

# 11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE



# IRIDENI

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 13

APRIL 26, 1968

## DUC PHO ACTION INCREASES AS WARRIORS KILL 60

Jungle Warriors added 60 enemy kills to the Americal total this week and captured 15 weapons plus field equipment.

In continuous action round Duc Pho, 3/1 killed 26 while recovering many hidden weapons. One of the enemy was killed at the sanitary fill at LZ Carantan.

The first enemy kill by 4/21 "Gimlets" was made this week when infantrymen under CPT Mowrey shot a VC 6 miles south of Duc Pho.

In other action, War Lords of the 123rd Avn Co, operating with 4/3 in the Luscatine AO killed 10 VC during the week.

## 126 WEAPONS UNCOVERED

## SNIPER IS KEY TO ENEMY ARMS ROOM

A combination of hard driving, initiative and sheer good luck brought to light the largest weapons cache ever uncovered by the 11th Brigade and destroyed a major enemy base of operation during the brigade's "Operation Norfolk Victory" this month.

Ironically, the most successful single action in destroying enemy bases and sources of supply involved what had started out to be the operation's diversionary force; the first and second platoons of D Co., 4th Bn, 3rd Inf; operating on the fringe of a sweep by the brigade's 1st Bn, 20th Inf in a wide area through the mountains and into the Tra Khuc River west of Quang Ngai.

Delta Co. had executed an amphibious assault across the river and swept up the valley north of the main force into the mountains, killing five (CACHE Cont on page 3)

## CEREMONY MARKS "GIMLETS" ARRIVAL



More than 200 men of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry were formally welcomed to Vietnam and the Americal Division's 11th Infantry Brigade April 20th.

On hand to greet the "Gimlets" were the Americal Commander, Major General Samuel W. Koster; the 11th Brigade Commander, Colonel Oran K. Henderson; and the commander of the 2d ARVN Infantry Division

and all Regular and Popular Forces, Colonel Toan.

LTC James E. Armstrong, 4th Bn commander headed the formation of staff officers, company commanders, Sergeant Major and First Sergeants, with troops on line to the rear.

The ceremony began with the band playing the Vietnamese and United States National Anthems.

GEN Koster welcomed the new battalion, commented on their excellent training in Hawaii and in-country training, and told the new arrivals that close cooperation between all allied

forces is necessary for effectiveness in this area. He also said that the 11th Brigade has contributed significantly to the successes of the Americal Division.

(4/21 Cont. on Page 2)

## SALVAGERS FLOCK TO DOWNED BIRD

The misfortune of a downed aircraft recently brought to our attention the efficiency of support units operating in the Republic of Vietnam.

Immediately after investigators finished probing the wreckage of the 6-123 "Provider" which crashed on takeoff from the Duc Pho air strip, a team of salvage specialists descended on the downed aircraft.

The 9-man Air Force unit is part of the 315th Construction, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (CAMS) of the 315th Air Commando Wing stationed at Phan Rang. Their job, according to Air Force Senior Master Sergeant T. Bogacki, NCOIC of the group, is to clear the wreckage if it is blocking or rendering unsafe any existing air facilities, and then strip the plane of all useful parts.

Since no two situations are exactly alike, the on site teams must "play it by ear" says Tech Sergeant Bob Higgins, sheet metal specialist of the team. In (SALVAGE Cont on Page 3)



# COMMAND INFORMATION

## TRAP CATCHES CONG

Troops stationed in Vietnam have an opportunity to save with the largest bank in the world, the United States government; and they pay the highest interest rates.

Many soldiers dream of leaving here and buying a new car, a home, or continuing their education when they return to the States.

Being stationed in Vietnam gives each soldier a great opportunity to save money for future use. One good way is with a savings account in the SOLDIER'S SAVINGS DEPOSIT PROGRAM.

The Savings Deposit Program is sponsored by Uncle Sam. It allows American soldiers, stationed overseas on permanent duty status, to earn a whopping 10 per cent per year compounded quarterly on funds deposited through allotment or direct deposit. Most banks in the U.S. pay less than 5 per cent.

You can deposit up to the amount of money you are entitled to draw on the previous payday less authorized deduction and allowances. Your pay includes reenlistment bonuses, travel allowances, and pay allowances for unused accrued leave.

You can make a deposit with your pay officer on payday who will give you a temporary receipt, at any

Four Viet Cong found out the hard way that when they flee American soldiers it's a good idea to know where to run.

The incident occurred during Operation Muscatine when men from 4th Bn, 3rd Inf flushed out five VC northeast of Quang Ngai.

