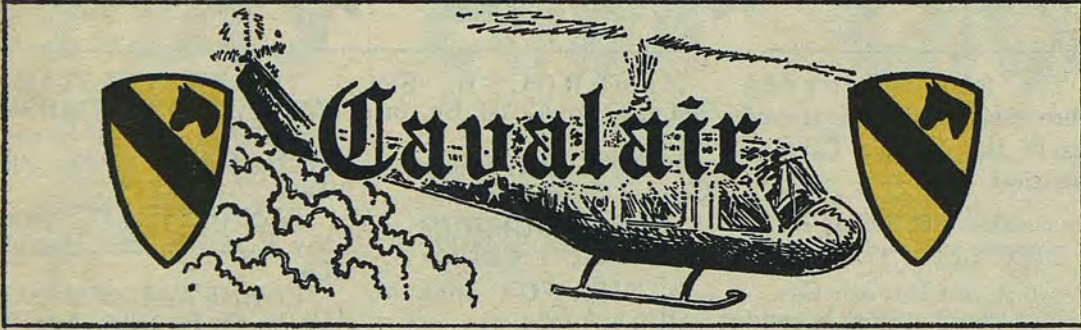


NVA Onslaught Fails At LZ



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1st Air Cavalry Division

June 11, 1969

Mongoose, 'Cobra': Pals

BY SP4 Richard Craig

TAY NINH — "Charlie" was determined to penetrate Tay Ninh West, the sprawling home of the Cav's 1st Brigade.

He slowly low-crawled toward the perimeter, his eyes to the front and side looking for signs that his presence might have been detected. As he neared the inner strands of barbed wire, he held his breath while two GIs walked in front, unaware that he was lurking a few feet from their position.

Then, with a burst of speed, he dashed through the flightline and toward the operations bunker. Charlie had passed the first hurdle. The tired old veteran drove on to complete his mission.

To the shock and disbelief of the men of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Aerial Rocket Artillery, he did.

In what is probably one of the most bizarre surrenders of the Vietnam war, Charlie crawled into the operations bunker, and lay there with a look of resignation on his face, calmly awaiting his fate.

"Charlie" is a very tired old mongoose.

"I was sitting by the radio when I thought I heard a noise behind me," said Sergeant Robert E. Westfall, "so I turned around, and there was this creature in the middle of the floor looking up at me. I started yelling to the office for someone to come and help me figure out what to do."

Just then, Specialist Four Robert M. Ferri and Private First Class Michael E. Gaul burst into the room.

"I looked at Bob, and I could see he was staring at the floor with a dull look on his face," said PFC Gaul. "So I followed his eyes to the floor, and there it was, just lying there."

Immediately a quarrel broke out, as the men tried to determine just what the creature was. PFC Gaul thought it was a skunk. SGT Westfall was certain it was an anteater with a short snout. Someone else thought it was an aardvark.

Just then, the voice of authority walked in. Sergeant First Class George R. Thompson knew what it was the minute he saw it. "It's a mongoose," he said.

Greatly relieved that his identity had been discovered, Charlie let out a hefty sigh.

The men soon decided, after a short period of debate, to let Charlie have a home, right there in the operations bunker. Charlie was so happy you could almost hear him crying.

"Right after he came to us," said SGT Westfall, "we noticed that he looked sort of sick. He'd come over to me and yank at my shoelaces until I got him water. And the only thing he'd eat was crackers and milk."

Concern soon turned to alarm as Charlie began going outside more and more frequently for fresh air. It was obvious that something had to be done, and the men wasted no time in rushing Charlie to the 15th Medical Battalion for the treatment he needed so urgently.

The doctor could hardly control his emotions as he broke the news to the apprehensive Skytroopers.

"Men," he said, "you have a very sick mongoose on your hands. Frankly, I don't think he's going to make it."

With heavy hearts and a fist-full of medication, the men brought Charlie back to the operations bunker.

Realizing that his friends were upset, and not wanting to cause them undue anguish, Charlie quietly expired in the arms of

SP4 Ferri on the way back to the unit.

Charlie was a good old mongoose, and his acceptance by the 1st Cavalry's Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) unit marked a milestone in mongoose-cobra relations. For even if it is a Huey Cobra attack helicopter unit, it did learn to accept a mongoose as an equal partner.

Today Charlie's final resting place can be seen as you ride through the battalion area. Quietly and unceremoniously, the men have renamed the spot "Mongoose Hill."

Six Hour Battle Rages At Jamie, 2/7 Holds

By CPT Peter Zastrow

LAI KHE—A desperate attempt by North Vietnamese regulars to storm a Cav firebase was repelled by Skytroopers May 11th.

The target was Landing Zone (LZ) Jamie, base camp of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry. When the sun rose after a furious night, 75 NVA bodies were counted on and around the LZ.

When a trip flare went off near the LZ at 12:45 a.m., no one was surprised. At 1:10 a.m. another trip flare sprang into the night; an observation post reported five individuals lying on the ground. Cavalrymen responded immediately by spraying the area with artillery and organic weapons fire.

At 2:40, the men at LZ Jamie knew the attack was for real. Between then and approximately 3 a.m., some 200 rounds of 107mm rockets and 60 and 82mm mortars slammed into the firebase.

In the midst of this deafening mortar and rocket barrage, the crackling of small arms fire was barely audible. From three sides the North Vietnamese poured toward the perimeter. "Just as the mortars were hitting, sappers blew the wire," said Ser-

geant Vaughn G. Hood, a squad leader with Company D, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav. "We opened up with M-60's, M-16's and claymores, and the 2nd Bn, 19th Arty fired at Charlie point-blank."

The concentrated enemy fire and the holes in the wire, blown by bangalore torpedoes, allowed the NVA to penetrate the wire and charge three of the perimeter bunkers. "They occupied three bunkers — our men moved in toward the TOC when they saw they would be overrun. There were at least 12 NVA in each bunker," said Sergeant First Class Durwood L. Potts.

Some of the bunkers had been built with cyclone fence surrounding them. "That fence saved our lives," said PFC Larry M. Huff. "The NVA got up to the fence, tried to blow it, but couldn't. We were able to direct mortar fire on the gap in the perimeter wire, and kept on firing all night long."

