



Col Beckner Runs DISCOM Div Rear

By PFC Dennis F. Herrick
BIEN HOA — Skytroopers depend on the "1st Cav Mayor of Bien Hoa" and his 3,500-man command to stay airmobile, carry the fight to the enemy, and once there, to survive.

He is the man behind the scenes in the 1st Cav: Colonel Richard G. Beckner.

Colonel Beckner, is the commanding officer of Division Support Command (DISCOM).

"1st Cav Mayor of Bien Hoa" is his own half serious description of his duties. As commander of DISCOM, he became responsible this month for all units of THE FIRST TEAM at the division rear at Bien Hoa.

Commissioned in the Cavalry following his graduation from West Point in 1946, Colonel Beckner has been in the Armor branch since 1950.

He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College (1960), Defense Language Institute (1964), and National War College (1968). He holds a master's degree in international relations from George Washington University.

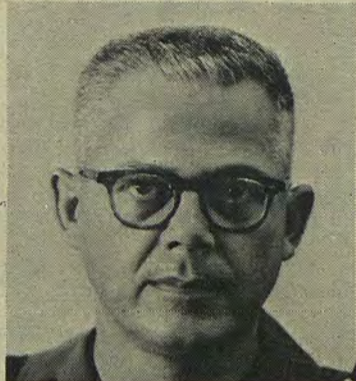
From 1952 to 1955 he was an instructor at West Point in engineering graphics. From 1960 to 1963 he taught armored division operations at Fort Leavenworth.

Colonel Beckner arrived in Vietnam last August and was assigned to MACV as special aide to the assistant chief of staff for military assistance for Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Affairs. He held that post until going to DISCOM in April.

Colonel Beckner praised the efficiency and mobility of the 1st Cav, but pointed out that "without the elements of Support

Command, the 1st Cav would grind to a halt."

"The purpose of Support Command," he explained, "is to support the man in the field — to



COL Beckner

see that he gets food, clothing, ammunition, weapons and the transportation he needs to do his job."

DISCOM units include the 15th Medical Battalion (MEDEVAC); the 15th Transportation Battalion, which provides aircraft maintenance; the 27th Maintenance Battalion, which services the division's vehicles; the 15th Supply and Services Company, which provides Skytroopers with everything from toothpicks to gasoline, and Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Band.

Under this month's reorganization of the division rear, DISCOM also acquired control of the R&R and DEROS processing centers, the First Team Academy and the 15th Administration Company.

Colonel Beckner said the

reorganization was carried out "to make the division rear more responsive to the needs of the division and to develop a capability to provide better service to personnel being processed through the academy, R&R and DEROS."

Two new companies were activated by DISCOM in the organizational shuffle. They are the Personnel Services Company, which will handle R&R and DEROS, and the Supply and Transport Company, which will support the provisional companies.

The 15th Administration Company and the handling of R&R and DEROS had been under the operational control of the First Personnel Services Battalion (Provisional), which was deactivated in the switch to DISCOM.

All of that battalion's men, including those attached to the academy which was under the jurisdiction of Division G-3, had been assigned to the 15th Administration Company.

About 850 troops are involved in the transfer to DISCOM, according to First Sergeant William V. Webb, who was acting sergeant major of the old battalion.

A Walk In The Rubber . . .



(U.S. Army Photo By PFC Tom Benic)

Skytroopers hump through rubber and thick undergrowth during a reconnaissance-in-force mission southwest of Quan Loi.

1/12 Finds Bunker Complex Crushes Chuck At Same Time

By SP4 George Vindedzis

LAI KHE — "The bunkers were so well concealed that the point element was only about seven feet away from them when the enemy opened up," said Specialist Four Thomas R. Jarrett.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry had just finished a reconnaissance-in-force mission near Landing Zone (LZ) Grant. The company was moving to-

ward a pick-up zone (PZ) to return to the LZ for base defense when they made sharp contact with the enemy.

"At first we received sporadic fire from the enemy bunkers," said Staff Sergeant Jerry D. Odefey. "The pointman was hit along with another man, so we cut a pad, and MEDEVACED the injured men."

Not knowing the size of the enemy force, Charlie Company called in ARA and artillery, then

moved in to probe the complex.

For the final time ARA, artillery and airstrikes pounded the enemy. And for the final time, the Skytroopers moved into the bunkers. "We had a better idea of what was there," said Sergeant Gordon F. Tomlinson. "Besides, when we moved in this time, the majority of the enemy had evaded. It was a really unique complex. The NVA had tunnels running to each bunker and each fighting position."

The following day, Company D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav reinforced Company C. They swept in from the north while Company C swept through from the east of the complex.

Company C spent the day searching the complex — which turned out to have a total of 99 bunkers. Their search was rewarded as they found a four-room dispensary (containing 15 million units of penicillin) and various NVA supplies.

BULLETIN

PHUOC VINH — Brigadier General William E. Shedd, assistant division commander, left THE FIRST TEAM on August 1st to become XXIV Corps chief of staff.

His successor is Brigadier General George W. Casey, a former 1st Air Cavalry Division chief of staff and brigade commander.

The CAVALAIR will provide full coverage of this change of command in its next issue.

Cav Warrior . . .



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Bill Ahrbeck)

Little Big Horn . . . Mexico . . . Manila . . . Pyongyang . . . Vietnam . . . the faces change but the look is the same. This one belongs to PFC Richard Coleman, 5th Bn, 7th Cav.

NVA Med Supplies Uncovered By 2/7

By SP4 Richard Craig

TAY NINH — III Corps Charlie better hope he doesn't get sick this month — Skytroopers of Bravo and Charlie Companies, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, have confiscated his medical supplies.

Searching a small bunker complex 24 miles northeast of here, the infantrymen netted a lucrative assortment of enemy equipment, which included large quantities of drugs and first aid kits, rice, anti-tank mines, and a sewing machine.

The haul was the result of careful planning and experience gained during FIRST TEAM operations in the same area in April and May.

"The last time we went in there," said the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Cod-

win Ordway, "we were accompanied by elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Not only did we kill a large number of enemy, but we uncovered one bunker complex after another. The resistance we met there was quite stiff."

Tactics were changed significantly this time. Rather than pushing from north to south as they did in April, an "instant landing zone" was created by dropping a ten thousand pound bomb. Within hours of the drop elements of both companies were combat assaulted into the area.

The hospital complex was discovered soon after the assault.

"We didn't see the bunkers 'til we were practically on top of them," said Specialist 4 Ed Rankin a rifleman with Company B.

"Oakly" Visits Phuoc Vinh

PHUOC VINH — The Phuoc Vinh Service Club was filled to capacity. The noise diminished as Oakly Miller, a veteran of the Vietnam USO circuit, the man everyone had come to see, took the stage.

The comedian spiced the show with his own brand of rollicking humor, telling straight and audience participation jokes.

An example of his humor, referring to the airlines, was, "I don't mind flying on a wing and a prayer, but in this case, the pilot was an atheist."

Referring to Vietnam, he said, "I was a lot heavier when I came over here but then I started taking those malaria pills."

The crowd had not assembled just to see Oakly. On the same

bill were Miss Sandy Lee and Miss Gail Pettitt, both swinging care packages from back home, and "Salt and Pepper," a Las Vegas duo.

