

Skytroopers Beat Back NVA

2990

Heavy Ground Attacks Cost Chuck 216 Dead

BY SP4 GARY QUILLEN

TAY NINH—The soldiers, dirt-laden and fatigued, walked into the small landing zone with the prospect of a relatively "easy" stand down period after being in the field 30 days. But rest was something that men from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, rarely experienced.

On two of their first five nights at LZ Grant, the company was attacked by an estimated NVA battalion.

"We'd had contact in the field just before coming into the LZ," said Specialist Four Richard Jordon, a machine gunner with the company. "We thought we were going to get some rest, but it just didn't work out that way."

The enemy's first assault on the base occurred just hours after the cavalymen had set up their base defense. But they were ready, and as a result 154 NVA lay dead on the battlefield the following morning.

Three days later, the NVA made another attempt to overrun the LZ, but again it was in vain.

"They began their second attack just like the first one," said Sergeant Joseph Bedgood, a platoon sergeant for the company. "They first hit us with rockets and mortars and then they began walking up the road to the LZ."

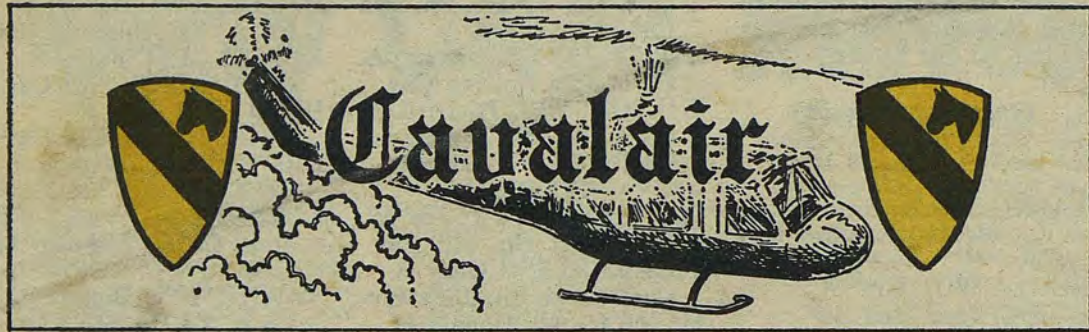
As the enemy forces pushed their way toward the LZ, aerial rocket artillery and Spooky gunships were called into the area to assist the infantrymen.

"The second time it didn't seem like there were as many," said Private First Class Leonard Knight, an assistant machine gunner with the company. "I guess we were a little more prepared for this one."

As the company made a sweep of the area surrounding the LZ, it found 62 NVA killed in action, bringing the total to 216 enemy dead in the two ground attacks.

The performance in repelling the two NVA attacks earned the company high praise.

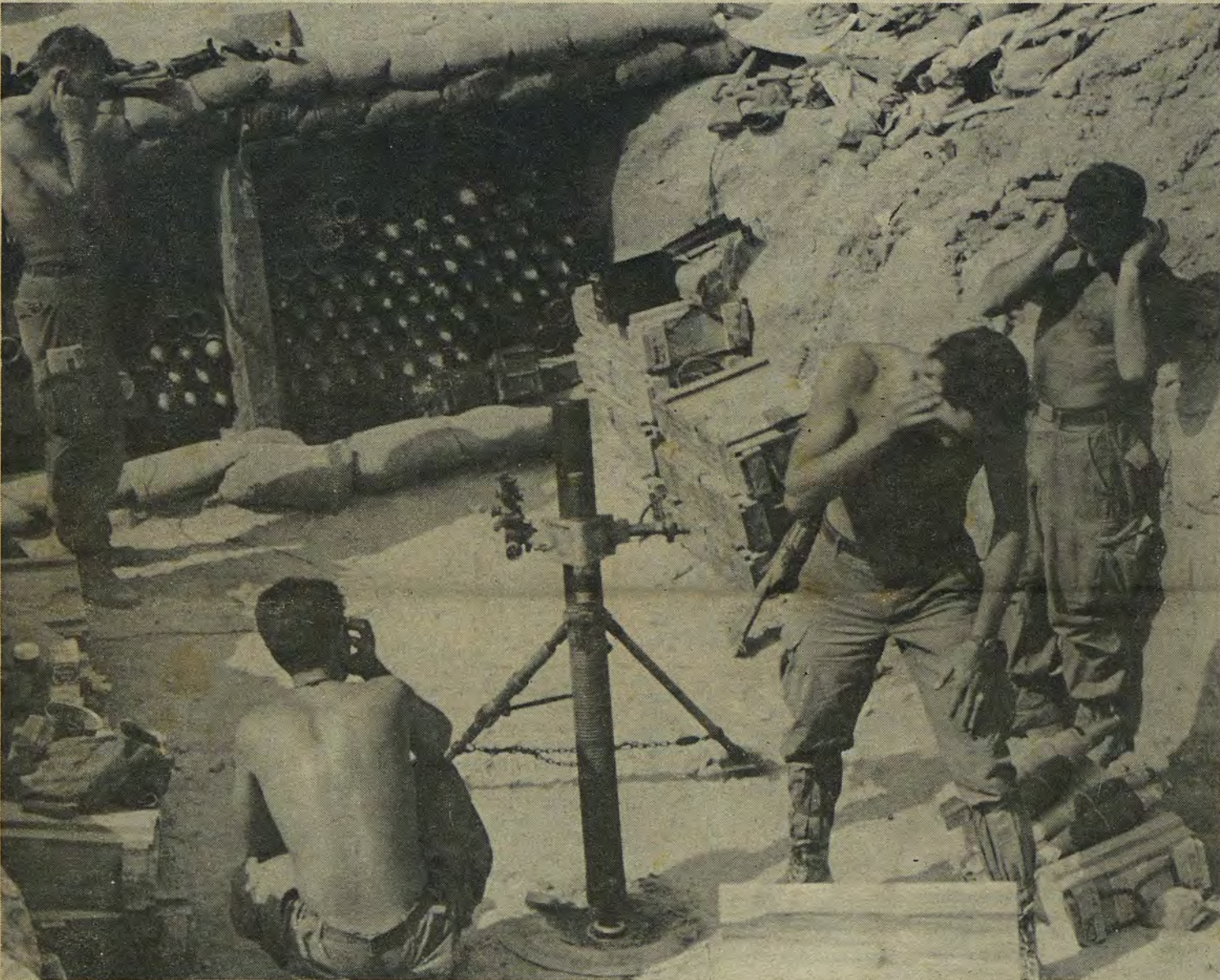
"The base defense company was terrific," said Corporal Daniel M. Gustafson, a member of the 11th Pathfinder Detachment. "They worked like a machine. Everything was well coordinated."



