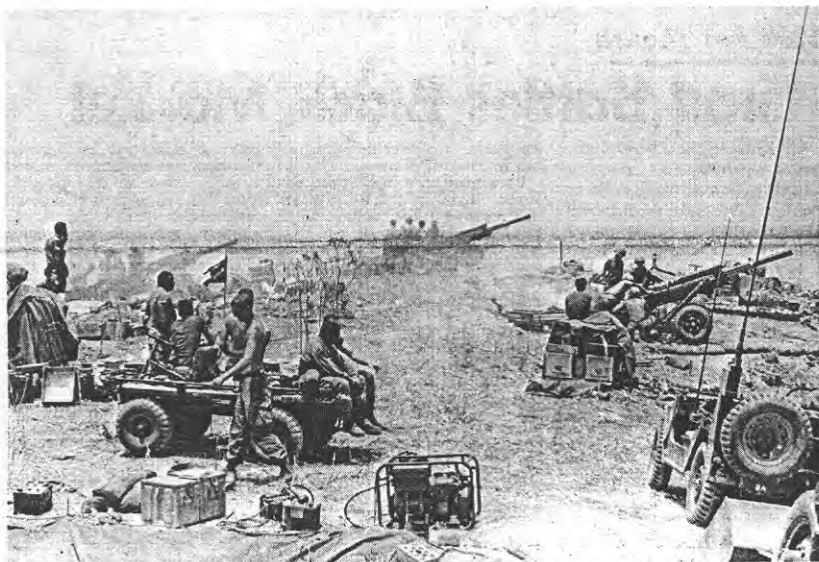




Cavalrymen Invade A Shau

First U.S. Offensive Since 1966



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 GARY VOGT

Fire Mission

1st Air Cavalry Division artillerymen send out fire from 105 mm batteries during mission in support of ground troopers moving in on Khe Sanh in Operation Pegasus.

Near Quang Tri City

NVA Lose 66 During Swooper

By SP4 STEVE MATALON

Cavalair Staff Writer

QUANG TRI — The plan for the day was a standard swooper assault (a mission in which the men combat assault into an area from several different directions) for the men of A Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry. However, as the helicopters hit the ground, A Company found themselves in what turned out to be a main force North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Battalion. A total of 66 enemy would die in the battle.

Two platoons had landed on the south of the village, and two on the north side. The Skytroopers on the northern side were forced to seek refuge in an abandoned building.

"We saw people to our front, as soon as we moved out from the copters, and that was the direction from which the initial

firing came. We were just beginning to sweep across this open field when the firing became heavier," recalled SP4 Donald Ferguson, a medical aid man attached to A Company. "All of a sudden we began to draw fire from our rear. The only thing we could do was head for that building, which was about 100 meters away."

On the opposite side of the village, the company commander, Captain Thomas McAndrews, of Kaukauna, Wisconsin, and the two platoons he had with him also made heavy contact. "My 4th platoon leader, Lieutenant Gary Anderson, of Portland, Oregon, called in to say he was under intense fire. I wanted to sweep across towards them, but we too began to draw a thick wall of fire each time we tried to move out," said the captain.

A Company's artillery forward observers, Lieutenant Max Tenburg, of Bay City, Texas and Sergeant Frye, both of 2/19 Artillery, A Battery, began to direct in artillery and aerial rocket artillery (ARA).

"We coordinated our firing from both sides of the village," said Lt. Tenburg. "We had to get as close as possible (to the village) without injuring our own people."

After pounding the village for over an hour, Captain McAndrews told his standard elements, "If there is a way through this place, we will find it and get you out." Unfortunately, "Charlie" still had the two elements cut off. Sergeant Steven (Zippy) Welch, of Olean, New York, recalled, "Everytime we got up towards those hedgerows in front of the village, they

(Continued on Back Page)

Division Launches Operation Delaware

CAMP EVANS (Special)—Heli-borne Skytroopers from the 1st Air Cavalry Division have invaded the A Shau Valley —the largest Communist command post and supply base in South Vietnam.

