

# Cav Troopers Kill 247

## BLACKHORSE

— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

Vol. I, No. 1

BLACKHORSE

JUNE 1969



FIRE POWER, MOBILITY, SHOCK EFFECT . . . THE HEART OF ARMOR

## Blackhorse Medic, Bailey, Awarded DSC For Valor

By Sp4 James Klahn

Specialist Four Otis J. Bailey of Lyons, N.Y., an "I" Troop Medic, was awarded the nation's second highest valor award recently for crawling within two meters of an enemy machinegun nest to evacuate his wounded comrades.

In a recent Blackhorse ceremony he was presented the Distinguished Service Cross by Lieutenant General Frank Mildren, USARV Deputy Commanding General.

Sp4 Bailey was cited for his actions on November 24, 1968, when his unit was ambushed while on a foot patrol through an enemy basecamp.

"We were moving through thick jungle and searching for a suspected enemy platoon when we were hit by heavy enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire," the husky medic said. "I was struck helpless with fear for a moment. I knew what was happening but I couldn't do anything. I couldn't react. I managed to hit the ground on the second volley, but there is no doubt in my mind that I was lucky. It should have been curtains."

The first volley of enemy fire left a number of wounded huddled on the ground. Low-crawling to a wounded sergeant, Bailey pulled him to safety and

administered first aid. He then returned to within two meters of the enemy position to assist the wounded pointman. Braving a deluge of enemy gunfire and hand grenades, he dragged the man to the rear of the platoon.

"It wasn't until a month when we finally talked about it that I found how close I had crawled to (Continued on Back Page)

## 'Seek And Ye Shall Find' Says Mine-Finding Padre

Regimental Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) R. H. Hawn's message on Sunday, April 20, centered around the biblical verse "Seek and ye shall find." A man to follow his own advice as well as to give it, the chaplain after his services were finished rode off and found a gift somewhat less than heavenly — a brand new anti-tank mine.

Following his service at an 11th Cav field unit the chaplain was motoring back to the Regimental CP when he yelled at his driver to "stop the jeep!" The

chaplain moved to the center of the road and marked a pressure detonated anti-tank mine.

"We were driving along when I happened to glance at the road. I looked at one patch of ground and I knew that the mine was there. Don't ask me how I knew that the mine was there. It's just a feeling that you get after being around armor and enemy mines a lot."

Within minutes 919th Combat Engineers arrived and destroyed the mine.

## Uncover Tons Of Supplies

By Sgt. Leonard Boscarine

The Blackhorse Regiment and the 1st Air Cavalry Division have been credited with killing 247 enemy and capturing 15 others during Operation "Montana Raider" in the War Zone "C" area near Dau Tieng and Quan Loi 12 April to 14 May.

11th Cav troopers, at times fighting within six miles of the Cambodian Border, captured 42 tons of enemy rice and four tons of munitions. They captured 247 individual weapons and 19 crew-served weapons.

Air Cavalry Troop started the fighting when they combined with 1st Cav Infantrymen in making April 13 an unlucky day for the enemy. The soldiers killed 11 NVA and captured a 60mm mortar tube.

Again fighting developed on April 17 when "C" Troop engaged an enemy force armed with small arms, automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenades and CS gas. After donning their gas masks the Blackhorse troopers pressed on and killed another 13 enemy.

Nearby the 1st Squadron command post was hoping for another peaceful day as they moved toward Fire Support Base White, when they came under enemy fire. Backed by "G" Company Troop and the 919th Combat Engineers, the cavalrymen killed 20 NVA and captured six prisoners. Earlier that morning the "G" troopers had found and destroyed a small hospital complex.

During the fighting the next day burning bamboo thickets, ignited by artillery and tracer rounds, forced the 1st Squadron cavalrymen to draw back several times. However, by the end of the second day's fighting 76 enemy had been killed and six prisoners captured. The 919th Engineers were also taking part in the fighting. The "Red De-

vils" found a weapons cache while they were sweeping for mines and booby traps near a captured enemy basecamp. The haul included 168 rounds of 82mm, 75mm and 60mm mortar ammunition; 54 cases of mortar fuzes; 20 pounds of TNT and 1600 rounds of 51-caliber ammunition.

"We were moving ahead of the force when one of my men noticed a partially buried mortar round under a clump of bamboo," said Cpt. Bernard J. Reilly of Rutland, Vt., commander of the 919th Engineers. "We dug under the area and found ammo everywhere."

A week later "E" Troop got to see part of the tremendous psychological effect the Blackhorse has on the enemy. The cavalrymen were moving down a trail when they found an AK-47 rifle. An enemy soldier had thrown down his rifle and run after seeing the troopers.

On April 26 "E" Troop got another break. During a routine patrol Charlie popped a claymore on the troops. No one was injured. Pushing on the cavalrymen found three claymore mines and 3,000 pounds of rice hidden among numerous fighting positions and grass huts. In addition "G" Troop found 10 bicycles and two SKS rifles.

The enemy found himself on an even leaner diet April 27th, and the cavalrymen from "B" (Continued on Page 4)

## On the Road 13 Months Cav CP Returns Home

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop of the Blackhorse Regiment moved into the Blackhorse basecamp May 15, ending a 13-month absence during which the Regiment's troopers dispatched more than 1,796 enemy soldiers.