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1st Air Cavalry Division

April 16, 1969



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 Smith)

To Charles, With Love

Skytroopers from Company D, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav., tense up for the inevitable roar of an outgoing round from their 82mm mortar at LZ Grant.

Cav Cordon Nets Enemy Propaganda, VC Suspect During Joint Operation

BY SP4 CHRIS DEAN

PHUOC VINH — The 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry recently cordoned the village of Vien Hoa so that Cav Military Police and Vietnamese Popular Force (PF) elements could search for two

mortar tubes that had been harassing Camp Gorvad.

A number of North Vietnamese propaganda leaflets, paper flags, and anti-U.S. posters were found, and battalion medics conducted a successful MEDCAP.

At about 11:00 p.m. on Feb. 28, Company A of the 1st Bn., 7th Cav silently moved out of its protective position and down the trail toward the village. Each man carried his weapon, ammunition, one or two canteens, and a little food for the night and day of watchfulness ahead.

There was no noise and no talk. Each man knew his part in the operation. The mortar crews remained behind to provide fire

support if necessary. All available rear personnel had been brought out to the field to secure the night mortar position and free every possible man for the cordon.

The full moon made movement through the brush simpler, but increased the possibility of detection. Company A moved in just below the rise on which Vien Hoa is located, effectively concealing itself from any watchers in the village.

The first platoon linked up with two platoons of Vietnamese Popular Forces in two and a half minutes, using a red light and a starlight scope, to seal the northern and eastern sides. The

third and fourth platoons and command elements covered the southern side. The 2nd Platoon from Company B closed the ring along the western side. Machine guns were positioned to cover the roads and open fields with crossfire, and claymores and tripflares were placed in front of each position.

By midnight, three-and four-man positions spaced at 25-yard intervals surrounded the village. "A rabbit couldn't get through," said Captain John P. Costello, commander of Company A.

Word came that a platoon of VC had entered the village earlier in the evening and torn

Briefing Gets

Their Goat

BIEN HOA — A catsup and Marlboro cigarette stew with tinfoil topping is not something new that has been added to the C-ration menu. Rather, it is the afternoon snack for a young nanny goat, named Poge, who belongs to the medics of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. She was 'captured' from the NVA last April during a cordon and search of a village near Quang Tri.

"Except for a few NVA, it was a more or less deserted village," said Specialist Five Ralph Collins, one of the few medics short enough to remember the incident. "Then some of the guys found this baby goat wandering around — she was almost newborn — and brought her back to LZ Sharon and gave her to the aid station."

Once brought into the rear, Poge quickly adapted to the Army life, becoming one of the most notorious "shammers" in the battalion. "She was a lazy," said SP5 Collins. "I named her (Continued on Back Page)"

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...For God And Country

Nothing is simple. Take, for example, this account in the August 6, 1968 issue of LOOK:

"Suffering a corn on his left foot, (an) Argentine went to the hospital to have it removed. Afraid of the thought of more pain, he requested an anesthetic. Once the anesthetic was applied, the patient's heart stopped. Frantic doctors immediately operated and conducted a heart massage to revive the patient.

"Though the regular heartbeat was soon restored, the patient had been given such an overdose of oxygen that additional surgery was required to relieve a stomach swelling. Two operations later, the patient was being returned to the recovery ward when the elevator jammed and interns had to place him on a stretcher. During this maneuver, an intern slipped and the patient crashed to the pavement, breaking his arm and collarbone. (He) suddenly began gasping for air. He was rushed to the operating room for his third operation of the day — a tracheotomy.

"And in all the confusion, the doctors forget about his corn." The point is that we are foolish to expect things to be simple. Life is not simple, society is not simple, parent-child relations not simple, a solution to this war is not simple—very little is simple. We do better to expect things to be complicated and to rejoice in an occasional simplicity when it comes along.

