



All Aboard . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)

Regional Force troops board Cav helicopter at Song Be for a combat assault into suspected Viet Cong location. Cooperation between 1st Cav and RF units in the area is a daily occurrence in northern Phuoc Long Province.

1,000,000 Piasters Donated

Cav Helps Open School

By SP4 William Block Jr.

TAY NINH — A donation of more than one million piasters by 1st Air Cavalry Division Skytroopers helped make possible the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Tay Ninh Girl's High School.

The school, described as Vietnam's most modern school, is unique in that it is the only major educational project ever to be undertaken by the joint efforts of the U.S. Armed Forces, the Philippine Civic Action Group (PHILCAGV) and the Government of Vietnam.

The Cav's 1st Brigade made the largest monetary contribution, nearly 50 per cent of the total. The coordination of the project was the work of the 6th AA

Platoon of the Vietnamese 2nd Civil Affairs Company.

The new school includes 20 classrooms, six rooms for offices, running water, electricity and plumbing. The building is a cement block, horseshoe-designed, one-story structure, and it is capable of being readily expanded into two or more stories. It will be occupied daily by 1,100 girls from the old, overcrowded Tay Ninh High School.

"To surmount the funding difficulties of a project this size and to view its opening is certainly rewarding," observed Major Harry J. Bacas, civil affairs officer for the 1st Brigade.

"However, the total community effort that characterized this construction is indicative of a new spirit that is sweeping the

Tay Ninh area, making future civic action programs far more meaningful and vital to the future of Vietnam."

Nighthawk Silences NVA Machine Guns

PHUOC VINH — Enemy casualties rose for the third straight week with 1st Cav hunter-killer helicopters from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry accounting for one-third of the enemy killed in the seven day period ending Oct. 17.

The two-month low level of ground action continued and resulted in very light 1st Cav casualties.

Refugees from previously Viet Cong controlled villages near Song Be continued to stream into 2nd Brigade firebases, increasing the four week total to over 450.

The largest action of the week began when machine gun fire greeted a nighthawk helicopter of Charlie Company, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 10 miles northwest of Song Be (Oct. 14).

Shortly before midnight the Huey, using electronic detection equipment, discovered enemy supplies and lights on the bank of the Song Be river 800 feet below.

"We came in low to get a closer look and started receiving small arms and machine gun fire from three locations," said the mission commander, Warrant Officer Ralph Padevic.

The Nighthawk opened up with mini-gun fire before breaking-off under enemy fire.

The two birds returned to FSB Buttons for more ammunition then joined an Air Force Shadow

Team along with jet air strike support. The enemy was not silenced until 5 a.m., as they left 28 bodies behind. That same day another 15 enemy were killed by Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry helicopter gunships in three engagements 18 miles northwest of Nui Ba Den at the other end of the Cav's area of operation.

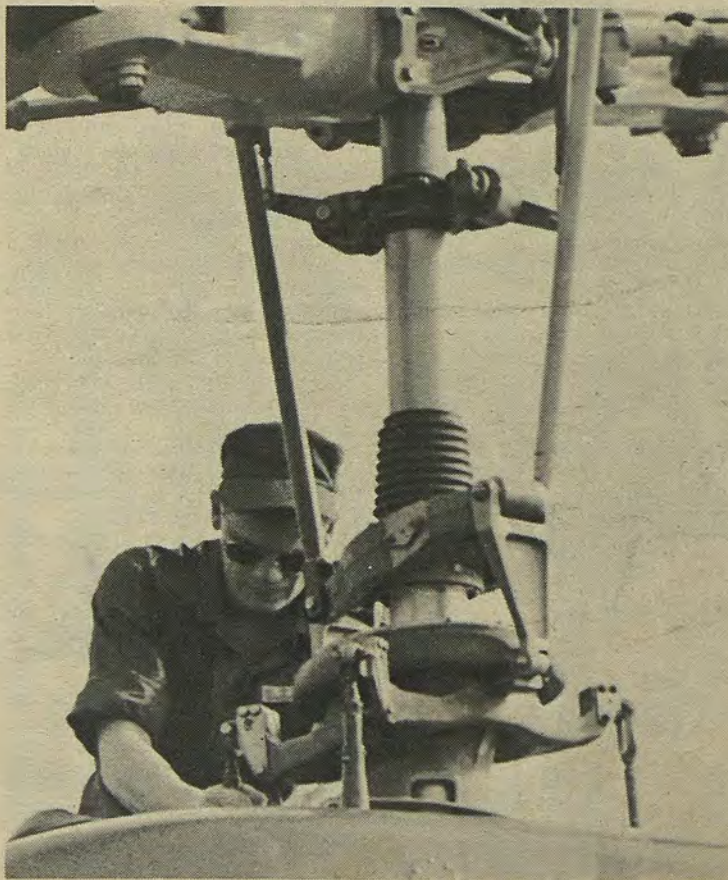
A hunter-killer helicopter team (Oct 13) from Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, killed 12 enemy in two separate actions 15 miles north of Quan Loi. Receiving small arms fire at 6 p.m. the LOH and Cobra gunship engaged and killed six enemy. A half hour later the team received automatic weapons and small arms fire near the same area and engaged with ARA and machine gun fire, then called in artillery to kill six more.

Earlier that afternoon a Hoi Chanh returned to his home with a company of Air Cavalrymen from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry and led them to a small weapons cache including two machine guns, three SKS rifles and ammunition.

The largest cache of the week was found by Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, five miles west of Song Be. Eight pounds of documents, seven Chi-com submachine guns and 26 60mm mortar rounds were uncovered.

Skytroopers killed 206 enemy during the week. Five Skytroopers were killed and 30 were wounded.

Pre-Flight Check . . .



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

Warrant Officer John Snowgren makes a thorough pre-flight inspection of his Huey Helicopter before a mission for the 82nd Artillery's Echo Battery.

PFC Takes Controls, Flies LOH to Safety

By SP5 Ed Freudenburg

TAY NINH — A burst of enemy .51 calibre machine gun fire and a disabled helicopter pilot set the stage for Private First Class David D. Ham's first flying lesson over the thick bamboo rain forest near Tay Ninh.

"I really didn't have any choice," said PFC Ham. "The pilot was wounded and someone had to fly the bird."

While flying a scout mission from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 10 miles northeast of Nui Ba Den, the LOH helicopter was ripped with enemy ground fire which disabled the pilot, Warrant Officer Gary Llewellyn, with leg and arm wounds.

