



Award Presentation . . .

Colonel Green Awarded



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Vic Fitzwater)

Colonel Byron Greene Jr. receives the Legion of Merit award from 1st Cav Division Commander Major General E.B. Roberts in ceremonies at Landing Zone Buttons. COL Greene said farewell to his 2nd Brigade troops during the ceremony after commanding the brigade for five months.

LZ BUTTONS — Amid artillery marking rounds, Air Force FAC's doing aerobatics and the second brigade scouts flying past spewing clouds of red and yellow smoke, Colonel Byron D. Greene Jr. said farewell to the 2nd Brigade.

Colonel E.C. Meyer, a 1st Cav returnee, was scheduled to assume command of the Blackhorse Brigade on Oct. 1.

The ceremony at the brigade's basecamp near Song Be saw COL Greene awarded the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star for valor by 1st Cav Commander Major General E.B. Roberts.

After the formal part of the ceremony, General Roberts instructed those assembled to close in around him before he made his final remarks.

"The Blackhorse Brigade," General Roberts said, "has distinguished itself in some of the most difficult terrain in Vietnam against a tough enemy who is at home in the terrain. During the five months Colonel Greene has been in command this brigade has always come out on top."

Colonel Greene had nothing but praise for "the filthy grunts with the immaculate M-16's —

the most remarkable group of men imaginable. Through the fine efforts of our battalions and our supporting units we have broken the back of the 5th NVA Division in Phuoc Long Province."

Turning to Lieutenant Colonel Luu Yem, province chief of Phuoc Long Province, COL Greene said, "It has been an honor to work with the Vietnamese forces here. I am only sorry to leave before our joint effort in the province comes to fruition."

The new brigade commander Colonel Meyer deployed with the division to Vietnam in August, 1965, arriving as a member of the advance party. He served as deputy commander of the 3rd Brigade through the Pleiku Campaign, then went to the 2nd Brigade to assume command of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

Colonel Meyer attended the Army War College after his return to the states in June 1966. Prior to coming back to the Cav, he served with the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is a 1951 graduate of the military academy at West Point.

Midnight Battle

NVA Hit Firebase Ike

Skytroopers of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry beat back a determined attack on Landing Zone Ike, killing 33 in the three hour early morning battle to highlight action in the Cav's area of operation during the week ending September 19.

The battle erupted shortly before midnight (Sept. 13) when 100 mortar rounds hit the basecamp seven miles northeast of Nui Ba Den. An estimated company size unit then hit the wire while the defenders used point blank artillery fire and Cobra gunships to crush the offensive.

One NVA was captured and 172 Chicom grenades, 15 B-40 rockets, five 107mm rockets and six AK-47 rifles were found in the area.

In the Second Brigade AO air cavalrymen surprised and killed seven NVA in a bunker complex five miles southeast of Song Be, (Sept. 15). Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry engaged the enemy with organic weapons, then called in helicopter gunships during the 45-minute

battle shortly before noon.

Several miles away, six enemy were killed in a brief battle with Alpha Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry. The unit also uncovered a mortar pit with 42 82mm mortar rounds in the midst of 40 bunkers with overhead cover.

Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry killed 13 NVA northeast of Tay Ninh, then called in artillery and helicopter gunships to kill another 12 enemy (Sept. 19).

Skytroopers killed 182 enemy during the week, losing seven men and having 74 wounded.

Bird on the Wire . . .



(U.S. Army Photo) When the maintenance shop can't come to the helicopter, the ship is hauled off for repairs by a Chinook. This Huey will be cared for by maintenance personnel at Phuoc Vinh.

Association Reduces Life Membership Fee

The Skytrooper Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association has resolved that every soldier in the division will have the opportunity to become a member of the Association.

Beginning Oct. 15, the Association has announced that life memberships for Skytroopers will be reduced from the current \$11 fee to \$10. This one time payment offers troopers a lifetime of good fellowship with other members of the 1st Cav.

As a lifetime member, you receive copies of the Association's Saber News and a current roster of members. Your contribution will also help to finance the activities of the Association's Scholarship Foundation.

At the recent Association convention at Ft. Benning, Ga., hundreds of Vietnam veterans witnessed the presentation of the Association's first scholarship to the son of Cav Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sergeant Jimmy G. Stewart.

This is only one of the Association's many activities.

See your 1st sergeant, command sergeant major or contact the division Information Office for membership application.

Sergeant Majors Plan 'Working Conference'

PHUOC VINH—The first "Working Conference" of division sergeant majors is scheduled for Oct. 12 at Division Headquarters in Phuoc Vinh.

Command Sergeant Major Lawrence Kennedy, division command sergeant major, will preside over the meeting which will bring together E-9's from all corners of the 40,000 square mile division area.

The division sergeant major is primarily concerned with stressing the need for a greater recognition of the enlisted man. Among his biggest concerns are awards and promotions for members of the FIRST TEAM.

"It has been some time since we have gotten together," said CSB Kennedy, "and the sergeant majors have never met on a formal basis."

Keenly interested in making certain that the specific problems of every enlisted man within the division are discussed at the meeting, CSM Kennedy invites EM's to feel free to submit topics for discussion through their battalion sergeant majors or by personal note to him.

Editorial

Redeployment

President Nixon announces redeployment of 35,000 troops!

This headline and others like it fill the front pages of newspapers throughout the world. Does this mean we're going home? Does this mean we're pulling out? What does it mean to us? When questioned, most Skytroopers express the unanimous opinion given by one grunt: "Yeah, great. But it ain't gonna be the Cav."

He's right at this point, and because we're going to be here a while longer, we may as well be aware of a few very important facts of life about troop redeployment and our overall commitment here in Vietnam.

The United States' presence in Vietnam is the direct result of a request for assistance by the government of the Republic of Vietnam. It began first with advisory forces and then was followed by combat troop commitments. The FIRST TEAM's arrival in Vietnam four years ago was a vital part of that urgent buildup.

Since that time, all Free World Military Assistance Forces—the Thais, Australians, Koreans, New Zealanders, and others—have worked toward modernizing the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces. Because of the great progress made in this vital area, as well as in the area of pacification—which largely has been handled by the Vietnamese—redeployment of U.S. forces is now possible.

As present the redeployment has no impact on the status of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Our mission remains substantially unchanged and it is not expected that this division will sustain any personnel turbulence as a result of the redeployments.



Sgt RE-UP
Sgt
"DID YOU KNOW???"



