

ARA Gunships Keeping Enemy Soldiers Honest

SP5 Al Schlosser

PHUOC VINH—1st Air Cavalry Division personnel at Phuoc Vinh recently witnessed an awesome and convincing display of "Cobra Power."

When the division base camp at Camp Gorvad received sporadic mortar and rocket fire recently two AH-1G Huey Cobras from Battery B, 2nd Battalion (Aerial Rocket Artillery), 20th Artillery were immediately dispatched to the presumed area of enemy activity, some 4,000 meters beyond the perimeter. The enemy's location had been discovered earlier by infantrymen operating only 800 meters away, who spotted

the flash and requested an ARA mission.

Within minutes, the two Cobras were airborne and alternately spraying the area with intense minigun and rocket fire. Moving elliptically and in tandem, the Cobras at about 1500 feet began their deadly descent. Like mechanized birds of prey, they swooped in on the enemy and touched off at least two secondary explosions.

While hundreds of Cavalrymen watched from the base camp, the Cobra team worked out on "Charles", putting on an exhibition of airmobile firepower few would forget. One new arrival at Camp Gorvad, a clerk, was heard to say, "Man, am I glad I'm with the Cav!"

For the Cobra crews, however, this was a routine mission. Precision and excellence are standard equipment at the 2nd

Bn, 20th Arty. In addition to flying a technically superior "bird," these pilots are first-rate.

"I've never met a braver bunch of guys," said Warrant Officer Gary L. Bishop, Assistant Operations Officer of Battery B. "Even under impossible flying conditions these guys manage to complete their missions."

In January, the 2nd Bn, 20th Arty became the first all-Cobra outfit in Vietnam. Designed expressly as a weapons carrier, the Cobra is capable of flying search and target acquisition, reconnaissance by fire, multiple-weapons fire support and support of troop-carrying helicopters. A 1400-horsepower engine propels the five-ton ship to a cruising speed of 130 knots. A 7.62mm automatic gun is standard armament, and more formidable automatic weapons and grenade launcher can be mounted.

Four wing racks permit installation of rocket launcher pods or fixed minigun pods. The Cobra's fuel and armament payload totals more than 3,000 pounds. It can remain over target three times longer than other armed helicopters, and can rearm and refuel in a matter of minutes.

Dual flight controls and tandem seating of pilot and copilot-gunner provide real versatility. The copilot-gunner can traverse and fire the turret weapon while the pilot can fire the wing weapons but the copilot-gunner. The crew and vital components are protected in combat by armor in seats and other parts of the helicopter.

You might say that "Security is a battery of Cobras!"

2/19th Arty Battalion Gets New Commander

TAY NINH — The national and battalion colors flapped slightly in the breeze as Lieutenant Colonel Edward M. Knobbs assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery, 1st Air Cavalry Division, in a recent ceremony here.

The outgoing commander, Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Morrison, praised the men of his battalion for their outstanding work.

"It has been seven months since I assumed command of this fine battalion," said LTC Morrison. "During these seven months, you have excelled in your performance as artillerymen. We began in I Corps and some 21 landing zones and

thousands of rounds later, we stand at the southern part of Vietnam in the bulwark against Communism."

In the last two weeks of LTC Morrison's command, the "On the Way" Battalion supported almost two-thirds of the Division Artillery. "The highlight of my command was undoubtedly the firing of our one millionth round in Vietnam", he said. "Something of this nature makes you even prouder to be an artilleryman."

As the national and battalion colors were presented, the two 1st Air Cavalry Division officers also moved forward for the official changing of the battalion command tabs from the epauletts of LTC Morrison to LTC Knobbs.

Before assuming command of 2nd Bn, 19th Arty, LTC Knobbs served as Fire Support Coordinator for Division Artillery. Prior to coming to Vietnam, he was a student at the Armed Forces Staff College.

After officially assuming command of the battalion, LTC Knobbs spoke to his men:

"This is probably the proudest moment I've had in my Army career. We of the 2nd Bn, 19th Arty accept with pride the mission of providing direct and accurate fire for our infantrymen. "Gentlemen, let's shoot!"

Patrol Finds VC Complex

TAY NINH — When Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry reached its evening F.O.B. (forward operations base), the company commander, Captain Thomas C. Bailey decided to send out reconnaissance patrols, one from each of the platoons.

Sergeant Charles L. Haynes leading the patrol for the 1st Platoon's squad-size reconnaissance team, found himself in the middle of a Viet Cong bunker complex.

He saw three of the enemy soldiers, killing one right off the bat. "I radioed back to CPT Bailey. The company was about 400 meters away from us, but they got to our side in no time," recalled SGT Haynes.

CPT Bailey and SGT Haynes crawled up to one of the bunkers, neutralizing it and killing another one of the enemy. Said CPT Bailey, "The individuals on our left were in a cross fire, so I called up the 2nd Platoon. I then called in ARA and tube artillery from a nearby landing zone. While the area was being shelled, my men saw several of the enemy flee."

When the company pulled out, another soldier put a LAW (light anti-tank weapon) round in front of a bunker and killed a third enemy trooper.

Base Camp Named For Fallen LTC

PHUOC VINH — The 1st Air Cavalry Division's base camp at Phuoc Vinh has been renamed Camp Gorvad by Major General George I. Forsythe, Division Commander, in honor of the late Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gorvad, the first battalion commander of the 1st Cav killed in III Corps.

Colonel Gorvad, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, was killed during an early morning attack on March 9 when a 122mm NVA rocket hit the tactical operations center at Landing Zone Grant.