The move to Blackhorse came only a day after the Regiment

returned to Bien Hoa from the 32-day Operation Montana Raider near Dau Tieng and Quan Loi. Despite the damage and wear on the vehicles during the long operation, the road march was accomplished in 3½ hours.

March music and a large sign reading "Welcome Home" greeted the troopers as they wheeled their trucks, jeeps and tracks onto the regiment's old home ground.

Blackhorse Headquarters Tactical Operations Center (TOC) moved from the basecamp to the Bien Hoa Army Base in April, 1968. From there, it moved to coordinate actions in the Lam Son, the Iron Triangle, and around Bear Cat, Lai Khe, Loc Ninh, the Hobo Woods, Dau Tieng, An Loc and Quan Loi.

During the absence of the Command Post, the basecamp has been staffed by each squadron on a rotating basis, and by the replacement detachment, a skeleton crew of admin and support personnel and elements of the Regiment's combat service and support units.

The move enables the 11th Cav to work in conjunction with the 18th ARVN Division, the Royal Australian Task Force elements of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and the 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.



Sunset-Mission's End

# The Blackhorse Here's YOUR Paper

Welcome to the first issue of The Blackhorse, a monthly newspaper by, for and about the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. These pages will bring you each month information about what your unit is doing, as well as helpful hints and pointers on diverse subjects.

This newspaper has two purposes: 1) To tell you more about your unit and its mission in Vietnam; and 2) To help you describe to the folks back in the world what you and your buddies are doing so far from home. The paper is here to serve you.

We have also attempted to fill our pages with the type of information the field soldier has trouble getting. Our PX tips, photo corner and a few other features are designed with this end in mind. The rest of our offering will be, we hope, news.

In case you're wondering, this paper is written, assembled and edited by members of the 17th Public Information Detachment. They're the same guys who run around the field with cameras and try to get your name and address in the middle of a firefight so they can send the picture of you to your hometown newspaper.

You can help us out by letting us know what you'd like to see in these pages. We are always on the lookout for interesting stories on members of the Regiment as well as good photos on the same subject.

When you finish reading the newspaper, why not send it home to the folks so they can read it too? We have provided an address form on the last page for this purpose. Just fold the paper and staple or tape it, fill out the address form, stick on a 5-cent stamp and mail it.

Address correspondence to us:

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11th Armored Cavalry Regiment  
APO San Francisco 96257

## Hold Baggage Mixup Can Be Avoided

Many troopers come in fresh from the field just prior to their DEROS date and grope their way through clearing the regiment. Because of the often confusing procedures, some people spend precious time that should be spent renewing friendships before saying good-bye on the labyrinth of clearing. In the belief that everyone should have a chance to unwind before boarding the plane for "the world", we talked with SSG Frank Fernandez, in charge of hold baggage, on some of his thorniest problems. Here are the questions we posed and the answers he gave us:

**Must baggage be inspected before departing Blackhorse?**

Yes. People should bring their articles here to be shipped and pack them after they get here and we have made a customs check.

**Do you have materials to pack with?**

Again, yes. We have boxes, packing paper for cushioning, and plastic sheeting to rainproof the contents.

**What is the purpose of the customs check?**

To make sure prohibited items are not being packed into the hold baggage. By making sure they are not packed here we can save the troops a lot of trouble at later customs checkpoints. The list of prohibited items runs nearly three type-written pages and the chances of unwittingly packing some of these items is pretty good.

**What is required to utilize hold baggage services?**

Orders for a permanent change of station (PCS).

**How much paperwork is involved?**

There are a number of forms — the prohibited items form, application for shipping of personal items, weight certificate, customs declaration form, application for shipping of household goods, and excess cost form, if it applies.

**That may sound like a lot, but they are relatively easy and take little time.**

**What about excess cost?**  
Excess cost applies in two cases — overweight and shipping to a location other than that mentioned in the PCS. If baggage (Continued on Page 6)



Well, mom, everything's been pretty quiet here . . .

## Chaplain's Corner

# Are You a REAL MAN?

Chaplain (LTC) Robert Hawn

During my travels around the regiment I have had a wonderful experience. I have met men from all walks of life, all professions, all variations of individualism; and from them all I have not only learned a great deal, but more importantly, I have found new friends. To everyone in the Blackhorse Regiment I owe a great deal, for you have made being your chaplain a rich, rewarding and enjoyable assignment.

During my trips throughout the Regiment, however, I have noted that individual integrity seems to be losing its place among us. Too

many people are too willing to go along with the crowd, too willing to compromise what they believe, in order to get ahead. Many men constantly "wash their hands" when it comes to making a decision or accepting responsibility for their actions. Too many seem to serve God just a little, while serving themselves and material things a great deal. When people have lived for themselves and worldly possessions only and have failed in their desires they wonder why, and the joy of living is gone from their lives.

We fall into selfish, materialistic thinking because of self-rationalization. We say, "Everybody has to look out for himself," or "Everybody is doing it," or "Nobody takes the old stand of higher principles and ideals, why should I?" or "Nobody is entirely honest in his dealings with others, everybody has to cut a few corners or shade the regulations to get what he wants in this world." This line of reasoning clearly shows our own selfish interests. We are thinking of our own position in the world without regard to the world and those around us.

