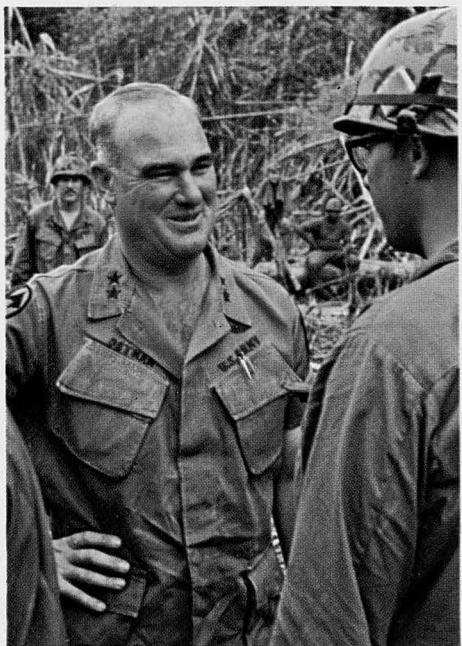


# FIRSTTEAM

FALL 1970





Christian

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



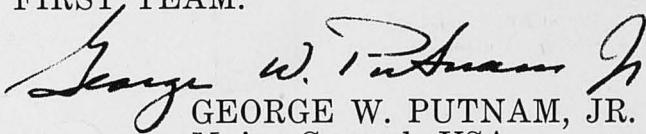
I am proud to join the First Team once again and have the privilege of leading the finest fighting men in the world. Time after time the men of the 1st Cav have distinguished themselves and proved again and again that the Cav is indeed the First Team.

When the division was called upon to lead the way into new and unknown territory by assaulting the border sanctuaries in Cambodia, the Skytroopers responded with a herculean effort which robbed the enemy of supply and cache sites which had carefully been built up over the period of several years. In two months Cavalrymen dealt the Communists a powerful blow from which they may never recover.

In this First Team magazine we recall a few of the many glorious moments of the Cav as it celebrates its 49th birthday and the end of its fifth year in Southeast Asia. From the Cav's roots as Indian fighters in the Old West through World War II and Korea, then through all four military regions in Vietnam and places with names like Ia Drang, Binh Dinh, Hue, A Shau Valley, War Zone C and, of course, Cambodia, the 1st Air Cavalry has established a fine tradition.

Difficult days lie ahead, as they always have, while the complexion of the war and the role of the division changes. I know from past experience that Cavalrymen can and will meet successfully any challenge that may arise.

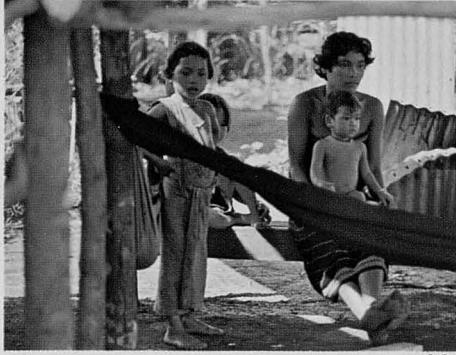
I am proud to be a part of this organization and happy, once again, to call myself a Cavalryman. It's good to be back on the FIRST TEAM.



GEORGE W. PUTNAM, JR.  
Major General, USA  
Commanding



2



16



23



30

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Autumn, 1970

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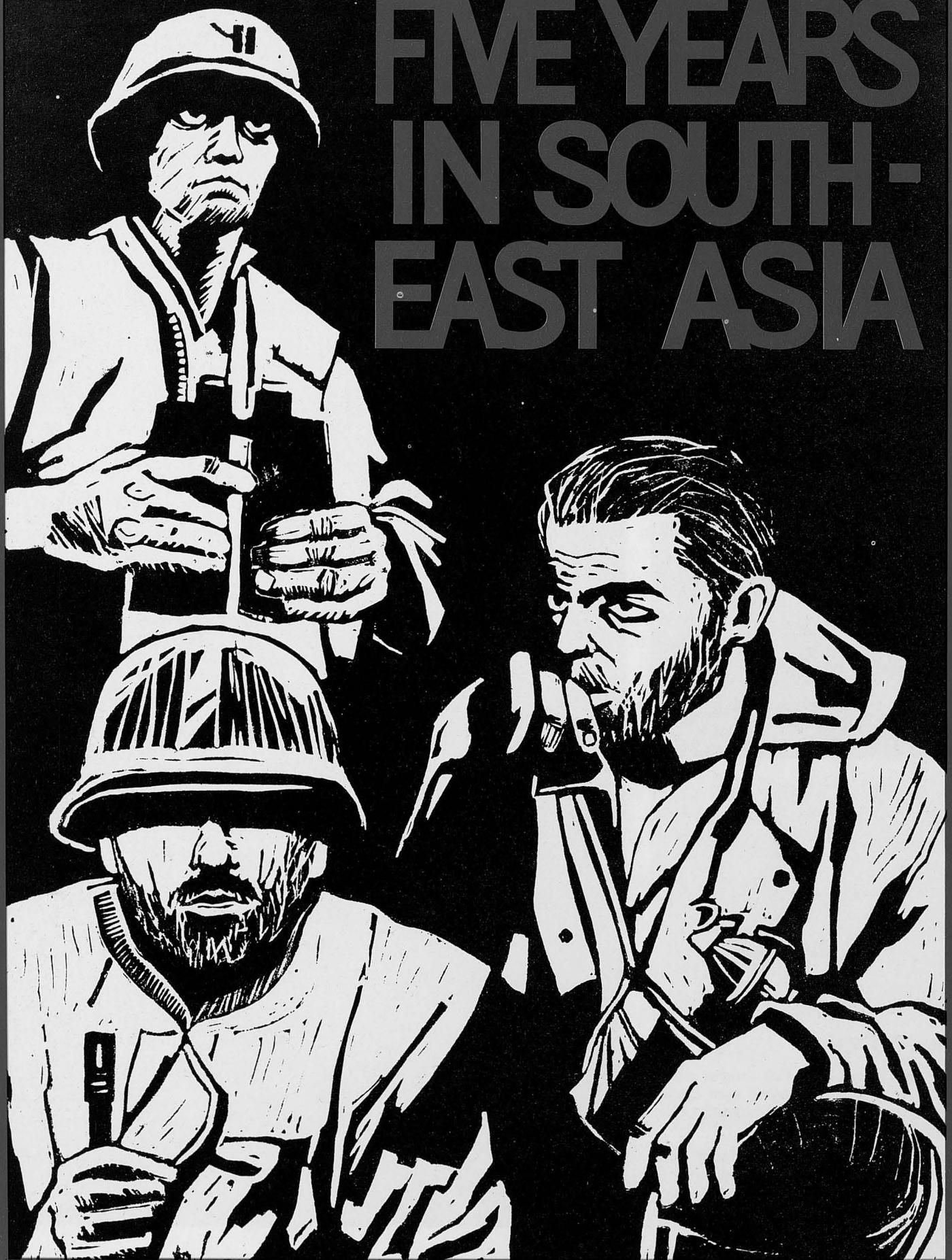
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## The COVER

*SP4 Don Chapman, a Cav combat artist, illustrates the basic weapon used during five years of battle in Southeast Asia, the M-16 rifle.*

Back: SP5 James McCabe, staff photographer, looks at a familiar sight in the Cav's Area of Operations, the native Montagnard cutting firewood for his family.

# FIVE YEARS IN SOUTH- EAST ASIA



## By SSG Ron Renouf

Fluttering several hundred feet above the green jungles, a gaggle of Huey helicopters noisily whirred along and prepared to descend into a tiny clearing. The scene had been repeated thousands of times during five long years of war in the Republic of Vietnam and the 1st Air Cavalrymen knew instinctively what to do when the helicopters touched down for 30 seconds before ascending and leaving them there alone.

But the men of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cav felt an added tingling sensation running through their bodies in addition to the usual "charlie alpha butterflies." The fear of the unknown was higher because they were about to establish another "first" for the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

The landing zone was green, putting the young Skytroopers a bit more at ease but they were still tense with anticipation as the lead helicopter hovered and set down. Spec. 4 Terry Hayes made history when he leaped off the Huey and added another laurel to the 1st Cav guide-on—First in Cambodia.

Many honors had been earned by the 1st Cav before May 1, 1970 when they led the incursion into Cambodia. Since the division was formally activated in 1921, composed of the 1st, 5th, 7th and 8th Cavalry Regiments which had fought the Indians in the Old West, the 1st Cavalry Division had many times been in the forefront of America's wars.

During World War II, Cavalrymen battled through the islands of the Pacific, storming ashore on Admiralty Island, then hopping to the Philippines to give the Cav its initial laurel—First in Manila. August of 1945, the same year, the Cavalrymen followed General Douglas MacArthur ashore to become First in Tokyo.

After five years of occupation duty in Japan, the division made the first amphibious landing of the Korean Conflict

and fought its way northward across the 38th Parallel into the capital of North Korea, earning the title First in Pyongyang. Years of savage fighting finally quieted to sentry duty with the cease fire and, eight years later, the Cav was returned to the States.

Airmobility became the password when the First Team became the Army's first airmobile division in 1965, undergoing a refitting and extensive training program to prepare for the different kind of war in far-off Vietnam.

When the troop transports dropped anchor in Qui Nhon harbor on Sept. 12, 1965, the 1st Air Cavalry Division celebrated its 44th anniversary and prepared to go to war again. The mountainous ranges of II Corps in the central highlands around Pleiku became the first battlefield and the 1st Air Cav met the NVA for the first time in a vicious head-to-head battle. For 35 days the combat raged through the Ia Drang Valley between three NVA regiments and the 2nd and 3rd Brigades of the Cav. When the badly defeated North Vietnamese finally retreated, the Cavalrymen had killed 3,561 NVA and earned the prestigious Presidential Unit Citation.

In early 1966 the Cav opened the Bong Son Campaign to pacify Binh Dinh Province and again smashed large enemy forces which had been roaming through the province and striking at will. Cavalrymen killed 1,342 NVA in 41 days around Bong Son, then continued to launch major operations against the enemy in II Corps for the next year. The pacification of Binh Dinh Province continued through all 1967 with Operation Pershing and cost the enemy more than 6,000 dead.

When the Communists attacked major population centers throughout Vietnam during the Tet Offensive of 1968, the Cav was quick to react. Skytroopers moved north and drove the enemy soldiers out of Quang Tri and the Imperial City



"We laid down heavy covering fire and got a couple of frags in there. That did the job. When we checked the bunkers, we found four NVA KIAs," Corcoran said. Inside the base's perimeter, the long search of numerous buildings and bunkers got underway—a search that uncovered the huge quantity of enemy weapons, ammunition and equipment.

When the men of Charlie Company withdrew from the huge enemy supply complex nicknamed "The City" and the final tabulation was made, there was no doubt that the enemy had suffered a major setback. Counted in the find were 1,315 individual weapons, 136 heavy machineguns and mortar tubes and more than two million rounds of various caliber ammo. Skytroopers also found 35 tons of explosives, cases of detonating cord, blasting caps and mines, hundreds of repair kits for a wide variety of enemy weapons, 200 bicycles and 1,000 pairs of shoes.

The huge complex, three kilometers long and one and a half kilometers wide, contained more than 300 buildings as well as hundreds of bunkers, all connected by bamboo walkways. What appeared to be a complete R&R site occupied one section of The City and a classroom was found in another. Cavalrymen left The City a ghost town.

Next to be uncovered was "Rock Island East" which

turned out to be the largest ammo dump ever found by Americans during the long Southeast Asian war. Men from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry found the storage complex which measured a kilometer long by half a kilometer wide.

The jungles were full of dirty, sweating men carrying heavy boxes of arms and ammunition to waiting helicopters for evacuation many days after they found Rock Island East. Only 851 weapons were in the cache but the Skytroopers found 6.5 million rounds of .51 caliber machine, a quarter of a million rounds each of 7.62 ammo and 14.5 mm anti-aircraft ammo, along with sizable quantities of rockets, mortar, recoilless rifle and B-40 ammunition and even some artillery rounds.

Late in May, the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry began combing the hilly area in the vicinity of FSB Brown and FSB Neal. Gaining the crest of one of the hills in the area, the soldiers uncovered a hospital bunker complex. While searching the complex they observed convoys of bicycles and trucks moving along the jungle highway. Artillery firings on these convoys observed by Bravo Company pinpointed the road's location.

Pushing toward the road, the company encountered determined enemy delaying tactics making it apparent that something of value to the enemy was in the area.



*Helicopters are the modern 1st Cav's horses, carrying Skytroopers into battle. Young warrant officers (left) pilot most of the Cobras (above) which blast the enemy with rockets and miniguns. Sturdy Huey "slicks" (top) fly in tight formation to insert soldiers into an area.*

After a day-long battle against heavy enemy fire, the company finally fought their way up a steep hill in the midst of a heavy downpour. PFC Chris Keffalos, nicknamed "Shakey," was the only fatality in the final assault, hit by an enemy bullet shortly after he stumbled across the first bunker on what would be called "Shakey's Hill."

Fire Support Base Shakey was built June 2, when it became apparent that the caches there were going to take a long time to find, clear and destroy.

The cache inventory, third largest found in Cambodia, included 63 flamethrowers, 659 SKS rifles, mortars, machineguns, two-thirds of a million machinegun rounds and thousands of rounds of other types of ammunition.

