



'All The Way' . . .



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Vic Fitzwater)
Colonel Joseph Collins (left) takes the 1st Brigade guidon from 1st Air Cavalry Division Commander Major General E.B. Roberts during change of command ceremonies at Tay Ninh. COL Collins replaces Colonel Joseph Kingston, who becomes Division Chief of Staff.

Command Passed At Cav's 1st Bde

TAY NINH—As the men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade continued to carry the fight to the enemy in War Zone C, a simple yet impressive ceremony took place at the "All The Way Brigade" headquarters.

Major General E. B. Roberts, division commanding general, transferred the colors from Colonel Joseph Kingston to Colonel Joseph Collins before representatives of the 1st Brigade units.

The Commanding General told those assembled, "Your commander has led this brigade to the highest level of achievement and performance that has ever been achieved in the United States Army. The enemy once went unmolested in War Zone C and now it's more your home than it is his. You have truly taken it away from him."

Colonel Kingston, who takes over the post of Chief of Staff upon his departure from the brigade, replaces Colonel Robert Shoemaker at the division headquarters in Phuoc Vinh.

During the ceremony, COL Kingston told the assembled troops, "Your achievements at Landing Zone Grant, Ike, Jamie, Becky, Carolyn and Jess have written a new chapter in the annals of warfare."

He described the Skytroopers of the brigade as "the best soldiers the United States Army has ever put into the field."

"You embody the strength of America. I salute you," he added.

Welcoming the new brigade commander to the FIRST TEAM, General Roberts said, "Colonel Collins couldn't possibly take over a better unit. This unit couldn't get a better replacement. He is highly qualified and ready to take over this fine brigade."

In answer to the remarks of General Roberts and in reference to his plans for the brigade, Colonel Collins said, "I can assure you sir, that we will continue to be Number One in every respect."

Colonel Kingston during the ceremony was awarded the Silver Star for his action during an enemy ground attack at LZ Grant, earlier this year.

COL Kingston directed his helicopter landed at the embattled landing zone to take command of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, when battalion commander Colonel Peter Gorvad had been fatally wounded during the early part of the battle.

Once on the ground, COL Kingston entered the battle and moved through a hail of fire to personally organize and direct the defense of the LZ.

Fort Benning Hosts Annual Convention

Commanding generals and 1st Cavalry riflemen met on common ground last month at Ft. Benning, Ga., for the 22nd Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

The three-day event was highlighted by the presentation of a grant from the Association's Scholarship Foundation to the son of Medal of Honor winner Sergeant James Stewart, who gave his life while earning our nation's highest valor award.

Mrs. James Stewart accompanied her son when Command Sergeant Major Frank C. Plass, former 1st Brigade Sergeant Major, and official Skytrooper representative to the convention, presented the check.

Other features of the meeting,

which was attended by a large number of Vietnam veterans, included the presentation of the Division's singing Skytrooper Bill Ellis, who sang several of his songs about the men of the 1st Cav.

In addition, Mrs. Ben Dorcy, the Cav's official "Honorary Mother", spoke to conventioners about how she designed the division patch in 1920. Mother Dorcy has continued to maintain in touch with the division throughout the years through letters with commanders of the division.

NVA Phone Out of Order

TAY NINH — An NVA field phone discovered six miles northeast of Tay Ninh became an unwanted "party line" for the enemy force that soon found itself on the wrong end of a hot-line.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cav, followed a strand of enemy communications wire into thick bamboo to find two NVA soldiers setting up a field phone.

The two enemy were quickly dispatched by the lead element.

Charlie Company's Kit Carson Scout then sat down to eavesdrop on the connected line. A set of coordinates were picked from the enemy conversation and relayed by radio to the artillery control center at the 1st Cav's nearby Fire Support Base Ike.

Moments later, a heavy barrage of artillery began slamming into the site revealed by the NVA caller. The Kit Carson Scout reported hearing excited jabbering on the other end of the line — and then abrupt silence.

Injured Sergeant Saves Chinook from Hot LZ

LZ IKE — The sergeant sprinted in a low crouch from the cover of the clay berm out across the rough perimeter terrain and knelt down to lay fire into the surrounding jungle. As he raised his rifle, an enemy mortar whistled down and cracked loudly into the mud directly behind him.

Only minutes before, Sergeant Daniel Guinan of Company A, 2nd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry, had stood before the battalion surgeon who was working on 16 wounded men in and around the medic bunker. The sergeant asked for permission to take two other volunteers outside the LZ perimeter to try to secure a landing zone. A CH-47 "Chinook" cargo helicopter — pressed into service as a hospital ship — was inbound to embattled LZ Ike to pick up the 16 wounded.

The ground attack that had started at 2 a.m. that morning was over. But the enemy was still regularly lobbing mortar shells into the fire base.

The surgeon looked at the sergeant and then at his wounded. He nodded his head and turned away.

"I told the wounded men to get down and stay back until we could secure the log pad — we were still receiving incoming," said SGT Guinan. Then he made his run for the log pad. The Chinook was in sight, throbbing down toward the exposed pad.

"I went out to the log pad and knelt for cover, and as soon as I knelt down I got hit by an 82mm mortar." He took shrapnel in the legs and lower back. The

Chinook was hovering to land and the enemy mortarmen had the pad well registered in their sights.

Wounded and trapped outside the relative safety of the LZ, the sergeant started shouting and waving his arms at the Chinook, trying to get it to leave the now very hot log pad.

Those on the berm saw SGT Guinan stand up and stumble toward the ship. He reached the lowered rear rampway and grabbed the flight engineer hard.

"Get this bird the hell out of here," he shouted at the man, "there's too many enemy around."

The Chinook flight engineer wasted no time in telling his pilot. Rotor blades bit into the thick air with a heavy popping noise and the big helicopter lifted up and banked low and away over the LZ. SGT Guinan, standing on the ramp gate, was plopped to the aircraft deck. Behind the climbing helicopter mortar shells tore into the empty log pad.

In Tay Ninh, SGT Guinan's wounds were bound. He had difficulty talking because the close mortar explosion had all but blown his eardrums out. He did not like being away from the LZ.

