

SCRAPBOOK

EDITION

for fighting men too busy to keep their own!

GIs Kill 120 N. Vietnam Troops in Fierce Battle

Planes, Artillery, Armored Vehicles Help American Force Near Demilitarized Zone

Los Angeles Times 8 MAR 1969

SAIGON (AP)—Backed by air strikes, artillery and heavy armored vehicles, U.S. infantrymen killed 120 North Vietnamese soldiers Thursday in a savage battle near the demilitarized zone dividing Vietnam, American headquarters report.

U.S. losses were 14 men killed and 30 wounded, the command said today.

The 8 1/2-hour fight was the biggest of a number of sharp clashes across the country. The allied commands also reported there were about 20 overnight shelling of military positions and towns as the enemy offensive neared the end of its fifth week.

The fighting about four miles south of the demilitarized zone broke out when elements of the U.S. 5th Infantry Division on a sweep ran into a North Vietnamese army force of unknown size. The enemy opened up with heavy small-arms, automatic-weapons and rocket-grenade fire in the area about four miles southwest of the Con Thien outpost.

Withdraws in Darkness

Soldiers moving on foot in the sharply rising hills made the first contact. When the fighting intensified, they called in their tanks and armored personnel carriers, as well as the support of artillery and tactical fighter-bomber strikes. The action went on until darkness, the command said, when the remaining enemy withdrew.

Spokesmen said that in a later sweep of the battle area, the bodies of 120 North Vietnamese were found.



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



The Flying Wounded

While their medical helicopter hovers along the slope of a steep hill, corpsmen and troops of the 1st Brigade, 5th Inf. Div. scramble through thick grass and enemy fire to evacuate the wounded. The North Vietnamese lost 243 men in the recent battle. (USA)

3,500 HUNT VIET REDS NEAR LAOS

2,000 Other GIs Push Enemy Search South Of Khe Sanh

8 MAR 1969

SAIGON, Tuesday, March 25 (AP)—Allied troops have mounted the most concerted effort of the war against infiltrating North Vietnamese soldiers and their supply networks in the northwestern corner of South Vietnam which adjoins Laos.

About 3,500 United States Marines and soldiers and South Vietnamese infantrymen are sweeping the frontier area below the abandoned Khe Sanh combat base while 2,000 American paratroopers patrol the broad floor of the A Shau Valley farther south.

33 Americans Killed The United States Command disclosed yesterday the American-Vietnamese task force, which includes an armored column, swung into action March 18 in an operation called Maine Crag. The A Shau Valley counter-offensive was launched, March 1. The announcement of both operations had been delayed for security reasons.

There have been no major clashes in either operation, but 104 enemy troops have been reported slain in skirmishing that cost 33 Americans killed and 117 wounded and light government casualties. A prime objective of both sweeps is to find and destroy enemy stores believed stockpiled for attacks on Hue and Da Nang.

Action In Delta

The only significant action reported by the allied commands this morning was not in the north, but in the Mekong Delta southwest of Saigon. Spokesmen said 77 enemy were killed in a series of scattered clashes yesterday. Allied casualties were termed light.

The enemy's overnight shelling campaign against cities and allied military positions subsided to about 20 attacks, the allies reported. Targets included the province capitals of Quang Ngai, Phuoc Long and Hau Nghia. Initial reports said casualties and

damage were light. Tracked Vehicles Hunted

The Marines and soldiers on Operation Maine Crag also are looking for about 50 enemy tracked vehicles, including self-propelled guns, that reconnaissance patrols spotted moving in from Laos.

One enemy cache and two trucks were found yesterday by American marines southeast of Khe Sanh, which is 14 miles below the border buffer zone between the Vietnam and 11 miles east of the Laotian border.

The trucks had moved along crude dirt roads 20 miles into South Vietnam. One was loaded with a half-ton of salt, a ton of rice and 75 pounds of lime fuses, a Marine spokesman said.

The cache was reported to have yielded 6 machine guns, 2,500 rocket grenade rounds, 3,800 mortar shells, 150 pounds of TNT and more than 5 tons of food.

The concerted drives follow up a Marine operation just recently completed north of the A Shau Valley in which hundreds of tons of enemy stores were seized, including four 122-mm. artillery pieces.

Operation Maine Crag involves units from the United States 3rd Marine Division and the South Vietnamese 1st Infantry Division and armor from the U.S. Army's 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division.

Breaking trail for the infantrymen are about 80 tanks, armored personnel carriers, self-propelled guns and Ontos, tracked vehicles mounted with 106-mm. recoilless rifles.

Late Sunday night and early yesterday more than 40 B-52s pummeled enemy positions on approaches to Saigon with perhaps 1,200 tons of bombs in a continuing air campaign to thwart an attack on the capital.

★ TO ALL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN ★

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

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U. S. Troops, Enemy Clash in Two Battles South of Neutral Zone

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER 8 MAR 1968

SAIGON, March 27 (AP)—U. S. troops fought the North Vietnamese in two sharp engagements Thursday south of the demilitarized zone. One battle raged on into the night, with the thunder of American artillery and enemy mortars echoing across the coastal hills.

