

Hong Cong Mountain—Home Of The Brave



NEWLY-ARRIVED SKYTROOPERS UPON ENTERING THE FIRST TEAM'S BASE CAMP ARE FASCINATED BY HONG CONG MOUNTAIN—SYMBOLIC OF CAV.

Historical Cav 46 Years Old Today



Vol. 2, No. 42

1st Air Cavalry Division

September 13, 1967

Cav Still Follows Pattern

What elephants were to Hannibal, what airpower was to Mitchell, what tanks were to Patton, so the airmobile concept has been to the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

The formula for victory has changed little across the pages of military history. Success belongs to the most effective combination of firepower, mobility and shock action—getting there first with the most.

In two years in Vietnam, the First Team has not changed this pattern. Rather they have enlarged upon it, refined it, sophisticated it.

Molded from the experimental 11th Assault Division and the 2nd Infantry Division, the 1st Air Cavalry assumed the colors and history of the Korean-based 1st Cavalry Division in July of 1965.

Though helicopters had been used by the Army long before, the 1st Air Cavalry was the military's only all-helicopter division. Helicopters would lift Cav personnel into battle, provide fire support, reinforce and re-supply the troops and, when necessary, evacuate them.

After only 90 days' preparation, the 1st Air Cavalry Division (Continued on Back Page)



FIRST ARRIVALS—Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division get first look at Vietnam in 1965 as troopship steams toward Qui Nhon before embarking to An Khe.

Cavalrymen Still Hard Core Troops

The helicopter and M-16 have replaced the horse, saber and breech-loaded Springfield rifle, but the Cavalryman still responds to the cry "Saddle up!"

Across 181 years of recorded history the core of the 1st Air Cavalry Division—the individual soldier—has changed little. The man who is driving the Communists out of Vietnam's Central Highlands is the same rugged, determined, and professionally qualified soldier that opened the American West in the 1800's.

It was these same Cavalry Regiments that settled the Old West—the 1st, 3th, 7th, and 8th—that originally made up the 1st Cavalry Division when the unit was activated on September 13, 1921, making it 46 years old today.

These units brought with them a proud military history written on the battlefields of the Indian Wars. Descendants of these mounted units are still integral to the 1st Air Cavalry Division today.

Probably the most publicized of these regiments was the 7th Cavalry. Activated in 1866 at Ft. Riley, Kansas, this is the unit that General George A. Custer immortalized when he and his "Gary Owen" troopers fought to the death against the Sioux (Continued on Back Page)

Victory Without Fighting

The 1st Air Cavalry Division won its first battle in Vietnam without firing a shot.

Two years ago this week, some 900 1st Cav advance party troops moved out from their temporary puppet city near the old An Khe airstrip to begin an hour-long march to the jungle-covered area now known as the Golf Course.

Carrying their weapons and whatever brush-clearing tools (Continued on Back Page)

... General's Address On 46th Anniversary

On the occasion of the forty-sixth anniversary of the 1st Cavalry Division and the second anniversary of the 1st Air Cavalry Division in the Republic of Vietnam, it is with great pleasure that I extend heartiest congratulations to all Skytroopers of the FIRST TEAM.

The deeds of Cavalrymen throughout the Indian Wars, the Mexican Conflict of 1916-17, World War II, the Korean War, and in Vietnam will always be remembered. New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon, the Korean Offensive, and now Ia Drang, Chu Pong, Phu My, Crescent, Bong Son, and An Lao are names that are permanently etched into the history of the FIRST TEAM in the U.S. Army.

I am confident that this long and rich heritage will continue, as will the great accomplishments of all members of the FIRST TEAM.

JOHN J. TOLSON
Major General, USA
Commanding

Three Generals Carry On Cav Tradition

By SP4 MIKE LARSON

Three major generals have commanded the 1st Air Cavalry during its first two years in Vietnam.

Major General Harry William Osborne Kinnard headed the First Team's arrival in Vietnam during September of 1963. He was replaced by Major General John Norton in April, 1966. Major General John J. Tolson, the current commanding general, assumed control in April of 1967.

Kinnard commanded the 1st Air Cavalry and its organization antecedent, the 11th Air Assault Division, for 38 months.

"He took a tactical concept," said an early CAVALAIR, "molded it into operational reality, and then led it through combat for its ultimate test."

An inspiration to his men at work, Kinnard also encouraged fun. He traded at his with Hape during a USO show; and, after he injured his left eye and re-



GENERAL KINNARD

quired an eye pad, Kinnard designed a black patch with the cavalry crest squarely in the middle of it.

Norton, a World War II airborne veteran who had commanded a battle group during 1949 and 1950 with the old 1st Cav in Korea, returned to the



GENERAL NORTON

1st Cav in April, 1946. His units continued to harass and decimate Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army units.

In Vietnam, Norton encouraged airborne infantry brigades in swarms of aircraft to deal swift, deadly blows to the enemy, a concept recommended



GENERAL TOLSON

by the Howze Board when Norton served on it as an executive member. The effectiveness of this air assault concept has been proven daily by the 1st Cav.

Tolson, who had been commanding general at the U.S. Aviation Center and Commandant at the Army Aviation

School, Fort Rucker, Alabama, took over the 1st Air Cavalry helm in April of this year.

