



1/9 Honors . . .

For 1966 Action

1/9th Gets Citation; Their Infantry Feted



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

General Creighton W. Abrams, MACV Commander, affixes the Presidential Unit Citation streamer to the colors of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

Col. Barker Heads For Garry Owens

PHUOC VINH — Colonel John P. Barker, former acting G3 and Chief, Doctrine, Systems and Training Division, USARV, this week assumed command of the 3rd ("Garry Owen") Brigade. He succeeds Colonel Karl R. Morton, who will become Deputy Chief of Staff (Personnel), CONARC.

A graduate of the Command and General Staff College (1956), the Army War College (1963) and the British Joint Services Staff College (1960), Colonel Barker served as a rifle platoon sergeant, platoon leader and company executive officer in Italy during World War II.

He has earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, and French Croix de Guerre with

Palm. He also holds the Combat Infantryman's Badge and Parachute Badge.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, he holds a master's degree in international affairs from George Washington University.



COL Barker

Skytroopers Of The Week

Trio Takes Terrific Title

PHUOC VINH—Each week, a Cavalryman from each brigade is honored with the title of "Skytrooper of the Week" and is brought to Camp Gorvad as guests of the commanding general and the command sergeant major for three days . . . with nothing to do but relax.

To be eligible for the newly established honor, an enlisted man or company grade officer must serve in the field or in a forward firebase. He must also distinguish himself in his performance of duty.

The first Skytroopers of the week chosen were: SGT Nicholas W. Lees, (Phoenix, Ariz), 2/8; SGT Harold M. Snoddy (Stayton, Ore), 2/12; and SGT Warren A. Belisle (Rochester, NY), 2/5.

Sergeant Lees summed up the feelings of the first Skytroopers, "I feel it a great honor to be chosen among all the thousands of men in the division as one of the first 'Skytroopers of the Week.'"

The men spent their first day at Camp Gorvad by meeting the CG, CofS, and the CSM. MG E. B. Roberts presented each Cavalryman a Cav cigarette lighter.

By PFC Thomas Benic
The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, a crack, fully airmobile battalion, was recently awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by MACV Commander, General Creighton W. Abrams during ceremonies at Phuoc Vinh.

The squadron was awarded the most prestigious unit decoration for "displaying extraordinary heroism" during the period October 2 to October 24, 1966.

During that period "the squadron conducted a series of classic cavalry operations, comparable with any recorded in the United States military history, with devastating effect on all Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army units," the citation said.

Colonel James C. Smith, commander of the squadron during this period, later addressed the men of the unit in an informal

ceremony at the squadron's headquarters.

Before attaching the award streamer to the squadron's colors, General Abrams, with the 1st Cav's Commanding General, Major General E. B. Roberts at his side, spoke briefly to the men of the unit. He praised the squadron for reflecting the fighting ability of the entire division.

"You have responded to every call," the general said. "You have done your job not only with devotion and courage but you have been extremely effective in all operations against the enemy."

Speaking of the division, the general recalled last year "when it became necessary to relieve the garrison at Khe Sanh. It was the 1st Cav that was selected for the job. It was done intentionally because of the

quality and capability of this division.

"I commend you all for your performance. You're doing a great job."

Later at an informal ceremony, COL Smith recalled "that most memorable period" when, according to the citation, "the squadron aggressively engaged every enemy force encountered, regardless of its size."

"Every man likes to mark the high point of his career," said COL Smith, currently the assistant division commander for operations of the 101st Airborne Division. "In many ways the operation of the unit during October 1966 was that high point for me."

He had highest praise for the blue platoon, the infantry element of the squadron. This unit engaged an estimated battalion-size force on October 2 and killed one-third of the enemy in the first hours of contact, according to the citation.

"I know this may sound strange coming from a cavalry officer," COL Smith told the men, "but the key to our success is the blue platoon, the infantry. Unless you can defeat the enemy on the ground, all of your airmobility has been wasted."

"As long as you have a rifle platoon that will go in there, knowing that at least a battalion of the enemy awaits them, this squadron will remain famous."

Long Night At Joy For Bunker No. 2

By SP4 Joe Kamalick

PHUOC VINH — It will never be one of the big stories out of Vietnam.

The attack that night at LZ Joy will always seem small in the shadow of Hamburger Hill or the long black months at Khe Sahn.

Small, that is, unless you were at LZ Joy that night — unless you were with Company D, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, defenders of LZ Joy.

Private First Class Robert E. Collins was in bunker No. 2 with three other men on the southwest side of the LZ where only one strand of concertina wire interfered with enemy traffic to the new fire base.

Forest surrounds LZ Joy on three sides, tall and dense trees where the darkness settles first at nightfall.

By the time the enemy hit the LZ, it was as black as only the inside of a perimeter bunker can be — as black as their view to the front, to the trees.

The rockets, mortars and RPGs started at 2 a.m. But, unlike most NVA attacks, the barrage did not stop just before the ground attack began. It kept up throughout the night until the last enemy fire ceased at 4:45 a.m.

"After the barrage started we had some trip flares go off, saw NVA in the wire, and started shooting at them with our 16's" said PFC Collins.

"Then the wire was blown." For a while there was no illumination from the artillery.

"It got dark again, and we could hear them crawling out there. Then the illumination

came back . . . there were about 30 of them inside the wire . . . They started to run off when we poured lead out at them."

AK-47s and automatic and light machine gun fire raked over the bunker again and
(Continued on Back Page)

Enemy Arsenal . . .



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Joe Kamalick)

Three Skytroopers inspect some of the heavy weapons used in the night attack against LZ Joy and the men of Company D, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

Attention: Cavalair's Style Sees Change

Any public speaker worth his banquet circuit roast beef knows the value of an attention step. The attention step alerts the audience and sets the tone for his speech.

Great leaders also have attention steps. General Eisenhower had the grin; President Roosevelt, the cigarette holder and the fireside chat; General Ridgeway, the grenades taped to his web gear; Winston Churchill, the cigar and the flashing "V" sign. (Honest the "V" really did in the dim past, symbolize victory in war.)

Beginning with this issue of the Cavalair we are establishing an attention step. We are doing this by changing the headline style, by using more imaginative pictures and stories, by displaying distinctive signatures, such as the "Flag" or "Masthead" on page 1, or the Skytrooper Badge, displayed in this column.

