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1st Air Cavalry Division

June 3, 1970

# Cav Captures Tons of NVA Supplies

By PFC Terry Turner

PHUOC VINH — The 1st Air Cav, involved in a gigantic numbers game with the NVA, has completely defied the odds and is a sure bet to win the World Series of Cambodia being played in the opposition's ball park.

Sporting a power-packed lineup of Cav units — 2/5, 5/7, 1/7, 2/12, 1/5, 1/12 and 1/8 — along with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Squadrons of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Bn, 34th Armor, 2nd Bn, 47th Mechanized Infantry and elements of the 5th Bn, 12th Infantry of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, the NVA sanctuaries are being eliminated.

The NVA are also losing the battle of the figures. During the week of May 10 to 16, the NVA lost 505 killed compared to 30 Americans killed and 90 wounded. Even more impressive are the figures relating NVA supply and weapons losses.

With the figures in for the two biggest caches of the Cambodian expedition — "The City" and "Rock Island East" — NVA losses are gigantic.

Rock Island East, 22 miles northwest of Fire Support Base Buttons, turned up 6,538,894 rounds of .51 caliber ammunition. The rounds were stacked in boxes eight feet high and covered by tin sheets and plastic. The entire cache covered an area 1,000 meters deep and

500 meters wide in thick single canopy jungle.

The most impressive figures involving "The City," 24 miles northwest of Quan Loi, were 922 SKS rifles and 1,409,000 AK-47 rounds.

These figures are small when compared to the total finds since the beginning of the Cambodian operation on May 1. As of May 16, 1,698 NVA had been killed, 38 NVA detained, 683 crew-served weapons and 5,739 individual weapons captured or destroyed; 26,137 large caliber rounds 10,170,687 small caliber rounds 784 mines 3,236 grenades and 1,414 tons of rice and 19 tons of salt had been captured or destroyed.

The City, once occupied by Charlie Company, 1st Bn, 5th Cav, has been deserted. Rock Island East was turned into a gigantic fireball on May 16 when a division EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) team used 340 cases of C-4 to destroy the cache site.

While the Cav and its OPCONNed units have been on the rampage enemy resistance has been non-existent. Slowly, however, the NVA has been restructuring its strength and counter-attacking. The NVA launched ground attacks on FSB Brown on May 13, FSB Ready on May 14 and FSB Ranch on May 16.

Bravo and Charlie Companies of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf, moved

into FSB Brown on the night of the 12th with artillery and mortars to follow the next day. The NVA, numbering 50-60, put in an appearance at 3:15 a.m. at the base, located 19½ miles north of FSB Buttons, headquarters of the division's 2nd Brigade. The enemy cut the companies' claymore wires and stormed the berm from three sides. It was a battle of small arms until American artillery and ARA took over. The fight was over at 5:45 with 50 NVA killed. American losses were one killed and four wounded.

Fire Support Base Ready, located 31 miles north of Quan Loi and manned by Bravo Company, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav, beat back a ground probe on the 14th with the help of ARA, Shadow, artillery and flareships. The contact lasted 15 minutes, beginning at 9 p.m., and killed 12 NVA. One Skytrooper was killed and six wounded.

Early on the 16th, an estimated 50 NVA tried to take FSB Ranch, located 18 miles northwest of Song Be and defended by Delta Company, 1st Bn, 7th Cav. Starting at 2:45 a.m., the enemy hit with B-40 rockets and small arms from the east-southeast. Thirty-five minutes later eight NVA were dead. Busting the attack into pieces were ARA, direct fire artillery and gunship and flare support from Air Force AC-119 Shadows. Five Skytroopers were

killed and 11 wounded. A first light check yielded four AK-47's, one B-40 launcher, eight B-40 rounds and 75 Chicom grenades.

While ground action was heavy, the air war, one sided at the most, took its toll on the enemy.

Charlie Troop, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav, had a busy day May 11. Flying low over a dense jungle 30 miles north of Song Be, hunter-killer teams were checking the results of an air strike.

"I saw the largest mess hall I've ever seen," said WO1

Charles L. Frazier, a LOH pilot. "It had been partially destroyed by the blast and we began taking fire from the enemy."

The NVA, wearing green uniforms, tried to scatter before CWO David Lawley brought his Cobra's rockets to bear. After Frazier's gunner killed 12, Lawley rolled in for 25 additional kills. Earlier that day, at 11:15, Charlie Troop teams killed 10 NVA in an area 35 miles north-northeast of Song Be.

Charlie Troop continued its harrassment of the enemy on (Continued on Page 8)

## 2/12 Closes Down Rock Island East

PHUOC VINH — "Rock Island Arsenal" east division, has been put out of business. They couldn't stand the competition from the 1st Air Cav.

When elements of the 2nd Bn, 12th Cav, moved in and set up shop in their area, the arsenal's management—the NVA—decided to call it quits. They packed up and left-left behind hundreds of weapons and millions of rounds of ammunition.

It was D-Day plus six, May 7, 1970, when Skytroopers from

the 12th Cav uncovered what may prove to be the largest cache of ammunition ever captured in the Vietnam War, as they continued their thrust into Cambodia.

