



# Cavalair



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1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)

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## Wallowa Successes Mount

### Mustang Newest Firebase

**LZ TWO BITS** — The first American fire base has been constructed in the An Lao Valley, by the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, air assaulted into the An Lao on an early October morning, secured the area, and began construction.

To date the men of Company A have completed 100 per cent of the defensive positions, and more than 80 per cent of the overall work on the LZ.

The site of LZ Mustang — as it has been named — lies on the ground of an old French fort built during the early days of the French occupation of Vietnam.

According to 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry commander, Lieutenant Colonel Wilbur G. Jenkins, Jr., the firebase, situated near the center of the valley, denies Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces access to a direct route from North Vietnam to the southern An Lao Valley and the rice-rich Bong Son Plains.

Captain Leonard C. Henderson, commanding officer of Company A, said, "The credit for the fast construction of LZ Mustang has to be given to my man, as they have worked an average of 15 hours a day towards its final completion."

Henderson also noted that all bunkers have been connected to each other by a series of trenches, and fire positions have been added alongside each bunker to insure the safety of the men manning them and the security of the LZ.

Adding to the safety of LZ Mustang is LZ Tape, which sits less than a half-mile away and is used as an early warning post. Originally a small Special Forces outpost, Tape can be easily defended by one platoon against the enemy because of its terrain and position atop a tall mountain.

Because of LZ Mustang's close proximity to the An Lao River, helicopters can easily find the firebase by following the water during the heavy monsoon rains. It can then be used as a resupply base for other nearby LZ's.

The adaptability of LZ Mustang was demonstrated recently when elements of the 18th air assaulted into the mountains east of the valley.

Mustang is named after the 18th nickname.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

### Charge

An Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry soldier checks a Vietnamese village to make sure all the village is destroyed after taking fire during Operation Wallowa.

### Colorful Background

## Sergeant Former FBI Man

**AN KHE** — The 1st Air Cavalry Division's, 1st Brigade, has many outstanding Non-Commissioned-Officers, but few have the colorful background of a skytrooper in the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry.

Master Sergeant David L. Wright, Pittsburgh, Pa., began his military career in 1942, in the United States Navy. However, due to a medical ailment, he was discharged within six months.

"I want to do more for my country," is the reason Sergeant Wright gives for his joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 1943. For two years

he traveled wherever the bureau needed him. His travels took him from Washington, D.C. to San Diego, California, then to La Paz, Bolivia and finally to Mexico City, Mexico and Houston, Texas.

In 1945 he wanted to do as much as he could to aid his country. So in that year he became a Staff Officer in the Merchant Marines, and remained with them until the war came to a close.

Wright returned to the FBI and remained with the Bureau until 1949. When the National Guard unit that he was a mem-

### 3rd Brigade Sets Fast October Pace

**LZ BALDY** — The Third Brigade of the 1st Air Cavalry Division completed the first month of Operation Wallowa with a remarkable record: moving 125 miles north in two days, starting offensive operations almost immediately, and killing more than 700 enemy soldiers in October.

The Brigade moved north in early October into an area in which the 5th Marine Regiment had been involved in a series of violent battles with elements of the 2d NVA Division.

During the summer of 1967 alone, the Marines reported killing 2,400 members of the division in Operations Union I and Union II, 670 in Operation Cochise, and 1,200 in Operation Swift, which concluded just before the 1st Cavalry arrived in the area. During the summer, the Marines estimated that they inflicted 5,496 casualties on the division.

However, the enemy's supply lines to northern Quang Tin and southern Quang Nam province are short ones, and the Cavalry companies that have engaged the NVA on the ground have reported them to be well-armed, well-supplied, and extremely well-disciplined.

The Cavalry, aided by a month's break in the monsoon weather, engaged the NVA forces in three major ground actions during the month, all in the eastern section of the brigade's area of operations. In each of the actions, the enemy suffered heavy losses — 75 in one battle, more than 100 in each of the other two.

But the greatest successes were scored in the air, where the daredevil pilots of Troop B, (Continued on Back Page)

### Three VC in a Poke?

By SP4 RICHARD HAWKINS  
Staff Writer

**BONG SON**, — Three 1st Air Cavalry Division sergeants went poking in a pigpen to uncover three Viet Cong guerillas and their ammunition.

On a cordon and search mission by Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, north of here, Sergeant Howard Clark, Jr., spotted a man and a woman run from a house to a nearby pigpen. As he watched another man, who had been covering their exit dashed after them.

"I told the other guys to go ahead like nothing had happened," Clark said, "then we circled back to check it out."

Squad leader Staff Sergeant Edgar Baker found one side of the pen built up with a large amount of dirt and covered with boards. As he investigated one of the boards came loose revealing a small tunnel in the dirt.

Then Sergeant Gary Goetz, took over and crawled in with a flashlight. "I was about ready to come out when I saw this one guy's foot sticking out from around the corner," Goetz recalled. "So I hit him on the foot with the flashlight and each time he just pulled it in farther after him."

Deciding there must be an easier way, Goetz crawled out and pitched in a harmless smoke grenade. Two of the VC came out, but the third refused.

"We wanted him alive," Goetz said, "so we just took over entrenching tools and dug him out."

Along with the three detainees the hole yielded four grenades, eight M-16 magazines and about 100 rounds of ammunition and one G-1 air mattress.

# ...For God And Country

There is a great need today for dynamic Christian living.

West has met East—Godliness has met atheism—Compassion has met cruelty—Gentleness has confronted bestiality—Totalitarianism has spit in the face of Democracy—Communism (a Rel) has challenged Free Enterprise to a duel to the death. Both have interlocked in a massive death struggle.

Today as never before we need dynamic, sincere Christian living.

The theme of our Armed Forces Day was Power for Peace.

May I suggest a good theme for your life? It is POWER FOR LIVING. Dynamic, God-given regeneration by His Holy Spirit will provide motivation for good and Godly living.

We must not only outproduce, outmaneuver, outthink, outfight, outsmart, outray—but outlive and outdie the forces of evil which oppose America today.

A verse of Scripture reads as follows: "Not by might, nor by Power, but by Spirit saith the Lord."

Each sincere American, indeed our whole nation, is searching for the answer to our dilemma of a confused and frightened world.

This is the answer, this is the solution. God, through Jesus Christ, through His Bible and through His Church, is waiting to save your soul, bless your life, and make your existence to have meaning and interest.

May you let Him go to work in your life today.

ROSS C. WRIGHT  
Chaplain (MAJ)

## Editorial

### Friend Or Foe?

A year or so ago, a cartoon that appeared in a national magazine showed the typical irate husband saying to his wife, "It's finally happened—there's an installment payment due every day of the month!"

Installment buying, credit cards and charge accounts have become as American as mom's apple pie.

When intelligently used, credit and installment buying allow us to do and have things for ourselves and our families that might not be possible if we had to pay cash immediately for everything.

Problems arise, however, when people lose sight of the fact that all those credit purchases must be paid for sooner or later and that credit costs money.

In addition to the basic cost of what you buy, you must consider the credit charges. These charges are what too many people ignore or don't understand.

Depending on what type of credit purchase you have made and who the seller is, your credit charges can range from six per cent to 120 per cent annually.

This is why it is vital that you not only know the firm with which you are dealing, but that you thoroughly understand the various terms, such as add-on, discount, interest-bearing, etc., that are used in dealing with credit and installment buying.

Your legal officer can explain everything you need to know about credit buying and can give you the advice you need to buy intelligently. It will be to your advantage to make use of his knowledge and advice before you make credit purchases and become over-burdened with bills.

Remember, your good name, your military career and the happiness of your family are at stake. Protect yourself and use credit buying wisely. (AFPS)



### Hail Bravos

Specialist Fourth Class Carlos Torres (l) and Specialist Fourth Class Luis Hiraldo are a hard run team for the 1st Log Command, in support of the First Team. They proudly show off their Puerto Rico flag.

## 2nd Brigade Initiates Projects To Keep Rice From Viet Cong

LZ UPLIFT — In the fall of each year the villagers of Hoai An and Phu My Districts pull out their shallow bottomed wicker baskets and head down to the fields to harvest the rice crops.

In previous years nearly a quarter of their harvest would be taken from them by the Viet Cong and redistributed to VC and North Vietnamese Army fighting units. The dreaded tax collectors went around to every house in the hamlets collecting the rice. Families that did not grow rice would be required to buy, beg, borrow or steal it to pay the tax. No one was exempt.

