

80 NVA Die in Air-Ground Action



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1st Air Cavalry Division

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62% Less NVA With Cobra ...



(U.S. Army Photo by SP5 Terry Moon)

Taking a king-size toothbrush to the teeth of a Cobra, Specialist Four Duane Grenz of Troop C, 1st Squadron of the 9th Cav shines the ship as part of the preventive maintenance program.

Accident Rate Drops 50% in Two Months

By SP4 Tom Benic

PHUOC VINH—The 1st Air Cavalry Division cut its ground accident rate by nearly 50 per cent during the first two months of a comprehensive safety campaign.

Not one man-day has been lost due to vehicle accidents in the division in July or August. Seven battalions did not experience reportable accidents during August.

The 15th Transportation Corps led all battalion-size units in August with 30,349 accident-free man-days. Division Headquarters Company led all separate companies and detachments for the month with 10,726 accident-free man-days.

"We've made a real effort to get people thinking of safety," said Raymond Rogers, the division safety officer. "I think giving special recognition to units and individuals for being safety conscious, presenting cash awards to those who submit valuable safety suggestions, and our publicity campaign itself has really paid off."

Other units that had no accidents causing a man to lose a day's work were: 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry; 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery; 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery; 227th Aviation Battalion; 15th Medical Battalion; and 27th Maintenance.

Company-size units having no reportable accidents were: Headquarters Battery of the Division Artillery; Battery B, 82nd Artillery; 11th General Support Company; 545th Military Police Company; and 184th Chemical Platoon.

Rogers, a former traffic safety officer with the California Highway Patrol, served as safety engineer with the Air Force for nine years on projects like the C5A Super Transport and the F-11 jet fighter. He came to the Cav in January and plans to extend for a year past his one year tour.

"It's quite a challenge," Rogers said. "We're responsible for everything that can go wrong on the ground from a mishandled trip flare to vehicle accidents."

COL Shoemaker Named ADC-B

PHUOC VINH — Colonel Robert M. Shoemaker is the new assistant division commander (ADC-B), replacing Brigadier General Frank Meszar. General Meszar became Deputy Commander of the 1st Aviation Brigade.

Colonel Shoemaker, brigadier general designate, has been the Chief-of-Staff for the 1st Cavalry Division since April.

Before joining the First Team he was Chief, Plans and Programs Division, Office of the Director of Army Aviation, Washington, D.C.

Colonel Shoemaker commanded two Cav Battalions in Vietnam during 1965 and 1966 — the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry and the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

Born in 1924 in Almont, Mich., Colonel Shoemaker was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1946. His first assignment after graduation from West Point was as a company commander with the 18th Infantry in Germany.

During 1950 and 1952 he commanded a rifle and heavy weapons company of the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N.C. During the Korean war, Colonel Shoemaker held the posts of S-2 and S-3 with the 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

In the late 50's he served with the Military Advisory Assistance Group in Teheran, Iran.

After a tour in Vietnam in the early sixties, Colonel Shoemaker became operations officer of the 11th Air Assault Division, reorganized as the 1st Air Cavalry Division in July, 1965.

Colonel Shoemaker is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Shoemaker's family resides in Carlisle, Pa.

Chinooks Set World Mark

PHUOC VINH — 1st Air Cavalry Division Chinooks set a world record of 22,500 hours of accident free flying in the last nine months. If this was figured on a 24-hour per day basis, these hours would equal about three years.

At ceremonies at the 11th Aviation Group Headquarters, the 228th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Emory W. Bush, was presented with a Safety Award by Brigadier General Frank Meszar, then the deputy division commander.

"The record set by this battalion could be accomplished only by professionals who take pride in their work," said BG Meszar.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Leo Soucek, 11th Aviation Group Commander, "This is a big team effort that goes on 24 hours a day."

The 228th sends aloft an average of 18 Chinooks per day which fly 114 sorties supporting the 1st Cav in III Corps. This averages out to about 3,200 flying hours per month for the "hooks."

Patrol Finds Enemy Cache

PHUOC VINH — Hunter-killer helicopter teams and Air Force jets killed 80 NVA in the 1st Air Cavalry Division AO during the week ending Sept. 26.

Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry accounted for 31 enemy deaths and wiped out several anti-aircraft sites in a week-long series of air-to-ground duels near Tay Ninh.

Helicopters from Troop B, 1st Squadron of the 9th Cav killed 15 enemy while the Bravo Blues, the infantry element, was credited with six kills, bringing the squadron's total for the week to 52 NVA.

What began as a recon mission for a platoon of Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 11 miles east of Nui Ba Den, resulted in a four-hour long battle in which 24 enemy were killed on Sept. 24.

After the initial small arms contact, platoon leader, Staff Sergeant Thomas Orzenowski, called in 105mm and 155mm artillery from Landing Zone Grant, raining more than 50 rounds on the well-entrenched foe.

Then Air Force F-4 Phantom jets roared in to strafe and bomb. A second air strike was called for — this time with F-100 Super Saber jets dropping 500-pound bombs.

"When the second strike went in, a 500-pounder hit right on target and a tremendous explosion rocketed dirt and debris up to nearly 1,500 feet," said Captain Charles Link, a forward air observer. "We later learned that the bomb struck a large cache of 107mm rockets and 82mm mortar rounds."

One of the most elaborate staging areas discovered in recent months included a tin-roofed mess hall with tables and benches in the midst of 45 bunkers, 20 miles northeast of Tay Ninh. Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry also found a well with pipes leading to a wash area in the Sept. 22 discovery.

