

RAMMING THE PROJO—As the gunner sets the deflection and levels the bubbles on the sight, the #1 cannoneer rams the projectile and cannister into the tube.
(PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)

READY AND SET—Corporal Dale Dahlinger of Toms River, N.J., and Specialist 4 Doyle Reynolds of Bisbee, Ariz., assist in preparing the gun to fire. Dahlinger is setting the elevation of the tube while Reynolds rams the projectile into the chamber of the breech.
(PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)



TOTE THAT BOX—Two cannoneers from Bravo Battery unload two of the several hundred rounds going to FSB Pershing during the Tet Offensive.
(PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)

Artillery—the King of War 1/8 Puts It Where It's

By SP4 Bert Allen
FSB PERSHING — "Battery adjust!" These words command the respect of the men of 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery. At this command, cannoneers rush to their positions around the big guns, and begin to perform their varied tasks to get the projectiles out where needed, when requested.

Located at three fire support bases and patrol bases Diamond II and III, the cannoneers are constantly prepared to give their support.

The artillermen have a never-ending task that results

in little visible reward. Hit the infantrymen and brown-water sailors on the Saigon River have seen the effects of the battalion's precise firing. These elements have been rewarded and the cannoneer is satisfied knowing that he has assisted in defeating the enemy, or destroying his resources.

Bravo Battery of the 1/8 is not only a fighting battery. It is a show unit capable of demonstrating the abilities of the artillery to any and all visitors, from admirals and generals to Billy Graham or the stars of

"Peyton Place." Its guest is impressive.

Also impressive are awards for valor presented to the battalion's cannoniers who stand by their guns during hostile fire.

First Lieutenant Steve Green of Hartford, Conn., Bravo Battery Executive Officer, is able to say, "We're number one in Vietnam, we're going to stay that way."

There is a strict discipline in the battalion in order to impress the cannoneers the ability to put out supporting fires rapidly and accurately. The illusion



Artillery—the King of Battle—

Puts It Where It's Needed

ert Allen
NG — "Battery
words com-
ct of the men
8th Artillery.
d, cannoneers
sitions around
d begin to per-
d tasks to get
out where
equested.

ee fire support
ol bases Dia-
III, the can-
nstantly pre-
support.
men have a
k that results



TOTE THAT BOX—Two cannoneers from Bravo Battery unload two of the several hundred rounds going to FSB Pershing daily. (PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)

in little visible reward. But the infantrymen and brown-water sailors on the Saign River have seen the effects of the battalion's precise firing. These elements have been rewarded and the cannoneer is satisfied knowing that he has assisted in defeating the enemy, or destroying his resources.

Bravo Battery of the 1/8 is not only a fighting battery. It is a show unit capable of demonstrating the abilities of the artillery to any and all visitors, from admirals and generals to Billy Graham or the stars of

"Peyton Place." Its guest list is impressive.

Also impressive are the awards for valor presented to the battalion's cannoneers who stand by their guns during hostile fire.

First Lieutenant Stuart Green of Hartford, Conn., Bravo Battery Executive Officer, is able to say, "We're number one in Vietnam, and we're going to stay that way."

There is a strict discipline in the battalion in order to instill in the cannoneers the ability to put out supporting fires rapidly and accurately. The illusion of

disorganization and uncleanliness at a fire support base in the fields of Vietnam is soon dispelled upon arrival at any of 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery, locations.

Each howitzer's parapet is constantly raked, and cleaned at least twice daily. It is almost impossible to find a cigarette butt in the battery areas.

The day of the artillerymen is long and arduous. If he's lucky, he gets a few hours sleep at night, and that may be broken by fire missions.

His early morning hours are spent maintaining and cleaning his weapon, as well as the "office"—the gun's parapet.

Sometime during the day a convoy arrives bringing a strenuous task for the gun bunnies — breaking out several hundred rounds of ammunition which weigh approximately 35 pounds each.

During the distribution of ammo, other cannoneers may possibly be firing more rounds, which makes the task seem eternal.

The never-resting "brain" of the artillery, the Fire Direction Center, demands quick reactions and smooth, calm thinking from its men under the most arduous conditions. It is not unusual to see the men of F.D.C. finishing a fire mission as exhausted as the cannoneers.