The new Cavalry operation — code-named Operation

Delaware — comes on the heels of Operation Pegasus—a drive the Cavalry spearheaded along with other Allied troops that brought relief to Marines besieged at Khe Sanh for nearly three months.

Cavalrymen drove through what Major General John J. Tolson, the division commander, called "very sophisticated and damn good antiaircraft forces" to re-establish the presence of American troops in the Communist-held valley after more than two years.

Cavalry aircraft encountered heavy resistance from 23mm and 37mm MG TOLSON antiaircraft guns, and .50-caliber machine guns according to Associated Press reports from the valley.

"By far it's the hottest place we've ever gone into," Major General Tolson said after initial contact with the enemy had been made.

The announcement of Operation Delaware had been delayed for more than one week by the

(Continued on Back Page)

Pegasus Finishes Quietly

KHE SANH — Operation Pegasus-Lam-Son 207A, in which the 1st Cav "Skytroopers" spearheaded the successful effort to relieve Khe Sanh, came to a quiet end on April 15.

However, the earlier heavy fighting had yielded impressive results. Cavalrymen, Marines, and ARVN accounted for a total of 1,302 NVA and two VC KIA. Fourteen NVA were taken prisoner. One NVA and one VC became Hoi Chanh returnees.

The aftermath of Pegasus was calm as the 1st Cav returned to its old hunting grounds on the Hue-Quang Tri axis. No contact with the enemy was made until late in the evening, when 3rd Brigade scouts observed three NVA in green uniforms carrying burlap bags near a river four kilometers northwest of Camp Evans. The aircraft swooped in to engage, resulting in three NVA KIA.

Early in the morning over 100 rounds of mortar and rocket fire hit the base camp of the 2/12 Cavalry at LZ Jane. Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) helicopters, putting fire on suspected enemy positions, received heavy automatic weapons fire.

In the afternoon Alpha Company, 1/7 Cavalry swept the area, two kilometers southeast of LZ Jane, and found bunkers at least eight months old.

Bravo and Charlie Troops, 1/9 Cavalry, scouting the area around Camp Evans, spotted freshly-dug trench lines and a

(Continued on Back Page)



Law Day

By joint resolution of Congress and Presidential Proclamation, the eleventh annual Law Day USA was observed on 1 May 1968.

The theme of Law Day carries a timely message: "Only a lawful society can build a better society."

This year, as dissension and turbulence are felt at home and as thousands in the Armed Forces are fighting abroad to preserve human freedom, the day has special meaning. Through obedience to the law, the liberties of an individual are surrendered in a very small way, so that he and all society can enjoy greater freedom.

Law Day presents a suitable occasion to compare the advantages, opportunities, and the standards of our nation with those of the Communist controlled countries which celebrate their May Day.

It is because of reasonable laws, and a willing adherence to them, that we enjoy our present high status among societies of the world. Continued respect for the law can only result in a better world community for us all.

JOHN J. TOLSON
MAJOR GENERAL, USA
COMMANDING

For God... And Country

Once upon a time a Sea Horse gathered up his seven pieces of eight and cantered out to find his fortune. Before he had traveled very far he met an Eel.

"Psst. Hey, bud. Where ya goin'?"

"I'm going out to find my fortune," replied the Sea Horse proudly.

"You're in luck," said the Eel. "For four pieces of eight you can have this speedy flipper, and then you'll be able to get there a lot faster."

"Gee, that's swell," said the Sea Horse, and paid the money and put on the flipper and slithered off at twice the speed. Soon he came upon a Sponge.

"Psst. Hey, bud. Where ya goin'?"

"I'm going out to find my fortune," replied the Sea Horse.

"You're in luck," said the Sponge, "For a small fee I will let you have this jet-propelled scooter so that you will be able to travel a lot faster."

So the Sea Horse bought the scooter with his remaining money and went zooming through the sea five times as fast. Soon he came upon a Shark.

"Psst. Hey, bud. Where 'ya goin'?"