Man still has his consci-

ence. While you may evade decisions and think you have washed your hands of your responsibilities, you must still live with yourself — and your fellow man.

It is only when we regain our individualism — integrity, assume our responsibilities and strive to gain our position in this world through doing the right and defending the truth that a whole new area of life will open to us.

What we need in this world and in our nation today are "REAL MEN" — honest, strong with integrity to do and follow the standards of conduct and morality that they know are right. God expects us to be a whole person and to be happy in life. We can be nothing less. Don't be led by the crowd or swayed by selfish motives. Be a real man and remember that God judges us on our motives as well as our actions in life. Are you what the world, our nation, your unit and your friends need? Are you really a "REAL MAN?"

May God's richest blessings be with you to keep you safe, well and strong to face the joy and the pain of living.

Chaplain Hawn

## Club Opening Set For Aug

The Blackhorse basecamp will soon have the biggest and best service club in country, according to 1LT Andrew Neighbors of Athens, Ga., regimental Special Services officer.

"We'll also have one of the best looking young ladies in the Special Services organization running the club," said 1LT Neighbors. "Miss Dee Dee Drosches, who has been working in Vietnam for the last fourteen months, has extended to become director of this club."

The new Special Services Center will house an auditorium, a library, a TV room, a snack bar, a writing room, a music room, a project room for home movies, a photo lab, a jewelry shop, a woodworking and leather shop, a tape room, and a large swimming pool. In addition the Center will house the only indoor handball court in Vietnam.

The Center is scheduled to open August 2nd. Building of the complex was started nearly a year ago but came to a halt when the 31st Engineers were pulled from the area leaving the building half finished. Work began on the building under the guidance of the 11th Cav's 919th Engineer Company. Each unit in the Regiment provided a detail to finish the club.

## Currency Cards a Must

The use of MACV Currency Control Cards becomes mandatory 15 July when purchasing money orders and other items, according to USARV regulations.

11th Cav troopers should check to make sure they have the small, plastic card. For personnel who do not possess the card, the follow-

ing information should be given to their company or troop clerk: Full name, pay grade, service number, organizational unit, branch of service, DEROS and social security number.

Clerks will prepare a roster of personnel in their unit and forward it to 11th Cav headquarters ATTN: AVIC-AD by 15 June.

# BLACKHORSE

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### Congratulations!

Sp4 Otis J. Bailey, a medic with the Blackhorse, receives the Distinguished Service Cross for his valor in action. He is congratulated by Col Leach.

## 11th Cav Scouts To Hunt Enemy With Bigger And Better Vehicles

By SP4 Ralph James  
SCOUTS ACQUIRE NEW FIRE POWER

The Blackhorse has its own "Rat Patrol". The Scout Section bounces down the dusty roads of Vietnam in four jeeps with mounted 60-caliber machine guns. They have recently traded their jeeps as well as their nickname for four Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles (ACAV's) and are satisfied with the change.

As NCOIC of the Scout Section, Sergeant Donald L. Bentley, a native of Baileyville, W. Va., said, "I hate to see the jeeps go, but am happy to have the protection an ACAV provides."

The Scouts like having the firepower of two M-60 machine guns and a 50-caliber machine

gun which an ACAV provides. "There have been times when we were in a tight combat squeeze," said Sergeant Bentley, "and ACAV's from another unit had to pull us out. We now have our own ACAV's."

The Scouts are hoping to find more action after the changeover from jeep to ACAV. Sergeant Bentley said, "The jeep cannot penetrate the heavy terrain that an ACAV can. We can now go out and find the enemy."

In addition to the ACAV crews, according to Sergeant Bentley, the Scouts are planning to have a five-man long range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) team. Supported by the ACAV's, the LRRP team will act as scouts in the search for the ene-

my. When the enemy is found the ACAV's will be called in.

Sergeant Bentley is planning to send most of his men to the Fifth Special Forces Recondo School in Nha Trang. He said, "Most of the 17 men in the Scouts are familiar with ACAV's, but I want my men to have not only the equipment to fight the enemy, but also the advantage of as much training as possible."

Specialist 4 Jerry R. Grimes, from Denver City, Tex., is a gunner on a Scout ACAV. He said, "I think the biggest need after the changeover from jeeps to ACAV's is the section's ability to work as a team. We have been successful in the past and I think we will be in the future. I do not foresee any problems."

## ARP SGT Port Gets 5 Medals

Sgt. Rollie A. Port, former platoon sergeant of the Blackhorse Aero-Rifle Platoon, has been awarded the Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest award for valor.

The 19-year-old native of Fairbanks, Alaska, also was presented two awards of the Bronze Star Medal and two awards of the Purple Heart in a ceremony at Blackhorse basecamp on May 24.

Sgt. Port received the Silver Star for his action during an ARP mission on March 9 near Phuoc Vinh. The ARPs had entered an enemy basecamp on that day and were pinned down by intense fire from well-con-

cealed bunkers.

He moved from squad to squad despite the heavy fire, marshaling his troops in an effort to flank the enemy positions. He then helped evacuate several wounded men to a nearby bomb crater.

