

1st Cav: A Fighting 48th Year

PHUOC VINH—It began a century ago on the hot plains of the West with the Indian wars, and even now still more pages for the long and deedful 1st Cavalry Division history are being authored by her soldiers in Vietnam jungles.

One chapter alone could be devoted to August 1969 when Air Cavalrymen battled with the enemy across the 4,000 square miles of the Cav's AO, killing well over 1,300 enemy soldiers.

That chapter will have much in common with others in an uncommon history, a history that officially begins with the date 13 September 1921. But the tradition of the Cav goes further back than that.

It begins with the legendary 1st, 5th, 7th and 8th Cavalry Regiments which opened the West late in the 19th Century.

Veterans of the Indian wars, the four regiments were banded together on 13 September 1921 to form the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. For two decades the new division "champed at the bit" while blocking

smuggling bands along the Mexican border. In February 1943, the long awaited orders for overseas duty finally arrived. The division sailed for the Admiralty Islands on 23 February 1944, as a dismounted unit.

In the Admiralty Campaign the enemy lost 3,317 troops in combat with the dismounted Cavalry. The Cav had arrived.

The string of Cav "Firsts" began when General Douglas MacArthur called for the FIRST TEAM, the 1st Cav, for the assault on Manila in early 1945. Japanese resistance was crushed in 66 hours at a cost of 14,000 enemy killed. The Cav was "First in Manila."

In August 1945, the Cav became "First in Tokyo" when it marched into the city at war's end. From Japan the Cav moved to Korea in 1951 to mount the first amphibious landing of that war. After landing at Pohangdong, the Cav fought its way north, crossed the 38th parallel and burst into Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. "First in Pyongyang."

Later, while the Cav kept watch on the uneasy truce

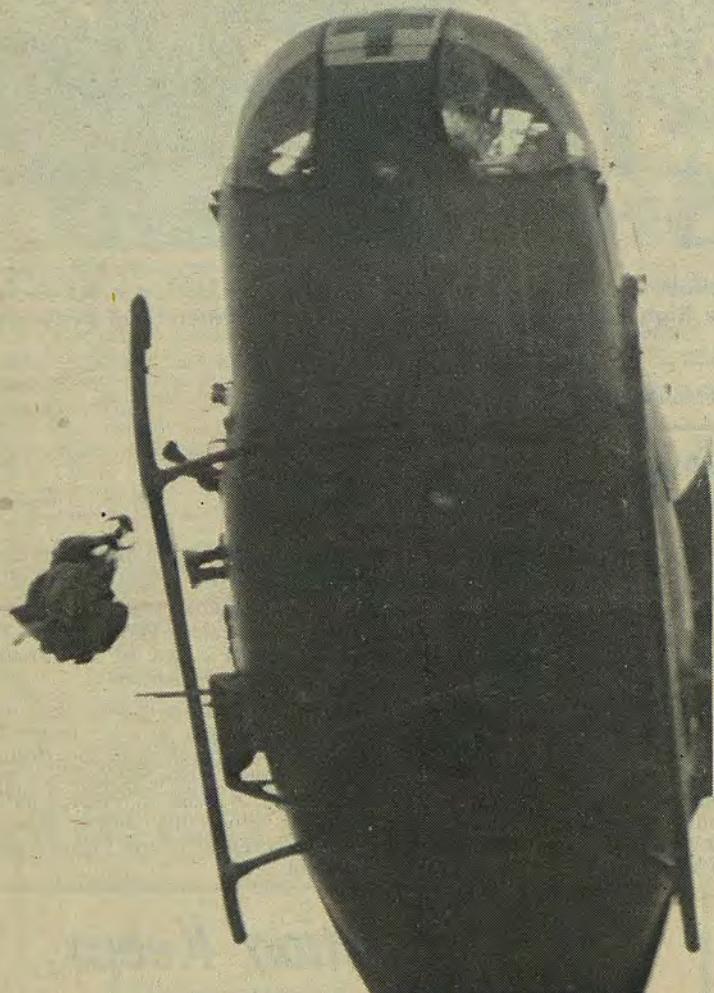
in Korea, a new concept was brewing back in the states—helicopter airmobility. On 1 July 1965, the experimental 11th Air Assault Division was reorganized as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). For the first time in 22 years, the 1st Cav colors were flying inside the Continental United States.