The purpose of all this is to create a style that symbolizes the flair, spirit and elan of today's modern Cavalryman—the Skytrooper. Many of these style changes immediately are apparent, but one



signature—the Skytrooper Badge—needs a note of explanation. The original badge was worn by members of the 11th Air Assault Division at Fort Benning, Ga. It was, not surprisingly, called the Air Assault Badge, and was awarded to members of the division only after meeting certain prerequisites—good conduct, tenure in the division and, of most importance, five satisfactory rappels from a hovering helicopter.

The badge actually was a composite of ideas submitted by members of the division. In its original design (see inset at right) its components were representative of the aspects of the air assault unit—the wings and shield for Army aviation; the lightning bolt for speed and shock action; and the traditional musket for the combat arms portion of the unit.

Shortly after he took command of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, MG E. B. Roberts was consulted about the use of the badge design as a distinctive signature in the unit publications of the division. He suggested the alterations that appear in the final version of the badge—the use of the Cav patch and the substitution of the M-16 for the musket. (See inset left).

... For God And Country

A little white sign with modest black letters close to the grass beside a path caught a certain boy's attention as he passed. The sign read only, "Please," in the quietest way, and so the boy stuck to the footpath and did not cross the grass plot to reach the gate by a shortcut.

None of the signs read "Don't," or "Keep Off," and there are no wire barriers to guard the lawn. Just a few small signs which simply read "Please."

On a country road there is a border of wonderful rose bushes running nearly a quarter of a mile in length. The flowers hang over the fence behind which the bushes are growing. Anyone passing could gather great bunches of roses with out being seen by the caretaker of the owner's grounds. But these roses bloom in all their glory, unmolested. There are no signs forbidding touch. There are two or three small notices which simply read, "These roses are under the protection of the public." The owner says that he has not lost any of the roses since the signs were put there. The public does protect them gladly.

There are more persons than perhaps we think who would like to trust us in just these expectant ways. They want to be able to count on us to do the correct thing under a cheerful plea of "Please," or "Kindly," or "Thank You." Let us show that we do not need the iron fences of "Don'ts" and the "Musts." It's great to be trusted.

Let's be worthy of it.



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Commanding General MG E.B. Roberts
Information Officer MAJ J.D. Coleman
Publications NCOIC SSG R.R. Dyslin
Production Editor SP5 Steve Haldeman
Layout Editor SP4 Al Persons

Awards

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

- SILVER STAR**
CAIN, CPT James R.
Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- CHRISTNER, SSG Wayne E.
Co H (Ranger), 75th Inf
- COLAVITA, CPT Henry J.
Co D, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
- HARRISON, SGT Leroy E.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- KRUGER, PFC Thomas
- Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- KNOWLTON, SP4 Timothy S.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- PEREZ, SFC Rafael JR.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- STEWART, PFC John W.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- TELTON, SGT Charles W.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- VILLARREAL, 1st Victor M.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav
- WILLIAMS, CPT Douglas T.
Battery B, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
WORLEY, SGT Lyndon D.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**
BREWER, CW-2 Burt F.
11th Gen Supp Avn Co, 11th Avn Gp
- BODHOLT, WO-1 Ronald D.
Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- JASON, WO-1 John J.
Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- MYHRE, CW-2 Michael S.
Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- ROWE, 1LT Richard K.
Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- PEPIN, CW-2 William L.
Co B, 228th Avn Bn
- PETERSON, LTC James M.
HHC, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM**
CISKE, SP4 James E.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- CRANE, SP4 Charles M.
Battery B, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
DUKE, SP4 James L.
Battery B, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
FLYNN, SSG James G.
Co D, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- FULLER, SP4 Eugene
Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- JOHNSON, SFC Harold
Battery B, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
KNOX, PFC John L.
Battery B, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
O'HARA, SGT Eugene F.
HHC, 11th Avn Gp
- PERRY, PFC Stephen T.
Co E, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- PHILLIPS, PFC Isaac
Co B, 5th Bn, 7th Cav
- REEVES, PFC Michael H.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- SIMPSON, SP4 Ronald E.
Battery B, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
STEELE, PFC James R.
Co A, 1st Bn, 12th Cav

An Editorial

Units Withdraw But Cav Stays

President Nixon announces troop withdrawal! 25,000 troops to return from Vietnam!

These are headlines we've seen in the past weeks and will continue to see for quite awhile. Are they all they seem? Does this mean us? When questioned, most Skytroopers express the unanimous opinion expressed by one grunt, "Yeah, great, but it ain't going to be the Cav."

Most likely he's right and we will remain for awhile, so we might as well be aware of a few very important facts of life about the troop withdrawal and our overall commitment here in Vietnam.

In the first place, as President Nixon stressed at the Midway Meeting, the US was asked by the Vietnamese Government to assist with troops. The biggest push beginning in 1965 when THE FIRST TEAM arrived in-country. Since that time all free world Military Assistance Forces, the Thai's, Australians, Koreans, New Zealanders, Filipinos and others have worked towards modernizing the Vietnamese Armed Forces and

preparing them to take over the war. Because of the progress made in this area and in the area of pacification, which has been handled largely by the Vietnamese, this first significant withdrawal was made possible. President Thieu has asked the president to withdraw 25,000 troops so he could replace them with RVN soldiers.

The units selected for redeployment were selected after lengthy and deliberate consideration of the overall tactical situation, the ability of the ARVNs to replace these units and the enemy's capabilities. This redeployment will not endanger the remaining US Forces nor does it indicate any weakening of US resolve.

We of the 1st Cav can fully expect to find ourselves playing a greater role in the Vietnamization of the war in our area of operations. The spirit of cooperation that has previously existed between this unit and the Vietnamese will bring about an honorable end to the conflict. This is our goal and each of us has a part to play.



SGT RE-UP
SER
"DID YOU KNOW???"



Just about everyone knows that reenlistment can be accomplished after the expiration of term of service for which committed. But, are you aware that there are many instances where an individual may reenlist far in advance of this date?

First off, in all instances where I refer to reenlisting, I include only those individuals who are qualified to reenlist — qualified mentally, physically, and morally.