This year the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade in Phu My and Hoai An Districts initiated a series of combined infantry and civic action projects designed to keep the rice in the hands of the farmers and to keep it away from the Communist fighting forces. The operations included:

The Cav's military police and Vietnamese National Police Field Force advisors holding cordon and search and "snatch" operations to apprehend the Communist "shadow government" and tax officials.

Increased aerial surveillance over areas being harvested.

Artillery harassment and interdiction fire over enemy supply trails and routes.

Night ambushes by rifle companies along likely avenues of approach into villages and rice fields by NVA or VC rice gathering patrols.

Families who live in areas that are most vulnerable to Viet Cong attack being urged by leaflet and loudspeaker messages from helicopters to keep only enough rice to feed themselves for fifteen days in their homes and to the deposit the remainder with friends and relatives who live in secure areas.

The 2nd Brigade's 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry took major control over protecting the rice harvest in Hoai An District, which lasted from mid-September to late October. The harvest season in Phu My began in early November.

The operations appear to be successful. An NVA sergeant who defected recently told

Cavalrymen that the daily food ration for men in his unit had been reduced to one-third the normal amount.

In most instances the unit was kept away from the populace by Cavalry surveillance helicopters and artillery and infantry interdiction. When they did manage

to reach the people of the hamlets, the sergeant said, he and his men found them largely unwilling to aid them.

In one small hamlet, a farmer under threat of his life flatly refused to pay the tax. The tax collectors took him outside the hamlet and beat him.

## 9th Cavalry Continues To Employ Expertise

CHU LAI — Combining the spirit and daring feats of the old-time cavalry with the firepower and swiftness of today's modern helicopters, the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry continued to prove itself a one-of-a-kind unit during October.

Demonstrating their expertise at employing airmobile tactics, the unit killed 514 enemy in operations during October, a new record for battalion-sized units in Vietnam.

"In the first 25 days of Octo-

ber, using the Air-Cav tactics, specifically those of the 1st of the 9th," says Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Nevins, 1/9th commander, "has caused the local Viet Cong in the Chu Lai area to put away their weapons and uniforms and go back to farming or fishing." Lt. Col. Nevins told of the accomplishments of B Troop, currently working in Operation Wallawa with the Americal Division, north of Chu Lai.

During the month of October, B Troop of the 1st Air Cav, commanded by Major Louis E. Beasley killed 246 North Vietnamese Army soldiers and 104 Viet Cong in operations centered in the coastal plain area near Tam Ky.

The Troop, broken down into four platoons, gunships, observation helicopters, infantry with its own organic lift ships and headquarters, had only 12 friendly WIA in the action. Often, the vulnerable aircraft are only five feet off the ground, looking into holes, bunkers and sometimes enemy guns.

In the biggest day of the month, the troop killed 53 enemy, disrupting an ambush and capturing seven enemy.

Lt. Col. Nevins commented, "They have also taught the enemy it is extremely unhealthy to shoot at helicopters and to hang their uniforms out to dry on the hedgerows. Bravo Troop has shown the enemy in that area that the Cav is not to be messed with. The Air-Cavalry concept is again proving itself to be the best for this type of warfare. An outstanding record and a tremendous unit pride have forged together to make Bravo Troop, 1st of the 9th, an outfit to reckon with."

## Snook 139 Celebrates 1,200 Hours

BONG SON — Two years have passed since Chinook Number 139 of the 228th Aviation Battalion arrived in Vietnam with the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

In that span, the CH-47 helicopter, assigned to Company B, has registered 1,200 hours of flying time, making it the highest ranking "snook" in the division. In addition 1,135 combat hours have been logged by "139".

Although the Chinook is the oldest aircraft in the battalion, it has presented only a few of the problems encountered in everyday use. During a current inspection and overhaul of the ship—at the end of its twelve-hundredth-hour—it is scheduled to lose the few more remaining parts it had upon arrival in Vietnam in 1965.

Three different crews have manned "139" in the performance of its assigned missions.



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## In Operation Wallowa

# Bayou DJ Now With Garry Owen Unit

LZ BALDY—Radio listeners in Louisiana used to know the voice of Bob Pitts well.

Pitts was a disc jockey in Ruston, and Shreveport, La., before he was drafted into the U.S. Army. "I was a country and western DJ in Shreveport," he recalled, "and I was with what we call our MOR station in Ruston. That stands for middle-of-the-road. We played balanced stuff, music to appeal to every-

one."

Pitts now has a different job. He carries a rifle for Company D, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division. He has found Vietnam strange, surprising and fascinating.

"When I got here in early October," he recalls, "they put me with a jeep convoy that came from An Khe up here"—a trip that took six days. "I got to see a lot of the people, and a

lot of the country, and they're both just wonderful."

Bob Pitts was in Vietnam a month before he was fired on. He didn't see an enemy soldier during the whole time. He became a combat veteran one night when a mortar shell landed near his tent and killed a friend of his, a man who had come to Vietnam with him.

"He was a happy-go-lucky fellow, the kind who'd give you

Cs (C-rations) when you didn't have any, give you a drink of water from his canteen, let you read his Stars and Stripes if you didn't have one. The morning before he was killed, we sat and talked about being on the plane going home, and how it would feel."

Bob Pitts still has the quiet voice and easy manner of a disc jockey. But he feels himself changing. "There are still

11 months to go for me," he says. "I've seen a little bit already and it makes me feel different. And I know I'll see a lot more before my time here is done."

Pitts was graduated from Shreveport's Fair Park High School in 1962, and went to Louisiana Technical College in Ruston.

## Move Creates Problems

LZ BALDY — When the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry was ordered north into C Corps area to set up three landing zones in the Cu Chi area, the move created a few logistical problems.

How did the battalion supply and logistics officer come through the week? "We're still getting set up here," said Captain Stan Leischner, Wichita Falls, Texas, S-4 officer of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, "but the men have had what they need and more all week."

If that sounds like a modest announcement, it's not. A 1st Air Cavalry Division battalion consumes three to five tons of supplies daily, all of it delivered to field positions by helicopter.

But the need for a quick move outweighed the need to have supplies on hand at the new area 30 miles south of Da Nang. "Our combat requirements outran our supply lines by a good bit," Capt. Leischner said.

When bad weather closed down the battalion's aerial supply line for a day, the Marines kept the soldiers in C-rations.

"I'd heard some bad things about Marines once upon a time," smiled Leischner's assistant, Master Sergeant Alvin W. Goodman, Mobile, Ala., "but these guys up here have made me forget them all."

The battalion was supplied by two routes. Convoys moved supplies up from Chu Lai, and helicopters flew them up from the same area. The trucks fought roads made almost impassable by the rain and bridges being blown by VC saboteurs. The chopper pilots flew through hideous weather and, on several occasions, took hits from enemy snipers.

"These chopper pilots are the unsung heroes of this war," said Leischner, shaking his head. "They fly through unbelievably bad weather to keep supplies moving to the field. The Cav pilots don't tell you 'I can't carry a load that big.' They say, 'Put it on and I'll try to lift it.'"

Seven days after the initial order to move was given, a hot meal a day was being prepared for the troops in the field.



### Flee To Safety

Members of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division, dash across an open rice paddy after a sniper opened up on them.

## VC Chieu Hoi After Hiding Nine Months

LZ MUSTANG — A group of 13 Vietnamese ranging in age from two to 80 walked the three miles from a dark, dank cave where they had been hiding for 9 months to the perimeter here and asked that the "Chieu Hoi" passes they clutched in their hands be honored.

The party included one retired main force Viet Cong, five retired hamlet guerillas, the widow of a guerilla, her five children and her 80-year-old mother.

The widow, grandmother, and children were classed as innocent civilians.

The guerillas said that they had not taken part in combat operations since late 1966, after the 1st Air Cavalry had moved into the An Lao Valley.

Several of their guerilla comrades had been wiped out in these operations, they said.

Refugees had been moved out of the An Lao, the area had become a freefire zone, and they thought it best not to fight anymore.

Later they saw North Vietnamese Army soldiers in the area. They knew it would only be a short while before the 1st Cavalry would be back in the area after the NVA, they said. To avoid the Cavalry again, the guerillas set up a kind of VC Old Soldiers home in the cave near the village Hung Long.

They stayed there nine months taking only short trips out of their cave home to gather food from nearby rice fields. One of the retired guerillas told Cavalrymen that he had been a Popular Force troop, later defected to the VC, became tired of the VC and hit upon the activity he really enjoyed in life, cutting hair.

