

175 Enemy Killed in Four Contacts

By PFC Charlie Petit

PHUOC VINH—Four heavy contacts dominated by helicopter-to-ground action, inflicting a toll of 175 troops killed, highlighted action in the 1st Air Cav area of operations.

More than 300 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers died during the seven-day period.

The biggest battle of the week, spearheaded by units of the 11th Armored Cav, under the FIRST TEAM's operational control, erupted Dec. 27 in the regiment's AO north of Loc Ninh near the Cambodian border.

Contact was initiated by one of the regiment's hunter-killer teams while on morning reconnaissance.

The team caught one NVA in the open and killed him and later spotted seven more. Two of these were killed by Cobra firepower.

The importance of the location was revealed when an estimated two enemy

companies were spotted moving through a tree line. With them were two one and a half ton trucks, hidden in the undergrowth.

Air Force jets were called on station. With the vehicles' position marked by the choppers, one of the jets dropped a 750-pound bomb directly into the bed of one truck, thoroughly disassembling it and setting off a large secondary explosion.

Action continued through the day with a total of 79 NVA killed by dusk as helicopters, jets and regimental artillery repeatedly hit the enemy force.

One day later, a similar action occurred north of Fire Support Base (FSB) Judie in the 1st Cav's 2nd Brigade AO, this time involving hunter-killer "Pink" teams from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry. A heavy burst of automatic weapons fire directed at one of the troop's LOHs (light observation helicopter) triggered the fighting.

Air strikes and artillery were called onto the location. The birds killed five with their organic weapons.

Later, one of Charlie Troop's LOHs flew in low over the treetops to assess the effect of the artillery and Air Force ordnance.

While making the assessment, the bird caught 20 to 30 NVA in the open. The enemy broke and dashed into a bamboo thicket. Repeated blasting of the position by rockets and Air Force bombs revealed an extensive bunker complex beneath the tangled vegetation.

At day's end, Charlie Troop observers had counted 46 NVA killed by artillery, helicopter and air strikes. One heavy machinegun, 35 bunkers and 10 small structures were destroyed.

Both Bravo and Charlie Troops encountered heavy ground-to-air firing in Phuoc Long Province Dec. 30 in the eastern portion of the Cav's AO.

Charlie Troop tangled with the enemy

north of FSB Judie where one of its Pink teams was flying visual reconnaissance.

The birds were greeted by .51 caliber machinegun fire. The Skytroopers reacted with heavy mini-gun and rocket fire. On the ground, the troop's aerial rifle platoon (Blues) was inserted. They were momentarily pinned down by the enemy machinegun fire, but one of the Cobras quickly silenced the gun and its crew.

The action resulted in 24 enemy dead. Another 29 were killed by Bravo Troop in a similar response to ground-to-air fire east of Song Be near the edge of II Corps.

The Bravo Troop Blues were inserted because a LOH had been forced to land after taking three hits from enemy gunners. The crew and disabled bird were lifted out by Cav Hueys.

Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, made a series of light ground contacts during the week, resulting in 10 enemy killed, plus five rifles and three B-40 rocket launchers captured.

Commo Link . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Jim McCabe)

Coordinating the actions of his patrol of Skytroopers with the rest of the company, Staff Sergeant Robert J. Teague talks to the commander of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, on the radio while RTO Private First Class Gregory Portman provides security.

Re-enlistees Return Home for Christmas

By PFC Dennis Thornton

PHUOC VINH — Sixty-three 1st Air Cavalrymen who appeared stranded at the airport all made it home for Christmas, thanks to last-minute scrambling by the division's adjutant general and re-enlistment sergeant major.

"We promised that everyone who re-upped by Dec. 15 would get home by Christmas for special leave," said Sergeant Major Raymond J. Moran, head of the 1st Air Cav re-enlistment office. "They all got out, but not without a little unexpected hustling at the last minute."

"On Dec. 23 we got a call telling us that many of our men who had re-upped later than Dec. 15 were still sitting in the Bien Hoa airport, waiting for a freedom bird."

Because emergency and compassionate leaves were up 400 per cent for Christmas, there was a large backlog of men

waiting for the few space-available seats.

Lieutenant Colonel W.H. Fitts, the adjutant general, went to Bien Hoa's 8th Aerial Port and offered the 1st Air Cavalrymen a three-day rest and recuperation leave at Vung Tau with no leave time charged and their bonus leave starting later. Or they could wait at the VIP Center until a flight could be arranged.

"A standing ovation followed Colonel Fitts' announcement," said Sergeant Major Moran.

The adjutant general also invited troops from the 11th Armored Cav and other units stranded at the airport to stay in the Cav's VIP Center.

"We got 37 out the morning of Dec. 24 and the rest made it Christmas Day," said the sergeant major. "Because of the differences in time, all should have made it home by Christmas Day just in time for the holiday celebrations."



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1st Air Cavalry Division

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Troop C, 1/9 Pink Teams

Air Power Blasts NVA

PHUOC VINH — "The LOH (light observation helicopter) pilot saw some rice drying on two NVA ponchos. We flew in closer, destroyed two enemy structures and had moved on about 100 meters when the machineguns started firing on us."

Captain Patrick Stewart, 1st Air Cav Cobra pilot and "Pink" team partner of the low-flying scout bird, recounted the start of the fireworks which left 46 NVA dead after a day-long air-to-ground battle 90 miles northeast of Saigon.

"My mini-gun got hot in a hurry," he said.

The initial contact came shortly after noon during a bomb

damage assessment by a Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, Pink team.

While Captain Stewart's Cobra headed for Song Be and an armament supply, the LOH was joined by another Charlie Troop Cobra. Five NVA died in the initial exchange of fire, and the day had just started.

An Air Force jet strike went over the area, and the LOH darted down to treetop height to check the bombs' effect.

"I flew over a little clearing and found 20 to 30 NVA caught in the open," said Warrant Officer Edward Hogeboom, the LOH's pilot.

His doorgunner opened up with the M-60. A flurry of small

arms fire greeted the bird's sudden arrival.