Miss Pettitt, the first of the girls to take the mike, came on strong with "I Enjoy Being a Girl," and jiving through a variety of tunes including both pop and country hits.

The wild cheers and applause which followed her act was testament to the fact that the Skytroopers enjoyed Miss Pettitt "Being a Girl."

Miss Lee, a frequent visitor to Nam, was met with a hearty

Cav welcome. She was with the first USO show in 1961 to visit the troops in Vietnam and has returned at every opportunity to present her pop jazz style in song. Her smoothness and delivery were the highlight of the show.

"Salt and Pepper" plunged into a couple of Ray Charles standards and then hit out with a Joe Williams tune, cutting up with Oakly.

As the Skytroopers filed out of the Service Club, they had the feeling of satisfaction. For a short time, their long, hot tour in the Nam had been broken up.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP5 Paul Sgroi)

Oakly Miller and Miss Gail Pettitt ham it up during the recent USO show at the Phuoc Vinh Service Club.

... For God And Country

Have you learned "How to Live?" Most everyone would answer in the affirmative if asked that question without so much as a passing thought.

But what I mean is, how to live so that life can give you all of its fullness and abundance. The answer is not found in success or brilliance for some of the most gifted men have described their lives as a ship upon a rough sea without rudder and without sail, drifting with the tide.

H.G. Wells, the famous historian and philosopher said at the age of 61, "I have no peace. All life is at the end of its tether."

The poet Byron said, "My days are in the yellow leaf, the flowers and fruits of life are gone, the worm and the canker and the grief are mine alone."

I wonder if this is your problem too? Is your life one of quiet desperation? Do you feel somewhat like St. Augustine when he said: "Thou has made us for thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee."

Pascal, the French physicist and philosopher put it this way, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which only God can fill through his son, Jesus Christ." And Jesus said, "I have come that they (meaning you and me) might have life, and have it more abundantly." (John 10:101)

You too can experience the peace of St. Augustine, the completeness of Pascal, and the abundant life—by coming to Christ in prayer, acknowledging you need him; accepting his forgiveness, and allowing him to take the driver's seat in your life. You don't need to live in quiet desperation; you can live in the abundance of Christ. Which will it be? The choice is up to you.

CHAPLAIN TOWNE
1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry



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Pilot Wins DFC

TAY NINH—The beleaguered Ranger team was in heavy contact with a large enemy force. Outnumbered and outgunned,

they had no choice but to request an immediate extraction from the area.

Within minutes, Warrant Officer Glen R. Senkowski, a pilot for "A" Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, and the crew of his UH1 "Slick" helicopter were on the scene to render assistance.

As friendly artillery from nearby landing zones "prepped" the area in an attempt to suppress enemy fire, Senkowski set his chopper down in a small clearing, narrowly missing several treetops, while drawing continuous enemy automatic weapons fire.

"It was a rough place to land," said WO Senkowski, "but I had no choice. It was either land there, or face the possibility that the Rangers might be annihilated."

After skillfully landing, his chopper, WO Senkowski and his crew assisted the small team aboard.

Then on take off, enemy rounds hit the bird's belly, and shrapnel peppered the interior of the craft.

Seemingly disregarding the hostile fire, WO Senkowski guided his injured craft to a friendly landing zone without further injury to the aircraft or its crew.

For his actions, Mr. Senkowski was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, America's highest aviation award.

Opportunity Available To OCS Eligible

The Department of the Army has announced that more than 1,200 applications for OCS from enlisted men are needed to fill the vacancies in Officer Candidate Schools this summer and early fall.

Present facilities for Officer Candidate Schools are located at Fort Belvoir, Va., Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Benning, Ga. Duration of the course is 23 weeks.

Base pay for second lieutenants with less than two years service will be, as of 1 July 1969, \$386.40 per month, while those who have over four years in enlisted status will draw \$534 a month. OCS graduates must serve at least two years active duty as a commissioned officer after graduation.

Requirements and information concerning the submission of applications will be found in AR 351-5 dated January 1969.

Awards

The following awards were received by Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Divisions:

SILVER STAR

MASON, Donald PFC
Company A, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
BURINGRUD, Richard A. PFC
Company A, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav
DRUDICK, Robert LTC
CO, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
TAKATA, Alvin M. CPT
Company A, 5th Bn, 7th Cav

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

PAITZ, Michael P. WO1
HHC, 1st Brigade
GRIMM, Marc E. CPT
Company D, 227th Aviation Bn.
CUVILLIER, Louis M. III WO1
HHC, 2nd Brigade
TWOREK, Joseph M. WO1
HHC, 2nd Brigade
WAGNER, William J. WO1
Troop C, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav

AER—Help For Those In Trouble

Army Emergency Relief (AER) was established in 1942 to provide assistance for members of the rapidly expanding Army and their dependents who were faced with financial situations with which they were unable to cope and for which no appropriate funds were available.

All members of the Army, both active and retired, and members of their families may apply for assistance.

Voluntary contributions from members of the Army are sought on an annual basis. AER makes no appeal for funds outside of the Army. Unsolicited gifts and legacies are not accepted if the donor intends to use the name of AER for the purpose of gain or advantage.

The 1969 Joint Annual Fund Campaign for Army Emergency Relief and the Army Relief Society is being conducted command wide through 15 AUGUST 1969.

Honorary Member . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)

Brigadier General Frank Meszar, assistant division commander, presents Miss Victoria Anne Brooks an honorary membership in the Skytrooper Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Miss Brooks is program director at the Phuoc Vinh Service Club.

Boonie Break . . .



(U.S. Army Photo By PFC Tom Benic)

While taking a break in the boonies, PFC Edward Williams, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, continues to search for the elusive enemy.

16-Month Veteran Heads Mod Squad

By PFC Tom Benic

QUAN LOI — James W. Krudop, Sergeant, squad leader, veteran of 16 months in the field, is a cool hand in the wilderness.

Like a gangling piper, he walks point for his squad, his platoon, or his company on a regular basis. Moving cautiously, confidently, M-16 gripped loosely in his right hand, the six-footer appears keyed at every step.

He's good and he knows it. He doesn't ask for point. He takes it and no one questions him.

Short-Timer Clerk/Typist Soon To Fly

QUAN LOI — You don't find many "short-timers" volunteering for helicopter doorgunner — especially when he's a brigade clerk with 30 days left in Vietnam.

"I just couldn't stand the office routine anymore," said Specialist 5 Gary Shrum, a clerk-typist with the 3rd Brigade for 11 months. He's been a clerk-typist since he took basic training — three years ago.

"It's not really a stunt," said Specialist Shrum. "I'm not doing it just to tell the folks back home that I was a doorgunner in 'Nam."

Actually clerk-typist Shrum wants to be a helicopter pilot.

"I figure a stint as a doorgunner might give me a slight advantage in getting into Warrant Officer Flight School," he said. "Three years as a clerk-typist isn't exactly a qualification for flight school."

"Well, let's get this thing over with," he said as his platoon from Company E, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, dismounted their APCs and moved out of the rubber plantation in two columns, Krudop at the front. His weather-toughened face was strained.

"Damn it, not like that!" he barked at those behind him who had bunched up. "Stagger, man, stagger. Let's get it right."

"I'd rather be here than pulling guard and KP in the rear," he said later.

