

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 24

DUC PHO, VIETNAM

JUNE 22, 1969

COMBINED FIREPOWER ZAPS 69 NVA

The combined firepower of the Army, Navy, and Air Force accounted for 69 NVA killed and 26 weapons captured, including 11 crew-served.

The "Sykes Regulars" were on a search and clear operation when they came under heavy fire while working in a valley. Automatic weapons fire and RPGs kept the company pinned down until E Troop moved to help.

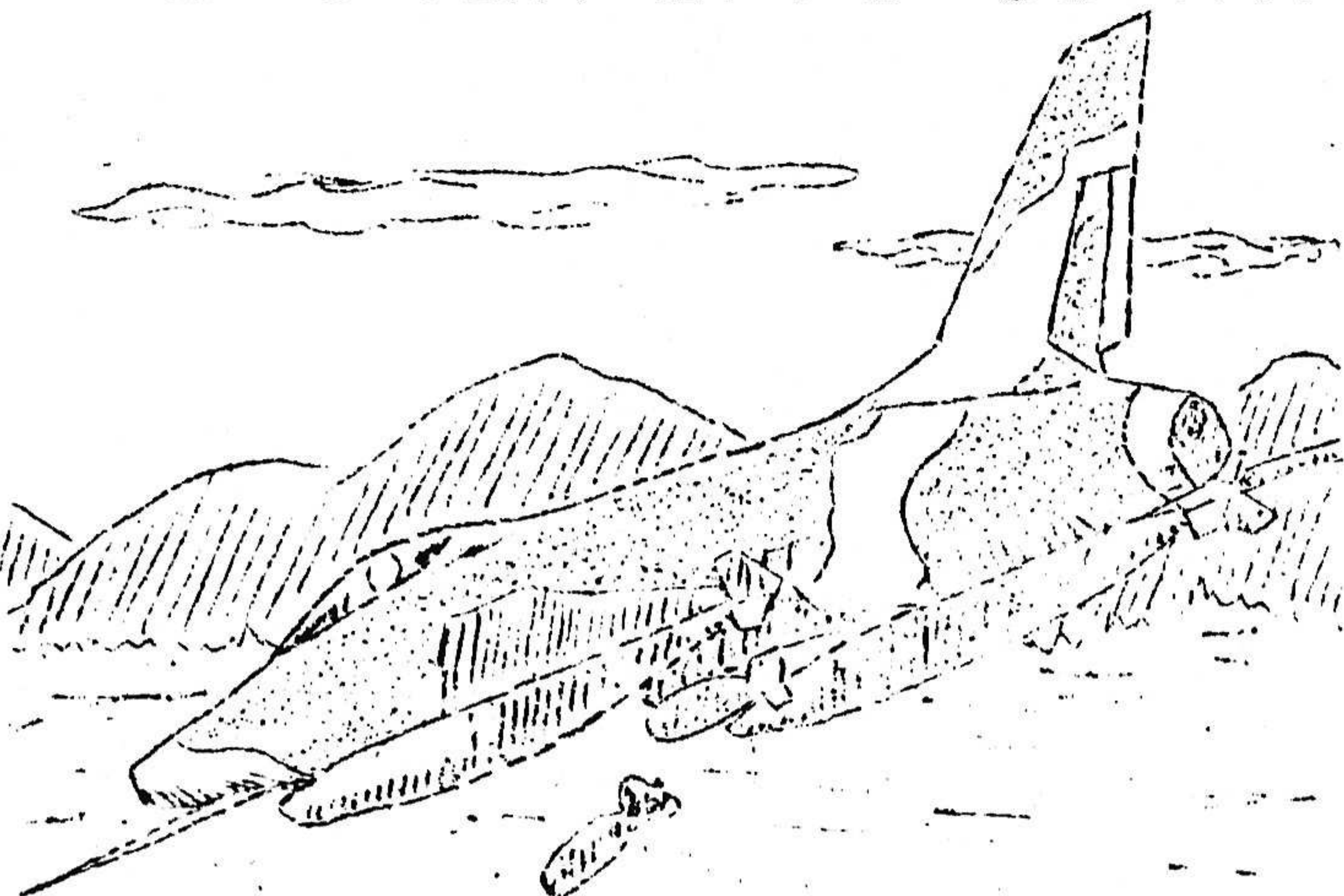
"The terrain made it possible for only one or two of the APCs to get on line to assault the enemy positions," said SSG Gary T. Whitenack, (Harrisburg, Ky.), the 1st platoon leader.

