

# 'Grunts', Gunships Zap 46 NVA



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## Firepower—Enemy Type

(SGT) Tim Sheehe points out the inner workings of an enemy .51 caliber anti-aircraft weapon to SGT Jim Riblay. The machine-gun was captured by Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.



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## Artillerymen Fire Millionth Round In Vietnam Conflict

By SP4 Gary Quillen

TAY NINH — After the deflection and azimuth were repeated to the howitzer crew, the assistant gunner pulled the lanyard and one more 105mm round was on its way to pound the enemy.

But this round and this mission for Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery, were something of extra importance. It was the one millionth round fired by the battalion in direct support of the 1st Brigade in Vietnam.

"This is really a lot of lead," said Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Morrison the battalion commander. "What it means to the men is 21,000 tons of ammunition. The men have unloaded the rounds at various landing zones and rammed them home round by round."

Supporting the infantrymen from the hilltops near the DMZ to the flatlands of the Delta, the 2nd Bn, 19th Arty arrived in Vietnam on September 19, 1965.

"We take great pride in supporting the infantry," said LTC

Morrison. "One of the attributes of direct support artillery is its ability to move anywhere necessary to support the infantry."

And move around is exactly what the battalion has done, particularly since operating in the III Corps area. The artillerymen have established 16 firebases, while the Fire Direction Center has moved five times and the battalion headquarters three times.

Major General George I. Forsythe, the division commander, highly praised the men for their accomplishments, particularly during the recent post-Tet offensive.

"You Skytroopers, particularly you Redlegs, rode their backs all the way down from the Cambodian border to their final position."

"The enemy really took a beating and now he's back thinking it over ... he'll try it again and he's going to take another beating. Then he'll go back to Cambodia and think about it, and maybe he'll think twice about trying again."

Also present at this milestone of the "On the Way" Battalion was Sergeant Marion Andrews, an artilleryman with Battery C. SGT Andrews, who was present at the firing of the 500,000th round, put the one millionth round in the chamber.

"It was almost two years since the firing of the 500,000th round," said SGT Andrews. "We were at LZ English in the Bong Son Plains. Even though the surroundings are different now, it sure brings back a lot of memories."



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## Ready, Aim . . .

SP4 Lsidro Manriquez assumes a firing position on a Chinese-made .51 caliber machinegun captured by his unit, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

## Outnumbered Cavmen Pound Enemy Battalion

By SP4 Phil Manger

BIEN HOA—The 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry simultaneously fought a grass fire and an estimated battalion of NVA 11 kilometers northeast of here recently in a four-hour battle that saw 46 Communists die.

Teaming up with helicopter gunships of Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, a company of Skytroopers launched repeated assaults against strong enemy positions to its front and right while nearly a whole platoon battled a wind-whipped brush fire which threatened to engulf it from the left.

Contact began at 1:40 in the afternoon when the company moved into an area where scout ships from the 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav had observed considerable enemy activity.

"We had just stopped for resupply when we got the word to move about a click (kilometer) to the northeast," said Captain George Martindell, company commander.

The company moved across dry rice paddies toward a woodline in the distance. When it had almost reached the woodline, the point platoon (2nd Platoon) ran into an enemy bunker. A brief fight ensued. The bunker was assaulted and the two enemy inside killed.

Then CPT Martindell brought two of his platoons on line and moved them into a ravine which ran off into the woodline.

"We got about 150 meters out into the streambed when they started throwing grenades at us," said PFC Thomas Goetz a point man. "When they threw the grenades, we opened up on them. I moved a little closer and got behind a tree."

By this time, CPT Martindell estimated that the company was up against an enemy platoon,

but as the fight wore on into the afternoon, it became evident that what it was facing was considerably more than a platoon.

"I kept expecting it to end after a few minutes," said Specialist Four Bob Keklak a rifleman in the 2nd Platoon. "But the fight just dragged on and on and got worse and worse."

"By now, my entire front and right flanks — the 1st and 2nd Platoons — were engaged," said CPT Martindell. "They were getting small arms fire, automatic weapons fire, rockets and grenades. A fire, probably started by hand grenades, began to burn in the grass toward our left, and we had to fight the brush fire at the same time."

Realization of the company's increasing difficulties caused CPT Martindell to pull his men back about 75 meters while helicopter gunships, artillery and a tactical air strike worked over the area.

"After the artillery and air strikes softened up the enemy," said CPT Martindell, "we went back in, getting maybe 25 meters into the woodline before we started taking heavy enemy fire again. The entire line was heavily engaged, so we had to pull back again and bring in more air strikes and artillery."

It was then that the company took its heaviest casualties of the day. As a helicopter gunship made a pass on an enemy position, one of its rockets touched off a large secondary explosion (CPT Martindell believed it was a cache of B-40 rockets) which sent a heavy rain of shrapnel into the ranks of the Skytroopers.

This time the company had to pull back again. The men set up a perimeter and brought the MEDEVAC choppers in. During the evacuation of the wounded, the company successfully repulsed two enemy attempts to encircle its position.

By 5:30 the fighting had stopped, and the enemy had apparently left the area.

## Security is Up to You

CAV COUNTRY — Would you give vital information to the enemy that could cost your buddies their lives? Maybe you think you don't even know that kind of information. But you probably do, according to one division intelligence officer, Captain Herbert E. Barnes. Furthermore, he states, "you probably won't even realize it when you do give it away."

"It happens all the time," said CPT Barnes, the 2nd Brigade's assistant S-2.

"Think about the last times you talked to a Vietnamese. What was her first question? 'How long you stay Vietnam,?' right?"

