



Air Cavalry

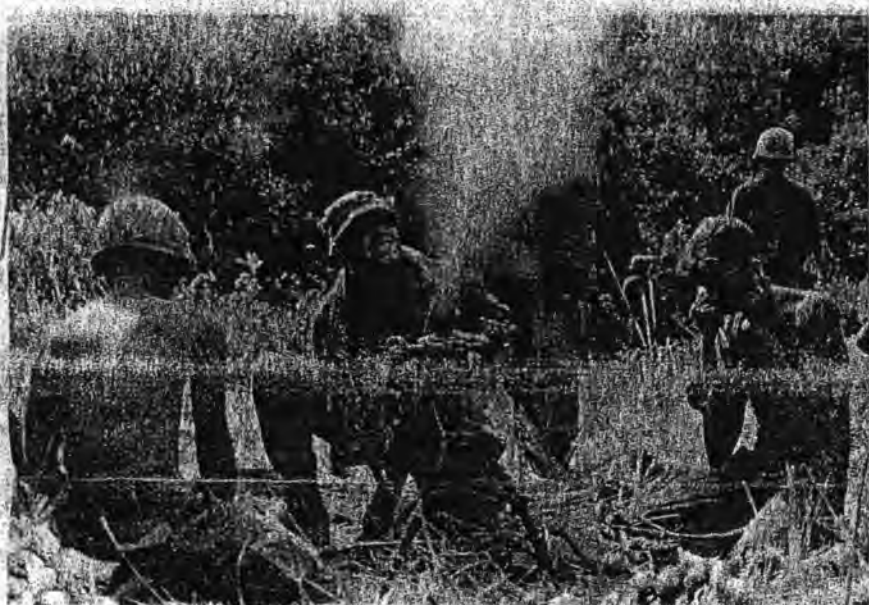


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1st Air Cavalry Division

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Enemy Loses 233 In Binh An Battle Armed Services Combine to Rout NVA



US ARMY PHOTO BY PFC JIM BRESITO

Smoke Bringer

Mortarmen from C Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division fire on suspected enemy positions near South Vietnam's northernmost province capital.

5th Cavalry Demonstrates Airmobile Concept To NVA

By PFC PHIL MANGER
Cavalry Staff Writer

QUANG TRI — The 1st Air Cavalry Division's D Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, gave a dramatic demonstration of airmobile concept in a major battle which involved elements of every branch of the United States Armed Forces.

"It was a classic example of the airmobile concept in action," said Lieutenant Colonel Gregory L. Troutman, commander of the 1st of the 5th Cav.

Departing on short notice from a forward operations base (FOB) high in the brush-covered hills in the western section of the Hai Lang District, D Company air assaulted into the flat, sandy coastal plain of the Binh An beach area, 12 kilometers northeast of Quang Tri.

The company arrived shortly before 8 p.m. on the evening of June 27. Within minutes, the company was on line, and supported by tanks and armored

personnel carriers (APCs) of B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, began to sweep the village in which the 84th North Vietnamese Army Battalion was trapped by a cordon of Cavalymen.

The battalion's presence in the village had been discovered the day before when C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry ran into a heavy volume of fire while attempting to make a routine sweep of the village. It was then that two additional armored cavalry troops were called in, as well as two infantry companies and a troop from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

"The going was pretty tough the first night," said 1st Lt. Leonard E. Edwards, of Mars Hill, North Carolina, who was acting as D Company's commander. "We had started our sweep before seven. By eight o'clock we were still meeting stiff resistance, and it was getting too dark to see. One of our platoons had been pinned

down, and it looked like it would be difficult to move farther forward. We finally found it necessary to back off into our cordon."

That night the Cavalymen maintained their cordon while air strikes and naval gunfire rained on the besieged NVA battalion. By morning it was considerably less than a battalion, according to detainees who were later picked up on the sweeps.

After a bombardment the next morning, D Company and B Troop of the 3/5th swept through the remnants of the village, searching and clearing. They met with considerably less resistance this time, receiving only scattered sniper fire.

"By this time the NVA were pretty well disorganized," said Lt. Edwards. "We learned from the detainees we picked up that most of the officers had been killed in the heavy barrage of

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Two Cav Battalions Team Up For Fight

BY LT A. DAVID LEGACKI
Cavalry Staff Writer

CAMP EVANS—Two 1st Air Cavalry Division battalions have teamed up with an armored squadron to devastate an enemy battalion taking a rest break in a village on the South China Sea coast. 233 North Vietnamese soldiers died in the fighting.

During the early morning hours on 27 June, the 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry was operating on the sandy beaches around the hamlet of Binh An, 12 kilometers northeast of Quang Tri City. These 9th Infantry Division soldiers were operating with the 1st Air Cavalry.

Around 8 A.M. they came under heavy enemy fire, the infantry. While setting up their defensive positions they called for chopper support. Ten minutes later, gunships from the Air Cavalry's 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry were on station. Scouting the area with their famous treetop reconnaissance they spotted an individual breaking out of a treeline, heading for a bunker. The report came in, "one NVA KIA."

Seconds later, while maneuvering to gain altitude the gunship drew heavy fire from the same woodland. Swooping down over the area the door gunner spotted two individuals trying to conceal themselves in the undergrowth. Three passes and 650 M-60 rounds later the two enemy were seen lying over a fallen tree.

5th Cavalry Reunites For NVA Defeat

BY CPL RON PUNCH
Cavalry Staff Writer

WUNDER BEACH — A smashing victory over North Vietnamese Army Forces near this 1st Air Cavalry Division base has provided the occasion for the first battle "reunion" of the 5th Cavalry units since the Korean War.

