



# SCRAPBOOK

EDITION

10

*for fighting men too busy to keep their own!*

## FIRE FIGHT

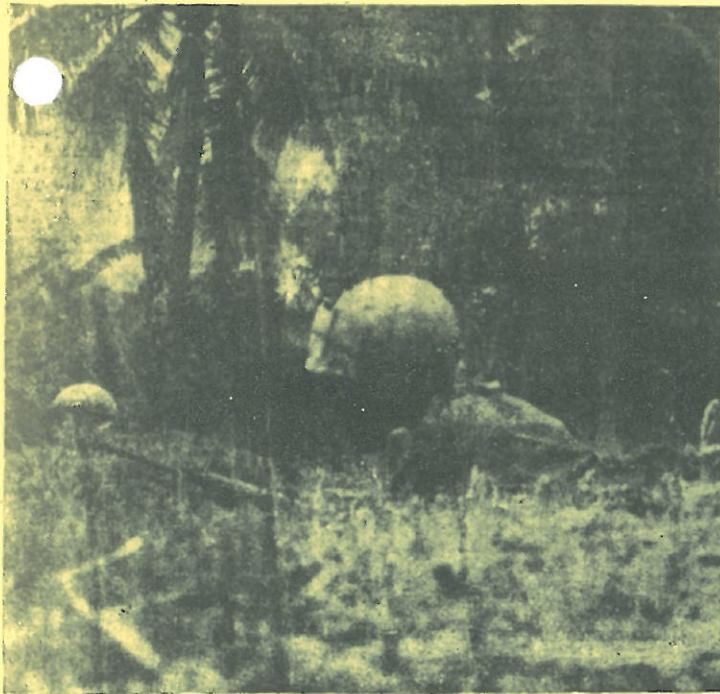
Co C, 57 air assaulted into LZ Perodit near Bong Son and started a sweep through several village complexes.

As they moved across a rice paddy, they were hit by fire from an NVA company.

The men of Co C fought back and called in ARA for support. When the shooting was over, 46 enemy were dead.



Charlie Company returns enemy fire.



Infantrymen drop into position when the enemy opens up.

### FIGHT INTO NIGHT

## 1st Cav. Troops Kill 69 VC Near Bong Son

SAIGON—Troops of the 1st Cav. Div. engaged a large enemy unit and killed 69 Viet Cong in a battle which continued through the day and into the night Thursday. The action began when an infantry platoon made contact with an enemy force of unknown size at 10:40 a.m. Other units from the 1st Cav. were sent in as reinforcements and fighting continued until after dark. Sporadic contact continued until 9:30 p.m. American losses were described as light.

The engagement was fought in Binh Dinh Province, about eight miles southwest of Bong Son, in an area where the cavalrymen have been conducting Operation Thayer II since Oct. 25.

A company from the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div., ambushed and killed nine north Vietnamese in Phu Yen Province, about 20 miles west of Tuy Hoa. There were no U.S. casualties. In the Mekong River Delta southwest of Saigon, U.S. Navy

armed helicopters helped drive off Viet Cong attacking a South Vietnamese outpost at Ba Cang in Vinh Long Province. The choppers fired rockets and machine guns at the enemy during a 1 1/2-hour battle.

In another action, Navy river patrol boats fired into an enemy force attacking another government outpost on the Co Vhien River, 60 miles south of Saigon.

### VC Terrorists Kill 51 in Week

SAIGON (AP)—Viet Cong terror attacks claimed at least 51 lives and injured 50 others in the week ended last Saturday. Figures made available by official sources Friday also said 215 persons were abducted.

The victims were involved in more than 23 separate incidents in widely separated parts of South Vietnam.



Prepared for the OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

by the U.S. ARMY COMMAND INFORMATION UNIT \* WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

# War--in the Hills....



# ...and on the Beaches

A RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY of the 1st U.S. Cavalry (left photo) searches among rocks and boulders of mountains along the central coast of South Vietnam, about 20 miles north of Qui Nhon, where a Viet Cong squad had been reported. Crevasses and caves afford excellent hiding places for the enemy troops. The company leaves its marks (above) on the sandy beach along the coast as it departs after a fruitless search.

AP Wirephotos



New York Times 13 DEC 1966 Associated Press Wirephotos  
WAITING FOR JUMP SIGNAL: Men of Ninth U.S. Cavalry Division wait for copter to hover low over Binh Dinh Province. They will jump, making it unnecessary for craft to land. Yesterday, similarly landed units of the First Cavalry met enemy in the area.



# Cavalrymen Move Guerrilla Suspects Across Stream

BONG SON, South Viet Nam — U.S. 1st Cavalry troops Bong Son. The suspects were rounded up during a sweep move Viet Cong suspects across a stream just south of of a village that the Viet Cong had been using as a base.

# Cavalry Closing Trap on Red Unit



SAIGON -- (UPI) -- Bloody jungle fighting erupted in the central highlands Sunday as U.S. air cavalrymen jockeyed to trap and destroy an estimated Communist battalion desperately trying to escape.

The Communists were trying to flee soldiers of the First Air Cavalry Division moving in on three sides toward the South China Sea coast.

A multi-company force of cavalrymen suffered moderate casualties in fighting Saturday 285 miles north-east of Saigon and 38 miles northwest of Qui Nhon.

The death toll for the Communists climbed to 46 early today, a military spokesman reported.

Fighting broke off at nightfall Saturday and it was feared the communists, an estimated 460 to 600 men, managed to flit away in the jungle.

But shortly after day-break, the hard-driving cavalrymen triggered two more firefights and drove into a Communist force entrenched in concealed bunkers.

There was bitter fighting as the soldiers blasted bunkers with artillery and called in aircraft to hammer the Red positions with bombs and napalm.

Further north, U.S. Marines chasing guerrillas in hit-and-run bands killed 22 Viet Cong in a series of sweeps in the northern provinces. B32 bombers, meanwhile, smashed Communist positions inside the demilitar-

ized border zone for the third straight day.

The central highlands battle began when a company of cavalrymen made contact with a squad of Viet Cong Saturday morning and called in reinforcements who moved into blocking positions by helicopter.

The battle continued far into the night until Reds withdrew and cavalrymen pulled into defense perimeters.

The fighting, some of the most intense in recent weeks, erupted as the Cavalrymen swept the Communist-controlled section of Binh Dinh Province in operation Thayer II, a search and destroy project that began Oct. 25 and has resulted in a reported 625 Communist kills.

Late in the afternoon, the Americans came under heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire. At some points, the two sides closed to within hand-grenade range.

American officers estimated there were many Communist dead in the jungles but, said one, "nobody's going out in the dark just to count them."

## New Fights Near Quinhon Raise Vietcong Toll to 65

BY THOMAS BUCKLEY 19 DEC 1966  
Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 18—Units of the helicopter-borne First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) skirmished again today with elements of a North Vietnamese battalion, but apparently failed to come to grips with the main enemy strength.

After the North Vietnamese broke contact after two brief morning engagements, the American troops reported having counted 15 bodies, bringing their count of enemy dead in the fighting, which began yesterday, to 65.

The Americans reported no casualties today. Their casualties yesterday were described as moderate or enough to impair the fighting ability of the units involved.

The series of engagements took place 30 to 38 miles northwest of the port city of Quinhon and 290 miles northeast of Saigon. It is an area of foothills covered with thick undergrowth between the coastal plain and the Central Highlands.

Clash Before Dawn

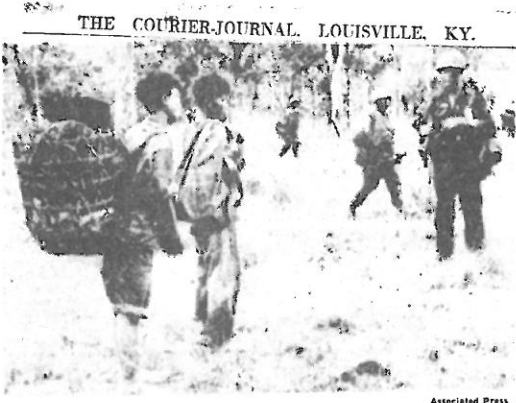
The first skirmish today took place soon after dawn as about 50 men of the First Cavalry engaged a force of about 20 North Vietnamese. Eight of the enemy were reported killed.

About an hour later, eight miles to the southeast, other units of the division attacked an enemy force of unknown size that was dug in in roofed bunkers. After the North Vietnamese retreated, seven more bodies were counted.

The all-day fighting yesterday began when an American platoon on patrol as part of Operation Thayer II surprised a North Vietnamese squad and opened fire. Within minutes, as the enemy squad fled, another platoon was lifted into the area by helicopter.

An undisclosed number of American companies were flown to the area and were believed to have surrounded the enemy unit, estimated at battalion size, or about 400 men. Air strikes and artillery fire continued against the unit through the night.

Thus far in the search-and-destroy sweeps of Thayer II, which began Oct. 25, the United States has reported a total of 672 enemy dead and 22 captured.



Associated Press  
DELAYED IN TRANSIT... A U.S. 1st Cavalry Division trooper guards two North Vietnamese soldiers captured near the Cambodian border while transporting captured equipment of the 1st Cavalry Division.

## Milwaukee GI Saves Life of Comrade, Wins Medal

Sp4 Douglas Greenmeier, 22, has been awarded the bronze star for valor for saving the life of a comrade and for bringing back important information while in action against the enemy in the Ia Drang valley in Vietnam. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Greenmeier, 211 E. Dover st. Greenmeier was with the 12th Cavalry last Aug. 10 when his platoon was hit hard by enemy fire.



In an attempt to determine the situation on the platoon's flank, Greenmeier exposed himself to intense enemy fire. As he returned with the information, he put a wounded soldier on his back and returned through the hostile fire. The information he brought back led to the rescue of several men on the platoon's flank, his citation said.

Greenmeier, a 1963 graduate of Bay View high school, was a halfback on the 1962 all-city football team. He went into the army on Aug. 6, 1965, and arrived in Vietnam last Jan. 8. He is expected to return to the United States in January.

## Rushes VC When 'Chip' Is Down

AN KHE, Vietnam (10) — A member of the 1st Cav. Div.'s 1st Brigade was ready to fight when the Viet Cong knocked Chip off his shoulder.

B Co., of the 1st Bn., 8th Cav., was conducting a search and clear mission along the coast when they came to a quiet little fishing village.

SP4 Marvin Keating was carrying Chip, the company's monkey, on his shoulder as they entered the village. Keating, who was point man, heard several rounds crack over his head.

Keating dived for cover, then noticed Chip was missing. He looked around and found Chip, who appeared to be wounded, lying in the brush.

When the order was given to attack the village, Keating rushed forward with the company to rout the Viet Cong.

After the fight, PFC Thomas Cook found Chip sitting in a hole. The monkey had suffered a slight flesh wound in the thigh.

Keating said, after the commotion was over, "When they knocked Chip off my shoulder, I was ready to fight them all."

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7  
Thursday, Dec. 8, 1966



AP Wirephoto  
"We had fun, laughed a lot," she said of Vietnam trip.

## Hope and Prayer Wing Sister To Viet Reunion With Brother

NORTH BERGEN, N. J. — (AP) — Beverly Hansen just came back from delivering a Christmas tree and a few presents to her 20-year-old brother. It was an 18,000-mile trip.

Her brother, Army Pfc. Robert Hansen is stationed at An Khe in South Vietnam.

Beverly's arrival was a complete surprise to her brother. "That it worked out over Christmas was fantastic," she said.

The 23-year-old secretary to an airlines president had told her brother she would come to Vietnam when they could arrange time together.

"He said he was getting in from 75 days in the field about Dec. 20, so that's when I planned the trip," Beverly said. "It was just a hope and a prayer."

She had no hotel reservations but got the last available room at the Majestic. Through the Red Cross, she arranged to meet Robert in Saigon.

"What really shocked him," she said "was that I was wearing fatigues and combat boots."

She spent 10 days waiting for Robert to arrive, killing time by touring the area — once in a general's helicopter. She and Robert had three days together. "We had fun, laughed a lot," she recalled. "But we were never able to really relax; you are never able to forget there is war going on."

The only night she and Robert went out was Christmas Eve because the truce was then in effect. "Everybody was out celebrating like it was New Year's Eve. Saigon became a lively happy city for a night."



## 1st Cav Aviators Save Comrades

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — Two "Winged Warriors" of the 1st Cavalry Division's 28th Chinook Battalion risked their lives recently to save their wounded comrades after their Chinook crashed while carrying a load of highly explosive ammunition.

The helicopter, piloted by CWO Osman D. Phillips and CWO Matt S. Kasanen, was on an emergency supply mission to Divi-

sion who were engaged with the enemy during Operation Paul Revere IV.

While making its third attempt to get into the small landing zone, which was obscured by darkness and fog, the sling-loaded ammo became tangled in the trees surrounding the landing zone. The ship's engine burst into flames and the Chinook crashed to the ground directly on top of the high explosives.

The flight engineer, Sp5 Henry

L. Davis, and a passenger, Sp5 Joseph Buahant, were trapped in the flaming wreckage.

Although the explosives were sure to detonate at any moment, Maj. Willard C. Goodwin, a passenger on the flight, and Kosovan stayed in the burning wreckage to free the wounded men and carry them to safety.

Moments later the ammunition exploded, completely destroying the remains of the aircraft.

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THE ARMY REPORTER



**MOUNTAIN TOP ASSAULT**—The Blue Team of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, air assaults onto a mountain ridge. The action occurred in the central highlands of Vietnam during Operation Thayer II. (Photo by 1st CAV-10)

## 1st Cav Unit Pushes VC From Rice Haven

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — The 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, has pushed the Viet Cong from the Rice Triangle at Phan Thiet and into the mountains as part of Operation Byrd, 100 miles east of Saigon.

Prior to the Gary Owens troopers arrival four months ago, the Viet Cong controlled the rich paddy land which stretches eight miles north of Phan Thiet between the railroad and national highway.

After an attack on a Regional Forces company by the Viet Cong, in which 51 government troops were killed, the Gary Owens troopers were called in. According to Maj. Ronald Rasmussen, the battalion executive officer, the job is not yet over, for the VC still live in the villages and are active, especially at night.

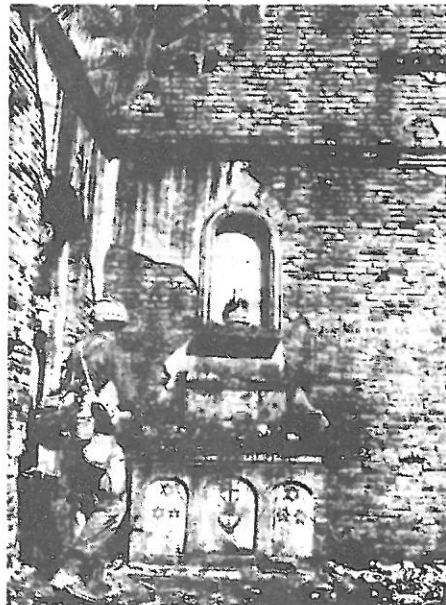
However, roads that the Viet Cong once considered hush, have been opened by the battalion's reconnaissance platoon which has traveled 476 miles to secure roads in the district.

"Those local force guerrillas are second generation fighters," Maj. Rasmussen explained. "They are

the sons of the Viet Minh who battled the French in 1954. They know every inch of the country and in some ways they're tougher to root out than regular North Vietnamese troops."

10

The Boston Sunday Globe—December 25, 1968



**JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS**, a trooper of the First Cavalry Division in Vietnam makes his way through the wreckage of a church during a search and destroy sweep west of Bon Song.

# Cavalrymen Rout Attack, Flush 41 VC From Tunnels

SAIGON (UPI)—A U.S. armored column battering its way along roads in Viet Cong country near Saigon Monday captured 41 of the enemy after rooting them out of holes and tunnels in a fierce fire fight.

The action took place in Phuoc Tuy province 36 miles east northeast of the capital where tanks and armored personnel carriers of the 11th Armored Cav. Regt. are running Operation Atlanta to free highways and the surrounding countryside from the communists.

The armored battle began when a unit of the Cavalry regiment was attacked by automatic-weapons fire from the northwest and southwest.

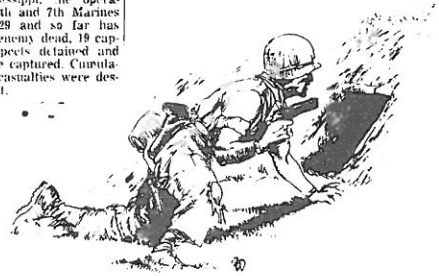
The Cavalrymen fought off the attackers, then began a sweep through the area.

They rounded up 41 prisoners, detained an additional 278 Viet Cong suspects and captured more than eight tons of rice and almost five tons of peanuts.

The action brought the total enemy casualties for Atlanta to 124 killed, 47 captured and 328 suspects detained.

Spokesmen also announced a new operation by U.S. Marines in Quang Nam province about 23 miles south-southwest of Da Nang.

Titled Mississippi, the operation by the 5th and 7th Marines began Nov. 29 and so far has resulted in 8 enemy dead, 19 captured, 12 suspects detained and 33 tons of rice captured. Cumulative friendly casualties were described as light.



**HANGING IN THE TUBE**—Two soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division prepare to fire an 82mm mortar in support of combat operations during Operation Thayer II. (Photo by 1st CAV-10)

# 'Copter Rescue in Jungle 'Impossible,' but It's Done

By KEN ARMSTRONG  
**SAIGON**—The battle for hill 534 had begun. After a week of poking around the Chu Pong Mountains, looking for two North Vietnamese regiments, a company of the 2d Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division, had found them.  
 The encounter occurred in thick jungle—so thick that resupply helicopters and reinforcements couldn't come to the calvarymen's aid. Instead, reinforcements were to be dropped off a mile from the scene, to slash their way through the jungle on foot.  
 In the meantime, Air Force planes plastered the Red positions, hoping no bombs were falling on the Americans hidden under multilayered foliage. Ground observers talked

the planes in — judging bomb placement by impact sound.  
 Whenever the planes weren't overhead, tons of artillery shells were hurled into the North Vietnamese bunkers.  
 IN ADDITION, planes circled overhead all night, dropping flares to illuminate the jungle so that the outnumbered Americans could keep track of enemy movements. The company was practicing the technique that's become standard for American forces. Pin-point the foe, pull back if possible, and let the Air Force and artillery decimate him.  
 The hooker was that the jungle was a North Vietnamese ally. Many shells and bombs hit trees and detonated prematurely.

Moreover, the north Vietnamese were in reinforced dugouts which could withstand a near hit.  
 Especially distressing to the brigade command was the plight of the wounded—the inhospitable terrain prevented their immediate evacuation. A conference was held and produced a decision—request assistance from the Air Force, which had helicopters equipped with slings that could be lowered through the jungle canopy.  
 About 8 that evening, two Air Force helicopters — HH43F Huskies — groped their way through the fog to LZ CAT, brigade headquarters. Piloting one was Cincinnati, Capt. Frederick M. Bergold, 29, a 1959 graduate of Kenyon College, married and the

father of two children.  
 PERSONALLY greeting the two Air Force crews, Col. M. T. Berenzweig, 50, of Glendale, O.—the brigade commander — laid out on the line: "Gentlemen, you've got a dangerous mission."  
 "When he said that," Bergold confessed, "my jaw dropped. We thought we had a milk-run lined up."  
 After a briefing on their mission, their take-off was further delayed by fog.  
 At last, shortly after midnight, Bergold and the other Huskie began their life-saving run. "We didn't have any problems reaching the general location," he later reported. "First, we orbited several times—about 200' off the ground — and then the company

commander — he was real cool — talked us in until we could see his flashlight.  
 "The first ship dropped his litter through the canopy and hauled up two men. Then we went in and lifted up a litter case and two wounded."  
 Airman 2.C. David A. Carl, 20, of Wheeling, Ill., added: "I helped the three cases aboard. One had a foot shot off, another a chest wound—he was the one I worried about, and one had his jaw shot away. He was a good sport, too—kept wanting to smile at me—but couldn't. It was kind of pathetic."  
 AT DAWN more helicopters warmed up for a run to evacuate the remaining wounded and I barely missed a ride. The helicopter took off while I was a few feet shy, running toward

them. At the command tent I sat listening to the radio exchange between the three ships and headquarters, depressed because I had missed my chance to reach the battlefield.  
 Suddenly, a message brought silence to the staff. A pilot was saying: "We're getting heavy groundfire. We can't get in to the LZ (landing zone)."  
 A pause, and a second pilot said: "Where's the other ship?"  
 Came the reply: "I dunno, he was right behind you."  
 Static, and then, emotionally: "I think he's down—over there. See the column of smoke?"  
 BLEAKLY, the confirmation: "Yeah, I see it."  
 That was the helicopter I had tried to catch.

Again, a voice: "I don't see any survivors."  
 "Neither do I. Looks like a wipe-out."  
 Excitedly, the medical evacuation pilot exclaimed: "I'm losing power!"  
 "Stay loose," said his escort, "we'll stick by you."  
 Five hundred feet short of LZ CAT, the helicopter fluttered to the jungle floor. Fortunately, no one aboard was seriously injured.  
 Meanwhile, the battle grew in size and intensity. The rescue company had also encountered a well-entrenched North Vietnamese unit, and throughout the day, the 2 companies fought without respite.  
 However, that night, the North Vietnamese faded away. For the moment, the battle was over.  
 By morning, Hill 534 was in American hands, and although snipers pestered them, they were an irritant, not a threat.



—UPI Telephoto



## GI's Thoughts Turn to Home, Peace

AN KHE, South Vietnam—Spec. 4 Royce P. Barrow, out from war for meditation. His weapon rests on his attached to Company A of the U.S. 1st Cavalry, takes time helmet on the ground beside him.

## GI Hailed for Thwarting Attacker

Cleveland Plain Dealer  
 A Lakewood soldier on leave from Vietnam and his four companions were honored yesterday for saving a Japanese girl from a rape attempt in Tokyo on Monday.

17 JAN (AP)—  
 Cpl. Joseph Geiger, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Geiger, 1624 Belle Avenue, was returning to his quarters with his friends when they saw a man dragging a girl across the street near a park, according to the U. S. Embassy there.



Joseph Geiger

"The soldiers immediately stopped their cab and rescued the girl from her assailant," the embassy said. "They asked the driver to call police and detained two suspects."

THE TOKYO police presented citations to the Americans at the embassy.

"We are very grateful to you for your cooperation in the arrest of the suspects involved in the attempted rape, thus resulting in a speedy solution of this case," the citations said.

Geiger's father said his son was returning to duty in Vietnam tomorrow where he has served since he volunteered for duty there last summer.

THE SOLDIER, a member of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, is a graduate of St. Edward High School. He joined the Army after a year of study at Kent State University.

His father said Joseph hopes





—Herald Staff Photo by BOB EAST

### Bird Nests Are Viet Souvenirs

... Dr. Abramson praised Vietnamese spirit  
Miami Herald 5 JAN 1967

## GI Turned Down 'Kingship' in Viet

By MIKE MORGAN  
Herald Staff Writer

The only American soldier in the Vietnam war who was offered a battlefield promotion to king was back in his Miami Beach home this week for a few days.

He is Maj. Ira Joel Abramson, an Army doctor who was offered the kingship of the Montagnard village of Plei Tueck along with the most beautiful native girl in the tribe for his wife.

Grateful tribesmen of the village deep in the central highlands of South Vietnam wanted to honor the American medic after he and his team treated many ailing villagers.

Despite this spectacular Montagnard Medicare fee, the Major, a bachelor, turned down the payment.

He explained that his duties with the 1st Airborne Cavalry Division kept him traveling and he would not be able to accept the kingship.

The slender, 33-year-old

surgeon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Abramson, of 1070 S. Shore Dr., Miami Beach.

He's on his way to Washington D.C. where his next assignment is post surgeon at Fort McNair.

Maj. Abramson was filled with praise for the morale of both South Vietnamese and the American soldiers.

"The Communists don't have a chance there as long as we stand firm. We are winning the war. The Vietnamese, as well as peoples in Southeast Asia are grateful to the U.S. and feel we are doing the right thing."

He just concluded a several week trip through much of Southeast Asia and assesses these people as: "Hearty friends of the U.S."

Maj. Abramson speaks Vietnamese fluently. "I used to listen to Vietnamese speaking among themselves. I can tell you that the opinions of the peasants, who would have you think we are accepted in Vietnam as a bunch of monsters, are just not true."

He then told how American combat organizations such as his former outfit, are making a substantial contribution by their efforts to construct and rebuild, as well as destroy.

"Every unit in the 1st Airborne Cavalry has adopted a village, a community and is assisting in building and agriculture. In every way, the American soldier uses his ingenuity to improve the condition of the Vietnamese. And I can't stress how much this is appreciated.

"Don't let anyone sell you on the idea they want us out..." he emphasized.



### Widow Presented Sergeant's Silver Star

Mrs. Dorothy Williams of Allendale County's Martin Community is presented a Silver Star, bestowed posthumously on Sgt. Charles C. Williams for gallantry in Vietnam. Presenting the medal is Brig. Gen. E. B. Roberts, Ft. Jackson deputy commander. Sgt. Williams, despite a leg wound and direct enemy fire, maneuvered his squad to outflank a heavily fortified Viet Cong platoon. He was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). (U. S. Army Photo)

D 12 THE COURIER-JOURNAL Saturday, Jan. 7, 1967

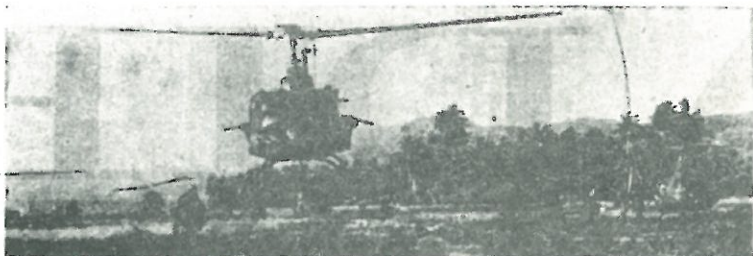


Associated Press

ON THE HUNT... Helicopters loaded with reconnaissance troops of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division fly over the South China Sea coast of Binh Dinh Province, about 300 miles northeast of Saigon, looking for Viet Cong believed to be in the area.

8 JAN 1967

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

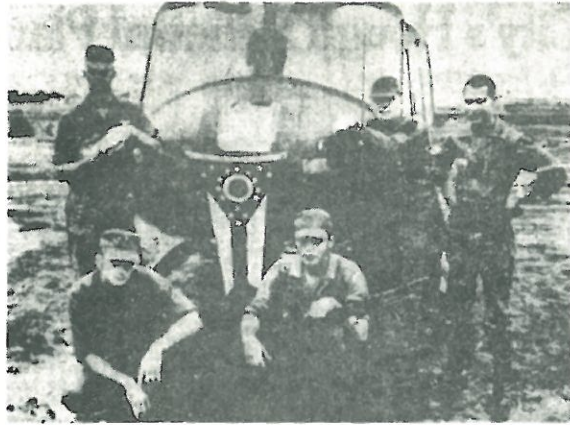


UPI Photo

### Vanguard in Large Operation

Members of the United States First Air Cavalry Division jump from helicopters in a paddy field near Bong Son, South Viet Nam, in an operation paving

the way for a larger force. They were hunting two Viet Cong battalions in the plains about 300 miles northeast of Saigon.



**VIETNAM FIVE**—An Ohio flag sent by Gov. James A. Rhodes is draped on the nose of a helicopter in Vietnam. Kneeling, from left, are Lt. Don Stafford and Pfc. Charles Cole. Standing, from left, are CWO Robert Nagos, WO James Snyder and CWO Armit Tilgner.

## Keep Hearth Warm, GIs Tell Rhodes

By WILSON HIRSCHFELD  
Plain Dealer Bureau

COLUMBUS — "Keep the home fires burning for us," five Ohioans fighting with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam have written Gov. James A. Rhodes.

They wrote to thank the governor for a state flag sent to their outfit.

Writing the governor were Chief Warrant Officer Armit Tilgner of Cleveland, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Magos of Garrettsville, Warrant Officer James Snyder of Findlay, Lt. Don Stafford of East Rochester and Pfc. Charles Cole of Arcadia.

"THOUGHT WE would write and let you know everything here is as best can be expected," their letter said.

"Our ground troops have been in pretty heavy enemy engagements as we are sure you have heard in the news.

"We wish to thank you for all the backing and thoughtfulness, and for the state flag. We are all very proud to call Ohio home and to be here to protect that home.

"We are very sad to be

away from our loved ones but "Keep the home fires burning soon we will all be back there for us."

"We will be home soon."



Baltimore Sun 8 Jan 1967  
**RICE PADDY CASUALTY**—Wounded GI of 1st Cavalry Division is helped to safety by two buddies after a fierce battle 8 miles southwest of Ban Song, in South Vietnam.

## Slows Reinforcements

Cleveland Plain Dealer

# Jungle Magnifies Contact Problem

By KENNETH ARMSTRONG

SAIGON—How the battle for Hill 524 began is complicated.

Elements of the 2d Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry, were reconnoitering the Chu

### ONE OF A SERIES

Fong Mountains, near Cambodia and 200 miles north of Saigon. The North Vietnamese were in hiding. The question was—where?

After a week of intensive searching, a company engaged a sizable unit. Two companies took off on foot to reinforce the Americans.

ONE OF THE relief companies was pummeled on the way by a second Vietnamese force and requested help. C Company of the 5th Cavalry's 1st Battalion hastily responded to the call.

"About 1 p.m., as we neared the hill," reported Capt. Donald R. Sims, 30, of Bogalusa, La., the company commander, "the tail end of our column spotted a sniper in a tree and riddled him. That was what they should have done, but it also alerted the North Vietnamese we were coming."

Contributing to the confusion was the air strike. Sgt. Evan Mc-

Fall, 20, of 6990 Oak St., Youngstown, said: "Suddenly, without any warning, they opened up on us. We had walked right into them. In the first burst, the point man and two others got it, and seven others were wounded."

Sims said: "We were taking casualties trying to get to them. We just couldn't afford to take any more losses, so I instructed everyone to pull back."

ALSO INVOLVED in the fighting was a Pfc. Joseph B. Immler, 21, of 1916 Spring Ave. N.E., Canton.

"As soon as we were hit," he said, "the North Vietnamese tried to form a U around the platoon, but they couldn't do it because our squad was off to one side and could attack them from behind. That's what saved the rest of the platoon—otherwise, we would have been wiped out."

Capt. Sims said he marked his unit's positions with smoke and called for air support. "They did a great job, too—managing to silence a machine gun that was giving us fits," he said.

In a small spatter plane, Air Force Capt. Edward M. Giddings, 31, of Greensburg, Conn., directed the air strike. "The main prob-

lem," he said, "was the soupy weather. It took us an hour just to sort out where our troops were, but once we did, the pilots walked the bombs and napalm in beautifully, right into the North Vietnamese."

Sims said his company again tried to skirt the enemy positions, but it suffered more casualties. "I called in artillery, and they quieted things down. That enabled us to push out a little more and make it to the top of the hill without additional casualties."

"IT WASN'T UNTIL we were on the hill that I discovered how close we had been to B Co.—only 150 feet away! The jungle was so unbelievably thick, we could have been miles away for all we knew."

Sims said the main enemy force was gone in the morning.

"How many do you think there were?" I asked.

"At least a battalion, maybe 600 men," he replied. "In any case, I'm certain we hurt them."

Our conversation was interrupted. Sniper fire. The men dove into foxholes.

WHEN NO MORE shots were heard, the soldiers audaciously reported from

their holes and resumed eating C rations, deepening foxholes and putting on dry socks.

As tired as everyone was, there were no dozers on the thin perimeter. They knew the company was under strength, that if the enemy attacked, which was possible, they had to be ready.

After inspecting the defenses, Sims sat down, drew his pencho over his head and borrowed my penlight to read a letter from his wife. Twice, he savored the contents, chuckling occasionally over a passage, and with reluctance tucked it back into a shirt pocket.

A Tuskegee Institute alumnus, Capt. Sims is a Negro. I asked, "Any complaints?" "None," he said. "I've been given a fat shake in the Army. I feel I've been treated and promoted on my merits. It's a good career."

"EVEN TODAY?" On Jan. 5, 1967.

Although I could not see his face, I sensed he was smiling as he replied: "Yeah, The Army is like a marriage—sometimes it's better, sometimes it's worse. This is the worse Vietnam, but I'll pass it all past."

And he fell asleep.

Baltimore Sun 11 JAN 1967 THE SUN



UPI Telephoto  
**FOR LUCK**—A 1st Cavalry trooper participating in Operation Thayer 2 near Qui Nhon, carries a captured Viet Cong flag and sports an "extra joker" playing card on helmet.

THE ARMY REPORTER



**STREAM CROSSING**—Troops from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, patrol dense jungles near Bong Son in support of the 1st Cavalry Division's Operation Thayer II. (Photo by 1st CAV-IO)

# Brigade Hasn't Been Same Since Ohioan Took Charge

By KENNETH ARMSTRONG

**LANDING ZONE CAT**, South Vietnam — "They're out there, son—where?" Gesturing with his right hand, scattering ash from his ever-present cigar, the commander of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2d Brigade, Col. M. J. Berenzweig, indicated the rolling mist listed on maps as the Chu Pong Mountain, and he added: "And we'll find them before we leave."

His lean face sunburned, the 50-year-old West Pointer (Jan. '49) spoke with authority and determination. There could be no doubt who was boss of the brigade. COL. BERENZWEIG and his wife, Priscilla, list 110



Sgt. I.C. Jesse Arrowood Fountain Avenue, Glendale, a Cincinnati suburb, as their home. They have two children, Priscilla, 15, and John,

19, the latter attending Miami University.

His sister-in-law and her husband, Dr. and Mrs. William M. Michener, live at 2803 Scarborough Road, Cleveland Heights.

In the Pacific in World War II, the Colonel garnered the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit. After the war, he was on the NATO staff, and later he was military secretary to the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. Last March he moved from the Pentagon to South Vietnam and took over the 2d Brigade. It has never been the same.

His headquarters is at Landing Zone Cat, a rectangular meadow in the jungle, four miles east of Cambodia and 200 miles north of Saigon, vulnerable to attack.

**NIGHTTIME STROLLING** was discouraged. Since I was the only newsman with the brigade, the colonel hospitably invited

**ONE OF A SERIES**

me to use a spare folding cot in his small tent, and if required, to leap into his personal foxhole. I accepted. It was definitely preferable to digging my own foxhole and sleeping in it all night.

After next morning's briefing, the colonel motioned to me and, referring to a map, said:

"Here's what's going on. We believe the 32d and 33d North Vietnamese regiments were attempting to encircle and attack Duc Co and Plai Me, two U.S. Army Special Forces' outposts, but we spoiled their plans by intercepting them before they could start their attacks."

"Now they're falling back in small groups, to reassemble in their Chu Pong bases or in Cambodia. We're trying to cut them off before they reach those bases."

**"THE QUESTION IS:** which way will they go? To the south of Chu Pong, where we are right now? Through the Chu Pong, trying to cut between our forces? Or to the north of the Chu Pong?"

That's what we don't know. That's what we have to find out.

"From the handful of prisoners, we know this: some have been in this area two years. They're tired. They're beat, physically and mentally. Their morale is extremely low, and the prisoners are chirping like birds."

"I think this is a great opportunity to really hit them, while they're weakened. If we can destroy them as fighting units—the bad guys—we'll take the pressure off Duc Co and Plai Me, and also insure that they'll have to spend a lot of time reorganizing."

**"WITH LUCK,** we can really tout up their timetable for the high plateau. I'm going calling. Want to come along?"

Striding to his waiting helicopter, we were shortly aloft. Below, artillery was firing, the puffs from their muzzles looking like foggy breaths on a cold Cleveland morning, as we whirled north to one of the brigade's scattered battalions.

Soon, underneath us, was the jungle—vast, secretive and intimidating. Occasionally, it thinned, revealing a row of elephant grass so high that North Vietnamese could easily be hidden in it, undetectable from above.

**FIVE MILES** from Cat,



Cpl. Joseph E. Ulmer

we hovered over a treeless knoll—part of the Chu Pong complex -- studded with tents, bunkers, and mortar and artillery emplacements of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

Spotting a gap on the crowded hillside, the pilot skillfully landed, and immediately the colonel was out and hurrying to the battalion commander's tent, halfway up the rise, eager to know what success the battalion was having in stirring up North Vietnamese.

While they conferred, I trudged up the hill to watch artillerymen lob shell after shell into suspected jungle positions of the foe. Among those slamming shells into a 105-mm howitzer breach was a Cleveland, Col. Joseph E. Ulmer, 22, of 6310 Hawthorne Avenue.

"How's it going?" I called.

"Pretty good. Yesterday, we hit some, and we'll get some more today."

**NEARBY WAS** another Cleveland, Sgt. I.C. Jesse Arrowood, 32, of 4312 Orchard Avenue, an Armyman 14 years but a Vietnamese greenhorn.

How's your outfit doing so far?" I asked.

"We've been doing good, picking up POWs and dead all along, and no one in our outfit has really been hurt yet."

Alongside the helicopter, the colonel was engrossed in conversation with one of the prisoners Arrowood has mentioned, and when I approached he said: "This one surrendered, waving one of the safe conduct passes we've been dropping from the helicopters. He's singing like a bird."

He was, too. The slight, hungry POW had just finished two cans of C rations and was sucking particles from between his teeth as he chattered. Outwardly, he seemed healthy, but he admitted that his unit was short of food and medicine, and that morale was low.

Sitting on the ground, the happy prisoner was resting his right arm on the colonel's left leg, like an old buddy, and was lingering on the colonel's map the location of his home base, a few miles inside Cambodia.

**EVEN THE COLONIAL** snickered at his unexpected familiarity.

Without prodding the North Vietnamese inmate confessed he was glad to be out of the war—he had had his fill—but he did have one question of the colonel: "Will I get my mail regularly in the prison camp?" For two years, ever since I came from North Vietnam, mail delivery has been very bad.

Reboarding the helicopter, the colonel ordered the pilot to drop in on a company sweeping trails leading into the mountains. When we debarked, we doubled over to pull snipers' and ran into the jungle, passing men of the security force guarding the makeshift heliport. Tucked behind trees, bushes and in the elephant grass, the security force could not be seen unless they moved or spoke. It was eerie terrain.



**WADING AFTER THE VIET CONG** — province of South Vietnam. Waterfalls and slippery rock made the going dangerous. The company took to the gorge because of jungle denseness, but the gorge became too steep and they were forced to enter the jungle base area north of Bong Son in Vinh Binh again. (AP Wirephoto)



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**COURAGE APPRECIATED**—Donald DeSimone of Lyndhurst proudly wears Bronze Star and receives a kiss from his mother, Mrs. Albert DeSimone, smiles his approval at the Pocatiny Arsenal, Dover, where he was cited for

## Cited for Heroism

### Braved Cong Fire to Aid Wounded

**Staff Correspondent.**  
**DOVER**—Donald De Simone of 259 Page Ave., Lyndhurst, received the Army's Bronze Star for valor yesterday during ceremonies at Pocatiny Arsenal here.

De Simone, 24, now an IBM machine operator for Vornado, Inc. at Garfield, was cited for heroism on Nov. 17, 1965 while a member of the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

The citation read by Col. John S. Chambers, Jr., arsenal commander, credited De Simone with exposing himself to hostile gunfire without regard for his personal safety while serving as a medical aide.

De Simone was a member of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, last year when his unit encountered a strong force of Viet Cong soldiers. The enemy attack by rifle and mortar fire brought heavy casualties to the American force, the citation read.

However, De Simone braved the full brunt of gunfire to render aid to the wounded and to assist in their evacuation to safety, it continued.

Discharged from the Army last March 29, De Simone returned to the Vornado job he

held before beginning his two years of service.

He and his twin brother, Daniel, an employe of the State Farm Insurance Co., Wayne, were graduated from Lyndhurst High School in 1960. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert De Simone of Lyndhurst, also attended the ceremony.



This well-equipped soldier on patrol with the 1st Cav. carries a hand grenade, smoke bomb and radio—and on his helmet he wears a string of rosary beads and crucifix. (UPI Radiophoto)



**KEEPING LOAD BALANCED**—Like a well-choreographed dance troupe, members of the Reconnaissance Company of the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division, pour out doors on both

sides of their helicopter onto mountaintop near Bong Son, South Vietnam, this week. They were searching for a Vietcong base camp as part of their duties on Operation Thayer II.

## Cav. Chews Up Red's Lunch

**PHAN THIET, Vietnam (AP)**— Viet Cong cooking fire near a hamlet was a lousy lunch hour for Charlie.

Instead of hot rice, Charlie got a final meal of hot steel—or at least the shakes and a rough case of indigestion.

The menu was changed by Army spotter pilots of the 22nd Aviation Bn's 1st Recon. Co., teamed with 1st Air Cav. Div. armed choppers.

One of the Bird Dog spotter pilots had seen a small group of

area to direct the action and relay situation reports as a 1st Cav. infantry team dropped into a nearby landing zone to sweep the area on foot and clear out any remaining VC.

Response was so rapid that pots of rice were found still sitting over fires.

The size of the beaten VC force was estimated at two companies, thought to have been assembling for a night attack on a nearby hamlet.

