

General Forsythe Leaves Cav



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1st Air Cavalry Division

May 7, 1969

Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation Awarded To 1st Air Cav Division

PHUOC VINH — The 1st Air Cavalry Division was presented the Republic of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation during official ceremonies here April 19.

Lieutenant General Do Cao Tri, ARVN III Corps commander, awarded the citation to the entire division for its efforts "in spite of hardships and unfavorable combat conditions" during the period from August 7, 1965 to April 19, 1969.

THE FIRST TEAM, termed as "an outstanding, experienced combat unit," has inflicted heavy damage to the Communist insurgency effort. The Vietnamese citation mentioned heavy enemy casualties and captured enemy weapons and supplies as examples of the 1st Cav's efficiency.

The general stated that, "The officers and men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division have materially contributed to the present counter-insurgency effort."

namely here in the III Corps area under the leadership of Major General George I. Forsythe, commanding general.

The award cannot be worn either temporarily or permanently by cavalrymen until official notification is received from ARVN by USARV. Upon later approval by the Department of the Army, members of the 1st Cav prior to April 19, 1969, will be able to wear it whether or not they are assigned to the division at that time.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 Terry Moon)

Another Honor

Lieutenant General Do Cao Tri, ARVN III Corps commanding general, affixes the Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation to the division's colors during ceremonies at Camp Gorvad.

General Roberts To Be Fifth Div. Commander In Vietnam

BY SP5 AL SCHLOSSER

PHUOC VINH — Major General George I. Forsythe, the fourth commanding general to lead the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam, recently relinquished his command during ceremonies at Camp Gorvad.

MG Forsythe, who is scheduled to assume command of Ft. Benning, Ga., will be succeeded next week by Brigadier General Elvy B. Roberts. Brigadier General Frank Meszar, assistant division commander, is serving as acting division commander, pending Roberts' arrival.

Under General Forsythe's leadership, THE FIRST TEAM continued to distinguish itself in Vietnam. With its deadly and decisive combination of firepower, airmobility and shock action, the Cav proved once again that she is ideally suited to meet the Communist challenge in Southeast Asia. A rated aviator himself, Gen. Forsythe's helicopters pursued, harassed and neutralized the enemy. By applying relentless pressure to Viet Cong and NVA soldiers, the Cav effectively denied them an opportunity to stage offensive operations.

When MG Forsythe assumed command of THE FIRST TEAM last August, the Cav had already embarked on Operation Jeb Stuart III, which was designed to deny the enemy access to the rice-rich coastal plain near Quang Tri and uproot him from Base Areas 101 and 114, his strongholds in the mountains.

During the 171-day operation, the Skytroopers accomplished their dual mission handily. On the plain, cordon and swooper operations with Regional Force and Popular Force units protected the rice harvest. And in the mountains, airmobile tactics November, when Jeb Stuart III was concluded, the provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien were quiet, despite their proximity to Laos and the Demilitarized Zone. The Viet Cong infrastructure in the coastal villages had been weakened. Enemy headquarters, hospital complexes and huge caches of weapons, ammunition and rice had been uncovered.

Operation Comanche Falls was launched in September in conjunction with elements of the 1st

ARVN Division. Its purpose was to drive remaining NVA concentrations from the region of rugged hills and jungle south of Quang Tri. When confronted by battalions of advancing cavalrymen and air power, the North Vietnamese chose to flee rather than fight. Cavalrymen destroyed enemy bunkers, uncovered weapons and ammunitions, seized rice and razed base camps.

On October 26th, General Forsythe told his troops that the entire division would be moving 600 miles to a new location some 50 miles northwest of Saigon, in III Corps. Incredibly, by October 31st some 2,600 men and 61 choppers had reached Quan Loi. Within days, the Cav was conducting combat operations in III Corps. Moving a full division, the equivalent of moving an American town, was clearly a triumph in logistics. Shortly after its arrival in III Corps, the 1st Air Cavalry Division joined Allied units in the Toan Thang Offensive.



MG George I. Forsythe

A General's Goodbye

The time comes for all of us to say goodbye, to take up other duties, to face new challenges, and, happily, to return to our loved ones. After two years on this tour, my time has come, and as I take leave of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, I do so with extremely deep emotions. It would be foolish to say that I'm not happy to be returning to my family, just as I know so many of the men of this division look forward to reunions with their loved ones back home. But, I also feel a great sense of loss in leaving the company of the finest fighting men on the face of the earth—my teammates of THE FIRST TEAM.

Every one of us, from the moment he sews on that big black and yellow patch, becomes a part of this great division's history and tradition. It is a history of tough fighting in three wars, of revolutionizing warfare by combining cavalry tactics with the helicopter; and it is a tradition of being the best—being on THE FIRST TEAM.

To accept the colors and the responsibility of command of this division was to take a privileged place in my profession. To pass the colors on, after serving with the men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division in battle in three corps tactical zones is to leave with the conviction that they are the finest soldiers, the bravest men, and the most inspiring companions with whom I have ever served.

Tomorrow will be a new chapter in the Cav's history. There will be new faces and new names, and our tradition will live on and grow stronger. When men leave this division, good men—even better men—have a way of replacing them.

I'm proud to have been a Skytrooper! My deep thanks to you for your loyal support and your brilliant performance.

I salute the officers and men of THE FIRST TEAM and ask God's continued blessings on you and your great outfit.

S/GEORGE I. FORSYTHE
MAJOR GENERAL, USA

General Forsythe's Law Day Message

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to a mixup in our production schedule, General Forsythe's Law Day message is obviously belated. The importance of law and order, however, merits this subject space in our newspaper every day of the year.)

On May 1, Americans all over the world will observe the 12th anniversary of Law Day USA. It is an occasion for all of us to demonstrate that we are united in our dedication to the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity within the structure of law. While laws can set forth standards and goals, achievement substantially depends on the willingness of each citizen to accept these goals.

The theme for the 1969 observance is "Justice and Equality Depend Upon Law—and You." It conveys a reminder that an individual's contribution to the overall equality of justice in our society is of vital importance and that equal opportunity and equal justice not only involve laws, but the development of attitudes of respect for the individual. We, in Vietnam, are perhaps more acutely aware of the value and importance of justice and equality under law because of our continuing efforts in assisting the South Vietnamese in establishing these ideals. The cost of achieving and perpetuating these goals is high; it is therefore appropriate that on this Law Day, we, as individuals, acknowledge and reaffirm our commitment to the furtherance of those principles which form the basis of the rule of law.