This era is increasingly complex. To look for easy answers and oversimplifications is a waste of time. But we are not without a guide whom we can trust, as Proverbs so clearly emphasize:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and let him guide you through the maze.

'Blowing Grass' Can Lead to Bad Trip

The American soldier in Vietnam has easy access to a type of unprocessed marijuana even more potent than the "Acapulco Gold" found in the States. Like the marijuana back in the world, however, the Southeast Asian variety is a hallucinogen — a mind-expanding drug — that can cause both physical and psychological damage.

The technical name of the plant from which all marijuana preparations are derived is *cannabis sativa*. The *cannabis* plant, more commonly known as Indian hemp or hemp, is indigenous to large areas of the world and is abundant in Vietnam.

Under federal law, "marijuana" is defined as all parts of the *cannabis* plant except the stalks and sterilized seeds. All other parts and preparations, whether leaves, flowers, resins (hashish) or chemical extracts, are legally defined as marijuana.

Little is known about its long-term effects. In its mildest form, marijuana does not appear to be physically dangerous. However, while a given dosage may have no apparent ill effects on one person, that same dosage may have very pronounced effects on another. You cannot be certain that even a "mild" dose of marijuana is safe.

A stronger dose of marijuana will cause psychotic reactions in almost anyone. Recent scientific

studies indicate a causal relationship between the use of marijuana and criminal acts. Behavior under the influence of marijuana varies with the individual and the circumstances — one cannot predict exactly how a person will react. This unpredictability makes it all the more dangerous.

According to the World Health Organization's 1965 report on Drug Dependence, consumption of marijuana causes distortion of sensation and perception, impaired judgment and memory, irregular emotional responses, irritability and confusion. Other effects include illusions and delusions which in turn trigger antisocial behavior and feelings of anxiety and aggressiveness.

Aside from caring about your own health, the most compelling argument against taking marijuana is that it makes a soldier utterly unreliable in emergency situations. "Blowing grass" in Vietnam might well cost you and your buddies your lives.

A third reason for avoiding marijuana is the fact that it is prohibited by civil and military law. Federal statutes make the use and/or possession of "pot" a crime punishable by as much as ten years in a penitentiary and a \$20,000 fine. Under military law, the offender faces a court-martial, up to five years in prison and a dishonorable discharge. The U.S. Government may also impose and collect a tax of \$100 for each ounce confiscated.



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Commanding General MG George I. Forsythe
Information Officer CPT John T. Kallunki
Press Officer CPT Frank Carrara
Editor SP5 Al Garcia
Assistant Editor SP5 Steve Haldeman



Awards



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

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

- LAMB, SP5 Richard E. Trp B, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
- BERLA, WO1 Eric A. HSC, 15th Med Bn
- HENDRY, WO1 Bruce R. HSC, 15th Med Bn
- AUTEN, CW2 William H. HHC, 2nd Bde
- DIANICH, 1LT Richard H. Co1, 229th AHB
- SPIERER, 1LT Ronald L. Co D, 227th AHB
- MOLISH, WO1 Michael II HSC, 15th Med Bn
- JACOBS, WO1 Arthur R. HSC, 15th Med Bn

SILVER STAR

- KOUTROUBA SSG William C. HHC, 5th Bn, 7th Cav
- WICKHAM, LTC John A. Jr. HHC, 5th Bn, 7th Cav
- AUTEN, CW2 William H. HHC, 2nd Bde
- JEANTET, SP4 Bill J. Co B, 229th AHB
- SIMPSON, SP4 William S. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- PANGELINIAN, SP4 Joa-

Ten Sites For R&R

Phuoc Vinh — You have 10 choices for Rest and Recuperation, and you can hardly go wrong whichever city you pick.

If you're married you'll probably want to meet your wife in Hawaii, relaxing on the golden beaches of our 50th state. Single sightseers might enjoy the mystery of such famous Oriental cities as Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore, while the city-lovers have an opportunity to visit the world's largest, Tokyo.

For the guy who prefers the smaller, less expensive spots, Kuala Lumpur, Taipei, Penang, and Manila are all on the list. Outside of Hawaii, Sydney is said to be the closest thing to a "stateside vacation from the war."

You're entitled to one out-of-country R&R during your tour in Vietnam, as well as the possibility for a seven-day leave. To insure a travel space for the location preferred, it is best to apply for your vacation early (some companies are now requesting applications be turned in three months prior).

Shot record, ID card, identification tags and orders are mandatory items that you should possess. Shots must be up to date and cholera immunization must have been administered at least five days before departure.

Remember that whichever R&R spot you choose, you are a guest in that spot. In addition to the items mentioned above, don't forget to take along your manners. You'll probably enjoy your vacation much more if you do, since you will be treated by the people in these countries pretty much as you treat them.

Beginning next week the CAVALAIR will give you some ideas and information about the different R&R locations.