As their sister unit, the 1st Bn, 5th Cav, began its job of systematically destroying "The City", located several kilometers to the south, after recovering more than 1,000 weapons, the 12th Cav began closing down operations at "Rock Island East", a massive supply complex approximately 1,000 meters long and 500 wide.

The number of weapons found at "Rock Island East" couldn't match the number of those recovered at "The City", but the ammunition captured there by the 12th Cav, takes a back seat to nobody.

A total of 851 weapons were pulled out of the arsenal, including 110 AK-47's, 147 SKS's, 100 SK-50's, 106 Russian Mausers, 114 CKC's, 210 7.60mm pistols, 12 7.62mm machineguns, 33 .30 caliber machineguns and 19 122mm rocket launchers.

The roll call of captured ammunition was astronomical. Leading the list were 6,538,894 rounds of .51 caliber ammunition followed by 259,200 rounds of 7.92mm machinegun ammo, 281,600 14.5mm anti-aircraft rounds, 818 Chicom gregandes, and 800 rounds of 37mm anti-aircraft rounds.

There were plenty of rockets too: 369 122mm's, the largest in the enemy's arsenal along with 4,002 B-40 rounds. Recoilless rifle rounds numbered 3,634 57mm and 1,052 75mm projectiles.

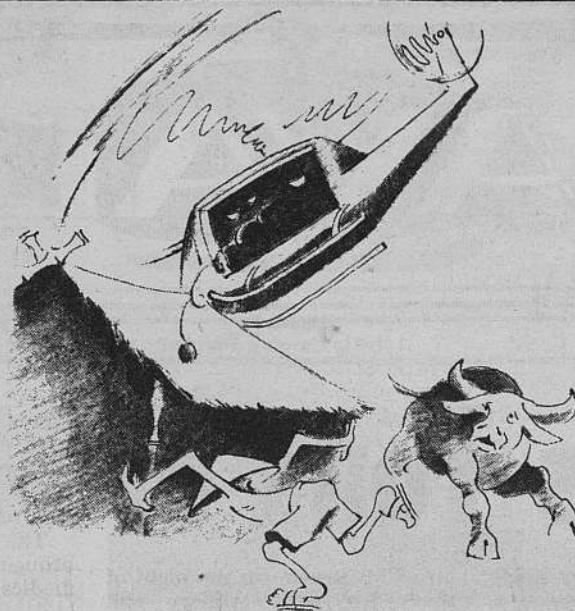
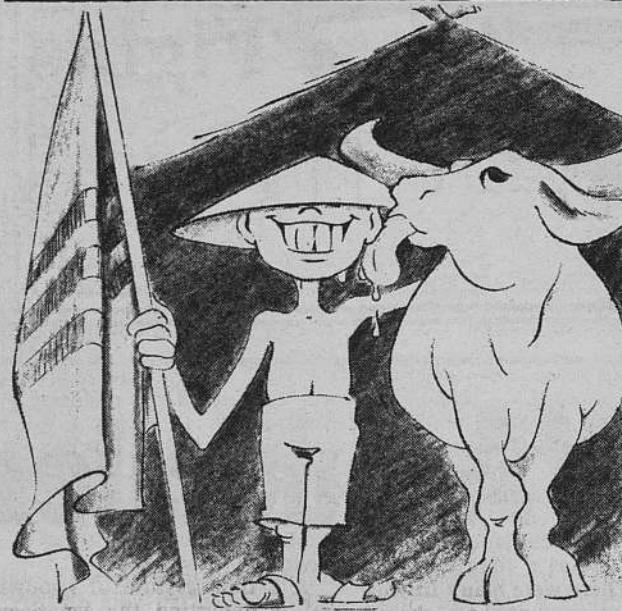
Mortar rounds counted out to 310 120mm, 1,437 82mm and 1,740 60mm mortar rounds, bringing the total count to more than seven million rounds of ammunition.

Seven million rounds that will never be fired at Allied and ARVN forces in the Republic of Vietnam.



**COMBAT ASSAULT** — This gaggle of helicopters from the 228th Assault Helicopter Battalion moves 2nd Brigade troops to a landing zone in Cambodia north of FSB Buttons. 2nd Brigade Skytroopers operating in Cambodia uncovered the huge enemy cache nicknamed "Rock Island East."

(U.S.A. Photo by SP4 Len Fallscheer)



## Indiscretion Can Be Costly

To the man in the helicopter it was a light diversion, a game of bomber pilot, a break in the routine. He nosed the Huey over at 600 feet and streaked down in a long dive on a grass hootch, a farmer, and two water buffalo standing outside.

The pilot saw the farmer look up from under his straw hat to see the helicopter beating down at him. The water buffalo bolted and the man ran inside his hootch as the Huey pulled up and banked away over the hootch roof.

The two pilots smiled at each other, enjoying the game and the ride. They had been flying straight and level on courier runs all day, and the diversion was welcome relief from the boredom that can seep into even a pilot's life.