Atop another bunker was Specialist Four Larry Smet, armed with his M-60 machine gun. Only the machine gun and his hands could be seen over the top of the sandbags as he pumped round after exploding round into the charging enemy soldiers. Inside the bunker, the Skytroopers manning the firing ports shouted directions through the din.

Meanwhile, with the violent sounds of battle all around, three bunkers were filled with NVA. One bunker was decimated by direct 105mm howitzer fire. "There were enemy swarming all over those bunkers," said Specialist Four John W. Brock, "and the '105' just blew them — and the bunker — away."

Another bunker was retaken by the men of the battalion. "There were still a few NVA soldiers left," according to Master Sergeant David A. Vallee. "They threw in frags, and when those didn't do the job we went in and shot them."

Overhead, ARA (aerial rocket artillery) and the Air Force were in constant action. Air strikes and ARA filled the night with "beautiful sounds," in the words of one Skytrooper, and C-119 "Shadow" ships illuminated the night with their flares.

Even though all their flares had been expended, and despite the heavy ground-to-air fire bursting around them, the "Shadow" pilots continued to circle the area using their landing lights to provide the needed illumination.

It was 6:15 a.m. before the enemy had had enough and broke contact. Fifty-three NVA were left behind inside the perimeter, and as Delta Company, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav swept around the LZ that day, they found another 22 enemy bodies.



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

The Big Gun

A super wide-angle lens makes this self-propelled 175mm gun from Battery C, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery appear very formidable.

229th Business Cards

Tout 'Foxhole Service'

TAY NINH — Just like "Have Gun—Will Travel," the television western, the Skytroopers from Company B, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion have their own business card.

Major Olen D. Thornton, commander of the unit, got the idea of printing the cards from a Skytrooper in his company. "When I came into the unit in December some of my men had these cards," said MAJ Thornton. "One of the officers in the company had a friend who owned a printing press. We sent him a letter and had over 2,000 of the cards made."

Now the commanding officer hands them out to every new

member of the company he interviews. He also give the new Skytroopers some extras to give out to their 'customers'.

"We're proud of the job that we are doing," said MAJ Thornton. "And we like to advertise it. We get a charge out of handing them out and so do our 'customers'."

The business card advertises their "foxhole delivery service" at any time of the day, and rice paddy deliveries on call, with foggy peaks by appointment only.

Like any other business listed in the yellow pages of a telephone directory, Co B, 229th AHB is ready and willing.

Insurance	Page 2
Patrol	Page 3
Point man	Page 3
Pictorial	Pages 4-5
Reunion	Page 6
Wiffle	Page 7
Friendship	Page 8

Keep In Touch.....Join Cav Ass'n

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.



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

- SILVER STAR**
 BENGLER, 1LT Allan
 P. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
 BLEVINS, SP4 Marvin
 L. HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 CATRON, 1SG James
 Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
 CLEMENT, 1LT Gerald
 A. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
 CHAMBERS, SP4 Billy
 C. Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
 CONRAD, CPT Donald
 H. Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 DARRAH, CPT Stephen
 C. Co C, 229th Avn Bn
 FAUST, CPT Edmond L.
 III Battery A, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
 HANSON, SP4 Robert J.
 Co A, 13th Signal Bn
 HABOTTLE, SGT Michael
 L. Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 HARRISON, CPT Cecil
 Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav

- KIMBROUGH, SP4**
 Thomas Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
LENTZ, 1LT Robert C.
 Co C, 229th Avn Bn
- DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**
 ATNIP, WO-1 John M.
 HHC, 3rd Bde
 BEATTON, CPT Kit W.
 Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 BURT, WO-1 John C.
 Troop B, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 CARRICK, WO-1 James
 D. HHC, 3rd Bde
 CRISP, CW-2 Gary E.
 Co B, 229th Avn Bn
 HESS, WO-1 Gerald L.
 Co C, 229th Avn Bn
 HOLTER, MAJ John H.
 HHC, 2nd Bde
 MATHIS, WO-1 Gary T.
 Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 STAMI, WO-1 Robert
 E. Troop B, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 WEBSTER, WO-1 Gerald
 L. Co C, 229th Avn Bn

- THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM**
 ABRAMS, SSG Samuel
 Jr. Battery A, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
 BENNETT, PFC Timothy
 E. Co E, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 CARNEWAL, SP5 Achilles
 R. Co B, 229th Avn Bn
 COSTELLO, CPT John
 P. Co A, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 CRABTREE, SGT Bernard
 L. Co A, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 DUNFORD, SP4 Michael
 C. Co A, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 FRENCH, PFC Lawrence
 R. Co A, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 HART, SP4 Leslie J.
 Battery A, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
 LAIRD, SP4 Russell C.
 Co D, 229th Avn Bn
 MATTHEWS, SP4 Gary
 W. HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 MOSER, PSG Julius Jr.
 Co A, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav
 RATLUFF, CPL Randall
 B. Battery C, 1st Bn, 77th Arty
 SELLERS, SP4 William
 S. Co A, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 SMITH, SP4 Melvin Co
 C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 TINNEY, SP4 Thomas
 H. Co A, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav

New Health Insurance For ETSing Soldiers

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense has established a special, short-term health insurance program for servicemen being separated from active duty. Effective September 1, the new program will also cover their dependents.

Under present law and regulations, all health care benefits under Defense Department-sponsored programs end, both for the serviceman and his dependents, on the day he is released from active duty unless he is being retired.

Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird said that the new program evolved from a suggestion made to the Department last year by Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Chairman Rivers had proposed that the Defense Department develop, in cooperation with the health insurance industry, a short-term, low-cost health insurance policy which would be offered servicemen during separation processing and which would cover them for the following 90 days.

Under the new program, a serviceman initially will have a choice between two plans, one of which is being offered by Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the other by Mutual of Omaha. The Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan will include maternity benefits. The serviceman will pay the entire cost of whichever plan he chooses.

The amount he will be required to pay will depend on the particular coverage he selects and whether he obtains coverage for "self" or "self and family." The lowest charge will be \$16.50 for self only. For comprehensive coverage for self and family, including maternity benefits, the charge will be \$90.

