

# Crazy Horse 'Scalps' Viet Cong



## Charlie Goes To Happy Hunting Ground To Join His Ancestors

**AN KHE** — Operation Crazy Horse began May 16 as a company-size action and before a week had passed it had mushroomed into one of the 1st Cav. Div.'s toughest battles.

Company B, 2nd Bn., 8th Cav., had been deployed some 15 miles to the northeast of the Div.'s base camp on May 16 to seek out a Viet Cong force reportedly planning an attack on a Special Forces CIDG camp in the Vinh Thanh Valley.

Company B made sharp and heavy contact with the Viet Cong force and in a matter of hours it was evident that the company was pitted against an enemy Bn.

Company A, 1st Bn., 12th Cav., was sent into the battle that night. The two Cav. companies were in heavy contact with the Viet Cong until 8:30 p.m. Twenty-eight Viet Cong bodies were counted that night, and many more bodies were heard being carried away throughout the night.

Early the next morning, the two companies were attacked by the Viet Cong and the 1st Bn., 5th Cav., and 2nd Bn., 12th Cav., were committed into action, along with the remaining companies of the 1st Bn., 12th Cav.

Within three days, the Cav. Div. had committed its 1st Airborne Bde. against the enemy force, now estimated as a reinforced regiment.

The Cav. was fighting in some of the toughest terrain it had encountered since arriving in Vietnam last August.

The area northeast of the Vinh Thanh Valley is covered with a double-canopied jungle and elephant grass

10-12 feet high. The mountains and ridges are steep; so steep that one helicopter toppled over after discharging its passenger load.

The jungle growth was so thick that hand grenades and M-79 grenades reportedly were bouncing back into the Cav. positions.

At the end of the week's fighting, the Cavalrymen had killed more than 200 Viet Cong, captured 8, and detained 21 suspects.

Also captured were 43 individual weapons, 7 crew-served weapons, 16 mortar rounds, 37 grenades, 5 recoilless rifle rounds, and 2,522 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Intelligence gathered from prisoners confirmed the presence of at least four enemy Bn.'s in the fight.

Two Bn.'s were identified as belonging to the Quyet Tam Regiment, a North Vietnamese unit. The other two Bn.'s were a part of a main force Viet Cong unit, the Quyet Chin Regiment.

The Cav. had fought these regiments in February and March at Bong Son during Operations Masher and White Wing. And during Operation Davy Crockett at Bong Son last month. The Cav.'s 3rd Brigade had annihilated the Quyet Tam's 9th Bn.

During the first days of Operation Crazy Horse, the Viet Cong fought stubbornly; as stubbornly as the Indian renegade after whom the operation was named. The enemy positions were well fortified, but not sufficiently to repel the Cav. assaults.

Hand-to-hand combat was a common occurrence during Crazy Horse. A company of the 1st Bn., 8th Cav., assaulted an enemy-held hill, killing 30 Viet Cong.

Coordinated ground attacks, supported by tactical air, aerial rocket artillery, and conventional artillery, soon weakened the Viet Cong forces and it then became a pursuit for the Cav.

(See Page Eight, CRAZY HORSE.)



**NIGHT OR DAY** — Choppers of the 1st Cav. are always on the ready. At anytime they can bring help if trouble arises. This ability causes Charlie many a sleepless night. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## Two-Fold Operation Helps Further Medical Knowledge

**CAMP RADCLIFF**,—Maj. Norman M. Rich of Tucson, Arizona, a doctor at the 2nd Surgical Hospital, is conducting a two-fold operation.

The first part of his undertaking is collecting missiles and fragments that are removed from wounded soldiers. The second and most important step is analyzing the damage done by different types of missiles.

The 2nd Surg. is in support of the Air Cav. Div. at An Khe.

"We feel by studying the missiles and the amount of resulting tissue damage, we can better care for the wounded soldiers," said Rich. "The knowledge we have gained and stand to gain can be passed on through surgical papers that will be presented to civilian doctors and to the doctors that will come to

By PFC RICHARD BIEVER Vietnam in the future." Rich added, "We have taken color slides and X-rays of wounds to help in the study."

Rich started his study in January 1966 and now has more than 250 missiles and fragments.

Another of Rich's projects is the collection of Viet Cong weapons. So far his collection consists of punji stick, grenades, home-made booby traps that utilize small arms ammunition, and a hand written Viet Cong medical book. He also has a Russian AK-47 assault rifle and a Chinese Communist 7.62 light machine gun.

Rich said, that in October the collection will be donated to the Army Medical Museum in Washington, D.C. and anyone who has something that might enhance

the collection could contact him in regards to contributing the item.

### CONTEST RULES

See page eight for the particulars on a great contest, with a first prize everyone in the Division would love to win.