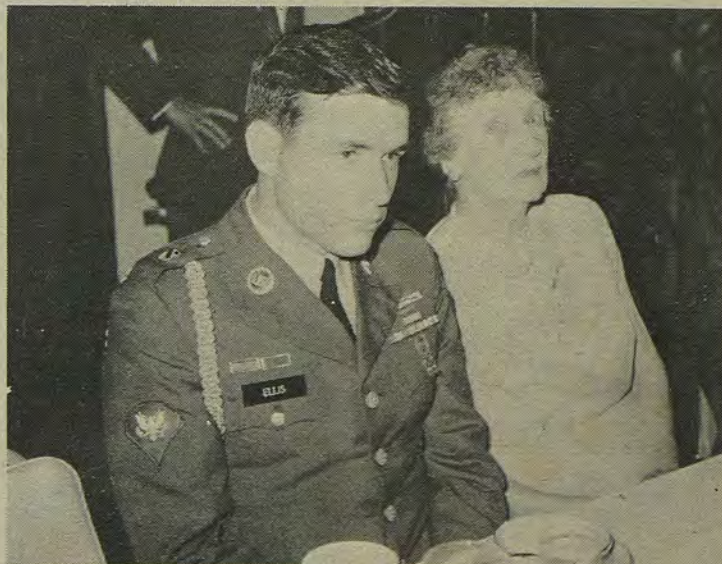
"I'd really like to be out there tonight to help my buddies," he said, "because they're expecting to get hit again tonight."

SGT Guinan has been in Vietnam since December 1966, and he is now on his fourth extension as an infantry rifleman. Before joining the 1st Cav, he served

with the 101st and 4th Divisions. He holds two Bronze Stars for valor, and on May 12 he received a Silver Star impact award for rescuing three wounded men off a besieged bunker at Quan Loi.

"I don't know whether you should do a story about me or not . . . it might scare my mother if she should see it," he said. He has told his mother that he is a clerk working in a nice, safe, rear area.

Mother Dorcy . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)
Cav balladeer SP4 Bill Ellis and Honorary Division Mother, Mrs. Ben Dorcy, at the 1st Air Cavalry Division Association's annual convention at Ft. Benning, Ga. SP4 Ellis entertained former Skytroopers with his songs written for the Cav.

Division Mother Honored At Skytrooper Convention

At the recent 1st Cavalry Division Association's annual convention at Ft. Benning, Ga., Honorary Division Mother Mrs. Ben Dorcy, affectionally known as "Mother Dorcy", was again at the forefront of convention activities.

During the three-day festivities, Mother Dorcy was called upon to relate her story of how she designed the Cav's big, distinctive patch in 1920.

She also told Skytroopers of her recent experience at Flag Day ceremonies, honoring the 1st Cav, in the House of Representatives. She was invited as a special guest by Texas Congressman Jack Brooks, chairman of the Flag Day Committee for the House.

Preceding the June 12 event, Mother Dorcy was escorted to the Capitol Building and met several former division commanders who she has known through the years.

"At the front door to the House chamber, I was greeted by Major General W.A. Becker, a friend and former division commander who is now active in the Association," she said.

"Moving through a long hall, I met Lieutenant General Harry Kinnard, who had taken the 1st Cav to Vietnam in 1965. I had been his guest at Ft. Benning when I stood in the color line; as Mother Dorcy, my division name; to pass the colors to him.

After being shown to her front row balcony seat, Mrs. Dorcy was surrounded by honored and distinguished members of the FIRST TEAM from the past, including two Medal of Honor recipients.

The impressive ceremony was begun with Flag Day Chairman Brooks announcing to the full House, "The House of Representatives is proud to honor the 1st

Cavalry Division (Airmobile) — a division which has such a distinguished record and has carried such a heavy share of the action in Vietnam."

Mrs. Dorcy was then asked to stand while the audience applauded her for her constant devotion and service to the division throughout the past 49 years.

"My salute from the audience

was not only for me, but for all the brave men of the division who have given their lives and service to keep our flag aloft. Continuously, I salute you," she told convention members.

"After the ceremony, I left the chamber and was honored to find two rows of uniformed men lining the corridor. I was thrilled to thank each one for their service to the division."

...For God And Country

By Chaplain (MAJ) K.K. Wittenburg
Assistant Division Chaplain

All people are inclined to "sham" — you do it; I do it. It's an expected practice.

If you can get out of doing something you dislike or just because the opportunity presents itself, you and everyone else will make the effort.

Upon occasion, I've seen people who have put out more effort, more work to avoid something, than they would have done in complying. Usually, little or no harm comes from the "shamming" practice.

There are, however, those sets of circumstances where shamming can have dire consequences. I'm not going to try to give you any examples, I think you can visualize them without too much prompting.

People can get hurt — you may be hurt. All because someone was shamming when he should not have been.

You CANNOT sham with God.

God expects one basic thing of you. That thing is that you live Holy Blameless lives before Him.

So many people have the idea that religion is like a pair of overshoes or a raincoat. You only use them when the weather is bad. Your faith is not something that can be used part time — it must be in constant use. I quote from a book of the New Testament, James 1:21-25:

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

So practice the art of your faith. "Sham" if you will in other things, but in this your most Holy Faith, hold faithful, purposeful and dedicated to the proposition that "a faith without works is dead" (again from James).

Humping the Soda . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC William Block Jr.)
Specialist 4 Donald L. Chavez hangs onto a sandbag sack of soft drinks during a trek through the bamboo near Landing Zone Grant. SP4 Chavez works as a radio-telephone operator with Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

U.S. Piaster Control Aids Local Economy

The arrival of American and other Free World Forces in Vietnam has had the effect of the "big spender from the East" visiting a sleepy one-horse town.

Here in Vietnam, the situation is one of a low income, agricultural nation playing host to more industrialized nations. Free World Forces personnel have more to spend than the average local citizen, so naturally they're willing to pay more for goods and services.

As one can see, the presence of Free World Forces in Vietnam has made the taxis and living quarters harder to find for the Vietnamese. Let's consider what the extra money in the hands of the cab driver and the landlord (in addition to the barkeep, tea girl and the black marketeer) does to the economy of the Vietnamese citizen next time we use Vietnamese services so we will pay wisely.

Weapons Safety

1. I will never point my weapon at anyone unless I intend to fire.
2. I will carry my assigned weapon only, unless ordered otherwise by my leader.
3. I will clear my weapon immediately upon entering a secure area.
4. In a base camp or secure area, I will never load my weapon or chamber a round unless ordered to do so by my leader.
5. Before cleaning my weapon, I will insure that the weapon is clear.
6. Several times each day I will check the security of the safety pins on my grenades.

