

73rd Airborne Brigade Aero-Scouts Unique

Unit Destroys Supply Point

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-IO) — The Aero-Scouts of Troop E, 17th Cavalry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, are unique.

A small, elite unit, their job is to conduct small unit search and destroy operations. Their mission is to destroy the enemy's vital re-supply points.

All Aero-Scouts are volunteers with previous combat experience in a regular line outfit. They dress and arm themselves according to the needs of their operations—small arms, camouflaged fatigues, and soft caps.

Like their cavalry counterparts of days gone by, the 173rd's Aero-Scouts are mobile, independent, and, most importantly, effective.

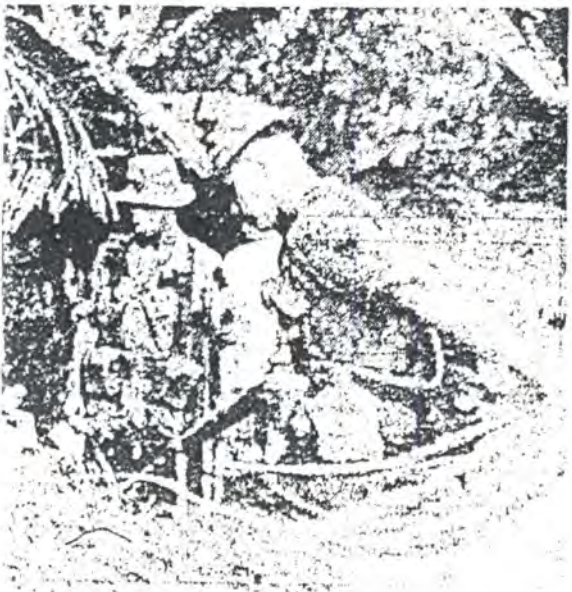
Photos by Sp4 Paul Epley



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED — Silhouetted against a sunset, an Aero-Scout platoon leader calls for extraction of his team after completion of a patrol.



KING FOR SAMPANS—Private First Class Paul Lock, an Aero-Scout with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, searches for hidden enemy sampans.



AIRSTRIKE RESULTS—Three Aero-Scouts move cautiously toward a smoking Viet Cong building destroyed by an earlier airstrike.





Falcons Command Respect

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-IO) — Serving the central highlands of Vietnam as the only armed helicopter platoon in a wide area around this city, the Falcons of the 155th Assault Helicopter Company command country wide respect.

Participation in many operations from Da Nang to Soc Trang and from Nha Trang to the Vietnamese border has earned the Falcon gun platoon a reputation for conspicuous fire support from any element it flies with in the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion.

Escorting convoys, flying cover for ground units and providing suppressive fire support for the company's two helicopter airlift platoons are but a few of the Falcon's regular assignments.

Occasional dusk patrols—low level reconnaissance missions flown at dusk to spot enemy activity — and attachments away from home base have led the armed helicopters far afield in combat support missions.

Commanding the unit is Maj. Jack Doyle. He has eleven pilots to fly the new UH-1C helicopters in the platoon. Two section leaders assist him in maintaining platoon training and combat status.

Doyle believes that everyone in the platoon should work together as a cohesive team, enlisted men and officers alike. This way, "the best possible armed support for our aircraft and suppressive fire for supported troops is possible" he states.

HE WACS—Lieutenant General Jean ... commander of U.S. Army Vietnam ... ribbon officially opening Vietnam's ... my Corps. (WAC) detachment, which ... hut. Assisting Engler is Capt. Peggy ... of the detachment.

(Photo by USARV-IO)

Uniforms Can Be Ordered

SAIGON, (MACV-IO) — The Clothing Sales Store in Saigon provides mail order service on uniform items to any place in Vietnam.

The store stocks Army and Navy uniform and insignia items, and common items for all Services.

Orders or inquiries should be addressed to Clothing Sales Store Officer, Headquarters Area Command, APO 96243. The store is located next to the Cholon PX 100 Hung Vuong.

ap
je

INF-IO)—
d-up opera-
Cong in the
s of villag-
g refuge in
ap.
refugees is
ruong Hoa
er, with the
ief, CARE,
cal assist-
Team 77.

leading two sampans full of supplies in a rickety, old boat that could barely hold us," said Capt. Charles C. Storey Jr., the company commander. As we drifted along, we suddenly spotted another sampan coming in our direction. There were three VC aboard."