Fatal Error: Bare Feet

TAY NINH — A bunker complex was destroyed and four enemy soldiers were killed by Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry during operations in the Michelin Rubber Plantation about 28 miles east of here.

The company had marched half the distance to its evening objective when it found a well-concealed Viet Cong bunker complex, complete with a maze of tunnels.

Squad leader Huey P. Long recalled, "I was walking in front of the company's command group when I noticed a set of feet sticking out of a bunker. I couldn't say anything for a second or two. When I regained my voice, I passed it back that there was an enemy soldier in a bunker, and that everyone should get down."

The company was walking toward its objective in two columns at the time. The 2nd Platoon was walking abreast of the command group. Captain Cecil Harrison summoned the platoon to his side.

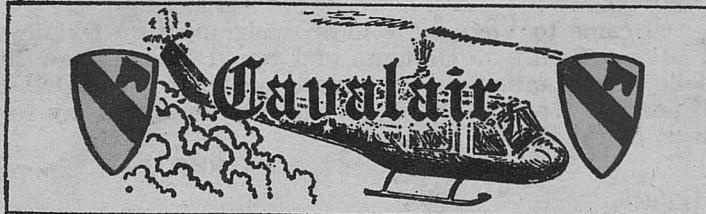
Led by First Lieutenant Steven A. Holtzman the platoon got on line and assaulted the enemy stronghold. Sergeant First Class Charles E. Nelson charged the majority of the bunkers with the aid of his two machinegunners, Sergeant Marvin D. Eppinger and Sergeant Samuel Pyatt Jr. and a grenadier, Specialist Four Ronald M. Murray.



Bringing Smoke

(COMBAT ART BY SP4 Philip Blackmarr)

An ARA Gunship from 2/20th Artillery bears down on enemy ground troops with its deadly rockets.



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Skytrooper Pens Song For 1st Cav Division

BIEN HOA—The songs of the Beatles and the Supremes may dominate the international pop music charts, but Specialist Four Bill Ellis' "The First Cav" is currently leading the Skytroopers' hit parade.

Written in a bunker at LZ Eleanor, "The First Cav" is probably as close to a division fighting song as there ever was. (Contrary to popular belief, the 7th Cavalry's "Garry Owen" is not the "official" Cav song. "Garry Owen" is an old Irish drinking song, and since many of the old cavalrymen were Irishmen, and since nearly all of them were hardy drinkers, it is not surprising that the old tune was "adopted" by the cavalrymen.)

"I thought the Cav should have a song of its own," said Ellis explaining how he came to write it. "Garry Owen" has a nice tune and bright lyrics, but let's face it. There's nothing about the Cav in it."

Actually, with the exception of Ellis' friends in the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry's Company A, where Ellis serves as a rifleman, there were few Skytroopers who had heard the song until recently.

Its first public performance was given by Ellis on a CBS radio special back in the States. Ellis, who had performed some of his earlier songs on AFVN radio, recently spent a day at the CBS studios at Saigon's Caravelle Hotel where his songs were taped for the television special.

One of the first Skytroopers to hear Ellis' song was the first Skytrooper himself, Major General George I. Forsythe, the division commander, who had Ellis play the song before some of his assembled staff officers one night at the General's Mess.

It was MG Forsythe who suggested that Ellis tour the divi-

sion's firebases so that other Skytroopers could hear the song. During a recent tour of the 3rd Brigade, Ellis gave several performances of "The First Cav" and other songs he has written at LZs Cindy and Lois, and also presented nightly shows at the brigade's VIP center here.

"The only real problem I've had," said Ellis, a professional songwriter before entering the Army last year, "is the number of requests I get for copies of the song." In partial answer to this problem, Ellis has written down the music and lyrics of the song, and has sent them back to the States for publication.

Who knows? Maybe it'll make the stateside Top Ten.



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...For God And Country

By Chap (CPT) Fred Funcher

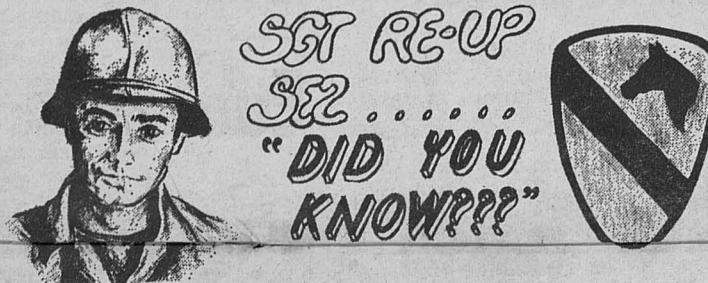
A Skytrooper came into the mess hall with a button pinned on his uniform that said, "I am loved." A man who can wear a button with such a message on it has no morale problems. Victor Hugo said that life's greatest happiness comes when a man knows that he is loved.

Jesus tells us about a love that should bring happiness to every one of us. He said, "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

This love that Jesus tells us about is also the love that he has shown us. It is good when someone tells us that he loves us, but that love becomes real when he shows us that love. Love that is not shown by action does not exist. Jesus does not just tell us about the love that God has for us, but he put God's love for us into action.

Romans 5:8-11 says, "But God has shown us how much he loves us: it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us! By his death we are now put right with God; how much more, then, will we be saved by him from God's wrath. We were God's enemies, but he made us his friends through the death of his son. Now that we are God's friends, how much more will we be saved by Christ's life! But that is not all; we rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has now made us God's friends."

God's love becomes real to us as we respond to Him by faith. If you would like to know the love of God, put your faith in Jesus, the Christ.



