

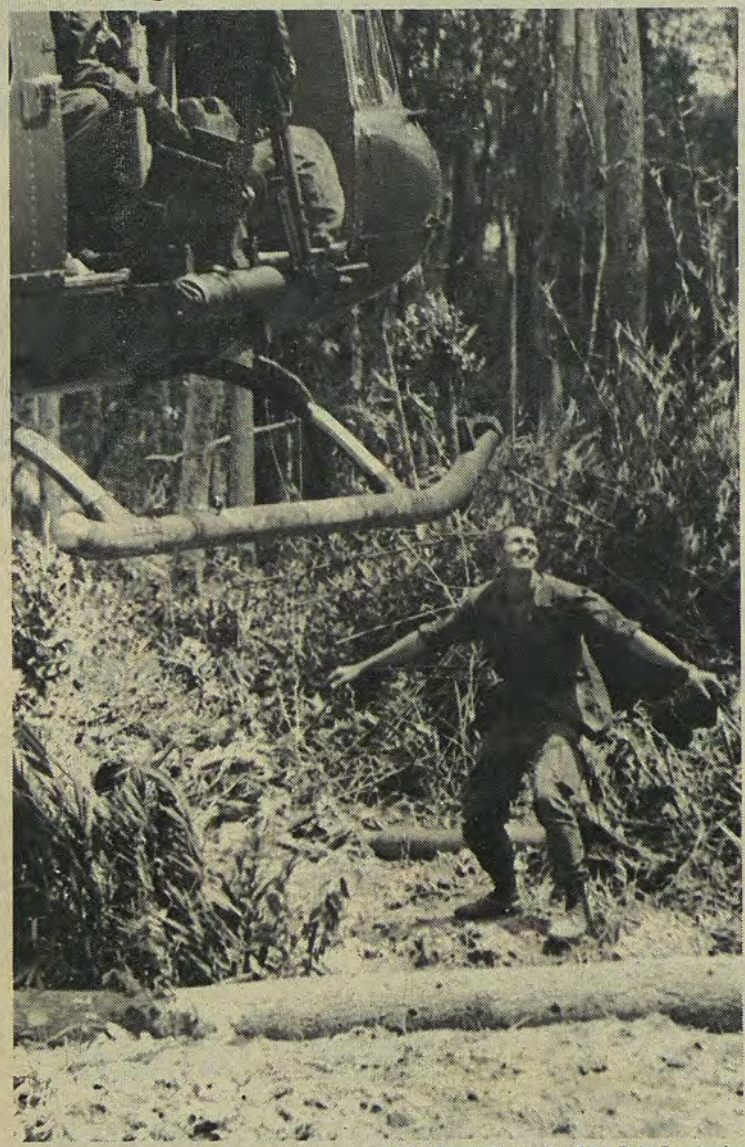
THE CAVALAIR

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THE CAVALAIR

December 3, 1969

Guiding Bird . . .



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

Sergeant Ralph Wilson of Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, spreads his arms to guide a Huey helicopter loaded with supplies to a landing near FSB Grant.

Gunships Beat Back Attackers at Jerri

PHUOC VINH — The enemy continued to lose men at a rate twice that of previous months while 1st Cav casualties were light during the week ending Nov. 14.

Helicopter gunships again saw most of the action, thwarting enemy attempts to mount a coordinated attack on Fire Support Base Jerri, north of Quan Loi near the Cambodian border.

The firebase did receive a heavy mortar and rocket attack but an attempt by enemy sappers to breach the wire was quickly beaten back. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, used small arms and automatic weapons fire then called in artillery, helicopter gunships and an Air Force Shadow plane in the battle.

That morning Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, found 15 enemy dead three miles west of FSB Jerri in an area of the previous night's B-52 strike.

Enemy gunners were active throughout the week concentrating their efforts around FSB Jerri. Heavy ground to air fire north of Bu Dop led to several contacts in which 11 NVA were killed. None of the helicopters were downed.

At 8:25 a.m. a LOH from Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, drew small arms fire and then engaged the target with machine gun fire. A nearby gunship joined the battle with rockets and mini-gun fire. Three

NVA were killed.

The scenario was repeated twice that afternoon with four more NVA killed.

The largest action of the week began when 1st Brigade scout helicopters spotted an enemy bunker complex 15 miles north of Tay Ninh. Air Force jets ripped open the triple canopy cover with 500-pound bombs revealing a complex much larger than originally believed.

More than 150 bunkers were uncovered in an area 1,000 meters square. Company D, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, rolled in on the enemy killing 15. Air strikes accounted for another 22 enemy dead.

That afternoon helicopters from Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, killed 10 enemy while flying a scout mission just north of FSB Jerri.

The 1st Brigade scout helicopters and gunships from the 229th combined with artillery to kill 10 NVA. The action began when the

scout helicopters received small arms fire just northeast of Nui Ba Den.

Hunter-killer teams from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, were busy all day in an area 22 miles northeast of Tay Ninh. They killed 16 enemy in six separate actions.

A nighthawk helicopter killed nine NVA in two separate encounters 10 miles northeast of Tay Ninh. An infra-red equipped Huey helicopter and Cobra gunship of the 229th first spotted several lights just south of FSB Ike in dense jungle at 2:32 a.m., then engaged with miniguns and rockets. Ten minutes later the two birds again made contact after spotting several lights.

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, killed 12 NVA in an early morning battle 15 miles northeast of Tay Ninh.

During the week air cavalrymen killed 306 enemy. Friendly casualties were six killed and four wounded.

His Aching Heel

Pilot Takes Hit

By CPT Richard Shelton
TAY NINH — "I'm hit, man — I'm hit!"

This frantic reply came from Warrant Officer Thomas Smith, 1st Brigade scout pilot, in answer to his wing man.

