CREEPER
from Gary **Lorenz**

In October 1970, I was walking rear scout on a mission with Roger **Simmons'** team. We were working our way up a big hill. It wasn't big enough to be a mountain but more than just a hill. We were on a hard packed trail over three feet wide. This was something we normally didn't do but, we were walking off the dirt on this ridge.

I was busy leaving no trace of us, when I turned to notice that the trail abruptly went to the right and around between two trees that were only about a foot and a half apart. I thought that this was kind of strange because I could see that the path went straight up the hill.

Then I took a close look, there was something almost transparent across the trail. Then I looked to the left and saw that this mist went to another tree about seven feet across the trail. So, I look upward and see that it goes over eight feet high. In the upper right corner is the largest spider I've ever seen, waiting in his web. His black bulbous body was at least as big as a silver dollar across and about six inches long, his legs were a good four inches long.

His trap was set and this "creeper" owned this part of the trail!! I went around the tree like everyone else.

Further up the trail we stopped at the top to check our maps. The ground was sort of shaking, like a baby earthquake. We kept hearing this booming sound off to our north. I handed my piece to Mark **Holden,** then I took my pack and web gear off, so that I could shinny up a tree that was leaning off the ridge in that direction. Once I was up there, I spread some branches and could see quite a distance down the next valley and past the next couple small hills.

I thought there was fog down there until there was another boom and another and another, the fpg raised up each time. This must have been four or five miles away. I relayed all this to the team below and Roger got on the horn (radio) to find out what was going on. We were informed that the Air Force was dropping 500 lbs. bombs on enemy compounds outside our AO.