In the Editorials Section, 5 March edition of the "Army Times", there was an article that, try as I may, I find almost impossible to improve. In case some of you missed it, I will take the liberty of quoting it for all to read:

"It strikes us that a number of servicemen allow themselves, against their better judgment, to be conned into thinking they despise the military. Some of them fall for the obnoxious slogan that goes like this: People who go career couldn't make it on the outside.

The peddlers of that kind of tripe, of course, conveniently ignore the fact that thousands of careerists—retirees—are "making it" on the outside in second career jobs, some in a very big way.

Young servicemen gravitating to the exit door may have talked themselves into believing that things will be great in the city they're headed for (when they know no such thing.) Or that the old hometown they're returning to is not Dullsville (when they know it is.) Or that they won't miss the many friends they made in service (which they know they will.) Or, on and on . . .

Still others believe—erroneously, we feel—that the frustrations and harassments of day-to-day living are much worse in the military; so let's hurry to Ciyland and live it up.

Some will do just that. But others who depart, headed as they are toward uneventful existences, may look back and realize that those hectic, fast-moving, sometimes irritating but seldom dull days in the service were rewarding."

Recognize anyone?



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Commanding General MG George I. Forsythe
Information Officer MAJ Fox McCarthy
Press Officer CPT Frank Carrara
Editor SP5 Al Garcia

Awards

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

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

AUTEN, WO1 William H.
HHC, 2nd Bde

BROWN, SP5 Franklin
Trp C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th
Cav

CARMICHAEL, SP4 Patrick S.
Co B, 227th AHB

DIANICH, 1LT Richard H.
Co C, 229th AHB

HARRIS, SP4 Frank
Co B, 227th AHB

LOCKE, WO1 Joe H.
Co C, 229th AHB

MATHIS, WO1 Gary T.
Trp C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav

MOLSTAD, 1LT John G.
Co B, 227th AHB

RYAN, WO1 John F.
Trp C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav

SCHLIM, LTC Albert W.
HHD, 15th TC

SILVER STAR

ADAMS, PSG Bruce
Co D, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav

BRAUN, WO1 Timothy B.
Co B, 227th AHB

GRAHAM, CPT James E.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav

SHERZER, SP4 Patrick L.
Co C, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav

WEISKIRCH, MAJ Thomas N. Jr.
HHC, 1st Bn, 8th Cav

BRONZE STAR for
HEROISM

MOAK, SP4 James C.
Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav

PETERS, CSM Vern O.
HHC, 1st Bde

Nine Rules To Practice

PFC Gordie G. was a "new guy" in the First Air Cavalry Division. Vietnam was the first foreign country he had ever been in. As a matter of fact he had never even left his home state of Nebraska before he reported for basic training.

The Vietnamese people looked, acted, talked and thought different than anyone he had ever known. He realized that he was going to have some contact with these people and he wanted to know some pointers to remember when encountering them. His platoon sergeant gave him nine simple rules that every Skytrooper should follow:

1. Remember we are guests here; we make no demands and seek no special treatment.

2. Join with the people. Understand their life, use phrases from their language and honor their customs and laws.

3. Treat women with politeness and respect.

4. Make personal friends with the Vietnamese soldiers and civilians.

5. Always give the Vietnamese the right of way.

6. Be security-conscious and ready to react with your military skill.

7. Don't attract attention by loud, rude or unusual behavior.

8. Avoid separating yourself from the people by a display of wealth or privilege.

9. Above all else you are a Skytrooper, a member of the U.S. armed forces on a difficult mission, responsible for all your official and personal actions. Reflect honor upon yourself and the United States of America.

THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Dear Hoss,

I received a letter from my brother who is in the Air Force and he is scheduled to arrive in Vietnam for a tour of duty in June of this year. When he arrives can I pick a job near him or will I be sent home or reassigned to another country? Also, must I wait until he arrives in country before taking any action?

"The Wrench"

Co A, 5th Bn, 7th Cav

Hi Wrench;

When your brother arrives in Vietnam one of you will be reassigned if it is requested. This situation is covered in USARV Reg 614-2.

The regulation states, "Effective 12 Aug 66 where one member of the Armed Forces is serving with a military unit in RVN, in excess of 30 days, another member of the same family, upon his request, will be deferred from PCS assignment or TDY to RVN until completion of the first member's tour. . . . In these instances where two or more family members are assigned to RVN reassignment action will be completed within 30 days, from the date of application. Where multiple applications are submitted by members of the same family, the individual who has been in RVN the longest will receive priority consideration."

Hoss

* * * * *

Hi Hoss,

I came to Vietnam from an assignment on Okinawa. I left my family on Okinawa and would like to know the policy for granting delay enroute on return to CONUS. If possible I would like to pick up my family on my way back to the states.

SFC Jack Kramer

Hi Jack,

Yes, it's possible for you to get a delay enroute and visit or pick up your family on Okinawa. Personnel who have families in Hawaii, Japan, Okinawa, or certain other locations on Military Airlift Command flight routes can get a delay enroute at those locations prior to return to CONUS. Individuals desiring delay enroute for the purpose of visiting or picking up families should consult the Division AG in preparing request for transportation under the provisions of USARV Reg 55-11.

Hoss

* * * * *

Hi Hoss,

I had a little disagreement with a friend of mine recently and maybe you can help us settle our dispute. Just who does the Army classify as a "Sole Surviving Son."

SP5 Bobby Richards

Hello Bobby,

For many years, the Army has granted certain soldiers the option of being exempted from duty in areas of active combat operations. These soldiers are known as "sole surviving" sons.