"The Cobra placed its rockets right under my tail to cover us," recalled Mr. Hogeboom.

The other Cobra returned with a fresh load of ammo, and the LOH dropped smoke into a tangle of bamboo where the enemy force had retreated.

The Cobra's rockets and grenades ripped the bamboo apart, revealing a large number of heavily-reinforced bunkers. The birds wasted no time calling in Cav artillery on the fortifications.

The fresh Cobra's pilot continued to spot for the artillerymen while the other two choppers de-

(Continued on Page 8)

Shop Talk . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Dean Sharp)

Admiral John S. McCain Jr (right), Commander in Chief, Pacific, talks with Skytroopers during a recent tour of 1st Air Cavalry firebases.

Funds for Scholarships

FTS Selling Cav Items

PHUOC VINH—"Project Maverick" salesmen are visiting division firebases in a campaign to raise money for education scholarships for children of 1st Air Cav soldiers.

The multi-faceted campaign involves a program of giving, combined with sales of items useful to Skytroopers.

FIRST TEAM Scholarships (FTS), operating from the Information Office, is handling the fund raising for the 1st Air Cav Association.

Items being sold by FTS with Cav crests, patches or other identification include wrist watches, cigarette lighters, identification bracelets, bayonets and machete letter openers, key

chains, pen knives, key chain with medallion and Montagnard cross bows and knives.

Also available in Vietnam through FTS on behalf of the Cav Association is the Sergeant Bill Ellis record, "Impressions of a Skytrooper."

Lifetime members of the Cav Association receive a \$1 discount on all FTS items of \$2 or more.

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

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

Catnap . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Jim McCabe)

Ammo bay doors on a Cobra helicopter aren't made for sleeping, but when a man's tired he's quick to improvise. Captain Robert Lee of the 1st Air Cav's 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion catches a few winks as he listens to the aircraft's radio for word on his next mission.

VA Offers Guaranteed Loans

PHUOC VINH — Guaranteed loans are the most frequently-used benefit offered by the Veterans Administration.

To be eligible for a VA loan, you must have had 181 days of continuous active duty or still be on active duty with at least two years of service.

You are eligible to receive a

loan any time within 10 years from your separation date, plus one year of additional eligibility for each 90 days or portion thereof of active duty.

You can receive a loan to purchase a home, to make alterations or repairs of existing homes, to purchase farms or farm equipment and to refi-

nance delinquent indebtedness. Direct loans may only be made for the purchase of homes or farmhouses.

There is no legal maximum to what you can borrow to purchase a home, but a direct VA loan will not exceed \$17,500 as a general rule.

You must, of course, repay the loan to the government, with a maximum interest of eight and one-half per cent per annum.

Your loan for a home will mature in 30 years. Farm real estate loans become due in 40 years, and non-real estate loans reach maturity in 10 years.

Obtaining a VA loan may be done through your chosen lender, so see him or your VA representative for further details.



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... For God And Country

By Chaplain (LTC) Charles F. Powers
Division Chaplain

Attitude has a lot to do with happiness and success. We serve ourselves and others better if we are always looking for the fine things in people and in the world around us.

The Apostle Paul advised us to fill our minds with everything that is truly noble and with everything that can be thought virtuous and worthy of praise. How much better this approach than the one which constantly hunts out the meannesses and weaknesses of others and dwells on them with secret joy.

It is a pathetic character who takes a kind of unholy glee in discovering the weak things in the best of people and in finding low motives in the noblest of actions.

A man should not delude himself by closing his eyes to reality or to unpleasant facts. But there is a great deal of difference according to whether we dwell on one set of facts or another.

The happiest life and the life which carries the most happiness to others is that of the person who is thoroughly alert to the fine and noble things as they occur.

We can, for example, regard our nation in two ways — we can observe its efforts to secure justice and the better life at home and peace in the world; or

we can concentrate on the negative side, joining those who take pot shots at the United States and find little to praise and much to condemn.

Is there nothing in our country to criticize? There's plenty. Thank God that the triumphal air of self-satisfaction is disappearing. We are realizing more and more that there are still many wrongs to be corrected, wounds to be healed and goals to be achieved.

However, we do a disservice to our country when we develop the acid spirit of negative and habitual criticism.

Our nation does not exist in a world of pure ideas where decisions can be absolutely correct or motives completely pure, but in the concrete reality of men where the interests of other nations and even the desires of its own citizens often conflict.

A good citizen loves his country. Its honor is his. A good citizen is inclined to accept the deficiencies of his country because they are usually minimal when seen in the total context of the good it has achieved.

Watching a parade, you notice the one soldier out of step. But he is obvious because everyone else is in step. It could well be, that as a nation our faults are so obvious because our virtues are so numerous.

Shady . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Robert Conway)

Covering his eyes from the blazing tropical sun offers a bit of rest and relaxation for Private First Class Larry Hessel of the 1st Air Cav's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

Combat Art Deadline Established

PHUOC VINH — Artists have until Feb. 6 to apply for the 1st Air Cav's newly-created combat art program, which offers a 90-day TDY period with the division Information Office.

"The program is designed to contribute to unit pride and to provide a unique, authentic and permanent record depicting the life of the soldier in Vietnam," said Major J.D. Coleman, division information officer.

Applicants should be competent artist-illustrators with a foundation in life drawing, composition and color.

Artists will record military operations and mission functions of the FIRST TEAM, including training and support activities, logistical operations, administrative work and command post operations.

Applications must contain: name, rank, social security number, date of DEROS and ETS, age, educational background and a detailed account of experience in the art field.

Samples of previous work or field sketches must accompany applications and be submitted to the Information Office, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO In-Country 96490, no later than Feb. 6.

Skytrooper for 41 Months

He Keeps On Flying

By SGT Steve Banko

QUAN LOI — A Silver Star, a Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars, three Army Com-

Ft. Compton Named After Army Friend

By PFC Dennis Thornton

FORT COMPTON — Not many 1st Air Cav firebases are named after men — especially if they're civilians.

An exception is Fort Compton, named after a prominent civilian friend of the U.S. military.

