 28, of Columbus, Ga., troop commander.

They were in spider holes all over the place," recalled Private First Class Raymond A. Broussard 22, of Houston, Tex. "I had a lot of targets. My troop commander would spot a VC and yell 'there he goes', and I'd get him. We killed about 10 of them."

After smothering the attack, the column screamed into the village of Bien Hoa, with the tank leading.

"Small groups of villagers motioned for us to stop and go back," said Garretson. "We appreciated their sympathy, but we waved them aside and went on."

"Right in the middle of town, Charlie really unloaded everything at us," Garretson con-

tinued.

Staff Sergeant Johnnie C. Branch, 26, of Hylis, Okla., spotted a line of firing positions along a road and maneuvered his tank for a clear shot at them.

"We fired two rounds from the main gun, then an RPG-2 rocket hit the front of the turret and blew me off," said Branch. "I'd just about climbed back on when another rocket hit the side and blew me off again."

Branch was evacuated on the troop commander's APC.

"One of the things I've taught my men is to stand toe to toe and slug it out in an attack," said Garretson. "The volume of fire you put out in the first 15 minutes of a fight is the most important. Our quick reactions really pulled us through that one."

An hour later the fight slacked off to sporadic sniper fire; enemy bodies surrounded the 3d/5th vehicles.

At the Air Force Base two companies of the 11st Airborne Division joined the Old Reliables to sweep wooded sections adjacent to a runway.

The 1st Platoon, using two APCs and the tank for its psychological value, came upon a small hamlet where the fourth fight occurred.

"There was fire from every building," said Specialist Four Richard M. Hoban 19, of Jack-

son Heights, Queens, New York City." Platoon leader 1st Lieutenant Ernie Freeman, 23, of San Antonio, Tex., ordered his track crew to support the other track in trouble and rushed to the side of the platoon medic who was helping the wounded.

"We put the wounded on my track," said Freeman, "and were about to pull back when the 2d Platoon arrived. They covered our withdrawal and shot up those Charlies pretty well." It was early evening and

A was finished fighting for the day. The troop is credited with blunting the main VC thrust through the Bien Hoa area.

"The main thing that saved us," said Private First Class Donald W. Bador, 20, of Sacramento, Calif., "is that we kept firing and firing."

"My men are credited with killing 40 VC they didn't see fall," said Garretson. "There is no telling how many they did not see fall."

Troop C, ARVNs defend Xuan Loc

XUAN LOC—Two platoons of Troop C, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, helped ARVN defenders to break the Viet Cong's attempt to take control of this city on Feb. 2-3.

The 9th Division cavalrymen were called both days to aid a police station-government complex under intense ground attacks.

In the early hours of Feb. 2, the 1st and 2d platoons rode out of the MACV compound here on their "thunder mission." The 2d platoon tank, commanded by Sergeant First Class Isaac Lane, 39, of Philadelphia, was leading.

"We were rolling through the center of town," said Lane, "when I spotted a VC in the gutter aiming an RPG-2 rocket at the tank's magazine. When he looked up and saw my 'grease gun' (M-3 sub-machinegun) and

our main gun trained at him, he shot wild."

At the same time, Lane fired accurately and killed the VC. Suddenly every vehicle in the formation was unleashing fire as hordes of VC began appearing everywhere.

In an attempt to split the U.S. force, rockets also hit two Armored Personnel Carriers in mid-column. But the force ran the gamut of fire without losing a vehicle.

Minutes later, the column charged into the fight near the police station. It drove through the enemy attackers until reaching the rubble. Ammunition at the border of the city. When they returned, the cavalry swept the outskirts of the city. At least 125 VC were killed throughout the fight for Xuan Loc.

SAVE

78

Hoan, Xuan Loc

30-5th Cav turns back six enemy attacks

By SP5 Bruce McIlhenny
Staff Writer

LONG THANH—The Division's 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry Regiment charged to the rescue of two important military bases—Bien Hoa and Xuan Loc—during the week of Jan. 31-Feb. 6.