Basically, an individual may reenlist when there is a clear authority to discharge him. Discharge and reenlistment go hand-in-hand. Before one can enter into a new contract, he must first do something to nullify or cancel his present contract.

Discharge on "Expiration of Term of Service" (ETS) is simply what it implies. The contract has expired and the individual is discharged. We have another type of discharge — "Discharge for the Convenience of the Government" (COG), also, often referred to as a "short" discharge. A COG type discharge involves discharge prior to the expiration of the present contract, and for a reason which is convenient to the government. One instance whereby it would be convenient is to provide an opportunity for an individual to reenlist. Regulations specify many instances whereby COG discharges may be effected to enable an individual to reenlist. I will not attempt to cover all the reasons in this article.

One big advantage nowadays is that many individuals may be discharged and reenlisted as soon as they have completed eight month's active Federal

Service on their current commitment. Included in this program are personnel serving on their first Regular Army enlistment; USAR and NG personnel serving on active duty; and Inductees. These men are entitled to the Regular Army Reenlistment Bonus. And, if so inclined, they may be reenlisted for an option for which they are qualified. To clarify a point, men with prior service in another branch may reenlist under this program. However, eligibility for options by these personnel will be governed by grade and service for pay purposes.

Many with whom I have talked are under the wrong impression regarding reenlistment prior to expiration of their current term of service. Some think that the new period for which he reenlists is added on the service remaining on their present commitment. This is not true. A COG discharge cancels the old contract. On reenlisting the individual is committed only for that period as specified in the new contract. Assume you have completed eight months of a present three year enlistment. You elect to reenlist for three years and you are discharged COG. The remaining two years and four months of your previous contract is cancelled. Then, you are committed only for a new three year period, commencing the date of your reenlistment.

If you'll read the above paragraph again, I think it will sink in that in actuality you will have obligated yourself for only an additional total of eight months of service. Under this program, this may be your golden opportunity to select a reenlistment option, collect a reenlistment bonus, and assume a very little additional service.

Anything That Creeps This Collector's Bag

By SP4 Dave Wolfe

XUAN LOC — Something similar to an old fisherman's tale was recently reenacted by a Skytrooper at Landing Zone (LZ) Rock, 25 miles north of here.

Specialist Four William L. Hahn, Jr., nicknamed Willy, has resorted not to fishing, but to collecting insects, bugs, and "any other creepy crawlers that can be found on a landing zone."

The young soldier, a primary chart operator with the Fire Directional Center (FDC), 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery, does not claim to be an expert in entomology — the study of insects — but says, "It's mainly just something to occupy my time."

A friend walking nearby, as SP4 Hahn discussed his hobby, said kiddingly, "Hey, Willy. Did you tell them about the one that got away?"

"Oh, yes!" he said enthusiastically, "we found a two-headed ant that had an eye on the end of both antennas." He classified the ant in sub-phylum, "weird."

Jokingly called "the bug hunter" by his friends, Willy started

his hobby after observing "the completely different size and variety of the specimens here as compared to those back home."

"I did a little of this in 'the world,'" he said, "but I came over here completely unprepared to pursue my hobby." He explained that when he resumed his "time-passer hobby" here in Vietnam, he intended only to collect insects.

"Now everybody is catching specimens for me all over the LZ," he said, "and I've gathered a rather healthy collection of things."

He stated that soldiers bring their finds to him in an assortment of containers, which include fuse cans, fiber lids from 105mm artillery rounds, paper cups, and a variety of cans.

Included in his collection are beetles, moths, June bugs, butterflies, grasshoppers, crickets, mosquitoes, dragonflies, and even scorpions.

"We make sure the scorpions are very dead," said the hobbyist.

Living on an LZ causes the specialist certain problems in maintaining his collection.

"Someone's always coming along and throwing away my cans containing part of my collection," he explained, "and moving to a new LZ sometimes damages the specimen's wings and feelers."

SP4 Hahn has mounted his collection on styrofoam padding inside an artillery fuse can. "The styrofoam gives me something to pin the bugs to," he said, "and it also absorbs some hard knocks for the innocent bugs inside," he smiled.

The well-spoken cavalryman said, "I get a kick out of my collection."

Just then a call came for a fire mission, and someone yelled at the chart operator.

Hurriedly gathering up his collection, SP4 Hahn said as he ducked into his bunker-hootch to put away his assorted friends, "And in between fire missions I scramble to my bug collection." Others nearby laughed at his humor.

"And the bugs just lie there waiting for me until I get back," he yelled as he quickly disappeared into the FDC bunker below the ground.

Creepy Crawlers . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)

SP4 William Hahn displays his collection of "creepy crawlers" he has gathered during his tour in Vietnam.

Mini-Machine Adds Muscle To Green Line Defense

BLACKHORSE — The men of the 3rd Brigade Aviation Platoon feel a lot stronger on perimeter guard these days with the added muscle of their version of the Gatling Gun, one that is capable of producing suppressive fire up to 4,000 rounds per minute.

This unique crew-served weapon is the invention of "Snoopy Flight's" maintenance officer, Warrant Officer Donald J. Tollenaere.

"My first thought was to con-

struct a mount that would allow us to use a minigun in the door of one of Snoopy's command and control helicopters," Mr. Tollenaere said, "but the idea evolved into what is probably the only ground weapon of its type in Vietnam."

Tollenaere combined a .50 caliber machine gun tripod base and a homemade mount, utilizing an M-60 machine gun butterfly handle to house the minigun. The mount was built by personnel of the 15th Transportation Company, who added

a built-in damper in the frame to decrease shock.

With the gun mounted in the frame and hooked up to a helicopter battery, Tollenaere was ready to test fire the weapon on the range at Bien Hoa.

"I really had no idea how it would react," he said, "but we secured it as well as we could with sandbags, and pushed the button. There were a number of troops on the range at the time zeroing their M-16s, but when we started firing they were so surprised they stopped."

The fantastic rate of fire of the minigun produces an eerie and distinctive sound akin to a foghorn, or as "Snoopy Flight's" aviators put it "the Jolly Green Giant losing his chow."

Mr. Tollenaere said an Army officer on the range was so impressed that he wanted to order 100 of the guns for green line (perimeter) defense of Bien Hoa.

A large ammo box is used to feed the 7.62mm rounds into the gun with a soda can stabilizing the ammo running into the weapon's feeder chute.