"Here you're on your own, man. These are my people," he said referring to his squad — the Mod Squad as he calls it. "They're all crazy, but they get the job done."

Krudop, 23, served his first tour with the 25th Infantry Division, then extended six months for the Cav "because they're airmobile, man." He still has 10 months to go on a three-year enlistment.

The company moved through a small valley, climbed and descended the next hill, maneuvered through a rice paddy, searched an abandoned village, then came full circle back to the track vehicles. They traveled two kilometers that afternoon.

About one kilometer out, the platoon leader offered to change points.

"I'm all right," Krudop replied, as if offended.

"No, I mean change point squads," the lieutenant added.

"Naw, we can handle it."

"OK."

When Krudop climbed the last hill and re-entered the rubber plantation, the tracks were directly to the front, 50 meters away.

"Well I guess we get an 'A' for land navigation," Krudop said, brushing back his dust-red colored hair. He grabbed a soda from the APC, popped it open and downed it.

"Don't tell me you guys are tired," he said. "Lousy two click

walk. What would you do if you had that "monkey" (rucksack) on your back?"

"You're something else, Jim," said a newer member of the Mod Squad. "When I get out, I'm definitely going to look you up in the world."

"Man, you're going to have to search long and hard to find old Jim," came the reply.

GED Tests Available To Cavmen

QUAN LOI — Vietnam isn't the greatest place to earn that high school diploma — but it is being done by Skytroopers who spend most of their days and nights hunting for Charlie in the boonies.

Forget about those high school grades or what that nasty 10th-grade teacher said, if you can pass a government-sponsored test, the equivalent of a high school diploma is yours.

"We'll soon be able to give the GED test at a moment's notice," said PFC James Brown, a Portland, Oregon, high school teacher who is a counselor at the 1st Cav's Quan Loi Education Center. "It's a civilian test and every state in the Union will sanction it," he added.

Tests and correspondence courses on both high school and college levels can also be taken at the Phuoc Vinh and Bien Hoa education centers.

"The GED test couldn't be easier to take," said PFC Brown. "There are five sections: English, social studies, natural science, literature and mathematics. You have as much time as necessary to complete each test and they can be taken in any order."

Nerves, Ability, Good Sense

Efficiency Of 99th EOD Life-Death Difference

PHUOC VINH — Tiny wisps of blue smoke could be seen rising off the smouldering white phosphorus mortar rounds, as the young sergeant started to gently submerge it in a water filled container.

"One false or unsteady move in this game can mean the difference between life and death,"

said Staff Sergeant Frank R. Hornbaker, EOD sergeant with the 99th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment (EOD), supporting the 1st Cav.

"You have to have steady nerves, the ability to work with your partner and above all, common sense," he said.

The jobs that the Skytroopers

from EOD are called out on vary from destroying enemy munitions caches to cleaning up after a ground attack against a firebase.

"We help to strip munitions and weapons off dead enemy soldiers," said Captain Chester H. Heidl, commanding officer. "In this way we can find out if the enemy is using any new type of weapon or ammunition, and also make sure that all dud rounds are properly disposed."

"In one instance after a ground attack, the infantrymen who were on base defense started to clean up the weapons and ammunition captured after the ground attack," the commanding officer added.

"The 'grunts' started to load the ammo into a jeep with a trailer, and then haul it off. The ammo went off, killed nine of the men and destroyed the jeep and trailer. We can replace the jeep and trailer, but not the human lives that were lost. If we would have been called in, the accident never would have happened," said the captain.

The mission of the EOD team was described by one Skytrooper from the detachment as "No easy or safe job."

Ready and Waiting . . .



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Victor Fitzwater)

Doorgunner SP4 Thomas N. Thompson, scans the terrain below during a sniffer mission outside LZ Becky, near Nui Ba Den.

On Constant Watch . . .



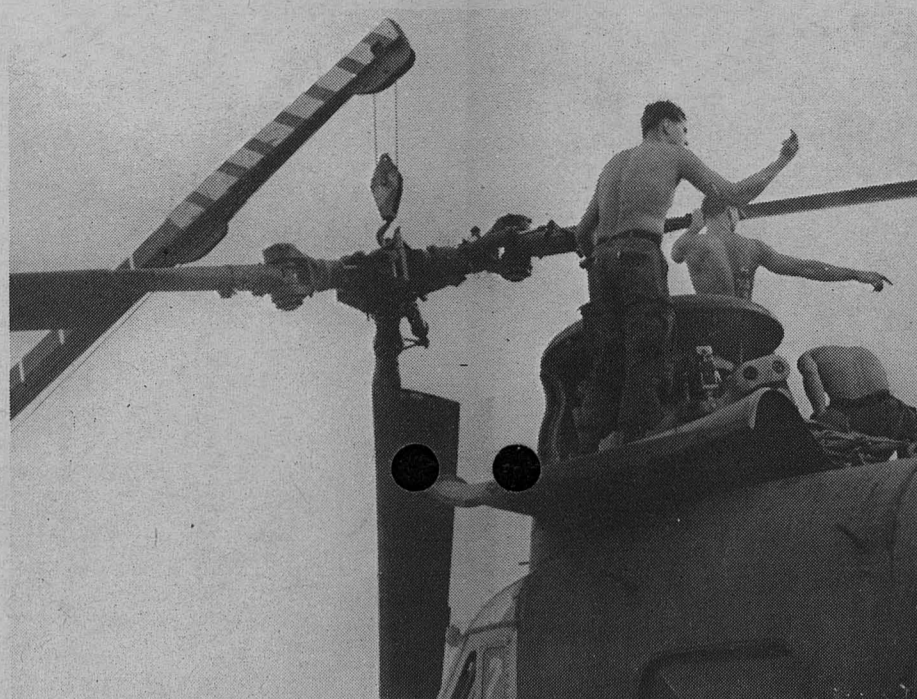
(U.S. Army Photo By PFC Bob Borchester)

An alert RTO keeps low as he and members of the 1st Bn, 8th Cav move through dense undergrowth during search and destroy operations.

15th TC—Masters Of Maintenance



15th TC Bn members pull maintenance on the mighty minigun, keeping the rapid-firing weapon in good operating condition.



The heavy Chinook rotor blades are lifted up by cranes as they are prepared to be put into place.

Photos By
 SP4 Terry Moon and PFC Tom Benic
 Story By SSG Joseph Balcer

BEARCAT — Ask any aeronautical engineer what keeps a helicopter airborne and more than likely you will receive a 30-minute lecture on the principles and dynamics of aerial flight. Ask a Skytrooper the same question and his answer is the 15th Transportation Corps Battalion.

Whether a bullet hole needs patching or the 1,180 pound engine of a Chinook needs replacing, the task falls to the men of the 15th TC (Aircraft Maintenance and Supply).

Each month, 90 to 120 tons of repair parts are bolted, welded and fitted by the maintenance men to the more than 900 serviced Cav birds.

The well-oiled, computerized parts order system shoots the full spectrum of parts to the men at Cu Chi, Phu Loi, Bear Cat, Long Thanh or to the direct

support teams at Tay Ninh, Phuoc Vinh, and Quan Loi. If needed, small maintenance teams go to the site of an "injured" bird to make on-the-spot repairs.

