

One of the Boys

By PFC Dave Charlton

FSB FRANCES - MSgt Jack Jackson has served with the 1st Air Cavalry for over two years and has yet to take an R&R or leave.

As a matter of fact, he's spent most of his Army career with the 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 8th Engineer Bn. He's airborne qualified and holds several decorations, including the Purple Heart.

The men of the platoon agree that he should be called a real Sky trooper.

Jack wholeheartedly barks his approval.

A black and tan mongrel, Jack is the mascot of the group, but he's especially partial to Sgt. Herman Sturm (Landis, N.C.).

"We picked him up in Quan Loi two years ago, and he's been with the unit on every project since,"

said Sturm. "When we're on the job he's usually the first one in the shade, ready to supervise. He also likes to ride caterpillar tractors.

"On minesweeps he checks the edges, trotting back and forth between them. On the way he checks out any mudholes that look like they need wallowing in," he added.

According to SSgt Chandler (Woodstock, Ga.), "He has orders for E-8 and actually wears airborne wings. He's jumped from hovering helicopters, but normally chooses to stick to trucks and tractors."

"He has everything we have, including a bunker with bunk, blanket and pillow. We give him three good meals a day; but sometimes he gets fussy. He won't eat certain C-rations, and certain types he'll trade for, especially fruit cocktail."



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August 5, 1970

Long Khanh Province

Open New Frontier

By Spec 4 Robert Mantell

CAMP GORVAD, Vietnam - First Brigade Skytroopers began operations in Long Khanh Province east of Phuoc Vinh the week of July 13 to 20 and didn't have any trouble getting off to a good start. Several clashes involving helicopter crewmen from Troop C, 1st Sqdn, 9th Air Cav reported last week, paid off this week in the form of three caches.

The 18th was a good day for men of Co A, 2d Bn, 7th Cav, 18 miles east of Phuoc Vinh. Five Viet Cong were killed in a night ambush, and later, during a search of the area, two additional VC were spotted and killed on a nearby trail. Four AK-47 rifles and a RPG-2 rocket launcher were captured, along with six B-40 rockets, hand grenades, ammunition and equipment. Elsewhere, Co B killed three enemy in another ambush 12½ miles from Phuoc Vinh on the 16th. Three AK-47s were captured in that action.

Then Co D found a cache nearby stowed in a bunker complex which contained six SKS rifles, one 9mm submachinegun, a K54 pistol, three .30 cal. carbines, 84 mortar rounds, two sewing machines, a typewriter and 150 lbs. of rice. The next day they came across another complex which had a 12-gauge shotgun, medical supplies and bedsheets in it. July 18, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav found a claymore mine, ammunition, rifle grenades and medical supplies in a

cache 37 miles east of Phuoc Vinh.

Activity picked up across the FIRST TEAM's area of operations during the week, especially in areas of northern Binh Long and Phuoc Long

provinces near the Cambodian border. Eighty-eight enemy were killed, a rise of 64 over last week, while the number of Sky troopers killed or wounded rose slightly but remaining moderately light.

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JUST KEEP MOVING ALONG - With the help of SFC James Strong, Spec 4 Edward Bode completes the trip back to Vietnam as his 60 is secured.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec 5 James McCabe)

Medevac Bird Tries Again

By 1st Lt John D. Talbott

QUAN LOI - Everyone started talking at once when the crew of "Medevac 1," a 1st Air Cav dustoff bird, dismounted from their crippled ship. Theirs had been a long, hard day and they had the scars to prove it.

The day's first mission had sent them 30 kilometers into Cambodia to pick up five wounded members of Delta Company, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav, which had encountered heavy contact near Fire Support Base (FSB) Anna.

1st Lt. Hank Tuell and WO1 Gregory Simpson and the crew knew every mission was potentially dangerous. "As soon as we got over the area, we started receiving small arms fire," said Simpson. "A round crashed through the bubble on my side, continued through the console and hit the stock of Tuell's shotgun, knocking a piece off it." The bullet kept going, bouncing off the ceiling and finally

plopped down in Tuell's lap. With enemy fire increasing, the young lieutenant lifted out of hover and headed back to Anna.

Similar problems faced them during their second run. "We were in a bind," said Simpson. "Three seriously wounded men were on the ground, but we kept receiving heavy fire. Two rounds went through the belly and knocked out one of the fuel boost pumps and we were forced to head back to Anna again."

A third run was made after a quick check. It was then late afternoon with Delta Company still in contact. Once again enemy fire greeted the bird as it dropped the jungle penetrator on a cable.