Combat Artist's Program To Record Army Activity

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 Art Collection 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.

Big Blast At Bottom

TAY NINH — Sliding boards can be fun, but not when the bottom is lined with TNT.

Specialist Four Richard Gromley, a rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, was walking through a bunker-out bunker complex when he noticed one that seemed to have been recently used.

"We were going back to our night forward operations base," said SP4 Gromley. "I found this one bunker and it looked like it was used very recently. I got down by the entrance and started to look around."

The entrance had a steep rampway leading into a main portion of the bunker. As the Skytrooper started down the rampway with his M-16 in hand, he lost his footing on the slippery surface and started a long slide into the bunker.

A few seconds before the Skytrooper hit the bottom of the cache he made out the dark forms of sticks of TNT, mortar rounds and rocket-propelled grenades.

"When I saw those mortars the only thing I could think of was that the bunker was booby trapped," stated SP4 Gromley. "When I finally hit the bottom of the bunker I landed on my knees and extended my hand out to brace myself against the wall to keep me from flying into them."

The munitions cache contained over a hundred sticks of TNT, five 60mm mortar rounds and some rocket-propelled grenades. The cavalymen took a few of the captured rounds for intelligence purposes and the rest of it was blown in place.

"I don't remember saying anything when I found out it wasn't booby trapped," said SP4 Gromley. "But was I ever glad. That would have blown me sky high."



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



There are times when an individual needs a little more service to meet an Army commitment or obligation—maybe he needs only a matter of months. Possibly he feels that the time is just not "ripe" to reenlist for a number of years.

The Department of the Army provides authorized actions whereby a soldier may extend his enlistment or period of active duty, or amend his enlistment contract.

Enlistments and periods of active duty may be extended in monthly increments not to exceed 11 months. Regular Army enlisted members may amend their enlistment contract for a total period not to exceed six years. Amendments and extensions of enlistment may be combined so long as the total period does not exceed six years and 11 months.

Normally only one extension and one amendment will be authorized. Requests for amendment or extension to enlistment may not be accepted from persons who are transfer-processing for separation.

To amend or extend an enlistment, or to extend a period of active duty, the individual must be reenlistment qualified. A waiver for any disqualification must otherwise be obtained before an extension or amendment may be approved.

RA individuals who extend their enlistment are entitled to lump-sum payment for accrued leave. Payment is authorized on the date of the individual's original ETS. Those who amend their enlistment are not entitled to payment for accrued leave until the expiration of their amended enlistment. Travel allowances are payable only on discharge or separation following completion of an amendment or an extension of enlistment.

AUS personnel who extend their period of active duty are entitled to both travel allowance and lump-sum payment for accrued leave. Payment is authorized on completion of the period of service for which originally obligated to serve.



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Commanding General MG E.B. Roberts
Information Officer MAJ J.D. Coleman
Production Editor SP5 Steve Haldeman
Layout Editor SP5 Allan Schlosser

Pots Cook 'Charlie's' Goose

By SP4 Richard Craig

TAY NINH — What began as a routine patrol for the Recon Platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, soon led to the discovery of a large bunker complex and a contact with the enemy.

"We were sent out on a routine mission," said First Lieutenant Danny G. McGrew, platoon leader. "Aerial observers had spotted an enemy cache in the open and our job was to recover it."

Soon after recovering the 1,200 pounds of salt they had been sent after, the Command and Control chopper notified them it had spotted enemy cooking utensils about 75 meters from their position.

Walking towards the area, they ran into what was apparently an enemy lookout. The enemy soldier threw a Chicom (Chinese Communist) grenade at the platoon, and its shrapnel flew straight up in the air.

"We knew we were on to

something then," said the lieutenant.

As they approached the area where the pots and pans had been discovered, they found more than they had expected — a large bunker complex, complete with mess halls, classrooms and drinking wheels.

"I never saw anything like it," said Staff Sergeant Michael DeHart, the platoon sergeant. "The mess hall was big, and it had about three feet of overhead cover. There were benches in there, a large cooking area with

a hearth in the middle of it, and rice was still cooking on the stove when we busted in on them."

They also discovered many bunkers equipped with hammocks, slits for their weapons and ammunition and shelves for their personal possessions.

"And everywhere we went," said SSG DeHart, "we found NVA rucksacks. Some were filled with AK-47 ammo, others with extra fatigues, and even spare Ho Chi Minh sandals."

Suddenly, as they pushed through the enemy complex, they encountered intense small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire.

"We opened up on them," said Lieutenant McGrew, "but they were hitting us from three sides. I immediately called for air strikes, and attack helicopters were on station all the time. If it hadn't been for their rocket fire holding the enemy back, our luck may have run out."

Soon after the contact began, the friendly force began seeking

cover in preparation for the air strikes.

"When the Air Force got there, they provided close air support which sent the enemy running," said SSG DeHart.

Shortly after the air strikes, the platoon was extracted from the area.

"It was beautiful," said Sergeant Jesus S. Duran. "Usually the birds make one advance orbit of the pick-up zone before they come in. This time, they just came straight in, picked us up and got out in a hurry with their guns blazing."

"As far as I'm concerned," said 1LT McGrew, "the whole thing was a textbook performance from beginning to the end. The men performed just the way they should have, the helicopter gunships kept the enemy low, and the air strikes really brought it home to the enemy."

A sweep through the area revealed six NVA dead. Many bunkers and fighting positions were also destroyed.

Indian Scout Leads 1/12

By SP4 Eugene Christensen

PHUOC VINH—A good "Point Man" is hard to find. The men of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, feel they have one of the few "natural" point men in Vietnam.

A point man must learn his trade by walking point. He learns his trade by experience, by learning the unusual terrain features or furtive movement in the bush. He learns to spot danger before it happens.

One man with this experience is Sergeant Grover Johnson, a li-

censed Indian guide in the state of Minnesota. He is, in fact, a full-blooded Chippewa chief in his home state.

"It's important to be able to read the signs on a trail. To know how many men have travelled it and when," said Sergeant Johnson.

"Chief," as he is called by his buddies, is a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

"Not just the point man should be able to read these signs, but everyone in the field. Having

good eyesight and an acute sense of hearing are only a part of walking point," said Johnson.