The farmer, coming out of his hootch in pursuit of his buffalo, cursed quietly to himself. He did not know that the helicopter wasn't making a strafing run on his hut. He thought that he was suspected of being a Viet Cong or perhaps a sympathizer. He did not know that there wouldn't be any bullets splattering against the walls of his home to kill him. Then the helicopter pulled up and he heard its roar overhead. He didn't know exactly what they were doing. But he did know one thing. They were Americans.

The door gunner who drops an extra smoke grenade out of his helicopter just to watch it arch earthward, may never know that it set someone's home afire. But the Vietnamese in that home know an American smoke grenade when they see one.

In hundreds of incidents-involving airmen or infantrymen-the hard work done by civil affairs people and others who are just "good neighbors," is destroyed in a moment of "sport," a thoughtless act which would never be done "back in the world."

The act itself may seem innocent enough. What harm can come from buzzing a house? From tossing a smoke grenade?

These people have very little. To endanger what little they do have is not sport; it is maliciousness.

There is another loss involved when the doorgunner witlessly torches a home. Someday hence, that villager may be asked by the leader of a US Army patrol: "Tell me, friend, have you seen any VC or NVA up the road?" The villager thinks of the ambush ahead, and then thinks of the smoke grenade that burned his home months before; he shakes his head, "No." The doorgunner did not merely burn an old Vietnamese hootch that day. He also contributed to the

deaths of the men in the patrol that walked into an ambush.

Harassing Vietnamese civilians-whether intentionally or not-is not only senseless and cruel; it is more than that. It is the best psychological war program the Communists have going for them-and it doesn't cost them a thing.

### 3 Colonels On List

### For General

PHUOC VINH - Three Air Cavalry colonels have made the Department of the Army promotion lists for brigadier general. They are Col. E.C. Meyer, division chief of staff, Col. Tom M. Nicholson, DISCOM commander, and Col. Carter W. Clarke, 2nd Brigade commander.

Col. Meyer previously commanded the 2nd Brigade, a position he assumed Oct. 1, 1969. He is presently serving his second tour with the Cav, having previously deployed with the division to the Republic of Vietnam in August, 1965.

During his first tour he served as deputy commander of the 3rd Brigade through the Pleiku Campaign, then assumed command of the 2nd Bn, 5th Cavalry.

The 1951 graduate of the Military Academy at West Point attended the National War College after returning to CONUS in 1966. Prior to his return to Vietnam he served with the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Col. Nicholson assumed command of the Division Support Command in early November, 1969, and is also serving his second tour with the Cav.

He first came to Vietnam in 1965 after serving as a signal officer with the 11th Air Assault Division, the Air Cavalry's antecedent, at Fort Benning. A senior parachutist, the colonel served as commander of the 13th Signal Bn. and as the deputy signal officer for USARV during that tour.

Col. Nicholson attended the National War College before returning to Vietnam last autumn.

Col. Clarke is serving his first tour with the Cav. His previous Vietnam tour of duty was spent with MACV. The 1948 West Point graduate was a member of the USARV G-3 staff before joining the Cav on this tour. He has also served overseas in Korea, Japan and Europe.

## ...For God And Country

By Chaplain (CPT) JOHN T. ZAGAR, HHC 3d Bde

The story is told about George Bernard Shaw but I cannot now document it. It seems that Mr. Shaw had been invited to lecture, as was often the case, a gathering of rich English matrons who were more interested in hearing a lecturer of Mr. Shaw's stature than in what his wisdom might tell them. The subject of his lecture was prostitution in England. His thrust in the lecture was to decry a social system which could produce, albeit without intention, such a healthy climate for the world's oldest profession rather than to decry the professionals themselves.

As refreshments were served following the lecture, Mr. Shaw was engaged in a private conversation by one of the wealthy matrons. From her bit in their conversation, it was painfully obvious that the lady had totally missed the social impact of Mr. Shaw's lecture and had heard only what she wanted to hear. The lady was quick to agree with what Mr. Shaw had not said...namely, that all prostitutes were bad.

Bringing the famous GBS wit into action, Mr. Shaw made a proposition: "If I were to offer you a million pounds, Madam, would you go to bed with me?"

"Why Mr. Shaw," gushed the lady, "that's the most generous offer I have ever received!"

"Now, Madam, I offer you one pound. Will you accompany me to the bed chambers?"

Madam's face reddened in her embarrassment but she held her composure long enough to reply: "Of course not...what do you think I am, one of your common prostitutes?"

"That is no longer the point in question, Madam. We are now quibbling over an acceptable price." Thus did Mr. Shaw close the conversation.

And thus ends the story. True or not, it is a graphic illustration of the caution we must use in our own conversation.

Communication, and in particular the communication of self, is a vital and necessary element for living. It is the determining factor in every personal reputation...good or bad...because the reputation we enjoy equals the communicated image of self as it rests in the mind of an observer. You advertise yourself well or ill by a number of common signs...by the way you dress, by the way you work, how you play, how you carry yourself, by your response to commands. No sign that you make, however, is more obviously the real you than the words you speak. Nothing you can do more accurately images yourself than your conversation.

It is fortunate for us that we seldom have to compete with the wit and wisdom of a George Bernard Shaw...Even so, somebody is always listening. Be careful what you say...it is your reputation that is at stake.