- quin Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- SMET, PFC Lawrence A. Co D, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- WILSON, PFC Richard A. Co A, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
- BRONZE STAR for HEROISM
- DAVIDSON, CPT Joe W. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- VICKERS, SSG Gary A. Co D, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav
- MURRY, SP4 Ronald M. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- HARRIS, SP4 Albert Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- DUFFY, 1LT Thomas H. III Co C, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav

- BATES, SP4 Bobby G. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- FIEGEL, 1LT John R. Co A, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
- BIRD, SP4 Bill O. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- BROWN, PFC William J. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- ALVAREZ-MIEVES, SP4 Jose, Co B, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- SWANS, PFC Bennie Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- PARKER, SP4 Johnny Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- MILLAR, SP4 Craig Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- MILLER, SP4 Thomas E. Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav



THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Hi Hoss,

I have been considering an ITT and have given some serious thought to the Philippines, however I don't hear much about the American Army being there. Do we have any personnel there? If so, what kind of units.

SP5 Jack Peters

Hi Jack,

Yes, we have some Army personnel stationed in the Philippines, however no large units, divisions etc. We do have some small support units, supply, transportation, procurement types. Great place to race. Good luck on the ITT.

Hoss

Dear Hoss,

A few weeks ago the CAVALAIR ran an article about taking home war trophies. I didn't keep that issue and I can't remember the exact procedure to follow. Could you refresh my memory because I just captured an AK-44?

Firearm Finder

Dear Firearm Finder:

The first thing you'll have to do is saddle up and ride over to your Intelligence Screening Officer. He can be found at each of the brigade headquarters, at the 11th Aviation Group, at Division Artillery and at Division G-2. This should be done immediately upon capturing the weapon. He will determine whether the weapon is an authorized war trophy.

Your next stop is the Military Police Company. Bona fide war trophy firearms must be processed for export from Vietnam as outlined in USARV Regulation 643-20. At the Military Police you'll be asked to complete four copies of form DD-603 (Registration of War Trophy Firearms), three copies of form DD-603-1 (General War Trophy Registration) and two copies of U.S. Embassy form ADM/650-5 (Request for Firearms Export License). The MP's at the various brigades will forward all paperwork to the Provost Marshall's Office at Camp Gorvad.

Don't put off war trophy firearms registration until the last minute. There's always some dude who shows up at DEROS time with an unregistered war trophy. Then he's disappointed when Army authorities tell him he can't export it. Take care of the paperwork the first chance you get!

Hoss

Dear Hoss,

It's been rumored that individuals who extend in 'Nam for the five-month early out program are subject to recall at any time, whereas those who do not extend need not worry. Is this affirmative?

Worried

Dear Worried:

There is absolutely no substance to this rumor. Your recall status is not determined by whether or not you take advantage of the early out program, but rather by number of years of active duty.

You have a six-year military obligation. If you were drafted, you'll have to serve two years in the ready reserves and two in the standby reserves. If you enlisted for three years, you face one year in the ready reserves and two in the standby reserves. If you enlisted for four years, you'll have to serve two years in the standby reserves.

Ready reserves are subject to active duty call-up in an emergency declared by the President or Congress (no formal declaration of war is required). Standby reservists can be called to active duty only in the event of war or national emergency declared by Congress.

For the purposes of determining your reserve obligation, early outs are not counted. You are credited with having spent your full regular active duty obligation on active duty. In other words, a draftee will spend two years in the ready reserves and two in the standby reserves, whether he spends 19 months or 24 months on active duty.

Hoss

(If there is anything any of you Skytroopers would like to get the word on, drop a line to Information Office, 1st Air Cavalry Division, Attn: Horse's Mouth, APO 96490. If I don't know the answer I'll find it and hoof it out.)

Oh No, Not Again!!!

'Garry Owen' Moves Further South

By SP5 Charles Needham

BIEN HOA — Bags were packed, the airstrip was jammed, and convoys were forming. Mementos of the past three months had been sorted through and then sold, bartered or tossed away as the cavalymen tore loose the ties to their old base camp at Quan Loi. What no one had dared to think would take place again so soon was happening. "Garry Owen" was moving south.

The 3rd Brigade had spear-

headed the division's move from northern I Corps in early November to launch operations to block the enemy access routes to Saigon. During the next three months, the brigade killed over 900 enemy, captured over 200 tons of rice, and policed up more than 175 individual and crew-served weapons.

But as Specialist Five Gary Shrum put it, "I knew we wouldn't stay in one place too long because with the air-mobility and quality of men the 1st Cav has, we can expect to go

wherever there is an enemy threat. We went to Quan Loi in the first place to disrupt enemy movement, and when it seemed that they might have a threat further south, I just knew we would go."

"We received reports about enemy movement in War Zone D," reported Captain Allen Christenson, brigade assistant operations officer. "We came down with two battalions to disrupt the enemy activity."

Aware of the possibility of the

move, the brigade's S-4 had plans ready when the word came to go on Feb. 2. "The battalions reported the weight and volume of the equipment to be moved within six hours after they were requested to do so," stated Captain Richard R. N. Grubb, brigade assistant S-4. "Then we put in the request for transport. Everyone saw the urgency involved and acted accordingly, and it was a very smooth move."

Upon arrival in the new operations area, the two battalions straddled the major enemy infiltration routes. The 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry assaulted into an area 13 miles northeast of Bien Hoa to establish Landing Zone Cindy, while the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry set up camp six miles further east at Landing Zone Liz. The cavalymen found less vegetation than in their former area. Wasting no time in getting to work, the cavalymen spread out over the countryside in search of the enemy, and another operation was in progress.