As always, the Cav's helicopter crewmen played a major role in the Cambodian campaign, finding many of the major cache sites by using aerial reconnaissance and keeping the enemy on the run. Near the end of May, one of the Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry teams were out looking for action and they found plenty of it.

A LOH, piloted by CWO Richard Gilmore, spotted the enemy first. "We were flying over an area of light jungle cover," he said, "following a trail that had lots of bicycle tracks and footprints. When it ran into a thicker patch of woods, we circled but didn't see anything."

McKeown



He continued, "We just started back south along the trail when the observer spotted several enemy under the trees, sleeping on the ground and in hammocks. Our doorgunner woke them up with his M-60." The machinegun jammed, however, and the pilot started banking away from the enemy to give the door-gunner a chance to clear his gun.

"As we were backing off we just kept seeing more and more people," Gilmore said. "They were running around on the ground like ants. In one place we could see rucksacks all set out in rows the way you used to see gear lined up in basic training.

"We figured there must be at least a company, so we dropped a smoke grenade in the middle of them for a marker. Then," the pilot said, "we moved out of the way and let our red bird (Cobra) roll in."

CWO Mark Somerville was the Cobra pilot with another Pink Team in the area. "The first I knew about the contact," he said, "was when Gilmore came over the radio with, 'Enemy here! I've got millions of them. Get somebody up here quick."

As Somerville's Pink Team approached, the Cobra of the team was already in contact, with CWO Marvin Metcalf at the controls. The rockets released their puffs of smoke as salvo after salvo pounded the enemy below.

*An isolated firebase can be an eerie place at night. Darkness falls slowly on Fire Support Base Buttons at Song Be through heavy, purple clouds as lights stream out of the tents near the TOC.*

Metcalf's Cobra recovered altitude quickly and came in at the enemy again, this time with 17 pound rockets. "As Metcalf came through again, he put out six pairs of rockets," said Somerville. "One of them blew a big tree off at the base and it came crashing down, pinning five NVA soldiers under it as it fell. One of them was still alive and tried to escape until Gilmore's doorgunner got him with the 60."

Cobras killed 39 enemy in the contact, one of many with similar results as the Cav's air power blasted the Reds on their former safe territory.

In most instances, the enemy avoided contact as Skytroopers drove through their former sanctuaries. However, Communist soldiers did mount determined attacks against three First Team firebases in Cambodia—Brown, Ready and David.

In each case, Skytroopers sent the attackers reeling back in defeat, leaving behind scores of dead.

When the last man of the Cav crossed the river back into Vietnam on June 30, the North Vietnamese had suffered an unprecedented defeat. The 1st Air Cav and units under the Cav's operational control accounted for more than 2,500 enemy killed, 700 crew-served weapons captured and

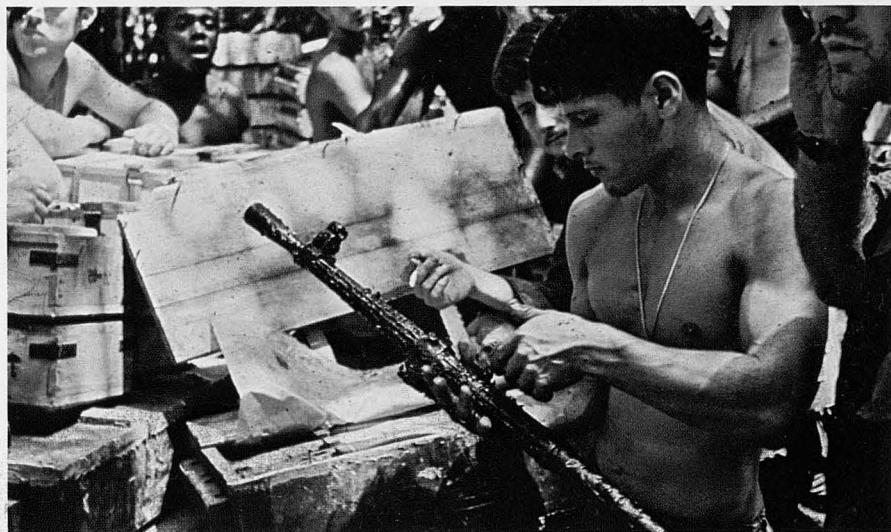
2,000 tons of rice uncovered. Skytroopers also captured 8,000 individual weapons, more than 4,000 rounds of large caliber ammo and more than 6 million rounds of machine-gun ammo.

President Richard M. Nixon, in a message to General Creighton Abrams, MACV commander, had high praise for the men who smashed through the enemy's former sanctuaries in Cambodia. "You have my profound gratitude and admiration for the outstanding job you and your commanders have done in executing the Cambodian sanctuary operations. I am very proud of the performance of your officers and men and hope you will convey to them my sincere appreciation and hearty well done."

When the two month long operation ended, the enemy's major supply areas along the Vietnam-Cambodia border lay in ruin. The First Team had again proven that they were the finest fighting force in the world—second to none. For 49 years, including five tough years in Southeast Asia, the Cav has proven it could easily handle any difficult situation.



Fallscheer

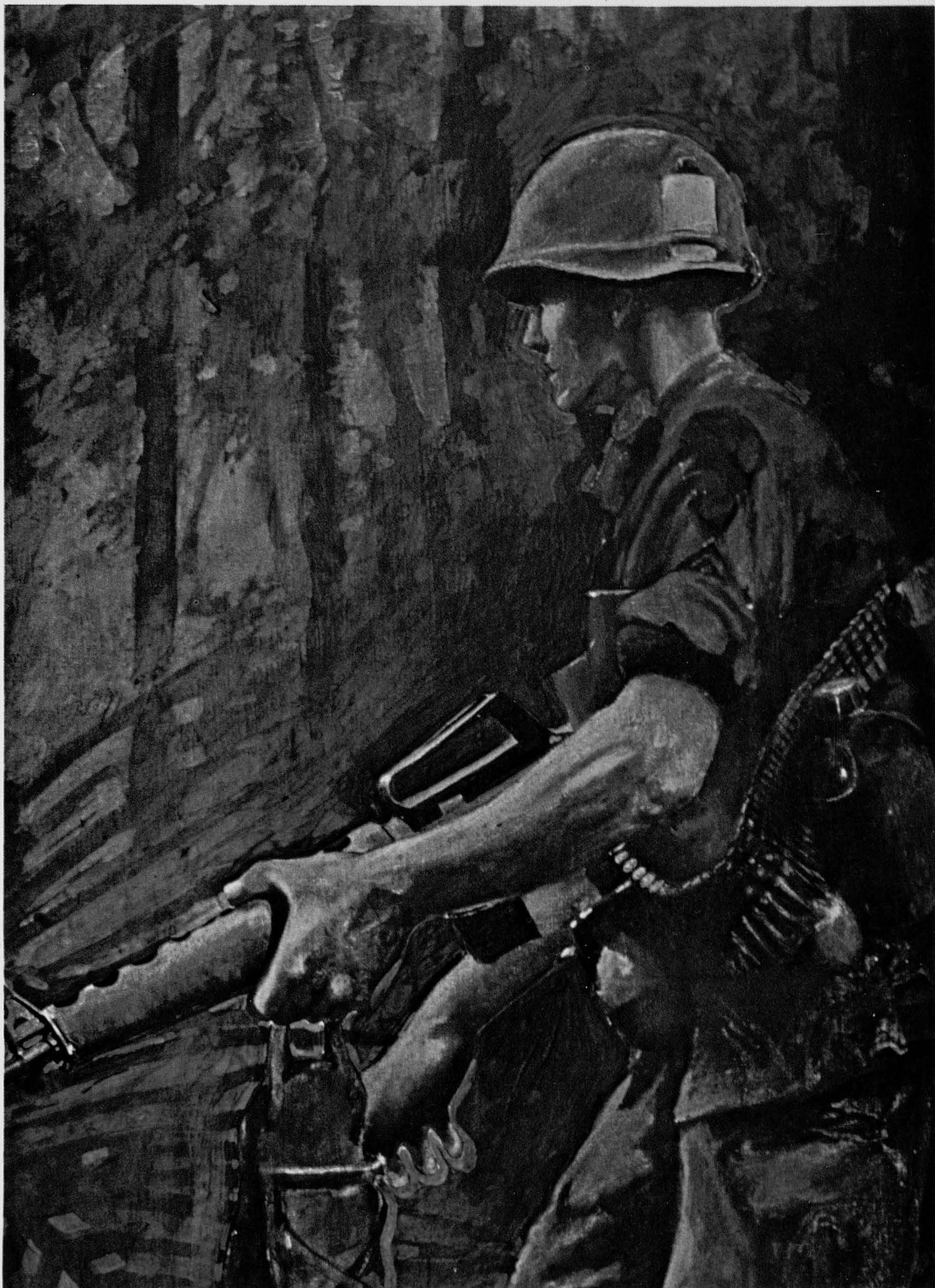


Fallscheer

*Searching carefully through jungle so dense that helicopters couldn't see smoke below them, necessitating long poles, Cavalrymen in Cambodia found tons of brand-new weapons, scores of bunkers and even unused rocket launchers.*



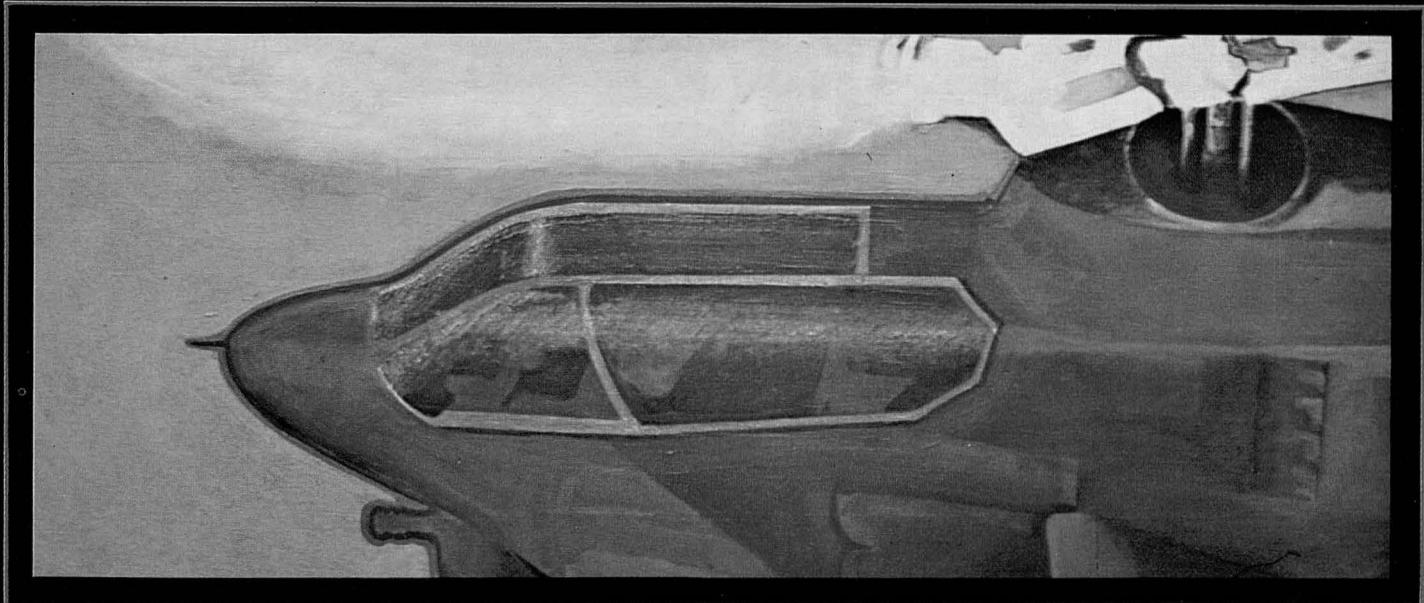
Fallscheer



# CAV ART

*Cav combat artists observed the division's best-known feature, its helicopters, and came up with many different interpretations. Specialist 4 Don Chapman surrealistically captures the odd feeling of "charlie alpha butterflies" (right) as infantrymen descend into a landing zone, wondering what will greet them there. Sergeant John Seemann pictures the Cavalrymen as they jump off the skids of the hovering chopper and spread out to safeguard the perimeter (below). Across the page, Sergeant Richard Cooper shows the life-saving Medevac helicopter waiting to speed a wounded man to a hospital within minutes (top) and Chapman paints the Cav's most potent weapon, the AH-1G Cobra helicopter, waiting to strike terror into the NVA.*





# SHORTNESS IS:

100 99 98 97 96 95  
94 93 92 91 90 89 88  
87 86 85 84 83 82 81  
80 79 78 77 76 75 74  
73 72 71 70 69 68 67 66  
65 64 63 62 61 60 59  
58 57 56 55 54 53 52  
51 50 49 48 47 46 45  
44 43 42 41 40 39 38  
37 36 35 34 33 32 31  
30 29 28 27 26 25 24  
23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15  
14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5  
4 3 2 1 Exit the Nam