In Binh Thuan Province, the Chieu Hoi Center is located in Phan Thiet, the capital and also the center of operations of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

Although the two organizations are not officially connected, their operations are often related. The strength of the Cavalry has been a major factor, inducing the VC to give up their arms and support the government, while the intelligence information obtained from the returnees has proven very useful in the 2/7th Cav's operations against the enemy forces. Since the Binh Thuan Provincial Center was opened in July of 1963, over 1,500 Hoi Chanh have been rehabilitated back into Vietnamese society.

The center is equipped to accommodate 150 persons. Their stay is usually about two months and they are educated in every thing from sewing to political indoctrination.

## Brothers Reunited In An Khe

AN KHE—Until this year, Sergeant Jose Toves hadn't seen his brother in 12 years.

In 1951, Jose, with "much ado about nothing" except a desire to fight aggression and help free the world of oppression, joined the U.S. Army and left his family and his native Guam.

In April of 1967, Toves came to Vietnam and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division, a division renowned for its many heroes and miracles in and out of the field, according to Toves.

Unknown to Jose, his younger brother Roque an Army Sergeant, came to Vietnam during August, 1967, and he too was assigned to the division. For two months Roque lived just down the road from Jose. Finally Roque heard mention of another Toves and he went to the orderly room of HHC, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, to begin his search for the other Toves. There he received the best and biggest surprise of his military career.

He discovered his brother Jose was at a forward landing zone.

## Spider Hole Uncovers 3 Charlies

BONG SON—You never know what you'll find in a spider hole, says a 1st Air Cavalry Division soldier from the 1st Brigade after he flushed out three Charlies while on his way to chow.

Sergeant Howard Clark, Memphis Tenn., a squad leader in Company A of the Brigade's 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, was going to chow some 12 miles north of Bong Son, when he spotted a large hole.

Clark sauntered over to the hole, dropped in a smoke grenade, and out came three Viet Cong guerillas. All had been wounded in a previous engagement near Lieu An, four miles to the west.

## Timber! Antenna Poles Go Tumbling

AN KHE — Timber!

That was the word used by members of the 2d Construction Platoon of the 589th Engineer Battalion's Delta Company as three 80-foot antenna poles came tumbling down at the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Camp Radcliff.

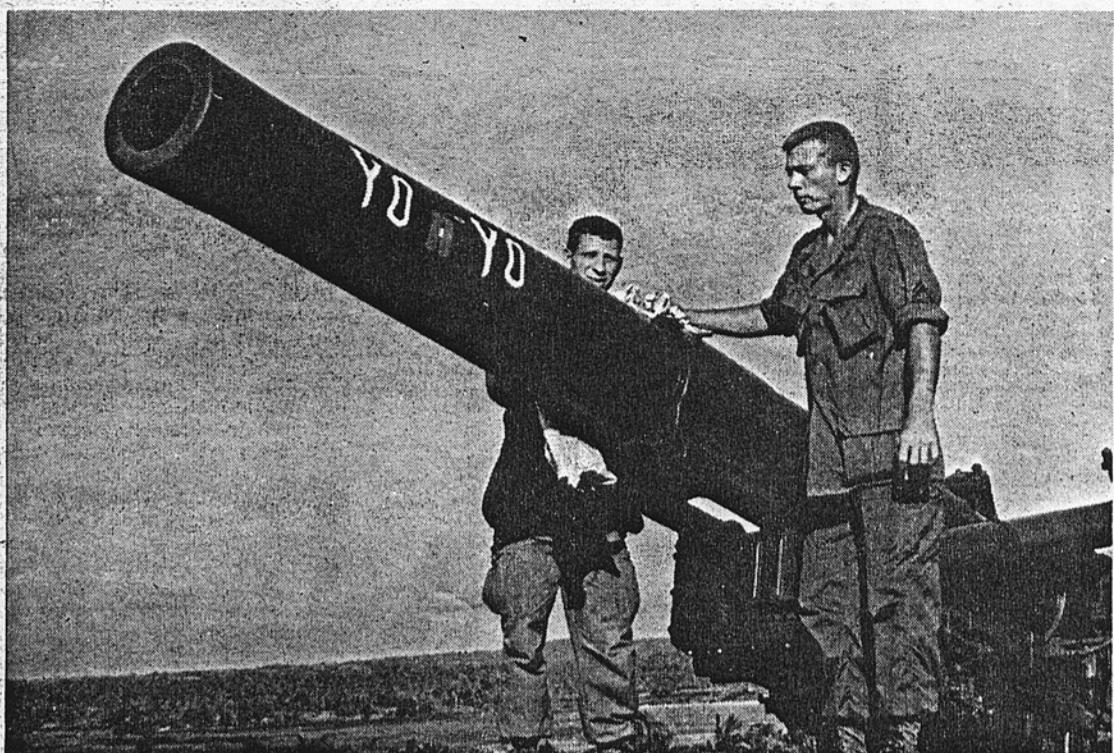
Erected by platoon Leader First Lieutenant Charles W. Bowman Jr., and Specialist five Milton

Cunningham, the engineers applied tall-tree lumber packing skills to the task. Specialist five Theodore Dzierzanowski got first crack as he scaled the full 80-foot length with a 100-foot line, secured it to the pole tip, and scaled back 20-feet to cut a V-shaped notch in the pole in the desired direction of fall.

Completing his cuts through the two-foot diameter pole with

the hand saw, he returned to the ground and safety, allowing a pulling crew to yank the weakened section for a smooth separation and safe landing.

Section by section, the poles were removed in a safe and orderly manner allowing the Skytroopers unrestricted access to their airlines.



THIS "YO YO" KEEPS CHARLIE ON THE IN BINH DINH PROVINCE



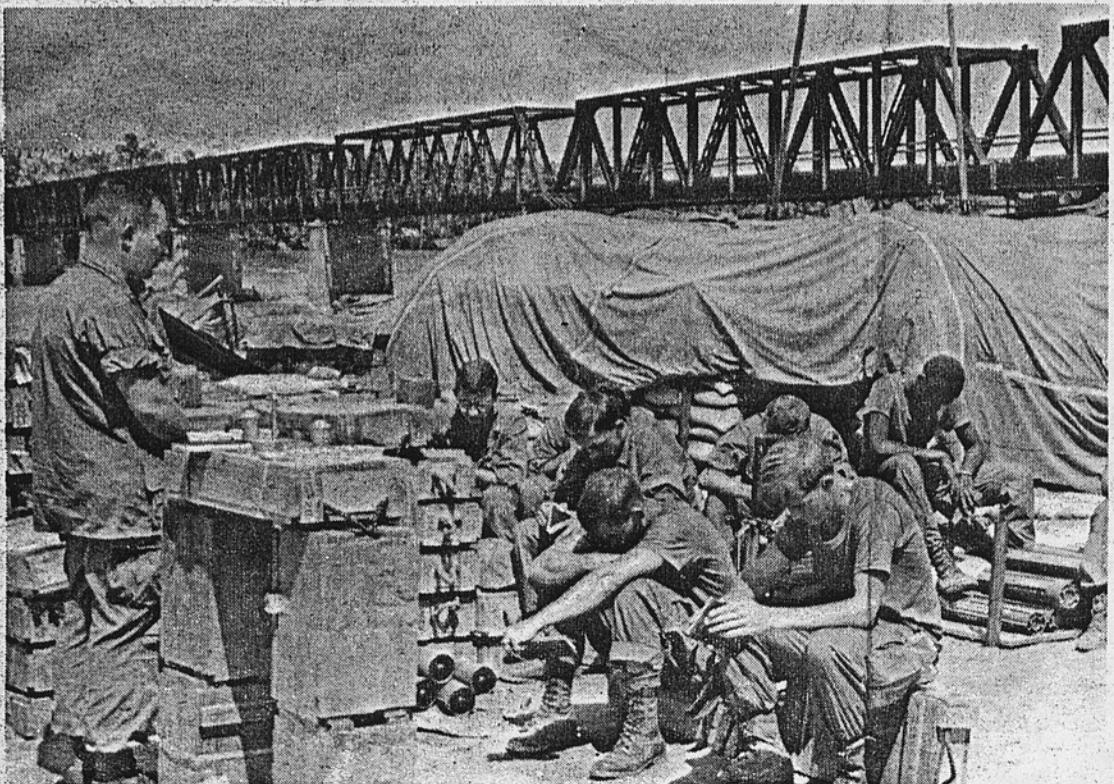
A CH-47 CHINOOK HOVERS A DOWND HUEY HELICOPTER



SSG RAYBURN PITTMAN FONDLES A LOST VIET PUPPY



A SKYTROOPER HELPS A VIETNAMESE WOMAN MOVE SOME RICE



CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) JACK COWARDS CONDUCTS COMMUNION AND CHURCH SERVICES



SCOUT DOG AND HANDLER WATCH FOR VIET CONG

# Cavalry Nabs Rice Cache

BONG SON — Intelligence reported that there was a battalion-size force of Viet Cong in the mountains just north of LZ Uplift, and Delta company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry was going in on an air assault, to deny Charlie his sanctuary.