The first week was marked by light contacts, but numerous enemy bunkers and valuable supplies were uncovered by the cavalymen as they familiarized themselves with their new location. On Feb. 7, Company A, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav was continuing a search mission a mile south of LZ Liz when it spotted 15-20 enemy soldiers in front of its listening post. Pounding the enemy position with mortars, the cavalymen failed to find any signs of enemy casualties, but they did succeed in locating an enemy storehouse. Less than 500 feet from the contact area they

discovered a seven-bunker complex with 41 81mm mortar rounds and a box of TNT. West of there they dug up caches of plasma, sulphur, mineral water, glucose, and penicillin.

The next day Company D, working one mile south of Company A's position, captured more of the enemy's goods. Included in the find were a quantity of assorted medicines, 48 B-40 rockets, 10 Chicom claymore mines, and 19 cases of blasting caps and charges.

The episode of Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry also did much to make the enemy aware that the 1st Air Cav had arrived. The enemy became readily accessible targets to the adept flyers of the troop. One day, Feb. 7, the cavalymen killed 12 Communists in scattered actions during the day.

At midmorning, one of the troop's ships spotted two enemy soldiers with mortars riding bicycles along a trail, and another running down a stream three miles northeast of LZ Liz. Opening up, the ship killed all three. Fifteen minutes later another ship, operating six miles west of there, scored with four more kills. After its last engagement in late afternoon, the troop had racked up a total of 12 kills.

By the end of the first week of operation, the cavalymen had accounted for 40 enemy dead and 500 pounds of captured rice, as well as the medical and arms caches. But more important, they had built an impressive deterrent to any enemy maneuvers, and stood in a position to thwart the enemy's longed-for victories.

NVA Sergeant Major Yields To Cavmen During Firefight

By SP4 Eugene Christiansen

PHUOC VINH — It was a dark night — so dark that the observation posts were using two starlight scopes to watch for movement outside the perimeter.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry had been working some five kilometers west of Landing Zone Lois and had set up its night position.

It was about two in the morning when a man with one of the "Green-eyes" spotted 15 to 20 enemy soldiers in front of him.

"The other scope was aimed in the same direction and saw a company-sized enemy force," said Captain Robert Meager, commander of Co C. "I called in aerial rocket artillery, tube artillery, Spooky, and we opened fire with our own weapons."

Then, in the middle of the contact, a cry of "Chieu Hoi!" was heard. Checking the area again with the scope, the cavalymen saw a man waving a parachute flare as a white flag.

"I reported the situation to the battalion commander, who ordered me to stay inside the perimeter," said CPT Meager. "So I asked for volunteers and about 10 men stepped forward."

The men had to be guided out beyond the trip flares by a man using a starlight scope, who led the volunteers by talking to them over a radio. They made it to the soldier, set up a quick perimeter and then picked him up on a poncho and carried him into the perimeter.

"The man, who turned out to be an NVA sergeant major, was wounded superficially on the arms, legs, and neck from the artillery," said Sergeant Timothy S. Knowlton, one of the volunteers. "We had to go out 100-150 meters and when we got there, he was pointing to a clump of bushes. We noticed the three bodies that had been near him were gone. We hustled him

back in and artillery was called in on the bushes. The three enemy soldiers who were hiding there were killed."

The sergeant major stated that he was a commo chief and proved it by talking to an interpreter at the battalion headquarters by radio.

"I guess he'd used a radio even more than I had," said CPT Meager.

After the contact, the bodies of 15 enemy soldiers were found, and blood trails and drag marks led from the area.

"It seems strange now, but we didn't receive one incoming round," said CPT Meager. "I guess we really shook them up — they just fell apart."

Weapons Accidents Needless

Weapon Accidents are the most common types of non-combat accidents in the Cav. And every time a cavalryman is accidentally wounded, this diverts critically needed personnel and equipment from their primary mission of attending to Americans wounded in action.

Skytroopers know their weapons inside out, but this familiarity often breeds carelessness. For example, consider the case of a G.I. we'll call Sergeant X.

After cleaning his .45 caliber pistol recently, Sergeant X placed the weapon to his head.

"Put that thing down," his buddy warned, "there might be a round in the chamber!"

"If there were a round in the chamber, I wouldn't be holding it to my head, would I?" the Sergeant confidently replied.

You guessed it. The pistol discharged a round, killing the sergeant — something Charles had been unable to do during the sergeant's ten months in the field.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

A Moment of Peace

An Ammo box serves as an altar for Chaplain (LTC) Michael Rosnock as he holds Catholic services for Skytroopers and soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division at LZ Odessa.

Jungle Penetrator Trump Card In Medevac Lifesaving Missions

PHUOC VINH — A wounded Skytrooper is hoisted off the ground, up through the jungle foliage, into a hovering helicopter, and rushed to medical facilities for immediate treatment.

Medevacing wounded from the jungle floor when there is no landing zone is a highly dangerous job and requires a great amount of skill. The men of the Air-Ambulance Platoon, 15th Medical Battalion, possess this skill and take high risks daily with a self-assured calmness.

Two types of lift attachments, the rigid litter and jungle penetrator, are used when extracting wounded from a contact area where the Medevac helicopter is unable to land. The maneuvering of the chopper is the same for both attachments.