"The gun's feeder tray limits the swivel capability of the piece, but a flexible feeder chute like the one we use in our helicopters should give us about an 80 degree field of fire," he said.

"We took it out on the 'green line' at Quan Loi in early May for guard duty, said the inventive aviator. "The perimeter was probed while we were there, but too far from our position for our 'Gatling Gun' to get its combat baptism. It makes us feel a lot better about any guard commitment we might get, but I still haven't given up on the idea of mounting it as a door gun."

The minigun is relatively new to the Army's ordnance inventory. They are normally employed as a weapons system on numerous types of rotary and fixed wing aircraft, producing accurate suppressive fire with devastating speed and volume.

Claymore's Power Upped Ten to One

PHUOC VINH — Infantrymen of the 1st Cav are being supplied with claymore mine firing devices that will detonate ten of the antipersonnel mines simultaneously yet will be safer and easier to set up than the present system.

The firing device is a modi-

fication of one developed by the 1st Infantry Division. Major General E.B. Roberts, commander of the 1st Cav, ordered production to begin this week with a quota of 12 devices a week until each infantry battalion has a sufficient supply.

"Its principal advantage will be during a night ambush," said MAJ Roger A. Godin, assistant G-4 at division headquarters. "The device can be set up quickly and one man can control most of the firepower necessary."

The 1st Division recently employed their version of the firing device in an ambush to kill 13 NVA. Not one rifle was fired.

"It will take approximately five minutes to set up the ten claymores at night," said First Lieutenant Patrick I. Murphy, Class 5 (ammunition) officer at division headquarters. "The problem of control is eliminated. Only one man needs to be especially alert to spring the ambush."

1LT Murphy listed several advantages of the 1st Cav model. "It's much safer than even the single-mine detonator," he said. "Three separate acts — opening the case, pushing the power button and operating the selector switch — must be made before it will fire."

The battery test light and the use of screw tips for the prongs on the firing device — instead of the relatively scarce M57 firing device "male" ends — are other modifications on the 1st Cav model.

Brigadier General Frank Meszar, assistant commander of the 1st Cav initiated development of the Skytrooper model after seeing the 1st Division's prototype at a display of new weapons sponsored by the II Field Force last May.

"To my knowledge," 1LT Murphy said, "only the 1st Cav and the 1st Division have such a firing device in production."

Where's The Ground . . .



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Terry Moon)

A cavalryman seems to be walking through the air as he jumps to the ground during a combat assault near Xuan Loc.

Libby Offers Latest Styles, Haircuts Free

LZ LIBBY — Tiny Tim couldn't cut the mustard at Landing Zone Libby, and there's a barber from Queens, New York who will tell you so.

Specialist Four Kenneth Bramble's shop sets amid newly constructed bunkers, artillery emplacements, and roads which carry the LZ's bustling traffic.

The young barber, a former infantryman, just recently returned from the field to become an on-the-job-trained haircutter.

"The length of a man's hair is pretty much up to the individual," said the soldier, "but most guys like to keep it pretty short here because of the problem of keeping it clean."

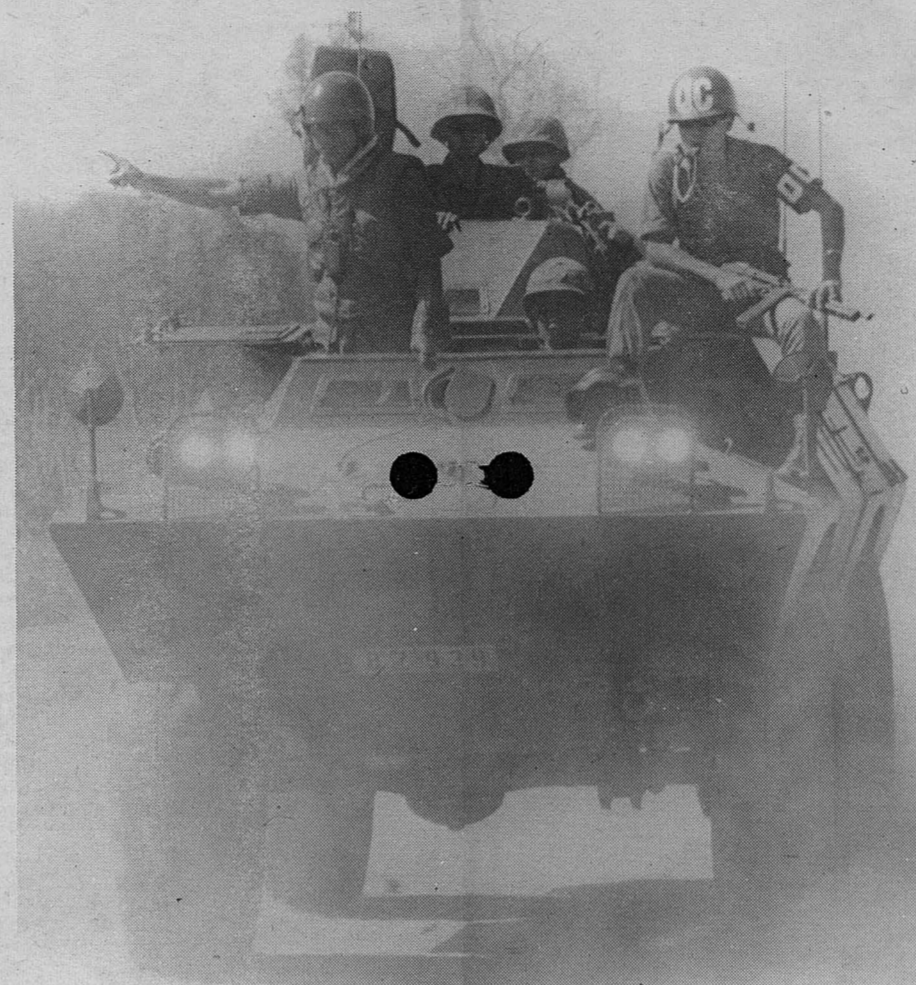
His barber chair isn't like the one back in the shop on the block, but it serves its purpose. Four artillery ammunition boxes stacked on top of one another provide a workable seating arrangement, and trampled weeds covering the brown soil contribute a "no-sweep necessary" floor.