Troops A and C were employed in turning the tables on six separate Viet Cong attacks.

FIRE SUPPORT BASE AP-PIE—Early Jan. 31, Troop A was ordered to relieve Bien Hoa Air Force Base, under assault by a 40-man VC demolition force.

The 1st and 2d platoons, led by the troop commander, rolled down Highway 15 with a force of 12 Armored Personnel Carriers and two tanks.

Waiting along their route to Bien Hoa were three VC attacks. The force had traveled five miles to the village of Trang Bom when the lead tank, driven by Private First Class Joseph L. Evans, 21, of Erie, Pa., was struck by a rifle grenade.

"The grenade hit the right front fender, tore on through and hit my helmet," said Evans. "It drove my head back against the turret so hard that the helmet cracked. I was pretty dizzy but in a while I was able to drive straight."

At the first enemy shot, the column formed a herring bone

pattern on the village road and raked enemy positions with all of its arsenal.

While the .50 cal and M-60 machineguns pinned down the enemy, 90mm cannon fire from the tanks eliminated pockets of resistance.

The column continued on to a Vietnamese Regional Force outpost near the Air Force base where they were told of a VC position 500 meters down the road.

"Instead of driving into the attack, we flanked it," explained Captain Ralph Garretson, 28, of Columbus, Ga., troop commander.

"They were in spider holes all over the place," recalled Private First Class Raymond A. Broussard, 22, of Houston, Tex. "I had a lot of targets. My track commander would spot a VC and yell 'there he goes,' and I'd get him. We killed about 10 of them."

After smothering the attack, the column screamed into the village of Bien Hoa, with the tank leading.

"Small groups of villagers motioned for us to stop and go back," said Garretson. "We appreciated their sympathy, but we waved them aside and went on."

"Right in the middle of town, Charlie really unloaded everything at us," Garretson con-

tinued.

Staff Sergeant Johnnie C. Branch, 26, of Hills, Okla., spotted a line of firing positions along a road and maneuvered his tank for a clear shot at them.

"We fired two rounds from the main gun, then an RPG-2 rocket hit the front of the turret and blew me off," said Branch. "I'd just about climbed back on when another rocket hit the side and blew me off again."

Branch was evacuated on the troop commander's APC.

"One of the things I've taught my men is to stand toe to the and slug it out in an attack," said Garretson. "The volume of fire you put out in the first 15 minutes of a fight is the most important. Our quick reactions really pulled us through that one."

An hour later the fight slacked off to sporadic sniper fire; enemy bodies surrounded the 3d/5th vehicles.

At the Air Force Base two companies of the 11st Airborne Division joined the Old Reliables to sweep wooded sections adjacent to a runway.

The 1st Platoon, using two APCs and the tank for its psychological value, rained upon a small hamlet where the fourth fight occurred.

"There was fire from every building," said Specialist Four Richard M. Hoban 19, of Jack-

son Heights, Queens, New York City."

Platoon leader 1st Lieutenant Ernie Freeman, 23, of San Antonio, Tex., ordered his track crew to support the other track in trouble and rushed to the side of the platoon medic who was helping the wounded.

"We put the wounded on my track," said Freeman, "and were about to pull back when the 2d Platoon arrived. They covered our withdrawal and shot up those Charlies pretty well." It was early evening and

A was finished fighting for the day. The troop is credited with blunting the main VC thrust through the Bien Hoa area.

"The main thing that saved us," said Private First Class Donald W. Bador, 20, of Sacramento, Calif., "is that we kept firing and firing."

"My men are credited with killing 40 VC they accompanied," said Garretson, "but there is no telling how many they did not see fall."

Troop C, ARVN's defend Xuan Loc

XUAN LOC—Two platoons of Troop C, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, helped ARVN defenders break the Viet Cong's attempt to take control of this city on Feb. 23.