Occasionally, there comes along a literary endeavor that we like to share with everyone. Such is the case of a letter from Command Sergeant Major Lawrence Kennedy.

I'd like to reproduce the main points of his message so it can be shared by all:

I would like to take this opportunity to relay my plea to you that we as NCO's, who are dedicated professional soldiers, have a great responsibility to our country and the Army to do all we can, through good, sound leadership, to encourage and emphasize the retention of good junior NCO's and EM in the Army.

As you realize, all of us "old timers" were junior NCO's and EM only a few short years ago. It was the good, professional leadership of our commanders and senior NCO's that was responsible for our being in the Army today. So now, the shoe is on the other foot.

We now have the responsibility to assure that all the good Junior NCO's and EM are recognized and encouraged to make the Army their chosen profession. In a few short years they will be in the driver's seat and can carry on the important job of the Non-commissioned Officers Corps.

In the Army today the opportunity for advancement is unlimited. Promotions are at an all-time high. In the commissioned and warrant officer field there are many demand for OCS applicants and pilots.

We cannot expect an overnight success in our retention program, but we can get the desired results by getting the facts; explaining all the benefits that are enjoyed by the professional soldier; by setting the example in dress, military knowledge and professionalism; and by presenting the proud look of a professional soldier.

As a final plea to all Non-commissioned Officers, each of us has the responsibility to do all we can to procure and retain the good men in the service.

Let's get and keep the good men in the Army.

In essence what CSM Kennedy has said is that reenlistment is everyone's business.

Boots, Rifle, Memories



(U.S. Army Photo by SP5 Terry Moon) Members of Company B, 8th Engineers sit in silence during a memorial service conducted by a chaplain at LZ Buttons.

Men Pause To Honor Skytrooper

LAI KHE — A pair of boots, a rifle and a helmet stand against the back of a truck at a landing zone.

The radio relay towers at Nui Ba Ra provide a backdrop. Ammo boxes are chairs. A 1st Air Cavalry chaplain begins a memorial service for a man killed in a mortar attack.

The service took place at LZ Buttons and the unit was Company B of the 8th Engineers. But the service might have occurred at any of the Cav's scattered landing zones and for any one of the division's many companies.

Members of the company had spent the day working on the construction of the area; they stopped only briefly for the memorial service. Few wore shirts in the blazing afternoon sun. That a war outside the LZ continued was clear from the booming artillery which punctuated the service.

An Air Force jet roared over the bare-headed men. Absorbed in the words of the chaplain and in their own thoughts, the heads remained bowed.

Despite the sounds of war all around them, despite the rumble of trucks carrying supplies past the area, despite the whirling of helicopters at a nearby landing pad, for the men in the congregation, there was a moment of quiet amid all the confusion. Men walking by became silent as they passed.

The service was brief. The men had other work to do. Yet the short pause was well spent. The men had time to pray and time to think and time to remember one Skytrooper who would survive in the recollections of his co-workers and friends.

Locator Cards Keep Mail Service Moving

Efficient mail routing from the states to Vietnam is a big job which can be made easier with the help of each individual Skytrooper.

To keep mail coming when a member of the FIRST TEAM moves from one unit to another, locator cards must be used. There must be three locator cards submitted by each individual upon his arrival at his unit in Vietnam. One card is retained by his unit; one card goes to the Directory of his serving APO; and one card is sent to the Area Postal Directory, APO 96381.

If the soldier makes any moves while in Vietnam, including a move from one company to another in the same battalion, four new locator cards must be submitted. Three go to the locations already stated and

one goes to the losing unit.

This is the only way that mail can be properly directed to an individual in country. When locator cards are not present or incorrect, mail must be returned to the sender.

...For God And Country

By Chaplain (MAJ) Charles H. Hosutt
Division Artillery Chaplain

The modern study of man has confirmed the wisdom of the Biblical statement that "As a man thinketh so is he." The perspective with which men look at life's situations determines to a large degree that they make of life.

When men view life through the perspective of bitterness, resentment and pessimism, they generally make of it a disappointment. When men view life as hopeless and hollow, they generally make life the empty shell they consider it to be. Men who think of it in terms of defeat are not capable of rendering life victorious.

The positive side is equally true. Thinking has a vital connection with doing. Perspective affects performance. When men approach a situation with interest, they generally find something interesting. When men's hearts turn hopefully to their given tasks, they find justification for further hope.

Men who respect achievement and think of life optimistically in terms of accomplishment are the ones who succeed in making something worthwhile of themselves. Men who believe in victory are not easily defeated.

We cannot always choose the conditions of our life but we are free to choose our interpretation of and our attitudes toward them. Perhaps, you did not choose to be in the Army; to be stationed in Vietnam; to do the job you were given.

But you can choose your attitude. If you think of your Army service as an opportunity for service to your country and as something that you should do well, you probably will turn out a reasonably good job and also get some sense of satisfaction from it.

Should you think of it as an unpleasant burden and a total waste of time, you'll probably come out just as disgruntled as you were when you came in. If you assume you'll get away from everything, you will come away with nothing.

Such is the relationship between perspective and performance outlook and accomplishment; the feeling you give to your job and feeling you obtain from it.



Awards



SILVER STAR
McEVEN, SP4 Larry A.
Co H (Ranger), 75th Inf

MITCHELL, SSG David O.
Co H (Ranger), 75th Inf
PLATTER, SP5 George R.

HHC 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
SNYDER, SSG George R.
Bty A, 1st Bn, 39th Arty
CASELE, PFC Virgle L.
Trp A, 1st Sqd, 9th Cav
ABRAMS, SSG Samuel Jr.
Bty A, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
BOON, LTC Ivan G.
HHC 2nd Bn, 12th Cav
ARANIAK, CPT Albert J.
Co D, 1st Bn, 7th Cav
McKAY, SP4 James G.
Hq Supt Co, 15th Med Bn
AWE, SP4 Duane
HHC, 3rd Bde
FARRINGTON, 1LT Garry
HHC, 1st Bn, 8th Cav
DISTINGUISHED FLYING
CROSS
HARRINGTON, CPT John T.
Co B, 227th Avn Bn
POWELL, CPT John W.
Trp C, 1st Sqd, 9th Cav



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Layout Editor SP5 Ed Freudenburg

Without Radar Aid

Controllers Route Traffic

By PFC Gary Holland

QUAN LOI—Controlling more than 46,000 aircraft each month is in itself a full time job. But the air traffic controllers (ATC) of the 322nd Aviation Detachment at Quan Loi can do it "blind".