A 1937 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Tolson had helped activate the 94th Parachute Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia, following the outbreak of World War II.

Tolson carried on the 1st Cav tradition soon after he arrived in Vietnam when he flew his helicopter into an area known for heavy fighting and rescued members of a flaming helicopter that had crash-landed. He and his high-ranking crew evacuated five men, four of them injured.

Under these three commanders' leadership, the 1st Cav cleared territory that had been Viet Cong dominated for 14 years. The division has provided security for thousands of Vietnamese who only want to live in peace to rear their families and till their fields.

President To Award Citation

The Associated Press has reported that President Johnson will award a Presidential Unit Citation to the 1st Air Cavalry Division tomorrow in a Pentagon ceremony.

The award will be the first for a division-sized unit in Vietnam.

The Cavalry won the citation for its performance from 23 October to 26 November 1965, during the Pleiku Campaign.

During the Campaign, the Cavalrymen defeated a Viet Cong attack on the Plei Me Special Forces camp and spoiled an enemy plan to attack Pleiku. In heavy fighting at Pleiku and in the Ia Drang Valley, the Cavalrymen killed an estimated 1,361 enemy, and captured 495 individual and 125 crew-served weapons.

The Citation also emphasized the civic action success of the 1st Cavalry. "While engaged in combat," the White House said, "the 1st Cavalry evacuated 3,369 refugees from the battle areas; provided almost 16 tons of foodstuffs for the hungry; distributed more than two tons of clothing and medical supplies to the needy; provided medical treatment to some 450 Vietnamese civilians and immunized another 2,000 against disease and contributed more than \$2,600 for construction of a school and improvement of a native dispensary."

All members of the 1st Cavalry will be authorized to wear the Presidential Unit Citation while serving with the division.



FIRST CLASS TOUR—Vietnamese children, some 100 strong, look over one of the 1st Air Cav's chinook helicopters at Camp Radcliff, the world's largest heliport. The children toured the Cav's base camp complex compliments of Major General John J. Tolson, Cav commander.

Camp Radcliff Becomes Home Of World's Largest Heliport

On the main airfield at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, stands a sign which once simply read, "The World's Largest Heliport". Since the 1st Air Cavalry Division's arrival in the Republic of Vietnam two years ago, the words "Once Was" have been added preceding the former inscription.

With Ft. Rucker playing "sec-

ond fiddle", Camp Radcliff has indeed become the home of the world's largest and most recognized heliport in the world—known simply as "The Golf Course" to Skytroopers.

The reason for having such a vast complex is simple. More aircraft require more landing area. The division has approximately 333 more fixed and rotary-wing aircraft and 1,359 fewer surface vehicles than a regular infantry division.

Besides the "Hueys", "Chinooks" and "Flying Cranes," the Cav's "Golf Course" can accommodate its versatile "Mohawk" fixed-wing aircraft, and the giant Air Force planes that land and take off intermittently.

The division's 1st Squadron, 8th Cavalry is authorized many aircraft for assisting the U.S. Army's only Air Cav Squadron. Where other divisions have a medium artillery battalion, the 1st Cav division artillery has the 2nd Battalion, 28th Artillery (Air Rocket Artillery), the only one of its kind in the world. The bulk of the division's

aircraft are found in the 11th Aviation Group who operate the stand-by UH-1B and UH-1D "Hueys". The 238th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion is the Division's heavy lift battalion (CH-47A Chinooks), the only ones of their kind in the Republic of Vietnam. Another attached unit that adds greatly to the Division's airmobile capability is the 478th Aviation Company flying crane unit. These are only a few of the many elements which comprise the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

"Where do we put all our choppers?" is a common question among new arrivals of the "First Team". Oh... out on the "Golf Course", is the customary answer from "short timers."

Specialist Four Harvey L. Kammingo, 21, of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's An Khe Airfield Command (AKAAC) works in the "Golf Course" tower. The Demotte, Indiana, "Skytrooper" said, "The landing strip is approximately 3,500 by 60 feet and we have 429 helipads to accommodate about everything coming or going."

Skytroopers Win Nation's Top Medals

The Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, has been won by two 1st Air Cavalry soldiers since the division arrived in Vietnam.

1st Lieutenant Walter Joseph Marm Jr., won the first Medal of Honor after he killed 12 enemy and helped break an enemy assault November 14, 1965. The second Medal of Honor was presented posthumously August 24 of this year to Staff Sergeant Jimmy G. Stewart, who killed at least eight and possibly 12 Viet Cong during a fight to the death, protecting his wounded comrades.

"Lieutenant Marm," his citation read, "led his men through withering fire until they were forced to take cover. Realizing that his platoon could not hold very long, and seeing four enemies moving into his position, he moved quickly under heavy fire and annihilated all four."

A concealed machine gun then began heavy fire. Marm, deliberately exposing himself to draw fire, spotted the machine gun and tried to knock it out with an anti-tank weapon.

"Although he inflicted casualties, the weapon did not silence the enemy fire," Marm's citation continued. "Quickly, disregarding the fire directed at him and his platoon, he charged 30 meters across open ground, and hurled grenades into the enemy position, killing some of the eight insurgents manning it."

