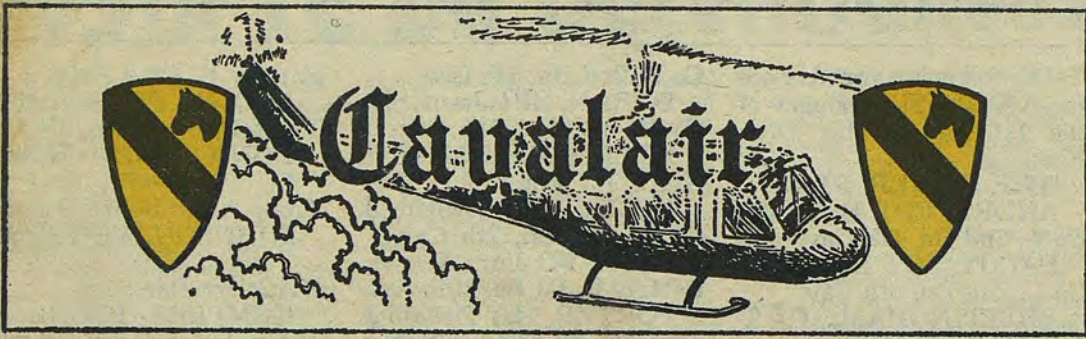


100 NVA Die In Cav Sweep



Vol. 3, No. 27

1st Air Cavalry Division

July 2, 1969

Wounded To Aid Fast

By Sp4 Joe Kamalick

BLACKHORSE — In a heavily wooded area not far from here three men were wounded in a firefight. Their unit's RTO called for MEDEVAC to get them out.

Within minutes a MEDEVAC chopper was circling overhead ready to extract the wounded men.

Due to the speed and efficiency of the MEDEVAC, the wounded soldier in Vietnam has the best chance of surviving his wounds — more so than any other combatant in any war in history.

The two pilots who flew that mission, First Lieutenant Ernest Bayford and Chief Warrant Officer John C. Kellieher both of the 15th Medical Battalion, explained some of the procedures of MEDEVAC.

Commo Essential

It is important from the very first, they said, to establish and maintain good radio communications with MEDEVAC and the pilots. If at all possible, it should be maintained from the moment MEDEVAC is called until the mission is termed completed by the pilot himself.

The radio operator should be able to tell the MEDEVAC crew where friendlies and enemy are located (in case air support is needed), and he should see that security on all flanks is maintained.

Advance information given when the first call goes in can immeasurably speed the mission. The MEDEVAC dispatcher should be told three things:

First, how much, from what direction and what time was enemy contact; second, is a clearing available for the pilot to land or will it have to be a hoist mission; third, how many and what type — litter or ambulatory — of patients are there?

If the mission requires a hoist, the crew needs to know in advance how many casualties and whether they should be lifted out on the jungle penetrator and how many will need rigid litters.

(The rigid litter should be used for casualties with any type of bone fracture, back injury, penetrating stomach or chest wounds, serious head wounds, or if the man is unconscious.)

Landing Best

Whenever possible, a "set down" or landing mission is preferred. If a clearing is reasonably available and the casualties can medically withstand the movement, they should be taken to the clearing.

MEDEVAC pilots prefer to set down because hovering is more hazardous from mechanical, and medical viewpoints.

When a helicopter is floating almost motionless in midair the strain is greater on the chopper — it also makes a very good tar-

get for enemy riflemen. The men being hoisted are also vulnerable to the hostile fire.

Should the use of a hoist be necessary — and in Cav Country this is often the case — care must be taken in sending the casualty up. Whether the wounded man is being hoisted by jungle penetrator or hoist, he should be placed directly under the hovering helicopter.

the patient is lying some distance from the chopper when the hoist begins, he will swing like a pendulum beneath the craft.

Always Go In

MEDEVAC pilots will not refuse a mission. Regardless of how hot the combat area may be, whether the call comes at night or during severe weather, (Continued on Back Page)

By PFC Thomas Benic

TAY NINH—Lightning fast airmobility backed by the brute power of tanks was employed recently by Skytroopers east of Tay Ninh to surround and crush an NVA force entrenched in a large bunker complex.

The Skytroopers killed 100 NVA in four days of fierce, close fighting. Companies A and B of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry saw most of the action.

Hours after an early morning B-52 strike, two infantry battalions hit the woodland surrounding the bunker complex in six combat assaults. Tanks from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment then moved in to support three companies of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry as they began a sweep to the northeast. Three companies of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry served as a blocking force along the Saigon River.

Hovering high above the thick jungle in command helicopters, the two battalion commanders monitored the movement of their troops, analyzed reconnaissance information and constantly made changes in the plan of operation.

"Our mission direction of movement can change at any minute," said Captain Jess K. Fulfer, commanding officer of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th

Cavalry. "We're very flexible." No contact was made during the first day but Company C discovered a large bunker complex with overhead cover blasted by the previous night's B-52 strike. Three bodies partially buried in the rubble, web gear, AK-47 rifles, and small packages of rice were also found.

"This is the best night strike I've seen," said 1st Lieutenant Richard Kopec, Company C's executive officer. "It really devastated the area."

After destroying miscellaneous items left by the enemy at the bunker sight, Company C moved out on a new azimuth but, like the other five companies, met no resistance.

"They were running," said Sergeant First Class Charles Dawson, Jr., 1st platoon sergeant. "When I looked up and (Continued on Back Page)



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

To Vietnam With Love

PFC Ronald Lesh, a cannoneer with Battery C, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery lines up his 175 mm gun prior to sending hot steel into Charlie's lair.

Snoopy Rescues Downed Crew

BIEN HOA — "Hey, we've got a downed bird out there!" The plaintive cry for assistance came across the radio in the operations tent of the 3rd Brigade Aviation Platoon. The word of the minute for the pilots was, "Scramble!"