The Waldorf-Astoria Barber Shop it isn't, but Bramble's Barber Shop is a place a guy can visit and be assured of a good haircut and some good conversation.

ARVNs Open Road, Root Out Chuck



The chief ARVN engineer of the Song Be road project points out some key points on a chart of the route.



Leading the procession of vehicles is an ARVN armored vehicle.

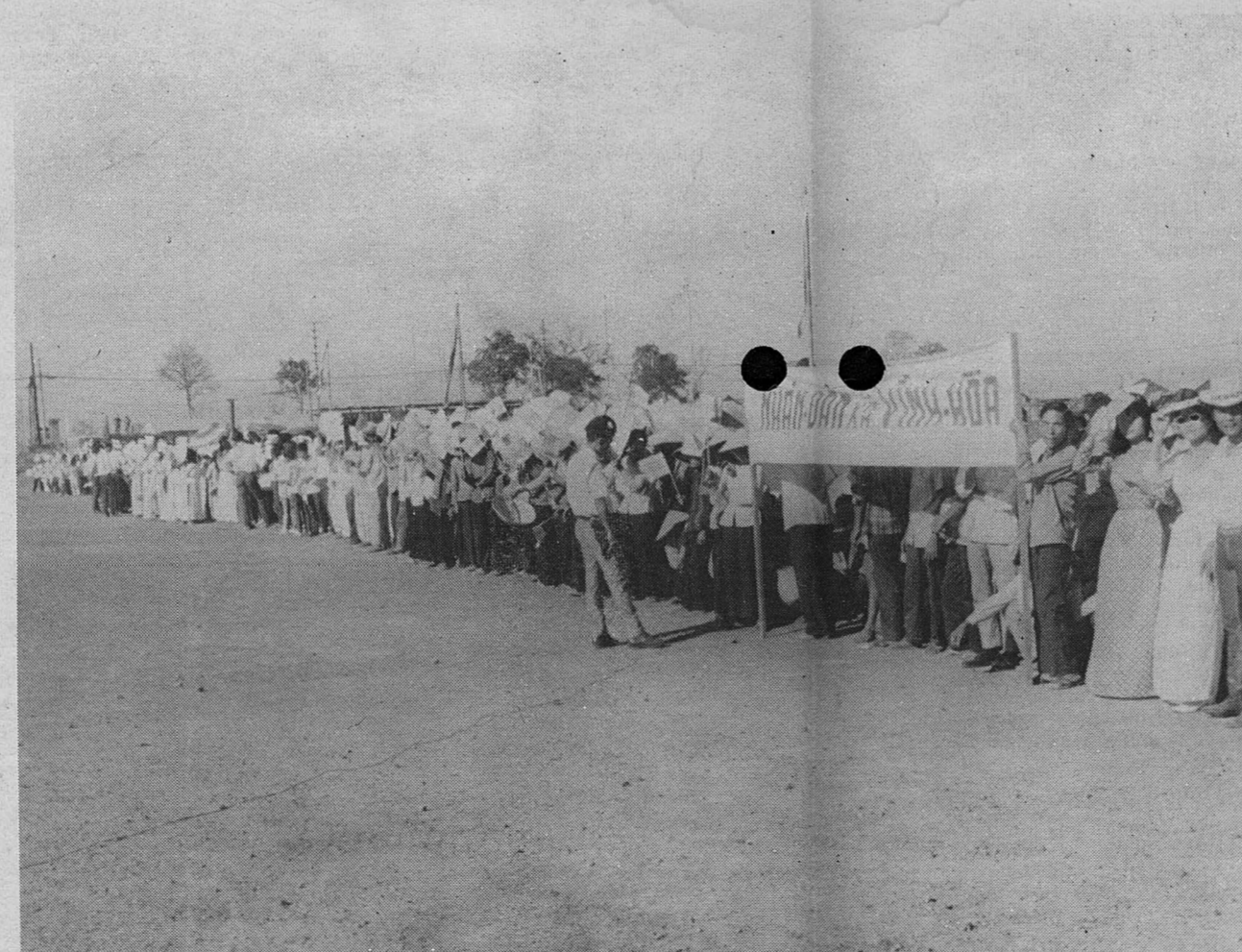


The first friendly vehicles to travel down the new Song Be road is a truckload of ARVNs.

Photo Story By
SP4 Terry Moon and
PFC Thomas Benic



ARVN trucks kick up a lot of dust as they travel down the newly opened Song Be road.



Crowds of people from the hamlet of Phuoc Vinh observe the ceremonies prior to the road's opening.



The Mighty Metal Monsters of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment protect the ARVN convoy.

At LZ Jamie

Clear Head Keeps Skytroopers Alive

By SP4 George Vindedzis

LAI KHE — Three men of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry lay silently alert on a lonely LP (listening post) as their eyes scanned the darkness.

Suddenly one of them spotted movement and called the CP (command post) for permission to fire. Permission was granted, but as the men scurried for cover behind a mound of dirt, one of them accidentally set off a trip flare and the enemy slipped away into the darkness.

The three men, pinned down by enemy mortar fire, lay silently and prayed as the explosions sent shrapnel zipping over their heads. Then a blanket of stillness again covered the dark jungle as the firing ceased.

"I had made it through the mortar barrage okay," said the

20-year-old Skytrooper, "but the other two men were hurt pretty badly, I called for permission to come in but they said someone had to stay out there to watch for the enemy."

At first light the cavalryman spotted men on patrol and beckoned to them for assistance. After they got back to the 2nd Brigade LZ, the two wounded men were MEDEVACKED and PFC Respress learned that the trip flare that accidentally ignited had served as an early warning signal for the men of the LZ.

Later that morning Major General E.B. Roberts, commanding general of the 1st Cav., visited the LZ. When he heard of PFC Respress' actions he presented him the Bronze Star with "V" device as an immediate impact award.

Blues Strip Red Site, Bare NVA

By SP4 Bob Smith

TAY NINH — A number of enemy soldiers were forced to expose themselves recently by members of the infantry platoon (Blues), 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry. The "Blues" substantially reduced Chuck's clothing inventory when they discovered a cache and bunker complex north of Landing Zone Grant.