"Don Compton is a legend, almost as much a part of the Fifth Army as the unit's colors," said Lieutenant Colonel R.L. Drudik, commander of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

Now 85 years old, bed-ridden and nearly blind from a bout with arterial sclerosis. Mr. Compton has served the Army for 45 years for only \$1 annually.

In World War II, Mr. Compton served in several positions, including ammunition procurement agent and for the past 25 years has been a civilian advisor for the commanding general of the Fifth Army.

Colonel Drudik made friends with Mr. Compton while serving as senior aide to the commanding general of the Fifth Army, between tours in Vietnam.

The word "fort" is used instead of "fire support base" in the title to heighten the honor, Colonel Drudik said.

"Fire support base is a new term coined in Vietnam and not many people in the States know what it really is," he added. "But 'fort' has a real historical meaning."

mendation Medals, three Purple Hearts and 57 Air Medals.

An awards and decorations list for an entire aviation unit? No, just the lineup of medals presented to Specialist Six Leonard Demaray of the 1st Air Cav.

Specialist Demaray, of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, is a veteran of more than 41 months in Vietnam.

He's logged some 1,500 hours of combat flying time. Much of that time was spent with the 228th Assault Helicopter Support Battalion as a flight engineer on a Chinook gunship, aptly named "Guns A-Go-Go."

"It was a groovy bird," he said, "with all those M-60's and a couple of .50 caliber machine-guns for good measure. That's a pretty secure feeling."

Secure or not, Specialist Demaray was on the big gunship when it was forced down in the Citadel in Hue during the Tet offensive of 1968. His actions under fire led to his first award for heroism.

"In the crash, four of the other crew members and myself were injured," he recalled. "The MEDEVAC could only take four and I wasn't hit as bad as the

others, so I stayed and fired the .50 cal for suppression." His act merited the Silver Star.

What makes a man extend his tour in Vietnam for 41 months?

"I like to fly," Specialist Demaray said. "After my discharge, I plan to study aviation. The Army and Vietnam have given me some valuable experience."

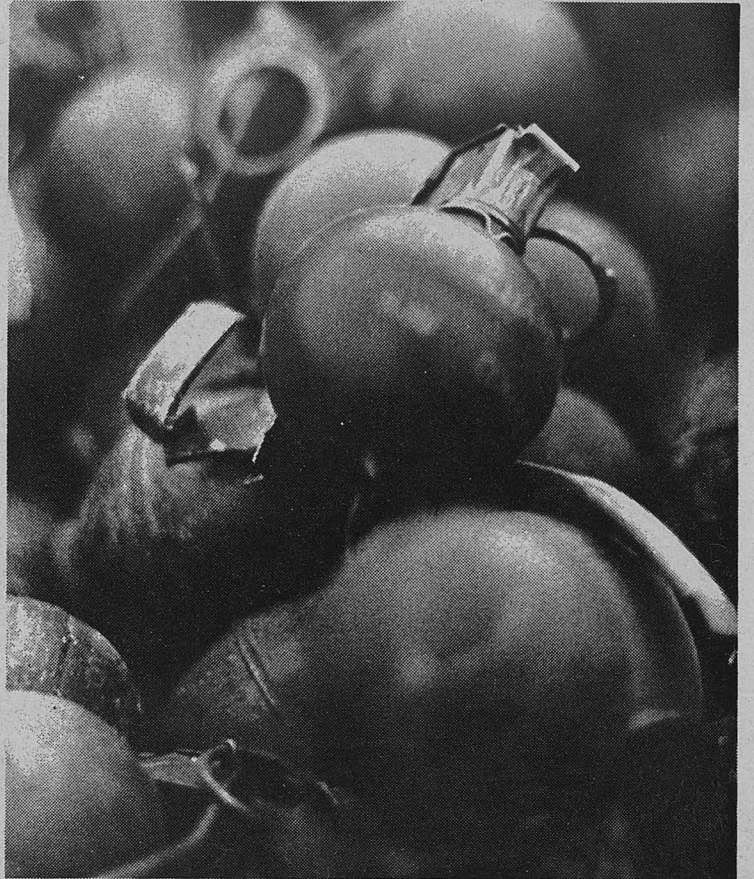
Another incident attests to that experience. While on a mission east of Bu Dop, his aircraft took heavy .51 cal fire and his pilot was seriously wounded. The specialist assumed controls of the bird and brought the crippled craft home safely.

"That's one reason why I like Len in the observer's seat rather than the gunner's," explained his current pilot, Warrant Officer George Scott. "He knows as much about the aircraft as most pilots."

Specialist Four Ted Thomas offered this word: "Len is one of the best we have flying right now and probably the most complete flier we have."

He may not be a pilot, but Specialist Demaray is Bravo's ace.

Baseball, Anyone?



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Robert Conway)

A basket full of baseballs? Not quite. Powerful fragmentation grenades are boxed and waiting for any sapper attack at the 1st Air Cav's Fire Support Base Ike.

Radar Unit Guides Helicopters

By PFC Robert Hackney

FSB JAMIE—Neither rain nor hail nor dark of night can keep 1st Air Cav helicopters from flying missions near Fire Support Base (FSB) Jamie, thanks to a huge new radar unit.

In a storm of dust stirred up by a CH-54 Flying Crane, the quarter-million dollar Ground Control Approach radar unit was lowered onto a 25-foot tower at the firebase where it can spot aircraft moving within 80 miles.

The rotating radar reflector sends out an electronic beam which, when contacting an aircraft, will "bounce" back and appear as a blip on the two scopes in the radar unit below.

The scopes are equipped with azimuth and range indicators, enabling the controllers to pinpoint the aircraft's location.

"If an aircraft is lost in the rain, for example, he calls Jamie radar," said Specialist Five Tim Anthony. "We pick him up on the scope and call and ask him where he wants to go. We can then direct him to a grid coordinate by charting his course on the radar and making sure he stays on it."

The radar unit will serve two main functions at FSB Jamie, said Major Harvey S. Erlick, airfield commander for the 11th Aviation Group.

