

both of Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, were sitting on their bunkers, a mortar round landed about 100 meters behind them. As they ducked into their

Downed Aviator Gets DFC

BIEN HOA, (USAVN-10)—A war zone officer from the Army's 344th Aviation Company who exposed a Viet Cong ambush and was later shot down has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Terry L. Nisson was on duty covering a convoy of 25th Infantry Division troops returning from Tay Ninh to Chu Chi when he spotted the VC ambush site. The VC opened up on Nisson's UH-1H armed Huey from six automatic weapons positions.

His aircraft was hit ten times as he directed rocket and machinegun fire on the enemy positions. Nisson was wounded in the face and the neck. Another round hit a fuel line and the engine caught fire.

Nisson turned to a small friendly perimeter beside the road and landed, in spite of his wounds and the fact that the helicopter lost power during the final approach to the ground. After the helicopter was on the ground, he refused medical aid until he was assured that the critical items were strapped from the burning ship. He then refused to be evacuated until he led a successful effort to extinguish the blaze, thus saving the entire aircraft, except for the burned engine.

fortress and prepped the overhead cover.

Dzidon's only complaint was that the round had destroyed his only items of comfort in the bunker — an air mattress and a case of soda.

Lieutenant Philip Gibbs, of Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, had a bit more to complain about. The first round, which had landed behind Dzidon's bunker, made a direct hit on the officer's tent, completely destroying everything inside. The tent had been vacated by the lieutenant just before the round landed.



AIRBORNE-SEABORNE—A paratrooper of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and Vietnamese sailor search the shoreline of the Song Be River for signs of Viet activity. The paratroopers and Vietnamese navy were conducting a joint operation along the river. (Photo by Sp4 L. Paul Epley, 173rd A)



Vol. 3, No. 3

Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam

January 28, 1967

Two Pilots Awarded DSC; Presentation By Army Sec

BIEN HOA, (USARV-10)—Two officers with the 116th Assault Helicopter Company, 11th Combat Aviation Battalion, 12th Aviation Group, have received the nation's second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross.

Receiving the awards were Maj. James H. Patterson and Capt. Rolla M. Breed.

Patterson, a commander of a UH-1D Huey helicopter distinguished himself during a troop evacuation west of here. He spotted a downed helicopter and while attempting to rescue the pilots and crew, his own aircraft was shot down.

Dragging a wounded man to safety, he immediately set up a defense perimeter to guard

against the intense enemy fire they were receiving. He then returned to his own helicopter to retrieve a machinegun and while being attacked, he moved through open positions to ensure the welfare of his men and bolster their confidence.

When another rescue helicopter crashed, Patterson made his way through enemy fire to the downed craft, set up their defense perimeter and consolidated his forces.

A medical evacuation aircraft arrived and he dragged the wounded across a rice paddy and loaded them aboard the craft.

When still another helicopter went down, Patterson again repeated his earlier actions, setting up a defense perimeter and consolidating his forces.

On the same day, but in an unrelated incident, Breed flew his damaged helicopter to a landing battle area to successfully extract troops. When a helicopter was shot down, Breed accompanied three other aircraft back into the besieged pickup zone.

As the flight attempted to insert a security force, two of the helicopters began receiving enemy fire and crashed. Breed hovered his craft over the battle area until he could safely land troops and evacuate the wounded.

He then voluntarily led another successful lift into the pickup zone. Another helicopter was shot down, and again he risked his life to rescue the wounded crew.

Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor presented both men with their awards in recent ceremonies here.

Viet Co Patrol Zapped

BIEN HOA, (USAVN-10) soon as I saw the helicopter coming down the road, the word and got a weapon," explained P4 Gillespie, an automatic with the Big Red One, 18th Infantry.

He was referring to a VC wounded, and the captured claymore mine and an

The American platoons up a small perimeter yards from a road in a night ambush site. Gil sitting on an embankment eating a can of when he spied four VC warned the rest and he until a machinegun was up.

The squad leader, Sgt. Leedy, positioned the VC about 15 yards to Gillespie. The VC were still at when machinegunner Sgt. D. Wilson lined up 300 ammunition and ready Specialist Four Eng helped.

The ambush was sprung as the enemy in. At close range Wilson first two men under fire were traveling in single were spread darn good. the 2nd Brigade sold and Leedy engaged a man, but the rest of the out of the ambush area as hit the first man," said.

The second man was managed to flee into a "I could see him when he was badly."

The third and fourth had been about 200 meters the lead were fired on Alton Lewis and Sp4 Weglarz who moved a road to meet the VC with a machinegun. "I it over the bank of the back into the jungle, but one of their straw hat good," said Lewis. "A when one of the VC died any more."

The dead VC was a high Viet Cong NCO, described as "a hard core VC interpreter."



DEEP, DARK SECRET—Two 196th Light Infantry Brigade troops watch for Charlie at a tunnel entrance in the HoBo Woods during Operation Cedar Falls.

(Photo by Sp4 Robert S. Brown 196th INF-10)

granted Unit Citation for dedication ceremonies at Fort Bragg.

The battalion was honored for its actions displayed during the battle of Dong Xoai in June 1966, a three-day struggle against the Viet

troops in defense of Dong Xoai.

On June 10, the beginning of the battle, the besieged defenders of Dong Xoai requested assistance in repelling a Viet Cong attack. The 11th responded with immediate support.

Upon learning that a group of the defenders of Dong Xoai were wounded, needed medical attention and were exposed to the VC, the crews of three helicopters volunteered to try a rescue. Although the men had all up-moored, covered by 50 caliber machine guns, the helicopters landed and evacuated the wounded without loss to any of the crew. However, in a few moments the VC shot down all three with automatic weapons fire, killing four Americans and 40 Vietnamese.