"They started walking rounds my way from under the engine cowling," said crew chief and left doorgunner Spec 4 Jimmy Odom. "A round hit the receiver group and



COL. SANDERS - Spec 4 Edward Bode of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav, digs out a piece of chicken for his last meal in Cambodia.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec 5 James McCabe)

Farmer Pays Tribute To New Government

By PFC Daivid Moore

SONG BE - Toiling under a system of tributes and forced

labor, Montagnard villager Dieu Dep had been serving the Viet Cong since 1966.

Through a "protection" arrangement, Dep was made to pay the VC a portion of what his land produced and was also forced to construct for the VC, implements of war in the form of booby traps.

Hung and Trung, both weapons-carrying VC and non-Montagnards, lived among the villagers and enforced the system of tributes. Under Hung and Trung's direction, Dep had also kept watch for the presence of allied helicopters in the area of his village.

On July 10, 1970, Dieu Dep took a step that started his life off in an entirely new direction. Turning away from his old life of grudging service to the VC, Dep walked to 1st Air Cavalry Division Fire Support Base Snuffy and rallied to the open-arms policy of the Government of Vietnam.

Over the past several months in the 1st Cav's 2nd Brigade area alone, hundreds like Dep, villagers from outlying areas, have shrugged off the threats of the VC and come to the Government of Vietnam seeking a new life.

After spending two weeks at a Chieu Hoi center—a facility meant to help ralliers adjust to their new life—Dep will take up residence at one of the permanent villages in the Song Be area.

knocked the gun right out of my hands."

The hoist was quickly brought up, but not before a round smashed through Lt. Tuell's bubble, entered the heel of his boot, ripped his sock and exited through the rear seam of the boot. More rounds knocked out the radios and gyroscope, and others added holes to the body and rotor. Without navigational aid or communication, Medevac 1 staggered back to Quan Loi.

After dark another bird, Medevac 2, arrived over the beleaguered company. Despite heavy enemy fire, the most seriously wounded man was lifted from the jungle. However, enemy fire continued to increase and, with the flare ship running low on illumination and the gunships short on fuel, it was decided to pick up the remaining men in the moring. This was done without incident, after which the crews indulged in repairs and war stories.

Malaria: It Can Bug You

By Spec 4 Charles Petit

PHUOC VINH - "If everyone stopped taking their pill right now, this division would have literally thousands of malaria cases within a week."

That was the opinion of Lt. Col. Quinn H. Becker, the Cav's division surgeon and commander of the 15th Medical Battalion. He was addressing an assembled group of doctors from every battalion in the division. The meeting, also attended by Col. Ralph C. Singer, director of preventive medicine for USARV, had been called in response to the sudden increase in malaria during and following the Cambodian operations.

"What these troops don't realize," said Col. Becker, "is that the daily and weekly pills contain suppressive medication. You can still have the disease while taking the medicine, but the pills restrict its effects while the body gets rid of it."

So endemic were malaria-carrying mosquitoes in Cambodia that many medical personnel are convinced nearly every man who worked there for any period of time was probably infected. That means a tremendous portion of Cav personnel, especially those men in line companies, are carrying the malaria parasite. If they keep taking their pills, the disease will be eliminated from their bodies over a period of weeks. In the meantime, the pills prevent any ill effects from being felt.

"The malaria parasite, carried by certain species of mosquito, first sets up residence in the host's liver. These drugs restrict them to the liver, where natural defenses take care of them. Without medication they break out into the bloodstream, and that's what makes the man sick," said Col. Becker. He was quick to point out that the most common type of malaria is also the most dangerous. That type is falciparum malaria, generally non-recurring but rather easily fatal if not treated. The other type, vivax malaria, is extremely uncomfortable to have, possibly recurring, but seldom fatal.

A look at the charts kept by the division surgeon's office will show anyone the effect Cambodia had on the malaria rate. Whereas it had been steadily dropping and had fallen to a reasonable level, it soared several times over in size as soon as the Cav entered Cambodia.

"This was due to a couple of things," said Col. Becker. "There were a lot more disease-carrying mosquitoes in Cambodia, for one. Also, the nature of the operation lowered the resistances of many of the men. This was largely due to the exhausted state reached by many men after a day on patrol and unloading caches, not to speak of enemy contact. Also, when a man is that tired, the last thing on his mind when he finally puts his head down will be repellent and a mosquito net."

Medical battalion personnel feel strongly that the main responsibility for maintaining malaria control rests with battalion and company commanders, and the division command group has been dealing

strictly with unit commanders who haven't insured that their men followed malaria regulations. "We've found such an extremely close correlation between how tightly a commander enforces the rules, things like sleeves down at 6:00 and regular spraying with insecticides, that it's obvious that these rules really do work when enforced," said the colonel.