Within months these colors were flying overseas again when the Cav was ordered to Vietnam. Two months after arriving in country, the 1st Cav received the first Presidential Unit Citation awarded to a division in Vietnam.

In Vietnam the Cav colors, history and tradition have traced a path from I Corps—Hue and Khe Sanh—through II Corps and now into III Corps area to block massed enemy troops along the Cambodian border.

The 1st Cav is now making history, a history that will carry the same tradition as those actions in Manila, Tokyo and Pyongyang—the tradition of the FIRST TEAM.

Up the Lifeline . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC William Block)
A MEDEVAC lifeline saves another wounded soldier. Within minutes, the wounded Skytrooper will be to a field hospital and prompt medical aid . . . thanks to the wonders of MEDEVAC.

Injured Medic Helps Save Dying Soldier

By SP4 Tom Benic

PHUOC VINH—The MEDEVAC helicopter hovering at 70 feet over the dense jungle, lowered a rigid litter on a cable hoist to the embattled company below.

For five minutes the chopper hovered—a sitting duck facing modern weapons—while the men on the ground struggled with the litter.

"I could see that they had put him in wrong," said Staff Sergeant James Hall, a veteran medic with the 15th Medical Battalion. "But then I got hit and there was no choice but to bring him up."

Sergeant Hall, a veteran of 50 months as a medic in Vietnam, had been wounded. A piece of shrapnel had lodged in his back but the mission could not be aborted. A man was dying.

Controlling the hoist, medic Hall brought the patient up to the skids of the chopper but found the cable line foiled. He and the crew chief, Specialist Four James Minish, then stepped out on the skids, grabbed the tangled litter and pulled the patient aboard.

"It was then that I realized we wouldn't make it back," said aircraft commander Warrant Officer Richard Tanner. "Fortunately, we were able to get to an open field several kilometers away before going down."

Two Cobras circled overhead while medic Hall treated his own wound and kept the patient alive. In 10 minutes another MEDEVAC dispatched from Tay Ninh reached the downed bird and took patient and crew to the field hospital at Tay Ninh.



Vol. 3, No. 37

1st Air Cavalry Division

September 10, 1969

Cav Firepower Smashes LZ Becky Ground Attack

LZ BECKY—Located on the eastern portion of war zone C, this 1st Cav firebase was attacked by an estimated NVA battalion during the early morning hours of August 12.

At the same time, heavy fighting was being waged in the western provinces, but none was heavier or more intense than at this Tay Ninh Province location of the Cav's 2nd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry.

The attack on LZ Becky was termed by a pilot with Battery A, 2nd Battalion of the 20th Artillery as, "the most intense stand-off attack on a firebase I've seen since the Cav moved into War Zone C."

Some 400 enemy mortar and rocket rounds repeatedly riveted holes in the surface of the LZ, as the enemy launched a ground attack from the north.

Flare ships performed yeoman service as they provided illumination for the besieged Skytroopers during the hour-and-a-half battle. Caught trying to invade the sanctuary of the firebase, enemy soldiers were to pay a heavy price for their intrusion.

The rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), .60, .82 and .120mm mortars and 107mm rockets continued to whistled onto the American site, many landing outside the perimeter. The enemy ground probe was still in effect.

Sporadic fire continued, interspersed by heavier periods of incoming rounds. Some soldiers darted from one position to another, carrying ammunition to the defensive perimeter bunkers, while others gained better or more secure cover for themselves.

An enemy rocket smashed into some ammunition, thereby causing the only friendly casualties of the battle.

In the morning a search of the area uncovered the bodies of 54 dead NVA soldiers. One man was discovered hiding nervously in nearby foliage. Questioned later, the 17-year-old rifleman claimed the 1st NVA Division as his own.

Also captured were six B-40 rocket launchers, two .82mm mortar tubes, a .60mm mortar tube, a .51 caliber machine gun, 21 RPG rounds and several Chicom grenades and Bangalore torpedoes.

Working Together . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Bob Borchester)
An RTO of the Cav's 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, and CIDG troopers go over maps and discuss tactics after discovering a large bunker Complex in III Corps.

...For God And Country

By Chaplain (MAJ) Edward A. Simon

Life is somewhat difficult to describe. It is something each one of us possesses, yet seemingly is as different as each individual.

Life ranges from alcoholic to abstainer, prince to pauper, warrior to weakling, saint to sinner and even prostitute to preacher. For some, life is a comfortable chain of events, yet to others — it is a chaotic sequence of occurrences.

