



Vol. 3, No. 23

1st Air Cavalry Division

June 4, 1969



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

Breath Of Life

Medics of the 15th Medical Battalion minister to a wounded Skytrooper.

MEDEVAC Saves Lives

By SP4 Bob Smith

TAY NINH — The 10 or 20 meters between the medical station and the MEDEVAC pad seemed like inches as the litter team streaked across it in a few seconds to unload a wounded Skytrooper from a chopper.

The call was received that a 1st Brigade unit was in contact and had suffered casualties.

"It all starts with the unit in the field," said Specialist Five Larry J. Blanks, a communications chief and radio-telephone operator with Company A, 15th Medical Battalion. "The RTO in the field notifies his battalion, and from there they call us. As soon as we receive the call at the station we quickly get a chopper pilot and his crew on their way."

No matter what time of day or night, the MEDEVAC crew is always ready to take off at a moment's notice. There is no room

in their operation for a person who is slow or maintains a "Just don't give a damn" attitude. Men's lives depend on whether a crew responds with maximum effort in all emergency calls.

The MEDEVAC crew is only half of the people involved. After the crew has picked up the wounded men and brought them back to the hospital, the task of keeping them alive falls on the doctors and medics.

"As soon as we see the chopper making its approach, the litter teams run out and start to bring the wounded in," said Specialist Five Gerald Archer, a medic with the unit. "We have six teams in all to work on the wounded men. Our work here is usually of the less serious nature. We may give transfusions and intravenous injections. Also we sometimes treat the men for burns.

"If the wounded are too

serious for our medical facilities to handle, we immediately evacuate them to a surgical hospital," SP5 Archer added. "Sometimes we find out ahead of time the wounded man is in critical shape, and we have the MEDEVAC crew get him right over to a surgical hospital without stopping here."

Once the wounded man has made it to the med station, the chances for him to pull through have increased greatly. "If it wasn't for the MEDEVAC teams, a lot of the wounded men would never pull through," stated Specialist Six Connie Pierson, senior cast specialist. "If you were to break it down to percentages, I would say that 95 per cent or more of the men MEDEVACed into here will pull through. The MEDEVAC mission today is the fastest it has ever been. You would have a

(Continued on Page 8)

At Landing Zone Carolyn

Massive Ground Attack Thwarted, 101 NVA Killed

SP4 Al Persons

LZ CAROLYN—The perimeter guards peered silently into the darkness, expecting something to happen. Shortly after midnight, a trip flare went off outside the wire and a B-40 rocket slammed inside the perimeter.

Landing Zone Carolyn, a 1st Air Cavalry Division firebase north of Tay Ninh, was under attack.

The explosion was followed by many more B-40 and 107mm rockets and heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire during a ground attack by an unknown-size enemy force.

"At first, there was nothing within my sights," said Specialist Four Gordon R. Loder, a rifleman with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, "but the next thing I knew, there were large groups of them coming directly toward us. I put my M-16 on fully automatic and just started firing into the masses."

Although the enemy eventually succeeded in penetrating the perimeter and occupying six bunkers, the fierce counter-attack launched by the Skytroopers convinced the NVA that their attempt at seizing LZ Carolyn was lost.

"There were several NVA in the bunker ten feet to the front of our gun position," said PFC Jerry Peck, assistant gunner with Section 6, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery. "Four of them began to jump over our berm, and I throw satchel charges into the pit. But I killed three of them before they could make it."

"SP4 Thomas D. Pullen kept 'Charlie' off our backs with his M-16 so we could continue to pump rounds from our 155mm howitzer," continued PFC Peck. "The 'grunts' then came through and swept the remaining NVA back from the bunker."

PFC Peck was presented the Silver Star the next day by MG E.B. Roberts, division commander.

Cobra helicopters were in constant flight around the perimeter, spraying 2.75-inch rockets and minigun fire on the enemy.

"All of our sections went out at least two or three times," said WO1 Richard A. Chapman, a pilot from Battery A, 2nd Battalion (ARA), 20th Artillery. "There were .51 caliber positions all over the place with a lot of people down there shooting at us. One slug almost put my ship out of action."

During the fighting, a four-man listening post was stranded outside the perimeter. They made their way in at dawn without taking any casualties.

"We were right in the middle of it," said PFC Scott J. Solomon, of Company C, 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. "The enemy knew we were out there but they couldn't find us. The rounds from the ARA birds were exploding all around us. We were lucky to make it back."

Under the cover of machine gun and small arms fire the enemy withdrew, leaving behind 101 dead and 29 detainees.

