

DMZ To IV Corps—Cav Country

PHUOC VINH—What the elephant was to Hannibal, what naval supremacy was to Nelson, what armor was to Patton, air-mobility is to the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

With its deadly and decisive combination of firepower, mobility and shock action — getting there "first with the most" — THE FIRST TEAM has distinguished itself in Vietnam, just as it did during World War II and the Korean conflict.

Although helicopters had been used by U.S. forces before, the Cav became the Army's first all-helicopter division. The "bird" would serve a variety of functions, including transporting Skytroopers into combat, providing fire support, supplying the troops and, if need be, evacuating them.

After less than 90 days' preparation, the division's advance party arrived in Vietnam in Au-

gust, 1965. It thus became the first full division deployed to Southeast Asia. The division's first assignment was a formidable one: prevent a Communist takeover of the Central Highlands.

After some initial sparring with the enemy in the Vinh Thanh Valley, 15 miles northeast of An Khe, the Cav repelled the Communists near Pleiku, the control of which is tantamount to control of the highlands.

The fighting reached a furious intensity in the now famous battle of the Ia Drang Valley. Through the effective use of night air assaults, airmobile artillery and ambush tactics, the Skytroopers totaled 1,519 enemy dead by body count and another 2,042 by official estimate.

In early 1966 the division engaged the enemy in the coastal areas of Binh Dinh Province. The Bong Son Campaign, as it

was called, resulted in 1,342 enemy deaths and the subsequent liberation of some 140,000 civilians from Communist control.

For three and one-half years now, Cav helicopters have pursued, harassed and neutralized the enemy. The ever-present "bird," like a bloodhound on the scent, has applied relentless pressure to Viet Cong and NVA soldiers, thereby denying them an opportunity to stage offensive operations.

Late in 1967 THE FIRST TEAM earned a solid reputation in the north with its performance in the Chu Lai area. The Third Brigade's success in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa proved to be the first in a series of Cav victories.

Operation Pershing, the longest operation mounted by the 1st Air Cavalry Division, lasted from February 1967 to January 1968. By clearing Binh Dinh

Province the Cav helped eradicate the Viet Cong infrastructure. Totals for Operation Pershing were impressive: more than 5,000 enemy troops killed in action and another 2,400 taken prisoner.

In January 1968 the division moved to Camp Evans, located north of the ancient imperial capital of Hue, making the Cav the Army's northernmost tactical operation unit.

Almost simultaneously the enemy launched his 1968 Tet offensive against civilian population centers, including Quang Tri City and Hue. After fierce fighting the Cav helped deny the Communists a victory that might have swung the balance of power their way.

The siege of Khe Sanh, a Marine outpost near the DMZ, seemed to some experienced observers perilously similar to the Viet Minh siege at Dien Bien

Phu. The Cav, however, ignoring the script the prophets of doom had already written, launched Operation Pegasus. Armadas of helicopters forced thousands of NVA soldiers from their positions and lifted the 77-day siege.

The division's performance at Khe Sanh was equaled in the A Shau Valley. Operation Delaware, the air assault into this strategically vital region near the Laotian border, netted many enemy casualties and caches of rice and weapons. By seizing this sanctuary, Cavalrymen slowed infiltration via a portion of the Ho Chi Minh Trail and smashed a key base of Communist operations.

Operation Jeb Stuart III, a 171-day campaign begun in mid-May of last year, denied the enemy access to the rice-rich coastal plain and uprooted him from his stronghold in the mountains. While cordon and swooper operations with Regional Force and Popular Force units protected the spring rice harvest, airmobile tactics once again proved successful in the mountains.

The Comanche Falls operation of September 1968 was executed in conjunction with elements of the 1st ARVN Division. Its purpose was to drive remaining NVA concentrations from Base Area 101, a region of rugged hills and jungle south of Quang Tri. When confronted by battalions of advancing cavalrymen and air power, the North Vietnamese chose to flee rather than fight. Cavalrymen destroyed bunkers, uncovered weapons and ammunition caches, seized rice and razed base camps.

Comanche Falls proved again — if anyone was unconvinced after Khe Sanh and A Shau — that the Cav had both the resources and the will to hit the enemy wherever he appeared.

Nine MOHs To Vietnam Skytroopers

PHUOC VINH—The Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, has been won by nine 1st Air Cavalry soldiers in Vietnam, more than any other division.

First Lieutenant Walter Joseph Marm Jr., of Washington, Pa., won the first Medal of Honor while serving as a platoon leader in the Ia Drang Valley. He killed 12 enemy soldiers and helped repel an enemy assault in November, 1965. Now a captain, he has rejoined the Cav for a second tour.

The second Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to Staff Sergeant Jimmy G. Stewart of Columbus, Ga., who killed 23 Viet Cong during a fight to the death near An Khe in May, 1966. He defended his squad members all but one of whom were wounded against three enemy assaults, permitting their subsequent evacuation.

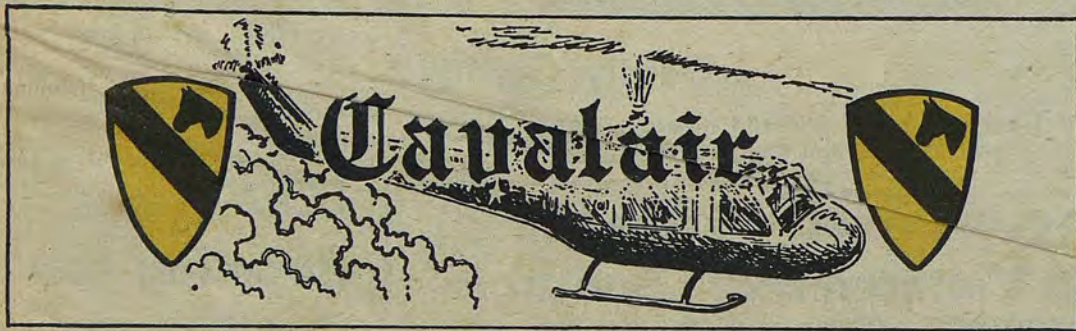
Sergeant David C. Dolby of Oaks, Pa., earned the Medal of Honor for heroism during Operation Crazy Horse near An Khe in May of 1966. During an enemy attack, Sgt. Dolby charged and knocked out two machinegun nests and a sniper.

The Medal of Honor was presented posthumously to Private First Class Lewis Albanese of Seattle, Wash., for gallantry in action near Thu Mu in December, 1966. He is credited with saving the lives of his comrades by killing eight enemy snipers, including two in hand-to-hand combat.

Specialist Five Charles Hagemeyer, a medical corpsman, distinguished himself in Binh Dinh Province during March of 1967 by racing through a hail of enemy fire to treat the wounded and then killing at least five enemy with a fallen comrade's weapon.

Staff Sergeant Delbert Owen Jennings of Stockton, Calif., received the Medal of Honor for his role in the defense of LZ Bird against an attack by three NVA battalions in December, 1966. He killed an estimated 25 enemy, saved five Americans by killing those about to shoot or hand grenade them and coordinated the evacuation of 14 others.

For throwing himself upon a grenade and saving the lives of his squad members, Specialist Four George A. Ingalls of Yorba (Continued on Page 3)



Orientation Edition

1st Air Cavalry Division

Summer, 1969

Unit Insignia Represents 48 Years of Fighting Tradition

By MSG Joe Snorgrass

PHUOC VINH — One of the most recognized shoulder patches in the Army today is the yellow and black of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

What does this patch represent? Who designed it? How were the colors and design selected?

In September, 1921, the War Department authorized the establishment of the 1st Cavalry Division. Regulations were published requesting submission of a design for the "shoulder

sleeve" of the new unit (later termed "shoulder patch").

The regulation required that the new insignia satisfy three principles: Bind men together in a common devotion; be a sign, easily recognizable, by which men could reassemble after battle; and be a word picture which would inspire the hearts and minds of the men of the division. In addition, postwar conditions required the use of only two colors for economy production.

The design selected for the

patch was submitted by Colonel and Mrs. Ben Dorcy. The colonel was stationed with the newly activated division at Fort Bliss, Texas, commanding the 7th Cavalry Regiment.

Mrs. Dorcy related that the combination of a golden sunset at Fort Bliss and the traditional cavalry colors (Blue and Gold) were a great influence in the selection of the background color for the insignia. The bright yellow inner liner of one of the colonel's old dress capes became the

(Continued on Page 16)



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 D. J. Meyers)

Airmobility In Action

A Skytrooper guides in Huey "slicks" during a combat assault while an ever-watchful ARA gunship keeps an eye out for Mr. Charles.

DTC Preps New Men

By SP5 STEVE HALDEMAN

BIEN HOA—Every new member of the 1st Air Cavalry Division spends three days at its own special school. "Charm School," as it is lovingly called by its graduates, is the in-country training that ranges from weapon firing and rappelling to civil affairs.

"I've had all of this back in the States. Why are they making me go through it again?" was the complaint given by most prior to arrival at the Division Training Center (DTC).

For those who have had similar training before arriving in Vietnam, the program is a refresher course in "Charlie's" tactics and weapons. It is essential for new 1st Cav arrivals who have never had training of this kind. For all it sets the tone and mood for a tour in the 'Nam.

The most important day at the DTC is the one spent on the firing range. Following a 30-minute march to an area out past the perimeter, the training company is divided into two sections. One group goes to the firing line to zero its weapons while the other positions itself at the grenade pit.

"Nice toss! Keep your head down, Number Seven! Start passing out grenades to the next eight men!" are often heard words from the NCOIC at the grenade pit.

With weapons combat ready and confidence gained in throwing a "frag" (fragmentation grenade), the training group is taught the basics of squad tactics. (Continued on Page 16)

MG E.B. Roberts:

'Welcome To The FIRST TEAM'

ON BEHALF OF the Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, welcome to the FIRST TEAM. You are now part of division whose tradition of courage, pride and *esprit de corps* dates back to the days of the horse cavalry.

The 1st Air Cavalry Division is credited with being "FIRST IN MANILA" and "FIRST IN TOKYO" in World War II. During the Korean conflict, we were "FIRST IN PYONGYANG." Here in Vietnam we are the first division to have earned the Presidential Unit Citation and the first division to have fought in all four corps tactical zones.

The Vietnamese who we fight beside have paid a heavy price in suffering for their long struggle against the Communists. We are now in Vietnam because their government has asked us to assist its soldiers and people in winning their struggle.

ON THE BATTLEFIELD, the men of the 1st Air Cavalry have demonstrated why they are the FIRST TEAM. The enemy has felt the sting of the Skytrooper from the I Corps to the IV Corps Tactical Zone. The division has become well known to the enemy. Areas where he used to rest and train have been turned into battlefields.

Whenever the veteran cavalymen who won the battles have rotated home, new Skytroopers have arrived to carry on with the high degree of professionalism, teamwork, and pride which has made the 1st Air Cavalry a combat outfit without peer. The pages of this issue of The Cavalair tell of these qualities and of the accomplishments of the units within the division.

Welcome to the FIRST TEAM.

E.B. Roberts
Major General, USA
Commanding General

LTC M. Rusnock

Chaplain's Message To New Skytroopers

The First Team for God and Country extends a friendly welcome to all officers and enlisted men newly assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

As you join The First Team, you are rated FIRST by the 24 chaplains ready and willing to serve you. Representing a cross-section of U.S. clergy, The First Team for God and Country provides maximum opportunities for religious services and worship.

Every day is Sunday in Cav Country! The Sabbath is extended throughout the week, providing each company-size unit and landing zone at least one service by this small band of modern chopper-borne, circuit-riding clergymen.

Skytroopers traditionally never need permission to talk to any chaplain. This friendly rapport keeps them "up tight" and provides a spiritual team work that would make any athletic coach green with envy.

The First Team prays for you and your loved ones daily.

M. Rusnock
Chaplain (LTC), USA
Division Chaplain



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(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 Paul Sgroi)

Gently, Gently!!!

SSG Frank Hornbaker and SP5 Howard Smith prepare to dismantle a live enemy mortar. Both are members of the 99th Ordnance Detachment supporting the division.

RSVP Project Makes Life In Vietnam More Bearable

PHUOC VINH — It's nice to know that someone back home cares.

The lives of the men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division have been made more bearable by the support of the people of Columbia, S.C. Through a unique people-to-people program called RSVP (Rally Support for Vietnam Personnel) Cavalymen in Vietnam have received gifts from the citizens of Columbia to make their tour a little more comfortable. Items such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mirrors, paperback novels, candy, cookies, and other "luxuries" have been received by the Cav.

The program was started after Dr. J. David Palmer, an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina, and the

initiator of RSVP, discovered that the citizens of Birmingham, Ala., had adopted a division in Vietnam. He then started the ball rolling for Columbia by sending letters and questionnaires to the commanding officers of the 1st Cav, explaining the plans of the program. Response was immediate and enthusiastic.

This all began back in the summer of 1966. Since then all types of articles have flowed to the division, from cement mixers to children's dolls.

Civic action programs of THE FIRST TEAM have also progressed greatly thanks to RSVP. Cement mixers sent from Columbia have helped to build houses for the homeless Vietnamese, and schools in the An Khe area.

EOD Teams: Booming Job

QUAN LOI — The phone rang, the two men jumped into their vehicle, and a unique team of "garbage collectors" began another run.

For these men from the 99th Ordnance Detachment's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team supporting the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade, the garbage was not the ordinary kind, and it consisted of objects too dangerous to be handled by inexperienced persons.

The unit accompanies the 1st Cavalry on all of its missions. "Just like a garbage man, we never know what we're going to get until we look in the containers," stated Specialist Five Howard Smith, a member of the team.

Making the rounds of the medical detachments on the brigade's base camp, the team usually acquires a truckload of explosives every other day. These items are then taken outside the perimeter to be destroyed.

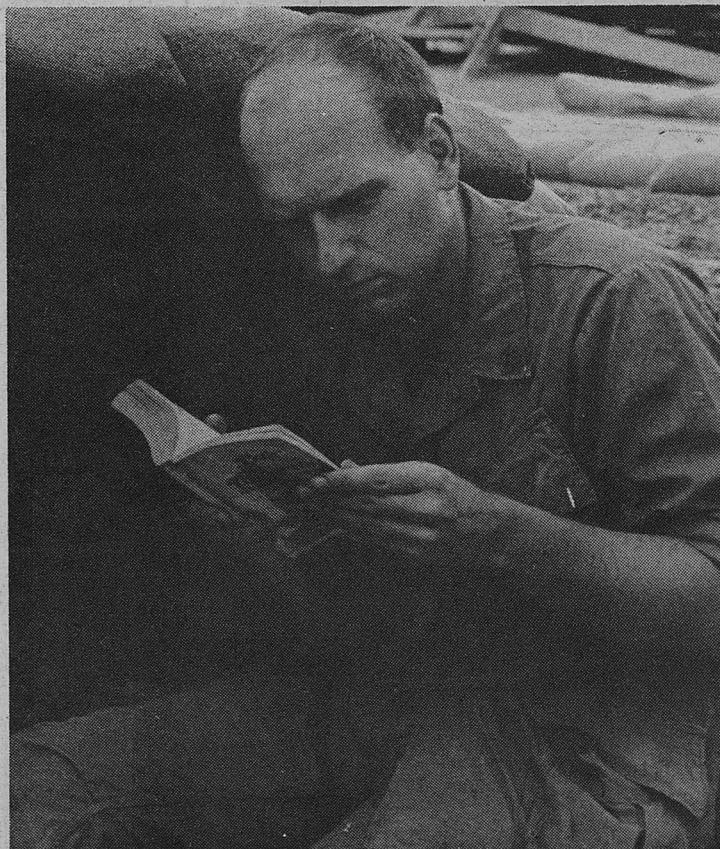
To keep their job from becoming dull, incidents occur to spice up the daily routine. Incoming enemy rockets and mortar rounds sometimes fail to explode, and it's the EOD team's responsibility to collect them.