The action of the 11th proved to be the deciding factor in the battle as the helicopter's safety and the VC's losses for three days.

Inf PFC Cited For Bravery

PHIEHU, (25th INF-101)—The third highest award for valor, the Silver Star, has been awarded to PFC William B. Sanderson, an infantryman and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Light Infantry Division.

Sanderson was cited for bravery while serving as a medic with the unit during the battle of Paul Ross, III.

While moving toward its objective, Sanderson's platoon was hit by intense fire from a large, fortified North Vietnamese Army force. Immediately the platoon's ranks suffered four casualties.

Sanderson moved through the area to render first aid to his fallen comrades. Finding the first three dead, he went to the fourth to administer first aid. While treating the wounded man, he was hit twice by sniper fire. Realizing he could not do his job from that position, Sanderson dragged the man to a covered position. In the process, he was hit once again. He continued treating him throughout the battle.

The Key That Fits

Education is the key that opens the golden door of opportunity. See your Education Officer.

'Drop The Jeep—Follow Me' Shouted The Lieutenant

TUY HOA, (10th INF-101)—An 11-foot, rectangular shaped, armored ammunition box mounted on tracks, screeched to a stop next to a column of two and a half-ton trucks and a jeep. First Lieutenant Philip Cooper called to the convoy's leader, "Drop the jeep, it'll never make it. Follow me."

As the convoy followed its new leader, an armored personnel carrier (APC), from Troop A, 10th Cavalry, another APC jumped into position at the rear. The vehicles proceeded north on Highway 1 to their destination, the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division's outpost at Dong Tre.

Highway 1 is a paved road built to withstand heavy military traffic going in one direction and the feet of joggling Vietnamese with crowding both sides of the road,

going in either direction. Then the convoy turned off Highway 1 and onto Route 8B, the one-way "muddy route to hell."

At the two-roads' junction, the Vietnamese people had gathered in a make-shift market place. From that 40-foot junction to Dong Tre, Route 8B is barely 12 feet across at its widest points. In many places, the mud's knee-high deep.

Each side of Route 8B is surrounded by hills which hide the Viet Cong who try to control the road and its traffic. The convoy hit the winding, mountainous curves of "The Slot." Here, one could look down a valley and almost touch the opposite hill. Two steep slots of trees and brush along the winding path give the spot its name.

As Specialist four Ralph Zweng

guided his APC around the muddy, narrow curves of the slot, his eyes searched ahead for a possible ambush.

"Grande Valley" was the next section on 8B. An abandoned rail road trestle, 20 feet high, paralleled the road. A VC could easily have tossed a hand grenade over the top and into the convoy and made a safe get away.

The convoy continued and approached the "Shooting Gallery." Friendly villages lined the road but snipers had hit convoys there before. This time there was no incident.

"The Hole" was several kilometers north of La Hai. As the convoy approached a 200 yard strip of mud, the lead truck bogged down. Cooper called over the track's intercom, "Here we go again."

Zweng pulled his APC in front of the first truck as PFC Jerry Walder linked the two vehicles with a heavy tow chain. The APC got the first four vehicles across "the hole."

Each passing vehicle created more mud. The first APC was unable to pull the fifth truck through. Cooper called for aid. Sergeant Philip Austin pulled his track into position in front of the immobile truck. The two APCs, linked by chain, had to pull the remaining trucks through the hole.

Silver Star Awarded Capt

TAY NINH, (196th INF-10)—The Silver Star has been awarded to Capt. James P. Thompson, commander of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, for gallantry in action.

Thompson was bringing his company to the relief of another company under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire to effect a link-up with a third company.

He moved forward in the darkness and, while under enemy fire,

Half of his company was in the battle. Throughout the action, Thompson moved about the battlefield exposing himself to enemy fire and giving encouragement to his men.



COMMUTER'S RUSH—Members of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, rush to get aboard helicopters taking them to their next "job" site during a recent operation. The Big Red One troops were operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

(Photo by PFC Jerry White, 121st SIG BN)

Jan 28, 1967

DUC Awarded To 145th Cmbt Avn Bn

BIEN HOA. (1st AVN-10)—The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion has been presented the Distinguished Unit Citation in dedication ceremonies at Long Binh.

The battalion was honored for its actions displayed in the battle of Dong Xoai in June 1965, a three day struggle against the Viet

Cong. The 145th sustained intense enemy fire in flying 2700 combat sorties and transporting 3500 troops in defense of Dong Xoai.

On June 10, the beginning of the battle, the besieged defenders of Dong Xoai requested assistance in repelling a Viet Cong attack. The 145th responded with immediate support.

Upon learning that a group of the defenders of Dong Xoai were wounded, needed medical attention, and were exposed to the VC, the crews of three helicopters volunteered to try a rescue. Although the insurgents had all approaches covered by .50 caliber machineguns, the helicopters landed and evacuated the injured without loss to any of the crew. However, in a later engagement, the VC shot down a Huey with automatic weapons fire, killing four Americans and 10 Vietnamese.

The air arm of the 145th proved to be the deciding factor in the battle as the helicopters saturated the VC positions for three days.

Inf PFC Cited For Bravery

PLEIKU. (23th INF-10) — The third highest award for valor, the Silver Star, has been awarded to PFC William H. Sanderson of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

Sanderson was cited for heroism while serving as a medic with the unit during Operation Paul Revere III.

While moving toward its objective, Sanderson's platoon was hit by intense hostile fire from a large fortified North Vietnamese Army force. Immediately the left flank security suffered four casualties.

Sanderson moved through the area to render first aid to his fallen comrades. Finding the first three dead, he went to the fourth to administer first aid. While treating the wounded man, he was hit twice by sniper fire. Realizing he could not do his job from that position, Sanderson dragged the man to a covered position. In the process was hit once again. He continued treating men throughout the battle.