The 9th Division cavalrymen were called both days to aid a police station-government complex under intense ground attacks.

In the early hours of Feb. 2, the 1st and 2d platoons rode out of the MACV compound here on their "thunder mission." The 2d platoon tank, commanded by Sergeant First Class Isaac Lane, 39, of Philadelphia, was leading.

"We were rolling through the center of town," said Lane, "when I spotted an RPG-2 rocket at the tank's magazine. When he looked up and saw my 'grease gun' (M-3 sub-machinegun) and

our main gun trained at him, he shot wild."

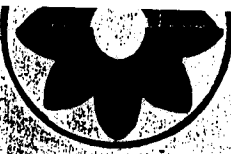
At the same time, Lane fired accurately and killed the VC. Suddenly every vehicle in the formation was unleashing fire as herds of VC began appearing everywhere.

In an attempt to split the U.S. force, rockets also hit two Armored Personnel Carriers in mid-column. But the force ran the gamut of fire without losing a vehicle.

Minutes later, the column charged into the fight near the police station. It drove through the enemy attackers until reaching the rubber plantations at the border of the city. When they returned, the cavalry swept the outskirts of the city. At least 125 VC were killed throughout the fight for Xuan Loc.

SAVE

67



THE OLD RELIANT

Vol. 1, No. 42

Republic of Vietnam

Arms cache keeps g

VC escapes tunnel when patrol nears

PHUOC TUY — At least one Viet Cong barely managed to escape the tunnel complex before 9th Division soldiers discovered a huge arms and supply cache here recently.

"One of my men fired at a VC who was running from the bunker," revealed Sergeant Maurice Campenell, 20, of Bound Brook, N.J., squad leader from Company B, 2d Mechanized Battalion, 47th Infantry. "In fact, he left so fast that he dropped his billfold and left his boots behind."

Campenell's squad came on the scene shortly after the first patrol led by First Lieutenant Jeffrey Short, 3d Platoon leader, Troop B, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, had followed narrow trails and footprints to the initial complex.

"The trails were very fresh—made the same day," said Short, 24, of Tishomingo, Miss. "We had tracker dogs pick up a very strong scent. Unfortunately, we did not have enough men at the time to go deeper into the jungle."

Platoon Sergeant Rolf Nelson, Troop B, 3d/5th, also offered a first-hand account of the initial discoveries.

While his men were providing security for Rome plows from the 86th Engineer Battalion to clear passages through the jungle, Nelson spotted a concrete door handle.

"We lifted this slab and found an entrance with steps cut into the side and going down about 10 feet," he related.

This tunnel bore numerous weapons, ammunition and medical supplies. It is believed to be the nucleus of the complexes, since it was connected to the first by a main tunnel and to the third by communications

Fire Support base
"Brown"
3/5 Cad.



ZEROING IN—General William C. Westmoreland, commander, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, peers through 3.5 power telescope of Soviet 7.62mm rifle recovered from Viet Cong tunnel complex by 9th Infantry Division soldiers 30 miles

east of Saigon. Viewing other weapons from large cache is General Cao Van Vien (left), Vietnam's Minister of Defense and Chief of the Joint General Staff. (9th Signal Battalion photo by SP4 Fred B. S)

330 VC killed in 27 days of Coronado V operation

By SP4 Ted Tindall

Staff Writer

LONG THANH—The 9th Division's Operation CORONADO V, originally one of the 1000 operations in the Kien Hoa Province, moving into Kien Hoa Province, and shifting to the Ban Long Secret Zone near Cam Son, accounted for 330 enemy killed.

The operation ended Oct. 8, following 27 days of combat and

patrol missions in the watery lowlands of the Mekong Delta.

Soldiers of the Division's 2d Brigade, two battalions from the 3d Brigade, and units of the 7th Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) saw the sharpest fighting of the operation when they searched the marshy Cam Son area during mid-September.

