

'Firefly' Loses Friend

BIEN HOA, (1st AVN-10)—
"Firefly" lost a good friend in
Domingo Escalante Jr.

Although Sp4 Escalante, a
member of the 334th Armed
Helicopter Company, had been
in Vietnam less than six months,
he had already been awarded
two Distinguished Flying
Crosses and the Silver Star. His
Silver Star was awarded for an
action taking place only one
week before he died in the crash
of his Firefly ship.

Night after night, Escalante
patrolled the swampy water-
ways around Saigon with the
armed chopper teams that bring
"instant daylight and sudden
death" to the Viet Cong.

One night, when Escalante's
actions led to the Silver Star,
his helicopter landed to recover
abandoned enemy equipment.
He voluntarily jumped from the
hovering aircraft into the dark
swamp. Disregarding sporadic
sniper fire, he waded through
the marshes with valuable equip-
ment and documents he had re-
trieved.

Even though he could not
swim, Escalante entered a swift
flowing canal to search a dam-
aged VC sampan on the opposite
bank.

Escalante stood on the skid
as the aircraft hovered across
the canal. Then, once again, he
jumped into the water. Despite
the darkness and hostile fire, he
searched the area alone and un-
armed, refusing to give up until
assured that all valuable intel-
ligence material had been
gathered.



TIGER IN THE TANK—The recon patrol of the 2nd
Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division bagged this
500-pound brute while on escort duty for a convoy. It took
six men to lift the tiger into an APC for his last trip
back to the battalion forward command post. After being
wounded by a .50 caliber machinegun, the cat was killed
by an M-16. (Photo by SSgt. Whitis, 4th INF-10)

Curious Cat Killed By Convoy Escort

PLEIKU, (4th INF-10) — Cu-
riosity recently cost a 500-pound
tiger his life while the recon
platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 8th
Infantry, 4th Infantry Division
obtained a beautiful pelt.

The platoon was on convoy
escort duty recently when they
spotted the big cat stalking
them from the bushes along the

road. Sergeant Author Barrick,
track commander of one of the
armed personnel carriers (APC),
immediately opened up on the
cat with a .50 caliber machine-
gun. The tiger scrambled for
the bushes, angered by two
wounds.

The APCs followed the wound-
ed animal into the brush. Since
the men were too close to the
tiger to shoot him with the
machinegun, again they dis-

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During peak traffic periods, up to 25 of these positions are manned to channel 1800 calls per hour to points throughout Southeast Asia and around the globe. The switchboard's 357 trunk lines reach directly to 22 major base camps and support centers in Vietnam.

Modifications which will bring faster, more efficient service are currently being installed. Light panels will visually inform the operator as to which lines are not in use, saving him the time-consuming task of testing jacks for a vacant line.

Another set of lights will tell him when calls are completed. Finally, the long distance operators will be able to dial directly to subscribers throughout the country without going through intermediate switchboards.

Pilots Capture VC

NINH HOA, (1st AVN-10)—

While flying the shoreline north of here on a resupply mission for a Korean unit, WOs Jack L. Finn and Bradford M. Jones noticed something developing on the beach below.

A figure dressed in black pajamas and burdened with a pack was scurrying along the sand.

The pilots landed not 10 feet from the surprised fugitive. Two Korean sergeants jumped out and took the man captive. During questioning, the man admitted that he was a VC and expressed his displeasure at his unfortunate turn of events.

ers revealed as many as three tunnels leading out into the now leveled camp. Combat packs left behind were filled with documents and supply records.

Orphanage Gets Help

QUI NHON, (USAECV-10) —
"I just saw the kids on the streets, noticed how some of them looked, and felt sorry for them. That's when I decided to do something."

Captain Richard C. Axtell, aviation officer of the 45th Engineer Group, Army Engineer Command Vietnam, described how he got the idea for a civic action project that has benefited children of the Holy Infant Orphanage here.

In a letter to his wife, Axtell told of the conditions he had seen. He said the children appeared to need new clothes badly, and asked if she could do anything to help.

Mrs. Axtell told her church group about the problem, and the group quickly collected several boxes of children's clothing and shipped them to Vietnam.

When the aviator asked 45th Group chaplain, Maj. Thomas L. Strayhand, for guidance in distributing the gifts, the chaplain suggested the Holy Infant Orphanage, which has been aided by previous donations and gifts from the 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction), a subsidiary unit.

Success, 1967