Warrant Officer Ron McNevin, piloting the other light observation helicopter of the scout team, was justifiably concerned when he saw Smith's aircraft dive sharply to the left, headed for the scrub jungle below.

"I knew I was in trouble when my right foot was suddenly knocked up in front of my face, at eye level, instead of being on the pedal where it should have been," said Mr. Smith.

Smith and McNevin were flying reconnaissance in support of fierce contact involving the 114th Company, 11th ARVN Airborne Battalion, about 20 miles north of Tay Ninh.

"For a minute I thought the aircraft was out of control, and I would have to put it down in one of the open areas," said Mr. Smith.

Tightening up on the throttle,

Smith and his team headed instead for Tay Ninh's 45th Surgical Hospital for treatment of his wound.

"I could feel a sort of dull ache in my heel, not very painful, just numb," said Mr. Smith. "I couldn't believe it."

With the 20-minute flight from the jungles to the hospital completed, Smith was in the treatment room pulling off his right boot.

"Not a scratch," said the doctor to the unbelieving pilot. An x-ray confirmed the diagnosis.

Further investigation revealed a bullet hole in the radio compartment of the LOH, just under the pilot's seat, and a slightly bent protective metal plate in the heel of Smith's jungle boot.

Mom Keeps Mail Coming

TAY NINH — Specialist Four Tony DeFillippo's mother is either addicted to the glue on postage stamps or a super-loving mother concerned about her 1st Air Cavalryman.

She's written more than 1,000 letters to her son, a squad leader with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, since he arrived in Vietnam almost a year ago.

The company has made a few adjustments to Mrs. DeFillippo's letter writing. In the boonies, the company commander once was forced to say, "Everyone will burn their mail, except DeFillippo. His gets backlogged. We can't afford a fire that big."

Mini-Ambushes Checking Enemy During Daylight

By PFC Robert Hackney
FSB JAMIE — Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, employed its new "mini-ambush" on three consecutive days, killing seven NVA, one an enemy battalion executive officer, before the enemy could fire a single shot.

"Our mini-ambush is a five-man gun team (M-60 machine gun)," Specialist Four Joe Calhoun, machine gunner, said. "We set up on both sides of the trail and waited only about 20

minutes when we saw four NVA walking up the trail. We blew the claymores and opened up. They never saw us."

The previous day Private First Class Bill Christenson killed an approaching NVA with only one shot, and on the third day two more NVA were killed.

Captain Walter Brinker Jr. explained the tactics of the mini-ambush:

"The difference is that we're in the area while the enemy is on the move. So we set up small

units on several trails, maintain strict noise discipline and wait. After the initial burst is over and you don't hear any return fire either way, you know you've got the best of them."

The company also found a large weapons cache that included 66 individual weapons, 122 mortar and rocket rounds and 7,500 pounds of rice.

"Often we're a day late and a dollar short, but this time we brought the 'max' on them," CPT Brinker said.

Recon Platoon Catches NVA Napping

By PFC Raymond Walters
QUAN LOI — Skytroopers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, searched for Charlie for more than a week along the Serges Jungle Highway near FSB Ellen. It wasn't until the afternoon of the tenth day that elements of the company found the enemy.

The all-volunteer "killer team," Delta's reconnaissance

force, was checking out a trail bunker complex.

The team's pointman, Private First Class Michael Alongi, crept closer to the enemy and opened up with a burst from his rifle. Fifteen to 20 NVA returned fire from several bunkers to the team's front and flanks.

Delta's second platoon, a quick reaction force for the killer team, moved into the fire-

when it came upon several NVA relaxing in the bamboo. One NVA slept in his hammock. The area later proved to be a large fight. The killer team and second platoon gave the enemy a thorough going over.

First Sergeant Earl Haney, leader of the team, advanced on the bunkers with his men close behind. As SGT Haney dropped a hand grenade into one bunker,

he received AK fire from his left flank. Private First Class Anthony Dazzo, providing cover, turned and silenced the AK fire.

When Cobra gunships appeared overhead, the killer team pulled back leaving four NVA dead and seven wounded.

The unsung hero of the battle was a MEDEVAC pilot who hovered his bird during the contact to pull out a wounded member of the team.

... For God And Country

By Chaplain (MAJ) William T. Carter
5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Chaplain

Christ said: "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but shall have everlasting light of life." John 8:12.

As we consider the light and the darkness, we often think of the darkness we face in our lives. The darkness of night patrols and guard duty comes to mind, but we also face the darkness of personal and family problems.

We are aware of the many dangers of personal and family problems. We are aware of the many dangers of the darkness not only to our physical but spiritual lives.