The division has always had an extensive anti-malarial program. This includes full distribution of both weekly and daily pills, supply of mosquito nets, regular dousing of building and living areas with insecticide, aerial spraying of firebases and base camps from a specially-equipped Huey, and urine tests to insure the men are taking the pills.

"We're particularly distressed by the continued occurrence of vivax malaria, since it's the easiest to prevent. That big orange pill, once a week, will absolutely prevent the disease. Some of the troops seem also to feel that either type of malaria provides some sort of a sham, but they just haven't talked to any of the victims. This is a very serious, miserable and uncomfortable disease to have in any case, and it can kill you," said the colonel as he looked at the statistics.

One of the most vexing problems for medical personnel is the man who takes the pills faithfully -- while he's actually in Vietnam. However, the nature of the disease and how the pills stop it should make it clear that one must continue the preventive medication even after leaving a malaria zone. If a man is carrying the parasite when he leaves country and he stops taking the pill before it's been eliminated from his liver, then it'll break out into the bloodstream. When that happens, the chills, fever, and resulting hospitalization quickly follow. Colonel Singer reported that just last year more than 2,000 men came down with malaria after DEROs and their return to the World. Equally large numbers get sick on R&R. "To be sure you don't get the disease after leaving Vietnam," said Col. Becker, "you should keep up the daily pill for 28 days and the weekly pill for eight weeks."

It's a serious disease, easy to get, but just as easy to avoid with a few simple precautions: the pills, mosquito netting, repellent, and arms and legs covered after dusk. The malaria-carrying mosquito occurs everywhere in Vietnam, so it's senseless to take any chances.

The Red Cross Man-- He Gets Lots of Letters

By PFC Dave Charlton

FSB BUTTONS "You haven't written home yet, have you?" Steve Ball, the Red Cross representative asked as the skytrooper walked in and sat down. "I've got a message here from your parents wondering what's happened to you, they've called everybody, trying to find out just what was happening. They haven't heard from you in over three months. How about dropping them a line as soon as you can."

"One of the purposes of the Red Cross is to act as a channel of communication not only between the serviceman and his family, but anyone or any organization that wants to contact him," the Dayton, O. native explained.

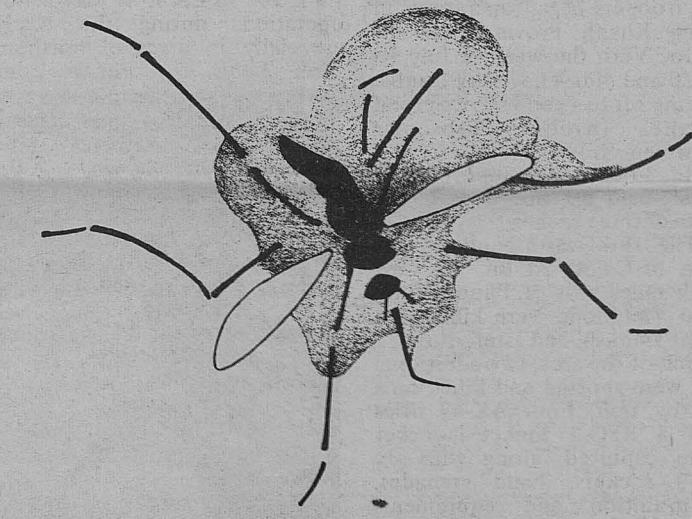
According to Ball, in any situation where a serviceman in Vietnam is needed at home, the Red Cross field director assists by obtaining information needed for emergency leave. Facts of the emergency leave are relayed

by the Red Cross chapter to the serviceman's hometown to help him decide if he should go home and to help the military decide about emergency leave. In this sense, the Red Cross acts as the communication channel between the serviceman and his family at home.

"The Red Cross can also provide financial assistance, like maybe paying the man's way home, in order to help ease the emergency. The aid is usually in the form of an interest-free loan which can be paid back in monthly installments. If repayment causes an additional hardship, the money may just be given to him," Ball explained.

"Another part of my job is counseling the Skytrooper in personal and family problems. I really can't tell him what to do, so I usually use the method called 'non-directive' counseling. I try to help him organize the facts of the problem. Then he must come up with the solution."

"Relaying all kinds of messages from home is one of my jobs. If there has been a death in the family I'm usually the one who has to break the news."