An observer until then, PFC Ham grabbed the controls and headed for Fire Support Base Jamie with instructions from the wounded, but still conscious pilot.

"I had watched pilots fly the ship dozens of times before, but I didn't think I would ever take over the controls," said PFC Ham after landing safely.

Viet Troops Get Charlie's Rice Ration

PFC Ed Wene

QUAN LOI — Vietnamese CIDG troops at Loch Ninh and Bo Duc have extra food on the table, thanks to Charlie. A cache containing 10,000 pounds of rice and 1,500 pounds of salt was distributed to the CIDG forces by men of the 1st Cav's 3rd Brigade.

The cache was discovered by Company D, 1st Battalion of the 8th Cavalry near Fire Support Base Deb, located some eight miles from the Cambodian border.

Events leading to the discovery of the cache began when Delta Company spotted five NVA soldiers dressed in khaki uniforms. The small enemy element was fired upon, but managed to evade. After enemy escape routes were covered with artillery and helicopter firepower, the Skytroopers made a sweep of the area.

During the sweep, three bunkers were discovered, which yielded the foodstuffs. Two of the bunkers contained 200-pound bags of rice while another was loaded with 100-pound bags of salt. In all three there were 52 200-pound bags of rice and 15 100-pound bags of salt.

Taking Five . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Bill Ahrbeck) Private First Class Mario Calderon of Company A, 1st Bn, 7th Cavalry, buries his head for a short retreat from the heat and digging involved in the building of a new fire support base.

Malaria Prevention Begins With Personal Health Care

By SP4 Ron Merrill

For the air cavalryman who takes his anti-malaria pills regularly and who practices personal prevention against mosquito bites, the rainy season will probably result in little more than mud-caked uniforms and boots.

But those who neglect the malaria prevention measures might find this season the start of years of illness and needless suffering, and even death.

For those who think malaria isn't bad enough to warrant taking the pills regularly, rolling down sleeves and buttoning shirt collars after 6 p.m., sleeping under mosquito nets whenever tactically possible and using repellent, here are some facts.

Death can result from Falciparum Malaria. This form of the disease can attack the brain, kidney and lungs. "Falciparum Malaria very often resists medication so that numerous relapses occur," said Major John R. Hogan, Chief of Medicine and Professional Services at the 93rd Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh.

When used in conjunction with personal prevention against mosquito bites, the Dapsone Pill — the small white daily one — will reduce the chances of contracting Falciparum Malaria to nearly nothing.

"Chloroquine-primaquine, the large, orange, 'Monday' pill, is 100 per cent effective in preventing Vivax Malaria," said MAJ Hogan. A urine analysis has been devised which can tell if a Vivax victim has been taking the pill. Soldiers who fail to take their pills, as well as their responsible NCO's and officers, may be subject to disciplinary action.

Those who think malaria isn't too bad are ignorant of the truth. Victims alternately burn with fever and shake with chills. Troopers who feel a case of malaria is a good way to 'sham' for a couple of weeks find it a mis-

erable way to do so — possibly suffering for the rest of their lives.

"From the time we make the diagnosis to the time patients are free of symptoms averages about five days, but they have in some cases undergone the unpleasantness of the disease for from two to five days before they reach us here at the 93rd Evac." said the doctor.

Accompanying the high fever that goes with malaria, delirium and unconsciousness are common, along with nausea, vomiting and aching bones.

Length of a hospital stay depends a lot on the type of malaria. Vivax victims, unless there have complications, will be returned to duty in about a week. For the falciparum cases,

there has to be a period of convalescence at the 6th Convalescent Center in Cam Ranh Bay.

At Cam Ranh the patients undergo physical training and light details to build their strength back to where it was before the contraction of Falciparum. This may take anywhere from two to three weeks.

"Also," stated Dr. Hogan, "all malaria cases will be treated to conclusion in-country, even if this involves extension past DEROS."

Worst of all, the blood parasites can live in the body for as long as 30 years after one has been 'cured' of the disease. If, after once contracting malaria, one's health or resistance drops, the disease can recur.

...For God And Country

By Chaplain (CPT) Claude Newby
1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Chaplain

As a chaplain on my second tour with the 1st Cav, I am often asked if I volunteered to return to Vietnam and if I asked to return to the Cav. To my affirmative answers to both questions, there is often a strange period of silence.

Sometimes the questioner will walk away slightly shaking his head. I can almost hear him mumbling, "Why, you'd never know it just looking at him. He almost looks normal."

Traditionally, men entering the military service receive the advice, "Never volunteer for anything," from relatives, fellow recruits and old veterans. The sanity of one who too easily volunteers is immediately suspect. In fact, being a volunteer can actually be embarrassing.

Few volunteers will simply answer, "Yes, I volunteered," and leave it at that. Most, with some slight or strong embarrassment, will attempt to explain why they felt justified in volunteering as a sort of defense to their mental reputation. However, in the heat of actual combat, the volunteer comes into his own.

I recall a day when I lay exposed only about 70 feet from an enemy bunker. The terrain was open. Enemy fire was coming from the bunker and from many points along our front and flanks. As I lay there, trying to crawl under my belt buckle, I witnessed a fellow soldier take a serious hit just 25 feet from me.

It only took me a moment to convince myself that I had to go forward and help the wounded man. Just as I started to move, a medic slithered past and told me to stay put. He then crawled forward and proceeded to give the wounded soldier aid. Because that medic had volunteered for a very dangerous task, I was able to sigh with relief.

How thankful I felt for that volunteer being there. In combat the volunteer comes into his own.

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, was a volunteer. He volunteered for the most dangerous mission the world has ever seen. He volunteered to take upon himself the greatest suffering the world has ever known and shall know.

He volunteered to suffer such horrible suffering of spirit that it would suffice to meet the requirements of justice for all who would accept the payment by accepting the Christ, and taking His way of life.

Because the Savior accomplished his voluntary "suicide" mission, both physical and spiritual death is overcome—all mankind can sigh with relief because a volunteer has paid the price for the big DEROS to our Father in Heaven.

Let us thank God for Jesus Christ, the volunteer; and for the many other volunteers who have followed His example in their lives to care for us.



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

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

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Outgoing Mail Needs Full Return Address

Your Social Security number listed on all outgoing mail from the 1st Cav is a must for efficient mail service, according to a recent Department of the Army directive. If the old service number is used, mail will be returned to the sender.

