

News Jan - Mar 1967

IVY LEAF

20 Jan 67 Ivy Leaf

Search Of Villages Nets 15 Suspects In Paul Revere V

Operation Paul Revere V has been renamed Operation Sam Houston, it was announced yesterday afternoon. (Ed Note: I'd heard of Operation Paul Revere V and now know from where it came)

(MACV)— Operation Paul Revere V continued during the past week in Pleiku Province with no enemy contact reported.

A company from the 2nd Brigade of the 4th Division conducted a search January 10 of four villages south of Pleiku along Highway 14.

The search netted 15 detainees. Twenty-two air sorties were flown in support of the operation during the day.

Total enemy losses in the combined ground-air operation, which began January 1, include 63 detainees, 28.25 tons of rice captured and 122 huts and 54 bunkers destroyed. Pilots have flown 222 sorties to assist the 2nd Brigade troops.

In Phu Yen Province the Ivy's 1st Brigade continues Operation Adams which was initiated October 26.

Friendly casualties in both Revere V and Adams remain light.

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Regards 14 Feb 67 contact

1/35th Platoon Leader Receives Silver Star

Bong Son — Lieutenant Ronald G. Davis (Norfolk, Va.), a platoon leader in Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, has been awarded the Silver Star.

Lieutenant Davis was cited for his actions when his reconnaissance patrol from Company A ran into a Viet Cong force armed with automatic weapons February 14.

With several of his men wounded in the initial contact, Lieutenant Davis immediately maneuvered forward until he positioned himself in front of the fallen soldiers.

While exposed to enemy automatic weapons fire, he delivered a base of fire that kept the enemy pinned down long enough to allow the wounded to be evacuated.

When almost out of ammunition, he maneuvered his way back for more ammo, stopping only to fire back at the enemy and keep them off balance. Again he advanced forward and was able to drag more wounded troops to safety.

Stars and Stripes

6 March 1967

MARCH 6, 1967 13 VIET CONG SLAIN NEAR BONG SON CU CHI Units of the 3rd Brigade Task Force and the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), continued Operation "Pershing" north of Bong Son. Military spokesmen reported 13 enemy killed during light, scattered actions in the operation area on the plains, 20 km north-northwest of Bong Son. Units continued to locate and destroy caves and tunnels and other enemy hiding places. An element of the 1st Cavalry Division received several rounds of enemy small arms fire while on perimeter guard at English Airfield. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown. Since Operation Pershing began on February 12, 235 enemy have been killed, 260 persons detained and 83 individual and five crew-served weapons seized. Strike pilots have flown 185 sorties in support of the combined ground-air operation. Friendly casualties were reported as light. Other actions in the Central Highland Region of Vietnam, uncovered an enemy arms and equipment cache in a native hut. The find occurred when a company of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, a part of Operation "Sam Houston," swept through an area of Kontum Province, 57 km west of Pleiku City. The cache included three 60 mm mortars, four light machine guns and large quantities of assorted ammunition and equipment. No friendly casualties were reported.

Stars and Stripes

6 March 1967

1/35TH LIEUTENANT WINS SILVER STAR

CU CHI - 1st Lt. William H. Dalehite, of the 1st Bn., 35th Inf., "Cacti-Green" was presented the Silver Star by Maj. Gen. John Norton, commander of the 1st Air Cav. Div., at an awards ceremony held at the battalion's forward command post last week. The Army's third highest award for valor was awarded Lt. Dalehite for heroism while serving with the Cacti Green on Operation "Paul Revere IV" in the mountainous regions near the Cambodian border. While operating on a search and destroy mission, Lt. Dalehite immediately organized, maintained and directed an assault on the enemy. In order to properly organize his assault, he exposed himself to the heavy automatic rifle fire from the trees to his front and from the bunkers. Discovering that two of his men were wounded and lying in an exposed position, Lt. Dalehite took immediate action. He personally led the platoon medic to the two wounded men and covered their position in the process. Immediately after the wounded had been secured, Lt. Dalehite renewed his platoon's attack at the center position from which the heaviest enemy fire was coming.

IVY LEAF

10 Mar 67

2/35th Troops Find Large Arms Cache

Plei Djereng — A large cache of explosives, ammunitions and weapons was found recently by Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, while participating in the 4th Division's Operation Sam Houston.

The company was conducting a search and destroy mission in the dense jungle west of Nam Sathay River when the troops came upon a small hut that contained the enemy ordnance.

Included in the find were three 60mm mortars and four French light machine guns. All were coated with cosmoline and carefully wrapped.

Seven bangalore torpedoes, six cases of a plastic explosive resembling C-4, one can of blasting caps, six boxes of rifle grenades, 6,000 rounds of small arms ammunition and nine cases of mortar rounds were also found. Forty leather ammunition pouches, three shovels and 10 picks were among the field gear in the cache.

The find was too large to be carried along with the company as it continued its search and destroy mission.

Captain Ronald Rykowski, Company C commander, called for a "Huey" helicopter to haul the enemy ordnance back to the unit fire base. Because no landing zone was nearby the equipment was loaded into bags and attached to an 120-foot rope dangling from the helicopter.

Twelve trips were necessary to carry all of the captured material into the fire base.