2/5 Gunner Charges Enemy Position Alone

By SP4 Richard Craig, Jr.

TAY NINH — The troopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division experienced a human wave attack 18 miles northwest of here recently, but it was an attack with a novel twist.

The attack was not launched by the enemy, and it consisted of only one man —, Sergeant Jesus S. "Poncho" Duran, machine gunner for Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

It all started out as a routine patrol, but soon after discovering a large enemy bunker complex, the platoon began receiving heavy small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire. As the cavalrymen fell to the ground and began laying a base of fire, the lead machine gunner was hit by enemy fire.

"I knew we had to have a machine gun to the front," said Staff Sergeant Michael DeHart, platoon sergeant of the recon platoon, "so I ran down and got Poncho. But I wasn't the only one who knew he was going to the head of the column. As we ran up there, the NVA opened up with everything but sticks and stones. Poncho kept firing though, he just wouldn't quit."

As the intensity of the contact increased, the platoon began to head towards an old bomb cra-

ter, with Poncho providing cover all the way.

Tactical air strikes were called in, and they forced the enemy to flee, leaving an estimated squad-size element to cover their retreat.

"We were pinned down pretty tight, and we needed a MEDEVAC bird pretty bad," said Lieutenant Danny G. McGrew, the platoon leader. "On top of that, we were getting ready to be helicopter-extracted, and we were trying to break contact."

As the friendlies prepared for extraction, an enemy machine gunner attempted to sneak up on their position. His efforts were frustrated when Poncho jumped from the bunker and, firing his M-60 machine gun from the hip, cut the enemy gunner down.

"I knew he was up there, so I let him have it," Poncho said. "That's when I saw the muzzle flashes from the squad that had us pinned down."

Running toward the enemy positions, in a virtual one-man assault, he fired his remaining ammunition while other members of the unit supported him.

The onslaught was too much for the enemy, so they broke contact and sought asylum in the thick jungle surrounding the bunker complex.

COMMANDER'S CALL

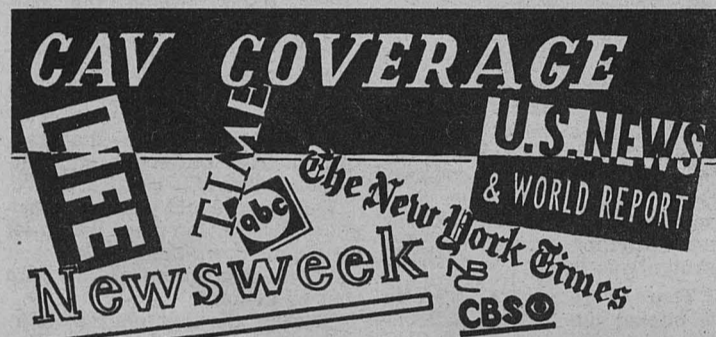
Since the day I received THE FIRST TEAM colors and the responsibility of command I have traveled throughout the division and I want you to know how impressed I am with your combat professionalism.

I have had the honor to be associated with this division during its testing phase as an air assault division and then as it entered battle in Vietnam four years ago as the 1st Air Cavalry Division. THE FIRST TEAM has grown and matured since then and in the short time I have been back it is obvious to me that here on the battle fields of III Corps the division is meeting its toughest challenges. The intensity of combat has increased, (especially in the last few weeks), and our mission has never been more clear or more difficult.

The future holds much challenge and opportunity for THE FIRST TEAM. The going will be difficult, but your individual and collective efforts will overcome those difficulties.

I want you to know how proud I am to be your commander and to be on THE FIRST TEAM again. I am anxious to meet each of you and am proud to join you in the fight. Best wishes for continued good hunting.

E. B. Roberts
E. B. ROBERTS
 Major General, USA
 Commanding



(Editor's Note: "Cav Coverage," a new department in the CAVALAIR, will feature articles about the division which have appeared in news media back home. This week we are pleased to reprint "Taking Command in Crisis, Major Saves a Battalion," written by Robert Kaylor of United Press International, from the Washington Star of March 9th.)

LZ GRANT — The sun glared through a haze of dust and a tattered American flag flew from atop a sandbagged bunker as Maj. Billy Brown, 30, of Ft. Benning, Ga., told about the battle.

Brown spoke calmly with the same kind of coolness in which he had taken command when things were at their worst early yesterday.

It was just after midnight when Brown ran to the heavily fortified command bunker at the 1st Air Cavalry Division base and found it demolished by a direct hit.