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## Editorial

# Careless Accidents

Are you aiding and abetting America's enemies in Vietnam? A ridiculous question? Not really, because every time a Skytrooper sustains a non-hostile injury in 'Nam he makes Charlie's job that much easier. It's no secret that the enemy often prefers injuries to combat deaths. An injured man diverts U.S. personnel and Medevac helicopters from their primary mission—attending to Americans wounded in action. And, according to division safety authorities, the Cav enjoys the unenviable distinction of having one of the highest accident rates in Vietnam.

Perhaps the most common of all non-hostile injuries is the weapons accident. Cavalrymen know their M-16's inside out, but sometimes this familiarity breeds carelessness. We tend to forget or ignore the rules of weapon safety we learned in basic training and AIT. The tragic thing about these accidents is that innocent bystanders are usually the victims.

A large number of non-combat injuries are caused by explosions and burns. Once again, bystanders are frequently the victims. Believe it or not, many injuries are caused by explosions of fragmentation grenades and other ordnance G.I.'s have thoughtlessly tossed into garbage cans and incinerators. Aerosol spray cans and unopened C-rations can also cause explosions. Cav Safety Director Ray Rogers tells us that a C-ration jelly can exploded recently and seriously cut a soldier's throat. Explosions, which often inflict second—and third-degree burns, can be avoided with a little common sense.

Falls also account for many accidents. Injuries from falls will happen in the boonies, but base camp falls are pretty hard to justify. Every time there's a rocket or mortar attack, there's always one dude who panics and injures himself while seeking cover. Don't "blow your cool" when there's incoming. Take cover quickly but not carelessly.

A fourth category is vehicle accidents. Once again the enemy is always happy to see a vehicle disabled. Vehicle accidents can be prevented by driving defensively.

What could be more absurd than suffering a non-combat injury in a combat zone? Don't give the enemy the victory he's thus far been unable to win on the battlefield!

Be aware of these common accidents and help prevent them. If your buddy violates a safety rule, set him straight; you might be saving someone's life.

Let's not make THE FIRST TEAM first in non-combat injuries!

## Cav's Honorary Mother Sends Holiday Greeting

(Editor's Note: Mother Dorcey, Honorary Mother of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, sends her Easter Greeting to all Skytroopers. She and her husband, the late Colonel Ben H. Dorcey, designed the Cav Patch. Mother Dorcey has regularly visited 1st Cav veterans of the Vietnam conflict in Walter Reed Hospital.)

To my beloved 1st Cavalry Men—Big Men who go places and do Big Things,

Your Honorary Mother wants you to know her heart and mind are filled with prayers for your comfort and protection at all times and each hour in admiration for your great performance in Vietnam.

Your commanders write me, "The men of the 1st Cavalry Division are the finest soldiers to be found."

On Easter Day, let us sense its real meaning, "Newness of Life," and rise in your young vigor and claim it.

You are noted for high spirits and great dispositions—your Golden Rule is lived—your buddy is important. This common sharing is what makes the 1st Air Cavalry Division world famous.

Men, I yearn to touch each one of you and tell you personally of the deep, warm gratitude that fills my whole "being" every day.

Your welfare and successes for all time are very dear to me.

Your Honorary Mother salutes you,

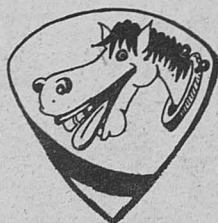
*Mother Dorcey*



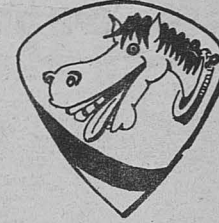
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## THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Dear Hoss,

I've heard a lot of conflicting rumors about getting an early out to go to college. I've only been in Vietnam a month now and I've been unable to get this straightened out. Can I get an early out and, if so, what's the procedure?

Confused

Dear Confused:

Yes, the Army will release you up to 90 days early to go to college. As a matter of fact, old Hoss might take advantage of this program too. What you'll need is a letter of acceptance from an accredited college or university saying that you've been admitted, without qualification, as a full-time student in an associate, bachelor's or advanced degree program. Make sure the letter also contains the exact dates of student registration. In addition, you'll be required to sign an affidavit stating you understand you may be prosecuted for knowingly deceiving Uncle Sam.

Route all the paperwork through your commanding officer, who in turn will forward it to the Adjutant General Division at An Khe. If your application is approved by AG, you'll ETS

ten days before the college's last day of registration.

