

A response came from Mr. Sugerman, president of Western Grain Co., Birmingham, which manufactures dog food.

Birmingham arrived, panting from the heat, but otherwise in fine form. "He's so ugly, he's got to be beautiful," said lickman. The one-year-old dog has his own hooch just outside the company's orderly room. The men are preparing a special compartment in the command helicopter for Birmingham.

Few VC Located

TAY NINH, (196th INF-10)—The 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mechanized) of the 25th Infantry Division spent the last four days of Operation Gadsden finding many items useful to the Viet Cong, but few VC.

Boxes of propaganda were evacuated to headquarters of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, to which the unit is attached. Searching near the Cambodian border, the infantrymen found several small boats and used one for river crossings before destroying all of them. They destroyed many huts, including one that had apparently been a mess hall. Tons of rice were also captured.

Old West Charge

LONG GIAO, (11th ACR-10)—A modern-day cavalry charge, with all the color of the old West, broke up Viet Cong operations here recently.

It started as a routine cordon and search operation by the 1st Squadron near the 11th Armored Cavalry's base camp here. Troop B had two platoons dismounted on the flanks with another advancing toward the objective, a small village.

As 1st Lt. Bernard R. ("Red Baron") Carpenter brought his 1st Platoon to a large clearing at the edge of the village, surprised VC scattered in all directions. The troopers ran down the fleeing enemy with their armored cavalry assault vehicles (ACAV).

As the village was surrounded, the Troop B commander, Capt. John R. Landry, called in reinforcements from the cavalry's Air Cavalry Troop. As the heli-lifted Aero Rifle Platoon landed and tightened the iron ring, gunships hovered above, daring the enemy to make a break.

The helicopters then picked up the other platoons of Troop B to search the village.

Of the 18 Vietnamese initially detained, three proved to be VC.

port down.

A time-out followed while the armed Hueys flew to base for more fuel and ammo. Nearing the area on their return, the coptermen spotted two sampans parked against the shore with a pack-and-gun-toting VC aboard each.

At the sound of approaching helicopters the startled enemy, dropped the evidence of their political sympathy in the bottom of the boat, dashed for shore and began furiously hacking down banana branches to conceal their military cargo. The choppers, watching it all, closed up for a formation gun run.

The little boats were quickly loaded and they pushed out into the bay, ready now to acknowledge the presence of the gunships.

Some days the old guerilla ruse works. It did not this time.

Ex-Civ Pilot Is Ops Clerk At 9th Avn Bn

BEAR CAT, (9th INF-10)—He has flown more than 2000 hours and for the ambitious PFC John B. Thomson, a 9th Aviation Battalion operations clerk, the sky is the limit.

In civilian life the 25-year-old flyer co-piloted a Boeing 727 jet for three years for Eastern Airlines, flying from Montreal to Miami.

He was inducted into the Army and assigned to the 9th Avn. Bn. at Ft. Riley. He came to Vietnam with the unit in December.

The Army does not have 727s but Thomson uses his experience handling radio transmissions, flight plans, plane status reports, and aircraft maintenance.

Thomson began flying at 14 in his father's plane. Two years later he had his license and at 18 had obtained his commercial license. At 19 he earned the "flight instructors rating" that enabled him to give instructions to beginning flyers. "I wasn't urged into flying, I just floated into it," he commented.

Thomson said that Eastern Airlines gave him a three month training course in the DC-7, a four engine plane. The course consisted of ground school, flight simulator school, and 16 hours of actual flight training.

He went through a similar school for the Boeing 727, his "first love".

"I'm returning to my job the day after I get out," he said.



OUT—Cavalrymen of the 1st Cavalry Division wait for the order prepare to advance on Viet Cong positions in Binh Duong Province. (Photo by Sp4 Bruce Montoya, 1st CAV-10)

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