Allied patrols in the area had been making frequent contact with the North Vietnamese recently, indicating that the enemy is making increasing use of the buffer zone dividing Vietnam.

An Army spokesman said several hundred infantry of the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division, began a sweep looking for the enemy a little west of Con Thien and four miles south of the zone.

Foraging through dense undergrowth, they ran into about 500 North Vietnamese who opened fire about 10 A. M. from trenches and foxholes. The U. S. in the area was without its usual tanks and armored vehicles because cause Annamite range foothills are too steep.

The battle continued through the day. As darkness fell, the Americans struggled to clear a night defense perimeter from Mount Coto has been going on for more than a month, from mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and rifles.

Supporting U. S. Army and Marine artillery and warplanes hurled tons of explosives.

Preliminary battle reports said 33 North Vietnamese were killed, 31 Americans were wounded.

Another battle, much shorter, broke out 30 miles south of Con Thien. Enemy mortar support base of the U. S. 101st Airborne Brigade, then 60 enemy troops charged.

One attacker made it through the barbed wire and was shot down. The rest fell back. The action was over in 35 minutes with 15 enemy slain and 17 U. S. soldiers wounded, a spokesman said.

In the Mekong Delta, Vietnamese irregulars with U. S. Green Beret advisers apparently broke the back of enemy re-

istance in a part of the Viet-cona stronghold of Mount Coto near the Cambodian border, a spokesman said.

CAVE NETWORK FOUND
The irregulars swept down from a crest known as the "Million Dollar Knoll" because of the costly bombing of Mount Coto and got into a "fantastic" cave network, the spokesman reported.

The irregulars and U. S. advisers found 55 bodies in the caves and a mound of equipment, including 560 weapons, 1.5 tons of ammunition, 11 radios and such odds and ends as movie cameras, typewriters and loud speakers.

Only about half the cave complex has been searched, the spokesman said. Officers on the spot estimate that about two battalions of enemy troops could have been housed there. A search is still on for a big hospital complex almost certainly in the area.

The effort to root the guerrillas from Mount Coto has been going on for more than a month, from mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and rifles.

256 AMERICANS KILLED
In Saigon, the U. S. Command reported 256 Americans were killed last week, the lowest toll since the enemy offensive began Feb. 23. The total was 85 less than the week before.

The number of killed, however, brought the U. S. total in eight years of war within 500 of the 30,629 combat fatalities in the Korean War, the fourth bloodiest in American history.

The heaviest toll in the spring offensive was 453 U. S. troops killed in the first week.

GIs Kill 71 North Viets In Fighting Near DMZ

Bid to Save Food, Arms Caches Costs Foe 262 Men in 3 Days

SAIGON (UPI)—U.S. infantrymen supported by fighter bombers and heavy artillery Saturday killed 71 North Vietnamese troops in the third day of fighting near the Demilitarized Zone, U.S. military spokesmen said.

The spokesmen said 262 North Vietnamese have been slain in the battle. The stubborn North Vietnamese regiment, apparently under orders to hold its fortified position at all costs, prolonged its struggle against units of the

U.S. 5th Mechanized Infantry Division as Viet Cong forces cleared out the fifth week of their nationwide offensive.

U.S. military spokesmen said the number of shelling attacks on allied bases late Friday and early Saturday dropped to 15, the fewest in more than a week.

U.S. spokesmen said the North Vietnamese force apparently had been ordered to protect weapons and food caches in jungled ravines three miles south of the buffer strip that separates North and South Vietnam. U.S. casualties in the fighting that erupted Thursday, six miles northwest of Cam Lo, were reported as 17 killed and 106 wounded.

U.S. military spokesmen said the number of shellings was the lowest in 11 days and reported no towns or cities hit. But the level of ground fighting was high, with battles from Saigon's suburbs to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The guerrillas opened up with 30 mortar rounds before dawn against a U.S. Central Highlands outpost and then charged into the perimeter wire before American troops and gunships drove them back. Two Americans were killed and 25 wounded but no Communist bodies were found, U.S. headquarters said.

Among the major American bases targeted for overnight rocket attacks was the air base at Bien Hoa, a Saigon suburb, from where U.S. warplanes scramble to support allied troops in battle defending the capital. Damage there was described as light.

It was the lowest number of shelling since the night of Feb. 17, military spokesmen said, and one of the lightest nationwide barrages of the Reds' now 35-day-old offensive.

In 109-degree heat, troops of the U.S. 5th Infantry Division fought foxhole to foxhole in the second day of battle below the DMZ and reported a total of 191 North Vietnamese killed.

Military spokesmen said 40 dive bombers and 4,900 tons of artillery shells had been thrown into the battle to help the American soldiers, whose losses were given as 14 killed and 77 wounded in two days.

A Saigon battle, six miles from downtown, flared for 2½ hours just after noon Friday when U.S. tankers and soldiers found a guerrilla unit on the move. Ten Communists were killed, war communiques said, and one American was wounded.