"I'm going out to find my fortune," replied the Sea Horse.

"You're in luck. If you'll take this short cut," said the Shark, pointing to his open mouth, "you'll save yourself a lot of time."

"Gee thanks," said the Sea Horse, and zoomed off into the interior of the Shark, there to be devoured.

The moral of this fable is that if you're not sure where you're going, you're liable to end up some place else.

King David, a shepherd boy, a killer of giants and a commander of a thousand men, said: "Teach me thy way, O Lord, that I may walk in thy truth; unite my heart to fear thy name."

"Psst. Hey Bud. Where ya goin'?"

Chaplain (CPT) John A. Gunderson
2/8th Cav, HHC Co.
Battalion Chaplain



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 CRAIG COFFMAN

Generals' Conference

Major General John J. Tolson, commanding general of the 1st Air Cavalry Division (center), talks informally with Lieutenant General Bruce Palmer, Jr., following a conference between the two commanders at Camp Evans.

\$200 Per Month

Limit Battles Black Market

LONG BINH, — The \$200 per month limitation on personal currency transactions involving military payment certificates (MPC) which was originally planned to go into effect March 1, is now scheduled to begin on May 1.

Unfortunately there is still a good deal of confusion on just what this limitation will mean to U.S. military personnel in Vietnam.

First, why the limitation? What good does it do? This is a measure taken by the Armed Forces to control the black market and hinder currency manipulation.

Unofficial sources say that currency manipulation has become a multimillion dollar industry and in some cases brings U.S. dollars into the hands of the enemy, who in turn buy war supplies with the dollars.

Does the limitation mean that military personnel are limited to spending \$200 each month in the PX, or in Vietnam?

There will be no limit fixed to the amount of money that may be spent in the PX or anywhere else in Vietnam. For example, there is nothing to prevent you from buying a \$300 tape recorder.

What is the restriction on then? The limitation concerns itself with money orders, treasury checks or Traveler's checks in excess of \$200 each month. The reason behind this is the fact that the quickest way to change MPC into U.S. dollars is to buy a money order with MPC which is then redeemable in U.S. currency.

What if your family has an emergency or your wife needs money? If this occasion arises, you can obtain the permission of your commanding officer to send home an amount in excess of \$200 if needed. However, don't try to do it without official per-

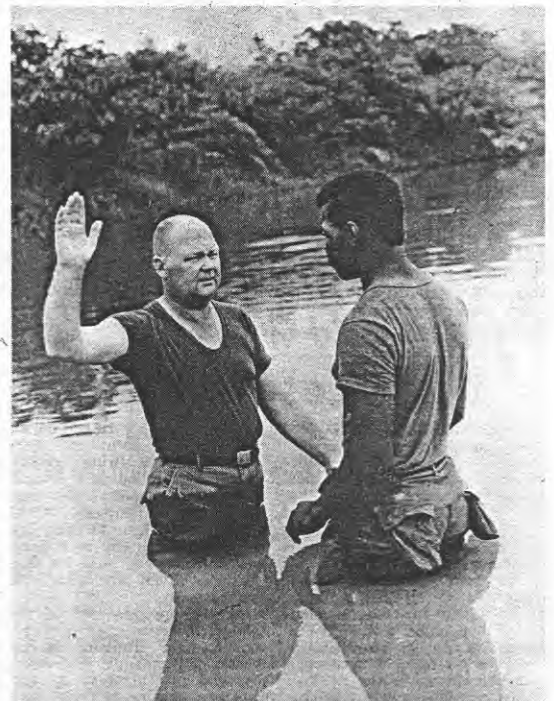
mission or you may be reported to the Provost Marshal.

What about the restrictions on buying items in the PX? What this means is that starting May 1, a computer record will be kept of the large money-value purchases that you make at the PX.

Are there any exceptions to the \$200 limitation? Certainly. When your tour of duty in Vietnam is ended, or when you go on

leave or R&R, you are allowed to convert as much cash as you have, regardless of amount, provided you can satisfy your commander that it represents military payment certificates legitimately acquired by you.