Also on call for the fire bases and field maneuvers in the brigade's operations area, the team confronts a variety of situations that would tax the nerves of even the coolest explosive expert.

The first action the team takes upon arriving on the scene is to make sure the object is not a booby trap. If it is, and is located far enough away from friendly forces, it is destroyed. If it would be unsafe to bring it in, it is disarmed.

The tactical situation sometimes presents additional hazards for the team. On one such occasion when it was called to blow enemy explosives captured on a mission, the team was isolated with the booty, as the riflemen moved back to protective cover. While preparing the stockpile for destruction, the men were sniped at by enemy troops who had not yet left the area.

Cav EOD experts are making a big contribution in Vietnam by preventing costly accidents.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Shhh!!!

Taking advantage of a quiet moment in Vietnam is SP4 Donald Mahr as he enjoys a book sent by citizens of Columbia, S.C.

Arty Crews Always On Call

PHUOC VINH — Seven Skytroopers are going about their business. Some are filling sandbags, some touching up their hooch and others just relaxing.

Suddenly, their field telephone rings and the closest man picks up the receiver and listens. After repeating the message he has just been given, the man hurriedly replaces the receiver and cries, "Fire mission!" The other men immediately cease whatever they were doing and prepare for their primary job — that of delivering

artillery rounds into a designated area, perhaps many miles away.

Units of the 1st Air Cavalry Division Artillery operate with the utmost professionalism, and chances are that unless you're assigned to an artillery or infantry outfit, you don't really realize how much support an artillery battery can give.

Artillery units work extremely close with infantry companies. Each artillery battalion always supports the same brigade, and each battery (some 42 men divided into six sections, each op-

erating a howitzer) supports the same infantry battalion.

The habitual association of direct support batteries with the same infantry unit has proven to create smooth working relationships that give infantry outfits a special confidence in "their" battery.

Being airmobile (the guns are carried from position to position by Chinook helicopters), the batteries are organized and equipped so they can be displaced easily and rapidly to any location suitable as a firing position.

Each infantry company has a forward observer (FO), who is highly skilled in calling in artillery where and when it is needed. The FO's duties consist of planning, coordination, and requesting and adjusting accurate fires for the supported unit.

FOs are proficient in adjusting not only tube artillery but also aerial rocket artillery (ARA), naval gunfire, and illumination systems.

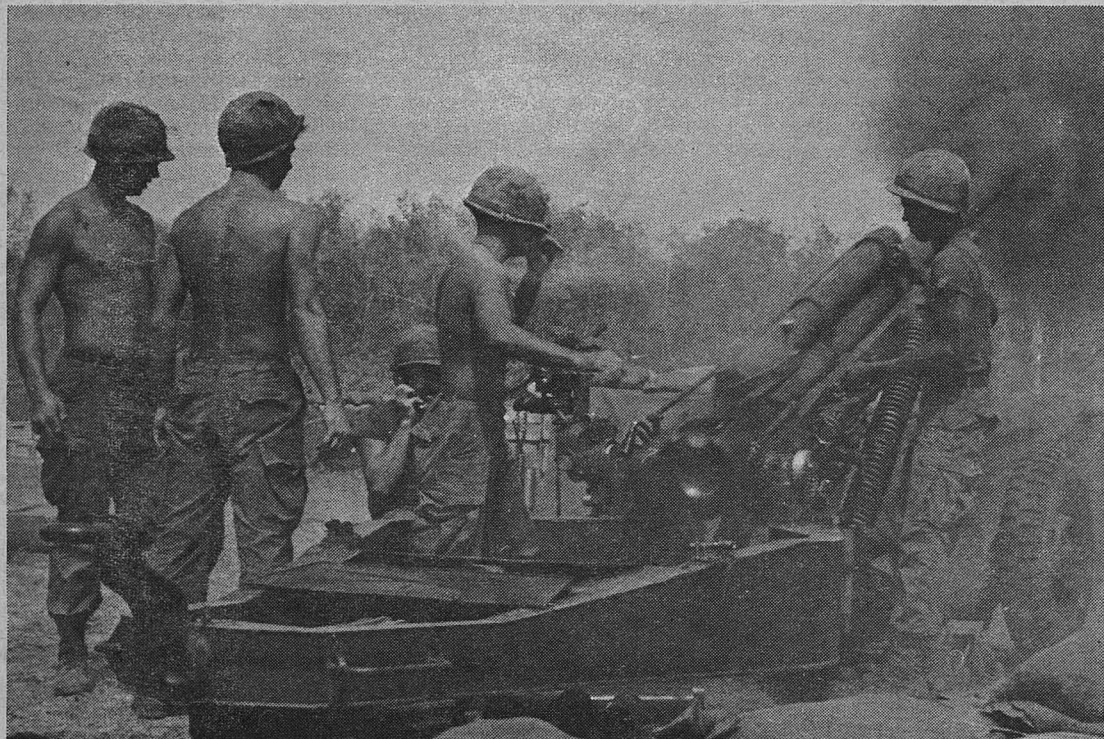
Aerial rocket artillery is employed like cannon artillery, in that its missions are requested through regular artillery channels and are usually controlled by an artillery FO.

The ARA gunships are armed with M-3 rocket launcher sys-

tems and each aircraft can carry up to 76 rockets on a single mission.

Division Artillery at Camp Gorvad has an additional function that is different from any other in the Army, it has an infantry maneuver element.

It is a well-known fact in the 1st Cavalry Division that you have to perform your job with an expert manner in order to keep up with the standards of the division. The artillery units in the division meet this challenge with outstanding talent in regard to the tasks they perform. If you doubt this, ask anyone who has been supported by them.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Fire Mission

With the yank of the lanyard and the boom of the 105mm howitzer, a projectile heads for a jungle target in support of troops.

Don't Take A Chance With Your Life—Take Malaria Pills Daily

By MSG JOE SNORGRASS

"It may happen to Joe but it can't happen to me." This seems to be the way many of us think when warned about accidents or disease. We seem to never wake up to the idea it CAN happen to us until it's too late. Malaria can happen to us!

We are constantly reminded to take our malaria pills daily and roll down our jacket sleeves at night—not because the Army is trying to get rid of a surplus of malaria pills or that we look better with our sleeves rolled down, but because these are the best known protections from the malaria carrying mosquito.

As Doctor (CPT) David Derleth, Headquarters and Headquarters dispensary, points out, "The bite of an anopheline mosquito (a malaria carrying mosquito) is much less noticeable than the bite of a normal mosquito. In fact, you may not feel it at all and it may not leave a bump or welt."

The prime time to be bitten by an anopheline mosquito is at dusk or dawn. They seldom bite during the daylight hours, said the doctor.

In describing the effect of malaria, Doctor Derleth says, "The disease is transmitted by the bite of an anopheline mosquito which causes sporozoan parasites in the red blood cells. This in turn causes periodic attacks of chills, fever, headaches, and pains in the back and joints."

"The symptoms may disappear," says the doctor, "but they will return within two to three days."

"The two types of malaria we are primarily concerned with in this area are Vivax and Falcipaum," says Doctor Derleth, "Vivax malaria is not usually fatal in normal adults," he explained, "however, if untreated it may reoccur periodically for several years. Falcipaum malaria is of a much more serious nature and, if untreated, kills a high percentage of its bearers. Falcipaum malaria can be cured if treated in its early stages."

"The orange pills which are to be taken once a week are for protection against Vivax malaria and is 95 percent or greater effective," says the doctor, "The white pills to be consumed daily are for protection against

Falcipaum malaria and when taken shows an apparent decrease in malaria incidents."

Doctor Derleth warns that both types of malaria pills should be taken while on R&R, leave and after transfer back to the US. The orange pills should be taken eight weeks after leaving Vietnam and the white pills 28 days after departure.

The reasons the doctor explained, "malaria may take from one day to two weeks or longer to show after being bitten by an anopheline mosquito, and there is now a marked increase in malaria in the States due to returning servicemen from Vietnam."

Let's all take our pills daily and keep covered as well as possible during late evening and nights, then we may say with more truthfulness, "It can't happen to us."

Vietnam MOHs . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

Linda, Calif., was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. He gave his life while on a night ambush mission near Duc Pho in April, 1967.

Private First Class Billy Lane Lauffer of Tucson, Ariz., was honored posthumously for charging an enemy machinegun nest near Bong Son and giving his comrades an opportunity to

elude an ambush.

The most recent Medal of Honor conferred upon a Cavalryman went posthumously to Private First Class James H. Monroe of Wheaton, Ill., for valor near Bong Son in February of 1967. While treating a wounded man, medic Monroe spotted a live grenade and smothered it with his body, saving the lives of his comrades.

APO Keeps Cavmen Informed And Happy

By SP5 STEVE HALDEMAN

PHUOC VINH — The one thing every soldier looks forward to is mail from home. No matter where he is stationed, whether he is a grunt or a clerk, the individual GI gets a tremendous morale boost when he receives a letter.

The 55 members of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Army Postal Office (APO) at Camp Gorvad handle over 200 tons of these morale-builders in a normal month. This is in addition to 20 tons of outgoing mail per month.

Four to five days after your sweetheart, wife, or mother pens your letter it should be in your hands. The letter makes its initial stop in Vietnam in Saigon. From there it is directed to the APO at Camp Gorvad and broken down by battalions. The battalion mail clerks separate it by company and, if you are in the field, it is sent out by log bird.

Another beautiful sight to see come through the mail is a "care" package. However, often times the cookies are in crumbs and the box it comes in is practically decimated. According to Lieutenant Randolph Wright, assistant postal officer, this is often due to a faulty packing job in the States.

A few helpful hints were given by LT Wright for sending packages to Vietnam.

(1) Use a double-strength box. A box received from a grocery store will almost always come apart.

(2) Secure the seams of the box with strong tape.

(3) Tightly pack each article in the box. Cans are especially devastating. Newspaper will work very well if it is tightly packed.

(4) Place a complete, duplicate address on a piece of paper inside the carton. In case the address on the outside becomes obliterated the package will arrive anyway.

(5) DO NOT use "magic markers" for the address. If it becomes wet it will bleed and be illegible. Ink is best.

"As a rule," said LT Wright, "packages get rougher handling coming from the States than in going home. If the cartons are packed too heavy and too loosely, they will almost certainly be damaged in the trip to Vietnam."

Mail is important to the individual soldier. It is just as important to loved ones at home. There are several guidelines to follow to insure prompt delivery. The letter must have a complete return address. The "FREE" in the upper right-hand corner should be handwritten. If the letter does not have these two items, it could be subject to collection of postage.

With over a half-million men in Vietnam you, the individual soldier, should make certain the three locator cards at your final unit are completed. This will aid you in receiving those much longed-for letters and packages from "the World."



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

My Bag!

Huge bundles of mail appear every day at the APO at Camp Gorvad, and the clerks are there to make sure the Cav's fighting men receive their 'sugar reports' from the people back home.

CA's, Resupply: Call 11th Aviation Group

A new load of troops lands at Bien Hoa and from the plane comes a cluster of men, each struggling with a heavy duffel bag. The long two days begin. Two days of processing, long lines — and details. On detail the men get a chance to look around and notice things which had passed unnoticed before. The choppers, for the first two days anyway, are usually the center of attention.

"They sure do have a lot of helicopters around this place," said one guy who was busily working on a sanitation squad.

"That one there," said another man, pointing toward the sky, "is a Cobra." He stated the fact proudly.

"How do you know?" asked the first man marveling at the

other's knowledge.

"It's the nose. You can tell 'cause the nose is different."

"Oh," exclaimed the second man. "What do they use 'em for?"

"Boy, they bring the 'max' on Charlie!"

"The 'max', huh?"

"Yeah. That's what one of those sergeants told me, anyway."

In this way, a new Cavalryman gets introduced to the aircraft of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

There are three aviation battalions organic to the division. Together, they comprise the 11th Aviation Group, and they keep aloft everything from the light observation helicopter (LOH) to the CH-54, the Flying Crane, ca-

pable of carrying an 18,000-pound load.

SUPPORT

The air support is normally distributed as follows: The 227th Aviation Battalion supports the 3rd Brigade, the 229th services the 1st Brigade, and the two battalions jointly assist the 2nd Brigade. The 228th Aviation Battalion, which flies the CH-47 Chinooks, has its three companies spread throughout the area of operations to support the entire division.

The 227th and the 229th each have three lift companies and one fire support company, which are well equipped for the thing they do best — making combat assaults.

This maneuver, for which the Cav is famous, is carried out

with precision. The infantrymen board the aircraft at the "Papa Zulu" (pick-up zone) and are lifted to their destination by "slick" ships. In the planning stages of an operation it is determined how many ships of each type will be used. A "six plus two" in Cav terms means that six lift ships and two gunships will make the assault.

HOSTILE FIRE

The first ship into the new landing zone drops its burden of troops. Occasionally it's not so easy to put the infantry on the ground.

"Yellow One (the flight leader) called me and said there was no LZ, but that there was a place where he could set down," said Warrant Officer Robert D. Witt, who flew for the 227th dur-

ing the Cav's operations at Khe Sanh. "The infantrymen had to hang on the skids and drop about twelve feet to the ground. Because the LZ was like that, each ship had to hover and make another pass if the first one didn't make it."

If putting the troops on the ground is sometimes a problem, resupplying them and picking them up can also prove to be a tricky maneuver.

In the Cav's new location in the III Corps area, some members of the 229th were called in to make an emergency resupply run to a company size landing zone near Tay Ninh.

A company from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry was in heavy contact when it realized that it was going to need more ammunition. Two emergency resupply ships were called for, and within minutes were on their way. As they approached the LZ both ships drew fire. The landing zone was large enough for only one ship, so while one landed and dropped its load, the other hovered above, its crew kicking the ammunition out the door and providing suppressive fire with two M-60 machineguns.

CHARLIE-CHARLIE

The aviation unit also provides line battalion commanders with Command and Control ships from which the "man-in-charge" can maintain visual as well as radio contact with his ground units during combat action. The helicopter is equipped with radios that permit the commander to communicate with his command post and his brigade headquarters as well as with the ground units.

The battalions have recently begun conducting successful night air assaults in areas where enemy troops are suspected to be operating. Many times enemy units are caught completely by surprise during night assaults.

When a new landing zone is constructed and artillery pieces have to be moved within the hour, it's the "bigger boys" who take care of the move. "The Chinooks are the prime movers for all the 105mm howitzers," stated Major Ralph Jackson, the 228th Aviation Battalion's S-3 officer. "The Cranes handle the 155's. Any place we go, we haul artillery for ground support. That's really our biggest job."

