

SECOND BRIGADE



BLACKHORSE
HOOBEATS



ISSUE #5

LZ English, RVN

26 MARCH 1968

CHARLIE AND DELTA
OF 2/5 ATTACK VC

A 1/5 USES
BOAT TACTIC

On March 11th, C and D Companies, 2/5th Cav established contact with a heavily entrenched enemy force of unknown size in the Nui Mieu Mountains south of Bong Son-LZ English during Operation Pershing conducted by the Cav's 2d Brigade.

Alpha Company, 1/5th Cav is at it again. This time with commando-stylo rubber assault boats.

Commanded by CPT Wally Stauffer, A Com- (CON'T. Page 3)

The companies have been receiving sniper fire for the past few days, but this was the heaviest contact the companies had found since they air assaulted into the Bong Son Plain to open Operation Pershing meeting heavy NVA resistance.

As morning broke on the 11th, the companies moved out on the mission to search and destroy the area around the hamlet of Hoa Tan and to cordon and search the hamlet. Around noon, the companies began receiving devastating automatic weapons fire from a complex of bunkers near the hamlet. D Company's commander, CPT Richard McInerney called in ARA which (CON'T. Page 5)

2/12-1/5 ENGAGE
NVA REGIMENT

OPERATION PERSHING WAS RENEWED IN INTENSITY THIS WEEK AS TWO BATTALIONS FROM THE 2D BRIGADE BECAME INVOLVED IN HEAVY CONTACT WITH THE 18TH NVA REGIMENT ONCE AGAIN, ON MARCH 19, WHILE THE 2D BRIGADE OPERATED IN THE RUGGED NUI MIEU MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF BONG SON, THE 1ST BRIGADE MADE HEAVY CONTACT ON THE BONG SON PLAIN.

The 2/12th Cav, (which was then as it is now), the Division Reaction Force, recently returned from An Khe security, was rushed into help encircle the enemy. Due to a great stand by A Company, 2/12th Cav, the enemy was hit with heavy losses. This initial battle caused the 18th NVA Regiment

to split up and try to escape the Cav cordon of death.

On the 20th, A Company, 1/5th Cav air assaulted to the south of the original contact area into a hot LZ. They had run into one of the battalions from the 18th which had split from the regiment. The battle (CON'T. Page 6)

C AND D, 2/5 AWARDED

On March 14th during Operation Pershing in Binh Dinh Province, Major General John Norton, 1st Air Cavalry Division Commander, presented seven men of Charlie and Delta Companies, 2/5th Cav with "Impact" awards for valor displayed during the previous weeks.

At two, small, unnamed LZ's in the Nui Mieu Mountains south of Bong Son, General Norton presented SFC Alberto Cuellar, D Company, SSG Charles Dawson, D Company and SSG Jimmy Shoemaker, C Company with Silver Stars for valor displayed during the March 11th action.

SP/4 David Studstill, D Company PFC Jesse J. Togeant, C Company, SP/4 James A. Hickman, C Company, SSG Ronald Morrison, C Co, and SSG Shelton McComb, A Company with the Bronze Star with "V" Device for actions during the past weeks fighting.

Also attending were COL George W. Casey, 2d Brigade Commander, and LTC Robert D. Stevenson, 2/5th Cav Commander.

The Impact awards program is part of the Division's concern that acts of heroism be acknowledged as soon as possible. The awards are based on rapid recommendation and the Division Commander is empowered to make on-the-spot decorations as was done in this case.

- PERSHING -		
VC AND NVA KIA	- 255	BODY COUNT
CONFIRMED POWS	- 546	
CIVIL DEFENDANTS	- 331	
HOI CHANH	- 14	
2D BDE ENEMY TOTAL FOR 1967 - 1609		

LBJ PROPOSES 67 SERVICEMAN AND VETERAN'S ACT -

President Johnson has proposed to Congress "The Vietnam Conflict Servicemen and Veterans Act of 1967" which would increase educational allowances, pensions and government insurance.

The President said that members of the Armed Forces are fighting today and "it is essential that we convey to them--and to all Americans---our full recognition and gratitude for their service in Vietnam and in other troubled areas of the world.

The President made the following proposals:

1
That single Vietnam veterans receive a \$130 monthly subsistence allowance when using educational benefits instead of the current \$100. That married veterans continue to receive \$130 with \$10 monthly added for the second child and each additional child.

2
Provisions that any education time used to complete high school would not be charged against college eligibility earned, as is the case now.

3
A 5.4% increase in the pensions of 1.4 million veterans, widows and dependents, effective July 1.

4
An increase in the current \$10,000 government life insurance maximum to a minimum of \$12,000, "with high amounts scaled to the pay of the service man---up to a maximum of \$30,000."

5
Full wartime disability rates, including \$1,600 automobile grant to veterans with special disabilities.

UNSOLICITED MAIL BRINGS TROUBLE

Halt! Do not respond! They look too good to be true. They're traps for inexperienced service men.

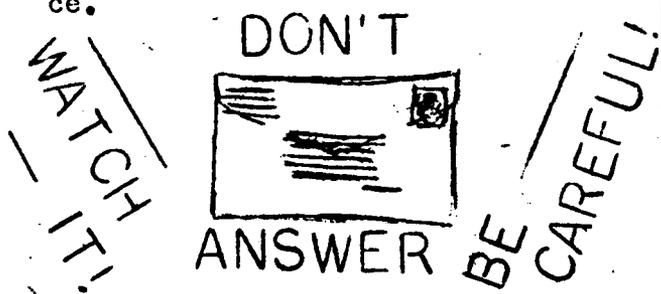
Beware of letters that contain ads like these.

Young lady interested in travel, sports, and music. Desires to communicate with persons ages 18-30 with similar interests.
(Name and address)

Attractive girl interested in life, servicemen, and correspondence. Will answer letters and exchange photos.
(Name and address)

The Dept. of the Army is aware of a growing volume of unsolicited correspondence sent to U.S. Army personnel on station throughout the world.

Individual servicemen should be made aware of the inherent dangers and be assisted by unit intelligence officers in determining the true motivations which may be involved in receipt of unsolicited correspondence.



In time of international crises the desire of the American public to establish or increase its direct communication with servicemen increases. However, since the right to disagree with government policy is an ingredient of the American Way of Life, any disloyal opponent of U.S. policy may attempt to use this right to undermine the morale of the

serviceman through the use of unsolicited correspondence.

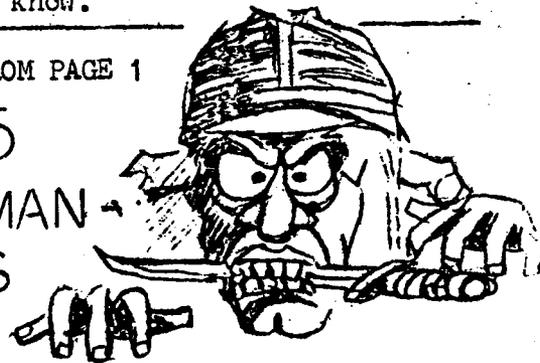
An insidious type of unsolicited correspondence is a letter in which the writer purports to have interests similar to the serviceman addressed. The letter contains a reasonable explanation as to how the serviceman's address was obtained and why he is being written.

Once an advertisement is answered by a serviceman, he is vulnerable to exploitation by hostile intelligence in the same way as by unsolicited correspondence.

All service personnel should be aware of the fact that while many people throughout the world admire and respect the American soldier and show this by letters of encouragement and moral support, there are people who will write to degrade and lower the morale of American service personnel and to obtain military information. Service personnel should correspond only with those persons who they know.

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

A 1/5 COMMAN DOES



pany was commissioned by the First Cavalry Division to test out two 15 foot, motor-powered boats in the inland waterways of the South China Sea on the eastern shore of the Bong Son Plain.

In the area of the test, a VC-infested territory, the water isn't deep enough for the boats in the day-time so the testing was done at night. At night the tide comes into the Tam Quan Harbor creating favorable conditions for the boats.

(CON'T Page 5)

SUPPORT THE 1ST CAV DIV ASSOCIATION

POSTING TIPS

Personnel in the combat zone have been authorized additional postal privileges by recent legislation.

In addition to the free letter privilege, we are authorized the following additional benefits.

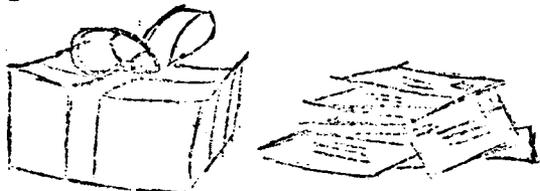
World-wide space available airlift for categories of mail listed below, when addressed to or mailed from any Armed Forces Post Office.

a) First Class letter mail (including postal and post cards).

b) Sound-recorded communication having the character of personal correspondence.

c) Parcels of any class, not exceeding five pounds in weight and 60 inches in length and girth combined. (not Airmail)

If in the combat zone or hospitalized at any location as a result of injury or disease incurred during service in Vietnam, you are authorized the "FREE" mailing privileges.



Under this system, write the word "FREE" in the upper right hand corner of the envelope.

Letters may be mailed from the combat zone to any foreign country free of postal charges. Such letter mail should be addressed in the normal manner and bear the sender's complete military return address.

These letters to foreign countries are NOT to be indorsed "FREE" by the sender. Instead, the words "POSTAGE PAID---PORT PAYE" must be mechanically printed or stamped in the upper right hand corner of the front of the envelope by the APO. Handwritten, handwriting, or typewritten marking is not authorized.

GENERAL WEST — HE SAYS GOOD THINGS —

Here are some comments from a letter General Norton, 1st Air Cavalry Division Commander received from Major General West of USCONARC after his recent visit to the First Team.

"I consider the morale and proficiency of your men to be truly outstanding. Never before has there been such a versatile and aggressive division."

Your hard fighting professionals are doing a marvelous job. As you know, I have had the opportunity to observe in some depth each division in Vietnam. My personal opinion is that yours is the best.

The proficiency and morale of your troopers," noted General West, "reflect favorably on the fine leadership exhibited by you and your officers."

General West's reference to the First Air Cavalry Division being the best in Vietnam indorses the professionalism of all officers and men in the Blackhorse Brigade.

The 1967 Edition of Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents includes provisions made during the last session of the 89th Congress. The booklet contains a list of regional offices where veterans should apply for benefits. The booklet is available for 20¢ from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402

Overseas U.S. servicemen may apply for withdrawal of their Uniform Services Savings Deposit immediately upon return to the United States or its possessions.

Soldiers wishing to withdraw overseas deposits should contact their nearest Army Finance Office.

1/5 OPNS (CONT. F. Page 1)

Since night operations for the 1/5 Cav consists mainly of ambushes and stealthy patrols, the loud motors were not used.

Under the leadership of the crafty, mustachioed, 1/Lt Roman Otto, a battle-wise veteran of ten months in the boonies, the 3rd Platoon's "water-borne commandos" as they are now known, split into two groups to begin the mission. Fifteen men per boat paddled noislessly away from the rest of the company.

Their mission was to travel towards a point to set up a night ambush. By traveling by water, they left no trace of their presence. When they reached the ambush site, it was discovered that the boats were too large to be easily hidden, so half the soldiers returned with the two boats while the other half set up the ambush. The next day, after an uneventful night, the 15 men of the new Blackhorse Navy returned on foot to the Command Post.

Due to its testing, A Company proved that the rubber boat is the safest, surest and quickest way to set up an ambush in the coastal area of the Pershing AO. It also proved the boats employed were too big to effectively camouflaged and that a smaller boat would have been ideal.

The motor concept wasn't used since the ambush places a lot of emphasis on silence and stealth.

2/5 CONTACT (CONT. FR. F. 1)

helped keep the VC's heads down. As the barrage of ARA lifted, the VC again opened up with AK's and SKS's.

Because of the intense fire and the exposed nature of C & D Companies' positions, they had to halt to consolidate their positions. As the fire fight grew in ferocity, both elements took casualties. Soon, the men began to advance up to the enemy's entrenchments with cover

from M-79 rounds and ARA which made repeated passes while the troops moved forward.

While the platoons were kept pinned down by the fire, CPT McInerney moved from position to position, encouraging his men and dragging wounded to safety.

As the fight continued, casualties mounted and SP/4's and PFC's commanded squads, SGT's commanded platoons and SFC Alberto Cuellar, a platoon sergeant, assumed command of Company D, when McInerney was killed and the 1st SGT wounded while attempting to drag some wounded to safety.

Company RTO, SP/4 Leo D. Rose also was to be seen in the areas of heaviest contact, dragging wounded to places of comparative safety.

The medics of the companies called for medevac, but the enemy fire was too much for the incoming choppers. The wounded needed attention and the soldiers in advanced positions were often called upon to administer first aid to themselves or their buddies.

One of these soldiers was PFC David Meninger, who attended SGT Gardner when he got it in the leg. "I helped him across a hedgerow, gave him first aid. Then he stopped breathing, I began to give him artificial respiration."

At this point, a VC interfered with his first aid. Grabbing a machine gun, the VC raked the area, hitting CPT McInerney and SP/4 Rose. Meninger was also hit. "I was laying there in the hedgerow waiting for medevac. Then suddenly, I don't know what got into me, I got up and ran as hard as I could to the other side. Then Charlie tried to finish us off, but didn't quite make it."

As the darkness gathered in the hills, the firing slackened and the choppers came in for the wounded.

Charlie had got in his licks, but left 41 of his own dead on the battlefield.

NO

PAGE 6

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MEDALS TO MYERS, 2/5 LT. GETS TWO

The Platoon Leader of the 2d Platoon, A Company, 2/5th Cav, 1/LT Raymond G. Myers received a Soldiers Medal and the Bronze Star with "V" at a ceremony held at LZ No Name #2. The Soldiers Medal was for action during Operation Paul Revere II, and the Bronze Star was for actions in Operation Pershing.

The awards were presented by LTC Robert D. Stevenson, Battalion Commander.

During Operation Pershing, the 2d Platoon came under murderous enemy fire while at LZ No Name #1, located about 8,000 meters north of LZ English. LT Myers, without regard to his own safety, braved the intense fire and dragged three of his wounded men to safety continuously exposing himself to enemy fire.

BLACKHORSE

COL.
GEORGE

W.

CASEY



Colonel George W. Casey, who graduated from the USMA in 1945 with a Bachelor of Science Degree and a commission as a 2d Lieutenant of Infantry in the Regular Army, was born and raised in Boston, Mass. He attended the Boston Latin School and then Harvard University for one year before entering the United States Military Academy.

Colonel Casey's assignments include service with the 11th Airborne Division as platoon leader, company commander, staff officer, and Aide-de-Camp to the Division Commander, then Major General L.L. Lemnitzer. Later he was Secretary of the General Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps, at Fort Bragg, N.C.

During the Korean War, COL Casey served as "I" Company Commander with the 31st Infantry Regiment at Heartbreak Ridge and later as Regimental S-3. For action during this conflict, COL Casey received the Silver Star. He also wears the Combat Infantryman's Badge w/Star, the Master Parachutist Badge and the General Staff Badge.

More recent assignments include two years in Germany where he commanded a battalion of the 39th Infantry for three months and the 3rd Brigade of the 8th Infantry for 21 months. COL Casey has served two tours on the Army General Staff at the Pentagon, first in the Office of the Chief of Staff for Logistics and second in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations.

COL Casey has attended the National War College, the Command and General Staff College and the Advanced Infantry Officer's Course. He holds an MA in International Relations from Georgetown University and an MBA from George Washington University.

Prior to his assignment to the 1st Air Cavalry Division, COL Casey was the Army representative at the Annual Seminar of Harvard University's Center for International Affairs. He assumed command of the 2d Brigade on 14 October 1966.

PUBLISHED EVERY 2 WKS
(or sooner)

- BRIGADE COMMANDER
COL George W. Casey
- 1/5TH CAVALRY COMMANDER
LTC James H. Mapp
- 2/5TH CAVALRY COMMANDER
LTC Robert D. Stevenson
- 2/12TH CAVALRY COMMANDER
LTC William J. Buchanan
- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
1/LT Paul F. Stabile
- NEWS EDITOR
SP/4 James W. Roberts
- ARTIST
SP/4 Rick Kuehri

BLACKHORSE
HOOFBEATS

LOOK WHAT I SAW. GOOD DEAL, NO?

For a long time the 2d Brigade and its B Company, 3th Engineer supporters experienced trouble when it came to clearing LZ's quickly in the hard-wood forests of the Central Highlands.

The red-like mahogany and teak trees were so tough that the chain saws used took a long time to cut through the trees, if they did so at all, without breaking down.

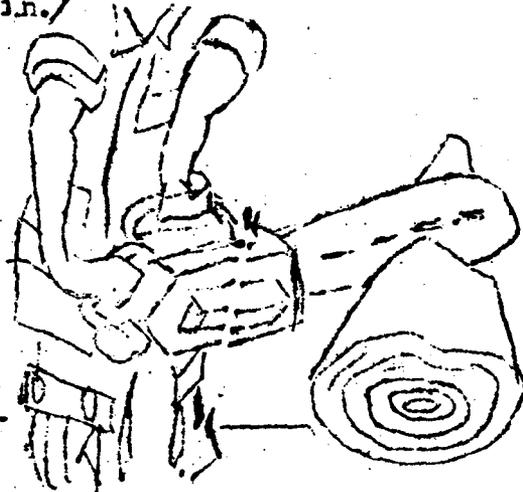
Recently Major Ed Langbein, the 2d Brigade S-4, one day noticed an ad in a stateside magazine that advertised a chain saw which reportedly could slice through a 15" log of the hardest wood in 10 seconds.

He wrote a letter to the Home-lite Manufacturing Company in Port Chester, New York (a firm that makes chain saws, pumps and generators) asking for one of the advertised chain saws for a real test.

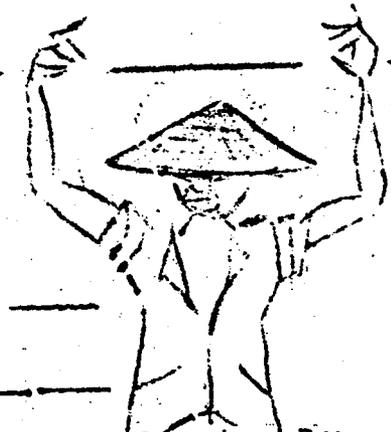
A short time later, Major Langbein received a letter from Mr. Eugene Casey saying that a new XL-800 chain saw was on the way for the test, free of charge.

Now, after three months of continuous combat use in clearing LZ's for Blackhorse Troopers, the XL-800 is still running as smoothly as ever and slicing through large trees like a sharp razor through fine silk.

"You might say we made out very well on that deal," said Major Langbein.



CHEIU HOI



The Cheiu Hoi or Open Arms Program was formally proclaimed on 17 April 1967 with the intention of encouraging VC and NVA to give up with their present lot to come over to the side of the Government of Vietnam and their American allies.

Why support the program? One: Each VC who turns himself in under this program is one less armed enemy you have to hunt, fight, kill or capture. A Cheiu Hoi is one less VC or NVA to worry about.

Two: Returnees also weaken the enemy's morale. When large numbers of VC defect, doubt is created in the ranks, defection grows and the enemy as a unit, loses strength.

Three: The returnee is a valuable source of intelligence, even more so than the normal POW because he has voluntarily come to your side of the war.

Millions of safe conduct passes have been dropped over South and North Vietnam. These safe conduct passes are designed to make it possible for the VC to feel assured of safe conduct and humane treatment when he decides to return to the Government of Vietnam.

The results of this campaign are significant. Last year, 21,000 VC rallied to the government. Honor the safe conduct pass. Mistreatment to prisoners drastically hurts this important program. If the Hoi Chanh (Cheiu Hoi rallier) cannot be safe using the pass, the program is worth little.

The success of the program depends on you, the individual Blackhorse trooper.