### In Memoriam:

## The Death Of A True Friend

The men of the 1st Cavalry Division are sorrowed by the death of Mr. Sam Castan, LOOK MAGAZINE Senior Editor, who was killed in action on May 21st.

Mr. Castan, the first newsman killed with the Cavalry, was a gentleman, a fine reporter, and an example to all Americans serving in Vietnam.

According to eyewitness reports, Sam Castan, though wounded, and an unarmed civilian, asked a wounded cavalryman for a weapon and fought like a trooper until he was killed.





**PERSUASIVE WORDS** — A Viet Cong prisoner is interrogated after being turned into government hands during a central highlands Cav Operation (US ARMY PHOTO By Sp4 Glen Rasmussen)

### On The Ho Chi Minh Trail:

## Cav Troopers 'Take A Vacation' In A Viet Cong Luxury Hotel

By PFC Bob Zolto

**AN KHE** — The infamous Ho Chi Minh trail is really a series of roads and trails which lead down from North Vietnam, through Laos and Cambodia, then cross over into South Vietnam.

These trails are used to infiltrate men, ammunition, equipment, and weapons to the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units operating in the South.

At intervals along these trails are way stations and resting areas where the enemy soldiers and their human pack trains may stop to rest — the journey is a long one and it's almost entirely by foot.

One of these stations was visited lately by a group of soldiers from the 1st Air Cav. Div.'s 2d Bn., 12th Cav.

The 2d Bde unit was on one of the most unusual operations of an unusual war. Dubbed Operation Lewis and Clark, the helicopter airmobile troopers hoofed it from an area north of Kontum called Plateau Gi to about 14 kilometers southwest of the An Khe base camp, a distance of some 72 kilometers.

Supporting artillery and engineer units were leapfrogged by helicopter behind the advancing air cavalrymen, providing continuous fire support.

The reconnaissance platoon of D Co. found the Viet Cong way station — three sleeping huts, a mess hall and a dispensary.

The troopers came across clothing, three radios and a pile of propaganda material for use in nearby villages.

The entire area was honeycombed with tunnels and 12 foot deep bomb shelters. Running water was available through the use of bamboo pipes which led to

a dammed-up stream. Trees had been bent out of shape by the use of vines to camouflage the huts. In some cases trees had been entirely uprooted and set in new places.

Cav. officials said this was to conceal the compound from the prying eyes of U.S. planes and helicopters.

The entire compound was burned by the cavalrymen, after they had photographed everything of intelligence value and taken the radios.



THE CAVALAIR is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Office, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and is an authorized Army publication. The command newspaper is printed by Dong Nam A, Saigon.

Opinions expressed in the CAVALAIR are those of its editorial staff and not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Commanding General . . . Maj. Gen. John Norton  
Information Officer . . . Maj. Charles L. Siler  
Editor . . . . . Sp4 Richard E. Olson

## Patriotic Civilian Service Award Received By Columbus Georgia Newspaper Reporter

**CAMP RADCLIFF** — Newspaper reporter Charles Black of the Columbus, Georgia Enquirer, received the patriotic Civilian Service Award from the Dept. of the Army in a brief ceremony held at Nha Trang recently.

Black, known to his hundreds of service acquaintances as «Charlie», accepted the certificate from Maj. Gen. Harry W. O. Kinnard, former 1st Air Cav. Div. commander, who presented it in the name of Gen. John K. Waters, the commander of U.S. Army Pacific.

Kinnard is temporarily the commander of Field Force I, until Maj. Gen. Stanley Larsen, the regular C. G., returns from a month-long leave.

Black, who followed the 1st Air Cav. Div. from its earliest beginnings as the 11th Air Assault Div., at Fort Benning, has established a reputation for skilled reporting under even the most hazardous combat situations. His accounts of life in the Cav. Div. were read avidly by the thousands of dependents in Columbus, and he became well known by literally hundreds of Cavalrymen from General to private.

As he presented the award, Gen. Kinnard said

«...this is the highest award which can be given without congressional action. It comes from the theatre commander (Gen. Waters) and you are the first and only man to have received this award in Vietnam. It is the first and only one that has been given here.»

Black said «I feel overly honored. These are my friends over here. I've covered them on maneuvers and in Vietnam for so long that I feel a deep kinship with them. I don't really feel this is something I've earned, ...but it is something I will try to live up to.»

### Award Announced

**AN KHE**, — A unit of the 1st Cav. Div.'s 1st Bde has been awarded the Combat Infantry Streamer.

The unit, HHC of the 1st Bde. (Airborne), was awarded the coveted blue banner because 65 per cent of its authorized strength has been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge.

## From Georgia, With Love...

**CAMP RADCLIFF** — When Charlie Black left the Columbus, Ga., airport on the first leg of his trip to Vietnam, he carried with him a present from the people of Georgia to the men of the 1st Cav. Div.