**Shortness is when you can't fit all your goodies into a duffle bag.**

---



**Shortness is when can take a bath in your helmet.**

---

**Shortness is hesitating to start long conversations because you may not have time to finish the next sentence.**

---



**Shortness is straining to find a white space on your short-timer's calendar.**

---

**Shortness is telling a "two digit midget" that if you had that long to go you'd shoot yourself.**

---



**Shortness is digging in at any noise louder than a cricket's chirp.**

---

**Shortness is when nobody you talk to understands what "TT" or "beaucoup" means.**

**Shortness is when your bed is a stake in a poker game and you don't care.**

---



**Shortness is getting your last Playboy of a year's subscription.**

---

**Shortness is when your change jingles instead of crumples.**

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**Shortness is giving away a full tube of suntan lotion.**

---

**Shortness is when your letters reach home after you do.**

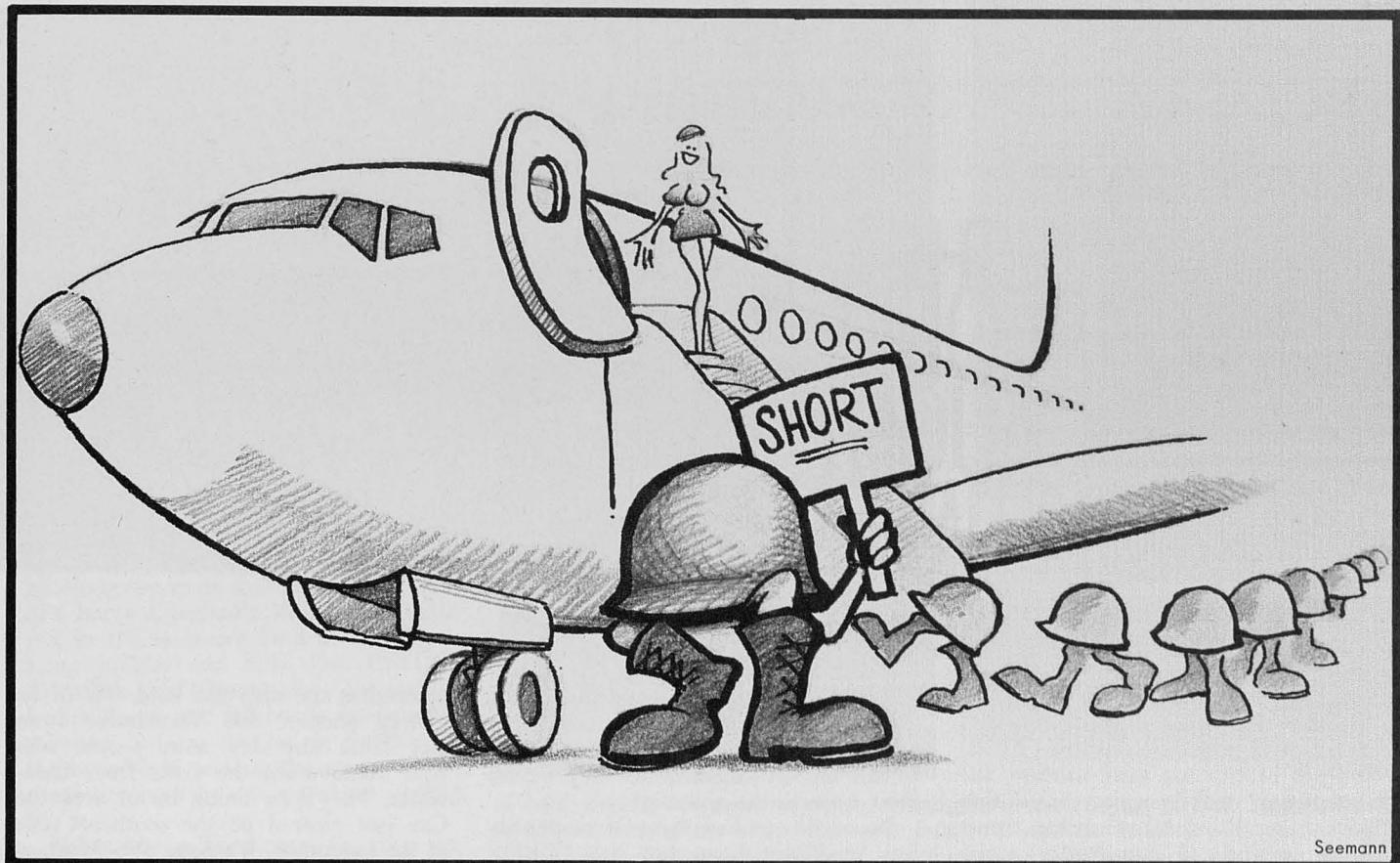
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**Shortness is a ration card that looks like swiss cheese.**

---

**Shortness is when you start feeling how good it feels to be short.**



Seemann

## Helpful, Hassleless, Heading Home Hints

By SP4 David Moore  
(190 days left)

"This is your ticket home." The man giving the briefing held in his hand an oblong piece of paper that flapped in the air when he moved his hand. "Hold onto it. If you lose this one you'll have a helluva time getting another."

He held the ticket at eye level and read the name from it. "Adams..." One of the men attending the briefing raised his hand and then reached to accept a ticket printed on thin, blue paper. Names were called out one by one and the tickets distributed to everyone in the room.

Every man of the 1st Air Cavalry Division who checks in at the "white house" at Bien Hoa for Deros or Ets will go through that scene midway through five days of Deros processing that climaxes with the trip on the "freedom bird."

According to personnel at the "white house," if you arrive more than five days prior to Deros you will not be allowed to register and will be sent back to your unit. Arriving later than four days prior to Deros can result in your departure date being postponed one, two, three or more days. But few Skytroopers report late.

To avoid discomfort and hassle, there are several things you should remember

to bring to Bien Hoa. One, of course, is a set of Deros orders. Another is your shot record. Bringing an up-to-date shot record can save time and spare a Skytrooper a few extra holes in his arm. Another requirement is to bring unit clearance papers showing you have properly signed out of your company.

Financial problems can be easily straightened out with a little advance planning. Since a GI is not normally paid during the last month in Vietnam, you should budget your funds accordingly. (Men who have funds in accrual may receive a partial pay during their last month in country.) If that last month in Vietnam leaves your pocket-book a little thin, upon arrival in the States you'll be back in the money. Personnel going to permanent change of station can draw maximum pay from their accrual, one to three months advance pay and also advance travel pay. Those who ETS will receive all pay and allowances due them when they arrive in the States for outprocessing.

You don't have to worry about finance records when you begin the Deros process. While checking in at Bien Hoa your finance records and 201 records file are automatically picked up and brought to the "white house" for clearance processing.

When a Skytrooper gets down to his last couple of days in Vietnam he is moved from the Bien Hoa Deros center

to 90th Replacement Battalion in Long Binh. There, he processes through customs, converts all MPC in his possession to greenbacks and waits out the final hours before boarding the plane for home. Anyone wishing to convert more than \$200 from MPC to stateside currency should bring a commander's certificate to authorize the exchange.

After turning over your luggage to customs at 90th Replacement you will have no access to it until you claim it in the United States. Any articles which will be needed during those last couple of days (shaving kit and other toilet articles, a change of clothes, etc.) should be packed in a carry-on bag.

Since luggage is X-rayed during customs processing it's a good idea not to pack any contraband items. Outlawed are ammunition or explosives of any kind, classified documents, pornography, government property, narcotics, unregistered weapons, switchblades and knives over eight inches in length except when registered as war trophies.

With all Derosing procedures and details finally taken care of, you will find yourself within hours of departure. From this point on, all that is necessary to assure yourself a seat on that "freedom bird" is that you stay out of trouble and don't be late for your flight. When you start climbing those steps into that big, beautiful plane you'll know you're short. 

# THE PEOPLE CAUGHT BETWEEN

By SP4 Charles Petit

Harassed, deprived of their rice and corn by the Communists, terrified by the blind eye of free fire zone warfare, the Montagnard tribespeople inhabiting Phuoc Long Province are being thrust into a period of tumultuous social change.

A simple, hardy people, labelled "primitive" by those who enjoy the fruits of technological civilization, these elusive villagers are gradually being forced closer to the villages and market centers inhabited by ethnic Vietnamese.

The 1st Air Cavalry Division and all other allied units that have operated in Phuoc Long's jungles and the razor edges of the central highlands spilling across the province's northern half, have contributed to the change in the Montagnard life. Working through the province government and MACCORDS

(Military Assistance Command Civil Operation Revolutionary Development Support), the Cav is also doing its share to aid the Montagnards as they adjust their ways to the new reality.

No one knows how many Montagnards live in Phuoc Long but one CORDS official hazarded a guess at 35-40,000. Whatever the total is, many have drastically changed their surroundings in the last several years. There are 42,000 people in Phuoc Long who have been forced to move because of the war. Of these, approximately half are Montagnard.

Few, however, are still classified as refugees, the rest having been able to establish viable economies for their new communities.

The story of how this massive change in the local demography has been handled is one of dedicated work by province officials, their advisers and the displaced themselves.

A thick yellow band on the map in the ethnic adviser's office for CORDS tells part of the tale. The adviser is Joe Langlois, a civilian who, after spending a year in Vietnam as an Air Force staff sergeant, is back doing his part to ease the suffering caused by war. The band on the map nearly circles a lumpy, many-layered bullseye labelled "Nui Ba Ra." It represents the 22,000 people in the Song Be area who are or have been refugees around the flanks of the mountain. Other yellow splotches indicate smaller resettlement areas in the province.

As ethnic minority adviser, Joe gets involved in the entire picture encompassing refugees, war victims and Hoi Chanh (one-time Viet Cong who have renounced their Communist beliefs). It is a picture constantly changing as the war continues to shuttle populations about.

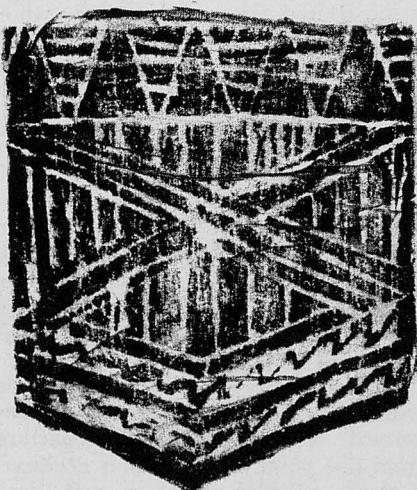
In a mid-August interview at the Song Be CORDS headquarters, he

glanced at the map and said, "We'll be getting another 300 Vietnamese from Tay Ninh any day now, people who have come down the river from Cambodia. They'll be living in an area the Cav just cleared on the southeast side of the mountain. We have 196 Montagnards that just arrived from the Bo Duc-Bu Gia Map area to the north. They either walked all the way down here or else appeared at the Cav's fire-base Snuffy up there. On top of all that, Montagnards coming across the border tell us that there are 300 more villagers preparing to come in from Cambodia. There's no telling when they might arrive."

The new arrivals can expect to remain on refugee status for about six months. During that period, the aid given each family is substantial, and is gauged to preserve the recipient's self-esteem. Each family is given 5,000 piasters (about \$40) for general housing materials, 2,500 piasters for cement (or given cement), basic utensils, ten sheets of roofing tin and, to tide them over until first crops come in, six months' supply of rice.

Usually entire villages will relocate en masse. How a village decides to use the aid is up to its members—the planning and structure of the buildings reflect their taste and willingness to build. All they're given is land roughly cleared of heavy brush, a site for their village and the security provided by the Cav's 2nd Brigade at Fire Support Base Buttons and the numerous ARVN, Regional Force and Popular Force compounds that lie about the towering, extinct volcano that is Nui Ba Ra.

The program in Phuoc Long has been spectacularly successful, prompting the government to send refugees to Song Be from other provinces. In August, there were 742 people classified as refugees, indicating roughly the number of peo-



*Montagnards decorate their crafts with intricate patterns carved into the wood or woven into the cloth such as this shield-like pattern.*

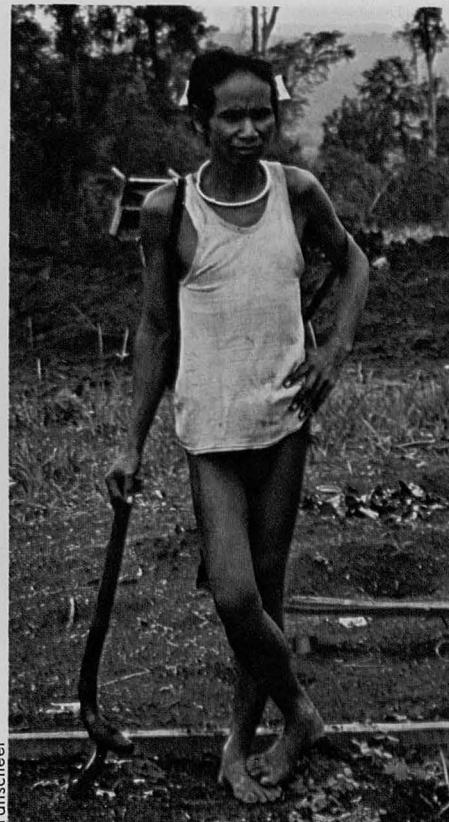
ple who had been taken into the program in the previous six months. Thousands of others have successfully established their self-sufficiency.

Self-sufficiency has always been a part of the Montagnards' isolated societies. To regain it in their new surrounding, however, required that they be given aid. If it were not forthcoming, they would likely be absorbed into the Vietnamese culture, their dependency forcing them to abandon their old ways in order to survive the initial cultural shock.