In widely separated terrorist bombings Friday, the Viet Cong set off two bombs in a restaurant in Truc Giang City, 39 miles south-southwest of Saigon, killing five civilians and wounding 21. Near Quang Ngai on the northern coast, they exploded a mine under a bus, killing three civilians and wounding three.

From Hue, UPI reported the recovery of 67 bodies of civilians executed with their hands bound behind their necks during the Communist Tet offensive of 1968. The mass grave 10 miles east of Hue was turned up Friday.



Troops, Jersey Thwart Attack

CAM LO, Vietnam (AP)—What started out as a routine sweep by elements of the U.S. Fifth Inf. Div. is believed to have thwarted a North Vietnamese attack on the town of Cam Lo in South Vietnam's northernmost province.

A large enemy force identified tentatively as the 27th NVA Regt. clashed with tanks of the division in an area just northwest of Cam Lo and only three miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. The initial encounter was Feb. 27 and sporadic fighting

went on until early Sunday. Other elements of the division — the Red Devils — were brought in to outflank the Communists, forcing them to pull back into a small valley.

Throughout the action, the ground troops had been supported by the 16-inch guns of the battleship New Jersey.

A regimental-size bunker system was found early Sunday. The enemy occupants had fled probably within the hour. Half cooked food still was warm in many of the bunkers. There also were significant amounts of

mortar ammunition and rocket grenades, as well as a large supply of rice.

Also found was a Chinese-made radio set. On Saturday night the set apparently had been tuned to the frequency used by the Americans. A voice speaking reasonably good English told the Americans they were invited to a nearby ridge where they were going to die.

The Americans estimated they have killed about 100 North Vietnamese while their own casualties were light.

GIs Hold Viet Hills Surrounded By Enemy

Baltimore Sun
By DEB LAPP, AP Wire
(San Jose Correspondent)

Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. The breeze was a mixed blessing. It brought some relief from the heat but it also brought the smell of corpses that lay in the jungle below.

There were 60 American soldiers on the insignificant mound thrusting up from the stream-riddled high ground like a thousand others within sight of the North-South buffer zone.

Three other hills, also partially or completely blasted clear of trees, were similarly occupied by U.S. troops. The longest distance between the hilltops was less than half a mile, but there were ridges in between still occupied by North Vietnamese Army snipers and stream beds below that sheltered enemy mortar crews.

Enemy Regiment Below
The buffer zone was less than 2 miles to the north.

There were no other American troops within miles, but there was a North Vietnamese regiment concealed in the valleys.

Elements of the 27th N.V.A. Regiment had been destroyed when the troops of the 1st Battalion, with Infantry, a unit of the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division, stormed the hills in the face of machine-gun fire two days before.

"We've attacked to cut them off. The only problem is, it might be us who's surrounded," was an American officer's description of the situation.

9 Jets Respond

The night before had been relatively quiet on the hilltops. But patrols moving out in the morning had run into machine-gun fire from enemy soldiers entrenched along the bamboo-covered slopes and in the stream valleys.

Scores of jet fighters had responded to calls for help, strafing and bombing quarter-acre spots of the green brush into screechy desolation.

That still left a lot of jungle untouched, however. Artillery fire support from the Marine-held mountain-top bases nearby was generous, sizzling overhead and then cracking into the jungle continually.

Toward late afternoon, Capt. James Meyers, Commander of D. Company, decided to probe the fingers leading off his hilltop once again.

A five-man patrol clambered slowly down the slope under the watchful eyes of GI machine-gunners covering them from the bluff above.

The Americans disappeared into a grass thicket. Their progress could be marked by the occasional glimpse of a helmet

bobbing above the grass and the off-the-beat radio reports from the patrol leader.

The patrol's grenadier opened up a bunker. The explosions of the 40-MM. Grenades fired from the shotgun-like launcher were joined by the crackling bursts of automatic rifles.

A machine gunner on the hill spotted an enemy soldier slipping across a bomb crater. The 10-second-long clear spot proved fatal as bursts from the machine gun slammed the soldier down.

Settling Down For Night

The American patrol started back. Although less than 200 feet away from their companions on the bluff, the climb took 15 minutes.

Settling down for the night was easy. There were more than enough holes to go around and rooting through the casualty-jettisoned equipment quickly yielded an abundance of air mattresses, blankets and C. rations.

Soldiers on the bluff manned perimeter methodically loaded magazines with fresh ammunition, broke down and oiled their rifles and lined up hand grenades.

"Either the air strikes finally convinced them to Di Di back across the DMZ or they'll be coming tonight and they'll be where we are," a major said

with a certain degree of finality.

The first hours of darkness passed uneventfully except for several mortar rounds sporadically fired at the hilltops with no effect.

A flareship circled overhead and began lighting up the battleground with a half dozen parachute flares at a time.

Two Cobra helicopter gunships appeared and splattered red tracers into the valley floor for a quarter of an hour.

The breeze became decidedly cool but the smell was no less unpleasant: The helicopters and planes went away.

