



SCRAPBOOK

EDITION

3

for fighting men too busy to keep their own!

THE WASHINGTON POST



By Arthur Ellis, Staff Photographer

BILLBOARD MESSAGE — The Rollins Co. has placed this message of encouragement to the troops in Vietnam on a bill-

board on Jefferson Davis Highway near 23d Street in Arlington. The sign is illuminated from dusk to midnight.

THIS SIGN STANDS ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY LEADING TO THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

ATTENTION:

1. IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION REGARDING THE DATE LINES OF CLIPPINGS IN DATED EDITIONS OF THE "SCRAPBOOK," IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO NUMBER THEM IN SEQUENCE.

THE EDITION DATED

"THROUGH 15 JANUARY 66" IS CONSIDERED NO. 1.

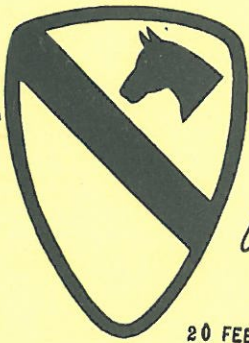
"THROUGH 15 FEBRUARY 66" IS CONSIDERED NO. 2.

THIS ISSUE "THROUGH 15 MARCH 66" IS NO. 3.

SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS CONTAINING CLIPPINGS RECEIVED BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH WILL BE NUMBERED IN SEQUENCE.

2. THE ACTION SKETCH FILLERS ARE MADE EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE SCRAPBOOK BY SPECIALIST 4 BILL DOLAN, WINNER OF A RECENT SERVICE WIDE CARTOONIST CONTEST AND WELL KNOWN AS THE ART DIRECTOR OF "THE ARMY IN EUROPE". HE IS NOW ON THE CIL STAFF.

CIL EDITOR



SCRAPBOOK

THROUGH 15 MARCH 1966

for fighting men too busy to keep their own!

20 FEB 1966

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1966.

Antiaircraft Gun Made in Communist China Is Captured in Vietnam



A 12.7-mm. antiaircraft gun, captured from Vietcong guerrillas near Bongson, is inspected by Maj. Gen. Harry W. O. Kinnard, right, chief of First Cavalry Division (Airmobile), and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, U.S. commander.

G.I. UNIT BATTLING TO SURROUND FOE

A Third Airmobile Battalion Joins Fight Near Coast

SAIGON, Feb. 19—Troops of the United States' First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) fought sharply with Vietcong guerrillas on the third straight day today in the jungle ridges near the central coast, 265 miles north-west of Saigon.

Military sources said that two Airmobile battalions clashed before noon with what is believed to be a Vietcong battalion about 12 miles southwest of the town of Bongson. Early in the afternoon, Col. William R. Lynch of Tyler, Tex., commander of the division's Second Brigade, sent a third battalion into the fray to surround the guerrillas.

Regimental Post Nearby
It was not clear whether they had succeeded in the difficult terrain, but the fighting was reported to be continuing at nightfall.

Military sources suspected that the Vietcong battalion was protecting the headquarters of the Second Vietcong Regiment, an elite enemy force. The headquarters was attacked by the Airmobile troops Thursday, the first day of the current fighting.

By late this afternoon, the Airmobile troops had counted 37 dead guerrillas on the battlefield and had captured another along with a machine gun, three 60-mm. rocket launchers and thirteen other weapons.

Airmobile Division casualties were believed to be relatively light, but 11 helicopters were hit by ground fire during the day and were shot down.



18 FEB 1966 *A running battle with the Viet Cong* Associated Press wirephoto Birmingham review

A GI takes careful aim at the enemy as other buddies of the U.S. 25th Division move along during a furious battle since the 25th established a base there three weeks ago.

Cavalrymen, Cong collide in hot fight

BY THOMAS A. REEDY

Associated press writer

SAIGON, Viet Nam, Feb. 18

— U. S. cavalrymen cut deeper

today into enemy strength near

the central coast. A company of

the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry

Regiment established heavy

contact with the Viet Cong 10

miles south of Bong Son and

killed 54 in a fight still under

way at nightfall.

Associated Press photographer

Rick Merron reported the

Viet Cong had a base in that

area and appeared determined

to defend it. A cavalry spokes-

man said that, in addition to

the early count of 54 dead, 10

troopers captured 14 wounded

men and 17 weapons. American

casualties were described as

light.

The allies reluctantly abandoned one of the fruits of victory in Operation White Wing, the lush An Lao Valley. The last troops of the U. S. 1st Air Cavalry Division involved there pulled out.

It had become clear the Saigon government was unwilling or unable to send in an occupation force to protect that mountain-rimmed area of farms and villages west of Bong Son.

Nearly half the valley's 10,000 people have chosen to abandon their rich rice paddies and flee the area rather than await the possible return of the Viet Cong.

ELSEWHERE two helicopter crashes took the lives of seven Americans. An eighth American died a hero's death when he threw himself on a Viet Cong grenade.



