

SECOND BRIGADE

BLACKHORSE HOOF BEATS



ISSUE # 14

13 JULY 1967

26 July 1967

PROMOTION TO BRIGADE CO

2/12 CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 13 July 1967, LTC Fred E. Karhohs, the Commanding Officer of the Blackhorse Brigade, had the eagle of a "Full Bird" Colonel pinned on his collar by the 1st Air Cavalry Division Commanding General, MG John J. Tolson. COL Karhohs has been in command of the 2d Brigade

1/5 FINDS VC BASE CAMP

The Delta Goats, 1st Bn, 5th Cavalry, finally ended their extended period of inactivity last week with a short, but successful operation northwest of LZ Hammond. The company actually had contact with only a single sniper, but the discovery of a VC base camp gave them a great deal of satisfaction.

The base camp was discovered during a search of a mountain where VC were suspected to be active. One flank element of the 2nd Platoon, led by Sergeant Tefft, came across a single spider hole along a trail that was originally not considered worth exploring. However, after this OP was (CON'T ON PAGE 10)

Lieutenant Colonel William J. Buchanan, who served the 2nd Bn 12th Cavalry as the commanding officer for over five months, proudly relinquished the battalion's colors to the new unit commander, Lieutenant Colonel A.C. Ross, who comes to the Cav from the Army War College, in a brief ceremony at the 3d Brigade Forward Command Post in Kontum on the 21st of July.

The "First Team's" Commanding General, MG John J. Tolson, was present to award LTC Buchanan several decorations for valor and achievement, including the Legion of Merit, a Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross. The Legion of Merit was presented for LTC Buchanan's outstanding performance of duties as G3 Operations Officer, INFV; DCO of the 2d Bde, (CON'T ON PAGE 10)



since 31 March, holding a colonel's slot as a lieutenant colonel for 2 1/2 months. BG George S. Blanchard, the Assistant Division Commander, who was also at the ceremony at LZ Uplift, congratulated COL Karhohs on his well-deserved promotion.

The officers and men of the 2d Brigade extend their congratulations to their "Full Bird" Commander.

NOT THIS PAGE EITHER

RVN SHARP IN CARD GAME

While securing a project on Highway 1, the men of the 3rd platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, found that they weren't the only ones securing the project. A squad of South Vietnamese soldiers were also there to help in any way they could.

As the morning hours turned into the afternoon hours, the language barrier had somewhat been broken, with the Vietnamese soldiers picking up our language a lot faster than the GI's could pick up theirs.

A deck of cards was brought out and right away the eager minds of the Vietnamese soldiers wanted to match their best player against the best of the "3rd Herd" - in one of "our" games.

Sergeant Tony Martin was chosen to hold up the American tradition of fast shuffling, quick dealing and the ability to win at any card game.

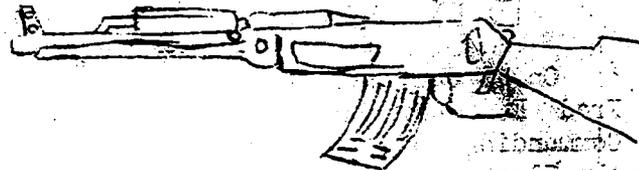


A few hours later, the platoon had lost all of its C-rations, most of its cigarettes, what junk they could scrape up in their pockets; and SGT Martin had to throw in the towel he had around his neck.

The Vietnamese soldiers, feeling sorry for SGT Martin, gave him a red scarf to show their friendship and as a reminder to the platoon of the quick ability the Vietnamese people have for picking up the ways of the GI.

KNOW THE ENEMY

For the... 26...
"Know the enemy" is a phrase that they hear and then proceed to forget. A basic knowledge of the enemy's culture, language, politics and military tactics is not only desirable but essential for our success. An understanding of his weapons system can give you further insight into his character. A great deal has been said about the mainstay of his light weapons system, the AK-47, and how it compares with the performance of the M-16 but it is not the intent of this article to do many comparing other than that of characteristics.