"Unit mail clerks will examine carefully all outgoing mail to see that it has all essential elements of address, a complete return address to include SSAN (Social Security Account Number) and is otherwise acceptable for mailing," the message said. "The importance of using the SSAN on all mail matter for Army personnel can not be over emphasized, since it is the key to establishing positive identification of the mail addressee."

The requirement for a SSAN is being enforced due to an impending change in the Vietnam mail system to include an automated mail directory using the individual's SSAN. This will allow soldiers quicker forwarding of mail when they move from one assignment to another while in-country.

Since addresses used by correspondents on mail for Army personnel are strongly influenced by return addresses, the Army's outgoing mail will be required to include a SSAN to allow state-side mail senders and example of the correct unit address.

The Army message also point-

ed out that the addition of unauthorized abbreviations complicates and confuses the distribution of mail and adds to the delay for directory service.

For example, a unit address such as Co. A, 1st Bn, 12th Cav will not be further reduced to Co A 1 12. When the parent unit is dispersed by platoons, sections or teams, these separate elements should be included in the return address.

Gifts, Records Sale To Open Fund Drive

PHUOC VINH—The 1st Cavalry Division Association's FIRST TEAM SCHOLARSHIPS (FTS) organization kicks-off its drive this month to fund scholarships for children of Cavalrymen fallen in battle.

"Project Maverick" will head the drive to raise \$40,000 in just 30 days for future scholarship grants. Other activities in the high intensity campaign include the sales of Christmas cards, official Cav gifts and the sale of Bill Ellis' stereo record album, "Impressions of a Skytrooper."

As soon as the merchandise begins arriving this month, Association sponsored FTS sales-

men will visit firebases and basecamps to offer all Skytroopers a selection of specially selected gift items. All will carry 1st Cav crests, patches or other unit identification.

Some of the items offered for sale include cigarette lighters, identification bracelets, bayonet and machete letter openers, key chains, pendants and other types of 1st Cavalry memorabilia.

All profits from the sales will go to the Association's Scholarship Fund.

Christmas cards will also be sold to Skytroopers for a truly Cav Christmas. A 10 card packet will be offered for \$1 each.

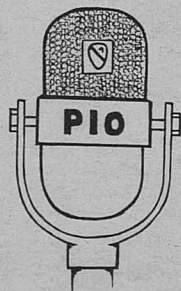
The Association is also selling yet another 8,000 Sergeant Bill Ellis "Impressions of a Skytrooper" stereo albums at \$2 each through mail order at the National Association Headquarters.

A check or money order for \$2 for each record sent to the Registrar, 1st Cavalry Division Association, P.O. Box 11201, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112, will speed your record to any state-side address.

The 1st Cavalry Division Association started the Education Foundation last year and the active division already has supported it with the grants in funds of \$10,000.

Holiday Greetings

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



Divarty Volley . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Tom Benic)
 Captain Fred Swiss, Divarty S-5, supervises a volleyball game for the children of Phuoc Hoa II during a MEDCAP team's visit to the village.

Joint ARVN-American Operation

NVA Infiltration Route Closed

By PFC Ed Wene

QUAN LOI — Through the joint efforts of an ARVN Ranger Battalion and men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, a major NVA infiltration route near the Cambodian border is being denied the Communists.

One company of Rangers is located north of Bu Dop in an abandoned village. This unit has two forward observers (FOs) assigned to them from Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry.

"I was a little scared about coming here to work with the Rangers," said SP4 Gary T. Dowless, "but that was before I knew anything about them." Since then Specialist Dowless has come to respect the Rangers and has complete confidence in them.

"They work a little differently than Americans," he said, "but it doesn't take long to find out that they really know their stuff."

The other FO working with the Rangers is Sergeant Ronald L. Mallard. "Their life is much simpler than ours," he explained, "but they are very hard workers."

Draftee Gets 2 'Greetings'

TAY NINH — One letter of "Greetings" from the military is enough for most potential draftees. Specialist Four Hans Schibalski got two and cast his lot with Uncle Sam.

Schibalski, now serving with the Cav's Company C, 1st Bn, 12th Cav, was a West German citizen living with his parents in Seattle, Wash.

The day after receiving a draft notice from the U.S. Selective Service, he received an induction notice from the German Wehrmacht. He took both physicals for both services while in Frankfurt, Germany.

"After weighing the facts," said Specialist Schibalski, "I decided on the United States. The biggest influencing factor was that my parents were living in the U.S."

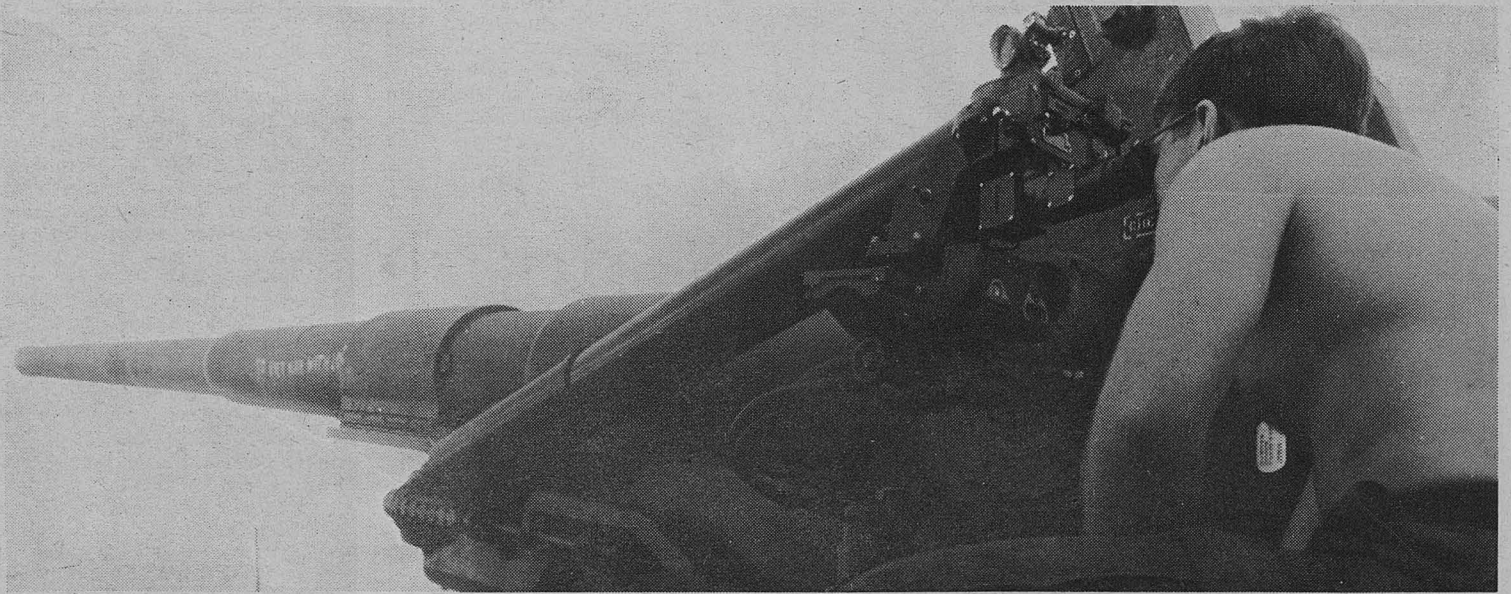
The Rangers travel light. They eat rice, which is supplied in 100-pound bags, and dried fish. In the field each man sleeps in a hammock, which they prefer to sleeping on the ground. The FOs agree that they are especially adept at recognizing signs of the enemy and discovering booby traps and caches.