WAITING - This Skytrooper from Charlie Company 1st Bn, 5th Cav, keeps a watchful eye out for the enemy while providing security at a huge enemy supply depot nicknamed "The City" by Cavalrymen, in Cambodia. (U.S.A. Photo by Sgt. Dean Sharp)

## Flight Record Set

PHUOC VINH - The 1st Air Cavalry's 228th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion has not only set a new flight-time record; but it has also broken the old record on six consecutive days.

Battalion pilots flew a total of 270 hours on May 1 in the process of accomplishing their mission of providing logistical support to the division. Normal activities and the expedition into Cambodia account for the tremendous amount of flying time logged. Through the six day period from Apr. 29 through May 4 the pilots flew a total of 1,360 hours for an average of more than 226 hours per day. The previous high was 205 hours in one 24-hour period.

In order to fly so many hours it was necessary to utilize 32 of the battalion's 48 Chinooks, with 21 of the mighty beasts in the air at all times.

"The key to our success," said Lt. Col. Francis T. Toner, the battalion commander, "is sound maintenance and dedication by all our personnel. For each hour in the air a Chinook needs 22 man-hours of maintenance - you can see that our people stay busy."



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**COMBAT ASSAULT** -- While the doorgunner from Bravo Company, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, carefully checks the terrain below, Skytroopers from Bravo Company, 1st Bn, 7th Cav wait patiently to make a combat assault into the unfamiliar jungle.

(U.S.A. Photo by SP4 Doug Fuller)

## Artillerymen Teach & Learn During Dong Tien Program

LZ NGUYEN TRAI -- "Dong Tien" has become more meaningful to the men of Bravo Battery, 1st Bn, 30th Arty, who have spent several months as the only Americans on an ARVN Airborne firebase.

Initial trepidations disappeared for the 1st Air Cavalrymen shortly after their arrival on the base. "An illumination round revealed several NVA soldiers in the woodline," said S/Sgt. James Wilson, the mess sergeant. "In a few seconds the ARVN troops were running out after the enemy, clad only in their underwear, shower shoes, steel pots and weapons. We didn't see them again until the next morning."

"After that night, when the Airborne soldiers said the NVA didn't bother them, we believed it," said SFC Joseph Brooks, the firing battery chief. "That was the only time the NVA came near the firebase."

The men of Bravo Battery became good friends with the Vietnamese soldiers and often were invited to eat with them. "Even if I was in the mess tent eating they'd come by and get me. I'd bring my plate along so they could try our chow, too," said PFC David Mason, the battery medic. "They really liked our hot dogs."

"Unlike American units, the ARVN soldiers cook and eat in

their squads," Wilson explained. "They have a lot of rice and pork and something that looks like an avocado. The food is good, but you have to get used to the red peppers they put in for seasoning.

As the two forces worked together an interest in the American 155mm howitzers was shown by the paratroopers. Soon the Skytroopers started classes and demonstrations for the Vietnamese troops.

The battery's Executive Officer, 1st Lt. Terry Barcellos, was amazed that the ARVN artillerymen would fire "Cold Stick," that is, without making adjustments for weather factors. Because the Vietnamese lacked weather facilities the Skytroopers shared their information with them.

Language was the number one problem but also the greatest area of mutual interest among the soldiers of the firebase. "We communicated mostly by sign language, but it seems that the men of the battery were always trying to learn Vietnamese and the ARVN's, English," said Mason. "And it sure didn't take them long to learn 'watch your ears.'"

Lasting friendships were made among the troops. Mason, who often helped out in the ARVN aid station, writes to a Vietnamese sergeant he met at the base. Mess sergeant Wilson

says he won't soon forget his friend who told him that he had lived in Phuoc Binh before the enemy chased him out and he joined the Airborne to fight back.

A nameless Skytrooper owes his life to the Airborne doctor who reduced his fever by staying up all night when the man came down with malaria. He won't forget either. Dong Tien-Forward Together.



**STANDING READY** -- His .50 caliber machinegun equipped with a night-brightening starlight scope, 1st Air Cavalryman Private First Class James K. Graham and his smoke-bringing weapon play an important role in defending Fire Support Base Kathleen in the Cav's area of operation in III Corps northwest of Saigon.

Would you like to trade your M-60 for a camera or a typewriter? Does a "rear" job with the Information Office sound like the answer to your prayers? The Air Cav Information Office is presently searching for qualified writers, still and motion photographers and broadcasters to fill rapidly appearing vacancies in the present staff. Skytroopers with civilian or professional backgrounds in any phases of journalism are encouraged to get in touch with us here at the Information Office, located in Phuoc Vinh (telephone P.V. 5289 or Skyking 186), or contact one of the information offices in Tay Ninh, Quan Loi or FSB Buttons, or write to the Information Officer, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO In-Country 96490.

## Med Team Fights War On Cholera

By Spec. 4 Ron Shirk

**FSB BUTTONS** -- The 1st Air Cav's 2nd Brigade has made an effective blow against the enemy in another war: The war on cholera.