The moon went down and it became quiet except for the chirping of crickets and the abrupt roar of an occasional friendly artillery salvo.

Canteen cups of instant coffee bubbled merrily at dawn as the soldiers stretched out the fox-hole kinks.

The first patrols found empty bunkers along the adjoining hillside. They hauled discarded packs, hand grenades and a rocket grenade launcher back to the hilltop.

For the moment, the enemy had gone, leaving behind more than 200 dead in the churned-up jungle. The Americans will go on, leaving the hard-won hilltop for good unless the war should happen to pass that way again.

Artillerymen Fire Point-Blank, Beat Off Reds

New York News By JOSEPH FRIED 2 6 APR 1969
 Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Saigon, April 25.—North Vietnamese troops stormed an allied camp near the Laotian border early today but were hurled back in a furious three-hour battle in which American artillerymen lowered the muzzles of their guns and blasted the Reds at point-blank range.

The Communists first dumped mortar shells on the allied camp, an artillery base four miles southwest of the abandoned U.S. Marine base at Khe Sanh and two miles from Laos.

Attack, Flinging Grenades
 Then they launched a ground assault against the camp, held by a unit of the U.S. Fifth Division and a company-sized South Vietnamese armored cavalry detachment. About 50 North Vietnamese soldiers, flinging grenades and explosive satchel charges, raced toward the allied perimeter.

Inside the base, the American artillerymen fought back with the support of fire from tank guns and 50-caliber machine guns mounted on top of armored personnel carriers. Thirty Communist soldiers were killed, while

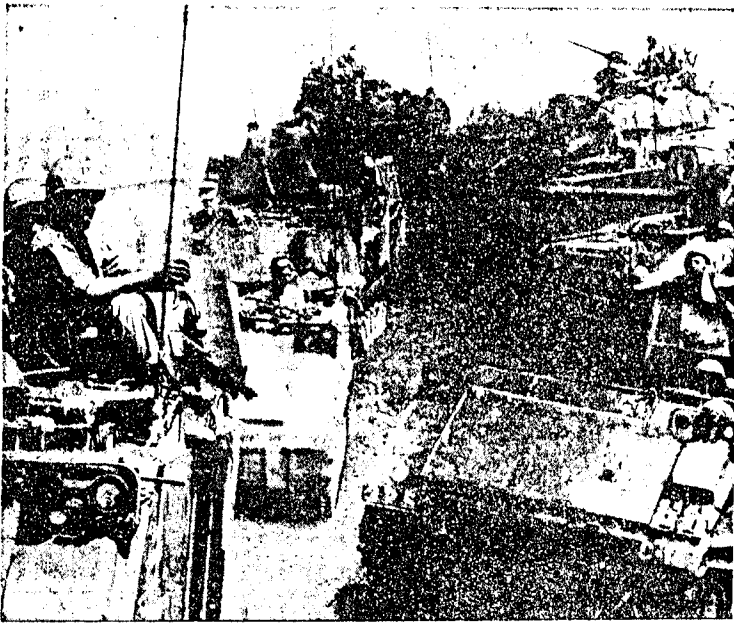
U.S. losses were three killed and 12 wounded. The South Vietnamese cavalrymen had shut were described as moderate casualties. Damage to the armored vehicles and other equipment was light.

Shoot Down Two Choppers
 Red gunners downed two more U.S. helicopters, one a huge CH-46 transport. The big Marine chopper was hit and crashed yesterday 17 miles southwest of Khe Sanh. One of those aboard was killed and four wounded.

An Army chopper crashed in Thua Thien province, the second one to go down in the rugged Ashau Valley in two days. One crewman was killed and two wounded. The latest showings brought total U.S. helicopter losses in combat here to 1,053.



An American armored unit puts its vehicles in circles as in the old wagon train days during patrol of Tay Ninh City, northwest of Saigon. Viet Cong attacks have been blunted by these tactics.



Tanks and armored personnel carriers of the 5th Mechanized Division leave bivouac south of the DMZ where they fought off North Vietnamese troops, but suffered 13 men killed. Seven vehicles were damaged or destroyed.

U.S. Shells Across Cambodian Border

SAIGON, April 28 (Saturday).—Enemy forces unleashed a heavy rocket and mortar barrage over the Cambodia border into a U.S. patrol base early Saturday, then lost 78 dead in an attack on the base, U.S. authorities said.

American artillery returned the fire, officers said, with shells exploding about 1,000 yards inside Cambodia. Anticipating the attack, the Americans had dug in at the base, called Frontier City. They suffered only four wounded.

When the attack came by 400 or more Vietcong and North Vietnamese, the GIs turned their 105-mm. howitzers directly into the line of attackers.

Near the Laotian border, North Vietnamese troops charged into an allied camp behind a mortar barrage Friday and inflicted heavy casualties.

At least 30 of the attackers penetrated the base, hurling dynamite bombs and hand grenades before they were cut down by U.S. and South Vietnamese defenders. Tanks raked the North Vietnamese at point-blank range with 90-mm. guns and armored personnel carriers joined in with 50-caliber machine guns.

