

Combined Force Kills 100 NVA

FSB JAMIE — 1st Air Cavalrymen teamed up with Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) troops to kill 100 NVA in four days near Fire Support Base Jamie 56 miles northwest of Saigon.

The combined force, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, and a platoon of Alpha, 332nd CIDG Company, arrived in the area to reinforce an aerial rifle platoon, the Alpha Troop Blues of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

The allied force scrambled from its choppers and swept toward the Blues' position, spraying the area with M-16 and machinegun fire. Skytroopers killed five NVA encountered en route.

The combined effects of allied units,

plus Cav gunships, aerial rocket artillery and ground artillery left 23 enemy troops dead the first day.

Cav Hueys extracted the Blues the following morning, while Delta Company and the CIDG platoon moved from their night defensive position on reconnaissance. Several CIDG's walked point with the cavalrymen.

They went 300 meters before making contact with an NVA unit entrenched in a bunker complex.

"The CIDG's were doing a great job getting us through the thick bamboo," said Private First Class William Duffey, company RTO. "When we ran into the NVA, we opened up, and they shot back

with AK's, B-40 rockets and a .30 caliber machinegun.

The radio operator put out a call for artillery, air strikes and gunships. With heavy ordinance raining down on the enemy position, Skytroopers swept into the complex behind a curtain of artillery rounds.

The enemy finally managed to break contact, but not without leaving a .51 caliber machinegun and 44 dead in the shattered complex.

Two days later, as the CIDG's and Skytroopers prepared to be picked up and flown out of the area for stand down, action flared again.

As the first lift of six Hueys slipped

into the pickup zone, nearby enemy gunners brought them under fire.

While one platoon boarded birds and headed for Tay Ninh, the other soldiers shouldered their gear and swept into the heavy bamboo to silence the enemy guns.

They didn't go far before encountering a force of approximately 35 enemy troops.

Skytroopers hit the NVA with organics, artillery and air strikes. Twenty-two NVA were killed by ground fire and 11 by artillery and bombs.

Hours later, a weary company of Air Cavalrymen returned to the Tay Ninh VIP center for a much-deserved rest.

Looking for Charlie . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Bill Ahrbeck)

Private First Class Jerry Brase, a 1st Air Cavalryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, crouches low and looks for the enemy after hearing movement in the jungle terrain in front.

'Atry' Deals Cards Back to Phuoc Vinh

PHUOC VINH — The 1st Air Cav got 1,000 Christmas cards from an unknown samaritan named Autry at Kelly Air Force Base (AFB) in Texas.

Two boxes of 1st Cav Christmas cards, printed in Tokyo and destined for Phuoc Vinh, mysteriously arrived at Kelly AFB about three weeks before Christmas.

Not quite sure what he had, but pretty certain the cards weren't meant for anyone at Kelly, someone named Autry took the time to open the boxes, check the contents and route them to Vietnam.

Describing his efforts to get them back to the Cav as a "shot in the dark," he took the liberty of using one of the cards to explain how he ended up with the shipment.

The shipment arrived in Cav Country in time for distribution to the troops. The enclosed card wished Skytroopers "good luck and Merry Christmas." It was signed, "Autry, Kelly AFB."



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1st Air Cavalry Division

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Gunships Active

Cavalrymen Find Enemy Arms Cache

PHUOC VINH — Division gunships and the discovery of a huge North Vietnamese arms cache dominated activity in the 1st Air Cav area of operations during the week of Dec. 13-19.

In the Skytrooper's area of operation, there was a total of 351 enemy troops died during the seven-day period, with nearly half being accounted for by the pilots and crews of the Cav's helicopter fleet.

The cache was discovered in a partially-destroyed NVA bunker by infantrymen of Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, on patrol three miles northeast of Fire Support Base (FSB) Fort Compton Dec. 14.

"We'd moved less than 100 meters from our overnight position when I spotted two SKS's and a rusty AK-47 lying on the ground," said Specialist Four Bill Meyer, 2nd platoon pointman.

The scattered weapons led Skytroopers to a nearby bunker, half-opened by a preceding air strike.

Inside, the cavalrymen disarmed two booby trapped mortar rounds and discovered a bamboo-lined arms room. In it were 50 Chicom 9mm sub-machineguns, more than 300 rocket-propelled grenades, 86,000 small arms rounds, nearly 500 60mm mortar rounds, a Soviet flamethrower and numerous assorted individual weapons, fuses and charges.