Heroism Awards

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| SILVER STAR | Co A, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav |
| ROSSI, SGT Kenneth T. | KRAFT, SGT James W. |
| Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Cav | Co H, 75th Inf |
| SELF, SSG Clarence M. | BARR, PFC Stanley H. |
| Co B, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav | Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Cav |
| ORZEHOWSKI, SSG Thomas L. | JENKINS, 1LT Richard |
| Co A, 1st Bn, 12th Cav | Bty A, 1st Bn, 21 Arty |
| GALLIHER, SGT John C. T. | MCKELVIE, 1SG Clayton L. |
| Co E, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav | Co B, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav |
| HEATH, 1LT Frederick W. | |



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- Commanding General MG E.B. Roberts
 Information Officer MAJ J.D. Coleman
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 Layout Editor SP4 Ed Freudenburg

Master Chefs . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Bob Borchester)
Skytroopers from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cav, combine culinary talents and water mission.

A Soothing Touch . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Ron Merrill)

The gentle touch from a medic assigned to the 1st Bn, 7th Cav's MEDCAP team cleans a skin infection on a Vietnamese child's face. MEDCAP teams are sent out regularly to villages in the 3rd Brigade area to provide medical treatment for the Vietnamese.

CMMI Team Spot Checks

1st Cav Units Inspected

By 1LT Donald B. Ashton

TAY NINH — Nothing is sacred, even in War Zone C. Inspections are not just stateside stuff, including the Command Maintenance Management Inspection (CMMI).

Your unit will probably be inspected by a Division CMMI team during your tour in Vietnam. "No sweat," you say, "we'll just have to bear down for a few days getting things squared away."

Negative. Your unit will only be given four to eight hours notice prior to the arrival of the inspection team.

"The purpose of the CMMI is to give the division commander an indication of the readiness of his subordinate commands," said Chief Warrant Officer Carl J. Riley, the CMMI team OIC, who works directly under the Division G-4. "It also gives the unit commander an evaluation of his company," he added.

As a minimum, battalion and separate companies receive a CMMI once annually.

Mr. Riley, an Army veteran and helicopter pilot with 25 years in service, was initially assigned to the team as an aviation inspector, but wound up in charge of the whole team. This is his second tour with the FIRST TEAM.

The other team members are

all experienced NCOs, experts in maintenance management, supply, signal equipment, small arms, vehicles, primary load lists (PLL), and engineer, mess hall and chemical equipment, to name a few. "They give us a pretty good knowledge factor," Mr. Riley said.

"There isn't much you can do when word comes down that the team is on the way," said Captain Samuel P. Miles, whose unit, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, was inspected recently. "You're supposed to be prepared 24 hours a day for a CMMI. On such short notification, there's only time to do a bit of touch-up work. There are a few people in our unit who have been through a CMMI."

"When I was notified," CPT Miles continued, "I pulled out all the appropriate regulations, set up briefing files, and assigned guides, matching them with team members for each of the areas to be inspected. There's not much more that you can do."

Accordingly, Mr. Riley and three other specialists took a close look at the 1st Brigade Aviation Platoon's management status, checking flight records, pointing out important areas in regulations, and passing on helpful hints to vital aviation personnel like Specialist 4 Lee A.

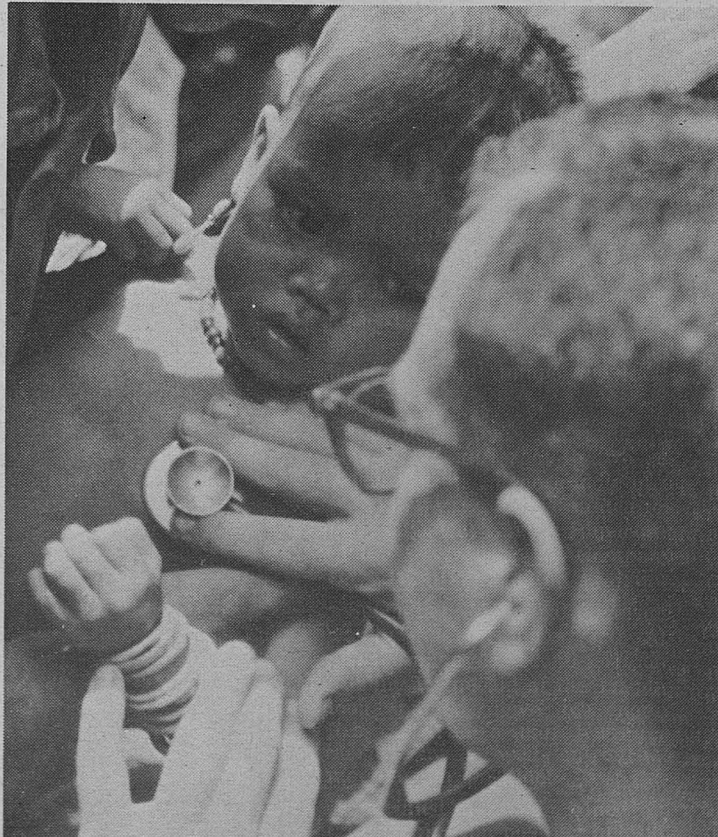
Lanigan, the "Flying Circus" flight operations specialist.

Staff Sergeant James E. Keola is the team's aircraft technical inspector. "My mission is helping to improve the overall standard of the division's aircraft and giving the commander an indication of how we're shaping up," SSG Keola said.

"I look for three things — condition, safety and availability. The aircraft have to be in good shape, we can't function without them."

"It looks like we're doing the best we can with what we've got," he continued. "I haven't seen too much trouble anywhere. The aviation portion of the CMMI is always the best of those we inspect."

MEDCAP Check-Up . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Ron Merrill)

A Montagnard child receives an examination from a doctor assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Cav's MEDCAP team working in the 1st Cav's 3rd Brigade area.

'May Day' Sends SGT to Rescue

By SP4 George Vindedzis

LAI KHE—One downed Cobra, two trapped pilots and Sergeant Richard J. Korbelt, a door gunner with Company A, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, proved the necessary ingredients for an heroic rescue.

A formation of UH-1A "Huey" helicopters had just combat assaulted an element of 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, into a landing zone near Landing Zone Buttons when a "May Day" call flashed over the radio.

A 1st Cav Cobra had spun 500 feet and crashed nearby. The lead Huey immediately flew to the scene to aid the downed crew.

"I had planned to rappel to the Cobra when we got close enough to the ground," said SGT Korbelt. "But, it turned out that we didn't have a rappelling rope in the survival kit. So the crew chief and I guided the pilots as close to the Cobra as we could and I hung from the skids and dropped about 15 feet to the ground."

The Cobra was lying on its left side. The two pilots, in a state of semi-consciousness, were still seated in the cockpit of their downed bird.

"The windows were jammed," said the door gunner. "I looked around and spotted a part of the Cobra's radio lying on the ground. With it, I managed to break the glass and pull out the pilot."

By this time, a MEDEVAC bird was hovering above and lowered its jungle penetrator. Korbelt secured the stunned pilot to the line and returned to the downed craft for the co-pilot.

After breaking the glass over the co-pilot's seat, the door gunner tried to pull him out.

"I was really exhausted," said Korbelt. "The co-pilot's feet were caught on the control stick and I just couldn't pull him loose."

Looking up, the sergeant saw an approaching MEDEVAC bird and immediately guided it in as close to the accident scene as possible. He then signaled the MEDEVAC to send down another man to assist him.

The MEDEVAC responded with a stretcher and Specialist 5 Steve Richards lowered to aid in the rescue. Together the two men managed to get the co-pilot out of his craft, strapped him to the stretcher and sent him up to the hovering MEDEVAC.

SP5 Richards, a medic from Co B, 15th Medical Battalion, and Korbelt then retrieved the pilot's maps, weapons and personal items from the cockpit. They were then hoisted up by the jungle penetrator.

The MEDEVAC took the injured men to the aid station at Quan Loi for treatment while Sergeant Korbelt's Huey followed.

After describing the events to the doctors, the door gunner and his crew flew back to Song Be where the Huey was needed once again.

Skytroop Runs Firm At LZ Grant 'Office'

By PFC William Block Jr.

TAY NINH — A million dollar business opened up its new eastern branch 18 miles northeast of Tay Ninh with the arrival of the

company president turned infantryman. Office hours are flexible; the boss spends a lot of time in the field.

Sergeant E.L. Harris Jr., Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, runs the "front office" of his Houston, Texas based steel fabrication corporation from Landing Zone Grant.

The firm was started in 1965 by Harris, then aged 19, and two partners, to produce prefabricated structural steel. Each partner contributed \$7,000 to begin the business.

"The going was pretty rough for a while," said Harris. "We started with a 30 by 50 foot shop, two welding machines, two grinders and a two-ton flat bed truck. There were seven of us working the first year. The original partners were seldom paid. It was hard enough to pay the employees."

Two of the original partners sold out in the first 14 months.

"The situation improved," SGT Harris said. "Now we have four shops, more than 70 employees and expect more than one million dollars of business this year."

"Every week I have correspondence to answer dealing with the business," he said. "Whenever possible, I use the MARS station to call home and keep things running smoothly. But it's definitely harder to run a business from a firebase in Vietnam."

His interests are being watched at home by his wife and father.

"My wife is my secretary," he said. "My dad took a look at the business and decided to join me."

Saves Downed Huey Fast Combat Assault

TAY NINH—"There were two MEDEVACs packed full of grunts, and not one of us was injured," said Specialist 4 Billy M. Smallwood.

It started when a MEDEVAC helicopter was hit recently by enemy sniper fire while supporting Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, near Landing Zone Grant about 17 miles northwest of Tay Ninh.

The pilot reported a loss of pressure and decided to land in an open area about four miles north of the LZ. The rescuer had to be rescued.

An unusual combat assault was instantly organized. Company A's second platoon, on LZ defense, was lifted to the area in two MEDEVACs and a resupply Huey. With two Huey Cobras circling overhead to provide cover, the platoon set up a perimeter around the downed bird.

Soon a Chinook was hovering overhead and the damaged bird was hauled off for repairs.

Red Cross 'Donut Dollys' Join the Cav



Mary Clare McEnery, L-R, Lynn Andrews, Joan Stenerson, and Marynette Nichols show off their new Cav patches in front of the division's headquarters in Phuoc Vinh.

The Cav has gone co-ed. At least, that was the way it looked when four Red Cross girls in sparkling, ice-blue uniforms joined the FIRST TEAM this month and began touring firebases throughout "Cav Country". The energetic "Donut Dollys" are the first permanently assigned Red Cross girls the Cav has had since the division has been in Phuoc Vinh.

Miss Lynn Andrews, an avid ski enthusiast and mountain climber, spent her childhood in Kellogg, Idaho, before attending college in Idaho. After graduation, Lynn went to San Jose State College in California for a summer session and taught elementary school in Seattle, Washington, before volunteering for the Red Cross program.

Lynn claims that her big desire in Vietnam was to get Airborne training.

"It didn't work out that way, but I did learn to rappel," she said.

Unfortunately for the Cav, she is getting short on her tour and will be heading back to the "world" soon.

Miss Marynette Nichols was leafing through some job placement material as a student at Texas Technical College when an ad inviting young women to "entertain able-bodied servicemen overseas" caught her eye. Intrigued, she looked into becoming a Red Cross girl.

Marynette comes from Centerville, Texas. She loves swimming, ice skating and listening to all kinds of music.

Before joining the Cav, she served with the 4th Infantry Division at Pleiku.

"Everybody knows the Cav," she exclaimed, "but nobody knows where Phuoc Vinh is."

Miss Mary Clare McEnery and Miss Joan Stenerson came in country together and then went separate ways until they both were assigned to the Cav.

Mary Clare is from Flushing, New York, but calls New Orleans home. She went to Marquette University and graduated from Tulane University; has done modeling and convention work.

Joan's hometown is Beaverton, Oregon. Another skiing and camping devotee, she also plays the piano and has even tried skydiving. She graduated from Portland State College.

"I love it here," she said. "One afternoon, Mary Clare and I even flew out from Bu Dop with the log bird and visited the night defensive position of Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry. It was great!"

The work these hard working girls do is not easy. The pace is wearing, the heat oppressive and the muck and dust often miserable, but they always manage to have a smile, a wave and an attentive ear for the men in the field. Conversations range from fun and games to politics, medicine, theology or about that girl back home who may not have written lately.

Story and Photos
By SP4 Philip Blackmarr

Lynn Andrews ...