Many wonder if life has any real purpose, or whether it is just a meaningless existence.

Others question the reality of life, claiming it to be but an illusion.

For the person who believes in the existence of God, and His superintendence over all life, his own existence gains meaning and purpose. He is not lost in the masses of society, but trusts in a personal God, who provides for

him, and guides him through the numerous rough times of life.

To the believer, then, the question becomes a personal one, "What is your life?" He comes to view his life from three aspects: as he sees himself, as others see him, and as God looks at him.

The familiar saying, "Know yourself", is a sound piece of wisdom for all of us to grasp. We must become acquainted with ourselves, before we can realistically go anywhere in this world.

This means that we have to remove the rose-colored glasses, and take a real, frank look at ourselves. We may not always like what we see, but we ought to be genuinely honest and admit our shortcomings, and locate our limitations.

For, only as we do this, can we actually discover our true abilities and talents.

Besides looking at ourselves, we must also consider how others view us. Our reputations, although not always accurate or entirely correct, are, nevertheless, generally something we produce as we project ourselves to others.

Lastly, and perhaps the most important consideration, is how God sees our lives. To Him, our lives are short, but of considerable value. It was for us that the plan of salvation was devised, and for our lives that the Savior proceeded to the Cross.

Even though as sinners we continually "miss the mark", God desires to rescue us from sin, and provide us with new lives. These lives are described as eternal ones — lives without an end. They are given as gifts, not acquired as results of individual merit.

True repentance for sin and saving faith in Christ are the prerequisites for obtaining these "eternal" lives.

Awards

The following awards were awarded members of the FIRST TEAM:

SILVER STAR
PEELER, CPT William R.
Company A, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav

CROSS, SP4 Kenneth D.
Company E, 1st Bn, 5th Cav

MCKOY, PFC Larry D.
Company A, 1st Bn, 12th Cav

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
CLARK, SP5 Emmitt L.
Troop A, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav

BURNS, W2 Ernest D.
Troop C, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav

VARS, W1 Jonathan R.
HHC, 15th Med Bn

Army Seeks Drill SGT Instructors

USARV — The soldiers returning to CONUS from Vietnam represent the most experienced group of personnel in the Army. Among them are many who qualify for the Drill Sergeant Program.

Commanders have a vital interest in insuring the success of this program. The newly inducted or enlisted soldiers, in a relatively short period, report to commanders as replacements. The effectiveness of Basic and AIT which produce the replacement is directly related to the quality of the training cadre.

Noncommissioned officers should be strongly encouraged to apply for the Drill Sergeant Program. In addition to the stabilized 18-month tour benefit, completion of satisfactory service entitles the Drill Sergeant to Superior Performance Pay (\$30.00 per month).

To the truly professional non-commissioned officer, the Drill Sergeant Program offers an opportunity to make a major contribution to the Army.

Mail Call . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC William Block)

Platoon mail clerk of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, separates the mail during a lull in the fighting in III Corps. One of the high lights of any given day — the letters and packages from the "world."

Computer Programmed

JUMPS Pays 1st Cav

The 1st Air Cavalry Division converted to the Joint Uniform Military Pay System (JUMPS) in 1965 to provide an accurate, but flexible pay procedure for all division personnel. The 1st Cav pay system is the forerunner of an Army-wide pay system to be placed into operation sometime in late 1970.

The computerized JUMPS system differs from the manual or mechanized pay procedures used throughout the Army today because all pay is computed in Indianapolis, Indiana by the Army Finance Center. This means that accuracy is increased in the pay procedure providing the right information reaches Indianapolis each month.

For the individual FIRST TEAM member,

there is more flexibility under JUMPS. He can elect a 15th of the month pay which is called a NORM. This is a fixed amount which he draws from his pay officer in cash. Then there are options for the Skytrooper's end of the month pay: Net Check, Net Cash or Accrual.

The net check option allows a service member to send his end of the month pay by check to himself, his bank or his dependent in the United States. The net cash allows a trooper to draw the net amount in cash at the end of each month. However, in the 1st Cav, this option is not authorized because it is not practical to have pay agents twice a month.

Face of Conflict . . .



(U.S. Army Illustration by SP4 Ron Doss)

Wary Skytroopers move out on a patrol mission in the boondocks with M-16 rifles at hand. The infantryman is always ready for contact with the illusive enemy who often lurks in the dense undergrowth.