Two Cavalrymen of the 1st Division carry wounded buddy toward evacuation helicopter and another wounded GI makes his way alongside them. Both were hit by mortars near Bong Son, Vietnam.

Air Cavalry Units Hit Two Communist Nests

JUNCTION CITY, Ind.
SAIGON, Viet Nam (AP) — U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division elements, sent to find and destroy the Viet Cong nest, 300 miles north of Hanoi, fought him and him, though at some considerable cost.

The cavalrymen helicoptered into two Communist nests on the coastal plains Friday and got stung with heavy ground fire that stretched American wounded along a 75-foot long trench.

Kill 159 Reds
But AP correspondent Bob Poos, who covered the action, said the Americans killed 159 Viet Cong and captured 50 more, mostly wounded.

The head-on collision was reminiscent of the Ia Drang Valley battle with the North Vietnamese regulars in which the cavalry distinguished itself in November and since which the Hanoi troops have managed to keep their whereabouts largely secret.

The attack was part of a multi-prong drive by the American forces to search out and destroy the insurgents in the central coast and highlands while Washington debates

whether to resume bombing the North or refrain from it to give Hanoi a further chance to talk peace terms.

Further south, in Phu Yen Province, the 101st Airborne Brigade, which experienced heavy contact Friday encountered only sporadic and scattered small arms fire. The paratroopers counted eight Viet Cong killed but a spokesman said there may have been many more.

Drag Away Dead
"They (the enemy) apparently retain the ability to drag their dead away," the army officer said.

The multiple-company Viet Cong units known to be in the neighborhood appear to have broken up into small groups trying to escape entrapment. Together with South Korean marines, the airborne brigade has killed 47, ten by air assaults, in three days.

U.S. Marines scouring outside Da Nang used tanks, searchlights, platoon patrols of about 30 men, helicopters and firepower to flush out small bands of Viet Cong. The daily battle of attrition added seven more Viet Cong killed and five captured since Friday morning.

Washington Star

U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Routs Viet Cong

6 FEB 1966

By **BOB POOS**
Associated Press Staff Writer
BONG SON, South Viet Nam — The U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division—more specifically the 3rd Brigade of that division—has just finished one of the most skillful and fruitful operations of this war.

The tough, cocky troopers, accompanied in some phases of the campaign by Vietnamese airborne and armored soldiers, rampaged around in the central Vietnamese coastal plains for more than a week.

The last time government troops came into the area, one year ago, they were knocked around by the Viet Cong.

800 Reds Believed Killed
This time it was the Allies' turn. The cavalrymen and the Vietnamese troops killed more than 500 hard-core Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars by body count.

Col. Hal Moore, commander of the 3rd Brigade, believes his

AP correspondent Bob Poos spent eight days with U.S. cavalrymen in a drive on the central coastal plains of Viet Nam. He was under fire for four days. Here is his analysis of the operation.

men killed more than 800. The wounded ratio is generally two or more to one killed, so the Viet Cong may be nursing more than 1,500 wounded men in their mountain hideaways.

American casualties—including two instances where cavalrymen came under friendly fire—are called light. Rockets from an armed helicopter in one case landed within U.S. lines. Vietnamese armored personnel carriers fired on a cavalry detachment for about 10 minutes in the confusion of another skirmish.

The Vietnamese and U.S. troops found abandoned equipment, propaganda documents, pools of blood and Viet Cong graves in their sweep.

In one village a bearded old man climbed from a hole and fell on his knees at the feet of a cavalryman. He spoke rapidly in Vietnamese. An interpreter told this writer:

"He says he is very happy to see us. He says we are welcome and he is glad to see the Viet Cong driven out as the villagers had been forced to dig trenches and do other work for the VC instead of tending their fields and raising their pigs and chickens in peace."

The campaign started in earnest Friday, Jan. 28, when two companies of Lt. Col. Robert McDade's 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, ran headlong into a strong force of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops north of Bong Son, 300 miles northeast of Saigon.

A bloody two-day battle followed. The cavalrymen took considerable punishment, but dishd out even more.

McDade, of New York city, remarked in a trench under a rain of enemy bullets: "Looks like when we got out, we find 'em."

Cavalrymen Swagger
It was his battalion that bore the brunt of the battle against a regiment of North Vietnamese regulars in the Ia Drang Valley last November.

These cavalrymen tend to swagger a bit and they are proud and a little boastful. But when it comes to fighting, they are among the best in the war.

At An Thai, where McDade's battalion first became engaged, they mounted charge after charge against a Red-held tree line across an old Vietnamese cemetery that was whipped by bullets.

Viet Cong with automatic weapons, perched in the tops of palm trees, lashed them with fire. They stood up, yelled and shot back, eventually they killed all the snipers. Later they took the tree line.

The fighting went on for seven more days and then the Viet Cong collapsed, abandoning territory they had controlled for years.

The cavalrymen and Vietnamese troops rested on their arms for a time, cooked C rations and rice over campfires and investigated the open air beer stands and laundries that sprang up around their camp.

Now they own the area.