"First, we are able to control aircraft approaching Jamie at night or when weather

or other conditions prevent them from finding it on their own," the major said.

"Secondly, we can provide aerial surveillance, using the radar to direct aircraft to a predetermined target area and to keep them within that area," he explained.

Used primarily at night when navigation by helicopter is difficult, the radar unit is run by a team of air controllers, radar repairmen and generator maintenance men.

The radar is capable of charting aircraft up to 80 miles away but is used most effectively within 20 miles.

"If they're within five miles of us, we can bring them to within 10 feet of their target," Major Erlick said.

Aussie Aviator . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Doug Fuller)

Australian Lieutenant Colonel Ross Harding (left) discusses his experiences piloting a Huey helicopter into a hot pick-up zone with Lieutenant Colonel Leo Soucek, commander of the 1st Air Cav's 11th Aviation Group. Colonel Harding spent several days learning the practical aspects of airmobility with the 1st Cav as part of an American-Australian officer exchange program.

Australian LTC Likes Airmobility

By SGT Steve Banko

PHUOC VINH — Descent into a "hot" pickup zone gave an Australian lieutenant colonel a tense introduction to 1st Air Cav airmobility.

"I don't think they were firing at me in that PZ," said Lieutenant Colonel Ross Harding, visiting the Cav as part of the Royal Australian Army-American officer exchange program.

He piloted a UH-1B helicopter from the 1st Air Cav's 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion on three sorties to rescue ground troops from the hail of bullets.

Besides flying extraction missions, the Australian officer piloted another "Huey" chopper on a "sniffer" mission in which choppers specially equipped with personnel detection devices skim the treetops trying to find the enemy.

To see another aspect of airmobility, Colonel Harding rode a Chinook helicopter on a cargo-sliding mission where he was impressed by the speed of sling-

ing the net and the expertise of the flight engineer.

"That bloke in the rear (of the Chinook) is an awfully important fellow," he said.

Colonel Harding will soon depart for the United States to become an instructor in the Army Aviation School's Department of Tactics at Fort Rucker, Ala.

In return, a U.S. Army aviation officer has been sent to Australia to instruct in airmobility at the Army Staff College.

Colonel Harding was impressed by the Cav's airmobility and by the exchange program between the two countries.

"This program is extremely important to the Australian military," he said. "Due to the small size of our army, the problem of moving the maximum number of men in the shortest possible time is of utmost importance."

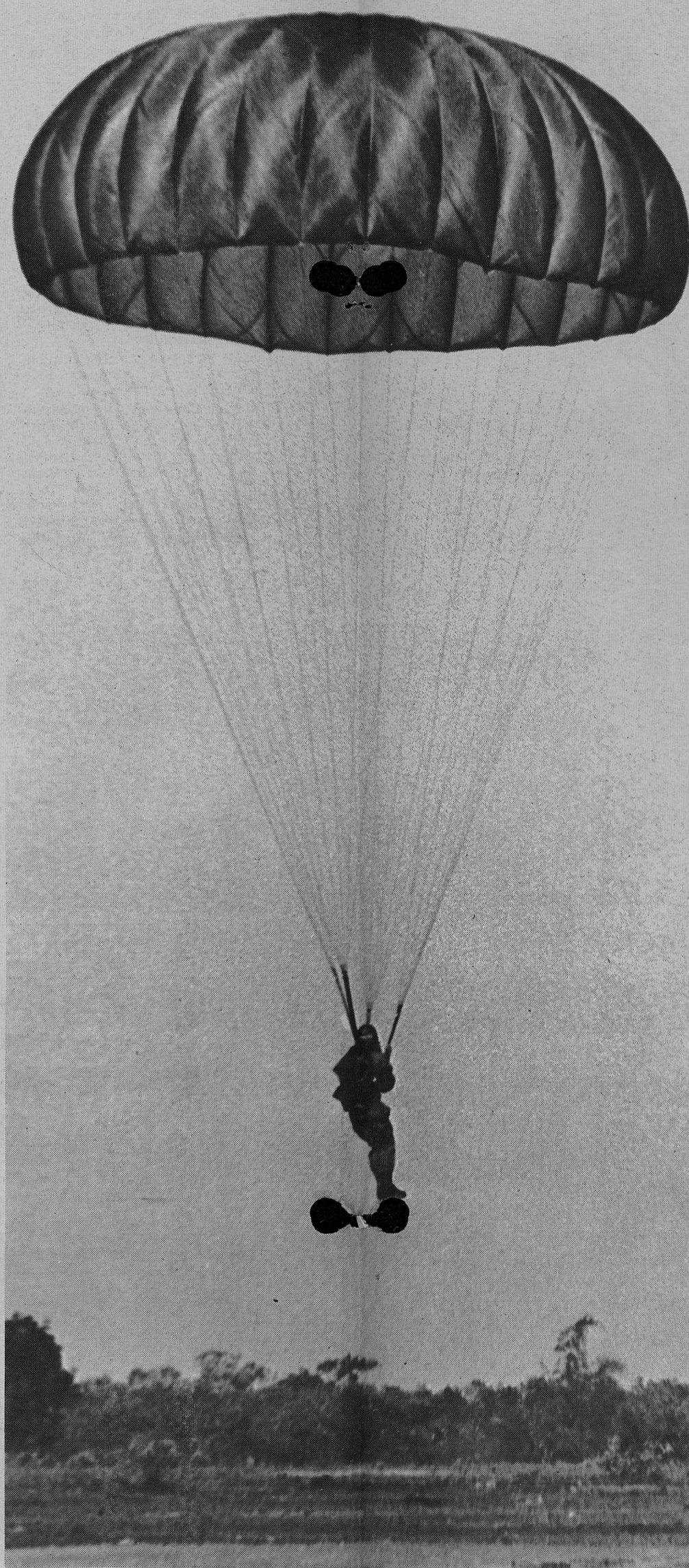
"Airmobility, as demonstrated by the success of the 1st Air Cav, is the answer. It is only through the spirit of cooperation now being demonstrated in this exchange that countries can insure their continued freedom."