He remained in the crater as a light observation helicopter (LOH) swooped down to evacuate the wounded. The chopper, hit by enemy fire, stalled and plunged to earth striking Port and another trooper.

Although temporarily blinded by the blow, Sgt. Port refused to be evacuated and continued to help cheer the wounded and encourage his men. Only after

reinforcements arrived did he finally leave the area of contact.

"I was put in a command situation and my only thought was to help my men," he later said. "After I was wounded, that thought stuck in my mind and didn't leave it until I was sure of the platoon's safety."

Sgt. Port won his two Bronze Stars for gallantry in action during two battles with the ARPs last January. He is currently serving as Operations Sergeant for the Regiment's Air Cavalry Troop.



SSgt. Rollie Port receives the Silver Star, his fifth combat medal.

# Blackhorse Commander Made Mark In Tanks

By Sgt Ray Waldrep

Colonel James H. Leach, commanding officer of the Blackhorse Regiment, is a native Texan who established an enviable reputation as a tank officer during World War II.

The 47-year-old commander took over the regiment on April 6 after serving for one year as senior adviser to the commanding general, 5th ARVN Division.

Col. Leach, who called the Blackhorse "the finest fighting unit in Vietnam" when he took over the reins, says his opinion has been reinforced by the Regiment's performance during Operation Montana Raider last month.

"I think we have some of our nation's finest fighting men right here in the Blackhorse," he added.

Col. Leach, a native of Houston, Texas, entered the Texas



Col. Leach

National Guard's 36th Tank Company in 1938. He worked his way up from private to tank platoon sergeant before attending the Armored Force Officers Candidate School at Fort Knox, Ky.

After receiving his commission in the Infantry (Armored) in 1942, he served for 15 months as a tank platoon leader and tank company commander with the 37th Tank Battalion, 4th Armored Division, which won renown as the "cutting edge" of General George S. Patton's Third Army.

During this time he served under then Lieutenant Colonel Creighton W. Abrams, now a general and commander of MACV. Col. Leach was with

Abrams' link-up battalion at Bastogne. He was wounded in action five times while participating in four of the five European Campaigns.

Since the war he has served two tours in Europe with armor units. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" and Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, and Vietnamese awards including the Distinguished Service Order, 2nd Class, Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star, the Honor and Staff Service Medals.

His wife, the former Marion Hiers Floyd, and their son James II reside in Hampton, S.C. Mrs. Leach is on the editorial staff of Armors Magazine and is a high school social studies and English teacher in Hampton.

## Cav Helps People In Lam Son Villages

By SP4 Ralph James

In the village of Binh Co, children linger on the road next to the long spiral strands of concertina wire, waiting for the GI to throw candy their way. Across the road, on the outer edge of the village, children soar high in the air and then back again supported by the seat of a swing. The sound of a school bell brings the children down from the monkey bars, off the swings and see-saws, and into the white school house.

Binh Co is a prospering village. The villagers have a school house and a playground for the Vietnamese children. They are working on a fish pond and a better way to grow their rice. All this was made possible by the aid and protection provided by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Binh Co was the first village out of many located in the Lam Son area to receive aid from the 11th Cavalry, in the form of lumber and cement that would later be used to construct schools, houses, playgrounds and village markets.

"These villages and hamlets with the names of Binh Co, Binh My, and Tan Binh have not only been given raw materials to build with," said Sergeant William Emmanuel, NCOIC of S-5, "but we have given them techni-

cal advice on ways to grow their food, and entertainment in the form of movies and village parties in which the Regiment has supplied Vietnamese bands, food and punch."

According to Sergeant Emmanuel, definite improvements have been made in the standard of living in these villages as a direct result of assistance given by the Regiment. "Binh My has become a more prosperous village because of a market square, erected by the villagers with raw materials donated by the 11th Cavalry. The market has brought people from other villages to buy and barter for food and other village products. This has raised their economy and made it a healthier village."

The 11th Cav has also given the villages armed protection and aid in eliminating VC activity. Ambush patrols and reconnaissance-in-force operations were set up in the village areas to curtail and stop enemy maneuvers in the area.

The villagers are not the only ones to benefit from the Regiment's activities. The villagers have been instrumental in helping the Regiment locate the enemy. In Binh Co, a former village chief pointed out trails and locations used by the enemy so that the Cavalry was able to set up effective ambushes.

In the village of Tan Binh two Vietnamese children were directly responsible in the apprehension of two Viet Cong soldiers. The enemy soldiers were on a motorcycle when the children, recognizing the soldiers, yelled out, "VC, VC!" The enemy soldiers had a shorter ride than expected.

Following the recent move to Blackhorse base camp the 11th Cavalry started an improvement campaign aimed at villages surrounding the basecamp. A team of people from Regimental S-5 distributed needed clothing to the villagers of a nearby Montagnard hamlet.

One trooper found that the villagers are happy about their new situation. A Vietnamese housewife, in the village of Binh Co, turned to the trooper beaming with pride. She pointed to her house that was recently built by troopers from the 11th Cavalry and exclaimed, "You build number one house." The trooper was also proud.

## Troopers Of M Co Learn Lesson

By Sgt Leonard Boscarine  
Quan Loi — Members of M Company who captured an enemy schoolhouse near here recently thought they had learned their lessons well, but it turned out that their education had just begun.