Hi Hoss,

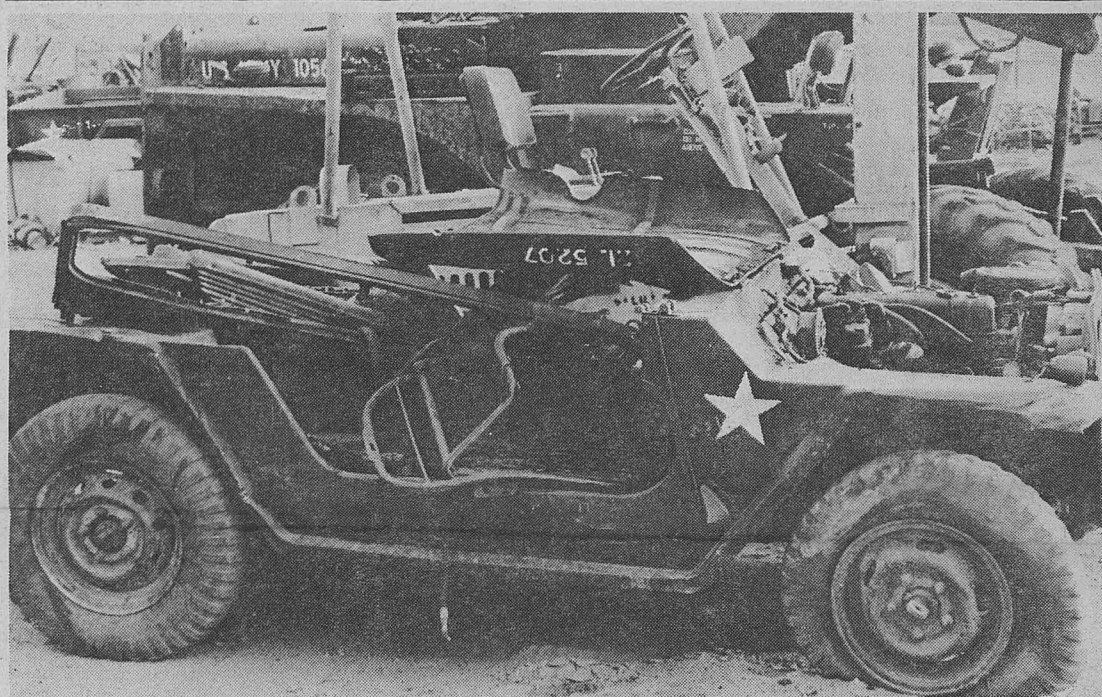
Income tax time is rolling around and I still haven't received my W-2 form. My wife, who earns a salary of her own, has been bugging me about it so that she can file a joint return. Will I be getting my W-2 form before April 15th? If not, what should we do about income tax this year?

J.D.

Dear J.D.:

It's at times like this I'm glad horses are tax-exempt. You should have already received your W-2 form from your company. If you haven't you can request it by contacting one of the Cav's finance offices.

If you don't get it before April 15th, the normal deadline for filing an income tax return, don't sweat it. You can take care of it anytime up to six months after you DEROS. The same thing applies to joint returns. And don't forget that income earned in Vietnam is non-taxable.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

### M151A1 Killer

One of the non-hostile killers in Vietnam is the Vehicle. Here is one of the many examples that can be found in the salvage yard at Bien Hoa in the 27th Maintenance area. You paid for it with your tax dollars, too!!

## Know Guidelines For Taking Pets Home From South Vietnam Zone

Are you wondering whether you can take your pet water buffalo back to the States with you?

Well, you'll have to clear that one with Army authorities. Fortunately, however, most Skytroopers prefer dogs, cats, monkeys, parrots and snakes. So if you're thinking of taking a pet home, here are a few rules to follow:

Dogs, cats and monkeys must get a rabies vaccination at least 30 days, but not more than one year prior to the date of departure. Monkeys must also be given a tuberculosis test. As for birds and reptiles, no vaccinations are required but other regulations apply. You cannot import more than two birds of the parrot family and the bird must have been in your custody for four months prior to the date of entry, or the bird will be quarantined in the States until four months have expired. Snakes require nothing more than health and sport certificates.

Shipping arrangements can be made by writing Pan American, 23 Ngo Duc Ke, Saigon. State the desired date of shipment and give them at least one week's notice. You must procure, within 72 hours of departure, a health certificate from the 4th Medical Detachment in Saigon and an export certificate from the Vietnamese Directorate of Animal Husbandry, also located in Saigon.

## Easter Season A Time For Hope, Guidance

As we approach the Easter Season it is important for us to contemplate the situation in the world today. Where in this world of complexities can man turn for hope? Migration into outer space offers no solution to restless souls. Increased wisdom proffers no tranquilizer through the eons of time.

The Christian finds Christ the hope of the world. His love and His eternal verities offer the one great and yet simple solution to the problems of man and to the Christian. Whether rich or poor, wise or foolish, well or sick, and regardless of racial heritage there is the eternal glory of God in Christ. May He guide, inspire, and through you reach out to the hearts of all men through this Easter time in 1969.



## The 'Bennies'

# Educational Opportunities Now Open to Skytroopers in RVN

PHUOC VINH — Educational opportunity is one of the greatest benefits available to personnel serving in the Armed Forces.

Those planning to further their education, regardless of where they left off, may do so through the Army Education Center. Education Centers, staffed by professional education advisers, may be found at all major commands in Vietnam. Branch centers may be found at most smaller installations.

The centers provide educational information, classes, correspondence, and testing programs.

Mr. George Rastall, Camp Gorvad's Education Center Director and Counselor, will assist all personnel interested in setting up programs to fulfill their goals. He will recommend appropriate testing, review classes or courses, and assist them with their home state requirements for high school certificates and higher education.

He will help in acquiring academic records and getting them recorded properly.

Personnel who haven't completed high school may receive a diploma or equivalency certificate from their local high school or state by passing the high school G.E.D. tests. Personnel with high school diplomas may earn college residence credit through the University of Maryland program.

Mr. Rastall plans to organize U of M courses, if there is sufficient demand, for the summer term 1969.

The larger Education Centers offer courses five times a year through the U of M program. Each term lasts eight weeks and classes meet two evenings a week, usually Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Fri-

day. Each course carries three semester hours of college credit. This is resident credit, transferable to practically any stateside college.

It costs about \$35.00 to start your first course and text books vary from \$5.00 to \$20.00. Enrollment in each of the five terms per year would cost about \$125.00, which is a fraction of the cost in any stateside college.

USAFI (United States Armed Forces Institute) correspondence courses are also available through the education center. USAFI offers up to 150 courses on the high school or college level or in a technical field.

Upon completion of a course, you can take the end-of-course test at the Education Center. Many stateside colleges recognize correspondence courses and enable you to receive semester credits for satisfactory completion of each course.