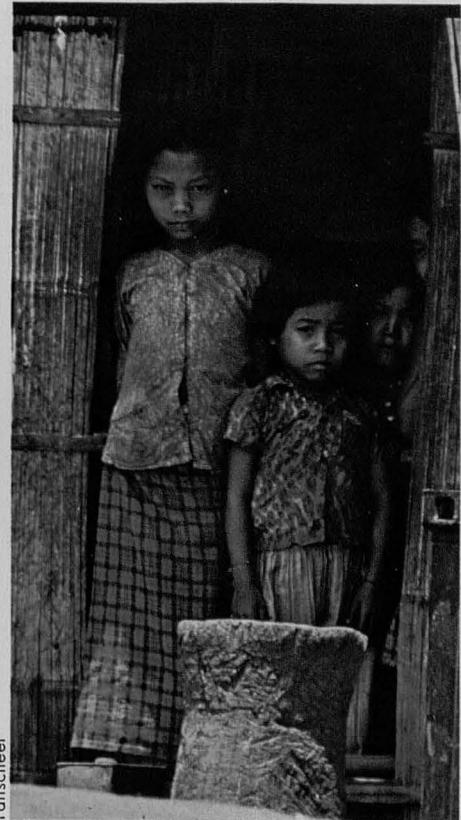
The Montagnards are a new part of the Song Be peoplescape. Thanks in part to the aid they have received, coupled to their own hard work and determined pride, they are maintaining their culture and seem determined to retain it.

Much of the aid upon which people like Joe Langlois rely come from the Cav. In fact, its influence is clearly felt all along the route that creates a refugee of a harried, nomadic Montagnard existing in the no-man's land of the Phuoc Long jungles and hills. Cav PSYOPS (Psychological Operations), by way of leaflet drops and heliborne loudspeaker missions, inform the jungle dwellers of the benefits of seeking the government's protection and how to go about getting it.

When the ralliers come in, they are



Fallscheer



Fallscheer

*A bold, fiercely independent people, Montagnards are clinging to their traditional way of life in spite of the war. Men wear loinloths and cut bamboo with curved knives (above) and children wear colorful woven cloth. Agriculture is by the slash and burn technique, clearing a patch of jungle and planting crops then moving on in a few years.*

Fallscheer





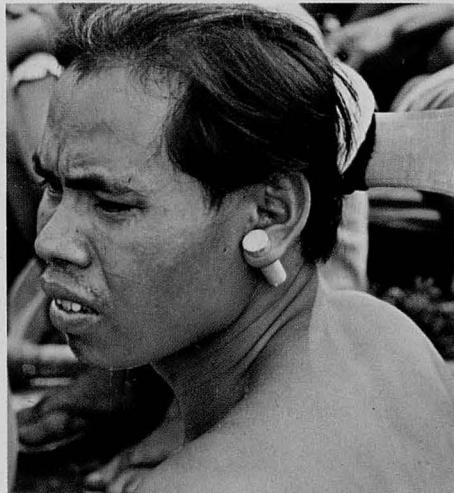
*Resettled Montagnard villagers have put their lives together again and constructed thatched huts in the midst of their rice paddies (top) or tin-roofed huts like the ones in Dak Son, a village the VC burned in 1967 (below top). The people look like a page out of National Geographic (below middle and bottom) including women who sport ivory earrings in their pierced ears.*



McKeown



McKeown



Foltscheer

frequently greeted by 2nd Brigade Skytroopers at 1st Cav installations. Literally hundreds have emerged from the tangled terrain surrounding FSB Snuffy tucked in the northeast corner of the province. Cambodia is only a few miles distant and many walk in from there.

In contributing to the resettlement programs, Cav engineers have cleared three village sites since October of 1969. Construction materials, engineer stakes, surplus steel drums and more than five tons of foodstuffs have been contributed since October to surrounding communities. Much of the rice captured in Cambodia was donated to the province for distribution to refugees.

An example of the life of the relocated Montagnards can be found in the four hamlets that make up Dak Son Village on the north side of the mountain.

Snuggled among banana trees and muddy paths overlooking the smooth flow of the Song Be River in the valley below, it is a pleasant place to visit. For one unused to being among such people, it is though he were visiting a living, breathing edition of "National Geographic."

Despite the change, much of the life goes on as it has for centuries. Long houses, now under tin roofs instead of the pest-filled thatch, house five families apiece in communal intimacy. Within the houses, dirt corridors run past the raised platforms of rich, brown, woven bamboo on which the people cook, eat, sleep, love and raise their children. Lightweight partitions divide life into patterns familiar to generations of Montagnards.

Basic garments are made of material the women weave on looms held rigid in their laps to form traditional designs. Naked children play in the warm security their society provides. Bare-breasted,

skirted women and men in loincloths move through the village on their way to the fields of corn and highland rice or to sell and buy goods in the Vietnamese marketplace nearby.

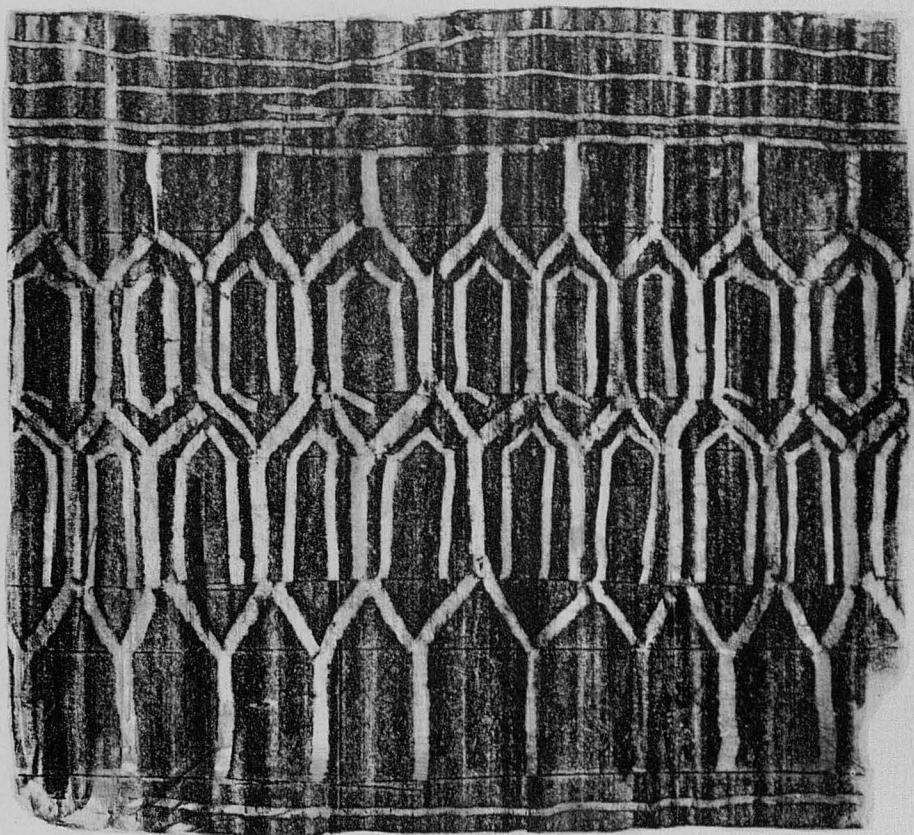
Life was much this way in the old Dak Son several miles on the other side of the river. Until 1967, an uneasy relationship was maintained with the Viet Cong around old Dak Son. The people lived comfortably enough, but they had to sell most of their crops to the Communists (the Viet Cong have always been noted for paying fair prices for everything they take). However, the people refused to actively support the guerrillas.

No one is quite sure why, but one night in 1967 the Viet Cong took terrible retribution for the villagers' hostility. Equipped with flame-throwers, several squads of enemy soldiers entered the village and burned their way to one of the war's worst atrocities. When they left, 300 people had died fiery deaths and many of the people of Dak Son today still bear scars looking like parchment on their brown torsos and limbs.

So, Dak Son moved, all 1300 people relocating next to the mountain among the Vietnamese. It's a new life.

The adjustments required may be significant for the future of the Mon-

*Beautiful patterns are woven into dresses, shawls and blankets by women crouching over hand looms in thatched bamboo walled huts (below). Another design (above) is a rubbing from carvings decorating a circular stringed musical instrument fashioned from bamboo.*



Porter

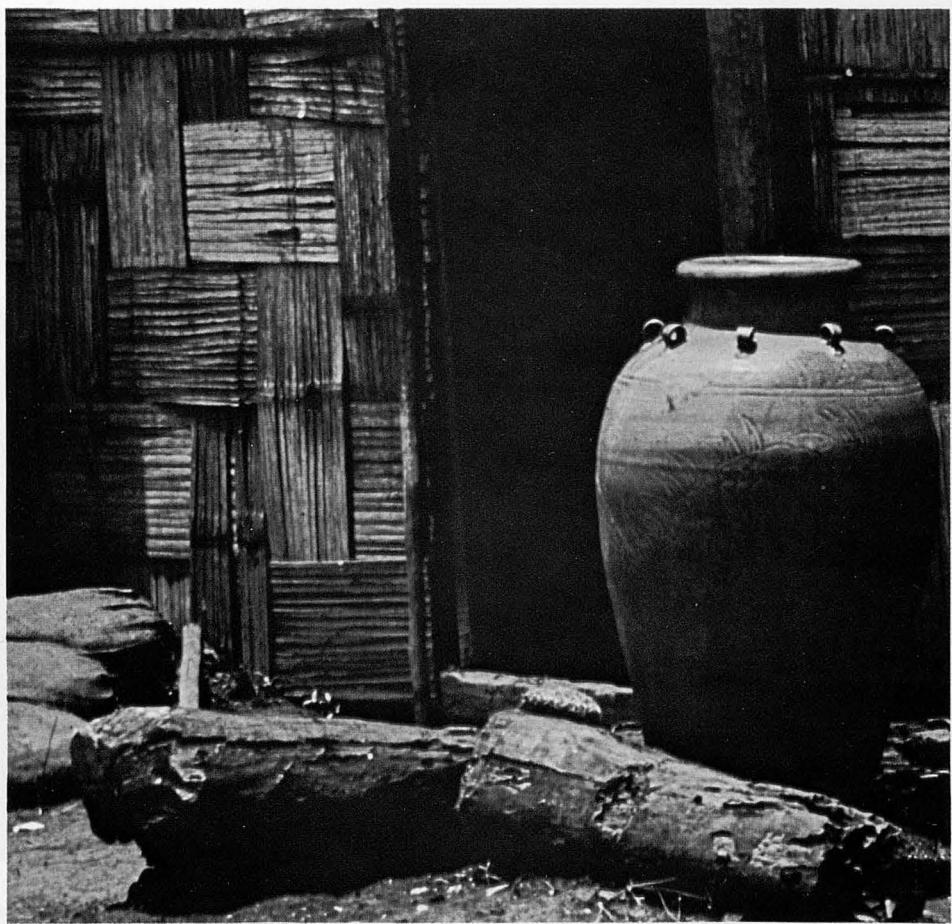
tagnard. Education, which had been begun by the French but had fallen off in recent years, is now being actively promoted.

"The most pressing reason for educating these people," said Langlois, "is to give them the knowledge and sophistication to recognize exploitation when they see it. They're only now adjusting to a money economy. They could be taken advantage of."

No one is out to impose a culture on anyone. As soon as security is achieved, the government's "Return to Village" program is available to the people. "Already," said Langlois, "one village that had moved from one side of the mountain to the other has moved back—the Cav cleared the land, as a matter of fact. People moving back get the same aid as when they were refugees. In other parts of the country, the program is enjoying tremendous success.

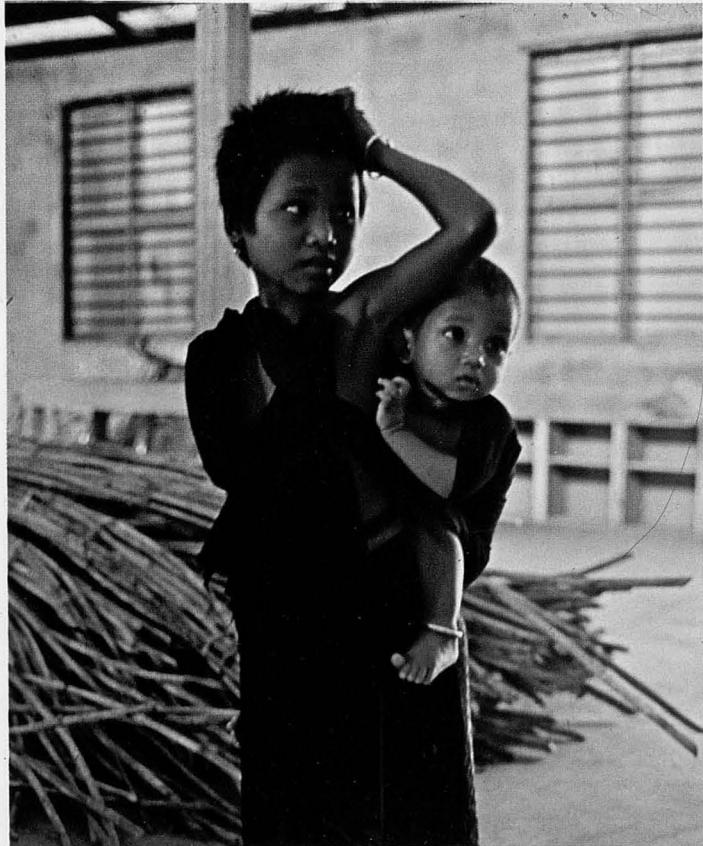
"Since most of the Montagnards are extremely close to their land, nearly all of them want to return to their old villages—the land there was often superior, anyway. The structures they're in now are only permanent if they want them to be."