The present was two flags, one the Georgia State colors, the other the Columbus city flag.

It was the first time that there had ever been a Columbus flag. Mayor B. Ed. Johnson and the six commissioners of the City Commission had unanimously approved a resolution adopting the Army's only airmobile div., and decreed that a city flag be sent accompanying the resolution. A little investigation revealed that although a design for a flag existed, there had never been one made. A crash project was initiated, and a flag was created for the occasion.

The Columbus Enquirer's

Charlie Black, who has reported the activities of the Div. since its creation as the then 11th Air Assault Div. at Fort Benning, Ga., some three years ago, was selected to represent the people of Columbus, and to deliver the flags.

The state flag was sent by the legislature in Atlanta, and the law makers had also approved the construction of a monument to the Div. When the 16,000 man Div. departed from Fort Benning last summer, some 4,000 dependent families of the Cav. troopers remained in nearby Columbus, and the entire community has maintained a high level of interest in the activities of the Div.





**END OF THE LINE** — Viet Cong prisoners captured during Operation Davy Crockett are interrogated by a Cav trooper. The V.C. are part of a Battalion which was practically annihilated by the 3rd Brigade. (PHOTO BY MAJOR CHARLES SILER)

## Third Brigade S-3 Officer Promoted And Awarded Medal

**AN KHE** — Maj. Gregory P. Dillon of Tuscaloosa, Ala., was the recipient of a double honor recently when

he was promoted to his present rank and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with «V» device for heroism.

badly needed supplies.

Col. Hal Moore, Third Bde. C.O. presented the award to Maj. Dillon.

The Third Brigade S-3 Officer was participating in Operation Davy Crockett, on the Bong Son coastal plain fifty miles north of Qui Nhon, when he received a phone call from Col. Thomas W. Brown, former 3rd Brigade Commander, informing him of his promotion.

At an awards ceremony recently held in the «Garry Owen» Brigade Headquarters area, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his personal actions during the battle of the Ia Drang River Valley last November.

On November 15th, while his unit, the 1st Bn., 7th Cav., was engaged against a superior force of North Vietnamese Regulars near the Chu Pong mountain, Maj. Dillon braved intense enemy fire while placing signal smoke and landing panel markers for resupply helicopters. Three times during the day he exposed himself to heavy automatic weapons fire to guide in the

## New Zealand Ambassador Visits Cav

**CAMP RACLIFF**, — The most recent visitor to the 1st Cav. Div. was Maj. Gen., Sir Stephen Weir, the ambassador to Vietnam from New Zealand. He was accompanied on his visit by ten New Zealand government officials.

Gen. Weir was met at the An Khe airport by Cav. Div. Chief of Staff, Col. George S. Beatty.

The ambassador and his party received briefings on intelligence, logistical operations, and civic affairs by division staff officers.

Later in the day Weir and his party toured the weapons museum. SMaj. Chester Westervelt acted as his guide.

After the tour was completed, Mr. Weir and his party went to the An Khe airfield from which they departed for their next stop.

## Mountain Youth Wants To Grow Up And Help Fight The 'Viet Minh'

By PFC John White

**AN KHE** — Kim tai-Thoia, 14, is now on the road to making a better person of himself thanks to the U.S. Army.

During a patrol 15 miles south of An Khe, in the hill country inhabited by Montagnard tribesmen, a group of Americans came across the young boy. The patrol returned to the 1st Cav. Div base camp and brought the boy along. He was taken to the 15th Med. Bn., where he had his first haircut and was introduced to a shower.

After a few weeks passed with the Medics, «Toi» as he was now called, was assisted in returning to his family. The trip was tiring because of the bad weather and the fact that a chopper could not land in the jungle terrain. After the group reached the area where the boy was found, Toi could not locate his home or his family.

As the men were returning, Toi gave way to exhaustion and Sp5 James Hall, of Lillington, N.C., who is attached to the Div.'s Medical Evacuation helicopter company, lent a helping hand by carrying the boy for the rest of the trip.

After he spent a few days with the Cav., Advisory Team 27, the team asked the District Chief, Mr. Tran

Duoc Vu, if they could adopt the boy. Vu said that he had planned to send Toi to the orphanage in Qui Nhon but would allow the boy to stay with the team.

Toi had never attended school — he speaks «Banaar», a montagnard dialect, and a little Vietnamese. He is very observant, and very quickly learned to use toilet facilities properly, shower daily, and brush his teeth after every meal.

He has been enrolled in a summer school so that he can learn to speak Vietnamese. Since his arrival with the advisors, Toi has become a full-fledged member of the «Song Ba» Boy Scout troop. The team has purchased clothes and a scout uniform for the boy to help him fit in with the other children.

In another effort to find the boy's parents, the team recorded Toi's voice on tape and had an airplane fly over his mountain home area with a loudspeaker playing a voice message for his parents to come for him, but there was no success.