A "sole surviving" son is the last remaining son in a family that has lost one or more of its members (male or female) as a direct result of hazards involved in service in the Armed Forces of the United States. Certain persons may also qualify in instances where the other family member is currently in a prisoner-of-war or missing-in-action status, or is permanently 100 per cent disabled.

In addition, the Military Selective Service Act of 1967, under which Selective Service registrants are inducted, provides that a "sole surviving" son of a family is not eligible for involuntary induction, except during a war of national emergency declared by Congress. This law applies solely to involuntary induction; persons who qualify as "sole surviving" sons still may enlist in the Regular Army or volunteer for induction.

Hoss

* * * * *

Dear Speedster,

I read the article in the CAVALAIR about R&R in Vung Tau. How do I go about getting one of these in-country R&Rs. I am in the 15th Admin Company. (Fwd)

Need A Rest

Dear Need A Rest;

Really like that "speedster" bit. I know I am still the best to ever hit the track. Well, for your answer. This really shouldn't be too hard. A letter just came down through channels recently which states, "15th Administration Company (FWD) is authorized in-country R&Rs for officers in the grade of O-1 to O-3, warrant officers and enlisted personnel. Request for R&R should be submitted to the 15th Administration Company (Fwd) orderly room. Priority will be based upon time in country"

Army's Only Airmobile Engineer Battalion Is the 1st Cav's Jack-of-all-Trades

PHUOC VINH — They have built the An Khe Post Exchange, detainee camps, and 14,000-pound bridges that filled the gaps on the road leading to Khe Sanh. If the 1st Air Cavalry Division needs a dog kennel complex, a chapel, a briefing bunker, or a landing zone, all it takes is one call to the men of the 8th Engineer Battalion, the only airmobile engineer battalion in the Army.

The battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Francis J. Walter, Jr., consists of three line companies (A,B,C) and a Headquarters Company. Companies A, B, and C support the 1st, 2nd,

and 3rd Brigades respectively; Headquarters Company works out of the division base camp here at Camp Gorvad.

The line companies have two major functions: First to cut firebases in the Cav's area of operations and second, to support the infantry by performing such tasks as EOD missions, defusing mines and booby traps, and building items that are needed in the field, such as the bridges at Khe Sanh.

Headquarters Company takes care of the building at Camp Gorvad. Other duties of the company include dust control at the base camp and supplying the

line companies with the needed equipment to complete their jobs in the field.

The major difference between the 8th Engineers and any other engineer outfit is, of course, airmobility. All of the equipment organic to the battalion is capable of being airlifted by the division's helicopters. One prime example of the engineers' access to any area is the D6B bulldozer. It is light enough so that the massive CH-54 Flying Cranes can pick it up, less the treads, and lift it into any area, regardless of how rugged the terrain might be.

Another famous "Skybeaver"

(8th's nickname) operation was the repairing of the A Luoi air-strip in the A Shau Valley. True, another engineer unit could probably have performed the same task in approximately the same amount of time. But the 8th Engineers got there in just a fraction of the time it would have taken another unit. For conventional engineers to have reached the A Shau by vehicle, infantry units would have had to clear and secure Highway 547 leading from Hue in order for the heavy equipment to be trucked into the valley. The only thing the Cav engineers actually needed when they moved into the valley was the choppers that hauled them there.

Since moving to III Corps the engineers of the 8th have been about as busy as Skybeavers. Since early November the construction crews have built over 30 firebases. During the time the

Cav was in I Corps, they built "only" 25 bases.

At the present time, Company C of the 8th Engineers has been nominated for the Itschner Award, which is presented annually to the outstanding engineer company in the Army by the Society of American Military Engineers. Company C was nominated by representatives at II Field Force in Vietnam.

It really makes no difference whether the airmobile 8th Engineers are blowing bunkers or building bridges, spreading pennants on dusty Phuoc Vinh roads or more tightly securing the base camp's perimeter, mine-sweeping a road or cutting through acres of jungle to give the Cav a new firebase. They usually more than prove that their motto is not exaggerated — "No one else could do so much!"

3rd Brigade Redlegs Provide Aid, Education For South Vietnamese

By SP5 Charles Needham

QUAN LOI — Through youth and education lies the promise of a nation, and thanks to the concern of artillerymen supporting the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade, the future is a little brighter for Vietnamese living near Landing Zone Andy, two miles east of here.

With a program aimed at a crucial sector of the population, Battery A, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery contributes building materials, food, clothing, and physical assistance to three schools and four orphanages in the villages of An Loc and Tan Loi.

"Most of our assistance is the self-help type, where the work is done by the people it is to benefit," explained First Lieutenant Jay Taylor, battalion S-5 and battery executive officer. "At one school that we provided paint for, the kids really pitched in and worked. Because they didn't have any ladders, they stood on each other's shoulders to reach the high places. This working together instills pride in the finished product."

Enrollment Jumped

The success of the program is apparent. At one Montagnard boarding school, the enrollment was 14 when the artillerymen came in to give assistance. First providing paint, cement and screens for the school building, the team then built a latrine and showers, and arranged for water trucks from LZ Andy to make regular deliveries of drinking water. The interest shown in the school showed immediate results, as the enrollment jumped to 352.

"Originally, those who were going there were orphans," continued 1LT Taylor. "Now, though, parents from other vil-

lages send their children there to live and get an education."

Help For Orphans

At a Catholic school in An Loc, the team is sponsoring construction of a home for 20 orphans. The children attending the school are staying with other families until the facilities are built. In addition, food and clothing for the care of the orphans are regularly provided by the civic action team.

A small school in Tan Loi was plagued by water buffalo that frequently insisted on walking into the classroom and making themselves at home. This problem was solved when the artillerymen erected a fence around the schoolyard. They also painted the school, put on a new roof, hooked up electricity, and cleared off a playground.