All units of the 5th Cavalry regiment served together as part of the 1st Cavalry Division in World War II and Korea. With the breakup of the Army's regimental system in the 1950's, however, the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry was detached from the division. The 1st Cavalry became the Army's only Airmobile division in 1965, and the 1st and 2nd of the 5th Cav came to Vietnam with the division as airmobile infantry units.

During heavy fighting in northern I Corps, the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry was assigned to support the 2nd Brigade of the Air Cavalry Division.

So when the tanks of the 3rd of the 5th reported a heavy contact 15 miles northeast of Quang Tri and asked for support, the first units that came to help were from the 2nd of the 5th.

The tankers had surprised the 84th Battalion of the 17th Regiment of the North Vietnamese Army, taking a break in a treeline near the sandy beach.

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VILLAGERS

Fearful of the action nearby, hundreds of villagers streamed out of the village toward the armored Cav unit frantically waving anything which even resembled a white flag. They claimed there were 500 NVA hiding in the bunker system entwined within the village. Moments later one Skytrooper captured a wounded NVA who reported the number to be closer to 200. With this report the 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cav decided to pull all stops and swing into full scale action. They maneuvered into a cordon of the village and requested all support which was in the area. Before noon Task Force 70.8, consisting of the USS Boston, Edson, and the O'Brien, trained their guns on the encircled area. Before day's end, they had dumped in 2700 rounds of their ordnance.

Near dusk the 3d of the 5th called off the big guns and requested aerial support. Moments later tactical air support was overhead, the 12th Aviation Group (Marine) joined with the 366th Tactical Fighter wing (USAF) to deliver 28 sorties — 56,000 lbs of bombs and 26,000 lbs. of napalm.

During that evening the area was constantly hammered and

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He Said Nuts

America's military history recounts again and again the saga of the individual warrior, or the unit or the division that would not quit when faced with the toughest of odds. Captain John Paul Jones said, "I have not yet begun to fight!" when called upon to surrender his ship, the Bonhomme Richard. An Army general replied "Nuts!" to a demand to surrender at Bastogne during World War II, fanning the patriotic spirit of the nation. A machinegunner in Korea, cut off from his unit, stayed with his weapon fighting. At the last moment, he feigned death as the enemy overran his position. Then the foe was driven away and U.S. troops recaptured the hill. And the machinegunner lived to fight again.

There is a section of the U.S. fighting man's code which states, "I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist." These men helped write it.

What it means is that no man may surrender himself or his men while he can still fight. If it looks like a hopeless situation, the fighting man does not give in to the enemy. He can and does break contact with the enemy forces, evades them, and makes his way back to friendly lines where he will fight again. If he commands a unit, the unit remains intact and under his control. He and his men fight their way out.

Surrender means a prisoner of war camp and an extremely uncertain future. The communists in the Far East have shown they have no regard for the Geneva Conventions relating to the treatment of prisoners of war. In Vietnam today, both the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese claim the Americans they are holding are not prisoners of war but "war criminals." Even if this were not so, there is only one course for the American fighting man, that approved by the code: never surrender... fight as long as you have the means. (MACV)

For God... And Country

I remember a basketball player's embarrassing moment. He was one who warmed the bench with just occasional opportunities to play. He had about decided his main purpose was just to make sure that all ten uniforms had someone in them. Then it happened. It was a tight game; he had been sure he'd never get in this one, but when one of the guards fouled out he was motioned off the bench. The play was moving fast and before he had a chance to adjust to the pace and get his bearings he found the ball in his hands. He glanced towards the bucket and it was clear all the way. He made a fast break to the rear of the crowd and in it went for 2 points. Then he heard what the crowd was yelling; he had gone for the wrong basket and had scored 2 points for the wrong team.

Many of us, because we don't take time to think, are scoring points for the wrong team. Whenever we mistreat, ridicule, or show disrespect to a Vietnamese, we score points for the wrong team. When we support the black market by contributing or purchasing products, we score points for the wrong team. When we degrade ourselves by lowering our standards of behavior, we score points for the wrong team. When we turn our backs on the spiritual principles which have guided us successfully in the past, we score points for the wrong team.

Even in war, human dignity, moral, social, and spiritual values must be maintained or else we lose as individuals and as a nation more than any military victory could produce. Our actions do count, but let's make sure they count for the right team.

Chaplain Wilbur G. Peterson
Div Army Chaplain



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Officer-in-Charge
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1LT Theodore B. Peak
SP5 Bill Marshall



I See

A 1st Air Cavalry Division medical specialist checks out a Vietnamese boy's ear for infection during sick call in I Corps.

"Doc" McCulloch Says—

Troopers Need Good Oral Hygiene

BY PFC DON LONSWAY

Cavalry Staff Writer

CAMP EVANS—Hey, there soldier...do YOU clean your teeth every day?

Captain William McCulloch, 27, of Duluth, Minn., cites the "lack of good oral hygiene" as the major cause of dental problems of troops in the field.

Captain McCulloch is one of four dentists that the 1st Air

Cavalry Division has to handle dental problems. Working beneath a tent at the 15th Medical Battalion's Company B located at Landing Zone Jane, Captain McCulloch handles everything from teeth cleaning and extractions to minor surgical work.

"We can handle almost all dental problems right here at Jane," explained Captain McCulloch. "I don't think that all

of the company commanders are fully aware of our facilities. If they can get a man in to me early in the morning I can have him back to the company that same afternoon. I think that many may hesitate letting their men go thinking that they may be gone for several days in order to have the work done."

He emphasized strongly the need for men in the field to have good oral hygiene. "Here in Vietnam we have to put more emphasis on all types of oral hygiene than back in the States," he explained, "because of the greater danger of contracting a larger number of diseases."

