



LP Tips Attack

Arty Repels NVA Ground Attack On Landing Zone Joe

"Hardware Collector" To Visit 1st Cav Firebases This Month

PHUOC VINH — She calls herself the "Hardware Collector."

United States Army Vietnam (USARV) calls her the "Tour 365 Girl."

The 1st Air Cavalry Division will soon call her "Sweetheart."

Miss Marilyn Genz, formerly of Elgin, Ill., and lately of Trans-World Airlines out of San Francisco, Honolulu and points West, will make a handshake tour of 1st Cav firebases late this month.

The tour was arranged by Major General E.B. Roberts, division commander, who met Miss Genz while flying home on leave earlier this year.

She told Gen Roberts she had been flying soldiers in and out of Vietnam for the past three years and was extremely interested in learning how and where they lived while serving their year here.

MG Roberts told her that when he returned from his leave he would be commanding the 1st Air Cavalry Division and if she was still interested, to write him

a letter and he would arrange a fast tour.

She definitely was interested and GEN Roberts found a letter waiting for him at the MAC Passenger Terminal at Travis Air Force Base when he returned from leave. And so the tour was arranged.

How did she get the title "hardware collector?" By collecting more than a half-hundred medallions, crests, badges, insignia and other paraphernalia — some ten pounds of metal in all. This collection is placed on a smock and Marilyn wears the smock during the time when troops board the aircraft.

Someone from USARV saw her a few months back, took a picture and now the back cover of a book, "Tour 365" is graced by her image. Not too many people in Vietnam see "Tour 365" unfortunately, because it is distributed only at the DEROS centers.

The amazing thing about this hardware collection is that with all the thousands of former FIRST TEAM troopers pouring through the gates to their



Marilyn Genz

"Freedom Birds," not a single one dropped off a Cav crest with Marilyn.

But this soon will be remedied. At the conclusion of her handshake tour, Marilyn should weigh in three pounds heavier. That's the going weight for Cav crests these days.

LZ JOE — Six men on a listening post (LP) 500 meters south of nearly deserted Landing Zone Joe helped disrupt an estimated battalion-size enemy ground attack on the 1st Air Cavalry Division camp recently.

Shortly after sundown the men of Company E, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry heard a sizable force moving in their direction. They called in a mortar barrage, blew their claymores and quickly returned to the landing zone.

The three-pronged attack finally came at 3:30 a.m., following a 15-minute mortar bombardment. It was beaten back by artillerymen from Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 197th Artillery firing point blank into the wire.

40 In Wire

"Only about 40 NVA hit the wire," said Captain Elvin Takata, commander of Company A, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, which manned the perimeter bunkers.

In a sweep of the area after the battle, the bodies of eight enemy were found just inside the woodland. Four enemy suspects were also detained.

It was the fourth attack on LZ Joe in three weeks. With most of the men and equipment airlifted the day before to a new landing zone, this attack was a nightmare for the Skytroopers left to defend it.

200 Mortars

Over 200 mortar rounds hit the

base within 15 minutes, putting three key bunkers out of operation.

Sergeant Yves Bissonnette, chief gunner on a 155mm howitzer, said he was just coming off guard when he saw the first mortar flashes in the woodland, 200 meters away.

"I told FDC (Fire Direction Control) the azimuth, then waited out the mortar attack in the bunker. When I got back outside I saw them in the wire but the perimeter bunkers weren't firing," he said.

Fire From Berm

SGT Bissonnette and Corporal William Champagne then took up the fire from a berm with an M-60 machine gun, according to First Lieutenant Dennis Hill, battery commander. Minutes later the 155th New Hampshire National Guard were firing pointblank 105mm beehive rounds and 155mm high explosive rounds at the now fleeing enemy.

The battle was over by 4:30 a.m. Three hours later giant CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters flew in to move the artillery pieces to the new landing zone. Bunkers were dismantled; the artillerymen moved out.

Four-Man LP Stranded Outside Besieged LZ

By Spr George Vindedzis

LAI KHE — "I never prayed so hard in my whole life," said Specialist Four James C. Laarkamp, a rifleman of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

Company D, working in the 2nd Brigade AO, was on base defense at LZ (landing zone) Jamie. It had been a typical day on an LZ, the usual patrols searching out the enemy during the day, men checking the concertina wire on the perimeter, 105mm howitzers occasionally booming support to nearby companies in the field.

As the sun went down a four-man listening post (LP) was sent out about 100 meters from the perimeter where they found some cover between two V-shaped berms and silently listened for enemy movement.

Only the strange sounds of the darkened jungle could be heard. Suddenly enemy mortar rounds pounded the LZ. "We heard movement all around us," said Sergeant Abelardo Pena. "Within minutes after the mortars stopped coming in the NVA began blowing the wire with satchel charges and trip flares went off in three sections of the LZ."

The four men lay silently between the berms, hoping they wouldn't be spotted. "The NVA were so close to us we could hear them talking," said SP4 Laarkamp. "The AK-47 fire was actually hurting our ears."

Artillery began firing right outside the perimeter, then air-

strikes dropped bombs in the area. A C-119 "Shadow" plane flew overhead popping flares to provide light for the Skytroopers on the LZ.

