

# BLACKHORSE

— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

Vol. 2, No. 3

Blackhorse

March 1970



## Fighting Decreases

# Troopers Kill 63 In Scattered Action

By David Greenlee

Last month, with battle action light and scattered in the Blackhorse area of operation, 11th Cav troopers and supporting units killed 63 enemy soldiers.

Also, 28 NVA bodies found in the Loc Ninh area recently were attributed to B and C Troops which, supported by elements of the 2nd Squadron, broke up an enemy ambush on Jan. 21.

An additional 31 enemy were killed in two major contacts by 1st Squadron troopers under operational control of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

On Feb. 7, A Troop, an infantry company and ten Rome Plows engaged in a land clearing operation were taken under fire from a well concealed bunker complex.

The enemy position was sealed off on three sides by artillery, aerial rocket artillery and helicopter gunships. A Troop ACAVs and Sheridans then swept through the area. The contact lasted 2½ hours. A Troop was credited with killing 14 NVA soldiers.

A week later in an area north of Nui Ba Den, C Troop, M Company and an infantry company from the 1st Brigade assaulted another bunker complex. During the contact Blackhorse troopers killed 17 enemy.

## Honorary Trooper

Madame Thieu, wife of the President of the Republic of Vietnam, is now an honorary member of the Blackhorse.

Captain Francis E. Mara, 3rd Squadron chaplain, serving as the official escort for four Gold Star Mothers, attended a reception given in their honor by Madame Thieu.

The first lady was curious about the Blackhorse patch on Father Mara's shoulder. "In Vietnam a black horse is consid-

ered a sign of good luck," Father Mara explained. "In addition, Madame Thieu was born in the year of the horse, so naturally she asked me about the patch."

The chaplain told her about the Blackhorse Regiment and the patch. He then gave her his Regimental crest.

"She was delighted to receive it," Father Mara said. "She said she considers the presence of the Blackhorse an omen of good fortune."

**PROJECT OLD GLORY**—Captain Frederick A. Kyle, E Troop commander and native of Norfolk, Va., presents a U.S. flag from Norfolk to Regi-

mental Commander Colonel Donn A. Starry. The Blackhorse and Norfolk exchanged U.S. flags in a ceremony at Bien Hoa Base Camp on March 1. (Photo by Smith)

## Cav, Norfolk Exchange Flags

By Dan Davis  
The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the city of Norfolk, Va., exchanged United States flags in a March 1 ceremony at the Regiment's base camp in Bien Hoa.

The exchange was the culmination of Project Old Glory, a program initiated by USARV to

promote goodwill between army units in Vietnam and cities in the United States.

The Regiment's U.S. flag was presented to Captain Frederick A. Kyle, E Troop commander and a native of Norfolk, by Regimental Commander Colonel Donn A. Starry.

In a letter to USARV, the Honorable Roy B. Martin Jr., mayor of Norfolk, said, "It is a privilege and honor for Norfolk to participate in the transfer of flags with a combat unit in Vietnam. I can assure you that the flag of this unit will be flown proudly by the people of Norfolk."

The flag was first flown over Blackhorse Base Camp 45 miles northeast of Saigon in July 1969. It replaced the flag which accompanied the Blackhorse to Vietnam from Ft. Meade, Md. in September 1966. On Oct. 24, 1969, the sprawling base camp was turned over to the 19th ARVN Division as part of the Vietnamization program.

Accepting the Norfolk flag, Colonel Starry said, "It is an honor to accept these colors from the great city of Norfolk. It

is also an honor that the Regiment's flag which flew over Blackhorse Base Camp will again fly proudly over such a fine city."



**DRY SEASON?** — The men of 3rd Squadron's HOW Battery found things uncomfortably damp

recently at FSB Jan near Loc Ninh. An unscheduled four-hour rain flooded their defensive position. (Photo by Mang)

## 37th Med Wins Combat Award

The 37th Medical Company has been awarded the Combat Medical Streamer (First Award).

Sixty-five percent of the TOE strength of the 37th Med has been awarded the Combat Medical Badge thus qualifying the company for the award.

Official presentation of the Combat Medical Streamer will take place at a later date.