Stewart, father of two small children and the son of Mrs. Ethel M. Stitt, Racine, Ohio, made his stand near An Khe 15 months ago to protect five men in his six-man squad who had been wounded May 18, 1964.

A citation said that after the other squad members were wounded, Stewart held his position "for four harrowing hours and through three assaults, annihilating the enemy as they approached and before they could get a foothold."

"Eight enemy dead were found around his immediate position, with evidence that 13 others had been dragged away," the citation went on.

In addition to two Congressional Medals of Honor, 28 Distinguished Service Crosses and 419 Silver Stars have been awarded members of the 1st Air Cavalry for combat valor in Vietnam.



The CAVALAIR is published weekly under the supervision of the information office, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and is an authorized Army publication. The contents are prepared by Pacific Stars & Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. Opinions expressed in the CAVALAIR are those of its editorial staff and not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Commanding General MG John J. Tolson
Chief of Information Major William S. Winters
Officer-in-Charge 1LT John Hood
Editor PFC Roger L. Amaral

Gold, Black Unit Patch

Most Striking In Army

"The First Cav—that's where you saw the jacket onto the patch."

So quipped a no doubt jealous Army sergeant from another unit.

The remark was prompted by the size of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's gold and black unit patch, the largest and most striking in the United States Army.

Mrs. Ben H. Dorcy and her late husband Colonel Dorcy, then commanding the 7th Cavalry Regiment, designed the now famous patch in 1921 in response to a request for suggestions by the Quartermaster General.

The Dorcys had at first toyed with the idea of differently colored patches for each regiment—the original had been made from the gold and light blue of one of the colonel's old capes—but that meant too many colors.

Finally they decided upon gold, as the most precious metal, for the shield, which was to be formed like the Norman shield to fit the shoulders. Black was chosen because it traditionally represented headquarters, "which makes every man tops, whether he's a private or a general," said Mrs. Dorcy.

Colonel Dorcy selected the patch's most distinctive feature, a horsehead, as the natural symbol for a cavalry division. Colonel Dorcy had long studied heraldry as a hobby, and Mrs. Dorcy shared her husband's interest. Their special knowledge proved useful. The shield's diagonal stripe, called a "band" in heraldry, was fa-

miliar in the Army service or wound stripe, but further symbolized the leaning ladder used in days of yore to scale castle walls. It evoked the ancient battle cry of "On to victory!"

For her creative efforts and the interest she has shown in

the Cav's progress, Skytroopers have bestowed upon Mrs. Dorcy the title of Honorary Mother of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. She has regularly visited 1st Cav veterans of the Vietnam conflict at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Major's Bravery Results In Honors

A major whose quick thinking and brave actions saved several lives during a firefight in February has received the Silver Star Medal with first oak leaf cluster.

Major Victor T. Bullock of Lawton, Okla., of Headquarters, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, received the nation's third highest award for heroism in a ceremony. Lieutenant Colonel John A. Wickham, Jr., Major Bullock's battalion commander, also presented the departing operations officer two Army Commendation Medals with "V" device and 16 awards of the Air Medal.

Major Bullock won his Silver Stars when he and his battalion commander flew into an area where a company was under heavy enemy fire.

The battalion commander disembarked while the chopper went to refuel and he and several other men were wounded by the intense enemy fire. Major Bullock ordered the pilot

to land the ship and evacuate wounded. He leaped from the helicopter, loaded two men on board, and was attempting to pull the commander into the helicopter when a burst of automatic weapons fire hit the ship.

The burst killed one man and wounded two, and the battalion commander slipped to the ground as the ship took off. The chopper took off, but the enemy bullets had damaged it and it crashed some 200 meters away. A medical evacuation helicopter promptly landed at the crash site.

But the battalion commander was still on the ground. Major Bullock crossed 200 meters of open rice paddy under heavy fire to obtain another helicopter at the infantry command post. Again airborne, he located the commander and summoned an evacuation ship to remove him and the other wounded men. The evacuation was successful, and the major stayed behind to give guidance and encouragement to the men on the ground.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

MOTHER OF CAV—Mrs. Ben Dorcy, honorary mother of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, designed Cav patch along with her late husband, Col. Dorcy.

Tactics Change Attacks VC Infrastructure

Cavalrymen Keep 'Charlie' On The Move

Several times during its first year in Vietnam, the 1st Air Cavalry Division struck east from its base camp at An Khe. In the Bong Son Campaign of early 1966, and in operations called Clean House, Davey Crockett, Bee Bee, and others, the Cav moved into the heavily-populated eastern areas of Binh Dinh Province—areas considered Communist strongholds.

Each time the Cav moved east, enemy units were engaged and defeated. In the Bong Son Campaign alone, the division accounted for 3,000 enemy killed in action.

But, with few American troops operating in the Central Highlands, the Cavalrymen had to keep on the move. They were unable to remain and consolidate the successes they won in Binh Dinh, South Vietnam's most populous province.

A year ago, on September 13, 1966, the division changed its tactics. In a series of operations which the Cav called "The Battle of Binh Dinh," the division set out not only to drive main force enemy units out of Binh Dinh, but to stay in the area and to destroy the political structure which the Communists have worked for years to erect in Binh Dinh. Subsequently, the government of Vietnam would begin Revolutionary Development operations in the area.

