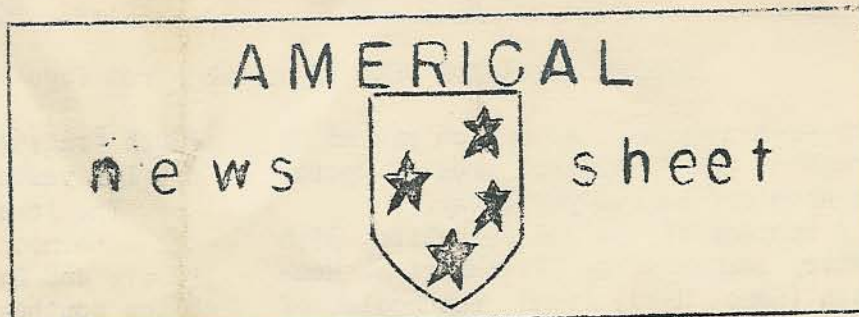


Scattered cloudiness throughout Monday. Winds variable at 3-5 knots per hour. Scattered rain in the afternoon. High Monday 88. Low Monday night 72.



Volume 1 Number 332 Sunday March 17, 1968

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

11th Bde

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -- A combat assault into a hot LZ started the day off right for infantrymen in the Task Force Barker area of Operation Muscatine yesterday. By mid-afternoon when the enemy broke contact Americal's 11th Brigade soldiers with support from artillery and gunships had killed 128 Viet Cong. The 128 enemy dead was the largest enemy body count recorded by the 11th Brigade for a 24 hour period since they took control of Operation Muscatine. It also is the largest number killed by the "Jungle Warriors" in one day's fighting since they became a part of the Americal Division.

Other enemy contacts in the Americal's area of southern I Corps resulted in 20 enemy soldiers killed in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa and one enemy death recorded near Chu Lai. Five Americal soldiers were killed and 17 wounded and evacuated for treatment yesterday.

For the third time in recent weeks 11th Brigade infantrymen in Task Force Barker raided a Viet Cong stronghold known as "Pinkville" six miles northeast of Quang Ngai.

"Jungle Warriors", together with artillery and helicopter support, hit the village of My Lai early yesterday morning. Contacts throughout the morning and early afternoon resulted in 128 enemy killed, 13 suspects detained and three weapons captured.

A Task Force Barker company of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry conducted a combat assault west of My-Lai and quickly killed one VC while moving away from the LZ. "Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company killed four more enemy during the assault.

"Aero Scout" helicopters from the 123rd Aviation Company were supporting the infantrymen and killed two enemy. The "War Lords" also located 40 60mm mortar rounds.

The infantry company led by CPT Ernest Medina (Schofield Barracks, Ha), of the 1st Battalion, engaged and killed 14 VC and captured three M-1 rifles, a radio and enemy documents while moving toward the village. One of the ten suspects apprehended by the company told an interpreter that 35 VC had moved into the village two hours earlier.

As the "Warriors" moved through the marshes a mile west of My Lai they counted 69 enemy bodies killed by a battery of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery. The battery commanded by CPT Steven Gamble (Portsmouth, N.H.), fired on the enemy from a location approximately three miles to the north.

A platoon of "Barker's Bastards" from the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry was airlifted into a position south of My Lai. The unit led by 2LT Thomas K. Willingham (Clark, N.J.), engaged an unknown number of enemy along the beach one half mile south of the village. When contact was broken 30 Viet Cong lay dead.

Early in the afternoon a platoon observed enemy soldiers escaping into a tunnel complex. Eight of the enemy were killed and web gear, hand grenades, and small arms ammunition was recovered. Three additional suspects were detained in the Operation Muscatine area 11 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

Elements of Americal's 196th Brigade killed 20 enemy troops and captured seven weapons, including two Chicom

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AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS (Continued From Page 1)

light machine guns as action picked up throughout the "Chargers" area of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa yesterday.

A company of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry commanded by CPT Robert S. Henderson (Reno, Nev), found the bodies of ten NVA soldiers that had been killed by artillery fire. Continuing its search and destroy operation the company discovered two huts containing the two Chi-com light machine guns, three packs, 53 rounds of 40mm ammunition, two trip flares and two ponchos.

Members of a company of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry commanded by CPT Dan E. Prether (Lubbock, Texas), killed three VC in two separate encounters. Another company of the 6th Battalion, led by CPT James T. Price (Fayetteville, N.C.), received two incoming hand grenades while on a sweeping operation. The infantrymen returned the fire and killed one VC. A reconnaissance element of the 1st Battalion, found one LAW and 100 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition hidden in a cave.

In other "Charger" action a company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed two enemy soldiers in two separate incidents. CPT John T. Thomason's (Severna Park, Md), company of the 3rd Battalion killed one VC and found the body of another killed by small arms fire. Another 21st Infantry company commanded by CPT Jose R. Feliciano (Baltimore, Md), killed one VC and found a loaded pistol during a search and destroy mission.

An Americal Division Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol killed one NVA and captured a pistol and some documents. A company of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry commanded by CPT Daniel R. Mellon (Fairbanks, Alaska) captured two more enemy weapons, an M-1 carbine and an AK-47 with three magazines.

In other Operation Wheeler/Wallowa action, units of Americal's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry operating around Tam Ky detained three suspects during search and destroy missions yesterday.

One enemy was killed by an Americal

198th Brigade unit operating south of Chu Lai yesterday.

The lone Viet Cong kill occurred in the afternoon when a patrol from the "Brave and Bold" engaged three VC ten miles southeast of here. Officials reported that the area nearby was constantly mined and booby trapped by the Viet Cong.

Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion flew 1,138 sorties, carried 1,447 combat troops and hauled 274 tons of cargo in support of the division yesterday,

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

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