He cited the great increase in the number of mouth diseases as due primarily to the lack of good oral hygiene.

"You don't need water or a toothbrush to clean your teeth," Captain McCulloch explained. "You can use the corner of a towel or T-shirt and rub the teeth and gums to clean them. Even the filter from a cigarette or the end of a green stick can be used, and," the 1st Cavalry dentist added, "they do an excellent job, especially the green stick."

He explained that by taking the stick, peeling off a section of the bark on one end and rubbing it vigorously on and between the teeth you can do a good job of cleaning them.

Captain McCulloch said that he is trying to get more toothbrushes for the men in the field. Recently, he made a trip to Landing Zone Mooney where he distributed toothbrushes and made spot checks on the Cavalrymen.

"That way I can find the emergency cases and try to get them taken care of as soon as possible," he explained.

He said he was planning to spend time in the evening walking around the perimeter at LZ Jane to locate some of the men who might need treatment right away.

"Toothaches and cavities" were cited by Captain McCulloch as the two most common problems.

He urges strongly that "keeping your mouth clean" is the best preventative method to use. "Make it a habit," he further urged. "It's one of the best ones you can have."

Captain McCulloch is assisted in his work at LZ Jane by Specialist Four Michael Johnson, 22, of Houston, Texas.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 STEVE ROBINSON

Take My Hand

A SKYTROOPER leads a Vietnamese lad to a 1st Air Cavalry medical team for treatment of an infected cut. The soldier was later seen sharing his "C Rations" with the child following the medical treatment.

Maintenance Instruction AIM's Aim

BY PFC GARY QUILLEN

Cavalier Staff Writer

HUE PHU BAI—Need instructions in maintenance, management and record keeping? Repair of automotive, generator, and small arms type equipment, or validation of prescribed labor list requirements? If so, the AIM Team has an answer.

The AIM (Assistance and Instruction in Maintenance) Team is a function of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 27th Maintenance Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Frank P. Ragano.

Arriving at the site of the unit, the team conducts an entrance interview with the commanding officer, materiel readiness officer or S-4, stating the mission and function of the visit.

The team consists of five personnel; one team chief and four men skilled in each field of inspection. The men on the team are Sergeant First Class Cecil T. "Boo C66" Davis, Team Chief, SFC Carl Jester, Automotive Inspector, SP5 Lee Claxton, Generator Inspector, SP5 Ted Hill, Armorer Inspector, and SP4 Donald Wells, Prescribed Parts List Inspector.

The "aim" of the AIM Team is to improve the materiel readiness of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

"Our visits are not for gigs or snooping," SFC Davis stressed. "They are to assist and instruct the people on procedures for maintaining equipment, correct supply procedures, maintenance management, and anything else that will help in their organizational maintenance program. We also visit by invitation only," he added.

Anyone desiring assistance by the AIM Team can reach them by phoning Hue-Phu Bai 2162 or Camp Evans 202.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 TRAVIS HOLDEN

Plenty For All

MEDCAP personnel from the 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry, distribute candy and soap to children of a village near Quang Tri. Members of the 1st Air Cavalry make periodic checks in the villages to render medical aid.

'Girls Girls Everywhere' States Wounded Skytrooper

BY SP5 HERB DENTON

Cavalier Staff Writer

CAMP EVANS — Specialist Four Roger L. Koch was hit by shrapnel during the initial rocket and mortar attack of the Khe Sanh siege. An hour and a half later he was aboard the hospital ship U.S.S. Repose, sailing along the South China Sea, while two doctors were closely studying the frag wounds on his neck and shoulder.

Another man from his company, Specialist Four Wayne C.

Zack, was hit by an enemy scratch charge during a ground attack. The next morning Zack joined Koch on the Repose.

Both men returned to the field two weeks later, tan and relaxed, with only minor scars. For Koch, it had been his second Purple Heart in two days. Zack declared, "It was my first and last Purple Heart."

Not that recuperation on the Repose had been all that bad. According to Koch it was, well, "kinda wild. Man! Round-eyed

girls—nurses, Red Cross girls—everywhere."

During their convalescent period, the ship docked at Da Nang, the nurses and Red Cross ladies donned short shorts and everybody hauled off the ship for a round of beach parties.

Back on the ship, life was not too uncomfortable either—cold soda, ice-cream sundae, a MARS station for calling home, basketball court on the top deck and movies every night.

Cavalry FO Pours Smoke On Attacker

By SP4 JERRY SMITH

Cavalier Staff Writer

QUANG TRI — Forward Observer (FO) is usually the first position an artillery lieutenant serves when he arrives in Vietnam. It makes him aware of the infantry's needs and enables him to understand problems in the field. An observer goes to the field to eat, sleep and fight with the grunts (infantry) for approximately six months. "Very few FO's and reconnaissance sergeants want to come off the hill," said Lt. Lars Showalter, the Fire Direction Control officer for the 1st Air Cavalry Division's B-Battery, and Battalion 19th Artillery. "You get to like being out with a company in the field—it's more exciting and you get to see first hand what effect the artillery actually has," he said.

Each company in the 1st Brigade has a forward observer team working with it at all times. The team consists of the FO, a reconnaissance sergeant, and a radio operator. If the company divides, or a small unit goes on patrol, the FO usually stays with the larger unit and the recon sergeant marches with the smaller one.

On a combat assault the forward observer goes in with the first platoon. As soon as he is on the ground he is responsible for calling in artillery and AAA (air rocket artillery). If the landing zone is "hot," the FO is responsible for calling in air strikes and naval fire when conditions demand it. He must know exactly where he is "on the map," and be able to call on his resources at a moment's notice.