Eight shops of the TC battalion are equipped and staffed to handle any electrical, hydraulic, or avionics problem. The damaged helicopter may need the skills of the men in the sheet metal, engine, or prop and rotor shops. The jobs call for specialization; whether the need exists for a specially machined part or an intricate adjustment of the armament on the deadly Cobra, there is a shop to fit the mission.

After the aircraft is rolled out of the repair shops, it is given a thorough test flight before being released for service.

"This is one of the most im-

portant steps," asserted Captain Gene Redondo, test pilot and maintenance officer of Company C. "If a ship won't fly right for us, we send it back to be rechecked and re-worked. This is the critical point. Once we give it the OK, there are several lives at stake the next time that ship flies a mission."

For an airmobile division and its extensive use of the helicopter, the crucial function of the 15th TC is aircraft availability. During one period this year the highly skilled maintenance men aided the Cav in reaching an availability peak of 81 per cent.

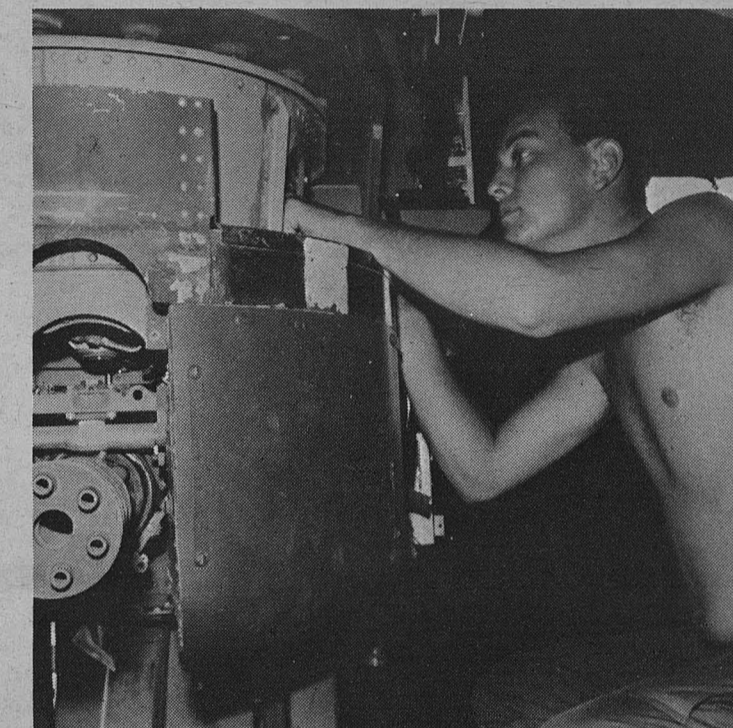
"We've never been more proud of our people," said Lieutenant Colonel Harold E. Cook, battalion commander. "One of the most necessary elements to the combat soldier is available

aircraft. When they're out there flying, we know Charlie is going to have a rough time of it. And it's our job to keep the birds flying."

To this end, the battalion is presently in a reconstruction phase. Nineteen separate, self-sufficient units are being formed and will be assigned to the aviation units in the Cav.

This will reduce the present assigned strength of the battalion from 1,433 to about 600 men and will place most direct support maintenance at the unit location.

"The man in the field looks to the skies when he needs help; we have to give him something to see. After all, the 15th TC keeps the 'Air' in airmobile," said Major Helmer H. Behrens, maintenance officer.



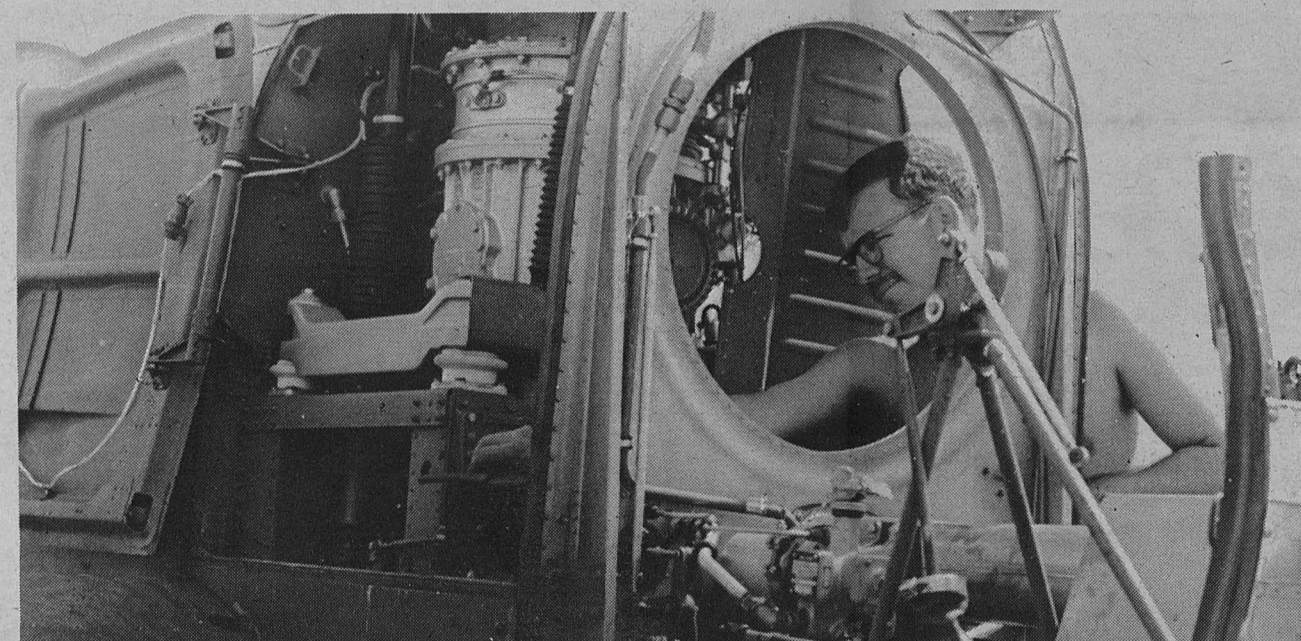
The turret system of the minigun is as important as the actual firing mechanism. This Skytrooper sees that it is working pro-