"We were getting fire from three sides and some of the NVA were so close that when we moved through a hedgerow they were throwing grenades on top of the APC, but fortunately they rolled off," said SP4 Jesse Lewis (Haines City, Fla.).

One of the APCs was hit by a recoilless round. After the crew was rescued, some of the tracks pulled back and secured an area so that the wounded could be evacuated.

When contact was broken, the Recon element of 1-20 had killed four NVA and captured one AK-47. A Co. five, while E Troop had four NVA KIA, a .30 and a .51 caliber machinegun, and seven AK-47s.

CPT Charles O. Pittman (Benoit, Miss.) was in the air directing artillery (69 NVA CONT ON PAGE 4)



"GIMLETS" KO 8 NVA

A vicious five-hour battle for a ridge seven miles southwest of here recently cost Communist forces at least eight dead and many more probably wounded at the hands of the "Gimlets".

NBC cameraman Peter Bellendorf was wounded by NVA mortar fragments while photographing a machinegun team in action during heavy fighting.

D Co., 4-21 was making an early morning move eastward to link up with a sister company when enemy activity was spotted on the ridge. After finding a trail through the dense underbrush, the company went up to investigate.

"We hadn't gone 40 meters up the trail when we got hit by small arms, automatic weapons, and heavy machinegun fire," related rifleman Bob Lindeman (Baltimore Md.). "The NVA had a .51 caliber raking the slope and we were forced to pull back."

While the soldiers were regrouping at the base of the ridge, artillery blasted the enemy positions, and C Co., 4-21 was called in to assist in destroying the enemy force.

Skirting the ridgeline, D Co. moved away to set up a NDP for the night. The next morning, a trail was found leading up the slope, and D Co. moved up to complete the link-up. Marine jets silenced the enemy fire with close proximity runs, dropping 500-pound bombs.

The companies then swept across the top of the ridge, where they found the bodies of eight enemy soldiers and numerous fighting positions in the heavy underbrush.

COMMAND INFORMATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This week we continue with Part II of a GEDO FOR THE NATION'S DEFENDERS)

Imagine for a moment, if you will, what would happen to this world if America were to become a dropout in assuming the responsibility for defending peace and freedom in the world. As every world leader knows, and as even the most outspoken critics of America would admit, the rest of the world would live in terror.

Because if America were to turn its back on the world, there would be peace that would settle over this planet, but it would be the kind of peace that suffocated freedom in Czechoslovakia.

The danger to us has changed, but it has not vanished. We must revitalize our alliances, not abandon them.

We must rule out unilateral disarmament, because in the real world it would not work. If we pursue arms control as an end in itself, we will not achieve our end. The adversaries in the world are not in conflict because they are armed. They are armed because they are in conflict and haven't learned to resolve their conflicting national interests.

The aggressors of this world are not going to give the United States a period of grace in which to put our domestic house in order---just as the crises in our society cannot be put on a back burner until we resolve the problem of Vietnam.

We stand at a crossroad in our history. We shall reaffirm our destiny for greatness or we shall choose to withdraw into ourselves. The choice will affect far more than our foreign policy; it will determine the quality of our lives.

That is why my disagreement with the isolationists is fundamental--they have lost the vision indispensable to great leadership. They observe the problems that confront us; they measure our resources and then they despair. When the first vessels set out from Europe for the New World, these men would have weighed the risks, and they would have stayed behind.