For God.... And Country

By Chaplain (MAJ) Gordon Kyle 3rd Brigade

Jesus was at times asked some pretty dumb questions. Such questions were asked not only by enemies who tried to trap him, but also by his followers who loved him. You may remember one unfair question, "Tell us, is it against our Law for us to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, or not?" Jesus knowing the intent of the question answered simply yet wisely, "Pay to the Emperor what belongs to him, and pay to God what belongs to God." (Luke 20:22-26)

We ask "why this man?" Why did my friend die, or why did my father get sick, or why did this terrible catastrophe happen to this particular individual and at this particular time? Jesus would urge us to look up from ourselves and the immediate catastrophe and the confusion of mind it brings. He would then have us ask, "Lord, for what purpose?" In this world of so much trouble, confusion and heartache God would have us look to Him for the reason. There is a reason and God would have us look to Him for the reason. There is a reason and God will not mock the man who really wants to know. Could our problem be that we do not believe we can know, or that we don't want to know? Perhaps we would prefer to stay confused and keep asking "Why? Why?"

Men die in vain and catastrophes of all kind happen for nothing until we come to grips with our real self and with the living God.

Can I humbly say "Lord, for what purpose?" Look for that purpose, and expect to find it. You will. Answers to our deepest questions are being found as we look up from ourselves and the immediate calamity to the God who loves us. Trusting Him we find help and hope.



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This Man's Army—Gone to the Dogs

By Spec 4 Greg Egan

QUAN LOI — For a dog handler with the 34th Infantry Platoon Scout Dogs, who serve units of the First Air Cav Division's 3rd Brigade, survival is a matter of developing many abilities.

The dog handler must be somewhat of a psychologist, veterinarian and animal trainer. And since he works with companies in the field, usually walking point with his dog, the handler should also be a good shot.

When a dog handler first comes in country, he meets his dog in Bien Hoa. He trains there for two weeks. This training involves teaching the dog to obey and to alert to airborne scent. Vietnamese children are used as the targets of the dog's alerts. However, according to Spec 4 Harold Thorpe, an experienced dog handler with the 34th, the scout dogs learn to alert to nearly any uncommon scent.

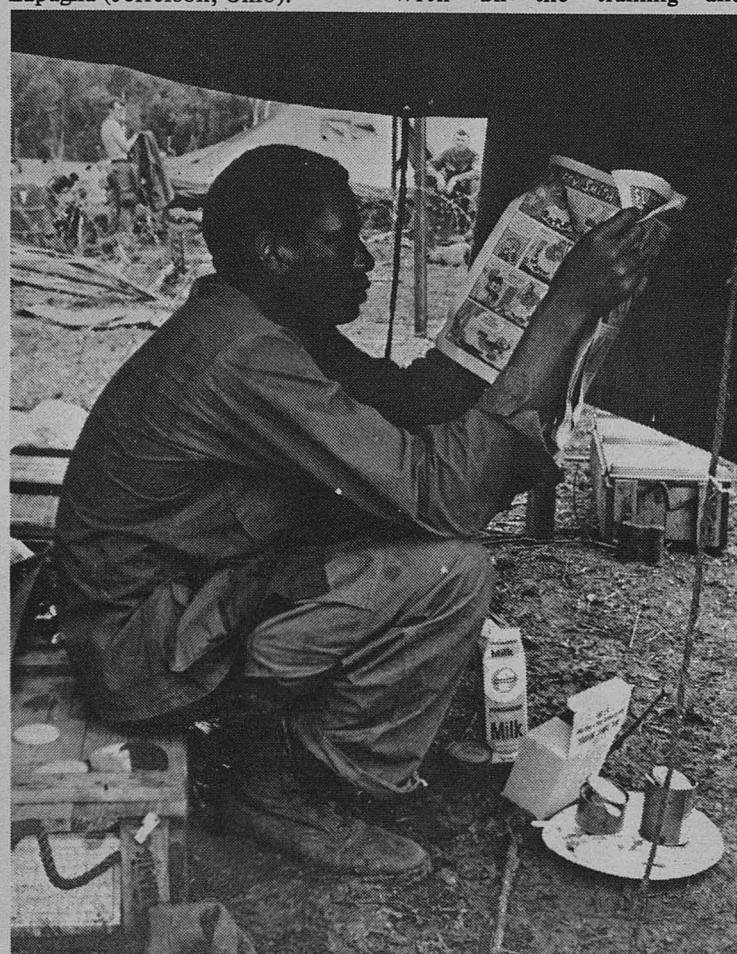
Skytroopers

Set Up Shop

DOC PHONG — 1st Air Cavalry Skytroopers are helping the people of Phuoc Long Province feed their stomachs and rest their tired feet.

Delta Company, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav, troopers turned over a sizeable quantity of rice and bicycles to the Doc Phong District headquarters. There the rice was distributed to the villagers, and the Skytroopers set up a bicycle repair shop to put all the captured bikes into suitable states of workability.

"Some of these bikes will be used by the Regional and Popular Forces soldiers in the area," said 1st Lt. Michael Lapaglia (Jefferson, Ohio).