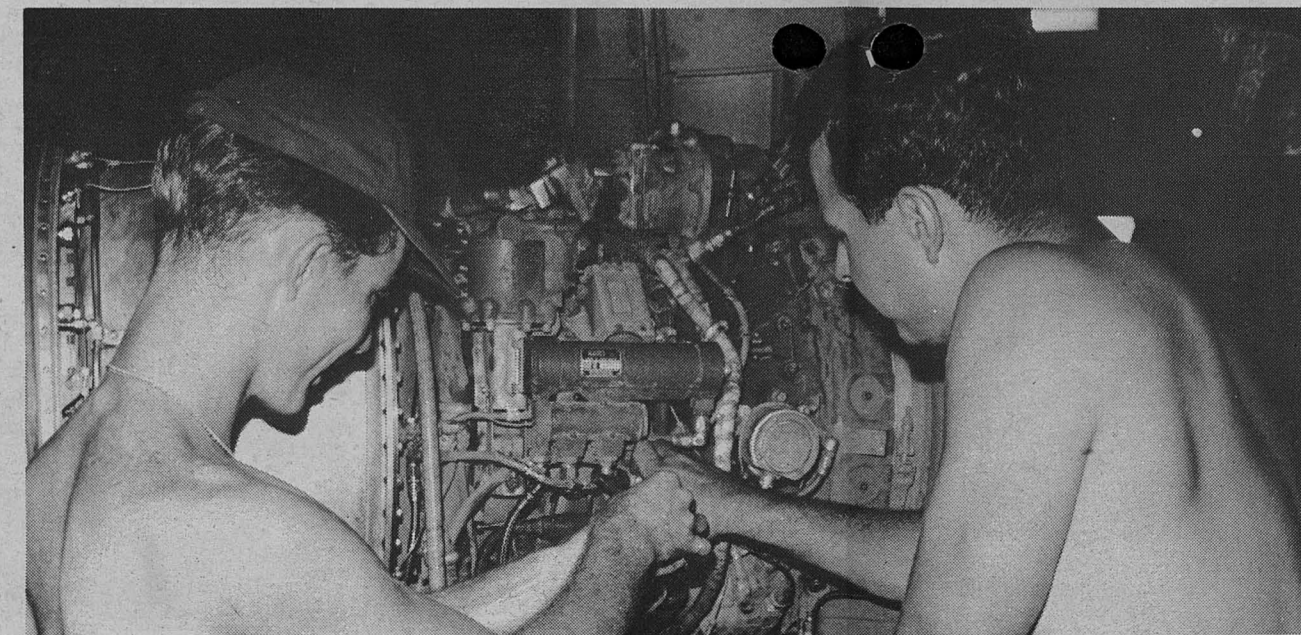
perly. It is sometimes difficult working way down inside a helicopter engine, but the job always gets done.



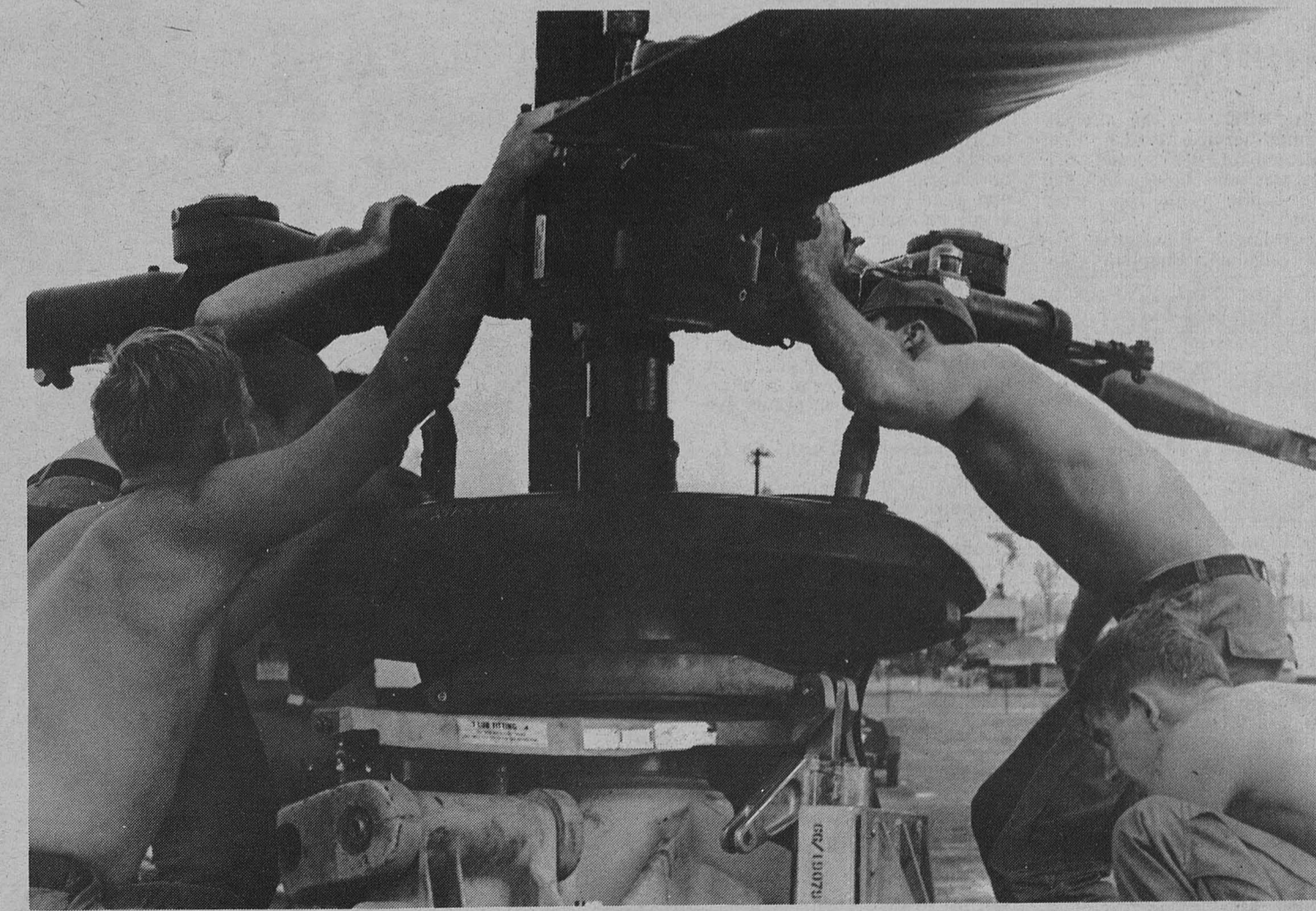
The interesting angle used when this Skytrooper was photographed peering over the top of a Chinook makes the rotor blade appear even more monstrous than it actually is.



Windowed by an aperture in a Cobra helicopter, this maintenance man makes an adjustment in the engine of the aircraft.



Great care and precision must be given to the maintenance of aircraft to insure the safety of the crew. These qualities are "SOP" with 15th TC Bn members.



Men of the 15th TC Bn lower the heavy rotor blades of the powerful Chinook helicopter down into place.

Skytrooper Band

Grunts Groove To Entrancing Sounds

By PFC Thomas P. Benic

When a 20-piece Army band comes to the field, to an isolated landing zone in the midst of hostile territory, the initial reaction of the men who live there is understandably less than enthusiastic.

Their pride seems to reject this sugar-coated intrusion into their bitter existence. Later, however, as the band hits its stride, the defensiveness dropped and the men tune in for this brief escape from their world of war.

At least this was the case at Landing Zone White, 15 miles northeast of Tay Ninh when the 1st Cav Band played for the men of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, who had just returned from a week in the field.

"That must be a gig," said one SP4 as he passed by. "Come out and play for an hour then go back to a shower and clean sheets."

"Up, Up, and Away," the band played, followed by "Going Out of My Head."

"I wonder what Charlie thinks of this," said SP4 William E. Ross, Jr.

"Oh he's probably out there on a bag, grooving on the sounds," added SP4 Richard Payne, who came over to answer the question. He stayed for the show.

"You know, this band's all right," he added.

"It's a good band," interjected PFC John Storer who joined the group. "I've seen them five times and they've always put on a good show."

"Quite a few new guys since I

saw them last," SP4 Ross said. "I want to see that Sax man get on that thing."

About 25 men have now gathered, some sitting on ammo boxes or atop sandbag bunkers as the band played "A Taste of Honey" and "The Lonely Bull."