The Key That Fits

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CREDIT FOR THE UNIT—General W. C. Westmoreland, commander in Vietnam, pins the Distinguished Unit streamer to the colors of Aviation Battalion for its actions in a battle in June 1965. As Maurice B. McBride of the 12th, Colonel Raymond P. Campbell of the 12th, stands at right. (Photo)

'Drop The Jeep—Follow Me' Shouted The Lieutenant

TUY HOA. (4th INF-10) — An 11-ton, rectangular-shaped armored aluminum box mounted on tracks screeched to a stop next to a column of two and a half-ton trucks and a jeep. First Lieutenant Philip Cooper called to the convoy's leader, "Drop the jeep; it'll never make it. Follow me."

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Gets Letters Wis Students

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136 letters re-
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check for 25,000 plasters (210)
and seven boxes of clothing for
the five victims.

The men of depot also spread
word of the five victims' need
among Vietnamese employees at
the Self Service Supply Store.
The employees donated an addi-
tional 4,000 plasters (\$25).

Four days earlier, when disaster
struck, eight men of the Store,
led by CWO Donald R. Bethel,
were the first to reach the scene.
They sounded the alarm, evacu-
ated personnel, and called the
police and fire departments.

They then organized a bucket
brigade, together with Viet-
namese residents, and fought to
contain the fire until Vietnamese
and U.S. Army firefighting units
arrived.

Four hours after the fire began
hundreds were homeless. But
within days, the 20th Field
Depot's contributions of clothes,
money, and salvage building ma-
terials were helping the five vic-
tims to rebuild.

if Sachse says any of the
the Koreans in
from ever kill a
group?" "Where
be now, where
me?" "Fairview
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Another letter started out, "My
name is Donna Nickels, but they
call me Pickels. I am in Cindy's
class. She's very nice. It gets
so cold, but she keeps talking
about how hot you are in Viet-
nam. Roy, does that get me
mad?"

One boy signed his letter,
"You Eric and abbie, Lawrence
Rum, P.S. My friends call me
Larry."

The major answered the letters
by sending each child a Viet-
namese Christmas card and a
letter to the class in general.



RICE DISCOVERED—A bag of rice is handed up to
1st Lt. Richard Blunden by Sgt. Ray Quirk of the 173rd
Airborne Brigade engineers. Tons of rice were discovered
in the tunnel complex being mapped as part of Operation
Cedar Falls in the Iron Triangle.

(Photo by Sp4 L. Paul Epley, 173rd ABN-10)

Trans Corps Pilots Kill 7 VC, Take 2

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — The
1st Cavalry Division's 5th Trans-
portation Corps Battalion is a di-
rect support unit—at least most
of the time. But recently, two
pilots for Company D, on different
missions, have been responsible
for killing of seven Viet Cong,
capturing two suspects and tak-
ing two individual weapons.

In early December, CWO
Charles E. Perry was piloting an
OH-13 helicopter toward Phan
Thiet when he spotted three
armed VC on a beach. As they
ran for cover, Perry's passenger
in the two-seater ship, Sp4 Doug-
las A. Elverud, opened up on the
troop with his M-16 and killed one.
Perry then landed the small ship
on the sand and policed up a
weapon from the dead VC.

Perry took to the air again and
circled the area, spotting the
other two. Elverud was out of
ammunition now so Perry called
for armed helicopters. When the
helicopters reached the area
where Perry was circling, he was
able to pinpoint the VC hiding
place. Results were two more
dead VC.

Nine days later, Perry was fly-

ing in the same area and received
ground fire from two VC. He
gave chase and maneuvered the
chopper so that his passenger,
PFC Robert L. Beaver, could get
a good shot at the pair. Beaver
shot and killed the two with his
M-16.

Later in December, Maj. Clyde
Massey was flying in his Huey
when he spotted two men by a
river, one of whom had a rifle.

As Massey started to land his
aircraft, the suspects threw the
rifle into the river, hoping it
would not be spotted. Massey
landed and his crew was able to
recover the rifle and apprehend
the two suspects.

3 Signalmen Become Mortarmen At Night

**RAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-
10)** — Three men of the 208th
Signal Detachment assigned to
the 155th Assault Helicopter Com-
pany have a unique assignment
each night following their regular

Hoping to catch up with the
fleeing enemy, the 1st Battalion,
8th Cavalry, moved into an area
where intelligence reports indicated
elements of the enemy
regiment might be hiding.

Companies B and C are assault-
ed into the village of Gia Duc,
while Company D went in 2000
meters to the south near a vil-
lage called Thu Thuan. The three
companies were to search the
village for enemy.

Two mornings later Co. B
moved up to search Gia Duc. As
it reached its perimeter, it came
under fire from machineguns and
automatic weapons and were
forced to pull back to a rice
paddy dike.

Co. C came in from the eastern
side of the village and took the
pressure off Co. B, allowing it
to recover the wounded.

At the same time, 2000 meters
away, Co. D had encountered
heavy machinegun fire during its
search of the village of Thu
Thuan.

At dark, all three companies
pulled back into the rice paddies,
while heavy artillery pounded
the two villages throughout the
night.

The following morning tactical
air strikes were called in and
Skylanders and B-57 bombers at-
tacked the area.

When the companies moved into
the area later that day, they dis-
covered the dead.

day's tour of duty. They man an
81mm mortar as part of the com-
pound's night defense plan.

Specialist Fives Peter L. Cloutier
and Harry G. Vogler and
PFC Lawrence A. Esparaza man
their mortar pit near the combat
operations center switchboard as
one of the several mortar crews
in the 155th's defense network.