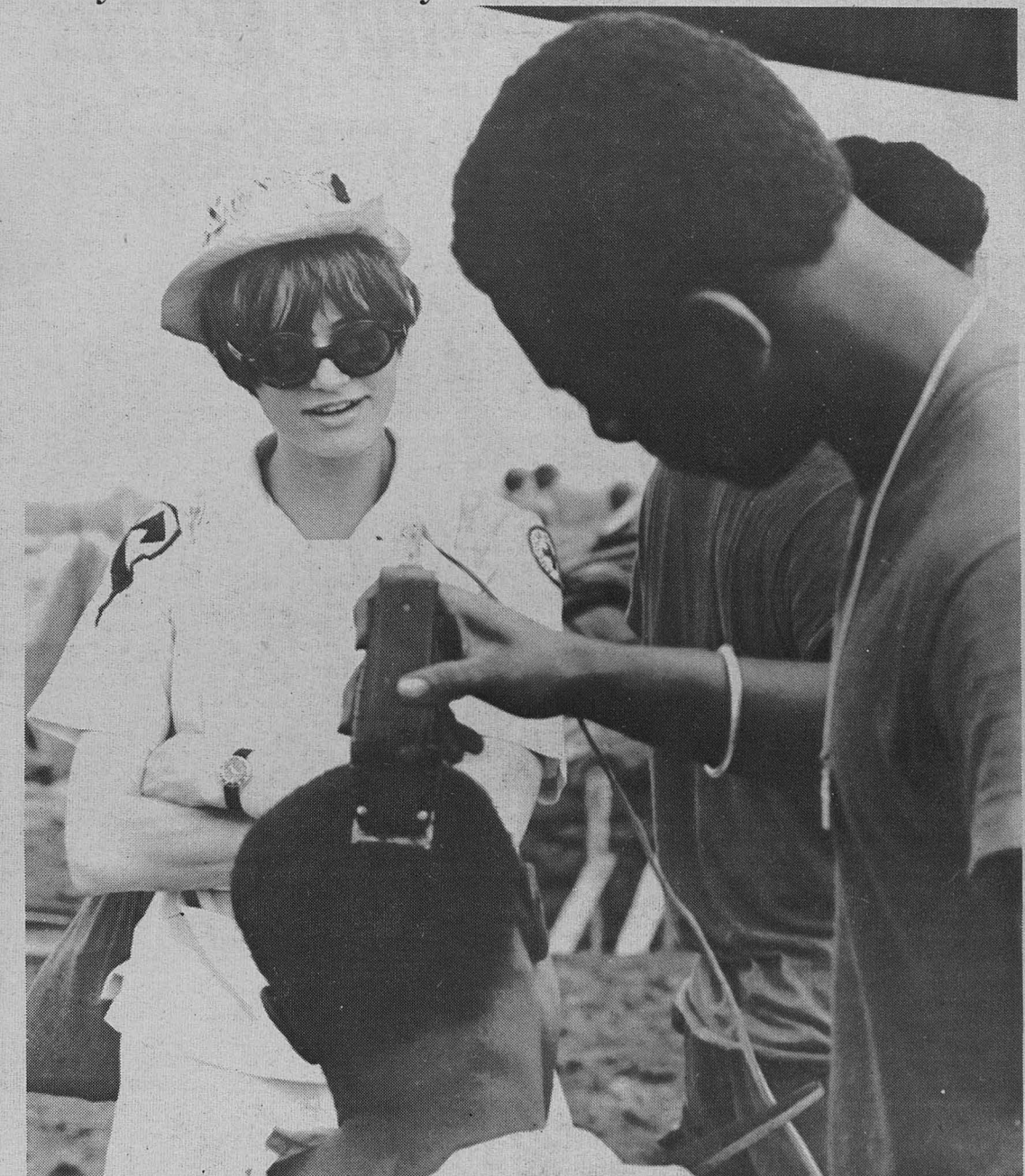
A Blackhat at LZ Eagle I explains to Lynn Andrews how to contact the helicopter pilot who will be giving her a ride back to Quan Loi following a tour of the firebase.

Joan Stenerson ...



Joan Stenerson improvises a vanity mirror from the side mirror of a 1st jeep before starting out on one of her visits to Skytroopers in the field.

Mary Clare McEnery ...



Mary Clare McEnery talks with barber PFC Reginald Wynn (right) and PFC Curtis E. Duffiel at LZ Eagle I. Mary Clare made the afternoon trip to the 1st Bn, 5th Cav, firebase as part of her duties as a Red Cross girl.

Marynette Nichols ...



"Glor" snuggles up to Marynette Nichols who joins the Cav's Red Cross unit after a tour with the 4th Infantry Division in Pleiku.



The sign may say "captured" but Marynette Nichols, Lynn Andrews, Mary Clare McEnery and Joan Stenerson, L-R, are actually guests of the 1st Cav on their tours as Red Cross girls.

From Italy With Love . . .



(Photo Courtesy of Playboy Magazine)

By looking at her name, one can tell Miss Helena Antonaccio's ancestry hails from Italy. For obvious reasons, however, the New York Playboy Club Bunny's name is not what catches the eye. She definitely looks all American to us.

Nui Ba Ra Holds Key to Song Be

By SP4 Tom Benic

LAI KHE—On a mountain peak majestically overlooking the town of Song Be 2,200 feet below, a small band of men defend a vital communications relay point and a key tactical position in the defense of Song Be.

From this Spartan, crowded outpost—the mountain known as Nui Ba Ra—on the northeast corner of the 1st Cav's area of operation, the Black Virgin Mountain (Nui Ba Den), 70 miles away appears as a hazy blue whale in a tranquil sea of green.

The muddy Song Be River winds past villages to the north towards the Cambodian border only 15 miles away.

To the east are the mountain ranges of the Central Highlands; yet, they can hardly be noticed because of the shining galvanized steel roofs of Song Be and surrounding villages which house 23,000 Vietnamese and an estimated 15,000 Montagnards.

Two battalions of the 1st Cav's 2nd Brigade and the 3rd Battalion, 9th ARVN Regiment, have been committed to the defense of Song Be, the capitol of Phuoc Long Province.

"If the enemy takes the mountain, he controls all entrances to Song Be," said Lieutenant Colonel Thomas F. Healy, commander of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cav. "We're really dug in there. It's a lot easier to keep it than win it back."

A squad from each of the rifle companies in LTC Healy's battalion recently joined a group of Regional Force soldiers and communications personnel atop Nui Ba Ra. Their days have been busy filling sandbags and building bunkers in preparation for any possible attack.

"Our biggest problem has been to find enough dirt for the sandbags," said Captain Robert F. Shaw, commander of the mountain top post.

"It's a real rock pile at this elevation and we've done quite a bit of construction during the last several weeks," he said.

"A ground attack doesn't scare us," said CPT Shaw. Air support from helicopter gunships is only minutes away since the Cav's Landing Zone Buttons sits at the base of the mountain.

"Considering the difficulty of getting up here on foot," said CPT Shaw, "we're certain that with adequate supporting fire, we can hold off any sized ground attack."

CPT Shaw's prediction proved true the night after he made the above statement. Nui Ba Ra was subject to enemy attack but the enemy was beaten back and the outpost's defenses held.