A GOOD LAUGH — PFC Grallien Bable of C Btry, 1st Bn, 77th Arty, enjoys the Sunday comics after a questionable meal of C-rations and milk. (U.S. Army Photos by Spec 5 James McCabe)

"The Vietnamese kids are good at their job," explains Thorpe (Bellevue, Wash.). They tease the dogs just enough to make them aggressive and eager to scout."

Part of the process of training which will continue throughout the dog's active life, consists of the dog and handler getting to know each other. According to Specialist Thorpe, there are many things which can affect the way a dog performs. Heat, humidity and wind will all determine how the scent is carried.

Under ideal conditions, a dog can alert up to two-hundred yards away from the scent carrier, and the handler must know how to read the dog's alert in relation to the weather.

Every time his dog gives an alert, the handler must see it is checked out by the infantrymen before the column moves on. Since the dog can alert to any strange scent, contact with the enemy is not always the result of an alert.

Yet for the dog to continue working effectively, the handler must see that all alerts are investigated, otherwise, the dog will conclude that his alerts are of no consequence and fail to scout hard.

Even personality plays a role in the scout dog's job. Spec 4 James Ricci, another handler with the 34th, tells why: "A dog takes on the same characteristics as his handler. If the handler is sluggish, the dog will become sluggish as well. If the handler is aggressive, the dog will be, too."

Like the Skytroopers with whom they work, the scout dogs are issued 201 files, health records and a history file. Also, the dogs are given shots monthly and are called on regularly to give blood and feces samples. With all the training and

attention expended on the scout dogs, the Army sets their value after training at \$7000.

The only pay a dog gets is food, water and praise. As Specialist Thorpe ironically put it, "They have no rank, yet in a way they seem to have more rank than their handlers. You see, we have to take care of all their needs, food, water, even affection."

The handler must know his dog well. For instance he must decide whether his dog works best on or off leash. Off leash means the dog runs freely ahead of the column. The handler, close behind, reads the dog's actions for alerts. Some dogs are specifically trained to work off leash. Yet ultimately, it is the handler's decision how the dog should be worked.

The handler must rely on the dog's senses which are many times more sharp than his own. The dog, in turn, relies on the care, good judgement and perception of his handler. Together, they work as an effective team in the jungles of Vietnam.

Picks And Pencils

By PFC Dave Charlton

QUAN LOI, Vietnam — The men of the Pioneer Platoon are used to shoving aside their pencils and wrenches, grabbing picks and shovels, and heading for a firebase. That's because these rear-echelon types spend a good part of their time helping in the brawn and sweat part of warfare.

They're members of

Skytroopers on Move-- Dust Follows

By PFC David Charlton
QUAN LOI, Vietnam — It's everywhere. It's everywhere.

It settles in the barrels of weapons, on the covers of books, on blocks of ice and on polished boots.

That's Quan Loi's red dust. It follows every moving thing in billowing clouds.

You send it home on letters and brush it out of your hair. It settles on the floor, rising and returning to the same spot when swept.

Everyone is a victim of the dust. The MP's must have 10 uniforms, twice regular issue to maintain a cleanly clothed appearance. "Just riding around here on patrol makes us look like fugitives from a Halloween party by noon," said PFC David Simmons (Montgomery, Ala.). "We wash at noon, but by dinnertime we still come in a dirty, red color."

Mess Halls, especially, do not escape the hated dust. "Pans, utensils, anything left out for even a few hours during the day will have a red tint," said SSGt. Fred Spicer, a 2nd Bn, 5th Cav cook. "Nothing edible can be left uncovered. The floor must be constantly swept, wetted down and swept again. Even without food splashes the white aprons would have to be washed daily."



TUBE DAY — PFC Robert Traughler of Alpha Btry, 1st Bn, 30th Arty, searches through ammunition cannisters as he readies his 155 pit for use at FSB 11 Bravo.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec 5 James McCabe)

Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Battery of the 1st Air Cav Division's 1st Bn, 21st Artillery. Most of the time they're clerks and other rear support personnel, but are on hand to become construction engineers whenever a firing battery moves.

PFC Keith Murray (Chester, Pa.), a member of the platoon and a surveyor in his non-building time, added, "We move right in after the combat assault. Usually we bring our own equipment and take it out

when we leave. Once, though, it didn't work out that way. When we went in to help build X-Ray in Cambodia, they were so anxious to get it started that they dropped us in at 7 a.m. but didn't bring anyone else or the equipment until late in the afternoon.

"We just sat in the shade most of the day, running out to the Chinooks to see if they had our equipment or some instructions. We didn't get started until late that afternoon and stayed on the next day to finish the job."