"What would you like to hear, fellows?" asked Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Barner, director of the Skytrooper band for the past 23 months.

"James Bond," someone shouts and the band promptly responds.

It's an instant favorite with the still gathering audience. Men on a perimeter bunker 20 meters away turn from cleaning an M-60 machinegun. The fast moving chords reflect the unstoppable playboy on the move again, living life to the fullest, laughing at danger.

"Hey dig it."

"That's all right."

"Something else, man. This is something else."

The once reluctant audience is now one with the band.

"How about this one," Mr. Barner shouts over the applause as the band begins another number.

"They're going to whip 'Mission Impossible' on us," says PFC George E. Lee.

"Just time for one more," Mr. Barner announces.

The hour is up. A Chinook helicopter arrives and the band boards it for the next concert at Landing Zone Ike, seven miles away. The ammo boxes are vacated as the men return to their duties.

Surprised Chaplain Finds New Chapel Ready And Waiting

LAI KHE — The Sunday morning service at Lai Khe, basecamp of the Second Brigade, was unusual — it included the dedication of the Blackhorse Chapel.

According to Blackhorse Brigade Chaplain, Chaplain (Ma-

yor) Kenneth Wittenburg, "I had heard rumors that a chapel would be built. I left on Saturday morning to visit Tay Ninh, and when I returned to Lai Khe I got the surprise of my life: there was the chapel, already done."

In front of the new chapel is an old helicopter blade. On the black background in bright yellow letters is written, "Blackhorse Chapel". Inside, the church pews face a large altar. The brigade flag decorates one side of the room.

Originally built by the 1st Infantry Division at Lai Khe, the building is a simple wooden structure with a tin roof. The Security Platoon of the Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company painted the sign, moved in the furnishings and, during the dedication service, served as an honor guard.

The traditional dedication service began outside the chapel. First inside the building was the honor guard, carrying American and Christian flags. The Chaplain and the congregation followed, as the new chapel was dedicated to the service of God, and to the men of the Blackhorse Brigade.

"This is a real thrill for me," said Chaplain Wittenburg. "As far as I know, this is the first permanent chapel the brigade has had, I'm sure the building will serve as an inspiration to the men of the brigade."

Cobra Pilot Beats NVA Wins DFC

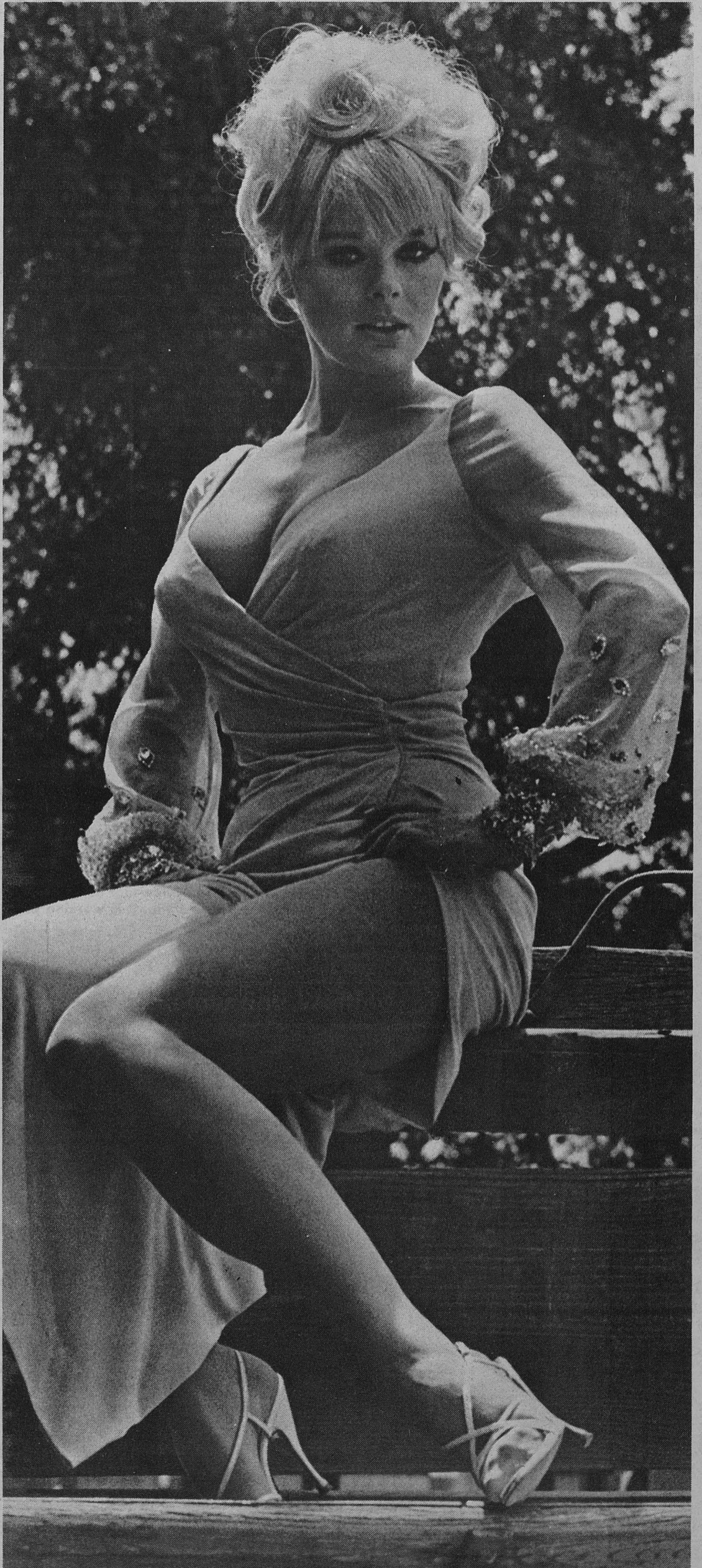
TAY NINH — The job had to be done, and Warrant Officer John J. Jason was the man to do it.

While flying on a reconnaissance mission recently, WO Jason, a pilot with "A" Troop, 1st Sqn, 9th Cavalry, spotted and received fire from an enemy force below.

Instantly, he returned the fire with 2.75 inch rockets and 7.62 caliber mini-gun fire. But the enemy was determined to hold their ground at any cost.