A reconnaissance helicopter from Scout Team One had taken enemy .50 caliber fire and was now lying in shambles and burning on the ground. No one knew for sure whether the pilot and observer had survived, but it was time to find out.

Two UH-1H (Huey) helicopters from Companies B and C, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, were already attempting to rescue the crew. The area surrounding the downed craft was covered with thick vegetation. No landing site was large enough to set the Hueys down.

The first Huey to go in was met with a heavy enemy concentration of .50 caliber fire and immediately withdrew. The second bird got to within 75 feet of the burning ship, but it too was driven off after marking the spot with recovery smoke.

Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) from 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery gunships was providing cover for the ships attempting the rescue. The Snoopy LOH (light observation helicopter), which had scrambled earlier, now hovered over the area.

"We came in, but couldn't see much," said Warrant Officer Byron Bode, observer for the pilot, Warrant Officer Thomas G. Ashe.

"Mr. Ashe broke hard right, and I scanned the green foliage below," said the young aviator. What he'd seen was the downed

pilot as he lay on the ground waving his flight helmet at the crew flying above.

The pilot managed to reach heavy cover surrounding his rescue party.

"I see him down there," shouted Mr. Bode over the radio.

Later Mr. Bode said, "Snoopy is a small unit and that was our buddy down there." He added, "We had a job to do and all we wanted to do was get those guys out."

Gunships from the 2nd Bn, 20th Arty continued providing heavy cover fire. There was an opening, not a good one, but an opening near the downed ship. Mr. Ashe lowered his ship into the makeshift landing zone, clipping the leaves off surrounding trees.

"Mr. Ashe got within four or

five feet of the ground," said Mr. Bode, "where he hovered. I jumped out and ran about 25 meters to the hurt pilot."

His legs badly injured, the downed Snoopy pilot asked only that Mr. Bode get him out of the area. The young observer picked up the Skytrooper and carried him to the hovering ship waiting nearby.

"Then I saw the observer crawling out of the bushes, trying to reach the ship," said Mr. Bode. Rushing to the observer as aerial rockets and small arms fire riveted the area, WO Bode pulled the man to the ship.

"I loaded him into the bird," said the young soldier, "and I gave Mr. Ashe the thumbs up sign." Standing on the skid as the ship began its ascent, WO Bode helped the injured man the (Continued On Page 6)

Cav Ass'n Plans Meet At Benning

Now that you're part of THE FIRST TEAM, you're eligible for membership in the 1st Cavalry Division Association. And if you're scheduled to DEROS before the last week in August, you may want to attend its 22nd annual reunion, to be held August 22-24 at Ft. Benning, Ga.

In addition to encouraging its members to get together in local and regional chapters and publishing SABER NEWS, a quarterly newsletter, the Association provides scholarships to dependents of men killed or disabled while serving with THE FIRST TEAM.

A lifetime membership in the 1st Cavalry Division Association costs only eleven dollars (a single membership fee with no subsequent dues) and includes a lifetime subscription to SABER NEWS, a volume of the division's history and a membership directory, plus Cav decals, insignia cards and pins.

If you're interested in keeping in touch with the guys you've met in 'Nam, you'll definitely want to join the Association and participate in its activities, beginning with the August reunion.

Much of the program will be held on post. Cavalrymen and their families will be able to tour its famous Infantry Museum. Many parties are scheduled this year, including one for teenagers August 22. Briefings are also on the agenda, including one on the Cav's performance in Vietnam.

The main social event of this year's reunion will be an outdoor barbecue-picnic-dance at Victory Lodge, a retreat on the Ft. Benning reservation. In addition, the reunion committee has assured the CAVALAIR that it has arranged for ideal weather.

Army Artist Program Offers Trip To RVN, ROK, Hawaii

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The soldier phase of the Army Combat Artist Program initiated in 1966 will be expanded and continued during fiscal year 1970 under the designation "Army Artist Program."

This program is sponsored jointly by The Adjutant General, Chief of Military History and Chief of Information. Under the new designation, authorized by the Secretary of the Army, soldier artists will document military activities throughout the Army. Complete details on the program appear in DA Circular 28-40, dated April 17, 1969.

The original Combat Artist Program was limited to recording military activities in the Republic of Vietnam.

During fiscal year 1970, the program will sponsor two teams of soldier artists, one in the Republic of Vietnam and the second in the Republic of Korea. Each team will spend 60 days on location making sketches, then transfer to Hawaii for 75 days to prepare finished paintings from their sketches. All work by the soldier artists will become a part of the U.S. Army Col-

lection in the Office, Chief of Military History.

All applicants for the FY 1970 program must have a written appraisal of their qualifications as an artist from an Army Crafts Director and an authorization for release from duty for 135 days signed by their commanding officer.

Bennies Booklet

New and expanded programs of benefits and privileges appear for the first time in the newly titled "Handbook on Retirement Services for Army Personnel and Their Families," recently published by the Army.

Army retirees and other interested persons can purchase the handbook for \$1.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Orders are now being processed. Here's your chance to familiarize yourself with benefits you're entitled to.



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

- THE SILVER STAR**
 ANDRE, CPT David J.
 Co A, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 BACOT, SGT Dannie M.
 Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 BRITTINGHAM, CPT Michael L.
 Co C, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav
 CLARK, PSG Raymond
 Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
 CRABTREE, SGT Earl W.
 Battery B, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
 DEHART, SSG Michael L.

- Co E, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 DURAN, SP4 Jesus S.
 Co E, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 HYLE, COL Archie R.
 HHC, 1st Bde
 LACEY, CPT William J.
 Co D, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
 PECK, FC Jerry L.
 Battery B, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
 PORTER, 1LT Donald J.
 Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 ROLLINS, SGT James E.
 Co E, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
 BINEGAR, SGT John T.
 Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 BRAMAN, CW-2 Eric W.

