

# SCRAPBOOK

EDITION

2

*for fighting men too busy to keep their own!*

Friday, August 1, 1969

THE RED DIAMOND BRAND AND MOUNTAINEER

## Red Devils Kill 40 NVA Uncover Big Ammo Cache

**CAMP RED DEVIL** — Forty NVA were killed in an attempt to overrun elements of the 1st Brigade 5th Inf Div (Mech) in operation Utah Mesa at a night laager position 11 miles southwest of Khe Sanh recently.

Under cover of a dark, overcast night an estimated reinforced NVA company of the 5th NVA Regiment began their severe attack of the small hilltop landing zone at 3:45 am. Alerted by their movement, the Red Devils opened up with a heavy wall of fire, slamming the enemy ranks attacking from the northwest, virtually stopping the attack.

Advancing under mortar and RPG fire several NVA managed to momentarily penetrate the Red Devil's perimeter but were quickly driven off. The Red Devils continued to batter the enemy force as they retreated down the hillside into the shallow valley below with artillery, Spooky and flareship support.

Elements of the 1st Bn 81st Infantry, 1st Bn 7th Armor, and 1st Bn 40th Artillery hammered continually at the retreating NVA force until contact was broken, shortly before sunrise. The enemy scattered through the tall elephant grass and thick underbrush to the north as airstrikes were called in at dawn.

The Red Devil infantrymen moved down the hill finding 40 NVA dead, one wounded detainee along with 600 chicom grenades, 11 AK-47s, five RPG-7s, three RPG-7 launchers, two RPG light machine-guns, one flame thrower, one Soviet-made radio, 11 steel pots, 17

entrenching tools, four gas masks, 52 RPG rounds, 15 60mm mortar rounds, and 25 rifle grenades.

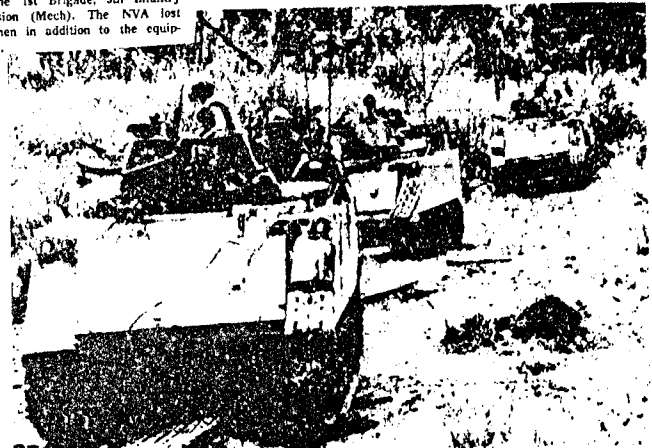
Commenting on the firefight, Sgt Robert C. Milham, a forward observer for the 1st Bn 40th Artillery said, "I was awakened by the firing, grabbed my weapon and ammo, jumped in the hole and started firing. They set off trip flares and I could see them running back."

An artilleryman said, "I woke up and saw the enemy just crawling over the hill. I jumped in the tank and let fly beaucoup beehive rounds. Then there was no more Charlie on the hill. I got to the point where I thought I couldn't lift another round."

PFC Robert Eubanks comments upon the battle: "Though tired from five days of little sleep, the infantrymen were prepared. At 3 am the guards began alerting the others to wake up and get ready. Throughout the battle there was little vocal excitement and the men moved calmly and quietly within the perimeter. They were exceedingly disciplined under fire."



EXAMINING PART of the cache captured after defeating an estimated NVA company are men of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech). The NVA lost 40 men in addition to the equipment.



Armored personnel carriers of the 5th Cav. It was the first armored tank force to push into Regt. move cautiously into the A Shau Valley. the Red stronghold. (UPI Radiophoto)

## 5th Inf sounds retreat for sniper

**QUANG TRI**—Elements of Troops A and C of the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cav., silenced a daily NVA sniper that had been pestering their convoy route for three days.

The pesky rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) sniper would pick on lone trucks on the convoy route between the 1st Bde., 5th Infantry Division's Fire Support Bases Bastogne and Birmingham in the A Shau Valley at about 5 p.m. each day.

"The afternoon 'RPG man' would usually fire a single round at a lone truck and the disappear. He seemed to particularly like going after one of our mess trucks," according to Lt. John Callor, the unit's liaison officer.

The RPG man and some new-found associates than made a mistake by deciding to go after an entire convoy.