"ARA came in after that," said PFC James W. Brown. "The Cobra would fly directly at us, firing rockets and mini-guns. We thought the next racket was going to be right on to of us. Just then it would stop firing and swoop up."

The members of the LP could do nothing but lie there and pray that the enemy wouldn't detect them. "We just kept crawling back into the V of the berm," said Specialist Four Jim B. Strouse. "We tried to blend in with the bamboo behind us."

One of the Skytroopers spotted an NVA trying to shoot down everything that flew overhead. "We didn't have a clear shot at him," said SGT Pena. "We couldn't risk being detected, so we didn't fire." He was even trying to shoot down the flares.

Sporadic fire continued throughout the night. At dawn the four Skytroopers prepared to move back into the LZ. SGT Pena called in and requested cover. "I told the OP I would be throwing frags (fragmentation grenades) to our front as we moved in," said the squad leader. "We made it back without a scratch on us."

As the four men walked through the concertina wire around the perimeter they received startled looks from their buddies, as if to say — You were out there?



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Terry Moon)

Instant LZ

Skytroopers from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry leap from a 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion lift ship during a combat assault near Xuan Loc. The small "instant landing zone" was produced by a 10,000 pound bomb.

...For God And Country

With the odor of burned marijuana sifting over the debris-strewn pad, a small gathering of hippies trip-out from a San Francisco dwelling totally disgusted with their country and its inhabitants. A Chicago Loop department store manager sits reading the morning Tribune completely dazed at how anyone could promote "trial marriage" and "public nudity" in such an affluently developed society as ours. A Cornell University sophomore lies under an oak tree searching for any minute justification for his friend being expelled from their Alma Mater for storming the Administration Building in an anti-ROTC march. A perspiring, sun-scorched grunt in a landing zone fox hole stares unbelievably at a newspaper photograph of bearded anti-Vietnam protesters filing past our nation's White House.

From the Pacific Coast, the Midwest Plains, the Eastern Seaboard, and this land of rice and rain come examples of one person closing his ears to the thoughts of another. Amazing how so many Americans are able to succeed in convincing themselves that their very own beliefs are the only "true" beliefs and that any others that even near approaches a conflict are false. If God had intended us to walk through life wearing blinders, he would have surely endowed them to us in the beginning.

We are all blessed with the abilities to evaluate, to believe, to oppose. The person who says "wrong" without even attempting to understand is only curbing his own realm of understanding. If Salk — the father of polio vaccine, Ford — the founder of the automobile industry, or Goddard — the pioneer of the American space program had been discouraged by critics yelling "wrong," American progress would be a century behind.

We may not believe in what others have to say, but some particle of their thoughts might just be the key to our own foundations of belief. By giving ear to him, we show a genuine sort of courtesy that all men deserve. Hearing is not necessarily synonymous with believing. Our Creator says, "Come, let us reason together." We must be whole men — body, soul, and MIND.

God listens to everyone, so why shouldn't we?

Chaplain (LTC) Raymond J. Foley



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



At one time or another, virtually every U.S. Army Recruiter and Career Counselor has been asked the question, "How can I get into the recruiting field?"

To begin with, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command is in dire need of qualified recruiters in every Army area in the United States. Don't misunderstand this need as a lessening of the quality of personnel needed. Each individual applying for Recruiting Duty must meet certain requirements as outlined in AR 601-275. These requirements are:

1. Individual must not now be drawing proficiency pay in his current MOS.
2. Must have a Conduct and Efficiency rating of Excellent.
3. Must have a minimum of six (6) years service.
4. EM must possess pay grade of E-5 or higher. (Sergeant or Specialist).
5. Must have a recorded score of 110 or higher on GT.
6. Hold valid Army or state motor vehicle operators permit.
7. Must be a high school graduate or credited with successful completion of GED test.

8. Each individual applying must have a favorable National Agency check, or possess a Secret or higher security clearance.

Some of these requirements may be waived. If you feel you would like to pursue a future in the recruiting field, the next step is to make formal application through your unit. This application must be submitted not earlier than eight months and no later than six months prior to your rotation date. All other information necessary for application may be found in AR 601-275.

After completing the application and sending it on its way through channels to D.A., it will then be necessary to appear before a Recruiter's screening board. This board consists of two officers and one NCO from the 1st Cavalry Division Reenlistment Office. The purpose of this board is to determine your common knowledge, speaking ability and general appearance. Should you, for some unknown reason, fail to favorably impress the board, no derogatory actions or unkind remarks will follow.



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Publications NCOIC SSG R.R. Dyslin
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Layout Editor SP4 Al Persons



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

- SILVER STAR**
 BISHOP, CW-2 Gary L. Battery B, 2nd Bn, 20th Arty
 BOATNER, CPT Phillip C. Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 HARRIS, SP4 E.L. JR. Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
 HOUSER, SP4 Carl R. Co E, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
 JOHNSON, PFC James E. JR. Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
 MCGREW, 1LT Danny G. Co E, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 PAER, PFC Larry D.

Time To Apply For Parachute Team Tryouts

Are your airborne qualified? If so, the Golden Knights, the crack, U.S. Army Parachute Team, are now accepting applications for tryouts for assignment to the team.