We sometimes forget the meaningful words spoken in January, 1960, by Presi-

dent Eisenhower in his Farewell Address. He said: "A vital element in keeping the peace is our military establishment. Our arms must be mighty, ready for instant action, so that no potential aggressor may be tempted to risk his own destruction."

The American Defense Establishment should never be a sacred cow, but on the other hand, the American Military must never be anyone's scapegoat.

Mistakes in military policy today can be irretrievable. Time lost in this age of science can never be regained. America had months in order to prepare and catch up in order to wage World War I. We had months and even years to catch up so we could play a winning role in World War II. When a war can be decided in twenty minutes, the nation that is behind will have no time to catch up. If we do too much it will cost us our money. If we do too little, it may cost us our lives.

I say: Let America never fall behind in maintaining the defenses necessary for the strength of this nation. Moderation has a moral significance only in those who have another choice. The weak can only plead.

Magnanimity and restraint gain moral meaning coming from the strong. We can prefer the "flatteries of hope" to the gloom of despair, but an effective defense will not be made in a dream world.

I do not consider my recommendations infallible. But if I have made a mistake, I pray that it is on the side of too much and not too little.



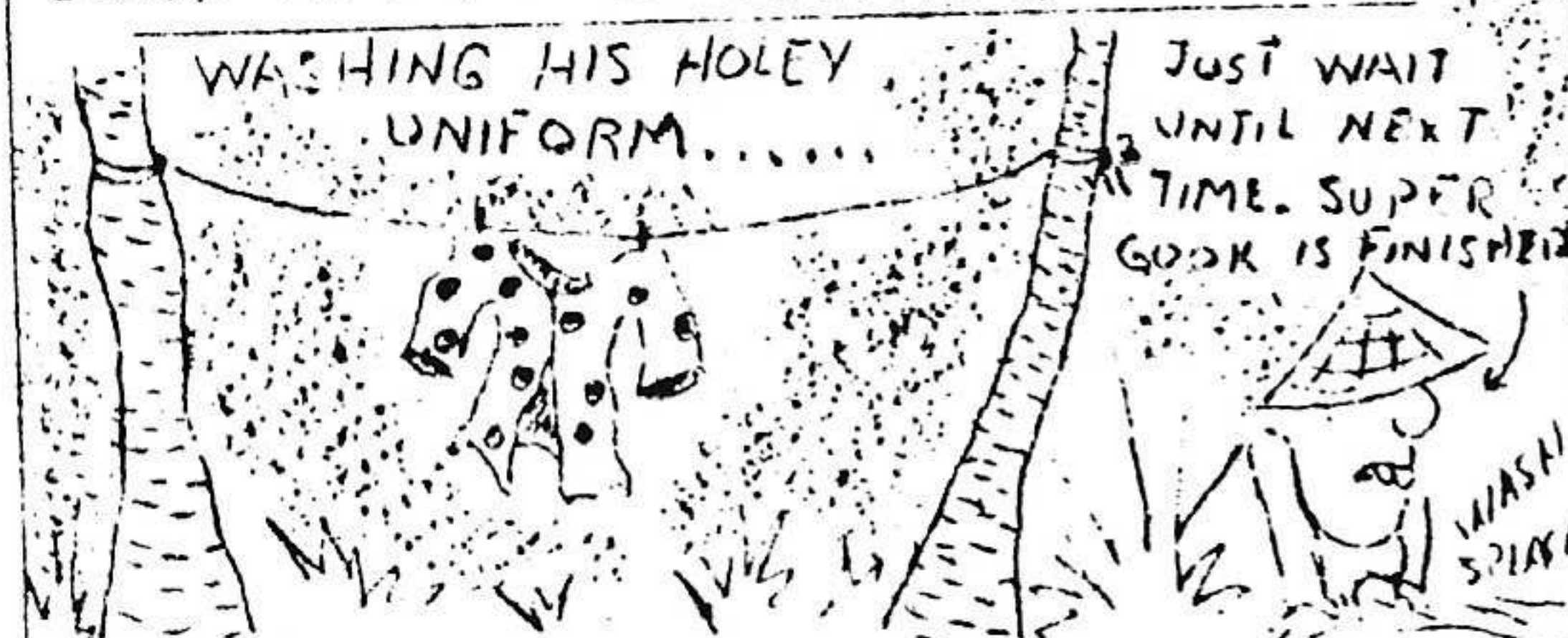
II	RR	II	DD	EE	NN	II
Brigade Commander				COL JACK L. TREADWELL		
Information Officer				1LT STEPHEN H. COBB		
TRIDENT OIC				1LT FREDERICK A. PELEATE		
NCOIC				SFC GENE K. MORENO		
Editor				SP4 TONY SWINDELL		
Senior Correspondent				SP4 DON YOST		
Illustrator				SP5 Lou Fedorski		
Staff Reporter				SP4 Reg Asplet and		
				SP4 Rick Soehngen		