In proclaiming May 1, 1969 as Law Day, the President asked that every citizen give thoughtful attention to the place of law in our society and cultivate that respect of law that is so essential to our democratic way of life.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Major General George I. Forsythe, Commanding General of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 1, 1969 as Law Day in the 1st Cavalry Division and call upon all Skytroopers to recognize this special day and join in its observance.

S/GEORGE I. FORSYTHE
Major General, USA

Awards

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

THE SILVER STAR
BLACK, CPT Hugh M. HHC, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.
DEAL, SP4 Michael L. Co D, 1st Bn, 8th Cav.
DURON, SSC Pedro S. Troop D, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

MARTINDELL, CPT George J. Co A, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav.

SMITH, SGT Roland P. Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Cav.

STONE, MAJ Gordon L. Troop A, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

SWENSON, 1LT Karl Co E, 1st Bn, 7th Cav.

RONDORF, SP4 Dennis Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

THOMAS, PFC Robert Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

TOBAR, SP4 Alexander Co A, 1st Bn, 12th Cav.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

ALEXANDER, WO1 Jeffrey Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

BLAZOWSKI, WO1 Paul J. HHC, 1st Bd.

BONNETT, WO1 Roy F. JR. HHC, 2nd Bd.

BULLINGTON, CW2 Amos R. Co A, 229th Avn

Bn. COLLEY, MAJ Walter T. Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

MALCHOW, WO1 Robert L. Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

NELSON, SP4 Ronald J. Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

STANSBERRY, COL Conrad L. HHC, 2nd Bde.

STEGALL, 1LT David M. Troop A, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

COATES, SP4 John Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

KOPF, SP4, Anthony L. HHC, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

LEMLEY, SP4 John W. Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

LIPPERT, SP4 Herbert J. Co D, 1st Bn, 7th Cav.

LIZARRAGA, SP4 Michael W. Co D, 1st Bn, 7th Cav.

PINGO, SGT Francis R. Co D, 1st Bn, 7th Cav.

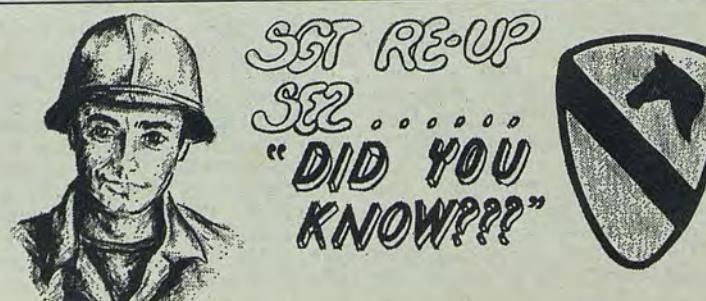
RAATZ, SSG Henry H. Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

RIGGS, PFC William S. Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav.

ROUSE, PFC Terry Co D, 1st Bn, 7th Cav.

SCHIMPF, PFC Joseph F. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

Law Day USA May 1



Last week I mentioned that an individual may reenlist, provided otherwise qualified for reenlistment, when there is a clear authority to discharge him. I discussed at length reenlistment by "first termers" on completion of eight months of their present active service commitment. In other words, you can reenlist anytime after you complete eight months of your commitment.

Continuing on this topic, there are other times that it may be more advantageous for you to reenlist. This is, of course, dependent on your reasons for reenlisting. Some of you have an MOS which, on reenlistment, entitles you to a Variable Reenlistment Bonus (VRB). Periodically, Department of the Army (DA) announces those MOS's which are entitled to VRB. As the Army's requirements change, so does the list. On this same listing, DA also assigns multipliers. The multipliers vary from one to four. The more critical the MOS and the more training involved, the greater the multiplier. To be eligible for the VRB, one must have an MOS contained on the listing, complete a minimum of 21 months on the active service commitment, and be the first reenlistment for bonus purposes.

Thus, personnel who reenlist prior to completing 21 months of service and who receive a reenlistment bonus, permanently lose their entitlement to the VRB. It may be more advantageous for you to reenlist after you have completed 21 months of service. You may be entitled to more money—sometimes, a great deal more money.

How do you figure the VRB? Well, first you compute the Regular Reenlistment Bonus—your base pay times the number of years for which you are reenlisting. Example: Base pay of \$200 x six years equals \$1,200. Next determine the VRB multiplier by referring to the VRB listing. Assume the multiplier is four. Multiply the Regular Bonus \$1,200 x four, equals \$4,800. Finally, your total bonus entitlement is then determined by adding the Regular Bonus and the VRB, \$1,200 plus \$4,800—a total bonus reenlistment of \$6,000.

THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Dear Hay-Burner,

A friend of mine and I have a problem you may be able to help us with.

We DEROS in July and August, respectively, and the "problem" involves early outs. We are aware of the five-month drop (we're both eligible with 25-30 day extensions), but our problem concerns a rumor that "RA's" will soon be able to get nine-month drops.

Perhaps you can straighten this out for us, because we'd sure hate to extend only to find a nine-month drop in effect. Please advise us on what to do.

SP5 Jim Fey
227th Assault Helicopter Bn

Hi Jim:

I sure hate to disappoint you, old man, but I galloped down to AG Forward and my friends there tell me there's no substance whatsoever to this rumor. So unless you know something AG doesn't, the "ninemonth drop" is a figment of someone's imagination.

I'd say that your best bet is to extend the necessary number of days to become eligible for the 150-day drop. Your friendly company clerk should be able to handle this whole matter for you and your buddy.

HOSS

(If there is anything any of you Skytroopers would like the word on, drop a line to Information Office, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO 96490, Attn: Horse's Mouth.)

Law Day: Every Day

Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1958, "Law Day U.S.A." is now observed annually on May 1st by Americans at home and abroad.

The resolution, adopted by the 87th Congress and signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, provides for "a special day of celebration by the American people in appreciation of their liberties and the reaffirmation of their loyalty to the United States."

The annual Law Day observance, which has also been proclaimed by the National Governors' Conference and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, is designed to foster respect for law and understanding of its traditional place in American life, encourage citizen support of law observance and enforcement, advance our goals of equality and justice under law and underscore the contrast between freedom under law and the tyranny of totalitarianism.