It is in F.D.C. that data is gathered from the forward observers, the "eyes" of the artillery with infantry units. The information is then calculated and given to the cannoneers in terms suitable for the guns' use.

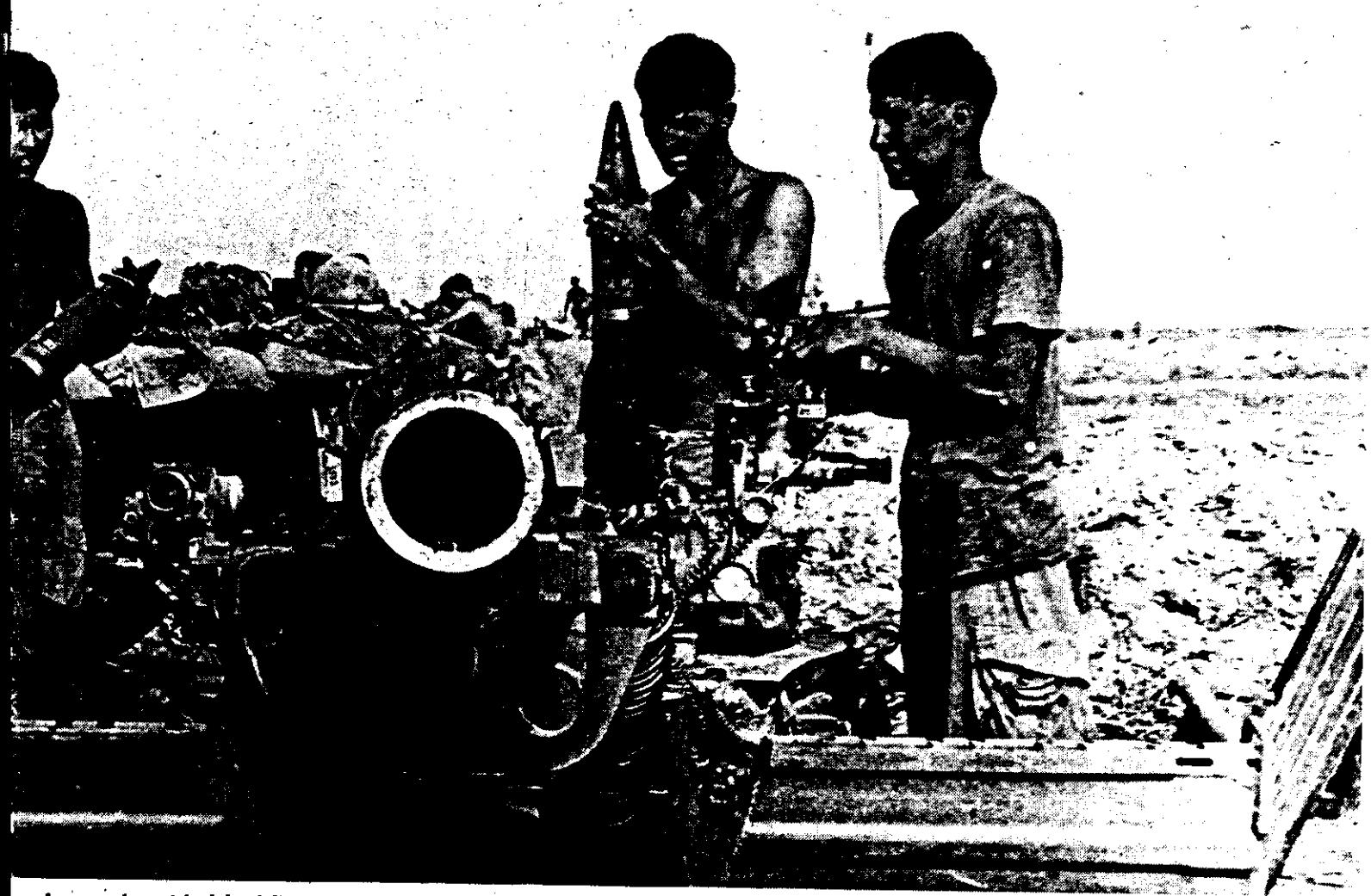


RECEIVING THE COMMANDS—Sergeant Charles Garrison of Rome, Ga., gets the gun's commands from F.D.C. and passes them on to the cannoneers. Crew members are from left Corporal Dale Dahlinger of Toms River, N.J.; Specialist 4 Doyle Reynolds of Bisbee, Ariz.; and Sergeant Billy Browning of Little Rock, Ark.