Infantry units, elements of U.S. Navy's Task Force 117, supporting artillery, helicopter

gunships, and Air Force F-4 bombers killed 213 enemy soldiers during a six-day period ended Sept. 16.

Major battles erupted at the 47th Infantry Battalion, 60th Infantry Mechanized Battalion, 601st Infantry and the 2d Battalion Infantry clashed with the Viet Cong Battalion along the Ba Rai River, 50 miles west of Saigon.

Action flared up again on Oct. 7 when a total of 94 enemy were killed during search and destroy missions in Dinh Thuan Province.

Patience, alertness

Show this to every. All the people too

VC mortars injure 28 at Dong Tam

DONG TAM—Seventeen 82mm enemy mortar rounds were fired into this Mekong Delta camp recently (Oct. 8), injuring 25 sailors and 3 soldiers.

No American was killed in the barrage.

Damage to facilities and equipment was minimal.

Counter-mortar fire from the 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery and the 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery

VC eludes first patrol

(Continued from Page 1)

crates and cans of supplies, Nelson said. However, some rooms were well concealed within the complexes.

First Lieutenant Warren G. Clair, 25, of Bennett, Colo., platoon leader from Company B, 2d/47th, said his men came upon piles of weapons after finding three concealed doors leading to them.

The enemy apparently felt secure in the jungle area, witnesses concluded, since few booby traps were found. In the past, infantrymen have encountered numerous traps in tunnels only 300 meters long.

"There were about 15 booby traps altogether," disclosed First Lieutenant Frank E. Dollison, 26, of Dundalk, Md., intelligence officer of the 86th Engineers. "These were grenades around the hospital complex strung on trees about two feet above ground."

Dollison thought the traps were meant to delay an incoming force. "This would give people under care in the hospital the extra time they needed to get out," he reasoned.

came within seconds of the first hit on the camp.

The enemy mortar firing position was not located in a post-attack sweep of areas near here.

Six mortar strikes have hit Dong Tam since it was first occupied on January 10 this year. The first attack, March 8, killed two men. Another man died of injuries suffered in a September 15 attack.

The latest attack was the third in 25 days.

Mortar damage to the camp has always been minor, although the rubberized 3d Surgical MUST (Medical Unit Self-Contained, Transportable) Hospital was flattened out of commission for four days after an August attack.

Med supply could aid VC for mos

LONG THANH—The medical supplies found with the huge arms cache were enough to treat the diseases of a sizable force for eight to 10 months, according to Colonel Foster H. Taft Jr., 9th Division surgeon.

The medications were primarily the kind used to treat wounds, infections, malaria and tuberculosis. Over-all, Taft noted, the variety and type of medications indicated a medical practice ranging from highly refined to the kind used 70 years ago.

First-rate dental equipment for oral surgery was also found for the first time by the 9th Division.

VC cache growing

(Continued from Page 1)

speculated. Secondly, before troops entered the area, artillery rounds were fired.

Fuller also surmised that the enemy did not have sufficient manpower to evacuate or defend the huge cache.

The intricacy of the subterranean system, spanning a 2,000 meter area, suggested it had been an enemy stronghold for several years.

Complexes were described as 30 to 35 feet deep with three to five levels. Ceilings were four to six feet high and one tunnel stretched for about 1,500 meters.

Rooms also varied in size. Most were cubicles about four by five feet, but many—containing beds, large weapons and crates of supplies—ranged from 12 to 15 feet long.

Recent occupancy of the tunnels was indicated by the discovery of a burning candle in one underground chamber, and a dish of hot rice and a coal fire in another. A calendar with the top page dated Oct. 7, the day before the tunnels changed hands, was also found.

A pen containing six live pigs was discovered at one bunker and several chickens were found near another.

Documents confiscated included maps, medical records, tax collector sheets, bookkeeping records and duty rosters. Numerous citations for the VC unit's meritorious service were also removed from the tunnels.