Many thousands of Law Day programs and observances are scheduled to be held throughout the country on or about the first of May, including addresses, sermons, school assemblies, mock trials, courthouse tours, essay contests, television and radio shows, special naturalization hearings, films, dramatic skits, library exhibits and window displays by banks and businesses.

Among the organizations which have endorsed participation in Law Day are the National Education Association, the American Federation of Women's Clubs, the Jaycees, the National Council of Churches and the Association of American Law Schools.

Cav Ass'n Plans Parley

This year's reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association will be held at Ft. Benning, Ga., from August 22 through 24. Under the leadership of Brigadier General Oscar E. Davis, commanding general of the Training Center at Ft. Benning, the reunion committee has scheduled a series of meetings and social gatherings for cavalrymen and their families.

Major General George I. Forsythe, who recently relinquished command of the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam, will soon assume the post of commanding general of the Infantry Center at Ft. Benning, and will therefore host this year's convention.

The Ralston Hotel in downtown Columbus, Ga., has been designated as the command post for this 22nd annual reunion. The new, modern Martinique and Downtowner Motels, both within easy walking distance of the Ralston and both equipped with swimming pools, will serve as backup "billets."

Much of the program will be held at Ft. Benning, home of the Infantry Center and the Infantry School. Military briefings are also on the agenda, including a report on the Cav's performance in Vietnam.

If you'd like to join the Association and attend this year's reunion, contact your unit's Association representative or the Division Information Office.



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Opinions expressed in the CAVALAIR are those of its editorial staff and not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Commanding General MG Elvy B. Roberts

Information Officer CPT John T. Kallunki

Press Officer CPT Jim Ryan

Production Editor SP5 Al Garcia

Layout Editor SP5 Steve Haldeman

Unfriendly Hawk Dive Bomber Strafes Cavmen's Positions

TAY NINH — There are many beautiful and friendly species of birds in Vietnam. But recently Skytroopers had the misfortune of digging their forward operations base underneath the nest of a not-so-friendly night hawk.

The day started off innocently enough for the men of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry. It was one of those rare days when everything went just right.

"We started to set up our night positions about 7 p.m.," stated Sergeant Hersey Ballard. "We set out our claymores and trip flares and started the long wait until morning."

When the Skytroopers set up for the night they overlooked a

night hawk that was perched up in a tree. Little did they realize that they had set up right in the middle of its domain, and that they were going to pay dearly for it.

"It got dark real fast that night," recalled SGT Ballard. "As soon as this happened the hawk took off, and we thought that we had seen the last of him."

About one hour later the Skytroopers heard from the bird again. One of the cavalrymen got a bit restless and decided to stretch a little. As soon as the hawk saw this he made one dry run over the area and started in his dive, heading directly for the man.

Ambush: Chuck's Phobia

TAY NINH — The Skytrooper cautiously watches the trail before him. Now and then he glances around himself and barely makes out the figures of his buddies on the night ambush. In the distance, artillery flashes dance across the sky, and his thoughts drift back to home, his wife and family, or a girl friend.

Suddenly, a branch snaps, all thoughts of home suddenly vanish from his mind as he makes out the dim forms of an approaching enemy force. The rest of the ambush team is promptly warned of the enemy's approach.

The enemy squad quickly makes its way along the trail toward the awaiting ambush team. The enemy walks into the

middle of the killing zone. The sounds of exploding claymores and fragmentation grenades split the night.

Six enemy soldiers lay dead in the middle of the trail.

"Not all of our ambushes work out this way in the end," stated Specialist Four Lewis Davis, a rifleman with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

The biggest advantage of an ambush is the element of surprise. An enemy force may walk into one and before they know what has happened, the Skytroopers have already blown their claymores and are opening up with grenades and small arms fire. In a matter of seconds, the enemy may suffer total casualties.

"I heard the bird coming," stated Private First Class Mike Kilmmer. "Just a split second after I hit the ground I felt the bird nick my side. He kept this up for a couple of runs and then he left me alone."

An hour or so passed and the Skytrooper's guard was up. He cautiously crawled over to his buddy who had the next guard shift, woke him up and told him of their feathered friend.

The next guard must have thought that he was pulling his leg. He started to walk over like nothing was going to happen. He took about two steps and he quickly bit the dust. The night hawk had just pulled off another air strike.

Before the night was over everybody got into the act. Skytroopers were going after it with anything that they had in their hands. As the night went on the bird was pulling off air strikes against anybody who moved. It changed its flight pattern every time so as to keep the cavalrymen off balance.

"About 4 a.m. the bird quit," stated PFC Kilmer. "We thought that it was all over for the night, but as it turned out the bird was waiting for one last air strike."

Just before 7 a.m., when the company was to move out, the hawk made its last run at the Skytroopers. "The bird came in from all directions. He would come down in a power dive, veer off at the last second and then start another dive. I guess never come back again!" stated SGT Ballard.

Ex-SP5 Returns To Unit as 'First Shirt'

LAI KHE — Although there are many that would like to do so, few Specilaist Five's ever become the First Sergeant of their company. Sergeant First Class (then SP5) Wayne C. Sullenberger did.

After 28 months and three extensions of his foreign service tour, in Company D, 27th Aviation Battalion, SFC Sullenberger has climbed from technical inspector and the grade of SP5 to Acting First Sergeant and the grade of SFC.

The cigar-smoking topkick reminisced, "I came here with the intention of making E-6, staying a year, and going home. When the year was up, I extended to make E-7. Then I planned on going home in January of this year but the first sergeant slot opened. Guess I'll stay here and

make E-8."

What about the things he once thought he would change if he were the first sergeant? "By coming up the way I did, I had the opportunity to see the changes that were needed. When I became first sergeant, I made a lot of them and shifted some personnel around."

About the changes that have taken place within the division in his 26 months the mustached first shirt said, "There have been many. When I first got here, there were no buildings. We used to sleep on ammo boxes to keep out of the mud. I remember when, back in the beginning, supplies were almost impossible to get and Cokes were nonexistent. Since then, living conditions have improved about 300 percent, along with everything else."

"When I first came, the Cav was a soft cap outfit. They switched to steel pots when statistics began to show the number of people that were killed unnecessarily."