In their haste to get away, the enemy ran right into a booby-trap, rigged either by themselves or their comrades. Four of the soldiers were killed by the explosion while the fifth man evidently made his escape. One wonders what he will tell his booby-trapping comrades about their "successful" explosion.

\* \* \* \* \*

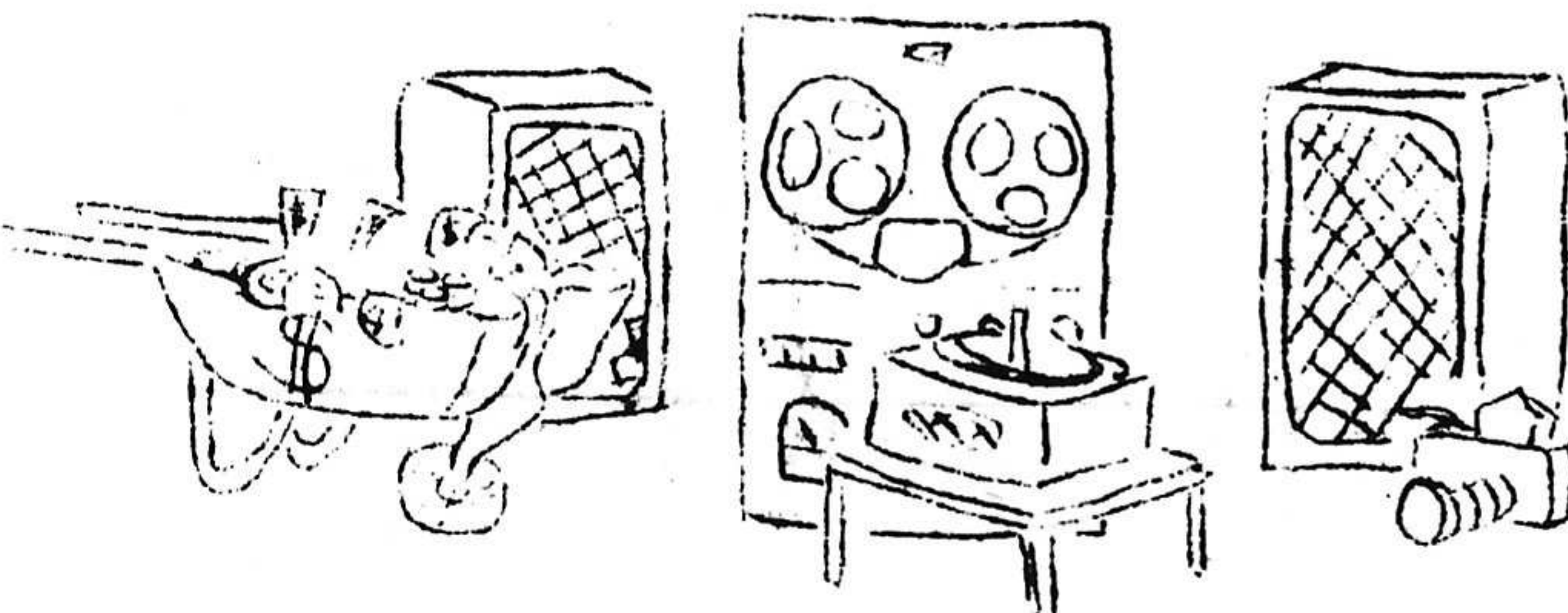
44/21 Cont. from page 1)

COL Toan also welcomed the 4th Bn and said he hoped there would be close cooperation between his forces and the 11th's newest unit.

COL Henderson greeted the "Gimlets" with a traditional Hawaiian "Aloha" and said that the 4th has brought what the brigade has been looking for; the "big punch" needed in Vietnam.

LTC Armstrong accepted the greetings on behalf of his battalion and promised to do everything possible to add to the history of the "Gimlet" 21st Infantry Regiment.

Following an inspection of the ranks, the brigade commander and visiting dignitaries held a cake-cutting ceremony and informal greeting party.



finance office or by class "S" allotment; see your unit pay clerk to start an allotment.

You can make deposits while on leave or TDY status in the States as long as your permanent duty station is outside of the USA or its possessions.

Deposits can be made anytime but deposits made before the 10th of the month earn interest from the first. Deposits made after the 10th of the month accrue interest from the first of the following month.

Emergency withdrawal of deposits (principal only) may be made overseas when the health or welfare of you or your dependents would be jeopardized. For example, your wife is sick and needs an operation. All it takes is the appropriate form (DA Form - 2082) from your commanding officer and you will be paid by your local finance office.