The team received its first
firing opportunity in mid-December
during a II corps wide alert.
They sent mortar flares into
the sky to illuminate the sur-
rounding countryside so the in-
fantry could locate nearby Viet-
Cong.

Cloutier, Vogler and Esparaza
attended the Southeastern Signal
School at Ft. Gordon, Ga., before
coming to Vietnam.

Cloutier has worn the crossed
rifles of an infantryman and
fired the mortars before. Vogler
has also been trained in the tech-
niques of mortar firing. But Es-
paraza went to signal school
straight from basic and is now
getting his first taste of mortar
gunnery.

"They may have received quite
diversified training," says Capt.
Raymond L. Kervahn, 208th Sig-
nal Detachment commander,
"but they certainly worked well
as a mortar team the other
night."



DECISION HELILIFT—Men of the 25th Infantry Division watch their comrades
take off on the first helilift of a new operation. The first assault will determine if
the new area is "live" and how the second lift will go in—carrying ammunition or
(Photo by Sp5 Dale Sutphin, 25th INF-10)

28 Jan 67

1st Lt. Richard Blunden by Sgt. Ray Quirk of the 173rd Airborne Brigade engineers. Tons of rice were discovered in the tunnel complex being mapped as part of Operation Cedar Falls in the Iron Triangle.

(Photo by Sp4 L. Paul Epley, 173rd ABN-IO)

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3 Signalmen E Mortarmen At

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Chopper Shot Down: VC Camp Discovered

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—The four helicopters had just left the ground and not gained much altitude when a short burst of small arms fire erupted from the woodline. The platoon of infantry which had just been dropped off crouched low and lifted their eyes to watch as the second helicopter fell clumsily out of line with a wounded pilot fighting to bring the crippled ship back under control. Rapidly losing altitude, it bucked and turned until the injured pilot finally brought it to a safe landing.

The platoon of Rangers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, had only paused momentarily and were up and hastily moving forward across the rice paddy toward the woodline where the crippled helicopter had just landed.

"I had my men split up and form a perimeter around the ship," explained SFC Phillip Hoyt, the platoon sergeant. "At that time one of the other choppers had arrived on the scene to evacuate the crew of the downed ship. The pilot had been slightly wounded, but the other three men aboard had not been injured. Once the area inside the perimeter had been checked out, we pulled back about three-hundred meters into the rice paddy."

"They were going to bring in air and artillery strikes," said Sp4 Donald Thomas. "and we wanted to be sure we were well out of the way."

Once the men were down and had taken cover, the 45-minute bombardment began.

"When the barrage lifted we returned to the woods and started checking the area just inside the woodline," Thomas said. "We didn't get very far when we came across what looked like a VC base camp about 20 yards inside the woods."

The camp appeared to be re-

cently abandoned and the Rangers carefully went about the job of searching it. The search lasted for two hours as the soldiers found claymore mines, ammunition, equipment, food, and clothing that the Viet Cong had left behind.

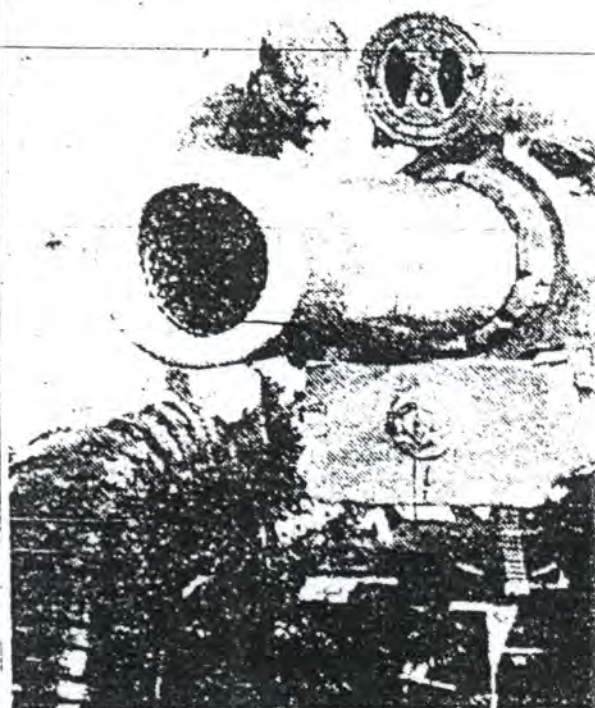
Doc Goes Forward

TUY HOA, (4th INF-10) — Like the general practitioner of old, the Braves battalion physician believes in being near his patients, potential or actual.

Captain Donald E. Christensen is the physician for the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. He maintains his quarters and his treatment facilities at the battalion's forward command post and logistical center. By doing this he saves two or three days of field time which non-emergency patients might normally spend traveling to the battalion's base camp facilities.

Captain Christensen is the only doctor within a 25-mile radius of the battalion's location. Last month he averaged 15 patients a day, including Vietnamese civilians and soldiers. During that same month he gave over 2900 immunizations. To do this, Christensen carried medical records and refrigerated serum to company command positions.

The doctor proudly wears the cross which identifies him as a Vietnamese doctor. When he is able to get away from his battalion office, Dr. Christensen goes down the road to the Phu Tan-Tuy An Dispensary and helps the local health worker.



ATTLEBORO ACE—This 105mm howitzer 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery gets a going after the battle because of its outstanding performance. (Photo by SFC Phillip Hoyt)

Noted Historian Helps Record

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10)—"I didn't consider myself a historian. I'm a reporter," said S.I.A. Marshall as he was relaxing in his tent at the 1st Air Cavalry Division here.

Reporter or historian, for the past 25 years Brig. Gen. S.I.A. Marshall (USAR-Vet) has been following combat operations with such meticulous thoroughness that he has unquestionably become the foremost living military historian.