"And there were moves. So far this company and I have moved from An Khe to LZ Oasis, LZ English (in the Bong Son Plains), Phan Thiet, Bong Son again, Kontum, Chu Lai, Camp Evans, and then here to Lai Khe where we have been for the last five months. But, we

191st MI Wins Award

PHUOC VINH — Military intelligence in today's Vietnam war continues to play an active role. THE FIRST TEAM'S vast area of responsibility necessitates tremendous efforts by all units, and more specifically, intelligence units.

As testimony to these facts, the men of the 191st Military Intelligence Detachment were awarded the "Meritorious Unit Commendation" on April 10 during presentation ceremonies at Camp Gorvad.

The award was presented for the unit's actions during the period from Feb. 12, 1967 to May 31, 1968. Brigadier General Frank Meszar, assistant division commander, made the presentation.

A descriptive passage in the commendation states that, "Their superb performance of duty greatly enhanced the overall success of the 1st Cavalry and earned them the praise and admiration of combat commanders."

Cav, 1st Inf Team Up

LAI KHE — THE FIRST TEAM and the BIG RED ONE have teamed up at Lai Khe, base camp of the 1st Infantry Division and the "Blackhorse" Brigade of the 1st Cav to treat patients.

At Company D, 1st Medical Battalion, better known as Doctor Delta, a new color has been added — the yellow of the 1st Cav shoulder patch. Company B, 15th Medical Battalion, which supports the Cav's 2nd Brigade, has joined forces with the 1st Battalion to treat wounded soldiers of both divisions.

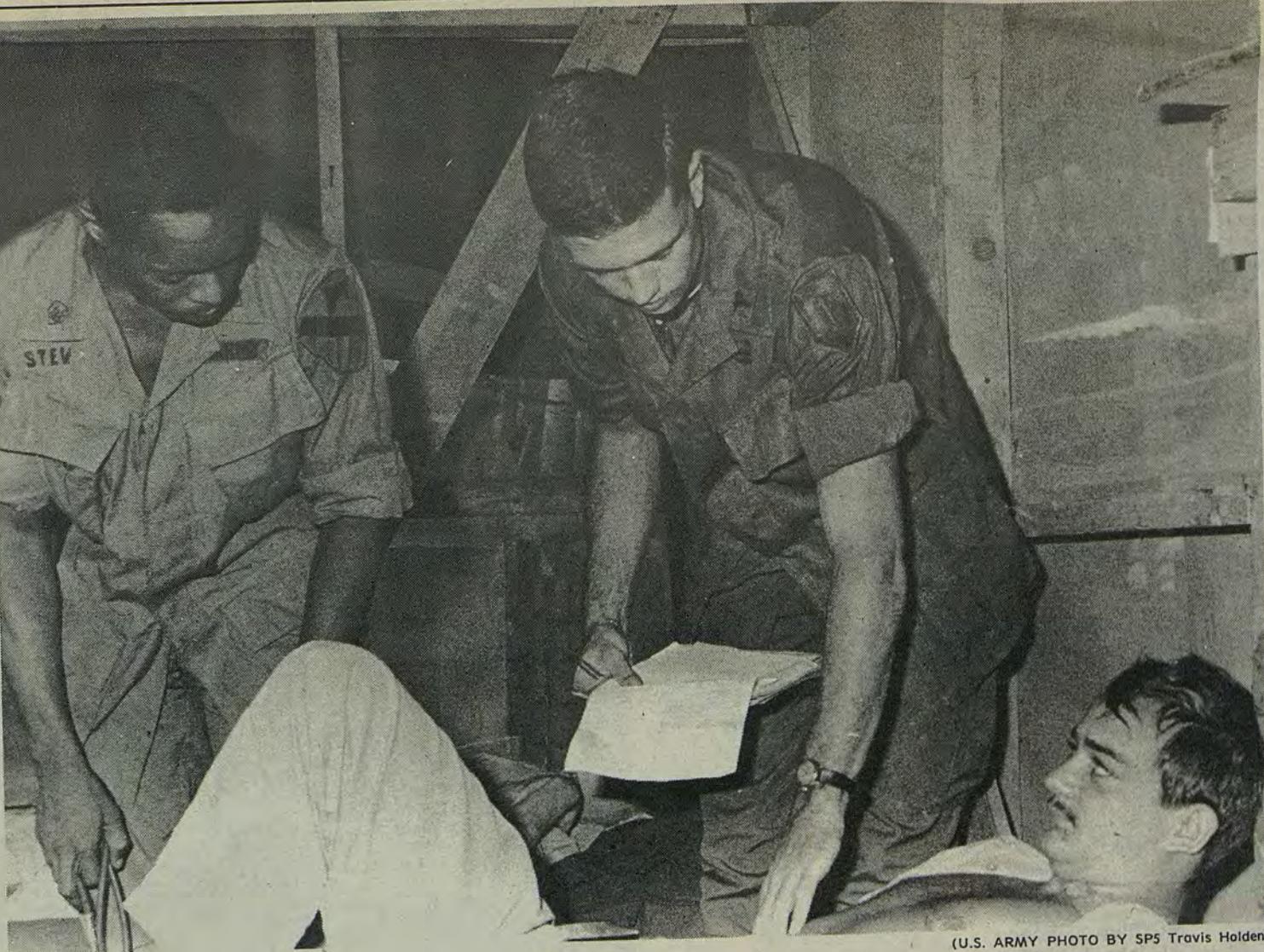
"Delta Company has some of the best facilities for the kind of environment they are in that I have seen in my Army career," said Specialist Six Lawrence Wilson, one of the Company B's senior medics.

Doctor Delta is a hectic place with sick call personnel and soldiers who have been medevaced from the field. Cav doctors scurry here and there treating both Cav and 1st Inf Div soldiers. A commonplace sight is a 1st Cav doctor working with a 1st Inf medic, or the reverse.

"There is no problem, at least not like there might be in most units," said Specialist Six Clyde H. Miller, a 1st Inf Div medic. "Sure, everyone is proud of their unit, but we are medics first. Our job is to help people, no matter what unit they're from. There's a Medevac ship inbound right now and people from both divisions are standing by to get the wounded off and into the docs. Like I said, we're medics first."

Helping Hands

(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 Travis Holden)



An inter-division team of medic and doctor confer on the condition of SP4 Gary D. Hershly as the soldier looks on intently. SP4 Leslie Stewart and Captain Paul N. Cloninger make up one of the unique medical teams.