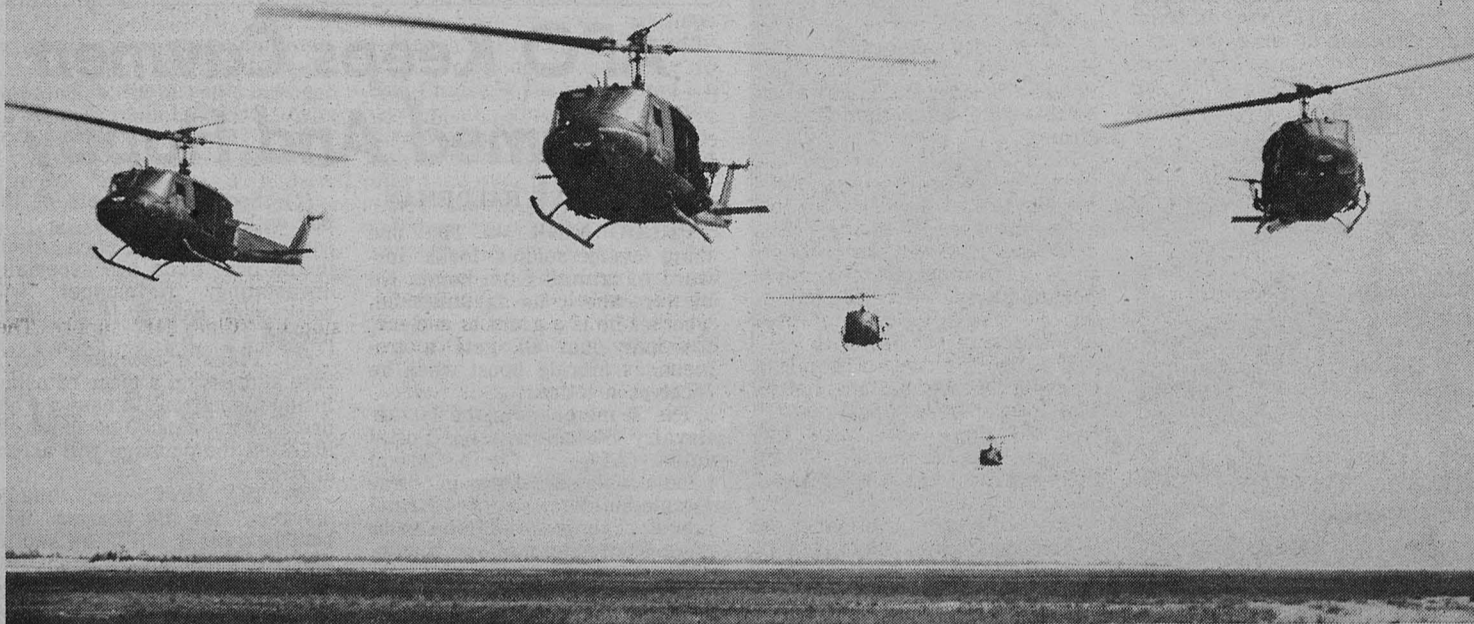
ASSAULTS

There are 16 CH-47's per company, and three companies within the battalion. The Flying Crane company has nine CH-54's. The Chinooks, like the Huey "slicks", are used for combat assaults, especially in the flatlands. The Chinook can haul over 30 men, and once on the ground with the back door open, these men can clear the ship and be in action in a matter of seconds.

One Chinook can carry a maximum of 10,000 pounds of cargo. During an average day, 15 or so Chinooks are in the air, transporting roughly 300 tons.

The 478th Flying Crane Company is always in demand. Often requests are received from units outside of the division for use of the Cranes.

When the division moved south in November, so did the 11th Aviation Group. The Group's headquarters are located at Camp Gorrard, while the 227th and 228th Battalions also share this site. The 229th operates out of Dau Tieng, and the three battalions have spread their companies across the Division's area of operations in support of the line troops. The move has doubled the load for the battalions, but they have met the demands and will continue to do so.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

The Cav's Thing

'Slicks' from the 11th Aviation Group prepare to do the Cav's thing, a combat assault, as they carry shiploads of Skytroopers to a remote LZ in pursuit of Mr. Charles.

Division Won Initial Battle Without Gunfire

The 1st Air Cavalry Division won its first battle in Vietnam without firing a shot.

Some 900 1st Cav advance party troops moved out from their temporary pup-tent city near the old An Khe airstrip to begin an hour-long march to the jungle-covered area now known as the Gopher Course.

Carrying their weapons and whatever brush-clearing tools they could muster — bowie knives, machetes, bayonets, entrenching tools and an occasional axe — the men marched in close-ordered double files down the narrow, muddy streets of An Khe. Silent Vietnamese villagers along the street watched the suspicious intruders.

The Cavalrymen made the one-hour march along a rudimentary cattle path, and then started cutting through the dense jungle with their hand tools.

At lunchtime, the men carefully packed all uneaten items from their C-rations for the return trip.

Darkness was rapidly approaching as the sweat-covered troopers again marched through the village, this time handing out left-over candy, gum, cigarettes, and other items from their noon meal.

Adult villagers, still silent and still suspicious, accepted the gifts and left, leaving the crowd of soldiers and three and four-year-old youngsters.

The following morning, Cav-

alrymen set out again. This time as they marched through An Khe they were greeted by smiles and waves from the adults and tugs-on-sleeves by the youngsters.

Several Viet Cong informers were soon pointed out to Vietnamese Government Police; one VC suspect was overcome by two farmers who dragged him to the police station.

Many other Viet Cong informers fled town during the afternoon siesta, and the afternoon walk through An Khe had all the aspects of a liberation parade.

The 1st Air Cav had won its first battle.

Cav Finance Clerks Turn Airmobile To Get Pay Out

PHUOC VINH — Administering a pay system is especially difficult in a combat zone, but the division's Finance Office does an outstanding job of paying every Cavalryman, wherever he may be.

The Joint Uniform Military Pay System (JUMPS), computed 10,000 miles away at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., meets the daily needs of the soldier in Vietnam and also helps him wisely manage the remainder of his monthly salary.

All personnel assigned to the division are in-processed immediately upon arrival. The first stage is a complete briefing on the new pay system, the options

available and the Serviceman's Group Life Insurance program. The new arrival is also briefed on the accrual and savings deposit features of the system. In-processing is accomplished through the use of five stations. The in-processing center normally handles 60-75 men a day and has processed as many as 200 in a single day.

After in-processing the new arrival moves to his unit. The prime characteristic of the 1st Cav is its mobility. Cav movements are summed up as "here today, gone tomorrow." But what happens if "tomorrow" happens to be payday?

Payday in the 1st Cavalry Division is the 15th of each month. Under the JUMPS program a man receives his norm pay on the 15th of the month and his net pay, either in the form of accrual or a check to a dependent, at the end of the month. In the Cav, about one-half of the men elect accrual and the other half have money sent home.

When payday rolls around, the finance officer and a team of 10 men carry the payrolls, in footlockers, to three or four locations. They then backtrack on their route to make corrections and answer questions. These agents also help the soldier complete the appropriate form if he is not satisfied with or wishes to change an allotment.

Should a man's name not appear on his unit's payroll, he can get a partial pay of \$40, known as a "flying forty," collected when his finances are straightened out.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Away We Go

A mammoth CH-54 'Flying Crane' dwarfs a bulldozer being flown in to expand a search operation in the thick terrain of War Zone C.

All The Way, Sir

1st Brigade Upholds Motto

By 1LT William Dimascio
TAY NINH — Although air-mobility is relatively new, mobility has highlighted the history of elements of the 1st Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division for the past 100 years. It was during the Civil War era that the 8th Cavalry Regiment made its well known 2000-mile horseback march from Fort Concho, Tex., to Montana and South Dakota.

Today, the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 8th Cavalry, along with the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, are still moving — this time over the swamps and forests of III Corps, South Vietnam. Although the bugle calls of the old Cav have given way to the hum and drone of scout birds and gunships, the sound still bears the same message — this is Cav country.

As in any unit history, the First of THE FIRST TEAM can claim its share of successful campaigns, but the ALL THE WAY Brigade also holds the spirit of professionalism deep in its traditions. As the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry puts it: "We Charge Harder."

The charge of the 1st Brigade in recent years has been made at such places as An Wui, Dak To, Tam Quan, Quang Tri, Khe Sanh, and the A Shau Valley. In each of these battles, the Brigade's swift reaction and outstanding fire support were the keynotes to victory.

Action in the battle of Van Phong/Dong Bao started when the Brigade's trouble-shooting partner, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, had one of its helicopters fired on while con-

ducting a mission. Enemy fire was so intense that two companies from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry were immediately airlifted into the northern sector of the contact area. At the same time, two mechanized troops from the 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry roared into position to the south. A loose cordon was completed as the remainder of the 1st Bn, 8th Cav air assaulted into the area along with a ground element from the 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav and an attached company from the 1st Bn, 12th Cav.

Night was falling as brigade scout birds darted in and out of the area spotting enemy bunkers. Artillery and ARA began pounding away and kept up their onslaught as small enemy elements tried to break out. Their escape attempts failed however; by this time, the cordon was too strong.

In the morning, tactical air strikes and Naval gunfire joined the barrage, and by early afternoon, the ground troops began their sweep. There was little resistance throughout the mopping-up phase, but on the following day, new fighting erupted two kilometers to the south.

The fighting here was a microcosm of the earlier battle. The events were almost identical, but there were only two companies from the 1st Bn, 8th Cav and two from the 3rd Sqdrn, 5th Cav participating.

The body count confirmed 66 enemy dead after the two battles. In addition, the Skytroopers detained 9 suspects and received four ralliers.

The story could go on through victory after victory. There were many successful operations: Pershing, Stuart, Pegasus, Delaware. But war stories relate little of the other fighting — the daily contest with the elements. When the sun scorches or the rain comes in torrents, when you walk half the night to set up an ambush and find nothing, these are the times that test the fighting man's spirit.

The men of the 1st Brigade have won that fight too. That is why they are professionals, and that is why they sound off when saluting: "ALL THE WAY, SIR."



'Let's Go'

(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

A battle-hardened NCO from the 1st Brigade leads his troops into combat. He typifies the tenacious fighting man of the 'All the Way' brigade.

15th Med, Cav Docs

PHUOC VINH — The 15th Medical Battalion, as it is now known, was organized in 1926 at Fort Bliss, Texas, and was designated the 1st Medical Squadron.

On June 16, 1943, the unit left the United States for Camp Strathpine, Australia, and spent the rest of the year at that location, developing itself further through additional training.

On December 4, 1943, the squadron was designated the 1st Medical Squadron, 1st Cavalry Division, Special. The unit moved along with the 1st Cav on its campaigns through the southwest Pacific to Japan. The names of New Guinea, Los Negros, Bismarck Archipelago, Luzon, Leyte and Antipolo are indelibly written in the history of this medical unit.

The unit entered Tokyo in September, 1945, and established permanent headquarters at Camp Drake. In 1949, the unit was redesignated the 15th Medical Battalion.

At the outbreak of hostilities

in Korea, the 15th Medical Battalion moved into the battlefields with the 1st Cavalry Division. For its service in the Korean Conflict, the unit earned seven campaign streamers to add to its long list of commendations.

At Fort Benning, Ga., on June 29, 1965, the 11th Medical Battalion was deactivated and the 15th Medical Battalion was designated the first airmobile medical battalion in the Army, and was assigned 12 aeromedical evacuation helicopters.

Upon receiving orders from Headquarters of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, the battalion prepared for overseas shipment to the Republic of Vietnam. Since its arrival on September 13, 1965, the battalion has been performing its mission of medical support for the division.

The unit is currently headquartered at Phuoc Vinh, taking care of evacuees, daily sick call, and many other missions in support of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

15th S&S Bn Carries All, From Ice Cream to PSP

By SP4 DAVE BRADY

CAV COUNTRY, SOUTH VIETNAM—A defensive perimeter is going up at an isolated LZ (Landing Zone) near the Cambodian border. Barbed-wire, concertina and pickets go up to define the LZ. Timbers, sand bags and perforated steel planks become bunkers behind the wire.

Fifty kilometers to the east, at a larger LZ, ammunition comes in slung under a Chinook helicopter. On the ground, trucks crawl along spraying penta-prime on the dusty road while fuel tankers roll by bringing in POL.

At the side of the road, mess tents hustle as cooks prepare breakfast. A clerk walks into his company supply tent and picks up a new set of fatigues. Another day begins.

At the 15th Supply and Service Battalion on the Bien Hoa Army Base it wasn't just another day. The battalion was responsible for supplying the division with materials to build those bunkers, that perimeter, the food to feed the troops, the fuel to run the helicopters, trucks and planes, the ammunition and the clerk's new pair of fatigues. The day didn't just happen . . . it was planned in advance.

The primary functions of the battalion are two-fold, the first being services. The unit aids the Cav by furnishing or coordinating such services as laundry facilities, ice-cream plants and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team.

The second function is supply, which involves supporting the division with all classes of materiel.

The battalion is divided into three main elements: the Headquarters Company, which works in an administrative and supervisory capacity at Bien Hoa; a supply company, which consists of four forward supply platoons, one supporting each brigade and one at Bien Hoa; and an Aerial Equipment Supply Company (AES), whose members are scattered throughout the division's area of operations.

The battalion utilizes ground and air transportation to move its supplies from depots in Long Binh and Saigon to Bien Hoa, the forward supply platoons, or directly to the 48th Transportation Group.

Rations are handled by "Class I" supply. They include "A" rations or fresh food, "B" rations or canned food, "Cs" or canned meals, and "LRRP's" which are dehydrated meals. The battalion

supports Cav elements at Song Be and Quan Loi directly with Class I items while those at Phuoc Vinh and Tay Ninh are supported through Logistical Support Agency outlets there.

Boots, fatigues, field gear, plastic spoons, sand bags and a multitude of other supplies are handled by "Class II" & "IV" supply. Since the move south, over three million sandbags have been flown to the LZ's, along with more than two million board-feet of 2x4's. The majority of the supplies originate at the 15th S&S II & IV yard in Bien Hoa, since they can be shipped quicker than from depots in Long Binh and Saigon. Shipping is generally done by air.

Petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) are supplied to the division by "Class III" supply. The primary fuels handled are Mogas, Av-gas, Diesel, and JP-4. Class III supply sets up POL distribution points throughout the AO, located at LZ's and at Bien Hoa.

Probably the largest operation undertaken by Class III supply was the supply of the operation into the A Shau Valley. During this period, 15,000 gallons of fuel per day were slung into a refuel point set up in the valley.

Ammunition for the division is handled by "Class V". Class V supply also provides technical assistance to the division, insuring that units have the proper amount of ammo, and that it is properly handled and stored.

The third branch of the battalion is Aerial Equipment Supply (AES), whose responsibility it is to technically supervise the rigging of sling loads and to pack parachutes used by the division's fixed wing aircraft.

The "Red Hats" (riggers) are scattered throughout the division's area of operations, working wherever slings are used.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Let There Be C's

A 15th S&S Battalion worker, SP4 Walter Bastecki, checks the amount of C-rations that will be distributed to men of the FIRST TEAM.

Cav '5' Shops Busy In Psy-War

By SP5 AL Garcia
PHUOC VINH — The 1st Air Cavalry Division helicopter droned above the thick jungle canopy, swooping low and then high, seemingly looking for the enemy.

In a sense, it was true. They were looking for Charles — but not to rain the devastating fire-power available to the division. They were engaged in a facet of the oft-mentioned "other war," the battle to sway communist troops to the South Vietnamese Government, the battle to convince a hardcore fighter that his effort is futile.

Just then, thousands of Chieu Hoi leaflets blackened the sky as a loudspeaker blared out procedures on how to rally to the allies.

In the **FIRST TEAM**, this job falls on the officers and men working in the Civil Affairs offices, otherwise known as G-5 at division level and S-5 at brigade or lower.

According to Major George Gaspard, Division Psychological Operations (Psy Ops) officer, the mission is to "advise the commanding general on and exercise staff supervision on all civil affairs, Psy Ops activities and support for the South Vietnamese Government's revolutionary developments program." The office coordinates a military civic action program, plans, orders and coordinates all Psy Ops.

The brigade and lower S-5 offices generally have a free hand in running their projects.

"We give them advice and ideas, but for the most part,

Leaflets bearing the man's picture and a message in his handwriting are dropped in the area, while the rallier urges his buddies to lay down their arms.

Another new feature calls for a Psy-Ops helicopter to carry on its work while ground units are in contact.

The bird (called "Gabby") is integrated into the air plan and makes passes over the contact area. Instead of pounding the enemy with rockets and mini-guns, the men on the ship urge the enemy to surrender. The technique is appropriately called a Psy-strike.

