

# US units press Cambodian vise

Elements of three more divisions were thrown into the drive against Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia as the lightning campaign entered its second week. Units of the 25th Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division and 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, joined the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in the American squeeze on long-secure base camps all along the border.

On their fifth day of operations inside Cambodia, troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment May 5 uncovered a bunker complex hidden among the lush trees of a rubber plantation 15 miles northwest of Loc Ninh near the village of Snoul, a strategic highway crossroads.

The regiment's armormen blasted the well entrenched enemy force in four contacts throughout the day. Helicopter gunships and tactical air strikes supported the tankers in the fighting, which left 128 enemy soldiers killed in the largest single action of the Cambodian campaign.

### 3rd Bde, 9th Div

Go Devils from the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, combing an area five miles inside Cambodia May 10 encountered pockets of enemy resistance in the southern Parrot's Beak region.

Men of the 6th Bn., 31st Inf., and Vietnamese CIDG units engaged enemy soldiers lurking among the remains of a base camp at Ba Thu. The allies killed 35 of the foe in what had once been an enemy logistical and training center.

Ground action involving elements of the 2nd Bn., 47th Inf., resulted in 15 enemy soldiers killed May 8 when an unknown-sized NVA force engaged the tankers six miles north of Katum. Artillery and helicopter gunships, along with tactical air strikes, supported the troopers in the hour-long fight.

### 4th Inf Div

Fourth Infantry Division soldiers by May 10 had reported killing a total of 87 enemy soldiers since division elements moved into the Se San base area of Cambodia west-northwest of Pleiku May 4. The infantrymen also reported finding a total of 561 tons of rice.

During their first three days of operations in Cambodia, division soldiers killed 20 enemy soldiers and uncovered 27,800 pounds of rice.

Continuing their sweep May 8, the infantrymen reported finding 20,000 pounds of rice, 177 structures and an X-ray machine and generator, and killing nine enemy soldiers.

During their sixth day of operations May 10, airborne infantry elements of the division found 500 more tons of polished rice west of Kontum Province about 25 miles northwest of the Cambodian city of Plei Djereng.

### 11th ACR

Elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment reported killing nine NVA soldiers May 4 in five actions near the Cambodian village of Phu Dong.

The Blackhorse troopers also unearthed two caches of foodstuffs containing a combined total of nine tons of rice and one ton of corn.

### 1st Avn Bde

Helicopter gunships of the 17th Combat Avn. Grp. supported by tactical air strikes, engaged 30-40 enemy soldiers in bunkers hidden among the rolling, jungle hills 31 miles north-northeast of the Cambodian town of Bo Khao May 7. Fifteen enemy bodies were observed in the area following the clash. At least 41 structures and 22 bunkers were destroyed.

Back in Vietnam's IV Corps that day, 13th Combat Avn. Bn. crewmen reported killing 19 VC during three An Xuyen Province actions. Eight enemy soldiers were killed during one afternoon sighting.

An aero-rifle platoon from the 17th

Air Cav. reported killing 14 enemy soldiers six miles north of Tam Ky in southern I Corps May 10. Cobra gunship crews of the 17th Combat Avn. Bn. that day killed six enemy soldiers during an engagement in a bunker complex 45 miles west of Pleiku and about eight miles north of the Cambodian town of Ba Keu.

### 1st Cav Div

In the second week of their drive into Cambodia, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) troops uncovered massive amounts of weapons, ammunition, foodstuffs and other supplies, as well as killing hundreds of NVA soldiers.

Division troopers reported killing 88 enemy soldiers during Cambodian action May 7. During the day's largest encounter involving Skytroopers, men from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav., engaged 20-30 enemy loading supplies onto 2½-ton trucks. The contact occurred 24 miles northwest of Song Be. Twenty enemy soldiers were killed by the helicopter crews and six trucks were destroyed.

Ten more enemy soldiers were killed during a night ambush prepared by troopers from Co. E, 1st Bn., 12th Cav. The ambush site was near Fire Base Evans, 18 miles northeast of Katum, about nine miles inside Cambodia. Elements of Co. D, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav., also killed 14 enemy soldiers during two encounters 22 miles northwest of Song Be.

Caches found by Skytroopers that day included eight tons of rice, 10 light vehicles, 195 rifles and light machine guns and 318,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Skytroopers continued to find large arms caches May 8 and reported killing

50 enemy soldiers. Crewmen from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav., were operating in hunter-killer teams 20 miles north of Song Be when they received ground-to-air fire and rolled onto the enemy with aerial rocket artillery fire, killing 10.

Arms and munitions caches uncovered that day contained 1.9 million rounds of .51-caliber ammunition, 403,200 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, 2,010 mortar rounds and 60 122mm rockets.

Division soldiers killed 44 enemy soldiers in scattered Cambodian fighting May 6. Eleven of the enemy were reported killed by gunship crews from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav., during an engagement 25 miles north of Song Be.

Two caches found by the Skytroopers operating just north of the Fishhook area May 9 sent statistics soaring as the Cambodian campaign moved into its 10th day. Searching an area 21 miles northwest of Song Be, troopers from Co. D, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav., discovered a horde of supplies abandoned by the enemy. Among the items found were 346 small arms, 259 122mm rockets, 2,224,730 rounds of .51-caliber ammunition and 129,600 rounds of 14.5mm antiaircraft ammunition.