The TRIDENT is published weekly under the supervision of the IO 11th Infantry Brigade APO 96217 as an authorized publication. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army.

CAPT. MAX

BY SPS
LTD
TEDO

LAST WEEK CACHUWA AND SUPER GOOK HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH SPOOKY



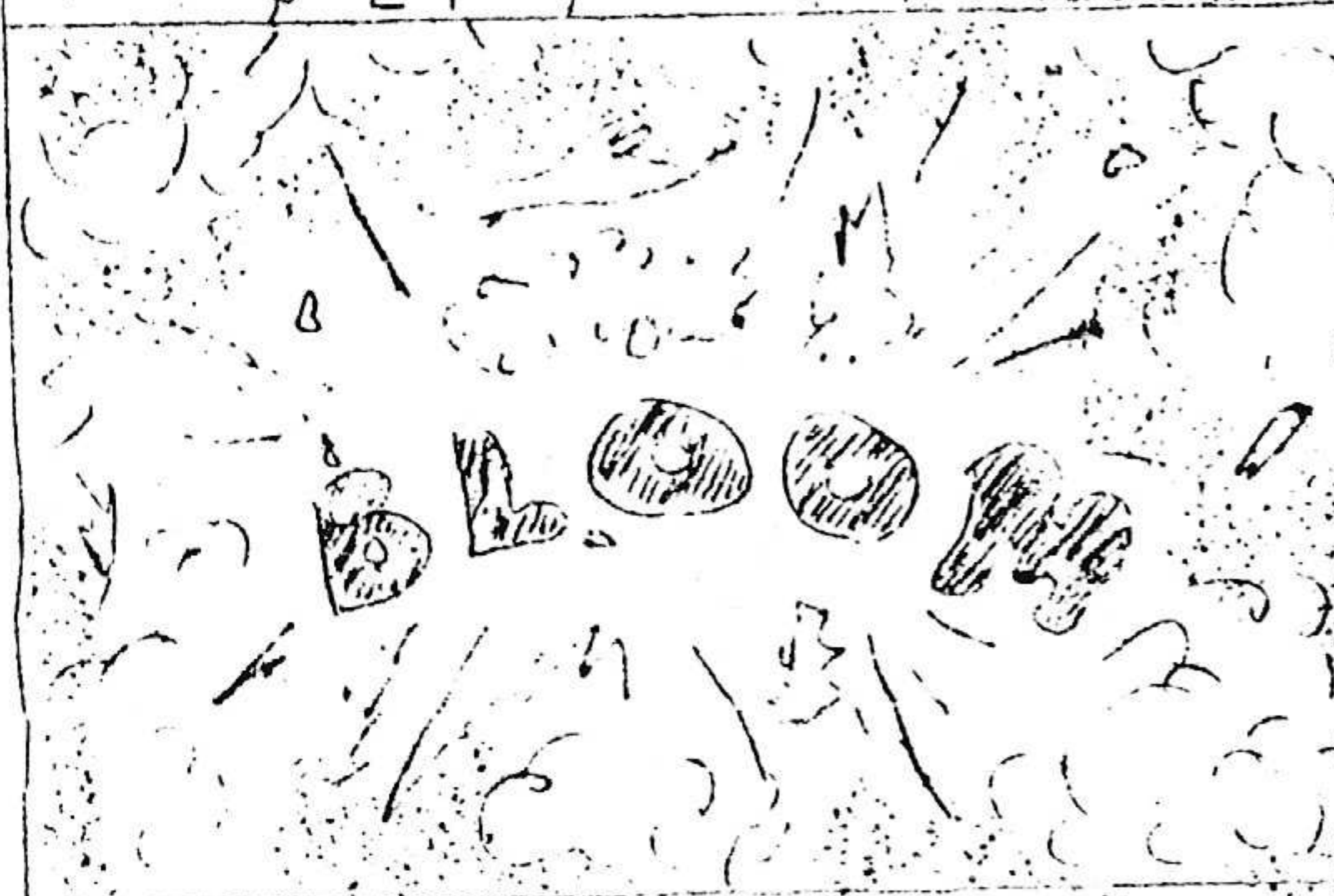
THIS IS THE LAST SUPER GOOK COSTUME



THIS IS PROOF CAPT THAT YOU DID SPOT ENEMY MOVEMENT. GOOD WORK.



A FEW DAYS LATER CACHUWA IS SCHEMING AGAIN.



MEANWHILE BACK AT VC HEADQUARTERS



HEAVY ACTION NETS 90 ENEMY KIA

Action was heavy in Southern Quang Ngai Province this week as the "Jungle Warriors" killed 90 enemy soldiers, captured 13 weapons and detained 10 VCS.

As the action began, A Co., 4-3 in an area nine miles SE of Duc Pho, killed 16 NVA and captured an M-79. On the same day, C and D Companies, of 4-21 encountered an entrenched NVA force seven miles SW of Duc Pho, killing at least eight enemy. (Related story on page 1)

On the following day, A Co., 3-1 killed an NVA soldier seven miles south of Duc Pho. Later in the day, the "Warlords" of B Co., 123rd Aviation Battalion killed four NVA evading 28 miles N of Duc

Pho and killed an evading VC 15 miles N of Duc Pho.