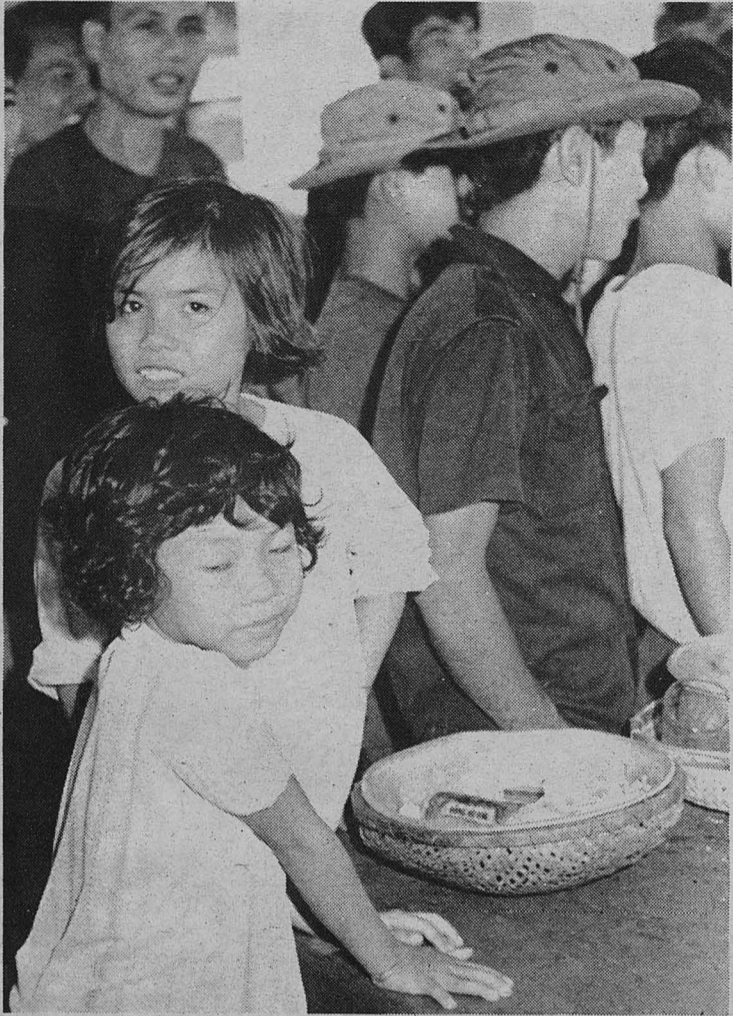
After depleting his ordnance, he quickly returned to base camp here, and within minutes, he was airborne again, returning to the enemy with more deadly ordnance.

For that mission Mr. Jason was awarded the nation's highest aviation award — the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Lovely Elke Sommer, posing atop a buckboard during the filming of "The Wrecking Crew" (Columbia Pictures), would be a welcome addition to any Cav convoy.

Lai Khe Kids Enjoy Sunday In Saigon



There were different faces to be found; some were happy, some were tired. Everyone had a good time, though.

LAI KHE — Thirty-one school children of the Chon Thanh District enjoyed Sunday in Saigon, courtesy of the 1st Cav.

The coordination for the Sunday excursion was made by the S-5 (Civil Affairs) Section of the Blackhorse Brigade. The First Infantry Division civil affairs section, located at Lai Khe, contributed the results of their experience in having made similar trips.

The Chon Thanh District Chief and Senior Adviser arranged for the school children and for the paperwork necessary to meet regulations. The Air Force provided the Caribou to fly the children to Saigon.

The young Vietnamese were not concerned at all about the detailed planning. The excited children, chaperoned by S-5,

three school teachers, and the principal flew to Tan Son Nhut airport where a chartered bus took them into downtown Saigon.

The first stop on the excursion took them to an historic Buddhist temple, where the children stared with open-mouthed wonder at the colorful carvings and statues throughout the temple.

"The children were really amazed with the beauty of the temple," said First Lieutenant Edward R. Torres, assistant Brigade S-5.

After a visit to a Catholic church the expedition took the children past the Presidential Palace and down the street of flower shops on both sides of the street, to the water front. There they saw a number of Vietnamese Naval vessels anchored near the docks.

"The boys especially seemed to enjoy seeing the ships and the sailors," said First Lieutenant Michael J. Malloy, Brigade S-5. "The expressions on their faces showed thoughts of some day becoming sailors themselves."

The remainder of the trip took the children to the Saigon Zoo where they walked single file around the various cages smiling and laughing at some ani-

mals, and stepping back from the cages of others.

"The children especially liked the elephants," said 1LT Torres. "We bought some sugar cane and let a few children feed it to them."

Before leaving the zoo, the expedition stopped at a small restaurant and 1LT Malloy bought lunch for everyone, compliments of S-5.

The day's end was nearing for the children as they once more boarded the bus which took them back to the waiting Caribou at Tan Son Nhut airport.

"Everyone had a great time," said 1LT Malloy. "Before leaving we distributed packets containing school supplies and T-shirts."

On the flight back to Chon Thanh District many children slept while others gazed out the windows of the airplane looking at the ground below.

"The trip was very educational as well as fun for the children," said 1LT Malloy. "We plan to make the excursion every Sunday with a different village each time."

For the children of Chon Thanh District the trip will be a memorable one as they tell their parents and friends about their Sunday in Saigon.

Story By
SP4 George
Vindedzis
Photos By
SP4
Ed Koehnlein



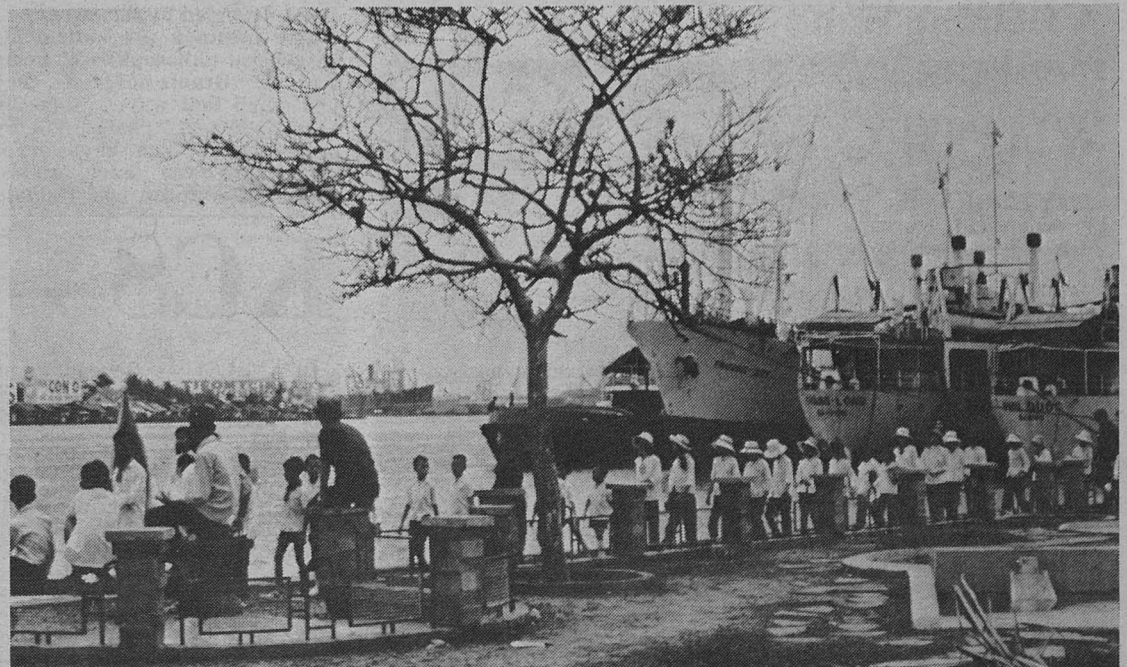
Gazing in wonder, the Chon Thanh children keep their eyes glued to the elephants in the Saigon Zoo as the mammoth animals parade past, putting on their show.



After a busy day of sightseeing, the children stop at a small restaurant and break for lunch, compliments of S-5.



Moving in single file, the children stare at the ancient beauty of the Buddhist temples.



Standing along side the waterfront, watching the naval vessels, some of the boys have perhaps found their profession.