Toi misses his parents, and at first didn't like to go to school, but now the frowns are turning into smiles.

One day, Toi announced, «When I grow up, I want to be an American soldier and return to fight the Viet Minh.»

Like many people in the mountain areas without radios or modern communications, Toi believed that the Viet Minh were still fighting in South Vietnam and didn't even know that the Viet Cong existed.

## Special 'Numba' For Charlie

**BONG SON** — A 1st Cav. Div. Arty. Bn. fired its 100,000th shell while in support of the third Bde. on Operation Davy Crockett.

The 1st Bn., 21st Arty. used the round while firing an offensive concentration in support of the 1st Bn., 7th Cav.

A 105mm howitzer outfit, the battalion has earned itself the nickname of «Terrills Mountain Raiders» by airlifting its weapons to almost every sector of the South Central Highlands. Lt. Col Ernest P. Terrill, Jr., of Chickasha, Okla., is the Bn. C.O.

The 100,000th round was loaded by Col Terrill and fired by Col William F. Brand, Div. Arty. Commander.







That Long Sandy Beach

## Cavalry Troopers Become 'Flying' Porpoises At An Khe's Swimming Hole

**AN KHE** — Water, Water everywhere, but not a bit to drink. The Sky troopers of the 1st Cav. Div., are turning into regular airborne porpoises as they ignore the old Air Force song, "Up we go into the Wild Blue Yonder."

These modern Sky Troopers, even though they love to give Charlie the short end of the order they love to get back down to earth once and a while. What better way to keep in a «Fluid State» than by diving, splashing, dunking, and just lazily floating in their own private swimming pool.

The pure source of the pool has been around since as long as anyone cares to remember. In the form of the River Ba, it winds its way slowly toward the big daddy of all swimming pools, the Pacific Ocean. It took the men of the 70th Eng. Bn., 1st Cav. Div., and the determined ingenuity of The American soldier, to move the mountains of soil and tame the mighty Ba into a «Cav. Water Wonderland.»

Special Services has recruited life guards, and some benevolent person, with a bit of luck, turned up a ten horsepower outboard motor boat. Where in the Central Highlands of Vietnam this was found, only this benevolent person could know. Floats have been installed and a water

safety program has been installed.

In speaking of water safety, it might be a good thing to check with your units on the safety program and what it involves. The waters of the Ba are treacherous, caution and safety should be exercised and practiced.

## Bronze Star Recommended For Cool Headed Trooper

By SSgt Charles Jameson

**CAMP RADCLIFF** — A cool headed Cav. artilleryman who stayed at his post under heavy fire has been recommended for the Bronze Star Medal.

SFC Adrian Barger, of Columbus, Ga., the Chief Surveyor for Cav. Div. Arty., was in a ten vehicle convoy near Pleiku when one of the trucks struck a land mine.

Barger jumped out of his truck and rushed to the disabled truck, where he found that six of his men were wounded.

While he gave first aid to these men, he directed the remainder to take up defensive positions, since he feared the Viet Cong might attack the stalled convoy — and sure enough, within minutes a squad of the guerillas were seen moving through the jungle.

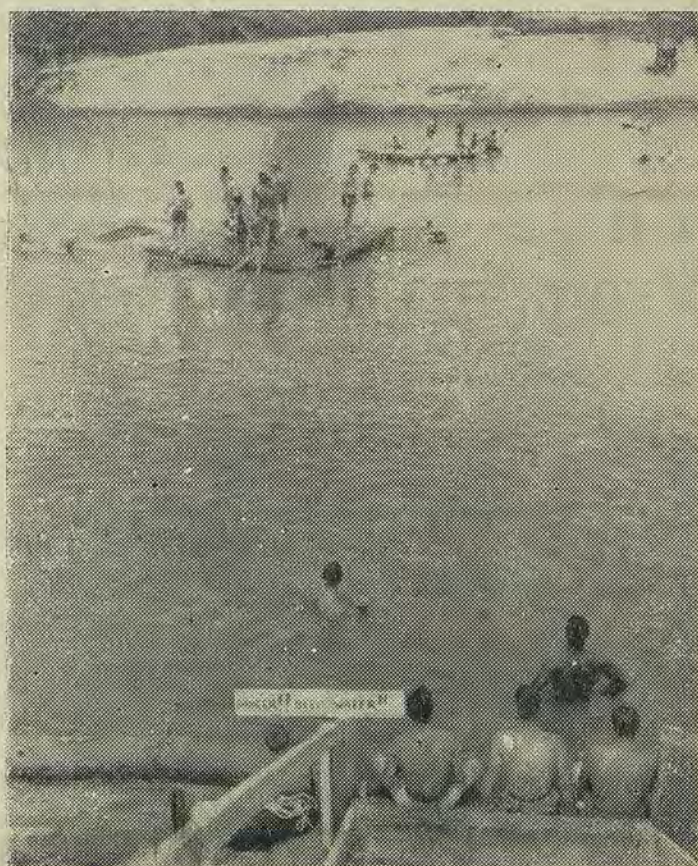
As the VC attacked with

machine guns and small arms, Barger got on the radio and called for Aerial Rocket Artillery support. He stayed on the air, exposed to enemy fire, while the convoy commander, Capt. Riley J. McVey, led a counter attack against the ambushers.