In the week's action, 150 enemy were killed while Skytroopers had three men fatally wounded and 25 other wounded.

Farewell Ceremony...



(U.S. Army Photo by SP5 Terry Moon)

Division Commander Major General E.B. Roberts, left, bids farewell to Brigadier General Frank B. Meszar at ceremonies at Camp Gorrav.

Hoi Chanh Volunteers

Scouts Help Seek Enemy

The Kit Carson Scout Program consists of Chieu Hoi returnees who volunteer to assist the American forces. It is vital that all members of the FIRST TEAM understand the program and treat the Kit Carson personnel with respect and dignity.

All returnees employed as Kit Carson Scouts must be offered the same measure of security and fair treatment as any member of the employing unit. Kit Carson Scouts should not be expected to perform their duties more often or under conditions

more hazardous than the regular members of parent unit.

The Kit Carson Scout is hired for an indefinite period in order to facilitate termination when his services are no longer needed. He will be considered for release if he commits an act detrimental to the security of the unit or is no longer useful in a tactical sense.

Kit Carson Scouts have resulted in more effective operations and fewer casualties.

After a returnee is recruited by the 1st Cav, he is sent to a four week school at the FIRST

TEAM Academy in Bien Hoa, where he is taught the basics of his new job. After completing the course, the Scouts are assigned Skytrooper "Buddies" who take each man to his unit and work with the Scout while he is with the unit.

While the Scout provides his knowledge on how the enemy operates and where, his American "buddy" also has the responsibility of assisting the scout to learn English, becoming oriented to his particular unit and supervising the Scout's on-the-job training program.

Cav Offers College Classes

PHUOC VINH — There's at least one college opening its doors this year that will require students to bring weapons to class.

Ivy-covered walls are out; fraternity parties and winning football teams have been labeled irrelevant. It's education without the frills at the new University of Maryland branch campus opening Nov. 10 at Phuoc Vinh.

"We've lined up three highly-qualified professors for the program," said George Rastall, education director of the 1st Air

Cavalry Division. "Each has at least a masters degree in his field and has taught before in the University of Maryland program."

Introductory college courses in economics, philosophy and German will be taught in two-hour long evening classes a week. The three credit courses are open to all high school graduates or holders of GED scores averaging 45.

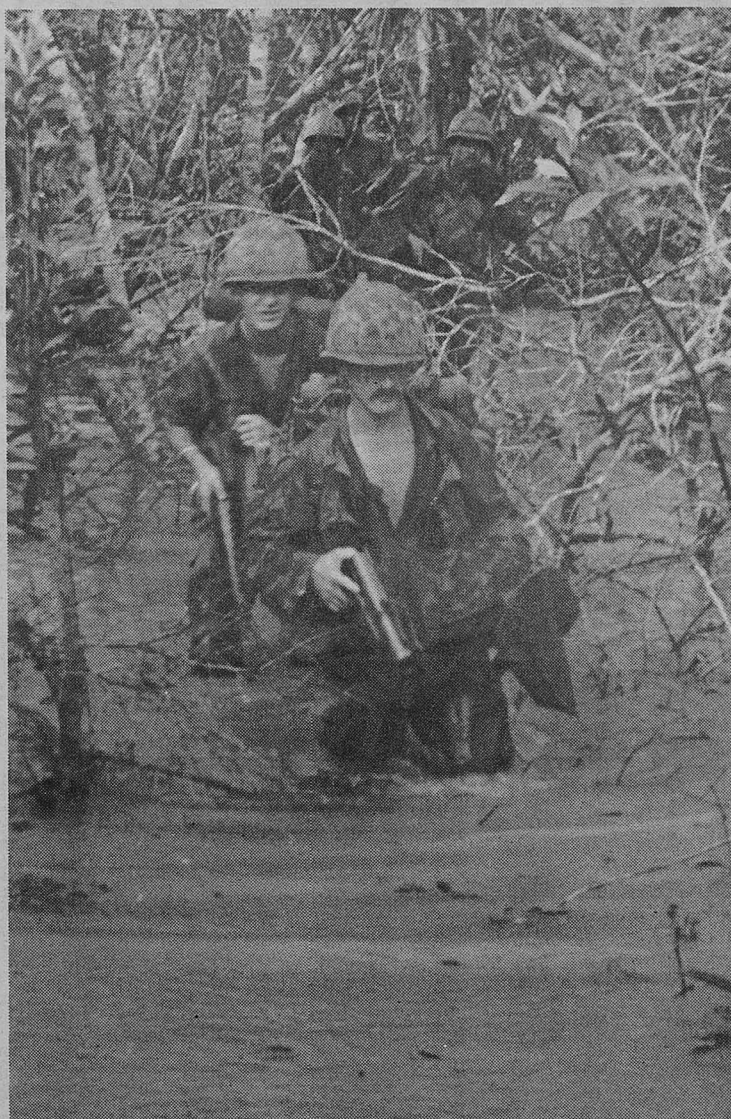
"Our first semester will conclude Jan. 17," said Rastall, "but we hope that this is just the

beginning of a comprehensive program."

1st Cav instructors for the first class are Lieutenant Colonel Robert Hannas, G-2, German; Captain Austin Schlenker Jr., 15th Medical Battalion, economics; and Captain John Hot-tell, 14th Medical History, philosophy.