To Vietnamese Villagers

Trio Brings Peace, Friendship

QUAN LOI — A "gypsy" trio, traveling with what resembles a motorized version of the century-old medicine show, is touring the tiny hamlets that dot the 2nd Brigade's area in support of operations there.

In actuality a Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) team, the group moves through friendly, contested, and sometimes hostile villages to bring the inhabitants a message of peace. It conveys its theme via newspapers, movies, magazines, and leaflets. The team, which originated at Bien Hoa's 6th Psychological Operations Battalion, operates from a $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton truck with a modified "camper".

Assigned to the 2nd Brigade's S-5 (Civil Affairs-PSYOPS) Section, the team works in coordination with that office and the Vietnam Information Service, an arm of the government of South Vietnam.

"We make our contact on a face-to-face basis with the people which is the best medium there is for PSYOPS," said First Lieutenant John Lindblom, the team leader. He continued, "By doing this we let the people see what we are really like, get to know them, and win friends for

the legal government as well as for our own country."

Staff Sergeant Larrie West is the team's enlisted technician. His job entails equipment operation and maintenance. "The biggest attraction we have for the Vietnamese audience is our movies. They love them. Usually the movies are in Vietnamese, although some do have English texts to them. Some of the movies deal in entertainment, others in information about people in other lands, while some are strictly propaganda," said SSG West.

ARVN Staff Sergeant Dao Tien Tu is the team's third member and serves as interpreter as well as an adviser on Viet customs.

A typical operation was its visit to minute Phu Thinh, near An Loc, recently. In this tour, the team rumbled out of Landing Zone Andy near sunset in its well-traveled truck and rolled over dusty roads into the approaching darkness. A bumpy half-hour later, they arrived in An Loc to rendezvous with the Vietnamese District Information Chief, a Mr. Binh of An Loc. From there the team was led to Phu Thinh's small schoolyard.

"After all," said 1LT Lindblom, "we wouldn't be much

good without our equipment. And as far as the rifles go, we just about have to leave them in the truck. You can't go around spreading goodwill and traveling as friends if you are going to carry a big rifle on your shoulder everywhere you go."

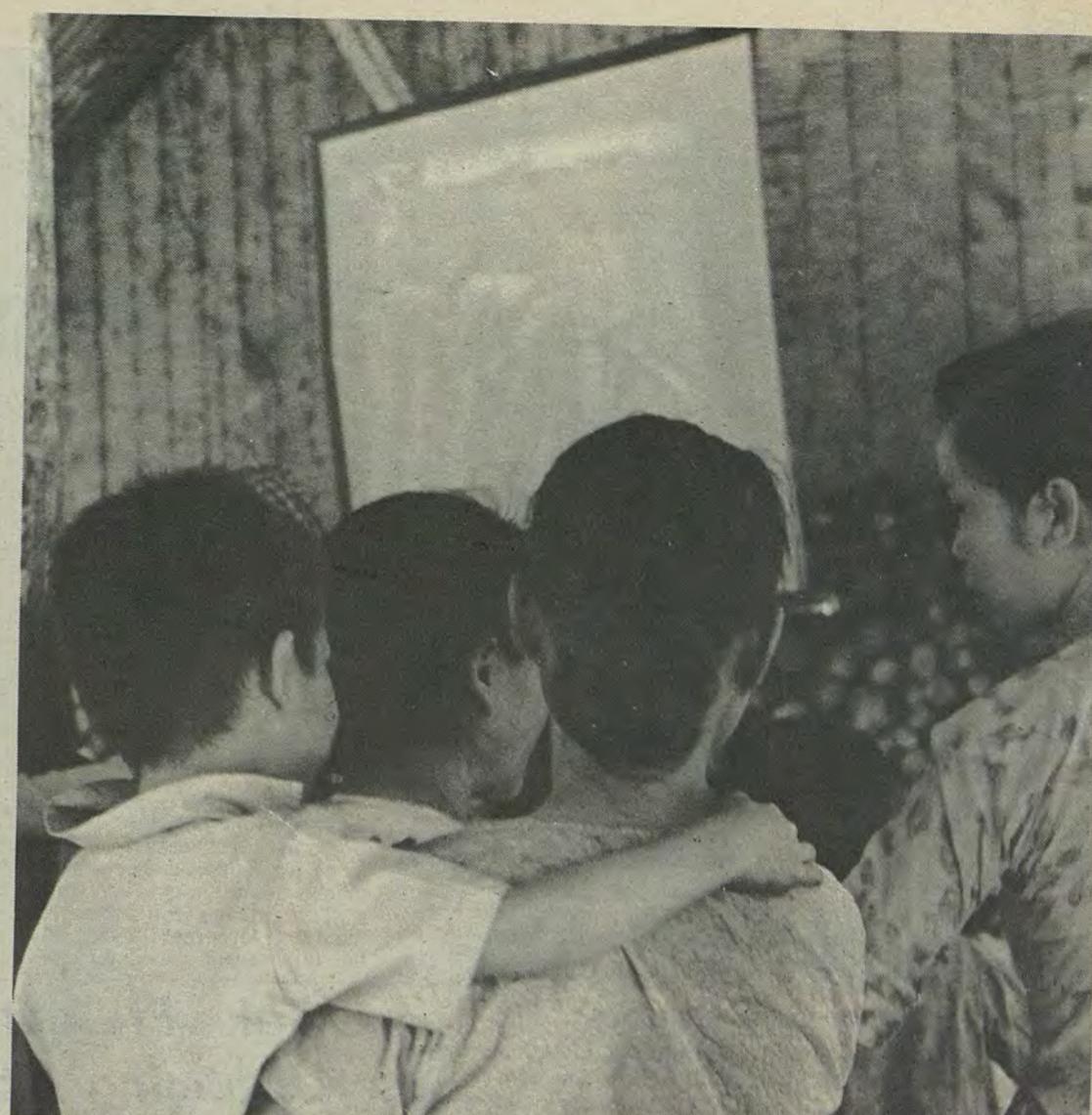
As a Walt Disney documentary on Scotland and its people began, the crowd swelled to nearly 500 children, parents, and elders. Babbling ceased and rapt attention played on the faces of young and old alike. For two hours the crowd stood, sat, and squatted — never giving up respectfulness or losing attentiveness — through four film strips dealing with the Chieu Hoi Program, Students for a Better Vietnam, and a slapstick comedy.