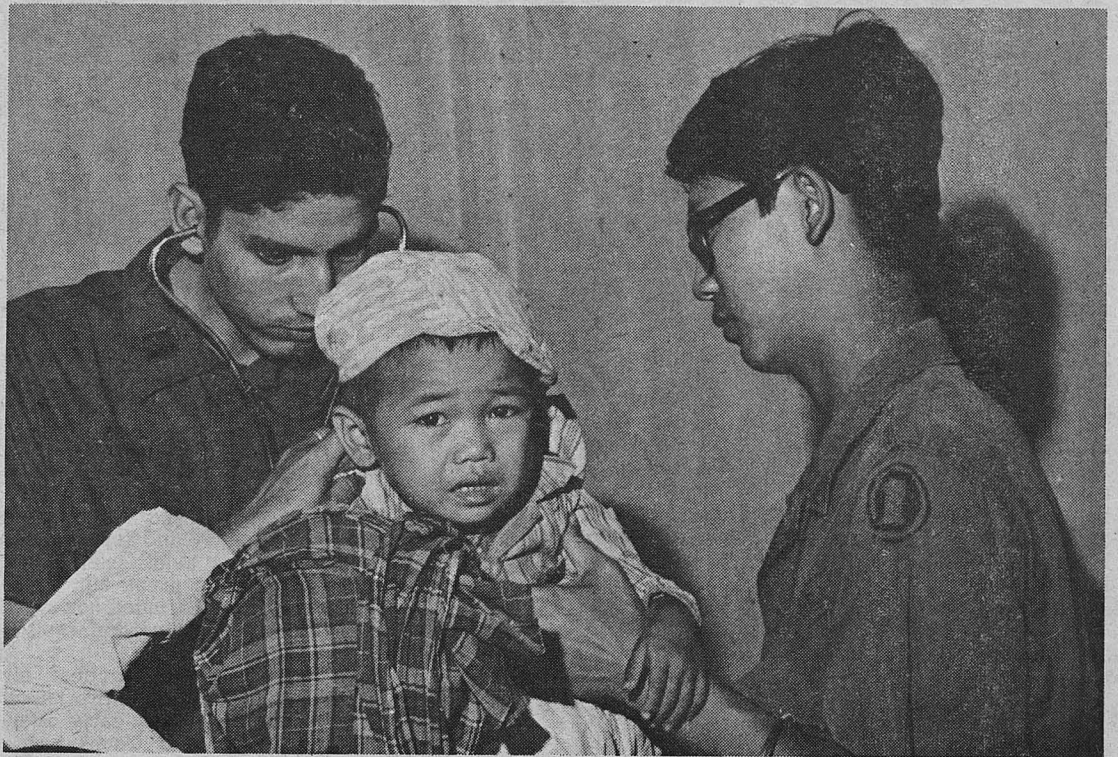
"We find they (Psy-strikes) have brought an awareness of Psy Ops to commanders and troops on the ground," explained Maj Gaspard, "and when they see Gabby in the middle of a firefight, they realize it must be pretty important."

The search for Hoi Chanhs is intensive. A live enemy soldier can lead allied forces to weapons, foodstuff caches and battle plans. In this respect, the friendly tactical situation is bolstered along with hopes of victory in the psychological war.

The other, and equally important function of the "5" offices is Civil Affairs.

Major Rodney T. Finkle, division Civil Affairs officer, pointed out that his primary concern is to "assist in providing technical advice and limited material support on Civic Action projects approved by the Vietnamese Government in support of pacification."

A civic action program is basically carried out to improve a



(U.S. Army Photo)

Ouch!!!

This young Vietnamese lad doesn't seem to be enjoying all of the attention being paid him. However, medical care is one of the main civic action programs provided by the Cav.

Blackhorse Troopers

2nd Bde: 100 Yrs Old

QUAN LOI — The Second "Black Horse" Brigade traces its origins to the 5th Cavalry Regiment, organized over 100 years ago. It had as its second commander Colonel Robert E. Lee.

After Lee left the unit, it distinguished itself on the Great Plains, spearheaded the "Flying Column" into Manila in World War II, fought in Korea, and made its presence readily felt in Vietnam.

Battle sites for the Second Brigade read like a travelogue — Dak To, Bong Son, the Que Son Valley and the III Corps tactical zone.

Before the Cav arrived in the Que Son Valley in late 1967, it was virtually an unrestricted playground for the 2nd North

Vietnamese Division. Cav operations severely restricted its movement. Possibly seeing the handwriting on the wall, entire hamlets of VC-supporters and sympathizers rallied **En Masse** to the GVN side.

The 2nd NVA Division decided to mass its entire force to overrun Cav and ARVN firebases in the Que Son Valley. Two bases were hit by a large force of NVA, but fierce fighting quelled the communist attack.

From the Que Son Valley the Brigade moved north to the I Corps area in February, 1968. After joining with the rest of the division to "mop up" in the aftermath of Tet Offensive, the brigade moved into Operation Jeb Stuart III, penetrating ene-

my Base Area 101 in the mountains and denying him rice from the coastal plain between Hue and Quang Tri.

When the entire division was ordered to move south into III Corps, the Black Horse troopers uncovered a 40-ton cache of enemy food, ammunition, and weapons in late January 1969. The find included 112,000 rounds of .50 caliber machinegun ammo, more than 2,800 pounds of explosives, 643 mortar rounds, 40 107mm rockets, 75 rounds for a 57mm recoilless rifle, plus rifle grenades, mines, hand grenades, time fuses, fuse lighters, and RPG rounds.

Everywhere the Second Brigade goes, it makes its presence felt.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Gary Quillen)

La! La! La!

They won't rival the Supremes, but these lovely little Vietnamese swingers play to a packed house during a program put on for Skytroopers involved in civic action.

their programs originate at their unit," stated the officer.

Because of the division's constant movement, the Psyops section is kept busy. There is a larger market for prospective Hoi Chanhs. At the moment, 70 to 80 percent of the office's effort is geared to Psy Ops, although the situation can be reversed when the civic action groups work in secure areas.

The techniques of Psy Ops are generally standard — drop leaflets and broadcast taped or live messages. The 1st Air Cav Div has carried it a step farther. A new innovation calls for the localizing of propaganda material. In other words, if a specific enemy unit is known to be working in the division's area of operations, the leaflets will address the force by name. In the same vein, if a man rallies to the friendlies, he is urged to broadcast to his unit.

"Everything stops when we get a Hoi Chanh," explained Maj. Gaspard, "and we try to exploit this advantage as soon as possible."

local situation and benefit the people, such as medcaps, animal inoculations, sanitation and health projects. Civil Affairs encompasses civic action, as well as long range programs undertaken to strengthen the nation.

"We don't do this alone," explained Major Finkle. "We are helping the South Vietnamese Government in doing what has to be done at the present time."

Projects are aimed at public institutions, such as schools and local development programs.

"We are here to establish security in the people's minds," stated the officer, "improve local conditions through the government, expand local resources and economy through programs which lead to an overall expansion of industry; economic stability and subsequently, nation building." Needless to say, it is a more than formidable task. At the moment, only one thing is certain — the men working the division's "5" offices are not letting the "other war" become the forgotten one.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 A. J. McLean)

Sunset Sentry

A Skytrooper mans his quad-50mm as dusk settles in on the 2nd Brigade base camp.

'Garry Owens' Boast Long, Proud Tradition

BIEN HOA — The 1st Air Cavalry Division's 3rd ("Garry Owen") Brigade possesses a long and proud history as a tough fighting unit. From the Little Big Horn to the mountains and jungles of Vietnam, elements of the 3rd Brigade have distinguished themselves as courageous and devoted fighters.

The antecedent of the brigade was the 7th Cavalry Regiment, organized July 28, 1866 at Fort Riley, Kan. Among its earliest leaders was Brevet Major General George A. Custer, who led the regiment into combat against the Sioux, Cheyennes, and Nez Perce Indians for 10 years.

"Garry Owen," the regimental marching song selected by Custer, rang across the plains. Although Custer and his followers were annihilated at the Little Big Horn, the song stayed with soldiers of the 7th Cavalry.

The "Garry Owens" kept marching and fighting. In World War II, the Korean War, and now in Vietnam, the 3rd Brigade troopers distinguished themselves in combat.

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry (under the operational control of the 3rd) made contact with an estimated NVA battalion-plus at Thon La Chu, a suspected NVA Regimental headquarters four kilometers northwest of Hue. Bolstered by the 1st and 5th Bns, 7th Cav, the 2nd Bn, 12th Cav swept through the hamlet and pressed toward Hue.

By the end of February, 1968, the three battalions had sealed off the city to the northwest, west and southwest, preventing the NVA from resupplying or reinforcing soldiers in Hue and forcing the enemy to subside resistance inside the ancient imperial capital. The battle included some of the most intense fighting seen, but it was a necessary fight.

Following the Battle of Hue,

the 3rd Brigade spearheaded the 1st Cav's drive — Operation Pegasus — to relieve the 77-day siege of Marines at Khe Sanh. The 2nd Bn, 7th Cav was the first unit to move through the gates and walk into the camp while Marines lined the road and watched.

"The Marines seemed pretty happy to see us," said Master Sergeant Jack E. Shroyer, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav. "They were standing on top of their bunkers, waving at us, taking our pictures and throwing us C-rations."

The relief of Khe Sanh freed the Marines for patrols in the surrounding hills in an attempt to flush the remaining NVA units from the area.

During the last part of April, when the 1st Cav began Operation Delaware — Lamson 216, designed to sever a major NVA supply route through the communist-dominated A Shau Valley, it was again the 3rd Brigade that led the way. The brigade moved into the valley with such speed the NVA often fled, leaving behind valuable equipment.

Before the operation was one week old, the 3rd Brigade had captured a dozen 37mm Russian-made anti-aircraft weapons, the first ever found by any unit in Vietnam. Only days before these weapons filled the skies above the valley with the greatest amount of anti-aircraft fire that 1st Air Cavalry helicopter pilots had ever seen.

Entering a new operations area after leaving I Corps was a challenge to the 3rd Brigade. But with over 100 enemy kills during the first week of operations, the brigade proved once again its adaptability to any terrain.

From Little Big Horn, through Korea, to the DMZ and down to III Corps, the "Garry Owens" have proven their combat expertise whenever called upon, and will continue to do so.



(U.S. Army Photo)

Last Briefing

The 15th Administration Company handles the three moves Cavmen make—in-processing, R&R, and out-processing. At the rotatee detachment Skytroopers receive a final briefing before returning to the 'World.'

15th Admin Co Processes All Skytroopers In And Out Of RVN

By SP5 Jerry Smith

PHUOC VINH — There is one unit within the 1st Air Cavalry Division that touches the life of every GI in the Cav. The 15th Administration Company processes you into and out of the division, and pays you while you're here.

The company, working behind the scenes, stores a soldier's baggage, sees that his paycheck arrives on-time, and handles the thousand-and-one other details of paperwork which leave him free to fight.

One of the largest companies in the U.S. Army, the 15th Admin Co has, assigned or attached to it, over 1,000 men.

Before being sent to his unit, a man is outfitted for his tour in Vietnam by two Cav detachments that come under the 15th Admin Co — the 15th Replacement Detachment and the Division Training Center (DTC).

The Replacement Detachment works at getting a man's records in shape, figuring out what allotments he wishes to make, and deciding which unit to send him to. The DTC orients the man to the division — how it works and what it does — and gives him practical instruction which refreshes what he learned in the States. The discussions and demonstrations also serve as morale builders. New cavalymen get their first chance to take a close look at the machinery of war and see how effectively that machinery is employed by the division.

The DTC, or "Charm School", as many of its graduates refer to it, has a three-day program which gives a man a chance to do everything from zeroing his weapon and throwing a grenade to listening to one of the division's legal officers brief him about what to do and what not to do in Vietnam. The three-day

cycle continues, accepting all the new personnel that come in every day, so that one may enter the program at any time and not have to wait for a new class to begin.

The R & R and DEROS detachments are also located in An Khe.

Cavalymen leaving Vietnam for R & R or leave fly to An Khe, where they are met at the airport and taken by bus to the R & R Center. They sign in and store their equipment. Since all facilities are tightly grouped at An Khe, the processing involves little delay. A quick trip to Consolidated Supply liberates khakis and a quick trip to finance produces cash for the five-day fling. In a day or two, the men are bussed back to the airport, ready to go.

The DEROS-ee will arrive in An Khe between four and six days prior to his DEROS, and begin to process out of the Cav. On the morning prior to DEROS, with all his affairs in order, he will board a plane for Cam Ranh Bay, bound for home.

The 15th Admin Co is part of the 1st Personnel Services Battalion (Provisional).

Its Adjutant General and Finance sections have offices at Camp Gorvad as well as Bien Hoa thus giving troops in forward areas the best possible service. In addition, there are the Inspector General, Staff Judge Advocate, Chaplain, and Information sections located at Camp Gorvad.

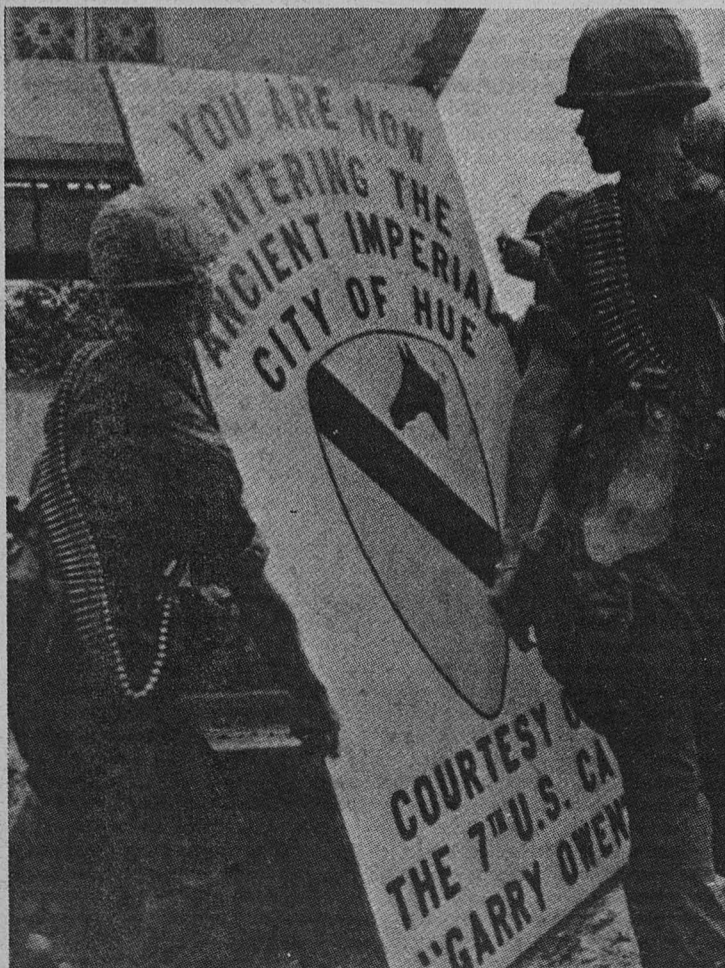
The office of the Inspector General acts as the "eyes of the Army". This office is continually making inspections of the various Cav units to make sure all is functioning well within the division. It makes sure that supply systems are functioning, and protects the individual soldier

from maltreatment. The Staff Judge Advocate section within the company handles all legal measures that are brought up in the division. The office consists of lawyers and legal clerks, trained in military justice.

The Division Information Office has its headquarters in Camp Gorvad and a detachment in each of the division's three brigades. The function of this office is to publish the weekly paper, the CAVALAIR, the division magazine, and house the command information and radio-telecommunication sections. The office also acts as a liaison between the military and the civilian press. One of the main functions of the office and also one of its main services to the individual cavalryman is the hometown news release. The news release form, completed when an individual comes in country, when he is promoted and when he receives an award, is processed through the information office. Each brigade has its complement of Cav correspondents and photographers who accompany the ground and air units into combat to get the Cav's story on film and paper.

The 15th Admin Co recently received a Meritorious Unit Commendation (3rd Oak Leaf Cluster) for the service it performed in the division from April 1 to September 30, 1967.