Remember, the \$200 limitation does not restrict your ability to buy. It is designed solely to hinder the operation of the black market and money manipulators.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 CRAIG COFFMAN

Baptismal

Chaplain (Major) Wilbur Peterson of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Artillery baptizes a Skytrooper at the water point of the Cav's base at Camp Evans in northern I Corps.



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Commanding General MG John J. Tolson
Chief of Information Major William S. Witters
Officer-In-Charge CPT David Tate
Editor SGT Dan Stoneking



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 RICHARD CONRAD

Searching For The Enemy

Skytroopers of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry look for signs of enemy forces in the Que Son Valley while on a search and destroy mission.

'Afraid Of Nothing'

Pointman Wins CO's Praise

By SP5 MIKE LARSON
Cavalair Staff Writer

CAMP EVANS — In the four months he has been in Vietnam, Private First Class Hector L. Camacho has accomplished quite a lot.

"You've got to see this man in action to believe him," says Captain Robert L. Helvey, commanding officer of Company A of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, Camacho's unit. "He's afraid of absolutely nothing."

"When Camacho arrived in Vietnam, he went out with a squad ambush

after some of the men reported hearing movement in the brush around our perimeter. After they had been out awhile, one of the radio men called in that they were hearing lots of movement.

"They came back in," continued Helvey. "I spoke to Camacho, and he offered to go back out alone."

PFC Camacho, a small, wiry soldier, displays so much confidence that after two days with Alpha Company he was pointman for the unit.

Pinned Down

During February, Camacho demonstrated his courage in a fierce firefight with an estimated regiment of North Vietnamese Army regulars.

Two Cavalrymen were pinned down and had been lightly wounded by a NVA sniper. "He came racing over to me while the NVA were pouring bullets all around," remembers Platoon Sergeant Shelman T. Anglin, of Alpha Company. "I told him to get down, but he insisted a sniper up there had wounded his buddies and he had to get him. So we put down a heavy fire while Camacho grabbed two grenades and crawled off toward the bunker."

Tossing the grenades at the bunker, Camacho couldn't hit with either. So he returned to Anglin's position, picked up two more grenades and, with bullets flying over his head, crawled

back to the enemy bunker. This time both grenades dropped into the hole, killing the sniper.

Takes Squad

Later in the firefight, he had taken over one squad after the squad leader had been wounded and medevaced. Camacho's squad ran low on ammunition. Some boxes of ammo were lying inside the 2nd of the 12th perimeter, but heavy enemy fire had kept the Americans away from it. Camacho crawled toward the ammo.

"I know the enemy would try to hit me," smiled the 23-year-old Puerto Rican, "but I know we need the ammo bad. If Charlie wants to stop me, he got to hit me here, in the heart, so I pick up the ammo. I make it back all right."

That night, when the 2nd of the 12th leaders decided to move in darkness to get to higher ground behind the enemy, Camacho led the way.

Into The Grave . . . And Out

LZ ROSS — A grave is usually the last place anyone wants to be but when bullets are whizzing by from all directions, even a grave can be a welcome refuge.

"When I first jumped into the grave, I was afraid I might be there permanently," remarked Specialist Four Brad Penrose, a Skytrooper in A Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry. His platoon had been surrounded by North Vietnamese soldiers and was receiving fire from all directions.

Penrose was in the middle of a small Vietnamese graveyard when the action began. The shallow depression encircling the mound of the grave afforded the only available cover from the enemy's fire.

"You might say Charlie put us right in the grave," said Penrose, "but we fought our way out of it."

Tough Going

"It was dark. A cold, damp wind was blowing," said Camacho, "but I trust myself. It was hard for all the men to walk across the rice paddy because the water came up above our ankles and the ground sucked at our feet. The hardest part was finding someplace where everyone could go and making sure everyone could keep up."

All went well until Camacho moved out across a small river and went over a dropoff. "He was out so far we couldn't see him," Anglin said, "but then we heard some thrashing in the water and knew Camacho was swimming back to us." He led the unit from 8 p.m. to 6 the next morning.