The 3rd Brigade Skytroopers destroyed the munitions. It took seven chopper sorties to fly the weapons to Fort Compton.

On Dec. 13, Cav Nighthawk helicopters prowling the predawn skies killed 18 NVA in three contacts scattered through the AO.

The biggest air-to-ground battle of the three occurred at 3:45 a.m. when one of the modified Hueys reconnoitered northeast of FSB Judie in the 2nd Brigade AO.

The bird, from Company C, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion

engaged the enemy after an estimated seven NVA positions opened up with small arms and automatic weapons fire.

The chopper's crew responded with minigun fire, killing 12 enemy gunners.

Five more NVA were killed by a Nighthawk of Company A, 227th, in War Zone C, and a Division Artillery (DIVARTY) Nighthawk killed a VC soldier six miles southeast of Phuoc Vinh.

Seventeen NVA died in a battle erupting at the edge of an enemy bunker complex four miles southwest of FSB Judie Dec. 17.

"When we made contact, we didn't have to get down very much further," said Private First Class James A. Lodato, a machinegunner for Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

As rounds snapped through the thick, tangled bamboo, Skytroopers called in artillery, Air Force jets and rocket-firing Cobras. The line company kept up a heavy stream of bullets to prevent the enemy from escaping the bombardment.

Following that action and two miles to its southeast, 1st Brigade scout helicopters spotted 15-20 uniformed NVA in the open. The pilots noticed air strikes hitting to their northwest and capitalized on the proximity of the Air Force jets.

Two jet sorties were diverted, and the combined effort of the scouts' miniguns and the Air Force bombs killed 15 NVA.

A swirling air-to-ground battle began when NVA gunners opened up on a LOH (light observation helicopter) from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, four miles southeast of FSB Mary Dec. 19. The diminutive chopper was not hit.

The LOH's companion Cobra replied effectively, killing one NVA soldier. The birds' crews soon had Air Force fighter-bombers winging their way toward the NVA position, and artillery rounds from the nearby

firebase began slamming into the enemy bunkers.

The combined Army and Air Force firepower shattered the enemy concentration. The NVA fled the area, leaving 15 dead.

Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, helicopters and the Blues — the troop's aerial rifle platoon — killed 11 VC Dec. 15 on the east edge of the AO 23 miles from Song Be. They also detained three wounded VC and had two Hoi Chanh rally to their location.

Hoi Chanh Becomes Pointman

By PFC Robert Hackney

FSB JAMIE — A Hoi Chanh quickly proved his worth by leading 1st Air Cavalrymen to a cache which included 37 107mm rockets, 46 82mm mortars and 12 mortar charges.

The Hoi Chanh, a member of a seven-man rear service group squad, walked into the night defensive position of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, carrying a hammock and 70 pounds of rice.

On-the-spot interrogation determined that his squad's base was nearby.

The following morning, Alpha Company moved out in search with its newest member leading the way. Not far away, Skytroopers discovered the weapons buried in three camouflaged holes.

The Hoi Chanh had no knowledge of the weapons, which had been buried for less than 24 hours, but he was happy to get off to such a good start in his new job.

LTC Hannas . . .



Lieutenant Colonel Robert Hannas (right) accepts the guidon of the 1st Air Cav's 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, from division commander Major General E. B. Roberts (left) in charge of command ceremonies at Fire Support Base Jamie. Colonel Hannas, who served as the division intelligence officer prior to taking charge of the battalion, succeeds Lieutenant Colonel Otis A. Moran.

LTC Witherell . . .



Lieutenant Colonel John R. Witherell (right) receives the guidon of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, from Major General E. B. Roberts, 1st Air Cav commander, in charge of command ceremonies. Colonel Witherell was Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, Washington, D.C., prior to joining the FIRST TEAM. He succeeds Lieutenant Colonel Stephen R. Woods.



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You Must Carry Weapon Slip

PHUOC VINH — The control and accounting of weapons is vital to all units within the FIRST TEAM. This includes all military weapons, captured and foreign, and personally owned.

Army Regulation 735-35 requires that commanding officers insure the property of their command is properly safeguarded, accounted for and administered.

The proper administration of supply and supply accounting are functions of command. In the area of individual weapons accountability, the commander at each level is the primary

...For God And Country

By Chaplain (CPT) Patrick J. Boyle

God made human beings in such a way that we prefer joy and happiness to pain and sorrow.