The rocket ships peppered the area with screaming missiles. Mini-guns roared and saturated the surrounding rice paddies with protective fire. The enemy did not return the fire.

While the Hueys hovered over the rice paddies like giant mosquitoes, 1st Air Cavalrymen leaped from the choppers and splashed through the water to the tree line.

Staff Sergeant David E. Ciocca, a squad leader, was in the lead chopper. As soon as he and his men hit the ground, they moved out in front of the company. Ciocca was on the point.

"I have been walking point for two days," Ciocca said. "All my men are to 'short' to walk point, so I do it." Ciocca has less than a month on his tour himself.

The company moved into the tree line and through tall elephant grass. They found the trail. After twenty minutes Sgt. Ciocca spotted a hooch beside the trail and discovered it contained around 1,500 pounds of rice and 100 pounds of salt. Charlie was in the area.

The company passed through the maze of dark dismal jungle and continued up the mountain side. Each soldier clutched his weapon and turned his head from side to side looking for the enemy.

After the minutes of silent movement a rifle burst shattered the stillness. Troops clawed for cover like a school of minnows and crouched ready to fire.

The men moved toward the fire and another burst of rounds rang out. It was friendly fire. Ciocca, the point man had killed an armed Viet Cong.

The dead enemy was carrying an SKs rifle, food and ammunition.

The company moved up the trail again and Sergeant Ciocca led the way. After 100 yards of entangled jungle another burst of fire rang out. This time the VC managed to get away. The sun was low and obstructed vision.

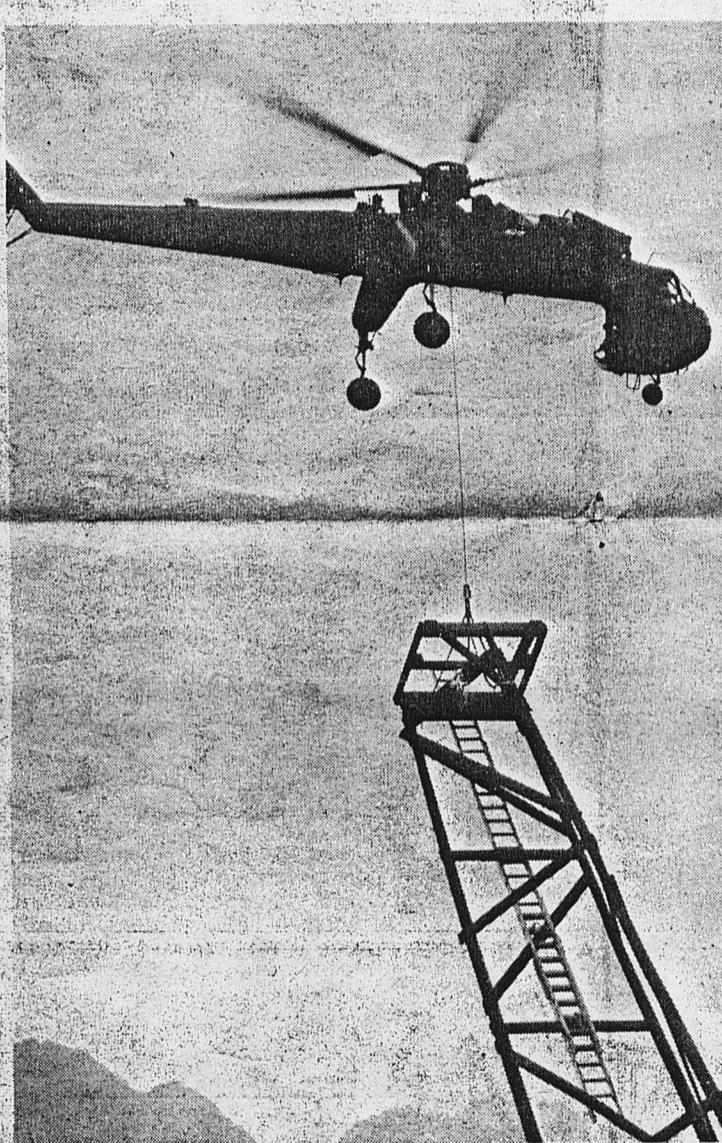
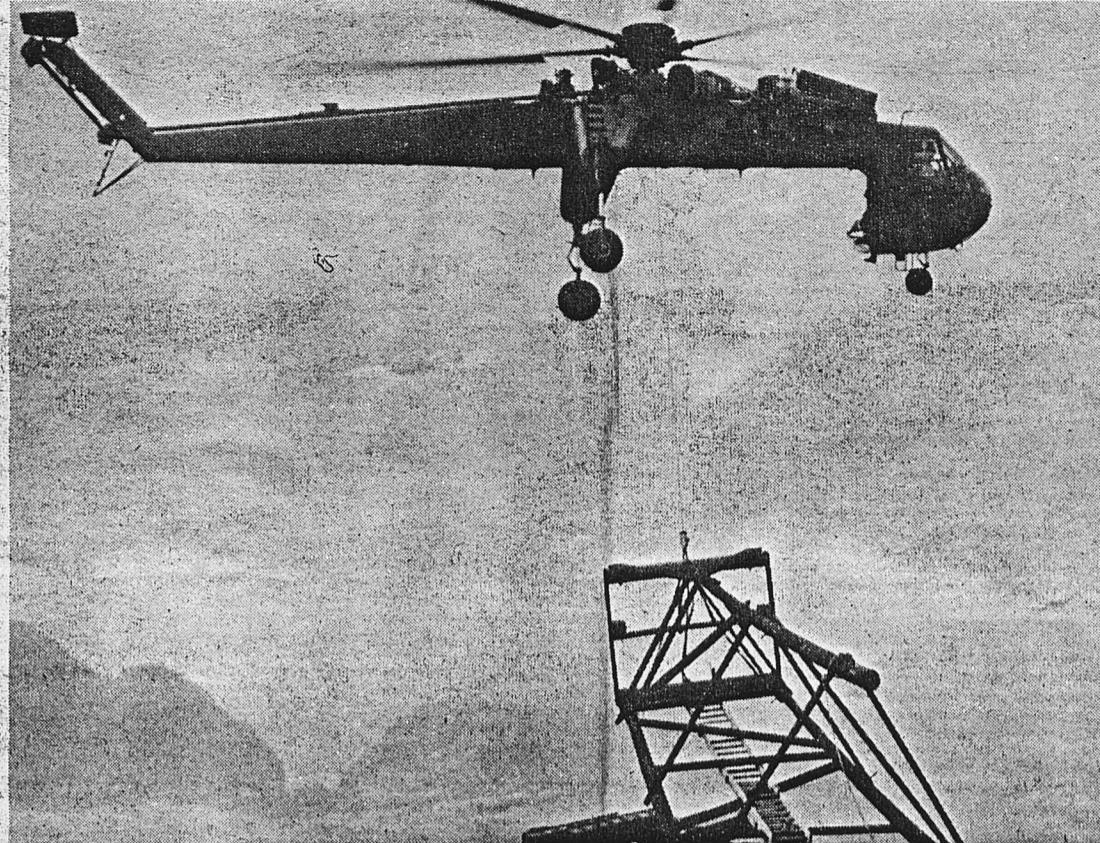
Again the company moved higher up the mountain but darkness started setting. After nearing the tip, the company moved back in the twilight and burned the big rice cache that they discovered earlier as they passed.

## Utilize Indian Techniques

# Scout Dogs Track Down 15 NVA Soldiers

LZ ENGLISH — Utilizing techniques that Indian scouts used for the old-time Cavalry, a 1st Air Cavalry Division scout team has tracked down 15 enemy soldiers in the An Lao Valley.

The team consisting of Warrant Officers Jeffrey Johns, Dover, Delaware, and Phillip A. Rybott, Clinton, Illinois, spotted several sets of tracks in the sand below from their OH-13



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS

## Workhorse

A CH-47 Flying Crane lifts a 65-foot tower to the Marble Mountains of Vietnam. The crane moved 12 of the towers into the mountains, completing the operation in a day.

observation helicopters.