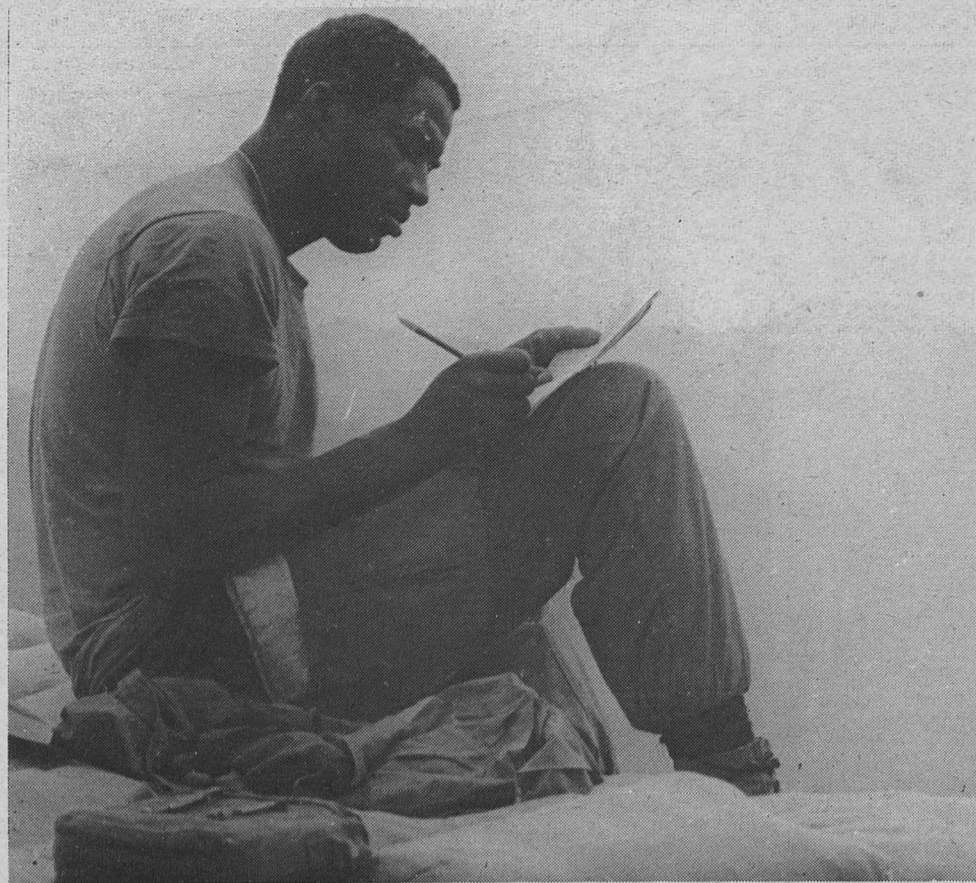
The award was presented to the unit by Brigadier General Richard L. Irby, then Assistant Division Commander. The men of the company were accorded this honor because of their willingness to work long hours in the interest of the combat trooper. The company's dedication and desire to provide the best administrative service possible has earned it the respect and admiration of all supported elements.



(U.S. Army Photo By SP5 John Pettway)

Welcome To Hue

Cavalrymen from the 3rd Brigade put up a sign on the outskirts of the Imperial Citadel of Hue depicting their part and the division's efforts in defeating the communists there during the Tet offensive.



The 1st Cav Grunt

... loves those letters from home. When the action lulls, he gets a chance to answer them.

BY SP5 AL GARCIA

PHUOC VINH, Vietnam—It's one hell of a job to be a "grunt." If you don't believe it, ask a man who has been one or better yet, spend three or four days in the "boonies" and live like they do. When you get back to your warm shower, comfortable bed and the guarantee of three hot meals a day, you'll realize what type of man makes the 1st Air Cavalry Division the proud unit it is.

What kind of individual is he? On paper, the majority of Skytroopers are not yet men. That's as far as it goes. In the true sense of the word, they are all men—from the 18-year-old grenadier to the peach-fuzzed "instamatic" squad leader.

One grizzled, three-war infantry veteran had this to say about the young soldiers who search for the enemy throughout III Corps. "I've seen some middle-aged characters who couldn't hold a candle to these youngsters. There are no boys out here. They act, work and think like men. They are tremendous—as soldiers and individuals."

Perhaps the rigorous life they endure, putting their life on the line every minute of the day for months on end, has much to do with their attitude.

"You know," explained one young cavalryman, "a grunt spends a year over here. That's a lot of time to think back on what you've

done, your mistakes and how good you really had it. If you make it, you are awed by what you took for granted. Believe me, you grow up fast out here. There's no room for childish attitudes. It's no picnic, but you have to make the best of it."

And make the best of it they do, no matter how thick the terrain, or how deep and dirty the swamp may be. There is always the company comic to ease the tensions, or the ice cream treats from the "rear echelon types."

Most important, there are the letters from home that do so much to lift spirits, along with Aunt Harriet's chocolate chip cookies that last no more than two minutes after the rest of the Skytroopers find out about them. One way or another, they keep doing their difficult task.

Their coolness under fire never ceases to amaze the aforementioned infantry vet.

"I was in World War II, Korea and this is my second tour in Vietnam," stated the platoon sergeant, affectionately known as "Poppa Frank" to his men, "and I saw troops break down and run when faced with the enemy. These guys? They'd fight with a stick and a hand tied behind their back. They are just plain tough."

These are the same men who share last cigarettes together, crawl through murderous enemy fire to pull back a wounded buddy and take over a platoon when an officer is disabled.



... is the guy who stands on the skids and jumps into the action on a combat assault.



... has experienced it all—blood, sweat and tears.



... will go anywhere, anytime to root out Charlie.



... is always ready for action. When it comes he reacts quickly.



... gets few hot meals in the field. The ones he does get are fully appreciated.

Cav Move, DMZ To III Corps

On Oct. 25, 1968, the 1st Air Cavalry Division area of operations was quiet. At Camp Evans, in the brigade bases, in isolated FOBs, Skytroopers looked out over an expanse of "Cav Country" they had tamed in nine months of bitter fighting. They had seized NVA caches in the razor-sharp, jungled mountains bordering the A Shau Valley. They had crippled the VC infrastructure and denied the enemy rice and recruits on the sandy, half-flooded plain between Hue and Quang Tri. They had provided safety and shelter for refugees. "Charlie" was on the run.

During the summer there had been rumors of a move. "With things so quiet," the men said, "they aren't going to leave the Cav here. They'll send us where the action is — maybe to the Delta, maybe back to An Khe, maybe to Da Nang. . ."

But no rumors were current when the order came to move the whole division — over 19,000 men, hundreds of vehicles and helicopters, tons of supplies — south to a new area of operations northwest of Saigon.

The Cav moved. The equivalent of a medium-sized U.S. town tore itself up by the roots, took wings, and landed at the other end of South Vietnam. Within days, the division was conducting combat operations in III Corps; within two weeks, everything was back to normal. Supplies were circulating. Paperwork flowed. And "Charlie," once again, was on the run.

NEW BASE CAMP

Instead of a "hot" landing zone, the Skytroopers found a well-built base camp manned by units of the 1st Infantry Division. SP4 David Bow said, "They met us at the airstrip, took us to our area, and helped us set up." Once oriented, the advance party began to prepare for the arrival of the rest of the brigade.

Build: First of the arriving units was the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, which flew to Quan Loi, paused for breath, and then combat-assaulted into the flat forested country near the border

to build its own base. On Nov. 1, the 27th dropped three companies, Battery A of the 219th Artillery, and two squads of engineers into a clearing five kilometers from Cambodia. The Skytroopers dug foxholes in the damp soil, set up observation posts, and began to build bunkers with steel planking, sandbags, logs, and sod. The engineers felled trees with chain saws and demolitions to clear fields of fire. In two days 181 helicopter sorties, many by big CH-47 Chinooks and CH-54 Flying Cranes, lifted food, ammunition, fortification materials, light vehicles, radios, tents, and other equipment. As the artillery pounded the nearby forest, empty ammo boxes were filled with earth and stacked into walls. "Nobody sits on his rear here," said Lieutenant Colonel Addison D. Davis III, the bat-

talion commander. "Dig down or build up, but hurry."

On Nov. 6, Company D of the 27th was probing into the forest when it received automatic weapons fire. Companies A and B were inserted into the fight, which broke off during the night and resumed the next morning. By noon on the 7th, 31 enemy dead had been counted. The communist force, an estimated battalion, had dispersed.

Air and Sea: The 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry moved to the new AO by both air sea. The battalion began packing on Oct. 27, strapping conex containers tightly to wooden pallets, forklifting them onto trucks, and driving the trucks to Hue for transport on Navy LSTs. On the 28th, the Skytroopers were camped on the Quang Tri airstrip, waiting for C-130 flights south.

Altogether, some remembered the month long fight for the relief of Hue in February, the leap to break the siege of Khe Sanh in March, the daring assault into the A Shau Valley. Others thought of the men who had died in I Corps. A chapter in the history of the 1st Cav was ending, and another was beginning.

COMBAT ASSAULT

On Oct. 29, the 28th reached Quan Loi. The men sorted out their combat gear and inspected their weapons. On the 31st, they assaulted into LZ Joe with an artillery preparation, air cover, and waves of supply choppers bringing up the rear. It was Halloween, but for the enemy there were no treats; aerial rocket artillery (ARA) ships blasted the woods, and the 28th rapidly began turning a former NVA base area into "Cav Country." The

occupation of LZ Joe was the first combat assault for the Skytroopers in III Corps.

On Oct. 27, the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry learned that it would be moving south in roughly a day and a half. Lieutenant Colonel James W. Dingeman, the battalion commander, made plans to pull his companies in from the mountains.

By the 28th, all the 2/12th's companies had reached Nancy. The men were told that they would have to carry enough food and ammunition to last two weeks. It wasn't known for certain when they would be resupplied.

Sandbags: Each Skytrooper had a case of C-rations in addition to his regular gear. Books, souvenirs, and other belongings were crammed into duffel bags. Some men carried extra bundles of sandbags. They joked about how unnecessary the sandbags were, but the veterans of Operation Pegasus at Khe Sanh knew they might come in handy. Even the spirit of Halloween was present, as one cavalryman hung a large plastic jack-o-lantern from his pack.

When word of the redeployment came on Oct. 27, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry had been stationed in the mountains, battling the enemy in Operation Comanche Falls, for two months. Now, as part of the 1st ("All The Way") Brigade, it would enter an entirely new situation.

III CORPS

By the morning of Nov. 2, all the companies were back at LZ Nancy, waiting to be taken to Camp Evans for the C-130 flight to III Corps.

Good and Bad Times: Finally the Skytroopers loaded their packs into the birds, seated themselves, and, as they rose, looked out over the mountains of I Corps. Clouds had gathered above the peaks; it was raining. There had been some real bad times out there, they thought, but some good times too.

What would the future hold? One soldier, quoting Albert Einstein, said, "I never think of the future. It comes soon enough."

TRIUMPH

The move was clearly a logistical triumph. By the evening of Oct. 31, 2,600 men and 61 helicopters had arrived in Quan Loi. By Nov. 10, 378 air sorties had been flown from Camp Evans with over 9,200 men aboard. Over 3,600 tons of equipment and vehicles had moved by air. The Navy LSTs had carried 2,800 passengers, 11,000 tons of equipment, 1,750 wheeled vehicles, and 27 helicopters. The rest of the Cav was coming fast.

As the 1st Infantry Division moved out of its bases, the Skytroopers moved in, setting up communications networks, making contact with ARVN units and Special Forces-advised CIDG groups, and learning as much as possible about the local enemy.

"Charlie" was already feeling the pinch, despite his sanctuary in nearby Cambodia. By Nov. 9, the 1st Cav, joining other allied units in the Toan Thang Offensive, had killed 109 enemy soldiers. On Nov. 14, 1st Cav firepower helped the 3rd Battalion, 36th ARVN Rangers repel an NVA assault on LZ Dot with almost 300 enemy killed. After a month in III Corps, the division by itself had accounted for over 1,100 VC and NVA dead.

Uniquely capable, uniquely successful in coping with the conditions of warfare in Southeast Asia, the division was well on its way to another distinguished entry in the annals of THE FIRST TEAM.



(U.S. Army Photo)

Movin' South

Cavalrymen board a C-130 at Camp Gorvad for the 500-mile journey to Phuoc Vinh and the division's new area of operations.

2/20, Duty Not Reward

By SP4 AL PERSONS

"Duty, not reward," a phrase very difficult for most men to live up to, is the motto of perhaps the most unique unit in the U.S. Army, the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion (ARA), 20th Artillery.

The unit is unique in that it employs a new concept in artillery, Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA). It replaces medium and heavy tube artillery, which can't be used effectively in an airborne unit.

ARA's strength is based upon the powerful Cobra helicopter, which has the equivalent firepower of three batteries of conventional tube artillery.

The 2nd Battalion (ARA), 20th Artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John H. Schnibben, is broken down into three fire batteries, A, B, and C Batteries, located in Tay Ninh, Phuoc Vinh, and Quan Loi respectively, and a Headquarters and Services Battery in Camp Gorvad.

Each fire battery has 12 Cobras, three rocket platoons of four aircraft each and a service platoon. Each platoon is made up of two sections with two aircraft each. The headquarters and Services Battery consists of the clerks, administrative specialists, communications depart-

ment, motor pool and other support personnel.

The mission of the battalion is fourfold. Its primary function is to support the infantry with ARA the same as conventional tube artillery. Instead of firing from guns in the rear, the Cobra carries the firepower right to the scene of the action.

The second mission is supporting the ground forces in combat assaults by preparation of the landing zone. Before the choppers arrive with the ground troops, the area is peppered by tube artillery. However, at least one minute before the choppers arrive, the artillery must stop for the safety of the assaulting Skytroopers. The Cobras fill that one minute gap, keeping Charlie's head down.

The third mission of the unit is very similar to landing zone preparation except that during the extraction of troops, the Cobra provides cover as the men board the helicopters to leave the area.

The fourth mission of the 2nd Battalion (ARA), 20th Artillery is known as the Night Mortar and Rocket Patrol. Every night from 1730 to 0700, above Phuoc Vinh, there is a Cobra patrolling the skies on the lookout for any mortar and rocket attacks. In event of an attack, the Cobra is there to take care of the situ-

ation. Based on past experience, Charlie knows the efficiency of the operation and therefore the Night Mortar and Rocket Patrol acts as a deterrent to any such attacks.

The Cobra is armed with 76 rockets, a minigun capable of firing 6000 rounds per minute, and a 40mm grenade launcher, capable of firing 400 rounds per minute. Within two minutes after receiving a call to action, the Cobra crew can have their ship in the air and on its way.

The 2nd Battalion (ARA), 20th Artillery began years earlier as an experimental unit with the 377th Artillery. It was given its final test in 1964 and passed with flying colors. In 1965, it joined the 1st Air Cavalry Division and was designated the 2nd Battalion (ARA), 20th Artillery.

The nickname of the unit, "Blue Max," originated back in World War I as the name of medal given to German pilots who shot down 25 planes in aerial flight. Baron von Richthofen, the "Red Baron," was the first to receive it.

Despite any amount of armament, it is the men who make up a unit and it is the men who make a unit great. The men of the 2nd Battalion (ARA), 20th Artillery have done this simply by living up to their motto: "Duty, not reward."

