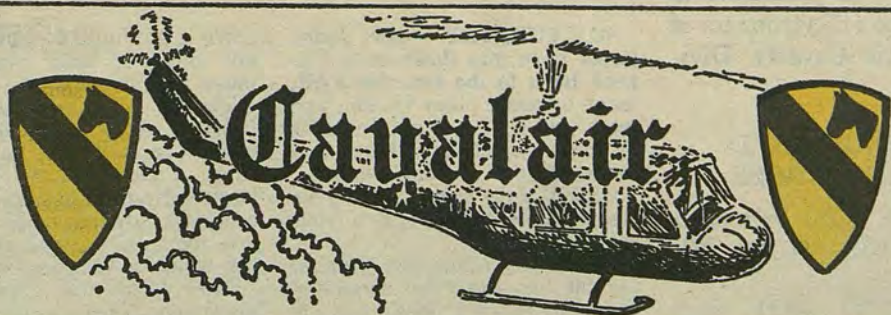


LP Duty Nightmare For Cav Duo



Vol. 3, No. 18

1st Air Cavalry Division

April 30, 1969

Skytroopers Quick to Agree: Their Longest Night Ever

BY SP4 BOB SMITH

TAY NINH—Darkness was beginning to fall around the small landing zone (LZ) 18 miles northeast of here. The listening post teams started cautiously to make their way to their night positions, unaware that they were in for a night of terror.

"When we first got to our night position we set out our claymore mines," recalled Private First Class Carl A. Fowler, a rifleman with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry. "At first we

didn't hear anything. Then about midnight we heard all kinds of movement around us and small arms fire started coming near our position. We also heard mortar rounds and rockets hitting the base. At the time we weren't aware that an enemy battalion was planning to overrun the LZ."

When they saw what was happening, the Skytroopers quickly gathered up their gear to make their way back into the base. At the last minute, realizing they would probably be shot by their own men, they held their positions.

"The NVA didn't really know where we were. They started throwing something like CS gas at us, thinking we would get up and give away our position," stated PFC Fowler.

"It was getting pretty bad after a few minutes and our leader told us again to gather up our gear — we were going to try anyway. We slowly made it away from our area, but there were NVA all around us."

The cavalymen were unable to withdraw because of the enemy around them. The only remaining option was to move further away from the base. They circled around to the rear of the enemy and came up on a road to the west of the base.

"We made it back to some patches of knee-high grass. It didn't offer the best cover but it was the only thing available," stated Private First Class Monte Martin. "We stayed low but they discovered our position and

(Continued on Page 6)



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Sorry 'Bout That, Chuck

Mementos of two futile NVA efforts to overrun LZ Grant are inspected by Skytroopers of Company A, 8th Engineer Battalion. At least 216 enemy troops were killed by men from 2/12th during the assaults on the isolated base northeast of Tay Ninh.

Wounded Cavman Continues Fight

By SP4 GEORGE VINDEDZIS

LAI KHE — It is rare when a soldier wounded in the hip and unable to move, still manages to maneuver his squad and force the enemy to withdraw.

Specialist Four Charles Landsdale of Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry conducted this operation while his squad was on the way to an ambush mission near Landing Zone (LZ) Dolly in the 2nd Brigade area of operations.

Company A was working in the rubber trees outside LZ Dolly when they were given the mission of setting up an ambush. The platoon leader of the 1st Platoon, First Lieutenant David W. Neef was given the coordinates. He in turn gave them to SP4 Landsdale, squad leader of the 1st Squad, and told him of the mission.

Landsdale briefed his squad, picked up the field radio and started out through the rubber trees immediately behind the point man. "According to the map, the co-ordinates were located near a road junction," said the squad leader. "While walking along we spotted a trail and moved along near it."

The terrain became slightly hilly. As the squad was moving up a rise, the enemy opened up

with AK-47 fire. "I had just moved up by the point man when the AK's rang out. Six rounds came right between us," said Landsdale. "We immediately hit the ground, but couldn't see the enemy."

Landsdale and the point man, Specialist Four Wayne Kuykendall, crawled to a nearby tree, stood up and began to return fire. "The NVA had us pinned down and began charging us, moving from tree to tree," said Landsdale.

SP4 Landsdale noted the enemy positions and began to call in artillery support when the AK-47's rang out again, this time wounding the 1st Cav specialist. "I wasn't sure whether it was an AK or not," said Landsdale. "It seemed as if the round hit me before I heard the shots."

Though in immense pain, SP4

Landsdale, leaning against a tree, continued to shout commands to his squad, maneuvering them against the enemy. During the firefight the 3rd Platoon came to their assistance. Landsdale, feeling weaker, told SP4 Kuykendall to take the radio. "I was feeling dizzy and dopey," said Landsdale. "I don't remember when I gave the radio to Wayne, but he must have called in mortar fire."

With artillery and mortar fire coming in on the enemy, the NVA had no other choice but to withdraw.

After the firefight, members of the 1st Squad made a poncho litter and carried Specialist Landsdale back to an area where he could be medevaced.

According to 1LT Neef, "It was a remarkable and heroic performance."

This is what happened to four NVA who responded to the call of what they thought to be their own species while on a patrol.

Instead of finding their friends, they found some members of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry who were test-firing some recently captured AK-47 assault rifles.

"Some of the guys had taken the weapons and some magazines of ammo outside the perimeter to fire them," recalled Specialist Four John Woodworth, a machine gunner in the First Platoon of Company C.

"As they fired away, four NVA hearing the firing and apparently thinking their buddies were in contact, came out of the woodline about 1,000 meters away."

As the enemy emerged from the woodline, SP4 Woodworth saw them and engaged with his M-60 machine gun while the artillery forward observer called in a fire mission. Result: two NVA dead.