For months 1st Cavalry Commander John Norton had been urging Marshall, who had visited

the Cavalry 1. When Marshall agreed with 1st Team should historical unit the proceeding detail down t

Marshall, procedures and from years of in establishing comprehensive program the Cav

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ATTLEBORO ACE—This 105mm howitzer of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery gets a going over by its crew members. It was named after the battle because of its outstanding performance in the battle.
(Photo by Lt. Ambrosio Sarmiento, 196th INF-10)

Noted Historian Visits 1st Cav; Helps Record Div Chronology

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10)—"I didn't consider myself a historian. I'm a reporter," said S.I.A. Marshall as he was relaxing in his tent at the 1st Air Cavalry Division here.

Reporter or historian, for the past 25 years Brig. Gen. S.I.A. Marshall (USAR-Vet) has been following combat operations with such meticulous thoroughness that he has unquestionably become the foremost living military historian.

For months 1st Cavalry Commander John Norton had been urging Marshall, who had visited

the Cavalry last July, to return.

When Marshall arrived, Norton agreed with him that the First Team should have an operative historical unit that could chronicle the proceedings of the division in detail down to the squad level.

Marshall, applying the procedures and techniques learned from years of experience, assisted in establishing the most comprehensive military history program the Cavalry has known.

Unraveling the intricacies of combat action is often a frustrating and baffling task. In the furious pace, there is seldom one individual who has an overall view of the entire battle. Conflicting accounts from different members, even members of the same squad, make dubious what actually did happen.

Marshall's method is not complicated: just get to them fast and get them together. Seated around Marshall, the involved parties are immediately told that if anyone disagrees with anything said, or if anyone has something to add, to speak up immediately.

Then, with exactness, Marshall starts at the beginning and re-enacts the entire incident, man by man, detail by detail.

"The important thing," says Marshall, "is to preserve exact chronology. Events must be recorded in the exact order they occurred."

As the group freely discusses what happened, one man's remembrance triggers another's memory and all serve as a check on the rest.

Using Marshall's approach, the Cavalry is forming two field historical teams, each consisting of one officer and one stenographer.

When important military action occurs, it is only a matter of hours before the field historical team is at the scene gathering information with tape recorders and obtaining personal statements from the key men.

Later, their reports will be scrutinized by the battalion and brigade commanders and the division chief of information and history. All examine and re-examine the accounts for fairness and accuracy. The result is a detailed, factual analysis of a military operation that becomes

the United States Army.

Marshall, author of *Pork Chop Hill*, *The River and the Gauntlet* and many other books and articles on military affairs, discovered his system "by accident."

Sent to the Pacific command area in 1953 to devise a better method of recording military history, he spent months investigating different ways of gathering information. Discouraged, he came to the conclusion there was no better way.

Then, after a Japanese attack on Makin Island in the Gilberts, Marshall was confronted by two conflicting accounts of what happened. He gathered about him the entire platoon involved and started at the beginning. Anyone who thought the other man's account was incorrect was to speak up. The confusion was shortly straightened out.

Marshall expanded the system and has used it ever since.

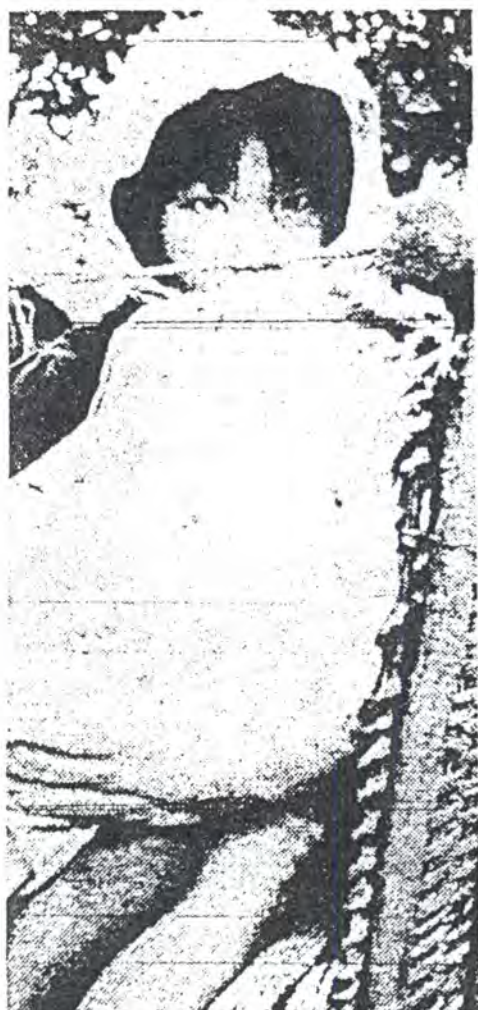
Marshall's newest book, *The Battles of the Monsoon*, which is the detailed account of the 1st Cavalry Division's Operation Crazy Horse conducted in May and June, will be released next month.

1st Log Helps Village Kids

VUNG TAU, (1st LOG-10) — A throng of energetic Vietnamese children scrambled for the merry-go-rounds, monkey bars, seesaws, and slides when Vietnamese and American officials here officially opened a new playground for the school children from the Sao Mai refugee village located near this coastal city.

Staff Sergeant George C. Gaines, a member of the 1st Logistical Command's Vung Tau Sub-Area Command, sparked the playground civic action project and took charge of the three-week construction job.