"The University of Maryland program is well-established in stable areas such as Cam Ranh Bay and Long Binh," said Rastall, "but you won't find too many combat divisions with the program we envision. We already have all the high school and college correspondence courses you could want, but there's nothing quite like the teacher-student relationship in a live class."

Slogging Along...



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Robert Sharp)
The going gets knee deep for troopers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry humping through the undergrowth near Quan Loi.

...For God And Country

By Chaplain (MAJ) Irwin C. Loud Jr.
DISCOM Chaplain

The average person is often found looking for the shortest route to accomplish his goals with little or no effort. I get the feeling that this person is looking for something for nothing.

I know of very few things for which one can aim without some effort on his part. We speak of the kingdom of God within you, but you have to believe that the kingdom of God is within you. First you have to believe.

I was told by a person in this manner; "Chaplain, once I get my name on the church roll, that is all I need." I would like to remind you that to become a Christian requires you to do more than have your name placed on the church membership roll. I feel that the easy way does not pay in the long run in this life.

I recall reading that there were a few people like this during the time Jesus was present on Earth. Recall his message? "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knock, it will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

I would also like to point out Jesus' view of the man looking easy way, that there is no easy way to accomplish the real goals of life. You must be willing to pay the price.

I would also like to point out Jesus' view of the man looking for the easy way out. "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many." If others see you looking for the easy way out, they soon lose confidence in you.

Others refuse to trust you because they know you will be looking for the easy way out without putting forth any effort. Jesus said, "For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

Those who find it have worked and kept the faith by making personal sacrifices and loving their neighbors as themselves. I would say to him who is looking for the easy way, that he is looking for personal destruction of his own well being.



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SILVER STAR

GRISANTI, SP4 Mario
Company A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
Lee, SGT Stephan
Company A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
KING 1LT James C.
Company B, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
ROSEBERRY, PFC Leslie, M

Awards



COMPANY C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

SMITH, CPT Charles I.
Troop C, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav
DIES, 1LT Kenneth P.
Troop C, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav
KELLIHER, CW2 John C.
HHS, 15th Med Bn

Company B, 1st Bn, 8th Cav
ROUTE, SP4 Ray E.
Company D, 2d Bn, 8th Cav
WOODS, SGT Charles G.
HHC, 3d Bde
COHN, 1LT Douglas A.
HHT, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav
ALLEN, MSG William A.

\$9,414 Re-Up...



(U.S. Army Photo by 1LT Darrell Matz)
Re-enlisting in the Army for six years in not such an usual thing—unless it's at 2,000 feet in a Huey and for a \$9,414 bonus. Specialist Five Edwin R. Martin (right) takes the oath from Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Liebl. SP5 Martin is a helicopter mechanic with the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

Flying Surgeon Saves Wounded

By SP4 Tom Benic

PHUOC VINH—There's no such thing as a routine "house call" for Army doctors in Vietnam.

"Some of these men would have died. I'm certain of it," said MEDEVAC pilot Captain Thomas Scofield. "They needed a doctor immediately and they got him."

That doctor was 1st Air Cavalry's division surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph McNaney, who has been on flight status since 1964.

"We were airborne less than two minutes after MEDEVAC 21 took 50 cal. rounds over Landing Zone Ike," said Captain Scofield. "The people there told us to stay out, but we knew they had seriously wounded patients and went in anyway."

Braving automatic weapons and small arms fire, the bird landed as mortar rounds pounded the firebase. LTC McNaney and crew members Staff Sergeant William Gibson and Specialist Five Richard Sullen loaded eight litter patients on board and the helicopter sped toward a field hospital at Tay Ninh.

They returned immediately to extract more patients while the battle for the firebase continued.

That same afternoon the MEDEVAC team was airborne again. This time it was on a dangerous hoist mission, extracting a patient from the dense jungle while hovering at tree-top level.

"As a flight surgeon you expect this sort of thing," LTC McNaney said. "When you're the available MEDEVAC you just crank and go."

Parachutists Wanted For 'Golden Knights'

An opportunity to join the United States Army Parachute Team "The Golden Knights" is open for several soldiers with special skills in parachuting.

Major Gerrell V. Plummer, team chief and former Skytrooper, reports that the team is seeking a combat arms captain who has attended the advanced course and has command time to fill the position of executive officer.

The team also needs an enlisted still photographer who can develop both black and white prints and handle a 16mm movie camera on occasion. The team is authorized an E-7 for this work.

An opening also exists for an information specialist to write news releases and conduct the

information program for the team. Current authorization is for an E-5 slot.

There are also positions for an E-6 administrative NCO, an E-5 clerk typist and multi-engine and fixed wing aviators to fly the team's U-1a "Otter" and C-47 (DC-3).

All personnel must occupy airborne slots with the exception of the aviators. They will not be required to be free fall military parachutists. Interested persons who are not presently jump qualified will be sent to jump school upon assignment. If you are interested in this sort of assignment, send particulars to Major Plummer, P.O. Box 126, Ft. Bragg, N. Carolina 60122.



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Robert Sharp)
Two ARVN Rangers working with Skytroopers from Company A, 1st Battalion of the 5th Cav balance on a log to cross a stream while on a mission near Quan Loi.

Two Battalions Switch Positions During 48-Hour Airmobile Move

By CPT Jim Ryan

QUAN LOI—In a massive move conducted entirely by air, the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade realigned its forces. One of the largest reciprocal repositionings of troops ever attempted in Vietnam, the move was completed in less than 48 hours and involved over 1,200 men and their equipment.