Meanwhile, some members of Company C are reportedly planning to take out a patent on their AK-47 bird call.

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THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Dear Hoss,

I'd like some information on the early out program. I was a U.S., got out for ten months and then enlisted for three years. I've been in Vietnam since June, 1967, my DEROS is August 12th and my ETS is February 2nd, 1970. What I'd like to know is if I extend for 25 days, will I get the five-month drop?

Louisiana Man

Dear Louisiana:

That's an affirmative. The fact that you were a U.S. got out and later enlisted for three years in no way disqualifies you from the 150-day drop. Your company clerk should be able to handle the paperwork for you.

Hoss

* * * * *

Hi Hoss,

My commanding officer has been bugging me about getting a haircut. Do I have to get one of those "white-wall" haircuts? What's the Cav's policy on length of hair, mustaches, etc.?

Hairy Grunt

Dear Hairy:

This issue had become a pretty "hairy" problem, so last month the Cav clarified its policy on haircuts and mustaches. According to Cav Regulation 40-12 (and paragraph 31a, AR 600-20), "haircuts will conform with accepted standards. Specifically, sides and back will be neatly trimmed. Unkempt tops and sideburns are prohibited. Hair will kept two inches or less in length.

"Mustaches will be neatly trimmed. Unwieldy mustaches are prohibited.

"Beards and goatees are prohibited. All personnel are required to shave daily unless tactically unfeasible."

Hoss

* * * * *

Hello Hoss,

Say, I'm in the National Guard and I've been in Vietnam since December. A friend of mine just told me that effective June 1st all reservists and guardsmen now serving in 'Nam will be released. What's the straight poop, Hoss?

Hopeful NG

Dear Hopeful:

Sorry to break your bubble, man, but your friend didn't have his facts straight. According to Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor, who just testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Army plans to discontinue its policy of assigning mobilized reservists and guardsmen to Vietnam. The Secretary was quoted as saying that "no levies for guard and reserve replacements will be made after May 31st." That's your bad news.

Here's the good news. The Army plans to have all mobilized reserve and guard personnel back home by mid-December at the latest. Those men completing tours in Vietnam will be released immediately upon their return to the States, beginning in August. Any of you fellows still in country in December will be returned to the world and released.

WHO'S FIRST ON THE FIRST TEAM			
BEST AVAILABILITY		BEST ACCIDENT/INCIDENT RATE	
RATE			
15th TC	1	E/82d Arty	1
1st Bde Avn	2	2d Bde Avn	2
2/20th ARA	3	15th TC	3
E/82d Arty	4	1/9th Cav	4
229th AHB	5	11th GS Co	5
227th AHB	6	1st Bde Avn	6
1/9th Cav	7	3d Bde Avn	7
2d Bde Avn	8	229th AHB	8
3d Bde Avn	9	228th ASHB	9
15th Med	10	227th AHB	10
11th GS Co	11	15th Med	11
228th ASHB	12	2/20th ARA	12



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Commanding General MG George I. Forsythe
Information Officer CPT John T. Kallunki
Press Officer CPT Jim Ryan
Production Editor SP5 Al Garcia
Layout Editor SP5 Steve Haldeman

Awards

Awards were presented to the following Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

ADAMS, LTC Pritchard G. JR. HHC, 1st Bn, 8th Cav.

BENNETT, WO1 Rex JR. Co C, 229th Av Bn.

CLINE, WO1 Stuart Co B, 227th Av Bn.

FREDERICK, 1LT Donald P. Trp A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav.

JACKSON, CW2 Homer D. Co A, 229th Av Bn.

KILLINGSWORTH, SP5 Claude Co B, 229th Av Bn.

MC QUILKIN, WO1 William R. Co C, 227th Av Bn.

MUNN, CW2 Paul E. HHC, 3rd Bde.

SHRADER, MAJ Cecil L. Trp C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav.

SMITH, WO1 James Co D, 227th Av Bn.

SILVER STAR

ACEVEDO, SP4 Aurelio Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav.

BALLMANN, SGT Anthony P. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

EHRlich, 1LT Theodore Btry B, 2nd Bn, 19th Arty.

GETTLEMAN, SP4 Howard D. Co A, 5th Bn, 7th Cav.

LUTZ, CPT Ward A. Co A, 1st Bn, 8th Cav.

MC GRAW, LTC John F. JR. HHC, 5th Bn, 7th Cav.

MITCHELL, SP4 Horace Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

SHREVE, WO1 Preston R. Co B, 229th Av Bn.

SULLIVAN PFC Dennis E. Co D, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

WYATT, 1LT Lawrence E. Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Cav.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

CHAMBERS, PFC Donald J. Co D, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav.

CLAUSEN, SGT Robert L. Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav.

CROSS, SP4 Tommie L. Co A, 5th Bn, 7th Cav.

JARDEL, SP4 Joseph A. Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

KANTELES, SP5 Allan A. Co C, 8th Engr Bn.

LACKAS, SP4 Monty G. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

STARR, SGT Lanny H. Co A, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav.

WIENICK, SGT Michael I. Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

VERNOR, 1SG Thomas J. Btry A, 1st Bn, 30th Arty.

VIROSTKO, Sgt. Stephen C. Co H (Ranger), 75th Inf.

Helicopter Safety A Must In First Team

CAV COUNTRY — How many times have you flown in a Chinook back to the rear for R&R, leave or some other reason, and were told by the flight engineer or crew chief to "take that magazine out of your weapon," "point it to the floor," "roll your sleeves down" or "button your shirt?"

How many times in a combat assault has the crew screamed at you to hurry up loading at the PZ or practically pushed you out at the LZ? Or when they see a man try to get aboard with a PRC-25 antenna? Well, if you think about it, you'll realize there are logical reasons for all this.

