

CAVALAIR

THE FIRST TEAM

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AN KHE

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A Kingdom For A Cavalryman

A tall, stately warrior from a far-away land enters a peasant village as if by magic.

He rallies the people and leads them against their worst enemy who has ravaged and conquered their people for centuries.

To show their gratitude they offer him their kingdom and themselves loyal as his subjects. They offer the fairest maiden in the countryside as his bride.

But the time is not the Golden Age of Chivalry, but the 20th Century.

The warriors steed is not a white stallion, but a helicopter.

His weapon is not a jeweled magic sword but a stethoscope and syringe.

Maj. Ira J. Abramson, of Miami Beach, Fla., surgeon for the 2nd Bde, of the 1st Air Cavalry Division recalled the happenings which occurred at Plei Tueck, a Montagnard village located in the highlands of Pleiku Province some 280 miles North of Saigon.

When the 2nd Bde. is on an operation the Major usually takes a few of his medics and several medication kits, (after caring for the injured and troops) into a nearby village to treat the Montagnard people.

In Plei Tueck, after he had treated all the sick in the village, a procession of them came forward with meats, bananas, breadfruit, eggs and other delicacies.

Finally, a young woman, the most beautiful the village had to offer, was brought forward. The chiefs of the village had a proposition to make.

They asked Maj. Abramson to become their king and stay with the village and offered the young woman as his bride.

Maj. Abramson, declined

as graciously as possible, explaining that as grateful and touched as he was, he had his orders to follow.

The people understood and reluctantly withdrew their offer. However, a great feast, complete with music created by beating on various size metal pans, was held in his honor.

Maj. Abramson describes the Montagnards as «primitive, but pleasantly honest and appreciative people, who seldom if ever have a chance to be treated for any ailment.» This accounts for their average life-span of only 35 years. Most of their sicknesses, aside from poor hygiene and the normal cases of malaria, stem from insect bites.

The 2nd Brigade, commanded by Col. M. J. Berenzweig of Glendale, Ohio, stayed on the operation for about three weeks. During this time, Abramson and his medics treated some 500 Montagnards.



A dog, a rifle, and a man in the jungle. (See pages 4-5)

Sweat After Charlie

LZ JUDY—One of the nastiest jobs in the war goes on every day unnoticed by almost everyone inside and outside of the Army

It would seem there's not much glory in methodically and continually tracking Charlie.

Nearly every morning, 26 men of the Reconnaissance Platoon of Delta Company, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav of the 1st Air Cavalry Division put on their gear and wait for their platoon sergeant to shout «Saddle Up!»

They are the men who must climb mountains and wade through swamps and rice paddies digging out Charlie, for the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Air Cav.

They know he's out there somewhere.

But the most sophisticated equipment ever assembled by Americans to kill an enemy, including an armada of helicopters that can reduce miles to inches, can't pull him out of his underbrush and caves.

So the individual infantryman must put on his pack, sling his rifle and sweat through the jungle looking.

With each step he waits for the bullet to come screaming out of nowhere that means the hunt is over.

Charlie is hiding. He's hurt and he's running.

The Recon Platoon has worked three weeks as part of an operation in which

461 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars were killed.

No one speaks as the patrol crosses the LZ and moves single file past the security perimeter.

Nobody looks back.

Most of these men have been fighting the VC and North Vietnamese in the jungle for 10 long months. There have been dozens of clearings like this they have had to call «Home» in that time ... and there will be many more.

The platoon fords a knee-deep mountain stream running parallel to the northern perimeter of the LZ.

The men hold their weapons in front of their faces for protection as they walk without speaking through the 12 foot high elephant grass. The razor sharp edges of the two-inch wide blades can cut through fatigue uniforms easily or slice a man's face to the bone.

Even though the morning is partially overcast the men start to sweat under

(Cont'd on page Six)



SNIP—Maj. Gen. John Norton, Commanding General of the 1st Air Cavalry Division cuts ribbon with the aid of 1st Hq Co First Sgt. Joseph McClean. (See below)

New Malaria Control Center

A malaria-conscious battalion of the 1st Air Cavalry Division has opened a new aid station, appropriately called The Malaria Combat Control Center.

The new aid station, built by the medics of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, will be used to conduct sick call and as a focal point for the battalion's fight against

malaria.

It is the first of similar centers to be constructed by other battalions of the Division's 2nd Brigade.

(Cont'd on Page Six)

Saber News

Lt. Col. John Redman has assumed command of the 70th Engineer Battalion at Camp Radcliff.