The Forward Observer is the vital link between the infantry and the artillery, making it possible to have heavy weapons capabilities when and where they are needed.

1st Cav High Up In Nam

BY SP4 JERRY SMITH

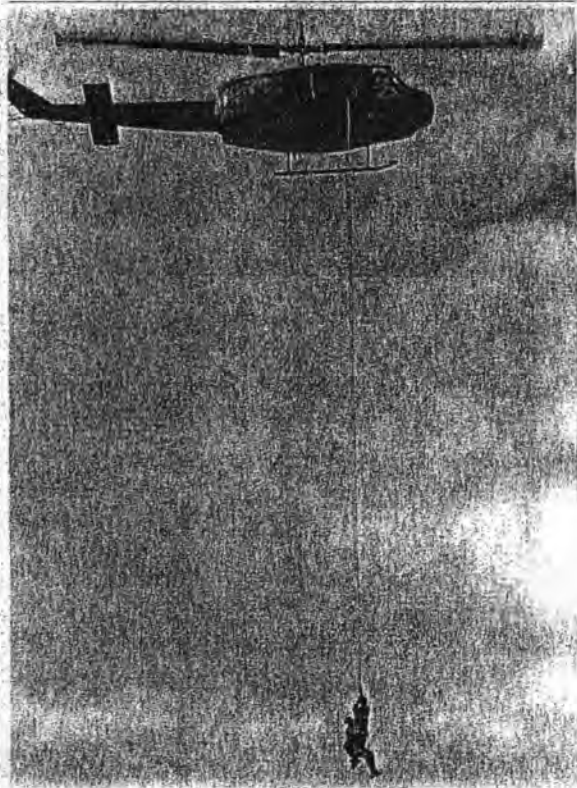
Cavalier Staff Writer

QUANG TRI — High above Landing Zone Betty, two SKY-TROOPERS from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry dangled beneath a Huey helicopter on a 60 foot line. The exercise was part of an experiment aimed at teaching troops to make quick extractions from the field in a spot where no helicopter landing would be possible.

"It's like a seat swing you use when you are a kid," said Lloyd Labombard (169 Chestnut Ave, Boston), a medic with the 1st Sqn, 9th Cav, "except you don't have to worry about falling off."

The rig used is known as a "modified McGuire." A double length of 80 foot rope swung down from each side of the chopper with sling seats at the end. The unit hasn't had to use the contraption yet, but is actively engaged in training its ground troops and pilots in the use of the method. Indications are that the sling is feasible and may be used in the future.

"Everybody that has been up thinks it's great," Specialist Labombard said. "You have to lock an arm and a leg with the fellow who is hanging off the other side of the ship. It keeps you balanced, and also gives you a free arm to fire with."



US ARMY PHOTO BY PFC JIM ESPPOSITO

Hold Tight

Dangling some 60 feet below a helicopter, two members of the 1st Air Cavalry Division train in the quick extraction aspect of a "modified McGuire" seat.



US ARMY PHOTO BY PFC JIM ESPPOSITO

Swing High

Swing a hundred feet over Quang Tri, two men lock legs to afford better balance. This method of extracting personnel may be used in areas where dense foliage prohibits helicopter landings.

Sorry Charlie

Aerial Teams Blast Enemies' Rice Boats

By CPL RON PUNCH
Cavalry Staff Writer

CAMP EVANS—Boatloads of rice running Viet Cong were swamped recently by "night hunter" teams operating in the Landing Zone Jane area.

Attacks against the wily enemy were conducted by the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry and the 220th Assault Helicopter Battalion. They have added a total of eight boatloads of enemy, complete with rice.

Low-flying Huey choppers with two observers and two spotters equipped with starlight scopes detect and engage the targets while a gunship follows close behind to finish the job. In the meantime a third ship orbits high above to light the ground with giant flares that are thrown out at the command of the spotter pilot.

The ambushes, search and clear missions, and daylight recon patrols that have been executed by the line outfits in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry have forced the enemy to take to the waterway by night in order to transport their stores of rice to the North Vietnamese Army, but "Charlie has been thinking twice about doing that lately," remarked Sergeant First Class Charles Smith of Lacey, Wash., one observer on the missions, "since the areas covered are usually populated."

Caution has been taken to insure that innocent civilians are not included in the aerial death toll. A strict radio contact is maintained to confirm that the targets being engaged are in a "free fire zone."

Once in a clear zone, the spotter bird skims the ground as

the observers scan with their "green eye." When the target is detected the observer fires a tracer from his M16 to mark the location and give the signal to the door gunner and the gunship to open fire.

"We have traced every waterway in this area of operation to find Charlie, and our efforts have been quite successful," exclaimed SSG Ralph Blair of Plumbranch, S.C.

Skytroopers Must Watch RVN Heat

CAMP EVANS—Last month 52 members of the FIRST TEAM were sidelined due to heat exhaustion. "That figure is expected to rise as drastically as the heat does," stated Captain Richard Frankel, Division Preventive Medicine Officer.

Heat exhaustion is caused by a lack of water and salt in the body. The symptoms are easy to spot: dizziness, stomach cramps and a high rising fever. These will put any hard core trooper on his back.

Treatment is fairly simple. Take one of your canteens and put a liberal amount of salt in it, shake well and force feed if necessary, to the afflicted man. After he has drank most of the salt water, move him to the shade and get him to a doctor as soon as possible.

The prevention is just as simple. Try not to eat a big noon meal, drink plenty of water and take two salt tablets with every meal.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 ROSS JONES

Load

155 MM fire support is being rendered by C Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery for a 1st Air Cavalry Division element working in Base Area 114.