No, it's not because crew members are descendants of the Red Baron and have nothing better to do than harass the troops. To start with, the crew encounters the same problems day after day, mission after mission, and grows old saying the same things over and over again. You remove the magazine from your weapon and point it to the floor for a very obvious reason. Sure, you've been in Vietnam for a long time and handle your M-16 like Buffalo Bill, but if a round is accidentally discharged when you're airborne, it can destroy the aircraft and kill its passengers. Don't be the first person on your block to

down a \$1.3 million Chinook and kill thirty or forty people. Remove that magazine!

There's also the danger of fire. A major airframe component on a "hook" is magnesium, a highly flammable substance also used in flames and incendiary grenades. Next time you see a flare, think about riding inside a burning helicopter. This is why the crew wears gloves and tells you to roll down your sleeves and button your shirt. Being covered might increase your chances of surviving a serious fire.

As for that PRC-25, let it suffice to say that in a hook a small section of the drive shafting turns at about 7600 RPM. Imagine what would happen if your antenna happened to get tangled in that.

There's a good reason for telling you to hurry at PZ's and LZ's, too. On a PZ you'll hold up the operation; there's usually a ship behind you waiting for you to clear so he can land. On an LZ a delay in loading might give Charles just enough time to knock out your bird.

So you see, that crew isn't really harassing you. They're trying to help you. There are good reasons for the rules they impose and enforce, so let's all work toward that common goal in Vietnam — survival.



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



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

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

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

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

Many individuals may be discharged and reenlist as soon as they have completed eight months' active Federal service on their current commitment. Included in this program are personnel serving on their first Regular Army enlistment, USAR and NG personnel serving on active duty, and inductees. These men are entitled to the Regular Reenlistment Bonus. And, if so inclined, they may reenlist for an available option for which they are qualified. To clarify a point, men with prior service in another branch may reenlist under this program. However, eligibility for options by these personnel will be governed by grade and service for pay purposes.

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

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



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Business Is Booming

Redlegs from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery send an explosive message to Chuck from LZ Grant.

Cav's Horses Need TLC

PHUOC VINH — Since the inception of the cavalry, the cavalryman has always cared for his steed before he cared for himself. We know that down through the years, the Army has provided the cavalryman with the very best mount money could buy. The horses bought by the Army for the Indian campaigns were bred and raised in the west and were suited for the terrain and climate of that region.

In this day and age, our American ingenuity has provided the cavalryman with magnificent steeds that are just as suited for the terrain and climate of our present areas of operation. It gave us the turbine engine to develop more power in hot climates. It also gave us different types of mounts, the same as in the old cavalry days.

The OH-6A (Cayuse) is fast like the Indian scout pony; and still performs as the eyes of the division. The UH-1 (Iroquois) is the cavalryman's steed and is ridden into battle much the same as the mustangs and other cavalry horses were ridden in the wild west. The CH-47 (Chinook) is the packhorse or packmule that carries artillery and heavy supplies much the same way as the dray horses and packmules did in days past. All of these have given us a much swifter cavalry than was enjoyed by the cavalry of the past.

However good our steeds of today may be, none of them will last in the heat of battle without the "tender loving care" (TLC) the cavalryman of old gave his steed. The 1st Air Cavalry Division perhaps rides probably the dirtiest mount in Vietnam. The reason for this is twofold: We push our mounts much harder and we don't enjoy a fixed stable of operations. In other words, we live on the enemy's doorstep and keep our steeds beside us.

It is amazing however, what a little PM (Preventive Maintenance) would do for our modern day chargers. Water of the non-

potable type is fairly plentiful in Vietnam, and most units have 28 and 50 gallons-per-minute pumps. One pump per operational company should be spared for pumping water from a nearby stream to give our steeds a good weekly cleaning.

Engines should be washed daily. This could be accomplished by a water point with the above mentioned pumps and 55 gallon drums of water. The wash could be accomplished in a matter of minutes, as the steeds are brought back to the stable at the end of a hard day's ride. In the manner which the old cavalry steed was curried by his rider at the end of a hard day, our birds could be wiped down in critical areas at the end of each day. It would be amazing how much money and how many lives could be saved if we would wash off the grime before it has a chance to erode turbine fans or work its way into bearing or rotating surfaces.

In the old days each cavalry troop had its blacksmiths and saddlers to keep the steeds shod

and the bridles and saddles in good repair. The blacksmith shops of today are maintenance sections of the division. The anvil, bellows and saddler's tools have been replaced by the machine shop, component repair shops, sheet metal shops and the mechanic's hand-tool box.

We have to anticipate hardware needs and keep them on hand. The Army has furnished us with every possible tool to accomplish our mission. If they are not on hand, it's more than likely our own fault. We have probably broken it and failed to order a replacement right away, or have just neglected to order it in the first place.

The Army has also furnished us with modern shops such as the machine shop, sheet metal shop and component repair shop. In our case, these are mounted in vans to make us airborne. Although maybe not quite as elaborate as the shop vans of the more fixed-base units, they are adequate for the accomplishment of our mission.

Can you imagine a machinist

trying to fabricate an aircraft part with a lathe that is not running true, or a sheet metal man trying to buck a rivet with an inoperative rivet gun? Have you tried to order a new lathe or rivet gun? They are in supply channels.

Let's take the careless mechanic who leaves his tools laying on work decks of aircraft when he finishes his work. Ever heard of a blacksmith leaving his nail hammer on the back of the "Old Man's" horse? The least that could happen is a lost tool in the latter case. But what if it happens with us and gets into some control rods? It could mean a crashed aircraft and very possibly loss of our cavalrymen's lives. At any rate, the next time he needs that particular tool it is missing. Constant spot checks must be made by supervisors after work is completed to assure police of the work areas.