- Battery E, 82nd Arty
 BROWN, PFC Warren F.
 Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 DONICS, WO-1 William C.
 Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 JOHNSON, WO-1 Robert J.
 HHC, 1st Bde
 KEMPERS, PFC Larry
 Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 KOLLSTEDT, CPT Stephen L.
 Battery E, 82nd Arty



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



Normally, we do not discuss single reenlistment options at length, but rather, stay with the generalities concerning different options. Due to the increased number of questions about the In-Service Drill Sergeant's Option, we decided we'd make an exception to the rule.

To begin with, the Drill Sergeant's Option is available to all personnel now serving in pay grades E-4 through E-7, whether or not the man is in a Specialist position now. Should an interested individual be in Specialist grade, he must be eligible for appointment as Acting NCO. Each person applying for this option must also possess a GT Score of 90 or higher, Physical Combat Proficiency Test Score of 300 or more, have no record of disciplinary action during his current term of service, no record of emotional instability, fluent English, not be over 39 years of age, and each individual applying must not require a waiver of overage, mental or any of the disqualifications set forth in Table 2-2, AR 601-280.

In addition to what we have discussed above, personnel not presently serving in a combat arms MOS may also apply, provided the man is serving in a surplus or balanced MOS as contained in DA Cir 611-4. Also, personnel now serving in other than combat arms MOS's must not be drawing Proficiency Pay for his current MOS, whether the MOS is overage or balanced.

These are primarily the requirements for the Drill Sergeant's Option. Now we come to the benefits side of the option. To begin with, the individual may request three different training centers of his choice, in order of preference, and, should an individual decide to reenlist for this option, he will be guaranteed 18 months stabilized tour of duty at one of the three training centers of his choice. Personnel applying for the Drill Sergeant's Option must complete their normal Vietnam tour of duty, and upon completion of the tour, he will be sent back to one of those three training centers.

In order to qualify for these benefits, one must first successfully complete the Drill Sergeant's School.

Should a man sincerely want to become a Drill Sergeant, but

has intention of reenlisting to insure it, he may apply for acceptance into the program. The reason this option is open to normal applications is the fact that nearly every training center in the United States is drastically short of qualified, school trained Drill Sergeants.

If you feel you'd do yourself and the Army a better job by attending and graduating from the Drill Sergeant's School, and having the distinction of wearing the "Yogi Bear" hat for an 18 months stabilized tour, drop in and see your nearest career counselor. He's there to provide service to you and will be more than glad to help out. Stop in today, you'll be glad you did.

Your Picture Could Win

Every Skytrooper is eligible to win \$100 right now from the 1st Cavalry Division Association. All you have to do is take a snapshot that exemplifies the esprit and mobility of THE FIRST TEAM, send it to the Association and wait for it to be judged the winner. Just in case you might be judged second or third best you could still pick up \$50 or \$25 which will buy a lot of "film" at PX prices.

When you send in your entry just include a caption sheet with your name and military address, the date and place the picture was taken, and a brief description of the action pictured. Send all this to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, Box 11201 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112. Deadline for entries is 31 July 1969 at Albuquerque.

All submissions become the property of the Association. Each will be acknowledged. Awards will be forwarded through the Skytrooper Chapter of the Association.

...For God And Country

As we travel across Vietnam either by air or by land we see roads and trails leading in many different directions. Usually we do not know where they will lead us if we follow them. Therefore, we consult a map and if the map is complete it will show us where the roads and trails lead. Frequently, we come to crossroads and we are not sure which road we want to take. A wrong decision here will make the difference between reaching our goal or missing our goal, or even the difference between life and death.

As we travel down the highway of life we must make many decisions that will determine the course of our life. Many personal crossroads will be encountered, such as what job will suit me best, or what person should I marry, and what should be my relationship to God. We want more in a job than just an easy way to make money. We want the satisfaction that we are contributing something worthwhile to the society in which we live. We want more in a wife or husband than just a partner in sexual relations. There should be a mutual love, understanding, and fulfillment in this human relationship. We want more from God than just emergency protection. We want to be in harmony with Him so that our life will have eternal meaning.

We have a road map for life that we should consult. If we make a wrong turn our life can become a tragedy. The best road map we have can point us in the right direction and can give us guidelines to follow when we come to crossroads. This map is the Bible. We should study it, become familiar with it, and follow it. Our eternal destination depends upon the roads of life which we follow. Let us follow the right ones.

Chaplain (Maj) Max E. Meier



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- Commanding General MG E.B. Roberts
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 Production Editor SP5 Steve Haldeman
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Army's Largest To Split

15th TC Bn Decentralizes

PHUOC VINH — Quietly, efficiently and without fanfare the Army's largest battalion — the 15th Transportation Battalion — is being phased into a conventional-sized unit.

Concurrently, the division's aircraft maintenance concept is being dramatically altered from a centralized to a completely decentralized system. Moreover, even as this massive alteration of maintenance posture is being conducted, THE FIRST TEAM is continuing its assigned combat missions while still retaining a high aircraft availability rate.

Organization

The man credited with organizing this massive shift of personnel and equipment is Lieutenant Colonel Albert W. Schlim, whose most recent position in the division was Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff (G-4) for Aircraft Maintenance. It was in this capacity the final planning of the shift to decentralized maintenance was accomplished. But it was as commander of the 15th Transportation Battalion that LTC Schlim began the serious planning steps that were to place him in the curious position of presiding over the liquidation of his empire.

According to LTC Schlim, the 15th TC Bn will be reduced from a 1,500-man, four-company unit to a two-company unit, with the bulk of its maintenance forces allocated into 19 maintenance detachments. Each company-battery-troop sized unit will receive a specialized direct support maintenance detachment.

