



9th Infantry Division



The Old Reliable

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Republic of Vietnam

November 27, 1968

VC weapons in new museum

DONG TAM – Three Viet Cong weapons captured during fighting in the Plain of Reeds Oct. 20 were recently presented to the new 9th Division Museum here by Companies A and B of the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry.

The weapons were donated to the museum, which is nearing completion, in honor of three American soldiers who died in battle.

A .31cal anti-aircraft gun and an 82mm mortar given to the museum were captured when elements of the 6th/31st caught the 513th VC Battalion by surprise and chased them into the waiting rifles of Company A. A 75mm recoilless rifle donated was taken in ambush of a VC platoon trying to sneak out of the area by sampan.

When the 9th Division Museum opens, the weapons will be displayed with a plaque inscribed, "In remembrance of the men who gave their lives in defeat of the enemy 20 October, 1968 in the Plain of Reeds, SGT Ronald L. Summers, SP4 David T. Seaton and SP4 James E. Turner."



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Two VC lieutenants detained in standoff

DONG TAM – After a short Mexican standoff, two Viet Cong lieutenants were detained by a 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry patrol near the Bin Dinh Bridge in Kien Hoa Province recently.

Elements of Company B of the 9th Division battalion had split into roving patrols to search and clear the area. Walking along a rice paddy near a heavily-wooded area, one patrol entered a hut. Inside they discovered a man and woman.

"When they saw us, the man jumped up like a scared rat and ran out of the door," said Specialist Four Lupe S. Duran, of Los Angeles, a medical aid man. "We called for him to stop, but when he didn't our point man opened fire on him."

Meanwhile, a second in hiding whom the infantrymen had not yet seen, sneaked into an upstairs loft.

Duren and the point man ran to the fallen Vietnamese. When they reached him, he raised his pistol at the two soldiers, and they leveled their M-16 rifles at him. After a short, but tense standoff, the man dropped his pistol, and Duran treated his wounds, and began to take him back to the hut.

However, as they returned, the U.S. soldiers heard the other man moving inside.

The patrol's Tiger Scout called to the man to surrender. After a ten-minute discussion, the Vietnamese walked out with his hands in the air and handed his pistol to the Americans.

In later interrogation, it was learned that the two male suspects were VC lieutenants and worked as platoon leaders in this area. The woman also was determined to be a VC.

The 9th Division soldiers found assorted medical supplies buried in the floor of the hut.