He succeeds Lt. Col. Leonard Edelstein, who has been reassigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kans., as a member of the faculty at the Command and General Staff College.

The change of command ceremony took place July 18 with Brig. Gen. John M. Wright, assistant Division commander, as reviewing officer. General Wright presented Col. Edelstein with the Legion Of Merit and a plaque from the officers and enlisted men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

Before joining the 70th Engineer Battalion, Col. Redman was a student at the Command and General Staff College.

Lt. Col. Keith Bauer, took Command of the 1st Cavalry Division's 15th Transportation Corps Battalion on July 21.

Col. Bauer replaces Lt. Col. Charles W. McQueary, who is leaving Vietnam for an assignment with the Army's Transportation Corps School at Fort Eustis, Virginia. Col. McQueary commanded the 15th TC Battalion for more than three years.

The 15th TC Battalion is the largest battalion in the Army. Comprised of some 1,400 men, the battalion furnishes aircraft maintenance and parts to the more than 150 helicopters of 1st Cavalry division.

Colonel Archie R. Hyle, took command of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Airborne Brigade during a Change of Command Ceremony held at the Brigade forward Command Post.

Colonel Hyle accepted the Brigade Colors from Colonel John I. Hennessey, who leaves the Division for an assignment at Department of the Army with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations.

Major Howard M. Williams, has assumed command of Company C, 229th Aviation Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Division, succeeding Major Willard M. Bennett, who has been reassigned to the 3rd Detachment at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The new commander arrived here from the Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Brig. Gen. T.T. Phong of the Joint General Staff of the Republic of Vietnam in Saigon, was a recent visitor to the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2d Brigade.

Brigade Commander Col. M. J. Berenzweig escorted Gen. Phong and his party on a tour of the Brigade area, which included a briefing on operations involving combined elements of the Vietnamese 1st Infantry Division and US Troops in the II Corps area.

**Stay Alert
and
Stay Alive**

CAVALAIR

THE FIRST TEAM

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Commanding General . . . Maj. Gen. John Norton
Information Officer . . . Maj. John Phillips
Editor PFC John Utt



SIGN OF THE TIMES — "Help us to maintain security. Give us information about the Viet Cong bandits" is the translation of this sign erected by members of a 2d Brigade medical team in the village of Tu Thuy, near Camp Radcliff. Village chief Nguyen Dung (standing) and villagers are pictured. (US Army Photo)

Cavalryman Decorated For One Of 'Most Dramatic Actions In War'

BON BLECH. — Captain Gerrell V. Plummer, commanding Officer of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, has been awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action during Operation Nathan Hale.

Major General Stanley (Swede) Larsen, Commanding General of I Field Force Victor, pinned the medal to Plummer's shirt as representatives of the 1st Brigade watched.

Captain Plummer was senior commander within a perimeter defense during Operation Nathan Hale when an estimated Viet Cong battalion attacked the positions.

When an enemy penetration developed on the left flank of the perimeter and the unit commander reported heavy casualties, Captain Plummer sent his reserve platoon to stop the penetration. He also called in aerial rocket artillery tube artillery and 81mm mortars to halt the Viet Cong attack.

General Larsen termed Plummer's feat as "one of the most dramatic actions that has taken place in this war."

During the four and one-half hour battle, Captain Plummer's Company killed 134 Viet Cong, captured seven (of whom two were officers) and recovered more than 100 weapons. Company B suffered only light casualties.

The citation accompanying the award credited Captain Plummer with "person-

al display of courage and bravery while moving from position to position which inspired his troops to victory."

Following the pinning ceremony, General Larsen and Major General John Norton, 1st Air Cavalry Division Commander, congratulated Captain Plummer and representatives of Company B.

Captain Plummer told General Norton: "everybody earned what I received today and I feel that I only did my part. I told them what to do and they did it to the best of their ability."

Ignoring Plummer's modesty, General Norton said: "If the rest of the division can match your record, the war would be over in one week."



"We do have a cheaper room, if you don't mind sharing it with brooms and scrub buckets."

Yes, We Have No Pictures!

The Division Historian is trying to locate photographs of the advance party's arrival at An Khe in August, 1965. Of particular interest are photographs of the jungle (now Camp Radcliff) before it was razed to accommodate the Cavalry base camp.

Persons owning such photographs (or negatives) are urged to contact the Historian at An Khe 208. The photographs are needed for a Yearbook now being produced for members of the Division.

The Historian would also appreciate any unusual combat photos or particularly interesting photographs which could be used in the Yearbook.

**Have You
Written Home
This Week?**