First Cav soldiers killed 40 of the enemy May 9. Seven enemy soldiers fell under the blast of an ambush rigged by men of Co. E, 1st Bn., 12th Cav., who replaced their claymore mines 18 miles northeast of Katum.

### 25th Inf Div

Men from the 25th Infantry Division killed 75 enemy soldiers May 9 as Tropic Lightning troopers conducted their fourth day of sweeps in Cambodia.

A total of 58 Communists were slain during a fierce late-afternoon contact sparked when division gunships spotted the group in a clearing 30 miles northwest of Tay Ninh in the border region of Cambodia known as the Dog's Face.

Air cavalry elements of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav., engaged 30-40 enemy soldiers May 6 about 33 miles north of the Cambodian city of Svay Rieng. Twenty-nine enemy soldiers were killed during two morning contacts.

Action by division soldiers May 7 resulted in 30 enemy soldiers killed and the capture of 27 tons of rice. The enemy were encountered in sporadic contacts just above the Parrot's Beak region northwest of Go Dau Ha.

Division elements killed another 30 enemy soldiers and captured six tons of rice May 8 as they continued their sweep through the Dog's Face border region.

Tropic Lightning troopers of two mechanized units reported sporadic contact with enemy forces throughout the day May 8 as the men carefully searched the jungle for supplies and ammunition caches. They found 40 bicycles, 16 motorcycles, 19 light antitank weapons and assorted ammunition, in addition to the rice cache.

### 101st Abn Div

Twenty-nine enemy soldiers were killed May 6 during a furious attack on Fire Base Henderson, 10 miles south of Cam Lo in Quang Tri Province. Troopers of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and gunners of the 11th Arty. received mortar and RPG fire, followed by a ground attack from an unknown-sized enemy force.

Division soldiers were engaged in a daylong battle in mountainous jungle 20 miles southwest of Hue May 9. Troopers from the 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf., were searching the area when they were attacked by an enemy force firing small arms and RPGs. The Communists were hidden in a bunker complex laced with inter-connecting tunnels. Cobra gunships and airstrikes swept in to support the Screaming Eagles, who killed 18 enemy soldiers.

In the northern I Corps area of operations May 7, an air observer supporting the 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cav., engaged 20 enemy soldiers. Helicopter gunships gave support in that action 10 miles southwest of Cam Lo and 10 enemy soldiers were killed.

Screaming Eagles killed another 18 enemy soldiers during four actions in mountainous jungles 20 miles southwest of Hue May 5.

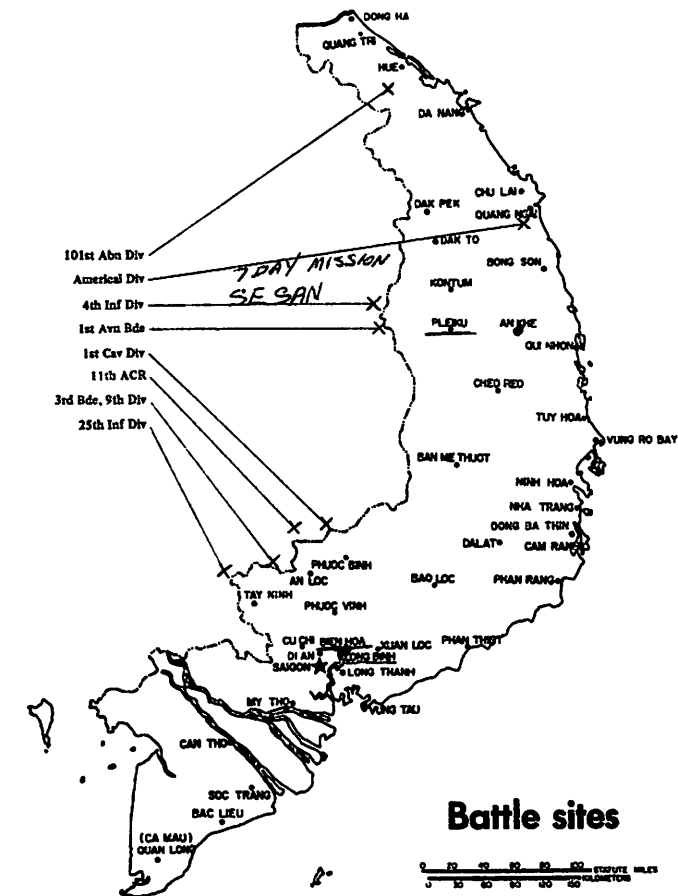
Elements of the 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf., approaching an enemy bunker complex were engaged by an unknown-sized force. The battalion soldiers quickly surrounded the bunkers and returned fire, killing five enemy soldiers.

### Americal Div

Americal Division infantrymen and cannoners killed 48 enemy soldiers during scattered contacts in their southern I Corps area of operations May 8.

In Quang Ngai Province, 105mm howitzer crews of Btry. C, 6th Bn., 11th Arty., reported killing at least 20 enemy soldiers. Men from the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., killed 10 enemy soldiers at a fire base 21 miles south of Chu Lai. The enemy sappers first struck at 11 p.m., advancing from the southwest. At midnight, more sappers tried again, this time from the northwest. Six satchel charges, three rifles and three RPG launchers with 10 rounds were captured in the assaults.

Division soldiers reported killing 38 enemy soldiers in sporadic fighting May 4. In the most significant incident, an enemy rocket launching site complete with 43 122mm rockets prepared for firing was discovered by men of Co. C, 5th Bn., 46th Inf., about five miles south of Chu Lai.



Battle sites