The 2nd platoon of Troop A under the command of Lt. Larry Beam, acting as a security force for the convoy, and elements of Troop C reacting from FSB Bastogne quickly put an end to their unwelcome daily visitor and seven of his comrades.

Co. A, 2nd Bn., 327th Inf., of the 101st Airborne Division was credited with two NVA kills.

Captured enemy equipment included 10 RPG rounds, an RPG launcher, five AK47 automatic weapons, a 12.7 heavy anti-aircraft machine gun and assorted NVA field gear.

## U.S. Tanks Watch and Wait As A Shau Fighting Fades Out

By SPEC. 4 BOB HODIERNE  
SAS Staff Correspondent

A SHAU, Vietnam — American tanks Saturday perched atop Dong Ap Bia, the scene of fierce fighting in May, peering silently into nearby Laos watching for an enemy who isn't choosing to show himself these days.

After sharp fighting a week ago, contact in the last seven days has been virtually non-existent in the valley, according to military spokesmen.

Military commanders here, however, don't talk about lulls. As one officer on Dong Ap Bia put it, as he looked at the next ridgeline in Laos, "They could

be here instantly with any size unit they want."

The armor of the 3rd of the 5th Mechanized Inf. Div., is taking part in a twist maneuver. Div. operation in the A Shau Valley designed to deny the Communists this traditional supply route, according to U.S. officers.

Route 547 from the 101st base camp near Hue to the valley has been rebuilt and American convoys travel to the valley hauling supplies to fire support bases along the way.

The armor is accompanied by massive earth-moving plows of the 50th Home Plow Co. These huge machines have cleared tank trails and fields of fire on top of Dong Ap Bia.

The tanks, the armored personnel carriers, the self-propelled howitzers and the plows

won't stay on top of Dong Ap Bia, according to high-ranking U.S. officers. The point in bringing the tank force to the top of the 3,000-foot mountain was, the same officers say, to clear it in case of future fighting.

6 Pacific Stars & Stripes  
Monday, August 4, 1969

★ TO ALL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN ★

ISSUES OF THE "SCRAPBOOK" COVERING YOUR PERIOD OF DUTY IN VIETNAM ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU UPON YOUR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES.

WRITE: U.S. ARMY COMMAND INFORMATION UNIT, WASHINGTON, D.C., 20315. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, RANK, SERVICE NUMBER, FORMER UNIT (DIVISION, BRIGADE, REGIMENT), STATESIDE ADDRESS WITH ZIP CODE AND INCLUSIVE DATES OF TOUR IN VIETNAM.

Prepared for the OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



# 82 Reds Killed In 3 Clashes Along the DMZ

By SPEC. 5 ERIC JOHNS  
545 Staff Correspondent

SAIGON—American and North Vietnamese troops clashed three times Thursday within three miles of the Demilitarized Zone and traded fire across the southern edge of the buffer area in two other engagements, U.S. military spokesmen said.

At least 82 Communists died in the fighting. Eight Americans were killed.

The largest battle broke out about noon when 1st Brigade Troops of the 5th Inf. Div. (Mech.) ran into about 150 Communists a half-mile south of the DMZ. Officials said heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire raged for more than two hours before the Reds retreated.

A later sweep through the area, four miles southwest of Con Thien, turned up the bodies of 56 NVA killed and 28 weapons. The GIs, who got help from artillery and helicopter gunships during the battle, lost three dead and 13 wounded.

Communists about 150 yards inside the DMZ opened up with small arms fire on the same 5th Div. infantrymen later in the afternoon. A forward air observer south of the border spotted the Reds, about half a mile from the U.S. soldiers, and directed Marine artillery fire onto their position.

The barrage stopped the harassment, but enemy losses were unknown. There were no Americans hurt.

Marines of the 3rd Div.'s 3rd Regt. attacked two fortified NVA companies — about 250 men — two miles south of the DMZ Thursday morning. The Marines called for air and artillery strikes as fighting continued for eight hours.

The enemy pulled out shortly before dark, leaving behind the bodies of 21 dead four miles northeast of the Rockpile. Four Marines were killed and 10 others were injured.

Gunfire flew across the DMZ border again at sunset when about five 82mm mortar shells hit a joint U.S.-Vietnamese artillery base near Gio Linh, about two miles southeast of the zone.

An air observer found the enemy gunners a half mile above the border, and Army artillerymen halted the mortar attack. No harm was done at the fire base and enemy casualties were not known.