The battle swayed for three hours before the North Vietnamese withdrew, leaving 30 dead in and around the camp. Three U.S. soldiers, eight South Vietnamese troops and an Australian adviser were killed. Twelve Americans and 43 South Vietnamese were wounded. Three armored personnel carriers were destroyed and a tank was badly damaged.

About 300 U.S. soldiers from the U.S. 5th Mechanized Infantry

Division and a South Vietnamese unit had set up the night bivouac two miles east of the Laotian border and 10 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone.

Farther south, military sources said several North Vietnamese battalions that had been poised southwest of Hue had retreated to sanctuaries along the Laotian border. The informants reported that these main-force units had been badly mauled in recent fighting.

In the Mekong Delta, a Communist force of some 200 men inflicted "heavy" losses on an equal number of South Vietnamese regional and popular forces. The fighting near Hamlong, 45 miles southwest of Saigon, cost the militia an estimated one-quarter in killed and wounded.

A South Vietnamese infantry battalion and some 200 U.S. troops killed 19 Vietcong about three hours later a few miles from the earlier fight and sustained only light casualties, spokesmen said.

Vietcong terrorists carried out six bomb and grenade attacks in Saigon Friday night, attempting unsuccessfully to knock out electric power in the center of the city.

Human bombs hit U.S. base

Chicago News 2 APR 1969

SAIGON (UPI) — North Vietnamese commandos turned themselves into human bombs and assaulted a U.S. camp near the demilitarized zone (DMZ), U.S. military spokesmen said Saturday. The attack killed 11 Americans and wounded 23.

The commandos strapped explosive charges to their bodies, then emerged from the darkness Friday night to attack the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division camp, two miles south of the DMZ, spokesmen said.

About 100 North Vietnamese made the assault. Some broke through the camp's barriers during the three-hour battle. Three U.S. armored personnel carriers were blown up during the fighting.

AS THE BATTLE raged, the enemy troops fired at 7 American lives and 28 American helicopters trying to

evacuate wounded soldiers, spokesmen said.

U.S. Marine and Army artillery fire and air support kept most of the attackers outside the camp and finally drove the North Vietnamese into the surrounding jungle. Five dead North Vietnamese were found by the Americans.

The camp is situated two miles north of the spot where 5th Infantry Division troops killed more than 250 North Vietnamese in a three-day battle last month.

NORTHWEST OF SAIGON Friday, U.S. troops escorted by tanks attacked an enemy base hidden in jungle and killed 82 North Vietnamese after a six-hour battle, the U.S. military reported.

American casualties in the fighting, 50 miles northwest of Saigon near Phu Khuong, cost 7 American lives and 28 wounded.

Charlie's Caches In

QUANG TRI (USA) — Discovery of an enemy munitions cache weighing more than six tons highlighted activities of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), late last month.

Division troops, under operational control of the 3rd Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, found the cache while sweeping an area 10 miles south-southwest of Khe Sanh, March 30. In addition to the munitions, the cache included 300 gas masks of Chinese Communist manufacture. There were more than 1,300 mortar rounds, 86 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 3,500 12.7mm machine gun rounds, 20 37mm anti-aircraft rounds and 4,500 small arms rounds.

In other action, division infantrymen fought the NVA in an area northwest of Cam Lo. The I Corps battle, lasting eight hours, cost the enemy 120 lives. The next morning the troopers again engaged the NVA, who lost 68 men, bringing the total two-day kill count to 188. The enemy, firing from fortified positions, employed mortar fire, small arms and automatic weapons in the engagement.

In two other battles near the DMZ, one involving 1st Brigade infantrymen and the other involving an armored cavalry element of the division, a total of 39 enemy soldiers were killed.



227 NVA die near DMZ

Red Devils smash enemy regiment

CAM LO—Infantrymen from the 1st Bn., 11th Inf. of the 1st Brigade 5th Infantry Division fought hard and moved fast on a recent operation three miles south of the DMZ.

With the aid of helicopter gunships, numerous air strikes and heavy artillery, the battalion killed 227 North Vietnamese regulars of an NVA Regiment during the nine days of the operation.

The battle began when the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cav. sweeping west from here was hit with enemy fire four miles out. Heavy resistance and impassable terrain forced the cavalry unit to seek flat ground. At this time, the 1st Bn., 11th Inf. was called in to seek out the enemy in that area.

According to Lt. Col. Thomas N. Britton Jr., 1st Bn., 11th Inf. commander, the initial assault conducted by two rifle companies was unopposed the first day.

That night the NVA tried to overrun the Red Devils' position but failed. The enemy fled leaving a number of NVA dead and a clue to their whereabouts.

"This attack tipped us off as to the direction that the force would be found," Britton said.

The next day the 1st Bn., 11th Inf. advanced north to Hill 240. The hill's bald, grassy summit towers over the surrounding hills and serves as an ideal vantage point for observation and fortification once captured from the enemy.