"CAN I SEE IT AFTER YOU?"



Fire Base David--The End

By Spec 4 Cecil Cotton

BIEN HOA - Having completed one of the most successful operations in the history of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, the Skytroopers of the 1st Brigade began the task of tearing down FSB (Fire Support Base) David, thereby culminating the sixty-day Cambodian campaign.

FSB David, atop a hill with sprawling green grass for miles and miles, was considered by enlisted men and officers alike as one of the most scenic areas in Cambodia and South Vietnam. Some went so far as to say that they knew of very few areas in the States which could rival it for natural beauty.

Although a few artillery rounds had marred the scenery, the area still held its breathtaking appeal. One could find sheer enjoyment by just standing behind the berm and looking out on the mountainous terrain.

One officer was even overheard discussing what a nice golf course the area would make when Charlie was put in his place.

The Cambodian Campaign was drawing to a

close, American forces had to be withdrawn, and with them would go everything that had made Firebase David.

Scores of Chinooks and slicks were used to return men and materials to their rear areas in South Vietnam. It took hundreds of flights and man hours to move both supplies and personnel during the last few days before the climax of the Cambodian operation. The biggest obstacles during the move were time and the monsoon season which had just begun.

Thousands of sandbags had to be emptied, torn and properly discarded. Ammunition boxes, which were plentiful, had to be gathered and burned. Tents had to be taken down, surplus ammunition repacked, radio antennas dismantled, wire and fences taken down, and the metal slats used in building overhead cover disassembled, stacked and tied together to be flown back to the Republic of Vietnam.

The protective berm had served as a life saver during a NVA and VC attack on David which

resulted in the deaths of 28 enemy sappers. Before leaving, that berm had to be leveled, and finally, one last police call had to be conducted.

Colonel Robert Kingston, the commanding officer who took over the 1st Brigade at the onset of the Cambodian campaign, was ever present in directing the security of his men, briefing high-ranking military visitors and counting caches.

Fire Support Base David was unique in that it was the only base in all of Cambodia with its brigade, the 1st Brigade, command post on the base where the action was.

"It will be a long time before Charlie will be able to operate in this area again," the colonel once said during the operation.

Working against time and the monsoon, the Skytroopers of the 1st Brigade completed the removal and the demolition of all the materials that had made up the base, leaving only a bare spot of land which would serve as a memorial to David, the fire support base that Cambodia made famous.