Due to a recent increase in the number of cases of cholera in Phuoc Long Province, a 1st Bn, 12th Cav, medical team visited the protestant orphanage in Song Be to inoculate the children there.

The three classrooms were brought one at a time past the medics. There were many frowns and a few tears, but the packages of chewing gum that were passed out quickly changed the faces into a sea of smiles. Then any other sicknesses found were treated.

After the first class was treated, Spec. 4 Bill Toland went

into the classroom with his guitar and began a song fest for the children. Although they didn't know what he was singing, the children enjoyed the show very much.

After all the medical work was completed the children and Skytroopers filed out into the school yard. There the Americans played catch and other games with the Vietnamese children. It was impossible to tell who was having the most fun.

A final gesture of goodwill before departing, the Americans gave the boys who needed haircuts the appropriate trims. Then the medical team packed up and left for their base at Fire Support Base Buttons. It was hard to tell who was sorriest to see them leave.

## Firebase Construction Unending Job In Cav

By Spec 4 George Arsenith

**TAY NINH** -- Out of the dust and heat and organized confusion grew a 1st Air Cavalry firebase.

Building a firebase, an unending job in the airmobile division, requires the services of a variety of people. The Pathfinders of the 11th Aviation Group, engineers, artillerymen and infantrymen.

"We receive over 60 sorties of supplies, men and equipment during one day," said Sgt. Ralph Wilson, an air traffic controller. "Our job is to provide navigational assistance to the helicopter pilots, and it's a fulltime job."

Alpha Company, 8th Engineer Bn was on the scene. "We are responsible for the berm, medical and commo bunkers, the TOC (Tactical Operations Center), ammo and garbage dumps and fields of fire," said Capt. Albert McCollan, Alpha's commander.

For Bravo Battery, 2nd Bn, 19th Arty, it was their 16th move to another area since February.

The artillerymen arrive with their guns and prepare for a fire mission that might or might not be called. They set to work building the gun emplacements, ammo bunkers and their personal bunkers. But above all, they are ready to go into action at once.

And in the end it is the infantryman who has to fill the thousands of sandbags and dig the bunkers. "When we move to a new base it's dig, dig, dig all day, but you can be sure we'll be ready by nightfall," said Spec 4 Michael L. Smith, a rifleman with Echo Company, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav.

(U.S.A. Photo by SP4 Doug Fuller)



Two Cavalrymen examine and sight in a Communist .30 caliber anti-aircraft machinegun. The Charlie Company, 1st Bn, 5th Cav, Skytroopers discovered the weapon in the massive Communist complex known as "The City" during the Allied thrust into the Fish Hook region of Cambodia.



(Above) Cavalrymen from Charlie Company relax inside an NVA classroom in "The City." The classroom, which seats over 100 people, was one of hundreds of structures composing the massive complex. The room and apparently been used for marksmanship instruction, the silhouette in the background is full of bullet holes. (Right) This Air Cavalryman searches for more bunkers or hidden enemy soldiers along one of the hundreds of all-weather bamboo walkways that run through the enemy complex known as "The City."

## The City Dies

PHUOC VINH — Elements of the 1st Air Cav Div have now withdrawn from the huge enemy supply complex nicknamed "The City" and the final tabulation leaves little doubt that the NVA have suffered a major setback.

Counted in the find, were 1,315 individual weapons, 136 heavy machineguns and mortar tubes and more than two million rounds of various caliber ammunition.

Also uncovered by Skytroopers from Charlie Company, 1st Bn, 5th Cav, were 51,000 pounds of C-2 explosive compound, 21,000 pounds of granulated explosives, 250 cases of detonating cord, 144,000 non-electrical blasting cords, 2,700 fuze lighters, 200 electrical blasting caps and 22 cases of anti-personnel mines.

Repair part kits of various weapons were also a big item on the long list. The Air Cavalrymen turned up four cases of AK-47 repair parts, 18 cases 106mm recoilless rifle breech block repair kits, 37 gunner quadrants, 20 60mm mortar sights, 14 82mm mortar service kits and 20 60mm mortar service kits.

Also found were 200 bicycles, 2,750 bicycle tires and 1,000 pairs of shoes.

The huge complex, three kilometers long and one-and-a-half kilometers wide, contained more than 300 buildings as well as hundreds of bunkers, all connected by bamboo walkways. What appeared to be a complete R&R (Rest and Recuperation) Center occupied one section of the complex as well as a classroom capable of seating approximately 125 individuals were also found. All structures have been destroyed.

The area was first discovered from the air by an observation helicopter from Bravo Troop, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav, based at Quan Loi, home of the 1st Air Cav's 3rd Brigade.

The following day, the 1st Bn, 5th Cav, was inserted into the area establishing fire support base Terri Lynn, approximately five kilometers north of the suspected site.

As the battalion set down, Charlie Company immediately deployed to the south in search of the enemy installation. Late that night, they established their NDP, (night defensive position) less than a kilometer from the installations perimeter.

According to Capt. Kevin Corcoran, Charlie Company commander, "The underbrush was so thick that we had to keep a LOH (Light observation helicopter) overhead just to give us directions and keep us moving in the right direction."