The 110-man element north of Bu Dop is commanded by Cap-

tain Mang, a veteran of 12 years service. He works closely with Sergeant First Class Robert H. Barnette in all phases of the operations.

"It is my responsibility to help the Rangers in any way I can," explained SFC Barnette. "Most of my work consists of coordinating the support of American units with their operations. The Rangers have proven themselves time and time again to be real professionals."

To Charles, With Love . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)
 An artilleryman takes a long look through the sight of this self-propelled 175mm gun, directing his "Smoke" upon the enemy.

An Old Town Meeting for Long Dien

By CPT Peter Zastrow

FSB BUTTONS—It might have been a town meeting in an early New England settlement. Gathered in the village schoolhouse, 125 men and women—the village elders—presented their ideas and gripes to their leaders.

The presence of old men with wispy, white beards indicated that this was the village of Long Dien rather than a colonial New England town. But like the old town meetings, the villagers were participating in democracy, this time two miles northwest of Fire Support Base (FSB) Buttons in the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade.

Their faces showing intense concentration, the villagers packed into the school-

house to present their complaints to their province chief, Lieutenant Colonel Luu-Yem, Chief of Phuoc Long Province. Colonel Yem was accompanied by his staff—the experts in the fields in which the villagers were interested—and by Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Moody, deputy commander of the Cav's 2nd Brigade.

Despite the difference in time and place, the villagers had some of the same complaints which appeared 200 years ago in New England. Neighboring Montagnards had stolen food, one of the villagers complained, and the local police had not reacted quickly enough. Another villager, a woman, felt that she had been unjustly deprived of her job as the local representative of the Vietnamese Information Service in Long Dien.

One of the major problems facing the village was the road which leads from Long Bien to Song Be, the lifeline to the local market as well as to the seat of the provincial government. Eroded by monsoon rains and subjected to American and ARVN tracked vehicles, the road had become almost impassable in some places.

This problem was described by the village priest, the local patriarch who led the villagers to Long Dien from North Vietnam in 1954, in hopes that Colonel Moody and the 1st Cav could help upgrade the road.

No decisions were reached at the meeting though all the complaints were answered by the Province Chief or his staff. Colonel Moody promised to try to enlist 1st Cav support for the road project.

Children Write Letters to Camp

By Mrs. Carlton's 3rd Graders

SONG BE—You've heard of kids' letters from camp. Here's a new twist: kids' letters to Camp—1st Lieutenant Greg Camp that is.

A platoon leader with the 1st Air Cavalry Division, Lieutenant Camp hit the jackpot at mailcall when letters from third graders at Divinny Elementary School in Denver, Colo., arrived.

Mrs. Paul Carlton, a friend of the lieutenant's family, assigned her third grade class the project of corresponding with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

The letters, complete with all the misspelled innocence of youth, follow:

Dear Lt. Camp,

I hope you are doing good job in your navy. I hope you like your navy.
 Your friend,
 Kevin W.

Dear Lt. Camp,

I hope you are oh okay. I am having fun in school. Are you having fun in school. Oh yes you wouldn't go to this kind of school, would you. Well all trie to see you same time.
 Ycur friend,
 Sectty Hannum

Dear Lt. Camp,

We would like you to come and visit us. We are planning to go to Vietnam. I hope you like my wrietage.
 Your new friend,
 Linda Wade

Dear Lt. Camp,

Wood you please send ar clase 60 names of your friends in Vietnam. I hope you and your friends dosen't get keeled.
 Your new friend,
 Teddy Younger

Dear Lt. Camp,

How are things in the army? How are you? I like you because

you are fighting in the army. I am in the third grade, this year and it's fun. My Dad was in the army to. Except he did not fight. He has a 1969 camaro. It's yellow with a black vinel top. He is a nice daddy.

Your new friend,
 William R. Cline

Dear Lt. Camp,

Could you spare one of your men so I don't get lonely to please, I would like to have a pen pale.
 Your new friend,
 Tammy Vaughan

Dear Lt. Camp,

Will you please sind me a name of one of the other L. What is camp like? My Dad went to camp to. Mrs. Carlton and Mrs. Bining are my teachers. And if you get a letter from Lloyd he loves me and I hate him.
 Your new friend,
 Tracy Ann Brannan

Dear Lt. Camp,

You are my friend now. And I'm your friend.
 Your new friend,
 Dan Chilton

Rangers Train Hard For Rugged Missions

PHUOC VINH—Anyone who thinks combat training ends when a troop departs the States and heads for Vietnam has obviously never met the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Rangers.

Newcomers to Company H (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne), are likely to think they've walked into the middle of a stateside training cycle upon arrival at the unit's Phuoc Vinh headquarters.

Constant physical conditioning is an essential part of the Ranger program. Men rise at dawn for before-chow jaunts.

A formation for organized PT is no unusual sight. Classes are held regularly to keep the men "razor sharp."