Hovering along a stream bed for about four miles while following the trail through rocks and sand, the Cavalryman finally hit "pay dirt": 15 North Vietnamese (NVA) soldiers sitting around a campfire. "The soldiers just sat there and looked up at us for a split second, and then started running everywhere," Johns said.

Both helicopter gunners,

Specialist Four Richard Rivera, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Specialist Four Gary Krastz, Corpus Christi, Texas, opened up on the enemy with their machine guns as the enemy soldiers returned fire.

Circling the area and placing suppressive fire on the enemy, the scouts accounted for six enemy KIA. Artillery and an air strike accounting for six more enemy killed were later

called in when the scout team was forced to withdraw due to intense enemy automatic weapons fire.

Nine NVA packs, some helmets, and part of a mortar were found later at the location.

"It was just like tracking rabbits back in Illinois," said Rybott, "except the rabbits don't shoot back."

# Radar Accents Speed

BONG SON — The counter mortar radar of the 1st Air Cavalry Division Artillery stand poised against the sky, silently watching for mortar rounds or other unidentified objects to cross their electronic beams.

"We can have a location computed in less than 30 seconds after something appears on the scope," said Warrant Officer Robert Boatman, the radar maintenance technician.

The high accuracy and fast response of the radar is due to the precision electronics of the machine and the integral computer which automatically gives azimuth and range of target. The quick reaction of skilled operators is significant also.

"We are always within 25 meters of the exact location of the target," said WO Boatman. "Each night check rounds are fired to test the equipment and keep the operators in practice. Our accuracy is good enough to register artillery batteries when an aerial observer isn't available."

Once an operator spots something, it is a matter of seconds before he is on the telephone to an artillery fire direction center with the data. The FDC sends the data to the 1st Cav howitzers and counter mortar fire is on the way.

The crews that operate the radars are small: a section chief, a couple of operators, and maintenance personnel. The section is cross-trained as much as possible to provide maximum depth within the section.

The sets themselves are air-mobile, each has its own power source, and can be placed anywhere. The best locations are those which provide an unobstructed view of the horizon.

"We get exceptional use out of the sets," continued Boatman, who has found his experience as an instructor on radar maintenance at Ft. Sill, Okla., to be invaluable in the hot humid climate of Vietnam. "Since I have been here, the sets have been 97 per cent operational, and we get five times the use from a set as we did in the states."

## Skytroopers Find Clever Booby Trap

BONG SON — Skytroopers of the 1st Battalion, 50th Mechanized Infantry have uncovered another of Charlie's clever booby traps while on a search and destroy mission near the Dam Tra-O Lake.

C Company was just finishing three weeks of patrol in the Crescent and Sandpit areas along the South China Sea when a few of the men spotted a body hanging from a tree.

Under close inspection it turned out to be a straw dummy dressed in black pajamas, with a fuzzy coconut head and several Vietnamese signs. According to the interpreter, the dummy represented LBJ and the signs contained the usual Viet Cong propaganda: "Down with American imperialism and aggression."

After cutting the dummy down several of the Cav men gathered around taking pictures, when the head fell off; inside it, hanging from a crude fishhook was a Chi-Com grenade.

Near Chu Lai

## Beasley's Troops Fast Pacesetters

CHU LAI—Major Lewis B. Beasley, has led Troop B, 9th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division, into a new fighting area and new, spectacular successes.

Under Maj. Beasley's command, the troop, an element the size of an infantry company, killed 96 Viet Cong during the first ten days of Operation Wallowa, conducted by the 1st Cav's 3rd Brigade. No one in B Troop was killed and only one man injured during that time.

## Westy Visits LZ Ross

LZ ROSS—General William C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, paid a surprise visit recently to Landing Zone Ross, one of his rare calls to a battalion-size fire base.

Greeting the four-star general was Lieutenant Colonel M. C. Ross, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, and his staff.

After a five-minute briefing by Ross, the party toured the landing zone deep in enemy-infested Quang Nam Province, making several stops to talk with company commanders.

Although no reason is given for the general's visit, he did seem impressed with the posture of the battalion on the fire base and in the neighboring battle areas, and made several inquiries about the "Deuce of the Dozen's" combat operations against VC and NVA forces in the neighboring plains and mountains in the Que Son area.

Under a bright afternoon sun, the generals left for Landing Zone Baldy, forward command post of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade.

Because of enemy anti-aircraft activity in the area and the fact that the battalion command and control helicopter had been shot down but a few days previously, the helicopter pilots were advised to fly their ships higher than normal, and the flight was without incident.

## Spunky Leads Cav To Hideout

BONG SON — A canine named Spunky, who defected from the VC a month ago, broke up a VC ambush this week, and led troopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade to a former Communist hideout.

Proceeding on a search and clear operation near the village of Cu Le about 10 miles northwest of Bong Son, the Cavalrymen approached an enemy ambush site, but fortunately were alerted by Spunky.

Upon being detected by the pup, three Viet Cong who were lying in ambush, dropped their weapons and surrendered.

Spunky was found in a VC occupied area a month ago in the mountainous region north of the Bong Son Plain. The young dog already has eight combat air assaults to his credit.

His owner, Lieutenant Frank Estrada, is a platoon leader in Company C of the 1st Brigade's 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, currently conducting combat operations along the central Vietnamese east coast.

Beasley, a skilled pilot whose own ship accounted for nine of the kills, took over the troop last May. The troops of the "1st of the 9th" are virtually unique within the Army. They employ three teams to attack the enemy: a "White" team of scout helicopters whose job is to find enemy positions, a "Red" team of rocket-firing helicopters whose job is to bring heavy fire on the enemy, and a "Blue" team of infantrymen whose job is to bring enemy units into combat.

The 1st of the 9th operates as a reconnaissance unit for the 1st Cav, and Maj. Beasley's troop has operated in some of the most dangerous areas of the war. For three months, the troop was deployed near Duc Pho, where Beasley took command. There, the troop killed 471 enemy during three months of intensive fighting.

In early October, Beasley moved his men into the Operation Wallowa area, where the Cavalry's 3rd Brigade replaced Marine units. It was well to the north of the Cav's old area near Bong Son, and Troop B was able to surprise an enemy almost totally unfamiliar with the 1st of the 9th's spectacular tactics.

The troop's pilots prefer, for instance, to fly "on the deck," barely above treetop level. It permits closer observation of the ground, and reduces the amount of time a helicopter is exposed to enemy fire.

"We call anything between 10 and 1,500 feet the 'dead man's zone,'" Beasley said. "It's there that small-arms fire can be most effective."

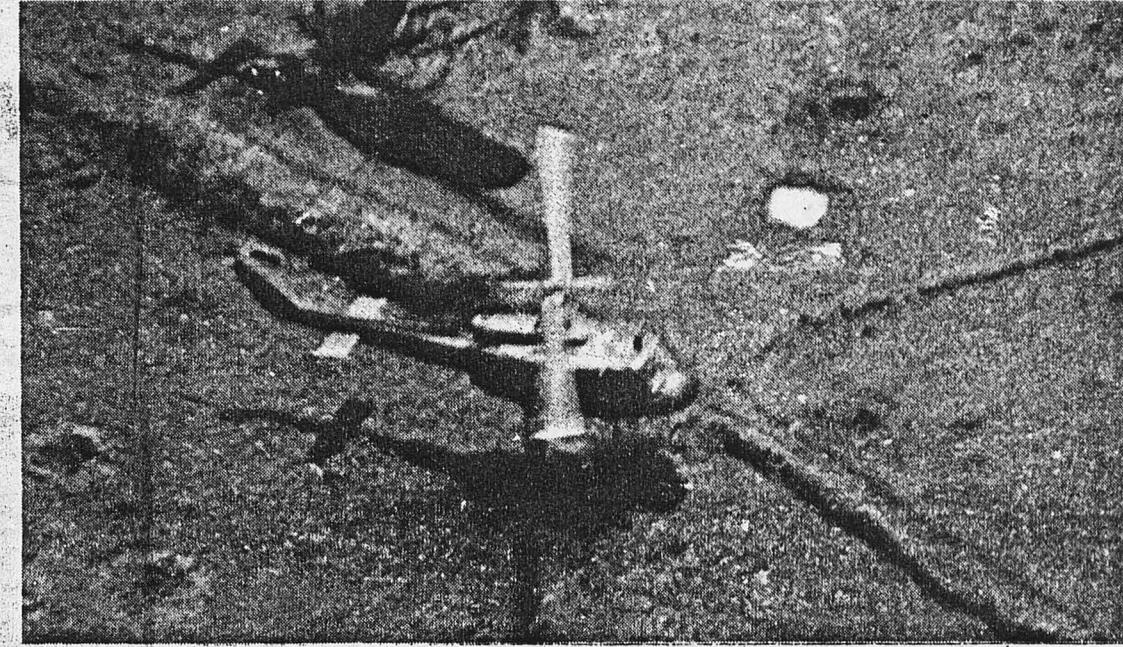


Photo by SP4 ANDREW RUST

## Looking For Charlie

A Blue ship from Bravo Troop of the 1st of the 9th prepares to insert troops into artillery-pocked rice paddy landing zone near Chu Lai. Bravo Troop is participating with the Cav's Third Brigade in Operation Wallowa.