Inside, the battalion commander was dead. Other Americans were dead and dying around him.

As many as 500 North Vietnamese troops were trying to blast their way through the barbed wire surrounding the camp.

Takes Command in Crisis
 Brown, a slow-speaking man who had been operations officer of the battalion, found himself in charge.

"The colonel was lying just about where I left him, sitting in a chair in front of the map board," Brown said. "Our intelligence sergeant was lying wounded under a table. A radio operator was wounded and flat on his back but still talking on the radio."

Brown has seen a lot in two tours of duty in South Vietnam, and he knew what had to be done. He took command and began to coordinate air strikes, artillery and an Air Force "drag-ship" armed with machine-guns to fight off the North Vietnamese.

The result was 77 North Viet-

namese bodies counted in the barbed wire perimeter of the camp and outside it, and another 12 spotted by aircraft farther away.

He told how the Communists had blasted their way through the outer strands of barbed wire with bangalore torpedoes, how the Americans had resisted the urge to detonate their claymore mines and killed them all with small arms fire.

The claymores were saved for a second assault which never came.

Blown Out of Bunker

One of the men of whom Brown spoke proudly was Sergeant Major Leland Robinson, 37. He was in the command bunker when it was hit and was blasted outside.

"It just turned dark in there all of a sudden," Robinson recalled. "And I wound up outside in a pile of sandbags."

"It's amazing. You kind of pick yourself up and it dawns on you what really happened. It must take split seconds for all this but it seems like a long, long time."

Robinson ignored two shrapnel wounds in his foot and ran back into the bunker, helping the wounded and joining Brown in getting things organized.

Another hero was Private First Class Monte R. Martin, 20, of Sand Springs, Okla., a draftee who has only two weeks of combat under his belt.

Martin was at a listening post outside the wire when the battle started. He and four buddies started back for the base when flares lighted the area.

"We could see a whole bunch of NVA laying in the grass around us," Martin recalled. "They didn't see us right away and we started working out way up the road to the base."

As they tried to get through the wire, two men were killed. Martin and the other two Americans fell back, killing three North Vietnamese with rifles and grenades on the way. They finally made it through the wire about three hours later.



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

- SILVER STAR**
- BOATNER, CPT Phillip C.**
Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- BONNETT, WO-1 Roy F. JR.**
HHC, 2nd Bde
- DAVIS, SP4 Harold**
Co B, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- HACKETT, PFC Daniel Harold**
Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- HEIMER, CPT Allen E.**
HHC, 2nd Bde
- CARTER, SP4 Donnie H.**

Horse's Mouth

Dear Hoss,
 I'm a "grunt" and plan to stay in the Army for awhile. I've heard that there is a great need for infantry officers. How could I go about getting a commission?

Career Soldier

Dear Career:
 There are several routes to that commission. There is the Direct Commission Program, which is outlined in AR 135-100 and DA Circular 601-24. This program is open for qualified warrant officers and enlisted personnel grades E-5 through E-9.

There is the OCS program, which is open to all qualified enlisted men. Details of the program are in AR 135-100 and AR 601-226.

If you want an excellent education to go with that commission, the U.S. Military Academy may be just the thing. Application procedures are prescribed in AR 350-55.

HOSS

Dear Hoss,
 If a Skytrooper serves two months in Vietnam, then reenlists and takes his thirty-day leave, does he have to spend an extra month in country?

Curious

Dear Curious:
 I guess it's all in the way you look at it. If a serviceman falls into the qualifying category for reenlistment and the 30-day leave and takes advantage of it, then 30 days are added to his rotation date. The leave is non-chargeable accumulation. You will be out of country for 30 days but it doesn't count toward your normal 12 months in country.

HOSS

Hi Hoss,
 I want to know why F.O.'s don't get the CIB or such a medal of their own for their efforts in the field. They deserve something like that just as much as any "grunt."

Left Out

Dear Left:
 If I remember correctly, an award was proposed of this nature sometime ago, but I understand it was disapproved. However, should you be an F.O., you may, with concurrence of your infantry battalion commander, be awarded a secondary MOS of 11B, 11C, etc. You may be awarded the CIB in the secondary MOS if the situation calls for it.

