

Col. Gerrity 42nd commander

Colonel John L. Gerrity, an officer with command and staff experience in Europe, the United States, and Vietnam, has become the 42nd commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

A native of Sante Fe, N.M., Col. Gerrity is a West Point graduate and holds a masters degree in International Affairs from George Washington University.

Commissioned in Armor in 1947, he served from August 1948 to February 1951 with the U.S. Constabulary in Germany. He was first assigned to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and later served as aide-de-camp to the commander of the 2nd Constabulary Brigade.

He returned to the United States in February 1951 and was assigned to the 1st Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Tex., before attending the officers' advanced course at the Armor School in 1952.

In 1953 Col. Gerrity was assigned to the NATO headquarters in Izmir, Turkey. He worked in the operations office there until he returned to the states and assignments in Combat Developments at Ft. Monroe, Va., and Ft. Ord, Calif.

After attending the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth in 1958, he was sent to the intelligence division at Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe. From there he went to the 3rd Armored Division where he was a battalion S-3 and executive officer until 1961.

Col. Gerrity was again transferred to the 1st Armored Division where he served as a brigade S-3 and executive officer before assuming command of the 1st Battalion, 81st Armor.

In 1964 he was assigned to the Army Staff at the Pentagon and served there until coming to Vietnam in October 1965. He worked in the operations section at USARV until July 1966 when he left to attend the National War College.

Following his graduation, he was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense until September 1969 when he returned to Vietnam, this time for an assignment in the Operational Plans, Requirements and Force Structure Division at MACV.

Col. Gerrity assumed command of the Blackhorse June 22.

His wife and three children reside in Annandale, Va.

BLACKHORSE

— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

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July 1970

Cambodia action goes on

As of June 23, the 11th ACR's Cambodian operations had resulted in 311 NVA killed and 24 detained.

Blackhorse troopers captured 1,650 tons of rice, 22,997 pounds of medical supplies, 10,920 pounds of salt, 784 bicycles, 30 trucks and 4,510 gallons of Diesel fuel.

They also captured 58 AK47 rifles, 24 SKS rifles, and machine guns, RPG launchers and supplies of enemy ammunition.

The 11th ACR's second month in Cambodia found Blackhorse troopers providing security for engineers and escorting convoys as well as conducting reconnaissance missions and Medcaps.

During the first week of June, 1st Squadron, operating out of Fire Support Base Iowa, reconned in the Flatiron area of Cambodia. B Troop was particularly successful in rooting out enemy caches and training areas.

The squadron moved its center of operations to Fire Support Base Colorado June 9 and continued searching for enemy supplies and camps. From there it moved to Fire Support Base North Dakota.

In the latter part of the month, B and C Troops worked with the 984th and 60th Land Clearing Companies whose rone plows were cutting through enemy base areas.

On June 16, B Troop and the 984th found a large bunker complex consisting of 300 bunkers. A search of the complex turned up 3,000 pounds of medical supplies, 1,200 pounds of rice and four bicycles.

Second Squadron established Fire Support Base Sisson, three miles inside Cambodia and five and one-half miles southeast of Snuol, May 25.

During the first week of June E and F Troops swept the highway to Bu Dop and escorted convoys along the way.

E Troop also provided security for engineers who were rebuilding the bridge spanning the Song Be River.

During the second week, F Troop moved off the Bu Dop road to recon the area west of Sisson. In heavy jungle they found an NVA base camp containing 75 bunkers, 66 hootches and classrooms and mess halls. Small quantities of medical supplies and ammunition were also uncovered.

After that, the troop held Medcaps in three different Cambodian villages in the rubber nearby.

H Company spent most of the month escorting convoys from Loc Ninh to Quan Loi.

The Blackhorse 3rd Squadron started the month at Fire Support Base Saber. From Saber it moved to FSB Hammerstone, and later to FSB Carlson. On

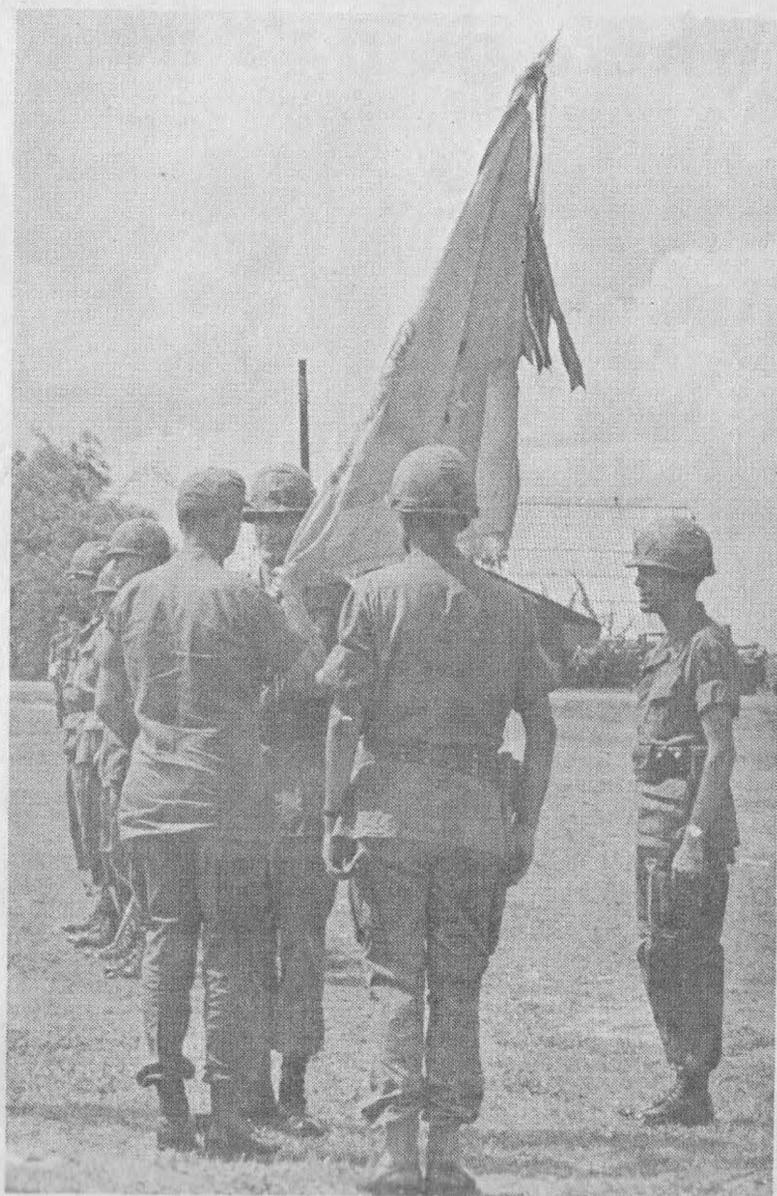
June 12, the squadron command post moved to FSB Susan, nine miles west of the border.