Each year the Golden Knights conduct a 45-day tryout period beginning the last week in October. Those eligible are Regular Army enlisted men stationed in the continental United States or returning from overseas assignment. An applicant must have at least 18 months of service remaining on his current tour of duty, be airborne qualified and have at least 100 free-fall jumps.

The tryouts, consisting of 100 to 150 free-fall jumps per man in addition to ground training, will be held at the Golden Knights' headquarters at Fort Bragg from October 27 through December 13. Write for an application to commanding officer, U.S. Army Parachute Team, Box 126, Fort Bragg, N.C.

- Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
 STUART, PFC Darryl D. Battery C, 1st Bn, 77th Arty
 WESTMORELAND, 1SG Haskel Co D, 5th Bn, 7th Cav

- DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**
 ELLIS, CPT Matthew HHC, 229th Avn Bn
 FELTON, MAJ Thomas M. Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 HOBBS, 1LT Robert J. Troop C, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 JACKSON, WO-1 William N. HHC, 15th Med Bn
 KELLY, CW-2 Michael M. HHC, 2nd Bde
 MEIDINGER, PFC Daryl G. Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
 OLSON, WO-1 Lawrence A. HHC, 2nd Bde
 PASTOR, CW-2 David A. Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 SENKOWSKI, WO-1 Glen R. Troop A, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav

- BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM**
 BELL, SP4 James R. Troop B, 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav
 BOWERS, 1LT Charles J. Co D, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 BRANDT, PFC Charles D. HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 DALEY, PFC Richard Co C, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
 DEHART, SSG Michael L. Co E, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 ELLIS, PFC Eddie E. Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
 FINTAK, MSG Stephen S. HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 GEIS, CPT Thomas A. HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 GOEDDE, PFC Robert J. Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
 MAXSON, SGT John R. Co A, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 MCNEIL, SP4 Ralph E.

- HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 NOLTE, CPT Joseph A. HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 NOWICKI, WO-1 Michael R. Battery C, 2nd Bn, 20th Arty

- PERSON, PFC Larry J. Co E, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 PROVOST, SP5 Alan D. HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
 WARL, SGT Lawrence A. HHC, 1st Bn, 7th Cav

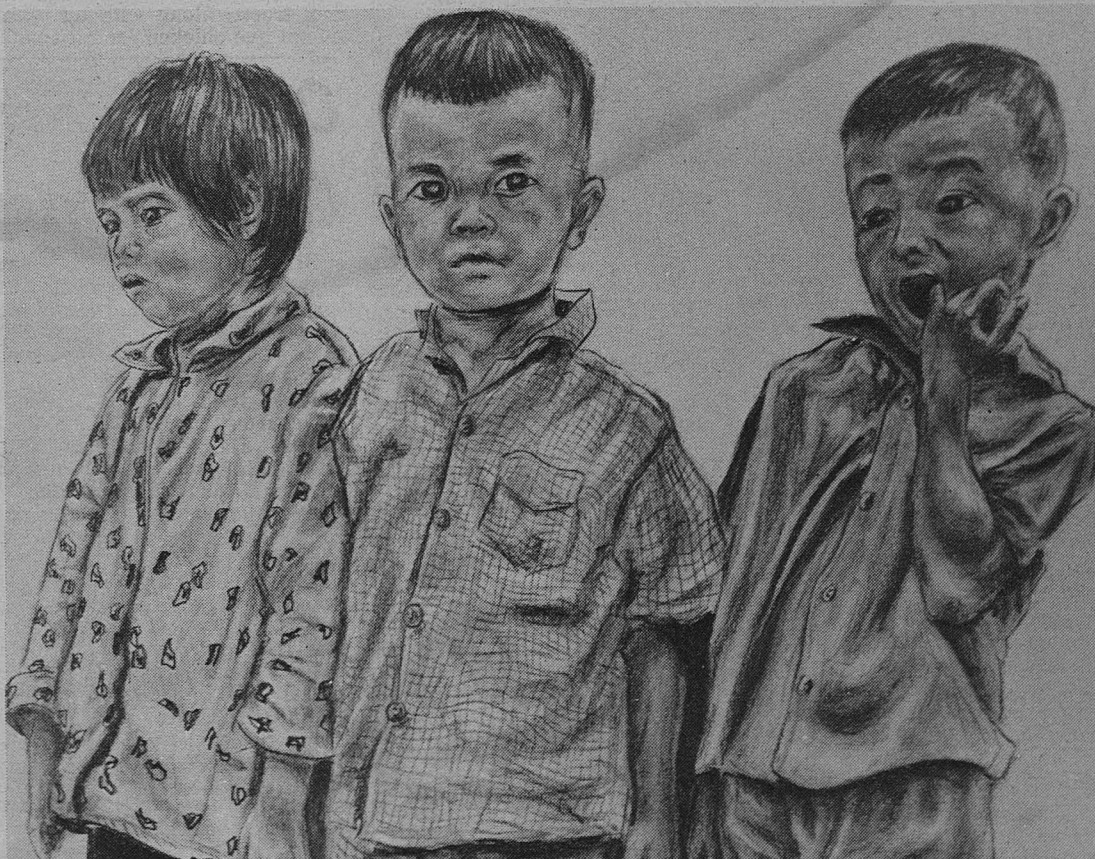
Skytrooper Of Week Program Offers Vacation

PHUOC VINH—Two days of relaxing in air-conditioned comfort and trips to the Long Binh area await top Skytroopers selected as "Skytroopers of the Week."