Cav Association Keeps Skytroopers in Touch

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

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

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

A lifetime membership costs only \$11 (a single membership fee with no subsequent dues) and includes a lifetime subscription to the Association's newsletter, a volume of the division's history and membership directory, plus decals, insignia cards and pins.

If you're interested in keeping in touch with the guys you've met in 'Nam, you'll definitely want to join the Association.



The CAVALAIR is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Office, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO SF 96490, and is an authorized Army publication. The command newspaper is printed by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan.

Opinions expressed in the CAVALAIR are those of its editorial staff and not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Commanding General MG E.B. Roberts
Information Officer MAJ J.D. Coleman
Publications NCOIC SSG R.R. Dyslin
Production Editor SP4 Al Persons
Layout Editor Sp4 Ed Freudenburg

Blue Max Silences NVA Anti-Aircraft Machineguns

By 2LT Donald Ashton

TAY NINH — Nothing puts more fear in the heart of an NVA soldier in War Zone C than the sight of a Huey Cobra on the horizon. In a recent action near here, enemy antiaircraft gunners must not have seen any 1st Cav Cobras. It was an injudicious oversight.

On a fire support mission about six miles east of Landing Zone Becky, aviators from Battery A, 2d Battalion, 20th Air Rocket Artillery (ARA) — "Blue Max" — neutralized several

enemy .51 caliber positions and accounted for three enemy kills.

"We were escorting a formation of Company C, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion lift birds (troop-carrying helicopters) when four anti-aircraft positions opened up on us," said Warrant Officer Thomas G. Porter, who piloted the lead AG-1G Cobra.

Mr. Porter rolled in on one emplacement. On his second pass the aircraft took a hit.

In a companion artillery gunship, Warrant Officer David R.

Watson, saw one of the lift ships drop a smoke grenade; .51 caliber tracers filled the air.

"I looked straight down and saw two guns firing at the formation," Mr. Watson said. "Tracers were coming from my rear. I rolled in under the formation and knocked out one position. The lead ship got the other site, even though the pilot was injured."

The section made eight more passes, working on enemy .30 caliber positions, until their ordnance was expended. They were relieved by two more Battery A aircraft loaded with special rockets.

"Instant target engagement saved the day," stated First Lieutenant Steven F. Roemer, a section leader, who was also in the lead ship.

Flight platoon leader, Captain Roger A. Renzulli, who was in the trailing aircraft, agreed. "Our immediate reaction to the anti-aircraft fire put the fight in our favor from the beginning," he said.

Mr. Porter was awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry in action that day. Captain Renzulli, Lieutenant Roemer and Mr. Watson were each awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Messhall Pots Go Airmobile in Move

LAI KHE — When your battalion is told to move, how do you pick up a messhall? The messhall of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery solves the problem by applying the techniques of cooking to the art of airmobile packing.

When the word came down that the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry would leave Landing Zone (LZ) Mary, the Artillery messhall began mixing their equipment. Into large pots and pans—and garbage cans—went all the smaller utensils, as well as all the other items which a messhall accumulates.

The recipe grew complicated as Chinooks flew over the area. Well arranged ingredients for the projected Chinook pallet suddenly flew about the LZ.

Reassembled, the concoction grew in preparation for sling-out. On top, like a cherry atop a chocolate sundae, was a cold drink container, shining in the sun. Tightly bound, the equipment stew was lifted out of LZ Mary to be reconstituted in Phuoc Vinh, again to feed the men of the battery.

SKYTROOPER NEWS

11:45 a.m.

This week on Skytrooper News, a special program honoring the 48th Anniversary of the 1st Cavalry Division. If you have Skytrooper News call the Division Information Office, Radio-TV Section at Sky King 113.



Every Sunday on AFVN-AM

Bunkers Set In Sandbox

By PFC William Block

LZ GRANT — Skytroopers of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, don't need a helicopter to see what a bunker complex looks like from the air; they can see it all in a sandbox.

The sandbox, with a surface measuring three feet squared, was constructed by the battalion carpenter, Specialist Four Ronald R. Earnest out of artillery ammunition boxes.

Field expediency did not end there, however. Terrain features were created from dirt-covered mosquito netting, smaller pieces of which became bamboo overgrowth for styrofoam bunkers.

Flour marks well-traveled trails, which were located not far from red paper claymores, string trench line, and pinched-dirt tunnels. Streams were shown by thread, and spider holes by nails.