Throughout the month, the squadron escorted convoys and provided security for engineers who were working on Highway QL 7.

K Troop, while on a recon mission June 9, came across an enemy area containing 11 hootches. Inside, the troopers found 40 pounds of rice.

On June 21 the same troop was mine-sweeping a road at 8:30 a.m. when it started receiving small arms and RPG fire. The Blackhorse troopers returned the fire, but the enemy withdrew into the thick jungle.

Continuing down the road, the 3rd Squadron troopers again started receiving small arms and RPG fire. When they attacked this time, they caught a large NVA force, killing 25 enemy soldiers.



Lieutenant General Michael S. Davison (left) presents the Regimental colors to Colonel John L. Gerrity.

Continuity marks Di An ceremony

By Joseph Marchesani

Continuity of dedication and achievement was the theme as Colonel John L. Gerrity succeeded Colonel Donn A. Starry as commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in ceremonies at Di An June 22.

In his first address to the Regiment, Colonel Gerrity noted that "we are closing one chapter of our activities in the jungle of Cambodia, but our mission here is not yet complete. There will be much to do in the months ahead as we continue to serve the cause of freedom."

Following the opening presentation of the colors, General Lam Son, representing the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, awarded

(Continued on page 8)



A column of A Troop ACAV's winds its way through the rubber in the Flatiron region of Cambodia.

Sentimental journey

A former NVA soldier returned to his old home in the Fishhook recently, but he wasn't alone. He was chaperoned by a score of armored vehicles from C Troop, 1st Squadron.

The Hoi Chanh, an NVA medic for two years before rallying to allied forces early in May, led the Blackhorse cavalrymen from their NDP south of Snuol to heavily-jungled area near a river.

A cursory search of the area revealed a trail complex leading into a Communist basecamp.

His former comrades had abandoned the area, but the homecomer had some occasion for nostalgia: In a corner of his old hootch he found a bicycle — the same one he had ridden along hidden Fishhok trails only a month before.

The next morning, the former NVA medic packed his former NVA bicycle aboard a Blackhorse helicopter and flew south.

Commander's column

Where going's hard

I am proud to join your ranks in the Blackhorse Regiment. I look forward to serving with and for each of you.



A valorous chapter in the history of the Regiment has been concluded in the jungles of Cambodia; another chapter has begun. The tasks ahead are difficult and challenging as we continue to serve the cause of freedom for the people of the Republic of Vietnam. In that regard, the nature of the war is changing as the enemy is forced to adopt new tactics to conserve his forces and disrupt allied successes. These changes will put increasing premium on the practice of the fundamentals of our profession.

Our mission here is not complete. I'm confident that the days ahead will find the Blackhorse wherever the going is tough. Good luck and good hunting. "Allons."

Colonel John L. Gerrity
42nd Commander
The Blackhorse

Little girl walks

A six-year-old girl walked home last month . . . for the first time.

Crippled since birth by a hip deformity, little Ngan-Con-Ch returned after undergoing an operation at the 24th Medical Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh.

Ch was found in December by 37th Medical Company Medics who were conducting a Medcap in Nui Gio, a village a mile and a half southwest of Quan Loi.

"She was found crawling in the dirt with one leg just dragging along," said Major Rudy Holbrook, the Regimental civil affairs officer.

After conferring with the girl's parents, who were at first hesitant about the girl leaving home, S-5 personnel arranged to have Ch sent to the Long Binh hospital.

At the hospital, doctors found that her hip and leg had not welded together when she was born. They started therapeutic treatments, but progress was slow.

After one month, they decided to operate. It was relatively simple surgery, consisting of shortening the leg muscles so that the two bones could be joined together.

Since returning home, Ch has been able to play like any other boy or girl. And she has an ample supply of toys furnished by both the hospital and the 11th ACR.

Chaplain's corner

By Chaplain (LTC)
William P. Trobaugh

As I write this, the Regiment is making its preparations to withdraw from Cambodia as ordered by our commander-in-chief, the President. Another phase of our lives is coming to a close. For myself, this time marks the end of another portion of my life. Even as you read this, I shall have already returned to "the world." I want to thank you for having made this a great experience for me.

Because of your bravery and devotion to duty, I can always speak with pride of my association with the 11th Cav. The record stands as you have written it, and I can claim a share in the glory you have brought to our unit.



Sergeant First Class Norwood C. Dunaway (right) lends a hand to a Vietnamese medic during a practical exercise on intravenous feeding.

37th teaches RF-PF medics

Each morning, Sergeant First Class Norwood C. Dunaway gets up before a class of 20 students and starts teaching, just as he did a year ago at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex.

But the classroom is in Di An, South Vietnam, and instead of Americans, he is training young Vietnamese medics to take care of the health problems in their own villages.