The two battalions involved were the brigade's 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry and the 1st Battalion of the 7th Cav. The 1st Bn of the 8th Cav moved from Landing Zone Wescott and the area surrounding Quan Loi to positions in the vicinity of Bu Dop, a scant four miles from the Cambodian border. Taking their place in the Quan Loi area was the 1st Bn of the 7th Cav.

According to brigade sources, the purpose of the move was two-fold. It enables the units to become familiar with each other's areas of operation and at the same time allow troopers

of the 1st Bn, 7th Cav to be in closer proximity to the facilities of Quan Loi Basecamp. This gives them a "breather" following many delays of enemy contact and hard work constructing a fire support base near Bu Dop.

Additionally, the knowledge gained by each of the battalions through experience in different areas of operation will enhance the flexibility of both units.

During the move, conducted by Air Force and Army aircraft, more than 700,000 pounds of cargo was transported. It included 12 105mm howitzers and all the equipment of over 1,200 Skytroopers.

Staff Sergeant George Karnes of Company A, 1st Bn, 7th Cav, enjoying a brief rest at the Quan Loi Garry Owen VIP Center said, "It's great to have a few days to relax and collect your thoughts."

Units of the 3rd Brigade periodically rotate through the VIP Center, then return to their areas to seek out the enemy.

Papa San...



(U.S. Army Photo by SP5 Paul Sgroi)
The simple contrast between the young and old in this photo titled "Papa San" took first place in the U.S. Army Pacific photographic competition for Cav photographer Specialist Five Paul Sgroi. The photo is now up for honors in the all-Army photographic competition scheduled later this month.

Photog Wins USARPAC Top Award

PHUOC VINH — 1st Cav Photographer Specialist Five Paul Sgroi bested Army-wide competition in the Pacific Theater this year with his color transparency titled "Papa San."

His photos, taken in the Quan Loi and Phuoc Vinh areas, will be entered in the All-Army and All-Service competition later this month.

"I guess I've been what you would call a serious photographer for the past four years," Specialist Sgroi said. "I get a great deal of satisfaction from it. I can't think of a better way to spend a tour in the service."

Specialist Sgroi served his first tour in artillery and became an Army photographer in the fall of 1967. He came to Vietnam in October, 1968, taking most of his prize-winning photos between December and June while stationed with the 3rd Brigade Information Office at Quan Loi.

In addition to the first place in the category "people" of the U.S. Army Pacific (USAPAC) competition, Specialist Sgroi took two first places and a "best of show" in III and IV Corps competition, and a first place and two third places in the U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) judging.

PFC Passes Year Study In 3 Days

PHUOC VINH — They give you a year to finish a college-level USAFI correspondence course.

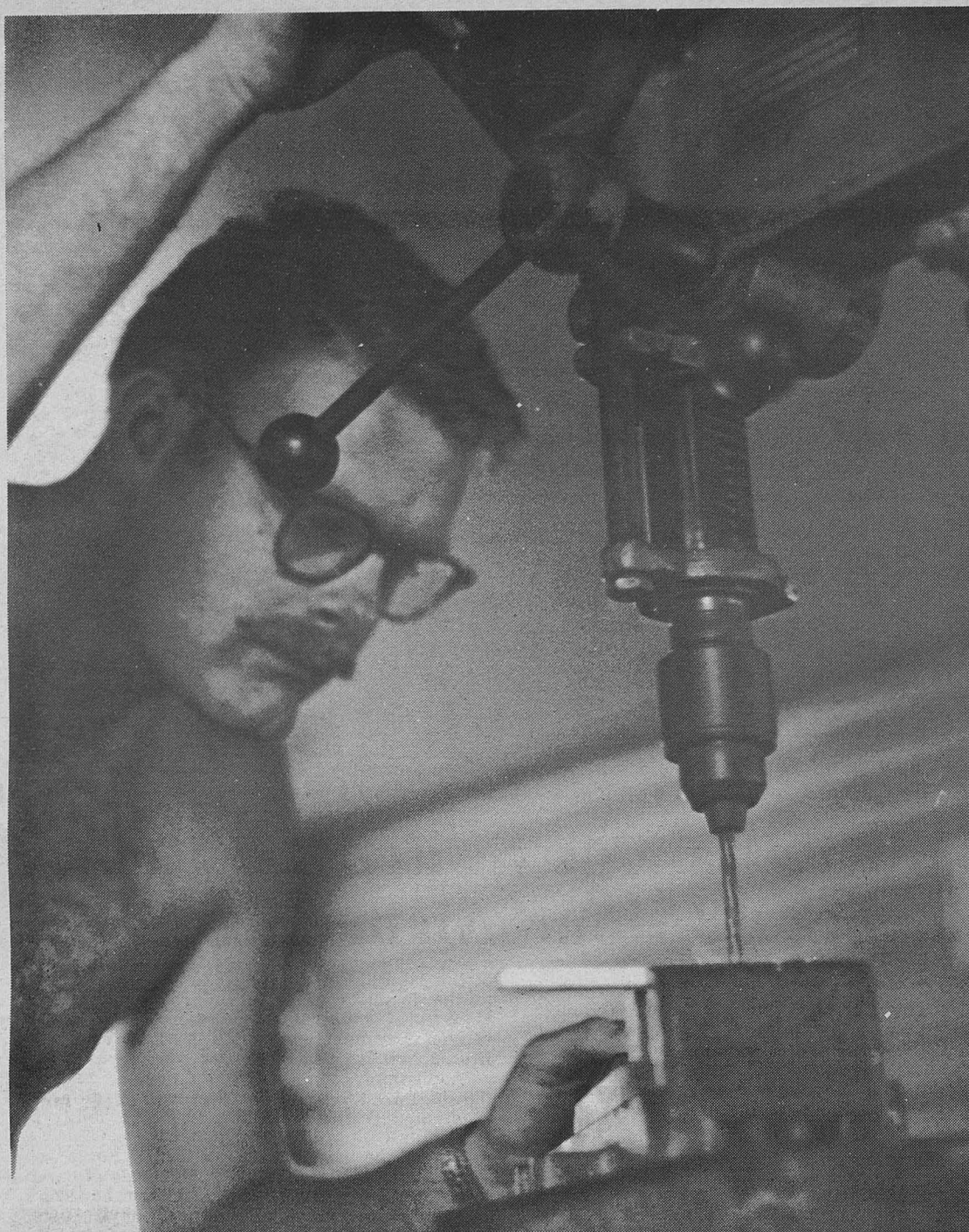
Private First Class Gordan Hansen took three days.