The program was interrupted about 45 minutes before its scheduled conclusion when a villager announced, somewhat excitedly, that the VC were coming. This occurrence is little more than routine for the men on the team. Although any sort of armed assistance was miles away, and they were armed only with M-16 rifles which were stowed in the truck, they calmly loaded their equipment before leaving.

"After all," said 1LT Lindblom, "we wouldn't be much



1st Lieutenant John Lindblom, team leader, rewinds a documentary film put on for the villagers at Phu Thinh.

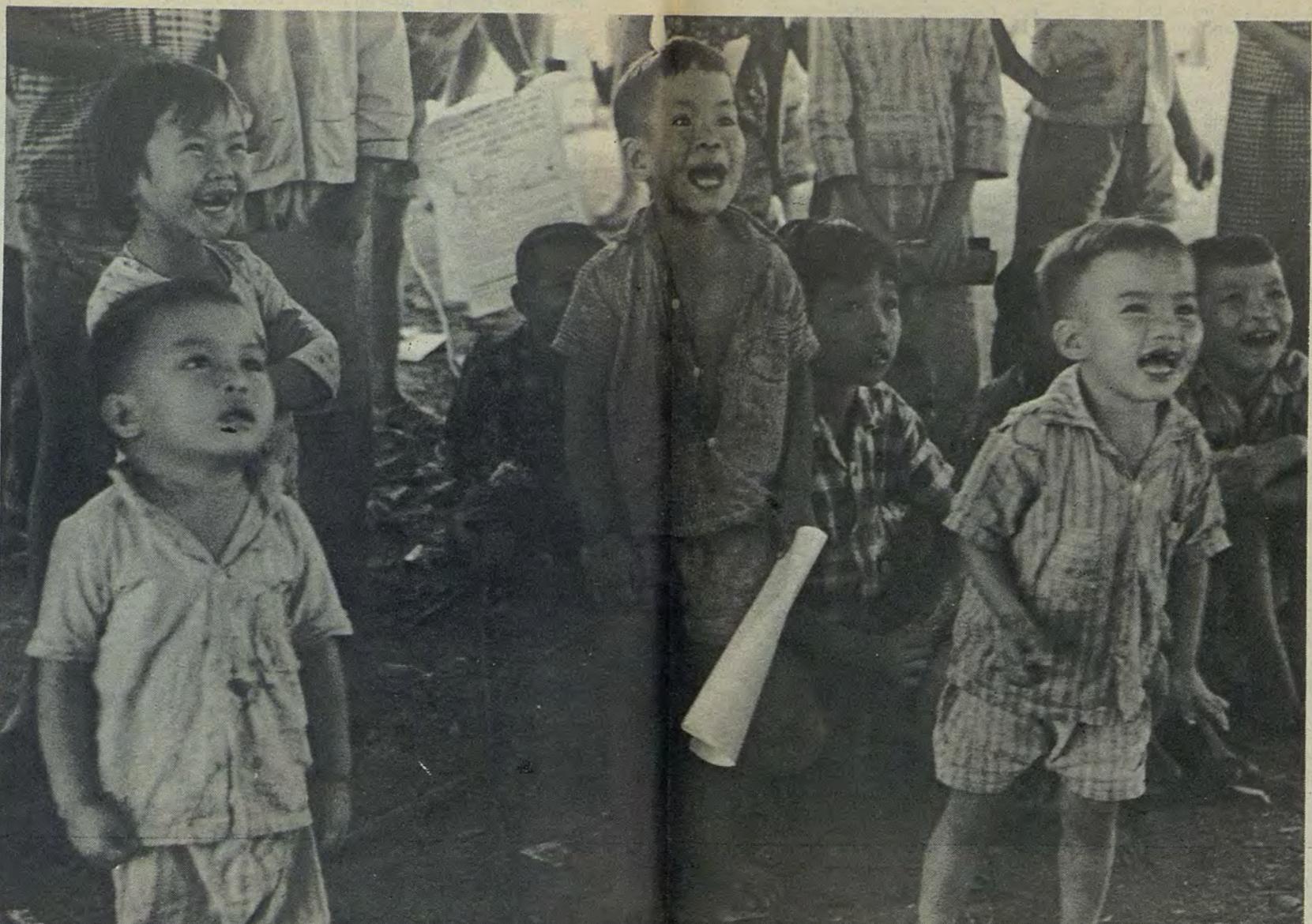


Adults as well as children become enthralled with the various movies shown by the Psyops team at Phu Thinh.



Lieutenant Lindblom tacks up a sign in support of Vietnamese government programs as a wide-eyed youngster shows his interest.

During Unique Cavalry Psyops Program



A comedy scene brings varied reactions to the faces of children at Phu Thinh during a movie held there.



Children swarm Mr. Tran Van Binh, An Loc District Information Chief, as he passes out dolls to youngsters at the village of Phu Thinh.



More Cav Honors

General Creighton W. Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, affixes the Presidential Unit Citation streamer to the colors of the 1/8th Cav during ceremonies at LZ White.

Chicom Boomerang Spells 'The End' For 5 NVA

TAY NINH — A Chicom (Chinese Communist) grenade has nothing in common with a boomerang, but five NVA soldiers died recently from a re-bounding grenade.

"We set up about 6 p.m.," recalled Specialist Four Bobby G. Wright, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. "We had just finished setting up our claymore mines and trip flares when the observation post (OP) called up and said they had spotted an NVA soldier in front of their position. He had something with him that resembled a .51 caliber machine gun."

The Skytroopers immediately checked out the situation and made a recon by fire of the area. The OP counted 18 enemy soldiers moving in the direction of the night position.

Before the enemy soldiers reached the night position, they discovered the OP's position.

"One of the enemy soldiers threw a Chicom grenade," stated Specialist Four John L. Gladney. "The grenade deflected off of some bamboo in front of the OP's position and landed a few inches behind a claymore, setting it off. When the claymore blew we didn't know at the time the grenade was responsible for killing five of the enemy soldiers."

The rest of the enemy soldiers ran for cover behind a large tree. They were going to try and fight their way past the Skytroopers. But the cavalrymen had another claymore set up at the tree. Immediately the sound of another exploding claymore split the night.