Storey waited until the enemy sampan was about 50 feet away and opened up with his weapon. While the captain poured shells at the VC, the platoon leader, Lt. Charles E. Glascock, tried to steer. The effort was too much for the old boat—it came apart and began sinking.

"Captain Storey never even flinched," said Glascock. "I kept yelling that the boat was sinking, but the last thing I saw was the captain going down with his ship."

Army Aids Navy Swift In Rescue

BIEN HOA, (1st AVN-10) — An extraordinary type rescue mission occurred recently when a Navy patrol boat stranded in the middle of a canal in the Mekong Delta with a seriously wounded man aboard needed the help of one of the Ilucys to make an evacuation.

The Navy Swift patrol boat operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone, encountered a VC ambush while in a narrow canal. One of the crewmen manning a machinegun, was hit in the abdomen while returning fire.

A fire team from 34th Armed Helicopter Company heard the call for help and advised the patrol craft to move to a wider area of the river. The leader of the 3rd Platoon of the 334th, Lt. James Vance, jettisoned his rocket pods to allow the weight of the wounded man to be taken aboard.

A landing was attempted in an area next to the river but the ground was too soft and the chopper skids sank too low in the mud. Then in a desperate but futile attempt, the patrol craft hurriedly lowered flags and antennas to make room for a landing on the boat, but the area was too compact.

A third plan was quickly devised. The helicopter and patrol boat moved toward a sand bar in the river where the helicopter was able to make a safe landing. A small motor boat from an LST which was standing by brought the wounded man from his boat to the sand bar, where he was placed in the waiting chopper.

Village Chief Relocates Tribe, Finds A Better Way Of Life

PLEI MRONG, (5th SFG-10)

His people were starving, disease-ridden, and clothed in rags; most of the youth of the tribe were being kidnapped, many of them never to return home again.

With these facts in mind, the village chief decided to move his tribe to a place where there was a promise of better homes, more food, good land to farm, and above all, protection for his people.

So he gathered his tribe: the sick, the old, the young, and with the few chickens and livestock they had left, headed away from their ancestral homes. They came down out of the mountains and into the valley.

A biblical story? An Indian chief moving his tribe in the 1800's in America?

Neither. This is a modern day event. It occurred only recently in the mountainous region of South Vietnam near the western border, close to the isolated "A" detachment of the 5th Special Forces Group located at Camp Plei Mrong.

The promise of security and assistance to the village chief was made by the South Vietnamese Government through the province chief. The Special Forces personnel, working with their Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) Forces, provided protection for the tribe against the Viet Cong during their migration. They also set up tents for the people to live in and provided them with food and medical attention.

New homes are now being built by the people of the tribe using

local materials. Home sites are allocated to them, along with farm land to cultivate, and they will be provided food until their first crops are harvested.

Their purpose for moving: the Viet Cong had taken their food, money, clothing, and forced their youth to serve unwillingly with the enemy forces.

With happy smiles, they are now settling in their new homes with plenty to eat. Clothing and blankets are being provided and they are receiving medical attention for the first time in their lives. The children are now attending school, many of them for the first time.

They are the Jarai of the Montagnards, stocky mountain people who occupy the interior mountainous region of South Vietnam.

Two hundred and two people, comprising 45 families, were involved in the migration.

Chopper Pilot Kills 3 VC; Total Now 8

TUY HOA, (4th INF-10) — A slick-ship pilot with the 45th Aviation Company, flying in support of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division's line battalions, is quickly becoming Tuy Hoa's only "ace."

Captain James J. Rod, has tallied eight VC killed during his supply or command-and-control flights during Operation Adams.

Bringing his total to eight were three VC he gunned down on a recent mission.

"It was about 5:15 p.m. when this group of VC opened up on us," the captain related. "My ship got hit in the rotor and tail, and that made me mad." Machineguns and M16s, blazing away, the chopper went for the attackers.

After the shooting run, Captain McLeod continued his supply run to Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry. He returned to the firing scene with a squad who searched the area and confirmed the three enemy kills.

Force Can Assemble Quickly

TAY NINH, (196th INF-10) — Just 18 minutes after an alert is called, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, has a reaction force ready for action in full field-gear.

Not only is the quick action of assembling the platoon size force impressive, so is the fact that the force is made up of squads from different sections within the company.