"These students are extremely eager; we've had no problems with absenteeism or lack of attention," commented Dunaway, who is also in charge of the six-week course for Regional Forces-Popular Forces medics. The course will continue until the second week in July.

The course, set up by 11th ACR civil affairs section and operated by the 37th Medical Company, is based on the eight-week course given to Army medics at Ft. Sam Houston. It includes

instruction in the symptoms of disease, anatomy and physiology, the various drugs which the medics will have available to them, and Medcap procedures.

The students are taught through lectures, demonstrations, and practical exercises.

Sgt. Dunaway and the other two instructors, Staff Sergeant Charles Castaneda and Specialist 6 Edward Shahan give each lesson in English and it is immediately translated into Vietnamese by Sergeant First Class Nguyen Phuoc Thien. According to Sgt. Dunaway, there have been no communication problems.

The medics were sent to the school by the MACV Advisor Team in Di An. The team has already expressed the desire to have more courses in the future.

Farewell to men of Blackhorse

Having been with you in this combat situation, I can deny some of the charges made against our nation. Some say our youth are soft and can't take it. You have proven otherwise and have demonstrated that you can live under primitive conditions and still maintain a sense of humor.

It is said our youth are irresponsible. Again you've proven this to be untrue. I've seen great restraint in the use of our machines of war which has kept us from killing innocent

people, and this often in very tense situations.

I've seen you entrusted with complex machinery and watched you keep it running, or flying, or however it went. Hardly the way irresponsible people would act!

There are those who say that Americans will not make any sacrifices to maintain a cause. Again, you've proven this to be incorrect as you risk your life and live in primitive conditions.

You have proven that our youth are neither soft nor

irresponsible and that our country will maintain its greatness through your generation.

I count it a real privilege to have been your chaplain for this past year and will pray for your safety in this dangerous business. To those who have been my friends, I wish to send thanks for having allowed me into your lives.

And for all of you who serve as Blackhorse troopers, I would ask that God bless you.



K Troop ACAV's and two Rome plows make a small perimeter for a break during operations.



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Coffman assumes command

Fire Support Base Sisson, three miles inside Cambodia, was the scene of a change of command ceremony June 7 as Major Richard L. Coffman took the reigns of the 2nd Squadron.

He succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Graill L. Brookshire.

During the ceremony, the new commander greeted his troops and stated, "We've been on top so long, we don't have any choice but to stay right there."

Ten days later FSB Sisson was the scene of another ceremony as Major Coffman became Lieutenant Colonel Coffman.

Lt. Col. Coffman was commissioned an Armor officer in August 1956. His first overseas duty came two years later when he was assigned to Germany and the 3rd Armored Division.

In August 1962 he returned



Lt. Col. Coffman to the United States to attend the Career Course at the Armor School at Ft. Knox, Ky. During Lt. Col. Coffman's first tour in Vietnam, in

1965-1966, he served as an advisor in the I Corps area.

A graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., Lt. Col. Coffman joined the Blackhorse Regiment in January.

He served first as deputy base camp commander and then as base camp commander until May 5, when he became the operations officer of the 2nd Squadron.

Praising the 2nd Squadron as "the finest in the Army," Coffman stated, "As long as the United States can produce men like these, the nation is in good shape."

Lt. Col. Brookshire, who had commanded the Squadron since Sept. 5, 1969, commended his men and offered some parting advice: "Keep your eyes open and your weapons clean."

Blanchard takes Air Cav reins

Major Joseph L. Blanchard assumed command of the Blackhorse Regiment's Air Cav Troop May 28, replacing Major Donald Smart, who completed his Vietnam tour.

"I am extremely proud to join the Air Cav Troop of the 11th ACR," said Maj. Blanchard. "The men have acquired a magnificent combat record to date and we're going to strive to maintain the same caliber of performance in the future."

It is the New Orleans native's second tour in Vietnam. He served in 1967-1968 as a platoon leader and executive officer of the 213th Assault Support Helicopter Company (Chinooks) in Phu Loi.

He received the Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor during that tour.

Commissioned in December 1959 after completing Officers Candidate School, Maj. Blanchard went to the Armor Officers Basic Course and then served in Korea and at Ft. Hood, Tex., as a tank platoon leader.

After attending flight school,



Major Blanchard

Maj. Blanchard had assignments at Ft. Hood and in Germany before coming to Vietnam for his first tour.

In 1968 he returned to Ft. Knox where he served as a troop commander with the 1st Air Cavalry Squadron.

He also attended the Advanced Course of the Armor School at Ft. Knox in 1968.

Maj. Blanchard's wife and their two sons are living in Burlington, N.J.

11th ACR chaplains move out Sundays

By Darrell Jensen

"War is a pretty traumatic experience, and a guy needs something," said Chaplain

Lawrence Haworth.

Each Sunday morning, the five chaplains who make up the 11th ACR's "God Squad" gather in Quan Loi, climb aboard a helicopter, and begin a leap-frog journey to every troop in the Regiment.

The Chaplains split up into two teams. Each team has a Catholic and a Protestant Chaplain. The teams are formed by Chaplains Haworth, James Cooke, Francis Mara, and Daniel Kennedy. Overseeing the whole operation is Regimental Chaplain William Trobaugh.

Although the Regiment tries to furnish a helicopter, the Chaplains have learned to improvise in order to reach the troops.

"We'll use anything we can find: convoys, Chinooks, or even a garbage truck," Chaplain Kennedy commented. Chaplain Haworth once hitch-hiked on a rubber truck to get to a troop.

Their efforts do not go unappreciated. According to Chaplain Cooke, the closer troopers are to combat, the higher the attendance at services.



CSM Harrison

Harrison new CSM

A twenty-year Army veteran, who was with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment when it came to Vietnam, is the new Regimental command sergeant major.