"I've never even heard of anyone completing a course so quickly during the six years I've been in the business," said George Rastall, education director for the 1st Air Cavalry Division. "He just walked into the office three days after he started the oceanography course with about 50 pages of completed lessons."

PFC Hansen was not overly impressed by his feat. He figures he put in about 20 hours of work. The 15 lessons required eight to ten paragraph answers each.

"I've done a little fresh water sailing, but that's the extent of my background in the field," said Hansen, a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. "Oceanography has always fascinated me, however. It's a beginning science with few concrete facts. I wasn't really concerned about who did what, when, but I think I've mastered the majority of the prevailing theories."

27th Maintenance—Anywhere, Anytime



Specialist Five George Chapman drills out a new machine part in the Service Section's well-equipped shop.



Supply personnel unload replacement parts for equipment which needs emergency repair service at the Phuoc Vinh 27th Maintenance Battalion facility.

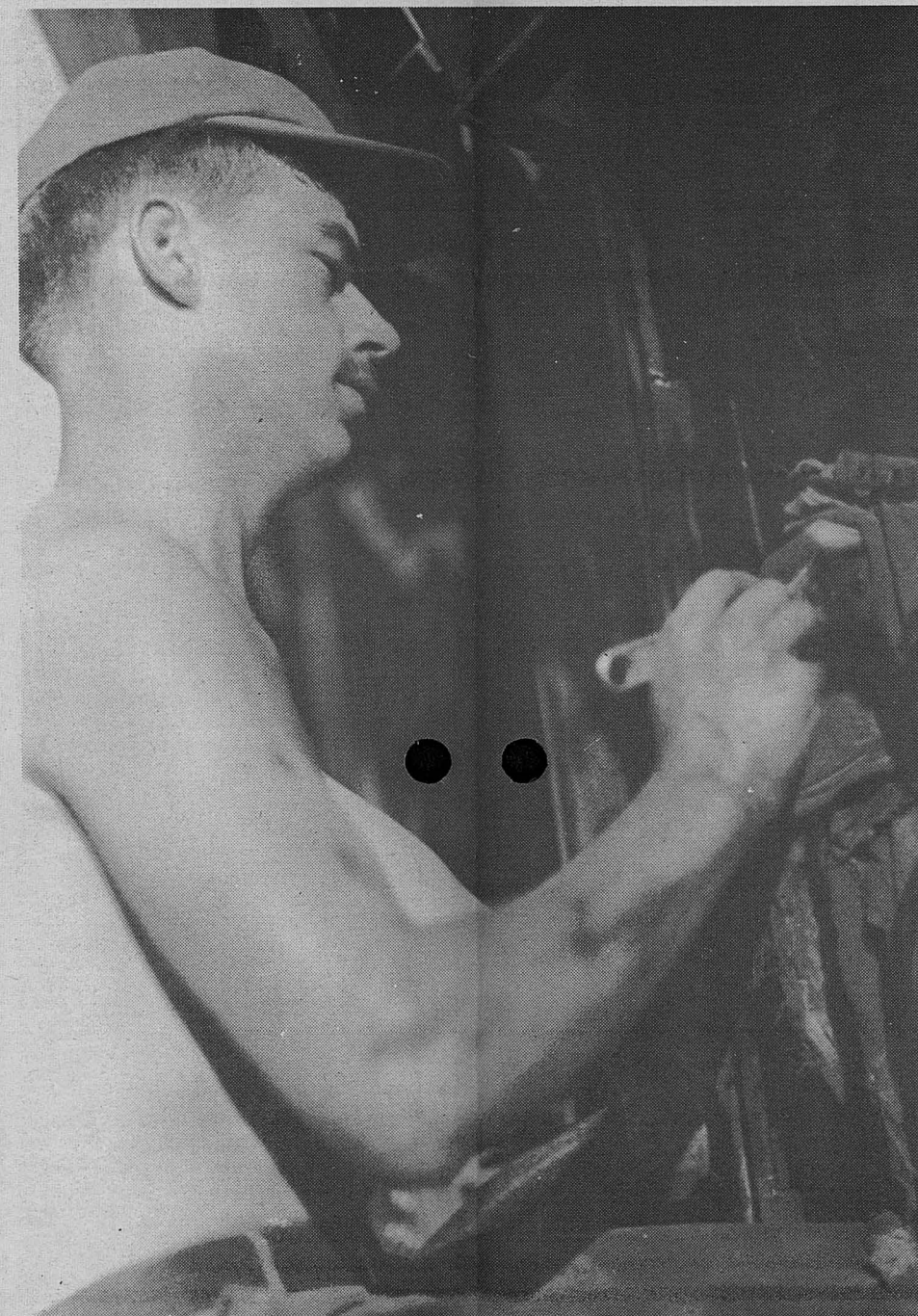


Welder Specialist Four Bruce Sexton uses an acetylene torch to cut through sheet metal.