Let's face it, good maintenance begins at the operational unit level, whether we are operating a wheelbarrow or the most complex piece of equipment in the Army inventory. If each individual unit in the 1st Cav would set up and maintain a good preventive maintenance program, we would not have to put our steeds out to pasture as soon. How many times have we sent our birds to DS level maintenance for what we thought was a one or two day job and have it stay more than a week? How many times could we improve our preventive maintenance program by reviewing DA Form 2404 when it returns to our control? We might find numerous things we could do to prevent future discrepancies. If we would do this, we could take more of our steeds to battle, and have them perform in the manner for which they were designed.

Our mission is to hit the enemy quick when we find him; and we can't do this on foot! Besides, let's have a little pride — a cavalryman is meant to ride into battle, not walk!

First Team Assignment Re-unites Mills Brothers

BIEN HOA — If you don't believe it really is a small world, you'd better talk to Staff Sergeant Michael F. Mills (E. Boston, Mass.) and his brother, Specialist Four Alan J. Mills (Charlotte, N.C.).

Because somewhere in the Army's maze of administrative red tape a miracle was conceived and the paths of the two brothers crossed here, seven years and 12,000 miles from their last meeting.

SSG Mills, who recently arrived here for his second Vietnam tour, found himself assigned as a platoon sergeant to the 1st Cav's Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

Coincidentally, his brother's

unit, the 101st Airborne Division's 101st Military Police Company, was also located at Bien Hoa.

"I knew he was a member of the MPs here," said SSG Mills. "So it was only a matter of looking him up. When I found him, he was filling sandbags on the perimeter."

The two brothers, who had not seen each other since SSG Mills joined the Army seven years ago, immediately went out and celebrated the reunion.

"Before he came over here, we could never seem to get together," said SP4 Mills. "I just missed seeing him when I was home on my extension leave. I really didn't expect to run into him. It was quite a surprise."

Arty Muscles Crush NVA Attackers

TAY NINH — As enemy rockets and mortar rounds began peppering Landing Zone Grant, artillerymen from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery had little time to run for the shelter of their parapets.

But soon the tables turned, and the enemy was on the run as the "Redlegs" struck back with their 105mm howitzers.

On the night of Feb. 23, a North Vietnamese force attacked this tiny fire support base.

At the close of the initial enemy bombardment, Captain William D. Capshaw, the battery commander, ordered his men to move a 105mm howitzer to the north gate of the landing zone and another to the south gate.

Just as his men had completed the grueling task of pushing and pulling the heavy fieldpieces to the gates, an enemy recoilless rifle position was spotted. Using direct fire, the cannoneers destroyed the position in short order.

Throughout the night, the artillerymen hammered away at the enemy.

"It was great," said Private First Class Andrew LePore, a loader for Battery C. "Nobody lost his head. We all worked together as a team. In fact, the battery commander was right down there at the gate with us."

Kitchen Pig Earns Keep

BIEN HOA — Jerry Rubin's Youth International Party (the "Yippies") made a lot of headlines in Chicago last summer when they branded the police "pigs" and then tried to run a real pig for president.

Well, the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry has gone them one better. They have a real pig actually working in their mess hall.

"Oink-Oink," (yes, that really is his name) a plump, young piglet who one of these days just may find himself on the other side of the serving line, is now the mess hall's garbage disposal.

"The best one we've ever had," said Specialist Four Antone Cabral, the unlucky cook who has been designated as Oink-Oink's keeper.

"We got him in Song Be several months ago," said Specialist Six William Agnew, a shift leader in the mess hall. "It didn't take him any time at all to learn his duties in the mess hall."

Specifically, Oink-Oink's only "duty" is to get rid of all the leftover food. This he does very well, according to mess hall personnel.

In addition to leftovers, Oink-Oink loves Long Range Patrol (LRP) rations, although he absolutely refuses to touch them unless they have already been mixed with water.

Billeting for Oink-Oink has been no real problem as he is quite content with the pig pen the mess hall personnel have built for him.

His recreational tastes are also quite simple: he loves nothing better than rolling around in mud puddles on hot, humid days.

Oink-Oink has no definite plans when he completes his military obligation (that is, if he survives the barbecue some members of the battalion are reportedly planning for him).

Division Psyops Teams Waging Winning Battle In 'Other War'

BY SSG MATT GLASGOW
QUAN LOI — A new weapon has been added to those employed by the 1st Cav during a firefight — Psychological Operations.

Under recently initiated operations, the enemy is not only faced with the awesome Cavalry firepower, but he must cope with attacks upon his sense of security, purpose, and well-being. Often times, this attack is coordinated to take place while the enemy is still being ripped and pounded by ground fire, artillery, and aerial rocket artillery. At the latest it occurs immediately after he is beaten and while he is still retreating.

Each of the division's brigades

is now equipped with a 1,000 watt loudspeaker, a two-man psychological operations (PSYOPS) team, and a stand-by helicopter in addition to an arsenal of leaflets. Reaction time from the moment contact is made to the time the team is over the area is minimal, usually 10 minutes or less. Once there, the team evaluates the situation, selects a tape recorded message for the loudspeaker, and drops thousands of safe-conduct and Chieu Hoi leaflets.

Is the method effective? "Yes," said Sergeant Howard B. Patrick, a member of the 2nd Brigade's PSYOPS team. "When we fly over and announce that they lost a specific

number of men in a previous battle, address them by the supposedly secret designation for their unit, and warn them that they are going to get beaten again — it definitely undermines their morale."

The second member of the PSYOPS team, who comes from the 6th PSYOPS Battalion, is Specialist Five Clarence V. Spawr.

He explained, "We get up there over 'Charlie' and either play a pre-recorded tape, which has been pre-tested by my unit's Propaganda Development Board, or get an interpreter to announce the message if we have no tape to cover the situation. Appeals made may be to

the individual enemy's emotions, logic, or drive to survive. If we have discovered a large rice cache, we tell him we have taken his food and ask him what he is going to do now. Since we know that their doctors and medical support are very poor, sometimes we tell him so and let him know that he could have the best medical care if he will Chieu Hoi.