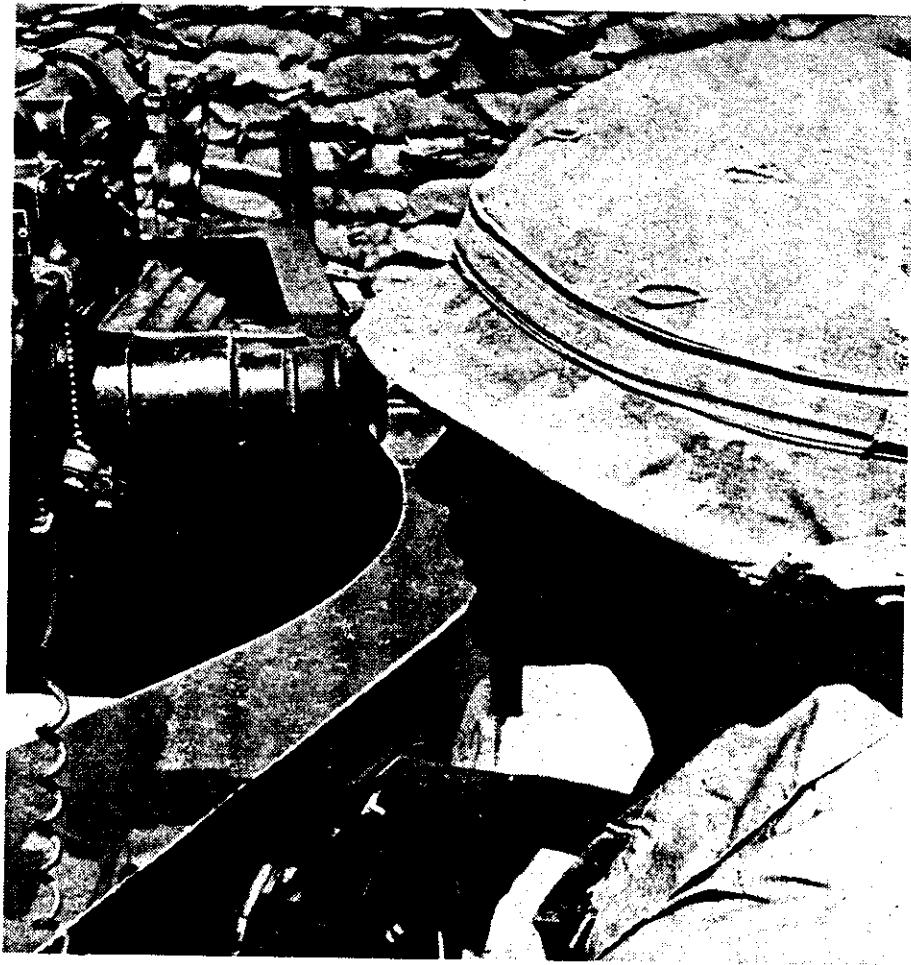
PUNCHING THE TUBE—Two cannoneers from the First of the Eighth's B Battery prepare to clean the bore of their howitzer. Performing this daily task are Specialist 4 Kenneth Sedbury of Hillcrest Heights, Ohio, and Private First Class Frederick DeBolt of Ottawa, Ill.

(PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)



as lowered and belched fire 159 times that long night. The crew, from left, consists of Specialist 4 Wayne Day of Anadarko, Okla.; inland, N.M.; Sergeant George Belich of Pittsburgh; and Specialist 4 Roger Glover from Mansfield, La.

(PHOTO BY SP4 R. B. WILLIAMS)



SIGHTING IN—Specialist 4 Mario Santanna of South Pekin, Ill., performs the delicate task of setting the proper deflection before a round is permitted to leave the tube. His duty is similar to pointing a rifle in the right direction, but his work is much more complex.

(PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)

illery—the King of Battle— Puts It Where It's Needed

Bert Allen
ING — "Battery

in little visible reward. Hit
the infantrymen and bro-

"Peyton Place." Its guest list
is impressive.