The troopers, tired from three days of almost continuous contact with entrenched enemy forces, found the simple, tin-roofed structure hidden in an enemy base camp. Among the propaganda banners cluttering the floor were the same learning aids found in classrooms everywhere — blackboards, worn erasers and writing tablets.

Then a cavalryman noticed a peculiar sag in the worn floor. "Check it out," said the squad leader.

The rough boards came up easily, and the troopers caught their breath as they spotted a 500-pound bomb wedged beneath the floorboards. A booby-trap device had failed to set it off.

The cavalrymen breathed a lot easier after the bomb was disarmed. They probed the soft dirt beneath the floor and unearthed three tons of bagged rice.

But their troubles weren't over yet. As the troopers loaded the rice onto their tanks, they were attacked by an enemy force. Ten enemy soldiers were killed in the ensuing fight.

"This has been one hell of a day," commented one trooper as M Company left the base camp.

# 'Montana Raider':



## Bring Them Out

Colonel Leach, commander of the Blackhorse, directs a detainee to coax his friends from a bunker.



It was a sweaty, dirty job  
fought to keep their vehicles

men of the Blackhorse

## Kills 247

(Continued From Page 1)

Troop picked up war trophies after uncovering 179 bolt action rifles. The weapons and tons of food and munitions were in a large basecamp consisting of six large command bunkers and over 200 smaller fighting bunkers. "G" Troop meanwhile destroyed three sampans and a supply of water jugs.

"H" Company tankers found three dead enemy after reconing by fire on April 28. They also found over a hundred enemy mortar rounds hidden in the dense jungles. That afternoon "E" Troop entered a large camp used to house a hospital and to store rice. Three tons of rice were destroyed.

April 29 was characterized by heavy fighting. "C" Troop, "M" Company and First Cav units under operational control of the Regiment began to receive fire from well-camouflaged enemy troops around 0900. Hours later the enemy fled from the US troopers leaving 40 enemy bodies on the field. In the afternoon "G" Troop was also ambushed. Nine enemy soldiers lay dead when the fighting ended.

"Surprise" was the best way to describe the look on the faces of "M" Company tankers after finding an enemy cache April 30th. Items found included three women's uniforms and one pink shorty female nightgown, non-army issue. The tankers killed 19 NVA before capturing the female apparel and 13,000 pounds of rice. "H" Company tankers also got into the spirit when they found two anti-tank mines and 500 pounds of rice.

May began with the enemy continuing to tighten his belt. On May 1, 11th Cav troopers found 24,000 pounds of rice hidden near the Cambodian border.

Before



## Er . . . Would You Believe Chieu Hoi

Cautiously a Blackhorse Trooper guards two prisoners. The enemy soldiers had be



# Cavalry In Action



## Big Boom

...sting its way into the jungle a Sheridan fires its main gun to soften the resistance.



## Tired But Alert

Lt. Tim Kerns, a platoon leader from D Company, tensely eyes the woods around him.

Operation Montana Raider's last action occurred May 11. "A" Troop teamed up with artillery and Air Force bombers to kill four enemy holed up in reinforced bunkers. In addition 17 82mm mortar rounds were destroyed.

The Blackhorse troopers traveled and fought over 800 miles during the 32-day operation of which more than 600 were in virgin jungle areas never before confronted by the Armor might of the 11th Cavalrymen.

Photos

By

SP4

Rex Saul



captured moments earlier.



## Ready For Action

Sgt. Robert James, a member of the 919th Engineers, stands guard while 11th Cav Troopers struggle to fix a thrown track.



Miss ACAV 1969

## Hold Baggage Mixup

(Continued From Page 2)

gage is overweight the cost can be quite prohibitive — \$35 for paperwork alone — and should be avoided if at all possible. In shipping to a location other than the PCS orders state, the cost depends on distance and whether

the customer is DEROSing or ETSing. If DEROSing and the location is closer than the station mentioned in the orders, there is no extra charge. Naturally, charges enter the picture when the distance to be shipped is farther than that mentioned in the orders. If ETSing, baggage will be shipped to the person's home address and any other location will be charged for.

### What is the weight limit?

This depends on rank — from 200 lbs. for E-4 under 4 years to 1000 lbs. for general grade officers. There is no limit to the number of boxes or the number of times a person ships, as long as the total weight does not exceed the weight allowance.

### What guarantee is provided in case of damage?

All baggage is fully guaranteed and, in case of damage, a claim must be put in to receive remuneration.

### Finally, how long does it take to ship hold baggage?

Of course, that depends upon where it is to be sent. Stateside shipping takes two to three weeks and a little longer for Europe. People with baggage receive Europe can expect to weeks. Within four to five

# Early PX Shopping Does Pay

Shopping for stereo equipment at least five months before your DEROS can save a lot of headaches, according to 1LT William B. Harrison of Miami, Fla., the Regimental PX officer.

Limited items such as camera goods and electronic items arrive at the PXs in shipments of components. One shipment may contain a wide variety of speakers. The next shipment will have few speakers but a large number of another component such as tape decks. The usual stereo cycle runs about every three months.