HOSS

- Co B, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- LITTLE, MAJ John A.**
- Co D, 227th Avn Bn
- MACMILLAN, LTC William D.**
- HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
- MEAGER, CPT Robert C.**
- Co C, 2nd 7th Cav
- TURNER, SGT Gary D.**
- Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- WICKHAM, LTC John A. JR.**
- HHC, 5th Bn, 7th Cav
- DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**
- ATNIP, WO-1 John M.**
- HHC, 3rd Bde
- BEATTON, CPT Kit W.**
- Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- BLAZOWSKI, WO-1 Paul J.**
- HHC, 1st Bde
- CARRICK, WO-1 James D.**
- HHC, 3rd Bde
- CLARK, WO-1 John M.**
- Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- CRISP, CW-2 Gary E.**

- Co B, 229th Avn Bn
- CULLER, SP4 Gerald L.**
- HHC, 2nd Bde
- DOOLEY, CW-2 James D.**
- Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- LUNT, SP5 William F.**
- HHC, 2nd Bde
- MATHIS, WO-1 Gary T.**
- Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- REYNOLDS, SP4 Martin D.**
- Troop B, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- TUTTLE, WO-1 Fredrick M.**
- Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM**
- BATES, SP4 Bobby G.**
- Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- BATY, SP4 Bruce D.**
- Co C, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav
- BLACK, CPT Hugh M.**
- Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- GROVES, SGT Jesse G.**
- Co B, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav

...For God And Country

Chaplain (LTC) Thomas H. Scott
 Division Chaplain

"Stretch" is a word that has come to symbolize the American society.

We are buying stretch shirts, stretch pants and stretch socks while at the same time attempting to stretch our pocketbooks. Farmers on the plains are still stretching fences and Cubs' fans still long for that seventh-inning stretch. Grandpas everywhere are still stretching their fishing tales and unfortunately some Las Vegas tourists are still stretching their luck too far. Soldiers in Vietnam can and must stretch too. We've got to stretch up, out and down.

We must stretch just a little bit taller. When we learn to stretch upward we can see what's ahead of us and, just as important, what's behind us. Foresight is imperative. It's a good soldier who can plan ahead and anticipate what's in store for him.

Not too long ago a vast highway interchange was completed in northern New York. A few minutes after the gala ribbon-cutting and speech-making someone realized something was drastically wrong — one exit was missing. We must plan our own lives with foresight; insurance against missing details is vital. It's a good man who can

look behind him and evaluate his past experiences and strengthen his foundations with fallen fragments of his past.

We must stretch out, open our arms and reach. People who live in closets have too many hang-ups. Soldiers in Vietnam must learn to study their climate, their fellow soldiers, their new neighbors. The field troopers must know how the RTO, the point man, the grenadier, and everyone else's tasks are performed, just as the clerk-typist must know how every element in his office performs. We must reach out and grasp all that bids us wisdom.

Finally, and most important, we must stretch our foundation roots downward. We must embed our faith in God. The deeper our supporting roots, the taller we will be able to stand and the wider we will be able to reach. God will give the needed impetus for us to stretch and He will provide support to our foundation that we may not stretch too far and fall. We must only believe in Him, obey Him and trust in Him.

So, tomorrow morning when you awake and begin to stretch, continue and don't stop. You'll be surprised just how far you can reach.



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Private On Reconnaissance-In-Force

Volleys Grenade With NVA

By SP4 Dave Wolfe

LAI KHE — The terrain had been badly torn by B-52 bombings but the trail was clearly cut through the dense jungle. Nature was being cruel to the men of Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry as they trudged through their reconnaissance-in-force mission for the Cav's 2nd Brigade.

Intense heat and brightly shining sun scorched the backs of each man, creating salty sweat that burned the eyes with each step. It was tough, and no contact had been made.

They kept moving in pursuit of the enemy. Movement was heard up ahead, and everyone instinctively hit the dust-covered trail. Grime covered their backs as each man lay quietly, while flanking soldiers determined what had caused the noise. They were soon on their feet and moving again, but the false alarm had brought everyone back to the reality of the situation.

The bomb craters became increasingly frequent. Trees were bent and twisted, giving the jungle an eerie look, like something out of a bad dream. The point man, Private First Class Raymond Snell and those following him struggled over or around the trees in their relentless search for the enemy.

A log (logistics) bird was coming in, but they had another kilometer of hard humping ahead of them through thick vines and bamboo. Two hours and countless steps later, they arrived at a deserted forward observation base (FOB). Here they would receive water and ammunition, but as it turned out, not as quickly as they had expected. Movement was heard, and the enemy was spotted, but could not be engaged. A half hour later they reached the new FOB, away from the enemy, where they would wait for the bird.

The chopper arrived on schedule and kicked out their supplies, contained in metal cannis-

ters to protect them from the fall. The men scrambled to secure what was theirs. After a few minutes of much deserved rest, and with the necessary supplies in the hands of the individual soldier, the search continued in the 103-degree weather. The weight of the packs increasingly tired the soldiers as mid-afternoon arrived. Still no contact had been made.