Command Sergeant Major Hiram T. Harrison, a native of Killeen, Tex., succeeded Command Sergeant Major Donald E. Horn June 1 as the top enlisted man of the Blackhorse.

Sgt. Maj. Harrison began his first tour in Vietnam in August 1966 when the 11th ACR deployed from Ft. Meade, Md. He was sergeant major of the 2nd Squadron until he completed his tour in July 1967.

Returning in the middle of the Cambodian operation, Sgt. Maj. Harrison commented, "They couldn't have selected a better unit than the 11th ACR for this type of mission. It's the best outfit in Vietnam."



Father Daniel Kennedy celebrates mass in the field.

Honored for Valor

SILVER STAR

- Colonel Donn A. Starry, Regimental Headquarters.
- Lieutenant Colonel Graill L. Brookshire, 2nd Squadron Headquarters.
- First Lieutenant Donald W. Holman, D Company.
- Second Lieutenant Richard Hudkins, E Troop.
- First Sergeant Rosalio C. Montelongo, L Troop.
- Sergeants First Class James F. Large, D Company; Habkuk Taylor, L Troop.
- Staff Sergeant Pascual V. Gutierrez, A Troop.
- Private First Class Kippert L. Hammond, B Troop.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

- Colonel Donn A. Starry, Regimental Headquarters.
- Lieutenant Colonel Graill L. Brookshire, 2nd Squadron Headquarters.
- Majors Joe G. Driskill, 3rd Squadron Headquarters, Donald L. Smart, Air Cav Troop.
- Captains George H. Adams, Air Cav Troop; James Atchinson, Air Cav Troop, Ronald G. Berry, Air Cav Troop; Daniel J. Fick, 2nd Squadron Headquarters.
- Chief Warrant Officer John H. Mallette, 2nd Squadron Headquarters.
- Warrant Officers William F. Davis, Air Cav Troop; Steven J. Greenlee, Air Cav Troop; Richard L. Mathews, Regimental Headquarters; Dewey W. Rowe, 2nd Squadron Headquarters.
- Master Sergeant Robert T. Bolan, 2nd Squadron Headquarters.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

- Colonel Donn A. Starry, Regimental Headquarters.
- Platoon Sergeant Willie McNew, A Troop.

BRONZE STAR

- Colonel Donn A. Starry, Regimental Headquarters.
- Captains Malcolm S. Gilchrist, H Company; Ronald B. Schmidt, M Company.
- First Lieutenants David Gallman, L Troop; Eric C. Spanier, L Troop.
- Second Lieutenant Stuart B. Lamkin, D Company.
- Command Sergeants Major Donald E. Horn, Regimental Headquarters; Frank S. Zlobec, 1st Squadron Headquarters.
- Sergeants First Class Dennis R. Bonner, 2nd Squadron Headquarters; Willie McNew, A Troop.
- Staff Sergeants Pascual V. Gutierrez, A Troop; Joseph L. Hughes, A Troop; Sylvester A. Kramer, 1st Squadron Headquarters, Han J. Mabe, C Troop; Richard E. Richards, A Troop.
- Sergeants Dennis R. Ash, 3rd Squadron Headquarters; James G. Crew, A Troop; Stephen A. Nachamkin, L Troop; Philip L. Palmer, B Troop; William C. Sizemore, A Troop; Fernando L. Sotomayer, C Troop.
- Specialists 5 James M. Belver, 3rd Squadron Headquarters, Samuel J. Jorgensen, M Company; Victor J. Klemann, Jr., 1st Squadron Headquarters; Ronald A. Mason, 2nd Squadron Headquarters; James R. Moses, 3rd Squadron Headquarters; James J. Percudani, Air Cav Troop; Robert G. Trippy, A Troop.
- Specialists 4 Allenizzo Abuelwhippingstraw, L Troop; Denver D. Adams, 3rd Squadron Headquarters; Ted Buffinton, 3rd Squadron Headquarters; William O. Craig, L Troop; Charles A. Christopher, L Troop; James L. Hollis, B Troop; Dennis R. Jabbusch, A Troop; Russell L. Meredith, 3rd Squadron Headquarters; Cleve D. Miller, Air Cav Troop; Lewis C. Mitchell, 3rd Squadron Headquarters; Kenneth Moseley, A Troop; George F. Patterson, A Troop; Blake A. Reitchgeld, L Troop; William E. Sampolski, 3rd Squadron Headquarters; William K. Smith, F Troop; Edwin W. White, 3rd Squadron Headquarters.
- Privates First Class David E. Bartling, 2nd Squadron Headquarters; John W. Ferrell, L Troop; Ricky C. Lookwood, 2 3rd Squadron Headquarters; Clarence R. Pritchard, I Troop; Richard W. Tellock, L Troop; Robert G. Trippy, A Troop.

AIR MEDAL

- First Lieutenant Vernon P. Saxon, 19th TASS.
- Warrant Officer David N. Hutchinson, 3rd Squadron Headquarters.
- Sergeants Robert O. Clark, Air Cav Troop; John A. Marr, Air Cav Troop.
- Specialist 5 Kevin McLaughlin, Air Cav Troop.
- Specialists 4 Ted Buffington, 3rd Squadron Headquarters; Luis Robles, 1st Squadron Headquarters.

Tank Company — the Blackhorse Regiment

The D Company column moves down the Bu Dop road.



"We're the Sunday punch," says H Company First Sergeant Paul Curran.

By "we" he means the men and M48 medium tanks that make up a tank company. The punch (any day of the week) is delivered by a 90 millimeter main gun, a .50 caliber and an M60 machine gun.

Each squadron in the field has a tank company which provides ready reaction support for the reconnaissance troops, escorts logistics convoys, and furnishes the bulk of fire power at the squadron night defensive positions.

At 52 tons apiece, the tanks are the heavies of the Regiment -- in more ways than one. "When we go in, there's already a fight in progress," says H Company commander Captain Harold Fuller. "When the squadron moves, we're the lead element."

