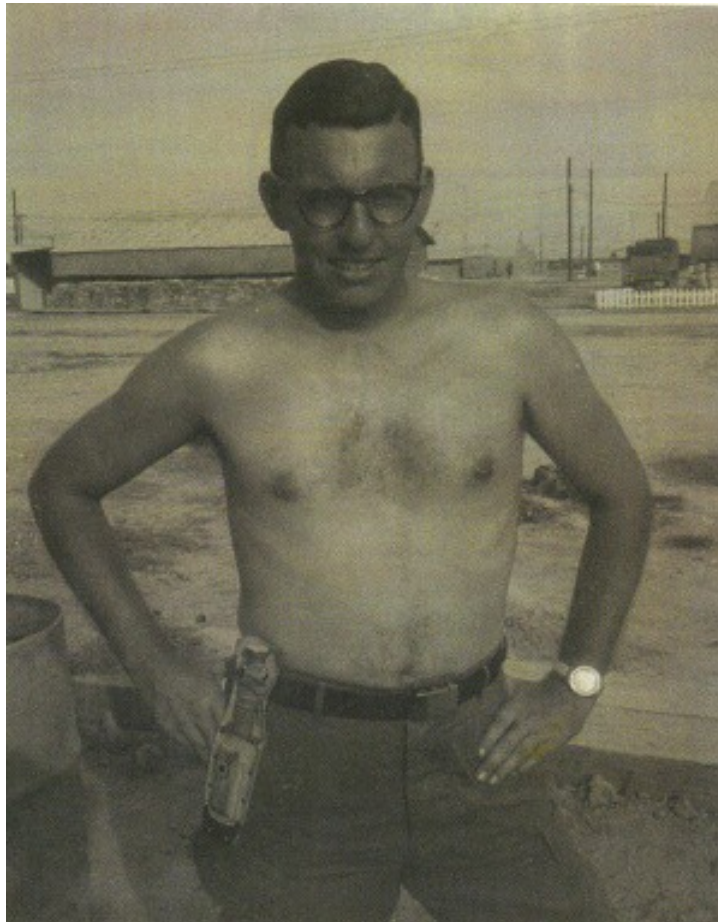


# Who Am I?

Name: Roger Helms  
Arrived RVN: August 16, 1969  
Left RVN: August 15, 1970  
Company: D  
email: helms911@juno.com



Roger Helms, 1969

During my tour I was assigned to Co D 2d Bn (M) 22d Infantry. I started handling Aerial Resupply with Snooks. I not sure what Platoon, we just went and did our Job.

"Pages from Scrapbook follow!"

This is to certify that  
William L. [illegible]  
having served in connection with the  
25th Infantry Division  
is a member in good standing of the  
TROPIC LIGHTS ASSOCIATION  
*Harold F. [illegible]*  
Major General, USA  
Commanding



1st Bar

Group Cambodia



Vol. 5, No. 9

25th INFANTRY DIVISION, VIETNAM

March 2, 1970

Triple Deuce, Triple Cache

## Friday 13th Unlucky Only for Charlie

By SFC DENNIS J. BRIES

TO-DAY — The Triple Deuce soldiers were a little bit of searching the heavily shelled area — especially on Friday the 13th. But it turned out, only the VC were unlucky — losing two large weapons caches and a haul of vital supplies.

Men of the 3d Platoon of Charlie Company, 3d Battalion (ABN), 25th Infantry, found the caches in a 300-meter triangle on four miles from Fungui on Dism during a detailed map of the area. The caches were found after bamboo and eels had been burned off the y below.

After destroying several booby

traps in place, the men moved into a hedgerow which had been burned off. One hole in the hedgerow prompted the men to stop and look it over.

A cooking pot and pieces of pottery nearby led Specialist 4 Fernando Martinez, Berkeley, Idaho, to a hole with bamboo cover that had been partially exposed by the fire. The first cache contained about 1,000 AK rounds, 30 B40 rockets with 30 boosters, 25 rifle grenades, 2,000 feet of wire,

two wire cutters, two AK magazines, five booby traps, three 20 pound anti-tank mines and three Chinese claymores.

About 30 meters from the first in a second cache, numerous empty medicine bottles, vials and documents were found.

By this time Specialist 4 James S. Ragnan, Fitzpatrick, Ala., Private First Class Harvey D. Rogers, Long Beach, Calif., Specialist 4 Clifton Mack, Oklahoma City, and other members

of their squad had moved to another hedgerow where a third cache was uncovered. This time the haul included 207 grenade type booby traps and one B40 mortar round.

Other finds in the area that day included more documents, notebooks and a damaged AK rifle. Several days earlier other members of Charlie Company had found 30,000 primers and numerous documents in the same area.



GENTLY, GENTLY—Specialist 4 Clifton Mack of Oklahoma City, gently sets down one of 207 grenades handed him by Private First Class Harvey D. Rogers of Long Beach, Calif. The cache was found during ground operations by 3d Platoon, Charlie Company, Triple Deuce.

(Photo by SFC Dennis J. Bries)



## They Get Through

By SP4 FRANK H. SALERNO

DIEN NGON - Armored personnel carriers in the front and rear to security and help remove obstacles for the daily convoy of Support Company, 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, is Deuce.