1st Cavalry Division Welcomes New Red Cross Field Director

By SP4 BRUCE BURCH
Cavalry Staff Writer

CAMP EVANS—Seattle resident, Melvin Bahb, replaced Alexander Fontas as the Red Cross Field Director for the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

Before coming to the 1st Cav, he worked with the 173rd Airborne Brigade for five months. Prior to that, Mr. Bahb served as the Red Cross Field Director for the US Navy Supply Depot in Seattle.

Mr. Fontas has been reassigned, this time to Würzburg, Germany, as the Red Cross Field Director for the 3rd Infantry Division.

Bahb is, however, no stranger to combat. He was an Infantry PFC with the 37th Infantry Division during World War II before he attended the Pentecostal School of Theology to graduate with a Bachelor of Theological Science Degree in 1948.

Mr. Bahb began serving at military installations for the Red Cross in 1957 at Fort Lewis, Wash-

ington, and then went to the 3rd Armored Division in Germany as an assistant Field Director for five years, before moving to the assignment in Seattle.

The outgoing 1st Cav Field Director stressed the importance of the Red Cross in Vietnam:

"We've been here since the very beginning of U.S. involvement. Even when we only had military advisors here, there were Red Cross workers. It's grown steadily in Vietnam. Now there are about 280 staff workers."

The Red Cross operation in Vietnam was explained as a three-part program:

The first part is the work with able-bodied personnel. The most important part of this is the securing of emergency leaves and financial assistance in connection with emergency leaves.

The second part is made up of the Red Cross Hospital Staffs. In addition to manning various hospitals in Vietnam, they provide Welfare Services and recreational activities for patients.

The third, and last part, is called Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas, or SRAO

1st Cavalry Reenlistment Ratio High

CAMP EVANS — Nearly 49% of the people eligible for reenlistment, did just that since July 1, 1967.

According to Master Sergeant Burl A. Malone, NCOIC of the Division Re-enlistment Office, each of the three brigades have a two man team assigned to them. MSG Malone's men travel for a period of 15 days at a time, delivering orientations to interested personnel at base camps and in the field. The recruiters spend as much as 25 hours in the air during their jaunts.

Besides the orientations to men already assigned to the Cav, the re-enlistment people brief incoming Cav replacements, their opportunities and chances for bonuses. "A first time re-enlistment can gain the soldier as much as \$10,000, according to the criticality of his MOS." "If the re-enlistment is in Vietnam, the bonus is tax free," added Malone.

In the period concerned, 649 men re-enlisted. First termers re-enlisted at the rate of 61%.

Asked why there was such a high number of first termers re-enlisting, MSG Malone explained that the Armed Forces wages and benefits were getting better. He also said, "People are becoming aware of the need for better pay and all other benefits for dependents. I believe they will continue to get better."

1st Team Gifts Go to Vietnam Cavalry Vets

CAMP EVANS—In the near future, members of the 1st Air Cavalry Division will receive billfolds, 1st Cav medallions and new record folders are now being distributed.

The billfolds will be distributed to all Cav personnel coming to or leaving Vietnam. The folders and medallions will be given to those terminating their tour.

Inside the folder, a combat certificate will carry the name of the soldier, the dates of his tour, and the signature of the Commanding General, 1st Air Cavalry Division.

The black vinyl billfolds have jackets for pictures and waterproof slots for bills, letters and cards. The wallet is 4 by 6 inches and has a 1st Air Cav insignia on the cover. An initial stock of 35,000 wallets and 30,000 folders has been ordered. The medallions, bearing a map of Vietnam on one side and a Cav insignia on the other, and the folders are already being given out to soldiers departing from An Khê.

1st Lieutenant John E. Peeters, Camp Evans Central Post Fund custodian, is handling the ordering and payment of the items.

Major Joseph Mondzak, Chief of Personnel Services, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1 commented, "The wallet, medallion, and certificate would serve as a lasting remembrance of the soldier's tour with the finest division in Vietnam, the 1st Air Cavalry Division."

6. CAVALAIR



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 JIM CALDWELL

Tighter

Would you believe winding up a tank? No? Specialist Four Michael Mengual is checking his personnel carrier's road wheels at Wunder Beach, Vietnam in preparation for the 1st Air Cavalry's operation in the I Corps Area.

Cavalrymen Find NVA R&R Center

CAMP EVANS—If you should happen to see a mob of angry NVA armed only with purloined copies of Playboy and bottles of suntan lotion, wearing swimming trunks and waving currency around, don't be surprised.

Translation of their unruly conversation may go something like "##\$&@, they said it was around here someplace." If they

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Cav's Aerial Arty Trump Card In War

By SP4 AL GARCIA

Cavalry Staff Writer

CAMP EVANS — At 6 a.m. six 1st Air Cavalry Division assault helicopters, two Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) ships and a command chopper took off from Camp Evans. Their objective: to engage enemy troops active east of Evans, near the Gulf of Tonkin.

Aboard the command ship was Lieutenant Colonel A.D. Davis, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry. With him was his operations officer, Major Don B. Munson, a field artillery liaison officer and a Naval artillery liaison man. From here, they would call the shots. This is how it went, with succinct call signs.

"Bluehose 6, this is Top Banana 14. Request first round smoke. Over." "Roger, Top Banana." A WP (White Phosphorous) round found its target below. The smoke marked the Landing Zone (LZ).

"End of mission. Over." "Roger, Bluehose, commence firing at Hotel minus 5." It was Hotel (H-hour, the time the assault choppers would hit the ground) minus 6. One minute later, field artillery began pounding the area. For three minutes, round after round raked the LZ. Naval artillery took over at H minus 2 and stopped at minus 1.