CAUGHT IN MASHER: American sergeant brings in Viet Cong prisoner captured during Operation Masher near Bong Son. The 1st Cavalry Division, carrying out drive with the aid of South Koreans and Vietnamese, has inflicted more than 1,500 casualties on the enemy. Related news, Page 2.



IN THE WAR-TORN VIET CONG AREA

Two Viet Cong guerrillas are hustled toward an interrogation center by their American captors as the fighting in Viet Nam, particularly in the central Vietnamese lowlands, intensifies. Men of the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry

have been rampaging through the lowlands for a week. More than 500 hard core Viet Cong and North Vietnamese bodies have been counted. Official estimates put the number of Red wounded at twice that number.

—Associated Press

U.S. Flag Is Flown From Shattered Tree in Viet Nam

(Continued from Page 1)

was anything coming in but the M-16s around us suddenly opened up, lacing a line of trees to the left of where the Americans had been maneuvering when I came up.

"Hold that fire! They're clearing that area, hold your fire," somebody shouted and the rifles around me stopped. The shooting in the woods kept hammering and then it stopped.

Took Care of Them

"They ran into some of them. They took care of them," Sgt. Goodson said grimly after the shooting tapered away.

I was with Capt. Myron Diduryk's company. Lt. Henry Dunn and Lt. Bill Lund were running sections of this perimeter and both maintained they had "the best bunch of people in the U. S. Army" in the holes in their sector. The company had made a fierce assault in clearing the area of PAVNs and relieving the men who had made the do-or-die stand here in the battle's opening hours.

I heard about Lt. Joseph Marm's now-famous feat in this section of the fight. His platoon had been held up by heavy automatic fire from behind a big anthill. PAVNs had dug in behind its shelter, turning the mound into an impromptu fortification.

"He shot a LAW rocket into it and blew it half away. Then he assaulted with a sergeant, throwing grenades. The sergeant was killed but Lt. Marm's got right into them. He threw grenades over the mound and then went around it shooting with his M-16. There were 18 dead men when he got finished. He got hit going on into the next PAVN defense line. He was hit in the neck but he was in good shape when they put him on a chopper for evacuation," Sgt. Goodson told me.

Coming Into Zone

Choppers were coming into the landing zone behind us now and I heard no fire in our vicinity so I moved back from the perimeter. Lt. Col. Moore was talking to Brig. Gen. Richard Knowles and Col. Thomas Brown, who had just come in.

Men were now laying smoke screens, throwing smoke grenades along the edges of the perimeter to veil the landing zone from the commanding heights of Chu Pong Mountain.

I joined what had turned into a sizeable group of reporters around the assistant division commander and third brigade commander after they finished their conference with Lt. Col. Moore. Joe Galloway of United Press International was there, looking very tired and dirty. Lt. Col. Moore came over and pointed to Galloway.

"He was here with me right from the start. He got in on the whole fight," he told me.

I felt jealous of Galloway for a minute and then realized that I was too tired after the last 30 days or so to have had any business in the early, desperate part of this battle. I still felt as if I had not quite done what I was supposed to do by taking that day in Saigon and not going in with my friends from the "Gary Owen" battalions.

I told Galloway I was glad he had been along with them and he made me very proud of the 1st Cavalry Division then.

"Charlie, these are the greatest soldiers that have ever gone into a fight! There hasn't been any outfit like this one before. It's something I wish every American in the world could understand, what these kids did here. Look over there, doesn't that make you feel good?" Galloway said.

Tree Shattered

He was pointing to a tree, shattered and broken about 10 feet from the ground. Some tired soldier had climb-

ed it and put up an American flag, a very small one tied to a little stick he had cut from the South Vietnamese undergrowth. He must have carried it in his pack for a long time waiting for the best possible moment to put it up.

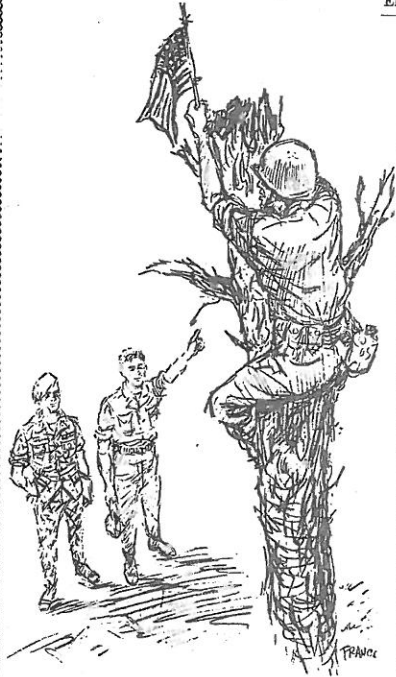
He couldn't have found a better one. The flag had never had a prouder moment than here at the foot of Chu Pong Mountain.

Henri Huet, one of Associated Press' very best and very bravest photographers, whom I had met during a 101st Airborne Division operation three months ago, came over to where Galloway and I were sitting.