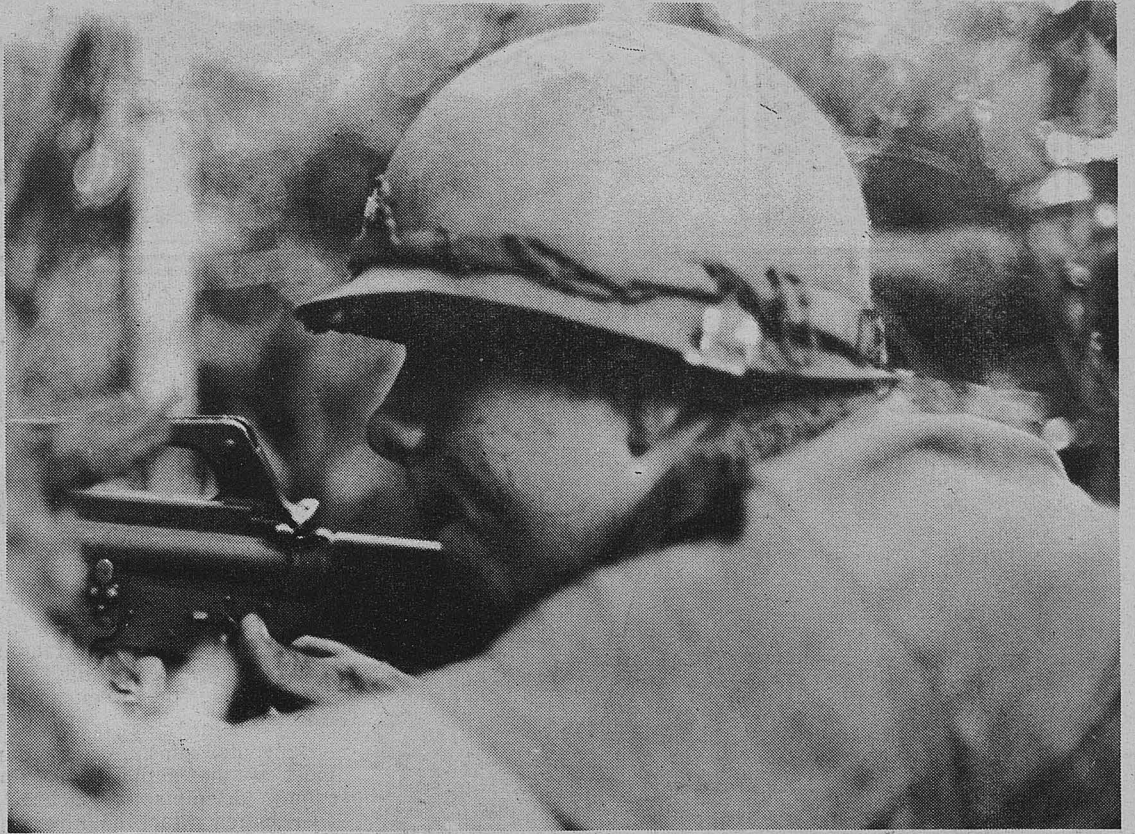
When we think of and see light, we find it illuminates all it touches. Like a flare in the sky, light comes to brighten the earth around us.

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world." He throws light upon life, dispels darkness in time of trouble or despair. He is the light, not for a few, but for the whole world. Is He the light of your world?

If we trust our lives in His hands we "will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The path is illuminated before us by the Son. The walking is ours. Christ does not do it for us.

If we believe, our lives will have direction, goals, purposes and we can avoid the pitfalls and anxieties of paths in the darkness.

Ready for Action . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)

His weapon on semi-automatic, this Skytrooper waits for the enemy to approach an ambush set up along a jungle trail near Tay Ninh.

'Project Maverick' Campaign Underway

PHUOC VINH — "Project Maverick," a campaign to raise \$40,000 for education scholarships for children of 1st Cav soldiers, is underway.

The multi-faceted campaign involves a program of giving, combined with sales of items

that will be useful to Skytroopers.

FIRST TEAM Scholarships (FTS), operating out of the division Information Office, is the organization created to handle the fund raising.

Wrist watches with 1st Cav emblems on the faces are being sold by FTS. Another item is Christmas cards, selling at \$1 for a 10-card packet.

FTS salesmen are also traveling to fire support bases to offer Skytroopers opportunities to purchase small gift items that have 1st Cav crests, patches or other identification. These include cigarette lighters, identification bracelets, bayonets and machete letter openers, key chains, pendants and other types of Cav memorabilia.

All profits from sales will go into the scholarship fund.

Re-enlist for Holiday Leave

PHUOC VINH — The 1st Cav's "Sergeant Re-up" points out that first term soldiers can take a 30-day leave and be home for Christmas by re-enlisting before December 15.

For details, see your re-enlistment sergeant at Phuoc Vinh (5532), Bien Hoa (3593), Tay Ninh VIP Center (Scorpion), Quan Loi VIP Center (Shotgun) or FSB Buttons (5/7 S-1).

High Accident Rate

Firearms Safety Needed

PHUOC VINH — Basic safety rules should be followed at all times, whether you're cleaning a weapon or driving a vehicle.

Mishandling of weapons is the highest single cause of accidental deaths in Vietnam.

Recently, a soldier carried a loaded M-16 into a base camp. He stopped to re-adjust his sling and discharged two rounds from the weapon striking another soldier in the right knee.

Everyone knows that his weapon should be cleared when entering a secure area. Remove the magazine, pull the charging handle back and check the chamber for rounds. Finally, place the selector lever on

"safe."