## Commander's Column

# Blackhorse Team Charging Hard



As we stood in this NDP the other day watching a hook come in with a couple of "blivets", one trooper said to me, "Boy, it must take a lot to keep this Regiment running!" He's right—it does. Then I wondered how many of us realize just what it does take to keep the Blackhorse going. The figures are staggering—about 1000 tons of supplies each week are delivered to Blackhorse units by air. A hook-superhook-C123-C-130. Another 300 or so tons are delivered by land convoy. All told that's about 500 pounds per week

for each Blackhorse trooper.

Most of the tremendous amount of supplies the Blackhorse uses supports troops, companies and batteries in the field—ACAV, Sheridan, tank and hog crews. That's as it should be; the purpose of this Regiment is to keep the fighting elements fighting.

The requirement to move so many tons to so many places also means that there are a lot of essential Blackhorse troopers in the support business. In fact, were it not for the hustle and enthusiasm of everyone in the system trying to get supplies and parts forward, were it not for the drive and spirit of maintenance crews to get parts out and get equipment up, there wouldn't be adequate support in the field, and we'd all be in trouble. In spite of our tremendous support requirements, I am always amazed to find that Blackhorse troops, companies and batteries have a greater percentage of their strength in the field than any other units I've encountered. We have more people doing what they are suppose to be doing, and fewer wrapped up in non-essential activities than any other unit I have seen in Vietnam. Why is this? I think the answer is that the Regiment is a well organized and properly functioning team—teamwork is the key.

The reason we do so well at keeping equipment fighting and supplies moving is that the Blackhorse team is working out. It's always a pleasure to watch a good team in operation anywhere—on the sports field or on the battlefield; the guys on the sidelines, in the support system, or wherever, all driving ahead to keep the fighting team charging hard—winning. That's what the Blackhorse team and every man in it is doing—charging hard—winning. We're a great team Blackhorse—the best anywhere!

Colonel Donn A. Starry  
1st Commander  
The Blackhorse

## Change Med, Icap

By Jack McAllister

Third Squadron's Medcap staff and the ICAP team of the Regimental S-5 section have recently introduced a few changes to their already successful programs.

The personnel of 3rd Squadron's forward aid station started a Medcap program in four hamlets near An Loc in June and added four more in Sept. In Dec., however, necessity forced the squadron surgeon to move to Quan Loi leaving medic, Sergeant John P. Schoolfield in charge.

Schoolfield, who was the doctor's assistant for seven months, continued the program which treated an average of 150 people a day. Now, however, the constant medical attention given to the residents of the area has reduced the daily average to 15.

Recently Schoolfield and his assistants, Specialists Four Wil-

liam Sampolski, Jeff Snyder and Private First Class Don Golden, have begun keeping records of each patient they treat in order to provide even better medical care for the Vietnamese people.

"We feel we can provide better care for these people when we know what treatment the person has had previously," Schoolfield said.

The Regimental ICAP team has begun raffling radios during their daily visits to villages in the An Loc area to attract more people.

The plans appears to be a success. "Since we've started the raffle more and more people have been participating in the ICAP program," Staff Sergeant Richard K. Baker, NCOIC of the ICAP team, noted. "We've been going into the hamlets for about five months now doing the same thing time after time. A little variety may be just what the program needs."



WHAT FIRE FIGHT? I JUST GOT BACK FROM R&R!

## Chaplain's Corner

## Parable Reveals Criterion

By Chaplain (LTC)

William P. Trobaugh

Jesus tells us a story in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew about how those who enter the Kingdom of God will be separated from those who do not. And the criterion used to decide who is who is that of sharing with others the common things of life: water, food and concern.

I'm not surprised either at Jesus' choice of this criterion or of the surprise of the ones chosen at being selected. Jesus had experienced the hospitality of many in his travels around Palestine and knew the feeling of unselfish sharing shown by those he met. I know this feeling, also, experiencing it often in this Regiment. As I visit you in the

field, I'm overwhelmed by your kindness in sharing your sodas, your food sent from home, a place to sleep, etc. Not being done with any thought of reward, it meets the standards of this parable exactly.

Just as those who heard the story for the first time, you may be surprised to know that this sort of kindness shown to an undeserving passerby is the very thing that qualifies one to enter the Kingdom of Heaven! There are those who would make entry much more complicated. I would remind them that none other than Jesus Himself put it just this simply without qualifying words or phrases.