The batteries of the 20th Artillery, for example, will receive a detachment that specializes in Cobra maintenance; while one of the air troops of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry will need a detachment that could maintain Hueys and LOHs as well as Cobras.

The personnel for these de-

tachments largely will be peeled out of the organic resources of the 15th TC Bn., but according to LTC Schlim, some personnel augmentation has been or will be needed. The major input into the division has been in the realm of tools, tool kits and publications.

Some of the line items represent more than meets the eye. The new shop set, which LTC Schlim said contains some new and exotic maintenance equipment not now in the 1st Cav, has an inventory list of component parts that totals 50 typewritten pages. These shop sets are now on hand in the division and will be assigned to each maintenance detachment when it is activated.

The activation of each detachment and the concurrent reorganization of the 15th TC Bn., is to be effected over a carefully planned time phase schedule, LTC Schlim said. The first units affected are the companies of the 228th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion, which were to have received their maintenance detachments during the first week of June. The bulk of the personnel and equipment assets for this phase will come from the existing Company A, 15th TC.

Phases

September 30 there are a total of seven phases.

At that time, the 15th TC will have two companies that will provide backup maintenance for the detachments that are unable, for whatever reason, to handle a high volume of business. In addition, each of the companies will provide direct support maintenance for the divisional units that own aircraft, but do not have them in sufficient numbers to justify a separate maintenance detachment.

By the time the transition has

been completed, the division's direct support maintenance personnel picture will have shown an increase of 195 spaces, or a total of 1,625 men devoted to keeping the birds of THE FIRST TEAM flying.

The concept of decentralized direct support maintenance had its inception at Department of the Army about three years ago, LTC Schlim said, and gradually has moved down through the echelons to field units. The 1st Cav actually is the last major unit in Vietnam to effect a changeover, he said, but THE FIRST TEAM is the first to make the transition while fully engaged in combat operations.

The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) also has "transitioned" into the decentralized concept, he said, but it was able to do it while attaining its aircraft and aircraft maintenance assets during its organization as an airmobile division.

Four Objectives

When LTC Schlim began serious planning toward implementation of the decentralized concept, he received solid guidance from the division command group. The implementation had to meet four objectives:

1. It had to be set up on a time phase plan.

2. There had to be a minimum delay between detachment activation and effectiveness.

3. There was to be no degradation in aircraft availability rates.

4. There was to be no degradation in direct support maintenance.

The division's maintenance officers will closely analyze the operation of the concept during the summer and early fall. Then, LTC Schlim said, a position paper will be forwarded to USARV maintenance elements, listing the division's recommendations for any alterations that may be needed to make the basic concept more effective.



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

Ridin' Shotgun

A shotgun-wielding Skytrooper from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry leads his comrades into battle near Xuan Loc.



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

Contemplation

A Cavalryman from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry stops for a brief moment and takes a pensive look at the war before going on with his mission.

First Shirt Offers Free Frosties

BLACKHORSE — If you have more than nine years of service in the 1st Cav, you've got a free, tall, cold beer coming.

A First Sergeant with the 3rd Brigade is offering that thirst quencher to the man who can top or equal his time with the 1st Cav.

The chilled nectar of hops will

be given by First Sergeant Norman A. Madore, "first shirt" for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade.

When he finishes this year's tour of Vietnam with the Garry Owen Brigade, 1SG Madore will have completed 10 years with the Cav and 30 years in the Army.

And he's not finished yet.

With 29 years of service to date, 1SG Madore said, "I'm thinking of making a career out of the Army."

First Sergeant Madore was first assigned to the division in 1952 when it was in Japan. "That was some time before the Cav became airmobile," he recalled.

"The airmobile concept is a tremendous thing," he said. "Young men in the Cav today don't know what it was like in the old Cav. You used to have to walk to the hill and then climb it. Now you've just dropped on top of it."

1SG Madore was with the 5th Cavalry in Japan until 1955.

After a few months, the 5th Cavalry and there 1SG Madore rejoined his unit. For the next eight years he alternated between Korea and Ft. Dix, N.J.

In 1957, in honor of his Cav tenure and enthusiasm, he was named "Mr. 1st Cav."

Altogether, he spent 72 months — six years — with the 5th Cav in Korea. That brings his total 1st Cav time to nine years. He's working on his tenth year now.

First Sgt Madore will accept challenges to his Cav tenure from any active duty soldier now assigned to the division.

If you think you can collect that cold beer, 1SG Madore can be found at HHC, 3rd Bde.

Cries Of 'Incoming' Change To 'Timber' For Blackhorses

By Sp4 George Vindedzis

LAI KHE — Quiet nightfall settled over the basecamp of the 2nd Brigade at Lai Khe. Wind rustled gently through the trees overhead.

Suddenly the silence broke. Snap, crack, smash — incoming?

Not really. Only incoming trees.

As is true of many of the basecamp areas of the Cav, the 2nd Brigade is located in the midst of what was once a rubber plantation. This one, however, is different. An experiment in growing a new type of hybrid rubber tree was undertaken and the plantation was eventually closed

down when it became obvious the experiment failed. The trees, without warning, sometimes snap off at the base and thunder to the ground — or, in some cases, onto the nearest tent. Various attempts to bind up the trees have not yet succeeded.

Like most problems encountered by the men of the 1st Cav, what looks like a disadvantage is turned to good use. The men of Headquarters and Headquarters Company are becoming experts in three climbing, tree cutting — and in learning to predict where the next tree will collapse.

So, along with the other hazards in Vietnam, there is now the added incoming-tree. After all, it's a hardship tour.

Cav Helps Build New 'Yard Village

LAI KHE — Would you believe a band playing "Down Town" for an audience of about 100 Montagnard villagers in the midst of a temporary tent village on the outskirts of rubber plantation?