Enrollment in a USAFI correspondence course requires a \$5.00 registration fee for the first course only.

Any courses taken thereafter are free of cost, providing previous course work was satisfactory.

High school and college courses offered by USAFI include English, mathematics, social studies, science, business, and languages. It also offers 27 spoken language courses (including Vietnamese) and 22 technical courses.

The center has a small collection of reference items available to assist personnel with educational goals and plans.

These include the College Blue Book (3 Volumes) which includes an educational atlas, information on financial aid, study abroad, accreditation and professional planning, an organization register, and a list of secondary schools; the College Place-

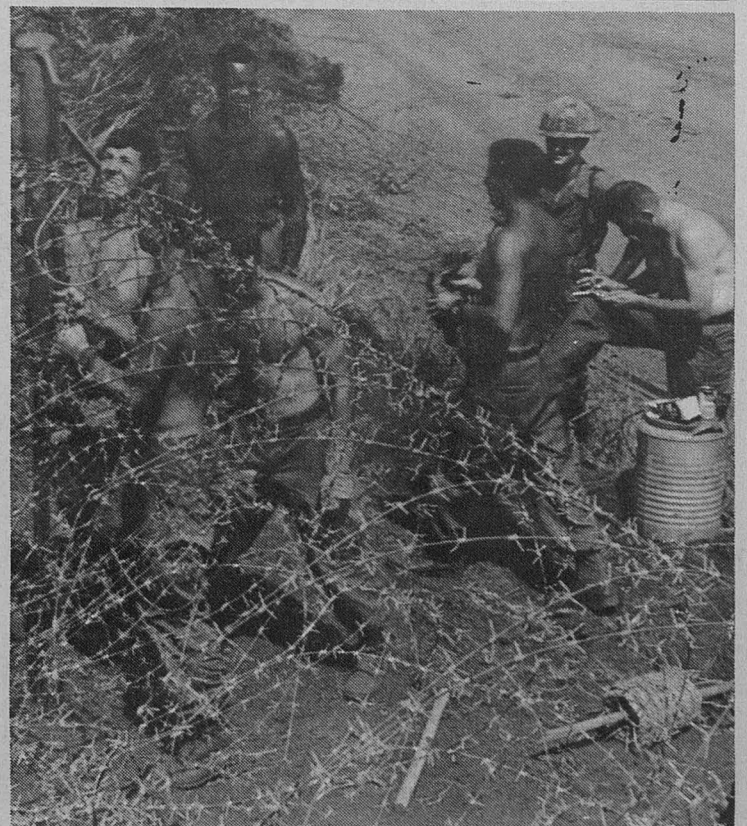
ment Annual; American Colleges and Universities; A Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services; Education Directory; and various other materials.

Army Education Centers also offer teaching opportunities in Vietnam. To teach high school and college classes a candidate should be a college graduate and should have completed education courses, as well as having a major or minor in the subject material taught.

For MOS-related subjects the instructor should possess at least a Master's degree in the subject taught.

Pay for part-time instructors at the Education Centers begins at \$2.50 per hour and can increase, depending on their qualifications.

Many opportunities await you at the Education Centers. A visit soon would be to your advantage.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## String 'Em Up

Though it means security to the people inside its perimeter, to a fence crew stretching concertina wire it means hot sun, sweat and scratches from the sharp barbs.

# PA&E Works to Make Vietnam 'Hardship' Tour Easier to Bear

By SP4 Bob Smith

PHUOC VINH — Vietnam is largely considered a hardship tour, but through the efforts of Pacific Architects and Engineers, soldiers in Vietnam can take a refreshing shower or enjoy a cool drink after a hard day at work.

"Most of us here are retired military personnel and we realize the needs of the military service. We don't always come up with the solutions but we try to work it out the best we can," stated Mr. George L. Ackerson, presently the installation manager for Pacific Architects and Engineers (PA&E) here at

Camp Gorvad.

The main objective of PA&E is to meet the needs of the men in Vietnam and give them a few of the luxuries of life. They meet these needs through the expert supervision and work of the men in their different sections.

They supply the base with an average of 10 tons of ice daily, generate electricity for the base, and purify the drinking water.