FIREPOWER — The night erupts with light as a powerful 155mm self-propelled howitzer of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) fires upon enemy positions from a base camp south of Quang Tri. (USA PHOTO)

## U.S. Tanks Watch and Wait As A Shau Fighting Fades Out

By SPEC. 4 BOB HODIERNE  
545 Staff Correspondent

A SHAU, Vietnam — American tanks Saturday perched atop Dong Ap Bia, the scene of fierce fighting in May, peering silently into nearby Laos watching for an enemy who isn't choosing to show himself these days.

After sharp fighting a week ago, contact in the last seven days has been virtually non-existent in the valley, according to military spokesmen.

Military commanders here, however, don't talk about lulls. As one officer on Dong Ap Bia put it, as he looked at the next ridgeline in Laos, "They could

be here instantly with any size unit they want."

The armor of the 3rd of the 5th Mechanized Inf. Div. is taking part in a 101st Airborne Div. operation in the A Shau Valley designed to deny the Communists this traditional supply route, according to U.S. officers.

Route 547 from the 101st base camp near Hue to the valley has been rebuilt and American convoys travel to the valley hauling supplies to fire support bases along the way.

The armor is accompanied by massive earth-moving plows of the 59th Rome Plow Co. These huge machines have cleared tank trails and fields of fire on top of Dong Ap Bia.

The tanks, the armored personnel carriers, the self-propelled howitzers and the plows

won't stay on top of Dong Ap Bia, according to high-ranking U.S. officers. The point in bringing the task force to the top of the 3,000-foot mountain was, the same officers say, "to clear it in case of future fighting."

6 Pacific Stars & Stripes  
Monday, August 4, 1969

## Exploding windshield leads MPs to enemy munitions

QUANG TRI — A hail of bullets that virtually exploded the windshield of a patrol jeep near here manned by Sgt. James Davis and Plc. Charles Brooks, both assigned to Co. C, 504th MP Bn., precipitated the cordon and search of a nearby hamlet that yielded a bumper crop of hidden arms and ammunition.

Davis and Brooks were on patrol on an off-highway access road when they spotted a Viet-

namese man ahead in the roadway working with an object on the ground. The man spotted the MPs and fled into the undergrowth.

Davis and Brooks returned fire and called Base Defense, which sent a gunship and an observation helicopter into the vicinity. Within five minutes they were joined by two additional patrols from Co. C, elements from the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division MP, 3rd Marine Division MPs and Popular

Forces.

After a nearby hamlet was cordoned by a squad of Popular Forces, Lt. Anthony J. Corsetton led the MPs on a sweep of the hamlet. The search netted two 81mm mortar rounds, a light anti-tank weapon, three 60mm mortar rounds, an M28 grenade and eight magazines of .30 caliber ammunition. On a second sweep by MPs from the 504th, two plastic-type anti-tank mines were found. Two mortar emplacement sites were also found.



WOUNDED SOLDIERS of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) are loaded on a medevac helicopter just after sunrise June 18 near Khe Sanh. Eleven Red Devils were killed and 15 others wounded in an attack on the allied night defensive perimeter. Thirty-nine enemy were killed.

# Artillery Helps Beat Off Reds Near DMZ

By SPEC 5 ERIC JOHNS  
Staff Correspondent  
SAIGON — U.S. and North Vietnamese troops clashed twice two miles south of the demilitarized zone Friday.

The action came when an enemy platoon attacked an American camp before dawn and Marines battled other Reds for three and a half hours later that evening. Military reports listed

eight Communists and seven Americans killed.  
About 20 North Vietnamese mortars and their charges fell in the vicinity of the camp. The 1st Brigade of the 5th Inf Div (Mech) fired a 100-mm mortar and an M108 4.2-inch mortar. The 1st Brigade also fired a 100-mm mortar and an M108 4.2-inch mortar. The 1st Brigade also fired a 100-mm mortar and an M108 4.2-inch mortar. The 1st Brigade also fired a 100-mm mortar and an M108 4.2-inch mortar.

Marines of the 3rd Div's 3rd Regt clashed with NVA troops four miles northwest of "The Rockpile" just before sunset. The Leathernecks, backed by artillery and helicopter fire, killed at least eight Reds before the NVA pulled out. Marine casualties were six dead and 13 wounded. Communist gunners concentrated on South Vietnam's northern coastline as they fired 22

rockets and mortar barrages during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. Saturday. Thirteen of the shellings caused damage to their targets and one American was killed and 29 were injured. Two 122mm rockets slammed into Hue, and a mixed barrage of 10 rockets and mortars hit Tam Ky city, 38 miles southeast of Da Nang. Two Vietnamese civilians, one a child, were killed.