"Vietnamese say we smell like sweet milk to them. And what helps the enemy, and sometimes confuses him too, is when a GI is wearing after shave lotion," said the "Chief."

Besides taking care of his own squad, "Chief" helps the company in other ways. He has been training men to walk "point."

"I believe there should be an experienced man up front," he said. "And I'll guarantee each of my men."

ARA Ships 'Spoilers' For Red AA Gunners

TAY NINH — The enemy was determined to win a victory, at any cost. And victory seemed within his grasp until the Cav's Huey Cobra attack helicopters spoiled his plans.

The gunships were returning to their base camp at Tay Ninh after a fire support mission, when the hum of their engines was momentarily broken by the crackle of their radios. The message was loud and clear — assist the 2nd ARVN Airborne Battalion.

Quickly changing course, one section of choppers flew to the contact area, led by First Lieutenant Donald McKinney and Warrant Officer Gary B. VanderVeen.

"When we got over the area," 1LT McKinney said, "it looked like the 4th of July. There were red and green tracers flying everywhere."

Just as they arrived, another section of Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) choppers reached the scene.

"I don't know how many anti-aircraft positions they had," said Mr. VanderVeen, "but we were drawing a lot of fire."

The pilots soon realized they couldn't stem the enemy ground attack and deal with his anti-aircraft fire at the same time. They quickly radioed the base camp for a "heavy section," a Cobra equipped with 2.75 inch rockets.

Within ten minutes of their call, Captain Melvin Finch and First Lieutenant Steve Roemer were on station.

"When we first got there," said Warrant Officer Thomas G. Porter, "we'd dive at one .50 caliber position, but we'd get laced with fire from another position. We confused them with the rocket ship. They never expected to run into a three-ship section."

The enemy pressure soon began to ease on the ARVN outpost.

As daylight approached, the enemy fled toward his jungle sanctuaries, and for the pilots and the Cav aviators, it had been a busy night.

The enemy had paid dearly for the inconvenience, leaving 24 of his men dead on the jungle battlefield, and indications that many more had been killed or wounded.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP5 P.J. Romine)

No C's Today

Skytroopers from Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry fill their plates with hot chow—a welcome break from C-rations.

Bather Loses Towel, Gives NVA Red Face

By SP4 Bob Smith

TAY NINH — A Skytrooper on his way to a bath lost his towel but saved his dignity after a shoot-out with a North Vietnamese soldier.

First Lieutenant Samuel W. Ault, a forward observer with Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery, was on his way down to a river to take a bath after a hot and dusty day of stomping through the "boonies."

"We moved into our night forward operations base in the afternoon," 1LT Ault said. "We dug in and it was pretty hot so we started out toward the river where we had an observation post."

The trail leading to the river had a very heavy undergrowth and bamboo. Before they got halfway there the Skytroopers noticed that it was unusually quiet, no birds or animals moving about, no noises at all.

"I felt real funny moving on

the trail," said 1LT Ault. "All of a sudden we heard some small arms fire. We didn't know if the OP was firing at us or what. So we all hit the dirt and crawled into the brush along the trail."

The shooting stopped in a minute and the small party continued on their way toward the river. All of a sudden an enemy soldier came running down the trail toward them.

"My jaw dropped down to my knees," said the forward observer. "When you come down to it he looked the same way. But I was a little quicker with my M-16 than he was with his AK-47."

After the shoot-out the lieutenant quickly took cover and started to move back toward the forward operations base. "I forgot all about the swim and bath for that day," said 1LT Ault. "Besides, I lost my towel and bar of soap when we encountered the enemy soldier."

Spoils Of Battle For Company B, 1/5



Skytroopers cautiously move down a trail toward a suspected cache sight.

It was an Easter egg hunt.

At least it seemed like one for the men of Company B, 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry when they recently uncovered three separate weapons and ammunition caches in one day in a deserted bunker complex 22 miles east of Tay Ninh.

After 22 days in the wait-a-minute vines and dense bamboo thickets, the last few days were the most profitable for the Company B "Mongoosees."

Three widely separated caches were located in an extensive bunker complex where Company B had made light contact with an unknown-size enemy force two days before.

It seemed at the time that the enemy was determined to keep the "Mongoosees" from entering the complex. The company commander, Captain Jay C. Copley, was just as determined to enter as was the enemy on keeping him out.

After a day of searching around the area of the complex to determine its size, he decided to enter and find out what the enemy was hiding.

With his company on line he began an eastward sweep into the bunker area. An initial report from the second platoon halted the move. A squad was checking out a covered bunker that lay directly in their path.

The point man had found an opening in the ground. "I saw it when I got on top of it. First I checked for booby trap wires. When I saw it was clear, I got down and looked into the hole and saw several small boxes stacked on top of each other. I could see it was a cache right then," explained SP4 Steven Cameau.

This initial cache yielded one heavy .30 caliber machine gun, two light .30 cal machine guns each with spare barrels, one 82mm bipod, 1800 7.62mm rounds, 5100 12.7mm rounds, 19 B-40 rockets, 41 60mm mortar rounds, miscellaneous mortar and RPG charges, and four ounces of liquid nitro.