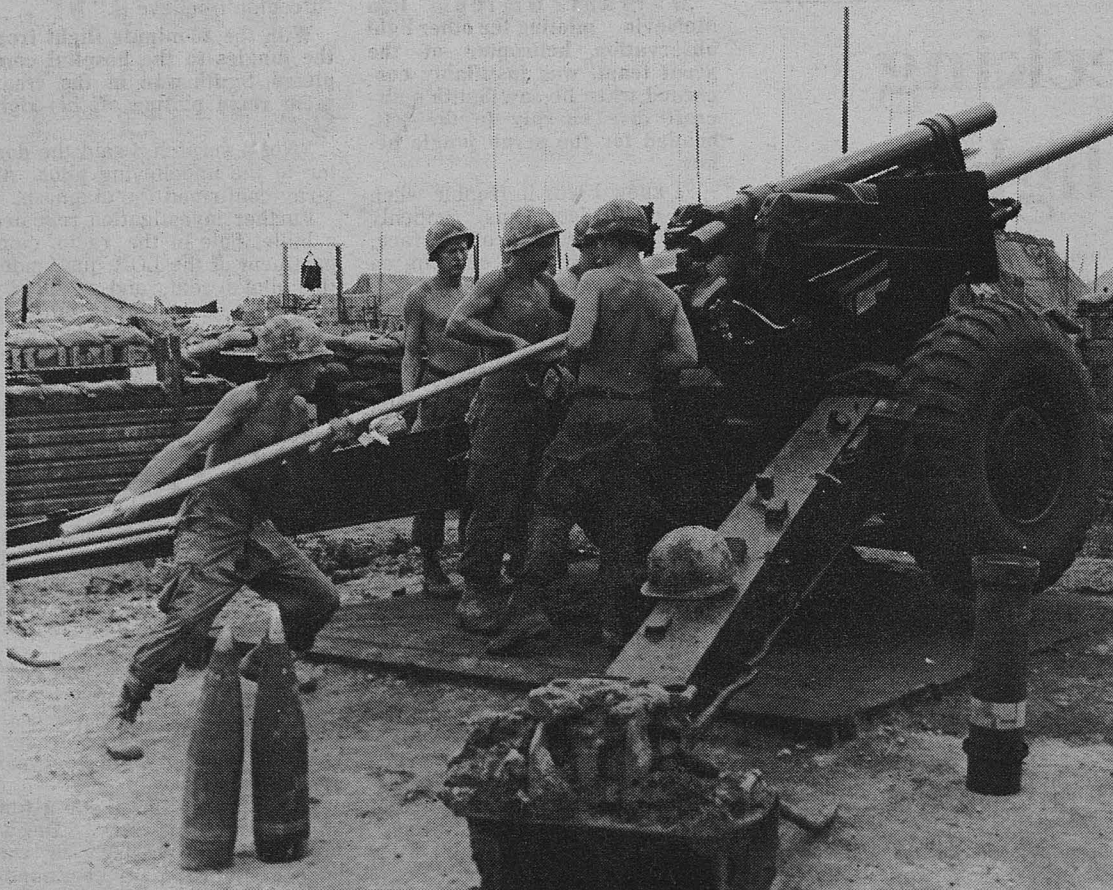
Remember to care for ammunition. A dirty round can cause the barrel to blowup. If a discharged round ends up in the trash, it can explode causing many injuries.

Army motor vehicle accidents also occur quite frequently in Vietnam.

A defensive driving attitude

and a daily maintenance can prevent many of these accidents. Be sure to read the safety checklist posted on the vehicle before taking off. When driving be courteous and obey all road signs. Remember to give the legal right of way to any vehicle or person in order to prevent an accident.

Fire Mission . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by 1LT Darrell Matz)

During a routine fire mission, Skytroopers of the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery, demonstrate the speed that makes the 155mm Howitzer one of the most effective support weapons.

1st Cav Association Offers Memberships

PHUOC VINH—If you want to keep in touch with the men you've met in Vietnam, then take out a membership in the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Founded in 1944 in the Admiralty Islands, the Association was incorporated in 1949 as a non-profit fraternal veterans organization.

The Association seeks to preserve the friendships formed in battle and perpetuate the Cav's tradition and esprit de corps.

Moreover, it is dedicated to the honor of Cavalrymen who have given their lives in defense of the United States.

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

Cost of a lifetime membership has recently been reduced to \$10. The one-time fee is your only obligation.

In return, you receive an embossed membership card, a copy of the division history, a life subscription to the Association's newsletter, a membership directory, plus decals, insignia cards and pins.



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Cavalrymen Cool Sappers' Plans

FSB ELLEN — The heat was on and it was flaming hot, but 1st Air Cavalrymen put a damper on Charlie's plans.

During a rocket attack on FSB Ellen, a small NVA sapper squad apparently planned to add a little firepower of their own. One of the NVA sappers had humped a flamethrower through two rows of concertina wire which had been heavily tripped.

Movement was detected, however, and Skytroopers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, opened up with small arms fire. Illumination was popped in front of the perimeter when one of the men spotted a sapper moving through the wire.

"The men opened up with everything they could find," said Sergeant Chambers Lock. "They threw frags, trips, and anything else they could get their hands on. They just got down and did a great job."

When dawn broke, the flamethrower was found. It was completely assembled, lying just outside the last strand of concertina. Apparently things had gotten too hot for its operator.

Public Phone Gets Heavy Use at Vivian

By SP4 Tom Benic
FSB VIVIAN — When a 1st Cav communications platoon installed a "public telephone" at this fire support base near Quan Loi, it wasn't kidding.

"We've placed calls to the states on several occasions," said Captain Thomas Geis. "It takes a lot of patience and a great deal of luck, but the guys think it's worth it."

CPT Geis runs the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, switchboard at FSB Vivian. To call home you simply pick up the field phone, contact the 3rd Brigade switchboard at Quan Loi, ask for the

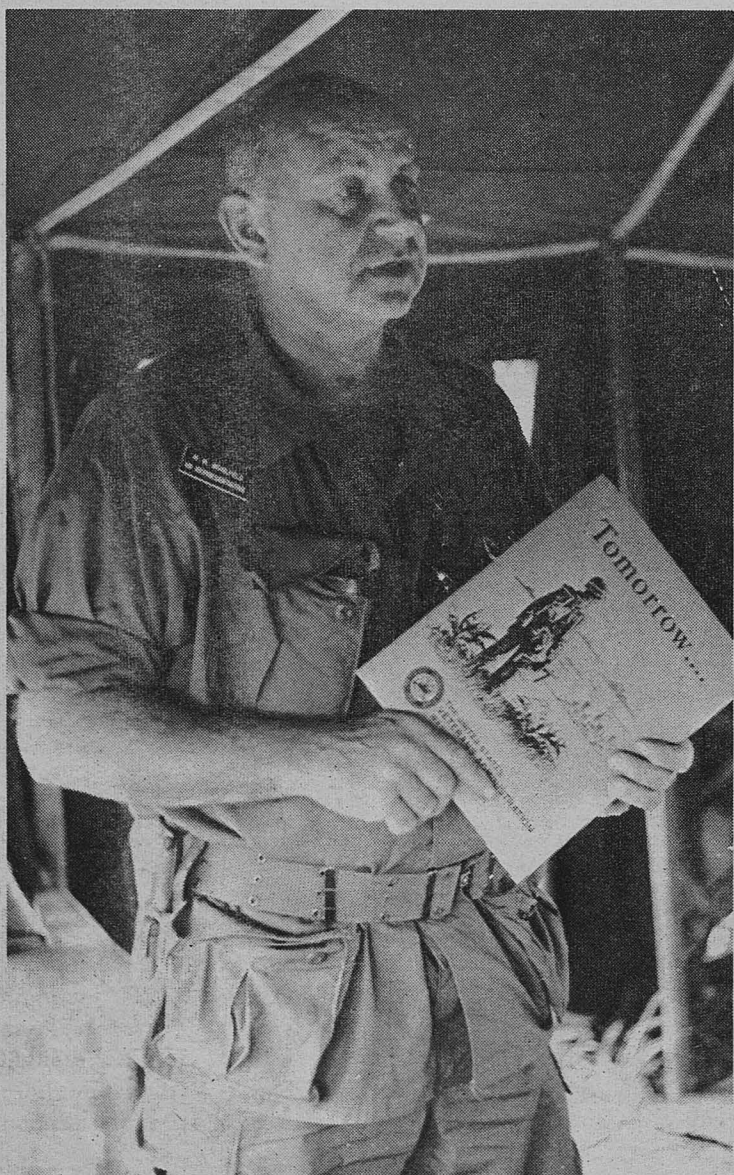
1st Cav switchboard at Phuoc Vinh 25 miles away, then get a line to the MARS station.