Under the new program, both enlisted men and company grade officers will be selected by their units to be guests of the division commander in the VIP quarters at Camp Gorvad. Officers will dine in the Commanding General's Mess while enlisted men are served in the CSM's Mess.

To be eligible for the "Skytrooper of the Week" program, the exemplary soldiers must be assigned duties which require them to spend most of their time on or forward of battalion firebases. This includes but is not limited to persons assigned to infantry battalions, artillery batteries and artillery liaison teams.

Along with lazy days at Camp Gorvad, the outstanding Skytroopers may visit the officer or EM's Steam baths, dine at the Long Binh Chinese Restaurant and shop at the Long Binh Main PX.



(Drawing By SP4 Ronald Doss)

Look Ma! Here's One

Children of the Ky-Nai-Vien nursery line up to receive gifts of candy donated by the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry. One boy checks to insure that his teeth are up to the occasion. The battalion is helping to support the nursery with gifts of food, supplies and spare time.

10th Maneuver Bn.

36th ARVN Rangers Link With Cav To Hunt 'Chuck'

LZ WHITE — A mating of the whirling rotors of the 1st Cav and a battle-wise, hard-nosed Vietnamese unit have sired a young hybrid that excels in combat — the 36th ARVN Rangers.

The tiger-suited Rangers first consummated their union in late November 1968. Then, with 1st Cav gunship support, the determined Rangers took on a regular NVA regiment at shell pocked LZ Dot and decimated it by inflicting a body count of almost 300.

Since, the Rangers have been attached to both the Cav's First and Third Brigades and have labored as the Division's tenth maneuver battalion. Skytroopers now know the maroon beret and snarling tiger shoulder patch mark an elite and accomplished comrade.

ARVN's Highly Motivated
Captain Michael B. Fuller, a professional soldier who says his present assignment is his home address, heads the Military Assistance Team that guides the battalion and affects coordination with the regular US units.

"The Rangers love the birds," he says, "and who wouldn't. It's much easier flying than walking."

He adds: "I have never worked with an airmobile unit so I can't offer a comparison. We've had three combat assaults recently and these people mount the birds like they've been doing it all their lives."

"These Rangers have a remarkable esprit. They're all volunteers and have received special training. They don't go through basic training like other ARVN troops but instead go directly into the Ranger program."

"Most of the officers have had some US training in the States and know their business. They keep the troops motivated."

"They were among the first units to get the M-16. They keep their weapons immaculate and are very proud of them. Their fire discipline is simply tremendous."

Casualties Are Low

"We don't take many casualties because they're so aggressive."

Hell, half the time my job is just trying to slow them down when they're charging across the countryside looking for 'Charles.'

"They have an innate knack of knowing when 'Charles' is near. Normally we operate in two ways. Either we'll guard a fire-base or patrol out of a battalion operational base."

Captain Fuller's counterpart is Major Tran Van Sau, the Battalion CO. He's had the 36th Rangers a year and a half and has compiled an enviable record.

Like Cav

"We like to work with any U.S. unit," said Maj. Sau "but we like the 1st Cav best because of the aircraft and support they give us."

MAJ Sau lead the 36th at LZ Dot and at the Battle of Bien Hoa in February. At Bien Hoa, the Battalion stormed the village near the airstrip which had been seized by an NVA regiment. Repulsed twice in efforts to dig out the NVA from the fortified village the Rangers carried the day with a third assault.

Gourmets

Black Hat PFC Ronald Posas was amazed by the Rangers. "These fellas cook up the weirdest stuff. Chickens and ducks and I don't know what else."

"They have got enough vegetables out here to start a farm. I don't know where they get them but they sure do cook up a storm," he adds.

"When they move into a fire-base like White, they line the berm with two-man positions. They put wire out to channel any assault force into their fields of fire. They know the mechanics of defense as well or better as any troops ever have."

"They're tireless when it comes to humping. They carry the same basic load as American troops along with an occasional live chicken for rations."

Old Glory Flies Proud Above Camps Courtesy of Fla. City

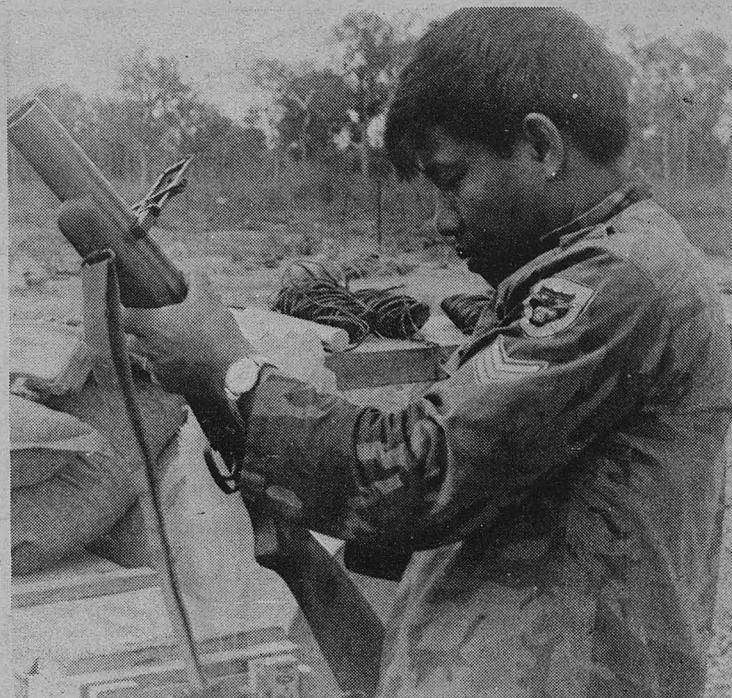
BLACKHORSE — Day and night now over the low bunkers and mortar-chewed clay of 3rd Brigade firebases a familiar sight can be seen—the American flag snapping in the wind.