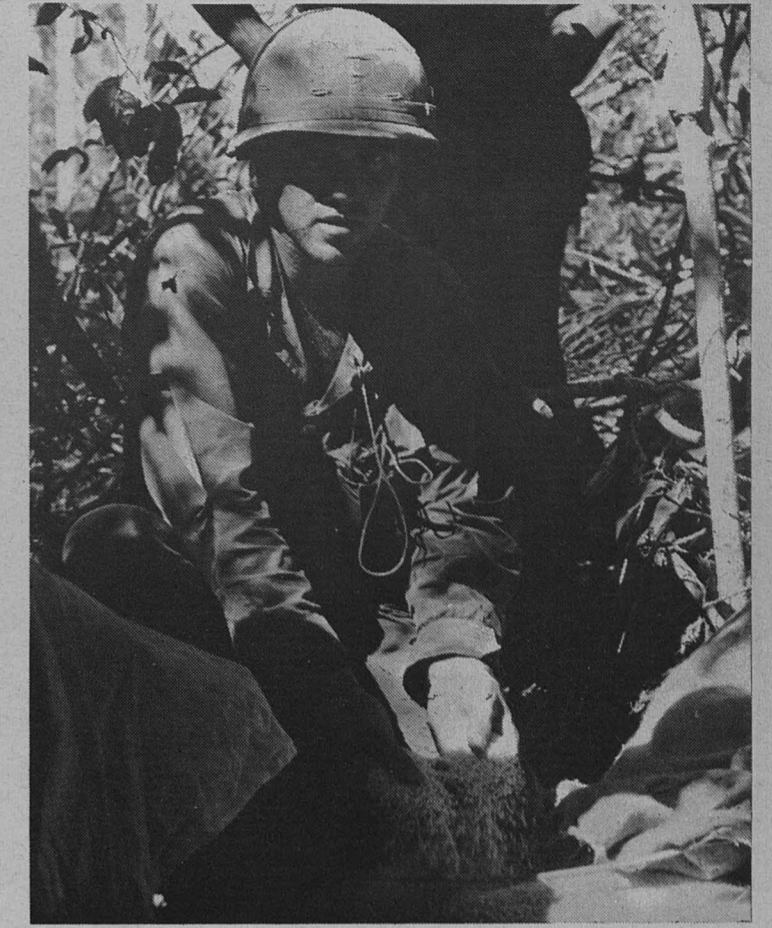
Early in the morning on the second day, the first platoon located another cache near a bomb crater. The cache was open. Its protective covering had been destroyed by the bomb blast. This cache revealed 117 RPG's.

The hunt was on and all eyes were alert. The sweep continued until the radio crackled that the first platoon had again uncovered something. This time it was 660 gallons of diesel fuel buried in the ground. The shovel crews began digging. Eleven 55 gallon-drums were finally unearthed. Wrapped in "det" cord and packed in C-4, the fuel made a high red and orange fireball.

Whose turn would it be next? Every platoon was finding a cache. Approximately two hours later and 200 to 300 meters from an enemy field kitchen, the third platoon unearthed the biggest find of the day.

Concealed beneath a cleverly constructed log and earth roof were 31,500 AK-47 rounds, 60 60mm rounds, 28 B-40 rockets, 13 120mm mortar rounds, 13 107mm mortar rounds, and 90 grenades.

When the men of Company B go out into the field again, they will be looking for the rabbit that hid all these eggs.

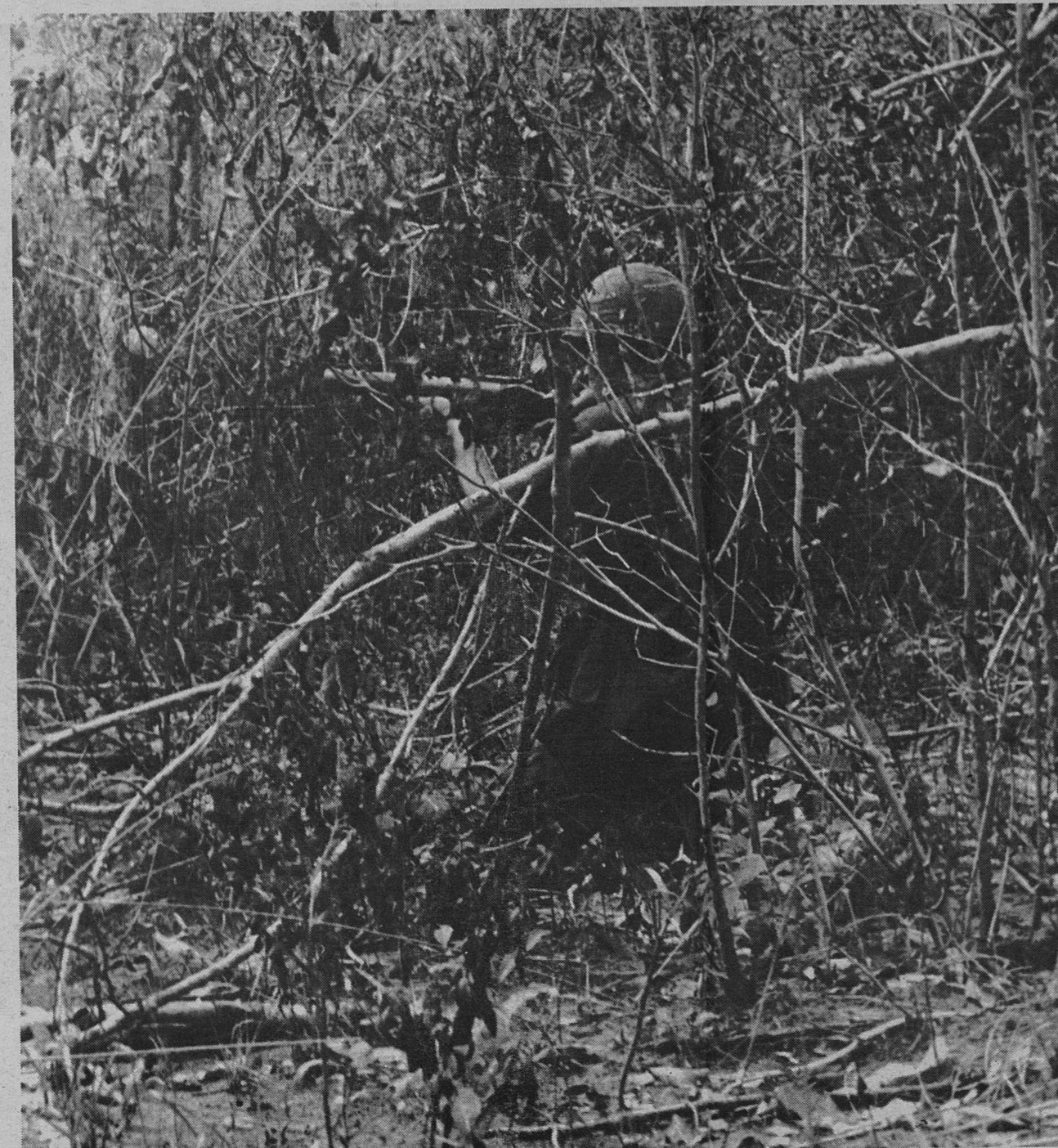


SGT Ron Hoskins passes captured B-40 rockets to SSG Tom Newbern (left photo) and SGT Hoskins empties a 100-pound sack of rice (right photo) at one of the three caches uncovered by men of the 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

Photos By
SP4 Ed Koehnlein



A bomb crater similar to this one hid one of the three caches.