The Sao Mai refugee village has received help from the Log unit in the past, including several truckloads of scrap lumber which went into the building of a church



SHE HAS—A Vietnamese girl last few pounds of rice as the on the grasp of the Viet Cong by orne Brigade. The troops are free- Iron Triangle during Operation



LT—The Blue Team of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st assaults onto a mountain ridge. The action occurred in the im during Operation Thayer II. (Photo by 1st CAV-IO)

Trips Up In Escape Attempt

Big Red One's 1st Bn, 16th Inf Captures NVA Lieutenant

DI AN, (1st INF-IO) — "There was a lot of movement out there that night," said Sp5 Otto Doff, who was manning a listening post (LP). "Our own lines were about 30 yards behind us and friendly artillery was firing throughout the area." Then a lone figure came running behind the LP and into the area occupied by Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry.

"He was yelling 'Huff' or 'Duff' or something like that," recalls Lt. Michael S. Protzik. "We all thought that it was either Duff from the LP or Private Hough." "I knew it wasn't me," replied PFC Kenneth J. Hough. "I was in my hammock trying to get some rest."

Hough said, "I thought he was an American and may be hurt. He was running and tripped over the lieutenant's hammock. I tried to grab him to protect him. Then he shined his flashlight on himself and I realized that I had a stranger on my hands. You know, he didn't look like the rest of the guys in my platoon — he was dressed a little differently too," Hough laughed.

"I thought it was one of our men at first, too," explained SFC Theodore Strange, "but I had my weapon ready just in case. When I saw he wasn't one of us, I kept him covered while Hough took his weapon away from him. He had a Chinese pistol and a rifle. The platoon leader, Hough, and I took him to the Company P command post and he was sent on through channels from there."

Lieutenant Tom Dean, of the 2d Battalion, 33d Artillery, accompanied Company C on their operations to provide artillery support for the infantrymen. The captive gave us some information about where the rest of his people were. With that and the reports from our LPs we called in a lot of 105mm rounds from the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery. The next morning, our patrols found a considerable amount of blood on the trails in that area. We knew we were successful even though no bodies were found because we had been through the area the day before and there wasn't any blood then."

Captain Michael McCormick, the 2d Brigade's assistant intel-

ligence officer, said, "The interrogation of the prisoner provided a lot of information for us. He was down here to get some rice they had stored earlier, but we had already captured that. We learned that he was a lieutenant from the 101st North Vietnamese Regiment. This was the first time

we had positively identified this regiment in this operation."

The rifle the prisoner was carrying was turned into the Army supply channels. The pistol was given to Hough. "I'm taking the pistol back to the States with me as a conversation piece — tell 'war stories' about it," Hough explained.

1st Cav Aviators Save Comrades

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) — Two "Winged Warriors" of the 1st Cavalry Division's 228th Chinook Battalion risked their lives recently to save their wounded comrades after their Chinook crashed while carrying a load of highly explosive ammunition.

The helicopter, piloted by CWO Orman D. Phillips and CWO Matti S. Kosenen, was on an emergency supply mission to elements of the 4th Infantry Division

who were engaged with the enemy during Operation Paul Revere IV.

While making its third attempt to get into the small landing zone, which was obscured by darkness and fog, the sling-loaded ammo became tangled in the trees surrounding the landing zone. The ship's engine burst into flames and the Chinook crashed to the ground directly on top of the high explosives.

The flight engineer, Sp6 Henry

men in an attack on a Viet Cong emplacement.

Although he was wounded during the assault, the captain continued to lead his company until fire. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he inspired his badly stricken company to continue the attack until the determined Viet Cong force was completely routed from its base camp.

Snake Eyes Up Close

TUY HOA, (USAEV-IO) — Platoon Sergeant James A. Bates recently added an unusual trophy to his collection of souvenirs from Vietnam.

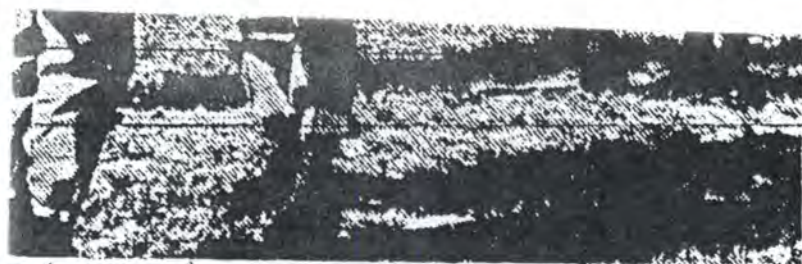
Sergeant Bates, who is assigned to Company C, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 45th Engineer Group, was working on construction of an access road to the recently-completed Port Lano facilities 20 miles south of Tuy Hoa, when he noticed something moving through the rocks along the side of the road.

When he went to investigate, he found a King Cobra staring him in the face. Picking up the nearest available weapon — a five-gallon water can — he made full use of his 6-foot 5-inch, 270-pound physique and brought the can crashing down on the nine-foot reptile. It died instantly.



SOME DRIVER—Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division work to free a captured cart load of rice from the jungle vines. The rice and cart were confiscated by the Big Red One soldiers during a recent operation. (Photo by 121st SIG BN-IO)

Jan 28, 1967



END OF COMMAND—Major General R.R. Ploger, commander of the 18th Engineers Brigade, hands de colors to its new commander Col. Paul W. during change of command ceremonies at Tan t. General Ploger has assumed command of the eated U.S. Army Engineer Command Vietnam V). (Photo by Sp4 N. Scoulas, USAECV-IO)

Group, and commander of troops. Other dignitaries attending the ceremony included Brig. Gen. Richard J. Seitz, chief of staff, USARV; Brig. Gen. Frank D. Miller, deputy chief of staff, plans and operations, USARV; Brig. Gen. Daniel A. Raymond, director of construction, MACV; Brig. Gen. James A. Wier, USARV, surgeon; Rear Adm. Robert R. Wooding, commander, 3d Naval Const. Brigade and deputy commander, Pacific Division Naval Facilities; and Capt. Paul D. Seuffer, officer-in-charge, Vietnam Contract Construction.

es Unit

Army Memos

Item 28, 1967

jukebox busy. he men of the 125th allion, they sent Albert his wife a dozen red an appreciation card. id Park city hall went rd-of-paradise flowers r of appreciation. Mr. s sent a letter of

o station received a present. Every man Cu Chi, assigned to signed his name and on a long sheet of tele-expressing their grati-

25th Signal men aren't nes who benefit from The staffs of the 12th Hospital, 7th Surgical and all patients able re invited as honored the club.

mple of concern on the people of Island Park ng way to Vietnam and long way to cheer a y 25th Infantry Division the months to come.