The final end of every man is eternal joy. This is why God created us.

Joy gives life to hope. However, pain also seems to be an essential part of living, and for those who follow Christ it has a vast meaning and dignity.

Pain and suffering are the price by which Christ opened heaven, and the price He asks every man to pay in imitation of Him.

When we stand before the

judgement seat of Almighty God, each one of us will be required to give an account of how we used the joy and suffering that we experienced throughout our lives.

In Vietnam, we experience more of the pain and suffering than the joys of this life, and yet this is not all bad. This provides us with a tremendous opportunity to deepen our love for Christ and to become more and more like Him.

It has been stated many times that in the cross of Christ there was not defeat, but victory, so when one suffers for Christ there is not pain or sorrow but joy and happiness.

LTC Burnett . . .



Lieutenant Colonel Clark Burnett (second from left) passes the colors of the 1st Air Cav's 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, to acting Sergeant Major John B. Williamson in charge of command ceremonies at Phuoc Vinh. Major General E.B. Roberts (left), division commander, took the guidon from departing squadron commander Lieutenant Colonel James Booth (right) and presented it to Colonel Burnett, operations officer of the Cav's 11th Aviation Group before taking command of the squadron.

source of enforcement procedures established for the command.

Direct responsibility applies to an individual to whom the property has been entrusted and who is specifically charged with its proper care and safekeeping, whether such property is in his possession, in use or in storage.

Each individual of this command is charged with the direct responsibility for the proper care and safekeeping of his individual weapon while that weapon is assigned to him.

The use of copy 3, the "pink

copy" of DA Form 3122 is intended to provide control of weapons in the hands of the individual.

Cav Reg 735-12 requires each Skytrooper to maintain the "pink copy" for the weapon assigned to him in his possession at all times. In this manner, he has evidence of authorization for the weapon he's carrying.

Make sure you have your "pink copy" with you all the time. Military Police are enforcing this through spot checks at congested areas throughout the FIRST TEAM area of operation — PX's, aerial ports, service clubs, clubs.

Rangers Bust Up NVA Attack Plan

By SP4 Ron Wright

FSB BUTTONS — Base defense begins in the boonies.

Intelligence reports indicated an impending attack on Fire Support Base (FSB) Buttons, home of the 1st Air Cav's 2nd Brigade.

Inserted into the jungle west of FSB Buttons with a specific mission of assessing enemy ac-

Cat Brings Good Luck

By SP4 Gerald Somerday

PHUOC VINH—A black cat in a war zone might give the superstitious GI the jitters but not Specialist Five Bernie Whitaker, a 1st Air Cavalryman with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry.

Specialist Whitaker owns a black cat, Smokey, believed found by Skytroopers in an NVA bunker complex in Tay Ninh Province and brought back to the basecamp.

Owning a black cat hasn't brought any bad luck to Specialist Whitaker, who has been exposed to several enemy attacks but never wounded.

The good luck charm has not been so lucky. Smokey lost a paw in combat, suffers from slight deafness and an intense need for security as the result of enemy attacks.

Smokey will DERO from Vietnam May 26, 1970, with his master.

PSYOPs Message . . .



As Specialist Four Ronald Weakley adjusts the audio system in the Huey helicopter, a Hoi Chanh broadcasts 1st Air Cavalry PSYOPs (psychological operations) messages, persuading the enemy to rally to the Government of Vietnam.

Just in Case . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Dennis Thornton)

Taking aim with an AK-47 rifle, Private First Class Stanley Ellis learns how to fire the enemy weapon in the event he may have to use it in an emergency situation. First Lieutenant Robert Clark, platoon leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, observes the Air Cavalryman's form at a make-shift range at Fire Support Base Wescott.

AK-47 Practice Aids Skytroopers

By PFC Dennis Thornton

FSB WEScott — Crack . . . crack . . . crack! The distinctive sound of a Communist AK-47 rifle echoed through the fire-base.

But this time it wasn't an NVA sniper firing from the nearby bamboo. 1st Air Cavalrymen from Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, were practicing with the primary NVA and VC weapon in case they had to use it someday.

"Ready on the right, ready on the left, lock and load and commence firing," Lieutenant Robert Clark told the combat-hardened soldiers in a voice reminiscent of the rifle range in state-side training centers.