Stars and Stripes

11 March 1967

MARCH 11, 1967 25TH INFANTRY UNIT FINDS HOSPITAL PLEIKU "Outside of the extremely unsanitary condition they operate in their medical facilities are surprisingly good," said PFC James L Brown, a member of the 25th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry's Reconnaissance Platoon as it uncovered a Viet Cong underground hospital facility.

Brown took professional interest in the hospital section of the cave complex his platoon was securing and exploring because he is a line medic. Among the items Brown discovered in the natural caverns were drugs such as penicillin manufactured in the United States, syringes full of anti-tetanus serum from the Soviet Union, and numerous medical pamphlets and instruction books written in Vietnamese.

"We also found a stone slab that was evidently used as an operating table," said Brown.

STOOD OFF HUMAN WAVE

Hovering Off, Down in Vietnam

By JOSEPH ALSOP

Dragon Mountain, Pleiku: THE MEN of the Fourth Division are modern marcher lords, guarding the Cambodian border and fighting the North Vietnamese invaders from Cambodian sanctuary as the Percys and their men guarded the Scottish march and fought the rough, kilted raiders in the English North in the Middle Ages.

There is very little hint of the Middle Ages, it must be admitted, in the Fourth Division's base camp here at Dragon Mountain. The orderly, somewhat cumbersome yet overwhelming

primary deployment of American power has nothing medieval about it. But go forward for a bit to the high jungle along the frontier where the companies and battalions are engaging the enemy.

The helicopter soars aloft, gaining altitude until it is downright chilly, and then follows the road constructed by a miracle of engineering, and a miraculous number of vast machines to supply the brigade's "fire support base" in a jungle region where Elijah's ravens would have been hard put to nourish the old prophet.

HOVER-DOWN is on a pimple in the highest mountain jungle which has been scraped bare by the miraculous machines to receive an almost equally miraculous number of grim-looking artillery pieces. Grimly, almost incessantly they fire. But the brigade commander, a weathered, wise old colonel, explains that "There's nothing much going on, anyway, compared to a day or so ago."

He leads the way to the CP dugout where there is a young major who appears to have been borrowed from Central Casting. The major belongs to the 25th Division which has a battalion "getting the feel" of this area with the colonel's brigade.

The colonel asks him to tell about the time "a couple of days ago when there really was something going on" —meaning the time when a company stood off a night ambush by a North Vietnamese battalion.

THE YOUNG major is not uncritical, for it appears that the company's three platoons were not positioned to give each other fully effective support. One lone platoon had to take the brunt of the fighting. "But they stood up to a human-wave charge of more than 250 men," says the major with considerable pride.

The colonel adds what the major left out. Long after dark, when his division's outfit ran into trouble, the major landed blind in the only helicopter landing zone anyone knew about in that particular bit of jungle. In order to carry out the wounded he then managed to guide 17 successive helicopter landings in pitch darkness, among high trees, with no aids but a radio and a "survival light."

"Hell, it worked," says the major. And on the way back to the base's precarious helipad the colonel jerks his thumb at a beardless warrant officer and muses, "That boy made four of those landings. He really flew a milk run."

REFLECTIONS on the nature of this sort of milk run make the hover-off all but unnoticeable. But now the helicopter is hedgehopping, for this is enemy country and flying just above the treetops gives the other side a poorer chance to shoot. Flying thus, the jungle is unimaginably lovely—trees green; trees scarlet, trees maroon, feathery emerald bamboos in clearings and leafless trees of purest silver filigree.

THE BATTALION commander, a Hawaiian colonel who looks a bit like Duke Kahanamoku in his middle years, said, "There's nothing much to interest you here. We moved up two days ago because two of my companies are so far forward."

Around the artillery pieces, in this newly opened patch in the jungle, there are soldiers digging like moles — which did not used to be a habit in the U.S. Army. The Hawaiian colonel has an impressive Negro operations officer and an exec with a German name and a Wilhelm II handlebar mustache.

In this tropical back-of-beyond, with enemy forces lurking everywhere and "two more days needed to get dug in real good," everyone is sweaty, but everyone seems utterly unconcerned.

IVY LEAF

Re: 12 Mar 67 Contact

2/35th 'Cacti Blue' Kills 61

Bong Son – The 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry "Cacti Blue", under the operational control of the 4th Division, encountered two North Vietnamese Army battalions west of the Se San River near Plei Djereng while participating in Operation Sam Houston.

The action began on a Sunday morning when Company A of the "Cacti Blue" left its base camp on a southwestern course to investigate a recent B-52 strike.

About 9:30 a.m. the 1st Platoon made contact with NVA snipers in trees and fortified bunkers. The 2/35th troops shot one NVA and became pinned down by automatic weapons fire from a bunker position.

The 3rd Platoon maneuvered left and also made contact, but was unable to penetrate the enemy defense.

Company A withdrew to call in artillery and air fire, but was still pressed by the NVA.

Companies B and C were helilifted to nearby landing zones to support Company A. Artillery fire was called in to block the enemy's withdrawal.

The next morning Company A conducted a sweep of the battlefield which revealed 61 NVA bodies and numerous small arms and assorted NVA gear.

An extensive bunker system uncovered by the "Cacti Blue" was actually interlocking base camps with handrails connecting the bunkers so the NVA could move from one to the other at night without straying outside the perimeter.

The gear the NVA left behind was new, indicating Charlie was either a new unit or had recently been completely resupplied.