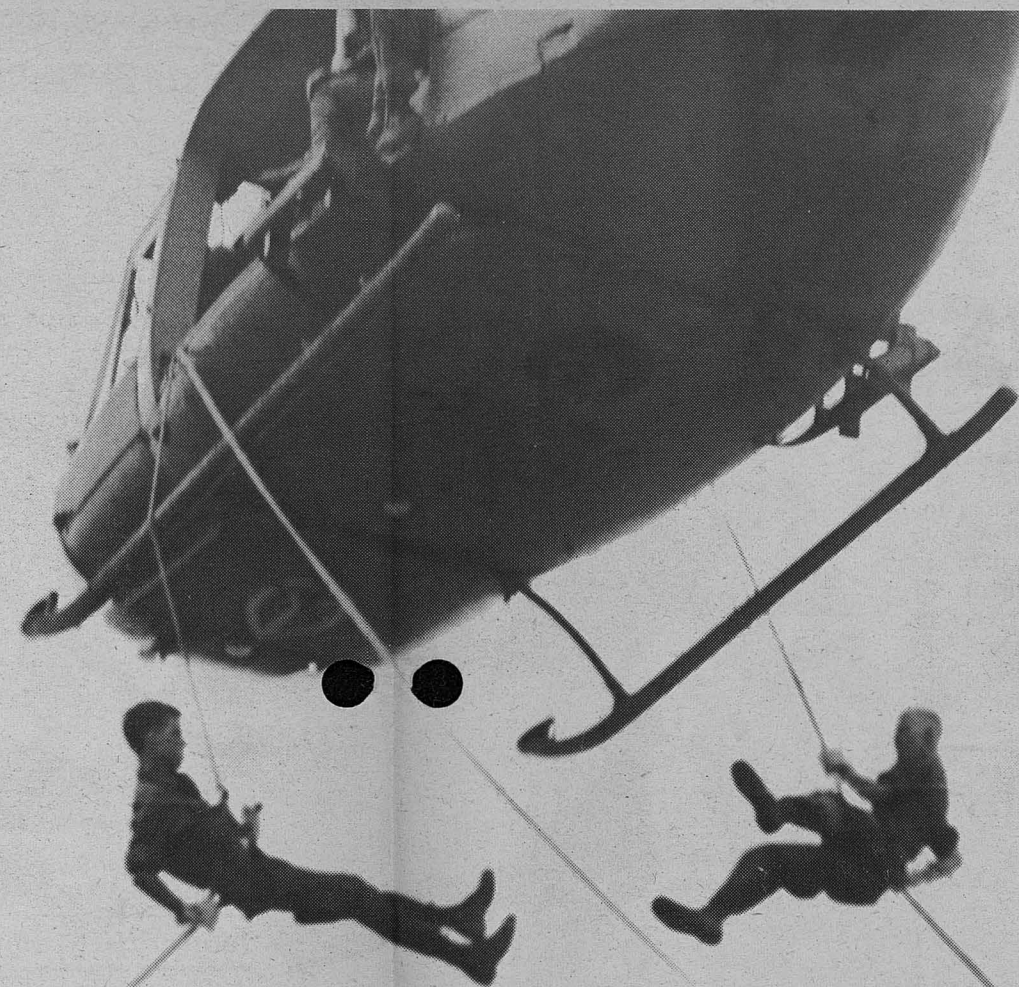
"To be a Ranger you've got to be someone special," said Captain Richard K. Griffiths, commanding officer of the Rangers. "And that's what we try to convince to all of our men. They've got a special mission and have to be special to complete it."

Ranger training can be glamorous. Rappelling from helicopters and extraction by McGuire Rigging insures that the

Rangers mobility is of the highest. No area is off limits to them.

The Rangers serve as instructors for the 1st Cav. Every two weeks they hold a class for men recently assigned to reconnaissance companies throughout the division. The 12-day course encompasses the usual Ranger subjects: map reading, communications, medical training, Viet Cong and NVA tactics and artillery adjustment.

