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EASY DOES IT—A Flying Crane from the 458th Aviation Company gently lowers an antenna tower to its cement pad atop Hon Cong mountain overlooking Camp Radcliff at An Khe. The tower is part of a communications system linking An Khe to the Qui Nhon area.

(Photo by Sp4 Raymond Shultz, 69th SIG BN)

from the 1st Cavalry Division recently caught a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) battalion in a deserted village.

The action, during Operation Pershing, resulted in 75 of the enemy killed before the rest managed to escape into the mountains.

Intelligence reports indicated that a sizeable NVA force had moved into the deserted village of Van Thien about six miles southwest of the town of Phu My.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry was sent to check it out, along with tanks from the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor.

As the Sky Troopers and the tankers began to sweep the village, they ran into heavy automatic weapons fire.

The cavalrymen called for air strikes and artillery to pound the village.

When the troops again moved up to the village, they were met by the same heavy fire.

The cavalrymen pushed into the village, blasting bunkers as they went. The enemy force began to go west from the village and gunships of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry found their targets.

One gunship spotted 50 enemy in a trenchline and killed 20 in repeated gunruns.

the mountains.

The next day, a thorough sweep through the village turned up a total of 75 bodies. One suspect was detained.

Cong Add Realism To Class

CHU LAI, (196th INF-IO) — Training at the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's Charger Academy took on an air of realism recently when a class on the academy's rifle range was fired on by Viet Cong snipers.

The class, consisting of officers and senior NCOs, and three instructors from the academy received fire from positions on the hills overlooking the range.

Three instructors, SSgts. Rex Cornette, Iran E. Castillo-Santiago, and Floyd J. Woods, got the new replacements out of their predicament.

All veterans of combat as regular infantry squad leaders before they came to the academy, the three NCOs led the group to safety and then returned the enemy's fire, checking it until Troop F, 17th Cavalry, arrived to take over.

Patrol Kills 2 VC

BINH PHUOC, (9th INF-IO) — An ambush patrol from the 9th Infantry Division recently surprised and killed a pair of Viet Cong demolition specialists planting a mine.

animal dysentery.

"I've seen diseases that plagued the United States nearly 200 years ago," said Nichols, "and in school we studied them historically. Now I'm seeing what the textbooks described."

502nd Infantry, 15th Brigade joining the battalion in the central highlands near Khanh Duong.

"I saw my first case of cholera there," he said, "and began fighting the disease, while at the same time trying to explain the danger to the people.

"I received serum for all types of animal disease from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and inoculated about 400 head of livestock in the Khanh Duong Valley.

"The biggest problem was convincing the natives that sick pigs should not be eaten. Their practice was to eat the sickly animals before they died. It wasn't easy explaining to them they were eating the disease and infection."

Once the practicing veterinarian convinced the villagers of the need for good health practices, he then instituted a breeding program to improve their pork production.

"USAID has established a pig farm at Nha Trang for the purpose of improving the quality of Vietnamese swine," said Nichols. "The new breeding program has produced litters of bigger piglets."

"Vietnamese eat their pigs when they weigh about 39 pounds," Nichols explained, "and they consume the entire animal—nothing is lost. The hair is burned off the animal, then the pig is cooked on a spit. Sometimes the meat isn't cooked thoroughly, and as a result, the people respond with a sickness that acts like ptomaine poisoning."

When the 1st Rde. moved from Khanh Duong to their present location in Quang Ngai province, Nichols found new challenges: brucellosis, hoof and mouth disease, and a type of



A LOOK OF HOPE—Medical Specialist William F. Thornton treats a Vietnamese child in a village near Duc Pho during MEDCAP on Operation Malheur II. Thornton is a member of Company B, 25th Medical Battalion which is supporting the 101st Airborne Division.

(Photo by PFC John Nielson, 69th SIG BN)

Aug 12, 1967