"We hover at treetop level while our medic lowers the hoist," said Captain Robert Wood, platoon leader of the Cav Medevacs. "This puts us in a

bad situation. The area is almost always 'hot' and we're just sitting ducks for Charlie when we're hanging over the trees. That's why everybody, the medics, gunners and pilots, are all volunteers. As a result, we have the top men in their field working for us."

Since each man is a virtuoso, the team effort of the four-man Cav Medevac unit in each aircraft comes off in well-orchestrated precision.

The medic takes charge of the aircraft. He positions the chopper and bosses the hoist operation. The pilot must keep the bird as low and as stable as possible. They all are working toward one goal — to get the hoist attachment to the ground troops and get the wounded on board and back to the hospital.

The torpedo-like jungle penetrator is designed specifically for penetrating dense jungle canopy. The metal projectile is about three feet in length and is

dropped from the helicopter. The lower half unfolds to form seats while a canvas cover on the top contains safety straps.

The disadvantage of the jungle penetrator is that the person cannot be seriously wounded. He is required to sit upright and hold onto the hoist's stabilization ring.

If the wound is serious, the rigid litter, rather than the jungle penetrator, is thrown from the Medevac helicopter. The litter has strong supporting spines running the length of it which act as a body splint. The wounded soldier is secured on the litter from head to toe and lifted vertically to the chopper.

The electrically-driven hoist in the helicopter is operated entirely by the medic. He must keep the patient from oscillating, keep him out of the foliage, get him into the chopper, and treat the patient while the ship is on the way to the hospital.

"Back it up, sir. He's on the

way up now. He's past the skids. I've got him now," are some of the instructions given by Specialist Four Harold Daily, a medic with the Air-Ambulance Platoon.

The hoist has 275 feet of cable and is capable of lifting 600 pounds at an operating rate of 100 feet per minute.

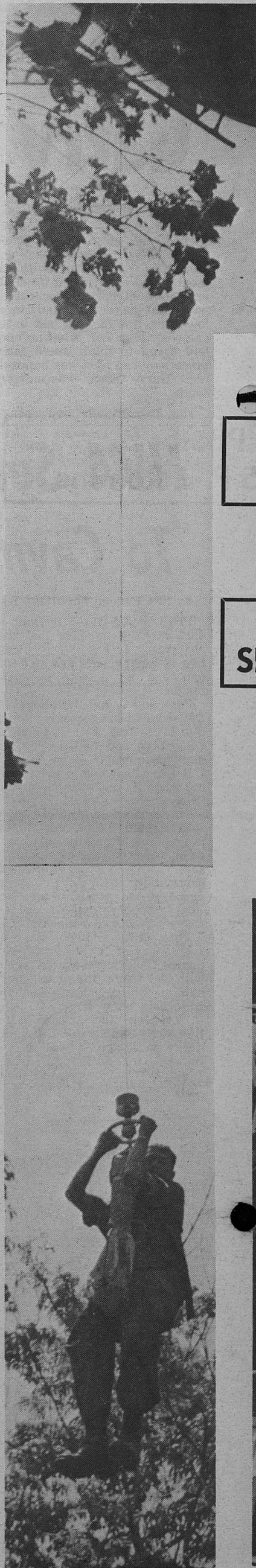
"We usually get about 40 missions from one hoist," said CPT Wood, "and then it has to be replaced."

The 13 medics and 26 pilots give a tremendous amount of time and effort to their mission. Every day, many times a day, they see the grim side of war. But the personal gratification gained from saving a fellow soldier's life is worth all the sacrifices the men of the Air-Ambulance Platoon readily give.

"If we get a wounded man on our aircraft and he's not already clinically dead, he has a great chance of recovering," stated CPT Wood.



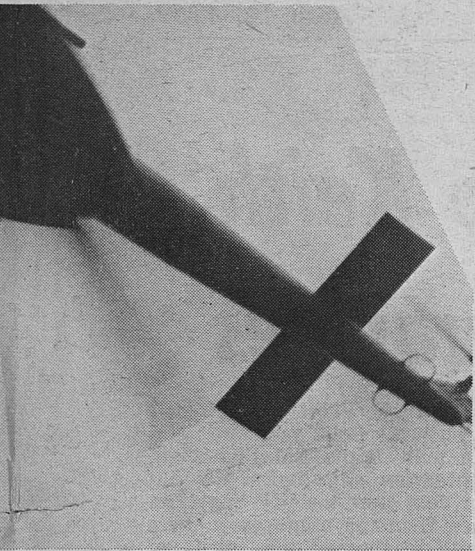
A wounded man is hoisted into a Cav chopper as helping hands get ready to pull him into the ship for further medical treatment.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SFC Pete De Gard)

SP

A



Photos By
SP5 P. J. Romine

Story By
SP5 Steve Haldeman



A cavalryman begins his ascent on a jungle penetrator.



Wounded soldier is rushed to a waiting Medevac chopper where he will receive additional first aid.

photos by
Steve Haldeman

Mini-skirted Heat Wave

Weather Girl Bobbie Keith Raises Troop Temperatures



PHUOC VINH — Recently the "Bubbling Bundle of Barometric Brilliance" toured Cav Country. To those who have had the chance to watch television in Vietnam, she is Bobbie, Miss Bobbie Keith, the weather girl of AFVN-TV.