"The sandbox will be used as a training aid," explained Captain Allen R. Christensen. "It is a method for critique of previous actions in bunker complexes, the purpose of which is to improve our techniques for reducing bunker complexes."

Waiting for Charlie . . .



A firefight veteran gives a long look at the undergrowth ahead as he waits for contact with the enemy. The C-1-7th machinegunner is on a company operation near Quan Loi.

Cav Jam Session . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP5 Paul Sgroi)

Private First Class Walter Johnson stands out for solo during a performance of the Division Band at a landing zone for other Skytroopers in the field. PFC Johnson and his fellow bandmen make three to four trips a week to entertain companies in the field.

Band Soloist Performs on LZs

By PFC Dennis Herrick

PHUOC VINH — Last year he was playing lead trumpet in Si Zentner's dance band among the neon lights, beautiful people and nightclubs of Las Vegas, New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Now he plays for grimy, weary soldiers of the 1st Cav. They cradle their rifles and stand with him under Vietnam's burning sun on landing zones (LZs) deep in enemy infested jungles.

But it is still just another gig for Private First Class Walter I. Johnson, a 22-year-old musician from El Monte, California.

Johnson is a member of the 1st Cav's Band, a part of Division Support Command.

Three to four times a week Johnson and about 25 fellow bandmen pack their instruments and hitch a ride on a CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter to entertain Skytroopers in the jungle LZs, rubber plantations and isolated camps of III Corps.

The glamor is gone from the

gigs, a musician's term for a playing engagement, but Johnson says the satisfaction is multiplied.

PFC Johnson is always called upon by his bandmaster, CW2 Kenneth Barner, to perform solos on his trumpet for the men at the LZs. He is always a hit.

Cycles Lead NVA To Cav 'Trails End'

LAI KHE — Avoiding friendly fire led a Pink Team from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav to the discovery of three groups of NVA soldiers wearing full field packs, riding bicycles and Hondas. When the action was finished, 14 NVA soldiers had been killed in action.

The day began routinely, with the Scout Team — one Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) and one Cobra — flying over an area of a B-52 strike in order to assess the damage for the 1st Cav's Blackhorse Brigade. The triple canopy jungle, often clogged with bamboo as high as 40 feet, was dotted with the craters left by the bombs.

Suddenly, the LOH, piloted by Warrant Officer Clifford "the Kid" Lee spotted two enemy soldiers as he flew at treetop level. While the LOH scooted out of the way, the Cobra, flown by Captain Gayle Jennings, rolled hot and blazed away at the enemy, killing one of the two NVA.

While avoiding the fire of the Red half of the Pink Team, the LOH spotted about 30 NVA, fully equipped with packs and riding bicycles and Hondas along a heavily traveled trail. Immediately, Mr. Lee radioed for an airstrike and once again the Cobra swooped down on the now scattering enemy soldiers.

This time, the NVA fired at the Charley Troop Team, but without effect. More airstrikes were requested.

Before the action was over, five airstrikes had ripped away at the enemy. When the pair of helicopters made their final pass over the area, the pilots observed 14 NVA dead.

THE FIRST TEAM

WORLD
WAR II

KOREA

the
WEST

Vietnam





Cav Assigned New G-2

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Hannas has assumed duties as Division G-2. His last assignment was the Command General and Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He served a previous tour in Vietnam with the 82nd Airborne Division. His wife Marjorie and four children reside in Pebble Beach, California.



LTC Hannas

Pad Named for Aviator

The "Corral" or Buffalo Parking officially became Ferguson Helipad in honor of Chief Warrant Officer Frederick E. Ferguson, the first Army aviator to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Mr. Ferguson, who was assigned to Company C, 227th AHB, during his tour in the Republic of Vietnam, received the Medal of Honor for action during the Tet Offensive of 1968 in the city of Hue.



Major General E.B. Roberts (right), division commander congratulates First Lieutenant Glendon Davisson upon receiving his direct commission in the Army.

SFC Takes Commission

A 10-year veteran of the Army was recently commissioned as a first lieutenant in ceremonies at the 1st Cav's headquarters at Phuoc Vinh.

Former Sergeant First Class Glendon Davisson was congratulated after the ceremony by Division Commander Major General E.B. Roberts.

Lieutenant Davisson, a former drill sergeant at Fort Jackson, served as an enlisted platoon leader until his commissioning and is now the executive officer of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry. The lieutenant is married and has two children. He is completing his second tour in Vietnam.