Specialist Five Joe Kamalick, 1st Air Cav writer on temporary duty with Stars and Stripes, talks with an ARVN airborne jump school instructor before making his first jump near Ap Dong, 10 miles north of Saigon. At 1,200 feet altitude (below), Specialist Kamalick makes his initial jump from a U.S. Air Force C130.



'Like Jumping Off a Chair'



(U.S. Army Photos by SP4 Tom Benic)
Falling at approximately five meters per second, Specialist Kamalick is less than a second away from touch down on his first jump. The Cavalair staffer was one of four correspondents taking ARVN airborne jump school training.



Specialist Kamalick seems quite pleased after making his first qualifying jump for ARVN airborne training. The Skyrooper described the jump as "like jumping off a chair."

SAIGON — The Vietnamese Air Force C47 climbed steeply over Tan Son Nhut and banked north toward Ap Dong some 10 miles distant through bright morning haze.

Long minutes later the first eight people, sweating in tight parachute harnesses, stood and hooked up their static lines.

The jumpmaster, braced with both arms in the open door and squinting in the propwash that whipped fast ripples in his shirt, took one last look at the yellow and green earth 1,200 feet below and stepped back.

"Stand in the door!" The first man's hands fought the slipstream to grasp the outside edges of the door as he hung back, half crouched inside.

For a moment he held there, one bright figure cut out from the dark of the cabin by sunlight flooding the door.

A loud bell began ringing, the red light beside the door flashed green and the jumpmaster was yelling above the noise of the bell, the roaring wind and engines, "Go! Go! Go! Go!" and legs were shuffling quickly toward the door and the cool air beyond it.

For some 200 men and five women it was the first time they had ever jumped out of a perfectly good aircraft or any kind of aircraft for that matter.

Except for four of them, all were jumping to qualify for duty with the ARVN 1st Airborne Division.

But the four other people, correspondents from different parts of the world, had taken ARVN airborne training and were jumping out of that aircraft (which was in no danger of crashing) just to get a story.

Among those four was Specialist Five Joe Kamalick, a writer for the 1st Air Cav on temporary duty with Stars and Stripes in Saigon.

"The training was very good, very thorough," he told another 1st Cav reporter.

He had trained for two weeks: PT and working on the towers, getting used to falling properly and, more importantly, getting used to the idea of jumping off high places.

"The first jump is the best," he said. "After the first jump you know what it's like, it's familiar. But there is nothing quite like that first one."

"The worst part of the first jump is the waiting, the ride out, hooking up and waiting more. But once you stand in the door all the anxiety is gone and it's pure adrenalin."

"When you throw yourself out everything happens very fast, but in a dream-like slow motion; the wind grabs you and turns you around as you fall, and you can see the tail section whip by overhead. It's very good, very fine."

Very fine, indeed.



Stake Your Claim to Fame

Doing a story about a Skytrooper who had been with the 1st Air Cav for more than four consecutive years has the "Cavalair" staff wondering who has the most time served with the **FIRST TEAM**.

Do you think you're the "longest" with the Cav? How about having the most time spent in Vietnam, the most air medals, most purple hearts, most flight time, most time in the field?

Or maybe you've had the "most unusual" experience in your tour with the Cav.

You can stake your claim to fame by writing to Cavalair, Information Office, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO In-Country 96490.

Lee's Bees Buzz Battery

A swarm of bees visited Battery B, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery, as the Skytroopers attempted to build a firing position at Fire Support Base Lee.

The insects drove the cannoneers from their guns but Sergeant Billy Todd came to the rescue.

Sergeant Todd, who helped raise bees with his father stateside, told the cannoneers to stop fighting the bees. They did and the bees quickly clustered in a buzzing mass on an aiming post.

The sergeant then brushed the whole swarm into a fuse can with a bare hand and then removed the bees from the area . . . much to the relief of the other Air Cavalrymen.

5/7 Mess Hall Renovated

Christmas dinner was the first meal served in the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, mess hall, renovated in three days under the supervision of Sergeant First Class J. C. Marcus, mess steward.

General Robert M. Shoemaker, assistant 1st Air Cav commander; Lieutenant Colonel Sanders A. Cortner, battalion commander; and Major Stephen D. Warner, battalion executive officer, were present for the ribbon cutting ceremonies Phuoc Vinh.

Personal Touch Makes Show

The Christmas Day floor show staged at Company B, 15th Transportation Battalion, had a definite personal touch to it. Performers were all members of the unit.

The Reno Rangers and Four Kingsmen provided music with instruments supplied from Special Services at Long Binh.

Performing were Specialist Six William Saunders; Specialists Five Lewis Vermilyer, Kazimierz Witkowski, Arsenio Gonzalez, John Cevis, Richard Allard and William Johnson; Specialists Four Charles Pyle, Jerome Snyder, David LeBleu and David Dobrich; and Privates First Class Paul Richards and Robert Goodwin.

Walking Point Earns Money for Ex-NVA

By PFC David Roberts

QUAN LOI — Dieu Muon found that walking point for the NVA offered only prospects of claymores and ambushes. He now finds the same point-walking job far more appealing with the 1st Air Cav.

Some 106,000 piasters, or the equivalent of almost \$1,000, was awarded to Muon, a 17-year-old former NVA, for leading Air Cavalrymen of Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, to four enemy caches.

Muon, who had worked with an NVA unit for more than a year, rallied to the Chieu Hoi Center in An Loc in October. For a year his mission had been to transport supplies from Cambodia to different caches hidden in the jungles north of Quan Loi.

When Muon rallied to the Government of South Vietnam, he brought with him information pertaining to the hidden caches. But because of his unfamiliarity with maps he was unable to identify their locations.

It was back to the bush for Muon — only this time he humped point for an American unit. In the two weeks he spent in the field, he led Skytroopers to four separate weapons caches in the jungles surrounding Fire Support Base Vivian.

When the final tally was taken, Muon accounted for the capture of more than 30 enemy automatic weapons, 200 rounds of B-40 rockets, 50,000 AK-47 rounds, six 12-inch anti-tank mines and an assortment of mortar rounds, fuses and charges.