One of the first items taken to the fire support base of Troop B, 3d/5th Cav, was a red and gold standard emblazoned with the Vietnamese words "Good Company," apparently an award for outstanding service.

Also snatched from the complex was a red flag with a gold hammer and sickle, the symbol of the Soviet Union.

Many weapons were brand new. Although some had rotted stocks, all were packed in cosmoline grease and wrapped in black plastic material.

Some supplies were packed in steel boxes soldered at the edges and wrapped in plastic, and paper—evidently to prevent deterioration.

The cache was viewed Oct. 10 by General William C. Westmoreland, commander of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and General Cao Van Vien, Vietnam's Minister of Defense and Chief of the ARVN Joint General Staff.

Also attending the briefing were Major General George Eckhardt, deputy commanding general, II Field Force, Major General George O'Connor, commanding general of the 9th Division, and Brigadier General Morgan G. Roseborough, assistant Division commander.

Ammo section stocks 3d Bde with 105mm rds

TAN AN—Eighteen men from a 9th Division artillery unit have re-supplied their unit with more than 128,000 rounds of 105-mm howitzer ammunition since March of this year.

The men from the ammunition section of the 2d Battalion, 4th Artillery have traveled over 20,000 miles re-supplying ammunition from Long Binh Ammunition Supply Point to 105mm batteries at Tan Tru, Rach Kien



Through the stereoscopic... viewing sat.

Interpreter turns do

XUAN LOC—A "spy" speck detected on an aerial photograph of dense Vietnam jungle can provide clues to enemy troop movements and locations when examined by U.S. Army image interpreters.

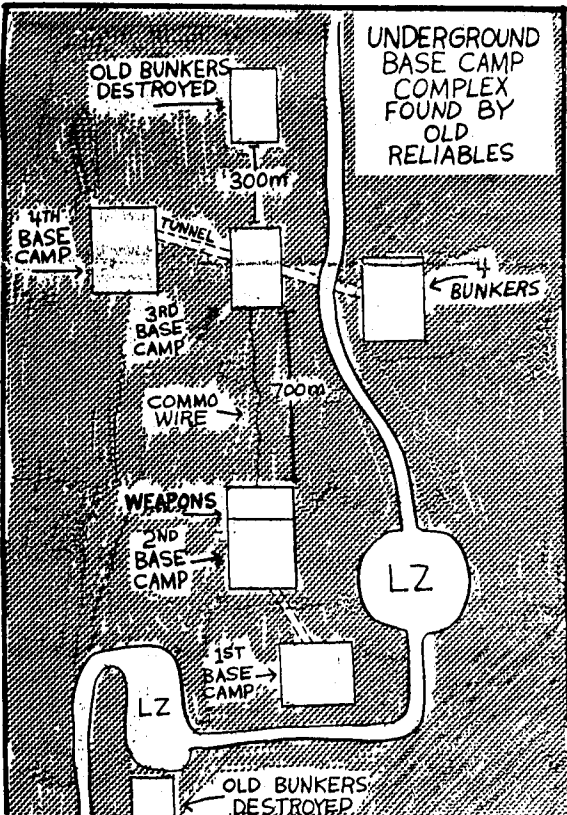
To the untrained observer, a white dot in the tangled underbrush 30 miles east of Saigon means little. But to interpreters of the 541st Military Intelligence Detachment, trained eyes using sophisticated magnification equipment can identify the dot as a crude wooden ox cart filled with enemy supplies.

Using a "Zoom 70 lens" which magnifies an object up to seventy times, officers of the 541st located at this 11th Armored Cavalry base camp can provide precise details including the positions in which the oxen are standing.

According to Second Lieutenant John Atkins, of Durham, N.C., sightings such as the ox cart are important indicators of enemy activity in the jungles of Long Khanh Province.

"Trail activity is the biggest single indicator of Viet Cong in a location," Atkins explained.

Work for the eight man section headed by First Lieutenant James Talley, of Little Rock, Ark., begins when pictures taken by a U.S. Air Force reconnais-



Yearbook

LONG THANH—Ever wonder if so, the Division Inform from you.