"They are going to pull back

from here. Gen. Knowles said it is to 'expand the killing zone.' This is a bad place, anyway, right under that ridge, but I think what he meant was that they have something else up their sleeve. If you want to go back to Pleiku, we can catch that chopper over there." Huet told us.

I was tired, physically and spiritually beat and feeling the first twinges of some kind of vague ailment (Vietnamese ailments are often the bane of medics trying to get descriptive information from feverish, stomach-troubled, aching men who can't quite explain it all) and I was glad to get the ride.



U.S. Flag Is Flown From Shattered Tree

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Charles Black, Enquirer military writer, has returned home after four months in Viet Nam. He was with men of the 1st Cavalry Division during many of their recent engagements with Communist guerrillas, and his articles on the war as he saw it will continue in The Enquirer daily.)

By CHARLES BLACK
Enquirer Military Writer

I could see running figures about 100 yards from the bullet-scarred saplings growing from a huge anthill (they get 10 feet high in South Viet Nam) where Lt. Col. Hal Moore had commanded the battle at Chu Pong Mountain.

The infantrymen were throwing grenades and I heard firing. They seemed to be working their way into a thickly brushed rise of ground. Men crouched in holes to my right front, watching the action narrowly, sticking close to business even while the troops taking over from the 1st Battalion 7th Cavalry moved ahead.

I went up to some holes occupied by Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry, who

had come in and taken the pressure off the long-embattled Charlie Company of the 1st of the 7th. Sgt. Robert Goodson made room for me in his hole.

"Get in here, we're still getting fire from over there. I thought sure that was the last of them and they just opened up again," he said.

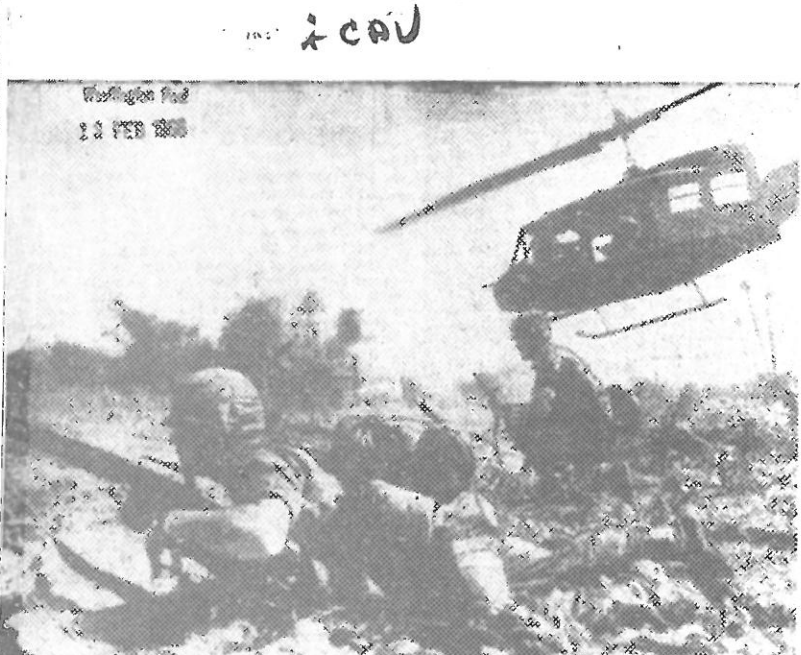
Gets Into Hole

I got into the hole and took note of the litter of M-16 brass and empty magazines around it. The PAVN fire was light and not particularly aimed at our sector, apparently. I looked over the edge of the hole and I could see the greenish-gray bundles of clothing that were North Vietnamese soldiers killed in front of this position during their desperate attacks.

"We had to move some of the heaps of bodies out there. They were in our line of fire. Just as far as you can see up that slope there are bodies piled up. There must be 2,000 of them killed around here," Sgt. Goodson said.

The firing took on the continuous, crashing uproar of heavy contact then. I still couldn't determine if there

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)



AIR DROP—Troopers of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division hit the dirt after being deposited by helicopter in Vietnam landing zone under fire. They are taking part in Operation Eagle's Claw in the central highlands.

United Press International

Heroic Bronx GI Awarded DSC

By JOSEPH FRIED

Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Saigon, Feb. 9—A Bronx soldier who fought off Communist hordes despite being twice wounded was awarded America's second highest medal today.

The Distinguished Service

Cross was given to Specialist 4th Class Michael Hand, 24, son of Oscar Hand of 1113 Walton Ave., Bronx. A three-year special forces soldier, Hand arrived here a year ago.

Heroism in Red Attack

He was awarded the medal for "extraordinary heroism" during a Communist attack on the special forces compound at Dong Xet June 9.

Hand braved a barrage of fire in an attempt to rescue a wounded buddy, then darted into a building and dragged to safety a wounded American captain and a soldier.

Hit Again by Shrapnel

Wounded by shrapnel himself, Hand found a machine gun and raked the enemy until the weapon jammed.

Hit by another blast of shrap-

nel, Hand was ordered to withdraw, but, despite his wounds, volunteered to help rescue another wounded man.