SCHOOL SUPPLIED—Youngsters in the Cham tribe in the village of Hoa Diem are getting a better education because of the 1st Logistical Command's civic action program. Members of the command's 24th Transportation Battalion in Cam Ranh Bay traveled 20 miles to supply the school house with writing and drawing materials.

MORE HUEYS ORDERED—The Army has ordered 210 more Huey Cobra helicopters, bringing the total on order to 320. Bell Helicopter Company will begin deliveries next spring on the initial order which was placed last April. The ships should be operational by next summer.

DRAFT CALL DOWN—The February draft call requested of the Selected Service by DOD totals 10,900 men, with all inductees slated for Army assignment. January's call was for 12,100.

CAPTAIN BOARD TO CON- VENE—Selection boards are scheduled to convene at Washing-

ton, D.C., in January and February to consider Regular Army first lieutenants for permanent promotion to captain. The board for Army, Chaplain, and Women's Army Corps promotion lists will convene about Jan. 17. The board considering Army Medical Service promotions lists will convene about Feb. 7.

SGT. MAJ. WOOLDRIDGE IS GRAND MARSHAL—Sergeant Major of the Army, William O. Wooldridge, is the Grand Marshal of the 10th Annual Cotton Bowl Festival Parade being held today. He is the second Grand Marshal in the parade's history. The first was Texas governor John Connally.

ANOTHER 3 MILLION FOR WEAPON DEVELOPMENT—The medium anti-tank assault weapon is getting continued engineering development work under terms of a \$3 million contract issued by the U.S. Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal to the McDonnell Aircraft Corp. at St. Louis.

By Chic Young





RELIEF—Brigadesmen of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade load three tons of mung beans for shipment to flood victims in the Mekong Delta. They were captured during Operation Attleboro. (Photo by 196th INF-10)

System Used AZ Exchange

FTV-10)—“How your change, in life savers?” station was, for a occurrence at Army Post Ex-

am. of the 1st Battal-ry, moved into tion at Dong Ha, f the DMZ, they ge facility readi-them. This pro-riately tackled by R. Garner, the cer of Headquar-ling experience tioned in Turkey, an exchange ac-attalion and has to the front lines

is stocked by a ide about once s. To accomplish onex container is er to Da Nang lies are obtained d back to Dong

rst problems en- he exchange op- dd C. Hebner was e. A simple solu- by giving change ivers or chewing

according to personnel strength. The names of the individuals within the batteries wishing to purchase these items are then drawn from a hat,” he explained.

Another item found difficult to obtain was lighter flints. “This actually helped our sales,” said the smiling captain, “when some-one asked for lighter flints we just sold them a new lighter!”

1st Log Units Set 2 Records

CAM RANH BAY, (1st LOG-10) — The 565th Transportation Company and the 63rd Transportation Company set two records recently while working cement cargo on the SS Meteor.

The 565th unloaded 3114 tons in a 24-hour period. This tops the old record of 2367.

The 63rd delivered 2024 short tons of cargo in the same 24 hour period. It is the first time a light truck company has gone over the 2000 ton mark.

The units are part of the 1st Logistical Command.

Hurt Captain Leaves Fight After 17 Hours

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10)—Cap-tain Darrell G. Houston of the 1st Cavalry Division was leading his rifle company into the heavily fortified Thach Lon region 10 miles northeast of Phu Cat when they were suddenly hit by heavy enemy machinegun fire.

Houston and his men of Com-pany C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cav-alry, had air assaulted into the area during Operation Thayer II and had been on the ground only 50 minutes when communist 50 caliber machineguns opened up. Houston was hit in the right leg.

In spite of his severe wounds, Houston continued to lead his men into the attack, fighting from hedgerow to hedgerow inflicting heavy casualties to the communist force.

As darkness settled in, Houston maneuvered his men into the most advantageous positions possible, and elected to remain with them for a night of fighting. The battle lasted throughout the night until the enemy broke contact the next morning.

The captain finally consented to evacuation after staying with his men for more than 17 hours after being wounded.

Chinooks Push Up Statistics

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10) — A CH-47 Chinook helicopter company flying support for Op-eration Cedar Falls, a multi-di-visionsal search and destroy op-eration, has set a one-day record for combat heli-lifts.

During the first day of the op-eration, being carried out in the Iron Triangle, units of the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion pro-vided instant mobility to combat units by lifting nearly 3000 troops and 440 tons of cargo.

During the opening phases of the major operation, the 178th As-sault Support Helicopter Com-pany whirled into action with the 1st Infantry Division, moving 287 tons of artillery, ammunition, vehicles, and rations from four staging areas to Ben Sue.

The six 178th Chinooks also fer-ried 742 infantrymen into the bat-tle zone that day.

Another Chinook from the 178th, flying support for elements of the 25th Infantry Division, moved 91 tons of cargo to the battlefield during the first day of the opera-tion.

According to officials in the U.S. Army Vietnam Aviation Of-fice, the helicopter company air-lifted 377.5 tons of cargo during that day, setting a one day opera-tion record for the company and, possibly a record for all Chinook units in the Army.