Company E, 1st Bn, 7th Cav

Postponed NVA Activity Eases Up Grunts' Job

BY PFC Tom Benic

QUAN LOI — War isn't hell all the time — even for infantrymen.

When the enemy postpones the conflict due to lack of ammunition, manpower or even interest, life in the Vietnam countryside can be rather enjoyable. The natives are friendly, the scenery outstanding, and the weather, even during the monsoon season, has a few advantages over winter in Korea, for example.

Add to this the American soldier, and his celebrated ability to rest and recuperate when the danger is distant, and the picnic

atmosphere is complete.

It was in this setting — in the midst of a rubber plantation near Quan Loi — that Company E, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry "celebrated" Independence Day.

Actually, the small reconnaissance company was on base defense. A platoon had left that morning on APCs (armored personnel carriers) to comb a rubber plantation to the east. The remaining 30 men just about had the day off, except for periodic security patrols.

In the low grass of the plantation, its 75-foot tall trees stretch-

ing out in long, perfectly straight rows, it was time to clean weapons, write letters, catch up on the latest news, or just stretch out an air mattress — letting the day go by.

"You don't get many days like this," said Specialist Four William Chesney as he rose from his chair to get another soda. "Two weeks ago we were in contact nearly every other day."

There were plenty of C-rations to munch on, and beer and soda had been placed on ice. Someone took a snapshot of a recon squad as it left on a patrol of the surrounding area.

And what's a picnic without kids? Some 30 youngsters from a nearby Montagnard village had arrived in groups of two or three. Clad in shorts and T-shirts, they stayed about 30 meters distance from the camp of olive drab poncho tents set-up there. The children seemed content just to be there, perhaps seeing their first hint of the Vietnam War.

The APCs pulled in around 6 p.m., forming a tight, night perimeter. Hot chow logged in earlier by helicopter was served — steak, baked potatoes, cooked carrots, fruit cocktail, and a quart of cold milk for each man.

But then it grew dark; the kids had gone home; trip flares were in position.

The party was over.

Donut Dollies In Nam' By Choice

QUAN LOI — When you see an attractive 23-year-old girl step from a Huey helicopter at one of the Cav landing zones into ankle-deep mud, the urge to ask "What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?" is overwhelming.

"I have no regrets," said Hannah Crews, a petite "Donut Dolly". "I made up my mind to come last January and pretty much knew what to expect. If you like people, it's a great job. As a matter of fact, I enjoy it more every time I visit a firebase."

Miss Crews taught senior history in a Winston-Salem, N.C. high school until this past June.

"The kids were rather upset when I told them I was going to Vietnam," she said. "Especially the boys who were all draft age. Even my brother (a Marine serving in Okinawa) thinks I'm crazy."

So why is she here?

"I just had to see Vietnam for myself," she said. "The war is history and I'm a history teacher. It was just something I had to do."

Miss Crews is one of 150 Red Cross Volunteers in Vietnam who regularly visit the forward firebases. Presently sharing a hootch in Bien Hoa with seven

other girls, she can expect to be transferred at least twice to other parts of Vietnam before her year's tour is over.

She learned of the program from her mother, who is a member of the American Red Cross.

"My parents didn't object to my coming since they knew it was what I wanted to do," she said. "If they would have had reservations, I wouldn't be here."

Her job is simply to add a little color to the olive drab world of the landing zones. "We'll take a few quiz games, perhaps we'll serve chow," she said. "But mostly we just like to talk to the men and see how they're doing."

Although Miss Crews has agreed to spend a year in Vietnam, she could go home tomorrow if she wanted to.

"But most of the girls complete their tour," she said. "Because they realize it costs a lot of money just to be sent here."

It's costing Miss Crews some money, too. Although the volunteers get an adequate living allowance, "it's a pretty big cut from my teaching salary," she said.

"But it's been quite an experience. It has certainly been worth the price."

A Helping Hand . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)

A Skytrooper helps his buddy across a small, mucky stream during search and destroy operations in III Corps.

Taking It In Stride . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)

With his M-60 resting on his shoulder, a Cavalryman humps through the boonies casually but alert, making the best of his situation.

Grunts' Life Philosophy Indelible Through Ages

By PFC William Block Jr.

LZ GRANT — What is most often on the mind of a grunt, who, with fifty pounds on his back, is given a ten-minute break on a freshly-cut jungle trail?

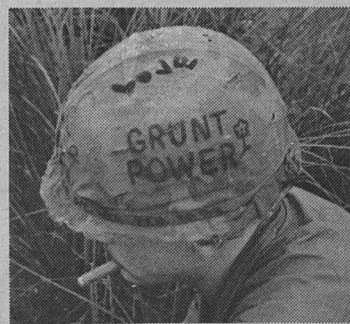
For the answers look on his steel pot's camouflage cover. There he carefully prints the words and sayings that seem appropriate to him at the time. The most common writings are home cities and states, wives' or girlfriends' names, months or days left to spend in Vietnam, peace signs, or lists of landing zones defended by the owner.

Also common are statements on general philosophies of being a grunt: "Grunts never die, they just smell that way;" "Live by chance, love by choice, kill by profession;" "You have never lived until you have almost died;" "For those who fight it,

life has a flavor the protected will never taste."

Next one finds the element of protest, so ubiquitous at this time: "Grunt power;" "Emancipate the grunt;" "Ban ambushes;" "Mom said there would be days like this, but not 365 in a row."

In the field each man carries



"The Grunt"

responsibility for the welfare of the other men in his element. Thus warnings of various types often appear on camouflage covers: "VC may be hazardous to your health;" "Fragile — contains one head;" "If you can read this, you're too close;" "Caution — smoking may be hazardous to your rank."

Biblical references are also on the grunt's mind, as evidenced by two frequently found sayings: "When I die, I'll go to heaven, because I've spent my time in hell;" "God is my point man."

Finally, one finds Charlie Brown-type definitions: "Happiness is home;" "Happiness is a cold beer;" "Love is Peanut" Love is Peanut? "Peanut," explained PFC Bruce M. Barnes who is serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, "is my girl's nickname."

KCS—English Buff

QUAN LOI — Depending on your nationality, both English and Vietnamese can be "all Greek."

One trooper who is working to overcome the language barrier is Staff Sergeant Bernie (Gill) Gillfillan of C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

He's been giving English lessons to his company's Kit Carson scout, Dieu No.

"I need to have communications with him because without it he is of little use to us, or we to him," said SSG Gillfillan. His English classes are held

along jungle trails, beneath thick bamboo canopies, or by candle-light at forward LZs.

"I started out by teaching Dieu what Coke, cigarettes, chewing gum and C-rations are. Words like those mean a lot to any soldier, Vietnamese or American."

From the easier and more basic words, SSG Gillfillan worked on with Dieu No to words concerning "the tools of our trade." With a dismantled M-16 rifle in their hands, they repeated the names of the weapon's different parts.

Then they picked through words used in the operating procedures of the company — platoon call signs, equipment names and field jargon, the language of the Grunt.

"I know that I've made progress with Dieu by asking him for the names of things while we walk along. . . and also by watching him throughout the day."

"For example," said SSG Gillfillan, "when the word comes down for us to go to chow, Dieu is usually among the first in line. He's learning."