It's up to the Montagnards what their future will be: to become part of the Vietnamese culture, to return to their isolated lifestyles or to achieve a synthesis of cultures that provides the benefits of both.



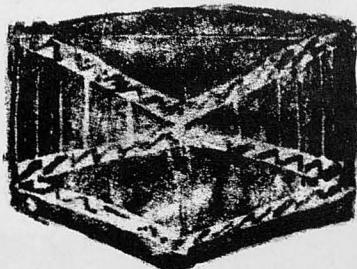
*A large pot used for storing rice stands in front of a woven walled hut (above). Montagnard girls grow up fast and begin helping care for their younger brothers and sisters (below left). At the Montagnard Mission in Song Be, men are creating an infant industry making crafts including rattan furniture (below right) under the guidance of the sisters.*

McKeown



McKeown





# MISSION: MONTAGNARDS

By SP4 Ron McKeown

Some stop only once, to buy a crossbow, a knife or a bead necklace. Others come again and again to shop and to watch the so-called "primitive" people work and learn.

"The mission..." "Sister Mary Thomas..." are familiar beginnings of sentences uttered by 1st Air Cavalry Division men living and working at nearby Fire Support Base Buttons, home of the Cav's 2nd Brigade.

The mission is much more than just a place to buy authentic Montagnard crafts. Here, in the heart of Phuoc Long Province, seven Montagnard men are learning the craft of making rattan furniture. Here is a marketplace for the Montagnard tribesmen to bring their handicraft to be sold, usually to the American soldiers in the area, so that they can provide for their families.

For the first time in their long history, the Montagnards are being pushed to deal with a money economy. Taken abruptly from their semi-nomadic agrarian existence by the fortunes of war, they have been resettled for their own protection.

Six Catholic nuns have established a mission at Song Be to help the people try to make the difficult transition from their own form of society and culture to the civilization necessitated by their new surroundings. Years of hard work by the sisters has helped educate the Montagnards, adjust them to the changes in their lives and establish a working economy and infant industry.

The six sisters, all with the name Mary, belong to the order of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions, established in Vietnam during the late 1700s. Sister Mary Lea, the Chinese Superior, is in charge of the mission but is seldom seen.

Sisters Mary Thomas of England and Mary Laurence of New Zealand work with the Montagnards in the workshop

McCabe



*Sister Mary Thomas is one of the six Catholic nuns who volunteered to help the Montagnard people in the Song Be area by establishing a mission and helping them adjust to a new way of life.*

and can usually be seen leaning over a pile of cement and sand, demonstrating to the men how it should be mixed, or teaching other skills. They also handle the buying of the handicrafts made by the tribespeople and sold to the 2nd Brigade Skytroopers.

"I encourage them to make the crossbows," says Sister Mary Thomas. "It's creative, gives them a meager living and soldiers provide a market." The sisters keep a very small percentage of the purchase price and many times take nothing for themselves.

Inside the newly completed workshop, seven men from the nearby village of Dak Son are learning the craft of making furniture.

"The purpose was not to start an industry," Sister Mary Thomas said, "but to train the men to earn a living for their families." Now, however, the infant industry has borne profitable fruit and the sisters hope to recruit more of the people into the shop.

1st Lt. Michael J. Olenczuk, psychological operations officer for the 2nd Brigade, is quite optimistic about the future for the newly established industry.

"A Saigon market is opening up which will absorb great quantities of the crafts, especially the rattan furniture and woven cloth," he said.

The Montagnard craftsmen have done favors for Cavalrymen several times. After the Cambodian operation, the men of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cav had a number of prized war trophies, SKS rifles, which had damaged stocks. The Montagnards were contracted to carve new stocks. The craftsmen at the mission were paid for their work but not forgotten. In September, when the battalion moved to Phuoc Vinh, they gave their most prized possession, Michael B., to the mission. Michael B. is a pink pig captured in Cambodia who acted as battalion mascot.

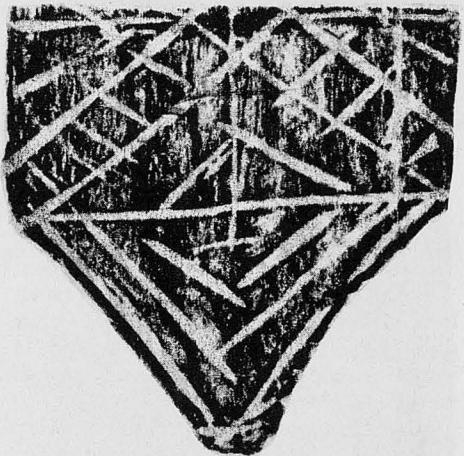
While the men are learning a trade, two Vietnamese sisters, Mary Angel and Mary Christian, are teaching Montagnard children the Vietnamese language in a recently-completed brick school.

The Vietnamese language is taught "to lessen the prejudice which is felt toward the Montagnard people as a whole," said Sister Mary Laurence. It is hard to communicate in the native

Montagnard language but the sisters are learning from the workmen. It is a tongue that was not even written until recently.

A third Vietnamese sister, Mary Josephine, is a common sight to the Song Be villagers as she speeds off on her bicycle to the Phuoc Long hospital, where she tends the Montagnard ward.

They are six sisters with a common mission—to help the Montagnard tribespeople with their difficult adjustment to a new kind of life.



*The best way to teach is by example, Sister Mary Laurence finds in the Montagnard Mission. She helps a Montagnard man fashion rough wood into rattan furniture.*

McKeown





# RAT PATROL

By SP5 Jerry Norton

The convoy was eight kilometers from Bu Dop. Suddenly a B-40 round streaked into the second vehicle, a 3/4 ton truck and it burst into flames, blocking the road.

"It was July 18 and we were escorting engineers with bridge materials to Bu Dop," said Staff Sergeant Lawrence Tinsley of Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry. "At first we thought they'd just hit the front vehicles but in a few minutes they were attacking the whole length of the convoy with RPGs, B-40s and automatic weapons."

"I was in a V-100 combat car right behind the truck that blew," said Sergeant William Dustin, another member of Delta Troop's Blue Platoon. "We pulled off the road and began raking the treeline with our machineguns. The jungle was only 25 meters away and the NVA had bunkers on both sides. It was weird to see the enemy there in khaki uniforms, with their officers blowing whistles and pointing in our direction."

Lieutenant Thomas Zorn, Delta Troop's executive officer, was the convoy commander. "The convoy stretched for a mile and a half, and so did the ambush. Delta Troop had six V-100s and they did most of the initial firing that kept the enemy away."

In three minutes Zorn had a Pink Team making runs and in another ten



Locher

*Relaxing for a moment before heading out to protect a 1st Air Cav convoy, members of the Delta Trop "Rat Patrol" pose with the biggest weapon in their arsenal, a jeep with a mounted recoilless rifle. The colorful soldiers are fast to react when trouble strikes a convoy.*



Locher



Locher

minutes he had Blue Max Cobras lashing jungle with rockets and minigun fire. The dug-in enemy battalion kept up their fire, which began at 6 p.m., for an hour and a half. By that time the defense organized by Delta Troop, combined with eight sections of ARA and two air strikes, had borne the brunt

of the attack.

With the enemy fire diminished to rounds from snipers, the convoy pulled out, detouring around abandoned vehicles, heading for safety before complete darkness. Delta Troop's vehicles were the last to leave. The next day the bodies of six NVA were found in the area,

with numerous blood trails leading away from the contact. One engineer had been killed and one Delta Trooper seriously wounded.

"Reconnaissance missions and escorting convoys are our two main duties," said Captain Eldon Anderson. "The other 1st of the 9th troops do the same

sort of thing, only they use helicopters. We use wheels."

In the airmobile 1st Cav, Delta Troop, sometimes dubbed the "Rat Patrol" after the TV series about World War II armed jeeps in North Africa, is a unique, all-wheeled outfit. It has a red, a white and a blue platoon.

The red and white scout platoons consist of gun jeeps with M-60s providing the firepower. The blue platoon has nine V-100 armored combat cars which carry two M-73 heavy machineguns and one M-60.

Each platoon also has a jeep-mounted recoilless rifle and an infantry and mortar squad that rides on a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck. In all the troop, with a strength of just

over 100 men, has 27 combat vehicles.

It's easy to tell a Delta trooper after a day on recon or with a convoy. He's covered with dust and mud from head to foot, except for the narrow strip around his eyes protected by goggles.

"A lot of the time we just eat dust," said Sergeant Kenneth Jones, a section leader with the scouts. "Most convoys are pretty uneventful."

One platoon is assigned to escort convoys of less than 100 vehicles. Larger convoys get two platoons. A Delta Troop officer is in charge of security, coordinating with Pink Teams from other troops and with artillery. Delta has an artillery forward observer assigned to ensure fast and accurate heavy weapons

support.

The other main assignment for the Rat Patrol, reconnaissance, is usually performed in the Phuoc Vinh area, where the troop has its headquarters.

"Usually we have something specific to check," said Sergeant James Artis of the white platoon's recoilless rifle crew, "like a sensor reading, suspected rocket launching or mortar site or something suspicious they've spotted from the air."

The scouts will usually begin such a recon mission early in the morning. The red or white platoon will get as close as possible to the site to be checked out. If the road ends and the terrain is impassable, the men dismount and proceed on foot.

Locher





*Red III Corps dust coats Rat Patrol troops after a long, hot day of guarding a convoy (above). A V-100 combat car bristling with machineguns rolls across a narrow bridge at the head of a long line of trucks headed for Song Be.*

"We and a security element remain behind with the vehicles," said Sergeant Ed Perry, a mortarman. "We set up the mortar both to protect the vehicles and provide support for the advance elements."

If the unit runs into contact, reinforcements are swiftly on the way. When one platoon took sniper fire east of Phuoc Vinh on August 13, a call to the troop's Tactical Operations Center quickly had another platoon at the contact site as artillery and ARA provided support.

Though convoy escort and reconnaissance make up most of the troop's missions, they catch a miscellany of other assignments. "Sometimes they have us pull ambushes," said Sergeant Osvaldo Bustamante, a Delta infantry section leader, "or they send us out to secure birds that have gone down near Phuoc Vinh."

Another common assignment for the Rat Patrol is to set up checkpoints on roads. All traffic is stopped to make sure that the drivers have proper identification and that no military goods are being illegally transported.

The majority of the officers in the troop are from the armor branch, while most of the men have infantry MOSs. Regardless of their background, though, they work together to make Delta Troop's wheels a unique and effective part of the 1st Cav, whether on recon bouncing along the ruts of a logging trail or manning an isolated checkpoint.



Locher

# SKYBEAVERS— trying harder



By SP4 David R. Charlton

The annual monsoon rains turn the areas into mudholes capable of bringing a 2½ ton truck to a wallowing halt. Tangled jungle studded with thick stands of oak, teak or banyan trees, rolling hills etched by small, sluggish rivers abound, making moving 10 kilometers a day an accomplishment.

Under these conditions can you find an engineering firm stateside which can build habitable areas within two days, finished in five days and then be ready to move to a new area? Which can build sites at almost any rate required?

And can this company move its men and heavy equipment and material over undeveloped, no-road real estate and be in the required spot in a number of hours?

There is such a construction firm, and the 1st Cav has it. The airstrips they build and repair keep supplies flowing in by Air Force fixed wing with the necessary regularity. The roads keep the Cav maneuverable on the ground. Those 'housing developments,' the firebases, are battalion jumping off points putting the Cav companies where Charlie is.