The idea started when Company E, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, troops captured 4,000 rounds of AK ammunition while on reconnaissance north of Quan Loi.

Captain Joseph E. Flesch, commander of Co. C, 1st Bn., 7th Cav., borrowed some of the ammo to use with an AK-47 the company had captured earlier.

"We had a double purpose in practicing with the AKs," said Captain Flesch. "It accustomed some of the new men to the distinctive sound the rifle makes and allowed the men to practice in case they ever have to use one sometime in the field."

To the more than 30 men who fired the weapon, the AK proved a "very good weapon," almost as good as their familiar M-16.

"It's a nice weapon to fire and very easy to clean," said Specialist Four Bill Meyer. "It's great to be standing at this end of it."

They're Only Number Two

PHUOC VINH—The 1st Air Cav proudly refers to itself as the FIRST TEAM—first in Manila, first in Tokyo, first in Pyongyang, the first airmobile division.

The words FIRST TEAM are splashed through the division's 6,500 square-mile area of operations in Vietnam's III Corps.

There are FIRST TEAM magazines, FIRST TEAM scholarships, a FIRST TEAM academy, ad infinitum.

So you can imagine the reaction of the 1st Cav interrogator when he asked a captured VC the name of his unit and he replied, "Doan Thu Nhat."

"Doan Thu Nhat" is Vietnamese for "First Team." But they're only No. 2.

Look, Up in the Sky— It's a Bee, a Buffalo...

PHUOC VINH—GI's call them hooks, cranes, Cobras, LOH's, birds or just plain choppers.

But the NVA and VC soldier has his own set of nicknames for the helicopters employed in Vietnam.

The diminutive LOH (light observation helicopter) is called the "bee" or "flying egg," and the AH-1G Cobra gets tagged the "fish," "shark" or "flying snake."

These off-beat bits of information were gleaned by interrogators for the 1st Air Cav's 191st Military Intelligence Detachment.

"Usually when I'm finishing questioning a prisoner," said Specialist Five Ronald R. Brown, "I wind up the interview by asking him a few off-the-record things, just sort

of rapping, and that's how I got some of their names for our birds."

The Flying Crane has been referred to as the "grasshopper" by more than one prisoner. The Huey is the "frog," the Chinook the "buffalo."

Skytroopers are accustomed to referring to the Cobra in a hunter-killer team as the "high bird" and the LOH as the "low bird."

An interrogator, Sergeant Joseph M. Vavra, was intrigued to hear a prisoner call the Cobra the "down" bird and the LOH the "up" bird.

Asked through the interpreter for an explanation, the man replied, "When you shoot at a LOH, it flies up, but don't shoot at a Cobra, because it comes right at you, straight down!"