"Another avenue of attack is through his love for his family. If the unit is VC or mixed with VC, we tell him that his family misses him and he can be reunited with them if he will rally. Often times, this particular message is prefaced with the sounds of crying; other times we use fu-



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SFC Peter De Gard)
 Pilots from Company C, 229th Helicopter Battalion carry the power amplification system to a chopper prior to conducting a Psyops mission.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SFC Peter De Gard)
 A Psyops team flies over suspected enemy territory urging insurgent troops to surrender under the Chieu Hoi program.

neral music. To the NVA we can not offer repatriation immediately with their families — so we ask them if they want to die here, away from their families and the place of their birth. (In their religion it is important to be buried in the place where they were born.) Then we tell them that if they come over to our side we will treat them well and return them to their families when the war is over."

In an attempt to render the broadcasts inaudible, enemy leaders often fire at the helicopters with anything from a rifle to a .50-caliber machinegun. "We have taken some ground fire from them," said SGT Pat-

rick, "and we have been hit by .50's before — but not very often. Since we usually fly at over 1,000 feet (where we can best be heard) it is difficult for them to hit us in the air. At night we can fly up to 2,500 feet and still be heard. With the 1,000-watt speakers, at that altitude, it is heard at a normal conversational tone on the ground. Psychologically, the broadcasts are probably most effective at night. For one thing, they can't tell where it's coming from."

"Determining effectiveness in terms of the number of Hoi Chans responding to each individual broadcast is probably the most difficult thing in our posi-

tion. Usually the Hoi Chanh turns himself in to a field unit and we never see him. Sometimes we get the word that he has come over to the government's side because of a broadcast he heard on a certain date when he was in an area where we worked that day—but this doesn't happen very often," said SP5 Spawr. "The way we find out how well it works is by the total number of Hoi Chans that come in. Last year there were over 30,000 and this year will probably end with an even higher number because now we are hitting him when he is most vulnerable — when he is right in the middle of battle."



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SFC Peter De Gard)
 When the preparations are completed, the 229th Chopper spreads the word to enemy that surrender is to their best interest and guarantees them a safe conduct pass.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SFC Peter De Gard)
 The broadcast speaker assembly is mounted on the side of a Huey slick prior to takeoff.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SSG Matt Glasgow)
 The thousands of leaflets dotting the Vietnamese sky is a familiar sight to enemy troops in the 1st Cav's area of operations.

Young NCO's Bible Proves Worth During Enemy Attack

BY 1LT WILLIAM DIMASCIO

TAY NINH — Troops in the field attribute varied degrees of faith to an endless variety of good luck charms. But there isn't a "rabbit's foot" in Vietnam more highly valued than the 120-year-old Bible carried by Sergeant Tony Minotti.

The book has been carried in combat zones around the world since the Civil War. After SGT Minotti's harrowing experience

during a recent sapper attack, it is not hard to see why he clings to it here.

A company of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry was defending a small fire base northeast of here when the action erupted. The 23-year-old squad leader had finished a tour on radio watch and went to sleep in a small, culvert-and-sandbag hootch that he shared with one other soldier.

The roar of crashing mortars

outside their shelter awakened both men. Before they realized what was happening, a satchel charge landed and exploded on the floor between them. The concussion lifted the roof from its emplacement and set it back down. Seconds later, SGT Minotti began regaining his senses and realized that he was all right except for a few scratches on his arms and legs. The other soldier, however, more seriously injured, was unable to move.

SGT Minotti carried the wounded trooper to a perimeter bunker some 30 feet away. When they got there, he looked for a weapon. His had been destroyed by the satchel charge.

Light was streaming into the bunker from flares outside. As his glance passed the position's main aperture, the young NCO saw the barrel of an AK-47 rifle pointing in.

The sergeant dove on his wounded comrade as the Communist rifle sprayed lead throughout the bunker. The enemy gunner released two bursts of fire before someone cut him down from outside.

"I felt the bullets landing around my legs," SGT Minotti said. "When he stopped firing, I felt my legs to see if they were still there."

After getting a medic to treat his wounded buddy, SGT Minotti began helping other wounded troopers to the aid station.

When it was over, SGT Minotti took his "good luck piece" from his shirt pocket to see how it had fared. Its plastic carrying case was burned.

"Although it's a little burned on the edges from the satchel charge," he remarked, "the Bible came through the attack and so did I."

Viet Suffering, Ignorance Chipped Away By Cav

BY SP4 RICHARD CRAIG

TAY NINH — While the war effort presses on in the hills and countryside of Vietnam, a small group of men fight a different kind of war against a different enemy.

The enemy is human suffering and ignorance. In Tay Ninh, there is a critical refugee problem, the schools are inadequate, and sanitation facilities remain a matter of concern.

The 1st Cav is doing much to improve conditions here.

Among those aiding in the civil affairs effort is the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

"We go down and talk to the people," said First Lieutenant Frank L. Pearson, Civil Affairs officer of the 2nd Bn, 12th Cav. "If they have a genuine need, we see what we can do to fill it."

Recently, the battalion's Civil Affairs team launched a project at the Hiep Le No. 1 School in

Tay Ninh. Working closely with 1st Brigade Civil Affairs and the Military Assistance Command Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support (MACCORDS), they plan to take empty 105mm ammunition boxes and make playground equipment for the school students.

Another project, now almost completed, is a revamping of the sanitation facilities at the Tay Ninh Orphanage.

"Frankly," said Sergeant First Class Henderson D. Craddock, NCOIC of 1st Brigade Civil Affairs, "the conditions left a lot to be desired. Since our coordinated program began, conditions have improved greatly."