From there it's all down hill, providing the weather is perfect, the communications equipment functions flawlessly and there's someone home at the stateside end of the line.

"We make the try every two or three weeks when a new company comes in from the field to pull security," said CPT Geis. "Usually, we run it as a raffle, drawing several names out of a hat."

So far, the firebase hasn't taken any incoming calls from the states.

Tomorrow . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP5 George Vendedzis)
Lieutenant Colonel Mark M. Wohlfeld (USA-retired), VA representative, tours 1st Brigade base camps, answering questions and lecturing on VA benefits.

Automation . . .



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

Don't tell the doughboy, but these 1st Cavalrymen employ what any WWI veteran would probably consider the height of military automation—the automatic sandbagger. Actually, the machine is a road grader and these HHC men are showing typical ingenuity filling sandbags at Phuoc Vinh.

VA Representative

LTC Explains Benefits

TAY NINH — Lieutenant Colonel Mark M. Wohlfeld, (USA-retired) Veteran's Administration representative at the 90th Replacement Center at Long Binh, toured the FIRST TEAM's 1st Brigade base camp and firebases recently, answering questions and lecturing on VA benefits.

A 1st Cavalry troop commander during World War II, LTC Wohlfeld pointed out that "my mission during this visit is to let the trooper know that he will not be slipping into a vacuum when he separates from the service."

In explanation, LTC Wohlfeld continued: "Upon separation from the service, the soldier through the help of the VA, can get a headstart on school, start an apprenticeship, get a loan for house or business, or clear up any medical problems with aid from the government."

According to the VA representative, who in 1944 escaped from a Japanese POW camp in the Philippines, the veteran should take his discharge to his county courthouse and have it registered, then secure it in a safe place.

"The smart veteran will then have photostatic copies made of his discharge, and keep the original in a personal papers file, or even better, a safe deposit box," he said.

In applying for VA benefits, a photostatic copy of your discharge is a must. With this copy and VA Form 19-90 (Application for Educational Benefits) a veteran can finish high school, earn

a college degree, do graduate work, or on-the-job training in an apprenticeship situation, with the government assuming much of the financial burden.

"If the veteran has dependents, a photostatic copy of his marriage license and his children's birth certificates must be attached to the application for benefits in order for him to receive additional allowances in his GI Bill," said LTC Wohlfeld.

For those veterans who plan

to go to college, whether it be graduate or undergraduate, they must make sure that the school re-enrolls them as veterans each semester.

"It has happened in many cases that the school neglects to do this," emphasized LTC Wohlfeld. "When this happens, the monthly checks stop, and in a few months the veteran comes into one of our offices and we have to get the situation squared away."

Ammo Cache Blasted In Quan Loi Jungle

QUAN LOI — Skytroopers from the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, made a handsome contribution to the 1st Cav's increasing collection of North Vietnamese weapons.

Cutting its way single file through jungle vegetation, the reconnaissance platoon of Company E was almost on top of a hidden weapons cache before the pointman saw it.

"I was less the 15 feet away when I spotted a thatched roof covering the ground," said Specialist Four Frank Chenaille. "I froze, expecting a VC to pop out at any second."

"Luck was with us twice that day," explained Staff Sergeant Michael Van Atta. "First, we were lucky enough to find this camouflaged place and second,

there was nobody at home when we did."

The cache, which included 30-caliber machine guns and B-40 and B-41 rockets, was flanked by 20 four-man bunkers.

"This might have been an intended retreat station for NVA forces who made the Quan Loi attack nearly four months ago," said First Lieutenant William Craven, recon platoon leader.

Despite the age of the bunkers, the cache's weapons were loaded, in excellent condition and ready for use. Also a narrow trail was found in the vicinity leading from the north toward Quan Loi.

Following further reconnaissance of the area, high explosives were used to destroy the entire bunker complex and part of the captured munitions.

Airmobile Battery on the Move



Skycrane (CH-54) hovers above 155mm Howitzer at FSB Wescott.



Artillerymen from the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery position a Howitzer.

Photos by SP5 Terry Moon
Story by PFC David Roberts

FSB VIVIAN—Applying the concept of airmobility, 1st Air Cavalrymen relocated a battery of 155 Howitzers “lock, stock and barrel” in less than six hours.

Battery C, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery, was sent to Fire Support Base (FSB) Vivian from FSB Wescott. The entire operation required almost 25 sorties conducted by the CH-54 (Skycrane) and Chinooks.