The going had again become difficult. A clearing briefly opened the way, then dense undergrowth covered the area before them. Signs showed that footwear other than GI boots had made tracks recently.

Then an enemy bunker was located and destroyed, but no contact resulted. A scout dog and handler made their way to the front of the column as the unit again moved onward.

From some hidden spot, snipers opened up, killing the scout dog instantly. It was difficult at first to determine how many enemy were there. They could only determine that fire was coming from at least two points. Company D's men laid out heavy fire in an attempt to break into the bunker complex, which had now been spotted. Little or no movement was possible as the enemy waged his onslaught. Someone had to make a move to deter the enemy.

The point man had reacted quickly, and was moving to the enemy's flank. As the company laid down heavy fire, PFC Snell moved closer.

One enemy soldier threw a frag (fragmentation grenade), which landed immediately in front of the men. No one was injured, but another frag followed the first. There was still no effect upon the American force.

The young private by this time had reached his desired position, and threw a frag of his own. It reached the complex and rolled inside, but didn't explode.

It quickly popped out of the enemy position, as the soldier discovered it to be a dud. PFC Snell threw another, killing the men inside. In the confusion caused by the grenade's going off, several other men were able



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

Huntin' Chuck

The going gets rough for Skytroopers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry as they scour the jungle for Chuck.

to move forward. The skirmish soon ended. Two NVA soldiers had lost their lives.

The company continued to sweep the area, but made no further contact that day. They did find a small cache of supplies, including an anti-tank mine, two AK-47 rifles, two B-40

rockets, some small field equipment, scraps of clothing, three Chicom grenades, and two bicycles.

The day was almost over when the action had subsided, so a camp had to be established. The day had been long and tiresome, and not too eventful by

"grunt" standards. But, nonetheless, their mission of making contact with the enemy had been successful. Now it was time to set up guard positions, dig in for the night, eat a little chow, relax in whatever way possible, and wait for something to come their way.

Red Eyes For Reds From Pin-up Pictures

LAI KHE — Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division have uncovered evidence that NVA soldiers apparently share at least some interests with American GIs.

Throughout the U.S. Army, centerfold pages of magazines, featuring feminine pulchritude in various stages of undress, are favorite items for decorating foxholes, bunkers and living quarters.

The magazines, some of which feature articles, interviews, and fiction on other subjects, become dog-eared and worn as they are passed from reader to reader. Often, as the magazines make their rounds, each successive reader removes one or more of the photographs, leaving the last man with little more than articles, interviews and fiction on other subjects. Eventually, it is assumed, the magazines,

stripped of the "more interesting" pages, are discarded.

Apparently the NVA, not wishing to let this example of "decadent capitalism" go to waste, have been conducting further salvage operations on these publications. A collection of captured documents found in a bunker complex by Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry included a page from a well known man's magazine which the troopers felt was not interesting enough to keep for decorative purposes.

Master Sergeant Jesse J. Arrowood, intelligence sergeant for the Cav's "Blackhorse Brigade," said, "We are getting quite a few of these pictures in the collections of captured documents lately — especially pin-up girls."

This all seems to prove that a soldier, is a soldier, regardless of his nationality or cause.

Parachute Hides Red

TAY NINH — Some enemy soldiers just have a 'flare' for cover and concealment. Troopers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry recently had the experience of spotting just such a soldier.

While the cavalymen took a break after a sweep through an enemy bunker complex, Private First Class Claude Parker had the eerie feeling he was being watched. Scanning the horizon, he spotted nothing, other than a flare parachute suspended from a tree. But looking more closely, he noticed something strange about the parachute. It was moving, and from the top of it emerged the barrel of a AK-47 assault rifle.

PFC Parker quickly raised his M-16 and fired a burst at the enemy soldier, who by now was fully exposed. Hearing the shots, other members of the platoon opened up on the position, killing the soldier.

Your's May Be The Winner

Enter Your Photos In Cav Ass'n Contest

Having noted that approximately one out of two Skytroopers has a camera and takes snapshots — many of them WHERE THE ACTION IS — the 1st Cavalry Division Association is announcing a photo contest within THE FIRST TEAM, with prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 for amateur snapshots submitted in print form.

Each print should be accompanied (do not write on the print or on the back of the print) by a caption sheet to include:

Name and military address of the owner.

Date and place where the picture was taken.

Brief description of the action pictured.