Headed by 1st Lt. Arthur F. Gulden, the squads of MPs, clerks, signal personnel, and post exchange workers, are ready to move anywhere, around the perimeter on call.

Quick reaction is the order and two vehicles are readily available for transporting the troops to any needed area, with firepower provided by three M-60 machineguns.

When called, the men come directly off their jobs, don their equipment, and organize an instant reaction force.

"Considering where some people are located when an alert is given, I feel this is very good time, and it is impressive to see the quick action taken by the men," said Gulden.

Firepower

LAI KHE, (1st INF-10) — The Black Lions of the Big Red One's 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, added new thunder to clearing "Thunder Road," (Highway 13), recently.

Providing the thunder are vehicles from Battery D, 33d Artillery. The battalion has two "Dusters" and two trucks, mounted with electrically controlled quad-50 caliber machine guns. The Dusters are track-mounted twin automatic 40mm cannons. They can pump out 240 rounds-per-minute using both tubes on automatic fire.

The weapon systems were designed for anti-aircraft use but they are being used now for recon by fire and for heavy firepower in case of a mass assault by the Viet Cong.



LEADING THE WAY—A tank from the 25th Infantry Division breaks trail through dense jungles in the Iron Triangle as Tropic Lightning infantrymen advance during Operation Cedar Falls. (Photo by Al Chang, AP)

Feb 4/1967

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-10)—in military jargon, it had been one of those days" for the Blue Raiders of 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry. The enemy had been spot-

ted and taken under fire by the Big Red One soldiers most of the day.

As nightfall approached, the men of Company B knew there

would be continued contact with the Viet Cong. They readied themselves to insure the expected fighting would be on their terms. Extra claymore mines

were flown in, ordered to stations were called in if

The compar was posted an out to probe ness.

The patrol the perimeter ures appear toward the

The Blue shouted the figures. No and four cl scattering every direct toon quickly down a dead front of the

Probing of imeter cease

In the me the second jungle and defensive.

Say

Two ambu very faint a "like two ci

The patro Alvie Beck,

action. In fro dimly silhou against the dozen men c trol's waiting

The Heuten signaling the plosions, ripped metal fragm ward. Rifle heels of th From the en two grenade ditch and e Another fell from PFC H ploded. He

Private Fir gason tossed of the possib of its explos ing hurled th concussion.

Beck gave back to the position when more enemy were called soon disclos ing through

Artillery v nearly 700 into the area ship with joined the me enemy into

The convo

Vietnam Communique

II Field Force Vietnam — enemy losses in Operation Cedar Falls have risen to 700 killed and 55 detained. Units in the multi-division, — combined — ground-air operation have seized more than 60 tons of rice, 509 individual and 23 crew-served weapons. Participating units are continuing to run up large and intricate tunnel complexes. The operation began in 8 in the Iron Triangle. Cumulative friendly casualties are light; the operation continues.

1st Cavalry Division — During Operation Byrd, units of the 3rd Brigade killed 15 enemy in two separate actions near Phan Thiet, Binh Thuan Province. Three

enemy were captured along with one individual and one crew-served weapon. In another incident, three enemy were killed and four captured, bringing the total for the operation to 370 killed and 147 captured. Cumulative friendly casualties have been light in the operation which began Aug. 25. Action has been light in Operation Thayer II. So far in the operation, 1331 enemy have been killed and 74 captured.

9th Infantry Division — Operation Silver Lake, involving the 3rd Brigade, has terminated. The search and clear operation in Bien Hoa Province which began Jan. 9, resulted in one enemy

killed.

25th Infantry Division — Units of the 1st Brigade, participating in Operation Lanikai, fired on a suspected enemy troop concentration 14 miles south-southwest of Saigon and killed five enemy. As part of Operation Thayer II, units of the 3rd Brigade engaged 12 enemy outside a large cave complex, 22 miles southwest of Bong Son. Three of the enemy were killed and the rest retreated into the cave. The 2nd Brigade is participating in Operation Cedar Falls.

101st Airborne Division — Operation Pickett has terminated with 63 enemy reported killed by the 1st Brigade. Cumulative friendly casualties were reported as light.