It happened in the hamlet of Hoa My, a predominately Montagnard settlement in the Minh Thanh Rubber Plantation, some 40 miles northwest of Saigon. The band was brought to the hamlet by the S-5 (PSYOPS and Civil Affairs) section of the Cav's 2nd Brigade.

The directive originally came from II Field Force that Hoa My must be moved for security reasons to a spot closer to the Special Forces Camp at Minh Thanh. From there the word spread to Vietnamese officials in An Loc, provincial capital, to Vietnamese military officers and their American advisors, and to the Blackhorse Brigade.

For weeks plans were made and coordination worked out. Three days before moving day, Special Forces personnel and the 2nd Bde S-5 arranged for tents to be set up in the new location. Work began on clearing an area of the dense undergrowth just at the edge of the plantation — a place where a new village would rise.

Meanwhile, back at the Brigade basecamp, First Lieutenant Michael J. Malloy, Brigade S-5, gathered essentials to give to the villagers to make the move a little less painful. These items included a 500-gallon water blivet, food, clothing, sewing kits, and 330 health kits (containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, and a washcloth), one for each of the villagers.

Early in the morning on moving day, two-and-a-half-ton trucks roared into the small hamlet as the villagers clustered outside their homes, surrounded by children, dogs, pigs and all the rest of their belongings.

Around the site of the new village, an RF (Regional Forces) platoon stood guard, securing the area. Another platoon of Trung Sung (the Montagnard counterpart of Regional Forces) helped protect the area before the villagers started to move into the GP medium tents, their temporary homes.

The District Chief, Captain Xinh from Chon Thanh, was on hand to greet the new arrivals. Captain Ralph Cruikshank, Jr., senior district advisor, coordinated with the American forces in the area, and 1LT Malloy arranged for Cav support.

By the time the first helicopter load of food and toys arrived from Lai Khe, the villagers had already begun to move. Trucks with pots, pans, jugs, boards, crossbows, dogs, pigs and chickens, with the children on top, carried the belongings of the 80 families.

Much confusion swirled about the temporary tent-village as the trucks pulled in. The families jumped off and began to unload.

According to 1LT Malloy, "Everything worked just about the way it was supposed to. Everyone involved did the job he was assigned, and the whole operation ran the same way it was planned."

From the provincial capital of An Loc a convoy arrived carrying building supplies and food, and the people of Hoa My brought with them everything they could carry.

Late in the morning the Cav band appeared and villagers who had never heard live music of any kind were confronted with a full-fledged band. The men of the band, before beginning to play, pitched in to help the villagers carry their belongings into the makeshift houses.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Barney, band director, "We play at the LZ's and sometimes play for Vietnamese groups in villages, but

we've never been out quite this far in the 23 months I've spent with the band. It's an experience."

It was an experience for the villagers too. Instead of movies which were planned for the afternoon, the district chief asked the band to play again.

Late in the afternoon the final truckloads arrived. A few families, apparently not happy with truck transportation, arrived in oxcarts which, like the trucks, were piled high with belongings. The oxcarts, looking out of place crossing the airstrip near the new village, were accompanied by herds of water buffalo.

Shortly thereafter, everyone was settled in their temporary shelters. According to CPT Xinh, "If you come back in 15 days, the people will be out of the tents and the new village will be built."

The band left and the villagers returned to the job of moving. A Montagnard man built a pigpen, while his wife built a fire and cooked a snake. Village life was already returning to normal.

Moving is not usually enjoyable. But for the hamlet of Hoa My, through the help of the Vietnamese government, the Vietnamese military and the 1st Cav, their moving day was a memorable one.



This woman does her part along with everyone else in moving the village.



The hustle and bustle of the move proved too much for this small boy as he naps on sacks of rice.



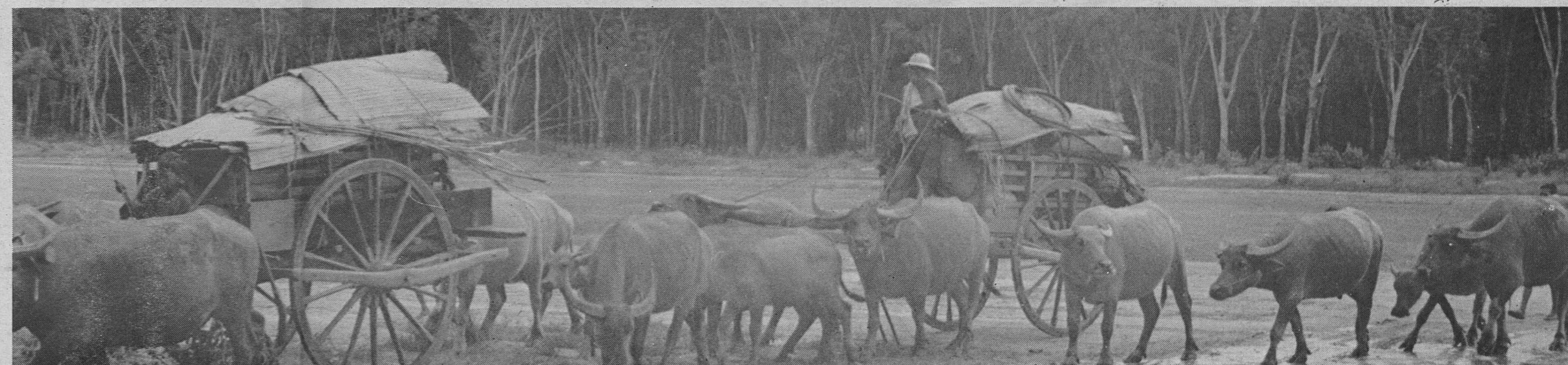
Some just like to hog the whole show. This squealing little porker shows dissent at being moved from his old home.



SP4 Herbert Marchese helps a Montagnard woman settle down in her new home.