Relocating a 155 battery involves more than just the moving of the guns. The batteries are centrally independent and are moved as an entire unit. More than 10,000 pounds of projectiles accompanied the guns.

Along with the ammunition, the culverts which house the men also are moved. Trucks, personal gear and the mess hall have to be transported by the birds.

“On the morning of the move, the men got out of bed and began to pack at 4 a.m.,” Captain Josue Robles, commander of Battery C, said. “By midnight the same day we had completed the entire move from Wescott to Vivian and had sandbagged our ammo pits as well as the hooches.”

The move kept the guns out of operation for only six hours.

Although moving a battery is a hectic process, it's nothing new to the airmobile-minded men of the 1st Cav. Battery C has relocated 23 times since February.



SP4 Roger Naeve and PFC Philip San Antonio prepare for mission.



Another sortie ends at the Howitzer's new home, FSB Vivian.



Jacqui Shaw's blond pig-tail may be false but the rest of her is all for real. The 19-year-old secretary from Shipley, England, wore the pig-tail to catch the judge's eye in her first beauty contest. But, the judge apparently had other things in mind as he handed her the first prize in a regional preliminary to the Miss United Kingdom pageant.

LTC Stotser Leaves Mark

By William K. Block Jr.

TAY NINH — Lieutenant Colonel George R. Stotser recently left Fire Support Base Grant and the command of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, to become 1st Cav operations officer. His battalion and support elements won't forget him quickly.

Alpha Company remembered when its resupply landing zone was mortared, and two seriously injured men required evacuation before a MEDEVAC could arrive.

"LTC Stotser brought his bird down a few minutes after the men were hit," recalled Sergeant David D. Fortney. "Two were in bad shape, and he jumped off his Huey to help them aboard. Then he applied first aid as his bird rushed back to Tay Ninh."

Warrant Officer Christian G. Sawyer, LTC Stotser's pilot, remembered when a company wasn't able to cross a branch of the Saigon River.

"The colonel gave one end of a rope to a platoon leader on one side of the river," Mr. Sawyer said, "and we flew over to the other side, where he made a one-man CA with the other end of the rope, tying it to a tree." The company then crossed the water safely.

"LTC Stotser accomplished his mission, the destruction of

enemy forces and supplies, with minimum casualties," said Captain Adamo E. DeAngelis, intelligence officer for the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. "Under his direction, the battalion accounted for 541 enemy killed in its first four months in this area. Nonetheless, every night he walked around the green line to maintain direct liaison with his troops."

"The colonel frequently played basketball with us," offered Sergeant Dennis Danielson of Company B. "He's a good friend of the enlisted men."

Captain Melvin D. Jones, Bravo Company commander, appreciated the colonel's support.

"In our most recent firefight" said CPT Jones, "he had Cobras above us within eight minutes after we made contact and air strikes were on the way."

LTC Stotser frequently visited the troops in the field on resupply days, CPT Jones said. And morning and afternoon, he was in the air checking out the area, ready to support his line companies with all available firepower.

Sergeant Ronald R. Earnest, the battalion carpenter, agreed. "When it comes to support for his people, LTC Stotser won't take no for an answer and only accepts the best," he said.

'Black Hats' Control Firebase Air Traffic

By PFC Robert Hackney

FSB JAMIE—It used to be that the man in the black hat was the bad guy.

But ask any pilot flying near Fire Support Base (FSB) Jamie, and he'll tell you that the "Black Hats," the 1st Cav's air traffic controllers, are a pilot's best friend.

The two-man team at the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, firebase is part of the 11th Pathfinder Detachment. Its job is to maintain order among the daily average of 300 helicopters and fixed wing aircraft entering the area around FSB Jamie.

"We're just like an airport back in the states," said Corporal Dennis Cron.

Approximately 75 helicopters land each day at FSB Jamie. But more than 300 aircraft check in with the Black Hats at Jamie control.

"We tell them whether or not we've had incoming and if we have artillery or mortar fire going out," CPL Cron said. "If we have outgoing rounds, we give them the azimuth, the maximum ordinate (height) of the round and the grid where it's impacting."

The two Black Hats work 12-hour shifts, one man monitoring the radio at all times. If a helicopter has to land at night, one Black Hat forms an illumination "T" placing lights on the ground, while the other guides the helicopter by using lighted batons.

"Our main job is to advise the pilot on the many hazards he has and thus, eliminate most of them," CPL Cron said. "He has a tough job as it is."

Two Air Mattresses Victims of Mortaring

TAY NINH — Air mattresses are notoriously vulnerable to the jungle. But when they're the only casualties in a mortar barrage, that's the stuff war stories are made of.

"It was real scary," said Private First Class Dennis Butler of the 1st Cav. "A couple of guys had their air mattresses shot up by AK's but luckily no one was hit."

It started with a rude awakening at 4:50 a.m. by mortars landing inside the night defensive position of Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. The cavalrymen were set up in the thick bamboo rain forest near a trail west of Fire Support Base

St. Barbara.

Shortly after the attack, Alpha's mortar platoon spotted one NVA approaching its location and detonated a claymore. Then the second platoon received small arms fire, which it rapidly returned.

Finally, a third platoon ambush found three NVA in the open and eliminated them. Following a brief probe to determine the Skytroopers' strength, the enemy quit and disappeared.

Aside from the favorable casualty statistics — the air mattresses — Alpha collected five AK-47's, 15 AK magazines, a B-40 rocket launcher, one long-range radio, clothing and documents.

REUBEN GRAUER DAY

"Reuben who?" was the usual first response when Skytroopers heard about "Reuben Grauer Day" sponsored by Company C, 227th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter).

Reuben Grauer is a 59-year-old salesman from Columbia, South Carolina, and one of the organizers of RSVP (Rally Support Vietnam Personnel).