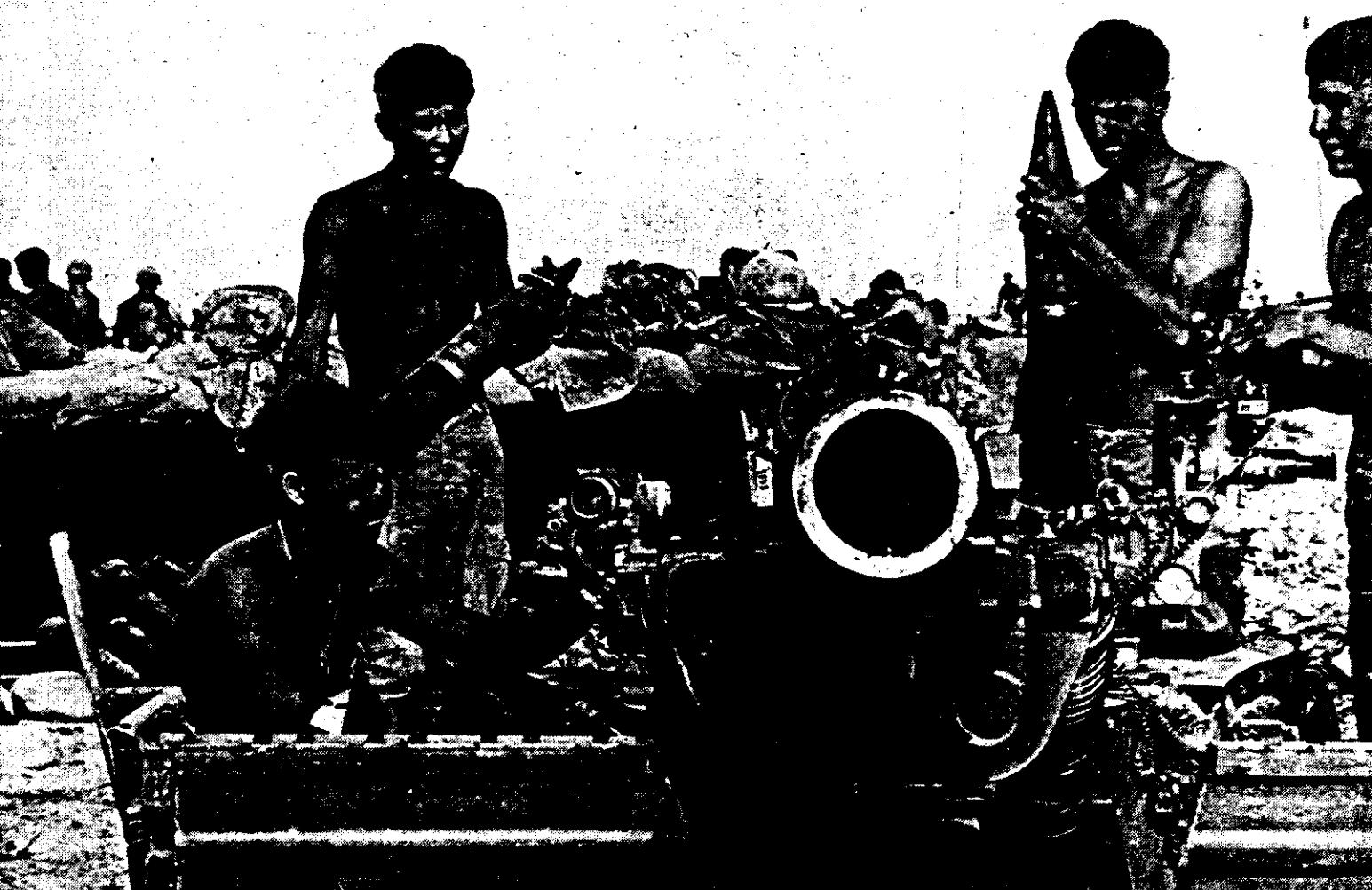
disorganization and unclean-
liness at a fire support base in





PLOTTING—Specialist 4 Charles Cline of Harrisville, W. Va., must plot the requested direction and distance of fire before firing data may be calculated and passed to the guns.