In the morning, a Cav patrol found the bodies of eight enemy soldiers.

One hundred meters up the trail the Skytroopers found the reason for the enemy's determination to get past the night position: 62 100-pound bags of rice.

St. Patrick's Day Proves A Blue Affair For Enemy Soldiers

LAI KHE — Although Lai Khe is the home of the 1st Infantry Division, elements of the 1st Cav sent out a coordinated last light recon around the area on March 17. Two scout birds from the 2nd (Blackhorse) Brigade Aviation Platoon and two Cobras from Company D, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion were scouting the area near the perimeter of Lai Khe when the first team spotted 40 to 50 NVA soldiers carrying rockets in an open area near a treeline. Major John A. Little, commander of Company D and pilot of the first team's Cobra, called Captain Charles M. Maunsell, his executive officer, for assistance.

"Within seconds, we set up an attack pattern and started engaging the enemy troops," said CPT Maunsell. "They began scattering everywhere in groups of three and four." The two Cobras hit the NVA with a barrage of minigun, 40mm grenade

and 2.75mm rocket fire.

"We called out another fire team and then returned to the pad to reload our Cobras," said MAJ Little. "During the 45 minute operation we had a total of seven Cobras in action, some on the scene and the others reloading back at our pad."

The majority of the men of Company D, including the cooks and the clerks, were on the pad reloading the Cobras as they came in.

The Cobras and 2nd Brigade Scouts were still receiving fire from the ground when a Cobra pilot, Warrant Officer Steven L. Kramer radioed Company A of the 227th and requested flare ships.

"During last light, the Scout birds counted 16 NVA killed," said Mr. Kramer.

Contact broke at approximately 8:30 p.m. and everyone returned to the pad. The officers bought soda for the whole company.

For 1966 Action

1st Bn., 8th Cav Garners Presidential Unit Citation

TAY NINH — As General Creighton W. Abrams, MACV commander, presented the battalion with a Presidential Unit Citation, the thunder of airstrikes could be heard in the distance as the war raged on.

The unit, the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry was being cited for action during June 1966, in Operations Deckhouse II and Nathan Hale.

Fierce fighting is nothing new to the Skytroopers of the unit but few remember the fateful week that was later to earn them this high unit commendation.

The action began near Trung Luong on June 19th, 1966. During Operation Deckhouse II a two-pronged, two-company airborne assault was made south of Trung Luong by soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division. As the 101st swept north, they en-

countered stiff enemy resistance from small units, but repelled them without casualties. As they approached the west end of the village, they were fiercely opposed by platoons of the enemy's elite 1813th NVA Regiment.

On the morning of June 20th, the Allies launched attacks to the north. The battle raged for hours with the enemy using direct-fire from antiaircraft weapons at point-blank range.

The entire action involved many individual acts of heroism. The 101st withdrew during the evening of the 20th to a landing zone in order to medevac its casualties.

As the unit withdrew, word filtered through the ranks that the operation had been re-designated, and that units of the 1st Cav were going to team up with the 101st to hit the enemy. No

longer would the operation be known as Deckhouse II, but as Operation Nathan Hale.

On the next morning, the 1st Bn, 8th Cav joined the fight, providing covering fire from the north while the 101st executed another assault on Hill 258, which was of major strategic importance. This determined assault sent the enemy running and cleared Hill 258 of NVA troops.

On June 22nd the enemy launched the most ferocious attack of the four-day campaign.

After three hours of intense fighting, the enemy was finally forced to withdraw under withering fire, leaving behind 373 dead. During the morning hours, the Skytroopers conducted joint operations with elements of the 101st Airborne Division and seized high ground to the south of Trung Luong. By early evening they had seized all strategic terrain in the vicinity of the village.

The next day ended four days of the longest, most fiercely fought conflict of the Vietnam war to that date. Besides the tremendous enemy loss of manpower, he left behind 70 individual and nine crew-served weapons.

"This battalion," said Lieutenant Colonel Todd P. Graham, its commander, "is to this day a tremendous fighting team. The Presidential Unit Citation is in recognition of its overwhelming fighting ability."

Since Operation Deckhouse II-Nathan Hale, the 1st Bn, 8th Cav has engaged in many combat operations. And if you look around Landing Zone White, the scene of the presentation, you can see that the spirit and fighting ability of the unit has remained essentially undaunted despite many heavy engagements.

If the unit's past record is any indication of things to come, the North Vietnamese Army would do well to take heed.

Grunt Wins 'Egg Title'

BY CPT JOHN SHUFORD

LZ CINDY — It was one of the hardest fought battles to date of the Vietnam confrontation. On March 28, representatives of two of the most hardened groups of fine eaters in Vietnam were engaged in an hour-long battle with the superior forces put forward by a pile of 50 hard boiled eggs per man.

The battleground was Battery C, 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery's mess hall at LZ Cindy. The attackers, flanked by their managers, were four cannoneers from Battery C and three "grunts" from Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

The objective, taken by Specialist Four E.L. "Tex" Harris of Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Cav, was the prize of four cases of liquid refreshment put up by the two units.

SP4 Harris achieved his objective by single-handedly devouring 38 hard boiled eggs in one hour. Truly a prodigious feat in the annals of modern war and one which both Private First Class Willie White, Btry C, 1st Bn, 21st Arty runner-up who ate 25 eggs, and Paul Newman are fully capable of appreciating.



A Face Of War

An inherited yet misunderstood war is etched on the face of this Vietnamese child, an innocent victim of a VC terror raid on her village.



Up, Up And Away

Is what lovely Brenda Arnau will do if a Cav chopper doesn't get to her in a hurry. That's what we call a real Fire Mission!

Courtesy 8th Engineers

Clean Water A Must For Cav's Combat Operations

By Sp4 Phil Manger

BIEN HOA — During all the wars throughout history, regardless of the weapons used or the nationality of the men participating in them, one of an army's most important requirements has always been plenty of safe, clean drinking water.

Even in the earliest conflicts, clean water was so essential to an army's mobility and ability to fight that it was a standard practice for a retreating army to poison the wells in the path of the advancing enemy.

In the 1st Cav, the responsibility of providing safe drinking water rests with the 8th Engineer Battalion. To execute this mission, the battalion operates five mobile water purification plants.