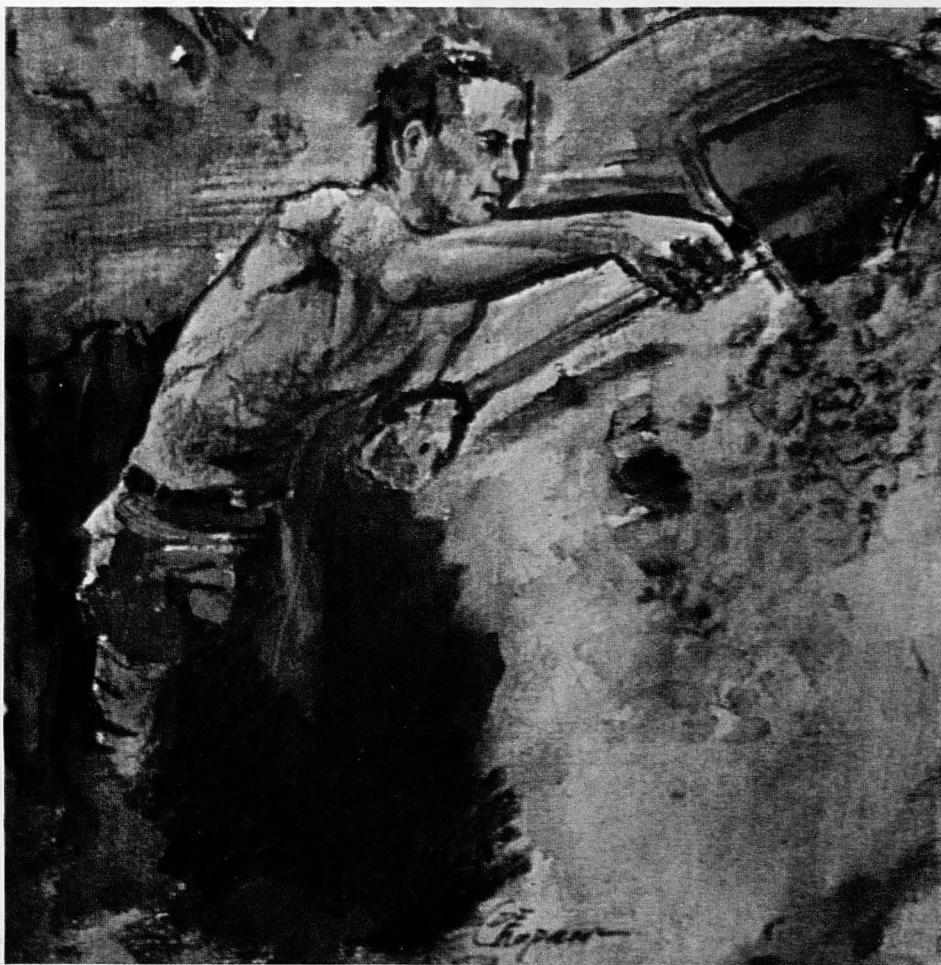
The Skybeavers, nicknamed for their cross between engineering and airmobility, also find other uses for their time—establishing water points, minesweeping for convoys, ferrying troops across swirling streams when necessary, building bridges and constructing buildings in the rear areas of Phuoc Vinh and Bien Hoa.

Their primary and probably most important job, building LZs and firebases, starts with a patch of land which is just a coordinate on the map of the division's area of operations. Elephants, deer and boa constrictors are most likely the only inhabitants of the roadless countryside, covered with everything from saw grass and bamboo thickets to giant banyan trees with their roots forming an external Gorgon's Knot. Taking up the challenge of the roots' mythical counterpart, the Skybeavers go to work.

Planning of the base begins with consideration of things like water supply, drainage and the availability of land suitable to building landing strips. If the area meets these needs and the other requirements set up by the infantry and the artillery, the date for the opening of the firebase is set.

Engineers are to push up a berm of earth, build the TOC, fire direction center, medical and communications bunkers, ammunition and garbage dumps and clear a field of fire around the base. Then the other firebase inhabitants sandbag and build up the base.

"Down here in Phuoc Vinh," according to Capt. Robert Howard, the 8th Engineers' S-3, "is where the engineering equipment comes from for the work in the different brigades. The tactical commander coordinates the lifts of equipment and materials through normal



Chapman

channels. The construction effort is then scheduled by the engineer unit commander."

First the Hueys come with battalion Skytroopers and engineers. The first sortie contains only a handful of men and equipment. These pioneers begin the initial stages of clearing away the thick brush and sparse tree overgrowth.

The area is first worked into a PZ (pickup zone), room enough for one or two birds to land if the room is not already there. What will be the perimeter of the new Cav firebase slowly emerges from the virgin landscape.

Within an hour after they are dropped, the operators have the bulldozers and other heavy equipment reassembled and in operation, moving tons of earth with the ease of a child playing in a sandbox. They pile up a perimeter berm and rake open fields of fire for defensive weapons. The Case 450s, the small bulldozers swung in by a Flying Crane and a Chinook, both sometimes equipped with Rome Plow blades, dig and scrape the trees and and foliage, saw grass and brush. Bamboo the size of a Skytrooper's forearm and large oak trees fall before the plows and efforts of the Skybeavers. Scraping, chopping, sawing and hoeing until the once green landscape is mud red with nothing higher than a small rock. The blade and chain saws, sledge hammers and axes have done their job

to give the men on the firebase adequate protection from creeping sappers.

Depending on the size of the firebase, the work will take two to three days. Perimeter bunkers must be dug and sandbagged, chain link fences erected around them and more wire strung about the perimeter.

Priority is given to the gun pits for the 105mm and 155mm howitzers. Simultaneously soldiers work on the fire direction center (FDC) and the tactical operations center (TOC), both of which half protrude above the ground surface. Hefty beams and large culverts provide the skeletons and sandbags, ammo boxes full of dirt and flooring come later.

Despite the rain (or the dust, depending on the season), the whole base rapidly takes shape. The VIP pad, log pad and sling-out pad are completed, ammo, supply and water points readied and a medical bunker and even a garbage dump finished. Even when the firebase is completed, a handful of engineers stay behind to handle any problems that might arise.

Ripping apart the same bases when they're no longer needed is another important engineer duty. "We try to make the area look essentially like it did before we got there," Capt. Howard explained. "Of course, there are things we can't do. The bare ground will still be there and so will the mud and the dust.

But anything which came with us will either leave with us or be buried."

The busy engineers quickly undo their hours of hard work—bulldozing down the berm, dismantling the bunkers, sling-ing out the culverts, PSP and huge wooden beams for further use.

"We take apart the firebases for two reasons," said Capt. Howard. "First, out of respect for the people living in the area—it's their land. And to keep the enemy from making use of any of our material."

Even the sandbags are either emptied and taken with the engineers or infantrymen or are buried deeply by the Skybeaver bulldozers with the ammunition boxes and other debris not worth taking.

"Carrying on the operation in Cambodia was a real test of the Cav's air-mobility. We had over 14 dozers at work clearing all the bases almost at once. It was like one big checker game with the Cranes and Chinooks. Chances are that if you were on a firebase and looked up you would either see one of our pieces of equipment being slung in or pulled out at any time of any day," Capt. Howard said.

Another major function of the air-mobile engineers is providing airstrips for the more permanent bases to which heavy equipment and many supplies must be ferried by airplane.

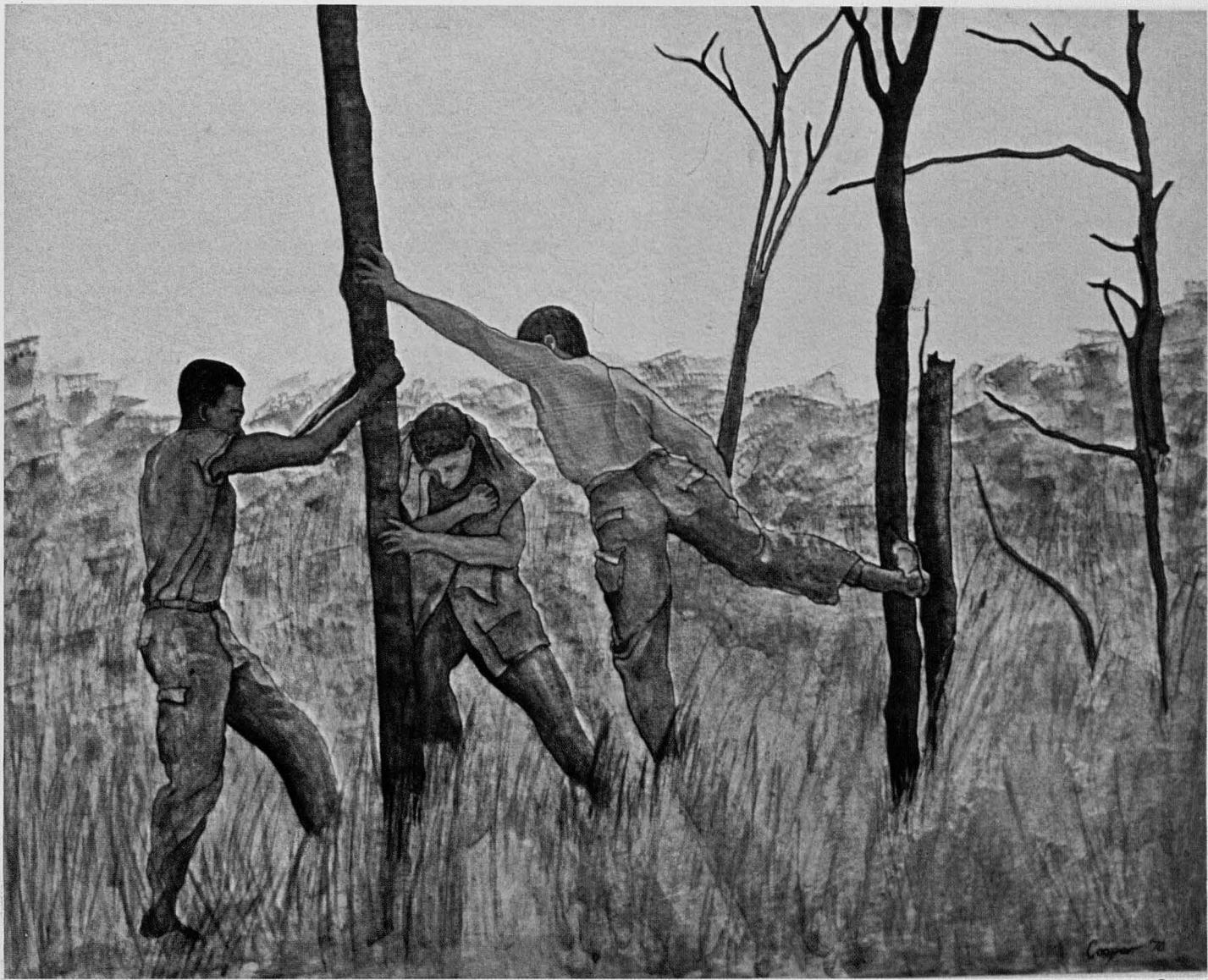
"The first step in building a landing strip over here is to pick a good site," Capt. Howard explained. "What we're looking for is a long, gentle slope at least 1500 feet long. Then we bring in the bulldozers, scraping away any cover and creating the necessary slope and levelness. Then we bring in the laterite once the area has been cleared and leveled. A very low grade of iron ore, it comes in the form of nuggets coated with a clay dirt."

The ore, mined in the river banks and nearby hills, is spread dry, a little water is added, then it is rolled into a hard, cement-like surface. "We use repeated coats of peneprime to seal the surface from water seepage and take periodic core samples to determine whether it can bear the weight of aircraft using it," Capt. Howard said.

All done in 72 hours.

"We still have problems with the rains but we keep some maintenance equipment on the spot," Capt. Howard said. "If water collects they drain it off. If the surface is becoming too muddy or appears to be breaking up we re-roll it or grade it as best we can. Sometimes, however, it gets too bad and we have to stop air traffic and do major repair work."

Forward water points, their building and maintenance are also part of the Cav's repertoire of activities. "We have what we call water point sets, which can be carried in a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck. The equipment includes a 600 gallon tank, hoses



Cooper

and pumps. The whole kit can be slung out, set up out at a firebase and manned and repaired by the engineers left there. FSB Noah was an example of our work," he said.

"Our road building activity is minimal, since the Cav is airmobile, but there are times when we need roads."

The roads are carved out of the jungle by the bulldozers, using Rome Plow blades if necessary. Then they're graded and leveled. The rains create problems, of course.

Minesweeping operations, either on the roads the Cav has built or on ones they find necessary to travel is another day filling activity of the engineers. "Basically, we use metal detectors to uncover anything which might tend to interrupt the steady flow of the convoys. But sometimes either the mines are buried too deeply or are improvised out of wood, in which case the detector's sight and ingenuity are the only protective weapons we have," Capt. Howard explained.

They look for the disturbed dirt, brush, anything which looks out of place. Puddles get close attention, and wires

also. Many times it's just a matter of experience.

Bridge building is another seldom-needed activity which the engineers can do if necessary. For small streams the armed vehicle launch bridge, mounted on a track, scissors out from the vehicle over the water. For wider rivers, the Cav's navy, consisting of two assault boats, 15 man rubber rafts and two double ended "Boston Whalers" are used to ferry men and equipment across rivers which can't be forded and for which no temporary bridge can be constructed.

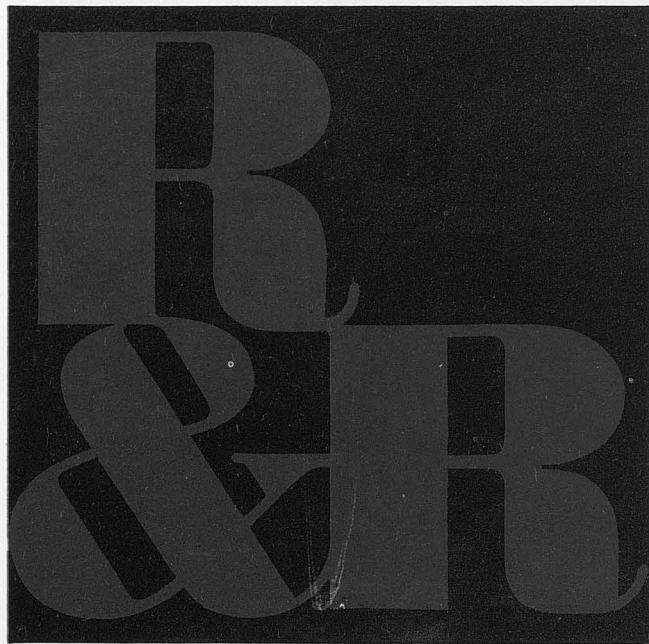
Phuoc Vinh base camp gets its share of attention from the engineers also. Besides building a swimming pool, the DTOC, a rappelling tower and many of the heaviest bunkers and buildings, the Skybeavers make abatis — barriers across well-travelled enemy supply routes in the surrounding area. "We go out with the company then on base defense with maps of the trails and roads to be blocked either as avenues of approach or escape. The engineers act more or less as supervisors with the troops going in to set the charges and do much of the work.