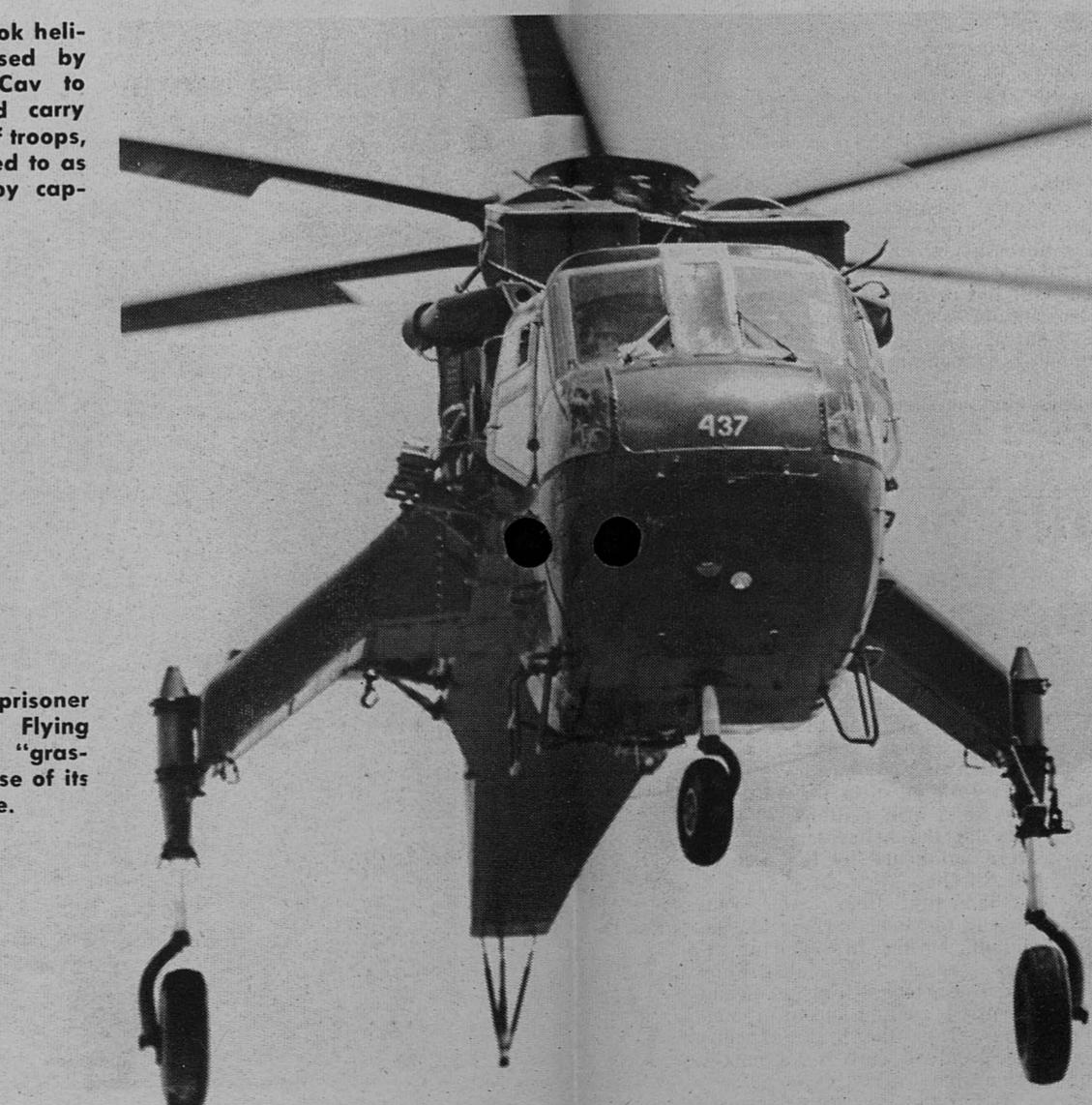
Story by
PFC Charlie Petit

Cavalair
Staff Photos



The giant Chinook helicopter (left), used by the airmobile Cav to haul cargo and carry large numbers of troops, has been referred to as the "buffalo" by captured NVA.

More than one prisoner has called the Flying Crane (right) a "grasshopper" because of its distinctive shape.



Skytroopers usually call the Cobra (above) in a hunter-killer team the "high bird" and the LOH the "low bird." But one VC referred to the Cobra as the "down" bird, because "when you shoot at it, it comes right at you, straight down."



Huey helicopters (above), carrying 1st Air Cavalrymen on a combat assault, are called "frogs" by enemy soldiers. The diminutive LOH (right) has been tagged the "bee" or "flying egg."





A bikini and 19-year-old Julie Rogers just seem to go together in the warm Sydney summer. The Aussies have gotten to know Julie quite well from her performance in the Australian TV series "Riptide."

PSYOPS Mission

'Activist' Sways Enemy Soldiers

By SP4 William K. Block Jr.
TAY NINH — If it were Main Street, USA, they would call him a political activist.

But in Tay Ninh, 45,000 leaflets, a tape recorder, four 250-watt speakers and a Huey helicopter mean something else to Specialist Four Joseph E. Chacom, a 1st Air Cavalryman involved in highly successful PSYOPS (psychological operations) missions.

He pulled the truck onto the pad of the "Flying Circus," the 1st Brigade's aviation platoon, as the "Iron Butterfly" fluttered in for a landing.

With the specialist and his equipment on board, the lift bird headed north around the Black Virgin Mountain, and into previously designated areas over NVA-infested jungles.

"Today we're having broadcasts over four areas, and leaflet drops over three," explained Joe. "That fourth area is already well saturated with leaflets."

Each area was showered with a different type of leaflet, depending on the needs of the enemy below.

For example, an area recently hit with a bomb strike was ad-

dressed in the following manner (translated from Vietnamese):

"If you are wounded, try not to be dragged away. Crawl to an open place if possible, to be found by ARVN forces. Escape to the Government of the Republic of Vietnam if any chance allows."