Two days later when the 2nd of the 12th moved back toward the enemy position Camacho's luck ran out. Five enemy snipers were sitting in foxholes across a bridge, firing at the Americans and keeping them from crossing the deep river. Captain Helvey and Alpha Company decided to root out the snipers.

PFC Camacho and six other men assaulted across the bridge. When they were about half way over, enemy fire broke out—loud cracks echoed along the river. The seven Alpha Company soldiers scrambled off the bridge and, miraculously, only one man was hit — Camacho.

It was his second Purple Heart, his first coming when he was wounded in the shoulder during the NVA attempt to overrun the 1st Cav's Landing Zone Leslie. Camacho also won a Silver Star Medal with "V" Device for valor in that action for crawling on top of a bunker and lobbing grenades at enemy scrambling around LZ Leslie's perimeter.

This time, Camacho was hit in the foot, what soldiers call a "million dollar wound." He endured the pain while the rest of Alpha Company attacked the enemy snipers, finally killing four of them. The other one got away, leaving behind a blood trail.

Cav's 2nd Brigade Blocks VC Attack

By SP5 DON GRAHAM

Cavalair Staff Writer

LZ UPLIFT — The Second Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division halted the 2nd Viet Cong Regiment's contribution to the enemy offensive in South Vietnam before it could get going.

In three separate engagements over a five-day period, the Cavalrymen battered the three battalions of the 2nd VC, part of the 3rd North Vietnamese Army Division.

190 Enemy Dead

The fighting cost the NVA 190 soldiers killed and 58 weapons captured during the three day action. United States units lost four men killed.

The contacts were made on three sides of the district capital of Phu My, a symbol of sorts to the Viet Cong since it was once a center of their activity in Binh Dinh Province. It is now the hub of a bustling Revolutionary Development program initiated by the Government of Vietnam.

Apparently the regiment's intention was to attack Phu My, but the Cavalry hit its troops before they could take the offensive. The regiment was able to assemble only one ground probe on district headquarters, which was repulsed.

Coordinated Effort

All the Cavalry's elements — mechanized and conventional infantry, artillery, helicopter gunships, and air strikes — played their part in the fighting. The brunt of the battle was borne by the Cav's mechanized battalion, the 1st, Battalion, 50th Mechanized Infantry.

Striking with lightning speed on the Phu My terrain, which is level, dry, and bisected by Highway 1, the tracks moved wherever Charlie was to be found.

On the first day of the action, the battalion's Delta Company was conducting a routine search mission in the Crescent area, well to the north of Phu My. At 9 a.m., the company was alerted to turn around and head back towards Phu My.

Town, LZs Hit

The district town as well as Landing Zones Uplift and Crystal had received mortar fire the preceding night, and the brigade's intelligence officers were receiving reports that the enemy who had conducted the attack were concentrated to the south of Phu My.

The company moved immediately to check out the reports, and at 1 p.m., found itself under fire from a series of hedge-row and bunker positions.

In virtually no time at all, two more track companies, Alpha and Bravo, 1st of the 50th, were inserted, and found themselves in heavy contact. A conventional infantry company, Charlie, 2nd of the 5th was put in as a blocking force.

Time and again, the tracks swept through the enemy positions raking them with .50 and .30 caliber fire then pulling back to permit the howitzers of A Battery, 1st of the 77th Artillery, and B Battery, 8th of the 15th Artillery (8-inch) to go to work. Overhead, helicopter gunships cut off escape routes and fired on enemy who tried to flee.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 RICHARD CONRAD

Keepin' Dry

Elements of the Cav's Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry file across a rice paddy dike keeping their feet dry in an operation in the Que Son Valley near Landing Zone Ross.



A quartet of Cavalrymen take cover while battling near Hue.

US ARMY PHOTO BY SPS CHARLES EKBERG



A Cav machine gun team sets up behind a wall outside Hue.