On the battlefields today, major units of U.S. Marines and 1st Air Cavalry Division linked up as American forces tightened their hold on An Lao Valley, 300 miles northeast of Saigon.

The marines are now in a blocking position at the northern end of the narrow valley which until this week was an unchallenged Communist sanctuary.

Despite the tightening Yank grip, no major contact with the Reds has yet been reported.

Casualties Rise

Stepped up American action was reflected in steeper Yank losses with 596 casualties reported last week. A spokesman said

59 Americans were killed in action, 499 wounded and eight missing.

While the overall American casualties were higher, fatalities were below the 102 killed the week before.

DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1966



The hot jungle grass muffles the footsteps of fighting men who carry a 1st Cavalry Division soldier back for the flight to America and burial. —Associated Press



Cavalry Pursues Viet Cong After Linkup With Marines

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP)—The U.S. 1st Air Cavalry wheeled inland today into the An Lao Valley, a tortuous gorge held by the Communists for a decade, after a dramatic linkup with U. S. Marines.

The two American forces met 18 miles north of Bong Son as the largest allied operation of the war tried to close the net on two Red regiments believed in the area.

After morning fog and rain cleared up, two brigades of the helicopter-equipped air cavalry drew the assignment of scouring the An Lao Valley. South Vietnamese troops tried to penetrate the valley 15 months ago and failed.

Only scattered fire from small arms and automatic weapons came from the Communists at the onset. One Viet Cong was reported killed and 14 captured. Punji stakes, sharpened bamboo poles concealed in the ground, caused some injuries among the American cavalrymen.

The skies cleared late yesterday over North Viet Nam and U. S. Air Force jets penetrated 360 miles above the border to hit the old French fortress of Dien Bien Phu on the eve of the start of the American air attacks a year ago. U.S. spokesmen reported 750-pound bombs left the airport runway heavily cratered.

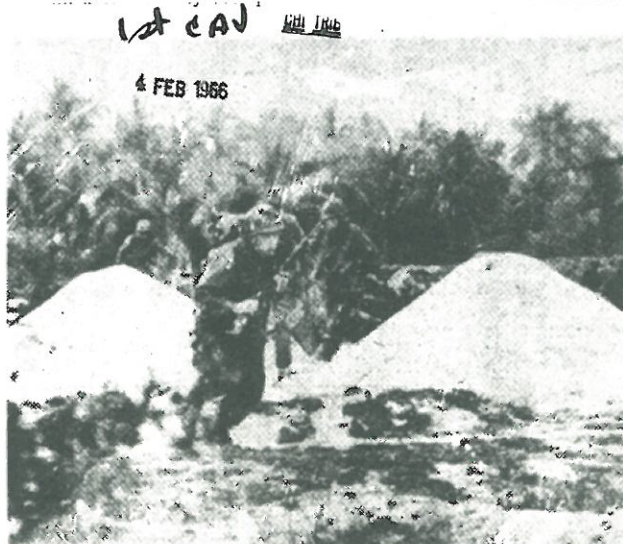
The jets also hit a barracks and storage area and destroyed 12 buildings, a spokesman said. Sixty per cent of the military complex at the base was reportedly knocked out.

Other Air Force planes hit two bridges, three main highways and storage areas 50 miles west of Thanh Hoa after bad weather limited air action over the north earlier in the day to five combat missions.

Navy jets from the 7th Fleet carriers Ticonderoga and Ranger roamed the North Vietnamese coast, hitting bridges, railways and roads near Vinh and Thanh Hoa. One mission struck Tiger Island, a South China Sea radar installation near the 17th Parallel.

Other planes hit the Lan Tra rail bridge and the Han Thach

See VIET NAM, Page A-6



[AP Wirephoto]

Americans of 1st air cavalry dashing past sand mounds near An Thi on South Viet Nam coast during an assault on Viet Cong defending entrenched position. Battle continued for 24 hours.

Continued From Page A-1
highway bridge, both considered links in the flow of material to the south.

The U.S. Command announced today that U.S. forces in South Viet Nam now total 201,000, including 128,000 Army, 10,000 Navy and Coast Guard, 38,000 Marines and 25,000 Air Force. Another 60,000 men in the 7th Fleet are providing carrier air support, particularly against North Viet Nam.

300,000 South Vietnamese

The South Viet Nam government claims to have 300,000 men in its regular army, regional forces of 130,000 and popular forces of about the same number. The regional and popular units are the equivalent of militia with a minimum of training and equipment.

The Viet Cong are variously estimated at around 250,000. North Viet Nam is believed to have added upwards of 10 regiments, possibly 12,000 men. The Hanoi regime has a regular army of 260,000, intelligence sources report, but can call on another million men who have had training.

The Viet Cong kept action at a low ebb in most of South Viet Nam, but terrorism continued during the night on the outskirts of Saigon. An estimated 25 Viet Cong entered a police precinct in the southern suburbs and kidnaped three young men and a girl, informants said.