Friday, August 15, 1969 MOUNTAINEER THERE

## Children Good Sources Of Information for MPs

QUANG TRI, Vietnam — Children gathering around an MP jeep are a familiar sight. But few realize that while many youngsters are there for the reason and being that goes on, some are present in an official capacity.

Each patrol, by MP from the 1st Bde, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) around Quang Tri have the help of hundreds of small allies, who have clung and resolutely evidenced their understanding of the MP's task, and their own readiness to help.

In short, many of the children are associates of the police. They could provide a more effective agency than theirs, which offers blanket coverage to many ubiquitous, naturally inquisitive citizens.

And while the MPs, with no doubt pleasantly surprised to find they have so many friends among the population, it seems to have gone further than that now. The children are so helpful that the MPs assist with perfect seriousness that they must be considered essential.

MPs perform many duties, and when major incidents occur in which the children are discouraged from taking part, such as enemy contact or mine disposal, the daily routine of the patrols consists largely of collecting objects and information which affect the safety of GIs.

In this capacity, the children shine. With big ears and bigger eyes they wander around the village and countryside and learn many things, which they pass on to the MPs. They have in the past disclosed the whereabouts of mines, booby traps, VC, Chieu Hoi, turned in enemy weapons and ammunition, and rattled on off-limits GIs (who are endangering their own safety).

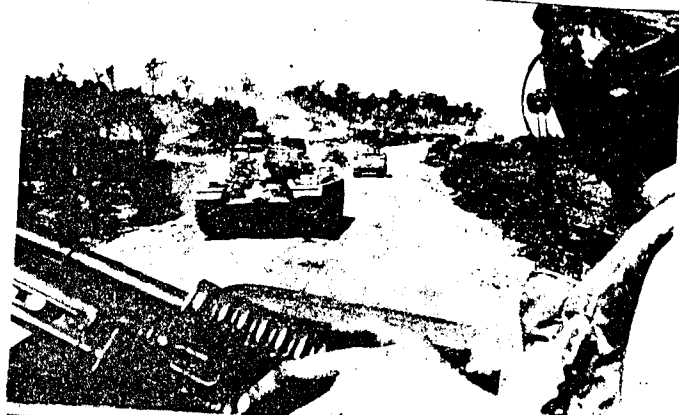
The MPs and children run a cooperative operation that is refreshing in its absence of red tape and officialdom. Contact is made by simply recognizing a face and stopping or shouting and waving a hand vigorously. Business is conducted on a first-name basis, alongside the jeep. Then, while the two parties are discussing candy and asking after acquaintances, the conversation may suddenly veer off to include mention of some enemy ammunition which had fallen into the children's hands.

A meeting place is agreed upon, the jeep cruises around for a respectful half-hour, and returns to find a serious group gathered around some artillery shells. Official payment is made if it is appropriate, but the prime motive is friendship.

The MPs are constantly making new friends, with an eye first for rapport between US soldiers and the citizens of the country. But through these small, ambassadorial conversations, they too small for present duty accustom themselves to the procedures of talking with the Americans, so that they too can help their allies in the future.



YOUNG HELPERS — A 1st Bde 5th Infantry Division (Mech) MP chats with two Vietnamese youngsters. The children have proven to be a big help to the MPs in and around Quang Tri.



WELCOME SIGHT — Heavily armed tanks provide a welcome sight to a gun truck crew as they beef up the convoy's protection in Vietnam. This

photo was snapped by SP5 Alex Johnson with the 5th Division's 1st Brigade in Vietnam.

## Dad in Vietnam To Keep Promise

QUANG TRI, Vietnam—What a happy—and "promising"—birthday it was recently here for a 1st Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) soldier. "On your 21st birthday, I'll treat you to a steak dinner and a drink."

Jim Dean, of Santa Ana, Calif., promised his son Jim Jr. on the day the youngster turned 17 on July 13, 1965. But then the elder Dean, who works as news editor of a California paper, was afraid he wouldn't be able to keep his promise when the youngster Dean left for Vietnam and duty with the 5th Div.

"We're big on birthdays in our family," said Dean, "and if there was any way to see my son on his birthday, I was going to do it." He did.

On the first of July, Jim Dean, representing his community newspaper arrived in Vietnam

with the mission to write hometown news features on young men from his area.

On July 15th, the Orange County Register news editor purposefully made his way to Quang Tri, and to LZ Shuron where his son is working as a prescribed load list clerk. Carefully organizing the surprise, Jim Sr. walked in on his son at 10:00 a.m. on his 21st birthday.