Two of the hamlet popular force soldiers strain as they unload a heavy 50-gallon drum.



In carts piled high with their belongings, some of the villagers arrive later in the afternoon on their convoy of oxen.

Photos By
CPT Peter Zastro and
SP4 Ed Koehnlein



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

New Alumnus

A young graduate of the Division Artillery English language course held at Phuoc Vinh, receives her diploma from MAJ William A. Bush, District chief, MAJ Nguyen Manh Cuong, looks on.

70 Viets Finish S-5 English Class

PHUOC VINH — Seventy Vietnamese young people recently completed a four-month course in conversational English, sponsored by Division Artillery's S-5.

The students, ranging in age from 11 to 25, were taught at both beginning and advanced levels by Skytroopers at Cav headquarters. Regular classes were held three nights a week at the Phuoc Vinh High School.

Diplomas were presented at the May 30th graduation exercises. District Chief Major

Nguyen Manh Cuong and Major William A. Rush, S-5 Division Artillery, made brief remarks to the class before presenting the diplomas.

"As long as we have the interest we'll have the classes," said MAJ Bush. A summer session began June 15. Many of the graduates have enrolled in the next session's advanced course.

"We decided to hold the classes during the evening so that working adults could attend," MAJ Bush said.

Three Vietnamese schoolteachers are class graduates.

Bug Pro Buzzes Chuck With Accurate Artillery

By Sp4 Dave Wolfe

LAI KHE — Does a reconnaissance platoon need a resident zoologist so the men can learn about the exotic bugs which crawl or fly.

The Company E Recon Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry has one, drafted out of graduate school where he was studying zoology. He is Specialist Four Charles Larson.

Though he is a trained zoologist, SP4 Larson now serves as a forward observer (FO) for his platoon. "In this job," said SP4 Larson, "I have to keep track of where we are. I have to know some map reading so I can call in artillery when needed. I also set up the defensive targets (delta tangos) around our forward operations base (FOB)."

For the 20 men, who usually work by themselves, the artillery is a comforting ally. On one recent, muggy night, the platoon set up a night ambush along the honeycomb of trails near the Michelin Rubber Plantation.

"It was around 10:30 p.m. and I was asleep," said SP4 Larson. "Suddenly we heard someone

shout — in Vietnamese; at the same moment, one of our trip flares went off."

The platoon immediately fired its claymores and artillery was brought to bear on the area. A first light check revealed one NVA killed as well as two AK-47's and two NVA packs.

In many ways this was a typical night for the Recon platoon from the 1st Bn, 5th Cav. Their primary task is reconnaissance. Because of their size, they generally avoid contact. Instead, they plot trails, determine suspected enemy locations, and, as in this incident, set out ambushes.

In all of these tasks, according to the platoon leader, First Lieutenant William J. Costello, "SP4 Larson is basic to our entire operation. Although he came in with no experience, I've never caught the man in a mistake. He does an excellent job of letting us know where we are."

Does a recon platoon need a zoologist? Maybe not, but the Recon Platoon from Company E, 1st Bn, 5th Cav needs and uses their zoologist-FO, SP4 Charles Larson.

For '67 An Qui Action

1/12 Wins VUA

PHUOC VINH — Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry was presented the Valorous Unit Award for "extraordinary heroism" by Major General E.B. Roberts, division commander, in a Memorial Day ceremony at the unit's headquarters.

Two years ago the unit distinguished itself when it engaged a battalion-size force in the village of An Qui, according to the citation from the Department of the Army. Entering the village

with a platoon of tanks on May 31, 1967, the unit immediately received furious raking fire from the heavily armed force and withdrew after killing 25 enemy.

An artillery barrage pounded the village the rest of the morning.

Shortly after noon the unit assaulted again. The fighting was at such close quarters that the tanks fired at an average range of 25 yards and the infantrymen

attacked individual bunkers and trench systems with grenades and small arms fire.

On the morning of June 1, the unit silenced all remaining enemy fire. An intensive search revealed 96 Communist and only six American dead.

"The 9th Battalion, 22nd North Vietnamese Army Regiment ceased to exist as an effective fighting force," the citation states.

The unit "displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which fare in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States," the citation concludes.

MG Roberts congratulated the unit in brief remarks prior to attaching the streamer to the unit's colors. He wished them "continued good hunting" in the campaigns to come.

"You don't see many Valorous Unit Awards," said MAJ Fox McCarthy, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. "The unit has distinguished itself many times since An Qui, but this is equal to a Silver Star," he added.

Eight members of the company were awarded the Silver Star for their actions during the battle.

Snoopy Rescues

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rest of the way aboard.

The LOH rapidly exited the hot position, taking the injured crewmen to Company B, 15th Medical Battalion at Quan Loi.

Reflecting on the incident, Mr. Bode said, "Everybody in the Cav goes for a downed bird because they know its importance to the division. He mentioned the infantrymen and other helicopter units for their quick reaction when a helicopter is in trouble.

"There's a feeling of unity when you support your own

people," he said. "I guess it's built into the mind of every Cav pilot and infantryman."

Mr. Bode credited the safe extraction of the downed crew to "98 per cent luck and the rest to that bunch from Blue Max."

"When you've got your job cut out for you, all you're thinking about is giving that guy in trouble a chance to live," said the Minnesotan.

On May 20, Major General E.B. Roberts, division commander, presented Mr. Bode the Silver Star, and Mr. Ashe the Distinguished Flying Cross.



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

Movin' In

As the last soldier, a grenadier with the 1st Bn, 8th Cav leaps from the assault bird, a comrade bearing a hefty load struggles to get his footing during a "Charlie Alpha" near Xuan Loc.

Airmobile Commo 1st Cav Necessity

By Sp4 Dave Wolfe

BIEN HOA — "Whether you're moving across the country, or across the street, no job is too large or too small."