"We found over 250 pairs of fatigues, 200 pairs of black pajamas, and more than 200 pairs of shorts and underwear," First Lieutenant Robert B. Alexander, the "Blues" platoon leader said. "In addition to clothing we found 300 spools of thread, over 50 meters of cloth, some electrical wire and one sewing machine," he added.

The 21-man platoon combat assaulted into an area about 20 miles northeast of here after 1st Squadron scout birds (light observation helicopters) discovered the complex. The Skytroopers neared their objective after a two hour push in heavy jungle terrain from their landing zone.

The cavalrymen noticed immediately that the enemy had constructed bamboo hootches with tin roofs in the center of the complex. One of the buildings stood out like a sore thumb.

"It had two floors," the unit's platoon sergeant, Staff Sergeant George B. Busch, Jr. said. "The first floor was partially below ground level. The building was made out of the same material as the other hootches, but it was heavily camouflaged and easy to pick out. The first floor appeared to be a work area and had electric lights. The second floor was a storage area," he added.

The building and its contents were destroyed by incendiary grenades. As the "Blues" pulled out of the area air strikes were called in to complete the job.

Cobra's Ammo Bay Saves Wounded Troop

TAY NINH — The heavily armed Cobra gunships are not usually associated with missions of mercy. An ingenious pilot, however, proved their versatility when he rescued a wounded man from a downed observation helicopter.

"I saw the LOH taking small arms and automatic weapons fire," said Cobra pilot, Captain Richard K. Rowe. "It was forced down in tall elephant grass about 300 meters from 40 or 50 NVA who were firing from trenches."

Warrant Officer Robert Larson, flying another LOH, landed right behind the crippled chopper. "When I got there several small fires had broken out in the area. My door gunner got off and we loaded two of the wounded men on my ship. The door gunner stayed on the

ground with the other wounded man," said WO Larson.

CPT Rowe made a quick pass over the area in his gunship. "I tried to release my rocket pods but only one came off. When I landed, the remaining men quickly got over to my ship. I opened the ammo bay doors and they climbed in," he said.

The ammunition bay, which normally accommodates thousands of rounds of minigun ammunition had been emptied in the course of the heavy contact leaving an area about the size of a steamer trunk into which the men squeezed themselves.

"They hung on until I could get them to Landing Zone Ike, about two miles away," said CPT Rowe. At LZ Ike, the wounded men were transferred to a MEDEVAC helicopter and were soon on their way to the hospital.

Pumping 'Em Out...



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Terry Moon)

Making life miserable for Charlie is an artillery crew from the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery as they ram another projectile into their 155mm howitzer.

"Here I Come..."



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Terry Moon)

A machine gunner from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry leaps to the ground during a combat assault near Xuan Loc.

Wet, Cold All Part Skytrooper's Life

By CPT Peter Zastrow

LAI KHE — Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry was scheduled to combat assault (CA) at 10 a.m. This would give them time to find a night location and set up before the afternoon rains began.

Water in the helicopter fuel delayed the CA until 4 o'clock. As the men of the company jumped off the last lift, the rains followed them into the grassy clearing.

When a company has to move from the landing zone, and the rain is streaming from the sky, there is only one thing a Skytrooper can do: get wet. When he turns his head, trickles of water roll down inside his shirt. If he tries to light a cigarette, it crumbles in his hand.

There were attempts to keep dry. One man pulled out a raincoat which helped slightly. Others made sure their gear was wrapped in plastic bags, but within half an hour, everyone was wet. The muddy trails through the bamboo grew waterlogged, and the craters left by an old B-52 strike became sizable lakes.

The packs, heavy enough when dry, grew heavier. It didn't help to stop and rest since that only meant more water and more weight.

Most of the men of Company C said that the rain felt good — even though they had just been in on the firebase and didn't need a shower yet. But jungle fatigues, even though quick-drying, can't dry when the rain is still falling.

Finally, with mud-caked boots adding several pounds, the men

found a FOB (forward operations base) position. And the rain slacked off to a hard drizzle.

No longer were the men of Company C faced with the problems of keeping dry — it was too late for that. Now the problem was how to keep from getting any wetter during the night. Cutting through dripping vines and knocking wet bamboo out of the way, men tied poncho roofs to the trees, stretched out wet towels and shirts over wet leaves, and inflated damp air mattresses.

Night settled quickly and through the dark hours the slow drip of the trees sang a Skytroopers' lullaby.

Dawn, and it was time to wring out socks before putting them back on. Tee-Shirts were almost dry, but there was still the painful experience of putting on the soggy fatigue shirt. Captain Clarence W. Kehoe, out in the field for the first time in command of Company C had his RTO hold one end of his towel while he squeezed out streams of water.

Still damp, the company moved out. Soon, the sun came out and the water turned slowly to steam. Now only pockets were wet — and of course boots, since the rain had left ample puddles.

Often movement stopped as the lead platoon had to cut through the dense undergrowth. The men watched the sides of the trail, sat back on their packs, and sweated.

The company found a FOB position early. "Today," said CPT Kehoe, "we're going to set up before the rain."

Folks Back Home Aid The Kids Here

LAI KHE — Because of some public-minded citizens and organizations, children more than 10,000 miles away are finding learning a little easier and playing a little more enjoyable.

For the S-5 (Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations) section of the 2nd Brigade, there is a constant problem in finding material with which to help the Vietnamese. Some items, particularly those useful in school, are not available through the usual military channels of supply.

First Lieutenant Michael J. Malloy, S-5 for the Blackhorse Brigade, has partially solved the problem of supplies by relying on the people back home. Supplying pictures of S-5 activities in the schools of An Loc, 1LT Malloy managed to have his father, Mr. Jim Malloy, set up displays in the Sportsman's Club of the Northwestern Life Insurance Company in Milwaukee.

From there, the movement grew. A local radio station, WOKY, and a supermarket chain commenced a joint venture to provide such items as candy, soap, toys, needles and thread, and athletic equipment which was sent to the Brigade S-5 and from there distributed to the children.

Other groups also joined in the

project. Chaplain Bernard Lieving, chaplain for the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, worked through his home church, St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Acton, Mass., to obtain more supplies and toys.

The need for supplementary materials for the schools became evident to S-5 workers as they visited schools in the area. Moreover, teachers in these schools would often point out deficiencies and ask the S-5 personnel for aid.