A few hours later the Viet Cong fired bursts from a sub-machine gun but caused no injuries. They left behind two death warrants for hamlet officials.

Allied Thrusts Gain; Jets Hit Again in North

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, Feb. 2.—The huge Allied force taking part in Operation Masher, 300 miles northeast of Saigon, drove against Vietcong positions near Bongson today after B-52s from Guam pounded the enemy-held area.

U.S. jets struck at North Vietnam for the third day since Washington ordered bombing of the North resumed.

A U.S. spokesman said the port facilities at Benthuy, 140 miles north of the border were hit for the second straight day. Other planes bombed a storage depot at Vinh, 160 miles north of the border.

Pilots were unable to judge the effectiveness of their strikes because of a low cloud cover. A spokesman said bridges, railroad tracks and truck convoys were also hit, but specific locations of the targets and the success of the raids were not announced. No planes were reported lost.

Fighting in Operation Masher tapered off to an occasional skirmish as the Vietcong were apparently pulling out of their positions. A U.S. spokesman said 695 enemy troops

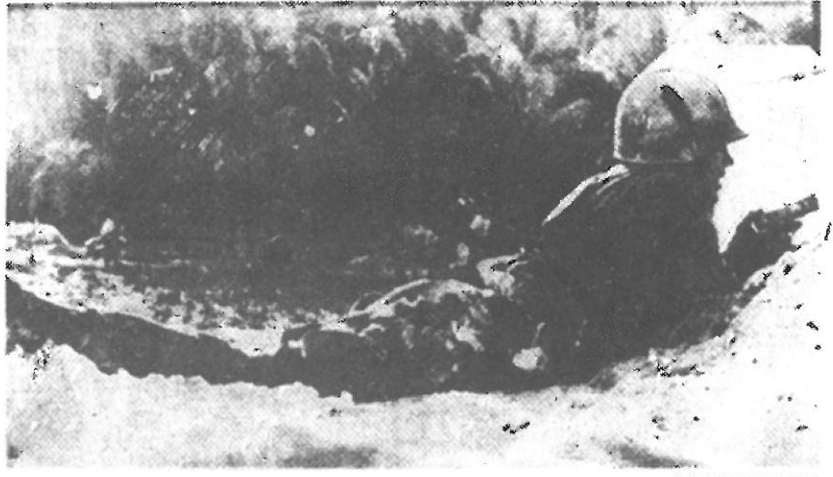
have been killed and 102 captured in the operation. Six to eight Vietcong companies were believed to be seeking to escape the allied drive by moving through a valley in the highlands to the northwest, holing up by day and traveling by night.

U.S. helicopters accidentally fired a barrage of Zuni 2.75-inch rockets into bivouacked 1st Cavalry Division troops taking part in Operation Masher. One American was killed and nine were wounded.

The helicopters were waiting for a signal—yellow smoke—to mark enemy positions when a Cavalry radio operator accidentally dropped a smoke grenade while cutting some brush. The helicopters opened fire before they could be warned of the error.

The U.S. death toll for last week was more than triple that of the week before.

Officials reported 87 Americans killed in action, 281 wounded and 11 missing or captured. Vietcong losses were put at 519 killed during the week and 224 captured. Government spokesmen said

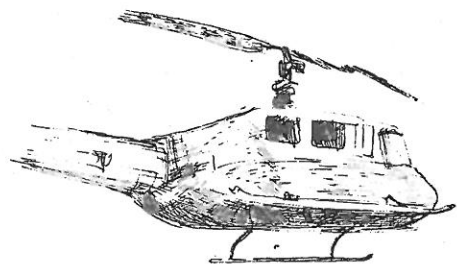


BONGSON ACTION—A member of the U.S. 1st Cavalry fires on the Vietcong from behind a tombstone at Bongson.

their troops lost 127 killed and 52 missing.

About 15 miles southeast of Saigon, tanks of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division wiped out two machine-gun bunkers in daylight fighting that was heard in the capital.

In other ground action, thousands of U.S. Marines continued their sweep inland from a beach to the north of Operation Masher. The Marines have made little contact with the enemy. A Marine plane flying support for the sweep was hit by Vietcong fire and crashed. The pilot ejected safely.



1st Cavalry Overruns 2 Companies of Reds

U.S. Troops Pressing Pursuit Of Battalion of Viet Cong

30 JAN 1966

SAIGON, Jan. 29 (UPI)—The U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Saturday overran an estimated two Communist companies—about 200 men—in a major American offensive along South Viet Nam's Highway 1. Heavy fighting was reported under way.

Front dispatches said at least 103 Viet Cong were killed Saturday by confirmed count, 41 captured and 105 suspects rounded up. Unofficial estimates said more than 250 were killed by air strikes, artillery and ground fighting.

The cavalry was reported in pursuit of an estimated battalion (500 to 600 men) of Viet Cong and regular North Vietnamese troops in the coastal area 310 miles northeast of Saigon. A spokesman said the Communists apparently were prepared to fight to the last man.