Those flags are here through the courtesy of the ELKS Club of Cocoa, Fla. Of all the items unavailable to U.S. forces in Vietnam, the American flag is one of the hardest items to obtain.

From the earliest days of American military history the most remote and farthest of Army outposts has flown the colors. It served not only as identification but also as a rallying point.

Old Glory has been missing from the jungle LZs of U.S. forces because of the shortage. Especially hard to get is the storm-size flag, three by five feet.

Colonel Karl R. Morton, commander of the 3rd Brigade, took note of this problem recently and asked his logistics officer, Major Thomas E. Norwood, to see if he could find nine storm flags so they could be flown by each of the brigade's maneuver battalions in the field.



(U.S. Army Photo)

ARVN Ranger

A soldier from the 36th ARVN Rangers, a crack outfit attached to the Cav, checks the condition of his M-79 grenade launcher before a joint operation.

NCO Extends In Vietnam For Action, Not Rear Job

TAY NINH — When a person extends for six months in Vietnam it is usually for a rear support job. Staff Sergeant Gaylord Kerr, a former squad leader with Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, extended for a job where the action is.

The 20-year-old sergeant has served 16 months so far in Vietnam. SSG Kerr extended specifically to fly as a doorgunner with the Aviation Platoon (Flying Circus) Scouts of the 1st Brigade.

DSC

Sergeant Kerr has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions while serving with the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry. "We got pinned

down by two machine gun positions," said SSG Kerr. "I somehow worked my way around behind the enemy and threw a few fragmentation grenades into each of the positions. That's all that was needed to silence the enemy positions."

Silver Star

The sergeant also holds the Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, one of which was for valor, Air Medal with "V" Device, and the Purple Heart.

"He is a dedicated type of individual," said Captain Marvin Stokes commanding officer of the 1st Brigade's Flying Circus. "He puts everything he has into each job. He doesn't feel like going home until the job is finished here in Vietnam. He feels that as long as he is doing a job, he will stay here."

The young red-haired sergeant is credited with over 106 confirmed enemy kills for his tour in Vietnam. "I can do more out in the field or in a chopper than I could do behind a desk or driving a truck," said SSG Kerr. "Some people worry about getting killed over here. I might think about it once in a while but it really doesn't bother me. You can get it walking or driving down your hometown street just as easily as you can get it over here."

Help the Grunt

One of the main reasons the sergeant extended for the Flying Circus was to help the infantryman. "The 'grunts' out in the field need all the help they can get," said SSG Kerr. "We can go over an area before the grunts are assaulted into it and give them some idea of what to expect. If we spot an enemy force we can work them over and make it a little easier for the grunts. If a grunt gets wounded and we are in the area we can go in with our small LOH (light observation helicopter) and pick him up."

After his first six-month extension is up, SSG Kerr plans to extend once again. This time with the 11th Armored Cavalry as a tanker, another job where the action is.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Terry Moon)

Movin' Medic

A Cav medic is on the ground and rushing to the aid of a wounded Skytrooper before the chopper has a chance to set down. The action took place near Xuan Loc with a company of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry.



Ready to break loose with his jeep-mounted M-60 machine gun is a trooper from the White Platoon.

1/9 Rat Patrol Hunts 'Chuck' At PV

PHUOC VINH — The stubble of what once was part of a rubber plantation are jagged silhouettes in pre-dawn light as a radio rasps quietly and a man listens as his eyes look at a closely held plastic map. "The funny papers." He gives an order.

"We move in zero-five, White Mike."

Five minutes later the claymores and flares are in and the red promise of heat is inching its glow above the horizon. The jeeps begin to move.

Its light glints off the rocking barrels of mounted machine guns and recoilless rifles; here and there the sun sparkles on gold crossed sabers on upturned hat brims sported by some of the men of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

The Rat Patrol.

But this platoon outdoes Hollywood. It is one of three of the most heavily armed platoons in the U.S. Army—two 106mm recoilless rifles, an 81mm mortar and four M-60 machine guns, all mounted on jeeps and three-quarter-ton trucks.

That morning White Platoon moved from the cut rubber south of Phuoc Vinh and began wedging and pushing its way through two hours worth of jungle brush that pressed unyielding up against the jeeps' sides. As they drove through the jungle it sprang back up behind them. Sometimes you could see the jeep only meters ahead.