Although Muon has temporarily left the 1st Bn., 5th Cav., he plans to return soon. He is now undergoing Kit Carson training at the **FIRST TEAM** Academy in Bien Hoa.

Old Friends Hold Reunion

FSB GRANT — Private First Class Daniel Striplin, of Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, couldn't believe it.

Here was one of his hometown friends, Specialist Four Fred Panky, 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery, at the 1st Air Cav's Fire Support Base Grant.

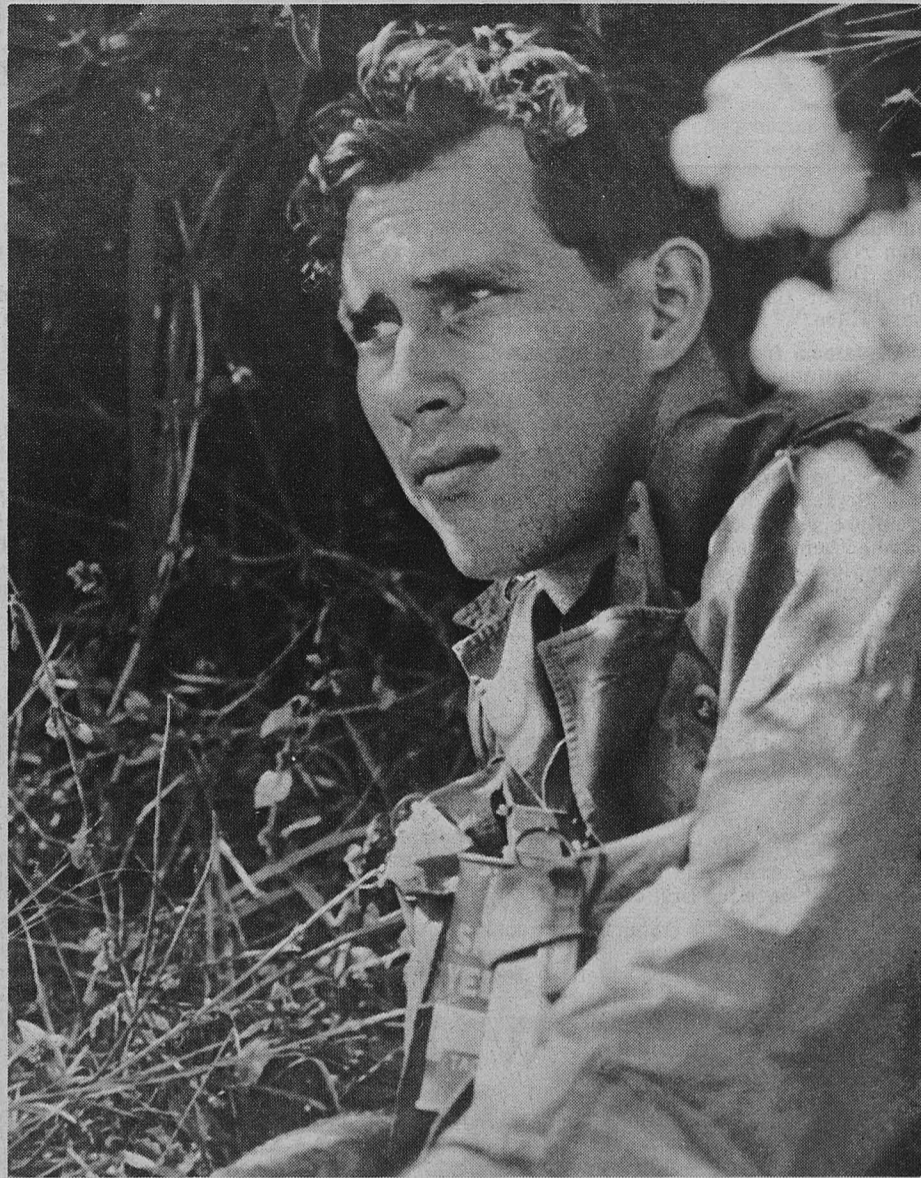
Both men are from Texarkana, Ark., where they live a block from each other.

"He's one of my best buddies," said PFC Striplin. "Needless to say, it was quite a surprise seeing him here — I didn't even know he was in the Army."



Fashion model Sarah Jane Grant's hobby is making her own clothes, but in this bikini, the 38-24-36 Londoner seems to have made the top a little snug and the bottoms a bit too loose. But, as it turns out, Sarah's boyfriends really go for her outstanding designs.

Quick Reaction Rescues LOH Crew



Hovering a few feet above a LOH (light observation helicopter) forced down by enemy fire northeast of Fire Support Base Lee, a 1st Air Cav Huey (above left) maneuvers so that Specialist Four Michael Zer with aid from the doorunner can hook up the straps to lift it out. Then it's up and away (lower left) as the Huey lifts the B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, LOH out for return to Quan Lai and repairs. Sergeant Robert Herron (above), of Bravo Troop's Blue team inserted moments after the LOH was hit, helped secure the area.



By PFC Charlie Petit

FSB LEE—1st Air Cavalrymen came to the rescue of a downed LOH (light observation helicopter) crew during an afternoon-long battle in which 29 NVA died 80 miles northeast of Saigon.

Warrant Officer Donald Chandler, 1st Air Cav LOH pilot, described the action. "We were flying reconnaissance when we received ground-to-air fire. We engaged the enemy and killed seven before realizing we had to set down—we'd been hit, too. We had just enough power to get out of the immediate contact area and into a small clearing."

The bird's "Pink" team partner, a Cobra from the same unit, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, kept up a devastating stream of fire providing security for the LOH's three-man crew.

In Quan Loi, the troop's "Blue" team, an aerial rifle platoon, scrambled into Huey helicopters and dashed to the site of the disabled aircraft.

In short time, the Blues were leaping from their choppers and racing into a defensive perimeter to protect the disabled LOH and its relieved crew.

Meanwhile, Air Force jets and Cav Cobras pounded surrounding NVA positions with an overwhelming firepower display.