And with good reason, for up front the going is usually toughest. The big tanks can knock down jungle too thick for ACAVs and Sheridans. But ramming down trees eight inches in diameter creates special maintenance problems. That's where the M88 VTR comes in.

The M88 recovery vehicle is the workhorse of the tank company's maintenance team. Except for another M48, it's the only thing around big enough to drag out a downed tank. At the NDP, a skilled crew can quickly put a disabled vehicle back into operation.

All of which makes a tank company almost self-sufficient. As Capt. Fuller says, "With our own maintenance section, we're a complete unit."

The Regiment's tanks lead the column through difficult terrain.

H Company leads the way for the convoy.

khorse

Regiment's 'Sunday Punch'



The M48's of M Company round a bend northwest of Mimot.

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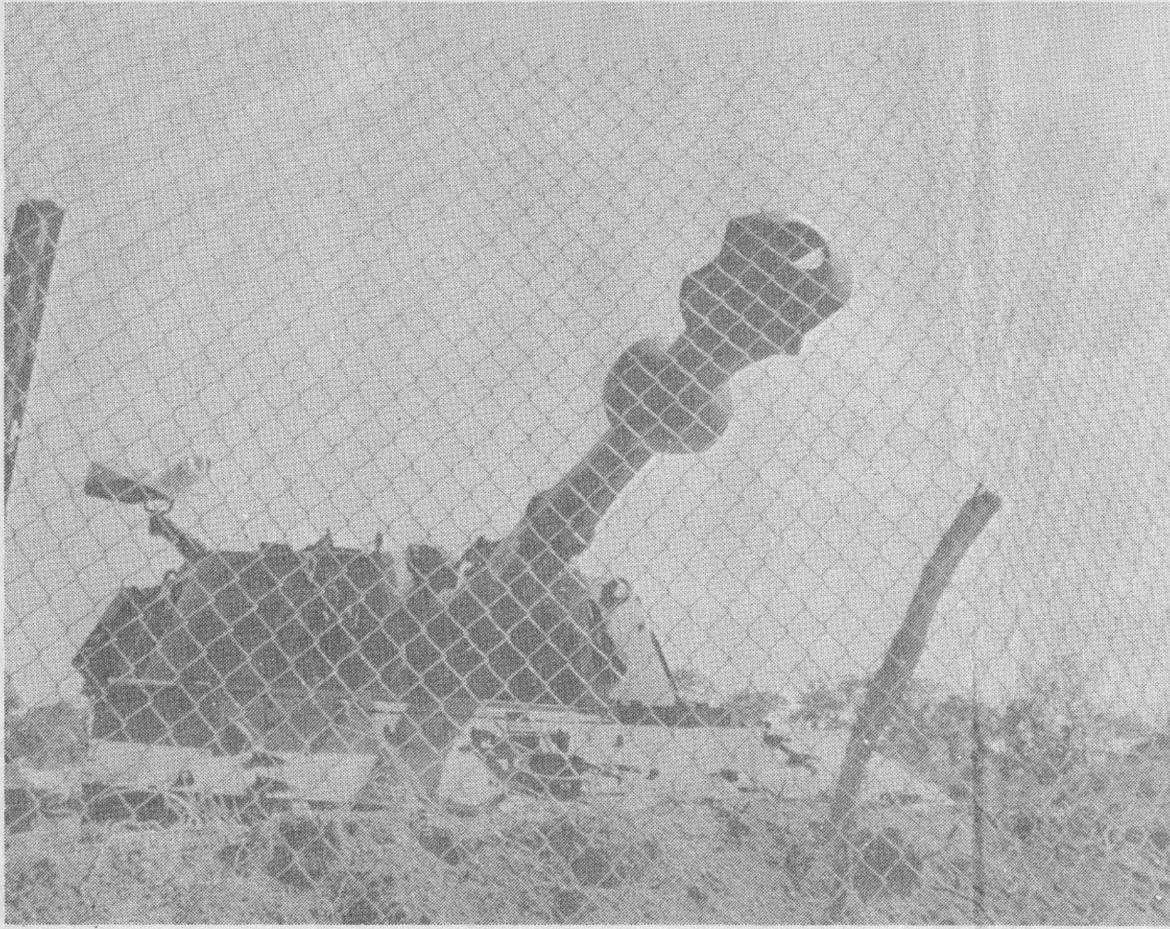
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H Company leads the way for a convoy.

he Regiment's tanks lead the column through difficult terrain.



One of 1st Squadron's 155's, protected by RPG screen.

FO listens for the sounds

"The response from the How batteries is really good. We couldn't be without it," says First Lieutenant Jack Howle. And he ought to know.

Howle is A Troop's Forward Observer — the link between the Armored vehicles in the field and the 155mm Howitzers at the fire Support Base.

Howle plays a vital role in bringing artillery in on enemy positions. Only three or four minutes elapse between the initial request for support and the sound of exploding rounds on the enemy.

When the troop is on the move, Lt. Howle continuously notes the position of the column. Frequently, one or two howitzers will track the movement of the troop, using the coordinates

supplied by the F.O.

Because of the thick jungle prevalent in most of Vietnam and Cambodia, the F.O. often cannot see where artillery rounds land. As a result he has to learn to bring rounds in by noting the direction and intensity of the sound of the explosions.

Each night, Lt. Howle adjusts concentrations of defensive fire around the troop NDP.

When the troop moves to an NDP, Lt. Howle plots the coordinates of likely targets and radios them to the fire direction center at the squadron CP. Using these targets as reference points, Howle can call in fire at any time during the night without any delay.

Air Force troopers

Invaluable support

Dodging Cobra gunships and roaring fighter-bombers, a small silver plane describes an easy circle over a contact. Suddenly it loops away from the circle, dives down on the enemy position, fires off a rocket and pulls up sharply.