Shortly after noon, the company reached the perimeter, where they received light AK-47 fire from two enemy bunkers. "We laid down heavy covering fire and got a couple frag's (Fragmentation grenades) in there. That did the job. When we checked the bunkers, we had four NVA KIA's," Corcoran indicated.

Inside the base's perimeter, the long search of numerous buildings and bunkers got underway—a search that uncovered the huge quantity of enemy weapons, ammunition and equipment.

The installation, with its maze of bunkers, bamboo walkways, and well constructed buildings, represents a three year endeavor by the enemy. Now he's lost it.

With the coming of the monsoon season, he will be hard pressed to make up these gigantic losses, for several months to come. Months that will enable the Vietnamization Program to move ahead at a rapid rate. "The City" is now a Ghost Town.



Skytroopers of Charlie Company carry a crate of Communist weapons to a waiting UH-1H Huey helicopter. In the foreground stands an enemy .30 caliber anti-aircraft machinegun.



Charlie Company Skytroopers load Communist Mauser rifles on a mechanical mule. The weapons will be carried to helicopters which will carry the Communist munitions back to a 1st Air Cav basecamp.

# 'The Judge' Rules With Heavy Hand

By Spec. 4 Bob Hackney

TAY NINH - Here come da' Judge.

The Judge is a mechanical member of Charlie Company of the 1st Air Cav's 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion. He administers his justice through the barrels of two 4,000 rounds-per-minute mini-guns.

The Judge is unique to Charlie Company and is the brain-child of Capt. Roger C. Baker, the present commander.

"Under normal conditions you get to the landing zone during a combat assault and the gunships are making passes at the treeline, preventing them from staying right with the lift ships," said the Syracuse, New York Skytrooper. "The Judge comes right in with the lift ships, stays at a high hover behind the flight and then hoses down both treelines simultaneously."

"When the mini-guns open up the NVA down there are going to get it," said WO Jerry D. McCraw. "Those things make one hell of a racket and if the enemy aren't killed they'll be scared to death."

Capt. Baker is planning to use the helicopter as an escort for log birds as they carry supplies to infantry units in the field. In addition, the ship also doubles as the company's Nighthawk recon bird.

"We're not out here to kill NVA, we're here to keep their heads down so they don't kill us. If we can spray enough ammo around so they won't come out of their little holes they can't shoot at us and we can get our job done," the captain concluded.

## R&R In Hawaii Most Popular For Couples

PHUOC VINH - Hawaii, our 50th state, is far and away the most popular R&R site for the married man and also rates as a great Polynesian retreat for the single Skytrooper.

Several commercial airlines, in cooperation with the Military Assistance Command (MACV), offer a special rate for wives flying to Hawaii to meet their husbands on R&R.

Very little is required to insure your wife's meeting you in Hawaii. Remember to send her three copies of your orders along with DD Form 1580. With these papers and her dependent ID card she can get the special rates from the West Coast to Hawaii.

You will receive a Special Privilege Card Good for reduced rates on everything from hotel rates to buying clothes at certain establishments. The card is the key to a lot of swinging doors and also helps keep down expenses. The idea was initiated by the local businessmen who feel servicemen should be given a little better break.

The public transportation facilities in Hawaii are excellent if you're not in a hurry. Hawaii is one place you can rent a car without a large deposit. Car rentals are available at Pearl Harbor, at Hickam Field and in Honolulu.

Hotel rates are reasonable in Hawaii, and the cost to you will depend entirely on your choice of hotels. Depending on your budget and taste, accommodations range from \$70 to over \$200 per week.

While strolling around Honolulu, go to the top of the famous Aloha Tower and see a beautiful panoramic view of the downtown area.

You are by no means restricted to the island of Oahu. A trip to the other islands can be a most pleasurable experience. Colorful festivals are held almost daily on at least one island.

Places of interest outside of Honolulu are Pearl Harbor, the Dole Pineapple Plantation and, of course, the many beaches that serve as stomping grounds for bikini-clad beauties the year round.

The average cost for a couple meeting in Hawaii, including your wife's round trip fare, is from \$500 to \$800. The sun, sand and surf are free.

### Blue Max A Welcome Ally

By PFC David Moore

QUAN LOI - "Climbing into a Max and closing that blue canopy down over you is like putting on a glove."

Capt. Allen Peters speaks from experience. He's the 2nd Platoon Leader for Charlie Battery, 2nd Bn, 20th Arty (ARA).

"From his vantage point," says Capt. Wiley W. McCary, Charlie's executive officer, "the Blue Max pilot is a kind of airborne artillery forward observer, who just happens to carry his own artillery slung under his aircraft in four rocket pods."

"If there is contact on the ground," he continued, "he can get a good overall picture of the combat area. And coordinating with the infantry unit by radio, he can put those rounds in where they'll do the most good."

According to Capt. Peters, lending support to the infantryman is one of the most satisfying aspects of his job. "That man on the ground has a tough job to do, and I'm glad to be able to help him accomplish it. Sometimes when a unit is in contact we can simply silence the enemy positions for them. But most of the time it is just a case of putting a lot of fire on the enemy so our ground troops can maneuver."