Although the ATC is perched on top a 30 foot glass enclosed tower, the men who work there must guide aircraft safely in without the benefit of visual contact in many cases.

Aircraft make initial contact with the control tower up to 26 miles from touchdown. Operating without the aid of radar, controllers must rely on information received over the radio. The position, progress and disposition of all local aircraft must be stored and plotted in the mental picture bank of the air controller.

When this information is compared with the positions of all other aircraft in the area, the

ATC can know air conditions and flight patterns miles beyond his normal eyesight.

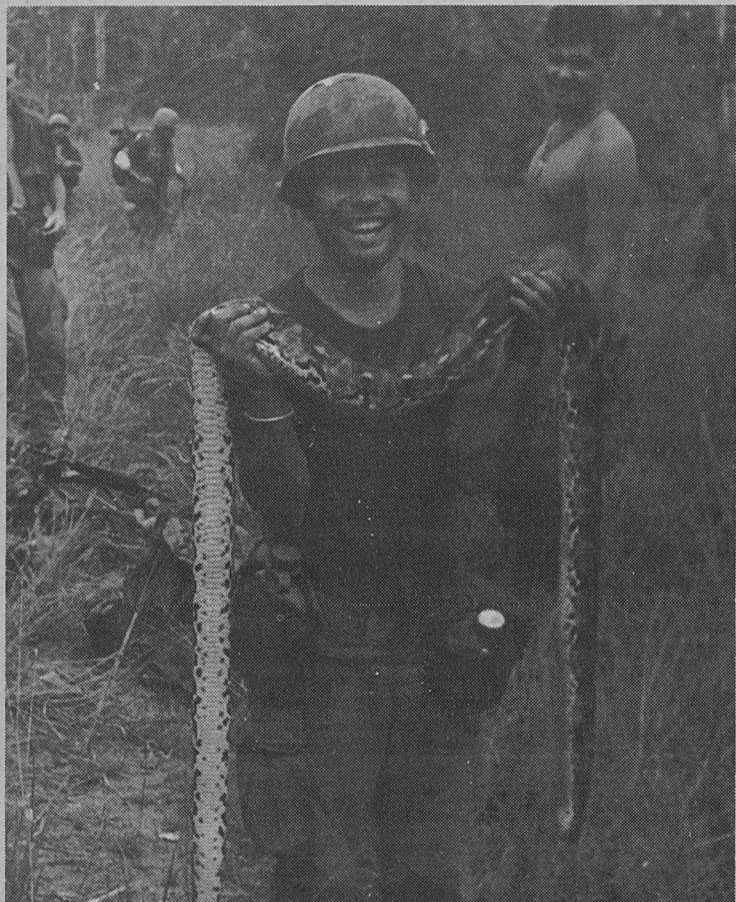
He then advises incoming flights of ground conditions, weather, winds, altimeter adjustments and instructions for landing. Aircraft, both fixed wing and helicopters readying for take-off, must also be cleared.

There is no fixed landing or take-off pattern at the air strip, so each air controller must mentally plot each craft's course in relation to other aircraft landing or taking off from the field.

"We've managed up to 30 aircraft at one time," said Specialist Four Edwards Geels, an ATC at Quan Loi.

When the area is under attack, the incoming aircraft are kept advised, and the decision to land is given to the pilot. But despite fog and heavy traffic, the man in the tinted glass tower keeps order where there is potential chaos.

Snake Story . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Vic Fitzwater)

Specialist Four Robert R. Gorgensen is all smiles after he stumbled over a giant python while on an operation with Company D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav. SP4 Gorgensen is a medic assigned to the company operating out of Landing Zone Grant.

ARVN's Batter Enemy

QUAN LOI—Led by a wounded commander, a 5th ARVN Division company wiped out a well entrenched enemy force in a three-hour, bunker to bunker battle 70 miles north of Saigon.

Thirty-two enemy soldiers were killed in the fight, and only one ARVN soldier was killed while 18 were wounded.

The exclusively ARVN operation which included ARVN armored cavalry and air strike fire powers, was conducted "as well as any operation I've ever seen, anywhere, anytime," according to an American officer who witnessed the battle.

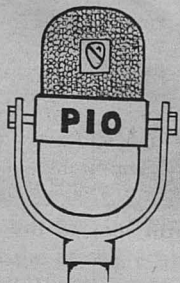
The ARVN company commander, Second Lieutenant Phan Huan Vu, was slightly wounded three times in the fight, but refused to leave his men for medical aid.

Fighting close in among the "heavily fortified" bunkers, the ARVN troopers silenced one after another the two to four man enemy positions.

"It was well done, very well done," said an American colonel.

Holiday Greetings

From you to your family. . . THE DIVISION INFORMATION OFFICE WILL RECORD THANKSGIVING MESSAGES FROM OCT. 1 TO OCT. 25 . . . SEND A RADIO MESSAGE TO YOUR FAMILY THROUGH YOUR HOMETOWN RADIO STATION. CONTACT YOUR UNIT INFORMATION OFFICER FOR DETAILS.



OP Becomes Marketplace During Day

SONG BE — Observation Point No. 1 at the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Landing Zone Don is hardly typical.

From dawn to dusk, most of the observing is done by those on the outside of this firebase located near Song Be.

Villagers by the score, mostly kids, scramble daily to the site beside the road to talk with the GI's and set up an instant marketplace.

"Most are just harmless, curious kids," said Private First Class Roland Bigby. "We check their ID's and keep them out of the LZ itself."

Early each morning the villagers arrive with their plastic satchels filled with everything from cold sodas to sugar cane stalks sold at five cents a foot. The traffic to and from the new LZ makes it an ideal marketplace.

OP No. 1 is unique since the Cav usually builds its fire-bases deep in the boonies where the enemy might be. LZ Don is committed to the defense of the populated Song Be area — where the enemy wants to be.

New Chaplain . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SSG John Wilson)

Lieutenant Colonel Charles F. Powers joins the 1st Cav as Division Chaplain after a two month tour with the 25th Division. A 16-year veteran of Army chaplain service, Chaplain Powers is on his first Vietnam tour. He was ordained in 1948 as a Catholic priest and has a Bachelors of Arts in philosophy from Seton Hall College in South Orange, New Jersey

Walking on Air . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Bob Borchester)

A Blackhat steps out of a Chinook helicopter for a quick drop to a new landing zone site in the jungle below.