Where the white phosphorous rocket impacts, a puff of smoke rises. Seconds later an Air Force jet swoops down and releases

two 500-pound bombs on the enemy position.

The man in the little silver plane is a forward air controller — one of ten Air Force pilots who coordinate and direct tactical airstrikes for the Blackhorse Regiment.

A FAC pilot needs, first of all, a strong stomach to cope with the dizzying aerobatics that are his stock in trade. He also must have a thorough working knowledge of armor operations, as well as proven ability in the cockpit of an Air Force fighter-bomber.

During daylight hours a FAC is always on station in the Blackhorse area of operations. He conducts visual reconnaissance, notes the position of all friendly elements, and stays ever alert to call in air support when one of the squadrons needs it.

In addition to supporting contacts with the enemy, the 11th ACR controllers, or Nile FACs, as they are called, direct air strikes against suspected enemy positions.

On strike missions the FACs work closely with squadron commanders. A ground commander's request for air support is relayed immediately to the fighter bombers, who are usually on station within fifteen minutes. (During the first day of the Cambodian operation, when the FACs called in 21 strikes, one FAC had just completed calling for the jets when they appeared over his plane, ready to go in.)

The FAC dives on a target as often as is necessary to show the fighter pilots exactly where to drop their bombs. Frequently, the squadron command and control helicopter, which can fly lower than the FACs, will go in and mark the enemy position more precisely with smoke grenades.

The Nile FACs, who fly out of Bien Hoa, work only with the 11th ACR and they seem happy with the association.

Says FAC pilot Captain Robert W. Powell: "The 11th Cav troopers are very aggressive and have earned quite a reputation with the Air Force. It gives us a certain amount of pride to work with the Blackhorse."

Indian scouts, RVN style

The 11th ACR tracks are drilling the jungle. Suddenly, a Vietnamese riding with the Blackhorse cavalrymen yells something to the platoon leader, and the tracks grind to a halt.

Led by the Vietnamese, the troopers dismount and check out the thicket. As they push aside a clump of bamboo, a hidden bunker appears.

The man who spotted the bunker is not an ARVN and, strictly speaking, he's not even in the Army. He is a Kit Carson Scout — one of 41 former NVA or VC soldiers now working for the Blackhorse.

A Kit Carson Scout's career begins soon after he abandons the Communist cause and rallies to the Allies. If found suitable, he is granted an exemption from the draft and trained by the Americans.

The Kit Carson Scouts perform much the same

function as the Indian scouts who were employed by the Army one hundred years ago in the American West.

The Regiment has been working with Kit Carson Scouts since 1967. Since then, a number of scouts have been decorated for bravery.

One of the first Scouts to win a place in the Blackhorse annals was named Bay Son. Before rallying, he had been an officer in the Viet Cong for more than 19 years.

With his unique knowledge of terrain and tactics, Bay Son was able to lead his unit to numerous enemy caches and strongholds. It was dangerous work, and one day he was killed by a booby trap.

"The information provided by Bay Son," a former Regimental commander said, "has been responsible for saving over a hundred allied lives."

Working LZ

Pray for rain

By Ken Hoke

It may be the only job in the Regiment that is made easier by the mud.

Through most of the year the men on the landing zone crews have to consider flying dirt and stones tossed by the big Chinooks as an occupational hazard.

But during the rainy season, the clinging mud which is the curse of everyone else resists the 80-mile-an-hour gusts whipped up by the rotar blades and keeps the flying debris to a minimum.

"That Chinook is just a great big fan coming at you," says Specialist 4 John R. Heyne, who works the LZ for 3rd Squadron.

As a Chinook approaches the LZ, one of the men throws a smoke grenade to mark the position and show the pilot how the wind is blowing. After the hook drops its load and sets down to let out and take in any

internal cargo or passengers, it rises again to hover over the load it will lift out.

One of the crew members must stand on top of the load and hook the net or straps around the load to the Chinook. It is a tricky job. "Once a Chinook came down so low that it hit me on the head," recalls Specialist 4 Peter J. Peterson.

Another hazard of the hook-up is the static electricity which builds up in the Chinooks' cable. An experienced LZ man can avoid this by placing the straps on the hook without touching the hook or cable.

When the hook takes off, it is time to clear the LZ and prepare for the next visit. Three or four Chinook trips will be made out to a fire support base on a normal day, but the arrival time of any one may vary by as much as four hours.

"You can't be impatient in this job," comments Heyne.



A Chinook comes down to be hooked to a water trailer at the 3rd Squadron fire support base.

Lost & found

Sometimes things turn up in the strangest places. Specialist 4 Leonard R. Branham of C Troop will vouch for that.

While operating in War Zone C on March 5, Branham's platoon ran into an occupied enemy bunker complex. In the ensuing firefight, his M16 was lost. He gave up on the weapon, figuring it was "gone for good."

Three months later, C Troop was searching enemy bunkers in the Fishhook area of Cambodia. Branham's platoon leader found an M16 in one of the bunkers. A quick check of the serial number led to a surprise. It was the same rifle Branham lost in March.

Although the stock and trigger guard were missing, the weapon was in pretty good shape.

"I never expected to find it again," Branham said. "I'd like to have it back once it's fixed."



During June, 1st Squadron worked with two land clearing companies, cutting through enemy base areas.

Blackhorse arrives

June 8 marked the end of the Blackhorse Regiment's first year working out of Quan Loi.

One year ago, the Quan Loi-An Loc area was threatened by four NVA Regiments which had moved into staging positions in the rubber plantations.

The Regiment came up to meet that threat.

Second Squadron, the Regiment's lead element, arrived May 26. In those first few days, it met the enemy in a series of tough contacts that resulted in 175 NVA killed and 13 captured.