Another aspect of the aid program is books. "We had a lot of nursery rhyme books that had been sent from the States," stated 1LT Taylor. "I had my interpreter translate them into Vietnamese and this was pasted over the English writing."

Provide Athletic Equipment

Athletic equipment for province tournaments, as well as frequent gifts of candy and fruit, are also distributed by the team. To further the education of village adults, battery interpreters conduct night classes in English.

"There's more than one way to win a war," continued 1LT Taylor while explaining the battery's activities. "Through education the villagers can have a little more depth with which to judge the ideas that are thrown at them from all sides."

All of this assistance is accomplished through the artillerymen's initiative and efforts. "We aren't allotted any funds for these activities," added 1LT Taylor, "and our materials come from sources in the States."



Cutting Z's

(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Members of the division's 8th Engineers show their stuff during a construction mission for one of the 1st Cav's brigades.

Cav's 'Pappy' Vaughn Would Rather Fight Than Switch

BIEN HOA — For Staff Sergeant Loyd "Pappy" Vaughn the 1st Air Cavalry Division is more than just his unit: it's his second home.

That's because the 42-year-old platoon sergeant for the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry's Company C is currently serving his fourth tour with the First Team. It's also his second complete Viet-

nam tour with the same company.

"I came into the Army back in 1947 as a medic," Pappy recalled recently. "I had already done a previous tour with the Navy. That same year, I was sent to the Cav, which was in Japan, and stayed there until 1949."

Following his first tour with

the Cav, Pappy was sent to Germany to an Army aviation unit.

In 1962 he rejoined the First Team, and served a year in Korea with the 1st Battle Group, 7th Cavalry. He then went back to the States and was in the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) when it became the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). He came over to Vietnam in 1965 with his present company.

Last June, Pappy arrived for his second tour with Company C, and almost at once he began a battle with his superiors, who felt that he was "too old" to be in the field.

On three different occasions, his company commander sent him back for jobs in the battalion Tactical Operations Centers, the company rear, and the battalion's Headquarters Company.

And each time, Pappy got "fed up" with the rear after a few days and showed up, unannounced, back out in the field.

"The rear might be all right for some people," Pappy explained, "but me, I'll take the field any day."

He concedes, however, that he would rather be with Company C than with any other. "We've got the best doggone company in the whole Army," he likes to boast.

77th Arty Chalks Up

A First at LZ Rita

QUAN LOI — The 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery, 1st Air Cavalry Division fired its 150,000th round at landing zone (LZ) Rita recently, with Battery A as the host battery.

Lieutenant Colonel James R. Bamberg, the battalion commander rammed the 105mm round into a howitzer with precision timing as 2nd Brigade Commander Colonel Conrad L. Stansberry closed the breech and jerked the lanyard.

This marked the 150,000th

round since the battalion moved south in early November 1968. Just three months and 13 days previously it had fired its 150,000th round in the north at LZ Nancy, 20 miles north of Camp Evans.

COL Stansberry took the opportunity to commend LTC Bamberg and his artillerymen on a job well done: "I would like to express my satisfaction with the fine support the 1st Bn, 77th Arty has given, as is clearly demonstrated by the firing of this 150,000th round."



Skytroopers prepare to hold a feast during a sweep operation in III Corps. The porker was grudgingly 'donated' by some of Ho Chi Minh's warriors.



SP4 John Thomas gives his commanding officer a helping hand during a sweep mission near LZ Rita. Captain Harry O. Talor leads Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry.



One of the many leech-infested streams in the 1st Cav's AO is cautiously crossed by cavalrymen from 2nd Brigade.

Photos by SP4 Ed Koehnlein

Grunt's Day Long, Hot and Dangerous

PHUOC VINH—It was a typical day for a long "hump"—hot, muggy and somewhat foreboding.

The 1st Air Cavalry Division company was ready to move out. C-ration cans were strewn around, conveniently crushed so Charles couldn't use them for booby traps.

A last gulp of coffee was washed down before the order came to "saddle up". Field gear was strapped on and the 120-odd Skytroopers shuffled off, keeping a safe distance between one another.

A few men exchanged quips, but for the most part, an air of confident wariness prevailed. The prospect of enemy contact is a serious business, especially with a foe who usually finds you before you do him.

Men Relax

An hour dragged by and the men became more relaxed. Fatigues were already soaked and the soldiers' faces became covered with an uncomfortable mixture of sweat and grime. They pushed on.

Soon, they came upon a polluted stream, shallow enough to cross but deep enough to make the day that much more miserable. The prospects of picking up a few leeches looked good. A few men lit cigarettes, but the majority pulled out the issued insect repellent. Bugs seemed to be immune to the liquid, but it was sure hell on leeches. They were ready.

Halfway across the murky creek, a soldier slipped and fell. Muttering unprintables, he pulled himself up and warned his buddies of the dropoff he had unfortunately found. All was not lost. He had managed to keep his M-16 dry.

Tough Going

A steep bank awaited the first man across. It took him a while to find firm footing and reach land. A helping hand stretched out to each succeeding man until the entire unit was across. So far, so good.

After the company had hacked through the thick vegetation for another hour, the commander signaled a halt. A collective sigh of relief escaped the troops. The men broke off into platoons and moved out to secure their flanks.

They rested for 15 minutes, smoking cigarettes, drinking coffee and hot chocolate, and examining their legs for leeches. The sun beat down unmercifully as the soldiers engaged in light-hearted bantering. Then it was time to move out.