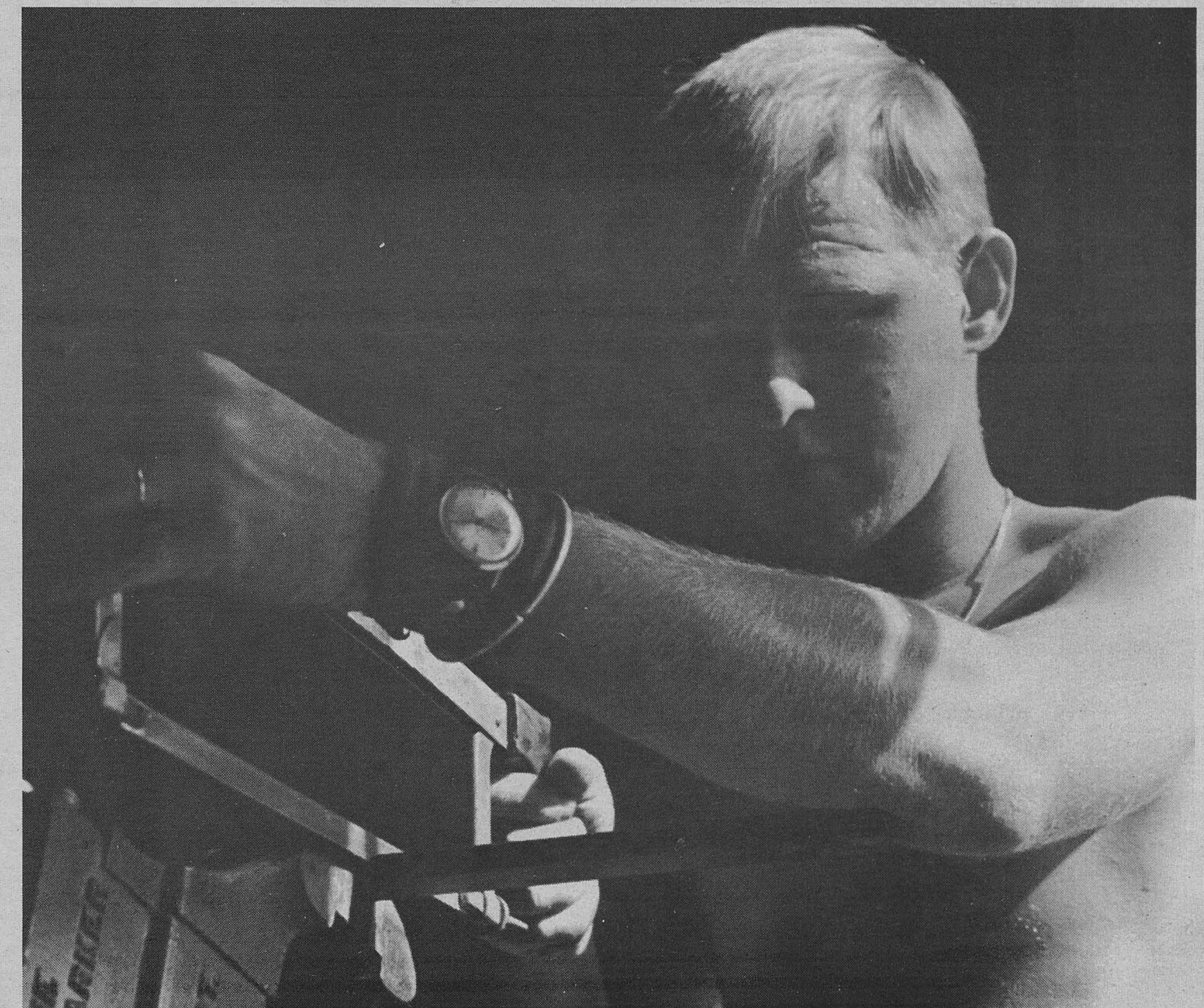
Cavalair Staff Photos



Maintenance replacement includes such large items as a truck differential housing to keep a three-quarter truck operational.



Specialist Four Norm Turgeon works on a generator in the Maintenance Section at the 27th Maintenance Bn's Phuoc Vinh headquarters.



Specialist Five J.C. Boland uses hand as well as power tools to repair almost any appliance or small motor at the Phuoc Vinh branch of the 27th Maintenance Battalion.

Skytrooper Football Contest

Pick the Major College Champions!

CONTEST RULES: Using the entry blank below, select the winners of the ten major college athletic conferences listed below. Print the name of the school on the line opposite the conference name. The entry listing the most conference champions will be the winner. In the event of a tie, the entry most closely predicting the score of the Army-Navy game will be declared the winner.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Entries must be in the hands of; Football Contest, The Cavalair, Information Office, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO 96490, not later than October 31. Entries may be mailed (be sure to write "In-Country" on the envelope) or sent through distribution.

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open to all officers and enlisted men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division and attached units. Not eligible are members of the Cavalair staff, the Information Officer or any of its subsidiaries, and their families.