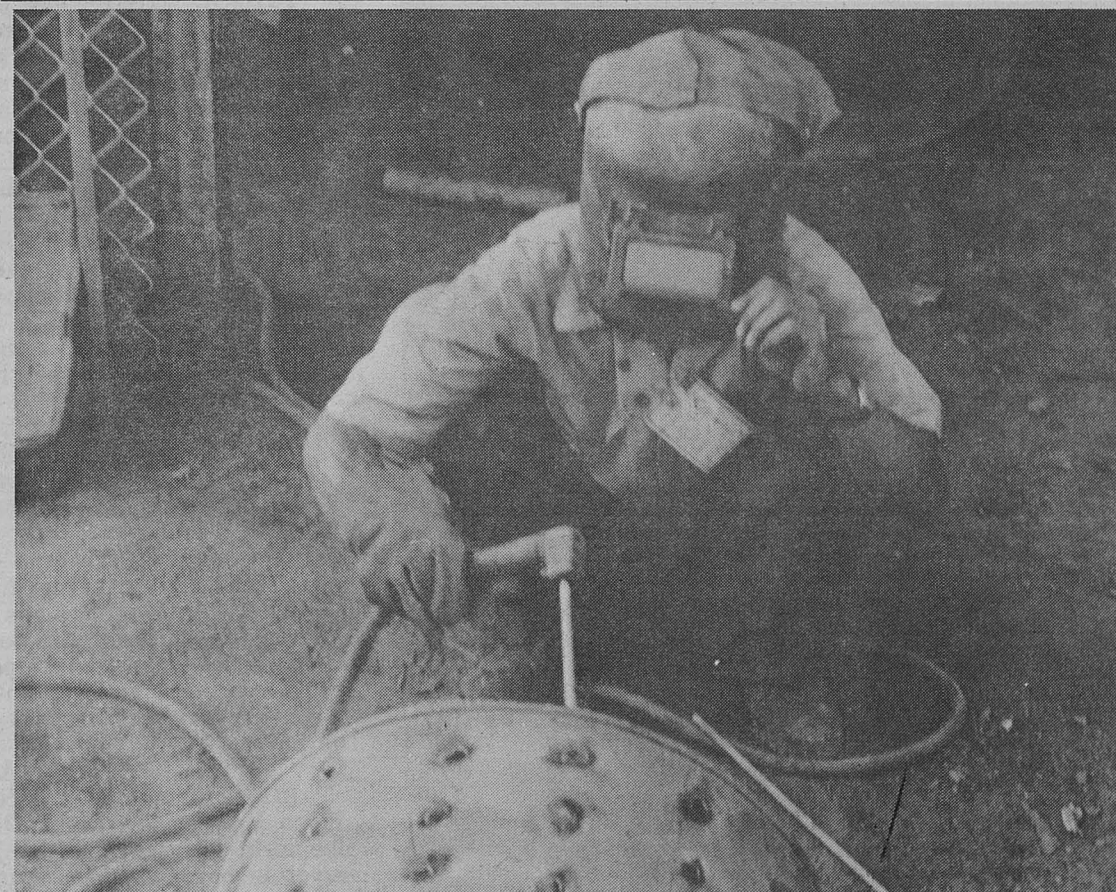
They also have carpentry shops, welding shops, refrigeration shops and a sheet metal shop. PA&E also provides an insect and rodent control service for the base.

To accomplish their goals, the Pacific Architects and Engineers enlisted the aid of skilled laborers. Their working force is primarily made up of Americans, Third Country Nationals

such as Koreans and Filipinos, and native Vietnamese.

While providing the little extra things for the men in Vietnam, Pacific Architects and Engineers are also training the Vietnamese in handiwork of the western world. They have taken the farmers out of the rice paddies and shown them how to work metal, handle electrical equipment and fashion cabinetry.

Pacific Architects and Engineers are on every major base in Vietnam. Where they are not deployed, the Navy Mobile Construction Battalions and Army Engineer battalions do the job. They try to make life more comfortable for the fighting men by providing a shower, electricity to read or write letters home by, and ice for a cold refreshing drink.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## Weld On

A PA&E employee welds another hole in an incinerator used to burn classified materials and letters at Camp Gorvad.

# Former NBA Cager Now Hooks Loads for 1st Cav

BIEN HOA — It's a long way from a basketball court in Cincinnati to a helicopter pad in Bien Hoa, but a former center for the National Basketball Association's Cincinnati Royals is now making another kind of "hook shot" as he supervises the loading of Chinook helicopters.

The former cager, First Lieutenant Robert L. Clements is now serving as assistant logistics officer for 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

"I never did get to play in the 'Royals' regular season," says the 6'6½", 230-pound giant. "I sustained a knee injury on the court during the exhibition season, which pretty much finished my basketball career, so I came into the Army."

Prior to signing on with the Royals, 1LT Clements played for four years with the University of Arkansas Razorbacks, where he made All-American.

During his college years, he scored over 2500 points. His highest score for a single game was 51 points scored against Southwest Louisiana. "When I first came into the Army, I re-

ceived some letters from Hal Fisher, coach of the Army team, asking me to try out. I turned him down because I was planning to go to OCS, and I didn't come into the Army to play basketball."

"The trouble with pro ball," he said recently, "is that it's too much like a business. College ball was fun and a lot more exciting."

Because of his knee injury, his plans for the future do not include basketball. "I've been away from the game too long, and my legs are too messed up," he explained.

Nor is the Army in his future plans. "I've enjoyed my three years in the Army, and it's been a valuable experience. But there are other things that interest me more. For one thing, I'd like to go back to school and get my Master's in biology."

1LT Clements arrived in Vietnam last June, and served as platoon leader, executive officer and commander of the 1st Bn, 12th Cav's Company A before assuming his present duties in the S-4 section.





Elements of the convoy proceed from Bien Hoa to Quan Loi base camp.



An Armored Personnel Carrier (APC), part of the daily convoys from Bien Hoa to Quan Loi, begins the dusty journey back to Bien Hoa after an incident free trip.



Delivering the goods from Bien Hoa is this giant tractor-trailer as it pulls into Quan Loi.

# Attacking Convoys Costly To Enemy Troops



A tank rumbles along, affording security for the convoys and keeping a look-out for Chuck.

Story-Sp4 Al Persons  
Photos-Sp4 Terry Moon

PHUOC VINH—The thunder of wheels and the grinding of gears could be heard for miles around. From the slopes of wooded mountainsides to the flat plains of grassy fields, the roar of man and machine echoed across the countryside. To anyone within earshot, the sound that dominated everything was the sound of raw power.

The source of the constant rumble was of a convoy carrying supplies from Phuoc Vinh to Quan Loi.

## LOH Keeps Watch

Another sound, however, the high pitched buzz of a tiny OH-13 light observation helicopter (LOH), droned above the rest of the convoy. As the procession moved along, the LOH kept circling the column of vehicles, constantly watching for the ambush that might take place at any time along the road.

Over the earphones, the continuous voices of men traveling along the invisible radio waves that bounce back and forth through the air could be heard.

"You're spread out too much in the back. Close it up."

"Let's keep it tight while we move through town."