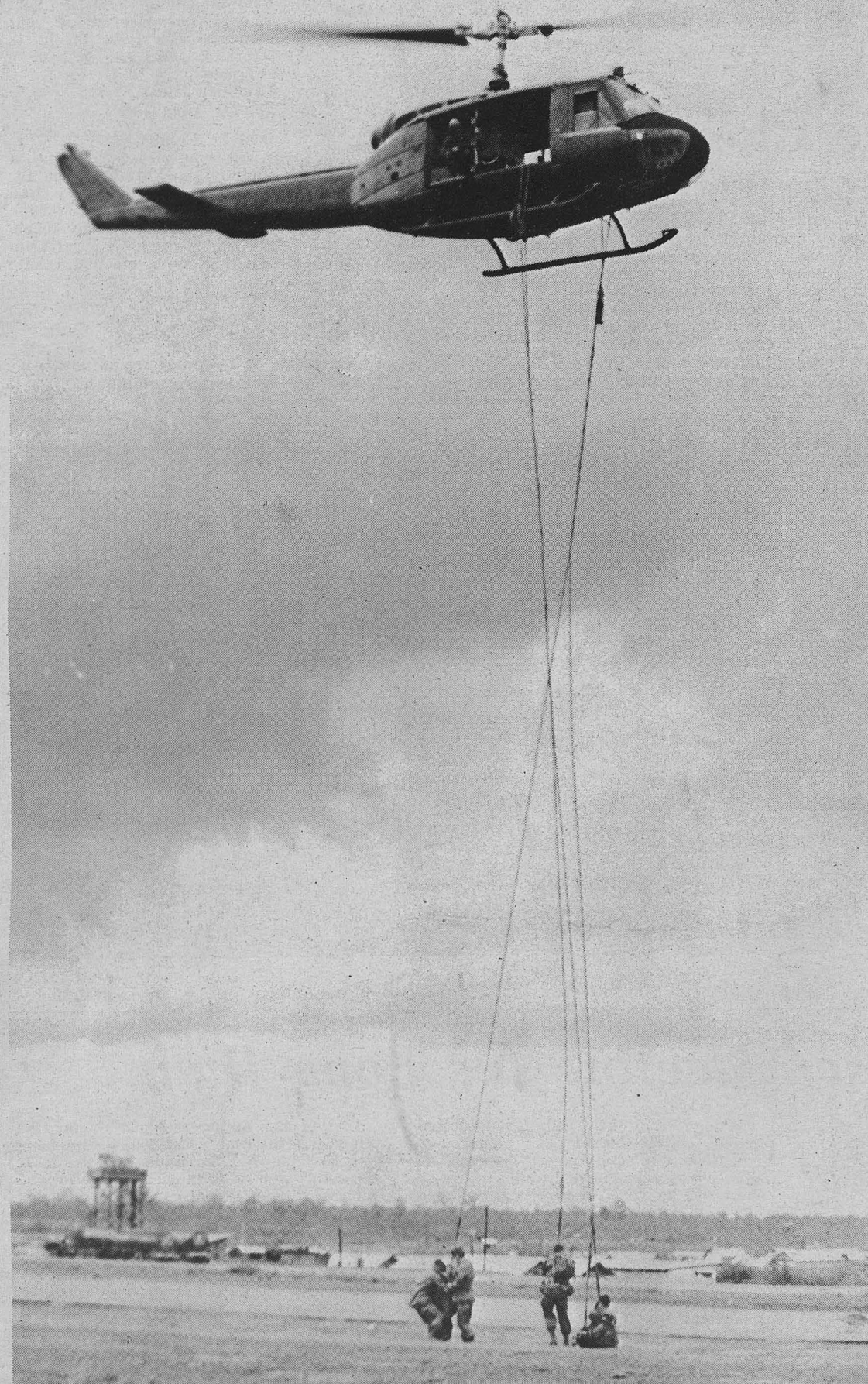
Photos by
SSG
John Wilson



Specialist Four Jeffrey R. Johnson and Sergeant William S. MacLaughlin of Company H, 75th Infantry take the big step off the helicopter's skids and begin their long descent.



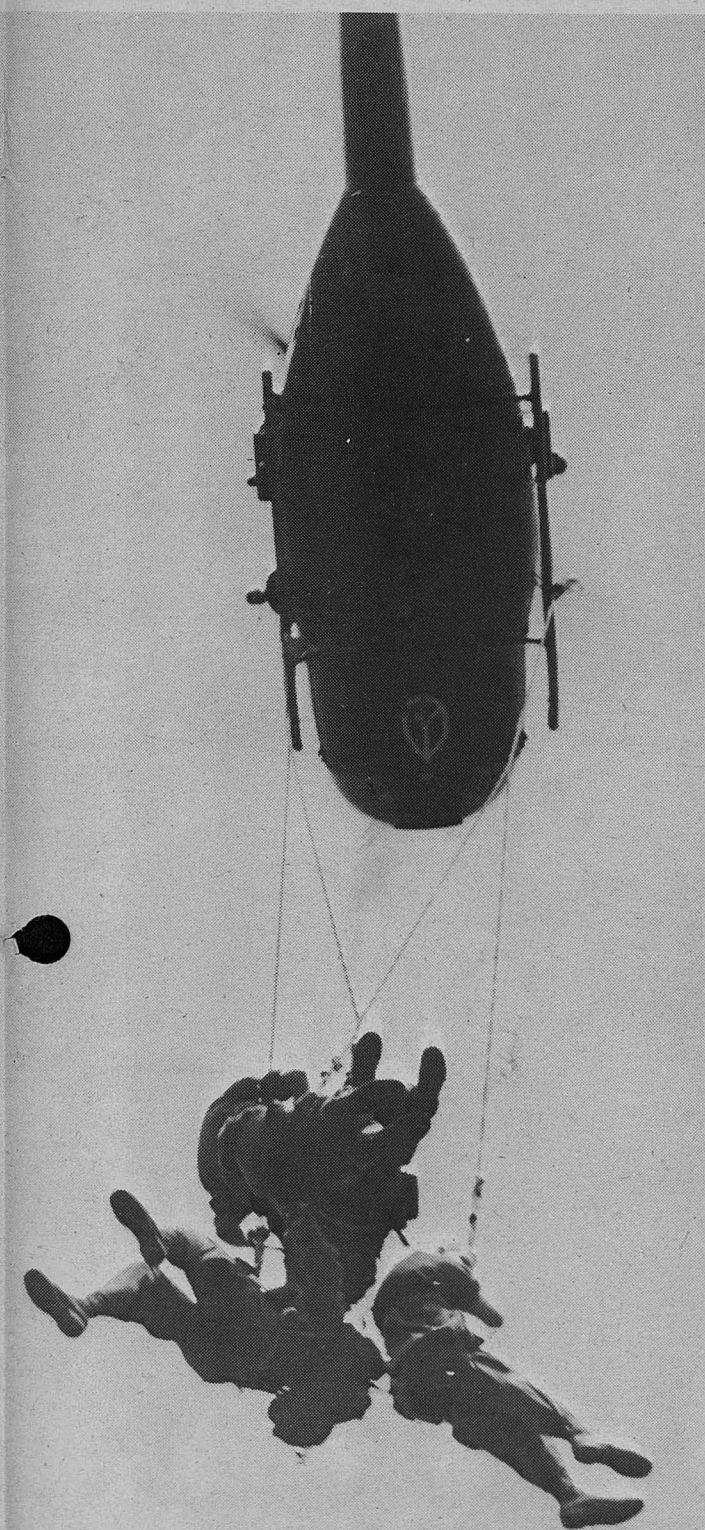
First Sergeant Ronald J. Guerin stands on the Huey's skids ready for a 100-foot rappel down a rope to the ground below, during a demonstration held for new members of the Ranger company.



Four Rangers prepare to be hauled up to the waiting helicopter using McGuire rigging during a class for recon personnel.



Specialist Four Roger H. Dahlstrom waits for the signal to begin his 100-foot rappel from a Huey helicopter to the ground below.



Four Skytroopers take to the air for an ascent to their pick-up bird.



A trooper from Company E, 2nd Battalion of the 8th Cav hooks up McGuire rigging for a practical exercise in helicopter pick-up with Rangers from Company H, 75th Infantry at Phuoc Vinh.



Engineer Leader

Lieutenant Colonel Scott B. Smith has been assigned command of the 8th Engineer Battalion for the 1st Cav.

A 1956 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, LTC Smith served as G-4 for the 9th Infantry Division prior to his present assignment.

A native of Fairfield, Conn., LTC Smith holds the parachute badge, Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

He and his wife, Alice, make their home in St. Louis, Mo.

Cooks Claim Award

The plaque for best mess of the month in the 3rd Brigade was awarded to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry. Accepting for all the cooks in the battalion was Sergeant First Class David M. Randall.

The award presentation was by 3rd Brigade Commander, Colonel John P. Barker, whose father is in the restaurant business. A man who should know what he is talking about, Colonel Barker told the cooks, "I only had to eat here once to know why you won the award. You can tell somebody cares."