THE PRIZE: The winner of the football contest will receive a special prize to be announced in next week's Cavalair.

BIG EIGHT

Colorado
Iowa State
Kansas
Kansas State
Missouri
Nebraska
Oklahoma
Oklahoma State

MID-AMERICAN

Bowling Green
Kent State
Marshall
Miami (Ohio)
Ohio U.
Toledo
Western Michigan

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas
Baylor
Rice
Southern Methodist
Texas
Texas A&M
Texas Christian
Texas Tech

PACIFIC EIGHT

California
Oregon
Oregon State
Southern Cal
Stanford
UCLA
Washington
Washington State

ATLANTIC COAST

Clemson
Duke
Maryland
North Carolina
North Carolina State
South Carolina
Virginia
Wake Forest

IVY LEAGUE

Brown
Columbia
Cornell
Dartmouth
Harvard
Pennsylvania
Princeton
Yale

BIG TEN

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Michigan
Michigan State
Minnesota
Northwestern
Ohio State
Purdue
Wisconsin

MISSOURI VALLEY

Cincinnati
Louisville
Memphis State
North Texas State
Tulsa
Wichita State

SOUTHEASTERN

Alabama
Auburn
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana State
Mississippi
Mississippi State
Tennessee
Vanderbilt

WESTERN ATHLETIC

Arizona
Arizona State
Brigham Young
Colorado State*
New Mexico
Texas at El Paso
Utah
Wyoming
* Ineligible for title

TO: Football Contest Editor
The Cavalair
Information Office
1st Air Cavalry Division
APO 96490

CHAMPION PREDICTIONS

Big Ten _____ Missouri Valley _____
Mid American _____ Southwest _____
Ivy League _____ Southeastern _____
Atlantic Coast _____ Western Athletic _____
Big Eight _____ Pacific Eight _____

Tie-breaker score: Army _____ Navy _____

Name _____ Rank _____ SSAN _____

Unit _____ Deros _____

Who's Number One?



When someone as enticing as blonde, green-eyed Carol Foster (34-22-34) decorates a beach anywhere, the place should be swarming with men elbowing each other for a good vantage point. We can't understand why this Sydney beach is so deserted.



The Maori Te Pois from New Zealand beat out the latest in rock for Skytroopers at Bien Hoa during their five day tour of Cav landing zones and basecamps.

Photos by
SP4 Don Henderson
SP4 Larry Staeb

Firebase Entertainment— From Kiwi Land

An action packed troop of New Zealanders gave Skytrooper at muddy landing zones and firebases throughout the division the sound and spirit of the latest in rock music and dance during a five day whirlwind entertainment tour.

More than 7,500 cavalymen at eight different locations were treated to the dancing of a pair of New Zealand sisters who starred in the show's "production numbers."

The band included two guitarists, a drummer,

a singer and, of course, the two dancers billed as the "Maori Te Pois."

"We had a bloody good time and enjoyed all the mates that we met on the tour, and the girls didn't lack for attention either," said Robi Hartford, the group's master of ceremonies.

After performing ten shows in the week long tour, the entertainers said that they were sorry that they could not have visited more of the Cav's bases.



Buffy "does her thing" for cavalymen at a muddy Landing Zone Don. Both dancers used squares of plywood for dancing platforms on the soft ground.



An enthusiastic infantryman dances with Vicki (above), one of two dancers with the New Zealand troop, at Landing Zone Don. Drummer Griff Hunt (below) pounds out a solo during one of two performances for troopers at Landing Zone Buttons, 2nd Brigade headquarters.



Airmobile Weather Station...



(U.S. Army Photo)
Air Force Staff Sergeant Jim Munday and his airmobile weather station have been used extensively on Landing Zones Dolly and Caldwell to gather weather information which is sent back to division headquarters at Phuoc Vinh for analysis.

Civic Action Supplies Brighten Classrooms

By PFC Ed Wene

QUAN LOI—The children of Quan Loi School don't have to worry about having enough school supplies thanks to a lieutenant named Tony and a brigade called Garry Owen.

The 1st Air Cav's 3rd Brigade Civic Action Team distributed bright yellow packages containing paper, pencils, crayons and other supplies that make learning a little easier to the children during their afternoon classes.

"It made us feel good to see the expressions on the children's faces when they opened their little bundle," said First Lieutenant Tony G. Arnold, team leader.

The Quan Loi School has more than 600 students and nine teachers. At one time there were approximately 1,000 students attending the school, which then had a staff of 15. At present there are several buildings that are not in use because they need repair.

The school is now trying to raise the necessary funds for repairs with the hope of providing as many students as possible with an education.

Children who attend the school are aged five through 13 years. Although the teachers are Roman Catholic nuns, attendance is not restricted to Catholic students.

RF Troopers Learn To Combat Assault

LZ BUTTONS — Classes in the techniques of the combat assault are an accepted thing at the 1st Air Cavalry Division's First Team Academy. They are unusual, however, on a forward fire support base like Landing

Zone Alvarado, home of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

Nevertheless, regular classes on how to dismount a helicopter during a combat assault are being conducted by Major Anthony J. Andrews, commander of Company A, 227th Aviation Battalion, and Captain Calvin C. Jones Jr, operations officer for the company.

The first of these classes was presented to 50 members of a 334th Regional Forces (RF) Company, part of the military force of Lieutenant Colonel Luu-Yem, province chief of Phuoc Long Province. Ranging in age from 15 to 60 years old, the men of RF Company were preparing to conduct future combat assaults with elements of the Cav's Blackhorse Brigade operating around the provincial capital of Song Be.