The Avtomat Kalashnikov, which is commonly called the AK-47 and has frequently been called a submachine gun is actually an assault rifle. It has replaced the PPSh #1943 submachine guns in the Soviet service, but it is not entirely practical to class it the AK, which fires rifle-type cartridges, with submachine guns, which fire pistol cartridges. The AK will group into 6 inches at 100 yards; this is about average for a military rifle at that range.

The weapon is made almost completely from milled steel components, few stampings being used. The AK is made in two versions, one using a folding metal stock. The AK is replacing the SKS carbine as the principal shoulder weapon produced by the Soviet Union and its satellites. The AK-47 is caliber 7.62 mm (1943 cartridge), system of operation: gas, selective fire, weight: 10 1/2 lb; banana, staggered-row, detachable box magazine; sights-front: protected post, rear: tangent leaf w/open V notch, graduated from 1 to 8 m w/battle-sight; muzzle velocity: 2329 f/s; cyclic rate of fire 600 RPM.

2/12
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2/12 AIDMAN RECEIVES AWARDS

Since the Second Brigade has been operating in Vietnam, valor and bravery have been exhibited many times in actions by individual Skytroopers, and recognized with appropriate awards. Certain individuals stand out from this select group and continue to exhibit exceptional valor and bravery in any combat situation. Such is the case of SP/4 Dallas W. Crump of Lenoir, North Carolina, who has earned a Silver Star, and a Bronze Star with "V" device on separate occasions for heroism.



SP/4 Crump, an aidman for Company A, 2nd Battalion 12th Cav, earned his Silver Star in an action near the village of My Tho, on the 17th of January. A small patrol in which he was a member was attacked by an enemy force. SP/4 Crump distinguished himself by killing one of the enemy at a distance of less than three feet. The enemy withdrew with the patrol in close pursuit, and contact was re-established. An enemy grenade wounded three Skytroopers, and Crump pushed forward through intense small arms fire to render aid to the casualties. Although the tempo of the battle increased Crump performed an emergency tracheotomy to restore the breathing of one of the casualties, and then cared for the other two wounded men.

A few months later in an area near the village of Leiu An, SP/4 Crump earned his Bronze Star. Company A was moving across an open area when they received heavy automatic weapons fire. The company commander received a mortal wound in the initial burst of fire, and a carrying party was formed to bring his body out. While trying to retrieve the body, several members of the party were wounded. SP/4 Crump



crawled from his position of relative safety under intense enemy fire and treated the casualties. After first aid was given, the medic then carried one of the casualties to safety.

In these actions SP/4 Crump has demonstrated not only extreme valor, but a high degree of professionalism.

LAWN LIKE VELVET

SP5 Robert Young of HHC, 2d Bn, 5th Cav after 10 months of supervising others in the fine art of grass cutting with a grass whip and machete began thinking of home and how nice it would be to be able to cut grass with a lawn mower. Not one to let well enough alone he decided to build "A better mouse trap" or more to the point a better lawn mower.

The building materials he obtained from the salvage yard, and they included an aerial target frame, tent poles, engineer stakes, scooter wheels, an assortment of screws and bolts and a 1 1/2 power engine. Not having a set of blue prints it was mostly a matter of trial and error. As SP5 Young had had a good deal of experience as a pipe fitter and inspector in civilian life and had used a welding and cutting



torch, it eliminated a lot of error and it was only a matter of days until the lawn mower became a reality.

Now instead of the clash, clank of machettes against the ground, only the smooth hum of a power lawn mower can be heard. The changing of the appearances of the grass to a country club type lawn will surely bring about a home-like atmosphere.

BDE LOSES DCO, GAINS SGM

4

Commander of 1st Bn Edward L. Pierce, the Brigade Deputy Commander, takes over the 1st Battalion 7th Cavalry which is now operating in the An Lao Valley. LTC Pierce has served as DCO since coming to the 1st Air Cavalry in February 1967. The Skytroopers, of the Blackhorse Brigade wish LTC Pierce good hunting in his command.