Open slots exist for Division least three months left in Viet ing for the first 9th Division Y

The Information Office w black and white photographs the yearbook. All pictures will original condition.

Personnel interested in p tributing photographs should Office through the Message C

Mail The Old

From Sgt. John A ... U.S. 5041.345 ... D.F. 004.25. L ... APO San Francisco.. 963

TO:

Mrs. ...

OLD RELIABLE

Oct. 25, 1967

Republic of Vietnam

Cache keeps growing

Ammo, food, medicine, clothes found

By PFC Joe Doyle

Staff Writer

PHUOC TUY — One of the largest enemy arms caches found in Vietnam was uncovered here Oct. 8 by elements of the 9th Division participating in Operation AKRON III.

A vast network of tunnel complexes, located 13 miles southeast of Division headquarters at Long Thanh, yielded 486 individual and crew-served weapons during the first six days of searching. Also found were enough medical supplies to treat 1,000 patients for a month, along with large quantities of ammunition, rice and clothing.

The first underground complex was located by a patrol



ING IN—General William C. Westmoreland, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, peers through 3.5 power telescope of Soviet rifle recovered from Viet Cong tunnel by 9th Infantry Division soldiers 30 miles

east of Saigon. Viewing other weapons from the large cache is General Cao Van Vien (left), Vietnam's Minister of Defense and Chief of the ARVN Joint General Staff. (9th Signal Battalion photo by SP4 Fred B. Staal)

330 VC killed in 27 days of Coronado V operations

by SP4 Ted Tindall

Staff Writer

NG THANH—The 9th Division Operation CORONADO V, Zone in the Cam Son area, moving into Kien Hoa province, and shifting to the Long Secret Zone near Cam accounted for 330 enemy during 27 days of combat and

patrol missions in the watery lowlands of the Mekong Delta.

Soldiers of the Division's 2d Brigade, two battalions from the 3d Brigade, and units of the 7th Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) saw the sharpest fighting of the operation when they searched the marshy Cam Son area during mid-September.

Infantry units, elements of U.S. Navy's Task Force 117, supporting artillery, helicopter

gunships, and Air Force fighter-bombers killed 213 enemy soldiers during a six-day period ended Sept. 16.

Major battles erupted as the 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry; 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry; 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry and the 2d Battalion, 60th Infantry clashed with the 263d Viet Cong Battalion along the Ba Rai River 50 miles southwest of Saigon.

Action flared up again Oct. 6 and 7 when a total of 94 enemy were killed during search and destroy missions in Dinh Tuong Province near the site of the mid-September battles.

Totals for the operation, which

Company B, 2d Mechanized Battalion, 47th Infantry.

The patrol was advancing along paths being cut by Rome plows from Company B, 86th Engineer Battalion. While slicing through the dense jungle, the plows came upon fresh footprints and narrow trails.

The 20-man patrol followed these tracks directly to the first complex. Immediately, the rest of the infantry company was summoned to begin searching and clearing the tunnels.

No enemy resistance was encountered during the first six days of search operations. The initial patrol came across only one booby-trapped grenade, which they exploded in place.

Lieutenant Colonel Howard R. Fuller Jr., commanding officer, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, attributed the lack of enemy contact to a combination of circumstances. The Rome plows had been operating nearby and the enemy probably realized he would be discovered. Fuller

(Continued on Back Page)

Patience, alertness

Howitzers too

D-DAY

Remembered

3/5/00/10
 5/2/00/10
 ENCL 1968



These veterans of 82d Airborne Division parachute assault on Normandy in World War II recall the C-47 aircraft from which they jumped during a visit to model displayed at division museum. From left, they are SGM Clyde F. Knox, LTC Harold J. Rose, CSM James E. Dominey, SGM Robert Frander, SGM Albert H. Rowe. At right, CSM Dominey reminisces.