"A lot of stereo outfits may require special order items," said 1LT Harrison. "If a man has five months left then we can go ahead and order the equipment. Special orders cannot be mailed directly to the States so if a cavalryman has less than five months left, he's out of luck."

Camera lenses usually require special ordering. Very few telephoto or wide angle lenses are found on PX shelves. Occasionally tripods and flash units arrive at the PX but they are sold in a matter of hours.

Rationed items are assigned to a PX according to the number of soldiers that the PX serves. The PX personnel have no idea as to what items they will receive until they take possession of the goods.

"Another mistake that a lot of shoppers make is to accept a second choice camera because the PX has sold out of his favorite when payday rolls around. If you don't see what you want, don't settle for a second choice. Generally a shipment of rationed items such as cameras will

arrive three times a month. If you will save your money and wait then you will have many more chances to get the item that you want. At Blackhorse we generally get a new shipment around the 6th, 15th, and 26th of the month."

"Another good thing to remember is that at the PX only your own personal check is ac-

ceptable. So if someone is sending you money have them send you a postal money order or a cashier's check if you intend to use the PX check-cashing facilities," said 1LT Harrison.

Courtesy can also help the PX-bound cavalryman. Just check with the American personnel and your problem will soon be solved.

## Photographs Sought For Publication

No war in the past has been photographed to the degree that the Vietnam War has. Modern technology has produced inexpensive photographic equipment that will fit into a fatigue pocket and withstand the beating of combat.

Every soldier thus has the ability to chronicle the war in any way he chooses.

Because there are many troops that carry cameras, and because of the many requests by field troops, we feel a column dealing with photography would be welcomed by Blackhorse readers.

In future issues we hope to be able to answer questions concerning the use of cameras and composition of pictures. The only limiting factor is you, the reader. Without questions we have nothing to answer. Questions should be addressed to Photo Editor, 17th PID, and sent through distribution.

Additionally, black and white photographs are welcome from 11th Cav troops and will be printed in The Blackhorse if of newsworthy quality. Limiting factors are that photos submitted must be the black and white type and reach our office no later than the 20th of the month for publication in the following paper. Please include the negative which will be returned to you along with your print. Full photo credit will be given to you, the photographer.

**PHOTO TIPS**—Anyone can take a picture. And anyone can take a good picture. The difference between the two is that a good picture takes more work and a sense for the impact a picture will have on the viewer. The use of balance, perspective and different angles all help to create an interesting picture. A photo shot straight on of a man standing beside a tank may be interesting to his mother, but it does little for an uninterested bystander. The same bystander may become interested if the photo is shot from a lower angle, making the man appear the equal—or the master—of the machine. Likewise, a shot from a higher angle diminishes the man's size in relation to the tank, making the tank appear much more menacing.

Which leads us to the man himself. Faces are always interesting, especially if they can convey an emotion. A picture of a TC on mission, bearded, tired, yet tense in the possibility of a firefight, can tell more than a photo of his track busting through the brush.

Imagination makes the photographer. By continually being conscious of what you are trying to tell in a photograph, and taking the effort to get it the way you want it, you can end up with photos and slides that will keep your audience interested. And what's the point in taking photos that put your audience to sleep?

## SS To Get 'Movie Star'

By Lt. Ted Hupp

Blackhorse now has its very own movie star, complete with long dark hair and dark flashing eyes.

She is Dee Dee Drosnes, a San Francisco girl who "wanted to marry Aristotle Onassis, but he married Jackie, so I came to Vietnam as a Special Services Director instead."

During the year she has been in Vietnam she has, among other things,

"starred" in a Special Services recruiting movie. "It really was a lot of fun," she says. "I got to travel a lot and ride elephants, and have snakes around my neck."

A Michigan State University grad who speaks three languages, Dee Dee joined Special Services in 1966 and went to Korea for 14 months. When her tour was up she took a year off to be a social worker before signing up to come to Vietnam. Asked why she came over, she replied, "I thought it was a tremendous opportunity to do something useful and to see for myself what was going on all at the same time."

So far she has been here 12 months at such places as Vung Tau, Tay Ninh, and Long Binh (90th Replacement Bn.). She is extending her tour to take the Blackhorse Service Club, slated to open in mid-July, because "This will be the biggest and best club in Vietnam."

"Besides," she confides, "I'm really kind of sweet on the men of the Blackhorse."



'Dee Dee'



## New Blackhorse Trooper

Mr. Richardo Montalban, a Latin star of TV, stage and movies, visited the Blackhorse Regiment Tuesday, May 27th. After a brief meeting with Colonel James H. Leach, the Regimental Commander, Mr. Montalban was made an honorary Blackhorse Trooper. Mr. Montalban appeared in the movie "Sol Madrid" and costarred with Miss Shirley MacLaine in "Sweet Charity". He has also had prominent roles in the television media appearing on such programs as Startrek and I Spy.



Star-spangled  
to make your  
money grow

# AVLBs Increase Armor's Mobility



"A Thing of Beauty And Grace"

To a disinterested civilian, the machine might look like a giant bulldozer designed by a modern sculptor and built by the Army. But to the American fighting soldier, the Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge is often the only friend standing between himself and many hours of frustrating hard work.