From the viewpoint of the infantryman, the Blue Max ship is a welcome ally in any contact, and morale rises several points when "Max rolls in hot."



Lovely Teresa Graves, star of NBC's "Laugh-In," visited Vietnam last Christmas with the Bob Hope Show. Although she isn't Judy Carne's replacement, we'd like to sock it to her.

(Photo Courtesy of NBC Television)

# Skytroopers Assault With Firepower



1st Air Cavrymen from Delta Company, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav. send a steady stream of lead in the direction of an enemy force. The Skytroopers received fire from the woodline while on a mission northeast of Tay Ninh.

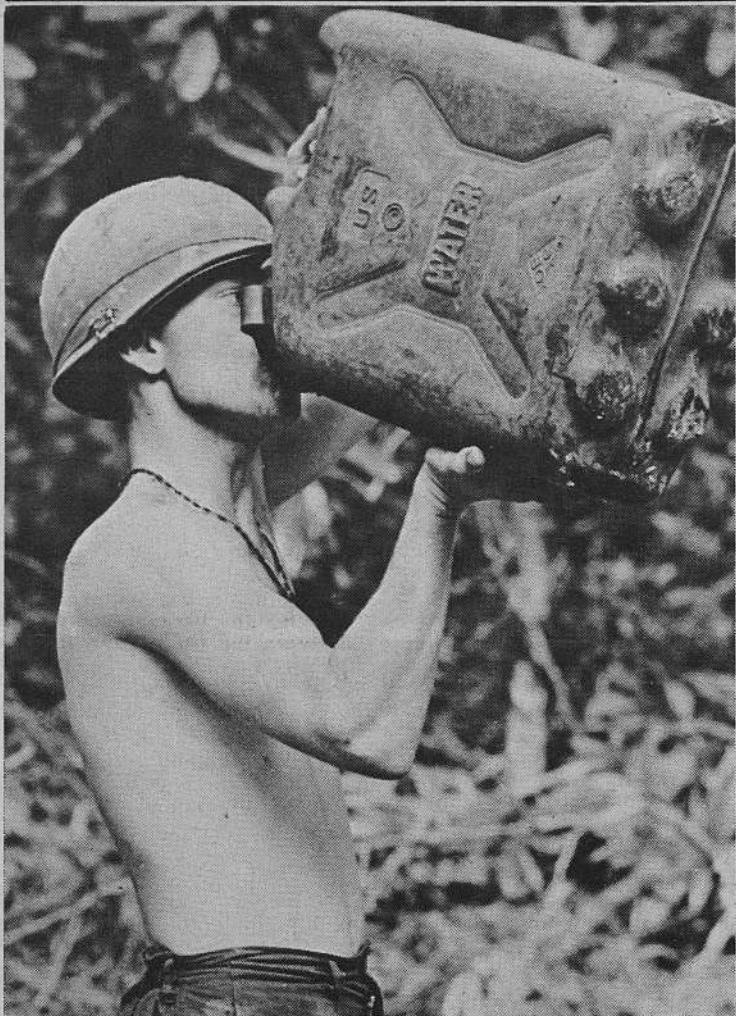


With the contact broken and the enemy fleeing, the Cavrymen move out toward the woodline, putting a field of fire into the former enemy positions.

USA Photos by SP4 Greg Cormandy



There's not much cover on an open field, but these Skytroopers use a slight berm to put their M-60 into action against the invisible enemy.



**TAKE FIVE** - A thirsty Cav trooper takes a well deserved break from loading captured enemy supplies. The task of back-hauling the tons of captured enemy supplies takes countless man-hours.

(U.S. A. Photo)

## 15th TC Computer Speeds Parts

By 1LT Donald Ashton

PHU LOI -- The 15th Transportation Corps Battalion is now smaller but more efficient, thanks to the addition of their new computers.

At the present time, only the battalion's Company A is computerized, although plans are underway to upgrade and computerize the remainder of

the battalion.

Alpha Company supports aviation units based in Phuoc Vinh and Bearcat, the greater portion of the 1st Air Cav's parts customers.

Spec. 4 John Matteson is one of a nine-man team that runs the computer operation, housed in two six-ton air-conditioned vans. He has had experience with the

old manual process.

"This is really easier," he said. "The machine, once we get it set up, almost takes care of itself. It cuts down time on everything. Besides filling requests for parts, it adjusts inventory figures, and prints out all the information we need on a ledger."

"Now, when a unit needs a part," added CWO Darius Slusher, the battalion stock control officer, "all they have to do is make four entries on a pre-punched card and get it to us. The computer will take it from there, with a little help from us."

The reporting angle is a great help to us also," he said. "The machine can tell us how we're doing our job, whether we are satisfying our customers by stocking the right items and satisfying a good percentage of requests."

## Counter-Mortar Radar Works Against Charlie

LZ SNUFFY -- One of Charlie's worst enemies, counter-mortar radar, never leaves the firebase.

A stationary piece of equipment that can be slung in by Chinook in a matter of minutes, it and its crew can spell the end for enemy gunners operating in the area.

"If an enemy round leaves its mortar or artillery piece tube it will be picked up on the radar and the range, azimuth and grid coordinates plotted before it hits the ground," explained CWO Nicholas R. Lockwood, detachment OIC.