(1LT R. S. PERRY)



HEAD ON—At Diamond Hill this 105mm was lowered and belched fire 159 times that long night. The crew, from left, consists of Sp



Artillery—the King of Battle
1/8 Puts It Where It's Needed

Ambush: A Vital Tool for Jungle Warfare

DAU TIENG—Ambush! Typically an unconventional tactic, used by unconventional forces.

But Wolfhound infantrymen of 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, are taking the "un" out of unconventional and are employing the art of the ambush successfully against the enemy—an enemy that doesn't know how to fight any other way.

Emphasis was placed on the battalion's ambush operations when Major Jerry Holliday of Memphis, Tenn., took over as the Wolfhound's operations officer early this year.

"We needed to change our tactics," Holliday said. "We wanted the enemy to come to us instead of always going into the field on reconnaissance-in-force operations, looking for him. My idea was the ambush—quite irregular for a TO & E unit—but I thought it would work when proper emphasis was placed on it. The idea was unanimously supported by other battalion leaders," he said.

The proper emphasis was placed on ambush techniques, first through seminars attended by battalion leaders and then by means of an "ambush school" held at Fire Support Base Mahone II.

"At our seminars, we'd all get together and take a good look at ourselves," Holliday said. "We'd find out what we were doing right—and wrong—in our operations against the enemy."

The school at Mahone II was run "Country Fair" style, with the Wolfhounds rotating from station to station, learning and relearning the arts of the ambush.

"One thing we found out right away was that the men weren't hitting what they were seeing," said Major Dallas L. Cox of Pulaski, Va., the battalion executive officer and also one of the officers responsible for the training school.

"The school set up both a zeroing and quick reaction course designed to train our men to pause long enough to take aim on the enemy," he said.

Other stations at the school included a machine-gun course, weapons demonstrations, first aid, ambush techniques and an introduction to scout dogs.

"The weapons demonstration gave the men an idea of the awesome firepower a small unit possesses while on an operation," Cox said. "This gives the men confidence and an aggressive spirit when they contact the enemy."

But how did the men respond to "training" after many of them were already seasoned in combat?

"At first, they didn't like the idea, but after an excellent class given by the scout dog platoon sergeant, the ice was broken, and most of them really enjoyed themselves," Cox said.

"Our soldiers today are intelligent, and many realized they were deficient in some aspects of weaponry and wanted to learn—they knew it could save their lives," he said.

In addition to this "ambush school," which both Holliday and Cox hope to run once every month, the battalion has initiated training between operations for the Wolfhounds.

"We have the men zero their weapons at every opportunity during these training sessions," Holliday said. "Besides weapons training, we give the men intelligence briefings, first aid classes and other combat tips," he said.

But, the big question. Have the seminars and training paid off where it counts—in the field?

"They certainly have," said Holliday. "We've tried our ambush techniques in three different areas of operation and in three different types of terrain—the "triple canopy" jungle of the Trapezoid, the flat, open areas of a rubber plantation and the swampy regions of the Boi Loi Woods—and we've had success in all these areas.

"Some of our companies have experimented with night movement in an attempt to become even more of a threat to the enemy. We've had great success with this too. As a matter of fact, several times during these night movements, Viet Cong soldiers have walked right up on a company, thinking it was an element of the North Vietnamese Army."

"The enemy just couldn't believe a whole company of American troopers would move at night," he said.

The Wolfhounds are motivated, there's no doubt, and they're making the enemy take careful stock of himself before he tries any mass movements within their area of operation, Holliday concluded. "We're very proud of our ambush record."

Ready Cav Throws Back NVA Attack on Night Laager Position

CU CHI — A Troop of the 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry, turned back an attack by an enemy battalion six miles west of Dau Tieng.

All vehicles formed a large

circular perimeter for the troop's night laager.

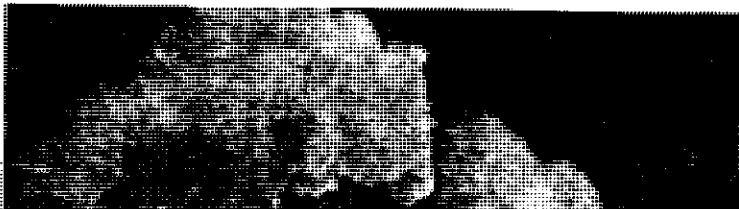
The attack launched just after midnight, took no one by surprise. The Cavalrymen were warned in plenty of time by

their night listening teams which were positioned around the perimeter.