Upon her arrival at Camp Gorvad, she was greeted by Major General George I. Forsythe, the division's commanding general, who presented her with a certificate making her an "Honorary Skytrooper." MG Forsythe expressed his gratitude that she was taking the time "to visit the men of THE FIRST TEAM."

The pretty, young blonde visited the wards of the 15th Medi-

cal Battalion. Her appearance brought smiles to the faces of the patients. "How do you feel today?" Miss Keith asked one Skytrooper. "Right now, fine, thank you," was his reply.

Among other places at Camp Gorvad, Miss Keith visited the Air Force weather station. She agreed with Captain Dennis L. Frederick, weather officer, that the temperature at Phuoc Vinh was already over 100 degrees.

Next on her long itinerary were visits to the three brigades, located at Tay Ninh, Lai Khe and Bien Hoa. At Tay Ninh, Miss Keith played cards and talked with the men of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. They were enjoying a few days

break at the VIP Center after 87 days in the field.

A tour of the EM Club highlighted her stop at Lai Khe. At her next stop, the VIP Center at Bien Hoa, the mindressed Miss Keith brightened the spirits of Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

"I'm short — 45 more days," exclaimed one Skytrooper.

"I've been in country 21 months working with Foreign Services. I should DEROS in June," Bobbie replied, much to the trooper's amazement.

On that night's weather show which, by the way, she does on a voluntary basis, Miss Keith extended her thanks and best wishes to the men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.



Even a pile of sandbags looks good when weather girl Bobbie Keith poses for a complimentary picture.



A Cav chopper never looked this good, not even to a grunt awaiting hot chow out in the boonies.

One of the loveliest Skytroopers to hit Vietnam, Bobbie Keith receives congratulations and a certificate from MG George I. Forsythe, Commander of the FIRST TEAM, proclaiming her an honorary 1st Cav member.

Photos by SP4 Terry Moon
Story by LT Roger Morrissey



An obviously jubilant Skytrooper has lots to smile about as Bobbie Keith spends time with wounded soldiers at the 15th Medical Battalion at Camp Gorvad.



How Sweet It Is

If you are planning an R&R to Tokyo, prepare to meet lovelies like Tamako Noguchi. You had also better brush up on your Japanese, cause Choi Oi!! just won't get it.

3 Garner Valor Awards

Enemy Ambush plan Smashed By 'Delta', 1/9th Skytroopers

By SP5 Travis Holden

QUAN LOI — The men of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry are proud men: they are the only unit of their kind in the United States Army.

The 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav is primarily a reconnaissance unit and the ground portion of its job is handled by Troop D. Mounted on jeeps and 3/4-ton trucks, Troop D sometimes is used to move convoys safely through the area of operations of the 2nd Brigade. More often the troop is used as a hard-hitting, fast-reacting recon unit. With gun jeeps carrying M-60 machine guns or 106mm recoilless rifles, and 3/4 ton trucks, one with an infantry section and the other with a mortar section, Troop D can use both mobility and firepower to destroy the enemy.

In a recent action the men of Troop D had even more reason to be proud of their unique unit and especially proud of the men who make up the troop.

On Feb. 23, Troop D was making a recon-in-force through a wooded area which surrounds the 2nd Brigade base camp at Quan Loi. Suddenly, the enemy struck.

The Cav troopers returned fire immediately, and rounds poured from the barrels; the 106mm recoilless rifle joined in. The mortar and infantry sections added their firepower. The enemy called on reinforcements to fire RPG's into the platoon.

It was at this time that Staff Sergeant John H. Hubbard learned his platoon leader and the platoon medic both were wounded. Leaving orders for the mortar to be set up and fired as soon as possible, SSG Hubbard hurried forward to help the

wounded personnel. Not only did he give first aid to the wounded, but he made repeated trips — under fire — to return the wounded to a safer area. Even though the order came through to regroup, SSG Hubbard did not leave until all the wounded were safe.

Meanwhile, a relief platoon moved up to provide covering fire. Once again, SSG Hubbard exposed himself to enemy fire as he directed the relief platoon into a position from which it could most effectively bring fire on the enemy.

In hope that the lead platoon could withdraw, the relief platoon began to pour rounds into the enemy position. Sergeant Richard A. Macleod pulled his recoilless rifle jeep into position and got off five well-placed rounds before the enemy retaliated, hitting the jeep with an RPG. SGT Macleod repositioned his crew behind cover. That job completed, he began carrying ammo to the forward position.

As the jeep in which Specialist

Five Charles J. Jackson was riding moved past the lead platoon, he saw a man trying to run to safety. Enemy machine gun fire was closing in on him, raising splashes of dust. SP5 Jackson leaped from his jeep and knocked the man to the ground. When the fire let up he led the man to safety, then returned and carried three more wounded men to safety, then returned and carried three more wounded men to the rear. The enemy withdrew at an unreported time later, his ambush thwarted.

It was a day when the men to Troop D, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav, could be proud of their own. Major General George I. Forsythe, division commander, expressed the pride and the thanks of the division on Mar. 5 when he pinned medals on the three men: for SSG Hubbard, an Army Commendation Medal with "V" device; for SP5 Jackson, an Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, and for SGT Macleod, a Bronze Star with "V" device.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Get The Point, Ma'm?