As suddenly as the gun support stopped, ARA began. The choppers unleashed rockets and machine guns on the area, until the assault ships from the 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion swooped down at H time to drop the troops. The ARA craft circled above, affording protection for the men who scrambled from the "lift" ships.

The assault ships landed and picked the men up within minutes after the firefight ended. The ARA craft still hovered above, ready for a counterattack. It never occurred.

Another successful assault has just taken place. Many do not realize the detailed planning that goes into one. The ground assault plan must be complemented by artillery. Flight routes, best times for the assault, number of troops and craft, landing and

pick-up zones all must be decided beforehand.

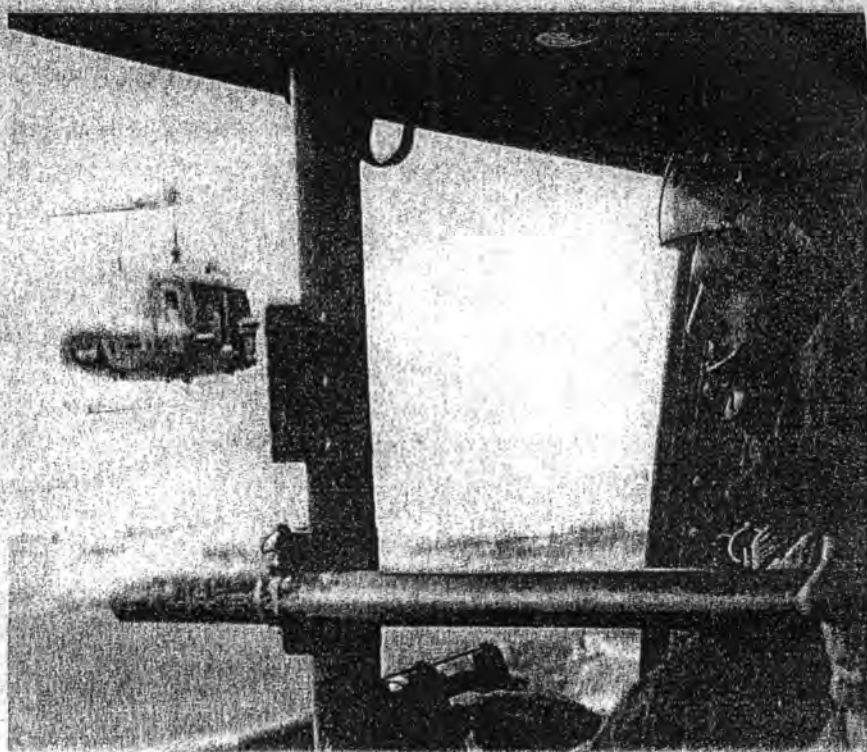
The original plan is mapped by the commanding officer and his operations officer. Before the operation can be put into effect, it must be sanctioned by brigade and ultimately, by the division.

229th Sets New Record

CAMP EVANS—Figures released today indicate that Company C, 229th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter) holds the all time record for the number of sorties flown in a single day by one company.

According to the company commander, Major Richard H. Young, the unit flew 402 sorties on March 16. The figure includes the movement of 1,018 troops on combat assault missions near Quang Tri.

Major Young also pointed out the unit logged nearly 10,000 hours during a 6 month period ending May 16. Movement of 53,310 troops was made, and 2213 tons of cargo were transported.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 ROSS JONES

Always Ready

A 1st Air Cavalry Division doorgunner watches for signs of an enemy on the ground below as troops of the 1st Cav's 1st Brigade air assault near Quang Tri.

1st Team's Helicopter Repairmen Enable Div. To Remain Airmobile

CAMP EVANS — In football, the halfback gets the publicity and high salary. In Vietnam, the 1st Air Cavalry Division's pilots get their share of recognition. The blockers who make it possible for the halfback to gain yardage and the men who keep the pilots flying usually remain unnoticed.

Though the helicopter repairmen may be anonymous to the casual observer, those who work with these men appreciate their worth. "The efforts of the little guy are what keep the choppers flying," states Major Alan N. Woolley, Aircraft Maintenance

Officer for the 227th Aviation Battalion. The major was referring to the mechanics and crew chiefs who work from sunset to sunrise, insuring the aircraft are in working order.

At the 227th, 160 officers and enlisted men have the responsibility of keeping 62 ships operational. They lubricate, inspect and make repairs. This is organizational maintenance. Major repairs are made at the 15th Transportation Corps Battalion, which handles direct maintenance.

The 610th Transportation Company pulls what is known as

general support maintenance. Extensive repairs on engines, transmissions and rotor blades are made here.

The largest maintenance organization, the depot, is located in the U.S. A badly damaged ship can be repaired completely at savings to Uncle Sam. After repairs, the ship is like new.

The crew chiefs and mechanics are not the only ones who seem to be forgotten. Crew chiefs must lube, clean and make sure the craft is operating smoothly and the mechanics have to know what makes the ship tick. Yet, there must be coordination between these men and the commanders. This is the job of the maintenance officer.

Major Woolley has that responsibility at 227th. His mission is three-fold. First, he advises the commander which ships should be used for a certain operation. Second, he must solve problems and third, he is responsible for recovering downed ships and crews. He must also make certain that his unit has enough flyable ships to fulfill its mission.

Like the blockers for the star runner, the repairmen remain in the background. Yet without the little guy and his boss there would be no airmobility.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 ROSS JONES

Easy Now

A cordon and search, led by the 1st platoon, B Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division, conducted seven miles south of Quang Tri yielded VG suspects. The operation also included the Vietnamese National Police and the 545th Military Police Company.

NVA Troops Use Church As Fortress

QUANG TRI — "Churchville" is no more.

In the past six years, innumerable patrols passed the innocent-looking church 14 miles west of here, and encountered an unexpected fusillade of fire from within. Because of its notoriety, the massless cathedral gained among 1st Air Cavalry soldiers, the sobriquet "Churchville."

Banking upon the reluctance of Americans to suspect or destroy an edifice of worship, crafty NVA used it as a fortress-in-disguise. With observation posts in the belfry, an ammunition dump in the basement, and machine guns in the vestibule, the NVA waited for the unwary patrol.

For the past week, Company A, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry has been working in conjunction with the 8th Engineer Battalion. Blowing up bunkers, filling tunnels, and reluctantly destroying the church, they wrote an end to "Churchville."

Special Services At Evans

CAMP EVANS—Special Services announced the availability of recreational facilities at Camp Evans.

Already, volleyball courts and horseshoe pits have been built. A baseball field is being taken into consideration and two miniature golf holes are scheduled to be airlifted here in the near future. The real golfer can sharpen his swing, too, special nets will stop the balls hit. For the reader, more than 1500 books, magazines and periodicals are in stock. A parachute tent has been provided for reading purposes, but if you desire, the books may be checked out.

According to 1st Lieutenant Dennis Fukai, Special Services Officer, softball, bats, footballs, game kits, dartboards and card decks will also be available for check-out, beginning June 18th.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 ROSE FOSTER

Easy Now

A delicate balance is maintained between bridge, man, and machinegun. The foot crossing of the rickety bamboo bridge takes place during a 1st Air Cavalry Division search and clear operation near Quang Tri.

Combat Air Weather Team Aids Military Missions

By PFC DON LONSWY

Cavalry Staff Writer

LZ JANE — The Second Combat Weather Team is probably one of the smallest units at LZ Jane, but it may be one of the most important.

Composed of three Air Force Sergeants, the team, which is part of the 11st Detachment, 5th Weather Squadron with headquarters at Camp Evans, provides daily weather information for the entire Second Black Horse Brigade.

The meteorological specialists include Sergeant Michael Young, 21 (Citrus Heights, Calif.), NCOIC, Sergeant Robert F Cunningham, 23 (Juneau, Alaska), and Sergeant Richard V. Ryan, 23 (Ridgewood, New York).

Each day the team prepares a daily weather report covering the next 24 hour period that is presented at the brigade briefing. It gives cloud types and height, visibility, wind speed and direction, maximum and minimum temperature, and any precipitation that is expected.

"We receive a general report from Evans and then we modify it for this area," Young explained.

For one of the world's completely airmobile combat units, weather is a very important factor. It decides if the helicopters are going to be able to air-lift troops as well as when supplies can be lifted into the units. Colonel Robert N. Mackinnon, commander of the Second Black Horse Brigade, put it this way, "We fight three things: the enemy, the terrain, and the weather, and these people provide us with the answers about the weather."

The aerial rocket artillery (ARA) unit located at Jane relies heavily on the team for weather information. "In addition to the daily report we receive at the briefing, they also provide us with a 30 day forecast for the coming month," explained Major Francisco Trevine Jr., commander of B Battery, 2d Battalion, 20th ARA. "One of the most important factors we have to consider," he continued, "is the density altitude — the weight of the air at a particular height above sea level. That determines the efficiency of our engines which in turn determines the size of the load we can carry," he explained.

When the Second Brigade plans to set up a new LZ, Major Trevine detailed how the weather team helps them plan the construction of their new runway. "When our ships are loaded they require a short runway to take off. The weather team gives the information as to how the winds blow at that location thus enabling us to construct the runway in the most suitable direction," he explained.

Whenever necessary, the team issues emergency weather warnings enabling the pilots to get their ships to safety.

Reunites — (Continued From Page 1)

Responding to the chance to cut off a large enemy force, the tankers called for immediate reinforcements.

The company was Charlie Company. "We were on a search and clear mission when we got the warning order, and when the choppers dropped down to pick us up we were saddled up and ready," said Lt. Paul R. Hirsch of Columbus, Ga., the company commander. Delta company, 1st Battalion, 20th ARA, followed. C Company, 11th Detachment, 5th Weather Squadron, ships of the 2nd Battalion, 20th ARA, provided fire support.

Air Force planes thundered in to provide close support. "While the 'flyboys' snarled away, we saw some enemy soldiers trying to make it out of the area, and some of them had their clothes on fire," said Specialist Four Marcel Thomas.

Three days' heavy fighting in the area netted the airmobile and armored soldiers 223 enemy killed and 14 detainees. "A lot of credit belongs to the Air Force, which put as many as 29 fighters into the air at one time," said Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Leary, commander of the 37th. "But we gave them few escape routes except into our hands."

Rockets Don't Worry Control Tower Team

By SP4 BRUCE BURCH

Cavalry Staff Writer

CAMP EVANS — What is the worst place to be during a rocket attack? How about on top of a control tower?

But virtually all of the Camp Evans Aircraft Control Tower personnel claim differently.

SP4 Don Foster, the tower team chief, shakes his head adamantly and says, "You're safer than anywhere else. I'd rather be there than in a bunker any day. Mortars can't possibly hurt us because they can't come up high enough, and it would take a direct hit by a rocket to do us in."

What about a direct hit at the base of the tower?

"It already happened," responded Specialist Locke, seeming almost nonchalant. "The second time I ever went up there it happened, and it's still standing."

"The engineers say it will stand on two legs," said SP4 Foster.