Ranger Patrol Turns Into Combat Assault

LZ BUTTONS — The insertion of a 1st Air Cavalry Division Ranger Team is normally handled as quietly as possible. Since the small unit's survival often depends upon its ability to remain undetected, the initial

movement into an area is designed to attract no attention.

An insertion of Ranger Team 44 attracted considerable attention from the enemy and at least two enemy soldiers paid for seeing the Rangers' come in.

A Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) and Cobra team from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, was flying over the site to provide security as the Rangers went in. Suddenly the LOH, the low bird, spotted an eight-foot wide road, paved with wood, and two individuals in NVA uniforms alongside.

The enemy reacted to this sudden intrusion by firing at the LOH. The pilot, Warrant Officer Hubert Kuykendall, saturated the area with mini-gun fire. The two NVA soldiers fell dead.

Under normal circumstances, compromise of the ranger team's position would mean immediate extraction of the team. In this case, however, they were already on the ground and decided to check the enemy bodies to find what ever material of intelligence value might be present.

Moving slowly towards the fallen enemy, the six-man team was suddenly engaged by enemy fire. Blue Max, circling overhead, swooped down on the enemy, bombarding the dense jungle camouflage with rockets.

When the Rangers reached their objective, all that remained were two enemy soldiers and five rice bags filled with 82mm mortar rounds.

"We went back in and extracted the Rangers," said Mr. Kuykendall. Another Ranger mission was complete.

Cav-RFs Show Teamwork in Action

SONG BE—They carried everything from AK-47's to M-16's, wore tennis shoes and a variety of uniforms (including black pajamas) and followed two Viet Cong veterans to a basecamp hidden in the thick bamboo rain forest.

Several hundred yards behind, a company of 1st Air Cavalrymen followed in hot pursuit.

But this scenario of war is not what it seems. The mission of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry was to support, not attack, the lead element of Vietnamese Regional Force troops from Phuoc Long Province in search of a weapons cache.

The two Viet Cong veterans with them had rallied to the Republic of Vietnam under the Chieu Hoi program several days before and now walked point for the combined force operation. The target was a secluded VC basecamp where the Hoi Chanh had lived for two years.

Combined operations of this type are the "name of the game" in Northern Phuoc Long Province, where the defense of Song Be has been given top priority.

In a typical operation 24 hours earlier an ARVN company made a combat assault with 1st Cav helicopters, while a company of Air Cavalrymen on APC's of the 11th Armored Cav Regiment broke through a thick bamboo forest to meet them, hoping to trap the

enemy in the vice.

"We're glad to have the ARVN's working with us, especially in this populated area," said Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Healy, commander of a 1st Cav battalion at Song Be. "It's hard for the Vietnamese—and impossible for us—to tell a peaceful farmer from a hard-core Viet Cong."

"We treat the ARVN units like our own here, even when they operate alone," LTC Healy said. "They get as much artillery, helicopter gunship and MEDEVAC support as anyone in the Cav. We've found it makes one hell of a difference in their fighting morale."

The Hoi Chanh, followed by AK-carrying locals, walked swiftly toward the VC camp along well-used trails. The Americans moved more cautiously, cutting their own path to the objective.

But the Regional Force troops saw nothing strange in their methods. "They're not going to ambush friends who are leading Vietnamese with AK-47's," said Sergeant First Class Phan Hong Thanh, an interpreter with the unit.

There was no ambush. The campsite of elaborate bamboo hootches was deserted. The Hoi Chanh did, however, lead the unit to the promised weapons hidden in the river bed.

"We've mixed Vietnamese and US units in many ways," said LTC Healy. "They're good fighters when they get the support."



Vietnamese Regional Force troopers move out to the skids of a 1st Cav Huey to jump down to the landing zone, beginning the search for an enemy cache.