The competition began in September when Food Service Inspection teams began making both announced and unannounced checks of the various mess halls.

Father-Son Reunion

Command Sergeant Major Vern O. Peters and his son, Staff Sergeant Randall Peters, got together for a family reunion recently at Fire Support Base Buttons.

SSG Peters is the S-3 NCO for the Cav's 1st Brigade, while his father is the command sergeant major for the 2nd Brigade. They were separated due to conflicting assignments.

During their stay together, CSM Peters spent part of his time showing his son around the 2nd Brigade's headquarters.

Mom Cans Cooking

Mom's home cooking is the greatest, particularly when you're in the boonies.

Specialist Four Johnny Valez of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, has the answer to supplementing C-rations.

His mother, at home in Cagus, Puerto Rico, cooks steak, chicken, rice, beans and pasteles (meat-filled pies). She then takes them to a cannery in nearby San Juan. In a few weeks the packages reach Fire Support Base Jamie, ready to eat.

"It's the next best thing to being there," said Valez.

Army Supply Chain Keeps Peaches Coming

By SP4 William Block Jr.

TAY NINH — Private First Class Gary W. Kennedy, a rifleman from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cav, doesn't have to worry about where his next can of peaches will come from. He has a large chain of supply working hard to insure that he receives his peaches — even in the boonies.

PFC Kennedy's peaches are grown either in Georgia or in California, depending upon who submitted the lowest bid for the one-year government contract. The fruit is canned, packaged with other C-rations and stored at one of several west coast inventory control points.

In Saigon the 1st Logistical Command anticipates that PFC Kennedy needs some food to sustain him through a given day. Every 10 days, ships dock at New Port in Saigon with cargoes of Cs to be convcy transported to the U.S. Army Depot in Long Binh. The depot is already ordering what will be needed for troopers in February.

Two weeks before the Cs are needed the Class I foodstuffs yard in Tay Ninh requests enough C-rations to feed the

units working around Tay Ninh and its 11 satellite fire support bases. The 48th Transportation Group convoys the Cs to the yard, which is operated by the 228th Supply and Service Company (Direct Support).

PFC Kennedy's battalion is then issued the Cs. The battalion notifies the 1st Brigade S-4 that they want to send a sortie of Cs to FSB Jamie, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cav's base of operation. Brigade S-4 sends the word along to the Forward Service Support Element (Division Support Command forward), which arranges Chinook transportation for the Cs with the 228th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

The line unit's supply representative picks up the C-rations at the Class I yard, takes them to the hook pad and prepares them for slinging.

Once the Cs have reached FSB Jamie, the battalion S-4 supervises their distribution to the line company's supply representative. Finally, the log bird crews of the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion brave the rounds and rain to deliver the C-rations to the field, where PFC Kennedy takes care of his peaches.

Hello . . .



"Yes, this is Specialist Jones' home, but he just returned from Vietnam and he's a little busy right now. Could I take a number and have him call you back—say in three or four days?"

Dental Care on the Frontier

FSB Grant Clinic Open

By SP4 Tom Benic

PHUOC VINH — They're taking preventive dentistry to the root of the problem in the 1st Air Cavalry Division — to the boonies where even the basics in oral hygiene often can't be met.

"At a firebase you reach the people who really need the care," said Captain Daniel Kozlowski, a dentist who normally operates out of Bien Hoa. "Yet most of these men feel they can't leave their buddies in the field just to get a few teeth filled."

Dr. Kozlowski has spent several weeks examining and treating men at Fire Support Base Grant, 10 miles northeast of Tay Ninh.

"The problem is not too serious, but we're saving a lot of teeth," the dentist said. "We'll be moving the operation to another Cav firebase as soon as we've seen everyone in this battalion."

According to the Cav's division surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph McNaney, the plan calls for three dentists working full time at 1st Cav firebases by the end of October. "We're also going to upgrade the facilities at brigade and division level so that complete dental care, including the making of dentures, can be accomplished."

Even at the firebases the most modern equipment is used.

"About two-thirds of the men require some type of dental work," Dr. Kozlowski said. "Obviously many wouldn't get that care if we weren't in the field."



Skytroopers line up for a thorough brushing with a preventive dentistry tooth paste at Fire Support Base Grant. Cavalrymen are given the brushing treatment every three months as part of their dental hygiene program.

Photos by
SP4 Tom Benic &
SP4 Mike Hufford



Working in a bunkered dental clinic, Dr. Daniel Kozlowski uses the most modern dental equipment to care for dental problems of fire based cavalymen from the 1st Battalion of the 12th Cavalry.



Specialist Six Melvin Chang gets an on-the-spot dental examination from Captain Daniel Kozlowski, who spent several weeks at Fire Support Base Grant examining troopers from the 1st Battalion of the 12th Cav.

1st Bde Chief Scout Awarded Silver Star

By 1LT Donald Ashton

TAY NINH — The 1st Brigade's Chief Kit Carson Scout Nguyen Cong Giao has been presented the Silver Star for gallantry in action by 1st Air Cavalry Division Commander Major General E.B. Roberts during ceremonies at Tay Ninh.

Kit Carson Giao, who also holds the Bronze Star for valor, was honored for gallantry in action on May 14, 1969, while serving with the reconnaissance platoon of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry. He was credited with saving the lives of an entire squad during the action.

"Your action thoroughly demonstrates the success of the Kit Carson program," said MG Roberts. "I am personally extremely proud to have you serving with this division. I commend you for your superb service and am honored to come here today and present you with the Silver Star."

On the date of action, the lead squad of the recon platoon walked into a well-camouflaged bunker complex and was ambushed by a numerically superior force. Kit Carson Giao rushed forward and exposed himself to intense enemy fire to advise the infantrymen of the enemy's position.

He continued to aid the squad in suppressing enemy fire, eliminating many of the enemy himself, while the squad withdrew. Giao was seriously wounded early in the battle, but remained until the unit was safe.

Sergeant Glen Goss was leading the point squad that day. "We were checking out a possible cache area," he recalled, "and spotted a bunker and moved in to check it out."

Giao had moved up to the front of the squad, about that time, he spotted three NVA in another bunker and shot them.

"If he hadn't opened up then I would have been the first one mowed down," said SGT Goss.

The unit's platoon leader, First Lieutenant Danny McGrew said he could write a book on Giao's action in combat.