With his sudden barrage of automatic weapons fire, 'Charles' unwittingly admits he has plenty to hide. A Skytrooper replies in kind with his M-79.



A shower, clean fatigues, and a cold drink await these Skytroopers after a mission well done.

Fly From Singapore To Saigon

Parents Reunite With Son Following Hectic Search

By CPT Frank Carrara
SAIGON — "We were just too close to go home without even trying."

With those words in their minds, Mr. and Mrs. Roger B. Hearne strode up to the ticket agent in Singapore and asked for two tickets to Saigon. With the tickets in hand, the first step toward a family reunion was completed, but the battle to meet their son was hardly won.

The drama continued to unfold as the slightly greying Mr. Hearne sought assistance from newsmen of the American Broadcasting Company. It was then that the reunion got rolling in the right direction.

ABC referred the Hearnes to Captain Steve Pembroke, who is the contact man for USARV with members of the press. Captain Pembroke's office telephoned the Cav Information Office, where Major J.D. Coleman, division information officer, located Warrant Officer Maury W. Hearne's unit — Company A,

227th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

Originally, the family was to have met when WO Hearne went on R&R, but things didn't work out. Thus began the flight from Singapore to Saigon, and a reunion.

"I had just finished flying a 10-hour log mission," said the 21-year-old aviator, "and when I returned to the company area that night there was a note waiting for me, which said my parents were in Saigon."

The following morning a courier helicopter delivered the smil-

ing, slender pilot to the Saigon Heliport at Tan Son Nhut Airport. He chased down a taxi to begin the final leg of his journey.

After finally getting together at the hotel that day, there was a big dinner that evening, and sight-seeing the following day. The Hearnes would then go home to the United States, where they would wait less than 100 days for their son's return.

Even after being with her son for more than a day, all the contented mother could say was, "I still can't believe it."



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

Hi Mom!!!

WO Maury W. Hearne of Company A, 227th AHB explains the Vietnamese custom of bartering to his mother.

LZ Dolly—Home To Some, Combat Front For Others

By SP4 Dave Wolfe

LAI KHE — State flags from California, Oregon and Maryland, as well as a Confederate flag, flutter in the breeze above the Cav landing zone located high above the Saigon River Valley. Uncle Sam's banner flies conspicuously above the rest.

One's first impression of the place is that there's a striking contrast created by the barrenness of the area, as compared to the thick vegetation which surrounds it. Buildings and shelters made of sandbags and ammunition boxes hug the ground everywhere. Men work constantly in a beehive of activity. Outgoing artillery rounds, incoming helicopters, chain-saws cutting down trees, and the sound of generators and hammers provide the audible backdrop for the scene.

Landing Zone (LZ) Dolly is wide awake and open for business 24 hours a day, every day. The men of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, who live and work here, do not lead hum-drum existences. They are busy men, whether they are ramming rounds into a 155mm howitzer or working on a two-man sanitation crew cleaning the area.

Three-quarter ton trucks and "mules" (half-ton platform trucks) move artillery rounds from a helicopter pad to their positions near the guns. Men perform flight control from a tall observation tower located in the middle of the complex, and stand guard from bunkers which skirt the LZ. Laundry hangs upon any available wire, rope or building. Large, broken rocks and burned tree stubble cover the ground. Crude chairs, picnic tables, washstands and cabinets, one-man shower stalls, some of which show definite carpentry ability, and hammocks dot the area. And dusty, rock-lined walkways lead to the command bunkers and landing pads.

Home of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery, and Battery B, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery, LZ Dolly is the rear area for the infantrymen of the 1st Bn., 5th Cav. The artilleryman establishes his daily life and routine here, while the infantryman returns here to rest after his stint in the field. Both live and work side by side.

Some call the LZ a "short-timer's position," Sergeant Dieter Heckel says, "For infantryman, it's a paradise. There are no holes to dig, you get hot chow, and you don't carry heavy packs and hump while you're here." Sergeant Heckel will soon leave Vietnam, and has enjoyed "the semi-comforts of home" at this and other LZs. He is appreciative of their existence.

A man returning from the field to any landing zone has the opportunity to rest, possibly for as long as one or two days. After he has chased the "sand man" from his eyes, he returns to duty as a guard or detail man during the remaining time before his unit again moves out. But he still maintains that Dolly is a pleasant place. Specialist Four Henry B. Hughes says, "Dolly's as good as any LZ I've ever been to. It may be a little dirty, but that can't be helped. But it's definitely a very good break from the action in the field."

The man permanently assigned at the LZ also makes positive statements. Private First Class Richard Carrano refers to it as "Fort Dolly." He said, "She's located in a beautiful position, and the nights are cool because of the altitude. It's also pretty much the center of attraction right now, because of the action near here, so we know pretty much what's going on."

Dolly may be a unique LZ due to her geographic location on a hill, but the purpose of this or any other LZ remains the same.

Master Sergeant John E. Garrison, operations sergeant, explained that the primary mission of the 1st Cavalry's landing zones is to be centrally located so that they are in a position to block infiltration routes. Extensive operation throughout the Cav's large area of operation has spread out the LZs and the companies assigned to them, but not so much that it affects their efficiency.

Sergeant Garrison continued, saying, "I feel this (Dolly) is the best firebase we've ever set up. We have most of the things they have in the rear. And besides, we have no mosquitoes on this hill."

Constant resupply to the LZ by Chinook (CH-47) helicopters provides them with necessary supplies and ammunition. Water, mail and clean clothes for those returning from the field are only a part of the materiel these big birds provide. THE FIRST TEAM'S division band is transported by Chinook to Dolly and the other LZs as often as possible. This is only one of the pleasures provided to the men. Some even have television for watching their favorites, "Combat" and "Bonanza."