They broke through onto an old logging trail that led to a picnic-like area beneath a small, no-name village which was suspected of harboring Charles. There White spread out and waited quietly.

From the north, Blue Platoon swept through the village to drive before it anyone who was afraid to face them. The two platoons came face to face . . . No Charles. Escaped? Forewarned?

Perhaps. But it is also highly likely (and more probable) that Charles stays well out from Phuoc Vinh because he knows Troop D is working its defense and enforcing "terrain denial."

It could well be that Charles steers clear of Phuoc Vinh because he knows the Rat Patrol is there.

And he may also know something else:

The men of D Troop are really very good "Cats."

Story and Photos
By SP4 Joe Kamalick



The lead Scout jeep creeps along behind its point man.



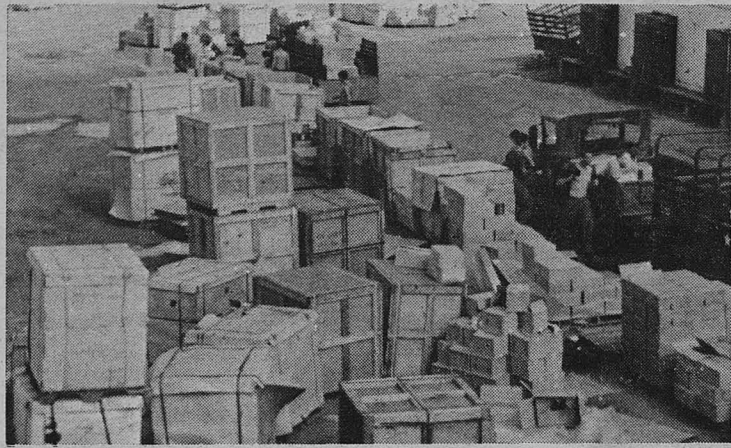
It's not a length of water main or gas line pipe lying across the hood of the jeep. Rather, it's the special delivery end of a 106mm recoilless rifle.



His M-60 at the ready, a Scout trooper with the Blue Platoon scans the terrain along a grassy road northwest of Phuoc Vinh.



One of the Scout jeeps in Troop D, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry bounces along an old logging trail.



(U.S. Army Photo)

On The Way

Food, carefully packaged, is ready to go to one of the Cav's 25 units.

229th S&S Supply Perishables For PV

PHUOC VINH — Supplying more than 6,500 Skytroopers in the Phuoc Vinh area with meat, vegetables, canned goods, beverages, spices and ice can be an awesome task.

The mission is performed by the 27 men of the 229th Supply and Service company. Vietnamese workers and American technicians see no problem in handling their own and hope to increase efficiency in several areas.

The chief problem area, of course, is that of perishable items. According to Sergeant Arnold Reyling of the administration section, "all meats and most vegetables are packed in refrigerator trucks and sent by ship. The journey usually takes a month and as a result, most of the perishables must be inspected for spoilage due to heat conditions and dented cans."

Sergeant Mike Reynolds has been in charge of the "wet line"

— the 9,630 cubic feet of freezing space at the 229th — for six months. He sees to it that nearly 4,000 lbs. of meat, for example, are available to the 25 Cav units in the area. "Units in the field draw the same amount of meat as anyone else," said SGT Reynolds.

A 15-ton capacity ice plant is on order to supplement the present 23-year-old facility which was originally used in Korea by American troops. Don Hoffman, a retired chief engineer in the Navy, says he has increased ice production from 9,000 lbs. to 20,000 lbs. per day since he took over the operation three weeks ago. He hopes to approach 15 tons a day by the end of May.

Lieutenant Richard Fletcher, OIC of the operation, says he is pleased with the morale and productivity of the men in the unit. He hopes to make several improvements in the operation, focusing on the condiment store.

Silent Generator Being Tested In Combat At Cav's LZ Grant

By Sp4 Richard Craig
TAY NINH — Among the problems confronted on LZ's (landing zones) is the difficulty in maintaining noise discipline. A high degree of discipline is maintained by the troops, but the noise created by electrical

generators has long been a source of concern, since it hampers the ability of friendly units to conceal their position, and reduces the chances of detecting enemy movement around their position.

The Army has developed an

answer to these problems and many more with the new "Hydrolized Acid Generator," now being tested at LZ Grant.

"The generator we're testing here is a silent power source," said Mr. F.G. Perkins, an engineer for the United States Army Mobility Equipment Resources and Development Command (USAMERC), Ft. Belvoir, Va. "It is capable of directly converting chemical energy to electricity. Basically, it's a chemical reaction that creates electricity."

The new generator creates 300 watts, 28 volts of direct-current electricity, and will be utilized initially with the AN-VRC12 radio in forward fire support bases.

"Just to dramatize how light this thing is," said Lieutenant Colonel Floyd E. Petter, a representative from the Army Concept Team in Vietnam (ACTIV), "you can load the generator and enough fuel to last a month in a LOH (light observation helicopter), along with a maintenance man and the pilot."

"Another good example of the generator's effectiveness, according to Second Lieutenant Terry T. Krankota, the 1st Brigade's Project Officer, is its fuel consumption. "This generator burns only one gallon of fuel in 12 hours. The generator it's designed to replace burns 2½ gallons an hour."