Civil Affairs is fighting their own kind of war, and its enemies are just as die-hard and unyielding as the Viet Cong.

It's a battle for people's minds — a battle for trust and understanding.

Divarty, 1st Infantry Division Bolster Camp Gorvad's Security

BY SP5 STEVE HALDEMAN

PHUOC VINH — In deviating from traditional tactical procedures, the 1st Cav has established another first in AO Wolf. AO Wolf is the circular area of operations surrounding Camp Gorvad, where an infantry maneuver force is operationally controlled by the Division Artillery (DIVARTY) commander, Colonel James A. Munson, who assumed command Feb. 12.

"You won't find this situation in any textbook," stated Captain John Rogers, liaison officer for the infantry to DIVARTY.

"DIVARTY was given the mission of Camp Gorvad base defense because the base was outside the areas of operations of the three brigades. In order to accomplish this mission DIVARTY needed an infantry maneuver element in the field, so one was placed under its operational control," said Major Gary Parr, liaison officer from the artillery.

The maiden unit under the operational control of DIVARTY was not from the 1st Cav. Rather it was the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division.

"We had to go to the 1st Inf Div for this initial support unit because the Cav didn't have one operational in this area at that time," said CPT Rogers.

CPT Rogers stated that an operation of this kind is advantageous to both the infantry and

the artillery units. The infantry is able to have "steel on the ground" and aerial rocket artillery (ARA) in the area much faster than normal, as there is no problem with clearance. In the case of AO Wolf the clearing and commanding agents are one and the same. The artillery unit knows exactly where the infantry is operating and can have

the batteries "working out" in a matter of seconds.

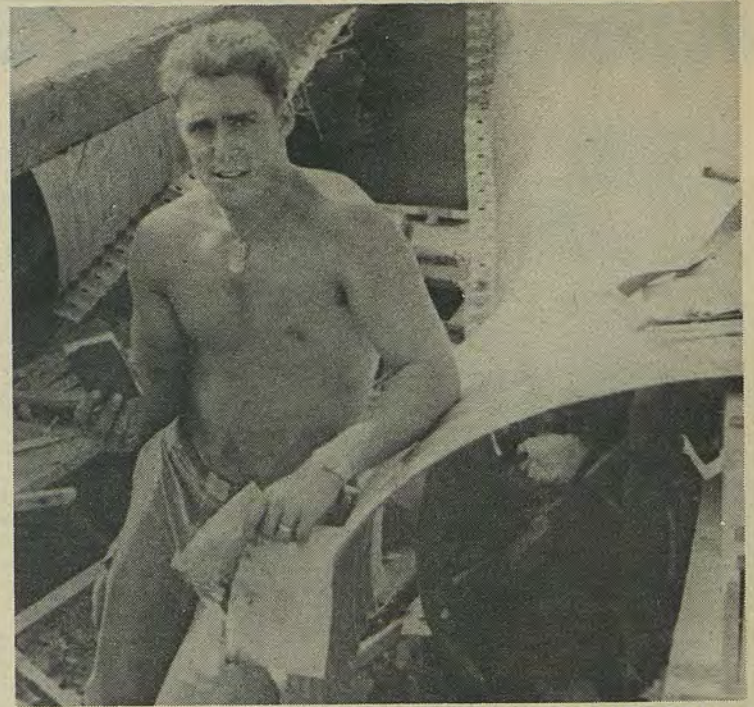
According to CPT Rogers, the personnel involved with AO Wolf are pleased with the concept and the actual operation.

"We get infantry and artillery viewpoints of tactical situations which lend themselves to better decision-making," said CPT Rogers.



And You, Too

Skytroopers from 2/12th Cav accept cartons of cigarettes donated by the Buena Park (Calif.) Jaycees and their chapter at Savannah High School in Buena Park. Passing out the smokes is Mr. Victor M. Childs, a PA&E employee at Camp Gorvad.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 Bud McLean)

Tattered, But OK

SGT Tony Minotti, a squad leader with Company B, 1/8th Cav, holds up the Bible he has carried in Vietnam. Both he and the book survived a satchel charge in his bunker (background) and an AK-47 rifle burst fired nearly point blank.

Baggie-packing Grunt Dampens NVA Plans

TAY NINH — Can a box of "baggies" help in the defense of a night perimeter? Well, it did for a company of Skytroopers recently.

The night was typical of most evenings in the field, until the flash and crash of rocket-propelled grenades shattered the routine.

The cry of "Incoming!" was heard above the explosions as the soldiers scrambled into bunkers of anything that offered some protection.

Fires had started at different places around the perimeter. As a result of the fires, another disaster took place. The claymore mines around the perimeter started blowing up.

Saving the claymores became a prime concern because the cavalrymen knew they would need them if a ground attack was forthcoming. Besides, the illumination from the fires was exposing their fighting positions.

At this point, Sergeant Gary O'Donnel had the idea of using water balloons to douse the flames.

"At first it was nothing more than a comical thing to say at a time like that," the Company A,

1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry squad leader admitted. "But then the idea started to take shape. My wife had sent a box of baggies in the last 'Care' package I received. A five-gallon water can was setting near the bunker, so I thought, why not?"

The idea proved very successful. Soon water balloons were being hurled at the fire in the same manner that grenades would have been thrown at enemy bunkers.

The flames steadily died down to a small flicker, but not before a few claymores had been detonated. The remaining mines, however, were adequate for the rest of the night's defense.

Long Night . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

threw something at us. We saw it coming and started to low crawl away from it. I don't know what it was. We were ready for it to go off, but it never did."

Finally the Skytroopers made it to a better position and started to open up on the enemy. The men on the green line were "popping flares" all around the NVA and turned the night into day. Groups of the enemy were trying to retreat back to the wood line, but other groups were still trying to take the base.