On June 8, the rest of the Regiment followed. "It was the largest convoy I ever saw," recalls Specialist 4 John A. Reel, who drove a D Company tank that day.

From the first the enemy made his presence felt by lobbing mortars and rockets into the Quan Loi base as often as three times a day.

It was a change from Blackhorse Base Camp and Bien Hoa. "A lot of people began taking the war a lot more personally," remembers Sergeant First Class John L. Price.

For the first few weeks, the Blackhorse armored vehicles provided protection for the An Loc area and secured Highway 13 south to Lai Khe, making it safe for civilian as well as military traffic.

On June 17, 3rd Squadron made contact with a large enemy

force, killing 31 and taking two prisoners. That night, An Loc, the province capital, was mortared. But the enemy, intercepted by 3rd Squadron, could not mount its planned ground attack.

On five different occasions during June and July enemy attempts to ambush military convoys on Highway 13 were turned back by Blackhorse Armored Cavalrymen.

The enemy was angry. He felt he must do something dramatic to regain the initiative. He tried August 12.

A series of heavy ground attacks were launched under cover of rocket, mortar, and RPG barrages. Between one and two in the morning, Blackhorse troopers were hit at five different locations.

In each contact the fighting was hard, but in each the 11th ACR firepower drove the enemy back.

Daylight came, but the enemy had not given up. At least not yet. Blackhorse elements and units OPCON to the Regiment met and defeated the enemy in three major contacts. When the day was over, 354 NVA lay dead. Ten more were taken prisoner.

The highpoint continued for two more days. In three different contacts 1st Squadron troopers supported by ARVN Rangers killed another 140 enemy.

cavalrymen discovered a sapper training complex two miles inside Cambodia.

While reconning a tree line near the Flatiron area on May 29, the B Troopers spotted a small trail leading into the jungle.

Platoon Sergeant Terry

Air Cav scouts

Tree-top sleuths

"We're the eyes of the Regiment," says Captain Michael E. Hawk, one of Air Cav Troop's scout pilots.

And sharp eyes at that, for the pilots and observer-gunners of LOH scouts must find and mark the enemy and get out of his way before he has the chance to react.

"I guess it's one of the most hazardous jobs in Vietnam," adds Warrant Officer James A. Rohrer, who has been flying scout missions longer than any of the present pilots. "Everybody thinks we're crazy because we go out there day after day after day getting shot at."

But go out they do - gathering intelligence of enemy activity throughout the Blackhorse area of operations.

Their job requires flying at tree-top level, looking for the enemy or recent signs of him.

A Cobra gunship flies a couple of thousand feet above the scout LOH. The Cobra pilot records the LOH observer's findings, while keeping an eye on the smaller helicopter should it get fired on.

The observer must be particularly alert since the scout helicopter flies so near the ground.

"When you are flying as low as 20 feet, you have to see the enemy before you pass over him," commented Staff Sergeant Michael D. Gill, who has been a crew chief, observer and gunner



A light observation helicopter flies at tree level, searching for the enemy.

for 22 months. "Once you are by him, you make a very good target."

As soon as the observer marks an enemy position with a smoke grenade, the pilot pulls the LOH out of the area.

"Most observers have volunteered from other combat jobs. They know what it is like out there and they know what to look for," explained Gill.

A good observer can tell how recently a trail has been used and how many enemy used it.

"Once you get out there a couple of times, it starts to come naturally," Gill said. "But you've always got to be alert. After every mission we come back with a sore neck from stretching out and looking around."

Cannon joins Cobra arsenal

A new 20-millimeter cannon called the Vulcan has been installed on one of the Cobra gunships of the Air Cav Troop.

Officially termed the XM35, the cannon, mounted on the Cobra's left wing store, can fire up to 750 rounds a minute. It has a range of 3,300 meters.

"If you can see a target, you can hit it with this gun," commented Chief Warrant Officer Fred D. Shuman, the aircraft commander for the newly-outfitted gunship.

Three types of ammunition are used with the cannon: high explosive incendiary, high explosive

armor piercing and armor piercing incendiary tracer.

According to Shuman, the Vulcan will be used mainly against .51 caliber machinegun nests, bunkers, and other stationary targets.

On the first test flight with the new cannon, Mr. Shuman rolled in on and destroyed an NVA jeep.

Before the cannon could be mounted on the gunship, the Cobra had to be structurally reinforced and have its electrical power increased.

It is expected that three additional Cobras will be armed with the Vulcan by the end of September.

B Troop discovers another NVA school

by Ed Yokum

First Squadron's B Troop is an NVA school superintendent's biggest headache.

Exactly two months after breaking up an enemy replacement school in western War Zone C, the Blackhorse

Dotson and several others dismounted for a closer look and found a wider, well-used trail heading in the same direction. Dotson gathered some more men and set off down the trail. Soon the jungle thinned out a little, and network of new trails appeared.