"I knew you would come, you said you would do it," the youngster Dean yelled even though he exhibited disbelief and understandable excitement.

### Tracker team

## Dogs have Charlie licked

BA LONG VALLEY—Fighting Charlie and the heat on a daily diet of hamburger meat is for the dogs. In the case of Shep and Mackie, however, it couldn't be better since they are four-legged troopers of a tracking team.

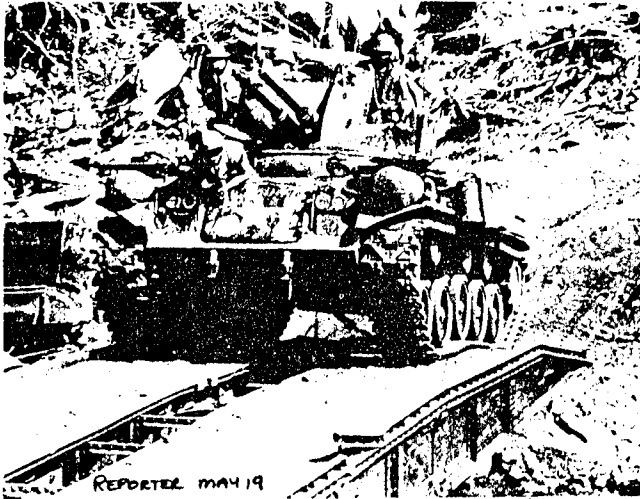
The dogs are part of a scout team of the 101st Airborne Division which was working on operations with the 1st Bn., 11th Inf. of the 1st Bde., 5th Infantry Division (Mech.) in this valley.

Shep, a 100-pound German Shepherd, is an alert dog. If he picks up the enemy's scent he will stop and point like a hunting dog. Mackie, a Labrador Retriever, is a tracker dog and will follow the enemy's scent or dis-

tinguish the enemy's footprints and follow them. "Labrador Retrievers are friendly dogs and will track the enemy to his location and lick his hand. This is the reason why a German Shepherd is part of the team, he will alert the patrol that the enemy is close at hand." Spec. 4 Steven McCannaha, Mackie's handler, said.

McCannaha was trained in Malaysia by the British. He met Mackie in Vietnam and has been working with him for four months. Mackie also was trained by the British.

Pfc. Eimer Ireland, Shep's handler, was trained in-country at Bien Hoa, and met Shep when he joined the 101st. Shep has been working for three years in Vietnam.



A DUSTER from the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division crosses a portable bridge east of Khe Sanh. The division was conducting road clearing operations.

## Knights foreclose on valley tenants

A SHAU VALLEY—The old tenants, the NVA, are in the process of being evicted from this valley.

The new landlords, the Black Knights of the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cav, 5th Infantry Division (Mech), currently under the operational control of the 101st Airborne Division, are foreclosing the deed to the once private domain.

The Cav has been highly successful in discovering weapons, ammunition and vehicle caches, as well as stopping enemy movement, cutting off infiltration routes and destroying enemy gun emplacements and bunkers.

The Black Knights of A and B troops, working in conjunction with the 101st's B Co., 3rd Bn., 187th Inf., have hit the jackpot on recent reconnaissance missions in the A Shau Valley.

The finds began when A Troop was sweeping the area of a recent air strike and discovered several rifle butts protruding from a blasted bunker.

Excavating the destroyed bunker, the troopers found: 20 SKS rifles, 54 82mm mortar rounds, one light machinegun, two enemy anti-personnel mines, 30 loose machinegun rounds and one crosscut saw.

In the same general area, three Soviet-made one ton trucks and one bulldozer also were found. The vehicles were in good condition and were towed back to the Cav's night defensive position.

Also captured were a 37mm anti-aircraft gun and two four-wheeled mounts.

Three additional camouflaged trucks were found in a stream bed by a 35th Cav light observation helicopter pilot, Capt. William R. Dunn. Since the terrain prevented recovery they were destroyed in place.

Commenting on the vehicles, Dunn noted, "Four trucks is a cache, five is an enemy convoy, but six is a used car lot."

Artillery was brought to bear on the NVA heavy vehicle route. The supply route was destroyed and a light Russian armored-tracked vehicle was uncovered by the shelling. **REPORTER Sep 29**

## New Computer Helps Get Supplies at Quang Tri Depot

QUANG TRI, VIETNAM — Supplying nearly 10,000 line items to units in the field of the 5th Division "Devil Brigade" is a computer system at a forward base camp south of Quang Tri, a few miles from the DMZ.