Just as everything seemed to be running smoothly, the LOH halted the entire convoy. One of the tanks out to the front had been hit.

## Airstrikes

The convoy's schedule would have to be set back for a couple of hours so an air strike could be called into the area contact.

After a long wait in the hot sun, the convoy was on the move again. Despite the ambush, the supplies reached their destination. Only held up for a few hours, the operation was a success and the convoy was on its way back to its point of origin.

Every day, 365 days a year, the Cav has a convoy constantly on the move.

## Airmobile Convoy

In the air above each convoy, is a LOH with a pilot and a member of the Provost Marshal's Office keeping watch for a possible ambush. The term for this is called "Flying Convoy". Often times, another observer is brought along, equipped with an M-16. The reason for this, mentioned a member of the crew, is that the LOH is not armed and often Charlie fires at the aircraft.

With the LOH in the air, a surprise ambush is almost totally non-existent since any point on the ground is visible from the aircraft.

"Flying Convoy" is just another example of the airmobility.



A convoy inches along a dusty road as armored vehicles stand ready, waiting for Charles to stir up trouble between Bien Hoa and Quan Loi.



Armored vehicles lie in wait beside a road should enemy troops decide to attack the many convoys that pass through here daily.



# 13th Signal Keeps Cav in Touch

By SP4 Bob Smith

PHUOC VINH—The 13th Signal Battalion, the communications branch of the Cav, is older than the Cav itself. It was organized as the 7th Field Signal Company on July 14, 1917 at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and in September 1921, when the 1st Cav was formed it was demobilized and reorganized as the 13th Signal Troop. Since that time it has undergone many changes in both name and structure, but traditionally has been an integral part of the division.

The latest change came in October 1957 when the 13th Signal Company was expanded and redesignated the 13th Signal Battalion.

The unit's combat history began when the 1st Cav went into action in February 1944 in the South Pacific. After that the signal battalion participated in campaigns in the Admiralty Islands and on Leyte, Samar and Luzon in the Philippines.

The 13th moved into Tokyo and spent a few years working on signal training, operations and construction.

In July 1950 the unit entered the Korean War with an amphib-

ious landing at Pohang-dong. It served with the 1st Cav from July 1950 to December 1951, receiving seven battle stars as well as the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

In December 1951 the unit returned to Japan with the division. When the 24th Division was inactivated and redesignated the 1st Cavalry Division, the 13th Signal Company became the 13th Signal Battalion. In 1965 it moved from Korea to Fort Benning, Ga., to become the signal

battalion for the newly activated 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

In September 1965 the 13th Signal Battalion once again traveled overseas — this time to the Republic of Vietnam, serving as the voice of the First Team.

Besides supporting the division with communications, the 13th Signal Battalion offers the Skytrooper an opportunity to call home from Vietnam via the Military Affiliation Radio Service (MARS Station).

The procedure for placing

calls is very simple. Go to the station on one of the designated days. The MARS Station will call either Ft. Lewis, Wash. or Hawaii and operators there will put through your call. You will be charged from the stateside connection to the number you have called.

The 13th Signal Battalion also provides the division with a communications system based on two large switchboards, the Sky King board and the DTOC board. The Sky King switchboard is used primarily by staff sections of the 1st Cav. The

DTOC (Division Tactical Operations Center) switchboard provides service between the DTOC personnel and their counterparts at all levels of command.

The 13th Signal Battalion also furnishes communications and support teams to each of the three brigades in the 1st Cav. It operates the Division Air Courier Service and Ground Messenger Service within the Phuoc Vinh base camp. Also operated by the battalion is the Division Communications Center, which provides teletype service to II Field Force.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## Helmet Spares Cavman's Life

TAY NINH — "I was crawling as close to the ground as I could. I never even knew what hit and where, until the medic showed me my helmet."

Specialist Four David Walker, a rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, was describing how his "steel pot" saved his life during a firefight.

"'Chuck' started hitting us as soon as we landed from the choppers. I headed for cover and I really thought I was too low to hit," said the 1st Air Cavalryman.

An enemy soldier with an AK-47 saw him, however, and fired. The round ripped into the front of his helmet, twisting its front rim.

The stunned Skytrooper was revived by a medic, who showed the patient his helmet. The steel pot had deflected the round to the left, causing the bullet to miss his head.

## A Time For Prayer

A supply-laden 'logbird' offers a grim reminder to Skytroopers that the business of war must still be carried out. Even during Easter services.

# Short-timer Jitters Spread

PHUOC VINH—Every day, in the Republic of Vietnam, new soldiers are beginning their tours and old ones are leaving. One would normally think that the new man, unfamiliar with nearly all aspects of the country, would be the most cautious. However, in many cases the situation is exactly the opposite.

Naturally a new man is scared when he first gets in country, but "short-timer" becomes even more jittery about rocket and mortar attacks or any noises that might remind him of them.

He starts to think about home, his family, and his girl friend or wife. However, one fact sticks out in his mind — he's been in Vietnam a long time, and after making it this far, it would be terrible for something to happen to him now.

Specialist Five John R. Trimmer assigned to Headquarters & Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, is the head clerk for the squadron headquarters. He is also getting short.

"It all started when John

heard that anyone whose DEROS was between March 1 and April 12 could get a 12-day drop," said Specialist Four S. Meek, a good friend of Specialist Trimmer's. "This meant a lot to him because his DEROS is April 4."

"He's on R&R now," continued SP4 Meek, "but about a week and a half before he left, John began to get extremely nervous. In fact, he'd sleep in the bunker outside of our 'hootch' every night. You'd never catch him outside of it after dark. He'd take his showers in the afternoon to make sure he got in there on time."