It was a quiet day, the only find being a not-so-well concealed booby trap which was blown in place. At five o'clock, a re-supply chopper set down near the unit's perimeter, bringing in food, water and other necessities. Most important to the soldiers were the two bags of "sugar reports" from loved ones back home.

Another Day

The sun cooled off and dusk began to claim another day. Heat tablets flickered out in the makeshift can stoves as Skytroopers wolfed down such delicacies as Turkey Loaf, Beef with Spices, and the popular Beans and Franks.

Claymore mines and trip flares were put out before darkness enveloped the area. The guards went to their positions, placing their grenades within easy reach along with the claymore trigger devices. A platoon moved out for a night ambush. One soldier informed the guards of the ambush sites and gave them the time they would come back next morning.

It had been a long march with no significant events and it was already forgotten. The letters from home had been a welcome treat, and well, maybe tomorrow they would find something. Or maybe tonight. Either way, it was all in a grunt's long day and they would be ready.



Members of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry find the going slow while searching for Charles 11 kilometers south of LZ Rita.



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

Hose 'Er Down

SP4 Richard Galline of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry takes advantage of the facilities at the 1st Brigade AIM Station.

Previous Musical Management Beneficial to Infantry Supply Rep

QUAN LOI — "Hey Darrel, I need a pair of nine W boots." "Darrel, I need a barrel for my M-60." "When you send in the log request, tell them I need a pair of pants."

These are just a few of the varied requests that are fired at a supply representative in the field. The supply rep not only

keeps his company supplied with major items such as food and ammo, but also takes care of the men's personal items. When necessary, he also fights alongside them.

For many field supply representatives the number and variety of requests can cause a major problem. But one supply rep in the 1st Air Cavalry Division has background and experience

for the job.

"I was the road manager for the Viceroys (a band which was well known around the Northwest) for a couple of years, and the problems are almost the same," said Sergeant Darrel W. Blankinship field supply rep for Company A, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

Sgt. Blankinship had the task of getting hotel accommodations, making transportation arrangements, and being sure that the band was at the appointed place at the appointed time. Now, on the other side of the world, he has the job of seeing that a combat infantry company has everything it needs to fight, from ammo to a pair of size nine boots.

"Although the problem of moving the band was almost a 24-hour-a-day job, the important job of keeping the company resupplied involves far more responsibility," said the blond-haired sergeant.

"There aren't too many differences in the two jobs; it is a matter of adjusting. However, I did get snowed in at Billings, Montana for three days, and that hasn't happened over here yet," said SGT Blankinship, smiling.

ty before he heard the cry again.

"Medic!" The call came from a third trooper, wounded in the leg and unable to move.

"I went forward again," the 'Doc' said. The firing was so intense this time that I had to have the man grab onto my leg, and I dragged him to the rear that way."

After treating their wounds, the medic tried to calm their anxieties with words of encouragement. As is often the case, combat medics are called on for emotional comfort.

"I hear a lot of problems from the guys," PFC Graham said. "You know, no mail from home, a Dear John letter, loneliness — that sort of thing. It really makes me feel good to help these guys."

PFC Graham plans on attending college and eventually medical school after he is discharged from the service.

"I'm not PFC Graham out here," he noted. "I'm 'Doc' and that's what I want to be called in civilian life."

Conscientious Objector Travels Medic's Road

By 1LT William DiMascio

TAY NINH—Some went to Canada, some were deferred and some went to jail, but not all conscientious objectors found it impossible to serve their country without violating their beliefs. Although feeling very strongly about taking a person's life, some of these people were realistic enough to realize that during a war there is a lot which can be done to preserve life.

Private First Class Robert Graham of the 1st Air Cavalry Division is a conscientious objector. Now he is also a combat medic.

"It's just knowing that you can help someone and then having the chance to do it," the 20-year-old Californian remarked. "These guys out here depend on me. When I hear someone yell, 'Hey Doc,' I grab my bag, and I'm gone to wherever the sound is coming from."

The sound often takes him to some risky places, as it did when his unit, the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, got into a firefight with some NVA in the jungle northeast of here recently.

Several of the men who had been walking at the front of the column when the firing erupted were hit and pinned down about 40 meters ahead of the rest of the unit.

"Hey Doc!" the call came to the rear. Dropping his rucksack and grabbing his first aid kit, PFC Graham began scrambling toward the cut-off men. He reached them and carried two wounded comrades back to safe-

ty before he heard the cry again.

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1st Brigade Station 'Aims' To Please

By SP4 Gary Quillen

TAY NINH — Need the oil changed in your vehicle? The battery and radiator checked? Does your jeep or truck need washing or painting? If any of the answers to these questions is "Yes", then the place to go is your friendly AIM Station.

The AIM (Assistance in Maintenance) Station supporting the 1st Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division, is an integral part of Detachment A, 27th Maintenance Battalion.

When the station opened in late November, the Cavalrymen began having customers on a regular basis.

"When we first opened, it took a while for the word to spread that there was a place where the men could work on their own vehicles," said Specialist Five George Glowacki, a worker at the station. "But now we average about 20 to 30 vehicles a day."

As the men bring their vehicles into the station, there is a cavalryman waiting to assist them in anything they may need. Provided for the self-ser-

vice mechanics are all tools needed from the smallest screw driver to the largest wrench. Also provided are hoses to wash the vehicle and oil and grease for first-echelon maintenance.