A well-known moving and storage company in the United States makes such a claim, which is much like the attitude of the 3rd Brigade communications section.

Brigade Signal Officer, Major Clark W. Hastings said, "The more we move, the less difficult it seems." He jokingly continued, "And we've been getting a lot of practice."

First to Move

The 3rd Brigade just moved to Bien Hoa, where a forward position was established in the same area they'd recently vacated. As in any case when a unit moves, one of the first sections to become fully operational is the signal section.

Wire chief, Specialist 4 Robert R. Saul said, "We run telephone lines to people as soon as the sections arrive and establish their offices." He added that the size of the switchboard gradually increases, as the newly established position begins to grow in size.

The establishment of two jump CPs (command posts) distributed the section's manpower over the four sites in operation, and the small group of men at each position quickly established communication. It was estimated that communication had been established with the brigade's rear at Quan Loi from the forward at Bien Hoa an hour and a half after arriving.

Mobility Trademark

Quick and efficient movement are a necessity when setting up a position, and the communications system inherent to it. Mobility, long a trademark of the Cav, is built into the equipment in use by the section.

"We can tear down our entire system and be ready to move in two hours; then get where we're

going, and set-up again in two hours," said Sergeant Frank T. Brigantino, who is in charge of the multi-channel radio communications which are supplied by the 13th Signal Battalion to the brigade.

SGT Brigantino and his men operate the telephone system for the brigade. Their main purpose is to provide TOCs (tactical operations centers) with lines to other TOCs, and to give FDC (fire directional center) communications with the artillery batteries.

First In

After a new landing zone has been cleared, the first people to go in are communications specialists. They establish communications and put up antennas in support of the man in the field.

Testimony to the mobility of the commo section was given by SGT Brigantino. "The new VHF (very high frequency) equipment, operated by us, is very light," he said. "We moved our equipment to Bien Hoa in just two LOH (light observation helicopter) sorties." He added that one UH-1H Huey can move all their equipment in one sortie.

At the brigade forward TOC are radio nets, which link the TOC with such activities as the Air Force FAC (forward air controller), the brigade's infantry units and long range patrols.

"Operations are only as effective as the communications involved," said Sergeant Robert F. Byrne. "Our main purpose in commo is to support the battalions in the field," he added.

It is necessary for the signal equipment to be kept cool with the use of fans. Some equipment have built-in thermostats and fans, but those not having these refinements must be kept cool with the use of requisitioned auxiliary fans. SGT Byrne used the analogy, "Our equipment, when used without fans cooling them, is like running a car without water." Heat is a major enemy to the signal unit.

Rare Mixed-Faith Baptism Given By Cav Chaplains

By Sp4 George Vindedzis

LAI KHE — In an unusual ceremony at the basecamp of the 2nd Brigade, an Episcopal and a Lutheran chaplain teamed up to baptize two Baptists and a Methodist.

The display of the ecumenical spirit took place at the DIVARTY Chapel, Lai Khe. The chaplain in charge of the service was Chaplain (CPT) Donald B. Eaton of the 8th Engineer Battalion. He was assisted by Chaplain (MAJ) Kenneth K. Wittenburg, chaplain for the Cav's Blackhorse Brigade.

The service was, like the participants, a blend of different denominations. It was read in part from the Lutheran ritual and in part from the military book of field worship. The participants and their sponsors stood around the altar in the simple chapel as the brief ceremony took place.

As each participant leaned over the baptismal water, the actual act of baptism was performed by Chaplain Eaton with the time-honored words, "I baptize thee in the name of the

Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." The ceremony concluded as the two chaplains said together the familiar benediction beginning "The Lord bless you and keep you."

The three men being baptized were all at one time members of Company B, 8th Engineer Battalion. Sergeant J. C. M. Blacker and Sergeant Charles Register were both brought in for the ceremony from Landing Zone Jamie where they were working with the engineers. Captain John A. Stockhaus was at one time company commander of Company B, 8th Engineers before moving to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bde, where he is now Headquarters Company commander.

After the ceremony Chaplain Eaton said, "This is a rare occasion in Vietnam. Yet, if we feel this step is this important for these men we can go bring them in from the field."

Chaplain Wittenburg added, "This is the first baptism I have seen here. It was both a pleasure and a privilege to take part in the service."



(Associated Press Wirephoto)

Darin' Erin

That's Erin O'Reilly popping out of the pool. Sorry, guys, but it's not in Phuoc Vinh or, for you Skytroopers of the Week, it's not Long Binh either.

Potable Water Grunt Vital

BLACKHORSE — Sergeant John W. Slade is in the fuel business.

The fuel he provides is more important here than the gasoline energy in the engines of a Huey Cobra or the mail clerk's jeep.

Without his kind of fuel the most valuable weapon in the Army's inventory couldn't function.

SGT Slade finds and refines fuel on station wherever it is needed — and he supplies up to 10,000 gallons of it per day.

His product is water.

It may not taste like Colorado spring water and it's guaranteed not to be cold, but it's as clean

as he can make it and safely potable. It won't make you sick.

Though helicopters have brought about new concepts in supply as well as tactics, flying in great amounts of good water daily from the rear is too great a burden for any S-4.

SGT Slade figures that a maneuver battalion in the field requires a minimum of three to four thousand gallons of water a day — and he supplies it on the spot without tying up a gaggle of logistic helicopters.

A second-tour veteran with the 8th Engineer Battalion, SGT Slade is in charge of a three-man team in the field with the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry. At LZ Rock his team tapped and purified enough water daily from the

La Nga River to service the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry at LZ Libby as well as the troops at LZ Rock.

"Whenever a new LZ opens up, I and one of our officers recon the area immediately, looking for the best spot to set up our equipment," Slade said.