As one of those undeserving passersby to whom you who,



like it or not, are bound for the Kingdom of Heaven because of your hospitality; let me thank you for the drink given when I

was thirsty, for the food given when I was hungry and for the time taken to speak to me and ask how things are going.

These are the little big things that remove the mountains that separate us to allow true brotherhood and peace among men to become the reality these are intended to be.

God bless you and keep you safe.



CONVOY ESCORT—A C Troop ACAV rumbles through An Loc toward Quan Loi. The troop has

been escorting the convoys which run several times a week between Lai Khe and the Blackhorse base. (Photo by Mang)

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# New Air Cav CO Is West Point Grad

Major Donald L. Smart assumed command of the Regiment's Air Cavalry Troop during ceremonies at Quan Loi on Feb. 28.

Maj. Smart succeeds Major C.W. Abbey who will command the Regimental Aviation Platoon.

A 1959 West Point graduate, Maj. Smart commanded a tank company of the 3rd Armor Division in Europe following his graduation from the Army Aviation School in 1960.

He attended the Armor Advanced Course at Ft. Knox in 1966 and spent his first tour in Vietnam with the 135th Aviation Company, 1st Aviation Brigade.

When he returned from Vietnam he attended the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth.

Maj. Smart came to the Blackhorse from USARV Headquarters where he spent six months in the Aviation Standardization and Training Section.

The new Thunderhorse commander is impressed by his unit. "This is a tremendously aggressive and proud group of men," he said. "I heard a lot about them while I was at USARV, but they're even better than I had imagined."

Maj. Smart's wife and two children reside in Ottumwa, Iowa.



**SIDE VIEW**—A 2nd Squadron ACAV found the going a little hazardous last month in thick jungle

near Bu Dop. Luckily there were no injuries and the other ACAV crews were around to set things straight.



**CHANGE OF COMMAND**—New Air Cavalry Troop Commander Major Donald L. Smart accepts the unit colors from Regimental Commander Colonel Donn A. Starry during Feb. 28 ceremonies at Quan Loi. (Photo by Smith)

## Program Lowers Cav Malaria Rate

By Mike Mang

An intensified malaria control and preventive medicine program launched in Sept. is beginning to show positive results.

The three-phase program aimed primarily at malaria control has resulted in a noticeable drop in the Regiment's malaria rate. Only three cases were reported in Feb.

The preventive medicine officer, Lieutenant Jack Danton, explained that Binh Long Province has an unusually high malaria rate due in part to its proximity to Cambodia and the use of supply routes through the province by enemy troops who are often carriers of the disease.

Lt. Danton visited the squadrons to inform the troopers about malaria and effective preventive measures. He pointed out that malaria is often much more than chills and fever. "The malaria parasite feeds on the red blood cells leading to infection and possibly permanent damage to the kidneys," Lt. Danton said. "Cerebral malaria can cause blood clots in the brain and paralysis."

Malaria control sheets are now maintained by individual units within the Regiment to insure that malaria pills are taken regularly.

At the Regimental level aerial insecticide spraying of fire support bases and spraying of unit areas is carried out on a weekly basis.

A reemphasis of field sanitation procedures accompanied the malaria control program. Classes focusing on the simple but effective measures that should be enacted were held for squadron field sanitation teams. "Various gastro-intestinal disorders often thought of as side effects of the malaria pill are caused by bacterial organisms spread through poor sanitation techniques," Lt. Danton explained.

Improved sewage and waste disposal procedures have been enacted throughout the Regiment.

The program seems to have promoted a new awareness of sound sanitation and malaria control practices and has been termed "very successful" by Lt. Danton.

## Valorous Deeds Cited

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Captain Claude K. Hudson, G Troop; Staff Sergeant Francisco Rodriguez, D Company.

### SILVER STAR

Major John C. Bahnsen, 1st Squadron Headquarters; Captains Gerald T. Cole, 3rd Squadron Headquarters, Bernard J. Reilly, 919th Engineer Company.

### DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Warrant Officers John J. Amore, 1st Squadron Headquarters, Robert D. Strawbridge, Aviation Platoon.