One company set out early the next morning to seize the hill. First contact was made as they passed through a ravine at the base of the summit, resulting in a see-saw battle that lasted throughout the day. The infantrymen gained ground inch by inch and at the close of the day the hill was theirs and the NVA were driven down into the valley.

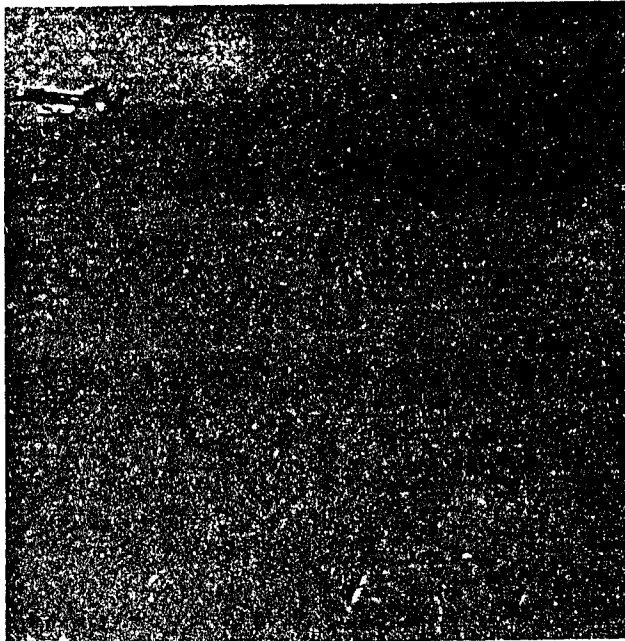
The hard fought battle gave the Red Devils Hill 240 and a total of 35 enemy killed that day, Britton, upon completion of

the attack, said, "The NVA force was located north and northeast of Hill 240. At that time, another company was air assaulted onto Hill 208 northeast of Hill 240. This gave us commanding terrain in the area."

After an unusually quiet night, numerous mortar rounds hit friendly positions the next day. Heavy underbrush in the valley again prevented the observation of mortar locations. As maneuvers toward the valley floor began, Hill 200 to the east had to be taken to close off the enemy force. I Co., 3rd Bn., 9th Marines air assaulted the hill with no opposition.

The following day contact was made, numerous times during the course of the battalion operation between the three hills. NVA mortar locations and bunker complexes were hit with air strikes and heavy artillery fire. The pounding silenced the enemy dug-in positions in the valley and flushed the enemy out of their secure locations killing an estimated 106 NVA in two days.

After the action the battalion swept the area, destroying enemy bunkers. A total of 227 NVA died in this operation with 17 individual and six crew-served weapons captured from the enemy.



"ON TARGET, beautiful," was the comment of the infantry company commander when this Air Force "Phantom" dropped its bomb load on NVA positions during a recent 1st Bde., 5th Infantry Division operation.

Armored Unit Halts Furious Red Attack

WASHINGTON Star
8 APR 1969
SAIGON (AP) — Blazing away with flame throwers and hurling dynamite bombs, about 150 North Vietnamese troops attacked an American armored column in the northwest corner of South Vietnam early today.

The U.S. Command said at least 34 of the enemy were killed by American artillery firing point-blank 90mm tank guns and heavy machine guns on armored cars.

The American troops from the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division also captured 500 dynamite bombs, 200 antitank rockets and 15 rifles left on the battlefield.

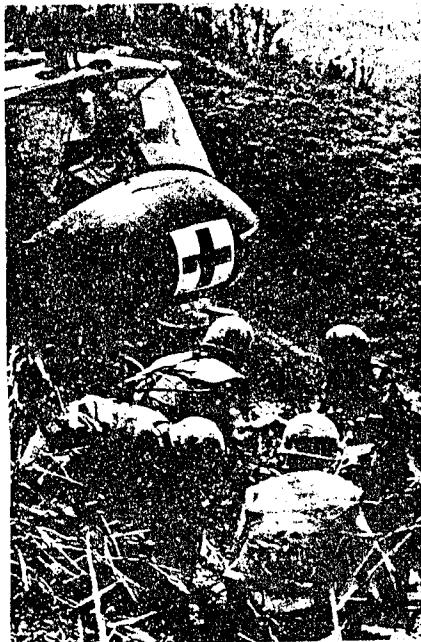
U.S. headquarters said five Americans were killed and 34 wounded. A spokesman said there was "light damage to materiel," presumably to the tanks and armored cars. He said security reasons prevented his being specific.

Follows Artillery Barrage

The North Vietnamese charged the night bivouac of the armored column behind an artillery barrage which pinned down the American troops. Some of the attacking troops were reported to have crashed through the outer defenses of the camp before the attack was repulsed, a U.S. spokesman said. The remaining enemy troops pulled back about an hour before dawn.

The fighting raged five miles from the Laotian border and two miles south of the abandoned Marine combat base at Khe Sanh.

The 5th Mechanized Infantry has been sweeping through the area for several days, trying to impede enemy supply and infiltration routes from Laos. Last Friday, North Vietnamese troops slashed their way into another night bivouac of American and South Vietnamese armored cars two miles east of the Laotian border, killed three Americans, eight South Vietnamese and an Australian, and wounded 12 Americans and 43 South Vietnamese. Thirty enemy soldiers were reported killed.