On June 15th, elements of B Co., 4-3 killed one VC 14 miles NW of here, while Co. C of the same battalion killed two VC. In later action, the "Warlords" killed two evading NVA, and saw the bodies of two more NVA who had been killed by air. The action took place four miles SW of Duc Pho.

As the week's action continued, the "Sykes Regulars" of B Co 1-20 killed two NVA trying to probe their night position, capturing two AK47s. The action took place four miles NW of Duc Pho. On the same day, C Co., 3-1 killed two NVA and captured their AK-47s and 2 RIG launchers.

On the following day, the men of D Co., 4-3 ward off an NVA sapper attack, killing 4 enemy and capturing another. The "Old Guard" soldiers also captured two AK-47s and an RPG launcher. (Related story on page 4) Later, B Co., 4-21 killed one NVA and found six packs 3 miles W of Duc Pho.

On June 18th, the "Warlords" of B Co., 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for seven NVA kills and the capture of one VCS. "Sykes Regulars" of B Co., 1-20, killed two NVA three miles west of Duc Pho.

As the week's action came to a close, the Recon element of 4-3 found three NVA killed by arty.

FIREPOWER CONTINUED - PG. 1

(69 NVA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

fire for C 1-82, when he spotted 12 NVA trying to evade. He directed fire which killed 10 of the Communist soldiers.