### BRONZE STAR

Captains Max P. Bailey III, F Troop, Patrick E. Garmen, 3rd How Btry; First Lieutenants Stephen L. Clement, E Troop, Larry D. Sargent, B Troop, Lawrence R. Scamahorn, 3rd How Btry, Howard M. Sisson, F Troop, Peter P. Wallace, B Troop, Thomas F. Williams, 3rd Squadron Headquarters, William L. Wynne, A Troop; Second Lieutenant Francis X. Hiney, B Troop; First Sergeant Bradley R. Bruce, 3rd How Btry; Staff Sergeants Albert Aguma, Air Cav Troop, James W. Blankenship, B Troop, Michael L. Manion, I Troop, Gary E. Ogles, 3rd How Btry, Ashby W. Tyree, B Troop; Sergeants John R. Bisantz, B Troop, Daniel J. Bootcheck, Charles J. Casados, 3rd How Btry, Wayne C. Haas, I Troop, Norman Harris, B Troop, Darwin R. Jarman, F Troop, John Sipe, E Troop; Specialists Five Bruce C. Dodge, 3rd Squadron Headquarters, Anthony C. Ortiz, B Troop; Specialists Four Bobby R. Bates, I Troop, William S. Bell Jr., 3rd How Btry, Ronald J. Coleman, F Troop, William H. Faulkner, Manuel A. Garcia, B Troop, Paul E. Hackler, 3rd How Btry, Roy T. Hall, B Troop, Cecil G. Harbold, Sam E. King Jr., Martin M. Malone, Joseph E. Mathe, 3rd How Btry, James R. Moses, 3rd Squadron Headquarters, Jerry W. Nicholson, I Troop, Mark A. Rahm, Charles J. Refshauge, Ervin C. Shockler, Jr., 3rd How Btry, Bernard J. Trares, B Troop, Theodore S. Wolas, I Troop, Ronnie K. Worley, I Troop; Privates First Class Donnie Jamison, F Troop, Marshall Moffett, Robert Nicol Jr., H. Company, Ronald W. Woodrum, E Troop.

### AIR MEDAL

Major Charles W. Abbey, Air Cav Troop; Warrant Officer Robert D. Strawbridge, Aviation Platoon.

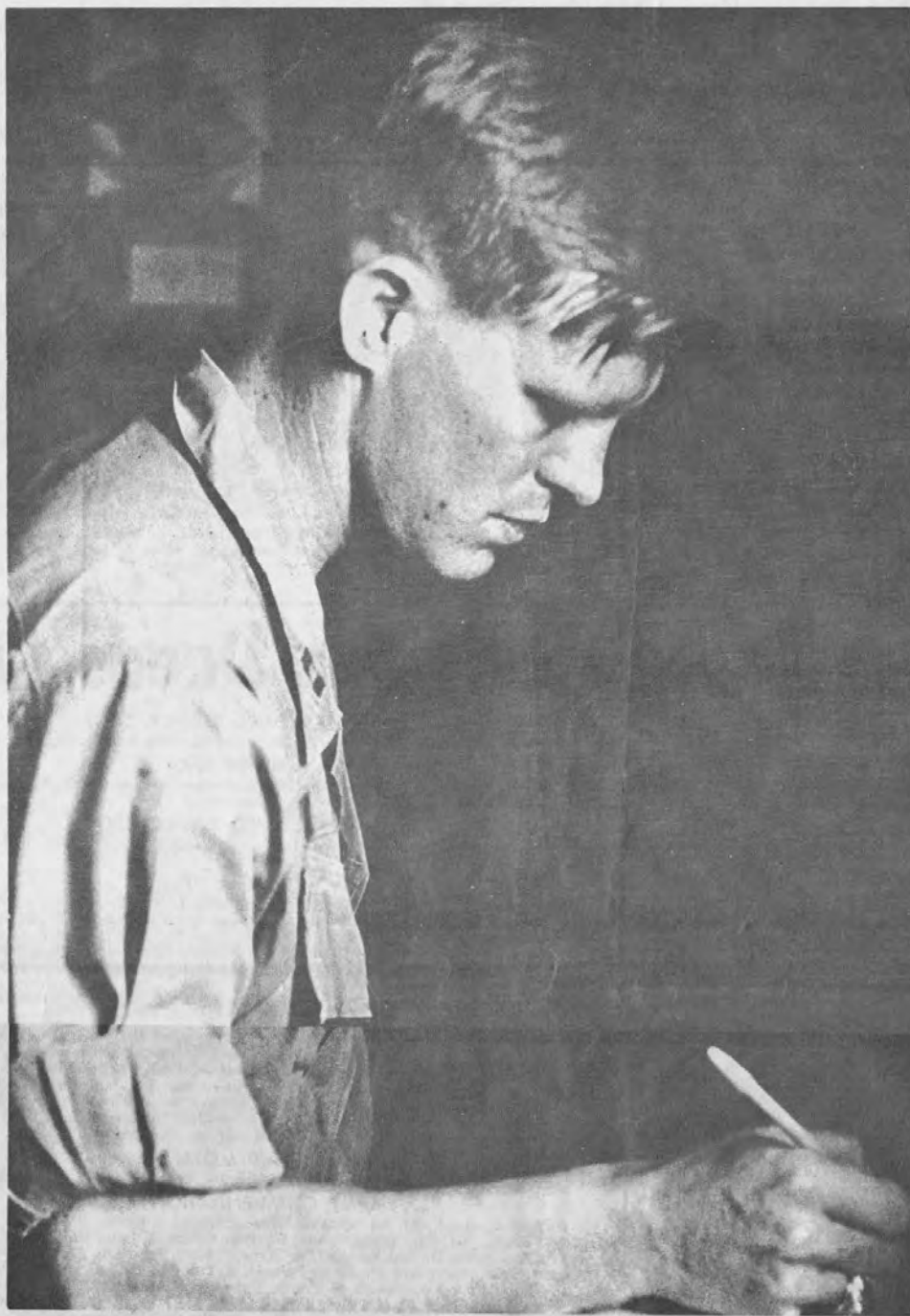
### ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Major William K. Good, (2), 1st Squadron Headquarters; Captains Stanley R. Lewis, 1st How Btry, Carl B. Marshall, Air Cav Troop; Chief Warrant Officer Michael Huff, 1st Squadron Headquarters; Warrant Officer Otha D. Brooks, Air Cav Troop; Staff Sergeants Karl L. Ashley, I Troop, Fred L. Brown, B Troop; Sergeant Phillip L. Palmer, B Troop; Corporal Larry B. Oyster, 3rd How Btry; Specialists Four James O. Haines, B Troop, Robert E. Lambdin, Air Cav Troop, Richard A. Marion, B Troop; Privates First Class Thomas E. Bishop, 3rd How Btry, Roy T. Hall, B Troop, Travis G. Morrison, 3rd How Btry, Charles Smith, John R. Yahola, B Troop.