## Dodges 50 Cal. Fire

## OH-13 Sparks B Troop Hunt

CHU LAI—The OH-13 scout helicopters of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry are on the lookout for anything when they go on reconnaissance missions.

But they don't usually try to fly right over the barrel of an enemy 50-caliber machine gun.

That's what happened to Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Rawl, a pilot with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav, in Quang Nam Province 30 miles south of Da Nang.

The OH-13 is a tiny two-man helicopter with a glass cockpit.

A 50-caliber, which makes a bullet hole as big as a man's fist, can make the ship's occupants feel very uncomfortable. That's how Rawl felt when he saw the bullets go past him.

Rawl climbed out of range immediately and brought more firepower to bear on the machine gun.

Rawl has had plenty of chances to make enemy soldiers equally unhappy as Troop B helped elements of the 1st Air Cavalry Division move into a new area of operations north of the Cav's old area around Bong Son.

On a general reconnaissance near the village of Que Son, Rawl saw two armed uniformed enemy soldiers trying to run to bunkers. He shot them. More

enemy came out from behind rocks and trees, trying to get to their bunkers before the helicopter spotted them. Rawl's chopper accounted for six enemy that day.

Another day, Rawl found three enemy moving along a trail, and shot them. The infantry platoon of the 1st of the 9th was put on the ground to pick up the weapons and gear of the dead men and found more enemy confronting them. That find led to 15 VC killed.

In the first 10 days of operating in the new AO, Rawl's B Troop killed 96 enemy without losing any of its own men.

Rawl, 29, has been in Vietnam for more than six months of his one-year tour.

## 1/9th Cav Blues Travel Fast, Light

CHU LAI—Sergeant Robert Earl Loving is an infantryman who has spent five months in Vietnam. But he has spent only one night in the field, away from a base camp.

That's because Loving is a member of one of the most unusual infantry units in Vietnam, the "Blue" platoon of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division.

The "1st of the 9th" as the Air Cavalrymen call the squadron, is the reconnaissance arm of the division. Each of its three air cavalry troops is assigned OH-13 observation helicopters to seek out enemy positions and UH-1B rocket-firing helicopters to destroy the enemy.

The third arm is the "Blue" platoon—men like Sergeant Loving. When the helicopters find what looks like a significant number of enemy, the infantrymen are put on the ground.

They "travel light"—since they do not stay in the field, they carry only the ammunition they need for the day. They can move faster than an enemy loaded with gear and heavy weapons.

Pursuing enemy forces in this way, the Blues have touched off many of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's biggest actions. Loving's one night in the field came when his platoon walked into an ambush by a North Vietnamese Army battalion near Duc Pho,



Photo by SPC JOHN WILSON

## A Pocket for Pockets

First Lieutenant Peter Watkins of the division's 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry and his pup, Pockets, take time out during a sweep of a Vietnamese village. Pockets goes everywhere with the infantryman riding in his fatigues.

in north central South Vietnam.

Because of their mobility, the Blues were able to pull back from the ambush immediately. Regular infantry companies were inserted around the village. The next day, the men moved into the village in armored personnel carriers, killing 40 enemy.

"I've been in regular infantry units, and it's completely different over here," said Loving, who spent 18 months with Army units in Germany before coming to Vietnam.

"This is a small unit, and the men are really tight with each other. Every one of the men in the platoon knows each other and knows what the other guys are like. We know the pilots and the officers, too."

"That's the kind of outfit this is," Loving said. "These guys know their job; they're good."

Loving and his fellow soldiers had one unusual experience in the new area, however. Their camp had been set up on a beach near Chu Lai. On their fourth night there, a tropical storm brought 75-mile-per-hour winds and 17 inches of rain to their area. All their tents blew down and all their clothes were soaked.

Loving hung his fatigues out to dry philosophically. "At least I've got a bunch of uniforms, and a home of sorts here," he said. "Most infantrymen don't have this good stuff."

# 2 Fights Wipe Out Complex

TUY HOA — Two diverse, close-range firefights by a unit of the 1st Air Cavalry Division has wiped out five enemy soldiers and uncovered a plush NVA (North Vietnamese Army) cave complex near here.

While on a search-and-destroy mission, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, was slicing through dense jungle shrubbery when its 2nd platoon, "The Roadrunners," received a call to investigate an area where two OH-13 observation helicopters had killed or wounded several enemy.

They moved into the area, and almost immediately spotted the enemy. Captain Edison Scholas of Atlanta, Georgia, D Company commander, took several of his men and chased Charlie to a bunker. A volley of grenades flushed out the Viet Cong.

Another squad, led by Sergeant Thomas Wright, of Houston, Texas, sighted some enemy soldiers and cornered them in a bunker. They exchanged heavy fire. Wright and Specialist Four David Abraham, Flint, Michigan, attempted to rush the bunker but murderous fire drove them back several times before "Roadrunner" grenades finally found their mark, knocking out the bunker.

Wright entered the bunker through hole in the roof and found four dead enemy. He also found various types of web gear, grenades, documents, one M-1 rifle, one Mauser bolt action rifle, and various types of ammunition.

Meanwhile, D Company's 3rd platoon, the wildcat platoon, found the NVA cave complex, quite elegant by NVA standards, in the same area.

Lieutenant Michael Bennett, from Brentwood, New Hampshire, led his platoon through the caves, finding sleeping quarters with bunks built into the wall, a cooking area stocked with rice, dried corn, live chickens, beans and, for special occasions, a supply of home-brew beer, plus 2,000 rounds of ammo for a Mauser rifle, carbine ammo, documents, medical supplies, and about 6,000 newly-made punji stakes.

When 3rd platoon crawled out of the cave, gunfire greeted them. They dove for cover and returned fire until the enemy withdrew. An area search revealed one NVA killed and one NVA weapon.

## Destroy Cav Complex

# Ten Minute Break Nets Enemy

BONG SON — Taking a break at the right time and place netted 10 North Vietnamese Army soldiers for a platoon from the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade, and resulted in the destruction of an enemy cave complex.

During a search and clear operation at Thanh Son (1) on the northern Bong Son Plains, the platoon was taking a 10 minute break on the side of a mountain when a curious Skytrooper discovered a cave.

Several rounds were fired into the cave, wounding one of the North Vietnamese soldiers and causing six of his companions to

surrender.

Further searching revealed a second tunnel with two openings, and after securing the entrance, Staff Sergeant Chris Carnegie entered the second.

Carnegie discovered a large rock obstructing the passage, and noticed an enemy soldier crouching behind it, at which time he warned Lavine to leave the area, and placed a concussion grenade in the opening.

Following the explosion, Lavine returned again with his .45 cal. pistol, and brought out the stunned enemy soldier, plus a carbine with ammo and 10 Chi-Com mortar rounds.

Carnegie also re-entered the cave, and found another NVA, whom he rapidly ushered out, and while leaving, realized that he was being followed by still another enemy soldier, who threw a hand grenade. The grenade killed Carnegie's captive and wounded Carnegie and Lavine.

Aerial rocket artillery was called in along with air strikes, completely sealing off the underground caverns and rendered the former complex useless.

All Cavalrymen were from the 1st Platoon of Charlie Company in the 1st Brigade's 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

## Lawman Gets His Man

# MP Foils VC's Attempt To Escape Capture

AN KHE — Proving the old adage that a lawman always gets his man, a sharp-eyed military policeman of the 1st Air Cavalry's 1st Brigade foiled the attempt of three Viet Cong to camouflage their hiding place and escape detection.

The action occurred during a

clearing operation near the village of Tuy An on the Bong Son plains. First Lieutenant Horst H. Glatte, Hartford, Conn., whose platoon from the 545th Military Police Company is attached to the 1st Brigade, was given the mission of entering a small hamlet to pick up several civilian personnel for interrogation.