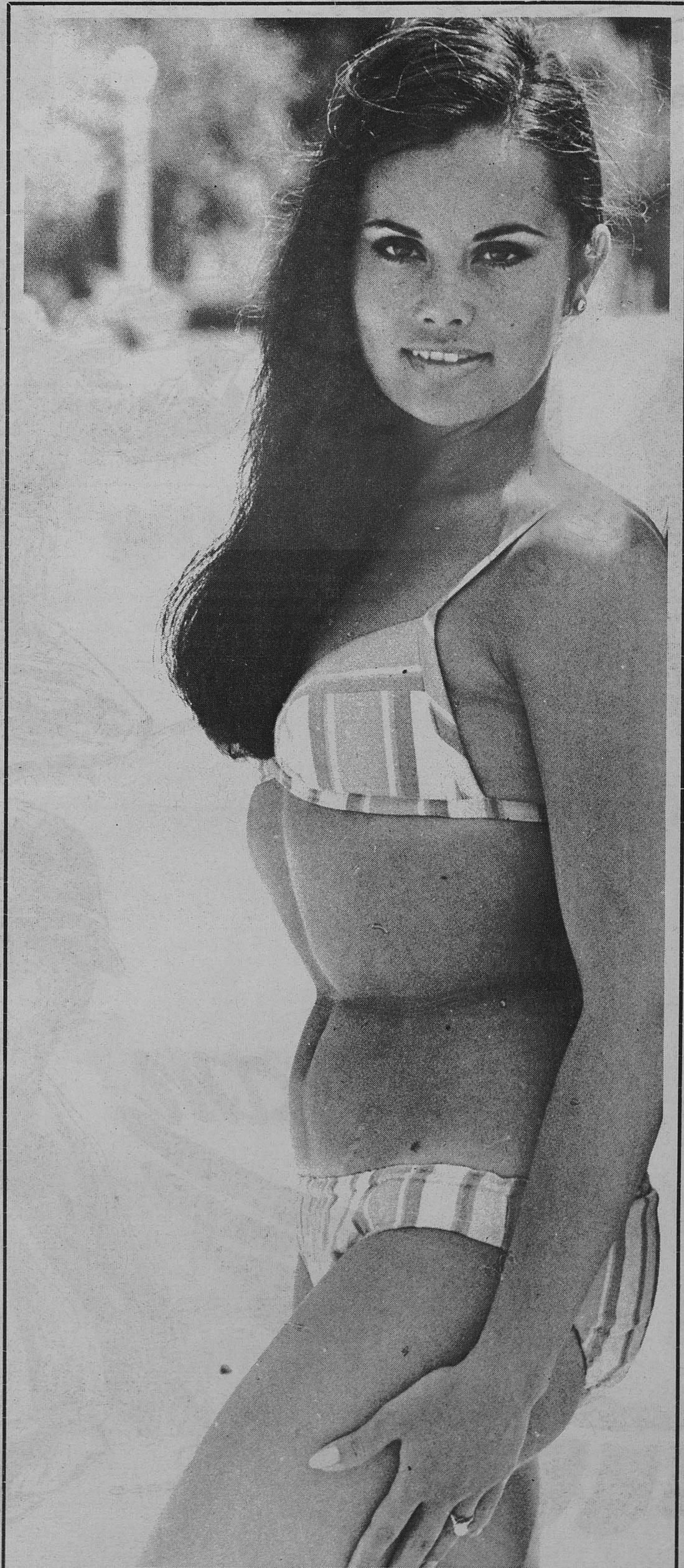
227th Wins Air Award

The Division Best Aircraft Award for the month of August was won by Company C, 227th AHB. The crew of the best aircraft in the division is:

WO1 Paul T. Keil	A/C
WO1 James S. Opp	Pilot
SP5 Wilson B. Bass	Crew Chief
SP4 Alan F. Hales	Gunner



Brothers Captain William Olds (left) and First Lieutenant Bowman Olds get together for a few moments in Phuoc Vinh. Captain Olds is commanding officer of HHC while brother Bowman is a platoon leader with the 5th Battalion, 7th Cav. Captain Olds commanded Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Cav prior to becoming HHC commanding officer.



AND ALL THAT STUFF . . . We asked the young lady if she knew the proper way to stuff a bikini. Here procedure was wrong, but the results were excellent.