D Company 75th Support Bn's computer system rapidly effects resupply of replacement parts for units in the field.

It is housed in two vans and an annex on a dust-swept hilltop. Inside it has the appearance of a Park Avenue office, complete with fluorescent lights and highly-polished floors. The room temperature is a constant "cool" 65 degrees.

This "plush" environment is necessary for the maintenance and operation of the computer system. Those who operate the center change into sneakers to avoid tracking dirt into the complex. One feels he is about to enter a gym, rather than a computer complex.

This feeling is quickly dispelled inside the complex, for the air is filled with the clicking of key-punch machines, the flutter of a punch-card sorter and the matter-of-fact ticking of the computer itself.

Tech Supply received the computer last November. The slow and tedious task of converting from a manual to a mechanized system began three months prior to the computer's arrival and is now nearly complete.

Units in the field now are able to receive replacement parts that are on hand in 24 hours. With the

manual system, the units often had to wait two to three weeks.

"There is a 100 percent improvement in the movement of replacement parts. If a particular part is out of stock the computer re-orders it," SFC Paul Schumacker, Chicago, commented.

The whirring machines look as if only a PhD in mathematics and systems analysis could operate and understand the system, but once explained it is not as insurmountable as it appears.

## Dog's Fatal Charge Saves 10 GIs

5&S Vietnam Bureau  
SAIGON — A German shepherd patrol dog saved the lives of 10 American soldiers Tuesday with a fatal charge into a blaze of fire from North Vietnamese ambushes, military officials said.

The dog, named Alex, was walking point with his handler.

**6 Pacific Stars & Stripes**  
Friday, Sept. 19, 1969

Sgt. Thomas W. Smith, when about 15 Reds opened fire on the patrol from the 1st Brigade of the 5th Inf. Div. (Mech) as it moved through a clearing just south of the Demilitarized Zone near Con Thien.

"When the NVA opened up with AK47 rifle fire, I fell down and accidentally let the leash go because I didn't have too good a grip," said Smith. "Alex started

running toward the NVA in a foxhole."

Though hit several times, Alex continued his rush until he fell dead within a foot of the enemy.

The GIs said the charge drew all of the NVA fire, giving them time to return fire and find cover without taking any casualties. The Reds later pulled out. There were no confirmed enemy casualties.

## Enemy twosome wanders into trap

QUANG TRI—A recon team of Co. P, 75th Rangers, attached to 1st Inf Bde, 5th Infantry Division, killed two NVA soldiers on a recent reconnaissance mission south of the DMZ.

As the team was approaching its designated recon area on the first day, two enemy soldiers were spotted walking along a trail. The recon team wasn't set up at the time and had to let the NVA soldiers pass.

"We knew they were setting up overnight in the bunker to conduct sightings the next day," Spec. 4 Tom Snow, the team leader, commented.

The team set up claymore mines around the bunker and on the most likely approaches. Snow was about to call in an artillery marking round when two more NVA were spotted coming up the trail.

"They were recon NVA. They were at the ready, and knew what they were doing, watching every inch of the ground. It just happened that they didn't spot us when they came up to the bunker. They walked right into the ambush and the mines were detonated," Snow stated.

The team recovered two AK47s, three Chicom grenades, documents, letters, wallets and AK ammunition from the silenced enemy.



LONELY — "Any man can feel himself alone . . . While he bravely stands . . . On some far off knoll . . . Alone in a lonely land." Morning fog envelops this soldier, a member of the 3d Squadron, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech), operating in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. **U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. A. John**



RESETTLEMENT: — Vietnamese farmers watch as a bulldozer from A Co, 7th Engineer Bn of 1st Bde, 5th Infantry Div (Mech) plows rice fields for them near the village of Trieu-Trach, Vietnam.

## 1st Brigade Red Devils Help Resettle Bo Bang, Vietnam

QUANG TRI — For any one returning to the Bo Bang area in northern I Corps, the phenomena of change would be immediately evident. The returnee would observe that the area is no longer enemy active and much that was rubble has been rebuilt due to the tireless efforts of the 1st Bde, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) in clearing and resettling the area.

The latest project, undertaken by the Red Devil brigade's Civic Affairs Branch this week, is the plowing of long-fallowed rice fields around the village of Trieu-Trach. Resulting in the immediate need for food, the Civic Affairs Branch, with assistance in the form of a bulldozer and plow from A Co, 7th Engineers, undertook the task of overturning 35 acres of topsoil for planting.