The first step, however, had to be driving the enemy main forces out of the area, and this the Cavalry is continuing to do. Operation Thayer I, in September, 1966, led to the evacuation of the "Crow's Foot" valley south of Bong Son by enemy

forces. The enemy troops moved eastward, and the Cavalry pursued them in Operation Irving. Irving, conducted along the coast of the province, east of Highway 1, led to 1,200 enemy killed or captured, against only 20 Free World soldiers killed.

Operation Thayer II was fought principally around the Bong Son area. It lasted nearly three months and resulted in 745 enemy killed.

In mid-February, Operation Pershing brought even heavier pressure to bear on the North Vietnamese units. For the first time, all of the Cavalry's three brigades were concentrated in the same area of operations.

When Operation Pershing sent troops into the An Lao Valley, a Communist stronghold northwest of Bong Son, the Cavalry undertook a unique operation designed to protect the civilian population of the valley from being harmed by the war.

Before shelling and bombing of enemy troops began, the Cavalry evacuated more than 7,500 civilians from An Lao to refugee camps. Once the population was evacuated, An Lao was declared a "Free Fire Zone," giving U.S. troops the right to engage any target in the area.

While the military operations continued, the Cavalry was developing a new type of operation, the "cordon and search," designed to attack the VC infrastructure. For the first time, the division put to work the unique abilities of the Vietnamese National Police Field Force (NPF).

Two or three times a day, the Cavalry would air assault into an area, usually before dawn, and surround a village, cutting off possible escape routes.

Meanwhile, NPF men combed the village. Sometimes they found Viet Cong soldiers hiding in the rafters of homes, or in tunnels. Sometimes their questioning of villagers led to the arrest of men and women accused of being members of the VC infrastructure.

The infrastructure—men and women who ran villages for the Viet Cong, collected taxes, per-

formed the functions of government, propagandized for the spread of Communism, had never had to bear the weight of the war before.

Now the war was being brought home to them as it never had been before. In the first months of NPF operations, 1,183 civilian members of the infrastructure were arrested by the National Police.

By denying the enemy his supply trails, his long-standing stronghold areas, and his food supply, the 1st Cavalry hopes to destroy the effectiveness of the

enemy's main force units. By separating these units from the political infrastructure they once protected, the Cavalry leaves the infrastructure open for attack.

The third stage, and perhaps the most difficult, is now beginning: the attempt to supplant the infrastructure with a government, and a Revolutionary Development program, run by the Government of Vietnam. Some 30 15-man Revolutionary Development teams now operate in Binh Dinh Province.



Photo By SFC DAVID FRANK

DETAIN SUSPECT—Vietnamese National Combat Police question a man suspected of being a Viet Cong. The police and 1st Air Cavalry Division's 545th Military Police Company are working together to rid hamlets near Bong Son.

Two Years With The 1st Cavalr



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In Central Highla



SOMETIMES DIGGING . . .



SOMETIMES SEARCHING . . .



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SOMETIMES A HOT LANDING ZONE . . .

lands Of Vietnam



SOMETIMES GETTING INTO CHOPPERS . . .



SOMETIMES THINKING . . .



Photo By SP4 THOMAS BARDOOT

WATCHES PROGRESS—Father Bui Duc, head of the Catholic Refugee Center at Bong Son, views progress of a construction project handled by refugees of the center.

New First Team Book Added To Association

The First Cavalry Division Association has added a book to the items given new lifetime members of the Association.

The book is a 90-page account of the First Cavalry Division in Vietnam from July, 1965, to December, 1966. It was written by former division historian, Captain Charles S. Sykes Jr., and contains descriptions in words and photographs depicting the arrival of the First Team in the Republic of Vietnam and the operations conducted by Skytroopers through December, 1966.

The book, in addition to a decal and lapel insignia of the 1st Cavalry Division patch, and lifetime subscription to the Association newspaper, the *Saber News*, is sent to all new life members. Associate members can receive the book by converting to life membership.

The First Cavalry Division Association was originally formed in 1944 during the closing campaigns of World War II in the Pacific. Its objectives are threefold:

- (1) To preserve and strengthen the friendships made during service with the 1st Cavalry Division;
- (2) To provide a suitable memorial honoring fallen comrades and their gallant accomplishments;
- (3) To help one another in the

years which lie ahead.

Members of the Association have a common bond: they served together in the 1st Cavalry Division. They are proud of that and they have a right to be. First, they were veterans of World War II, then Korea, and now Vietnam. All are a part of the First Team.

Vet Pilot Takes Huey Command

A veteran pilot from Beaver, Pa. has taken command of the aerial reconnaissance helicopters of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade.

Major John W. Peters leads the platoon of small bubble-topped scout ships which scour the mountains of northern Binh Dinh Province for signs of the elusive enemy.

The 1958 graduate of West Point is not a new arrival to Vietnam's Central Highlands. Major Peters piloted the command helicopter for his brigade commander before taking command of the scout ships.

Our 13 choppers fly an average of 850 hours a month," the major says. And the scout flyers are called on to fight too. "Since February we have recorded more than 150 Viet Cong killed."

Peters holds the Distinguished Flying Cross.

During Operation Pershing

Cav Compiles Impressive Stats

First Air Cavalry Division Skytroopers and Vietnamese National Police Field Force units have compiled an impressive statistical record during Operation Pershing.