So the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry at LZ Grant is serving a dual purpose: It's harassing and destroying NVA forces within their area of operations, and at the same time providing a valuable proving ground for Army research and development.

Fuel 'Bootleggers' Run Fast Between Long Binh—Cav LZ

By Sp4 Joe Kamalick
LZ LIBBY — The convoy from Long Binh pulled up the steep grade into LZ Libby and drove down Main Street. Two of the trucks were 5,000 gallon tankers carrying JP-4 for the fueling point at Libby.

The tank driver stuck his head out the window and asked a GI, "Hey, what are you fellas going to do with all this JP-4?"

Riding shotgun on the first tanker was Specialist Four Thomas S. Treglio, a stocky, slightly balding Italian from "Jersey" and lately of Long Binh since his National Guard unit was activated.

Specialist Treglio took one look at the chewed, rough terrain of Libby, the bunkers and bucket showers, the howitzers and piles of ammo. "Hey, let's get this stuff unloaded. We gotta get outa here."

The drive from Long Binh takes an hour and one-half. The roads are almost all chuck-holed dirt with a few stretches of crumbling macadam.

"The roads are bad enough, but look at the country you've got to come through," he said.

Specialist Treglio rides with the glass in his windshield re-

moved so he can stick his M-16 through it.

"We get hit pretty often. RPGs and sniper fire." He noted that the normal convoy speed is 15 to 30 miles per hour, "but when we get hit it's wide open . . . you find gears you didn't even know you had."

The roads to Quan Loi are about the best in country, he said. Everything else is pretty poor for large vehicle traffic.

For protection the convoys are given mounted firepower. Lately Troop D, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry can be found strung out along the convoy with its high-mounted machine guns and recoilless rifles.

The convoy drivers like to get back to Long Binh before nightfall. It's better that way.

Specialist Treglio, who serves with the 141st Transportation Co., admits to having no desire whatsoever to be a hero. Like anyone else, he does not like being shot at.

So as he helps the GIs at Libby hook up the hoses to his truck to drain the fuel into ground tanks he hurries. "Come on, let's get it off. I want to get back to where there are lights and beds and toilets and guards."

2/5 Holds Back NVA AT LZ Ike

TAY NINH — An attempt was made by a platoon size enemy force to overrun Landing Zone Ike recently, but the attempt resulted in dismal failure.

Skytroopers from Companies A and E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry were alert and quickly detected the enemy's presence.

"We first noticed them through a starlight scope," said Specialist 4 Glenn Burnem, a rifleman with Company A.

"I noticed they had cut the wire and at least ten of the enemy were already through the first barrier," stated Sergeant Poncho Duran, a machine gunner with Company E. The Cavalrymen were now receiving small arms fire and hand grenades from the determined enemy. Detonating the claymore mines out to their front, the men on the perimeter quickly returned a heavy volume of fire toward the enemy.

After three hours of steady contact, the Cavalrymen on the landing zone reported a body count of 13 NVA killed, and one enemy soldier detained. A large amount of ammunition was also captured.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Terry Moon)

The Cav's Thing

Choppers are what the Cav is all about. Here, a wave of 'birds' prepare to land during a combat assault.



Buckskin Babe

It must be a very happy deer indeed that was chosen to cover Raquel Welch.

He? She? Who's Calling?

Chieu Hoi Fly To Aid S-5 Shop

By SP4 Joe Kamalick

PHUOC VINH — Along the outermost perimeter of manned defense at Camp Gorvad is a radio-telephone link connecting the many sandbag bunkers surrounding the camp. And here

also is a growing legend about an American girl named Cindy who talks to the men on guard at night.

The circle of bunkers is known as the greenline, and at each bunker there are several men

guarding against attack throughout the night. Working in shifts, the men maintain continuous contact by phone with the other bunkers and the Command Post (CP).

The Bull Session

A night on guard duty is a long one, and as long as your ear must be glued to the phone anyway . . . well, the communications link usually hums with the GI's favorite pastime, the "bull session."

One night not long ago, so the story goes, the men on greenline were shooting the breeze as usual when a very feminine voice entered the far-strung conversation.

The first reaction among the greenline guards was one of derision. Of course it was a fellow with something less than a masculine voice. The troops, knowing full well there are no American girls in Vietnam, except for a few Red Cross workers, immediately began to chide this unfortunate fellow with the high-pitched voice.

Boy or Girl?

He (or she) denied that he (she?) was male in the coy, teasing manner that a girl would use. That only brought more vociferous accusations in the colorful GI vernacular concerning the "Voice" and its origin.

It lasted, it is said, for some

hours. By 11 p.m. he (she) had left the line. Another hour or so passed and the phone line was unusually quiet.

"Cindy" did not answer. And she has never since talked on the line.

Unsolvable Mystery

Among the men who pull greenline guard duty it is said that "Cindy" was either a GI with an unnaturally high voice or a trooper who played a joke on the guards that night.

But if it was a high masculine voice, some say, why hasn't the voice returned on the normal run of duty roster requirements? And if it was a joke by a GI, why hasn't he performed his act again?

Adding to the minor mystery is another greenline communications oddity. One night, again, it is said, the jabber on the line was interrupted by the sounds of a commercial airline pilot making the normal radio exchanges for landing instructions at John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York.