The dozer and plow accomplished in an hour and a half what would have taken two and a half weeks of hard work with water,

buffalo and primitive plows.

The villagers had a surprise dinner for the Red Devils when the project was completed and the fields were ready to be planted. Rice, chicken and Vietnamese beer were served and Americans and Vietnamese dug in.

"The thing which stands out in my mind is the courtesy and politeness of the villagers," PFC Blaise Falbo, Enfield, Conn, said.

Vietnamese beer is only served on special occasions — the rebirth of the Trieu-Trach rice fields was just such an occasion.

## Ambush Spoils Rice Gathering

QUANG TRI, VIETNAM — The enemy in Quang Tri Province is having a hard time getting enough rice thanks to an ambush by the 1st Bde 5th Infantry.

The squad of 5th Division Red Devils killed seven members of an enemy rice gathering party and captured one other.

The squad, headed by Sgt Eugene Saylor of Wynne, Ark., was chopped into an area where 60 enemy were reported getting rice from the villagers.

"We had set up on the side of a hill near the top and I was in the valley setting up a claymore when I heard them yell down to me that V.C. were coming. I could see the last four coming over the hill. We counted 15 all together. We called in artillery on them," reported SP4 Dillard Barksdale of Chatham, Va.

Nothing else happened until the next morning:

"It was a little after six when we heard one of the claymores go off on the trail. We heard some groaning and heard them running back to regroup. They crossed the valley and came up on the other side and within a half hour had run into our other booby-trapped claymore. We called in artillery behind them to cut them off this time," added SP4 Don Simeral of Quaker City, O.

A platoon of tanks from the 1st Bn 7th Armor was called in to help check out the area. Seven bodies were found along with about 1,100 pounds of rice.

"We saw a trail of blood and started following it, according to Barksdale. We followed the blood and then spotted another wounded V.C. hiding in the bushes. We sent him in on a medevac."

## Infamous VC Guerrilla Killed in U.S. Ambush

CAMP RED DEVIL, Vietnam—The most wanted Viet Cong guerrilla leader in Quang Tri Province was killed recently about eight miles southwest of Quang Tri City when he walked into an ambush set up by elements of the 1st Bde, 5th Div (Mech).

The guerrilla leader, Nguyen Quyet, had operated widely with his band in the province for almost six years spreading terror and destruction.

Quyet's time ran out when he walked into the ambush set up in the Ba Long Valley by a ranger team of the Red Devil's Co F, 75th Inf.

"After being inserted on a ridge line south of a small stream, the ranger team set up its ambush and waited.

"I saw movement in the trees," recalled a team member, "and then saw a man walking briskly down the creek bank toward the east. He was carrying an M-16

and was walking hunched over with his cap pulled low on his head and collars turned up. I stayed down and waited until he was about 20 meters away and I opened fire."

In addition to the M16 Quyet was wearing a U.S. fatigue jacket and web gear.

The ranger team did not realize they had gotten the infamous guerrilla leader until they noticed that the little finger of the right hand was missing. This identifying mark alerted the team to the importance of its find.

Later that day positive identification was made by villagers of Nhu Le which Quyet was known to use as a base of operations.

For six years Quyet had spread terror and destruction through villages in Quang Tri Province. He is known to have murdered Vietnamese civilians and committed many acts of sabotage during the time he led his guerrilla band. His acts of terrorism had made him notorious to the local civilian population and allied forces as well.



A SOLDIER of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division peers through the elephant grass while on a sweep north of Cam Lo.

# Shrine to Virgin honors heroic act

QUANG TRI—Many people are familiar with the Catholic shrine at Lourdes, France, and the religious significance attached. Few, however, know that there is a similar religious center in the Republic of Vietnam, 20 miles from the DMZ.

Each year several hundred thousand persons visit the center of Catholicism in Vietnam, the La Vang Basilica, near Quang Tri, in the operations area of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech).

"The Red Devils began patrolling the area last November and many thought it was unusual to see such a beautiful shrine and church of this magnitude in this area since it was a major area of battle during the Viet Minh war. The church is located about five miles from Quang Tri City and about one mile from the fire support base LZ Sharon," explained Sgt. William Dwyer, a military policeman.

"I have been past it many times, but I don't really give it much thought until I learned the unique history of the church," he said.

"The Vietnamese say that in the year 250 A.D., the Virgin Mary appeared in the area and led the people into a thick forest for protection from the enemy. This made the area sacred and a special place to the Catholic people," Dwyer said.

"When we first saw the shrine, we referred to it as the toadstool shrine because of its shape. The shrine, three tall concrete trees shaped like toadstools with a statue of the Virgin Mary, was built in 1962," he said.