Entering the village, Glatte noticed an individual trying to hide in some bushes. Glatte dashed to the area and spied a small opening in the center of the bush.

Turning to get a grenade from one of his men, Glatte was suddenly aware of a hand emerging from the hole. As he watched,

the hand pulled a cover over the opening. Glatte placed a grenade on the hiding place hoping to blow the lid off.

The grenade did the trick. Glatte raced back to the hole in time to capture the original escapee along with two others. All turned out to be Viet Cong soldiers.

## Congrats Serg Oops I Mean Lieutenant

LZ ROSS — "Congratulation Sergeant, I mean Lieutenant Wicker." It happened so quickly that people had trouble remembering how to address 2nd Lieutenant Jack E. Wicker of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division.

Sergeant Wicker became Lieutenant Wicker as the result of a direct commission, in a brief ceremony at Landing Zone Ross, near Que Son.

Lt. Wicker took the oath administered by his battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel M. Collier Ross; the gold bar was pinned on; and the ceremony was over.

Lt. Wicker has compiled quite a record with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cav, during his 18 months in Vietnam. His entire tour has been spent with Company A, 2nd of the 12th. A native of Firebrick, Ky., Wicker has received the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award for heroism, for rallying his platoon on in the face of an enemy ambush at Dak To when both his platoon sergeant and his platoon leader were out of action. Wicker has also received the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service, and the Air Medal.

Lt. Wicker joined the Army in September, 1965, and came to Vietnam after completing basic training at Ft. Ord, Calif., and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Polk, La.

## 13th Artillery Fires Record 250,000th

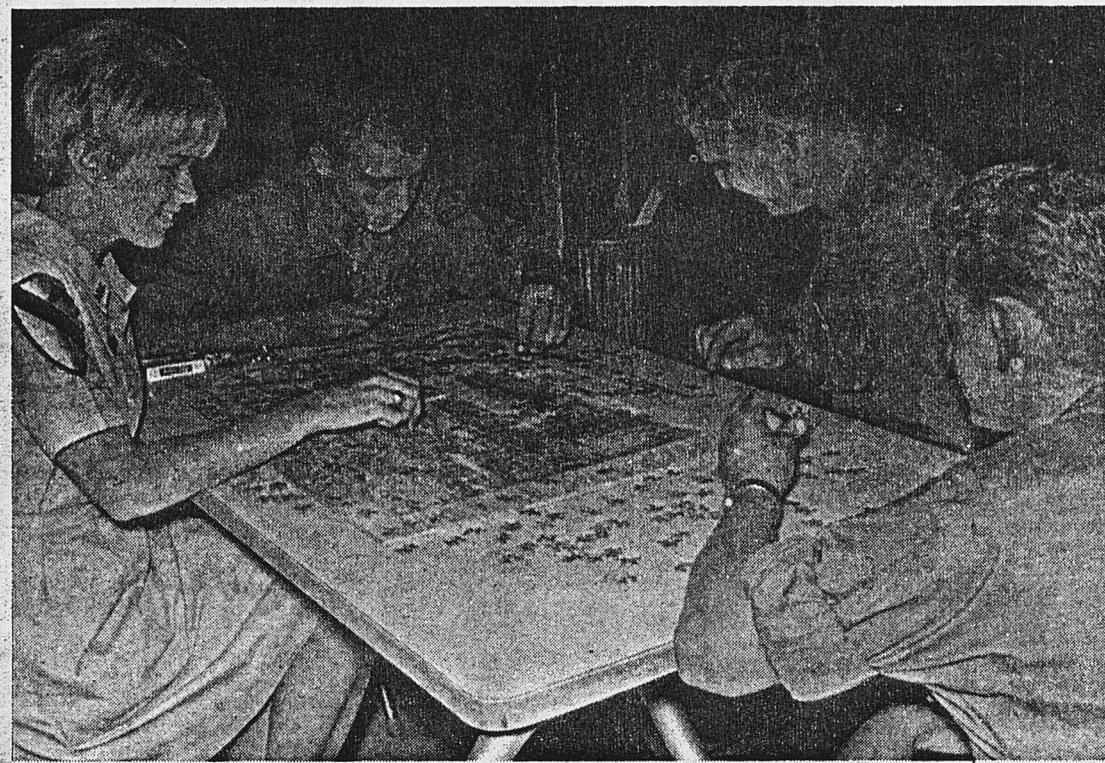
LZ PONY — "We feel like we are really part of the 1st Cav," said Lieutenant Colonel Philo Hutcheson, commanding officer, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery, as his battalion fired its 250,000th round in Vietnam.

The IFFV artillery battalion has supported the 1st Air Cavalry Division in the central highlands of Vietnam, 60 miles north of Qui Nhon, since December 1966, and has fired exclusively for the 1st Cav. Bravo Battery fired the record round from here during a live-fire mission that interrupted ceremonies.

The battalion fired their 100,000th round last May, accomplishing their next 150,000 rounds in just six months.

"We have a good reputation for being able to give fast and accurate fires," said Lieutenant Colonel Hutcheson. "We had to prove ourselves to the Cav, and we're proud of the reputation we have built."

"The 7/13th Artillery is consistently as fast and accurate as any artillery in the Cav," said Colonel Richard Winfield, Division Artillery commander. "They are endowed with the real spirit of air mobility, having participated in numerous artillery raids."



'Happy Hootch'

Red Cross recreation aide Joan Crosby helps Skytroopers put the pieces together at the 'Happy Hootch' in An Khe. The men are, from top clockwise, PFC Ralph Ruggles, SP4 Harold Patterson, and SP4 Ronald Raines.

## Trooper Finds Out How Tough His Job Of Observer Really Is

LZ BALDY — In June he arrived in Vietnam, and in July they told David Adcock they had a new job for him: instead of being just another soldier in the mortar platoon he would be the mortar forward observer for his 1st Air Cavalry Division company.

But Adcock didn't realize how tough a job he'd taken on until Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry ran into an enemy company and a daylong firefight on the South China Sea coast, 30 miles south of Da Nang.

When the first enemy shots rang out, killing two Americans, Adcock was in an open, sandy field along with a rifle platoon leader and his radioman. Adcock crawled back to his own radio, and then he crawled up to the platoon's firing line, be-

hind a sandy bank at the edge of the field.

Out in front, just a few yards from the American lines, were enemy positions so well concealed that they couldn't be seen. Adcock's job was to bring mortar fire in the vicinity of the enemy positions, to keep rounds exploding near them so that the North Vietnamese soldiers wouldn't be able to get up and fire whenever they wanted.

The first thing Adcock did was dig a hole with his hands. "I dug like a dog, man." Then he got on the radio to the mortars. "By the time we got them, they had the tube up and ready to fire," he recalled.

Now Adcock's job began — he had to adjust the mortar fires, spraying them over the enemy positions if he couldn't pinpoint

a target. But the battlefield was covered with smoke that made watching the impact difficult, and with the enemy still firing, sticking your head up to watch mortar rounds land was not considered advisable.

Adjusting mostly by sound, Adcock began moving the rounds about — four directly in front of him, where an automatic weapon had been firing, four to his left, where a gunner had been shooting at another platoon, now 50 yards in front of his position, now 100.

Artillery, rocket-firing helicopters, and air strikes were now beginning to saturate the enemy position with explosives. Whenever they let up, Adcock pumped in mortar fire, four rounds at a time, letting up only when the mortar tube got too hot to fire any more.

In the six hours his platoon spent on the edge of the field, Adcock called in almost 400 rounds of mortar fire. The hard-working Company C mortar platoon shot up rounds almost as fast as the resupply helicopters could bring them in.

Captain Dennis Lenhart, the company commander, said that the mortar fire was a prime reason his company was able to keep the North Vietnamese soldiers from leaving the area of the battle, and praised Adcock as "courageous and competent" under fire.

Six hours after Company C was first hit, an armored column rumbled into the area. Company C advanced with the armored personnel carriers over the enemy positions. On the battlefield were the bodies of 107 North Vietnamese.

# Artillery Keeps VC Hungry

AN KHE — The An Lao Valley and other Viet Cong strongholds in the Central Highlands of Vietnam lay fallow, the populace evacuated from the grasps of the Viet Cong. Sporadic artillery fire and constant patrolling by the 1st Air Cavalry Division have denied the Viet Cong use of the area.

Unable to raise his own food, Charlie is forced to range far and wide gathering food to prevent starvation. His main source is the poor Vietnamese farmer or refugee who is defenseless against night raids on the rice fields.