As the rocket-laden helicopters, guided by Barger's radioed directions, smashed the Viet Cong, the communists took flight into the jungle.

### BULLETIN

Due to the Rapid rotation of 1st Cav Personnel, Life Guards for the New Pool are at a Premium. Any One Who is a Qualified Life Guard Should Contact Special Services as soon as Possible.



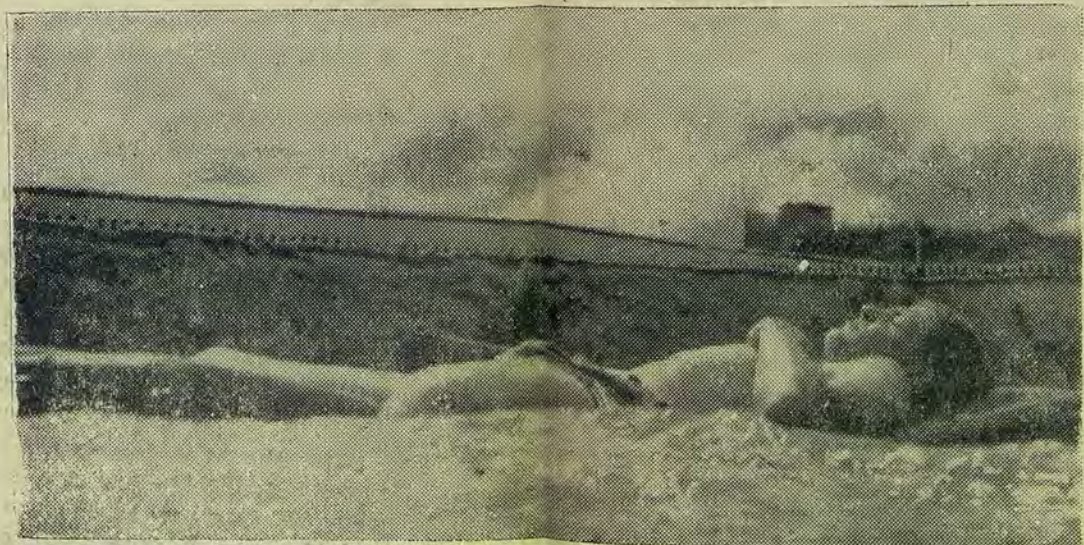
The Swimmer

The sign reads "danger deep water," and the sign is as true as can be, the pool is nothing but the river Ba.



Another Use For An Air Mattress

Photos By Sp5 MARV Wolf



Think I'll Just Catch Forty Winks



A float in the middle of the pool becomes a place to congregate and frolic.



Cool, Cool Water



I Love To Swim!





**STEADY HANDS** — Doctors of the 2nd Mobile Surgical Hospital (MASH) operate on a wounded soldier of the 1st Cav. The hospital has operated on over 950 soldiers since its arrival in Vietnam. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## Mobile Hospital Cares For A Variety Of Patients

By PFC Richard Biever

**CAMP RADCLIFF** — The 2nd Mobile Surgical Hospital sometimes called the 2nd MASH, a unit serving with 1st Cav. Div., has received their 1,000th patient. The 2nd MASH came to the An Khe area early last November.

Since then they have treated many patients that didn't belong to the U.S. Army.

They've handled Air Force patients, South Vietnamese, and even Viet Cong. Capt. Daniel J. Acosta, 30, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, the hospital adjutant, said, «We've even treated two V.C. One was shot in the chest with an M-16 rifle but he recovered fully.»

The hospital has enough bed space to take care of 140 men. They have eight female and nine male nurses, and 15 doctors. The balance of the staff include three Medical Service Corps Officers and 114 enlisted medics.

According to Acosta, after

patients are received they are moved to the pre-operation room or the X-ray ward, and then to the Surgical department if an operation is required. «We have a post-operation room where the patient can be kept until he can be transferred to the 85th Evacuation Hospital at Qui Nhon. The patients are not kept here any longer than necessary,» said Acosta.

There is a heli-pad adjacent to the hospital and, according to Capt. Acosta, this and the excellent equipment and dedicated personnel have contributed to the success of the hospital. «I think our equipment is just as good as that in the non-combat areas. We have an

excellent laboratory and pharmacy as well as many medical books for the doctors.»