STEADY NERVES and hands were required by the pilot and medical personnel in the evacuation of wounded during a recent operation in which the NVA lost 227 men. U.S. casualties were described as light.

Terror Kingpin Slain

6 May
DA NANG, Vietnam (AP)—A U.S. Army ambush patrol has killed "the most wanted Viet Cong guerrilla in Quang Tri Province," a spokesman for the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Div., said Sunday.

The guerrilla, Nguyen Quyet, was killed early Friday by a Ranger ambush team on stakeout beside a trail in the Ba Long valley three miles southwest of Quang Tri.

The spokesman said the body was identified by villagers of Nhu Le, the town Quyet had operated out of for the past six years. Quyet, the leader of numerous assassination and sapper squads, was known to have personally slain a number of government workers and anti-Communist civilians, the spokesman said.

He said that the ambush team was posted along a ridge overlooking a river when Quyet, carrying an American M16 rifle and wearing a U.S. fatigue jacket and web gear, came down the trail. One member of the team said he opened fire when Quyet was about 20 yards away.

The guerrilla was killed instantly and as the soldiers were checking the body for papers they noticed the small finger of the victim's right hand was missing.

This was an identifying feature for Quyet who has been sought for years by government police and allied patrols.



Brigade reopens valley for peaceful settlement

QUANG TRI — The fertile Ba Long valley southwest of here has been reopened by elements of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division in the hope that the long dormant valley will again be inhabited by the Vietnamese people.

The lush valley, with its rolling fields, high ridgelines and clear Quang Tri river, had been evacuated several years ago because of enemy activity.

The construction of a road through the valley was attempted last November but heavy rains and enemy mines halted the project. The recent effort encountered little trouble. Following an old French road constructed during their occupation, the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cav. and elements of 1st Bn., 11th Inf. and Co. A, 7th Engineers entered the valley from the west and worked their way east. Other elements of the engineers and the infantry along with A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cav. entered the eastern portion of the valley and moved west.

While the engineers were cutting a road through the valley, security and reconnaissance patrols were conducted by the infantry. No evidence was uncovered of recent enemy activity in the valley or on the surrounding ridgelines.

At one point the engineers had to cut the road from the side of the mountains. "We used 40-pound shape charges and TNT to blow dirt loose so the dozers could come in to level it out for the road," said Sgt. Jack Hart.

At another point two tanks had to fire 14 high explosive rounds with delayed fuses at the rock terrain when there was no longer demolition charges to clear the area. At a ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening the road, Col. James M. Gibson, brigade commander, said: "It was a Herculean effort to get a road through the valley floor. The area hasn't been open in several years, but now it is only a matter of time until it will be well used."

Fighting Increases

Washington Post
At DMZ
22 JUN 1969

Foe Reinforces Units; 5-Day Toll Is 250

SAIGON, June 21 (AP)—Allied infantrymen have fought several sharp battles just below the Demilitarized Zone in the past five days, in an area that had been relatively quiet for nearly six months.

Since Tuesday, the infantrymen have killed 237 of the enemy, while U.S. air and artillery attacks accounted for 13 more.

The ground battles left 30 American soldiers and Marines dead and 71 wounded the U.S. Command reported. No South Vietnamese casualties were reported.

The upsurge in fighting along the six-mile-wide buffer zone is causing concern among allied commanders. They will lose a fourth of the U.S. defensive strength in that area by August. The 9th Marine Regiment and support units, totaling some 7500 men, is scheduled to leave Vietnam before Aug. 31 under President Nixon's decision to pull out 25,000 American troops.

The 9th Marines and units of the U.S. Army's 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division, holding the western flank of the DMZ, were in four of the five fights fought just south of the DMZ since Tuesday.

Giving emphasis to the allies' concern are intelligence reports that two fresh North Vietnamese army regiments with some 2500 men each have slipped into South Vietnam along the DMZ.

One enemy regiment, the 37th, moved in from Laos to attack U.S. Marine and Army units patrolling near the abandoned Khesanh combat base at the western edge of the DMZ.

The second North Vietnamese regiment, identified as the 36th, has been infiltrating through the DMZ into a staging area in the foothills west of the Marine outpost at Con Thien, 12 miles from the coast.

In the biggest DMZ fight, South Vietnamese troops encountered a North Vietnamese force six miles south of the DMZ and southeast of Con Thien Tuesday and called in massive fire support. They reported killing 58 of the enemy without suffering any casualties.

As the North Vietnamese withdrew toward the DMZ, a Marine force took up blocking positions and killed 68 of them in a battle two miles below the DMZ. Marine losses were 18 killed and 23 wounded.

Another 111 enemy were killed in clashes near Khesanh. The enemy hit a night bivouac of U.S. 5th Mechanized Division soldiers three miles south west of Khesanh Wednesday. The American soldiers killed 35 North Vietnamese regulars while losing 10 dead and 12 wounded.