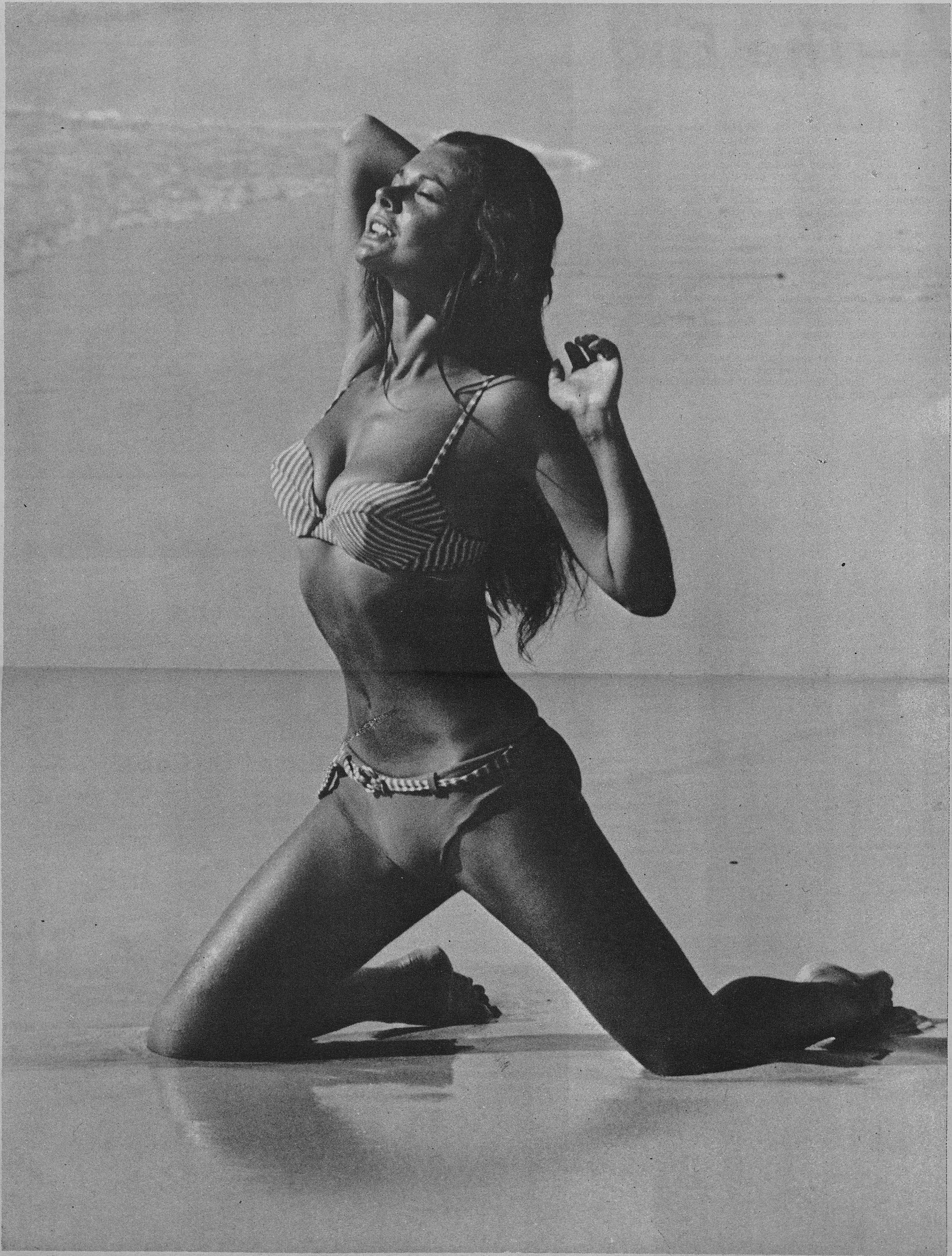


U.S. Army Photos

by

Spec 5 James McCabe





Peach On A Beach--First Team Dream



U.S. Army Photos

by

Spec 4 Dave Lewis

Stand At Ease

SONG BE — Everybody looked happy as 1st Air Cav Division Skytroopers of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry lined the airport runway at LZ Buttons.

After months of hunting the NVA's strongholds and supply depots in the jungles of Cambodia and Vietnam, the whole battalion was headed for standdown in Bien Hoa.

"I can't believe it's happening," said PFC Lenny Marshal (Hastings, Neb.), a radio operator with the battalion's Echo Company Reconnaissance platoon. For men who have been in the bush for several months, standdown offers a release from some of the pressures of the jungle war. For three days there will be no need to speak in subdued voices and no guardwatch in the middle of the night. There will also be plenty of food, drink, entertainment and diversions of all sorts.

For those who man the dust-blown fire support bases, other luxuries come to mind. "I'm looking forward to getting clean and staying clean for a change," said Spec 4 Harold Bradley, a West Virginia

native serving with C Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery which is assigned to the 2nd of the 12th and accompanying them for standdown.

Standdown is a special occasion. The men who were with the unit for its previous standdown still remember it, and those who have never had the experience have often heard about standdown exploits and happenings from those who were there.

"They've been promising us a standdown for a long time now," said Echo Recon squad leader SSgt Richard Southworth (Twining, Mich.). "It looks like this time we're finally going to get there."

The first of the big C-130 transport planes taxied into position to take its passengers. The Skytroopers in their dusty fatigues, carrying their weapons and heavy rucksacks began boarding the plane. Within two hours, they would be turning in their weapons and receiving a freshly-washed set of fatigues. For three days, the heavy rucksacks will lean in a corner beside a bed with clean sheets. The 1st of the 12th Skytroopers are in for three days of good times.



"Jarrett's Juicer:" A Clean Machine

FSB 11 BRAVO - "It's the greatest invention to hit a forward fire support base," exclaimed Mike Smith (Phillip, Wisconsin), "especially on the dusty forwards where it takes awhile to get showers built."

The men of Echo mortar platoon, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry have been using a new portable shower--"Jarrett's Juicer." The shower holds five gallons of water, enough for three dirty Skytroopers. It can be carried to any location on the fire base without any difficulty. The outstanding feature of the innovation is that it has pressure to knock the hardcore dirt off. "The makers of Dragon Fire Extinguishers would never believe their eyes if they saw us with them," replied Spec 4 Smith.

The coined nickname comes from the company's commanding officer, Lt. Donald Jarrett (Albans, W.Va.), because without the proper teamwork, the man taking his shower can really get juiced by the operator pumping the handle and carefully directing the stream of water. "Lt. Jarrett really lets the juice fly; if the soap doesn't take the dirt off, the CO will certainly do the job," remarked SSG Jimmy Prince (Adamsville, Tenn.)

It is Mr. Clean in a machine. The men of Echo mortar do not even bother building showers anymore but rely on the "Juice" to keep them clean.