192nd Light Infantry Brigade — Two companies received heavy small arms, automatic weapons, and recoilless rifle fire while being heli-lifted into an area in Long An Province. The move was part of a raid on an enemy supply depot in support of an Army of the Republic of Vietnam pacification operation, Rang Dong. Four enemy were killed during the action and the supply depot yielded 10 cases of TNT, 45 tons of rice, and numerous typewriters.

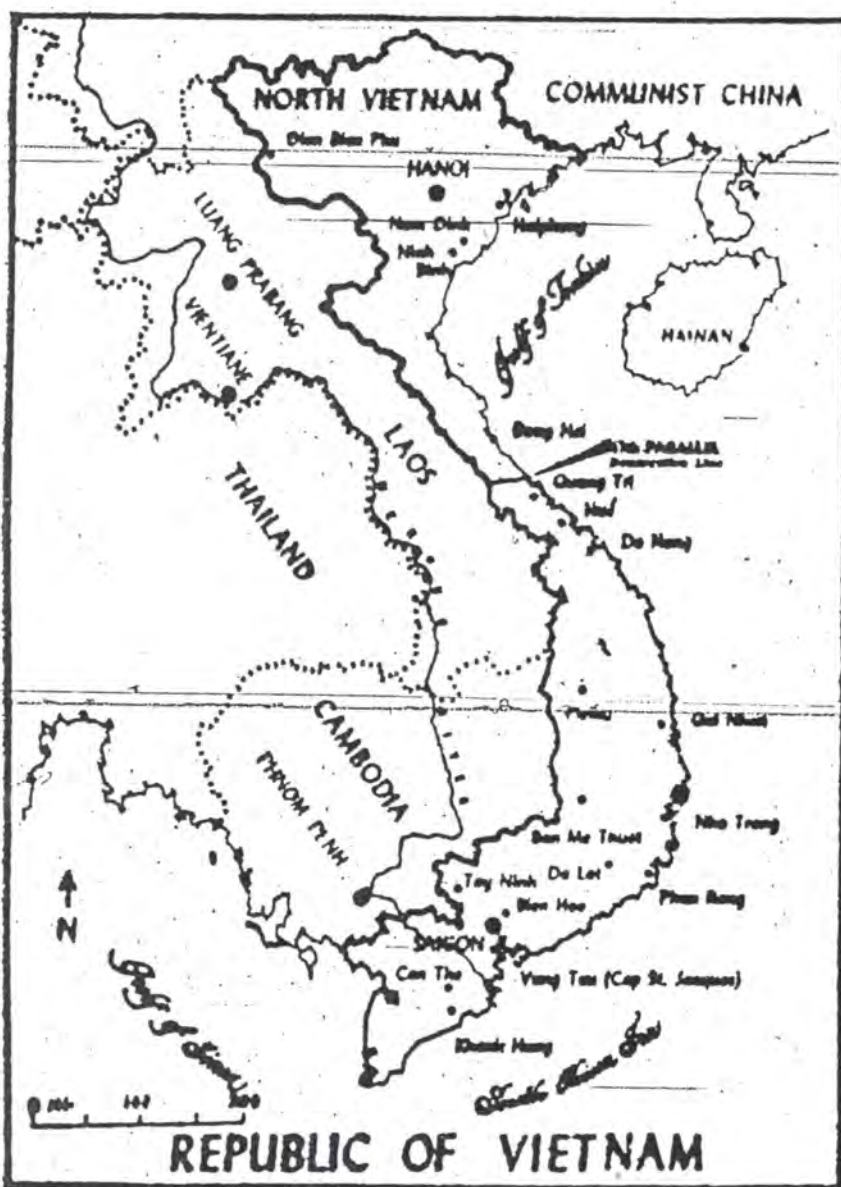
1st Infantry Division — The 2nd and 3rd Brigades are participating in Operation Cedar Falls.

11th Armored Cavalry Regiment — Units of the regiment are participating in Operation Cedar Falls.

173rd Airborne Brigade — The unit is participating in Operation Cedar Falls.

196th Light Infantry Brigade — The unit is participating in Operation Cedar Falls.

4th Infantry Division — The 2nd Brigade is participating in Operation Sam Houston, a continuation of Paul Revere V. An element of the 3rd Brigade contacted an estimated 20 enemy in Binh Duong Province. The enemy used what appeared to be a riot control gas against the American forces. The gas had no serious effects and protective masks were not required. Two enemy were killed. There were no U.S. casualties.



FEB 15, 1967