"As it started to lighten up around the base the enemy started a full retreat, but there were a few small groups in the wood lines trying to knock out our position. There was one particular NVA soldier trying to direct fire against us. It looked like he was a radio operator, because he was carrying something that seemed to have a very long antenna on it," stated PFC Martin. "Then we got him."

After that, the fighting started to drop off. The Skytroopers on the green line gave the listening post team an "OK" to come in. When they finally returned to the camp at about 6 a.m., the men were gazed at with disbelief — they had been outside the perimeter during the whole fight.

Looking back on their experience, PFCs Fowler and Martin were quick to agree that, "It was the longest night in my whole life. I hope that I never have to go through that again."

(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)



London Cutie

Who says they don't make them like they used to? Lovely model Frances Segelman is living proof that the mold is still intact, and she's only 16!

Medevac An Integral Part Of Bringing Men Back Alive

BY SP4 PHIL MANGER

BIEN HOA — Thanks to the helicopter and its ability to land almost anywhere, the chances of survival for a man wounded in action have increased immeasurably over previous wars.

However, there are places where even a helicopter cannot land. It is for these places the Medevac helicopter's hoist equipment is designed.

Consisting of an electric crane powered by the helicopter's electrical system and a 600-pound-test metal cable, the hoist equipment can lift objects from as far up as 250 feet.

"We get quite a few calls for hoist missions down here," said First Lieutenant Walt McNees, an aircraft commander for Medevac, 15th Medical Battalion. "We can use either the jungle penetrator or the rigid litter."

The jungle penetrator is a collapsible metal cylinder with three folding seats around its axis. It has a conical point which enables it to be lowered through the thickest of jungle canopies without snagging on branches on the way down. It is painted a bright yellow, enabling it to be quickly spotted in the green foliage.

Although the perch on the jungle penetrator appears somewhat precarious, there is little danger of falling off, thanks to a

strap which loops under the arms and around the back of the casualty. Even if the man falls off the seat, he will still be held on the penetrator.

For those missions where the casualty is unconscious and more likely to fall off the penetrator, there is the rigid litter. It consists of a canvas cocoon in which the casualty can be securely strapped to prevent him from falling out. It is hoisted vertically to prevent snagging in the vegetation.

The crane itself consists of an electric motor and a swinging boom which are operated by the medic who controls the speed of ascent and descent with a hand-grip control.

"During the operations," said 1LT McNees, "the chopper has to stay absolutely rigid. The medic is the chopper's 'eyes' during the procedure and watch-

es the cable to make sure it is taut. When we get a load on the cable, we pull the chopper up slowly until the cable is taut. This saves a lot of strain on both the chopper and the hoist equipment."

Although the cable and motor can handle up to 600 pounds, LT McNees does not like to hoist more than one passenger at a time. "The strain would be too much so we taped up the other two seats on the jungle penetrator."

Because of the nature of hoist operations, they can be used even when the casualty on the ground is invisible from the air.

"Usually we can see the ground," explained LT McNees, "but I've been on some missions where the canopy was so thick that the only thing we had to go by was the smoke marking the position."

Cav Liaison NCO Offers Aid, Smile To Wounded

LAI KHE — Moving through the wards with a smile on his face and a pocket full of yellow Cav patches, the 1st Air Cav Liaison NCO for the 2nd Surgical Hospital fills his day by helping other Skytroopers.

Sergeant First Class Samuel W. Jury arrived in Vietnam in May, 1968, and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery as chief of a firing battery. Only a month later, at the request of the battalion commander, SFC Jury went to An Khe to be interviewed for the job of hospital liaison NCO.

Officially, the primary job of SFC Jury is to keep the proper authorities informed of the disposition of wounded soldiers of THE FIRST TEAM. More important to the men involved, SFC Jury spends part of each day talking to the men, asking if there is any way in which he can help them — with promotion, fi-

nance or personal problems — and pulling writing paper, pens, Cav patches, cigarettes, and other items out of his bulging pockets.

"My job is to see that Cav personnel get the best treatment available. I'm ready to help people 24 hours a day," said SFC Jury.

"Most of the men I get here are in fairly bad shape, but thanks to the Cav's airmobility and the great medical people here in the hospital, most of them make it. Although it would make my job kind of dull, I would personally like to see zero Cav people come through here," said SFC Jury with his ever-present smile.

Even though he is faced with what could be one of the most discouraging jobs in the Army, SFC Jury always has a smile, a cheery word, a sympathetic ear, and a hearty handshake for everyone.

1LT Awarded Bronze Star

TAY NINH — The 1st Cav soldiers cautiously walked through the thick vegetation. Before long, the cavalymen discovered they were walking directly into an enemy ambush.

"We were just pushing through the thick brush onto a highway when my point man noticed some enemy soldiers waiting for an ambush," said First Lieutenant Raymond B. Armer II, a platoon leader for Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. "When we pushed through the brush so quickly, it really surprised them."

The point man hit the ground and opened up on the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers. The enemy began returning fire.

"They pinned down the point man," said 1LT Armer. "I knew that someone had to go up and help him."

Crawling through the brush, 1LT Armer finally made it to the point man, who was lying in a shallow ditch beside the road.