The MASH has performed more than 950 operations since its arrival in the Camp Radcliff area. «On one occasion,» said Acosta, «the mess crew brought the supper down to the hospital so that the doctors wouldn't have to leave while they had patients to be taken care of.» He added that «Once we had 75 patients within six hours and within twelve hours they had all been operated on.»

The 2nd Surgical Hospital is commanded by Col. Francis Dimond, Jr., of Augusta, Ga.

### During Hand To Hand Fighting:

## Cav. Troops Repulse VC Suicide Attacks

**CAMP RADCLIFF** — A company from the 1st Air Cav. Div.'s 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. was on a mission in the Vinh Thanh Happy Valley area recently. Their mission was to make contact with what was expected to be a platoon of North Vietnamese.

Contact was made, for there were hard core North Vietnamese there, but it turned out to be a regiment. Capt. J. D. Coleman, the C.O. of «B» company, was leading his men on operation Crazy Horse. Capt. Coleman's 1st Sgt. is Ronald A. Koebbe, 35, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Koebbe said, «I've got 19 years in the Army and I hope I never get into that situation again.»

«We landed in Happy Valley and started up the mountain by platoons, we ran into punji sticks, booby traps, and communication lines,» said Koebbe, «We never realized our suspected platoon was a regiment until they opened fire and pinned down the first platoon. We were going to withdraw and call in the artillery fire but we couldn't leave the first platoon. The North Vietnamese were using mortars, M-79's, recoilless rifles and hand grenades to keep us pinned down. Finally «A» company came in to reinforce us.» Koebbe went to say, «My biggest shock of the encounter was when two Vietnamese interpreters and a Special Forces Sgt. who were lying shoulder to

shoulder with me, were hit by machine gun fire and I wasn't touched.» Koebbe did receive a sniper round in the upper left arm and had two ribs broken, later on.

Koebbe said, «What saved us was our company commander, Capt. Coleman. He never flinched or changed his voice during the whole encounter. He just stayed on the telephone and kept the men's moral up by telling us that reinforcements were on the way.»

At one point «B» company set off a smoke screen around the perimeter of their defense so that rocket ships could get help into them, but the enemy thought it was a shield for the Americans' retreat. Koebbe added, «This is where the real fighting began. They came charging at

us like a bunch of Indians and with a terrific amount of fire power we were able to turn them back.» «Some of the men that we expected to be wise guys and big mouths turned out to be our best soldiers when the going got tough.» «B» company can be proud of their men because not one man panicked, everyone did the job that was expected of him.»

1st Sgt. Koebbe has been recommended for a Silver Star for his efforts in the encounter. Koebbe's wife Coletta and five children live in Cincinnati, Ohio. He also has 19 brothers and sisters living in the Cincinnati area.

## PX Order House Opens At An Khe

**AN KHE** — The newest joy in this part of Vietnam is the PX order house, and the 1st Air Cav. Div. PX has opened it.

The Cav. troops will be able to order anything from fishing tackle to new cars. There are presently 19 separate catalogs to choose from, and will soon be many more.

A few of the things that may be ordered now are: China, cameras, jewelry, radios, tape recorders, Hi-Fi equipment, binoculars, T.V.s fishing tackle, silverware, jewelry boxes, and many other attractive and useful gifts. The exchange plans to start selling new cars in the near future, along with custom made suits and other concessionaire items.

Whatever is ordered may be delivered either here or in the States. The one catch is that anything manufactured in the United States must be delivered outside the U.S.

SSgt. Richard Allen, of Muncy, Pa. will run the order house and it will be open from Monday thru Saturday, 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.





AN KHE CUTTIE—Capt. George Willimore, the civic affairs officer with the 11th aviation group says "Hi" to one of his young friends. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO by Sp5 Marv Wolf)

### A Fact Of History:

## One Way To A Peoples Heart Is Through Their Stomachs

By Sp5 Marv Wolf

**CAMP RADCLIFF—** Napoleon Bonaparte wrote that an army travels on its stomach. Mao Tzse Tung said that an army should swim among the people like a fish in an ocean.

Both were referring to the problem of feeding the troops.

The stomachs of the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong-peasant soldiers must be filled with rice, and the vast majority of that rice must come from the people of the South.

According to a recent article in Commanders Digest, an official Department of Defense publication, it takes about two pounds of rice a day to feed a North Vietnamese or Viet Cong — or a ton a day for an enemy regiment.

This rice in the past was taxed from the local farmers in whatever area the unit was operating in. In order to persuade the poor peasants to give up part of their only source of income, the communists used, at various times, persuasive appeals to the loyalties of the farmers, various taxes for which some service, like protection from the government forces, was to be given in return, and extortion. The extortion ran from simple threats to mass executions and wholesale confiscation of a village or hamlet's entire rice store.