SGM Lory Bell has just joined the 2nd Brigade as its Sergeant Major. He comes to the 1st Cav from an ROTC assignment at Henderson State College in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. SGM Bell previously served with the 1st Air Cav in 1964 - again with the 2nd Brigade.

COMMUNICATION

The mission of a battalion communications section is primarily to furnish the commander and staff with tactical radio communications from company to battalion and battalion to brigade. In pursuit of this mission, the 2nd Bn 5th Cavalry has found it necessary to insert a manual radio station on key terrain features. A relay is inserted when it is ascertained a company will have marginal or no communications with battalion.



A relay team will normally consist of three men, two PRC/25 radios and two 292 antennas, giving them the capability of relaying for two nets. The relay is located strategically at a position that will effect maximum radio communications. It is very rare when a relay is not needed, and on occasion it has been necessary to establish two relay sites.

~~WADSWORTH~~
~~WADSWORTH~~
SSG Johnson, SP4 Anderson, SP4 Tinkey, SP4 Richardson and SP4 Winkel have borne the majority of the relay work for the 2/5th Cav. On many occasions it has been necessary for the team to "hump" with the company - an arduous task, considering the weight of the antennas, radio and packs.

Without radios the battalion could not function tactically. The importance of having a knowledgeable repair team, to insure uninterrupted communications is immeasurable. The section has been fortunate in having two of the finest repairmen, SGT Richard Adams and SP5 Michael Mulholland. These two repair all commo equipment, requisition all parts and batteries, and maintain the PLL with associated forms and registers. Although four men are authorized, these two men have taken up the slack and have never given anything less than one-hundred per cent. As every commander knows, an operation is only as good as the coordination between elements, through lines of communications, and 2/5 Cav's commo section keeps these lines open.

1/77 NCO GETS COMMISSION

Staff Sergeant David R. Rick, the Forward Observer attached to Bravo Company, 1st Bn 5th Cavalry has earned a direct commission as a 2d Lieutenant in the artillery. Lt. Rich joined the Army in August, 1961. He served with the 82nd Airborne Division in the Dominican Republic. Lieutenant Rich has been in Vietnam since December 1966 and has been "on the Hill" most of his tour. He was wounded on 21 June 1967 during operations in the Suoi Ca Mountain area, and is currently recovering at Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii. His promotion orders came through his parent unit, 1/77th Artillery on the 10th of July.

LETTER HOME

Dear To,
new the bin's MCO. Charlie
Alpha into a pack. No this morning. I
went on the first lift or allows
right off the preparation. Luckily the
line Julia the Green. The rest of the
company came in on hooks behind us.
Then s didn't start off too well as I
couldn't get a commo check with C5.
Finally got them like Charlie after
changing the bravo in a tempo and
putting on the whip. It was sure hot
kumping the hooches with that homeo
all day. Every time we were in a
thicket, Big 6 would call for a sit
rep and cigar.

At 1300 the Echo Mike with the
scout dog on the point saw some Victor
Charlies dee-deeing across a paddie
toward some hooches. We put some M-16
and Mike 79er on them with negative
results. The Charlie Charlie came
over and called in Rash who got us an
Alpha Sierra. We watched the 100's do
their stuff with the napes and frags.
We got into the village without get-
ting zapped and found 4 KIA's and po-
liced up 2 Papa Oscar whiskeys. They
were WIA so duster had to medevac them.

We set up our company FOB for the
night and got our packs and hots log-
ged in. Things have quieted down now
as the FO (he's a Red Leg) has got the
Delta Charlies fired in and the LP's
and trick-or-treats have gone out.
Time for me to get some sack.

Your loving son,

Rufus

P.S. Mon, I hope some of these mili-
tary terms don't confuse you.