"We want a place where we can set up quickly, one that's easy to get in and out of and as close to the perimeter as possible."

"If the terrain is bad, a bulldozer clears a flat area for us to set up our three 500 gallon portable tanks."

SGT Slade, trained at the water purification school at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., pumps raw water from a stream or river into his "Flop" tank and tests it for acidity.

He adds lime to the flop tank water if the acid level in it is too high. He doses the water with ferric chloride to raise the acid content if it is too low.

The treated water is pumped through a series of five small filters covered with diatomaceous earth (fine, powered earth). This coating of earth covers the filters with a thin film which catches unwanted foreign particles.

A distribution pump forces the now potable water into 500 gallon blivits on a waiting two-and-one-half truck. Potable water — grunt fuel — is now ready to be distributed at points around the LZ for use in cooking and washing as well as for drinking.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Ed Koehnlein)

Ground Guide

A Skytrooper from Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry guides ships into an open field during a recent combat assault near LZ Dolly.

Wounded

(Continued From Page 1)

MEDEVAC will go in to make a pick-up.

They may wait on station for air support, but if the casualties are so serious they cannot wait for suppressive fire from the air, MEDEVAC will go in without it.

The MEDEVAC mission can be used best if ground forces become familiar with MEDEVAC operations and also know the job they must fill when calling for MEDEVAC.

That knowledge will mean even faster medical care for the wounded grunt.



Detroit Job NCO Thin

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The Detroit (Mich.) Public School system is looking for qualified non-commissioned officers in grades E-6 through E-9 for ROTC instructors in their school system.

The positions will be open on September 3, 1969. Prospective applicants must have a high school education or GED equivalent, be in good health, have some background in Army instruction, have been in a combat arm and be in a retired status with a minimum of 20 years service.

Interested persons are encouraged to send a complete resume to Colonel Albert R. Cupello (USA, Ret.), Director of Military Science, Area 50, Fifth Army ROTC Instruction Group, Room 944, Schools Center Building, 5057 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Mich. 48202.

100 NVA Die In Cav Sweep

(Continued From Page 1) saw 18 choppers coming in, I wasn't going to sit on my duff." The veteran on his second tour in Vietnam added, "When they don't have a chance to outrun us, they hide. We might have walked past five or ten of them already."

He was right. As it turned out the enemy force had entrenched itself in another bunker complex less than 100 meters to the northeast.

CPT Fuller summed it up by saying, "If we hadn't changed direction at the first complex, we could have walked right into them."

At dusk on the operation's first day no contact had been

made and the infantrymen had set up their night camps in a driving rain.

The jungle thickened as Company C moved east in the morning into an area of bamboo that had not been bombed. Then, shortly before noon, the operation plan was changed. The push to the Saigon River was cancelled. Low flying light observation helicopters (LOH's) had spotted movement near the destroyed bunker complex found the previous day and the decision was made to concentrate the squeeze there.

Company C made a complete circle and moved to within 200 meters of the complex when Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th

Cavalry received 60mm mortar fire at close range.

Company A pulled back as 105mm howitzers and Cobra helicopters pounded the area for 30 minutes. Then they moved in to find one destroyed 60mm mortar tube.

Charlie had eluded again.

Company A drew fire again but this time from automatic weapons, B-40 rockets and 60mm rounds in addition to small arms fire.

For an hour the firefight raged while 10 tanks were moved to the front. Then with the armor blasting away and the infantrymen moving in line behind them, firing M-79 grenade launchers, Company A swept over the bunkers, crushing what little resistance remained.

The following evening a "highthawk" helicopter with its powerful searchlight spotted an enemy force in an open area outside of the bunker complex trying to evade the troops. Blasting the enemy with miniguns and rockets, the Huey helicopter then called in artillery to finish the job. Forty NVA were killed without an American casualty in the one-sided battle.

The climactic battle took place at noon of the fourth day of the operation when Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry received small arms and automatic weapons fire from another part of the bunker complex.

After returning the fire, artillery and helicopter gunships pounded the area.

When they moved back in, the well-entrenched enemy fought even more fiercely with B-40 rockets in addition to small arms and automatic weapons. The battle raged for four hours and Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry and tanks joined the conflict.

At dusk the operation was concluded. Nearly 100 NVA had been killed and the bunker complex had been destroyed.



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

LZ Leapers

As one Skytrooper from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry struggles to his feet, another prepares to leap from the chopper.

New Hampshire NG's Repel NVA Company

LZ JOE—The silent darkness of early morning enveloped nearly-deserted Landing Zone Joe, 17 miles southwest of An Loc. Infantrymen in sandbag bunkers peered through their firing ports at the black, forbidding jungle only 200 meters away.

They saw nothing; they knew better.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Woosh! — Three mortar flashes in the woodline cut through the quiet darkness and the attack was on.

"I was just coming off watch when the first rounds were fired," said Sergeant Yves Bissonnette. "I told FDC (fire direction control) the azimuth, then made it to our bunker. There was nothing we could do but wait out the mortar attack," he said.

Over 200 82mm rounds hit the base within 15 minutes. Then, suddenly, a ground attack by an NVA company began.

SGT Bissonnette and Corporal William Champagne immediately took up the fire from a berm with their M-16's and rattled off 1,600 rounds with an M-60 machine gun.

Meanwhile, SGT Richard Allard and SP4 James Jordan left the same bunker and joined with their New Hampshire National Guard unit in firing point-blank 155mm high explosive rounds at the fleeing enemy. Aerial Rocket Artillery and AC-47 gunships were also called in for support.

In less than an hour the battle was over. An NVA company had been repulsed, leaving eight enemy dead. Four NVA soldiers were detained.

At sunrise, giant CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters airlifted the artillery pieces to a new landing zone. Bunkers were dismantled; the artillerymen moved out.

LZ Joe was quiet once again.