The area immediately around the laager site was fairly open with just few scattered hedge-rows. The main supply route to Dau Tieng was approximately 500 yards away.

There was little cover for the listening teams. Five hundred yards to the north of the Cav's laager the tropical growth became more dense.

For this reason the Troop's Commanding officer, Captain



talion six miles west of Dau Tieng. All vehicles formed a large

THE ATTACK LAUNCHED JUST AFTER midnight, took no one by surprise. The Cavalrymen were warned in plenty of time by

the perimeter.

The area immediately around the laager site was fairly open with just few scattered hedge-rows. The main supply route to Dau Tieng was approximately 500 yards away.

There was little cover for the listening teams. Five hundred yards to the north of the Cav's laager the tropical growth became more dense.

For this reason the Troop's Commanding officer, Captain John T. Wells of Cumberland, Ky., gave specific orders to his troops to keep a close watch on this area.

Each of the listening teams was in position by 8:30 p.m.

After a two-and-a-half hour wait, movement was sighted by the 3d platoon LP. The movement was reported over the radio, and all teams were completely aware of the situation.

Before the advancing enemy soldiers got too close to the third platoon's LP, Wells gave the order to pull the team back to the safety of the perimeter. The team reported the enemy moving in columns toward their position, fanning out around the perimeter of the vehicles.

Soon the enemy troops could be seen clearly by the cavalrymen who waited behind their guns. The Horsemen watched in readiness as the North Vietnamese soldiers came closer and closer.

Two of the LPs at this time were back in the laager site, leaving only one squad from the 1st platoon still in position on the west side of the perimeter.

Then the order to "stay low" came over the radio to the first platoon's LP, as the main gun of a Sheridan blasted away on a small group of NVA soldiers. Small arms and automatic weapons fire smashed into the NVA.

Wells explained, "We threw the first stone and it really hurt them. They didn't even have time to set up their machineguns or recoilless rifles."

After parachute flares lit the surrounding rice paddies, every enemy position was spotted and knocked out. Specialist 4 Allen W. Slocum of Anaheim, Cal., said, "As our flares were pop-



SEARCHING THE BANKS of the Soui Tri Bi River, 19 miles north of Tay Ninh City for enemy mines are engineers working with C Company, 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23d Infantry.

(PHOTO BY SGT ROGER WELT)

ping over the enemy we could see them out there running around in confusion like a bunch of rabbits. Then some of the NVA soldiers began dropping their weapons and scattered."

It wasn't long before indirect fire came whizzing over the heads of the first platoon's LP. Specialist 4 David Olsen of Alhambra, Calif., said, "We were receiving enemy fire from the far side of the perimeter. On top of that we had to radio in and request permission to pull into the laager. The NVA soldiers were crawling all around us. We no sooner got up to run back in when the enemy was almost crawling up our backs."

The team entered the circle of tracked vehicles and then permission to fire to the west side of the perimeter was given.

It wasn't long before the supporting artillery from Fire Support Base Wood, located in Dau Tieng, came smashing into the area. Huey Cobras from Delta Troop swooped down as the re-

maining enemy soldiers scrambled for cover.

The battle went on through the night and ended in the early morning hours. At dawn, 17 dead NVA soldiers lay in front of A Troop's laager site. A sweep of the area revealed a large number of weapons, ammunitions and documents. A further search revealed 21 more dead NVA soldiers had been hidden.

There was only one light casualty among the 1/4 Cav troopers resulting from the enemy's fire.

Wire for the enemy's communications was left strung all over the area. Antitank and rocket propelled grenades were scattered everywhere. Gas masks, shovels, and picks were also captured along with several light machineguns and AK-47 rifles. Mortar rounds were left in place along with boosters and ammunition for different weapons. Fifty-eight Chicom hand grenades and one sling shot were also captured.

BEAUTIFUL BUT—Time has come for the TLN to scotch the mistaken notion that Las Vegas show girls are beautiful but dumb. Take these two young maidens for instances. The one on the left recently received her Masters from MIT in Ukrainian Embroidery. The other is completing her doctoral dissertation entitled, "The Inhomogeneity of the Inelastic Continuum." They both want to remind GIs that USAFI enables continuation of civilian education while in the military.