"With no one but the enemy in areas like the An Lao Valley," says Major Paul Cote, 1st Cavalry Division Intelligence Officer, "we fire interdiction without fear of hitting innocent civilians. But with Charlie forced to get his food in populated areas, a problem arose in denying him those crops."

The Cav's artillery fire falls into four categories: acquired targets, predicted targets, interdiction, and special interdiction. Acquired targets are derived from surveillance and concrete data dealing with enemy movements, positions, habits, intentions.

The predicted targets are the product of logic and reports from many intelligence sources. Using known data, targets are determined which will intercept the VC as they move. A study of known trails and terrain features provides a reliable target when Charlie is known to be moving from one area to another. The subsequent artillery fire virtually precludes Charlie's arrival unscathed.

"Interdiction fires are placed to prevent the uninterrupted use of various areas by VC," said Maj. Cote. "They comprise a small portion of our nightly artillery fire, as 75 per cent of the fire is acquired or predicted targets."

"We keep Charlie hungry," continued the Major, "by denying him use of certain areas. To keep him that way, we use part of our special interdiction program."

Special interdiction consists of artillery fire applied to a special situation like the VC using populated areas. Rice interdiction, counter mortar and counter rocket interdiction are missions in this category.



Photo By PFC GARY VOGT

## Proving We're The Best

The Minutemen Award was presented to the 1st Cav for more than 90% participation in the Army Savings Bond Program. Holding the banner are, from left, LTC Robert Runkle, LTC Harold McCormack, Major General John J. Tolson, division commander, and LTC Robert Vaughn.

## NVA Stops 14 Rounds From M-16

BONG SON — A North Vietnamese soldier seemed to turn invisible, after stopping at least 14 M-16 rifle rounds fired by a Skytrooper from the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade.

Specialist Four George P. Bosley, Manhattan Beach, Calif., a fire team leader for Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, was leading his platoon up a mountainside 45 miles northwest of Qui Nhon, when he spotted an NVA (North Vietnamese Army) soldier trying to escape.

Pursuing the enemy, Bosley and his men came upon a hastily abandoned command post where they found uniforms and food that had been left behind.

Proceeding to track the enemy up the mountainside, he suddenly spotted him about four feet away.

As Bosley got ready to fire, a second NVA jumped into the trail. Bosley spun and squeezed off a burst at the first NVA, hitting him with all rounds, but not stopping him.

## CMH on Down—A&D Sees 'Em All

AN KHE — The medals and ribbons men take home with them from their tour in Vietnam will not be worn often. And not many people at home will know what they stand for. The meanings will be explained again and again with varying degrees of modesty and pride.

But whatever happens, the memory of what went into the earning of each decoration will probably stay with each man for the rest of his life.

Three Congressional Medals of Honor have been earned by soldiers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division for extraordinary valor on the field of battle. As the nation's highest decoration for courage in battle, the Medal of Honor is naturally rare.

But each week, 800 to 900 recommendations for awards in recognition of courage and meritorious service are received at the Awards and Decorations Branch of the Cav's Adjutant General's Office. "The awards are a definite morale factor," says A&D commander Capt. James T. Scruggs, "and we try

to get them out to the men as soon as possible after the action cited."

In order to handle the paperwork involved, the 21 men in A&D work in shifts 24 hours a day.

Upon getting a recommendation from a unit commander, A&D makes sure it complies with United States Army Vietnam regulations concerning criteria for awards. The description of the man's action is usually rewritten to fit the standard and traditional wording of citations.

Each Friday morning three or more Cav officers of a 24-man rotating review board pull up chairs around a table stacked with some 300 different recommendations for awards.

The 500 to 600 Air Medals presented to Skytroopers each week do not require board approval.

Each man reads every potential citation and each votes separately on upgrading or downgrading the proposed award. Occasionally they may discuss a point in question or refer to a notebook of USARV regulations.

In unusual cases, a commanding officer may feel that the actions of his men during an engagement has been so outstanding as to warrant immediate recognition.

"He may call in a request for an impact awards presentation to the office of the Cav's chief of staff," according to Sergeant First Class Galen L. Hays, A&D's NCOIC. Cav commander Maj. Gen. John J. Tolson or deputy commander Brigadier General Richard L. Irby will act on the request, and may personally present the awards within a few days of the action.

"After it's all over, the paperwork still comes down to us," remarked SFC Hays.

# A Year Is Not Enough

LZ BALDY — A year in Vietnam is enough for most American soldiers, but not for Staff Sergeant Tomas G. Reyes.

After a year with an engineering company in the coastal city of Tuy Hoa, Reyes extended his tour of duty six months and ended up in a company of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

There Reyes, Chalan Page, Agana, Guam, has turned out to be what every platoon leader hopes for: an excellent squad leader. "When I have a tough assignment, I can give it to Sergeant Reyes and know he'll get it done," says 2nd Lieutenant Robert Leupold of Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

"His engineering experience has helped us out just about every day," Leupold went on. "When we have to destroy a tunnel or a bunker, we ask Sergeant Reyes. When we need something built, we turn to Sergeant Reyes."

Reyes had a bit of a shock when he first came to the infantry. The 1st Air Cavalry moves its men into battle by helicopter, and Reyes made a "combat assault" on his first day with the Cavalry.

"We landed and there were booby traps there for the helicopters," Reyes recalled. "The ships set off a Claymore mine, and some trees whipped up at them. The enemy had tied the tops of bamboo trees down to the ground, and the choppers must have cut the ropes when they came in."

Now that he's an infantryman, Reyes is impressed with the amount of work infantrymen do.

"We hump all day, nine hours at a stretch," he said — "hump" being the infantrymen's word for the endless walking involved in search and destroy missions.

## QRF Unit Nets Seven Viet Cong

BONG SON — A 1st Air Cavalry Division rifle platoon, acting as QRF (Quick Reaction Force) for elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade, killed six Viet Cong and captured a seventh recently.

Seven armed enemy soldiers had been spotted from an aircraft 10 miles northwest of Tuy Hoa, and the platoon of the 1st Brigade's Delta Company, 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry, was quickly air assaulted into the area.

Shortly after landing, Specialist 4 Gary Hansen, spotted one of the NVA running, and killed him with one round from his M-79 grenade launcher.

Minutes later, a second NVA spotted hiding in a bunker was captured.

The platoon began to sweep the area, and found four more NVA regulars seeking refuge in a bunker. They were engaged and defeated in a brief skirmish.

Sergeant James Wright was awarded the Silver Star for his part in the battle. Assaulting a bunker with his M-16 rifle, he killed four of the NVA.

A search of the bunker turned up one American M-1 rifle and one Chi-Com rifle.

## 3rd Brigade Sets Fast Pace

(Continued from Page 1)  
1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, killed more than 500 enemy during the month.

In the first 28 days of Operation Walla, Troop B killed more enemy than the entire 1st Squadron, 9th Cav killed during the month of the Ia Drang Valley campaign of 1965, for which the division earned the Presidential Unit Citation.

As remarkable as the story of the brigade's combat operations was the speed with which the Garry Owen unit moved 125 miles north from Bong Son to their new headquarters at Landing Zone Baldy, formerly called Hill 63 — the headquarters of the 5th Marines.

From the time the first battalion boarded aircraft at LZ for the brigade to become com-

pletely operational in the new area. Helicopter fuel was flown to new POL points at Baldy and at LZ Ross by the Chinooks of the 228th Aviation Battalion and the Flying Cranes of the 478th Aviation Company.

Supply lines were back in order with such speed that hot meals were being airlifted to companies in the field within a week. By the end of the month, it was very nearly business as usual for supplies in the battalions.

Meanwhile, the elements of the 8th Engineer Battalion greatly increased the helicopter landing space at Baldy and began working on an airfield that would receive C-7A Caribou airplanes.

Enemy units in the area tried several times to counterattack and take back the offensive that the 1st Air Cavalry had assumed

early in the operation. A daring night attack on the headquarters of the 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, a small island near Chu Lai called LZ Gilligan, destroyed four helicopters and damaged seven others. The enemy mined crucial Highway 1 north of LZ Baldy two days in a row, and engaged companies in numerous mortar and sniper attacks.

The Cavalrymen knew that much heavy fighting remained in the Walla area. Enemy units frequently engaged the Cav with mortars and recoilless rifles and fired on aircraft with 50-caliber machine guns. Going against well-armed enemy units in the heavy weather of the northeast monsoon would be difficult. But in the first month of Operation Walla, the job had begun.