PFC James G. Mortinson, 21, of Modesto, Calif., has also been inside the tower during an attack, and has had what appears to be a rare experience. A fragment of shrapnel actually pierced the glass in the tower and missed his forehead by inches. He had this to say about the attacks: "When the rounds start falling, well, what can you do, really? All you can do is do your job, really, just do your job, man, and that's all that counts."

"First you put out a blanket broadcast telling all the aircraft in the area to stay clear because we've got live fire. If you're already got aircraft on the ground, well, that's a different story. It happened to Paige not too long ago."

At the end of a long, agonizing, and seemingly endless climb that the tower men make every day, six the control tower itself. It is a small, green room of light-weight metal, and inside a

small hatch was PFC Dana Paige, 22, of Lawn Meadow, Mass.

"When it happened, I had seven Caribons (C-7A's) on the ground. I sent two to one end of the runway and sent them off to the north, one and two, one right after the other; that is, the others went to the other end, and took off to the south, all but one. He was parked to the side of the runway and he just shut down and the crew left the aircraft. It's not as bad as it sounds."

Scout Dog Saves Squad

By SP4 GARY QUILEN

Cavalry Staff Writer

QUANG TRI — "Medevac Alpha, Medevac Alpha, this Medevac Control," the voice on the radio announced. The voice then continued to give the coordinates for the medevac mission and the team from Headquarters Support Company, 15th Medical Battalion, rushed to the helicopter.

But this mission turned out to be a bit different for the crew. When arriving on the scene, the medic, Specialist 3 Keltner Farris, Atlanta, Ga., discovered that the patient was a scout dog. The scout dog, Tunk, had been on a patrol with elements of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry when he was wounded (his "extra" senses had saved the lives of many of the men in the past).

Walking down a trail, the Skytroopers discovered a dead NVA. Tunk smelled the body of the NVA and picked up the scent. He followed the scent down a trail and within a few feet of the dead NVA, sensed an ambush.

He tried to warn the other troopers but could not get their attention. So Tunk leaped into the ambush and drew fire from the concealed NVA. He was badly wounded to the men decided to call in a Medevac ship.

When the chopper arrived, the men discovered that the dog could not be placed in the hoist, so one of the men volunteered to be placed in the hoist and lift Tunk to the chopper.

"I am glad that I know something about treating animals," Specialist Farris stated. "I know that the men were very worried about Tunk because they consider him one of the unit. 'We treated Tunk for his wounds and when we returned to the base area, he received more intense treatment. Then he was medevaced to Camp Evans.'"

Two Cav Battalions

(Continued From Page 1) observed. Two flare ships kept the area under constant "sunshine." The 1st Battalion, 4th Marine artillery and the 5th 155mm gun battery provisional (Marines) provided the hammer.

ACTION

While this action was closing out elements of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry and the 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry were flown into the area in strength in the cordon. While the Cavalrymen maneuvered into their positions, an NVA squad attempted to break through the cordon. They hit Bravo Troop 3d of the 5th with rockets. The "Skytroopers" easily repelled the attack with their own organic weapons, driving the enemy back into the smoldering village.

At dawn the combined units started the task of closing their cordon, in an effort to search the village. When the rough search was completed the actual body count revealed 117 NVA dead, and many bunkers which had served in on their

scrapants. These were being destroyed by aschel charges at the time. An after action report from Lieutenant R. G. Kupchinski, Brooklyn, N. Y. estimated half as many NVA dead in their bunkers.

The rest of the day seemed a well deserved rest to the "Skytroopers" of the 2d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry as they went about policing up and securing the positions for their defense for the night.

MID DAY

By mid day the operation was brought to its apparent conclusion when all elements linked up at the northern end of the village. The total NVA KIA was increased with the addition of 14 more enemy bodies.

Throughout the day a company from the 11th Engineers, under operational control of the Cav, completed destruction of the NVA underground bunkers. A final report of the action reads follows: 223 enemy KIA's, 28 POW's, 31 civil defendants captured, 56 individual weapons confiscated and 13 crew served weapons either captured or destroyed.

Cavalrymen—

(Continued From Page 1) curse their First Sergeant, their army, the war, South Vietnam, and the Americans; don't be surprised.

They are merely searching for the NVA RAR center located west of Hue, but they won't find it. The 1st Air Cavalry's Co A, 3th Battalion, 7th Cavalry stripped it of movies (like "Dien Bien Phu"), musical instruments, tape recorders, generators, etc. Then they blew the remainder into very small pieces, including the sign saying "Welcome to your three day rest center." If you see these guys, tell them the 1st Cav said "Sorry About That."

Fifth Cav Demonstrates

(Continued From Page 1) fire, and that it had become "ever man for himself."

Even so, there were still a few NVA diehards left in the village. "They were pretty well hidden," said Specialist Four C. Kent Lee, company radio-telephone operator (RTO). "Some had buried themselves alive in the sand and some had submerged themselves in the water. They just wouldn't give up."

This was not the case with all of the NVA. During the operation, the combined cavalry units picked up 14 detainees; including two political officers.

After the initial sweep of the village, D Company and B Troop returned to the line turned around, and began to sweep again, this time with the help of bulldozers which un-

ered weapons and still more NVA dead and living.

Among the weapons seized were AR-47's, SKS's, 60mm rocket launchers and rockets, 81mm mortar rounds, and 81mm rounds.

"The most interesting thing about the operation," said Lt. Edwards, "was the total non-resistance between the infantry and the mechanized units."

The final sweep was made the following morning, again with the help of the bulldozers, resulting in the discovery of still more enemy bodies, and the capture of a few more detainees. 233 NVA died in the two-day battle.

Upon completion of the final sweep, D Company was airlifted back into the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry's area of operations in the western section of the Hai Lang District.