An ARVN soldier questions a Vien Hoa villager during a cordon and sweep by 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry. The intense search was launched to turn up enemy mortar tubes fired at Camp Gorvad.

Doggone, Goat Gone...

(Continued From Page 1)

'Poge,' a term we use here at the aid station for shammers."

And Poge soon let it be known that her favorite foods consisted of Marlboro cigarettes, the aluminum wrappers from cigarette packages, and any tomato products (especially catsup).

Even so, she is rather spoiled about it.

"She won't eat Marlboro butts off the ground," says Sergeant First Class Jim H. Goedecke, Poge's immediate superior. "She insists on being hand fed, and she's very choosy. She won't touch any brand of cigarettes but Marlboros."

Poge has had her moments, however, and has even advanced to the rank of corporal since joining the battalion. She has been awarded the Combat Medical Badge, and after she had accumulated 25 hours of aerial flight, she was awarded an Air Medal.

"She broke her leg when we were up at Song Be," SFC Goedecke recalled. "We put a cast

on her leg until the 'wound' healed, and put her in for a Purple Heart."

Poge's most recent adventure came a few weeks ago when she wandered into the 3rd Brigade commander's briefing and began to sample the briefing notes of one of the officers.

Her adventure with the 3rd Brigade officers caused the medics to be ordered to tie her up or get rid of her.

"That really got our goat," exclaimed one irate medic as he summed over the *casus belli*. But authority won, and Poge, sad and dejected, was banished to the battalion's Company E, to await shipment to the 15th Medical Battalion at Phuoc Vinh.

But the 1st Bn, 12th Cav's medics haven't forgotten her. As SFC Goedecke puts it, "we just couldn't keep her chained up, so we had to give her away. Of course, we still consider her 'our' goat, and still plan to visit her regularly."

Cav Ass'n Plans Parley

Now that you're part of THE FIRST TEAM, you're eligible for membership in the 1st Cavalry Association. And if you're scheduled to DEROS before the last week in August, you may want to attend the Association's 22nd annual convention, to be held August 22-24 at Fort Benning, Ga.

Founded in 1944 in the Admiralty Islands, the Association was incorporated in 1949 as a non-profit, fraternal veterans' organization. The Cav Association seeks to preserve friendships formed in battle and perpetuate the division's traditions and *esprit de corps*.

If you're interested in keeping in touch with the guys you've met in 'Nam, you'll definitely want to join the Association and participate in its activities, beginning with the August convention.

If you'd like to join, contact your unit's Association representative or the Cav Information Office.

Platoon SGT Doubles As Olympic Coach

PHUOC VINH — Cav firepower is augmented by an expert pistol shot who coached at the 1968 Olympics — Sergeant First Class Gerald E. Grubbs, a platoon sergeant in Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

"I was the NCOIC of the First Army Pistol Team at Ft. Meade, Md., when I received word in August, 1967, asking me to appear for an interview," said SFC Grubbs. "Then I was told to report to the training grounds in September to coach the Modern Pentathlon. This event consists of swimming, cross-country running, fencing, equestrian events and pistol shooting."

Being a coach at the Olympics has been only one of a long string of achievements for SFC Grubbs. He has been a member of the U.S. Army Alaska Pistol Team, the First Army Pistol Team and the Second Army Pistol Team. He has participated in all major Army matches from 1961 to 1967. "Except for 1964 when I was in Vietnam."

SFC Grubbs is also a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association and carries a lifetime classification as a Master Pistol Shooter. He has been presented the U.S. Army's Distinguished Pistol Shooter's Badge of which less than 700 have been given since 1875.

"As far as a pistol is concerned, the .22 is the easiest to shoot," he said, "but they're all tough in competition."

Joint Cordon Clicks...

(Continued From Page 1)

down the villagers' South Vietnamese flags. Tension increased further when at 1:15 a.m. lights flashed on in the village. It was expected that any VC inside the village who detected the cordon would attempt to break out in a single swift movement.

But the lights went out, and the dogs stopped barking. The moon sank below the horizon and a careful watch was kept through binoculars and starlight scopes for the rest of the chilly night.

Then came sunrise. The circle closed to within 200 yards of the village, breaking down into one- and two-man positions every 15 yards. The villagers, taken by surprise, started a fire. It's suspected they burnt propaganda leaflets and compromising papers. Cav MP's, the 91st MACV

team, Vietnamese forces, and the battalion MEDCAP team drove in.

The search for the VC platoon and military materials began. The villagers were grouped at a central collection point near the church, and their papers were checked by the Vietnamese PF's. The MEDCAP team went into operation.

Meanwhile the cordon held firm. A few men made canteen-cupfuls of coffee and ate C-rations. Others politely but firmly discouraged civilians attempting to enter or leave the village.

Then information arrived that the VC platoon had left early the night before, and the search ended. The MP's returned to Camp Gorvad with North Vietnamese propaganda and a VC suspect.



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

And Again, And Again . . .

The aftermath of an enemy rocket attack is experienced by these 8th Engineers as they once more repair another bunker destroyed by an enemy shell at LZ Grant.