Selection for prizes will be made by a Committee of the Association based on snapshots best exemplifying the spirit and mobility of THE FIRST TEAM.

All submissions become the property of the Association. Each will be acknowledged. Awards will be forwarded through the SKYTROOPER CHAPTER of the Association in Vietnam. Winning entries will be published in the 1st Cavalry Association newspaper SABER and in the CAVALAIR.

The initial contest closes July 31, 1969, at Albuquerque. Prints should be mailed not later than 15 July to allow for mailing time.

Address: 1st CAV DIV ASSN, Box 11201, Albuquerque, NM 87112.



A Black Hat guides the ominous 'Hook' into an embattled LZ.



An ordnance shipment makes its way to the Chinook pad via a forklift.

**U.S. Army Photos By
SP5 Luther Wolfe and
SP4 Terry Moon**



An artillery crew prepares for the maelstrom of dust and dirt as a Chinook heads into LZ Dolly.

Chinooks: Musclemen Of The Division



A sling load of supplies heads out to Skytroopers in the field.



A Chinook lifts off from a base camp with a hefty load of barbed wire which is destined for the perimeter of a new landing zone.



This giant, insect-like Chinook appears about to devour these riggers.



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

General's Visit

General Ralph E. Haines, USARPAC commander, chats with SP4 Lawrence Thompson, a rifleman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry at LZ Dolly.

Canine Goes Airborne, Says It's A Dog's Life

TAY NINH — People say the only things that fall from the sky are Airborne troopers and bird feathers. But recently Cav Pathfinders added one more item to the list.

"Sergeant Scumbag," the canine mascot of the detachment, recently made his first jump along with the other Black Hats.

After the decision was made to let their mascot jump, the Skytroopers went to work to gather some materials with which to fashion a harness for the wiry haired terrier. To substitute for a regular-size parachute the men used a parachute from an artillery flare.

To test out the parachute before putting it on the dog, the

men first tried it out by attaching a sandbag, which weighed approximately as much as the dog. The only problem they encountered was that it drifted a little too far. But no sooner did the problem come up than they had it solved. They made sure that someone would be on the ground ready to catch the dog when he came floating down to earth.

The dog fell for about two seconds and then the chute gently opened and the dog started to float down to the ground.

"Before the dog hit, we had someone who had jumped earlier catch him," said SGT Strosser. "He made it through the jump like a pro."

Army Artist's Program To Cover Korea, RVN

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 Re-

public 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.

Applications must be prepared on DA Form 2496 and forwarded through official military channels to: The Adjutant General, ATTN: AGMS-C, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20315. Application deadline is Dec. 1, 1969.

Destroy Communist Lair

1/9 Blues Find NVA Hospital, Rice Cache

By 1LT Bill DiMascio

TAY NINH — It wasn't copper tubing, but plumbing of any kind is not what you would expect to find in the jungles of War Zone C. Crude bamboo piping was only one of many interesting items Skytroopers discovered while searching a recently-vacated hospital complex north-east of here.

They also found a storage bunker containing 31,000 pounds of rice, an operating room with assorted medical supplies, and four uniquely built recovery wards.

"The bamboo plumbing ran from an outside well right into the kitchen area," explained Sergeant First Class Melvin Whited, platoon sergeant for the

infantry platoon (Blues) of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry. "At the end of the pipe, they had a wooden box lined with plastic which they used as a sink."

As evidence of the NVA's recent departure, SFC Whited added that several half-cooked fish fillets were still smoking on a bamboo rack over the six-burner earthen stove inside the bunker. They even had a barbecue pit outside. Although this appeared to be the main kitchen, there were several smaller mess bunkers in the complex.

The storage bunker was located several hundred meters away from the main kitchen. There the rice was found in 200-pound bags — 155 of them.

"The rice was stacked in piles five or six bags high," said Specialist Four Ronny Aiman, radio operator with the Blues. "It looked like there were some more bags in there at one time."

In the operating room, the Skytroopers found a fresh bottle of plasma hanging from a rack next to the bamboo operating table. There was also a blood pressure gauge nearby. In an adjoining room, they found bottles of penicillin, stethoscopes and various other medical supplies.

The recovery wards, as described by the platoon leader,

First Lieutenant Robert Alexander, were approximately 15 by 20 feet and contained six to eight beds each. The bunkers were six feet deep but had no overhead cover. Instead, bamboo had been tied over the holes and plastic sheets stretched across the bamboo.

However, he explained, the bunks were lined up against one wall, and opposite them, holes had been dug in the earth so in case of an air strike, the beds could be pushed into the holes.