Tough Blues Ready for Patrols



First Lieutenant Robert McKenzie (right above) gives members of the 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav, "Blues" a briefing on ambush techniques before the men move out for their field exercise. The roar of 40 claymore mines and grenades explode (below) on the ambushed trail while the "Blues" keep their heads down and get ready to pour M-16 fire into the smoke filled area.



After the ambush mission, First Lieutenant Robert McKenzie (top right) gives the patrol a few pointers on future night patrols and missions.

PHUOC VINH—Only the enemy was missing when the "Blues" of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, set out on several days of field training in overnight patrolling and ambush techniques near Phuoc Vinh.

Each of the three squadrons of "Blues" were qualified for their new mission by instructors from Company H (Rangers), 75th Infantry, led by First Lieutenant Robert McKenzie, a platoon leader with the Rangers.

Normally, the "Blues" provide security for downed aircraft and stand ready as a quick reaction force for emergencies. But, with the new training, they now are qualified to run overnight

missions and assume the role of aggressors when they are needed.

During the field aspects of training, the "Blues" set and sprang an ambush in the dense undergrowth along a trail. The hardened "Blues" detonated 40 claymore mines on command and then poured firepower and grenades into the simulated ambush trail before slipping away in the tall grass.

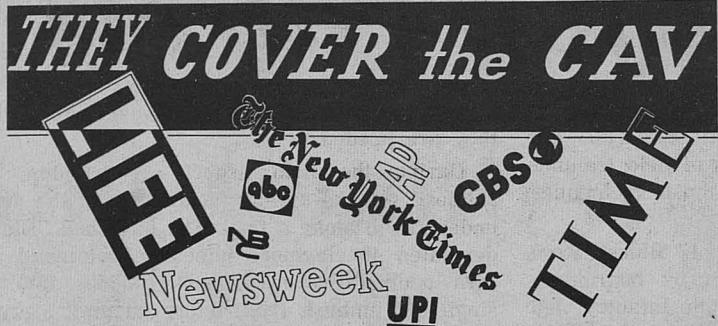
At the end of each day's "practical exercise" the Ranger instructors offered each man a critique of his action and reaction during the training session.

Photos By
SP4
Phil Blackmarr



Deep in the brush, the "Blues" wait (above) for the enemy on their simulated patrol mission. The hardened "Blues" team members move out (below) to another field problem outside of Phuoc Vinh. Three squadrons were trained during the exercise by Rangers from Company H (Rangers), 75th Infantry.





Horst Faas
AP Editor

War Captured on Film

By SP4 Joe Kamalick

As with no other war in history, people around the world have seen and so witnessed the pathos, personal meaning and the true horror of the Vietnam war. They have seen it best and most poignantly through the inimicable camera and pen of Horst Faas, photo editor for the Associated Press Saigon Bureau.

In the past seven years, Horst Faas has collected almost every award and honor available in the still photography profession. His list of prizes alone would make a story.

He arrived in Vietnam in June 1962—some three years before the 1st Cav landed in Southeast



Horst Faas

Asia. "We learned then that the VC were a formidable force and not just bandits."

He has reported and photographed in every area in which the 1st Cav has worked, as well as in the AOs of every other U.S. unit in Vietnam.

In recording the war on film for seven years, Faas has been exposed to more war than many generals. But like most correspondents, Faas does not flout his exposure to combat as a badge of courage. The exposure is part of the job. There is only one way to get photographs of men in combat—you must be there.

Being there, Faas was seriously wounded by B-40 rocket shrapnel on Dec. 7, 1967, while on patrol with a 1st Infantry Division company. He was hit in the leg, and but for a medic who held the severed ends of an artery to stop the bleeding, Faas might have died or lost the leg.

"Being wounded," said Faas, "changes your outlook tremendously. Before, bullets did not exist for me... you just didn't think about them. Then, all of a sudden, they become very real."

Within his own profession, there are few who can approach his reputation in the skill and art of photography.

In the search for good photos, "you have to know what you are after, and that what you're going after is really meaningful. A photographer cannot simply go out into the field and walk around with his camera at the ready, hoping that he'll stumble onto a good photo," said Faas. "He must go out looking for something specific."

For Faas, there is more to his work than merely recording the many faces of war. He photographs the insides of war:

"This is a war of frustration, and I try to get that across in photographs. You must show what the war means to people, to GIs and to the Vietnamese villagers—you must come to the heart of the matter."