**UNCOVER CACHE**—Members of 3rd Squadron's I Troop pose with enemy weapons and supplies they uncovered this month near Loc Ninh. It was

a busy day for the troopers who also carried on a four-hour battle with an estimated company of NVA soldiers killing 31. (Photo by Greenlee)



Photos  
By  
Smith

## Blackhorse Dedications

General Creighton W. Abrams, Commander United States Army, Vietnam, and Colonel Donn A. Starry, Regimental Commander, dedicated the 11th Armored Cavalry Museum and the Blackhorse Replacement School in separate ceremonies on March 1 to the memory of two 11th Cav. soldiers.

The museum was named for Colonel Leonard D. Holder, the Regiment's 37th Commander, who was killed when his command ship experienced a power failure and crashed near Bien Hoa on March 21, 1968. Col. Holder's son, Captain William D. Holder, participated in the dedication ceremony.

General Abrams, guest of honor at the museum dedication, said, "Many troopers have sacrificed as much in this struggle; no one has given more than Colonel Holder."

The Replacement School was dedicated by Regimental Commander, Colonel Donn A. Starry, to the memory of Specialist Four John R. Pierce, the first Blackhorse trooper to die in Vietnam. Specialist Pierce, Bonnie, Ill., had been in Vietnam less than a month when he was killed by sniper fire while manning an observation post.

Colonel Starry unveiled an oil portrait of Specialist Pierce before the assembled students of the school and told them, "these two men, Specialist Pierce and Colonel Holder, symbolize everything the 11th Cav represents and has done in Vietnam. Both worked as part of a team. Such teamwork has made the Blackhorse so successful in Vietnam."

Specialist Pierce's father, Mr. Harry Pierce, said in a letter to the Regiment that, "We are pleased and honored, as we know John would have been, to have this school named in his memory."

New arrivals spend one week at the school learning enemy techniques and tools of warfare in addition to the armor techniques of the 11th Cav.

The museum is a visual history of the Blackhorse Regiment since its arrival in Vietnam in late 1966. Its collection of enemy artifacts varies from a huge Soviet 120mm mortar to a Viet Cong crossbow.