"This kind of help means a great deal to the school system," said 1LT Malloy. "At the moment, the classes and the schools are expanding so rapidly that the South Vietnamese government with all the projects it must support, cannot furnish all the supplies that the teachers would like to have."

Not all the supplies received are finally passed out by S-5. A portion of them are given to the Vietnamese cadre for distribution since their knowledge of the needs of the people is often wider. Moreover, this method aids in the effort to build support for the government of South Vietnam.

To the children involved, it makes little difference who distributes the supplies. "The response from the teachers and from the kids is overwhelming," said 1LT Malloy.

Xmas In The Boonies

Flying PX Hit At LZ's

LZ LIBBY — The 1st Cav. is assuming a portion of Santa's burden.

There are no sleigh bells on a helicopter, but when the "Flying PX" arrives at a forward landing zone, the happiness of a Yuletide morning is reenacted.

As part of the Army-Air Force

Exchange Service, the "Flying PX" is a 1st Cav innovation for those men not having a PX available. It was started last January when the need for such a service was evident, and has since become a high spot each week.

Operating from basecamps at

Quan Loi and Phuoc Vinh, the exchange service is available to the Cav soldiers and other personnel working on the forward firebases.

"Our hottest selling items are radios, cameras and watches," said Specialist Four Robert L. Collier. He added, "In fact, we sold 48 radios in two and a half hours one morning at LZ Libby."

SP4 Collier and Private First Class Bill Boulware work as concessionaires at Landing Zones Libby, Lorie, Ike and Lois. They fly every odd day of the month, and arrive at each LZ approximately every 8th day.

Both soldiers are past infantrymen who have since returned to rear area jobs, and they feel they know which items to take to the LZs.

"We load the helicopter with items we wanted when we were in the field," said SP4 Collier, "things like food, film, writing materials and hygienic products."

When asked if he enjoyed his job, PFC Boulware said, "It's really a lot of fun, because we get to meet new guys, and it's surprising how many friends we run into from basic and advanced individual training."

"And it's always nice to have the time and opportunity to take these things out to our buddies in the field," added SP4 Collier.

Mail Tip: Film Needs Stamps, Single Wrap

PHUOC VINH — Neither rain, sleet nor snow can delay your mail, but a few tips from the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Army Post Office can speed delivery.

First, according to APO officials, Skytroopers should remember that all undeveloped film being sent out of country requires postage, normally twenty cents for air mail delivery. And it should not be mailed in a package with other items.

"Suppose a man sends a roll of film with a tape recorder," said First Lieutenant Randolph S. Wright, assistant postal officer, "we can't X-ray it, so we have to open the package and visually inspect the contents. That's time consuming in a unit with as many men as the Cav."

Another note from the APO:

The division's quarterly magazine, "The First Team," and similar sized items can be mailed home free of charge, as long as they are sent with a personal letter.

One of the biggest problems confronting the APO is the poor quality of packages. Both incoming and outgoing packages have a tendency to be poorly wrapped and loosely packed.

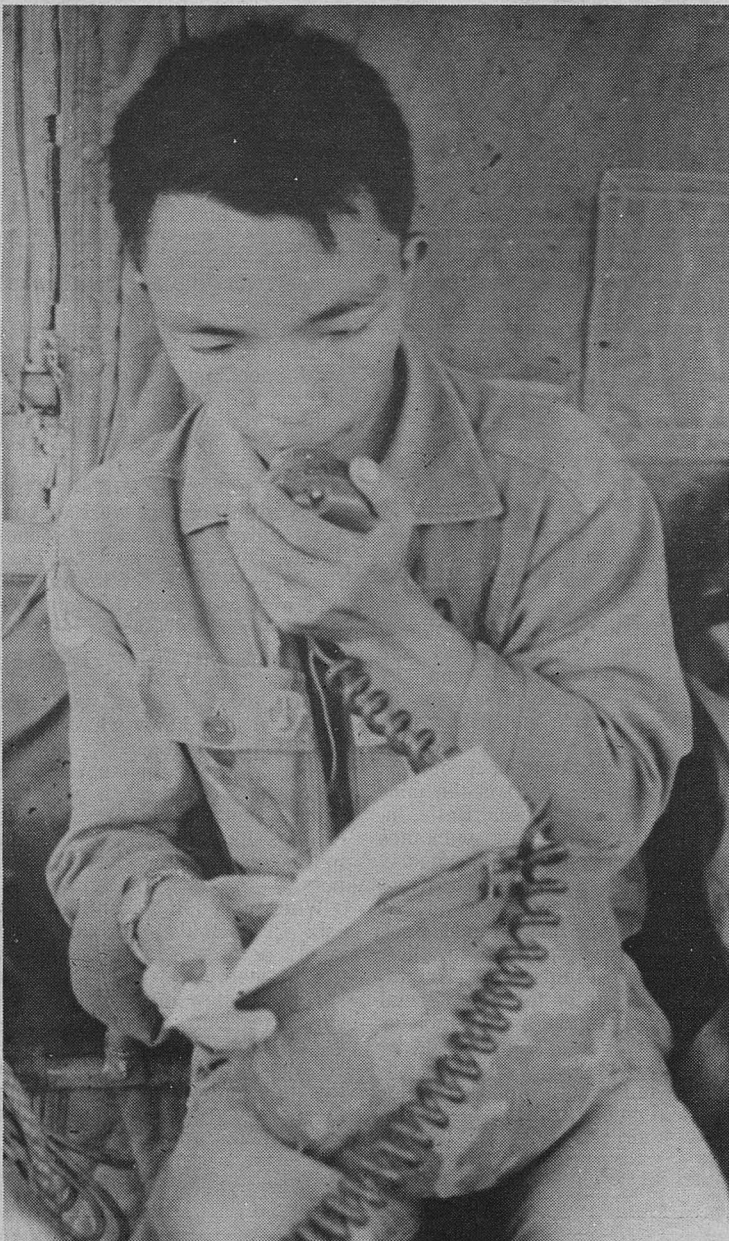
"A lot of work could be avoided if the men would pack crumpled newspapers in their packages," said 1LT Wright, "and use one of the commercial strapping tapes available for sealing the box. There would be a lot less packages in the dead-letter bins if they'd just be a little bit more careful packaging over here."