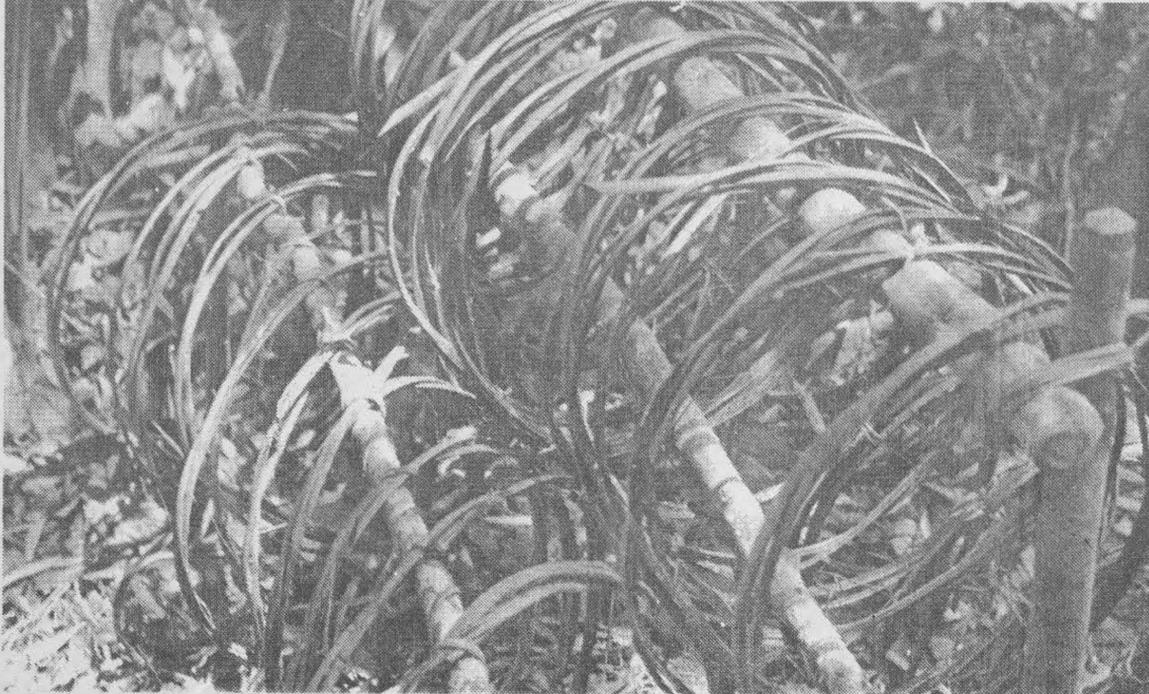
Before long, Dotson and his men found themselves standing in the middle of a complete sapper training school. Scattered throughout the area were wooden Chicom practice grenades and simulated RPG and mortar rounds.

In one area they found rolls of split-bamboo "concertina" and thatched "barbed wire" barricades. In another, a sapper P.T. area - complete with a swinging vine, a trapeze, and an Oriental version of the old Army run, dodge and jump course.

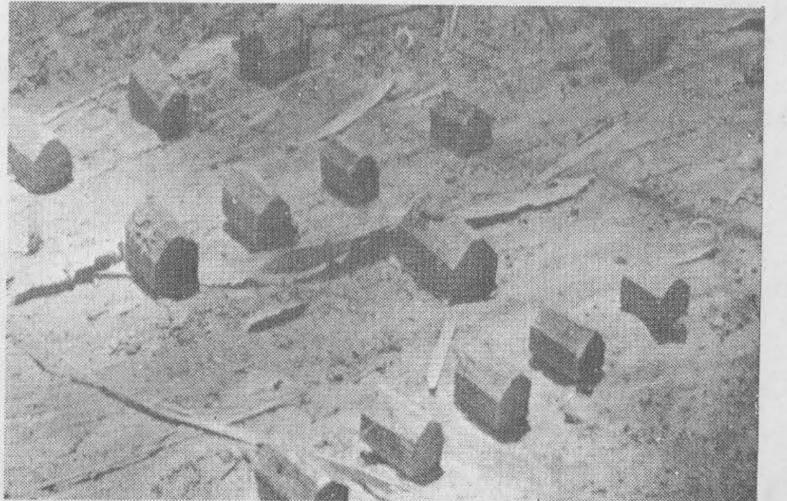
Sapper tactics were taught on a sand table with wooden blocks designating buildings and armored vehicles.

Altogether, the B Troop cavalrymen found 35 hootches, each with its own bunker. Evidently, the school was part of a larger complex.

"We had already found supply depots and living quarters in the vicinity," said the troop commander, Capt. Lynn Hunt. "The discovery of the training school helps to complete the picture."



Mock concertina wire, made from bamboo strips, was part of the sapper infiltration course.



A sand box, with buildings and vehicles of wood, was used for tactical training.

Col. Gerrity takes command



The squadron commanders and troopers from each of the squadrons.



The reviewing stand: (from left) Chaplain Trobaugh, Colonel Starry, Lieutenant General Davison, Command Sergeant Major Harrison, General Lam Son, Colonel Gerrity.

(Continued from page 1)

the Regiment the Cross of Gallantry with Palm. The award proclamation cited the Blackhorse's pacification work in Binh Long Province, its increased efforts to train and combine operations with the Vietnamese armed forces, and its work to reduce enemy infiltration from Cambodia.

Lieutenant General Michael S. Davison, II Field Force commander and the reviewing officer for the ceremony, then presented Colonel Starry with the Distinguished Service Order and the Legion of Merit.

Following the awards, the Regimental colors were presented to Colonel Gerrity.

Gen. Davison addressed those present and pointed out that it was "fitting that the change should come now, at the culmination of the Cambodian operation when the Regiment would be looking forward to new actions and operations."

Col. Starry, in his farewell speech, thanked the men of the 11th ACR for their dedication and courage during his command and said that the Blackhorse under Col. Gerrity could look forward to "the beginning of another period of achievement, one which would continue its record of professionalism and honor."

Present at the ceremony were Lieutenant General William J. Caffrey and Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren, deputy commanders of USARV.

Also attending were Major Generals Walter J. Woolwine, commander of the 1st Logistics Command, Hugh Foster, commander of the 1st Signal Brigade, Edward Bautz, commander of the 25th Infantry Division, and George W. Casey, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Brigadier Generals William R. Kraft, deputy assistant chief of staff, J-3, MACV, Hugh A. Richeson, deputy commander of the 1st Logistics Command, George W. Putnam, commander of the 1st Aviation Brigade, David E. Thomas, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command, RVN, Robert R. Taylor, command surgeon, MACV, and John Q. Henion, Dir. MACT, MACV, were also present.



General Lam Son attaches the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Streamer to the Regimental Colors.



Colonels Gerrity (left) and Starry receive the congratulations of those attending the change of command ceremony.