Since the operation began on

February 11, a total of 2,839 enemy soldiers have been killed through August.

In addition, 1,750 Viet Cong and 66 North Vietnamese Army regulars have been captured. Some 1,193 civilian defendants, members of the VC invisible government — the infrastructure — have also been rooted

Civic Action Program Solves Many Problems Of Viet People

Everything from generals to garbage has played a part in the Civic Action program of the 1st Air Cavalry Division during the division's first two years in Vietnam.

Garbage? Late last year, two co-operative pigsties were set up in villages near An Khe. When villagers expressed an interest in operating the sties, the Cavalry agreed to buy pigs and explain their care and feeding.

But feeding was a problem. The soil around An Khe is not particularly fertile, and corn to feed the pigs was not readily available.

So the division hit upon an answer—the pigs could eat the huge loads of garbage generated daily by the division's mess halls.

The pigs flourished—and the G-5 program continues to flourish as well, thanks to the impetus provided by ingenious civic action workers at all levels.

How do generals come into it? A continuous command emphasis on civic action has resulted in an active program throughout the division, and a program that gets support when it needs it.

For example, more than 200 Montagnards, suffering from severe malnutrition after Viet Cong soldiers had taken their crops, came into division forward posts during August.

The people were suffering, and the 1st Cavalry gave a high priority to helping them. Surgeons from the division and doctors of the New Zealand Armed Forces at the Bong Son Dispensary treated the Montagnards.

The division supplied them with food and clothing and immediately began planning to send them to a refugee camp where they could gradually become self-sufficient once again.

The staples of the civic action program are medical care, education, and the distribution of American goods to the needy. South Vietnam needs doctors badly, and the Cavalry's doctors and medics try to help fill the gap, holding sick call in villages that might never have seen a doctor. In addition, the division has helped build two dispensaries for Vietnamese patients, one in An Khe and one in Bong Son.

In the last year, the division's medical personnel have treated more than 128,000 patients on sick calls and MEDCAP missions. Others have been treated at the dispensaries and at the 61st Medical Clearing Company Hospital.

The program also places a high priority on educational projects to help the Vietnamese. Seven elementary schools have been opened in the An Khe area in co-operative projects involving Cavalry civic action men and Vietnamese villagers.

A high school now being constructed will be the first high school in the An Khe area.

A continuing project has been teaching English to Vietnamese

in the Cavalry's area of operations. In an average week, 200 students attend English classes given by men of the division.

The division also serves as a funnel for gifts to the people of Vietnam from the people of America. In the last year, 174,000 pounds of food and quantities of clothing, cement, and other goods have been distributed by the division.

Some of these goods have been made available by the US Agency for International Development. Others are the gifts of individual Americans. A group in Columbia, S.C. has donated three cement mixers and an X-ray machine to the civic action program. The X-ray machine, the first in the An Khe area, is particularly crucial in an area where tuberculosis is endemic, since the early stages of TB can be detected only by X-rays.

A major part of the Cavalry's program is concerned with refugees. The population of the An Khe area has doubled under an influx of refugees, some of whom were driven from their homes by the war, while others fled from Viet Cong controlled areas.

The Government of Vietnam and the 1st Air Cavalry Division offer the refugees a place to live, materials to build a house with, land to farm, clothing, and enough food for six months—time for the family to become self-sufficient once again.

The GVN also makes a cash payment to each family, to allow the family to buy whatever they need on the local economy.

Within this broad framework, units within the Cavalry work out their own civic action programs. Almost every unit is involved.



NEW CLOTHING—Dong Dong Khau, pastor of the Hoc Thau church in Bong Son, and a friend open packages for distribution to needy parishioners. Clothes and food were provided by individuals in New York and California.

2/17th Artillery Hits Solid Rock Bottom

"We thought it would be really nice to be at the Gia Vuc Special Forces camp," said 1st Lieutenant Donald Campbell, Fire Direction Officer for B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, "but then we started to dig bunkers."

The battery was air-lifted into the CIDG camp at the mouth of the Song Re Valley to support Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division as they penetrated the VC stronghold. Positioned on the southwest corner of the Gia Vuc air strip, the artillerymen thought that the lush valley would be a pleasant change from the desolate landing zones they were used to occupying.

The illusion passed quickly when they started to build protective bunkers.

"The whole valley floor is solid rock," said Campbell who is from Midland Park, New Jersey. "The runway we were digging into was a natural formation — nothing but rock. And to top it off, they moved the refusing point to within a couple hundred meters of us."

Everything blew away when the helicopters came in to refuel."

Bravo Battery overcame its difficulties and fired more than 2700 rounds in preparation for the massive First Team air-assault.

"We accomplished all of our fire missions from Gia Vuc," continued Campbell, "but the hardest thing we did was filling in the bunkers when we left."

SP5 Fashions

Power Mower

Specialist Five Bob Young had compassion for the men who worked under him keeping the lawn trimmed with machetes.

Young decided to do something about it. He fished around for some spare parts, went to work with an acetylene torch and in a few days had fashioned himself a power mower—believed to be the only one in the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

Young is with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

Pershing Passes 200 Days

August 31st marked the 200th day of Operation Pershing, a 1st Air Cavalry Division operation designed to clear northern Binh Dinh Province of enemy troops.

More than 3,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army soldiers have been killed during Pershing, and more than 1,800 captured.

During Pershing, the Cavalry has exploited its unique airborne capabilities in new ways designed to combat the "infrastructure" — the local officials, terrorists, and propagandists who have served the Viet Cong for years.

Pershing began on February 12th with Cavalry units driving into the heavily populated Bong Son Plain. Later, the major scene of fighting was the An Lao River Valley, northwest of Bong Son.

Civilians were evacuated from the An Lao, long an enemy stronghold, and facilities of value to the enemy were destroyed. Cavalrymen found enemy regimental headquarters hospitals, and supply areas in the An Lao.

In early August, the Cavalry expanded the Pershing area of operations to include the valley of the He River, northwest of the An Lao. No Free World units had penetrated the valley since the war in Vietnam began.

Meanwhile, elements of the division worked with the Vietnamese National Police Field Force (NPF) in a series of "cordon-and-search" raids on villages. The NPF interrogated, villagers and arrested, suspected members of the infrastructure while Cavalry troops surrounded the villages, cutting off routes of escape.

In the first 200 days of Pershing, US and allied forces lost more than 400 men killed and 1,800 wounded. Communist losses were more than 3,000 killed, plus 750 individual weapons and more than 80 crew-served weapons captured. More than 1,800 enemy soldiers were captured, along with 374 tons of rice, 35 tons of salt, and more than 135,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition. Some 9,000 persons were detained for questioning.

Pershing is the fourth stage of "The Battle of Binh Dinh," a continuing series of 1st Air Cavalry Division operations designed to clear South Vietnam's most populous province of the Communist enemy.

Lieutenant Cited For Heroic Action

The American platoon was pinned down almost immediately after air assaulting into a mountain landing zone north of Bong Son.

As he fought and maneuvered his men out of the trap, 1st Lieutenant Ralph L. Hagler Jr., of Metropolis, Ill., earned the silver star, his nation's third highest award for valor.

Enthusiastic Skytroopers

Beauty Queens Tour Cav Bases



BEAUTY GRACES CAV—Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division greet members of the Miss America USO show at the Cav's Landing Zone English. Center of attraction, of course, is Barbara Anne Harris, Miss South Carolina 1966, of Greenville.

An Khe Scheduled For Hookup Into Super Modern Network

The 1st Air Cavalry Division's base in An Khe is scheduled September 15 to be hooked into a vast, super modern radio-telephone network now being built for the Army throughout South Vietnam and other parts of Southeast Asia.

A \$5 million three-building complex at Camp Radcliff and other new sites will be capable of being linked to telephones throughout the world by satellite transmission. Already the network is hooked into two satellite tracking stations at Nha Trang and Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

The network centralizes the current hodge-podge of electronic communications in the Republic of Vietnam and will enable a caller to be connected anywhere in the country swiftly and easily.

Conventional combat communication links will feed into the system. The station in An Khe will be able to handle more than 240 telephone channels which can be linked to telephone, teletype machines and data processing systems.

The network is being built by Page Communications Engineers, Inc., based in Washing-

ton, and will be operated by the Army's 1st Signal Brigade.

More than 20 sites of the more than 60 scheduled for completion by January are now operational.

Captain Edwin C. Cogan, 31, of Slippery Rock, Pa., who commands the station in An Khe, commented, "the system has the advantage of being almost 100 per cent reliable and eliminates the need to build stations in rugged, remote enemy held areas."

The site at Camp Radcliff has two powerful radios, two large dish-antennae and a four generator, diesel-fueled power plant with a total output of 6,000 watts. Atop Hong Cong mountain is a hill-bowl like reflector used to relay signals into the valley.

The station is complete, but for finishing touches and final tests of equipment.

Page will hand over operation to the Army, as it has done on other completed sites, but will maintain it and train incoming Army technicians for a year. Twenty-eight soldiers will man the complex.

The station at Pleiku is the largest, in terms of numbers of

channels, in the world using "FM tropospheric scatter radio wave propagation" — a relative newcomer to radio-telephone transmission.

The "Trope" method, unlike the line-of-sight microwave communication used nearly everywhere else in the world, can span as far as 600 miles without much atmospheric interference by using high-powered transmitters and super-sensitive receivers.

Duds Make Charlie Three-Time Loser

Three dud hand grenades have made Charlie a three-time loser.

The incident happened when Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, elements of the 343rd Military Police Company, and the National Police Field Force (NPF) joined in a cordon-and-search mission about 13 miles north of Landing Zone English on the Bong Son Plains.

After the 1st Air Cavalry Division infantry cordoned off the village, the MP's and the National Police split into teams to search the village. As they approached the end of the village, a national policeman reported spotting a VC hiding in the roof of a hut.

After the hut was surrounded by the allied forces the commanding officer of the NPF went up to the hut, in attempting to talk the VC into surrendering.

He was greeted with an old, rusty, American grenade which hit him in the side, but failed to detonate.

The VC jumped off the roof in attempt to escape, holding a

grenade in each hand.

Running past 1st Lieutenant Horst Glatt, Hartford, Conn., the fugitive tossed another grenade, hitting Glatt in the foot. Again no detonation. The Viet Cong had forgotten to remove a thick rubber band wrapped around the handle for safety.

Glatt then fired his M16 at the bewildered VC, hitting him in the arm. But he still managed to continue his escape.

The Viet Cong threw his last grenade at Private First Class Michael D. Bartle, Orionville, Mich. For the third time in as many tries, the escapee threw a dud. This time the VC ran out of luck and was shot down, his hope for survival terminated.

One of the national policeman noticed the VC hesitated, glancing at a spot in the bushes before he was shot. Checking it out, they found two NVA soldiers hiding with a sniper's weapon, clothing, medicine and important documents.

Charlie's Pitching Days Over

A Viet Cong's bid for a spot in the big leagues has been blocked by the 1st Air Cavalry Division helicopter scout team.

Warrant Officer Jeffrey F. Johns, Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry was on a low level scout mission on the Bong Son Plains when a VC made an impromptu tryout of his pitching abilities.

Johns, of Baltimore, Md., noticed the man scurrying across rough terrain, rifle in hand.

He dropped down for a closer look, bringing his helicopter to within 10 feet of the suspect. That's when Charlie went into action.

The VC turned, pulled a grenade off his belt and using a full windup, attempted to throw a strike at the helicopter.

The pitch was wide, and the grenade blew up harmlessly.

The count 1 and 2, the would-be chucker attempted to evade the scouts by seeking refuge in an old building. But John's door gunner, Specialist Five Gary Kraatz had other ideas.

The Corpus Christi, Texas, soldier sent the VC to the showers with a quick burst on his M-40 machine gun.



WELCOME, SIR—A pretty Vietnamese girl presents Major General Harry Kinnard with a wreath welcoming the 1st Air Cavalry Division to the Republic of Vietnam in September of 1965. General Kinnard was the first of three generals to command the First Team.

46th Anniversary Today

Cavalrymen Still 'Saddle Up'

(Continued From Page 1)
in the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Also in 1968 the 9th Cavalry and 9th Cavalry Regiments were formed and elements of these fighting units are still with the division today.

The 9th Cav Regiment was organized to fill the need for a mounted fighting force to repel the hostile Indians of the Southwest. Among the legendary feats accomplished by the 8th was a 2,000 mile march by horseback from Ft. Concho, Texas, to Montana and South Dakota. Today this unit is the 1st Brigade's 1st and 2nd Battalions.

The 9th Cav Regiment, famous for its unique reconnaissance mission with the division, also had Indian War exploits in its heritage. This was the unit that led to the defeat of the rebellious Apache and Comanche tribes of the Southwest. The 9th Cav, however, did not join the division's rolls until 1957.

The eldest of the 1st Air Cav's elements was formed in 1855 when Congress redesignated the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and formed the 5th Cav. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the unit's first commander resigned to lead the armies of the South. He was Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee. In later years, the 5th would distinguish itself in such battles as Vicksburg, Bull Run, and the Shenandoah Valley. Members of the unit also watched at Appomattox when Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant. The 5th is currently represented by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 5th Cav under the 2nd Brigade.

From such a heritage the 1st Cavalry Division was molded. But 22 years would pass from that September 12, 1921 Organization Day before the division would get a chance to prove itself in combat.

The division's first contribution was made in the Depression years of the 1930's. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt instructed the division to be the cadre for his Civilian Conservation Corps. The 1st Cav trained 62,000 while at a total division strength of 3,300.

By 1941 the division had been built back up to an authorized strength of 10,110. It was ready to go when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7th of that year, but the Army had other plans.

Finally it came. In February of 1943 the division received alert orders and began turning in its horses and changed over to a dismounted unit.

The division's first operation in the Pacific came on February 28th, 1944 when it made an amphibious landing on Los Negros Island, part of the Admiralty Islands of the Bismarck Archipelago.

More than 7,000 Japanese fell before the 1st Cav's guns, and the unit could look with pride on its first taste of combat in World War II.

The cry was "Saddle up!" and the division moved north toward its next target — the Philippines.

The Pacific commander, General Douglas MacArthur gave the division this message:

"Go to Manila; free the prisoners at Santo Tomas; take Malabanan Place and the Legislative Building."

The order was brief but big.

At 0901 hours on February 1, 1945, a "Flying Column" from the division jumped off on a 100-mile lightning thrust to Manila. Sixty-six hours later it crashed into surprised Japanese defenders on the outskirts

of the city and freed the Santo Tomas prisoners. The remainder of the division followed in the wake of the task force and Manila was under Allied control.

The price of defeat for the Japanese was high, as 14,114 Sons of Nippon died in the battle.

The division scored its second "first" at the end of the war when General MacArthur ordered it to accompany him to the Japanese capital, Tokyo, and serve as part of the Eighth Army's occupation force.

The Cav performed that mission until early July of 1946.

In late June the North Korean Army had invaded South Korea and the division was ordered to the immediate assistance of the South Korean government.

Eight years later the First Team would score another first when President Lyndon Johnson issued these words:

"I have today ordered to Vietnam the Airmobile Division."

It was the first time an American President has publicly announced the deployment of an Army division to a combat zone before the actual departure of the unit.

The division, now designated the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), was the first full division committed to the South Vietnamese fight against Communism. The First Team was first again.

1st Cav Still Follows Pattern Of Old Cav

(Continued From Page 1)
sion was in Vietnam. It was the first full division committed to the Vietnam effort.

Actually the division arrived in late August when a 1,000-man advance party hacked away dense jungle outside the city of An Khe, 240 miles north of Saigon, preparing a base camp for the Cav's 23,000 men and 465 helicopters.

The division's mission was a big one: Stop the communist take-over of the Central Highlands.

Its first combat engagement started on September 15 when the division's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry (2/12) was placed under the operational control of the 101st Airborne Division. The assignment was to secure the Vinh Thanh Valley, 15 miles northeast of An Khe. The operation, called Gibraltar, was successful. The Cav began to show the merits of the airmobile concept.

Then came the Cav's first real test.

It started when Communist forces attacked Plei Me near the Cambodian border. The enemy's plan was obvious. After Plei Me it would hit Pleiku and control of Pleiku is synonymous with control of the Central Highlands.

The fighting culminated in the famous battle of the Ia Drang Valley where the Cav used night time air assaults, airmobile artillery batteries and hard-hitting ambush tactics to score the first major victory of the Vietnam conflict.

When it was over, 1,519 enemy (by actual body count) were dead. Military estimates drained the Communist's ranks of another 1,042.

It was one of the last attempts by the enemy to meet American forces with conventional warfare methods.

The division started 1964 with the Bung Son Campaign in the coastal areas of Binh Dinh Province. Here too, as in the Ia Drang, the airmobile Cavalrymen scored high. In six weeks of fighting the division killed 1,342 enemy soldiers and returned 140,000 Vietnamese to government control.

The victory formula had been established.

For the next six months 1st Air Cavalry Division's helicopters darted from the Cambodian border to the beaches of the South China Sea. It hounded the enemy by day and night in the relentless pursuit. When the Communist ran, the division chased, depleting his ranks with ambushes, the penalty for the Communist's unwillingness to stand and fight.

The airmobile tactics had thrown the enemy off balance. They kept him in a state of confusion. The Central Highlands became a maze and a nightmare for Communist opera-

tions. His attempt to rule the Central Highlands had been foiled.

The division's successes became known to the world through operational code names — Lincoln, Bee Bee, Davey Crockett, Crazy Horse, Hawthorne, Nathan Hale, Henry Clay and Paul Revere.

And the division became well known to the enemy. His havens for nearly a decade—the An Lao Valley, the Cay Giap Mountains, the Crow's Foot and the Bong Son Plain—became battlefields instead of rest and training areas. Nowhere in the Cav's operational area was he safe.

Cavalrymen's weapons claimed more Communists than those of any other unit in Vietnam. It was a statistical fact that would be maintained throughout 1964 and into 1967.

Clearing the Central Highlands of most main force Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces in its first year of operation, the division spent its second year driving enemy into centers of Binh Dinh Province. It coordinated these military operations with the establishment of revolutionary development programs aimed at returning the Vietnamese to the control of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.

When the results are finally analyzed it will probably show that the Battle for Binh Dinh was the 1st Air Cavalry Division's greatest accomplishment to date.

Victory Without Weapons

(Continued From Page 1)

they could muster — bowie knives, machetes, bayonets, entrenching tools and an occasional axe — the men marched in close-ordered double files down the narrow, muddy streets of An Khe. Silent, hard-eyed Vietnamese villagers along the street watched the suspicious intruders.

The Cavalrymen made the one-hour march along a rudimentary, cattle path, and then started cutting through the dense jungle with their hand tools.

At lunchtime, the men carefully packed all unwanted items from their Creations for the return trip.

Darkness was rapidly approaching as the sweat-soaked troops again marched through the village, this time handing out left-over candy, gum, cigarettes, and other items from their noon meal.

Adult villagers, still silent and still suspicious, accepted the gifts and left, leaving the crowd of soldiers and three and four-year-old youngsters.

The following morning, Cavalrymen set out again. This time as they marched through An Khe they were greeted by smiles and waves from the adults and tugs-on-sleeves by the youngsters.

Several Viet Cong informers were soon pointed out to Vietnamese Government Police, one VC suspect was overcome by two farmers who dragged him to the police station.

Many other Viet Cong informers fled town during the afternoon mist, and the afternoon walk through An Khe had all the aspects of a liberation parade.

The 1st Air Cav had won its first battle.

1st Cav's Major Operations

Name	Enemy KIA (BC)	Enemy KIA (Est)	Enemy WIA (Est)	Enemy Captured
PLEIKU CAMPAIGN	1,519	2,042	1,178	130
CLEAN HOUSE	137	249	48	44
BONG SON CAMPAIGN	1,342	1,746	1,348	823
LINCOLN-MOSEY	451	239	180	19
DAVEY CROCKETT	245	192	112	82
CRAZY HORSE	507	381	175	28
NATHAN HALE	271	291	103	25
PAUL REVERE II*	402	209	—	89
BYRD	604	—	—	767
PAUL REVERE IV	184	—	—	12
THAYER I	231	—	—	72
IRVING	81	—	—	630
THAYER II	705	—	—	150
PERSHING	3,639	—	—	3,835
ALL OTHERS	297	—	—	62
TOTALS	8,979	—	—	3,894

* After Paul Revere II estimates of enemy KIA and wounded were no longer made.