More than likely, both occurrences are the product of a few prankster GIs. Anything to relieve the boredom of guard duty. And GIs have been known to pull much more elaborate stunts.

(Did Cindy say whether she was an airline stewardess?)

LZ LIL — Shouts of "Chieu Hoi" caused Skytroopers of the 3rd Brigade to do a double take recently.

Standing outside the perimeter wire, with their weapons on their backs, were three NVA soldiers. Speaking through an interpreter, they wished to rally.

The NVA platoon leader and his fellow riflemen, turned over their weapons and were taken to the Brigade's S-5 Section.

"We persuaded them to go up in a Psyops helicopter and help persuade their comrades to 'Chieu Hoi' also," said Sergeant First Class Phan Ba Vinh, an Army of Vietnam (ARVN) interpreter.

The three NVA took turns in the bird, trying to persuade their former comrades to join them.

Through this type of operation some NVA soldiers rally, though the percentage is small.

"Because of their strong indoctrination, they are less susceptible to pamphlets or one of our interpreters," said SP4 Parenicka. "If we get five or six 'Hoi Chans' after we have an NVA soldier go up in the broadcast bird, were doing good."

'Incoming' Sends Rat Patrol To Jeeps For Base Patrol

By SP4 George Vindedzis

LAI KHE — Enemy mortar rounds slam into the Blackhorse Brigade base camp at Lai Khe. Somebody shouts "Incoming!"

This is the signal for the men of the 2nd Brigade, "Rat Patrol." Immediately, members of the patrol grab their gear and scurry to their jeeps to begin their tour around the perimeter of the brigade area.

The newly organized "Rat Patrol" has the mission of checking the perimeter wire for possible breaks, entry of enemy personnel, and detecting booby traps or tunnels — anything which might endanger the security of the brigade area.

"The 'Rat Patrol' was devised to provide extra security on the perimeter," said First Lieutenant Patrick M. Schifka, security platoon leader for Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2nd Brigade. "We work as early warning and, if necessary, to delay the enemy."

As it circles the perimeter, the "Rat Patrol" jeep is mounted with a .60 caliber machine gun and a PRC-25 for 'commo' with the base defense center. Each member of the four-man crew carries an M-16, ammo, flak jacket and protective mask.

"We check the 'goal line' (defensive positions) to insure that everyone is alert and has a sufficient amount of ammo," said Specialist Four Michael J. Mercurio. "We can also evacuate wounded personnel if the situation should arise."

There is also a system of checkpoints and a communications system which keeps the patrol informed of the alert status. From this, the patrol knows how long to keep up their rounds.

For most of the men of the 2nd Brigade Headquarters, the siren means it's time to head for a bunker. For the men of the "Rat Patrol," the siren means it's time to head for their jeep and begin moving around the perimeter.

Lightning Exposes Enemy Ambush, Reds Get Charge

TAY NINH — Skytroopers were aided in a recent ambush by a heavy electrical storm, one element that the enemy often relies on to cover his night movements. Nine enemy soldiers were killed and two suspects were detained when a flash of lightning gave away their position.

"We were set up on a trail about two miles north of Landing Zone Barbara," said Private First Class Tim Hildebrandt, a RTO (radio-telephone operator) with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. "I thought I heard some movement coming from

around the trail, but wasn't sure. Then lightning flashed and I saw four NVA soldiers."

The Skytrooper quickly notified the rest of his team and waited for the enemy soldiers to get in the center of the kill zone.

Sound of Death

Instead of the loud, rumbling noise of thunder, the night was split by the sounds of exploding claymores and fragmentation grenades. Nine enemy soldiers lay dead around the ambush site.

In addition to the enemy bodies and the usual equipment they carry, the Cavalrymen got a bonus when they captured four warheads from 107mm rockets.

Good Ambush Sight

Earlier in the day of the successful ambush, the scout platoon from the company came across the well used trail. "When I looked at the trail it was evident that it was being used pretty heavily," said Staff Sergeant Jesus Sablan, a platoon scout leader. "The trail had been used recently and by the footprints in the dirt we were able to tell the enemy was carrying very heavy packs."

Playing a hunch, Captain Harry (Skip) Taylor, the commander of the unit, set up his company a few meters off the trail with the idea of catching "Charlie."

"It was just a typical ambush for the company," said Lieutenant Colonel Richard W. Wood, the commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry.

"One enemy soldier got through the kill zone but one new man who recently joined our company was on observation point that night and dropped the enemy soldier before he got out of range," said CPT Taylor.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Terry Moon)

It Means So Much

Everything stops while Skytroopers of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry read their letters from home. Thanks to airmobility, mail quickly reaches members of THE FIRST TEAM.

MS Medal Given OK

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Design and criteria for the newly established Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) has been approved by the Department of Defense.

The MSM was authorized by executive order of former President Lyndon B. Johnson to provide recognition for commendable achievement falling just below the requirements for the Legion Of Merit.

The decoration is to rank with but be worn after the Bronze Star. As it is a non-combat award, the "V" denoting valor is not authorized for the decoration.

All lieutenant generals and above are authorized to award the MSM. Authority is retroactive to Jan. 19, 1969, though recipients must have served part of the cited period after that date.