"That wasn't the first time he saved us. Whenever we were in contact Giao would be everywhere at once. He is always bring up little tactical points that later wound up saving our lives," McGrew said.

A Motor Bike for Cathy

Happiness Is Mobility . . .

By SP4 Tom Benic

PHUOC VINH — She was 16, pretty and sold Cokes to cavalrymen guarding a bridge near her home. She was also crippled and the men who called her Cathy wanted to help in some way.

"Cathy made quite an impression on us," said Sergeant First Class Lawrence Blankenship, of Company E, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry. "We figured that the least we could do was to help her get around a little better."

Company commander Captain Paul Reese got the fund drive rolling and the men of Echo Company chipped in an average of \$4 each with the intention of buying a motor bike for the girl. But then orders came down to move out the next day and this plan was shelved.

Several weeks later, with the unit settled in its new location some 40 miles away, the mission was completed. Sergeants First Class Lawrence Blankenship and Robert Vining and Staff Sergeant Everett Mitchell traveled to Saigon, bought the scooter and presented it to Cathy at the bridge where they met.

"That two months at the Song Be Bridge was the first time most of us had time to meet the Vietnamese on an informal basis," said SFC Vining. "I think a lot of lasting friendships were made there."



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Tom Benic)

Cathy gets the feel of her new motor bike given to her by the men of Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry while they were assigned to guard the Song Be Bridge. Making the presentation for the entire company are Sergeant First Class Lawrence Blankenship (left), Staff Sergeant Everett Mitchell and Sergeant First Class Robert Vining.

THEY COVER the CAV

THE NEW YORK TIMES
CBS
NEWSWEEK
UPI

D. Hoffman
Washington
Post

Excitement Reigns As Caravan Arrives

By SP5 George Vindedzis
FSB BUTTONS — The line of Army trucks almost looked like a carnival caravan moving from Fire Support Base Buttons to the village of Phuoc Oua.

Billed as a MEDCAP, the combination 5th Battalion of the 7th Cav and ARVN operation had many features of an old time medicine show. Only the sales pitch, however, was for the health of the villagers.

The 10 vehicle caravan included the ambulance carrying Captain Jesse Williams, battalion surgeon, a team of medics and several vehicles full of ARVN soldiers from local units.

A loudspeaker, originally used for PSYOPS, announced the appearance of the MEDCAP to the villagers of Phuoc Oua as the caravan stopped in front of the local elementary school. School was temporarily suspended for the young Vietnamese students — a kind of immediate holiday for the children.

The medical team set up their medicine wagon while villagers gathered and watched. Young and old got their chance for treatment before the mission was completed.

The majority of the patients came from the school and their complaints were typical; cuts, bruises and skinned knees. A few of the older patients would have to be treated at the Song Be Provincial Hospital since facilities were not to be found in the village.

After all the patients were treated, the necessary equipment was set up and the 1st Cav MEDCAP team showed a movie — explaining to the villagers how a MEDCAP operates.

Excitement filled the air when personnel from the Blackhorse Brigade's civil affairs section (S-5) presented the young students with packets containing school supplies.

Angry Snake Defends FSB Mary Bunker

By SP4 Vic Fitzwater

FSB BUTTONS — When the 1st Cav moved back to Fire Support Base Mary, Skytroopers found that it was already occupied. Not, however, by enemy soldiers but by at least one snake—3½ feet long and angry.

When troopers from Company B, 5th Battalion of the 7th Cav combat assaulted into FSB Mary, they found the remains of bunkers last used by the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Cav over two months earlier.

One group of eight men from Bravo Company was hard at work tossing the old sand bags out onto the berm from a bunker when suddenly the group ran out of the bunker. Among the sand bags, they had uncovered the resident of the bunker—3½ feet of silver-white snake.

The snake, not at all happy at being disturbed on what he must have considered his FSB, slithered out of the bunker after the Skytroopers. Head reared back ready to strike, the snake was prepared to fight for his bunker.

He lost the battle when one trooper grabbed an eight foot long pole and sent the snake flying onto the berm with a roundhouse swing. Once again FSB Mary could be called "Cav Country."



David Hoffman

speed progress in preparing the ARVN."

Even for reporters, serious ones like Hoffman, there are lighter moments in the war. On one of his visits to the 1st Cav he was dropped off at a fire support base by a colonel. Leaving the helicopter, Hoffman mistakenly picked up the colonel's helmet and walked into the LZ with the "full Bird" pot on his head. He was a little surprised by the reception he got.

"The battalion commander, a lieutenant colonel, personally escorted me on a tour of his LZ. And everytime I walked up to a bunker the men would jump up, stand at attention and salute. I couldn't figure it out until I got back on the colonel's chopper and he gave me my helmet in exchange for his own."

By SP4 Joe Kamalick

David Hoffman, correspondent in Vietnam for influential Washington Post, has a background unlike that of most newsmen in Vietnam. Before turning to journalism, Hoffman was an Air Force pilot and later flew commercial jets for Trans World Airlines.

After three years with TWA he left flying and started his newspaper career with a small New York state weekly. His rise in the journalism world matches the speed he was accustomed to in jet aircraft.

Hoffman soon moved from the weekly to the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE and then on to the WASHINGTON POST at the nation's capital. He worked the Washington beat for two years and then came to Vietnam a year ago.

As a former military man and as a reserve major, Hoffman said he has "little patience with the anti-military bias."

But on the other hand as a reporter he neither has much patience with military people who make his job more difficult. "There is an abysmal lack of understanding of the press by senior commanders — what the press wants, how it works and what it needs."

Again as a former officer, he can understand the reaction of military men who see inaccurate reporting about their work. But Hoffman does not like to carry the blame for some other journalist's errors.

"I stand by what I write, but I do not endorse everything that appears in the newspapers. If a general chooses to read comic books (newspapers less reputable than the POST), then I don't want to be criticized for his input from them."

Hoffman is a veteran of, among others, the Battle of Ben Het. So while he is primarily interested in general trends and background in the war, he has assuredly seen it also from the GI's foxhole point of view.

"I am not after the small firefights," he said, "but rather the explanation of trends existing on down to the province level." As with most large daily newspaper correspondents in Vietnam, Hoffman's job is not to report the day to day progress of fighting. That story is fed to his newspaper by wire services.

Instead, he must be a specialty reporter, looking beneath the admittedly turbulent and interesting surface of events to ferret out the reasons behind surface events. He must try to find out why things happen and what prospects — both military and political — will result.