Getting to the heart of the matter does not mean simply reporting "the military progress and regress of the war, that such and so unit moved into this or that area, but rather what happens to the Vietnamese and the Americans who are fighting the war here."

"We are more concerned with the whole of Vietnam rather than just the military action.... What does the war mean to everyone involved,

from the VC private to the American general?"

Some of his reporting—Faas also writes—and photography was, to put it mildly, unfavorably received in the United States. A native of Germany, he was charged with being prejudiced against the U.S. He was called "un-American" and "unpatriotic."

"Yes, I write about mistakes," said Faas, "but I never have told people how to do their job. We photograph and write the story and let everybody draw their own conclusions."

"For example," he said, "I did not say, and never have said that the M-16 rifle was a poor weapon. I just told of what happened when the M-16 was first introduced to this war."

"I never said the weapon was poor, but did write about and photograph the American soldiers I saw in a firefight who were taking their jammed weapons apart with shaking hands, the weapon parts falling from their fingers into the mud.... I did not say anything about the M-16, but I described and photographed what was happening with it."

Oddly enough, the German reporter-photographer branded as un-American has espoused a traditional journalistic objectivity that has been the cornerstone of the American free press.

"Much of the war reporting these days is based on minds that are against the war—I let the facts speak for themselves."

Faas is frank and blunt, and he speaks from the vantage point of seven continuous years in Vietnam:

"An American commander comes to this country and spends six months in the field, and just when he is learning something about the war and about the people he is pulled out for the rear and replaced by another new man who knows nothing and who usually will dismiss his predecessor's advice with something like 'Oh, he's been here too long and doesn't realize what he's saying.' Six months after leaving the field the American commander leaves Vietnam, his 12-month tour finished."

After watching the "war of frustration" for seven years, Faas said: "The U.S. commanders should stay here and sit it out like we have—you learn that way."

He is an experienced reporter and photographer, a veteran of the coverage in the Congo as well as Vietnam, and he is well past the "bleeding heart" stage of young reporters.

But he still looks through the surface of the war, the daily reports on tactics and troop movements, to find "the heart of the matter."

"What is meaningful in this war is the suffering of people," said Faas.

Thumbs Up . . .



A Red Hat load rigger gives a quick "thumbs up" signal to a CH-47 "Chinook" crew chief to tell him that the two one-ton blivets are securely fastened to the helicopter's belly hook.

Waiting Mother . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Bob Borchester)

A mother and her child wait along with other Montagnard villagers for medical treatment from a MEDCAP team sent to the village by the 1st Cav.

Medical Teams Help Viets Fight Disease

By SP4 Tom Benic

QUAN LOI — MEDCAP is becoming a big word in the 1st Cav as a new campaign in the "other war" begins with redoubled efforts.

"We have more medical teams out in the villages than ever before," said Sergeant Frank Parenica of the 3d Brigade S-5.

The concentration is on the swing districts — the villages that are relatively safe during the day but where you wouldn't want to spend the night.

The MEDCAP teams (Medical Civic Action Patrol) are kept small and have as few security

personnel as possible. A doctor, several medics and their interpreters form the nucleus.

On one such mission near Quan Loi, three jeeps of a MEDCAP unit from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry turned from the main dirt road towards the village of Van Hien, hidden in the 70-foot tall trees of a rubber plantation.

It was a bright Sunday afternoon as the small convoy reached the gate of this quiet village of white stucco and terra cotta roofs. Suddenly, the hamlet came to life as children ran from all directions to meet the jeeps at the gate and escort them with excited shouts.

The crowd grew as the jeeps pulled to a stop. Mothers moved to the front holding bright-eyed, smooth-skinned infants on their hips. It was a happy crowd, excited, yet patient.

Two dispensaries were quickly set up. Dr. Numa C. Hero and senior medic Staff Sergeant L.E. Nave handled the acute cases from one jeep while senior medic Sergeant First Class Earl D. Keith distributed vitamins, cough syrup, aspirin and antibiotic from another one nearby.

Flesh colored band-aids became fashionable in Van Hien that day.

The young mustached doctor and his medic worked rapidly — taking a quick look at the patient, listening to the translated complaint, then turning to the jeep where two footlockers containing everything from gauze to penicillin served as their pharmacy.

"We give these people only a small amount of penicillin, but it will clear up the infection in a few days," Dr. Hero said. "Penicillin works wonders on these people since their systems haven't formed any resistance to it."