The Blues had been inserted after scout pilots from their unit reported spotting a "cache site" or an "orderly room." They had been scouting the trails in the area closely after having sighted movement there for three successive nights.

"We thought at first it was a cache," said 1LT Steven Millard, one of the scout pilots. "All we could make out was a wooden frame with plastic on top. We kept coming around checking the area, and as we did, we could spot more structures."

The scouts requested air strikes, and soon, three sets of fighters bombed the complex.

"There definitely were enemy troops in the area when the air strikes went in," 1LT Millard said. "Apparently, they didn't want to compromise their position by firing at us. There was a .51 caliber machine gun destroyed by the air strikes."

1/30 Ahead

The 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery currently leads all other Cav units in total memberships in the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Latest Cav Association figures show that nearly 400 cavalrymen from 1st Bn, 30th Arty are members.

A membership in the Cav Association costs only eleven dollars. Joining this organization is the best way to keep in touch with the guys you've met in 'Nam.



(U.S. Army Photo)

Hello, Mom?

PFC Stephen Hahn, an RTO with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry keeps a watchful eye while monitoring the PRC 25.



(Las Vegas News Bureau)

Skid Stander

Like any good Skytrooper, Marlis Krause has standing on the skids down to a science. Sorry guys, it's just practice.



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

Humpin' The Boonies

A machine gunner from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry leads the way through the thick bamboo during a sweep near LZ Jamie.

LZ Overrun, Ants Attack Skytroops

TAY NINH — Three things are plentiful in this country. They are Viet Cong, North Vietnamese and insects. While 1st Air Cav soldiers normally have their share of the first two, they recently got their fill of the third.

"We had just combat assaulted into the landing zone (LZ) to pull security and help the engineers," said Specialist Four Roy Munyan, a rifleman with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry. "Everyone was real happy about getting out of the field for awhile."

Around ten o'clock that night the Skytroopers were sitting on their bunkers around the perimeter of the LZ. They were talking about the usual things — cars, girls and their families — when a few of the men began picking ants off their arms and necks.

"All of a sudden swarms of ants came down on us," stated SP4 Munyan. "They were in the air, on the ground and in every bunker. I called on the land line to the other bunkers and they were having the same problem."

The flying ants would land on the men and after a few seconds would start biting like crazy. The humidity that night didn't

exactly help the men. Nor did insect spray seem to help; in fact, the way it seemed the ants lived on the repellent. The Skytroopers sleeping inside the bunkers awakened to the feeling of ants crawling all over them.

"You couldn't lay anywhere," said Private First Class Oscar Chatman, a rifleman. "If you rolled up in a poncho liner they would find a hole in it and come marching in like an army. I picked up my mattress and they rolled off of it like water."

When morning came the insects disappeared as quickly as they had come and once again the LZ took on the look of a peaceful base camp. But not before everyone was sporting a few red marks from the ants' attack.

'Bennies'

The Veterans Administration reminds veterans that VA benefits are generally tax exempt and need not be reported as income on federal or state income tax returns.

Except for interest earned on G.I. insurance dividends left on deposit with VA (a reportable item), all proceeds from G.I. insurance are tax exempt.

Dog Wakens Skytroopers During Attack

TAY NINH — We don't want this to sound like another TV program about dogs, but Skytroopers from Company B, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion claim that their mascot could show Lassie or Rin Tin Tin a few tricks.

"Harriet," a terrier that thinks she is a Saint Bernard, has been with the unit since its move to III Corps.

"The reason she thinks she is a Saint Bernard is because she goes around looking after guys when we get hit," said SP4 Thomas O'Connor, a medic.

When the dog finds that somebody isn't out of bed or a Skytrooper has been hit the dog will let go with her high-pitched barks until someone comes to help.

"In one mortar and rocket attack, Harriet was responsible for finding one Skytrooper whose bunker had been hit by a 107 mm rocket," said SP4 O'Connor. "She wouldn't stop barking until they carried him down to my hooch where we could fix him up."

In one recent attack on the company area, Harriet received two shrapnel wounds in her left flank while checking the area. They quickly got her down to the aid station, where she was patched up. Today she is still guarding the company area.

Disney Caricature On 229th Birds

By SP4 Bob Smith

TAY NINH — Just as Kellogg's has its "Tony the Tiger" and the Esso Oil Corporation has its "Tiger in the Tank," the Skytroopers of Company D, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion also have their own tiger.