Library Offers Peace

PHUOC VINH - Having trouble finding a quiet, cool place to relax? Just drop by the air-conditioned library located next to the Downtown Service Club.

The library offers reading enjoyment at its best. There are some 4,000 books that can be checked out by anyone for two weeks. The library contains current best sellers, magazines,

encyclopedias and a paperback trade section. You can also find major newspapers from the world, and two shadowscopes which measure reading speed.

Operating hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday with the exception of a shutdown Wednesday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sunday hours are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m..



DRINK UP -- Spec 4 David Fellers and PFC Don Kelly of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav, fill their canteens as the company took a break while building FSB 11 Bravo.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec 5 James McCabe)



THEIR BAG -- Spec 4 Tony Katz, left, and PFC Howard Faulkner of HHC, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav, do their bit in building their new home--FSB 11 Bravo.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec 5 James McCabe)

Cav Men Become Big Pool Sharks

PHUOC VINH - The newest swimming pool in III Corps is only a ten-minute walk from Phuoc Vinh's Downtown Service Club.

The chlorinated pool is situated at the southwest quarter of the post adjacent to the 8th Engineer Battalion and the quartermaster laundry. Since its opening on July 6, more than one hundred Skytroopers have dived into its warm, green water.

The 60-by 30-foot pool was built in two months by the men and materials supplied from the 27th Maintenance Battalion, 8th Engineer Battalion, PA&E, and Special Services, under the coordination of 1Lt. Robert Bowdish, base development officer.

The 27th Maintenance Battalion fabricated the essential filtration, chlorination and vacuum units for the pool. The frame and catwalk, shower security fence and the hard, level surface were constructed by 8th Engineers. PA&E provided plumbing for the shower and pool. Special Services personnel helped in the construction and currently operate the pool as a special service function.

The pool is open seven days a week: Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Two life guards are on duty at all times. Parking facilities are available adjacent to the quartermaster laundry behind bunker number 22.

'Mine' Your Own Business

QUAN LOI, Vietnam - Keeping a clean house becomes a difficult job when your sweeping is done for mines.

Charlie Company, 1st Bn, 5th Cav, the 1st Air Cav's pacification company, conducts daily minesweeping exercises along the infamous Highway 13 from Quan Loi to An Loc. Assisting the Skytroopers are soldiers from local, Regional and Popular Forces units.

"As part of the pacification program we started earlier," said the company's commander, Capt. Kevin Corcoran (Philadelphia, Pa.), "we've trained the RF and PF in minesweeping techniques. They now have the same equipment we do and are able to do most of the job themselves."

With the road cleared, the market between the two villages soared in such items as wood, charcoal and breadfruit.

Cav Receives New Territory

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In the 2d Brigade, caches were uncovered again this week by the 1st Bn, 8th Cav near Fire Support Base Mo, 21 miles northeast of Song Be. The 14th saw Co A find 240 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, 200 rifle grenades, 150 AK-47 magazines, 50 DPM machinegun drums, 1,260 7.62mm pistol rounds and 400 ft. of time fuze.

Two days later, on July 16, Co B found 199 SKS rifles and 7.62mm light machineguns with tripods, 131,425 rounds of small arms ammunition, 1,000 lbs. of TNT and 210 lbs. of C-4 explosive well camouflaged and hidden in heavy jungle.

Seven NVA were found killed as a result of four contacts by Co D, 1st Bn, 8th Cav and Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Cav on the 14th, 19 miles northeast of Song Be. Persistent sniper fire was received during the day, but there were no

casualties. Three days later, Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav engaged in a 40-minute long battle with an unknown size enemy force in bunkers while on ground reconnaissance in the same general area. Enemy losses are unknown; Cav losses were four killed and seven wounded.

The bodies of twelve enemy soldiers were found July 18 by Co D.

Troop A, 1st Sqdn, 9th Air Cav reported three major contacts during the week plus many small

engagements. Two of the clashes took place along an old infiltration route through Phuoc Long. Six NVA were killed. Three NVA were killed in response to ground-to-air fire received near FSB Mo on July 16.

Enemy activity also surged in the 3d Brigade AO in an area west of Bu Dop along the border, 20 miles northeast of Quan Loi. Seven North Vietnamese soldiers were killed by Co D, 2d Bn, 8th Cav in a series of contacts July 14. And eight contacts took place

between an estimated enemy squad and elements of Co A two days later. One NVA was killed and an AK-47 rifle captured as the enemy proved elusive.

It wasn't until the 18th that the enemy played its hand, laying an ambush for an engineer convoy along a highway south of Bu Dop. An estimated reinforced company poured small arms, machinegun and RPG fire at the vehicles just before dusk.