No ordinary student of the aquatics, Miss Jerri Bright has a BCS (Beautiful Channel Swimming) degree. With these qualifications (and the obvious ones) she would certainly qualify for an MOS of 100 ZX 02 (underwater mess kit repair).

(Las Vegas News Bureau)

Giving The Word . . .



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

SFC Vinh Duc Cahn, a member of the ARVN, encourages his countrymen to rally to the government.

These Boots Are Made For Humping

By SP4 Dave Wolfe

XUAN LOC — In the air-mobile age of the 1st Cav the individual foot soldier is still the backbone of the division.

Operating on battlefields like those found in Vietnam, the infantryman's uniform must be of the highest quality and durability. With this thought in mind, American troops have been extremely well clothed.

Part of that uniform are the tropical combat boots, specifically designed for wear in hot, humid areas.

After humping through rice paddies, across rivers, over mountains, and through thick "wait-a-minute" vines, most infantrymen manage to wear out the two pair of jungle boots issued to them in CONUS before shipping overseas. Some soldiers dispense with three or four pairs of boots in a 12-month period.

It's common to see badly scuffed boots on the feet of the "grunt." The marred, heavily worn and lack-luster boots have trodden many miles through seemingly impenetrable terrain.

There is an unspoken pact among these men, which conveys the idea that boots will be left unshined. It could be rationalized that shined boots might create a glare, which could be detected by the enemy.

But as far as the "grunt" is concerned, these old boots are the trademark of a combat-hardened veteran of several months.

Most soldiers agree that they dislike breaking in a new pair of boots. There's generally a slight discomfort until the new footwear forms itself to the feet.

To a grunt, however, the boots in a sense have become a part of him. One man explained, "It's like throwing away an old pair of tennis shoes you wore back in 'the world' while having some good times." He added, "It's something you just hate to do."

Joy—

(Continued From Page 1) again. And sometime during the fight — Collins is not sure when it happened — the bunker took a hit from a B-40 rocket round. No one inside was seriously wounded.

Perhaps because they had hit No. 2 bunker with the rocket, the enemy thought its occupants were out of action.

Shortly after three of their four M-16s jammed, said Collins, they noticed movement to their side. The men moved outside and fought from the berm using one M-16 and hand grenades.

In the morning there were 35 enemy dead inside the wire. Seventeen of those lay in front of bunker No. 2. Three of the enemy were found not three meters to the right of the bunker, lying at the foot of the berm.

One of the enemy dead at the berm was clutching a B-40 rocket, cocked and armed.

Recalls 1st Battle As A PFC

PHUOC VINH — A veteran of 25 months in Vietnam, Sergeant William Murphy remembers the battle two years ago for which Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry was recently given the "Valorous Unit Award" for "extraordinary heroism."

As a 19-year-old Private First Class on his first combat mission, SGT Murphy won the Silver Star for his actions that day.

"It was a typical Viet Cong village" he said, "with 10,000 places to hide. I was kind of excited and scared when we first went in, but once the firing started you didn't have time to be scared. You just did your job."

Company C and a platoon of tanks entered the village of An Qui in line formation on the morning of May 31, 1967. They immediately received raking fire from a heavily-armed, deeply-entrenched force, later identified as the 9th Battalion, 22nd NVA Regiment.

After withdrawing for an artillery barrage on the village, Company C assaulted again.

"We were the extreme right element during the afternoon assault, SGT Murphy said, "but the fourth platoon was quickly pinned down and we finished the battle on the extreme left."

"The second VC I shot suddenly raised up and threw a grenade at me," he recalled without emotion. "It bounced off my boot but didn't go off. It sort of gave me a new outlook on life, however. Someone was giving me another chance."

The battle raged on at such close quarters that the tanks fired at an average range of 25 meters. By late afternoon the fight was over. Nearly 100 enemy were dead.

"I was pretty shook up afterwards," SGT Murphy said. "The close calls I had sort of got to me."

"Classical Gas"

Artillery Team Carry The Day

By SP4 Joe Kamalick

LZ LIBBY — The team is called Classical Gas, and its playing field is 17 miles in diameter.

The ten-member team works well. Synchronized, quick and confident. And they score heavily — on Charles.

The star player is Classical Gas itself, the No. 1 155mm howitzer in Battery C, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery.

But like all stars, Classical Gas would be useless without the rest of the team. Nine men in all work behind the big recoiling tube. If you hesitate or make a wrong move you might get hurt, or, worse yet, hurt someone else.

They run the same play time after time.

One man, a strong man, hefts the 96 pound football onto a tray which two other men raise and hold behind the open breech. Two ramming men shove the round home into the tube. The power man places the gauze-wrapped charge and yells "Close" to the assistant gunner who closes the breech, places the primer and says "Ready" to the gunner sitting high on the gun's side.

The gunner checks his settings like any good quarterback and calls out "Set" to the section chief — the coach — who returns with "Fire!"

With a snap of his wrist and forearm, the assistant gunner jerks the lanyard and the round is on its invisible whistling way, leaving behind blue-grey smoke frothing from the tube.

But it isn't sport. It's a hard and serious business.

Not infrequently, the gun must fire through the night, a round launched every ten minutes. Then they work in shifts while the others sleep. You get used to sleeping under that persistent crack and boom, they say.

By day when not firing a mission, the crew must keep "the pig" (the howitzer) clean and oiled.

The day is 24 hours long.

Specialist Four James L. Coleman, one of two ramming staff men, said, "I like the job . . . It's hard work." And after a moment's thought: "And you have to take it easy when it's wet because you don't want to hurt your buddies."

He and another man use all of their standing strength to ram the 96 pounds projectile home. And when it's raining the round is slippery. Should they let the staff slip there are two or three men near the breech who might be on the receiving end. And if the round is not properly seated it will slide out.

The coach, section leader Staff Sergeant Otha Armstrong, Jr., stands close by with telephone in hand, receiving firing instructions and watching his men to see that everything is done correctly and safely.

"I like the job," he said, "as long as I have a good crew. I have a good crew now . . . they do their job well."



Long, Hard Look . . .



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Terry Moon)

A cavalryman takes a long, hard look at the ground below as his lift bird prepares to drop infantrymen from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry into a small landing zone.