## Workers Lack Union But....

By Mike Mang

A recent Stars and Stripes comic strip depicted a mama-san and her laundry crew on strike. A hypothetical situation, but based on a very real labor force that is both large, and in its own way unified.

At Quan Loi, a labor force of approximately 1,000 runs private concessions, performs laundry and maid service, KP duties at mess halls and a myriad of common labor jobs from sandbagging to excavation.

Approximately half of the Vietnamese workers at Quan Loi are permanent hires. They include KPs, hootch maids, concession workers and employees of PA&E. Another 600 are daily hires that perform tasks necessary to build and maintain a large base camp.

The permanent employees form the closest loyalties to their jobs and employers. The largest group of permanent employees are hootch maids, whose pay varies with the services they perform. If a mama-san is talented with an iron or shoe brush and has worked for her employer long enough to establish a certain komeraderie, he will enjoy spit-shined boots and wrinkle free fatigues. She in turn will earn top wages.

There is no hootch maid union as depicted in "Nguyen Charlie" but family loyalty creates a closed shop situation in which sisters and cousins, and even mother and daughter combinations work in a certain area.

They live in the same village or hamlet, work with or close to each other during the day, and recruit new workers from the family when a new job opens in their area.

Private enterprises are contracted to augment the PX ser-

vices. Ten percent of their sales are filtered back into the PX funds.

It's quite an operation and no one is sure where it will end. Some day there may be a Quan Loi Local of the International Hootch Maids Union.



BLACKHORSE LANDING — Colonel William W. Cobb leads the Regiment ashore at Vung Tau on Sept. 7, 1966. The Blackhorse wasted no time get-

ting into the action. On Oct. 7, 3rd Squadron and the 919th Engineers made contact with the enemy in "Operation Hickory" near Phu Hoa.

## Capture Documents

By Jack McAllister

Second Squadron was working in War Zone C on Feb. 19 when a forward air controller spotted several NVA soldiers moving down a trail. He called in artillery and a "Pink Team" triggering a contact that resulted in the capture of enemy documents.

The squadron S-3 officer, Major Frederick M. Franks, received a report of the action and flew to the area. "No one had worked that particular area in a while," Maj. Franks said, "and we wanted to get some intelligence information."

While circling the area Maj. Franks spotted an NVA pack. He decided to land and pick it up, but just as crew chief, Specialist Five Johnny Lamontia, was about to jump off the LOH, an enemy soldier ran from a bunker.

"We did everything we could to capture him," Maj. Franks said. "We waved to him and got between him and the tree line but it was obvious he wouldn't surrender." When he started running toward what appeared to be an occupied bunker the crew chief shot him.

After circling the area they landed again. Lamontia picked up the pack and noticed another just as he spotted an enemy soldier in a bunker. He shot the NVA soldier, grabbed the second pack and ran back to the helicopter.

"We weren't aware of anyone shooting at us," Maj. Franks said, "but with the Cobra firing we wouldn't have noticed it anyway."

The Cobra pilot of the "Pink Team", Captain Carl B. Marshall, reported hitting five enemy soldiers.

## New Dental Van

The 37th Medical Company is equipping a mobile dental van. The five-ton expandable van, containing a basic operative dentistry unit, will be the first such van in Vietnam to go out in the field to the troops.

Until now, all dental work in the Regiment has been done in Quan Loi. But this has created a special problem, according to Captain Sam P. Napoli, 37th Med dental officer.

"The people out in the field, who need dental care the most, don't seem to get it," he explain-

ed. "The men come in for a couple of days stand down every now and then, but we often don't get to complete the work they need."

With the new van, Capt. Napoli can go out to a fire support base and stay several days, treating people unable to come to Quan Loi.

"We've done a good job putting this equipment together," Captain Napoli said. "We'll be able to perform surgery, do operative work (fillings) and clean teeth."

## '35' Won't Quit

Chile Choker, the demo track of F Troop's third Platoon, is still running on its original engine after a year of rugged, constant use.

"This track has been running so constantly that we haven't even had time to install the splash plate or belly armor," said TC Sergeant James Frank.

According to Chile Choker's crew everyone in the troop wants to get on the track because it runs so steadily and is naturally "the best track in the troop."