CavPUC

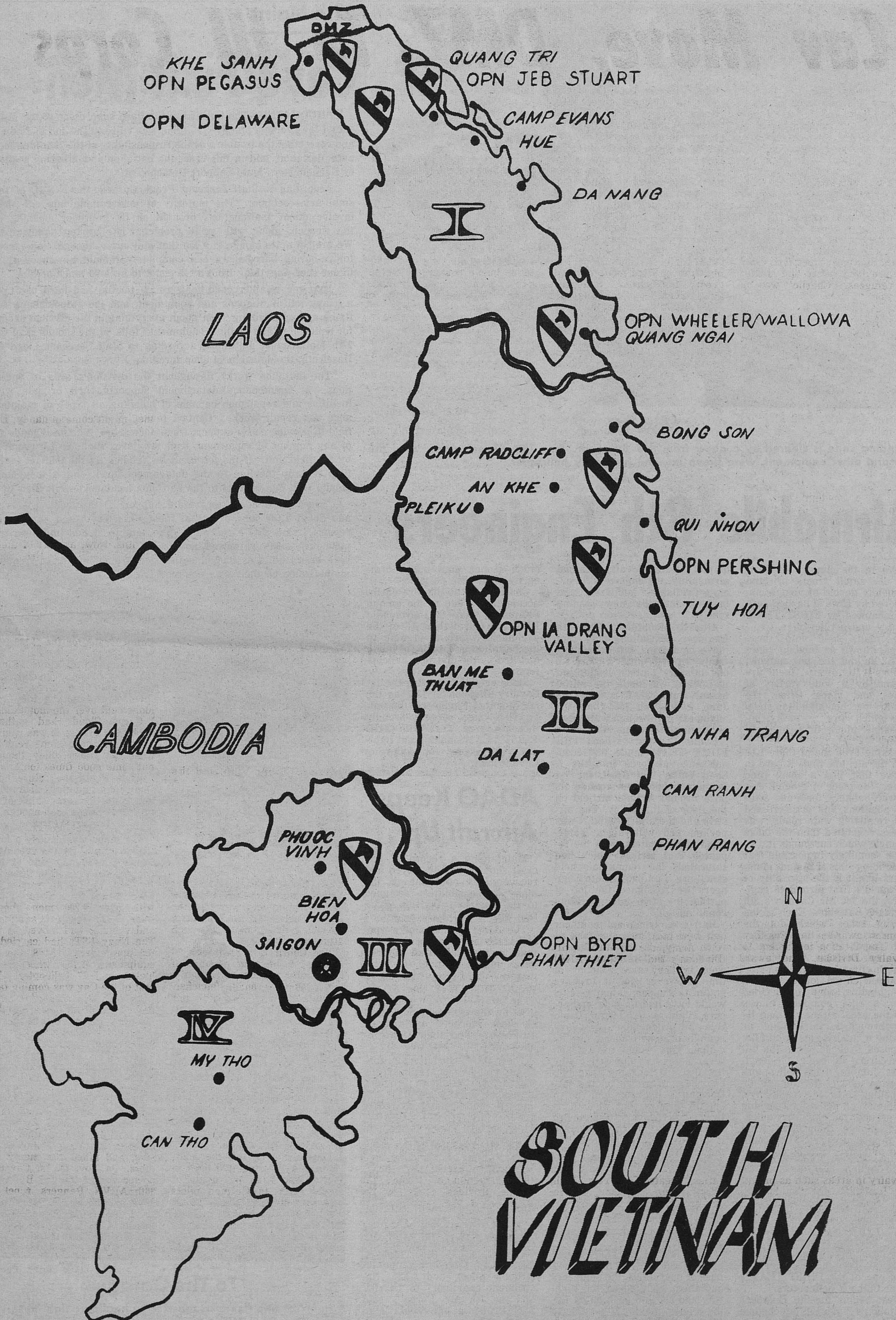
PHUOC VINH — On September 14, 1967, President Lyndon Johnson awarded the Presidential Unit Citation to the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The award was the first for a division-sized unit in Vietnam.

The Cav won the citation for its performance from October 23 to November 26, 1965, during the Pleiku Campaign.

The cavalrymen defeated a Viet Cong attack on the Plei Me Special Forces Camp and spoiled an enemy plan to attack Pleiku. In heavy fighting at Pleiku and in the Ia Drang Valley, the Skytroopers killed an estimated 3,561 enemy and captured 895 individual and 126 crew-served weapons.

The citation emphasized the civic action successes of the Cavalry in areas such as providing foodstuffs for the hungry, and clothing, medical supplies and money for the construction of a school.

All members of the 1st Cav are authorized to wear the Presidential Unit Citation while serving with the division. However, only those who served with the division during the period for which the award was presented may wear the citation after leaving the Cav.



KHE SANH
OPN PEGASUS
OPN DELAWARE

QUANG TRI
OPN JEB STUART

CAMP EVANS
HUE

DA NANG

LAOS

OPN WHEELER/WALLOWA
QUANG NGAI

BONG SON

CAMP RADCLIFF
AN KHE
PLEIKU

QUI NHON

OPN PERSHING

TUY HOA

OPN IA DRANG
VALLEY

BAN ME
THUAT

CAMBODIA

II

NHA TRANG

DA LAT

CAM RANH

PHAN RANG

PHUOC
VINH

BIEN
HOA

SAIGON

OPN BYRD
PHAN THIET

IV

MY THO

CAN THO

**SOUTH
VIETNAM**



(U.S. Army Photo)

New LZ

A landing zone is cleared by a dozer from the 8th Engr. Bn. The dozer, along with the men and other equipment, were flown into the jungle by helicopter.

Airmobile 8th Engineers

Deep in the jungles of Vietnam lie small tracts of land completely devoid of vegetation, bordered by rows of barbed wire and inhabited by FIRST TEAM infantry and artillerymen.

No roads lead into these camps, known as landing zones (or LZ's) and the few narrow, winding trails around them are covered by a wide variety of bushes and vines. Often, the LZ's are perched high atop steep hills which are virtually inaccessible other than by helicopter.

Looking over one of these LZs from the air, one finds it hard to believe that just a short time earlier, the piece of ground, dotted with bunkers, tents and artillery positions and criss-crossed with relatively wide roads, was no less vegetated than the maze of jungle which surrounds it.

The seemingly impossible feat of building this LZ and many others like it is the speciality of the world's first airmobile engineers, the 1st Air Cavalry's 8th Engineer Battalion. Each of the landing zones which dot the jungle from Khe Sanh to Tay Ninh stands as a monument to these hardworking, fast-moving combat engineers.

Rappel: When location for a new landing zone is decided upon, a rifle company moves into the area, either hacking its way through the thick foliage or making a combat rappel into the proposed firebase. Once the hill is secured, in come the engineers, jumping from helicopters hovering above the foliage or rappelling into the company's perimeter of defense. Touching the ground, the engineers quickly disengage themselves from the rappelling ropes. Then chain saws and boxes of bangalore torpedoes are lowered to them from the helicopter.

Now the work begins. The engineers strip off their heavy packs and web gear, start their chain saws and begin to clear the landing zone. Felling trees, blowing stumps and cutting down brush, the engineers clear an area large enough to land one of the FIRST TEAM's giant Chinook helicopters.

Next begins the 8th Engineer Battalion's "overkill" technique of LZ construction. Making use

of the 1st Air Cavalry's famed airmobility, the engineers fly every available bulldozer and backhoe into the new landing zone.

Altered Mountains: The 8th Engineer Battalion may not move mountains, but it has certainly altered quite a few. As one infantry platoon leader put it, "When we made the initial assault into what is now LZ Jane, it was hill 765. Once the engineers got through with those bulldozers, it became hill 756."

Bomb Craters: When THE FIRST TEAM made its reconnaissance in force into the A Shau Valley last April, the 1st Brigade headquarters made its base around A Luoi airfield on the floor of the valley. The airstrip and the area around it was pockmarked with deep, water-filled bomb craters from the repeated B-52 strikes which had saturated the communist-held sanctuary. Company A, 8th Engineers was assigned the job of putting the strip into operating condition.

Had a conventional engineer unit been assigned the task of repairing the A Luoi airstrip, it could have performed the actual work in the same amount of time. However, for it to have gotten to the job, 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. This would have taken several days as opposed to the few hours it took the airmobile engineers to arrive on the job. Opening a highway can be a lengthy project, but when done by the "Skybeavers" (as they're often called), the time required is greatly reduced. One of the major tasks of Operation Pegasus, during which the division relieved the besieged Marine base at Khe Sanh, was the opening of Highway Nine. As Marine engineers swept the road on the long trek to the beleaguered base, the 8th Engineers replaced destroyed bridges.

After fabricating 14,000 pound bridges at the division's LZ Stud base of operations, the engineers had them airlifted to the highway and set into position by flying cranes, making it possible to resupply Khe Sanh by truck

much sooner than might ordinarily have been possible.

Chores such as this are easily accomplished due to the unique equipment that the airmobile Eighth has available. All of the equipment which is organic to the battalion is capable of being airlifted by the divisions helicopters.

Since originally joining the 1st Cavalry Division in 1921 as the 8th Mounted Engineers, the battalion has served proudly through three wars with THE FIRST TEAM, making the fighting a bit easier for following Cavalrymen.

ADAO Keeps Aircraft Up

Maintaining a record of aircraft shot at, hit, destroyed and recovered is only one of the many responsibilities assigned to the Assistant Division Aviation Officer (ADAO).

The ADAO consists of a special staff that informs the commanding general on all matters pertaining to aviation.

According to SSG Clyde Pruitt, NCOIC of the ADAO, "The staff is responsible for briefing the commanding general each morning on aircraft availability and their performance during the past week."

The ADAO schedules divisional and non-divisional support for the various battalions, provides statistical data when it is requested and compiles weekly and monthly reports for USARV, which in turn forwards them to Department of the Army.

The reports, taking up to 16 hours complete, consist of the aircraft's daily routine — the number of combat assaults, passengers and tons of cargo carried, flying hours and hours the crafts are operationally ready.

"We're also responsible for forwarding various requests received from I.P. (instructor pilot), S.I.P. (standardization instructor pilot), and I.E.X. (instrument examiner) to USARV and the 7th Air Force", said SSG Pruitt, a native of Tallahassee, Fla.

27th Maint

Cav's Fixit Men

PHUOC VINH—The tag tied to the flash suppressor of the M-16 stated the problem simply . . . "She won't fire." The job of finding and correcting the trouble was the responsibility of the 27th Maintenance Battalion, and in this case, the battalion's small-arms section of Headquarters Main Support Detachment.

According to Staff Sergeant Frank Cornell, the NCOIC of the small-arms section, "The majority of jobs coming into our shop involve minor malfunctions brought on by improper cleaning of the weapon, along with small problems like broken handguards. We are set up to handle any job that may arise, though, and except for re-boring barrels, we can completely rebuild a weapon right in our shop—anything from a .45 pistol to an M60 machine gun."

Extreme weather conditions, rough terrain and hard use take a heavy toll of weapons and equipment, and the responsibility for fixing and maintaining "just about everything in the division except for helicopters and medical equipment" falls on the shoulders of the 27th Maintenance Battalion, according to Staff Sergeant Lloyd E. Haselroth, the detachment shop foreman.

The battalion works throughout the division's area of operations. A maintenance detachment supports each brigade with facilities and repairmen capable of handling all types of maintenance and repair work. "Contact teams" are sent to units in the field to provide closer support when necessary. A team is made up of any number of repairmen, from whatever sections are required by the field unit. If the job can't be handled by the contact team, it is sent up the line to the detachment level, and if they can't handle it, it can be sent to the battalion headquarters at Bien Hoa.

"Here at Headquarters Main Support Detachment, we average about 1,600 jobs a month, mostly electronic and small-arms repairs," said SSG Haselroth. "The equipment has improved tremendously since we moved here from Camp Evans. The conditions here aren't quite as bad, and the men are pulling more frequent maintenance on their own equipment."



(U.S. Army Photo)

To The Garage

A Huey lift ship flexes its muscles by hauling a light observation helicopter (LOH) in for repairs.

FAC Spells Doom For Chuck

By SP5 Steve Haldeman

PHUOC VINH — The intense whine of a torquing jet engine and the explosion of the bomb reach your ears simultaneously. These sounds of the air strike are music to your ears. For Charlie, they're his Swan Song.

When aerial rocket artillery (ARA) and gunships aren't able to uproot the enemy, an air-strike will usually do the job.

The success of the air strike is mainly due to one man — an Air Force officer flitting about dangerously low over the contact area in a small, single-engine Cessna.

The forward air controller

(FAC), who works directly with the 1st Air Cavalry Division, rendezvoused the fighters, marked the target, and talked the jets in on the strike.

An immediate call for an air strike such as this is mainly handled by the FAC with assistance from the Air Liaison Officer (ALO). The ALO advises the Army as to proper ordnance plus rounds up the fighters for the strike.

The FAC also directs pre-planned air strikes, most often at empty bunker complexes that should be destroyed, denying the enemy their use.

At noon, Captain John Ewing, a FAC working with the 2nd Brigade, pulls his bird-dog off the

runway at Quan Loi and heads for a bunker complex near the Cambodian border.

After thoroughly reconning the area, CPT Ewing contacts the fighter pilot.

"Killer Spade, this is Rash 24. Rendezvous over the black airstrip with the Special Forces Camp to the November (north) while I put some smoke on the target."

The captain flips his aircraft around and puts it into a dive at the bunkers, releases one of eight smoke rockets slung under the wings, and quickly climbs out of the dive.

"Killer Spade, you are cleared for approach. Make your drop 20 meters to the left of the smoke."

The fighter-bomber crashes past the target. There is a flash of fire, a billow of smoke and the roar of the exploding bomb, all coming up to meet the FAC and his little plane who are orbiting low near the strike area.

"Killer Spade, this is Rash 24. We were pretty close with that one. Let's put the next one about 10 meters to the right and we'll be right on."

Again the jet drops over the target, dropping the load precisely where the captain instructed.

"That got in Killer Spade, right on target. Thanks a lot, over."

"Actually the FAC does much, much more than just direct air strikes," said Captain Willy Preciado, a veteran FAC with more than 1,000 hours over Vietnam. "We direct artillery, ARA, and Spookey. We can also be very useful to the infantry in many other ways. We spot trails, look for a good night position, see if there is a possible ambush sight ahead and if the infantry needs a landing zone real quick and does not know where the nearest one is, we'll locate one for them. We can also check position for a ground unit that happens to become 'misorientated'."

"The most personally gratifying mission I've had was at a landing zone near Cu Chi," said CPT Preciado. "I was juggling three radio pushes (frequencies) as I talked to the ground units, the fighter pilots and artillery. We brought everything in that night — ARA, artillery, gunships, four Spookeys were expended and we had 11 air strikes."

It is this kind of expertise the Cav has working for it when air power is needed.

"Always, contact with the enemy is lost after an air strike," stated CPT Preciado.

Blackhats

PHUOC VINH — The numerous supply helicopters supporting 1st Air Cavalry Division units at landing zones (LZ) are in constant need of tactical and navigational guidance when coming into one of these bases.

The men who provide this for the division are members of the 11th Pathfinder Platoon. Better known as "Black Hats", the airborne-qualified soldiers are part of the 11th Aviation Group.

According to First Lieutenant Floyd Harrell, the team commander, the unit's main mission is to "provide navigational assistance for all military aircraft as designated by the unit commander."

The numerous bases opened for air traffic have all been serviced by the Pathfinders. At times it is a demanding job for the 18-man platoon. One such case was the mass move staged by the division in early November 1968 from northern I Corps to the III Corps Tactical Zone. Each infantry battalion needed an LZ, which is generally opened by a two-man Pathfinder team.

"For opening a few of the LZ's, we used as many as six men. This was due to the tremendous amounts of supplies and men making the move. It sure was hectic, but we managed," stated Corporal Vic Roszczewski, a member of the 1st Brigade Pathfinders.

Recently few new LZ's have been opened. Black Hats control the air traffic coming into and departing the bases. Other Pathfinders go out with ground elements, and, at times, have to call in medevac helicopters.

"The medevac pilots depend on us for vital tactical and weather information. If we're in contact, it's a demanding job, but we'll go out of our way to help the 'grunts'," stated CPL Roszczewski.



(U.S. Army Photo)

Bomb Run

The jet fighter bombing an enemy position, relieving beleaguered Skytroopers, was directed on his run by an Air Force FAC.

1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav Has Role Of Eyes and Ears Of Division

PHUOC VINH — The 'Eyes and Ears' of the 1st Cav, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, has achieved an outstanding record in its unique reconnaissance and combat role with THE FIRST TEAM in Vietnam.

The squadron has four troops (companies), three helicopter units and a ground unit called the 'Blues.' Company H, Rangers, 75th Infantry and the Combat Tracker Team, a tracker dog platoon from the 62nd Infantry, are also attached to the 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav.