The city of Columbia has "adopted" the 1st Cav Division and Grauer chose Charlie Company of the 227th as his personal project.

RSVP helps boost morale by sending needed items to troops—everything from cigarettes to heavy equipment like cement mixers.

Reuben Grauer hasn't sent any cement mixers to Charlie Company—just many packages of food at his own expense.

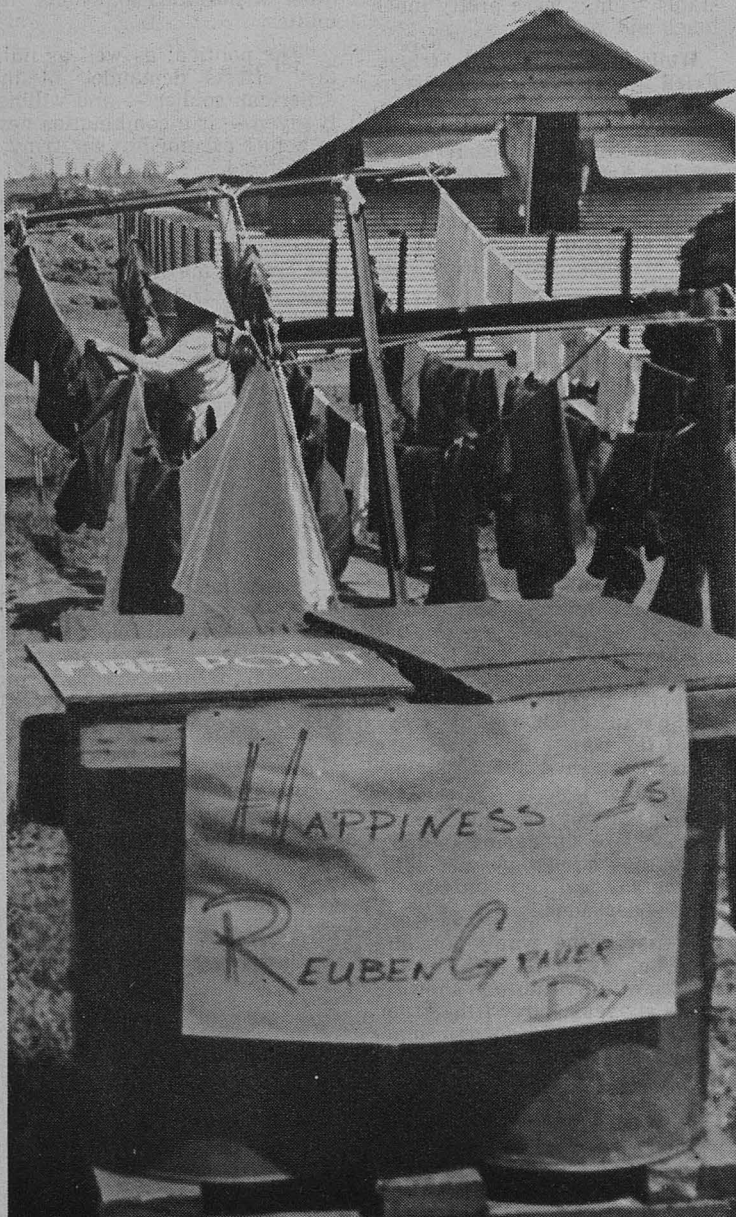
In recognition of Grauer's contributions to the Cav, Charlie Company celebrated "Reuben Grauer Day" complete with buffet dinner.

Like the sign says, "Happiness is Reuben Grauer Day."

Photos by SP5 Terry Moon



Reuben Grauer (right) observes 1st Cav sign in Columbia.



For some, another work day



Charging Charlie enjoys festivities.

PFC Teaching Nuns English

QUAN LOI—When Dwight Herold tried to re-up for the Peace Corps last year, Uncle Sam had other ideas.

Now it's Private First Class Herold, but the former English teacher in the Palau Islands just about has his old job back. He's teaching English to nuns at a Quan Loi elementary school.

"I'm using the same book and teaching methods I used in the Peace Corps," the 1st Cav soldier said. "The nuns are very eager to learn which makes my job quite easy."

Assigned to the division's civil affairs office after three months with an infantry line company, PFC Herold holds class twice a week for the Catholic school teachers. He is also involved in the coordination of MEDCAPs and other functions of the 3rd Brigade S-5 office.

PFC Herold taught conversational English to 60 grade school students at a small Palaun village for two years. The Peace Corps granted a year's extension, but the draft notice was not delayed.

"I find what I'm doing very rewarding," PFC Herold said. "In many ways the mission of the civil affairs team is the same as that of the Peace Corps."

'Flying Sampan' Becomes Trophy

FSB BUTTONS — When an enemy sampan flew into the 1st Cav's FSB Buttons, it appeared that the search for war trophies had just about reached the limit.

The "airborne sampan" was helped in its journey by a light observation helicopter (LOH) from the 2nd Brigade's aviation platoon. The sampan, some 12 feet long and three feet wide, was attached to the LOH by flexible clamps — namely, the arms of Private First Class Claude H. Lemke and Specialist Four Fred Tatman.

A scout team, a LOH from the brigade aviation platoon and a Cobra from Company D, 227th Aviation Battalion, was flying a routine mission along the Song Be River, northeast of FSB Buttons. Scooting along the river banks, the helicopter pilot, Warrant Officer Daniel Johnson, spotted an area of bamboo camouflage.

Immediately, First Lieutenant Pete Pellant and Warrant Officer John Kozub Jr., pilots of the Cobra, peppered the area with minigun and rocket fire until its camouflage was spread uselessly on the ground.

Beneath was a new sampan, resting on engineer stakes with the bamboo interior still green.

With no enemy soldiers in sight, the LOH flew down for a closer look. There was no place to set down, so PFC Lemke jumped off the small chopper as it hovered.

