

Three VC try ambush

PHU BAI — It isn't often the Viet Cong escape an artillery barrage and then try to ambush you.

They tried it two weeks ago in the mushy rice paddies 27 miles north of Phu Bai during Operation Chinook. But Corporal Bruce Krag spoiled their plans and killed three of the six.

Krag was one of four Marines of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment guarding an observation post just outside their battalion perimeter.

"I was looking over the area," said Krag, "when I saw six Vietnamese walking from a tree line towards our position. I watched awhile to assure they were carrying weapons."

The "I" Co. squad leader quickly called artillery on the enemy's location.

"When the barrage let up, I could see three men running back into the tree line," Krag said. "I thought all of them had fled, because I couldn't see them anymore," added Krag.

He and his men then relaxed, settled down and began to eat their chow.

"I had just handed the binoculars to one of the other men when I saw three figures walking up behind us. One of them was carrying a rather long object in his arms," Krag recalled.

Krag quickly picked up his weapon and let loose with a burst of fire, killing the three VC.

One of the three intruders was a woman. Cradled in her arms was a French-made submachine-gun. The others had carbines, grenades and other combat gear.