This rice was then hoarded by the communists until they needed it — sometimes in the same village where it was taxed, sometimes it was carried a short distance away and hidden — often

hundreds of local peasants were impressed as human pack animals and the rice taken a considerable distance into the mountains.

The rice might be in bags, or it might be loose, but all the same the cache was usually well hidden — and since the porters who carried were usually worked during the hours of darkness, guided by a few armed, hard core communists, no one in the villages ever knew exactly where the rice was.

When the 1st Air Cav. D.V. arrived in Vietnam last fall, they immediately started offensive operations against the communists. Large areas of formerly Viet Cong controlled territory were brought back under national government protection.

This led to the discovery of the local caches of VC rice, since the local populace generally knew where it was kept and would lead the cavalrhmen to the site.

As the airmobile troopers began to use their mechanical wings in more sophisticated ways, landing near the tops of thickly-jungled razor-sharp mountains and walking down the slopes, lager and previously inviolate caches were uncovered. The largest haul by an air cavalry unit was more than 90 tons, uncovered by a squad from the 2nd Bn., 12th Cav., in the wilds above

Bong Son, near the coast. public, air Cavalry units have found more than 750 tons of rice, according to division officials.

When possible captured rice is evacuated, and usually turned over to the province or district chief for distribution to the needy, especially the refugees, many of whom arrive at government relocation centers with little more than the clothes on their backs. Often, the very same villagers who were forced to give up their rice as Viet Cong taxes get it back through this local official of the central government.

Captured enemy food-stuffs that can't be quickly evacuated are usually burned — but in either case the storage areas are destroyed and the rice denied to the enemy.

Seven hundred-fifty tons is enough to fill the long, canvas sacks the communist soldiers carry over their shoulders as a weeks ration more than 1,000,000 times, or feed a North Vietnamese regiment for two years.

Or to put it another way, it's enough daily rice to support all the North Vietnamese, Viet Cong main force, Viet Cong local force and informers, sympathizers and agents in all of South Vietnam for nearly four days.

## Chaplains Diary

By Chaplain Edwin R. Andrews

«Would you come over here, Chaplain? We have something to show you!»

The invitation came while Chaplain Ralph Curcio was making his rounds at Landing Zone Pony, the flat, sandy spot in curve of the Slon River where Second Brigade was based during the Bong Son campaign.

It was late afternoon, and the fierce heat of the day was slowly dying; soldiers were gathered in talkative clusters around their pup tents, relaxing from the day's search for the enemy.

Chaplain Curcio accepted the invitation, and joined a group of men gathered around the battalion's Vietnamese interpreter, who had been put to work translating from a small book of poems. After listening to several, the chaplain dug a scrap of paper out of his pocket and copied the best one; even with meter and rhyme damaged in translation, it still had real meaning:

Ra Di

I have gone far from my friends,

Far from home and the face of my mother,  
Far from the sound of my mother's singing,

Far from my loved ones.

I went out wishing to be victorious at once,

Return to my home village at once,  
Return to my beloved home,

Return to the place where my mother waits for me.

In the gathering dusk, one of the soldiers spoke. «You know, I like that one. It — well, these folks are human just like we are. I hate the enemy's guts when I'm in the field, looking down a rifle barrel at him, but — well, like I said, they're human too. Else why would they write something like that?»

«What do you mean, enemy?» asked the chaplain. «Where'd the book come from?»

Another soldier spoke up. «It's my book, Chaplain. You know we were out on this search and destroy mission this morning? Well, we had to cross a field that was pretty well covered with Viet Cong bodies — probably from some artillery barrage or air strike. «I found the book of poems there.»

## Cav Soldier 'Courts Death' To Save Buddies' Lives

**CAMP RADCLIFF—** A heroic paratrooper, Sp4 Carl W. Knebel of Jasper, Ind., assigned to a Co., 1st Bn., 12th Airborne Cav., recently proved the meaning of "to carry on," and in spite of a severe headwound, managed to safely cover his men during a dramatic withdrawal.

The 22 year-old fire-team leader and his team were providing covering fire for several wounded soldiers being evacuated during a fierce engagement in Quan Phu My Province on the South China Sea on February 24.

Following the evacuation of the wounded from the front lines, Knebel ordered his men to pull back while he alone provided covering fire with an M-60 machine-gun.

With the highest degree of skill and daring, Knebel deliberately exposed himself in order to better cover the withdrawal and draw

enemy fire into himself and off his men.

Firing continuous bursts from his exposed position, enemy fire was concentrated on his machine-gun and during the course of the maneuver, Knebel was wounded in the head.

Despite the staggering wound, he continued to fire upon the enemy positions until the last man had moved to the rear and safety, at which time he himself withdrew.

Knebel is currently recovering from his wounds in the States. He has been awarded the Bronze Star for heroism.