Wolfhounds Secure Area Surrounding Diamond III



A 40-POUND SHAPED CHARGE will destroy the dirt mound used to support the heavy .51 caliber anti-aircraft guns. Specialist 4 Glen Davis of Kansas City, Mo., 65th Engineers, assigned to Company 3, 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry, skillfully prepares the explosive detonation.

(PHOTO BY SP4 R.B. WILLIAMS)

PATROL BASE DIAMOND III

— After Wolfhound soldiers from the 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry had successfully routed an enemy assault on Patrol Base Diamond III they faced a big problem. What could be done with the large number of enemy fighting positions surrounding the tiny patrol base to prevent Charles from trying another attack?

One thing was certain. The

anti-aircraft emplacements had to be destroyed.

The dilemma was solved by the use of two agents. One was C-4 explosive in the form of 40-pound shaped charges, and the other was CS riot control powder.

The enemy positions, 12 in all, were circular trenches with columns of earth left in the center. The pedestals of dirt served as support for the big .51 caliber anti-aircraft machineguns used from the locations.

The mounds were leveled by the huge 40 pound charges, and then the craters were made unusable by spreading CS powder on the floor of the enemy emplacements.

Wolfhounds Ambush 12

DAU TIENG — Wolfhound infantrymen of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, killed three enemy soldiers in an ambush in the Trapezoid, 45 miles northwest of Saigon.

An estimated 10 to 12 enemy soldiers were observed moving east in an open area. "They acted as if they wanted to avoid contact," said Specialist 4 George Whitehead of Rockfort, Tenn.

The Alpha Company patrol engaged the enemy with small arms fire. They received RPG fire in return, but suffered no casualties, said Sergeant Bill Smith, the patrol leader.



HOLDING THE BAG — A masked trooper from A Company, 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry, empties an eight pound bag of riot powder into the blown anti-aircraft positions.

(PHOTO BY SP4 R. B. WILLIAMS)

Bronze Star to Viet Interpreter

TAY NINH—A Vietnamese interpreter ignored his own wounds to help organize a defense and treat injured when a two-truck convoy carrying American and Vietnamese troops was ambushed.

He was decorated with a Bronze Star Star for valor by 25th Infantry Division commander Major General Ellis W. Williamson at Go Lan Ha, March 18.

Nguyen Chon Duong, a local government interpreter, was riding in the first of two three-quarter ton trucks carrying Vietnamese troops and part of the Reconnaissance patrol of the

began to hit around the trucks.

Leathers recalled that Duong "ran through the automatic weapons fire to place himself in position to assist in giving orders to the ARVNs attached to

treatment to his men."

The American interpreter, 1st Lt. 4 Timotheus of Chicago, also praised Duong.

"Even though he'd been thrown out of the truck he

hugged the gunner and got him to safety," Timotheus said.

Leathers said the ARVN unit, which had been ambushed, suffered 12 dead and 10 wounded.

VROOM

The May 2 issue of TIME magazine carried a story

TAY NINH — Vietnamese interpreter ignored his own wounds to help organize
nameless troops was awarded a two-truck convoy carrying American and Viet-
namese troops was awarded a Bronze Star for Valor by 25th Infantry Division
commander Major General Ellis W. Williamson at Go Lau Ha, March 16.

Nguyen Chon Duong, a local government interpreter, was riding in the first of two three-quarter ton trucks carrying Vietnamese troops and part of the Reconnaissance patrol of the U.S. 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, about two miles southwest of Go Lau Ha when his vehicle hit a command-detonated mine.

All the passengers in the first truck were thrown out by the blast, but Duong, even though he had incurred shrapnel wounds, moved to help Sergeant First Class Robert W. Leathers of Columbus, Ga., deploy a defensive force to combat sniper fire that

began to hit around the trucks.

Leathers recalled that Duong "ran through the automatic weapons fire to place himself in position to assist in giving orders to the ARVs attached to our platoon."

"After we had everyone in position, Duong refused medical aid for his own wounds, and went back to help both the GIs and ARVs who'd been wounded, helping our medic to

treat them," Leathers said.