Dragging the boat through thick grass, Lemke was joined on the ground by SP4 Tatman. The LOH landed about 100 meters away. The two men jumped into the left side of the chopper, firmly grasping the bars running across the top of the sampan.

"I flew back at 40 knots," said Mr. Johnson. "The helicopter was not exactly streamlined."

Security Platoon Protects Buttons

By SP4 Ronald Wright

FSB BUTTONS — The 1st Cav has its own breed of minutemen securing basecamps and fire support bases throughout the division.

The force of combat-hardened men making up the security platoon devotes its energy to the strengthening of base defenses, pulling green line guard and acting as a quick reaction force (QRF).

Besides being essential to the security of the basecamp, the platoon is unique in that, "it

gives us a chance to unwind to peacetime duty and allows us to use our field experience, too," said Specialist Four Dennis Dent, who has been with the 2nd Brigade security platoon three weeks. He spent nine months in the field.

Shorttimers are the backbone of the platoon, offering their skills and experience to the security of the basecamp. Most can boast of more than nine months field duty, and they are eager for a chance to "relax."

Skytrooper 'Home' in Far East

By PFC Robert Hackney

FSB JAMIE — Specialist Four Sarosh Writer celebrated a "homecoming" of sorts, coming to Vietnam with the U.S. Army.

Born in Rangoon, Burma, SP4 Writer lived and traveled extensively in the Far East for 17 years. He was a U.S. citizen for only two years before being drafted.

An oral hygienist with the 499th Dental Detachment, he works at the 1st Cav's dental station on FSB Jamie, 20 miles northeast of Tay Ninh.

SP4 Writer's background

reads like a geography text. His father, an attache with the Belgian legation in San Francisco, is British and Russian. His mother's descent is German and Thai.

He grew up in Burma but graduated from high school through a correspondence course in India. While speaking Burmese, Indian and German, he is most comfortable using English.

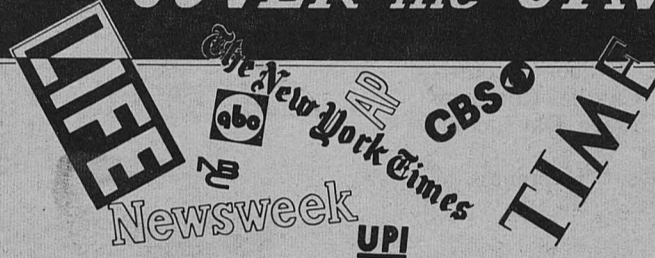
"My father fought with the British in Burma during World War II," SP4 Writer said. "Then in 1962 a military junta over-

Peace in War . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Len Fallscheer)
PFC Dwight Herold, a former Peace Corps member in the Palau Islands, is working with the 1st Cav civil affairs team, teaching nuns English at a Quan Loi elementary school.

THEY COVER the CAV



By SP5 Joe Kamalick

The short, wiry man in wash slacks and an open collared sport shirt is regarded with great interest and respect when he appears at the Rex Hotel in Saigon at 5 o'clock.

He is Joe Fried of the New York Daily News. Among the military briefers and press corps at the Saigon evening briefing he is known — with anguish and humor respectively — as "The Five O'clock Terror."

The title is a product of years of hard, precise questioning at the daily military briefing — the briefing which has come to be known for the sometimes curt exchanges between press and military personnel.

Confronted with his reputation as "The Terror," Fried waved his hand as if to push the title away.

"It's just that you sometimes have to push a little to get information. But that is only one avenue to the news . . . you've got to develop contacts, that is essential."

If anyone does, Joe Fried would know what is essential in war correspondence. In the six years plus since July 1963 Fried has maintained the longest continuous coverage of the war by a single newspaper.

For Fried, "The Vietnam war is a big story. It is the primary

American story."

"In the early years," he said, "it was much more unsettled. There was much more excitement. There were only 14,000 American men here then, and they were in a purely advisory status. Things were pretty much touch and go."

While he read Stars & Stripes, Fried punctuated his answers with always moving hands. "The war itself and its day to day running has become tiring for the American people. Never in history has a public been subjected to such saturation coverage of a war. . . . It's coming out of their ears after six years."

"Now, what with the political outcome, the people are more interested in what progress is being made on some solution to the war."

After all the confusion and saturation exposure to the longest war in America's history, said Fried, "at a certain stage the American public says 'Stop! Enough!'"

"Today I find a big problem among the military and Americans of position to speak out frankly about the war," Fried said. "They are concerned over the political repercussions which might result from what they say about the war. I think they are overly concerned about that political impact."

"But it is my personal feeling that we are up against a very calculating adversary, and nothing we say will substantially affect his decisions."

Whatever the war's outcome may be, Fried is firm in his opinion of the American showing in the six-year war. "I think our people here have done a marvelous job. In the annals of military history never has an Army been saddled with so difficult and complex a task. Soldiers are trained to kill, that is their job."

"But in Vietnam the American fighting man has had to be more than just that, he has to be a pacifier and an ambassador and must win the hearts and minds

NY Writer
Joe Fried

of the people."

Fried cited the civic action programs carried out by every American unit in Vietnam — the rebuilding of orphanages, construction, equipping and operation of hospitals and other facilities.

"The political as well as military efforts demanded of the American soldier — and willingly given — is a combination never before assumed by an Army," said Fried.

"One of the strange things about this war is that the GI has been maligned when actually the greater majority of them are good guys. They have given of themselves to an unparalleled extent. There is a lot of heart in these soldiers — like in the many who have written home to get clothing and tools for these people."

Fried, with six years' experience in watching Vietnam and the Americans who have come and gone here, can justly be considered an authority on both.

"In Vietnam life is cheap and living is expensive," he said. "And the personal, individual efforts of Americans have really authored a very credible and prideful page for any and all military annals."



Joe Fried