If you extend your overseas tour and obtain special leave, you can apply for repayment.

You can receive interest up to 90 days after returning to the U.S. or its possessions, unless you apply for and receive full payment prior to that time.

Save for the things you want where your money earns the most - in the SOLDIER'S SAVING DEPOSIT PROGRAM.

Brigade Commander  
Information Officer  
TRIDENT OIC  
News Chief  
Editor

Staff Reporters: SP5 James Ford, SP4's Dean Fohland Kevin Howe and PFC's Kenneth Ainslie and Lawrence Mollner.

The TRIDENT is published weekly under the supervision of the IO, 11th Infantry Brigade as an authorized publication. This publication is solely for personnel in the 11th Infantry Brigade and may not be duplicated or released to news media. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army.

COL ORAN K. HENDERSON  
1LT JOHN W. MOORE  
2LT ARTHUR J. GORDON  
SFC JOHN STONICH  
SP5 JAY A. ROBERTS



## PLANE SALVAGED

(CONT FROM PAGE 1)  
enemy and capturing 12 suspects in an attempt to give the enemy into the "Norfolk Victory" area.

On the second day, the unit received sniper fire, and called in an air strike.

As they moved forward on the sweep, according to SGT Charles Akes, "We counted 21 enemy soldiers in green uniforms running away from us up a hill, and we went to check out the area."

The first platoon moved into the area, and noticed several hooches and an enemy weapon lying in the open.

"We thought the weapon might have been booby-trapped," said SGT Ricky Glover, "and we called up two engineers who were with us to check it out. Surprisingly, we didn't find a single booby trap in the entire area."

A search of the area revealed several tunnel entrances, and the platoon began investigating.

"They were really well hidden," said SP4 Robert Van Tholen. "The entrances were all natural openings, none of them dug."

(CACHE Cont. on page 4)

## ARMS CACHE UNCOVERED (CONT FROM PAGE 1)

Most cases time and location do not permit the use of special tools or equipment.

"In this case though," Sergeant Higgins continued, "we had excellent cooperation from the 11th Brigade which allowed us to salvage maximum equipment from the plane in a very short time." Units of C Co., 26th Engineers, B Co, 6th Support Battalion, and the brigade Aviation Section volunteered equipment and operators to help move the plane and remove bulky parts.

Once the salvageable items are removed from the wreckage, they are flown to the Air Force maintenance facility at Phan Rang where they are overhauled and inspected. "Because we were able to remove the equipment so quickly and without damage," says Sergeant Higgins, "planes were flying using parts from this one within a couple of days."

When all usable parts are taken from the plane, the hulk becomes the problem of the Army.

"Duc Pho seems to be the place where all the old planes come to die," offered Major Fred Smith, Brigade Aviation Officer. In addition to the C-123, an Army Bird Dog" and a "Huey" were disabled at the same time. "I've got two possibilities in mind for the '123'," said Major Smith. "I'll either use it as a hooch for myself, or donate it to the brigade to use as a library."

## NEW CHEVRON FOR CSGM

Joseph W. Walsh, Command Sergeant Major of the 11th Infantry Brigade has been presented the new insignia of his rank by Brigade Commander, COL Oran K. Henderson.

The new insignia is the basic Sergeant Major chevron with a golden wreath surrounding the star. The Program, initiated last summer, is designed to centralize assignment and career management of top NCOs serving in command functions.

Less than 200 Sergeants Major were selected by a Department of the Army board reviewing numerous nominations. Other boards will convene in May and July to consider additional nominations. The program presently calls for an estimated 1500 positions of Command Ser-

geant Major.

CSGM Walsh entered the military service in 1942 from Boston, Mass. and received basic training in Louisiana. During his 26 years of service he has been First Sergeant of "H" Co., 27th Inf, 25th Infantry Div. in Japan and Korea from 1949-1951; Advisor with the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Saudi Arabia during 1953-1954; Sergeant Major of the 1st Cavalry Div in Korea during 1957-1958 and

his previous assignment as Sergeant Major, Northern New York Sector Command. He joined the 11th Brigade in Nov. 1966.

His wife, Louise, daughters Kathryn (12) and Patricia (6) and son Joseph W. (8) are currently residing in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.



## ARVN'S VALOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN

Size has no place in heroism and Sergeant Nguyen Bien Minh, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, proved this recently when he sacrificed his own life to save those of the Americans he was serving with as an interpreter.

When the 11th Brigade arrived in Vietnam last Dec. and assigned to the Americal Div. SGT Minh was assigned to the 3rd Bn, 1st Inf. He was the interpreter for C Co.