The enemy kept up a steady stream of

harassing fire at the U.S. aircraft and took repeated losses trying to move from its well camouflaged positions.

The Blues waited expectantly for the enemy force to move against their position. Although the Skytroopers could hear the NVA weapons clattering nearby at the helicopters and jets, the communists didn't engage the ground troops.

A Huey darted quickly into the clearing and picked up the LOH's crew. Another hauled out the diminutive chopper dangling on the end of a cable.

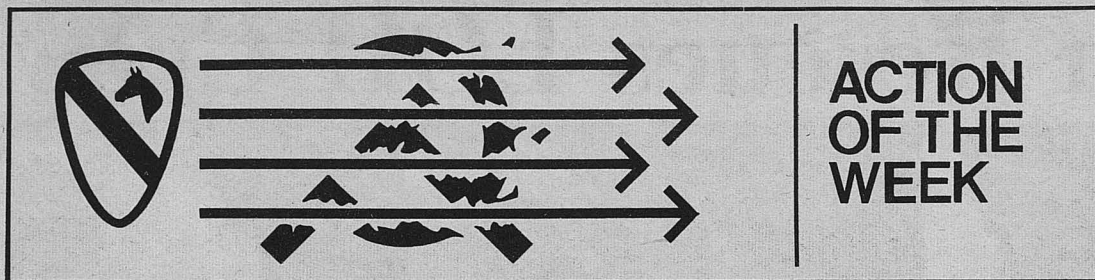
"I wish those people would come out where we could get at them," said Blues' Sergeant Richard Herron, staring into the jungle toward the sounds of the enemy fire.

A second LOH took a hit from the fierce NVA small arms fire. The pilot brought his craft down safely into the Blues' position. Again, the crew was extracted and the LOH carried out beneath a Huey.

With their mission complete, the Blues boarded the Hueys and quickly departed the area.

In addition to the 29 enemy killed, 19 bunkers were destroyed by the sustained pounding of the area.

"Those Blues were sure a sweet sight," said Warrant Officer Chandler, following the rescue.



ACTION OF THE WEEK

A perfectly executed hasty ambush caught an entire six-man NVA element in its killing zone Dec. 21 six miles south of the 1st Air Cav's Fire Support Base Ellen.

A platoon from Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, moved out on recon and came to a halt on a bamboo-covered hillside.

"We ran into a small trail," said Sergeant William Vicars, "and we could hear a lot of bamboo being broken down near the bottom of the hill, so I had the platoon scatter and hide itself to one side of the trail. Our

two machinegunners had a clear view of anything coming up the trail."

The Skytroopers didn't have to wait long. Six NVA wearing field packs and green uniforms moved slowly up the trail at 15 meter intervals, unaware that they were being watched by the well-concealed Air Cavalrymen.

"We saw them when they were about 40 meters away, but everyone stayed cool until they were all in the killing zone," Sergeant Vicars said. "The NVA were walking far enough apart that the point man was almost on top of us when the M-60

opened up."

There was no return fire. Four of the enemy troops were killed instantly, and two others managed to evade down the hill.

Sergeant Charles Arnette took off in hot pursuit.

"I found one of them pretty badly wounded at the bottom of the trail," he recalled, "and I called the medic down. By the time he got there, it was too late."

The sixth NVA soldier was killed shortly after by a burst of mini-gun fire from a Cobra of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, as he ran down the trail away from the ambush site.

3rd Brigade Chef

Shorty Is Tall on Talent

By SP5 Al Persons

QUAN LOI — He's spent 14 years in the Army and has yelled "short" since the first day.

Specialist Six Philip "Shorty" Risley, who stands five feet tall in his stocking feet, is the chief

and only baker for Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1st Air Cav's 3rd Brigade.

As the lone baker, Shorty can be found daily in the kitchen working into the wee hours of the morning.

But the only complaint he has

about his job is that the shelves and tables are too high. Empty boxes and chairs are an integral part of his stepladder network in the kitchen.

The products of his culinary talents don't suffer because of his height, however. Officers and enlisted men are frequently heard raving about his pastries.

"He's the greatest thing that has ever happened to this mess hall," said Sergeant First Class William Smith, mess steward. "I wish I had more like him."

Shorty has been in food service ever since entering the Army and is currently serving his second tour in Vietnam.

"I volunteered for Vietnam both times for the honor of serving my country," said the soft-spoken 34-year-old cook.

Shorty takes a lot of good natured ribbing about his size, but he's happy because he knows he keeps everyone well fed.

What's his specialty? "Shortcake," he said with a smile.

Plows Cut Wide Path Through Cav Country

By SP4 Ron Wright

FSB BUTTONS — Roaming across Vietnam, the 501st Engineer Company (Land Clearing), 62nd Engineer Battalion, cuts a wide path through Cav Country.

The company, consisting of 30 Rome plows and 85 men, is an element of the only land clearing battalion in the world.

In conjunction with the ARVNs and under the watchful eye of the 1st Air Cav's 2nd Brigade, the company works along Highway 14, from Song Be, pushing the jungle back a quarter of a mile on each side of the road and cutting down the possibility of an enemy ambush.

Moving in an echelon formation 30 plows strong, the company can clear nearly 200 acres

a day. In the dense bamboo jungle through which it works, the entire formation is guided by helicopter, since the drivers must operate blind.

"It's easy working in this area because it's mostly bamboo," said Sergeant First Class Gregorios Rivera.

No matter what the obstacle, the operation appears to be as easy as cutting the lawn. The plows, with blades honed to razor sharpness, snap eight-inch trees like match sticks.

Maintenance of machinery is completed where the machine breaks down. "Spare parts follow the cut (area being cleared) and only in extreme emergency do we need to return a plow to the NDP (night defensive perimeter)," said Specialist Five Ron Robinson.

The punishment the plows take is terrific. They are almost completely rebuilt after each 45-day operation.