As preparations continued for combined operations of American and Vietnamese forces, Colonel Byron D. Greene Jr, 2nd Brigade commander and the province chief decided the same type of instruction would be necessary for the RF's, most of whom had never even ridden in a helicopter.

The class was conducted through an interpreter provided by the province chief. The RF's were eager students and learned quickly. At the end of the class was a practical exercise, a helicopter.

Ten enthusiastic Vietnamese soldiers piled into each chopper and lifted off. When the trip was over, several excited RF's pointed to their shoulder patches, then to the patches on the shoulders of Skytroopers, and exclaimed: "Same, same."

Radar Spots Movements

LZ BUTTONS — At night on an isolated 1st Air Cavalry Division firebase near the Cambodian border the search for the elusive enemy goes on.

The key to this search is a small black box in an inconspicuous corner of the busy Tactical Operations Center (TOC).

Specialist Four George Aasal studies the small oscilloscope before him. He listens through earphones for the distinctive sound of men or vehicles moving thousands of meters away.

Radar searches the horizon. He monitors the radar.

"It's like looking over a wide area from a very high altitude and being able to see a truck," said Specialist Aasal of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry. "Once I zero in on a target I can tell the artillery its range and azimuth in a matter of seconds."

Operation of the radar equipment is basically simple. While the electrical wave sweeps across its field of search on the oscilloscope, SP4 Aasal watches for the tell-tale blip indicating troop or vehicle movement. The audio system helps to confirm the spotting.

Bunker Guards Foil NVA Sapper Attack

PHUOC VINH—Pulling perimeter guard at the 1st Cav's division headquarters at Phuoc Vinh may be considered a "rear area job" but as often happens, enemy action turns "rear areas" into battle zones.

That was the case for division Headquarters Company "green line" bunker guards when a sapper squad tried to slip through the base defenses at the usually quiet perimeter. Action on the line got started when sappers were sighted in the wire shortly after 10 p.m.

"We had some movement and a trip-flare went off so we opened up with machine guns and M-79 grenade launchers on the enemy," said sector NCOIC Sergeant Alfred Sheen.

At first light, a patrol was organized and a sweep of the area just outside the wire turned up four dead NVA armed with Chicom grenades, B-40 rockets and AK-47 rifles.

A long alert night for the bunker guards on the "green line" had paid off at Phuoc Vinh.



By SP4 Joe Kamalick

After four years of journalism at Texas Tech and then seven years in Germany writing for OVERSEAS WEEKLY, Ann Bryan became one of the first woman reporters to venture onto the Vietnam battlefield.

That was in January 1966. Now the editor of OVERSEAS WEEKLY in Vietnam, Ann Bryan is considered, as one reporter said, "one of the favorite people" among both military and civilian journalists.

Her very first assignment in the field was with the 1st Cav. "The Cav took me under its wing; it was fascinating and really educational. I was very green then and trying to learn."

"I've been covering the Cav ever since." But now, as editor of the OVERSEAS WEEKLY in Saigon, she doesn't get out to the

field as much as in 1966 through 1968. "I don't like being behind a desk," she said. "I really would like to get out again, and I will."

In the almost four years since her arrival in country, Ann Bryan has seen operations in every tactical zone and has been with practically every allied fighting unit in the south. She entered the Imperial City of Hue with the ARVN forces on the day they stormed the hard-won citadel.

A woman war correspondent is a journalist, but to the men in the field she is a woman first. Any soldier will do a double-take when he sees a pretty girl hop off a helicopter in the jungle.

"Invariably," she said, "the girl reporter will run into several variations of the old joke, 'What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?'"

Ann Bryan...



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

"Invariably the girl reporter will run into several variations of the old joke, 'What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?'"

A Lady Covers The War

Aside from re-run jokes, "the men in the field are unfailingly great and very courteous."

But being a woman in the war reporting business does have disadvantages. More than anything else, war has been considered a man's game.

"Sometimes my presence would be a burden to a commander because he understandably did not want the responsibility of my being injured or killed. But I never got that feeling from the GIs themselves."

And because of her sex she had to work harder than a man would to get the story she was after. "Sometimes I couldn't get into places where I wanted to go, and I'd have to do a lot more talking and arguing than a man in order to accomplish something."

Her job took her into the field where she walked alongside the infantrymen, and at night slept on the ground near a foxhole like they did. "Sure, it was pretty uncomfortable," she said, "but don't the GIs feel the same way?"

There were advantages, too. "I received better treatment because I was a woman, and it also helped in getting helicopter rides," she said with a smile.

To tell the story of the "Grunt" and the war, Ann Bryan shared their hazards and the war's dangers. She was mortared in the field and rocketed in more secure areas like Camp Evans. "I've been very lucky."

In the battle for Saigon during the last Tet offensive, Ann Bryan covered the palace fighting. "I got caught behind a tree when all the shooting was going on, and when it quieted down I ran like crazy. There were a lot of reporters there, running from tree to tree."

The Saigon press corps was covering Tet and its aftermath in the city for a whole month. "For the first few days the only way of knowing if a street was safe was to walk down it and see if you got shot at."

Sitting behind her unloved desk in Saigon, Ann Bryan was asked how long she planned on covering the Vietnam war.

"I'll be here another year, that's all — but that's what I said when I came here." That was four years ago.