"Most of the men here are two or three year men who were drafted or enlisted and who have civilian acquired skills. But we need more than this—squad leaders for example. Leadership skills have to be trained, if that's possible.

"That's why the Skybeaver Academy came into being. Concentrating mainly on Specialist Fours and PFCs, potential leaders, we put them through a ten day school covering rappelling, demolition, minesweeping, construction of firebases, machinery maintenance, in short, anything the battalion does. The whole point is to enable them to take over positions of responsibility in engineering line companies," Capt. Howard said.

"We try harder," the motto of the engineers sported on green and black lapel buttons has come to mean the construction of finished firebases in two days, the total dismantling of them in a matter of hours. It means fashioning jungle into airstrips in 72 hours or roads in a day. Ask the impossible and the engineers will promise the Cav "We try harder."





### By SP4 Terry Turner

A trip. An authorized trip. In fact, two authorized trips. From the minute you arrive in Vietnam, visions of Sydney, Hong Kong, Taipei, Hawaii and Bangkok dance in your head. And 1st Cav men can visit two of the five during a tour of the Orient.

Your R & R (rest and recuperation) and leave, each totaling seven days, are the most discussed items in Vietnam, next to a discharge, and some of the best information will come from buddies who have been there. But a few tips inscribed in your mind now, little things, will help ease you out of country with as little torment as possible.

Your request for R & R goes through the Adjutant General's office to the White House in Bien Hoa no later than 15 days prior to the month you wish to breakout. Leave requests must be submitted 30 days in advance to Management Personnel Actions in Bien Hoa. Individual units may have earlier deadlines.

Your request for R & R is granted on a time-in-country basis—seniority but not by rank. If you are turned down for a desired site you can resubmit or try and obtain a turnback R & R—an available seat not yet filled. These vacancies come out after the 15th day of every month. A simple phone call confirms your seat but must be followed by Cav forms 96 and 97. Turnbacks are filled on a first come basis.

People whose paperwork has been fouled up get a standby R & R which means waiting until confirmed seats are filled and taking what's left.

The real hassle is trying to get out on leave. Leave personnel must wait until all three categories of R & R personnel board a particular flight before they can get on. When going on leave you may have to accept another choice or face the possibility of not getting out. The sites run on a popularity pole of Sydney, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Taipei.

*T. T. TIP: Take your leave as late in your tour as you can hold out; make your R & R request is for the place you most want to see; and take leave during the latter part of the month when a majority of the cancellations come in.*

There is an alternative to the leave problem which guarantees you'll get out, but it is costly. You can pay your own way. This is only practical to Hong Kong and Bangkok. For Bangkok you need a passport which can be obtained at the American Embassy in Saigon.

Once you have filed for R & R or leave, the steps are simple. The secret is MIDSO—money, I.D. card, shot record and orders. Without any one of the four, you will be returned to Bien Hoa or your unit.

All S-1 shops (AG) should get your orders to you, if not, you can pick them up at the White House in Bien Hoa.

Shot records and I. D. cards are the individual's responsibility as is money. All shots—cholera, plague and small pox—must be given no later than six days prior to departure.

When collecting money, have proof of origin. You can convert \$500 at Camp Alpha without a commander's certificate, anything over that requires a certificate. You can carry up to \$1,000 out of country. If money is coming from home, route it through the Red Cross which verifies the check for cashing at Camp Alpha (Saigon). Postal orders photos, \$12 and a signed statement from an officer at the records section in Bien Hoa verifying your citizenship, date and place of birth. Neither a passport nor visa is required for Hong Kong. Hong Kong will cost \$130 and Bangkok under \$90.

*T. T. TIP: Anything you bring back from any site while traveling commercially on leave is subject to Vietnamese customs and importation taxes which are high—send everything home via mail.*

Continued on page 32

Christian



Cowan





*Beautiful white sand beaches, sailing and surfing, stateside city life and probably a very lonely wife will be the highlights of an R & R in our 50th state, Hawaii.*

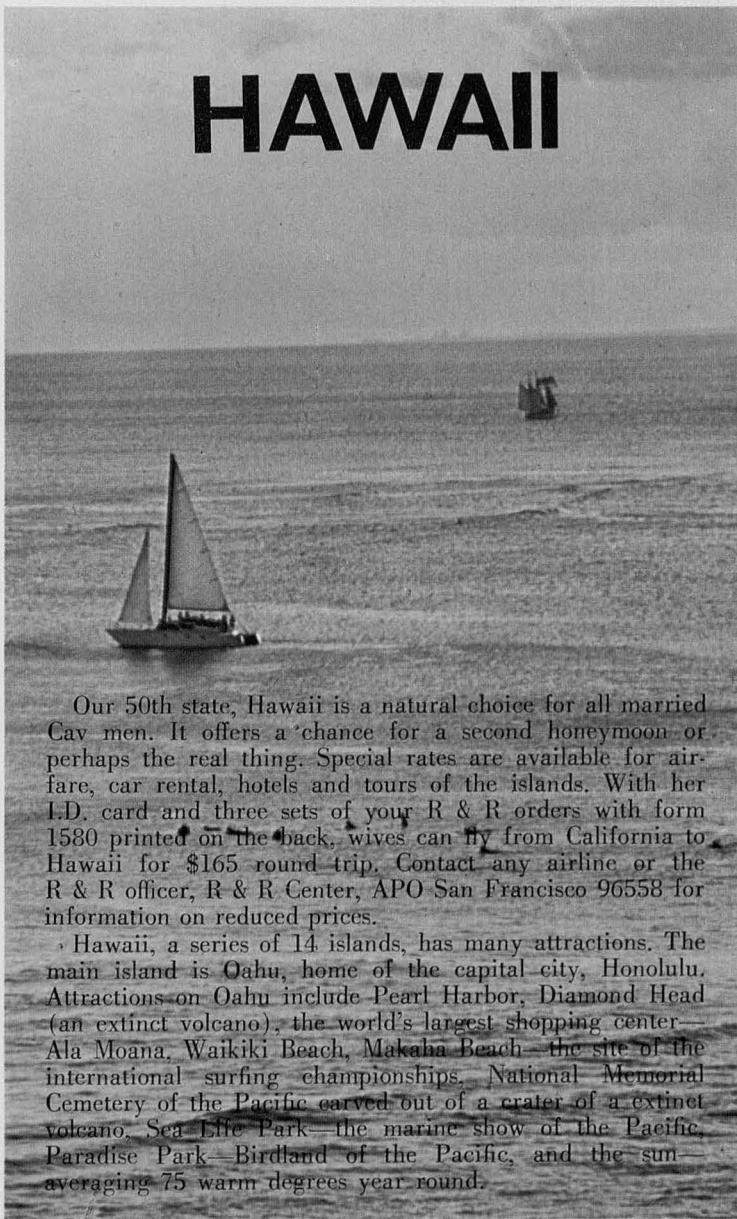
Christian



Christian



Christian



Our 50th state, Hawaii is a natural choice for all married Cav men. It offers a chance for a second honeymoon or perhaps the real thing. Special rates are available for airfare, car rental, hotels and tours of the islands. With her I.D. card and three sets of your R & R orders with form 1580 printed on the back, wives can fly from California to Hawaii for \$165 round trip. Contact any airline or the R & R officer, R & R Center, APO San Francisco 96558 for information on reduced prices.

Hawaii, a series of 14 islands, has many attractions. The main island is Oahu, home of the capital city, Honolulu. Attractions on Oahu include Pearl Harbor, Diamond Head (an extinct volcano), the world's largest shopping center—Ala Moana, Waikiki Beach, Makaha Beach—the site of the international surfing championships, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific carved out of a crater of a extinct volcano, Sea Life Park—the marine show of the Pacific, Paradise Park—Birdland of the Pacific, and the sun—averaging 75 warm degrees year round.



*T. T. TIPS: Make sure your I.D. card hasn't expired; know exactly when your leave dates are and report to Bien Hoa two days early; you need \$250 to leave country.*

Upon arrival in Bien Hoa, all personnel must sign in at the White House to confirm their seat for R & R or, if on leave, to request a seat.

Again, MIDSO will be checked and correction made. If you hold a confirmed seat, your flight will leave in no more than 48 hours. You are then sent to the R & R center where you are given a bunk and a meal pass. Generally, you send one night there, and following a briefing in the morning, bus to Camp Alpha. Leave personnel are given two days to get out. Until you reach Camp Alpha you must wear an uniform—khakis or fatigues. Clean uniforms are available at the center.

You must leave country in civilian clothes or a khaki uniform.

Buses arrive daily at Camp Alpha at 11 a.m. and a simple sign-in procedure follows. All R & R personnel receive their flight numbers and departure times. Leave personnel sign in and must wait at the briefing for each flight to see if they made the flight.

Facilities at Camp Alpha include a barber shop (haircuts, side burns and moustaches are checked) a tailor shop; a laundry and boot shop where your uniform can be cleaned and waiting for you; a snack shop and barracks where you spend at least one night. There are other facilities outside the Camp on the Tan Son Nhut Air Base, including a huge PX where all types of clothing can be bought.

There is a Cav liaison man at the Camp to help with any problems.

On the day of your flight you report to Robinson Hall where you convert your money, fill out emergency data forms, declarations forms and then go through customs.

*T. T. TIPS: Secure all valuables as Cav personnel lose approximately \$1,000 a day in merchandise and money; don't change money into piasters unless you're going to spend it in the shops on base; any try at money manipulation will fail; buy traveler's checks and record the numbers for safe keeping someplace other than your wallet (this can be done at Robinson Hall); and don't try and sneak anything military or any drugs past customs—a trip to LBJ is not on the agenda; you can hand carry a gallon of alcohol with you on the plane coming and going; you can*

*bring back all the items you wish but keep all receipts because any rationed items you possess above the number allocated on your ration card must have proof of purchase or be lost when you're ready to leave country; bring only the tobacco you can smoke on the plane to Sydney, the rest will be confiscated; and blue jeans are not permitted but sandals are permissible with socks.*

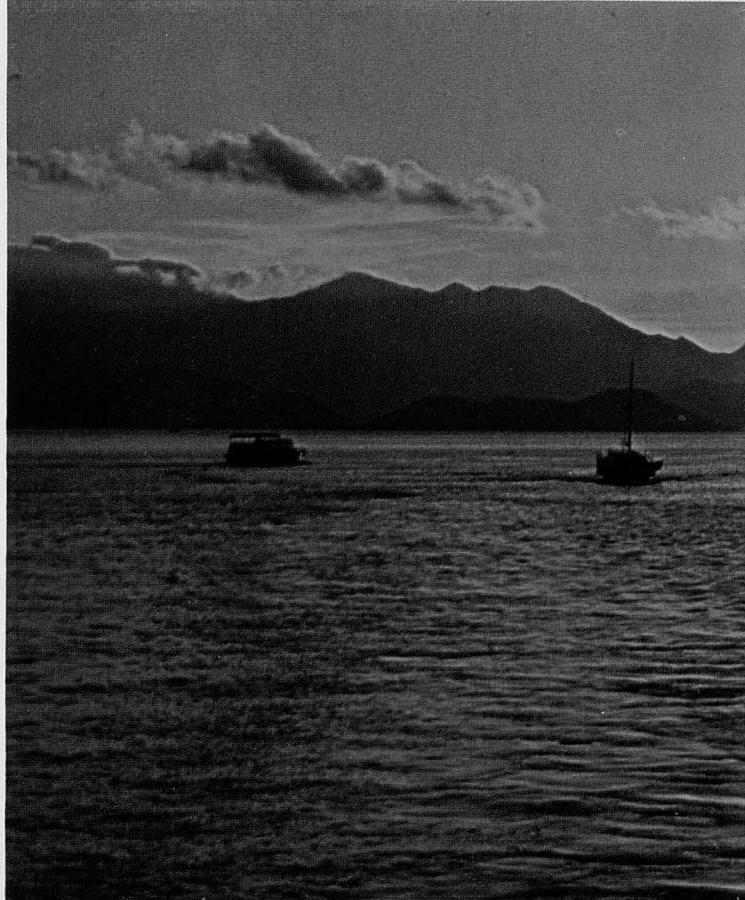
Making your site selection, like the trip, is a once in a lifetime decision. Some people go to the same site twice, most pick two different sites. If you want a second R & R, extend for 90 days, otherwise you get one R & R and leave.