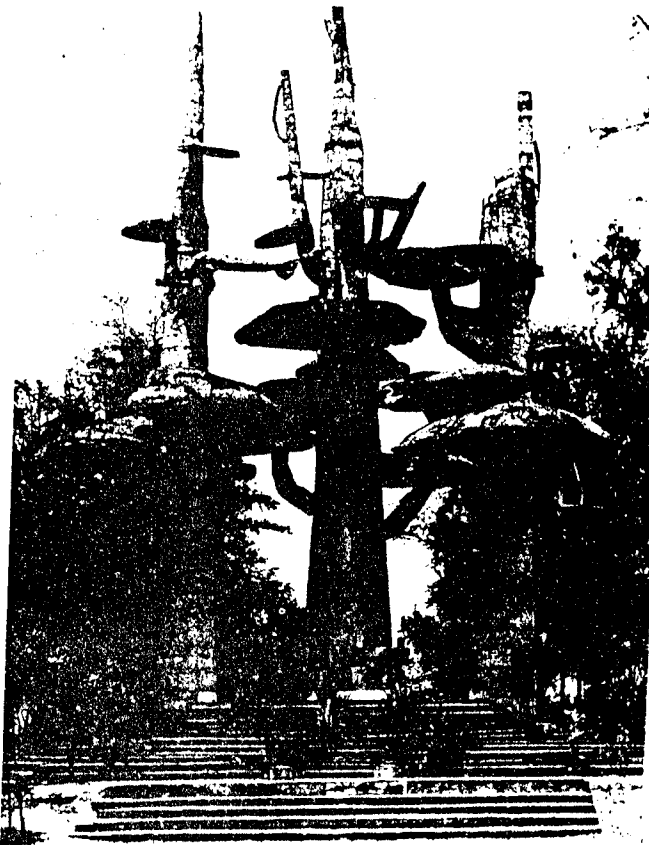
"The shrine was built by a Vietnamese sculptor in honor of the Virgin Mary, who appeared in the grove of trees at La Vang," Dwyer said.

Each week pilgrimages come to La Vang to honor and receive the blessing of the Virgin Mary. At the foot of the Virgin is a serpent; she is shown protecting the people from the snakes.

"During the Easter services more than 50,000 people came to the church at La Vang. The pilgrims never cause any disturbance only stay two or three days," he said.

Cardinal Francis Spellman was the first Cardinal to hold mass at the La Vang Basilica. The church has been given ceremonial privileges similar to those of Lourdes, France. Pilgrimages at one time were made from all of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand to honor and ask the blessing of the Virgin Mary.

The present chapel was built in 1924 with a seating capacity of 1,500 and standing room for another 500 people. Each Sunday more than 5,000 Vietnamese go to the church to attend services.



EACH YEAR several hundred thousand people visit the La Vang Basilica, near Quang Tri. Shrine honors visit of the Virgin Mary to Vietnam in 250 a.d.



## Out for a Rumble

An American tank column snakes along a dirt road near Tiger Mountain in the A Shau Valley where Allied forces are making new combat sweeps of the old battlefield. A second group of tanks nearer the demilitarized zone came under a brief Communist attack. (UPI)

## 'Halt or I'll blow you away'

# Red Devils repel Red raiders

QUANG TRI — In the early morning recently, elements of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) were hit by an estimated reinforced NVA company two miles west of Khe Sanh.

The enemy ground attack hit the perimeter of the Red Devils from the south, with a second but heavier attack 10 minutes later. The Red Devils stopped the attack short of its objective killing 39 NVA, but not until after the enemy had broken through the concertina wire, killing 11 Americans and wounding 15 others.

Carrying satchel charges and chicom grenades, the enemy came through the wire with the help of small arms and rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) fire. Heavy fighting continued until the mechanized infantrymen were able to push the enemy

sappers back from the perimeter with tank support and an Air Force Spooky gunship on station.

Spec. 4 Curtis L. Lewis gave his account of the action: "I was awakened when one of the men on guard said, 'Halt, or I'll blow you away' . . . then he fired, alerting everyone. We moved over from where we were to the left to reinforce the men who

took the main brunt of the attack."

He continued, "The contact lasted until sunrise, after which we swept the perimeter. We found hand grenades, AK-47s, RPG launchers, undetonated satchel charges, and one NVA POW with numerous enemy dead."

Thirty-nine enemy dead were found in and around the perimeter.

ammunition  
Brooklyn  
off-hi  
the