RC Girls Visit 196th Inf Camp

TAY NINH, (196th INF-10) — Troops of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, were re-cently treated to a 50-minute pro-gram by two visiting Red Cross girls from the 25th Infantry Divi-sion.

Miss Chris Campbell and Miss Nina Carver split the attentive troops into two groups and pre-sented a quiz show with ques-tions about TV shows and comic strip characters.

As the two girls were leaving, Miss Campbell said, “We will try to visit the 196th Brigade at least five times a week.”

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AL ASSAULT—This 173rd Airborne Brigade trooper was one of the first to enter the Iron Triangle as the brigade launched Operation Cedar Falls.

(Photo by Sp4 Paul Epley, 173rd ABN-IO)

o Resistance As 173rd Abn gins Operation Cedar Falls

HOA, (173d ABN-IO) — In Cedar Falls began for troopers of the 2nd Battalion, 173d Airborne Brigade as they made an assault into the Iron Triangle. Helicopters carrying the diers, along with a dozen gunships in escort, filled in one of the largest air operations ever in Vietnam. Air jets and artillery forward added to the practical air power and mobility. Cong occupying the area the landing zone offered distance to the incoming assault. ing out into the jungle surrounding the landing zone, the

troopers swept through a chain of reinforced bunkers and deserted fortifications. They discovered a large rice cache covered by a huge tarpaulin and camouflaged with cut foliage. Setting up a defensive perimeter on the edge of the dense jungle, each company sent out clearing patrols. Almost immediately the patrols found two VC base camps. The paratroopers of Company C broke into laughter when the first 18 men of the 3rd platoon returned from a patrol. Each man was riding a bicycle down a dusty

ox-cart trail leading to their company base. The troopers had found the bicycles in a tunnel. Later in the afternoon, a helicopter extracted the bicycles to brigade headquarters where they were turned over to the district chief. Just before dusk the battalion linked up with elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. One Sky Soldier remarked, "It is a good sign when a U.S. battalion moves into the middle of a VC stronghold and Charlie's afraid to even show his face."

Snipers Attack Chopper

LAI KHE, (1st AVN-IO)—Private First Class Edward Walsh, a door gunner with the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company here, told an unusual story about a recent engagement with the Viet Cong.

Walsh began his day routinely enough as crewchief of a Huey helicopter flying resupply missions with other aircraft of his unit. The tempo of his mission increased when his helicopter was diverted to evacuate an infantryman wounded by a mine at a road junction north of here.

The pilot eased the helicopter into a field near the pickup point where medical corpsmen carried the evacuee across the road on a litter. At that point, VC snipers opened up from a hidden position with automatic weapons and small arms fire. Nearby infantrymen scattered in the area to return the fire and protect the helicopter.

At this point, Walsh leaped out of his helicopter and ran to help the medics struggling with the injured soldier across the uneven field. "I knew the quicker we got him aboard, the quicker we would be airborne and off to safety," said Walsh.

In a tense moment of action, rifle grenades began exploding and fragments struck the helicopter. Then Walsh was hit, right in the wallet.

"I was moving fast," said Walsh, but I moved a lot faster after I felt that. We have taken a lot of fire on these Hueys, but never one that close."

The injured soldier was boarded safely onto the helicopter and brought to medical facilities here.



Sergeant Jim Bjorklund and his squad took over the point. They were trying to get to high ground as soon as possible when they spotted three men in a clearing on a knob. The ground beneath them was well entrenched and equipped with fox holes. Specialist four Donald Duvall fired his M-79 and the men fell from sight.

It was dark as the patrol moved into the hills and sought out the company command post. Flares fired from that point led them to the post.

ver which bagged three Viet Cong, a VC hamlet chief, and a tax collector on Operation Adams.

It started off as a simple search and destroy patrol for the 1st platoon, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. It ended up as a wild river chase in local sampans.

The element of the 1st Brigade was approaching the village of Phu Vinh when it received fire from within the village. They returned the fire, but from their position they could not see where

Americans while two others prepared a sampan for a watery getaway. All three were off the shore and floating as the soldiers got within shooting distance.

An infantry machinegun fired across the bow as the platoon's interpreter instructed the VC to return to shore. The VC answer splattered the rocky wall behind the platoon.

Foit ordered his men to shoot to kill. Two of the VC dumped their weapons, some other articles, and began swimming to the

Vietnam Communique

Operation Cedar Falls — This massive operation north of Saigon has seen mostly light, sporadic contact with small enemy forces.

Enemy dead is more than 400. A total of 2760 tons of rice has been captured. Pilots have flown 868 sorties in support. The operation

is being carried on by 1st Infantry Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade, most of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, elements of the 25th Infantry Division, and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Army of the Republic of Vietnam soldiers are also participating. More than 5500 villagers in the II Field Force, the area of the operation, have been temporarily resettled outside of Phu Cuong, 13 miles north of Saigon. Soldiers have captured rice in amounts such as 115 tons, 112 tons, and 133 tons. Cumulative friendly casualties are light.

1st Cavalry Division — Operation Thayer II continues by the division, supported by the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Inf. In one day's action, cavalrymen killed 24 enemy and captured two in scattered fights in Binh Dinh Province. Enemy casualties in the combined ground-air operation is more than 1500 killed, 60 captured, and 1700 detained. Cumulative friendly are light.

199th Light Infantry Brigade — An artillery battery killed eight Viet Cong in one action in Gia Dinh Province. The fire was upon 40 VC aboard seven sampans. One sampan was sunk, and six others destroyed.

9th Infantry Division — Operation Silver Lake, begun earlier this month, is a TAOR search and clear operation in Bien Hoa Province. It is under the operational control of the 3rd Brigade. One enemy has been killed and three detained. Cumulative friendly casualties are light. Air Force pilots have flown 16 sorties.