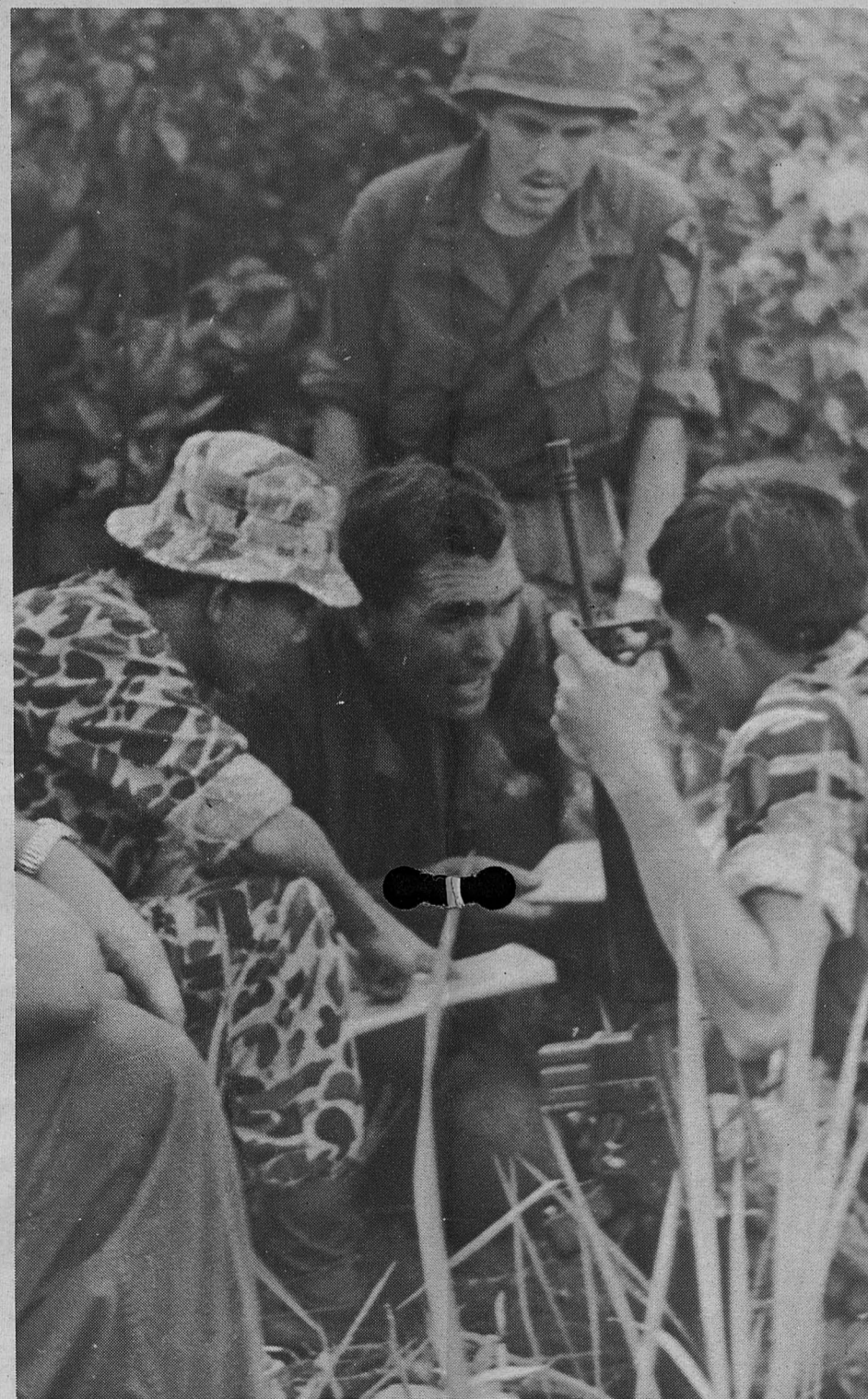


At chow time Skytroopers try rice rations issued to Regional Force troopers, while the Vietnamese sample C-rations. Making the taste test are Specialist Four Joe Van Duscin, (left), Sergeant Lindsey Shuford and Staff Sergeant Dan Affholter.



Only Viet Cong a few days before, two Hoi Chanh carry cache rifles from the VC campsite where the two VCs had been living for nearly two years. The two Hoi Chanh led the combined RF and 1st Cav force into the area—walking point the entire distance.

Story &
Photos by
SP4
Tom Benic



Charlie Company Commander Captain Jesse Fuller (center) talks with Le Van Xuan (left) and Phan Hong Thanh about the coming sweep through the Viet Cong bunker complex.



A sudden noise startles Sergeant Henry R. Medina as he nears the campsite of a Viet Cong unit, Skytroopers from Company C, 1st Bn of the 12th Cav followed RF soldiers into the VC location.



Staff Sergeant Mike Barnes, surrounded by AK-47 and carbine carrying RF troopers, calls his CO to inform him of the point element's finding of a cache of communist rifles.



Mess-Theater Opened

QUAN LOI—Little by little, the comforts of garrison living are becoming apparent at the Quan Loi headquarters of the 3rd Brigade. The most important improvement to the area is the new, larger enlisted mess hall of headquarters company.

Credit for obtaining the new facility goes to First Sergeant Normand Madore, who got things moving for the construction.

In addition to serving as a mess hall, the building will be used as a movie theater and a television room when movies are not being shown.

Time-Out for Baseball

Specialist Four Herbert Andres got an idea when recreational equipment was delivered to Troop C, 1st Squadron of the 9th Cavalry.

"Maybe we could have a baseball game—officers against the EMs?" he suggested to Major Robert N. Tredway, troop commander.

Major Tredway, whose troops were occupied with other things—like fighting—shot down the specialist with a simple question.

He asked wryly, "Do you mean in lieu of the war?"

Relatives United

An alert radio-telephone operator connected two troopers with the same name and came up with a reunion for Major Richard Burdick, aviation safety officer, and his nephew, Specialist Four David Burdick.

The reunion came on a call by MAJ Burdick to Tay Ninh. When the radio-telephone operator took the call he inquired, "Sir, have you a nephew over here?"

When the major said he did, the operator said, "Well, he's sitting right next to me." The younger Burdick is another radio-telephone operator and part-time door gunner with Troop A, 1st Squadron of the 9th Cav.

The next day the pair got together for the first time in five years. In the past SP4 Burdick had seen MAJ Burdick's name on some of the aviation safety messages which came to his unit, but he was not sure if the major was his uncle.