Relayed to the firebase's fire direction control center operated by Btry A, 1st Bn, 77th Arty, artillery firepower can bring smoke on Charlie before he has time to pop another round," Lockwood continued.

The radar can also adjust artillery on the target once it's under fire. All suspected enemy mortar and rocket positions are kept under constant surveillance by the detachment, with each man spending no more than an hour at a time scanning the scope.

When a confirmed target is located, artillery will concentrate on the suspected location, denying the enemy the opportunity to maintain a lengthy barrage.

## Cav Captures Tons

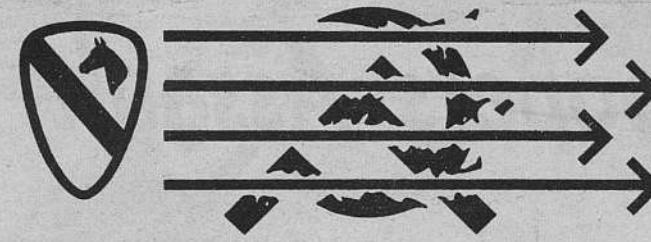
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May 13 with 27 kills in two actions. A LOH took ground to air fire 25 miles north of FSB Buttons at 11:45 a.m., with two Skytroopers suffering wounds. Persistence paid off over the area when a light fire team spotted numerous NVA in the same area at 2:25 p.m. Eleven NVA were killed.

Hunter-killer teams came across an NVA training area 24 miles north of Buttons at 3 p.m.

As the Cobras moved in the enemy scattered. Fifteen didn't make it.

In a less productive day May 12, Charlie Troop managed 19 NVA kills 19 miles north-northeast of Song Be. As the day was drawing to a close a visual recon team spotted three new hootches and the beginnings of new bunkers. An enemy platoon opened up on the team with small arms fire. The Cobras quickly policed up the area.



## ACTION OF THE WEEK

the perimeter."

"They came at the wire and berm in several places, when they began their assault. We spotted them before they were completely set up, though," said Spec. 4 William Burry on the berm. "We went to blow our claymores but most of them didn't fire-the wires had been cut."

"For the first 20 minutes with no fire support it was just AK-47 vs. M-16," Thursman recalled the next morning. "Our only 81mm mortar fired all over the perimeter using up all of their ammunition before it was over."

Spec. 4 John Wensdorfer said, "they kept coming back. One even made it to the top of the berm with an RPG. And several of them crouched under the fire from our rifles on the other side of the berm and lobbed grenades in."

One of the grenades wounded two machinegunners on the west side of the perimeter. S/Sgt Joseph Huggins watched as three heavily armed NVA came up to grab the gun. "S/Sgt Timothy Osborne and I crawled up and began throwing grenades back at them. We missed twice. The

third time we split up to hit them from both sides under covering fire from the men behind us. This time we didn't miss."

Artillery from FSB Myron, about four kilometers away began saturating the woodline beyond the wire and Blue Max gunships came on station.

"Max and Shadow were terrific," said Capt. Gordon Lee Bravo's commander, "their rocket fire hit the enemy no more than ten meters from the berm. As soon as they arrived we discovered the NVA had a .51 cal. machinegun somewhere in the woodline. They tried several times to get him, but he sure was persistent. Shadow drooped illuminations and an air strike was called in. But at 6 a.m., we were still receiving small arms and B-40 fire."

When the sun came up on their first morning in Cambodia, Bravo and Charlie companies counted the bodies of 50 enemy soldiers lying the length of the perimeter. The desperate attacks had cost the enemy dearly while U.S. casualties were one man killed and four wounded.

## Dentists Care For Soldiers in Field

By Spec. 4 Robert Mantell

**FSB BUTTONS** -- In many ways support for the individual soldier serving in Vietnam is at an all-time high.

But one of the least-known advances in taking care of the soldier in the field is one of the most appreciated. It is the air-driven, high speed dentist's drill, and no one is very inclined to think about it until they have a toothache.

"Most patients don't say anything about it at all," said Spec. 4 Robert Warwick, 2nd Brigade dental assistant. "That's probably because it is the same machine as they're used to at home; most of them have never seen the old field unit."

Field tested in Vietnam, the drill is extremely portable. It is contained in two small fiberglass suitcases, one for the unit itself and one for the compressor unit that operates it.

Despite its small size the unit offers the dentist and his patient every modern convenience and is a considerable improvement over the old model. The air-driven handpiece is faster and psychologically less traumatic to the patient because it is felt less. An efficient suction device and air-water syringe also aid modern oral medicine techniques.

With the FIRST TEAM's logistical and Medevac capabilities Skytroopers can find a dentist and new drill waiting at any of the brigade medical detachments.

"The drill has encouraged soldiers in the field to seek the dental care they need," said Capt. Marc D. Bogart. The 15 to 20 patients he sees daily are a testimony to the new drill's success.



**HUMPIN HEAVY** - These heavily laden Skytroopers move out in search of enemy sanctuaries while on an operation inside Cambodia.

(U.S.A. Photo)