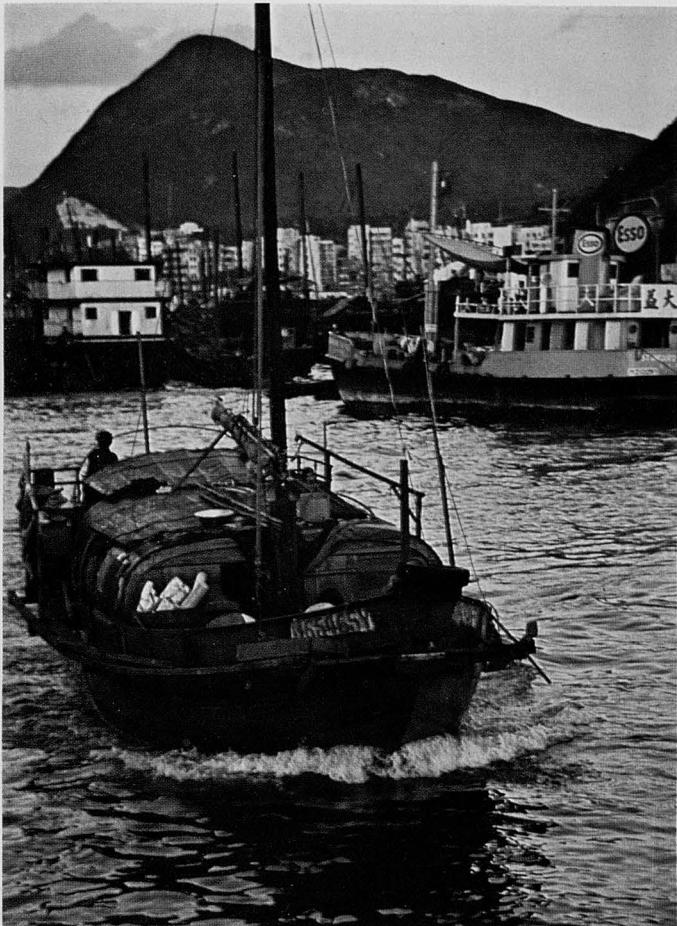


Thornton



Thornton





Thornton

*Hong Kong is most noted for its fabulous bargains in everything from stereos to suits but is also a gleaming white, ultra-modern city with outstanding sight-seeing. And you might even be able to find a chauffeur.*



Thornton

## HONG KONG

Some 854 miles east of Saigon lies the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong, a free port where shopping is what it's all about. You can purchase items from local merchants or the China Fleet Club—a U.S. government run operation offering 65 shops with over 15,000 items. The club offers set prices, guaranteed quality, a packaging service and a post office for mailing. The local hawker of wares is the *Tout* who always has the best deal but who also gets a commission—added to the price of the goods.

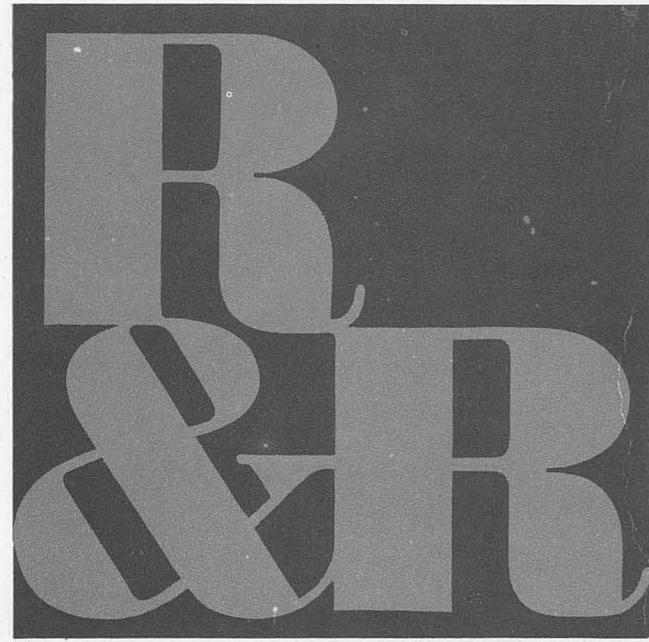
Sightseeing offers great contrasts from neon jungles to the Chinese Communist border to the quiet countryside. Hong Kong consists of the island of Hong Kong, Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories which border the Communist mainland.

The nightlife is also a big plus in Hong Kong. Music of any type and top-rated clubs are available.

Possessing a climate similar to the southern United States, the 36 public Hong Kong beaches around Victoria Harbor offer solid sun bathing, skin diving and water skiing.

Hotels are reasonable and each man is required to get a reservation card for a guaranteed room. Rates run from \$5 to \$13 a day.

Transportation is cheap via the old standby—Oriental taxi. Prices run \$1.50 Hong Kong for the first mile. One U.S. dollar is equal to six Hong Kong dollars.



## BANGKOK

Bangkok offers a marked contrast between the ancient and the modern and is truly a defined vacation as Thai means "free."

The city offers 381 temples and countless palaces as picture possibilities. The most unique attraction is the Grand Palace, a structure covering one square mile and completely enclosed. A boat ride up the Chao Phye River to the floating market, the Temple of Dawn and the Royal Barges is a must. For those in a hurry, Timland, a showcase of Thai life, is available. For the sporting, Thai boxing is available five nights a week. For the adventurous, there is the Chedi, the second largest pagoda in the world, located in Nakorn Pathom, 30 miles from Bangkok.

European, Chinese and Thai talent are available in the many clubs in Bangkok. The music meets all tastes and Thai floor-shows are a treat.

*T. T. TIP: Eat at restaurants and not the clubs offering entertainment, the clubs are not known for their cuisine.*

Transportation is by taxi—how else? You can get anywhere in the city for about 75 cents. Agree on the price first.

When shopping for those souvenirs, remember haggling is mandatory. The exchange rate is 20 Baht for \$1. The best buys are jewelry, silk, Teakwood carvings and bronze-ware. Tailormade clothes are also available.

Being a tropical country, clothing is light and casual with coat and tie at night.



Thompson



Chapman



Thompson



Thompson

## TAIPEI

The least popular site, according to statistics, is Taipei, the capital city of the Island Republic of China located on Taiwan, also known as Formosa. The island is 90 miles from Communist China.

The island sits astride the Tropic of Cancer with temperatures averaging 71 to 75 degrees annually.

Sightseeing is a treat on the island. Taipei is the home of the National Palace Museum which houses 240,000 pieces of Chinese art covering over 30 centuries of Chinese growth. Temples dot the landscape with the most attractive being the Lungshan Temple in Taipei, the oldest on the island. A natural wonder is Taroko Gorge near Taipei featuring large caverns, crevices and tunnels winding through swirling marble formations. Trips through the countryside reveal rolling mountains, huge tea plantations and stacks of rice terraces. There is even snow in the mountains and one ski lift is operational.

Entertainment is flavored with Western tastes and the clubs and bars are numerous. Dress is casual with some clubs requiring coat and tie.

Shopping is an experience in the famous Haggler's Alley. Taipei is also known as the land of the big PX where leave personnel can pick up the same buys as in Vietnam. The plus is the fact more items are on the shelves.

Native items worth purchasing include wood carvings, embroidery, jewelry (especially jade), tailor-made clothes and Chinese pottery and porcelain products.

## AUSTRALIA

Sydney is easily the most popular place for single-minded Cav men and there is a well-rounded reason why—round-eyed girls. Speaking the same language, the Aussies live and work and play like state-side dandies. Sydney offers all the points of interest found in any American city of two-and-a-half million people.

Entertainment centers in Kings Cross, the swinging part of Sydney where youth and their sounds are dominant. There are many private clubs which servicemen can visit courtesy of the owners. Coat and tie are required. Rental clothes are available for about \$9.

Remember Sydney's seasons are the exact opposite of those in the United States.

Hotels are excellent and fairly priced. Single rooms run from \$6 to \$13 a day. Watch the use of room service, it is expensive, especially liquor.

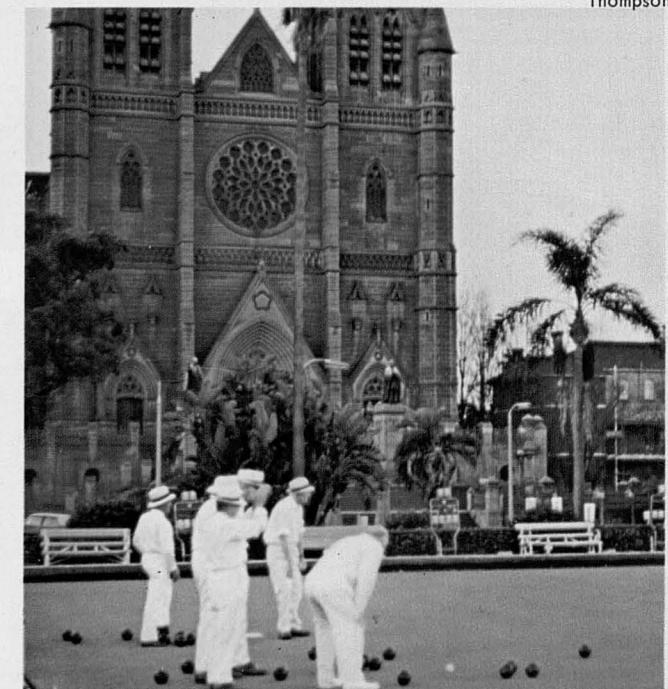
Transportation is reasonable with cabs charging 20 cents a mile (one U.S. dollar is worth 89 cents Australian). Sights to see include the harbor, harbor opera house, Taronga Park Zoo featuring the kangaroo, Koala Bear, anteater and duck-billed Platypus. Also see the Blue Mountains west of Sydney and the Jenolan limestone caves.

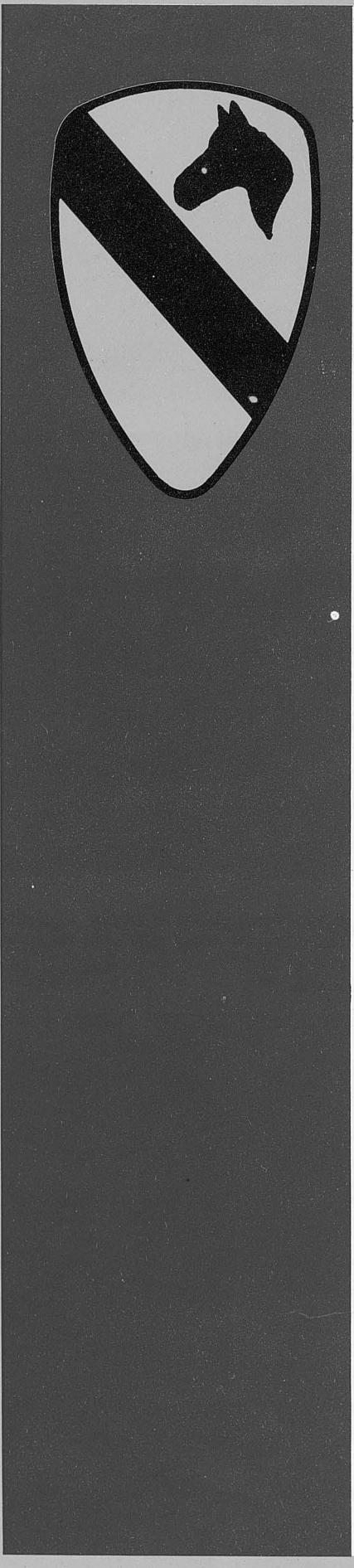
And don't forget the beaches. There are 24 around Sydney affording some of the best swimming and surfing in the world.

Best mementoes of Australia include opals, boomerangs, kangaroo skins, stuffed Koala bears, wood carvings and wool.

*Australia has everything from skiing to surfing to sightseeing to lawn bowling. There is also some nice scenery on the beaches in Sydney and, if a thirst arises, a quaff of powerful native ale will quench it.*

Thompson



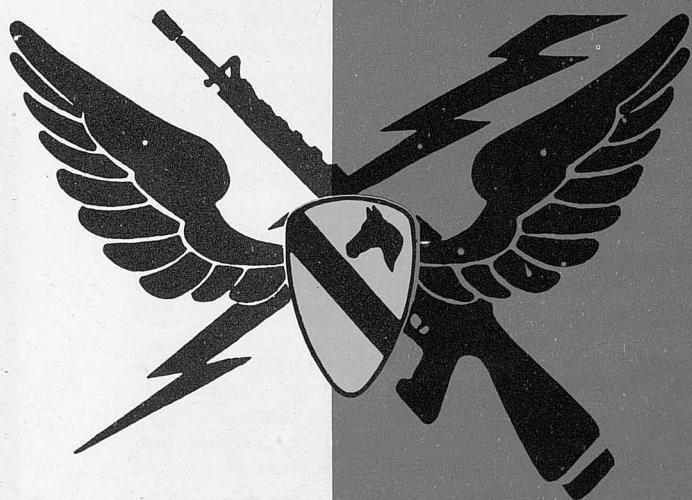


## THE CAVALRYMAN

You may ask, "Whence came this man?"  
Broad shouldered, with a weathered face,  
Mounted and weaponed, looking not just ahead,  
But with perception into even the next decade of  
man.

He has come from the heartland of a nation  
To accept the burden of war.  
From the rich and poor,  
The arrogant rabble and idealist alike,  
Have come the cross section of his breed.  
For him, the torturous trail and endless thirst,  
Fear of death and bitter loneliness.  
The broken bodies of comrades lost too soon are  
assuaged  
Only by the fleeting emotion of brilliant victory!  
He has carved his hallmark on liberty and in so  
doing,  
Cast the long shadow over tyranny.  
Freedom shall have its way wherever he stands.  
By the sinew of his body  
And the spirit of his being,  
He has forged the assurance of a tomorrow.  
You and all mankind already know him.  
His deeds far excel the best efforts of man  
Forever accepting his nation's charge,  
This proud warrior moves, always to the vanguard.  
He is... The Cavalryman.

By Lt. Col. Robert Drudik





Gomez

*Susan Anton, Miss California, 1969*

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