US ARMY PHOTO BY SPS RICHARD CONRAD



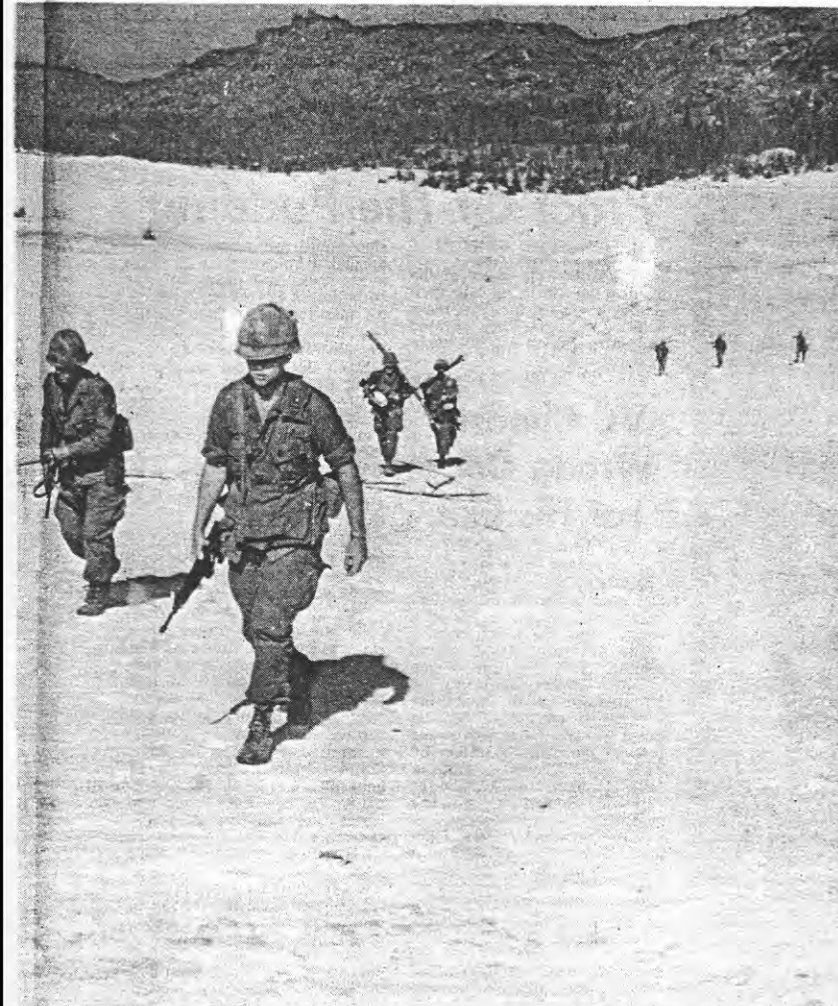
A Skytrooper scout dog tec

Air Cavalrymen In Action—1 Corps To Phu My



Flanked by a radioman an FO Lt. Michael Lukosavich of the 2nd of the 5th calls for artillery.

US ARMY PHOTO BY SPS DON GRAHAM



US ARMY PHOTO BY SPS JESTER SMITH

log team leads the way across a South China Sea beach.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SPS DON GRAHAM

A Cav APC is camouflaged near Phu My.

2nd/12th Outshoots Enemy Sniper Unit

By SP4 R. P. CONANT
Cavalair Staff Writer

LZ EVANS — The 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry was working through the village of Tren Ben Tri in I Corps, Vietnam's northernmost area of operations, toward an estimated North Vietnamese Army regiment when sniper fire rang out. One man from Delta Company was hit.

The sniper fire had come from the other side of a bridge the Sky-troopers had to cross to continue their mission.

Pro Job

"We'll take a look at the situation," Captain Bob Helvey, Alpha Company commander, said, by radio, to the battalion commander, and Alpha Company set off for the bridge, subsequently performing what Lieutenant Colonel Richard S. Sweet, battalion commander tagged, "one of the most professional jobs I've ever seen."