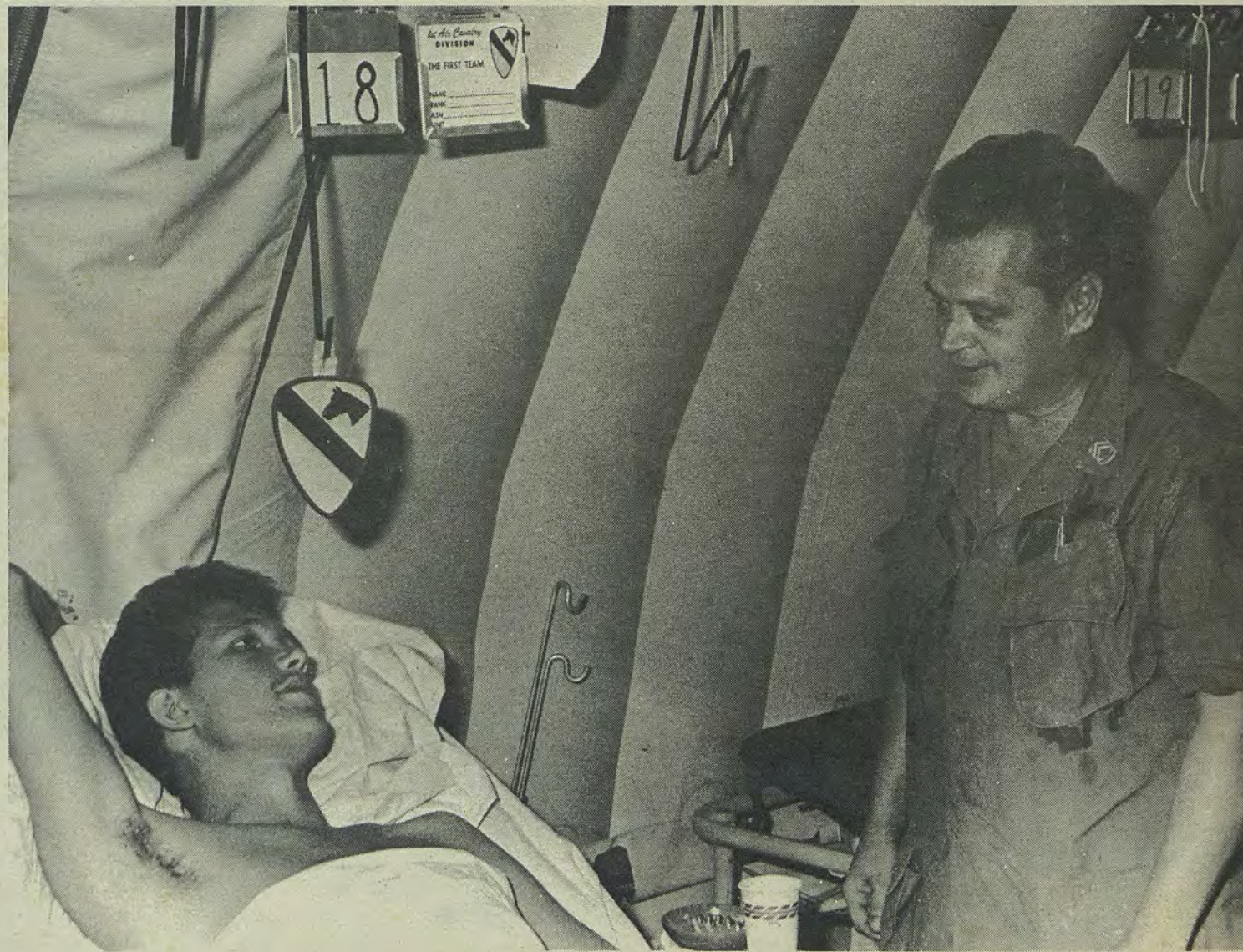
Bullets continually whizzed by the lieutenant and point man. LT Armer began throwing fragmentation grenades and firing at the hidden enemy with his M-16 rifle.

"I don't know how many magazines of ammunition I fired," said 1LT Armer, "but there was always ammunition when I needed it. The rest of the platoon had formed kind of a resupply group and were crawling forward to bring me more ammo."

As the cavalymen began withdrawing, 1LT Armer continued to fire at the enemy until his platoon was in safety.

Later in the day, the infantrymen went back into the area, and a thorough check revealed six NVA killed in action.

For his actions in this February 22, 1969, engagement, 1LT Armer was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device.



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

A Smile, A Kind Word

SFC Samuel W. Jury, Cav Liaison NCO at the 2nd Surgical Hospital, chats with PFC Barry Overlee of Company D, 1/5th Cav.

Ambush: Deadly Hide, Seek Game

TAY NINH — A new guy sits by his night ambush position. Hours pass by. He asks himself, "Are we going to make contact tonight? Are they going to hit us tonight?"

"We started out about 7 p.m.," recalled Private First Class Joseph Lankelin, a rifleman with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry. "We first set up our claymores and trip flares and then started to dig in for the night."

Then the long wait. About midnight, small arms fire started to come in on the positions.

The enemy fire lasted for about 20 minutes, after which the Skytroopers started to reinforce their night positions.

"About 3:30 a.m. they hit us with everything," stated Specialist Four Gary Hauser, a grenadier with Company A. "They started to bring B-40 rockets and mortars in on our position. By the way the mortars were coming in, it seemed like we were surrounded. We were getting hit from all directions."

After the rocket and mortar barrage, the area around the night ambush quieted. A few

hours later, the ambush team heard the approach of the enemy.

"We saw them coming and waited for them to get within range of our claymores," stated Private First Class Melvin Hearn, a machine gunner. "We blew our claymores and then cut loose with frags (fragmentation grenades) and small arms fire. When we saw they outnumbered us, we called for artillery and aerial rocket artillery support."

In a dawn patrol of the area the next day, the Skytroopers found eight enemy dead and de-

tained one suspect. They also found three AK-47 assault rifles plus large amounts of equipment.

Looking back on the night ambush, PFCs Lankelin and Hearn were quick to agree: "We have been on other ambush patrols. On some of them you won't have contact all the time you are out there. On others you can have contact from nightfall to dawn. No matter how many I go on, I will always think for a while of what the night has in store for me. I won't be disappointed if I don't have to go on ambushes."