UPI correspondent Joseph Galloway, accompanying the first battalion of the 7th Cavalry said the cavalrymen killed 89 Communist soldiers in an attack on a fortified village north of Bong San, some of them in regular North Viet Nam uniforms.

THE 1ST CAVALRYMEN, who won fame in the battle of the Ia Drang Valley and Chu Pong Mountain, were engaged in "Operation Masher"—one of three major American offensives against suspected Viet Cong strongholds.

The third American operation was "Operation Buckskin" 20 miles southwest of Saigon where troops of the 1st Army Division have killed 87 Viet Cong in a week-long operation.

The village of Plan-An overrun by the cavalrymen Saturday was a cluster of thatched

huts in the middle of rice paddies about six miles north of Bong Son and about two and a half miles inland from the South China Sea.

The fighting erupted as the

Turn to Page 18, Column 4

CAVALRY OVERRUNS

Continued From Page 1

cavalrymen moved out across the rice paddies. At about the midway point heavy sniper fire poured out of the village. The lead elements splashed into the mud and water on their stomachs and quickly called in aerial and artillery support.

Armed helicopters and fighter planes zoomed in with cannon fire and rockets and practically every hut in the village was burning within minutes. The Viet Cong suffered heavy casualties.

THE CAVALRYMEN jumped to their feet firing their M16 rifles on automatic from the hip, and dashed into the village. They rounded up 70 Viet Cong suspects and pushed on.

Communist snipers, falling back as the cavalry advanced, continued to pump small arms fire at the Americans.

Another element of the cavalry continued to fight well-entrenched Viet Cong in a nearby area of jungled, rolling hills just a mile or two inland from the South China Sea.

Galloway reported from the front that the fighting started Friday, lasted through the night and was continuing sporadically at nightfall Saturday night.

Intelligence reports indicated the Communists intended to de-

fend their positions and showed no sign of trying to run. It was just what the cavalry wanted.

Among the weapons captured Saturday by the cavalry were several Chinese Communist 12.7 millimeter machine guns—similar to the American 50 caliber machine gun—brought into the south by a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft battalion.

The cavalry was supported by a South Vietnamese airborne unit, a military spokesman disclosed.

Although the Americans were carrying the war to the Viet Cong in the three large scale operations, the Communists carried out small operations.

In one, two groups of Viet Cong donned the uniforms of government Rangers and Marines Friday night, sneaked through government positions and attacked an outpost barely 11 miles from Saigon. A third group of Viet Cong wearing the usual black pajamas attacked from another direction.

The Viet Cong opened fire on surprised government troops, killing several of them. They were driven off and at least 10 were killed as they tried to flee across a river.

But it was the 1st Cavalry which was bearing the brunt of the fighting.



11 FEB 1966

'Copter chief recalls hairy escapes

BY JAMES SPOTSWOOD
News staff writer

Frank Dunn is home from the Vietnamese war and one of the hairiest jobs in the Army — crew chief aboard a reconnaissance helicopter. That bloody battleground seems a million miles away since his reunion with his wife and 2-year-old son, Richard Scott Dunn, and with his plans to return to work at Hayes International Corp. But for seven months with the First Air Cavalry Division and for 480 combat hours he lived it every day. The tropical sun burned his fair skin deep, and he lost 15 pounds to heat and tension. His chopper was forced down twice.

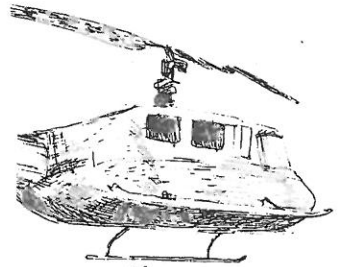
DUNN'S MISSION during the equivalent of 20 days in the air was what is politely called reconnaissance by fire. Recon helicopters fly into an area of an intended air landing or suspected Viet Cong concentration and shoot at them. The purpose is to entice the VC into shooting back and thus exposing their positions. This the Cong frequently do, using rifles and .30 caliber machine guns with great enthusiasm. "Many times I thought I'd had it," Dunn said. "They used tracers with their machine guns. You could see them coming. And when you see a tracer you always know

there are four bullets behind it and four in front of it. "The Good Lord pulled me through, that's all." Remarkably, nobody on Dunn's chopper was wounded. DUNN'S CHOPPER received 13 hits the first time it was forced down. One bullet penetrated a fuel pod, allowing highly volatile fuel to stream back toward the exhaust. It was either come down or burn up, so the pilot landed the chopper in a creek bed in the middle of a fire fight. AirCav and Cong troops were shooting at one another at ranges as close as 100 feet. The crew drained the fuel in the damaged tank below the

level of the bullet hole to stop the leak and then flew out. THE SECOND TIME, Cong bullets struck the rotor blade and transmission. Dunn's face expressed his indignation at this damage to his helicopter as he told about it. The crew was picked up by another helicopter and the chopper itself also was lifted off the battlefield. Dunn is proud of his two years' service in the Army and with AirCav in the fierce fighting of the Central Highlands — though it's wonderful to be home with his own family and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Dunn Jr. of 2432 Pearson Ave.