The next morning, sweeping ARVNs of the 2nd Division found the bodies of 11 NVA killed. Later in the day, they found 19 more enemy bodies.

A Co. moved north from their NDP, and by noon had killed six NVA and captured a ChiCom machinegun and an AK-47.

Approaching a stream, the company began receiving heavy fire. "We were getting M-79, machinegun, and AK-47 fire," said SGT Joe Dittler (Sacramento, Calif.)

D Co. was assaulted into the area to help their sister company clear the area. In a little over two hours, D Co. had killed five NVA, and captured one RPG launcher, two AK-47s, and a ChiCom machinegun.

A seven-foot-deep trench extending almost 100 meters was found. Holes had been dug on either side every 10 meters. In the holes were found packs, weapons and assorted ammunition.

As A Co. was to be extracted, one of the helicopters was shot down, and security had to be provided for it. During the night, Spooky and Shadow provided the illumination for the soldiers. A 174th AHC ship made a daring mission to provide supplies and ammunition for the men below.

During the night, three NVA tried to penetrate the positions, but were gunned down by the men of the 3rd platoon, D Co. An RPG, a .30 caliber machinegun, and an AK47 were taken off the dead NVA.



LIZ, PROVES TOO MUCH FOR NVA

NVA sappers have learned a hard lesson in trying to overrun LZ Liz. During a recent week, they tried twice unsuccessfully.

The first time, they lost 12 killed, one captured, two AK47s, two RPGs and over 100 ChiCom grenades captured by the "Sykes Regulars."

The second attack was preceded by a mortar barrage, and 20 NVA were on their way up the slope and captured a bunker. But they were quickly rooted out and driven back to the wire, where three of them were killed trying to escape back down the slope.

C Battery, 1-82 repelled another group of NVA in their area, killing several.

When the attack ended, the tallied score resulted in eight NVA killed, three AK-47s captured by 1-20, and 1-82 counted six NVA killed and an RPG-7 captured.

4-3 STOPS NVA

In a recent action on LZ San Juan Hill, D 4-3 ward off an NVA sapper attack, killing four enemy and capturing another.

The "Old Guard" soldiers were guarding the bunker line on the LZ, and one of the sappers tripped a flare.

As the flare went off, the rest of the enemy opened up with RPGs and automatic weapons fire. The barrage was returned by the soldiers in the bunkers.

A flare ship from the 174th AHC was then called to the scene and illumination which it provided forced the NVA to stay within the wire until daybreak.

An early morning sweep netted four NVA killed, and the capture of the fifth.

Two AKs with folding stocks, one RPG launcher, 28 ChiCom grenades, four RPG rounds and 3 AK-47 magazines were captured in the action.

"GIMLETS" HELP ORPHANAGE

While on a recent search and clear mission, the Recon platoon of 4-21 found a small boy in a destroyed village in the Song Ve Valley. The boy's parents had been killed and the "Gimlets" decided to care for him.

The orphan was taken to LZ Amy, where he was washed and fed by Chaplain Calvin Carmichael (Fairfield, Ohio), the Battalion Chaplain. The eight-year-old boy said that his name was "Son."

The following day, the chaplain took "Son" to the brigade headquarters on LZ Bronco, where he dined at the officers' mess and won the hearts of the "Jungle Warriors."

"We had to decide what to do with him," continued Chaplain Carmichael. "Since he came from Quang Ngai Province, the logical thing to do was to take him to the Catholic orphanage in Duc Pho."

CPT Thomas Nettling (Boone, Iowa), the 4-21 S-1, continued the story. "After the boy was taken to the orphanage, LTC Hanson felt that it would be fitting to start a fund for the orphanage in appreciation of the work being done there, and would be called the "Son Fund."

The enthusiastic "Gimlets" responded by donating a total of 64,540 piasters to the orphanage fund.

When presenting the gift to Sister Collette, LTC Hanson told her of the "Gimlets" appreciation for the great amount of work and progress being made at the orphanage.