Daytime Clerks Turn Night Bunker Guards

By SP4 Ron Merrill

QUAN LOI—From behind the rubber trees, the sun was just beginning to do what the flares had done beyond the greenline all night. Atop a bunker on the west side of the greenline, Specialist 5 Bill Levengood put down his telephone for the last time.

"You know, the day isn't done at Quan Loi until you wake up the next morning," the guard said.

Levengood is not a seasoned infantryman, but then neither are the others who work for the 1st Battalion, 7th Cav, in offices, supply rooms, mess tents and communications bunkers during the day and then man the greenline at nightfall.

Specialist Four Chuck Creed, a legal clerk sharing the bunker with SP4 Levengood, took a drag off a half wet cigarette and said, "Wow, I've got a rear job." The same man had been wounded on the same bunker by shrapnel just two weeks earlier.

Down the line of sandbag bunkers, a quarter ton truck began to pick the men up. They would have just enough time to grab a quick bite of breakfast, change out of their mud caked fatigues, shower and report to their regular daily jobs.

On the other side of the 3rd Brigade base camp, Second Lieutenant Richard Webb and his blocking force stand ready during the night but head for clerical offices during the daylight. 2LT Webb, assistant adjutant for the 1st Bn, 7th Cav, works in the S-1 shop during the day and climbs into his jeep with driver Sergeant Tommy Chambers, a promotions clerk in the same office, for the ride to the air strip each night.

Everyday, an evening formation signals the start of another night watching the perimeter. The men come to formation singularly or in groups, mounting trucks for the short trip to the greenline.

And as the trucks pull out you don't hear the griping about the upcoming sleepless night, but they talk of the work they could have gotten done if they could have had another couple hours.

LZ Named For Hero of 12th Cavalry

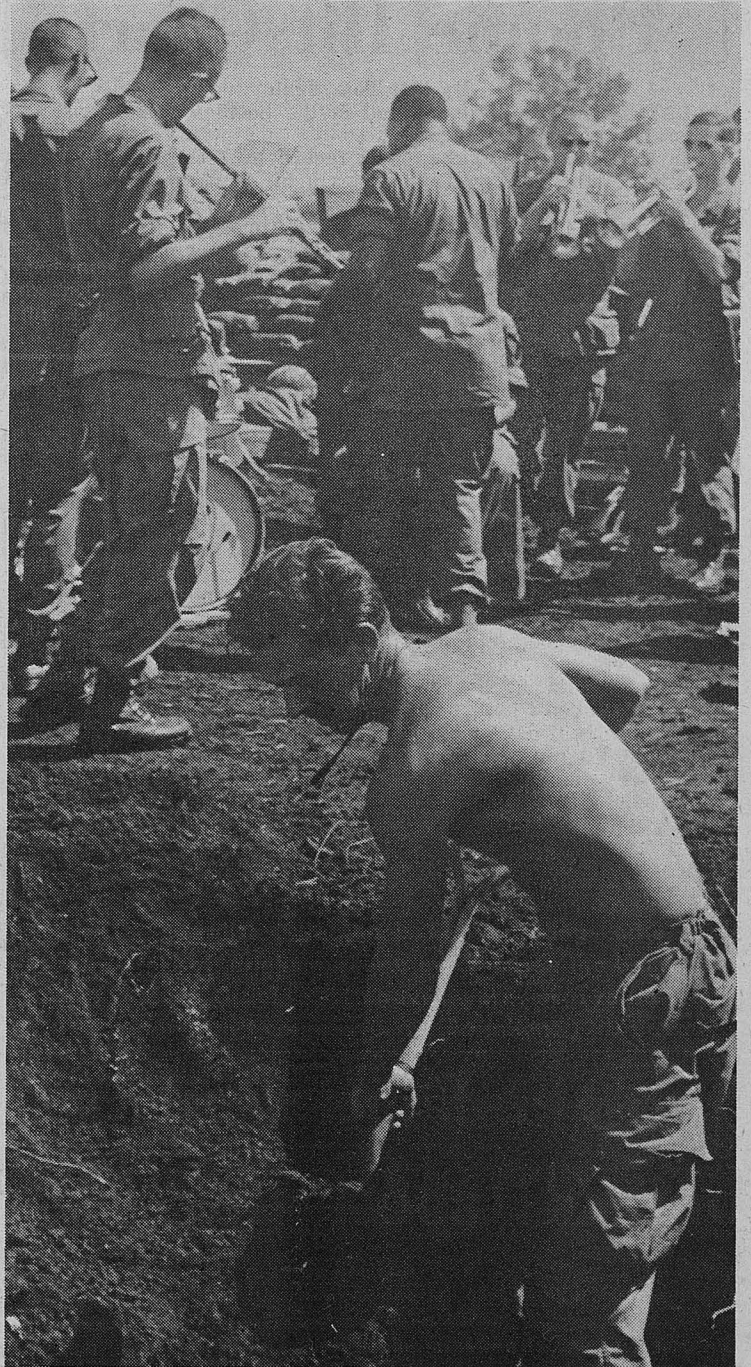
LAI KHE — Landing zones in the 1st Air Cavalry Division are traditionally Spartan forts with un-heroic names, built in the midst of the wilderness as an immediate but temporary tactical move.

Landing Zone Alvarado in Song Be is different in two respects. It sits in the middle of a populated area and is named for a hero who was very important to the Skytroopers of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

Specialist 4 Leonard Alvarado was a machinegunner with Alpha Company's second platoon. Coming to the aid of the 1st platoon, pinned down by enemy fire, Alvarado's unit was ambushed by a well entrenched machinegun position.

Specialist Alvarado wiped out the machinegun position but suffered fatal wounds in the attempt. His heroism, however, will not be forgotten by the men of Company D who defend LZ Alvarado each day.