"You will then be rushed to the nearest hospital and be cared for by highly dedicated doctors. It would be best for you to choose freedom before you are injured on the battlefield."

Similarly, troops who have been led to believe that Americans are leaving the country are informed of the progress of Vietnamization.

Once Specialist Chacom had emptied leaflets over an area boxed on his map, he turned on his tape recorder and hooked the speakers into the bird's power supply.

Suddenly, the sound of a trumpeted rallying cry pierced the jungle canopy, followed by word of decent treatment for Hoi Chanh.

"You can tell what kind of reception the tape is getting," remarked Specialist Chacom. "If they don't like it they shoot at me."

Weather Reports Assist Artillery

By SP4 Bon Wright

FSB BUTTONS—Rain or shine, weathermen help keep 1st Air Cav. artillery firepower showering straight toward Charlie.

"Our primary mission is to keep tabs on wind speed, temperature and atmospheric density," said Specialist Five Charles W. Fissell, one of the weathermen of the meteorology unit attached to the II Field Force's 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery.

With a range of 23 miles for the relatively light projectile, one degree of temperature change can affect the accuracy of the 175mm guns which fire in support of 1st Air Cavalrymen in the 2nd Brigade area.

The weather station also relays its information to the 155mm batteries once a day, which are only slightly affected by such temperature changes. The station also gives to the Air Force wind speed and temperature changes necessary to the operation of the airstrip at Fire Support Base Buttons.

"Being basically concerned with the artillery's needs, we are just a small and not-too-complete station as far as weather reports are concerned," said Specialist Four Michael L. Webb. "All of the information is gathered by sounding balloons sent aloft every six hours."

"They broadcast their findings back as they gain altitude, and the findings are charted and broken into a form usable by the batteries."

Fidgity Mutt Serves As Warning System

By SGT Dennis Harding

FSB BUTTONS — Large 1st Air Cav base installations like Bien Hoa use sophisticated radar systems to set off blaring horns and announce incoming enemy mortar and rocket rounds.

In addition to its mechanical detection equipment, Fire Support Base (FSB) Buttons has a dog named Bear.

A mongrel who makes his home in the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, adjutant's office, Bear is the unofficial early warning system for incoming rounds.

"While our unit was operating at FSB Judie," said Sergeant Richard Ekstrom, "we received a mortar attack."

"And before the first round

hit, Bear was raising all kinds of hell. When I realized what was happening and ran to the bunker, guess who was there first — old Bear."