Private First Class Woody

Grandit, line mechanic on the crew, points out that "35" has only one major malfunction on its record and that was an electrical failure a few months ago.

The track had to be "slaved" each morning but it kept running. Grandit is quick to point out that the mechanics at Quan Loi couldn't solve the problem and he and the crew "fixed it ourselves out in the field."

Chile Choker's crew jealously guards its car and insists that there is a plan in the works to move them to lead track on road runs hoping that "they'll be able to replace this antique."

## Music Expert

Many people can remember that one of Herman's Hermits first hits was "Something Tells Me I'm in For Something Good" and that Janis Joplin became famous with "Piece of My Heart."

It takes an expert, however, to know that the first recording of "Something Tells Me" was made by a girl named Earl Jean who later was the lead singer of the Cookies ("Chains," "Don't Say Nothing Bad About My Baby"), and that Erma Franklin, Aretha's sister, recorded "Piece of My Heart" a year before Janis.

Sergeant Ross S. Yosnow of 3rd Squadron's K Troop can tell you this and just about everything else that's happened in popular music for the last 16 years.

He remembers many songs by linking them to something he was doing when he first heard them.

"The first time I heard 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' by the Tokens Mickey Mantle wrenched his knee in Yankee Stadium's center field going after a fly ball," Yosnow recalled. "I had two radios going at once."

## Thunderhorse Cobras

The door to the Cobra Platoon swung open and a pilot burst in. Scramble! Within minutes the Cobras were in the air racing to support a Blackhorse ground element.

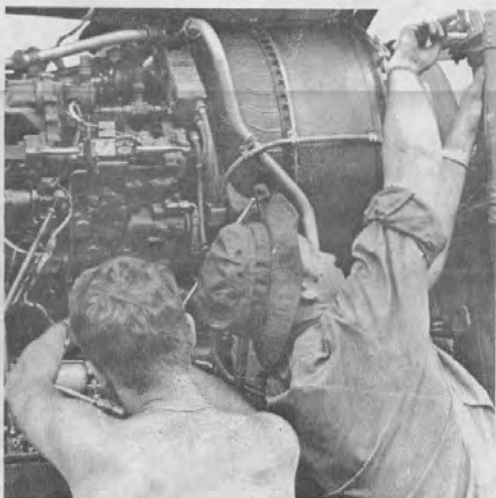
They reached the contact site and rolled in on the enemy position expending their rockets and then broke off with perfect precision.

A man spends three months and 300 hours in the front seat as a copilot, gunner before he is eligible to command a Cobra. "It takes complete faith in the other man and the ship to be a good Cobra pilot," explained Captain Thomas D. Mott, "and the men of this platoon certainly have it."

All the pilots were scrambled

to a heavy contact in late January and the mission was accomplished without a fire team leader. "There wasn't time to appoint anyone," Capt. Mott said, "and really there was no need for one. Everyone in the platoon was capable of handling the situation. It was a perfect mission."

The other men of Air Cav Troop add to the effectiveness of the Cobras. During heavy contacts they race to the flight line to reload the gunships. "We'll call for a few volunteers to hump rockets and everybody shows up," said Capt. Mott. "That cuts down our ground time and helps the troops out there. It's something the whole troop should be proud of."





## Night Ambush Plt.

The 3rd Platoon of 2nd Squadron's E Troop was manning a night ambush position late last month when a trip flare brightened the sky and triggered the trap.

That night the platoon killed one NVA soldier and captured 1 AK47 rifle, 6 rifle grenades, 4 field packs and 2 duffle bags of equipment and clothing.

The men of the 3rd Platoon are not strangers to the AP. In an early Oct. ambush they killed 7 enemy soldiers near Loc Ninh. The platoon was then assigned to escort a Rome Plow company on a land clearing operation and didn't conduct an AP for several months. On Jan. 20, however, they moved back to the Loc Ninh area where their AP killed one NVA soldier.

The AP is set up in area of suspected enemy activity to deny him freedom of movement during the night. Before the platoon leaves the night defensive position of the troop Lieutenant John S. Crissman, platoon leader, coordinates artillery and mortar support.

"The artillery and illumination is sure nice to have around if you hit something big," Lt. Crissman said. "Once you've popped the ambush your mission changes. They know where you are and you're in a real fight."

Once the vehicles are in place and the flares are set up the hard part begins—waiting.