Cav Skytroopers 'Take a Break' at LZ Eagle I

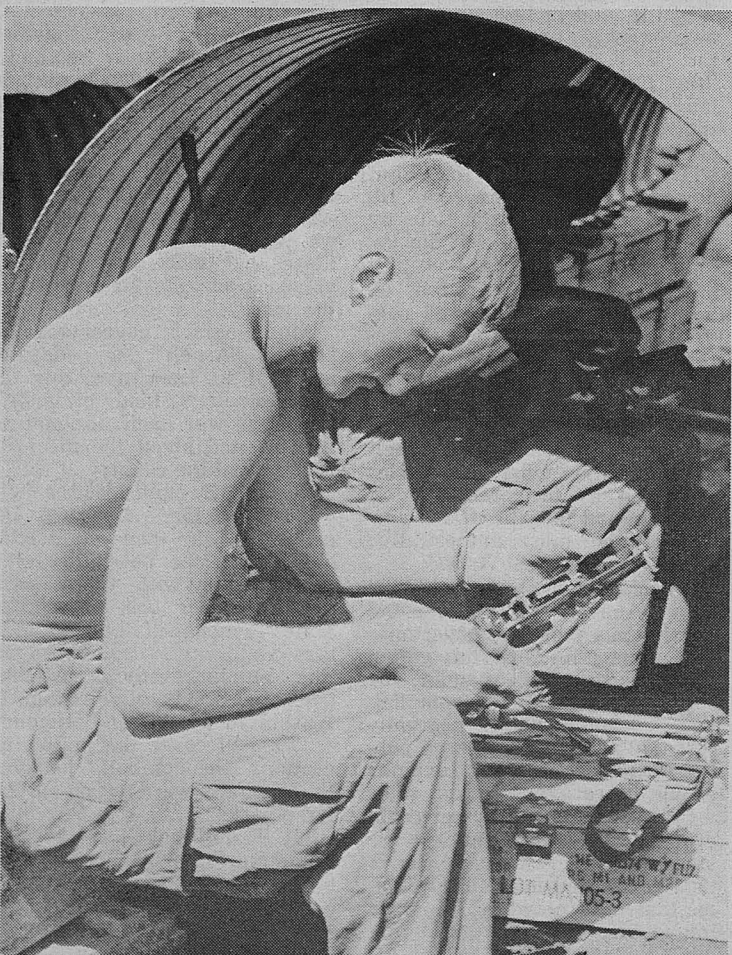


Skytroopers from the 1st Bn, 5th Cav, take a look at the selection of the Flying PX at LZ Eagle I. The airmobile store is manned by SP4 Dale Oisten (bottom left) who also acts as cashier.



Cavalair Staff Photos

It isn't often that a bunker is dug out to live music. But, in the case of SGT Ronald Tipton, HQ Btry, 1st Bn, 27th Arty, it just happened that the Cav Band lifted out to LZ Eagle I for a noontime concert while SGT Tipton was repairing a washed out bunker.



Idle hours are also spent preparing for the next day's action. PFC James Plovanic (left) and PFC John Gates, from Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav, make sure their rifles will be ready for the next operation.



Members of Company E's Recon Platoon, 1st Bn, 5th Cav, take a welcome morning break after pulling a successful night ambush just a few hours before.

Cav Record Tops Boonie Hit Chart

By SP4 Tom Benic

LAI KHE—The hottest sound in the boonies these days isn't necessarily an artillery barrage.

In Northern III Corps, a new record by former infantryman, Bill Ellis of the 1st Cav Division, is a hit with the men he signs about.

"We must have played both sides 20 times the first night in," said Specialist 4 David Churchill. The infantryman's company, Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, had just returned to Landing Zone Buttons after three weeks in the field. "It was getting late and we were tired but no one would turn it off," he said.

The following morning, the now familiar sounds of "Grunt", "Firefight" and "Freedom Bird" were broadcast from a battered portable record player resting in the firebase dust, 30 meters from the barbed wire perimeter.

"It's been going now for two hours straight," said Specialist 4 Merrill Whitcher, who had taken a break from a touch football game to join five others listening in.

Specialist Churchill was telling everyone of how he went to high school with Ellis. "He was the biggest anti-war hippie you'd ever hope to meet," he said. The men laughed and someone flipped over the record.

"It's the only one we play because it's the only one we have," joked one of the listeners.

"It's a real good record," snapped Whitcher. The others nodded in agreement.

Ellis was singing how "little things mean a lot; when they're things you haven't got" and the men tuned-in.

The sun beat down and the dust blew and Ellis was asking:

"What I'd give for an ice cold beer,
An ice cold Coke or just a piece of ice,
To cool the water.
It's getting hotter."

"I came to groove on the music," announced Specialist 4 Wendall Janke, who took his place in the dust beside the record player.

"Okay, groove," he said—apparently to himself—as he took off his shirt. His head rested in his right hand. The blast of a 155mm howitzer 40 yards away shook the ground but no one turned.

Ellis was singing about going home. You could see him, hear him singing in the Bien Hoa terminal, "waiting for the bird."

"I hope it still will be the same
When I get home.
And things can change, rearrange,
Oh be so strange to me."

Computers Help Keep Cav Artillery Accurate

By SP4 Tom Benic

LAI KHE — Sophisticated digital computers used by the artillery have found a home in the boonies — at least in the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

No longer the sole property of division and brigade level Fire Direction Control (FDC) centers these electronic devices that produce the most accurate firing data available are being employed in increasing numbers in the field at even the battery level.

"We give it the target location and altitude and it gives us everything we need," said Staff Sergeant Jack Gibson, a section chief at the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery FDC at Landing Zone Alvarado.

"It's fast and you can't beat it for accuracy," he added. "It's a tremendous help here."

But it's not putting anyone out of a job.

"A good FDC team can actually beat the computer," Sergeant Gibson explained. "Every fire mission done by the computer is still checked by hand at the battalion and battery level. It hasn't made a mistake yet, but in this business you can't be too sure."

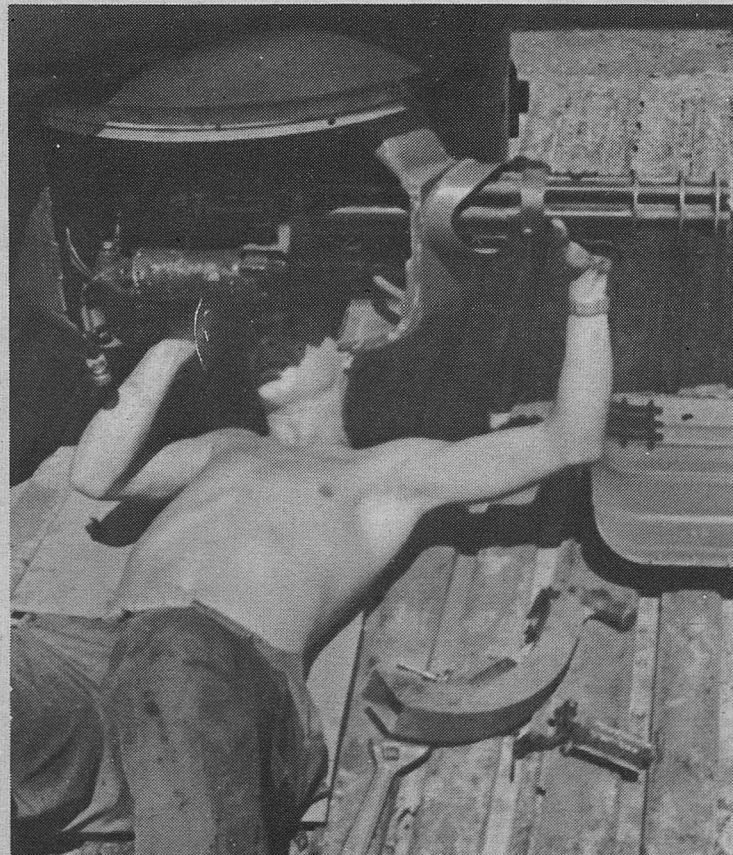
To say the computer isn't appreciably faster than other methods is somewhat misleading, since FDC operators can plot firing data by hand in a matter of seconds. You just can't get much faster than that.