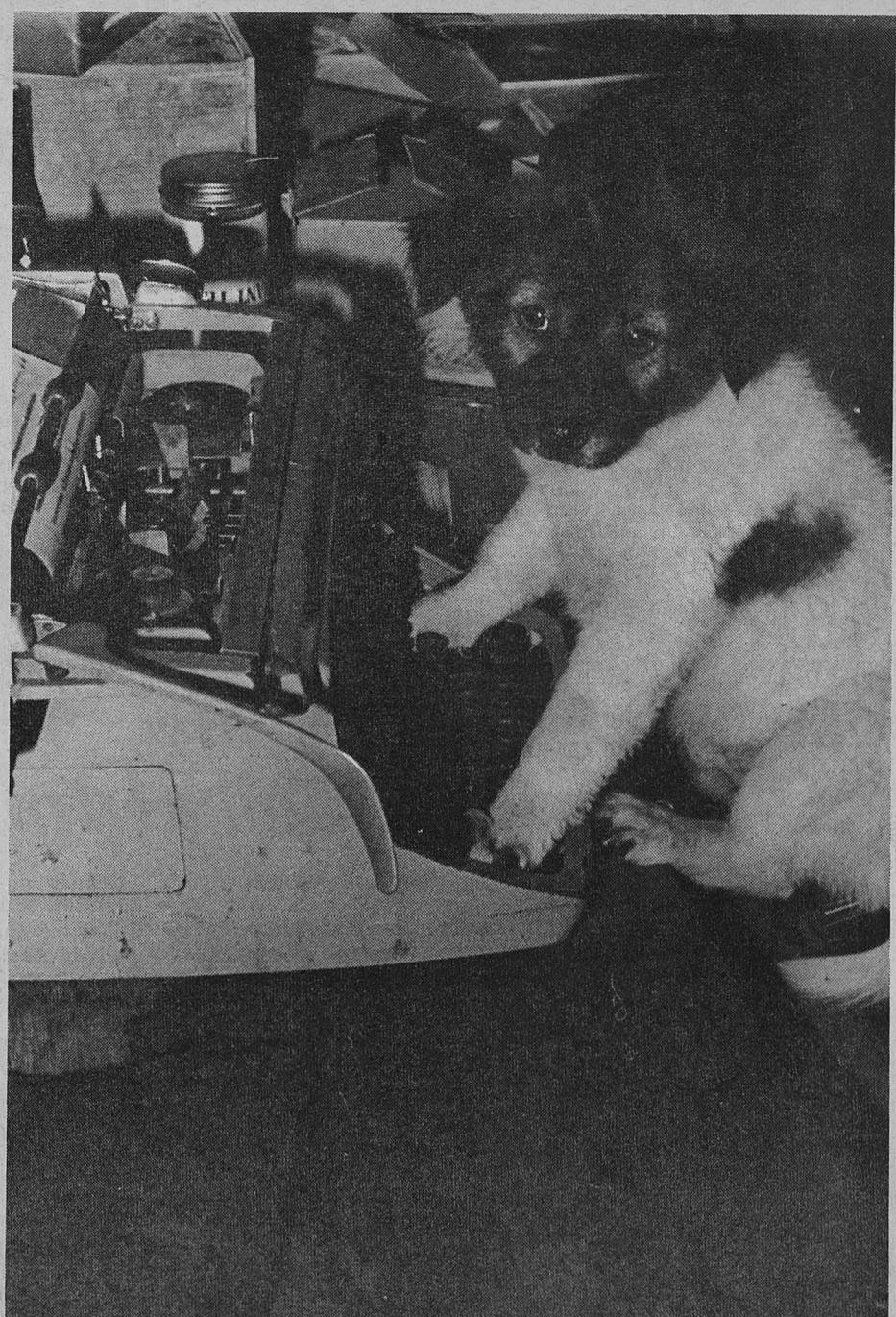
Two nights after the battalion moved to FSB Buttons, 20 mortars hit the helicopter pad but were not heard by the men in the S-1 shop.

"Suddenly, Bear came running in the tent, barking like he did during the first mortar attack," recalled Specialist Four James Carmen. "For a second we just froze and looked at each other. Then the barking registered and we were in the bunker in no time."

At the 2nd Bn., 12th Cav., S-1 shop, man's best friend is the dog with extra-sensory perception for incoming.



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Len Fallscheer)



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



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

Leading a Dog's Life...

Weary Warrior

A puppy's life isn't all fun and games in the war zone. 1st Air Cavalry dog Tag (above, left) seems to be dragging after a day in the field. Tag is a mascot of Headquarters and Headquarters Company at the division's Phuoc Vinh basecamp. He wears a duplicate set of his master's dogtags in case he gets lost.

Combat Clerk

Gator (above, right), another Skytrooper mascot, looks unhappy with his combat clerk's job. He'd rather be out in the boonies, leading a patrol of cavalrymen in search of Charlie.

Doggone Dentures

No one misses a dental examination in the 1st Air Cav (left). Here Captain Daniel Kozlowski and Specialist Six Melvin Chang give Spots the once over at Fire Support Base Grant.

THEY COVER the CAV

Perhaps more than any other media, CBS Television news in Saigon has shown millions of Americans stateside what the airmobile war looks like in action. And through the cameras of CBS, America has also seen the work of the modern 1st Air Cav.

One of the leading men in CBS coverage of Vietnam is Don Webster, a reporter and TV commentator who worked for

CBS in Los Angeles before coming to Vietnam in May of 1967.

Since then, said Webster, "I've made every Cav operation since Pegasus." Being with the units who have the action "is the only way to get the news."

As with all agencies in Vietnam, CBS's job is, said Webster, "finding out what has happened and is happening. And to do that you have to be there, you have to see it."

Don Webster

CBS News

"You have to have transportation, and transportation has never been a problem with the Cav," said Webster.

Besides being out in the field himself, Webster, as assistant bureau chief, helps direct the movements of some 27 CBS staff members.

"On any one day," he said, "we'll have between six and nine of them in the field. You have to get there and see it."

Grunt at Heart

Chaplain Likes Humping

By SP4 Tom Benic

PHUOC VINH — Identifying with the young men in his unit is no problem for 1st Air Cav Chaplain Claude Newby. He's been there before.

An enlisted man for six years, Chaplain Newby went to Germany in 1952 as a rifleman, received training as a combat medic and spent most of his tour in the military police.

"I may be the only cavalryman in the Cav," the chaplain said.

He served two years with the 287th MP Company Horse Pla-

toon, the last Army unit to use horses.

He was too young to be sent to Korea. In fact, he was too young to join the Army, enlisting three days after his 16th birthday.

Formal education wasn't a favorite of the Chaplain. "My teachers considered me a malcontent, a young rebel," he said. "And I suppose I was."

Although he finished reading the Bible at age 14, he entered the Army with only a seventh grade education. He gained a bit of notoriety in his hometown when he stood up in church to

question the minister's interpretation of a Biblical passage.

But the chaplain matured rapidly in the Army. He married a German girl in 1954, then studied for the GED high school equivalency program. It took him three months to complete six years of school.

A civilian again in 1958, he spent 15 months as a correctional officer at Alcatraz Federal Prison, then took a police officer's position in his hometown, Ogden, Utah.

With time for reflection, his interest in religion was renewed. He joined the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints, then entered Weber State College as a history major.

After graduate work in counseling at Brigham Young University, he rejoined the Army, this time as a Mormon chaplain.

Today, he spends most of his time in the field — not on a fire-base but actually humping with the infantry. He's been wounded twice and has been awarded a Bronze Star for valor.

"I think I'm an asset in the field," he pointed out. "I've doubled as a medic and have filled that role on many occasions. I think the presence of a chaplain in the field helps morale."

This is his second tour with the Cav. After spending six months with the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, and the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, he was given a choice of "non-line" units in the division.

Chaplain Newby chose the highly airmobile 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, with its crack infantry element that's inserted when quick response on the ground is necessary.

Littlest Soldier . . .

Surveyors Know 'Where It's At'

By PFC Dennis Thornton

FSB COMPTON — When the builders of a new 1st Air Cav fire-base want to know where they are, Division Artillery (DIVARTY) surveyors can supply the answer.

Employing the latest scientific equipment and calculating a long set of mathematical computations, the six man team can tell the fire-base commander his exact location to within a few meters.

"We can always determine eight to 10 place coordinates of a new fire-base, within a few hours, as little as an hour and a half under the right conditions,"

M-60 Man . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Bill Ahrbeck)

Ammo wrapped around his body and the M-60 machinegun over his shoulder, Private First Class James Minasian of the 1st Air Cav pauses for a break during a 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry-Vietnamese Regional Forces operation.



The littlest soldier, a Vietnamese boy balancing a much-too-large steel pot without a helmet liner on his head, walks down a dusty street in Quan Loi, home of the 1st Air Cav's 3rd Brigade.

Sergeant Discovers Long Lost Friend

By PFC Robert Hackney

FSB JAMIE — Sergeant Roy Stern couldn't believe his eyes when he spotted his long-lost friend. They had been separated during a combat assault four months ago.

While checking trip-flares and claymores outside the night defensive position of his unit, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, he saw the familiar object buried in the undergrowth.

It was the sergeant's helmet which had been caught by the wind and plummeted 2,000 feet to the jungle below on a combat assault June 29.

Sergeant Stern knew that the company was in the same area but didn't recognize the helmet until he picked it up and identified the 42 slash marks (one for every combat assault he made) and the names of firebases he had visited.

"It's like finding a long, lost friend," he said, smiling.

Two Angles to Nui Ba Ra

Specialist Four Joe Heitschmidt at Fire Support Base Fort Compton.

"That weird looking machine is called distance measuring equipment," he explained. "It sends radio waves of different lengths to our other team on Nui Ba Ra mountain that determine the distance from here to there. We average the wave lengths and they determine the distance."

Then the team sets up a device called a theodolite at two different places on the new fire-base to determine the angles to the mountain.

"By using the distance and the

two angles to Nui Ba Ra, which we know the coordinates of, we can easily find the coordinates here with a few easy calculations," Specialist Heitschmidt said.

"The artillery battery has to know exactly where they are to put their rounds right on target," explained Specialist Five Paul Johnson. "One of the points we always survey is the battery center."

When they're not surveying at firebases, the surveyors work for DIVARTY and "we fill a whole lot of sandbags," said Specialist Five John Morrow.