Fort Bragg

Many thousands of veterans of D-Day will mentally relive their experiences this month—the 25th anniversary of that historic day. Some will revisit the land that they once fought over while others will go about their daily routine—some as civilians, others still in the Army such as Command Sergeant Major James E. Dominey at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. CSM Dominey, coincidentally, is still in the same unit that he served with as a private first class, when on 6 June 1944 he jumped into Normandy. At that time he was with Company A, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division; today, he is with the 2d Brigade of that same division.

Although the sergeant in a quarter century has seen much of the Army and much of the world, his recollections of that day are still vivid. "Our company," he recalls, "was one of the very few that assembled and successfully took its objective on time."

Jumping in the darkness from an altitude of about 300 feet, the sergeant broke his ankle upon landing and was assigned to guard prisoners. He considers himself one of the lucky ones, however, because the troopers were under such intense enemy fire as they floated to earth that many of the chutes caught fire.

The sergeant still remembers the feelings of the liberated Frenchmen. "The people were very frightened; they didn't know what to expect. The entire French populace helped. Without their assistance I don't think we would have ever succeeded as quickly as we did in



taking our objective. They were especially valuable in furnishing guides since the maps weren't the best; we used regular road maps. The people met us on the drop zone; they knew where we were going to come in. They helped us quite a lot."

In addition to assistance by the French underground, the sergeant recalls how Frenchmen from all walks of life displayed their deep feelings about the liberation.

"It makes you feel that what you're doing is very worthwhile, when you have people come out, cheer you, talk with you and particularly help the wounded. It's very gratifying to me and everybody else who remembers those days, to recall how the people helped. Even today, it's a real good feeling." **AD**



1/2 Lt Roger A. Festa

THE SECOND BATTLE OF BAU BANG

former Platoon Leader, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division

The second battle of Bau Bang on 19 and 20 March 1967 illustrates the mobility of Armor, even at night and under fire, the effects of organic and supporting firepower and the protection afforded by Armor.

On 19 March 1967, Troop A, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry returned to squadron control from operations to the north with the 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry on JUNCTION CITY. Upon its return, it assumed the mission of securing a 10 kilometer section of Highway 13, security of a fire support base located 11,000 meters north of Lai Khe and occupation of a mounted combat outpost 2000 meters north of the fire support base.

During the night of 19 March, Troop A was defending the fire support base perimeter with two platoons. My platoon, the 3d, was responsible for that part of the perimeter on the east from 2 o'clock to 6 o'clock. The 1st platoon was responsible from 7 o'clock to 11 o'clock on the west. The 2nd platoon was north on the combat outpost. Inside the perimeter were the troop headquarters section and Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery.

My platoon was on normal 50 percent alert when, at 2300, bursts of heavy machinegun fire were received in the northeast sector of my perimeter. My northern tank immediately engaged and destroyed the machinegun. One trooper was slightly wounded. During the next hour, no VC activity was visible, but the troop commander employed preplanned defensive artillery concentrations to the east in an effort to interdict possible enemy routes of retreat or reinforcements. I directed my platoon to conduct reconnaissance by fire and to use infrared scanning with the tank searchlights.

At 0030 on the morning of 20 March, the VC unleashed a coordinated attack along the perimeter using mortars, automatic weapons, antitank rockets and recoilless rifles.

We responded immediately with a heavy volume of our own and supporting artillery fires. Additional armed helicopter and flareship sup-



port was requested and received. The VC continued to press the attack heavily, taking advantage of the broken and rutted terrain to move large numbers of antitank weapons in close to our perimeter. In the early stages of the battle, many vehicles took direct hits from mortar and antitank rounds, but continued to fight effectively. Fifty-seven 75mm recoilless rifles and RPG2s were used against us. Half of my platoon (18 men) were wounded. Two vehicles from the 1st platoon, an M113 and a 106 mortar track, were hit. Subsequently these exploded and burned with all ammunition aboard. We were able to place a continual heavy volume of effective fire on the attacking enemy forces by using our tank mounted searchlights and firing our own mortar illumination to light the battlefield.