Helvey looked at the picturesque white bridge crossing the river. On the other side, nothing moved.

Seven Alpha Company soldiers, led by Private First Class Hector L. Camacho, assaulted across the bridge. When the men had gotten half way, strident enemy fire sent soldiers scrambling from the bridge. Only one man, Camacho, was wounded in the foot. (see Camacho story on page 3.)

Cross Bridge

Cavalrymen successfully across the bridge worked toward the sniper positions. Sergeants Cliff Lowe and Calvin Bullock waded their platoons through chest-deep water to an embankment.

Private First Class Terry Wright, a 1st platoon medic,

spotted the first sniper.

"I saw him above a spider hole," said Wright. "He jumped back into the hole and we tossed in a grenade. It went right into the hole. I first saw a weapon come up out of the hole, then I saw the guy stick out his head, looking around as he crawled out. I fired at him once and hit, ending his day rather abruptly."

Courtyard Cover

Other troopers of Alpha Company had raced into a small courtyard on the right side of the bridge and observed still more sniper positions from inside a French-built cement building. One of the men chipped a hole through the wall, where he could stick out his M-79 and fire at the snipers. He spotted one sniper making his way out of the hole and dropped an M-79 round right in his lap.

Specialist Four Stephen F. Cochran, who dropped a grenade into a spider hole and wiped out a third sniper, gave credit to Helvey.

Four Killed

"The CO had these snipers zeroed," said Cochran. "We spotted a bunker with an SKS (Soviet Assault Rifle) on top. That gave it away. I came from behind and dropped a grenade." Four other men were standing there and any one of us could have done the same thing."

Alpha Company killed four of the snipers. One more escaped, leaving behind a blood trail, but when the rest of the 2nd of the 12th came across, the bridge was secure.

In addition to the four snipers, Alpha Company also found two PD-2 machineguns, two SKS rifles, countless grenades and rockets, and plenty of ammunition for the small arms.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 ANDREW RUST

OH-13 On The Deck

An OH-13 helicopter, one of the many that fly in support of the Cavalry, flies on the deck looking for signs of Viet Cong or North Vietnamese Army forces. This is the chopper that roots out the enemy and keeps him pinned down until ground troops can arrive and engage him in battle.

Aids 2nd Of The 5th

Infantrymen Laud Scout Ships

LZ UPLIFT — An infantryman is sometimes reluctant to admit that anyone else has it as rough, or as dangerous, as he does.

But ask a foot soldier of the 1st Air Cavalry Division about the two-man crews who fly the OH-13 scout helicopters, and he'll tell you "these guys have got guts."

It was illustrated early one morning when Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry saw three armed men running along the far end of a wide rice paddy. Rifle fire sent the men flying to the ground, but at several hundreds meters range, it was doubtful that the bullets had

found their mark. What could the infantrymen do now? A frontal assault across the open paddy would mean marching head-on into three enemy weapons. To maneuver around the edges of the huge field would be time consuming and might permit the men to escape.

The answer was the OH-13's. A call to A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry had two "scout" birds on the way in a minute. The two-man choppers, with their clear plastic cockpit and "erector set" tail, look fragile.

But the helicopters get down just a few feet above the ground to look over the area, flying at a slow speed or at a hover, virtually daring the enemy to open fire. From the door, the gunner/observers of the two ships fired M-60 machine guns or dropped hand grenades into the tangle of bushes where the armed men had fled.

To the helicopter crews, it was a routine mission. To the infantrymen, it was the kind of lifesaving assistance that makes them grateful for the men who fly the OH-13's.

Airmobile Mess Halls—'Proof Of The Pudding'

By SP4 HERB DENTON
Cavalair Staff Writer
LZ EVANS—The proof of the pudding for the airmobile division is the speed in which mess halls can get the fires burning and start dishing out hot chow to the troops.

When the 1st Air Cavalry Divi-

sion made two moves recently Specialist Four Charles M. Bennett's mess hall came through with an "A-1" rating. As supply man for the Division's artillery mess hall, he helped with the planning and packing.