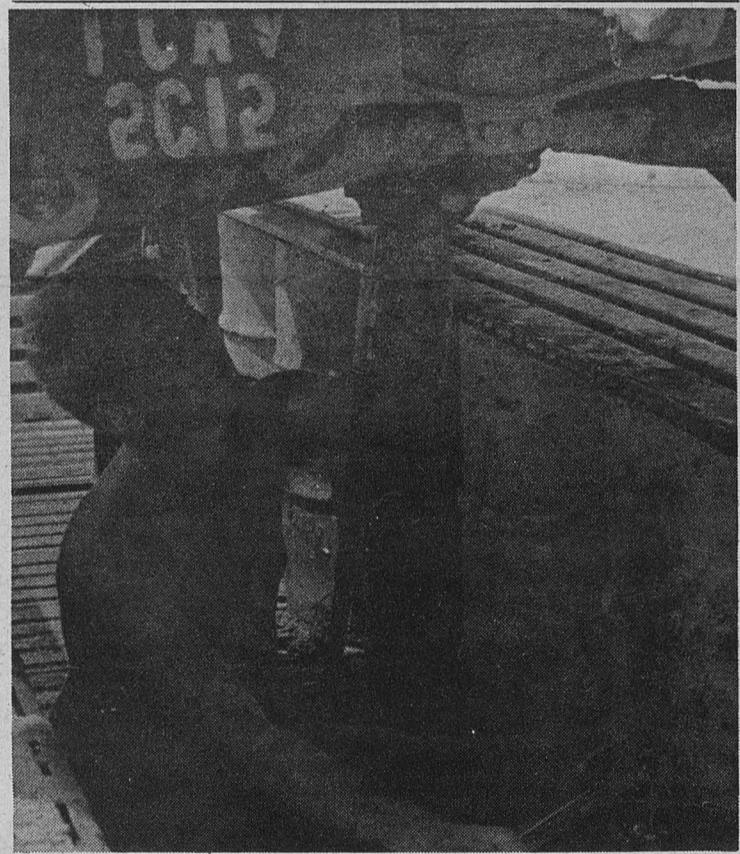
When the 1st Air Cavalry Division was stationed in I Corps, there was also an AIM Station provided for the cavalrymen.

"We had just started our station at Landing Zone Sharon in I Corps, when we received the word that we were moving south," said Sergeant First Class James W. Davis a shop foreman with Detachment A, 27th Maintenance Battalion. "When we moved down here, we decided to continue the station."

Besides the help given to the men, the station also helps the individual battalions.

"The battalions usually don't have the facilities we have," said SFC Davis. "When the men come here, it helps the individual motor pools."

Although the AIM Station is strictly a 1st Air Cavalry Division organization, members of the 25th Infantry Division stationed also use the station.



Lube and Oil

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

SP4 Robert Lyon, a radio repairman with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, turns mechanic for a few hours to make sure his vehicle is in tip-top shape.

1st Brigade Major Garners Three Valor Awards During Ceremonies at Tay Ninh

TAY NINH — The platoon had just completed its Charlie Alpha (combat assault) into the wooded area and was preparing a landing zone for the rest of the company. But suddenly, its plans were halted as enemy fire began peppering the new landing zone, pinning down the platoon.

Approximately 15 kilometers away, other soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division were waiting to combat assault into the area.

"When word was relayed to me that the platoon had become engaged with a large enemy force," said Major Audis B.

Garner, then commander of the company, "I knew I had to get more men in there to support the platoon and I had to do it as quickly as possible."

Radio contact became an essential factor, as the platoon leader relayed moment-by-moment situation reports to MAJ Garner. Also by means of radio, MAJ Garner relayed instructions to the platoon leader, coordinating the plan of maneuver for the link-up after more troops moved in.

After arriving in the area, MAJ Garner moved forward to assess the situation, bullets whizzing past him. Finally reaching the platoon, the 31-

year-old 1st Cav officer began leading it forward to the link-up area.

For the heroism shown by MAJ Garner during the Nov. 2, 1968 contact, he was recently awarded the Silver Star. Also presented to MAJ Garner were the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and the Bronze Star Medal (1st Oak Leaf Cluster) with "V" device. The AR-COM with "V" device was awarded for heroic actions while MAJ Garner was commander of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, and the Bronze Star with "V" device for his performance as a Special Forces Advisor to a Vietnamese Army unit in 1967.



Try to Remember

For those Skytroopers who have forgotten what one looks like, the object is pictured in the right hand corner. We believe it is called a Television set. Cute, huh?



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 Ed Koehlein)

Sock it To Me

The Gene Stridel Band entertains Skytroopers from the 2nd Brigade at Quan Loi.

Escape Route Leads to Death for 3 Enemy Troops

By SP4 Phil Manger

BIEN HOA — Three NVA, evading an American patrol and believing themselves en route to safety, found more than they bargained for when their "escape route" led them into a hasty ambush set up by four members of the 1st platoon of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

Two platoons from Company C were out on a cloverleaf patrol (a patrol which circles out from a forward operations base, enabling several patrolling elements to cover all of the ground around the perimeter) 12 kilometers northeast of here when the 2nd platoon made contact

with three NVA.

They engaged the three enemy briefly, but the NVA broke contact and took off — and headed straight toward the area where the first platoon was patrolling.

"We got word that the NVA were moving in our direction," said Specialist Four John Woodworth, a machine gunner in the first platoon.

"As soon as we got the word, Sergeant Larry Ridgeway, PFC Barton Beatty, SP4 Larry Ribbink and I set up a hasty ambush. A few minutes later they walked right into us."

The patrol opened up, killing all three and policing up four AK-47 assault rifles in the bar-gain.

PHUOC VINH, Vietnam — Safety is every man's responsibility, and the 1st Air Cavalry Division now has a means to channel that responsibility in the right direction. Raymond C. Rogers joined the First Team recently as Ground Safety Director.