TO KEEP OUT THE RAIN—A young Vietnamese girl begins the long task of fashioning straw into bundles for the roof of her home. (US ARMY PHOTO By Sp5 Marv Wolf)

## Sweetheart Of The Week

**WEEK** — Eileen Black, the charming wife of Sp4 Ira Black of the 1st Air Cavalry's Information Office is this week's Cavalry Cutie.



EILEEN BLACK

All residents of Camp Radcliff are eligible to enter a photo of their wife, sweetheart, sister, or whatever, and a distinguished panel of girl watchers in the Information Office will make a weekly selection. Any clear picture, sent to the Information Office, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO 96490, ATTN: Sweetheart of the Week Editor, will receive consideration. All photos will be returned, providing that a self addressed envelope is enclosed.

## Four Footed Friend Saves Two Legged Masters

Sp4 NICK PALLADINO

AN KHE, — A dog is a man's best friend and Lux a patrol dog for the 1st Air Cav Div. has made at least one unit a firm believer in the old saying, since he probably saved most of their lives on a recent operation.

Lt. William C. Comee, Jr., a platoon leader with Company B of the Cav's 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. was leading his platoon on a patrol using Lux on the point.

«We were moving through a draw at the base of a mountain when Lux stopped and started barking,» the Houston, Tex., officer said.

The handler, Tran Quang Thinh, a Vietnamese soldier attached to the Cav. pulled his pistol, but was immediately dropped by an enemy bullet.

He emptied his magazine at the VC. A medic rushed in and carried the wounded handler to safety as the patrol changed course and contact with the enemy was broken.

The following day, Lt. Comee led his men through the same area. They found a series of bunkers about 50 meters from where Lux started barking.

The grass was flattened down and debris was scattered leaving the impression

a group of people had recently evacuated the area.

«We'd estimate about 25 or 30 enemy soldiers had been laying in wait for us,» the Lt. said. Comee said if the dog hadn't sounded the alarm he and his men would have fallen victims to a well-planned ambush.

The 26-year-old cavalry officer said he was a little doubtful about the worth of patrol dogs before this incident, but now he's firmly sold on the value of dogs like Lux.



PRESENT FOR CHARLIE — Cav Artillery near the fighting areas prepares to give support to troops engaging the enemy. (US ARMY PHOTO)

## Super, Dupper Hootch Contest

AN KHE— A contest to decide on just how ingenious the 1st Cav. fighting troops really are was announced by the Information Office recently.

Since the Div. arrived in Vietnam in September, along with giving the VC headaches, it has been improving its living conditions. A contest to see who has the best hooch will begin June 10, and end June 23.

The winning photographs and the runners-up will be run in the June 30th issue of the Cavalair. «The grand prize will be an all Expense paid trip to the United States, on your rotation day.»

Send a clear print to the Information Office, ATTN: Hootch Judge, through your message center. Photographic service is available by calling An Khe, 172.

## Cav Orientation Is First Hand

Sp4 Edward Haynes

AN KHE — «Welcome to the First Cav. Div. Here is your M-16 rifle, this is your ammunition and here is the rest of your equipment. Load on the trucks, we are going to combat in ten minutes. Good luck.»

Almost but not quite, this is the greeting men get on arrival at the replacement detachment before they are assigned to a unit. Their unit will continue their briefing if circumstances permit. The replacements get orientation on Espirit de Corps, instruction and firing the M-16 rifle, and dry run patrols when possible. The platoon leader and squad leader take over and explain the new man's job.

The most crucial part of his training will be conducted under the «Buddy System», where he will be put with an experienced soldier when he goes into combat.

As soon as possible, all replacements are given training on the «Trooper Ladder.» The trooper ladder is a piece of equipment unique to the Air Mobile Division. Often a helicopter cannot land in the dense jungle, so it will hover overhead, possible as high overhead as 65 feet, while the men climb down a steel rope ladder with aluminum rungs. The troops also receive training in rappelling, which is a quicker way to accomplish the same thing, except the men slide down a rope.

Another first on the training roster is familiarization firing of their M-16 rifle and any other weapon they may be assigned.

Most of the replacement training is On the Job Training — Combat OJT.

## Davy Crockett (Continued From Page 1)

Col. John J. Hennessey, 1st Bde C.O., sensed that the enemy would attempt to escape to the north, into the Crow's Foot area southwest of Bong Son, and to the east, into the Sou Ca Valley.

Landing zones were hacked out of the heavy jungle to the north and east of the battle area and Cav. troopers set up blocking positions in those landing zones Cav. units in contact with the Viet Cong forces pushed the enemy into the blocking positions.

At Cavalair press time, the number of Viet Cong dead had risen to 335 killed, 30 had been captured, and 98 suspects had been detained.

A total of 76 individual weapons had been captured, plus nine crew-served weapons.