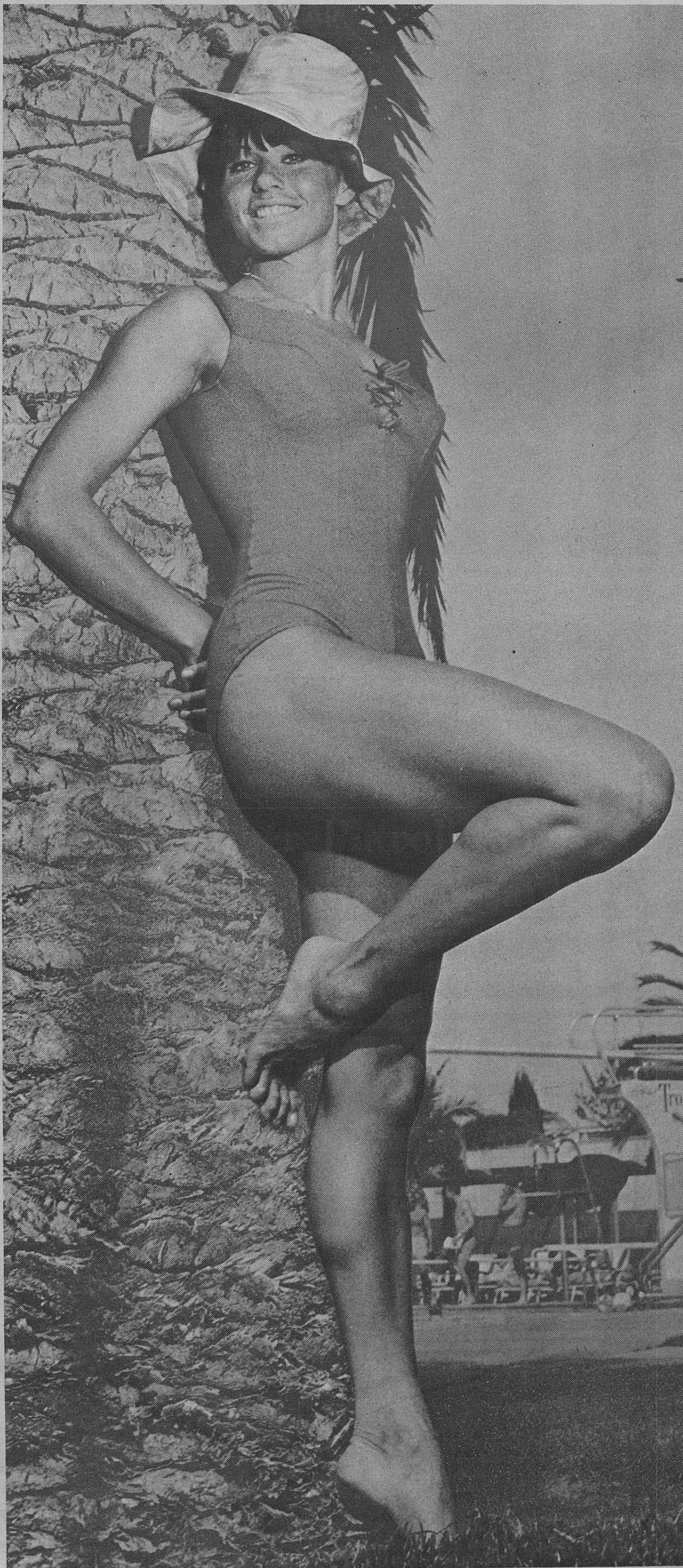


(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Phil Blackmarr) Specialist Four David Burdick (left) meets his uncle, Major Richard Burdick, for the first time in five years. Both Burdicks are serving with the Cav.

New Top for HHC

PHUOC VINH—First Sergeant Daniel Fitzgerald has been assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company at division headquarters as 1st Sergeant, after a three month tour of duty with the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery's B Battery.

A 16-year Army veteran, 1SG Fitzgerald was assigned to an advisory group in Los Angeles prior to his Vietnam tour. His wife and five children reside at his Simi, California, home.



You may never see a poem as lovely as a tree, but Renate Hinzman is something else again . . . and that palm tree isn't even a close second. The pretty dancer from Cologne, Germany, appears in Las Vegas. (UPI Photo)

MEDCAP Team Gives Villagers Medical Care

LZ BUTTONS—Sometimes the most difficult part of a 1st Air Cav Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) trip is simply getting to the target village.

This was the case of a recent MEDCAP mission to the villages of Phuoc Cua and Song Ha by the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry's team. While Phuoc Oua is just outside Song Be, and not too difficult to reach, the Montagnard village of Song Ha is on top a small hill three miles down a narrow mud track road.

The mini-convoy to the villages consisted of two APC's from Troop G, 2nd Battalion, 11th Armored Cavalry, an ambulance carrying the battalion surgeon and medical supplies and a jeep. Along the route the convoy fought lakes of mud that covered the crude roadway.

In the village of Phuoc Oua, the first stop of the day, Vietnamese children received needed medical care and check-ups from experienced medical personnel from the battalion. By the time Captain Jesse Williams, battalion surgeon, set up a field table in the village square, a line of patients had formed.

They came in all shapes, sizes and ages, though the medical complaints were mostly predictable. The doctor did what he could for the morning's 26 patients, but various problems hampered his work.

One boy had an infected finger, but without an X-ray, there was no way for the doctor to tell exactly what the cause of the injury was.

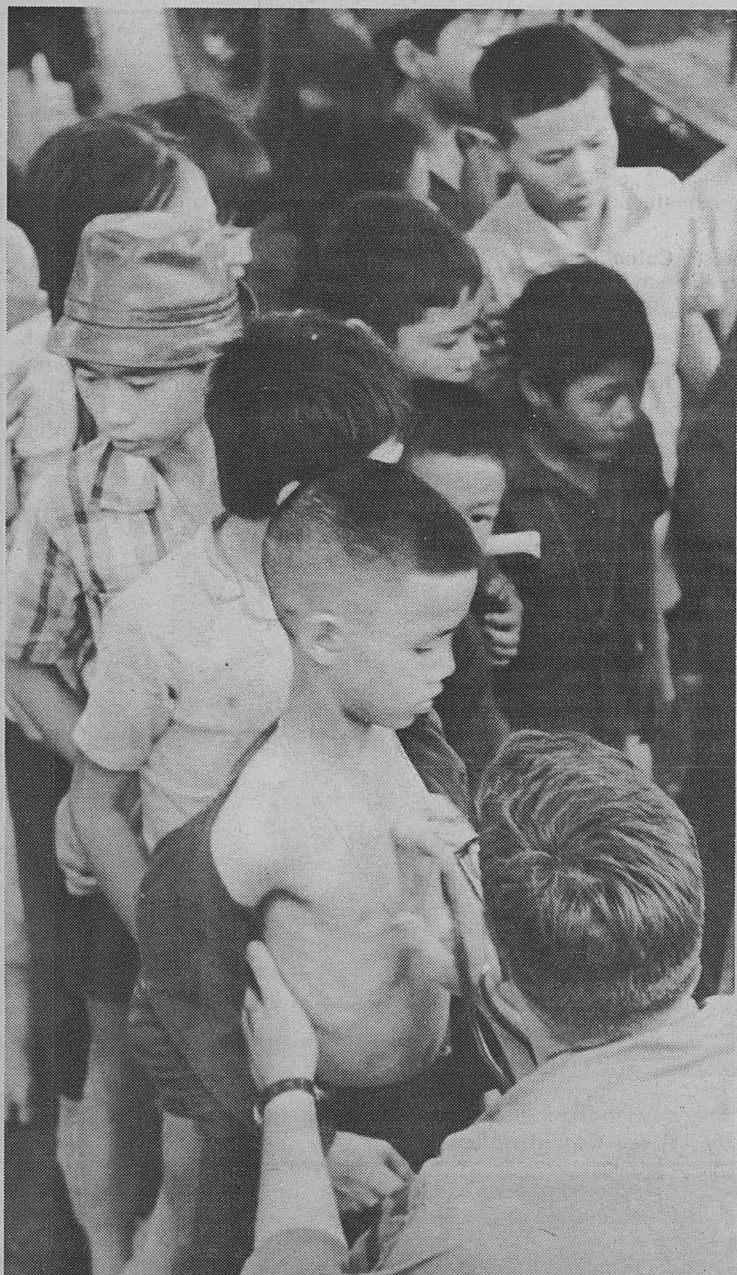
Further down the road, patients waited in the Montagnard village of Song Ha. Language barriers and the Montagnards' lack of understanding of preventive medicine created other difficulties. As the doctor tried to determine from the patient where and what the pain was, he had to turn to a Vietnamese interpreter who then turned to a Montagnard interpreter: each communication had to follow the same arduous channel.

