

# Medical 'Shock' Team Wins Praise Of Cavalrymen In Fight

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO)—The medical 'shock' team of the 1st Cavalry Division has been praised by the men it attended to during a recent battle in Operation Thayer II.

The praises were directed to three men who form the team, a quick reaction medical crew organized and led by Capt. Edward H. Wagner, battalion surgeon for the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

The battalion ran into two well-entrenched North Vietnamese Army battalions in the Highway 60 valley. Immediately Wagner and his two medical assistants, Sp5 Donattas Bonaitis and Sp4 James E. Ennis, boarded a helicopter and flew to the scene of the battle.

Once on the ground, the team raced through intense fire to reach the main body of Company A which was pinned down by enemy machinegun fire.

Wagner quickly organized a systematic evacuation of the wounded in the area and then moved forward with his two assistants to retrieve the wounded members of the point element, Company C, who were lying up ahead.

After they had taken care of Company C, the trio moved to

Company D's position where Lt. Timothy Feener's platoon was battling the entrenched NVA force. There Wagner linked up with Co. D's 1st Sergeant, Gene Helgeson, who directed the shock team's efforts in evacuating more wounded under fire.

"Doc Wagner was amazing," said Helgeson who guided the team on two trips to retrieve wounded men under fire. "You don't expect to see an Army doctor just out of medical school running back and forth under fire to save men's lives like he did."

The shock team continued to evacuate the wounded until darkness closed on the smoke-filled valley and Co. D pulled into a tight perimeter for the night.

When one of the dazed men awaiting evacuation mumbled that one of his comrades was still lying wounded out forward of the perimeter, Wagner and his two assistants volunteered to go out and look for the man, although they knew the area was not secure.

They probed until they found the man, seriously wounded, but conscious. The enemy had searched him and left him for dead.

They carried the man back to the perimeter and treated him for

nine hours until daylight when he could be safely evacuated by helicopter.

"That wounded man was one of the many," Feener said, "who owed much to Wagner, Bonaitis and Ennis that night."

## 32nd Arty Supports Big Battle

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10)

The "Proud Americans" of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, #2nd Artillery, 23rd Artillery Group, stand ready to lay steel on the VC anytime. Currently supporting Operation Junction City, the "Proud Americans" have entrenched themselves and their 175 millimeter guns in a desolate, burned-out plain eight miles north of Tay Ninh.

Sergeant First Class Lay Seals, enlisted firing battery chief, spoke with pride of the effectiveness of the 175's: "We can send a round into an enemy position more than 20 miles away and destroy everything within 90 yards in any direction," he said.

The 2nd Bn. was the first unit in Vietnam using the Army's largest field artillery weapon, the 175 millimeter gun. After being in-country only nine months, Btry. B had fired more than 10,000



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## Many New VC

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and claymores. The  
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# Army Memos