The main job of the squadron is scouting. When a report of suspected enemy movement reaches the squadron headquarters, two birds are inserted in the area.

One ship flies at treetop level, scouting and acting as bait for 'Charlie' while a gunship remains high. When the enemy is spotted or the decoy bird draws fire, the weapons helicopter swoops down to engage the target.

The 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav was constituted as the 9th Cavalry Regiment on July 28, 1866, with its headquarters at Greenville, La.

During the days of horseback soldiers and Indian Wars, the 9th Cavalry earned campaign streamers for its heroic actions at Pine Ridge, against the Comanches in New Mexico, and the Utes in Montana. The unit fought courageously in the war with Spain and the Philippine insurrection.

The 9th was assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Division in 1940 and

served with honor and distinction until it was deactivated in 1944. It was converted, redesignated the 509th Tank Battalion and relieved from assignment to the 2nd Cav in 1950. Twelve days later it was reactivated at Camp Polk, La., but was deactivated a second time in 1956 at Fort Knox, Ky.

In 1957 the unit was redesignated Troop A, 9th Cavalry, and on November 1, 1957, it became Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, 9th Cavalry, and was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. The Cav at that time was located in Korea and the squadron assumed the responsibility of patrolling and observing the DMZ.

In Vietnam, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry became an essential fighting element for the Division. Its four troops soon became the most fearsome opponents for the communist insurgents.

The Squadron has seized large amounts of enemy weapons and equipment and accounted for 31 per cent of all the 1st Cav's enemy kills.

One of the more successful operations for the 1st Sqdrn, 9th Cav was Operation Pershing. From early 1967 to 1968, this unit thwarted enemy attempts to reinforce or withdraw from the Bong Son area.

The Squadron alone accounted for 513 NVA soldiers killed and 1,214 Viet Cong eliminated.

In January, 1968, the Cav moved north to the DMZ. Soon after their arrival, the commu-

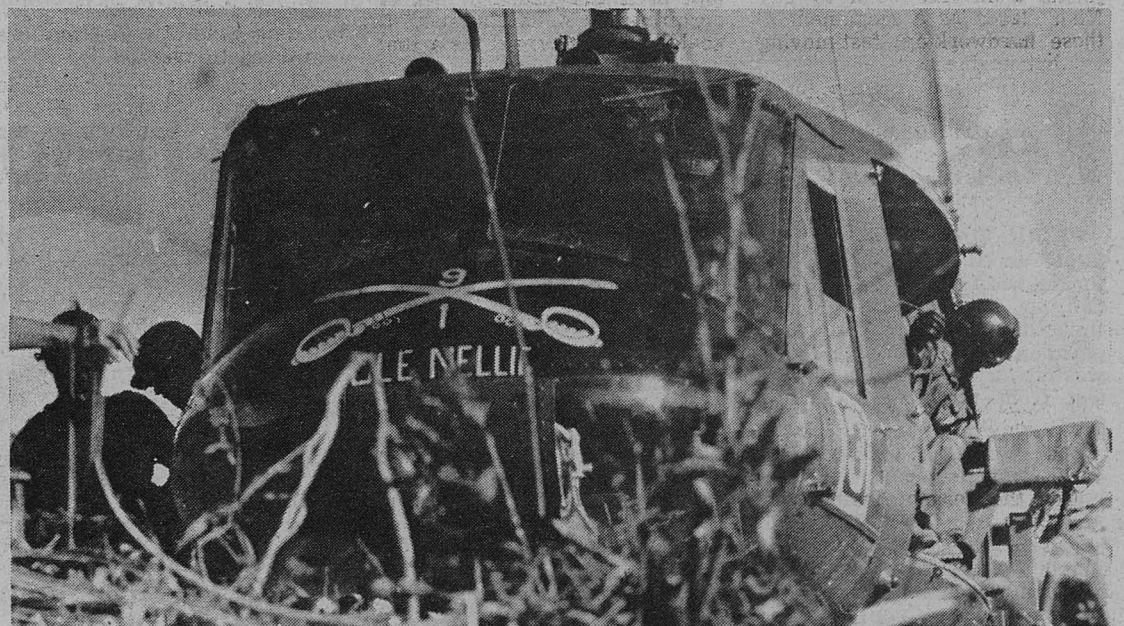
nist Tet offensive broke out. The squadron was right in the middle of it in the Cav's Operation Jeb Stuart.

The success of their missions was due also to the new, small, speedy Light Observation Helicopter (LOH), which allowed crewmen to spot enemy soldiers and emplacements that might remain concealed when viewed from a higher altitude.

Decorated Cavalry Units

- MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATIONS**
- 8th Engr Bn (3rd OLC)
 - 11th Aviation Gp
 - 13th Signal Bn
 - 15th Admin Co (3rd OLC)
 - 27th Transportation Bn
 - 1st Bn, 30th Arty
 - 1st Bn, 21st Arty
 - Btry E, 82nd Arty
 - 228th ASHB (1st OLC)
 - 545th MF Det
 - Division Artillery
- PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONS**
- 1st Air Cavalry Division
 - Co's A and C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav (1st OLC) (Co A, 2nd OLC)

- 1st Bn, 8th Cav (1st OLC) (less Co A)
 - 1st Bn, 12th Cav (1st OLC)
 - *OLC-Oak Leaf Cluster
- VALOROUS UNIT AWARDS**
- 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
 - Co B, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
 - Trp B, 1st Sqdr, 9th Cav
 - 3rd Plt, Co B, 8th Engr Bn
 - 228th Pathfinder Team, Pathfinder Plt, 11th Aviation Gp
 - 15th Med Bn
 - 1st Bn, 77th Arty
 - FO Section, Btry A, 1st Bn, 77th Arty
 - 1st and 4th Scout Dog Team, 40th Inf Plt
 - Air Crew, Aircraft #65-12861, Aviation Plt, HHC, 2nd Bde



(U.S. Army Photo)

Ole Nellie

A Huey helicopter, affectionately nicknamed "Ole Nellie" by the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, nestles in for a landing.

Rangers Fight Silent Jungle War

(Editor's Note: As of February 1, 1969, Company E, 52nd Infantry is designated as Company H, Rangers, 75th Infantry. They were formerly known throughout Cav Country as Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols or LRRPs.)

SP5 TOM DOTSON

Ranger Team No. 34, an element of the 1st Cav's Company H, 75th Infantry, had just returned from the field, and, although their average age is 19 years, the men strongly resembled characters from the film "The Dirty Dozen." Their boots were covered with fresh, damp mud, camouflage fatigues and makeup were still in place, fragmentation grenades still hung from straps on their backs. They were standing in a group, scanning a backlog of mail.

"How many letters you get, Chico?" inquired John Hutter, a tall, thin Specialist 4, and the team's radio-telephone operator. He was addressing SP4 Augustine Garcia, the group's medic.

"Nine," smiled Garcia. "Everybody loves Chico. Si?"

"Si my —," grunted SP4 Paul O'Brien, the team leader. "They're probably bills. Everybody loves Chico's money."

"Who are you kidding?" asked

Sgt. Micheal Echterling, the assistant leader. "Chico doesn't have any money. Everybody knows that. They must just love Chico."

"Couldn't be," said Hutter. "Ever take a good look at Chico?"

Everyone, including Garcia, laughed.

The men stood around for a time like this, laughing, needling each other, unwinding after being in the field. Eventually, the discussion grew a bit more serious and Paul O'Brien explained the fine points of a Company H, 75th Infantry patrol.

"We have specific missions for each patrol, but basically what we're doing is trying to find Charlie's position. When we do find it, which most of the time we do, we relay the location back to the base camp and they take over from there."

By "taking over from there" O'Brien meant that the usual procedure is the calling in of ae-

rial rocket artillery (ARA), tube artillery, and, if necessary, air strikes on enemy positions.

"We rarely make contact with Charlie ourselves," continued O'Brien. "That's not our job. Our job is to find him. The only way we fire ourselves is if we're spotted. The key to the whole thing is finding out where Charlie is, but keeping hidden yourself. In a way it's like the kid's game of hide and seek."

For an operation that is in "a way like a kid's game," Ranger teams take a lot of chances. Members are usually miles from the nearest friendly forces and their only source of protection is the radio-telephone that keeps them in contact with the rear areas. "That's really enough," said Echterling. "Usually minutes after we make a call, all sorts of stuff is dropping in on enemy locations. We just sort of sit back, cool it, and watch the artillery and air strikes work out."

If the enemy force discovered is large enough, the Rangers can request airmobile combat assaults of infantry units. "I bet Charlie wonders what's going on

when he sees all those birds flying in," grinned O'Brien.

Ranger Teams of Company H, 75th Infantry are strictly volunteer. Squad members usually have previous infantry training before coming to the unit, and many are airborne qualified.

Upon joining the 75th Infantry, each future Ranger goes through a 12-day training period, where he is made qualified to perform the duties of a radio-telephone operator, medic, and scout. Other courses offered in the school are combat intelligence, map reading, the use of ropes, and escape and evasion. By the time a man completes the course he is as fully qualified to call in artillery on enemy locations or treat the wounded as most artillery and medical specialists.

At one time or another, most Rangers travel to Nha Trang for a special course in long range patrols. The school is operated by the 5th Special Forces, lasts three weeks, and goes deeper into the art of jungle patrolling.

Situation: Strange as it may seem, most Rangers seem to en-

joy their work. Paul O'Brien said that he wouldn't trade his job "for any other in the Cav."

Of course, there are certain times when probably every long range specialist wishes he were behind a desk somewhere. Michael Echterling described one such situation:

"We were on the third day of this one mission. We were moving down a hill toward a stream and river junction. We stopped, hearing what we estimated to be 10 to 12 enemy soldiers at a creek getting water. Being on the west slope, we moved back up the hill and started down the east slope when we ran face to face into a squad of NVA. They didn't know how many of us were around, so they beat a trail through the brush. We couldn't get communications back to the base area because we were on the wrong side of the hill — our relay was blocked. We took up a position and looking down the slope, we could see bushes and brush everywhere moving. We knew then we were dealing with a large force.

"The only thing we could do was move to the top of the hill so we could get commo. We did and it worked. Within minutes a chopper was in, picked us up, and as we were flying away we could hear the aerial artillery pounding the position. Air strikes came in later and blasted some more. The following day a line company moved through the area and discovered that we had been surrounded by a battalion. If we hadn't gotten communications when we did, it could have been bad."

It doesn't happen every time they go out, but once could be enough. The Rangers of the 75th Infantry don't seem to think about the dangers involved too terribly much. "What we think about most of the time," said Paul O'Brien, "is finding the enemy and getting fire power brought in on him when we do. Any other stuff that pops up after that is sort of like extra duty."

Call Home On MARS

"Hello, Mom? Over."

"Hello, Tom, how are you? Over."

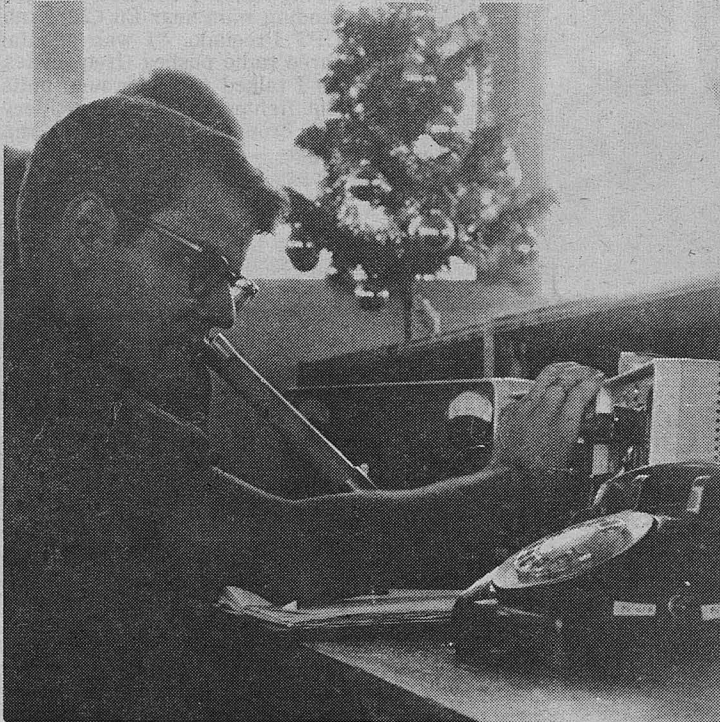
"I'm fine, Mom. How are Dad and Jimmy? Over."

And so it goes as Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division use the facilities of the division's MARS (Military Affiliated Radio Station) at Camp Gorvad to gather up a few minutes of happiness and converse with their loved ones back in "The World."

The station operates on a seven-day-a-week basis. Calls are placed through to the States every day and every odd-numbered night.

The station, which uses a high-powered radio, is operated by members of the FIRST TEAM's 13th Signal Battalion.

It contacts amateur radio stations in the States, and these stations contact local operators who in turn call collect to your home. There is no charge for the use of the facilities at Phuoc Vinh. The only expense for the call is the charge from the stateside station which has contacted the Cav's MARS station to the place being called.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Can You Hear Me?

A technician at the MARS station at Camp Gorvad places a call to 'the world', in hopes of letting a fellow Skytrooper speak to loved ones back home.

Red Cross Ready To Help

PHUOC VINH — An expectant father paced nervously, waiting for the word from the doctor. At two p.m. it came — a boy! But the proud papa didn't get the opportunity to pass out cigars — it was his turn to move out on patrol from his lonely landing zone.

The Skytrooper got the message about the new arrival from "the GI's best friend," the American Red Cross. This case, however, represents only a fraction of the services it provides to the members of the division.

The division's eight Red Cross workers, located in offices at Camp Gorvad, Tay Ninh, Quan Loi, and An Khe, are all available 24 hours a day to handle any personal emergencies a Cavalryman may have.

The Red Cross can assist with emergency communications when normal communications won't do the job. It can also transmit money rapidly to and from the United States when deposited by a soldier or his family.

Emergencies in the immediate family are relayed, via the unit commander, to the individual serviceman, along with the family's request for the soldier's presence at home when necessary.

All of the division's Red Cross officers can grant interest-free loans when emergencies arise. Conditions under which loans can be extended include emergency transportation, family assistance, and personal needs. Loans may be repaid either in cash or by allotment.

"Most of our work," said Field Director David Withall, "is in maintaining family communications. If a man doesn't write, and his mother or wife is worried, she'll get in touch with the office in her town, and then we are notified. We in turn get word back—usually that her son or husband is all right."

"When the family receives word that a man has been wounded, we track him down and relay the extent of his injuries."

"A large part of our work is concerned with approval of emergency leaves and notification of illnesses or deaths of next of kin. Also in this area, we make loans to men so they can get home and back while on emergency leave. Most loans range around \$300."

15th TC's Job To Keep Choppers Up

BEARCAT — Keeping the 'air' in 1st Air Cav is the job of a unit 1,300 strong — the 15th Transportation Battalion (Aircraft Maintenance and Supply), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Albert W. Schlim. It is charged with keeping every one of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's more than 400 aircraft flying.

Some staggering statistics help tell the story of the 15th Trans Bn. In one two-month period the battalion repaired and released over 1,000 aircraft. In doing so, over 13,000 requisitions were processed and 300 tons of parts and supplies were handled. In a typical month the battalion works nearly a quarter-million man-hours on thousands of adjustments, replacements, dismantlings and reassemblies.

Mechanics, technicians, and specialists work from dawn to dusk, day after day, on four different kinds of Huey helicopters, LOH's, Cobra's, Chinooks, and even fixed-wing Mohawks.

Tedious attention to every detail, no matter how small, is of paramount importance. The lives of pilots and their crews depend upon the adeptness of the repair crews. A misplaced piece of wire, an improper torque on a nut, or a slipshod bit of maintenance can mean death hundreds of feet in the air over hostile territory. The term, "close enough for government work" never applies to the 15th Transportation Battalion.