Language was no problem for the small children who needed shots. Like children everywhere, they cried.

Several Montagnard mothers were given a seven-day supply of penicillin tablets for their pneumonia-ridden children with the instructions "one each meal."

In an attempt to be more helpful to the people of Song Ha, the battalion planned for a truck to visit the village within a few days to take the tuberculosis and pneumonia patients to the Song Be hospital. To the villagers such a trip into unfamiliar surroundings is a dangerous step.

All the villagers who wanted treatment during the morning did receive care from the MEDCAP team. After three hours, the convoy returned to LZ Buttons.

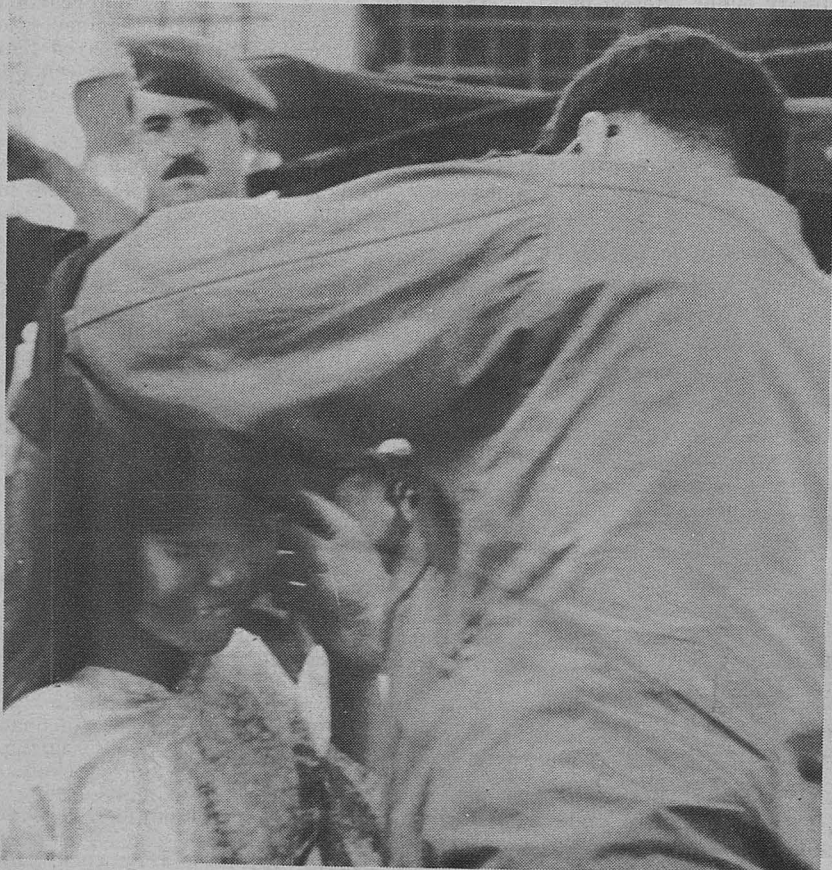


Vietnamese children wait in line for a check-up from a member of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cav's MEDCAP team.



A young mother and her child wait for a diagnosis from Captain Jesse Williams, battalion surgeon, at Phuoc Oua, just outside of Landing Zone Buttons.

Photos By
SP4 Dennis Day



The 5th Bn, 7th Cav's surgeon, Captain Jesse Williams, takes a close look at a Vietnamese child's ear.



A child's foot infection gets prompt treatment from a MEDCAP medic.

Airmobility Brings Bell to Nham Hoa I



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Tom Benic)
 Vietnamese children try out the church bell in Nham Hoa I, which was found by 1st Cav Skytroopers along a jungle trail near Tay Ninh.

LAI KHE—A church bell tolls in the village of Nham Hoa I, thanks to a Catholic chaplain, airmobility—and a great deal of luck.

Founded in 1964 by a Vietnamese Catholic priest, the village of 1,500 near Song Be saw its church bell destroyed in a 1965 Viet Cong raid.

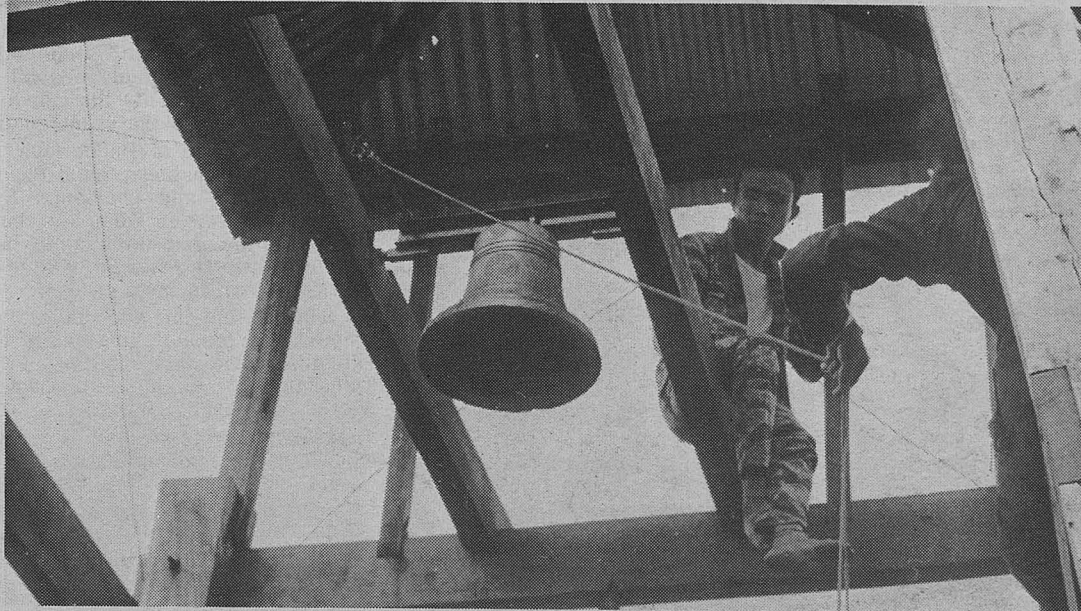
“We learned of the need last June through the senior province advisor,” said Father James J. Brennen, a 1st Air Cavalry Division Chaplain. “The Executive Officer of the 5th Battalion of the 7th Cavalry asked if I could get him a bell, and I said I’d try.”