Rogers comes to the division with years of experience behind him in both aviation and motor vehicle safety.

The Safety Director is responsible for planning and developing an accident prevention program and making periodic field surveys to evaluate the

Sounds of War Does Not Stop USO Troupe

QUAN LOI — With the roar of 175mm guns not too far in the distance, the show went on. For an hour and a half the first USO show for the 2nd Brigade since the 1st Air Cavalry Division moved south drowned out the sounds of war only meters away.

"The USO, with the cooperation of the 2nd Brigade, is proud to present the Gene Stridel Show," greeted the cheering Skytroopers as the troupe started its show.

"This is our first USO tour, and the appreciation that the soldiers show is very gratifying. I wish we had more time so we could have more of them come to the show," said Gene Stridel, the troupe's leader.

The show consisted of Mr. Stridel, the male vocalist, Miss Perlene Thurston, the female vocalist, and the Overton Berry trio. They tried for a short while to bring home a little closer for battle-weary troopers of the Blackhorse Brigade and, push back throughs of war.

"This is the first show I have ever seen while in the 1st Cav, and it was really great; I sure wish we would have more of them," said Sergeant Bobby R. Halley a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade.

"I guess the traveling would be the hardest thing to get used to except for the fact that I travel about 10 months out of the year back in the States. This is kind of like home week except for the artillery. I don't think I could ever get used to that," said Mr. Stridel, who will play Nat King Cole in the upcoming movie of the singer's life.

Safety Director Joins Cav to Program Accident Prevention

program's effectiveness.

"I'm traveling regularly with the Inspector General team, and plan to get around to every area we have as often as possible," he said.

He also acts as an adviser to the staff, and processes accident investigation reports. A large part of his job is to analyze accident reports and obtain accident trends.

"Every day over here I'm able to get something done on the spot that will prevent an accident," Rogers said. "In the States you can work week in and week out and never see what you've accomplished. Over here it's different. If I can stop one serious accident, then the job is worth while."

The Ground Safety Director and the Air Safety Officer work closely together to keep the Cav's accidents to a minimum. An accident that occurs in an aircraft may just as easily be a ground problem. An aircraft accident, unless there is an intent to fly, is a ground accident.

"Probably the most important part of the job is to instill an awareness of safety into supervisors and commanders. They're the men on the spot," said Rogers. "But so often these

men are so busy fighting that they lose perspective. That's why there is a tremendous need for more safety people over here. You need to have personnel who are trained observers — who can remain objective."

Rogers whose son served with the Cav in 1968, began his career as a traffic manager for Trans-



MR. RAYMOND C. ROGERS

portation and Trucking Company. In 1940 he became an instructor pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Following this he worked with the California Highway Patrol, where he handled automotive accidents. In 1956 he owned and managed his own business, Accident Research Company, and from 1956 until he joined the Cav, he worked with the United States Air Force in the office of the Safety Director.

Cav Ass'n Keeps Tabs on Friends

If you want to keep in touch with the guys you've met in Vietnam, the best way to do it is through a membership in the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Founded in 1944 in the Admiralty Islands, the Association was incorporated in 1949 as a non-profit, fraternal veterans' organization. The Association seeks to preserve friendships formed in battle and perpetuate the Cav's tradition and esprit de corps. Moreover, it is dedicated to the honor of Cavalrymen who have given their lives in the defense of our country.

The Cav Association provides scholarships to dependents of men killed or disabled while serving with the division.

A lifetime membership costs only eleven dollars.

If you're interested in joining, contact the Cav's Information Office or your unit's Association representative.

VA Tax Reminder

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

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

Other major items of income that need not be reported include educational assistance allowances, pension and compensation payments, subsistence payments to vocational rehabilitation trainees and grants for special automobiles and "wheelchairhomes" for the severely disabled.

Also tax exempt are all benefits to surviving dependents of deceased veterans and compensation allowances for dependents of disabled veterans.

Combat Photos Used By Cav to Break Enemy Spirit in III Corps

QUAN LOI — Although everyone likes pictures pertaining to the war, it is unlikely that the enemy cared for the 50,000 copies he recently received of Cavalair Staff Photographer Specialist Four Edward Koehlein's work.

While the 3rd Vietnamese Marine Battalion was busily unearthing what was officially termed as "one of the largest weapons and ammo finds of the

war," SP4 Koehlein was on the scene snapping photographs for the Cavalair and other news media. After developing, one of the pictures was turned over to the 2nd Brigade S-5 section for exploitation of the cache by PsyOps teams.

A week later the picture was returned from the 6th PsyOps Battalion's graphic reproduction facilities in 50,000 copies, and subsequently dumped upon the

now even poorly armed enemy.

The message included on the 4-by-1-inch leaflet states:

"SOLDIERS OF THE NVA!!!, LARGE CACHES OF WEAPONS OF YOURS WERE FOUND IN THE CON TANG, CAH DO AND NHA THUC AREAS! YOU CANNOT FIGHT WITHOUT THEM!" The reverse side continued: "Attention Soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army — The GVN and Allied forces not only know your plans for the Winter-Spring Offensive, but have captured large caches of your rice, ammunition and weapons. Now, that's going to make it very difficult for you to live properly, let alone fight a battle! The odds are overwhelmingly against you! It's been a long trip from the North and the joyous and happy life. And it is not going to get any better! Your only chance of survival is to surrender to the Government of South Vietnam!"



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

Mean Machine-gun

A Skytrooper from Troop D, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry test fires his weapon prior to pulling a sweep through rubber trees near Quan Loi.