A great deal of time and effort is spent building or improving bunkers and hooches. Men are currently working long hours preparing for the upcoming monsoon season by digging runoff ditches and spreading plastic and canvas for water-proofing.

Overlooking Nui Ba Den Mountain, LZ Dolly is the product of hard work and perseverance. A mecca to some, and a combat front to others, Dolly is their home, and a way of life. The stark barrenness evident there is what makes a lasting impression. But you can never forget the tremendous effort and sacrifice the men must make as they go about their daily routine.

Pilots Earn DFC

TAY NINH — The platoon had completed its mission, and was awaiting extraction from the small pick-up zone (PZ). As the choppers lifted off the ground with their cargo of tired infantrymen, Communist fire downed two of the aircraft.

As the two aircraft hit the ground, the crews and troopers hastily set up a perimeter around the burning helicopters, and began returning fire at the encircling enemy force.

Overhead, two light observation helicopters (LOHs) from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry looked at the situation and decided on a course of action.

"I heard a call for MEDEVAC from the troops below," said First Lieutenant Robert S. Blutworth. "When I looked down, I could see that a MEDEVAC bird would have a rough time getting in there. That's when we decided to make a go of it."

Followed by First Lieutenant Donald P. Frederick, the two LOHs braved intense enemy fire and edged their way into the small clearing, narrowly averting trees and brush surrounding the area.

After landing their choppers, the crews of both aircraft ran toward the injured infantrymen and placed them on the helicopters, despite intense heat from the burning aircraft and a heavy volume of enemy small arms fire.

As Lieutenants Blutworth and Frederick lifted their ships skyward to MEDEVAC the injured soldiers, men from both crews set up machine guns near the tree line and provided additional security for the rest of the element. Finally, lift ships arrived and extracted the friendly force.

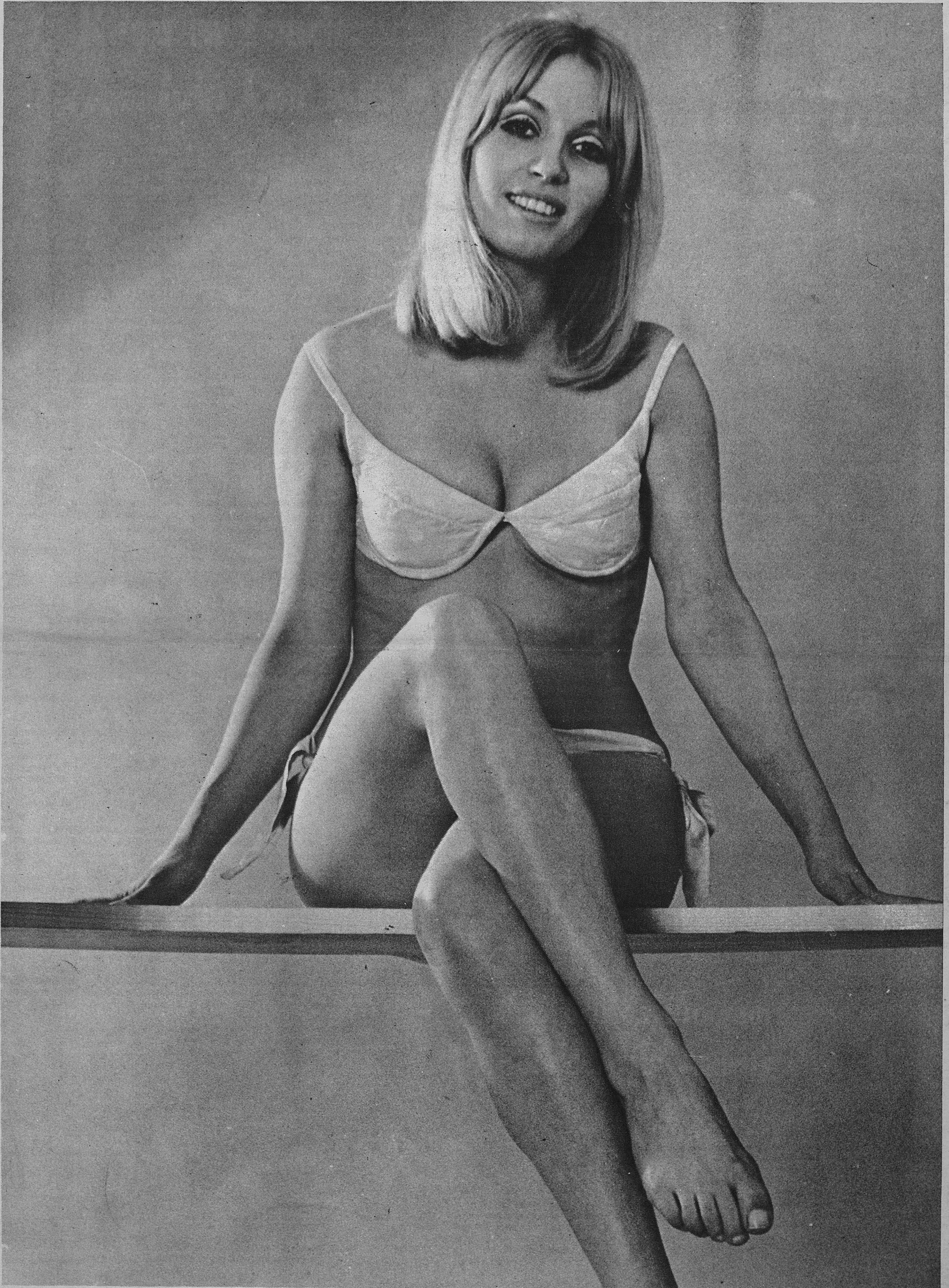
For their action, 1LT Blutworth and 1LT Frederick received Distinguished Service Crosses.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP5 Luke Wolfe)

Honored LTs

1LT Robert Blutworth accepts the Distinguished Flying Cross during ceremonies at Tay Ninh. He and 1LT Donald Frederick (on Blutworth's right) were honored for an heroic MEDEVAC mission.



And On This Shelf . . .