Weeks later, 60 miles away in the jungle near Tay Ninh, a 1st Cav scout helicopter team found a large bell beside an isolated trail.

“We have no idea how it got there,” Father Brennen said. “But apparently no one was claiming ownership.”

The scout team landed and took the bell to the Division Chaplain’s Office in Phuoc Vinh, where it was to be used in the basecamp’s chapel. That’s when Chaplain Brennen made his pitch.

“It was only logical to bring the bell to Nham Hoa,” Father Brennen said. “It has a great deal of meaning for the people.”



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Tom Benic)
 Workmen hook-up the rope to the new bell at the Catholic church in Nham Hoa I. The bell was donated to the village by 1st Air Cav chaplains.

Vietnamese Children Brighten Basecamp

By PFC Ed Wene

QUAN LOI — About the only English words they know are “Garry Owen,” but the children

of the village of Bu Dop have won the affection of the men from Company A, 1st Battalion of the 7th Cav.

Alpha Company was located about 500 meters from the small village for about a month, and Skytroopers became very friendly with the villagers and especially the children. The children brought the men fresh bread and fruit every morning and generally stayed around the area during the day — like many youngsters are inclined to do.

“You’re tired and worn out after being out in the field for a while, but when you see the kids running around it makes you feel good,” said Private First Class Robert Black. “I don’t know exactly what it is, but they make the whole atmosphere cheerful.”

“We saw these kids every day with clean clothes and then they did a full days work. If they weren’t cutting wood, they helped us around here without having to be paid,” said Private First Class Frank Musso.

“We thought about those children like they were our own,” said Private First Class Charles Sterns. “It’s hard to get through to the older people sometimes and we hope the kids told their parents favorable things about us.”

VC Threats Prove False

QUAN LOI — One of the rare Viet Cong initiated “psychological operations” met with no success in the 1st Air Cavalry’s area of operations.

In the village of Minh Duc, six miles south of Quan Loi, the Viet Cong found out just how much success the Air Cavalry and its MEDCAP program is having.

The VC walked up and down the fenced and hedged streets shortly after midnight. With hand-held speakers, the enemy agents blared their message to the villagers and their Regional Force defenders.

The villagers made no declaration. They waited.

At 2 a.m. the loudspeaker message was punctuated with a mortar barrage — a subtle reminder of the VC promise.

The villagers waited. The hour of 4 a.m. drew near. It came. And it passed. No Viet Cong appeared.

Journalists Wanted

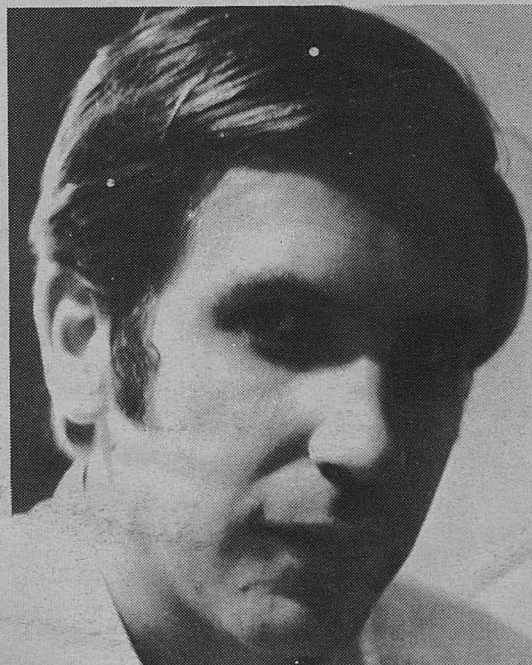
The 1st Air Cavalry Division Information Office is looking for qualified writers, broadcasters, and photographers to fill key staff positions. Skytroopers with civilian educational or professional backgrounds in any phases of journalism are encouraged to get in touch with the Information Office, located at Phuoc Vinh (telephone P.V. 5425, or Skyking PIO), or contact one of the information officers at Tay Ninh, LZ Buttons and Quan Loi, or write to Information Officer, 1st Air Cav Div, In-Country, APO SF96490.



Newsweek
 Reporter
 K. Buckley

Like most members of the Vietnam press corps, Kevin Buckley of Newsweek magazine is concentrating on political trends, overall military strategy and the results of what Buckley calls “the culture shock.”

The combat war remains important news, but with the pullout already begun in the 9th Division, newsmen are reflecting primary public interest in how well the Vietnamese government and army will withstand the withdrawal symptoms.



Kevin Buckley

The questions being asked now seek the truth about ARVN preparation to shoulder more and more of the war burden, and about the Vietnamese government’s ability to remain viable and truly representative without the real presence of Americans. If nothing else, the American military presence in Vietnam has sustained the government

by busying its opponents, the politically oriented Viet Cong and NVA.

During the siege of Ben Het, Buckley, a 1962 graduate of Yale University, visited the embattled Special Forces outpost to document the first test of the ARVN ability to fight without American help.

“At Ben Het I was struck by the reaction among American artillerymen and engineers to the pullout. They were particularly annoyed that there were no U.S. soldiers around to sweep the area around Ben Het and open the road to Dak To,” he said.

Beyond Ben Het, “you find attitudes in the U.S. reflected now in the Army much more so than before. There has been outspoken dissent in the Army about the purpose and value of the war.”

“I recall that early in the war,” said Buckley, “it was said that if every U.S. citizen could come to Vietnam and actually see what was happening, then the war would be won. Now, I think, if every citizen came to Vietnam and saw what’s happening now, the war would be stopped.”

Even as an in-depth magazine reporter, Buckley has had occasion—quite a few, in fact—to see the hard surface of the war. He first worked with the Cav in the Au Shau Valley campaign in April, 1968. He next followed the Cav’s move south to III Corps, and in February and March of this year he reported the enemy assaults against LZ Grant.

At Hue in February for the last day of action in which the Cav relieved the Imperial City, Buckley reported the end of enemy resistance and the final collapse of Viet Cong hopes for their own capital in the south.

He got his best view of modern jungle war ten days after the opening shots in the Au Shau Valley when he accompanied the Blue Platoon, 1st Squadron of the 9th Cavalry, on a combat assault. “The 1st of the 9th is simply terrific,” said Buckley. “one of the best outfits I’ve ever seen.”

“The Cav has always been very good with information and transportation,” he added. “And depending on the nature of the story, transportation is more important than anything else.”