To fill the gap of 150 meters created by the destruction of the two vehicles, the troop commander together with the troop headquarters section moved to the area, killing and repelling the enemy who had penetrated the perimeter. The

2d Platoon returned to the fire support base, and as it closed on the perimeter, it shot its way through the attacking enemy forces. It then reinforced the southern sector relieving the headquarters section of this responsibility. Through the unrestricted use of gunships and supporting artillery and with the arrival of the 2d Platoon we were again able to secure our position.

At 0245 we received a reinforcing platoon from Troop C. That platoon reinforced the southwestern perimeter after fighting its way through an ambush north on Highway 13. At 0300 we received one additional platoon from Troop B which attacked north up Highway 13 through an ambushing VC force, which it destroyed. Racing through the ambush, this platoon continued the attack, catching the main VC attack from the rear. Driving toward our perimeter, it succeeded in splitting the enemy and destroying the initiative of their attack. This platoon created confusion in the enemy ranks and inflicted heavy casualties. When the Troop B platoon got within the perimeter, I directed my platoon and the reinforcing platoon to conduct a limited counterattack to regain the original line of defense.

Also at 0300, TAC Air was employed against the attacking enemy. It succeeded in destroying the enemy in covered and concealed positions to a depth of 800 meters from the edge of the battle area. From this time on, the perimeter was never again seriously threatened. Contact on the perimeter ceased at 0600.

By 0700 the VC body count around the perimeter was 228 confirmed. Final body count after three days of search missions was 363 confirmed. We took seven prisoners who reported an estimated 700 to 800 VC killed. We lost five killed and 63 wounded of whom 28 required hospitalization. Three artillerymen were slightly wounded by fragments.

D-DAY

Remembered

3150000
 25 June 1969



These veterans of 82d Airborne Division parachute assault on Normandy in World War II recall the C-47 aircraft from which they jumped during a visit to model displayed at division museum. From left, they are SGM Clyde F. Knox, LTC Harold J. Rose, CSM James E. Dominey, SGM Robert Frander, SGM Albert H. Rowe. At right, CSM Dominey reminisces.

Fort Bragg

Many thousands of veterans of D-Day will mentally relive their experiences this month—the 25th anniversary of that historic day. Some will revisit the land that they once fought over while others will go about their daily routine—some as civilians, others still in the Army such as Command Sergeant Major James E. Dominey at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. CSM Dominey, coincidentally, is still in the same unit that he served with as a private first class, when on 6 June 1944 he jumped into Normandy. At that time he was with Company A, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division; today, he is with the 2d Brigade of that same division.

Although the sergeant in a quarter century has seen much of the Army and much of the world, his recollections of that day are still vivid. "Our company," he recalls, "was one of the very few that assembled and successfully took its objective on time."

Jumping in the darkness from an altitude of about 300 feet, the sergeant broke his ankle upon landing and was assigned to guard prisoners. He considers himself one of the lucky ones, however, because the troopers were under such intense enemy fire as they floated to earth that many of the chutes caught fire.

The sergeant still remembers the feelings of the liberated Frenchmen. "The people were very frightened; they didn't know what to expect. The entire French populace helped. Without their assistance I don't think we would have ever succeeded as quickly as we did in



taking our objective. They were especially valuable in furnishing guides since the maps weren't the best; we used regular road maps. The people met us on the drop zone; they knew where we were going to come in. They helped us quite a lot."

In addition to assistance by the French underground, the sergeant recalls how Frenchmen from all walks of life displayed their deep feelings about the liberation.

"It makes you feel that what you're doing is very worthwhile, when you have people come out, cheer you, talk with you and particularly help the wounded. It's very gratifying to me and everybody else who remembers those days, to recall how the people helped. Even today, it's a real good feeling." **AD**