"He wasn't the only one sleeping in the bunker, though. A few others were down there too. They'd read, write letters, and play chess. In fact, they played chess so much that the bunker became known as 'Bunker Chess.' It seemed to me, though, being a good friend of his, that John was the most nervous of the entire group. I think he really wanted to get back to his wife."

"John put up with a lot of harassment, but he was funny at times," stated SP4 Meek. "You'd always see him sitting in the same corner of the bunker with his flak vest, his weapon, and his steel pot. When anyone teased him, he'd make statements such as, 'I don't care what anybody says, I'd rather be on duty down here with the mosquitoes than with the rockets and mortars.'"

"Personally, I don't think John should worry as much as he does. He'll make it. If anyone deserves to make it back, he does. He's very sharp guy. If he wants to sleep in the bunker when he gets back from R&R, however, then I guess he can go ahead."

SP5 Trimmer is only one of many people nearing the end of their tours in Vietnam. The fear of something happening to them at the last moment is natural. However, nearly all of them do make it, and when they have, they realize that they've had quite an experience.

## Father and Son Tandem Together in War and Army

BY SP4 Richard Craig

TAY NINH — A successful man usually wants his son to "follow in his footsteps." For Command Sergeant Major Vern O. Peters of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, it's a dream come true.

His son, Sergeant Randall V. Peters, 19, was recently assigned to the 1st Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division, as assistant to the air operations officer.

Sgt Peters, like his father, is going to make a career of the Army.

"I gave my decision a lot of thought," said SGT Peters, "I looked at what the Army had to offer, and I liked what I saw. The Army has so many advantages: good pay, good advancement, hospitalization and educational benefits. It's a good deal."

SGT Peters is a graduate of Anchorage High School, Anchorage, Alaska. He entered the Army in July, 1966 and completed Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. in November, 1966.

During his 19 years as a career man's son, SGT Peters has

traveled to Ethiopia; Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska; Germany and France.

"We did a lot of traveling, and I've seen a lot of the world," said SGT Peters. "That's something else I can attribute to the Army."

What does his father think of his making a career of the service?

"Dad thinks it's a good idea," SGT Peters insists that his father had nothing to do with his decision to join the Army. In fact, he said his father advised him to first join the National Guard to "get the feel" of Army life.

"You won't believe this," said SGT Peters, "but basic training was really a lot of fun. I was with a few buddies, and I had the time of my life."







**Olinka Berova**

With a name like that, this sweet, young thing better look good. What do you think? We got it straight from the Horse's Mouth that she is 21 and from Czechoslovakia, and that's no bull!



## 16 Moves in Year

# 2/5th-'Gypsy' Battalion'

QUAN LOI — The motto of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry is "Loyalty and Courage," but it should probably be changed to "On the Move." The gypsy battalion has made 16 moves during the last year, or more than one per month.

The battalion has gone from

Landing Zone (LZ) Stud in the I Corps Tactical Zone to LZ Jackson in the south, with stops at places like LZ Jane, LZ Nancy, Quang Tri, Phuoc Vinh, LZ Rita, and Quan Loi, to name a few. In the last month, the battalion has been under the operational control of each of the three brigades

of the 1st Air Cavalry Division at one time or another.

"The biggest problem is just keeping up with the forward element with courier service and communications," said Captain Francis S. Lake Jr. Supply also presents a problem, as was pointed out by Sergeant Lawrence F. Kurkowski, a supply representative for Company A: "Moving as much as we do makes it hard to keep the companies resupplied — in fact, it makes it hard to keep up with the company."

Outside the 2nd Bn, 5th Cav area at Quan Loi, trucks were being unloaded as the final elements of the battalion rear arrived at the base camp of the 2nd Brigade. By the time this move was completed, however, the battalion had been moved to the 1st Brigade area of operations.

For the last move the battalion was given notice early one afternoon that it would have to close out LZ Rita the next day.

"The hang-up here was the fact that we had to defend Rita till we actually moved out; this meant that we couldn't pull anyone in until the move started," said First Lieutenant Steven J. O'Neill, the officer in charge of

moving the battalion from Rita. He continued: "Everything considered, it went off quite well."

The closest airstrip to LZ Rita was located at another 2nd Brigade landing zone, LZ Jake. Stationed there was First Lieutenant W. David Duthie, "My job was to get the slings from the Chinooks unloaded, and then loaded onto Air Force pallets and into C-130's," he said.

"We had to wait about an hour and a half for the 'Hooks' to arrive and by the time they got there we had the slings ready to go. It was just a matter of hooking them up and sending them on the way," said LT O'Neill.

The ease with which loading took place at LZ Rita created a small problem for LT Duthie at LZ Jake. "It looked like every Chinook in the world was coming into Jake at once," he said. "At one time I had one 'Hook' on the pad and four more hovering over the pad waiting to come in."

Despite the problems, the battalion moved, as it always does.

CPT Lake summed up the situation this way: "The moves are necessary; nobody likes to move as much as we have, but this is the Cav and that is the way it is."

## 1/9th Pilots Earn DFCs

TAY NINH — The soldiers walked across the rice paddies as 1st Air Cavalry Division helicopters circled above, giving them aerial support. The quiet of the area as the soldiers continued their search and clear mission was suddenly broken by the cracking sounds of weapons firing at the helicopters.

"We were flying in support of a Marine unit near Da Nang on Aug. 2, 1968, when we made contact," said Warrant Officer 1 Guy D. Rollf, a pilot from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

The pilots continued their watch of the area and spotted the enemy weapons emplacements. Pass after pass was made at extremely low levels in order to give the pilots a more advantageous position to release their barrage of firepower.