We have one each (1 ea) Wiffle Donkey. Specifications: 5'-2" blonde, 34-24-35 and 24 years-old. Previous editions are not obsolete.

Friendship Council Prime Mover In Viet Civic Help

By SP4 Al Persons

It is a generally accepted fact that the war in Vietnam cannot be won on the battlefield alone; the winning side must have the support of the Vietnamese people.

Winning the support of the local inhabitants involves such things as giving them reason to trust us in our overall war effort and bearing in mind to whom the country of Vietnam belongs.

"One of the best ways we have found to accomplish this," said

Major Roday Finkle, Civil Affairs Officer for the 1st Cav, "is through the Friendship Council, a monthly meeting we hold between representatives of different units within the Cav and some prominent local citizens. The council is designed primarily for Vietnamese and Americans to get together and discuss mutual problems and assist each other in solving them. This, on the whole, promotes a better relationship between the two.

"The topics of discussion," MAJ Finkle continued, "are not

limited to social problems. They also go into our business relations. Because of this the Vietnamese representatives are not limited to such people as village and hamlet chiefs but also consist of many of the local businessmen.

"Many of the problems discussed during the council," said the major, "are of the nature of civic action within the community and the relationship between the GI and the Vietnamese citizens.

"For example, during the meeting held on April 27th," he continued, "the main Vietnamese representative was Major Nguyen Manh Cuong, District Chief of Phu Giao, which contains the village of Vinh Hoa, which in turn includes the hamlet of Phuoc Vinh.

The chief U.S. representative was Lieutenant Colonel Angelo Perri, deputy installation coordinator. In the discussion, it was brought up that the drainage system of the marketplace needed improvement. As a result of the talk, it was decided that the proper authorities on the matter would look into the situation and decide what could be done.

"They also discussed the inoculation of some of the animals, but that only took a short time, because we always assist the Vietnamese in matters like that," MAJ Finkle continued.

"The final topic was the proposed joint Vietnamese-American military police patrol in Phuoc Vinh. Both sides thought that this was a good idea. However, they decided to let the proper authorities discuss the idea at a later date.

"During almost every meeting," said MAJ Finkle, "something is accomplished. We therefore think each meeting is another step toward peace in Vietnam."



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Eric White)

Lifeblood

A 15th Med Bn Medic administers plasma to a Skytrooper wounded in fierce fighting. The MEDEVAC technique has revolutionized medical care in Vietnam.



Helping Hand Following LZ Fight Yields 29 Detainees

By SP4 Richard Craig

TAY NINH — Decimated by superior American firepower, the enemy force beat a hasty retreat through the jungle.

Inside the camp's tiny perimeter, the American defenders from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry quickly prepared to make a sweep of the battlefield, as men reflected over the night's events.

The small 1st Cav firebase was hit by an enemy regiment during the night. Four hours later, at first light, the enemy was gone, leaving 101 dead behind. And even as the enemy fled into the jungle, he was riddled by Huey Cobra helicopters and artillery fire.

Now on the other side of the wire lay 29 enemy soldiers. They too were doing a lot of thinking, and the American defenders knew it.

That's when the Vietnamese Army (ARVN) interpreters came in.

"We woke up at 4 a.m. and went to the Civil Affairs Office for a briefing," said Sergeant First Class Le Tam, Civil Affairs interpreter for the 1st Brigade. "Then we made a tape for an early morning PSYOPS (Psychological Operations) mission, and we flew over the area around LZ Carolyn playing the message."

The message was simple enough: Surrender, and you will receive food and medical attention; continue to fight, and you will face the same inevitable fate as your comrades.

"We were out at first light," said Specialist Four Anthony J. DeFillippo, "looking for enemy soldiers. I looked into a bunker, and there were six NVA in it. They started screaming and waving their hands in the air. I ordered them to come out. I think they were just happy to be alive. It's as though they didn't believe it."

Sergeant Lawrence C. Bates spotted one enemy soldier trying to hide in a trench. "I screamed at him. I told him to come out, and he raised himself out of the hole. Just as I started to walk toward him, he blew a satchel charge he had strapped on his back. I guess he thought that if

he was going to go, he wanted to take some of us with him."

As the morning wore on, the combination of ARVN interpreters and American infantrymen detained 29 enemy suspects.

Detainees described best the feelings of the North Vietnamese regulars. "He said," related SFC Le, "that he was tired of seeing his friends die all around him, and he was tired of hiding from the American helicopters and soldiers."

Many of the suspects seemed to be stunned by the treatment they received after their detention. As promised, they promptly received medical attention and food.



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

On The Hump

Watching both flanks for 'Chuck,' Skytroopers from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry pick their way through the jungles of War Zone C.

Training Program Whets Skills Of Barbara Grunts

By SP4 Bob Smith

TAY NINH — There is one place in War Zone C where a mistake won't cost you your life. Veteran Skytroopers have instituted a training program where men can sharpen their combat skills by learning from previous mistakes.

The training site is Landing Zone Barbara, a small fire support base set in the shadows of Nui Ba Den Mountain. There a

unit from the 1st Brigade can come into the landing zone for training.

The program usually takes five days, three of which are used for actual training exercises. There a new man can sit down beside a seasoned veteran and pick up a few life-saving tips for the field. The training ranges from patrolling tactics to classes given on the care and cleaning of equipment.

"The idea of having this training exercise is about the best thing that I've seen," said Captain Henry Calavita, commander of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. "This training gives my men a chance to brush up on things that may have slipped their minds. It is also great for new men coming into our unit. We can take them out on the ambush trail and show them exactly what to do. If they didn't have this training they might make a mistake that would cost them their lives and maybe the lives of their buddies."

Besides having the classes on ambush techniques and patrols, the training program has ranges where the men can zero an M-16 or an M-60 machine gun. Also available are areas where they give instructions on demolition techniques and the use of claymores and other base defense weapons.

There are always different classes going on at the same time. Some members of the company will have actual classes while the others will be on patrols around the base to make sure that 'Charlie' isn't planning anything for the base. The patrols around the base are strictly business.

Before the five days have passed all the men in the company will have attended all the classes. This just proves the old saying that "You're never too old to learn."