Rangers Kill Rocketeer

By SP4 Al Persons

PHUOC VINH — Across the plain of the afternoon sky, the buzz of the chopper droned on above the treetops, constantly getting closer and closer to the ground. Slowly, the bird lowered itself into a small clearing in the jungle, hovering only a few feet above the earth. Several human figures suddenly dashed from its doors, blending at once into the immediate environment. The aircraft then gathered all of its power and, minutes later, was out of sight. The Rangers had been inserted.

The Rangers, members of the 1st Cav's Company H, 75th Infantry (Airborne), had been sent in to monitor an area near Camp Gorvad for suspected enemy movement. As it grew dark, they set up for the night along a trail. At about 7:45 p.m. they observed three enemy soldiers pass by them. The Rangers let them go. Their job was simply to observe the enemy. The rest of the night passed uneventfully.

The next afternoon, they wanted to see how often that particular trail was used, so they began to set up an ambush position in the same area.

"As I was putting out a claymore," said Sergeant Richard Hyde, the team leader, "three NVA walked up on us from out of nowhere. They must have spotted me because I was the only one out in the open. Before I really knew what was happening, the other guys had let loose on the enemy with everything they had. I saw one NVA fall dead in front of us and the other two dropped everything and ran for all they were worth."

"I saw the NVA as they walked up," said Specialist Four Stanley Lento, the assistant team leader, "but I made sure everyone held their fire until we knew for certain we had been spotted."

"SGT Hyde was camouflaged and sitting perfectly still," continued SP4 Lento, "so a first glance the enemy couldn't detect his human figure even though they looked directly at him. For some reason, however, they looked again and spotted him. It was then that we opened up."

"The one we killed was carrying about 125 pounds of rice on his back," added SP4 Lento. "One of the other two NVA who got away was carrying another 125 pounds of rice and the other had a 107mm rocket launcher. As they took off running, they dropped both. We followed them about 15 meters down the trail and there we noticed they had even dropped all of their web gear. We didn't think we would catch them so we headed back to the area of the contact. We captured the rocket launcher and, later, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry's 'Blues' team was inserted into the area for further investigation, after we had been extracted."

The "Smiling Tiger," official insignia of the company, is a cartoon character especially designed by Walt Disney Productions of Burbank, Calif.

Members from the gunship company were having a hard time designing an insignia for their company. No matter how they tried to draw it, the insignia always seemed to fall short of their goal, which was to design an aggressive and determined tiger smiling at danger.

The idea was brought up to write a letter to the late Walt Disney in care of his studios. Within a few hours the letter was drafted and on its way to California.

A couple of months went by and with every passing day the Skytroopers grew more depressed because of receiving no reply. But then one day a package was delivered to the men of the "Gun Company" which contained the long awaited letter and insignia for their company.

The letter, signed by Mr. E. Cardon Walker, vice-president of Walt Disney Productions, said the Skytroopers may use the insignia on their Cobras and other equipment as long as they gave credit for the design to Walt Disney Productions. It also said that they felt honored to design the insignia for the company.

The insignia has a head and neck of a tiger enclosed within a blue diamond, bordered by the words, "Smiling Tigers." It also has replicas of a machine gun and rocket on the borders.

"We were all waiting for it," said Staff Sergeant Ronald W. Ennis. "At the time we had no insignia whatsoever for the company. When it arrived we threw a party for the whole battalion. The first sergeant received it in the mail without the commanding officer knowing it. That night at the party it was presented to Major I. R. Jones, then the commanding officer."

All the aircraft and some of the vehicles and buildings now carry the insignia.

If you ever see a vehicle or Cobra with a picture of a cartoon character resembling "Snaggle Puss" painted on it, don't think of it as a "Paper Tiger," they smile at danger.

MEDEVAC

(Continued From Page 1) better chance of recovering here than if you got into a car accident back in the States. The average MEDEVAC mission takes about 20 minutes or less."

The MEDEVAC mission sounds simple, but there is a lot of risk involved for the pilot and his crew.

"There have been quite a few hot landing zones that I've had to go into," stated Chief Warrant Officer Carl Sprieger. "We always try contacting the ground troops before the pickup to have them mark their positions with smoke or with some other means."

Many times this doesn't work for the pilots flying the "Birds of Mercy." "Charlie" sometimes likes to take a couple of shots at the birds. When the company marks their position with smoke, Charlie will do the same thing, hoping the MEDEVAC will mistake him for friendly troops. It is nothing for the pilots to come back in and find holes from small arms fire and .51 caliber machine guns in their tail booms or other parts of their ship.