When the Division arrived in the I Corps tactical zone (just south of the DMZ) from the coastal plains of central Vietnam, the artillery mess hall was serving Swiss steak, mashed potatoes and cherry pudding in less than two and a half hours after touching down at the new base camp.

"When we heard that the Division would be moving we got all the ice we could get our hands on," Bennett said.

"We weren't sure if the supply point would be operating when we first got here so we packed up about four meals in ice, covered them with a canvas and threw it on a plane," he added.

Armed with the ice-packed rations, a few pots and pans, a camp oven and one burner, the mess sergeant and one cook helicoptered from the air terminal to the new base camp site where they immediately began operating.

"It's been a lot of hard work," Bennett said. The mess hall personnel have put in several 18-hour days. In addition to continuing to serve hot chow, they have had to work after the evening meal to build operating huts for the KP's, set up a dining hall and get a more permanent kitchen in order.

"It's worth it though," Bennett said. "Good hot food is a big morale builder over here."

VC Chooses Wrong Door For His Exit

By SP4 R. P. CONANT
Cavalair Staff Writer

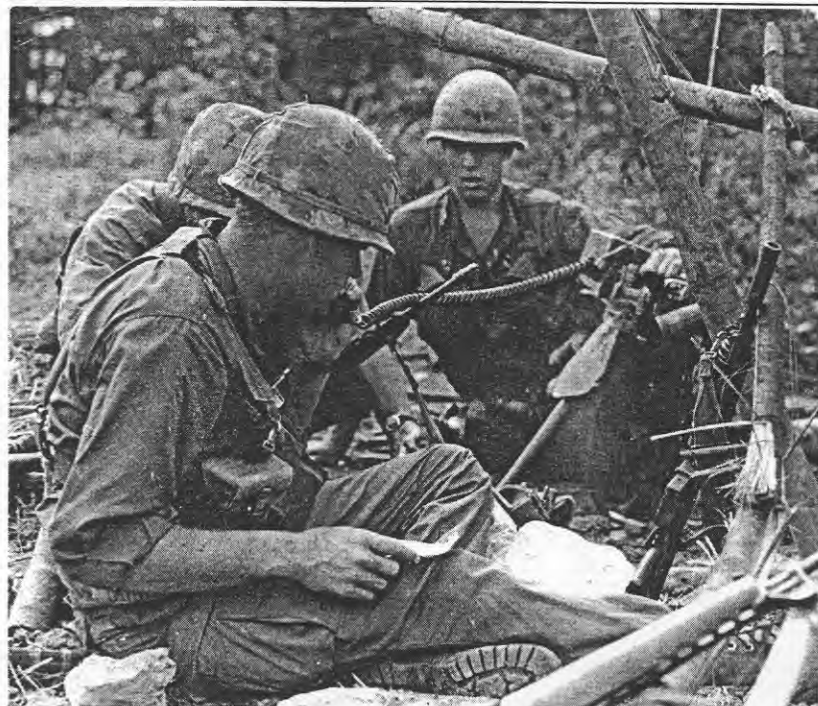
QUANG TRI — An NVA soldier went to church, decided not to stay and stepped out the back door. It was the wrong one.

The Red had spotted several soldiers of C Company of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, under the operational control of the 1st Brigade, who were advancing through the village of Thon La Vang, some four miles south of here. He made a dash into the village's Roman Catholic church.

"Two guys and myself followed him in," said Specialist Four Tyrone Brown, an ammo bearer. "He hid behind the altar with his rifle and a priest standing there."

The soldiers started to walk toward him when he ran out the back door. PFC. Elwood Jones, a rifleman, said, "He ran right in front of a platoon of us and wouldn't stop."

Fire from eight rifles killed him.



US ARMY PHOTO BY SP5 RICHARD CONRAD

Calling In Data

Lieutenant Christopher J. Burke, Jr., coordinates an effect to destroy a large North Vietnamese Army bunker complex in the Que Son Valley. Burke is a platoon leader with the Cavalry's Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry.