

BLACKHORSE



— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

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Blackhorse

April 1970



CLEARING THE ROAD—B Troop ACAVs sweep down a road in War Zone C. The troop

was serving as a reaction force for C Troop during operations in the Tay Ninh area. (Photo by Davis)

Cav Moves to Di An Base

The 11th Cav rear elements have moved from Bien Hoa Army Base to sprawling Di An basecamp, former home of the 1st Infantry Division which is leaving Vietnam.

An advance party, responsible for inspecting, securing and signing for assigned property began coordinating the move on March 19. Blackhorse elements began moving on March 21. The Regiment officially took over as installation coordinator on April 1.

"The cooperation of the people from other units, particularly the 1st Infantry Division, has been outstanding," Major Richard L. Coffman, basecamp commander, noted.

"The 11th Cav personnel were really anxious to get to Di An," Maj. Coffman said. "The facilities here are better than any we've ever had."

The Di An base has several fine post exchange facilities, a MARS station, USO, swimming pools and an excellent club system.

The Blackhorse will occupy the base along with the 3rd Squadron of the 17th Air Cavalry, 595th Signal Company, 300th MP Company, 525th MI Group and the USARV Adviser School.

A number of personnel from the 1st Infantry Division are remaining at Di An to assist the Blackhorse in managing post activities.

Kill 364

Cav Mauls NVA In March Action

By David Greenlee

In a series of heavy contacts last month, Blackhorse troopers, deployed from Loc Ninh across the breadth of War Zone C, killed 364 NVA soldiers, detained 27, and captured large quantities of enemy arms and supplies.

Shortly after daybreak on March 2, 3rd Squadron's L Troop reconning in dense rubber three miles west of Loc Ninh, surprised an estimated NVA company in the process of setting up an ambush position. When contact broke four hours later, 21 enemy lay dead on the battlefield.

"It was the best possible contact you could have," said L Troop Commander Captain John Caldwell. "No one was seriously hurt and we had a big body count and captured a lot of weapons."

In the early morning of March 5 in heavy jungle 16 miles northeast of Tay Ninh, elements of F Troop, 2nd Squadron, spotted movement outside their night defensive position. They engaged with organic weapons and called in artillery and helicopter gunships. A sweep at sunup found the bodies of six enemy soldiers.

Later the same day, C Troop, 1st Squadron, on a ground reconnaissance mission nearby, received RPG, 60mm mortar and small arms fire. The Blackhorse troopers returned fire and were supported by artillery, helicopter gunships, and tactical air strikes. Five NVA soldiers were killed in the action.

Moving through the same area later that day, C Troop again received small arms fire. Artillery and helicopter gunships were called in. When contact broke an hour later, C Troop was credited with killing 12 enemy soldiers.

Five days later, working in the same general area, 1st Squadron's B Troop came into heavy contact while moving out to recon a suspected enemy bunker complex. The Blackhorse unit was engaged with small arms, RPGs, 57 mm recoilless rifles and 82mm mortars.

Bravo Troop's ACAVs and sheridans were reinforced by tanks from D Company, and the enemy position was pounded by 11th Cav Cobra gunships and Air Force tactical air strikes. Thirty-two enemy were killed in the battle.

Also on March 10, L Troop, 3rd Squadron, under operational control of the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade, killed 54 enemy and detained six in a ninety minute battle in rubber and scrub jungle four miles southwest of Loc Ninh.

The action began about 10:30 in the morning when a dismounted patrol came under attack while reconning suspected enemy movement. The patrol was reinforced immediately by the remainder of

(Continued on Page 7)

Commission ARP

Staff Sergeant Raymond A. Edge, ARP platoon sergeant, was commissioned a second lieutenant in a ceremony late last month in Quan Loi.

Lieutenant Edge has been in the Army for nine years and has served two tours on the committee at the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Ga. He is currently serving his third tour in Vietnam.

Lt. Edge had considered applying for a commission for about a year. During his last tour at the Infantry School he received a great deal of encouragement.

Advice and encouragement from numerous sources added to his decision but Lt. Edge claims that "the biggest influence on me was Lieutenant Douglas Rich," ARP platoon leader.

"I think I can do more as an officer to make the Army more proficient," Lt. Edge said. "I think I can change a lot of people's attitudes about the Army by my example and as an officer I can take better care of my men."

Lt. Edge has now replaced Lt. Rich, who has completed his Vietnam tour, as ARP platoon leader.



PUSHING FORWARD—C Troop Sheridans crash through the jungle north of Tay Ninh in War Zone C. The Regiment's 1st Squadron has

been involved in numerous battles with NVA forces in the area during the past month. (Photo by Greenlee)

Commander's Column

Detached Service Is Way of Life



April begins with the Regiment spread to the four winds again. First Squadron is working with the 1st Bde., 1st Cav Div., Third Squadron is with the 5th ARVN Div., and 2nd Squadron is in hot pursuit of the enemy across War Zone C.

In fact, the Regiment's history in Vietnam since its arrival in 1966 is one of almost continual detached service by some part of the Regiment. At one point 2nd Squadron spent almost a year in I Corps Tactical Zone. Just since

last November there has not been a single week in which at least one troop, and frequently more, has not been detached for duty somewhere outside the Regiment.

Most of us don't like this—we'd rather stay together and fight as a Regiment. But it's not a new story. Fifty-four years ago this month two squadrons of the Blackhorse left the Regiment, marched over a thousand miles, fought several battles, captured or killed enemy forces who fought much as our current NVA enemy fights, and marched back having lost but a few men killed or wounded—the year was 1916, the country Mexico, the enemy Pancho Villa.

One trooper asked me the other day if this detached service business is a way of life. I guess it is—it has been for a long time.

The point in this war is the infantry needs our fire-power—several times just recently we've bailed them out of tight spots. No matter where we go, we're still the Blackhorse, in large numbers or small. Our job, as it has been through the Regiment's history, is still to march out and find the bastards and work 'em down to size. That's what we're good at—better than anyone else in fact.

So let's keep at it—carrying more than our fair share of the load, riding back with the satisfaction of a job well done.

Colonel Donn A. Starry
41st Commander
The Blackhorse

THE ONLY THING WRONG WITH THIS PAPER IS THAT IT ISN'T SOFT ENOUGH!



Chaplain's Corner

SP4 Ambassador

By Chaplain (LTC)
William P. Trobaugh

Yesterday I met a United States ambassador. He would probably be surprised at that title, and might even consider himself underpaid! Because, you see, he was a Spec 4 in the 11th Cav. Nonetheless, he was an ambassador of the finest kind for our country.



He has visited in the homes of several Vietnamese. Before he made these visits, he asked one of our interpreters about Vietnamese customs so he would not offend his host. He found that you either eat or drink all you take or refuse it completely. Tea sounded like a safe bet until it was served with a thick cov-

ering of tea leaves on the bottom of the glass. He accepted two stringy looking pieces of meat which tasted better before he found out they were octopus! Not to offend, he ate all and even drank the tea leaves. The family told the interpreter that this was the most polite American they had ever met and he was welcome any time he would like to visit.

Isn't this a real ambassador, advertising through his actions that Americans respect people whatever their differences?

The reason this young man made this visit in this particular case is clear: He is a man who cares. Two things become obvious to one who cares; the feelings of others, and the great joy that comes to one able to warm the life of another.

Try caring if you haven't lately. You might be pleasantly surprised at the results.

C Troop Surprises NVA

By Jack McAllister

A C Troop dismantled patrol examined the woodland when they moved into their new NDP last month and discovered several enemy bunkers. As an extra precaution, Captain George Patch, troop commander, had his men set out extra trip flares and CS the entire area.

"We were ready," Capt. Patch said. "When we found those bunkers I thought we might get hit during the night so I put my Sheridans on the perimeter facing the trenches.

Throughout the night C Troop pounded the area with their .50s, mortar section and the heavier punch of the 155s back at the fire support base.

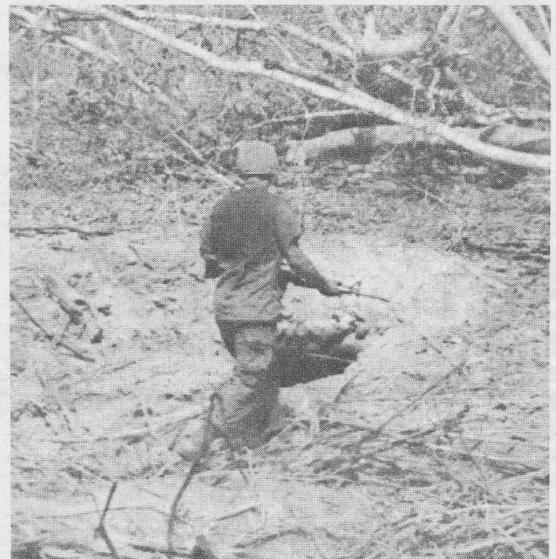
At 6 a.m. a guard reported that he smelled CS. The troop opened up and called for artillery. After an hour, the firing ceased.

At 7:30 they opened fire again. A dismantled patrol led by Specialist Four Ray Harper found the bodies of two NVA soldiers.

A member of the patrol heard some movement farther back in the jungle. Captain Patch or-

dered the patrol to pull back and placed more of the troops heavy firepower into the area.

The patrol went back and found a Chinese radio and several supply packs.



CLOSER LOOK—An 11th Cav trooper from B Troop inspects an enemy bunker the troop uncovered while sweeping an area in War Zone C. (Photo by Greenlee)



— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

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S-3, 3rd Sqd CO

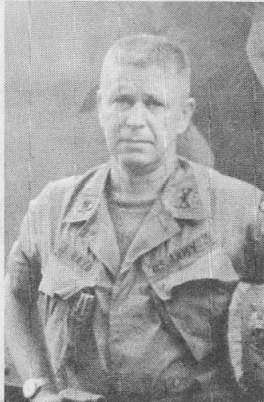
Lieutenant Colonel B.F. Griffin assumed command of the Regiment's 3rd Squadron from Lieutenant Colonel George F. Hoffmaster, Jr. in a ceremony at Lai Khe on March 31.

"It is a tremendous honor and pleasure to command any squadron in the Blackhorse Regiment, particularly the Workhorse," said the new commander who had served as the Regimental S-3 officer since January.

"The squadron has a fine record and the men have done themselves proud in previous

actions," Lt. Col. Griffin noted. Lt. Col. Griffin has commanded armor units from the platoon to company level. "I've been working toward getting this for 18 years," he said.

Lieutenant Colonel Donald E. Boyd replaces the new Workhorse commander as the Regimental S-3 officer. Lt. Col. Boyd was commissioned upon graduation from Officers Candidate



Lt. Col. Boyd

Brothers In Avn Plt

An unexpected change of plans and an approved transfer put Warrant Officer Warren Morris and his brother Specialist Four Herbert Morris together in the Headquarters Aviation Platoon.

Warren Morris asked to be assigned to the Blackhorse when he came to Vietnam in January. Herbert was serving with 2nd Squadron's G Troop at the time and Warren hoped to see his brother before Herbert left country.

Herbert elected to stay in Vietnam rather than go back to the United States and applied for a transfer to the Aviation Platoon.

"We were always together in Jacksonville and I just decided that I'd like to stay here with my brother," Herbert said.

School in 1951 and served as a member of the faculty of the Army's Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., before coming to Vietnam.

Lt. Col. Boyd served six months with the Capital Assistance Military Command in Saigon before being assigned to the 11th Cav.

Valorous Deeds Cited

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Staff Sergeant Daniel A. Carrizales, G Troop.

SILVER STAR

Lieutenant Colonel David K. Doyle, 3rd Squadron Headquarters.
First Lieutenant Patrick E. Money III, L Troop.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Warrant Officer Edward W. Papin, 1st Squadron Headquarters.

BRONZE STAR

First Lieutenants Roderick Chisolm, 3rd How Btry, Elbridge G. Fish II, E Troop, Mark J. Wilson, E Troop; Second Lieutenant Norman D. Schruers, 1st How Btry; Platoon Sergeant Filberto Rodriguez, B Troop; Staff Sergeants Oren L. Alford, B Troop, James W. Blankenship, B Troop, Terry A. Dotson, B Troop, Stanley N. Eitutus, B Troop, Jerome J. Parker, B Troop; Sergeants James F. Sferazza, B Troop, Marshall W. Woods, M Company; Specialists Five Raymond Rudolf, 3rd Squadron Headquarters, Durwood E. Russell, B Troop; Specialists Four Marvin E. Boucher, A Troop, Bobby J. Ellis, B Troop, Richard L. Garrick, B Troop, Daniel R. Hicks, B Troop, William Schroeder, B Troop, Donald J. Tucker, B Troop, Jack R. Walters, B Troop; Private First Class Steven A. Dufford, A Troop.

AIR MEDAL

Warrant Officers Dean K. Klackner, 1st Squadron Headquarters, Richard L. Mathews, 1st Squadron Headquarters, Robert D. Strawbridge, Aviation Platoon; Specialists Four Donald H. Akin, Jr., Air Cav Troop, Mervin Blakesley, 1st Squadron Headquarters, Lauren R. Christopher, 1st Squadron Headquarters, Michael E. Rich, Air Cav Troop.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Captain Robert D. Hunt, H Company; First Lieutenant Thomas D. Mott, Air Cav Troop; Staff Sergeant Ronald Rondeau, B Troop; Specialist Five James C. Hendrix, B Troop; Specialists Four Robert M. Gardner, B Troop, Roy T. Hall, B Troop, James L. Higgins, 1st How Btry, Michael J. Holmes, B Troop, Thomas A. Jakala, B Troop, Larry D. Knight, 1st How Btry, Glenn T. Lewis, 1st How Btry, William A. Orange Jr., B Troop, Frederick Parrington, B Troop, Larry P. Roberts, A Troop, Richard F. Thomas, 1st How Btry, Howard J. Tuttle, B Troop, Benny L. Whittler Jr., B Troop; Privates First Class Robert Dickerson, B Troop, Reginald J. Gustafson Jr., B Troop, Cary B. Goldsmith, B Troop, Ronald M. Meador, 1st How Btry, Danny R. Schmidt, A Troop.

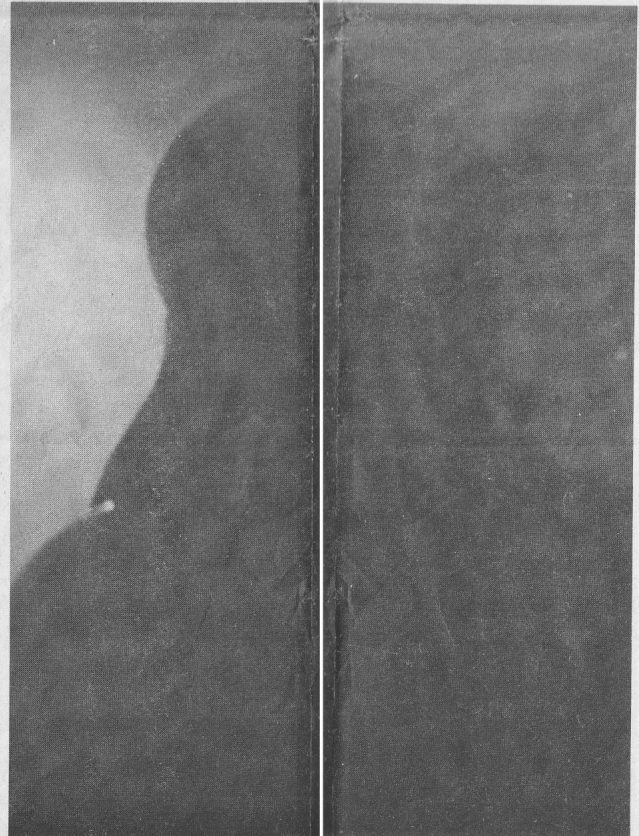
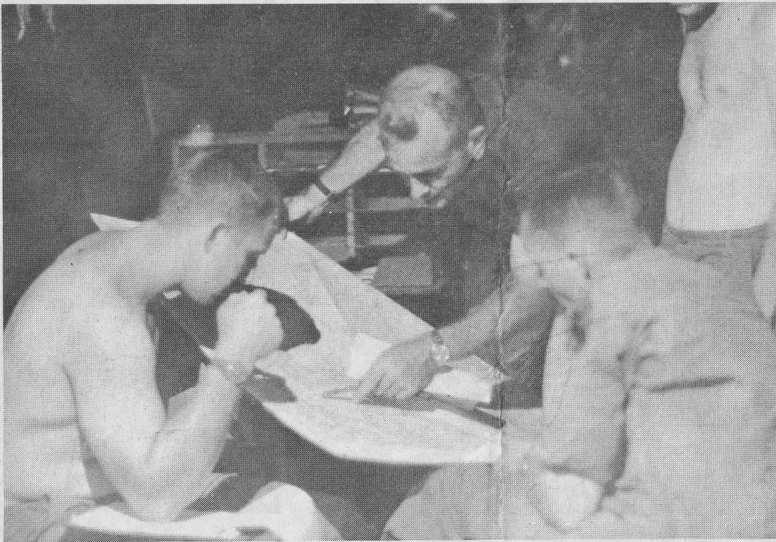


I Troop ACAVs and troops from the 5th ARVN Division sweep through heavy jungle near Lai Khe.



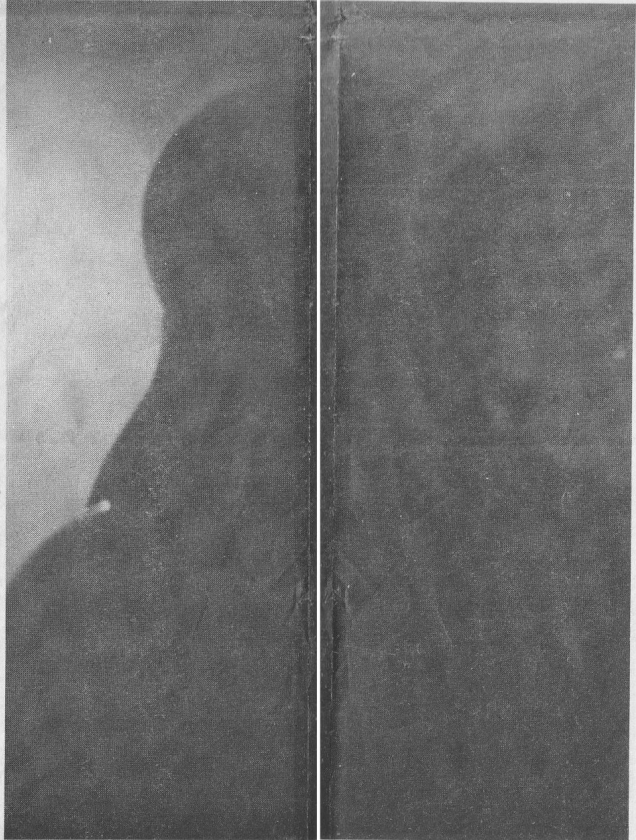
Photos
By
Smith

Some Plan....



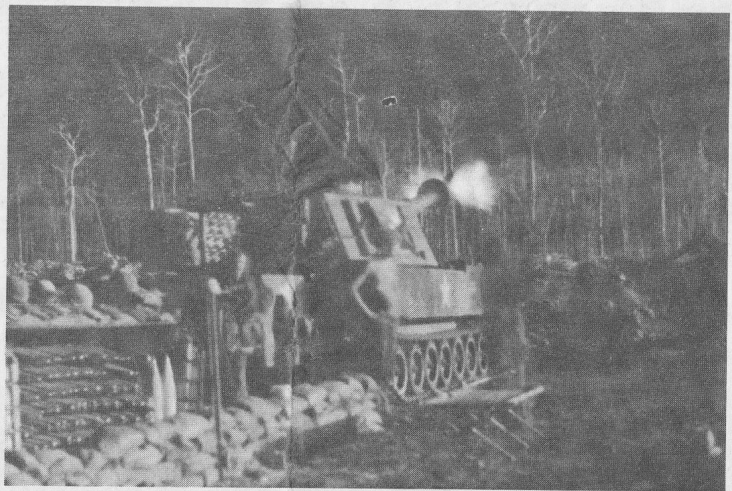


Photos
By
Smith



Others

Execute





8-Inchers Go For Action, Cav Style

"We fire more with the Cav than we've ever fired before, and most of that is in contact too, which makes a big difference," said Lieutenant Bob Klapprodt fire direction officer of B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery, at 1st Squadron's FSB Sharon.

"It's the closest any eight-inch battery has been to Cambodia," Lt. Klapprodt noted, "and half of our range fan is in Cambodia."

There are certain problems involved in moving the big guns into a forward support base, however. Ammunition has to be watched closely. There must be enough to fire but not enough of the high explosive rounds to blow up the base if it is hit.

The big guns don't fire direct fire like the 155mm guns of the squadron's How Battery. "We have dusters attached as security. I thought we were going to fire direct fire when we were receiving incoming at FSB Marge when I heard Captain Black telling 2nd Squadron commander, 'Be advised that I'm going to pull my eight-inchers up on the berm.'" Lt. Klapprodt said.

"The incoming stopped," he added in a somewhat disappointed tone. "It sure would have been interesting."

Captain Mike Black, the battery commander, said his men really like working out at the support bases. "They prefer to get away from the harassment of stateside like duty and feel they're doing something," he said.

"It's good from a command point of view," Capt. Black added. "In basecamp you tend to be too static. Out here in the field you have a minimum of comfort and higher echelon maintenance. You do a lot more moving and this creates some problems but we're learning a lot of new techniques and are passing them on to the batteries in the rear."

Sergeant Carl R. Maza claims that he and his crew man the fastest gun in Vietnam. "We've got the fastest eight-inch gun in Vietnam," Maza said. "We're all old-timers and have been together for a long time. We can get a round off every forty seconds. We just don't like to be beat. The other gun is good but they're five seconds behind."

Not Pilots

Signs for NVA

The problem being encountered by First Squadron through their Chieu Hoi program is not in getting the program off the ground but in keeping it there.

The Squadron is dotting the roads and trails in their AO with signs appealing to the enemy to Chieu Hoi.

The first sign they put up, a 25-foot banner, had a life span of only three days. It seems that the signs, mistaken for VC propaganda banners by Thunderhorse chopper pilots, are highly valued as war trophies.

The large signs were replaced with smaller banners which were less noticeable from the air. The chopper pilots, however, proved equal to the challenge.

Several days after the initial theft a chopper landed at FSB Sharon, 1st Squadron Headquarters, where the pilots proudly displayed the "VC signs" they

discovered while reconning the area.

"We have more trouble with these conscientious young pilots than we do with the enemy," Captain Michael Pilvinsky quipped.

"How are we supposed to know what they are if we can't read them?" a pilot defensively noted. "But," he confided, "I thought something was up when I saw that the signs were made of C-ration boxes."

Put Trophies To Good Use

Do you have an enemy weapon, radio or other device that is just kicking around your track, collecting dust and getting in the way? Want to get rid of it and still put it to a good cause?

If you do, give it to the Holder Museum, at the Regimental rear headquarters. The museum staff could use weapons as well as odds and ends the enemy has used.

The museum staff is trying to get one of everything the V.C. and NVA have used against the Blackhorse. They welcome any contributions anyone wants to make. Also, if someone has a weapon he wants to take home, he can leave it in the museum until he leaves. That way the weapon stays in good shape and is put to good use at the same time.

The William D. Holder Museum, named for a former Blackhorse Commander, acquaints Blackhorse troopers with enemy devices.

British, French, Russian, Chinese and American weapons of all sizes and descriptions line the showcases. Medic kits and supplies with a half dozen different languages written on them are huddled together to make room for a Chicom radio. A .51 caliber machine gun with anti-aircraft sights and a bow and sling of arrows, demonstrates the difference in Charlie's firepower.

Red Devils Recover Chopper

The 919th Engineers used a crane and an armored vehicle launch bridge to remove a downed chopper from a crash site uncomfortably close to a small village in the An Loc area.

The chopper, piloted by Warrant Officers Albert G. Schonert and Joseph D. Clark, was on a routine rocket reconnaissance mission on March 9 when engine trouble forced them down.

Luckily, no one was injured. "We were just lucky in more ways than one," said Mr. Schonert. The aircraft landed just six feet from a house with the blades extended over it.

Another chopper had heard their mayday signal, circled the area, and managed to land in a soccer field about 150 meters away.

The problem now, of course, was to get the chopper out without damaging any property in the village.

"When I went down to the village I could see that the conditions of the road would not let us take a 10-ton trailer in there," said Captain Victor C. Gavin, commander the 919th Engineers. "I decided to try to get it out with a crane and an AVLB."

The only alternatives would have been to disassemble the helicopter, a three-day operation, or lift it out with a Chinook, a process which might cause damage to the village.

The engineers used the crane to lift the chopper onto the bridge, lashed it down with aircraft straps and took it out to

the soccer field where a Chinook safely lifted it out.

"The people who operated the crane and the AVLB did a fantastic job," Capt. Gavin said. "I thought there might be some damage during the job but the guys handled the equipment as if they were performing surgery."

Major Rudy Holbrook, the Regimental S-5 officer, praised the skill of both the pilots and engineers in averting any serious damage to the village.

"We tried to prevent any damage and the village chief seemed to be very appreciative of our efforts," he said.



EASING THE WAY—Members of the 919th Engineers construct a bridge to make an area

accessible for Blackhorse armor.

(Photo by Mang)



READY FOR THE HOOK—Supply pad personnel ready a load of supplies and troops for a flight to a Blackhorse troop. As many as 24

Chinook missions are flown daily to supply one squadron. (Photo by Smith)

But They Provide

Rigger's Job is Demanding

By Mike Mang

Tons of supplies are needed to keep the Blackhorse Squadrons running and it's up to the supply personnel at the hook pad at Quan Loi to see that they get them.

Second Squadron's hook pad moves anywhere from 50 to 150 tons of supplies to the field daily. This requires 10 to 24 Chinook sorties.

"Lately we've been running closer to 24 because we're flying supplies for a Rome Plow Company and an infantry outfit op-con to us," explained Specialist Four Curtis Wagner, a rigger at the hook pad.

Extra sorties are ordered for combat emergencies but even

the normal volume is staggering. Each morning 4,000 gallons of water and diesel fuel are flown to the field in 250 and 500 pound bladders. Tons of ammo are lifted each afternoon. The daily ration of .50 caliber ammunition alone accounts for 8,000 pounds a day.

The class 1 loads of food and troops returning to their units present a problem for the riggers because of the difficulty in estimating the exact weight load.

Scheduling sorties to make the best possible use of the available aircraft is also a major problem for the rigger crew. "The ships can run up just six hours of blade time," Wagner explained. "So, if combat emergencies

start coming in we have to figure out quickly how to hook it all out to them." Extra birds are often called in from Phu Loi or Chu Chi to help in emergency situations.

Watching a back-haul load of net lining being dropped off Wagner pointed to another area of concern for the rigger crews. "See that net, that thing went out new yesterday. Now look at it. We can't use it." The rigging is constantly subject to the wear and tear of a combat zone and must be frequently replaced.

Pathfinders, who fly with the Chinooks inspect all rigging and if a net looks bad they will not accept responsibility for the load.

Flying PX Takes Goods to Field

By Mike Mang

It's called the "Chopper Shopper" or the "Flying PX." Whatever it's name, the helicopter laden with PX goods gives the troops in the field a chance to shop at least once a week.

The "Flying PX" concept was initiated last November by PX officer Lieutenant Thomas Nesbitt. The Blackhorse supplies a chopper three days a week which PX personnel load with soap, toothpaste, cameras, various food items and dozens of other goods. Troops can even order stereo, photo and other equipment from the PACEX catalog.

"Unless they're on the move, each squadron gets the 'Flying PX' one day a week," said Staff Sergeant Davin "Tiny" Summers, S-1 NCOIC, coordinator of the PX bird.

The chopper makes several trips back to Quan Loi to insure a full load for each squadron.

The "Flying PX" seems to be a great success. Daily sales

range from \$900 to \$2800 right after payday. Second Squadron holds the single day record with the \$2800 figure. What seems even more amazing is that the next day the squadron spent another \$1800.

Seventy-five percent of items such as radios, cassette tape players, watches and cameras which cost less than \$50 are held back from the PX shelves and sold in the "Chopper Shopper."

"We feel it's our obligation to the field trooper to give him a chance to compete with the men stationed in the rear who can go to the PX anytime," said Lieutenant Mitch Robinson, PX officer.

Lt. Robinson hopes to expand the program. "If we had our own Chinook every day we could line it with three or four times the goods we carry now. Those guys in the field deserve the same breaks as the guys in the rear. This 'Flying PX' deserves all the attention and expansion we can give it."



THE HUNT—A B Troop mine sweep team backed up a Sheridan moves slowly down a road in War Zone C. (Photo by Davis)

Cav Kills 364...

(Continued From Page 1)

the troop, which in turn was supported by Cobra gunships and organic artillery.

On March 21, a huge weapons and supply cache was uncovered by elements of B Troop, 1st Squadron, after a brief contact with NVA soldiers near FSB Sharon, 20 miles northeast of Tay Ninh.

The cache, which was found in approximately 30 bunkers, included more than 500 lbs of rice, 20 lbs of medical supplies, 60 lbs of explosives and six 122mm rocket launchers and tripods.

Bravo Troop killed 42 NVA soldiers and captured 16 on the last day of the month in a three-hour battle northwest of Tay Ninh.

The action was triggered when Blackhorse troopers spotted two NVA soldiers moving through the thick triple canopy jungle. They engaged the enemy and forced the remainder of the NVA force into the open. The troop received artillery support.

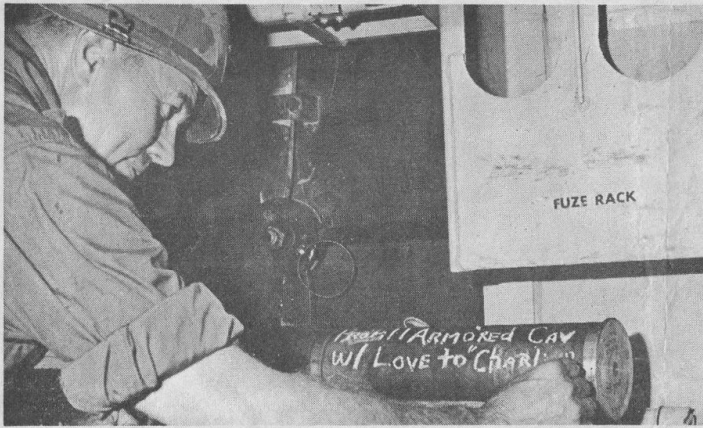
In other action last month, 1st Squadron's A Troop, under operational control of the 1st Air Cav's 1st Bde., teamed with two infantry companies to kill an estimated 88 enemy soldiers. The action occurred in an area near the Cambodian border northwest of Tay Ninh.

And throughout the month, ambushes set up by 2nd Squadron's G Troop consistently trapped small parties of NVA soldiers.



COMMISSIONED—Raymond A. Edge, former ARP platoon sergeant, is commissioned a

Second Lieutenant in ceremonies at the White House in Quan Loi. (Photo by McAllister)



Colonel William W. Cobb addresses the first 105 round to be fired by the Blackhorse in Vietnam.



A member of the 919th Engineers lays a charge of TNT into a Viet Cong bunker.

Blackhorse Rolls Through V

i
e
t
n
a
m



A Troop, operating from its base in Vung Tau, picks up a company of ARVN Rangers along Route 2.



An L troop ACAV engages the enemy near Lai Khe in operation Junction City Phase II in 1967.