THE SLOT

Whenever a 1st Lieutenant is giv-
en a position that calls for a Cap-
tain, it is a sure sign that the indi-
vidual is indeed quite capable and has
leadership qualities beyond those nor-

inally held by an officer of his rank
and his service. 1ST LT Rufus
Gabel, 1st Lt, Officer of B Com-
pany, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav was this type of
individual. In the recent Pershing Op-
eration he was awarded the Silver Star
for his part in defeating enemy at-
tempts to over-run the company line
by his physical presence and assistance
throughout the entire battle.

He arrived in country July 1966
and was assigned to A Company as a
platoon leader. Following this he was
assigned to HHC, 2d Bn, 5th Cav as
Public Information Officer and Build-
ing and Grounds Officer. The 2d Bn,
5th Cav enjoyed extensive news cover-
age and public attention because of
1LT Gabel's efforts.

Following his accomplishments in
A Company and HHC he was assigned as
platoon leader with B Company and then
was reassigned as XO with D Company.
He has been awarded the Bronze Star
and Air Medal plus the Purple Heart.

MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME

"It's a small world" is often the
understatement of the year when career
men of the Army get together. SGM Jay
Copely of Asland, Kentucky, 1SG
Francisco Garcia of Elizabeth, Kentuc-
ky and 1SG Hershel Mullins of Pike-
ville, Kentucky, all HHC, 2d Bn, 5th
Cav, have more in common than just
their Kentucky homes. 1SG Garcia and
1SG Mullins were both promoted to E-8
on the same set of orders in January
1962. 1SG Garcia was 1SG Mullins re-
placement at Ft. Knox Kentucky in Jan-
uary 1965, and now 1SG Mullins is re-
placing 1SG Garcia as "Top" of HHC, 2d
Bn, 5th Cav. SGM Copely and 1SG Mul-
lins were neighbors at Ft. Knox and
old friends. Said 1SG Garcia upon be-
ing replaced by 1SG Mullins "I hope
that 1SG Mullins continues the cycle
and replaces me at Ft. Dix so I can be
reassigned to Ft. Knox."

SECURITY PLATOON

Patrols, LP's, an acting Ready Reactionary Force, ambushes, and security, these are the numerous tasks that the HHC, 2nd Brigade Security Platoon performs daily.

Leading the 28 "short timers" is 2Lt Michael M. Kopaczewski, the platoon sergeant is SSG Felix Sanchez. The Security Platoon is primarily made up of men from 2nd Brigade line companies. When the men arrive in the Security Platoon they usually have three months left in country; they're short.

The Security Platoon runs daily patrols around the surrounding area of LZ Uplift and puts out an LP and ambushes nightly.

SSG Sanchez, who has just completed his 26th month in RVN and is preparing to go home next month, stated, "We are much better equipped now and ready to engage the enemy any time any place."

ICE CREAM FROM FIRE

Do cooks have a sense of humor? If they happen to be SFC Charles L. Johnson of Miami, Florida and SSG Rosali R. Ortiz of San Juan, Puerto they do. Both are from HHC, 2d Bn, 5th Cav. Besides turning out the best chow around they never miss a chance to obtain a laugh.

A friendly bet was made between SFC Johnson and SSG Ortiz that it would be possible to make ice cream with fire. The other cooks were assembled and an individual suitable for this task was selected, that individual being SP5 Donald Jones, 1st cook. SP5 Jones paid great attention to SFC Johnson's instructions and began the task with great zeal, convinced that ice cream could be obtained from an ordeal by fire. First he spent 2½ hours digging a 4x4 foot pit and buried the ice cream mixture, then he saturated the ground with gasoline and



lit it. The theory of the procedure being that the fire would draw the air from the ground creating below freezing temperatures and thus freeze the ice cream mix. Three hours later SP5 Jones began digging and as he reached for the can a comment was heard from the crowd that they saw frost on the can. He, then, proceeded to open the container and the broad grin on his face became as liquid as the contents of the can. And thus were SFC Johnson and SSG Ortiz able to prove that if the lid is convincing you can fool most of the people some of the time.

BLACK HORSE OFFICERS' CLUB

Recently the 1/5th Black Knight's Officers' Club made an honorary member of a reptilian grade officer. He doesn't pay his dues but enjoys the accommodations provided behind the refrigerator. SSG "Big Daddy" Allen feeds the member an array of gourmets including "Hoties", Old Grand Dad, and potato sticks. Each night the officers and enlisted men of the battalion eagerly await the free entertainment as the "you" lizard serenades the customers with a well known chorus. His dialect is unknown but it's for sure he's not a VC as he reappears too often in the same place. He's assured a lifetime membership in the organization, but who knows the lifespan of a "you" lizard???

THE CLEANEST PIG IN TOWN

SSG Roy N. Akin of Rockwall, Texas is a man who has some very special qualifications for the job of S-5, 2d Bn, 5th Cav. Prior to his coming to Vietnam he was with Special Forces, where he had been cross-trained in many fields among them advanced medical training and pharmacy. He is also a senior parachutist and is "halo" qualified (high altitude low opening). He has been in the Army 5 years and in Vietnam for 11 months having also served with 1st (Airborne) Bn, 12th Cav prior to his coming to 2d Bn, 5th Cav.



On his daily rounds of the villages surrounding LZ Uplift he treats an average of 150 individuals a week. Treatment is for anything from small cuts to minor surgery. Recently he treated a small boy who had 3d degree burns on 40% of his body caused by a hand-flare. SSG Akin's quick action and medical knowledge saved the boy's life.

One incident that SSG Akin recalls with relish was a visit paid to one of the villages where a small boy had a bad case of open sores. The S-5 medic gave the mother a bar of soap and instructed her to clean out the room where the boy slept, remove the pig from the house and wash the boy well with soap. Upon his return he noticed that the room had been cleaned but the boy was outside and the pig had been scrubbed down and was in the cleaned room.

Of course this is the exception and not the rule as can be noted by the success S-5 has had with the villages they have serviced. SSG Akin said that although it seems that at times there is a never ending line of sick, he feels that he has been well rewarded whenever he sees a patient who has recovered and says thanks with a smile.

C 1/77

CHANGES COMMAND

On 11 July 1967 Captain Fred R. Pope relinquished command of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery. He commanded the unit since December 1966 and had led it during the fighting of Operations Thayer II, Pershing and Greeley. The battery is currently supporting the 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry in the Kontum area. Captain Pope is being transferred to Fort Sill where he will attend the Officer's Career Course. His successor is Captain Edgar D. Maddox. Captain Maddox's last assignment was as an instructor at the Ordnance School at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland.

<h1>BLACKHORSE</h1>	
BRIGADE COMMANDER	
MAJ Fred E. Karhofs	
DEPUTY BRIGADE COMMANDER	
MAJ Edward E. Langbein, Jr.	
1/5TH CAVALRY COMMANDER	
LTC Daniel S. Rickard	
2/5TH CAVALRY COMMANDER	
LTC Joseph C. McDonough	
2/12TH CAVALRY COMMANDER	
LTC Marion G. Boss	
1/77TH ARTILLERY COMMANDER	
MAJ George R. Dawson	
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF	
2/LT William E. Witscher	
NEWS EDITOR	
SP4 Frank Cocchiarella	
ARTIST	
PFC Steven Singer	
<h1>HOOFS BEATS</h1>	

A LEGEND BEGINS

the story of Company B, 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry and how it got the name, "Mongoose Bravo."

In May 1966, a detachment of the 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division, was engaged with a large enemy force near Duc Co, in the Republic of Vietnam and was in danger of being over-run. At this time an air strike was called in on the enemy positions but the napalm bombs hit off target pinning the unit down between the burning area and the enemy. Company B, 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry came to the rescue.

Though the enemy had become poised for the kill like the deadly cobra, Bravo Company came through on the enemy's flank and attacked with the ferocity of the mongoose, forcing the enemy force to break contact and flee with many casualties. The airborne unit was saved and described the battle as that of a cobra and mongoose.



Since that time, Company B has become known as "Mongoose Bravo," killers of the most deadly enemy, the cobra-like Viet Cong and NVA forces. "Mongoose Bravo", now under the command of Captain Edgar J. Findeisen, continues to live up to its name to this day as evidenced by its decisive victory over the 7th Battalion, 18th NVA Regiment in Van Thiem on 21 June 1967. Company B, though outnumbered and fighting on unfavorable terrain, nevertheless defeated the enemy killing 96 NVA soldiers by body count and destroying the 7th Battalion as a fighting force.

"Mongoose Bravo" proudly displays its heritage as can be seen on the company area, individuals' uniforms and the company area. The unit has a giant "Mongoose Bravo" plaque in front of its orderly room with the following inscription: "Cobra is the deadliest of all snakes.... Mongoose kills C...." The orderly room also displays a stuffed replica of the mongoose and cobra in mortal combat.

The legend of "Mongoose Bravo" will continue to grow as more stories are told. Who knows where else?

2/12 BACKS UP "GARRY OWEN" BDE

After completing operations in the New Dak To area, under the direction of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 2nd Battalion 12th Cav moved further east into Kontum Province. The unit will once again be under the operational control of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. The "Garry Owen" Brigade has established its forward headquarters near the city of Kontum, and controls the 2/12, two other infantry battalions, an aviation company and supporting artillery.

The mission conducted in the area will be part of the 4th Division's "Operation Horace Greeley". This operation is intended to restrict the flow of enemy troops infiltrating through this area. The 2/12th is conducting search and destroy missions aimed at the NVA regiment in the Dak Aoi secret base area.

This is the second major move by the battalion and although little time was available for planning and packing, the move was accomplished without a hitch by the "Always Prepared" battalion.

"DO IT YOURSELF..."

SF5 Gerald S. Sniezyk, a line medic with A Company, 2d Bn, 5th Cav has been in country 11 months and has handled quite a few unusual cases but none quite like a recent one.

A Company had just completed a search and destroy operation along the coastal waters of the Bong Son Plains and had pulled into a tight perimeter for the evening. The men began clearing fields of fire and setting up camp when SF5 Sniezyk heard the all too familiar word "medic" ringing in his ear. Recovering his composure he came to the realization that the word had come from his own lips and he was the owner of a nasty gash on the hand received by a glancing blow of a machete. Reporting to the company medic SF5 Charles E. Halimon, also of Detroit, Michigan, he received first aid and a snort lecture for not doing it himself. Said SF5 Sniezyk in reply, "After 11 months of treating other people I wanted to see what the shoe felt like on the other foot".

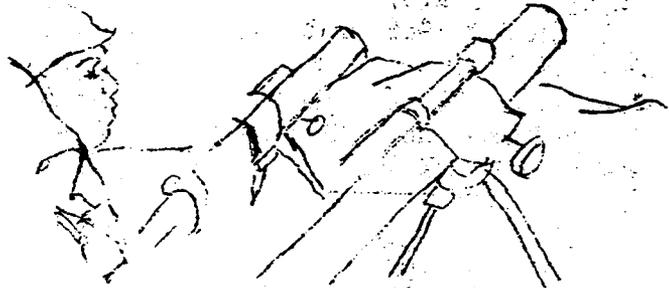
WEAPONS PLATOON

Company C 1/5 has long been an outstanding unit among the Black Knight Battalion. The commander, Captain Joseph Lyttle, has taken on the fighting unit and continued to make Charlie Company formidable.

One important platoon within the company is the mortar-recoilless rifle section. Their effectiveness has been proven, many times over. One example goes back into the month of February at LZ English; the enemy was beaten badly there and is still licking his wounds.

To be effective there is a continued need for alertness and accuracy. Once a mortar mission is called every member has an assigned duty to perform. An FDC man computes the data which he in turn gives to the gun crew. Data computed and mortar tube ready to fire has been timed to within 50 seconds from initial start of the fire mission from the FO. Practice

and more practice is a daily routine for the crews. Being ready 24 hours a day, the mortar crew has to hang along with the rest of the company, which means they'll carry their own personal gear plus plenty of ammo to provide fire support: four rounds plus gear can bring even the biggest man down to his knees crossing rice paddy dikes.



When in the perimeter the mortar-men have to dig a gun-pit, prepare foxholes, as well as pull maintenance on their own gear and weapons. They provide men for details which are always a part of a functioning company from day to day. A recoilless rifle section, which usually consists of five men, is provided to the line platoons and helps man the perimeter. This 90 mm recoilless rifle is a direct fire weapon which can destroy any target up to one thousand meters.

These two sections round out the infantry company which has proven to be so vital in Vietnam.

BODY COUNT		_____
OPERATION		_____
PERSHING		_____
11 FEB-11 July		25 July
KIA	_____510_____	_____519
POMS	_____798_____	_____803
INDIV POMS	_____192_____	_____201
CREMED W/NS	_____40_____	_____40

CHANGE OF COMMAND

(CONT FROM PAGE 1)

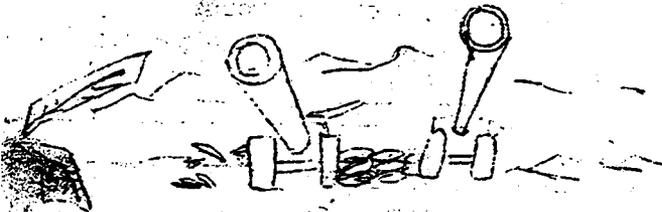
1st Air Cav, and CO of the 2/12th. The Silver Star came as a result of gallantry on 20 March 1967, when he commanded a multi-company force that inflicted heavy losses on an NVA unit.

The outgoing Sergeant Major, Donald, presented the "Always Prepared" unit's colors to LTC Buchanan, who transferred them to MG Tolson. Tolson then presented the colors and the command to LTC Ross, who in turn passed them to the new Bn Sergeant Major, J. Freeman.

LOG

Second Brigade logistical support is provided by the 4th Forward Support Element, headed by Captain David Saunders. This element was organized when the 1st FSE was moved west to Kontum to support the 3rd Brigade. It has been furnishing all logistical support to the 2nd Brigade since July, 1967.

BIG TUBES



The Blackhorse Brigade once again has the block-busting support of 8 inch artillery. Bravo Battery, 7th Battalion 15th Artillery has just moved in to LZ Uplift and already has fired hundreds of rounds in support of the Sixtroopers. Coming from Phu Cat these self-propelled howitzers can move quickly anywhere in the brigade AO to bring devastating firepower on Charlie, no matter how well dug-in he is. Commanding the battery is Captain Donald M. Houston.

CHARLIE CHARLIE GOES DOWN

Late in the evening of 11 July the 2/12 Charlie Charlie was struck by enemy small arms fire which caused it to smash into a brush-covered hillside killing three and injuring three of its occupants. The accident occurred 23 miles north east of Kontum.

The aircraft was on an aerial reconnaissance mission surveying the general area in which the Battalion planned to conduct operations the following day. Survivors of the crash said they received small arms fire from snipers which struck the aircraft. The pilot remained partially in control of the ship and attempted to guide it to an emergency landing. The ship failed to slow down, however. Reports of the emergency were received from the pilot prior to the crash and within minutes Company D had air-assaulted into the area to provide security for the evacuation of the casualties.

The loss of the aircraft was a devastatingly felt within the Battalion officers and enlisted men alike.

COMPANY D 1/5

(CONT FROM PAGE 1)

uncovered, further investigation revealed the base camp a short distance down the trail.

The camp consisted of numerous shelter and fighting positions concealed beneath rock formations. There were several fires in which the ashes were still warm indicating that Charlie just missed having unexpected guests for supper. "Charlie must have left in quite a hurry", stated Captain Alvin B. Johnson, "because he left us 150 pounds of rice, a claymore mine, field packs, clothing, M-16 and .45 rounds, and several valuable documents."