FRANK DUNN



Charles Black Reports

Gary Owen Troopers Victorious in Battle After Setback

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Charles Black, Enquirer military writer, has returned home after four months in Viet Nam. He was with men of the 1st Cavalry Division during many of their recent engagements with Communist guerrillas, and his articles on the war as he saw it will continue in The Enquirer daily.)

headed toward two other landing zone possibilities which were already entered on the operations maps as "LZ Alie-bany." The pace had continued to be fast. The battalion had left about 9:30 a.m. and by noon

had made about 6,000 meters. It was a column formation on a narrow front and the company front followed by two platoons of trail. A heavily beaten trail of ran within 100 yards of the two fields which Lt. Col. McDade intended to secure so the artil-

lery could be moved again. There was the reconnaissance platoon from Company D up since the Chu Pong mountain front followed by two platoons of headquarters. Lt. Col. McDade and his executive officer Maj. Frank Henry had taken the battalion command just a few days previously. They heard on the radio that the scout platoon had found the first field, it was covered with elephant grass, and had captured two PAVN soldiers. A stretch of woods lay between this field and the second, smaller landing zone the battalion was to secure.

"I became impatient at the delay and moved on up with Maj. Henry to the landing zone. The Vietnamese interpreters were questioning the prisoners. I commenced making a reconnaissance of the area so I could set up the perimeter and told the company commanders to come on up so Maj. Henry and I could show them the positions they would occupy," Lt. Col. McDade told me later.

As the company commanders moved ahead, Capt. Henry Thorpe was 150 meters from the landing zone and had left his Company D under his executive officer and Capt. George Forrest had left his company at the tail of the column and

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

By CHARLES BLACK
Enquirer Military Writer

Without going through the long chain of circumstances which occurred from the time I heard the Second Battalion Seventh Cavalry was heavily engaged until the time when I found out what had happened, I will outline the fight the Gary Owen battalion got into and fill out the details later.

Along with the First Battalion Fifth Cavalry, Lt. Col. Robert McDade's battalion had left Columbus LZ walking toward possible landing zones found by aerial reconnaissance helicopters.

They had walked about 3,000 meters — moving fast and making good time through relatively open timber country — when the column split. The Second Battalion Seventh turned and



Gary--

(Continued from Page 1) was moving up, a fierce hail of fire struck the entire column. "There were rockets, grenades, mortars, rifle and machine guns. It came from 350 degrees and it came all at once with no warning," Capt. Thorpe said.

Company C was hit hardest. A wave of Communists swept up to its flanks on either side of the trail and eddied around the Americans. The PAVN's forced Company C into outnum-bered isolation.

Capt. Forrest turned and ran back toward his men. A platoon from his company was far out in advance of the main body, scattered as security.

"All I could think of was to get them back there, get them into a defense and to light it out. I ran 150 meters through the grass with bullets clipping the ground around me, hollering at guys to get back down to the company. I got everybody started I could and I went back. I saw then I was all by myself. I had stayed out too long! I had to pour on the gas and run that 150 meters again. It was a long, long run. I made it. We got into a perimeter. I didn't know the terrain but a ridge. A little rise of ground

... would have solved it all. If I could have seen it and moved 200 meters we would have torn them up worse and maybe not have lost so many. I guess you always think about things like that later." Capt. Forrest said.

He had no apologies to make for what he did do, of course. He fought his company and kept it intact and the PAVN's died attacking it.

Up on the landing zone Lt. Col. McDade was organizing a defense. Mortar rounds were slashing into the field and heavy fire came from all over. Capt. Thorpe got there and under-cover as did other officers and each took charge of the men nearest him.

There were three separate fights in progress by now, the column was split. Company C was surrounded, the two other segments of the line were both pulling into defensive coils. The PAVN attack reached a crescendo of ferocity.

Lt. Col. McDade was described as "cool and fearless." Men kept calling to him to get down and he kept ignoring the plea. He used his radio sparingly, assuming that the PAVN's had captured radios and code cards and would be monitoring his transmissions. He pulled his men into a defense in the woods and radioed for the ones out along the trail to get in there if they could.

Artillery commenced coming from the supporting batteries. Airplanes began hammering the attacking PAVN's. Helicopters swept in and dumped loads of rockets and machinegun bullets into the wood sheltering the force attacking the outnumbered Americans.

The fight continued in a solid smash of brutal violence throughout the night. There were continuous assaults by both Americans and PAVN's. The air and artillery kept hammering. By the next morning, the fighting had tapered off.

There were more than 400 PAVN bodies counted when the fighting was finally finished in the afternoon. American losses were called "Moderate" but they seemed heavier than that. Charlie Company and a platoon of Delta company, cut off with the men in the center of the column, had been overrun and Americans were found in little circular groups of eight or nine where they had fought to their deaths. The PAVN's had paid a high price for their attack but it had been the hardest, most savage single fight the First Air Cavalry Division had run into.