"No armored unit in Vietnam can be a successful mobile unit without the aid of an AVLB," says Sgt. Robert L. James of the 919th Engineer Company. Each squadron in the Regiment is supplied with three.

The main body of an AVLB consists of an M48 tank chassis with turret but no main gun. The 14-ton aluminum bridge is attached to the forward end of the chassis and unfolds to a span of 63 feet.

The AVLB bridges gaps in the terrain

which an armored vehicle cannot cross unassisted. The 55-ton bridge has the capacity to hold two fully-loaded tanks.

"An AVLB can go anywhere a tank will go, and with the help of its bridge, can go one step further," said Sgt. James. The number of swamps, deep gullies and other natural hazards in Vietnam makes the AVLB essential to armored operations.

Each AVLB carries a two-man crew. One man drives the vehicle and operates the bridge while the other man serves as guide. Under ideal conditions, the crew can place the bridge across an obstacle in less than five minutes.

Photos by SP4  
Jim Klahn



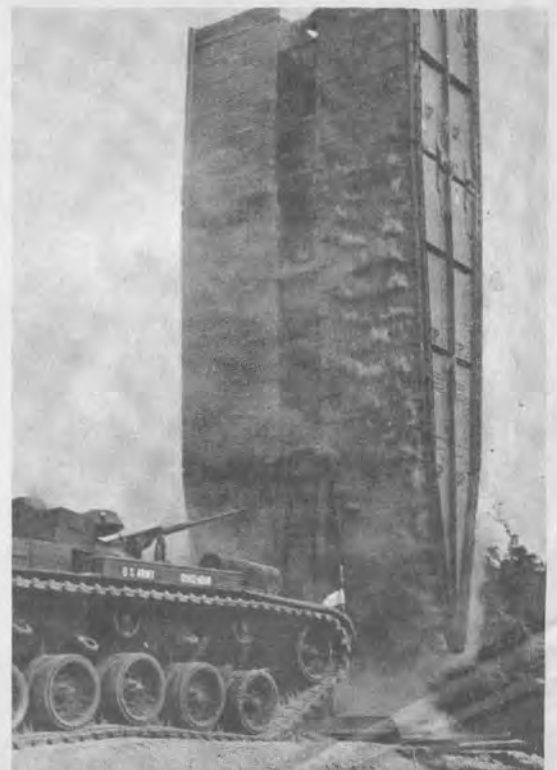
AVLB To The Rescue



"Over Just A Little—That's It!"



Gee—Can't I ride too?



On To The Next Mission



# 11th Cav Replacement School Lifesaving Taught Daily

By Sp4 James Klahn

A small patrol picked its way slowly through the deep sawgrass, its members being careful to stay off the main trail. The pointman inspected the ground in front of him, alert for booby traps. Suddenly an explosion ripped through the still evening and small arms fire came from the front and right flank of the column.

"Ambush!" screamed the pointman as the men hit the ground, the bite of the sawgrass forgotten.

An Aero-Rifle Platoon (ARP) squad in a tough spot? Not this time. This is one type of training that is an every day occurrence at the Regimental Vietnam Orientation School.

"Realism is one of the traits we strive for here at the school," explained SFC Dale Hollabaugh of Gettysburg, Pa., NCOIC of the school. "We try to show incoming people what the facts of life are over here — the techniques Charlie uses and how he employs his tools of warfare. Things that they have already learned in Stateside schools must be refreshed in their minds. Also we orient new arrivals on the Cav, the techniques armor uses here and the way in which the Regiment operates."

Classes cover a vast spread of material, such as dental care, minesweeping, history, or demolitions. An attempt is made to keep training pertinent to the field situation. To achieve that end, all instructors must have at least six months in the field. (In actuality, over 50 per cent of the instructors have extended their tours for the school), and are chosen because of their ability to get the message across to the students. Also, comments are in-

vited from troop commanders and other personnel that have been in the field.

"A lot of our support comes from the field troops," said Hollabaugh. "They bring in many of our training aids, which includes captured enemy arms and equipment, and drop by to tell us of their experiences. It helps us to keep on our toes as instructors."

In turn field troops often benefit from the school. If a commander wants his men to have additional training, the school will send personnel to instruct them. Recently Second Squadron, faced with a great deal of travel on unsecure roads, requested and received training on the use of minesweepers.

Constant reevaluation of the program comes in the form of critique sheets that are filled out by the students and unsigned. Instructors meetings are then held to discuss the critique sheets.

"For the most part replacements show a lot of interest in what we have to teach them," Hollabaugh said. "They have a tendency to compare it with Vietnam orientation schools that they attended in the States before shipping over, and we are always getting comments that what we have to teach here is much more interesting than what they picked up previously. Being over here, of course, lends much to the authenticity of the school; it's much easier to tell it like it is when you are where it's at. A Vietnam school at Fort Lewis, Wash., in the dead of winter doesn't compare favorably with conditions here."

Most arrivals at the school find that the value of the instruction is greatly increased by

the informal impressions of Vietnam that the instructors give their students. Informal discussions between the students and their instructors are plentiful.

SP4 James Blankenship of Man, W.Va., newly arrived from Germany, praised the effectiveness of this informality while instructing.