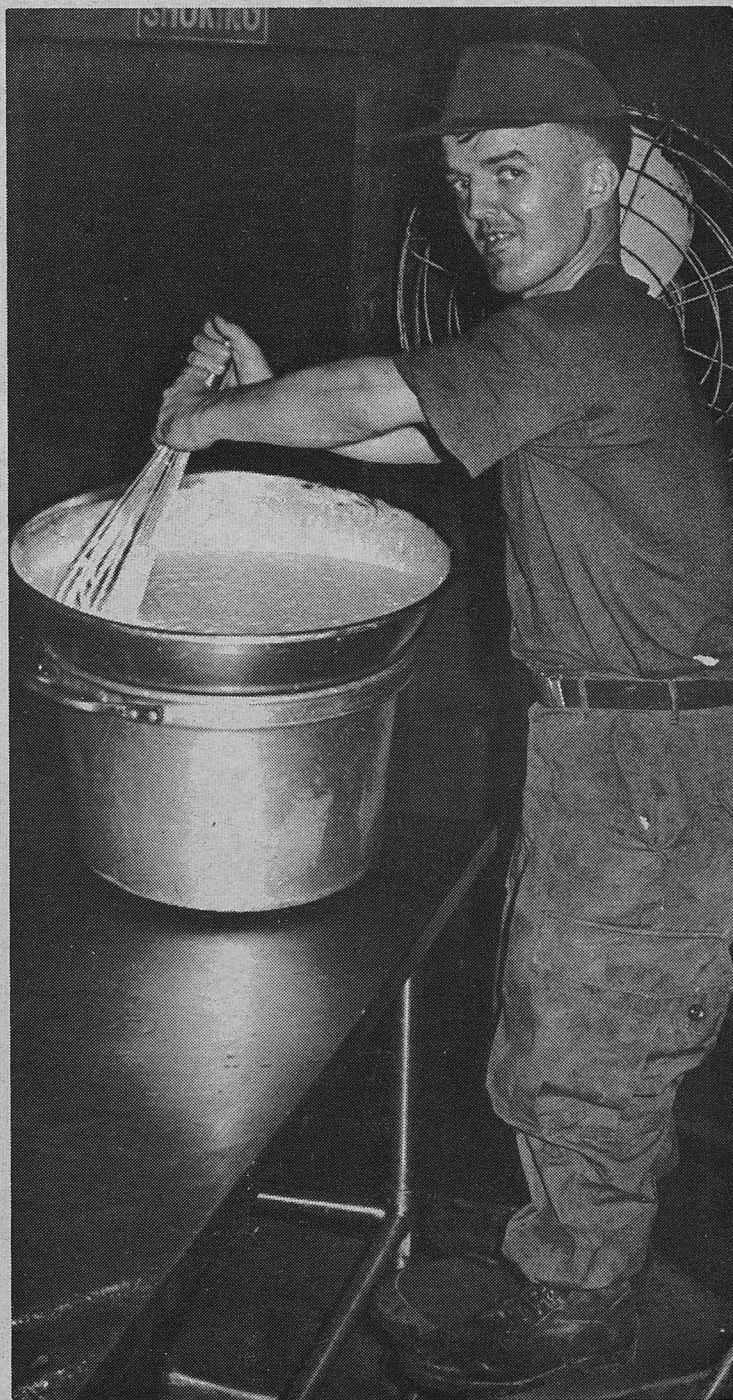
Each man is responsible for his own machine. Working together up to 16 hours daily for 45 days at a time, a bond grows between man and machine. Ten mechanics accompany the unit, but usually the operators pull their own maintenance, honing blades and tuning engines, working far into the night to be ready for the next morning's cut.

Security is essential, but not much of a problem. "We have the equipment to build a good defense," said Sergeant Rivera, looking at the perimeter, bristling with the muzzles of .50 caliber machineguns.

With the support of the 18th ARVN Armored Cav, the plows work with a minimum of enemy harassment.

During its operation in Phuoc Long Province clearing the road to Duc Phong, the Land Clearing Company is under the Cav's air-mobile wing with air, artillery and logistical support coming from Fire Support Base Buttons.

Shorty . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP5 Al Persons)

He may have to use a chair to reach his work but Specialist Six Philip "Shorty" Risley, standing only five feet tall, can still whip up tremendous biscuits for 3rd Brigade 1st Air Cavalrymen at Quan Loi.

Writers, Announcers Needed

Applications are being accepted to fill a number of projected vacancies in MOS 71R (broadcast specialist) and 71Q (military journalist) in the 1st Air Cav's Information Office.

All applicants must be in grades E-5 or below and have a DEROS not sooner than June 1, 1970.

To Qualify . . .

Applicants for OJT in MOS 71Q must have experience in the journalism field either professionally or on a school or organizational newspaper. Must be able to type a minimum of 25 words per minute. Experience and ability will be considered in lieu of college level journalism courses.

Applicants for OJT in MOS 71R must have a clear speaking voice, free of impediments or regionalisms. Experience as a professional announcer with emphasis on interviews, on-the-scene news reporting and/or disc jockey work is especially desirable. Applicants with other than professional experience will be considered individually on the basis of non-commercial experience, personal interview and taped audition.

Personnel wishing to apply for vacancies should submit the following information by mail directly to Information Officer, Hq. 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO In-Country 96490:

Name, rank, social security number, DEROS date present unit of assignment and a summary of educational background and experience.

Air Power—

(Continued from Page 1)

parted for more fuel and ammo.

Twenty minutes later, the helicopters returned and guided several sorties of Air Force fighter-bombers onto the enemy position. A continuous stream of enemy bullets rose from the jungle, including bursts from a .51 caliber machinegun.

The jets and helicopters alternated runs on the enemy position.

"While I was flying low over the area to assess the damage, I found a lot of NVA stunned by the big bombs trying to crawl into the jungle, but they didn't get far," Mr. Hogeboom said.

The Skytroopers counted 29 NVA killed by helicopter, 11 by air strike and six by artillery before darkness fell. The blasted remains of the enemy's heavy machineguns were spotted scattered in a smoking bomb crater, and 35 bunkers plus 10 small structures were destroyed. None of the U.S. aircraft was hit.