SGT Minh and the Bn. S-2, CPT Michael D. Haynes were with a Vietnamese suspect who was leading them to locations of "spider holes." As the suspect was reaching down to lift the top off one hole, SGT Minh immediately yelled "booby trap" when he saw the lid had been rigged to explode.

Without hesitation, the valiant NCO threw himself over the hole. His body absorbed most of the blast and saved CPT Haynes (MINH Cont on page 4)



(MINH Cont from page 3)  
from injury or possible death.

Although with the Bn only a short time, SGT Minh had earned the friendship and admiration of his fellow American soldiers. Immediately after his death the 3rd Bn started a fund for his widow and four sons.

Money could never bring back this heroic husband and father but the 176,880 piasters donated may provide some comfort to his family and serve as an example of the close bond between the American and South Vietnamese Armies.

Chaplain (CPT) Robert H. Ackley flew to Da Nang, where the widow now lives, to present the donation to the family.

## CO BRINGS SMOKE

With accurate throwing and "a little bit of luck" Alpha Co., 3rd of the 1st rounded up a VC tax collector this week.

LTC James Franklin, CO of 3/1, was flying over the "Gaze Strip" area on the beach north of Duc Pho to mark an LZ for Alpha's combat assault.

As COL Franklin prepared to pop smoke, he saw a man running across the area picked for the Landing Zone, evading his Command and Control chopper. He threw the smoke grenade at him and hit him in the shin.

Minutes later "A" Co landed and swept the area and found the man still there clutching his leg. A search of his person revealed a large sum of piasters and papers indicating that he was a VC tax collector.

\* \* \* \* \* AWARDS \* \* \* \* \*

Awards for the Silver Star Medal were received this week by LTC Frank A. Barker, HHC, Brigade and SP5 James R. White Jr., HHC, 1/20.

Awards for the Bronze Star Medal with "V" were received by SSG R.K. Chapman and PFC's H. Green and W. B. Cassidy, A, 4/3; 1LT Gary Nelson and PSG A. Delacruz, A, 1/20; CPT P.M. Trinkle, A, 3/1 received the Bronze Star for achievement.

Purple Hearts were received by COL Oran K. Henderson; and CPT R. Tumelson, SSG W. Earham, SGT John Adams and PFC's W. Blair and R. Crabtree, all of 3/1.

(CACHE Cont from page 3)

## LOOKED LIKE TRAINING CENTER

"Suddenly," said SGT Eddie Simington, "People began pulling weapons out everywhere." The tunnels yielded stacks of rifles, submachine guns, carbines and automatic weapons. "A lot of them still had the waxed paper wrappings on them," SGT Simington said. "They hadn't even been issued."

"The place was bigger than we thought," commented SSG John Williams. "It looked like a major supply base. Instead of the usual tunnels, the place was honeycombed with a series of caves. They had sleeping quarters a hospital, even offices with typewriters."

SP4 Peter Rico thought that "It looked like some kind of training center. They had pictures drawn on the rocks with chalk, showing soldiers using bayonets, Huey helicopters, soldiers shooting rifles, all in different spots like training areas."

The second platoon provided security for the searchers as the men gave the area a thorough going over during the next three days. The platoon captured one North Vietnamese Army prisoner who had been left behind, wounded in the foot, and who led them to two other weapons caches containing 11 U.S. carbines and mortar rounds.

"There just seemed to be no end to it," said SP4 Bobby Scott, "they had everything there, factories for making booby traps and grenades and even vegetable gardens."

"The two engineers who were with us were a lot of help," said SP4 Ronald Blake. "They identified a lot of the booby trap material; explosives; firing devices, and things like that."

"We found 1,000 pounds of raw explosives that the VC were using to

make booby traps and grenades with," said SP4 Gary Olson, "and the engineers used it all to blow the tunnels. That mountain just got up and moved over when all that stuff went off!"

The final count included over 126 individual



and crew-served weapons, including a 60mm mortar, a 7.92mm machine gun and a number of automatic rifles. In addition, the cache yielded hundreds of pounds of explosives, and nearly 100 mortar rounds and B-40 rocket rounds, as well as thousands of rounds of small-arms ammunition, including belts of 12mm anti-aircraft ammunition and a large store of medical supplies and surgical instruments.

"What I can't understand," said SGT Glover, "is why they ever let us just walk up to their position and take it. The place was practically impregnable, and they had plenty of everything they needed to stand us off—including their own underground stream for water."

Several in the platoon thought the airstrike that had hit the area the day before the find might have frightened the defenders off.