Formerly the unit was known as the 15th Aviation Battalion. When it moved to Vietnam in 1963 with the Cav its name was changed. Since arriving in Vietnam the battalion has rendered support and participated in every major campaign involving the division.

The labors of the battalion's members are reflected daily as their repaired aircraft wither enemy strength.



Ranger On Patrol

All Skytroopers Entitled To Out-Country R&R

PHUOC VINH — One of the first questions asked by new Skytroopers is, "When and where can I go on R&R and what do I have to do?"

Every serviceman assigned to Vietnam is entitled to one out-of-country R&R during a one-year tour and is eligible after 90 days in-country. A seven-day leave may also be granted but it is up to the discretion of your commanding officer.

There are ten locations outside Vietnam and a three-day in-country R&R at Vung Tau available to weary soldiers.

Five days and nights are in the offing if your choice happens to be Hong Kong, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Taipei, Singapore, Manila or Penang. If Australia, Japan, or Hawaii is your choice, it will mean six days of rest and relaxation.

Application for R&R must be filed 90 days before you want to leave. R&R orders are issued by the R&R Center at least 15 days prior to your departure date. They are then forwarded to your parent unit for distribution to you. If you fail to receive your orders at least four days prior to your confirmed departure date, still report to the R&R Center a minimum of two days before you are to leave.

Civilian clothes are optional wear for everybody on R&R aircraft (including leave) heading for all R&R sites except Hong Kong and Taipei. The complete khaki uniform will be worn aboard R&R aircraft to and from these two places.

To board the aircraft you must have shot record, ID card, identification tags and orders. Shots must be up-to-date. The cholera immunization must be administered at least five days before departure, smallpox two weeks in advance, and cholera within six months except when going to Bangkok which is four months.

To make your R&R that once-in-a-lifetime event you'll never forget, carefully choose your site and plan your trip beforehand.



Vung Tau

Vung Tau, the in-country R & R Center, offers sun, sand and nightlife for the weary soldier.

Vung Tau R&R Boasts Beautiful Beaches, Women

The French call it Cap Saint Jacques; the Vietnamese call it Vung Tau; and the Americans haven't had time to call it anything less than great.

Located 77 miles east of Saigon (15 minutes via C-130), Vung Tau, a one time resort area for the French, has become a serene Rest and Recuperation center for weary American soldiers.

Few spots in Vietnam could offer more to get away from dreary front lines, rear lines, and mess lines — as more troops are finding out every day.

The picturesque, natural setting has been matched by an excellent R & R Center for the enlisted man and the company grade officer, on a quota basis.

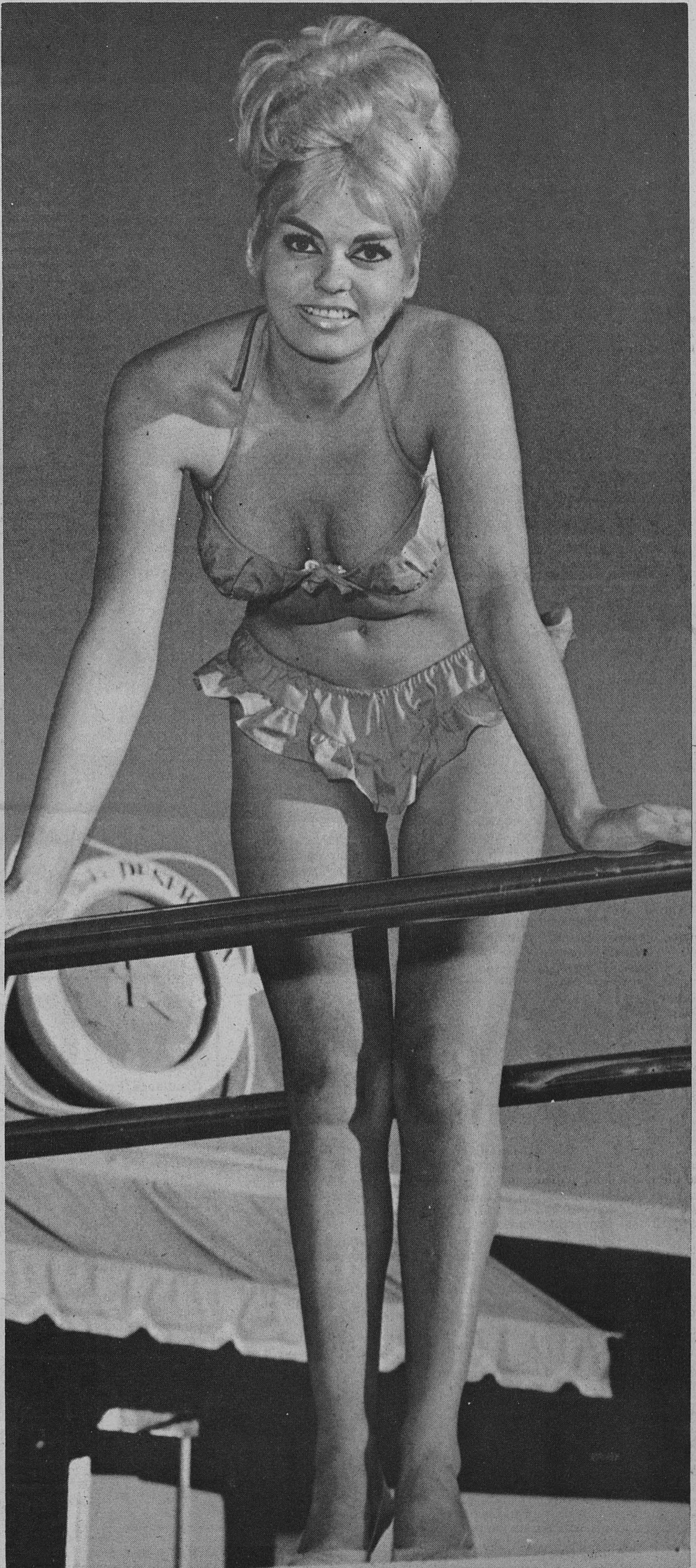
Because of the deluxe military facilities, Vung Tau has been turned into an inexpensive three days of sun, sand, and surf which compares favorably to a \$500-\$700 bash in Bangkok or Tokyo.

Billeting, meals, and maid service at the modern R & R

Center are free of charge. The food tastes too much like military fare, but is at least served on individual plates in an air-conditioned room.

The R&R Center also offers a PX, a chapel, free movies, and a library. The bar is open daily, with live entertainment nightly, and features a Happy Hour every night. There is also a first-rate air-conditioned restaurant, whose menu includes charcoal-broiled steaks and ice cream sundaes.

If there is one never-ending quality at Vung Tau, it is sun. All day long, troops who look like civilians for the first time in months hop military buses for a short ride to the back beach. The water is always a little rougher there and the bikini-clad Vietnamese beauties a little groovier on the back beach, one of four swimming and surfing beaches. The water is warm, and swimming, fishing, boating, and water skiing are available daily.



Pop Smoke!

Giving the order is lovely Suzanne Briggs as she prepares to guide in new Skytroopers to the Cav. How is that for a welcoming committee? Welcome to the FIRST TEAM!

Cav History Is Proud Century

The helicopter and M-16 have replaced the horse, saber and breech-loaded Springfield rifle, but the cavalryman still responds to the cry "Saddle up!"

Across 103 years of recorded history the mainline of the 1st Air Cavalry Division—the individual soldier—has changed little. The man who drove the communists from Vietnam's Central Highlands is the same rugged, determined and professionally qualified soldier who opened the American West in the 1800's.

It was the same cavalry regiments that settled the Old West — the 1st, 5th, 7th and 8th — that originally made up the 1st Cavalry Division when the unit was activated on September 13, 1921.

These units brought with them a proud military history written on the battlefields of the Indian Wars. Descendants of these mounted units are still integral to the 1st Air Cavalry Division today.

The most publicized of these regiments was the 7th Cavalry. Activated in 1866 at Ft. Riley, Kan., this is the unit General George A. Custer immortalized when he and his "Garry Owen" troopers fought to the death against the Sioux in the Battle of

the Little Big Horn.

The 8th and 9th Cavalry Regiments were also formed in 1866.

The 8th Cavalry Regiment was organized to repel hostile Indians in the American Southwest. Among the legendary feats accomplished by the 8th was a 2,000 mile march by horseback from Ft. Concho, Tex., to Montana and South Dakota.

The 9th Cavalry Regiment, famous for its unique reconnaissance mission with the division, also has Indian War exploits in its heritage. It defeated the rebellious Apache and Comanche tribes. The 9th Cav, however, did not join the division's rolls until 1957.

The oldest of the 1st Air Cav's elements was formed in 1855

when Congress redesignated the 2nd Cavalry Regiment the 5th Cav. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the unit's first commander, Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee, resigned to lead the armies of the South. The 5th later distinguished itself in the battles of Vicksburg, Bull Run,

and the Shenandoah Valley. The unit was also on hand for Lee's surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant.

From this heritage was molded the 1st Cavalry Division. But it would be 22 years from that September 13, 1921, Organization Day before the division would

get a chance to prove itself in combat.

In February, 1943, the division received alert orders and began turning in its horses and changed over to a dismounted unit.

The division's first operation in the Pacific was on February 29, 1944, when it made an amphibious landing on Los Negros Island in the Admiralty Islands. When the 1st Cav's guns ceased, over 7,000 Japanese had fallen.

"Saddle up!" The division was moving north toward its next target — the Philippines.

The Pacific commander, General Douglas MacArthur, gave the division this message:

"Go to Manila; free the prisoners at Santo Tomas; take Malacanang Palace and the Legislative Building."

At 0001 hours on February 1, 1945, a "Flying Column" from the division jumped off on a 100-mile lightning thrust to Manila. Sixty-six hours later it crashed into surprised Japanese defenders on the outskirts of the city and freed the Santo Tomas prisoners. The remainder of the division followed in the wake of the task force and Manila was under Allied control.

At the end of WW II General MacArthur ordered the division to accompany him to Tokyo and serve as part of the Eighth Army's occupation force. The Cav performed this mission until early July, 1950.

This same year the North Koreans started attacking South Korea and the division was ordered to the immediate assistance of the South Korean government.

THE FIRST TEAM lived up to its name as it scored an impressive victory as it rolled into the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

In 1965 President Lyndon Johnson issued these words:

"I have today ordered to Vietnam the Airmobile Division."

The division, now designated the 1st Air Cavalry Division, was the first full division committed to South Vietnam.

Health Must In VN

PHUOC VINH — Staying healthy is a must for every serviceman in Vietnam. Providing preventive care for yourself is one of the surest ways to stay healthy.

Diseases alone account for almost 70 per cent of all admissions to military medical facilities. To combat this, rules have been laid down for all men and women with the Armed Forces.

When going on R&R, leave, TDY, or returning to the U.S., all service members should check through their unit dispensary at least a week prior to departure to be certain their shot records are up to date.

Most of the intestinal diseases may be avoided by following these rules:

1) When in doubt about the

condition of water, purify it with iodine water purification tablets or boil it for 20 minutes. Water is safe to drink only if it has been properly treated.

2) Avoid all ice unless positive it was made at a U.S. military facility.

3) Avoid Vietnamese brands of soft drinks except "Coca Cola" and the "BGI" brand with a picture of a tiger on the bottle.

4) Avoid Vietnamese beers except "Bier Larue" and "Export 33."

5) Buy no liquor on the market even if it has a U.S. or Canadian label.

6) When eating in other than U.S. military installations, eat only well-cooked foods which are served hot or fruits which can be peeled immediately before consumption. Avoid salads and ice.



(U.S. Army Photo)

Wheeeeeee!!

A new member of THE FIRST TEAM rappells off the Division Training Center tower. Every Cavalryman receives valuable instruction which prepares him for his tour of duty in Vietnam.

Cav Charm...

(Continued From Page 1)

tics. A short, practical application of these tactics, complete with the sounds of combat, is terminated with live fire at silhouette targets.

A direct-fire artillery demonstration, with a 105mm howitzer battery at An Khe deftly placing rounds in view of its audience, fills most of the afternoon. A volunteer from the training company is even allowed to direct a fire mission.

With nightfall an air of apprehension and tenseness prevails throughout the entire group. The green line is to your back and "Charley" is known to be operating in the area. Foxholes are manned around the perimeter while 25 from the training group position themselves on the rifle range for night firing. Everybody gets his chance on the line and in the foxhole.

"Man, if anything moves out there I'm emptying my M-16 on the area." "Hey! Quit making so much noise. They'll know where we are." "I'll sure be glad to get back inside the green line," is heard from every foxhole around the perimeter.

Rappelling from the Division Training Center's tower is the highlight of another day at "Charm School." Technique is everything from inching down to

freefalling. Everybody is required to tie himself into a Swiss-seat and descend from the tower.

"Groovy." "Climbing that ladder is the worst part." "It's not so bad." "They'd better give me jump pay," are common comments of future Skytroopers fresh down from the rappelling tower.

One full day is devoted to briefing on enemy weapons, history of the 1st Cavalry Division from its start to present operations, civil affairs, communication, Medevac, trip flares and claymore mines.

Other instruction at the DTC includes mines and booby traps, different types of leaves, and early-outs.

The instruction at the DTC is given by NCOs who have spent time in the field with infantry units and by officers who are specialized on a specific topic that new in-country arrivals need to know. Many times personal experiences are used to emphasize a point.

The morning after the third day at the DTC, the graduates are loaded onto a bus and taken to the airport where they fly to their various units.

The training is often directed at the 11 Bravos and 11 Charleys — the infantrymen — but everybody is grateful to have had it.

Patch . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

cloth on which the first design was drawn.

The choice of the horse's head for the design was made by the Dorcys after they observed a mounted trooper ride past their home on a beautiful blue-black thoroughbred horse.

The shield shape of the patch represents the shield carried by knights into battle. The bar or slash across the yellow shield also finds its origin in heraldry. It represents a scaling ladder used by the knights to breach the walls of castles. The ladder and horse occupy equal places of honor since both were necessary in order to meet the enemy.

The shoulder patch of the 1st Air Cavalry Division is the largest of all U.S. Army division patches. Mrs. Dorcy explained, "The patch had to be large in order to be seen through the dust and sand at Fort Bliss."

The patch like the division has a noble and proud heritage. Mrs. Ben Dorcy has maintained her love for THE FIRST TEAM as evidenced by her dedicated correspondence with the officers and men of the division today and throughout all of their battles.

13th Signal Bn, Voice Of Division

BY SP4 GEORGE VINDEDZIS

The 13th Signal Battalion, Voice of Command for the 1st Air Cavalry Division, arrived in Vietnam in September 1955. Upon its arrival the battalion began its mission of providing communications for the division's command post, its three brigades, and other attached and supporting units.

In the beginning of November 1968, the 13th Signal Battalion moved south to Quan Loi and then to Camp Gorvad with THE FIRST TEAM.

Again it was the battalion's mission to install telephone switchboard service, communication center courier service and long-range FM and AM radio circuits to divisional units for transmission of classified information. This also provided the commander with a means to control maneuvering units.

The battalion's initial location at the 3rd Brigade headquarters created a problem of excess distance and unfavorable terrain, making communications difficult.

The 13th Signal Battalion then constructed a 204-foot tower at Camp Gorvad and mounted additional antennas, increasing the operational range of the radio equipment, which in turn improved the quality of the radio communications.

The battalion built FM retransmission sites on the peaks of Nui Ba Den and Nui Ba Ra, which further increased the operating power of the FM equipment.

In addition to the mission of providing communications for the division headquarters and the brigades, the battalion also provides technical advice and assistance to Division Artillery, the 11th Aviation Group and other divisional units.

The battalion was constituted on June 7, 1917, as the 7th Field Signal Battalion, and was organized on July 14 of the same year at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. It was later disbanded in September, 1921, in Texas. In 1932 it was reconstituted and consolidated as the 1st Signal Troop, an element of the 1st Cavalry Division. It was activated in November 1957 in Korea as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Signal Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.