Accordingly, the primary value of the computer is in the performance of those tedious, time-consuming tasks such as registering guns that much be repeated regularly.

"The computer has a great deal of versatility," said the sergeant. "It excels when vari-

ables such as wind, temperature, type of round and powder temperature — all of which affect the path of the round — vary a great deal from the standard. You just can't compete with it in that situation."

Mini Mechanic . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Terry Moon)
Aircraft armament repairman SP5 John Reynolds of Co D, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, checks out a Cobra mini-gun as part of the battalion's regular maintenance program.

At LZ Ike on the 5th

By SP4 Joe Kamalick

In the early morning hours of September 5, the Associated Press team of Peter Arnett and Horst Faas witnessed the NVA attack on the 1st Cav's Fire Base Ike northeast of Tay Ninh. When the attack started, both Faas and Arnett were very nearly killed by the blast of a 107mm rocket that crashed into the command bunker.

On the next day Arnett's story and Faas' photos of the battle were cabled to the United States and onto the front pages of more than a hundred newspapers across the country.

"The quiet of the black night," wrote Arnett of Ike, "was broken by a tan mongrel dog who ran to a perimeter gate and started barking loudly at the jungle foliage. The bunker line saw a bobbing light 200 meters away and ripped into it with a machine gun and automatic weapons fire. It disappeared."

In the next moment Arnett and Faas were in the middle of the fight for LZ Ike. For both men, who coincidentally arrived in Vietnam on the same day seven years ago, there have been many other nights in the jungle like the one they spent at Ike. That night on Ike, Arnett drew again on his unusual reservoir of good luck.

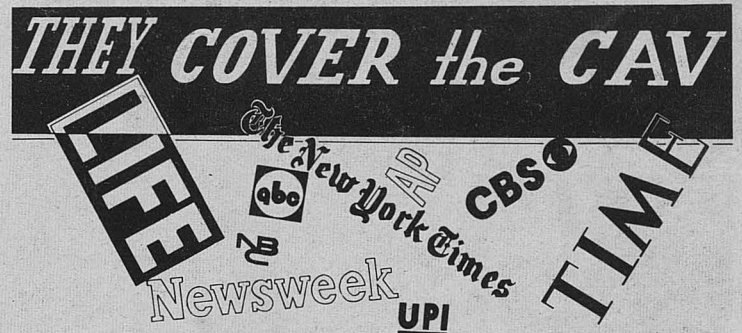
"Sergeant Major John F. Adams, a three war veteran, had decided that an attack was not coming. He climbed into bed and as he did a 107mm rocket fired point-blank in the treeline 300 meters away exploded against the side of the bunker, caving in a wall and demolishing an adjoining bed. The blast propelled Adams and a reporter into the main command bunker."

The reporter propelled into the command bunker was, of course, Arnett. The demolished bed was to have been his, but no one slept on LZ Ike that night.

"The North Vietnamese infantry had crawled by the observation post and avoided the radar. They had survived the 'mad minute' and the claymore mines which are set off by trip wires."

"They were at fire Base Ike. It was 2 a.m. The attack was on."

For Arnett, the road to LZ Ike



(U.S. Army Photo By SP4 Joe Kamalick)

Peter Arnett

and the top slot on AP's Vietnam reporting staff began 17 years ago in Bluff, New Zealand, his seaport home on the southern coast. At an early age he started writing for New Zealand and Australian newspapers.

He moved onto the BANGKOK WORLD, and in 1959 started his own weekly newspaper called the VIENTIANE WORLD, "the first and last English language paper in the Lao-tian capitol." That venture met an unnatural end in early 1960 when Arnett's presses were shut down by a Communist coup. He was then expelled from Laos by the Communists who felt uneasy under his eye and pen.

After Laos, Arnett hired on with Associated Press and covered Indonesia for 18 months before coming to Vietnam in mid-July 1962. It was the start of an association that would produce some of the finest war reporting of any war and soon find Arnett in the position where his stories are read as the barometer of Vietnam and the war. His is now one of the most authoritative voices on Southeast Asia.

When out doing a story, Arnett likes to have "full freedom and maximum candor from the military authorities." He has gotten that freedom and candor, he said, especially away from Saigon; "Commanders generally feel that their men deserve publicity and that their exploits should be recognized."

"But when we don't get cooperation, we go out and get the story anyway."

"I've worked under the premise that the free world has nothing to hide in Vietnam, so why not publicize it?"

Believing that, he dislikes being denied information or freedom of movement. As with most reporters, such a reception only makes them more curious

and doggedly determined to get to the answers.

"And I feel that the initial free world commitment to Vietnam was right and that we should be here. But I have reserved the right to be critical of our performance and how we conduct ourselves."

"The Vietnam war has spoiled us, spoiled us because we can do so much. It is the most free war in history."

But that freedom of coverage and reporting was not easily won. "We've had to battle for the privilege of reporting the war, and it became more free as we went along. As the United States got more and more involved it became easier to cover the war."

After years of covering battle stories, Arnett now devotes much of his time to writing the "big picture" kind of article about the war itself, the politics of war, and about the mecurial economy of the country at war.

"In 1965 through 1968 the field was where the action was because the war then was a cliff-hanger. . . the possibility of a confrontation with China existed. But after 1968 the United States announced that no military victory was being sought. The emphasis then switched from the fields of Vietnam to Washington, Paris and Saigon."

"We still cover the major operations, the combat," he said. He and Faas were not on LZ Ike for a lark.

"It is quite obvious that the Communists cannot get a military victory. Their only hope is a political victory."

Arnett was asked whether he thought seven years wasn't a rather long time to be covering one war. He shrugged his shoulders. "I'll probably leave next year." Then he smiled. "But, then, it's always 'next year.'"