After the pilots had expended their ordnance, Warrant Officer Richard F. Ricketts remained in the area to mark the enemy positions by dropping smoke grenades. Because of his actions, the friendly forces were able to engage the enemy emplacements and silence them.

For the bravery and professionalism shown by Mr. Rollf and Mr. Ricketts, they were recently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

## 'Nuoc-mam' Airlift Staged By 2nd Bde

QUAN LOI — In the 1st Air Cavalry Division an airlift is a common event. Thousands of pounds of equipment and food are "chopped" into remote areas daily. However, one recent 2nd Brigade airlift was a little out of the ordinary.

Terrorist activities in the vicinity of the district capital of Song Be had driven many of the Montagnard villagers from their homes. The result of this is now a refugee community of some 4800 people who have moved into Song Be.

The word filtered down to the Cav's 2nd Brigade Civil Affairs Officer (S-5) through the MACV Refugee Advisor at Song Be that the refugees needed help. The roads in the area were impassable. Airlift seemed to be the only way.

What made the airlift somewhat unique was the item that the refugees asked for.

The mission began when First Lieutenant Michael J. Malloy, the S-5, went with his interpreter to the provincial capital of An Loc. 1LT Malloy explained later that the economy of Song Be couldn't provide the requested item for an extra 4800 people. The only choice left was to go into the nearest large town and buy it.

After an hour of bargaining and a trip to a local warehouse, 170 three-liter plastic containers were loaded onto the S-5 truck.

The well-loaded truck returned to Quan Loi, base camp of the Blackhorse Brigade, and the goods were loaded onto a chopper. From there the items were airlifted to the eager refugees, and nuoc-mam was had by all.

What is nuoc-mam? One soldier thought it was a city in III Corps.

Actually, nuoc-mam is a Vietnamese sauce made from fish and salt, which is placed in large baskets and kept from one to two months. A liquid drained off the mixture is the basic ingredient for nuoc-mam. Vietnamese put the sauce on almost ev-

erything they eat.

Thanks to the Cav's Second Brigade S-5, some 4800 refugees feasted on food spiced with nuoc-mam, almost a necessity in the Vietnamese diet because of its high protein content.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 Bob Smith)

## Batterrrrry — Fire!!

Supporting the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry at LZ Grant, 105 mm Howitzers from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery hurl charges at a distant and hidden enemy with devastating effect.

## Cavman's Singing Debut Flops: Entire Audience Leaves Show

QUAN LOI — Sing out when the enemy is spotted! That's what Specialist Four John J. Dowd literally did.

Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry was on a search and clear operation near LZ Rita when it made enemy contact.

That evening the company dug in for the night and set out trip flares on the perimeter.

The 1st Cav trooper, looking up from his work, noticed someone wearing a green shirt moving through the brush. He realized he had but one magazine and the machinegunner was armed only with a .45 caliber pistol.

"Then I saw my squad leader about 50 meters away, setting up a flare," said Dowd, a team leader in the second squad, "but I knew I couldn't let the NVA know I'd spotted him in the brush."

Dowd, figuring the NVA couldn't understand English, started singing his distress message to Sergeant Jim M. Greer to the tune of "Hey Jude."

"I continued setting up the flare and nonchalantly began singing," said Dowd. "Hey Greer, come over here. There's a bad guy in the brush. Bring your weapon and some ammo, but do it very casually."

The sergeant casually walked over to Dowd and helped him with the flare. "After we set up the trip flare, we nonchalantly walked back to our squad's position," said SP4 Dowd. "Then SGT Greer called the CO on the field phone and reported the observation."

After a brief talk with the commanding officer, the sergeant and his squad searched the area where the NVA was spotted, but he had fled.

(Continued From Page 1)

To which you may have replied, "One month. I came here on a big plane with about 300 other guys. Only eleven more months to go."

"Her next question was 'You stay here all time?' 'No, you say, I stay in Phu Phu.' 'How long you stay here?', comes next. 'Maybe two, three weeks,' you say."

All perfectly innocent, right? She is just being friendly, isn't she? Not according to CPT Barnes.

"You wear a Cav patch, right? Probably you either have a Brigade crest on your shirt or a unit designation written on your helmet. What you have just told her is: 'I am a member of the 1st Cav's Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry which belongs to the 1st Brigade. We are based and headquartered at Phu Phu, but have come here

for a two to three-week operation. This move may or may not be part of a build-up of US forces in this area to offset what intelligence suspects to be an offensive by the enemy in a few weeks. However, if the enemy force will lay low for three weeks, we will not be here to stop them."

Sounds a little different, put that way, doesn't it? "Actually you don't have to give out that much information, just a fragment or two will do. Together with other fragments, which the enemy will gladly assemble on a do-it-yourself basis, you can give away entire operations without even trying. How so? Let me give you an example."

"On her way to work, your favorite PX girl notices that trucks are lined up for convoy near the gate. She can see that the cargo is ammunition, and notes the number of trucks,

weapons, and so forth. But this won't do her any good, because she doesn't know when they are leaving or where they are going. Then you stroll into the PX and tell her you won't be able to see her for a couple of days. 'Where you go?' is the only logical reply she could make. 'To Phu Phu, but I come back in two days,' you say. Fine! That's just what she needs to know; she already has learned that you are a truck-driver. Now she has enough information to get you killed, your convoy destroyed, and launch an attack against Phu Phu on the basis that they have little or no ammunition up there to defend themselves with."

"In my three years in intelligence I've seen it happen over and over again. GIs just can't learn to keep their mouths shut about military matters," concluded the Blackhorse Brigade's Assistant S-2.

## 'Harmless' Talk May Be Fatal