The American medic, Specialist 4 Tim C. Portal of Chicago also praised Duong.

"Even though he'd been thrown out of the truck like the others, and had been wounded, he came over to give me a hand," Portal said. "He did a lot in helping me find out which ones were hurt the most, and he just wouldn't let us get him out on a medical evacuation ship."



TEAMWORK REWARDED — Nguyen Chon Duong, A Vietnamese interpreter, shows the Bronze Star for Valor awarded to him by Major General Ellis W. Williamson to SP4 Tim Portal of Chicago. (PHOTO BY SP4 RALPH NOVAK)

huge," said Jefferson. "It was about 30 feet high and led to several bamboo ladders leading to three different levels. We moved slowly and carefully down the corridor of the first floor and found a tailor shop that had been used a very short time before our entry."

The VC base camp was large enough to accommodate a battalion sized unit. Several items of web gear and eating utensils were also found.

"I'll bet that tailor is really going to be upset," said Sergeant Nelson Matos of Dethlehem, Pa. "It'll probably be several months before he gets it replaced. Now we'll probably start meeting VC with holes in their pants."

25th Unites Father, Son

CU CHI — Together again. And in Cu Chi of all places. Specialist 4 Roy Jenkins, who has been in the Army for 24 years, returned to a combat zone in order to be with his son, Private First Class Gary Jenkins.

Specialist Jenkins, age 50 (affectionately known as "Pop" to the men of the 25th Division Bnd), volunteered for Vietnam duty when his son enlisted in the Army on June 3, 1968.

Young Jenkins, who took his basic training at Ft. Polk, La., and AIT at Ft. Bliss, Tex., volunteered for Vietnam service also. At Ft. Benning Ga., he received airborne training and then went on to Pathfinder School.

Specialist Jenkins arrived in country on February 16, 1969, and informed the Red Cross that his son was soon to follow. After being assigned to Tropic Lightning's Band, he waited for his son's arrival. On April 20, Gary reported to the 25th Replacement company, and father and son were together again.

VROOM

The May 2 issue of TIME magazine carried a story on the motorcyclists cruising the trails of War Zone C. With all of the publicity it's receiving, the Regulars' Recon Patrol seems headed for its own TV series. Just remember, you read it first, as always, in the TLN.

Wires Sing Across Frontier

TAY NINH — "Hang on to your white sombrero, Nellie, they're pushing back the western frontier!" At least that's the way it seems at old Tay Ninh City as the Lancers of the First Brigade do their bit to help bring civilization to the hamlets around Cao Xa.

Latest idea in the continuing pacification campaign is stringing communication wire from the Lancers' base camp at Tay Ninh across the plains to the Phuoc Ninh district headquarters.

Like the "singing wires" carrying messages across America's western frontier, the commo wire represents a significant step forward for civilians and military people in Vietnam. And just as in the west, these wires were strung by armed crews across hostile territory.

But you can tell this is the Vietnamese "west." Bamboo poles hacked out of groves in nearby Binh Phon hamlet by the 1st Brigade's S-5 Section are used as telegraph poles.

"The idea came up in a meeting between brigade representatives and district advisors," said Major Clarence DeYoung of San Diego, Calif., Lancer S-5.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Appling of Deridder, La., executive officer of the 1st Brigade di-

rected the S-5 and brigade signal section to accomplish the mission. Captain Howard McGill of Worcester, Mass., the signal officer, planned the route and compiled a list of materials.

"Then we scouted the area for suitable poles. Buying them from the people helps the local economy as well as provides durable building material," said Major Clarence DeYoung.

The wire crew, under the direction of First Lieutenant William West of Syracuse, N.Y., dug holes and strung wire on the bamboo poles.

"Naturally, we kept our eyes peeled for Viet Cong," said Lieutenant West, "but nobody tried to stop us." Lieutenant Colonel Appling placed the first official call to Major Richard A. Petty, the District Advisor at Phuoc Ninh District.

The new communications line links the westernmost village in the III Corps Tactical Zone with the communications networks emanating from Tay Ninh.

Bringing peace and security to western South Vietnam is every bit as rugged a task as it was in the western United States over a hundred years ago. The S-5 admits the value of a commo link and hints that the "singing wires" will be followed by other effects. Now, about Project "Iron Horse" . . .