"Getting first hand information on what we will encounter is very important," he commented. "Outside of Vietnam Army practices are geared to conventional warfare and when you arrive here the differences between conventional warfare and this type of war are easily apparent. We have a lot to learn in a short time. Informality seems to make learning easier. Most important however, is that my instructors here don't mind my asking questions and to them there's no such thing as a stupid question."

Hollabaugh agreed.

"We try to keep as informal as possible so that the people will be interested in their classes. We don't schedule classes to fill time either. The only time we schedule a class is when we have something for those guys to learn."

Although the classes follow a tight schedule practical work outside the class room depends upon the students. No two groups of students are the same so the instructors try to vary their time spent with students according to their needs.

Probably the best testimonial to the existence of the replacement school was written on an unsigned critique sheet.

"This is one school in which I tried my best to be an honor graduate. My life depends upon it."

## 919th "Red Devils" Build for Peace While Fighting War in Vietnam

By Sp5 Larry Tittle

The midday sun bore down on the 11th Cav troopers as they swung their armored vehicles out of the bamboo jungle into the clearing. Beyond the open area lay another clump of jungle as dense and ominous as the previous one.

In the lead element of the armored columns were armored cavalry assault vehicle (ACAV) and tank crews from the 919th Engineer Company (Armor).

The track vehicles rolled across the clearing and into the jungle. One of the lead tanks smashed into a camouflaged bunker and plunged into a large underground room. The tank crew from the 919th swung over to rescue the vehicle.

"Just as we were about to pull him out the tank to our front took a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) round from a bunker complex just inside the woodline," said SP4 James L. Dunlop, 19, Woburn, Mass. "We pulled back on line and began firing high explosive and canister rounds into the complex."

The engineers and other Blackhorse troopers assaulted the enemy positions, blasting the NVA soldiers with their armored weaponry.

The fighting raged for 3½ hours in the jungle northeast of Tay Ninh. When it ended, three of the engineers from the 919th were decorated for bravery.

Sound a bit unusual for an engineering outfit? Indeed, April 29 was not a typical day for the men of the 919th Engineer Company. But the responsibility for

clearing roads and paths for the highly mobile Blackhorse Regiment keeps the engineers in action much of the time.

Occupying the unique position as the only armored engineer company in Vietnam, the 919th troopers do not have to rely on other elements for security on their road-clearing, demolition and construction operations. They have their own M48 tanks and ACAV's to discourage the enemy from interfering with their work.

Company commander Cpt. Bernard J. Reilly of Rutland, Vt., explained, "Our main job — our bread and butter — is finding mines for the Cav. The only trouble is they're always in such a hurry we have a hard time staying in front of them."

Clearing paths for the 11th Cav often entails busting through densely foliated jungle — the triple canopy variety where visibility extends little more than 20 feet. For such maneuvers the engineers place their 48-ton M48 tanks in the lead and bowl over the trees, bamboo stalks and underbrush.

On more conventional roads a mine sweep team precedes the tanks and ACAV's, passing its electronic mine detectors over the road surface. When a metallic object registers on the detectors, the team probes the ground for the foreign element. If a mine is found the demolitions crew goes to work to remove or blow the explosive in place.

Mines aren't the only hazard facing the engineers as they

clear the way for the Blackhorse columns. Enemy bunker complexes are frequently encountered along the roads with the Viet Cong and NVA troops waiting in ambush for Allied convoys and units. Even when the enemy is not around the armored engineers have to contend with the ferocious red ants which drop from trees as the tanks and ACAV's brush by.

In addition to clearing the way for the cavalrymen, the 919th's demolitions men blow up enemy bunkers and dismantle or detonate enemy booby traps and munitions.

Combat related operations are only one phase of the 919th's work. Another aspect takes them into the realm of civic action, replacing the rumble of tanks with the laughter of children. Coordinating their efforts with the regiments' civil affairs team, the engineers are working with the villagers in their locale to build a better future for the Vietnamese people.

The "Blackhorse" engineers are also involved in the more traditional projects of road-building, bunker construction and land clearing, but whatever they tackle, the 919th Engineers have earned the respect of fellow cavalrymen.

According to Sergeant First Class Frederick Ravin, first platoon sergeant, Philadelphia, "The regular cavalry troops usually refer to the support units — the cooks, admin and headquarters elements — as the 'ash and trash' troops. They don't call us that anymore."



### Ready . . . Aim . . .

A prospective Trooper calls in artillery fire (top) while a cadre sergeant prepares to simulate the fire (above).

### Bailey Awarded DSC

(Continued From Page 1)

the enemy bunker," Bailey said. "It was concealed so well that only a few of the guys actually knew where the fire was coming from."

Bailey then administered first aid to the wounded and helped them pull back for evacuation. He said that his action was easy to explain.

"All you have to know is that

a trooper is hit," he explained. "You hear them cry out. You are their 'Doc' and you realize they are relying on you for help. It doesn't matter whether there is shooting or not. You have to go out and help those guys."

Since November, Sp4 Bailey has come in from the field and now works at the provincial hospital at Xuan Loc with a medical team from the 37th Medical Company.

### Mail the Blackhorse Home

★ Sorry, you MUST use a Stamp

From:

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Place Stamp Here  
10 cents 1st Class  
20 cents Air Mail

To:

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