Typical of these plants is the one at LZ Cindy, run by Sergeant John W. Slade and his two assistants, Private First Class David B. Hoxsey and Private First Class William Weaver.

The plant at LZ Cindy supports the entire 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, plus Battery C, 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery and other supporting units at Cindy.

"We purify on the average of three to four thousand gallons of water per day," said SGT Slade. "Actually, this is only about half of what we are actually capable of producing, even when operating only during daylight hours."

The equipment used in the filtration plant at Cindy is amazingly uncomplicated. Consisting of three 500-gallon-per-minute filters, the entire plant fits easily into a small jeep trailer, and can be unloaded and fully operational in less than 45 minutes.

The operation of the water plant is an equally simple matter.

Water is pumped directly from the Song Be River into the first of the three 500-gallon tanks. Once the tank is full, one pound of ferrous chloride and one and a half pound of lime are added to the water, causing sus-

pended particles to sink to the bottom.

The clean water that remains on top is then pumped through a filter into one of the other two tanks. During this part of the process, chlorine is added to kill any micro-organisms which may remain in the water.

Once one of the two "clean" tanks are filled, a sample of the water is taken and tested for chlorine content. This is done by adding othorodine, a chemical which turns chlorine-treated water orange.

The sample is then compared with a "standard" sample which already has the correct proportion of chlorine in it, and either chlorine or water is added to the tanks until the two samples match in color.

Once the process is completed, the water is ready to be pumped into cans and jugs for shipment to the field.

Rabbit's Suicide Attack Stifled By Cavalrymen

BY SP4 Bob Smith

TAY NINH—An NVA rabbit, on a harassment and interdiction mission, caused enough confusion recently for an ambush team to think an enemy force was attacking them.

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry decided to make their forward observation base in a bunker complex they had unearthed earlier in the day.

"We established our ambush teams on the trails running into the bunker complex," recalled Specialist Four John L. Gradney.

The first few hours passed without incident for the Skytroopers. Then, about 10 p.m., there was movement in the thick undergrowth to their front. Seconds later, a flare went off, triggering the ambush team into action. After the noise and clouds of dirt from exploding claymores and fragmentation grenades cleared, a hush fell over the area.

But the serenity lasted for only a couple of hours when another trip flare went off in front of the ambush team.

"Everybody jumped for cover," stated Private First Class Darrell Brannon. "When we dug in for the night, we made the foxholes for two people. But after the second flare went off, the foxholes seemed to be filled with at least five people in each. I don't know where we got all of the extra people."

The Skytroopers once again opened up with claymores and grenades. But, like the first time, there was not any return fire.

At first light the cavalrymen went on a patrol to recon the area. It was quickly reported to the command bunker that the devious assault, a one-rabbit assault, had been successfully stopped.

"When I heard about it the following morning I couldn't believe it," stated PFC Brannon. "Who would ever believe a rabbit could cause all the confusion it did?"

Admin Rear Treks South

An Khe — By land, sea and air, the 1st Cav's last remaining elements at An Khe recently began their move from Vietnam's Central Highlands to Bien Hoa, 250 miles to the south in III Corps.

The rear area has served as a centrally located base of administrative operations. With the deployment of THE FIRST TEAM to III Corps late last year, however, it was decided the installation at An Khe should be phased out.

Affected by this move are more than 20 sections based at An Khe, including AG personnel and records, finance, the DROS and R&R detachments, the replacement and training centers, 15th Administration Company and consolidated supply.

Air Force C-130's and C-124's and commercial vessels sailing from the port of Qui Nhon will transport more than 1,000 men and one million pounds of cargo to Bien Hoa. Sea Land Vans, the freight trailers designed to fit neatly into compartments in mother ships, will be loaded for three voyages south. Each of these vessels has a capacity of 100 freight trailers. Consolidated supply, replete with its 20,000 foot lockers, will be moved primarily by sea.

To insure a smooth-functioning operation, coordination centers have been set up at both An Khe and Bien Hoa. In addition, "hot lines" have been hooked up between the coordination centers and their respective airfields.

Skytroopers going on R&R or flying back to the world will now complete processing at Bien Hoa. It is widely expected that in the near future, cavalrymen will be able to fly back to CONUS from Bien Hoa, eliminating the trip to Cam Ranh Bay.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 Luke Wolfe)

Move 'Em Out

Skytroopers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry move warily toward a dense woodline after making a heli-borne assault north of Tay Ninh.

NVA Blue Plate Special Irks Skytroops

By SP4 Richard Craig

TAY NINH — Sergeant John K. Binegar never stops complaining. While flying as an observer recently, he complained he was hungry. Then, as an AK-47 round opened a can of "beans and franks" for him, he complained because they were cold.

Shortly before chow, the crew of the light observation helicopter was alerted for a mission. Leaving their lunch in the mess hall, the crew boarded their craft and headed towards the target area.

SGT Binegar, an aerial observer with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry was flying on a scout mission 12 kilometers northeast of here when he spotted an enemy bunker complex. Flying over the area, the crew detected movement below that was anything but friendly.

Making another pass over the

enemy held area, the "whoosh" of small arms fire could be heard above the drone of the chopper. Suddenly, the sound of small arms fire was interrupted by the thump of lead slamming

against the tiny ship.

"They really tried to let us have it, but our bird just wouldn't quit," said SGT Binegar. "That's when a round hit the can of beans I had holding

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If you have photographs taken of combat action or R&R, send your negatives (for black and white film) and color slides to: Editor, Cavalair, Information Office, APO 96490 (In Country). The negatives and color slides will be copied and the originals returned to you.

Be sure and give proper identification of individuals (Name, Rank, Hometown) and a brief explanation of the action involved. Also be sure to include a return address.

up the ammunition belt on my machine gun. Before I knew what happened, I was covered head to toe with beans and frankfurters."

But SGT Binegar was not the only one on the flight with a complaint. First Lieutenant David Stegall, pilot of the craft, was equally disturbed. "There he was, the only man on the bird with any chow, and he didn't even offer any to the rest of us."

While nobody knows what tasty treats the enemy was preparing on the ground, it's conceded their goose was cooked as 1st Cav gunships swarmed over the bunker complex, destroying it completely.

Not only did SGT Binegar get his chow, but the 1st Air Cavalry Division earned the distinction of being the only unit in Vietnam to serve inflight meals on its helicopters.