Hours later, a unit of the 9th Marine Regiment two miles farther south killed 41 enemy soldiers and suffered 20 wounded.

Friday, enemy troops again attacked units of the 5th Division a mile southwest of Khesanh and lost 23 killed, U.S. casualties were two men slain and 15 wounded. Later, the North Vietnamese attacked the 9th Marines, who killed 10 of them while suffering one wounded.

GIs Throw Back 2 Fierce Assaults

SAIGON (AP)—U.S. B52 bombers marked their fourth anniversary in the Vietnam war Wednesday as North Vietnamese troops stepped up attacks on American installations in the areas near Laos and Cambodia.

Spokesmen said the enemy killed 13 Americans and wounded 28 in two fierce assaults early today while 72 North Vietnamese were killed and 12 wounded.

Far to the south near the Cambodian border, North Vietnamese troops armed with satchel charges and rocket-propelled grenades attacked a night base camp of the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division in War Zone C, 60 miles northwest of Saigon.

U.S. military analysts said captured enemy documents indicated the Communist Command has ordered increased sapper attacks on American bases.

About 200 North Vietnamese Infantrymen and sappers assaulted a base of the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division, three miles south of the abandoned Khe Sanh combat base, with machine guns, rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. The base is four miles from the Laotian border.

U.S. defenders returned the fire, helicopter gunships rushed to their aid and fighting raged for about two hours. The North Vietnamese withdrew leaving 35 of their dead, some of them strung along the barbed wire perimeter of the base.

U.S. headquarters said 10



Mongrel Mascot Dies Hero's Death

545 Vietnam Bureau
TAY NINH, Vietnam — Floppy, the famous canine mascot is dead. The mongrel was killed in a firefight in the Henegade

Woods 45 miles northwest of Saigon.

For eight months Floppy had been the constant companion of the men in 4th Bn., 9th Inf., 5th Inf. Div. The day he was killed he was the point man of Delta Company.

"Floppy alerted us to an enemy machine gun position," said 1st Lt. Walter D. Farris, executive officer of D Co. "The dug-in machine gun opened up and killed Floppy, but that dog saved at least 14 lives — including mine."

Floppy was no trained scout dog. He was just a plain dog.

In January Floppy was on a mission near Mole City (now called forward support base Sedgewick). When the company pulled out by helicopter, Floppy was left behind.

Less than 12 hours later, Floppy had crossed a 100-yard-wide river, seven miles of enemy territory, and infiltrated the barbed wire of Mole City to rejoin his outfit.

Exploits such as that made Floppy the famous mutt that he was.

Three Swings And He's Safe!

QUANG TRI (USMC) — Having flown into the hostile landing zone (LZ) twice on life-saving medical evacuation missions, the Marine CH-46 helicopter pilot made one last trip, delivering an emergency resupply of ammunition to the Army unit.

It was 9:30 p.m. when Major Richard W. Carr, a Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 pilot, took off on an emergency medevac for a unit of the Army's 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division.

The infantrymen had been in heavy contact with a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) force for four hours in "Helicopter Valley," approximately two miles south of the Demilitarized Zone.

"I had two Huey gunships and an OV-10A Bronco to cover my wingman and me," said Major Carr, "and we couldn't have made it without them."

Arriving over the unit, the Bronco began dropping flares while one of the Hueys checked out the landing zone. The Huey was seeking the best approach for the large transport helicopters that would have to make the pick-up.

"The ground unit informed me that the NVA had moved to within 200 yards of their perimeter," said Carr. "However, there were 23 casualties and some needed immediate attention. We had to get them out."

The major was the first to go into the zone, illuminated by the

Bronco's flares. Gunships escorted the CH-46s, showering the enemy with machine gun fire as the infantrymen on the ground threw everything they had at the NVA to protect the helicopters.

"If we hadn't received the excellent cover we got from those Hueys, we wouldn't have been able to stay in the zone for the time it took to load up," Carr said.

With 13 medevacs aboard, Carr lifted out of the LZ and waited for his wingman to pick up the others before they sped for the 3rd Medical Battalion.

Returning to Quang Tri to refuel, the major was notified by radio to return to the 3rd Med. Five of the casualties he had brought in had to get to a hospital ship immediately.

After his race to the ship, Carr was again diverted to the Army unit. It had suffered five more casualties and once again the major went into the "hot" landing zone to take out the wounded.

"We didn't have the Bronco with us the second time," Carr explained, "but again one of the Huey pilots came through for us, calling in illumination from an artillery unit."

Before leaving the zone, the infantrymen informed Carr they were getting low on ammunition and asked him to bring in more. The two transports returned for the third time that night, carrying two tons of ammunition to the embattled troopers.

It was 2 a.m. when Major Carr turned off the helicopter's engines. He was tired, but his weariness was overshadowed by the feeling of satisfaction from three missions successfully completed.



"DON'T FORGET WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTS, STAY ON MY LEFT, CAUSE THAT'S MY BEST SIDE!!"