It's really cool to watch the carriers mow down trees, bamboo and brush," says Specialist 4 Walter Goodwin, from Placerville.

Because the brush is so heavy on both sides of the road, the convoy is exposed to enemy ambush many times each day. Land mines add another constant hazard.

What hazards are complicated by rainy season problems. Mud runs and sometimes succeeds in stalling vehicles. Breakdowns are common. If the breakdown occurs on the road, the vehicle is repaired on the spot or towed to the supply point.

Despite all the hazards of each seemingly endless day, the supply always arrives. "The greatest thing is to know that we will always have chow and mail call," says Galen Duff of Headquarters Company, Triple Deuce, from Kawanna, Ind.

Our motto is, "Nothing stops Delta resupply," says Specialist 4 Leroy Shoemaker, a Delta Company member from Wichita, Kan. "We try very hard to live up to it."



CU CHI -- "We haul personnel carriers," Specialist 4 Thomas, a truck driver for the 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, drives a five-ton truck that churns up miles of dust on the road. Every morning truck "express" leave here loaded with cargo usually including food, medical supplies, fuel, building materials, and other necessities.

Occasionally convoys carry entire units are transferred. "There's no telling when the next shipment of First Class Eds will arrive from Phoenix, Arizona. Commitments, the next day."

SECURITY - Members of 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry Scout Platoon stand guard to avert any attempt to ambush resupply convoys traveling Highway 22 between Tay Ninh and Thien Ngan, Laos.

(Photo by SP4 Henry G. Zukowsky)

The Cu Chi Express







**FLATLAND SEARCH** - An armored personnel carrier from the 22nd Division's 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, rumbles through the "Flatlands" near Cu Chi on a search and clear mission recently. (Photo by SP4 Henry G. Zakowski Jr.)

## Choppers, Gls Kill 13 Enemy

By PFC FRANK SALERNO

**FSB DEVINS** - Elements of the 22nd Division's 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, teamed with gunships of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company recently, killing 13 enemy soldiers.

While on a recon mission, two Cobra gunships received ground fire from a point near Devins. Alfa Company of the 2/22nd reacted quickly.

"Within several minutes my men were on line with their armored personnel carriers at the contact area, one block (about half a mile) away and ready to sweep the area," said Alfa Company commander, Captain William R. Lechner, of Rochester, N.Y.

Meanwhile the gunships had riddled the area.

"The gunships were working out with mini-guns and rockets, causing fires in this area," said Private First Class Joe Szymek, of Chicago. "My eyes were burning and I was nervous with anticipation for enemy fire at any time."

Spotting a tunnel, several men dismounted their tracks to check it. At the tunnel entrance, several grenades were thrown in, resulting in two enemy dead and one captured AK-47.

Later, the "Triple Deuce" Scout Platoon re-checked the area.

"We weren't expecting anyone in this area, but suddenly one right track drew enemy fire," said Specialist 4 Steven Belus, of Girard, Ohio.

The Scouts answered with

small arms fire, killing one enemy in a bunker. Inside they found an AK-47, two handlooms of AK ammo, and two booty-trapped hand grenades.

But the enemy hadn't quit yet.

"Apparently the enemy returned to the contact area to get their belongings because we were fired upon again from another bunker," said Private First Class Charles J. Redden, of New Zion, S.C.

This time the Scouts killed two enemy soldiers and found three AK-47s, a pistol belt, a U.S. .45 caliber pistol and five loaded M-16 magazines.

August 3, 1970

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

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# Triple Deuce Moves Out

By SP4 FRANK H. SALERNO  
THIEN NGON — In a 24-hour time span recently, an entire 25th Division mechanized battalion moved to and set up a new area of operations in Katum.

The 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, using all its available armored personnel carriers to provide security for the loaded-down wheeled transport vehicles, traveled 50 miles first to Tay Ninh and then north to Katum.

An ARVN unit remained behind to maintain the Triple Deuce's former AO at Thien Ngon which, according to Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Vail, has been pretty well cleared of NVA.

Despite the intense heat and rough road, the convoy met few problems and after six hours on the road, arrived at Katum.

Tired and grimy, the men still had a night laager position to set up.



**REPLACEMENTS** — Armored personnel carriers of the 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, pause outside of Thien Ngon as elements of the 4th Battalion, 49th ARVN Regiment, move into the area which was one of the large staging areas for 25th Division's assaults into Cambodia.



**SETTING UP** — Members of Triple Deuce start to set up their night laager position at Katum by first unloading their armored personnel carrier.





Sand Bagging (left to right: Knolls, Hickmeir, Leblanc, Victor Vecceera and McKinny)

**'This place was out of sight'**

## 3-Deuce Gets Good Look at Cambodia

By SP4 FRANK H. SALERNO

NEAR KREK AIR FIELD, Cambodia - Electric lights, air conditioners, push-out windows, fine china and a Mercedes Benz. Sounds like America? Yes, but it's actually Cambodia.

When the 25th Division's 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, entered Cambodia recently to begin their operations, they discovered that there were many things about the country that were different from South Vietnam.

"The most striking thing about the country was the extensive use of electricity," said Private First Class Rocco Pesolo, a rifleman of Alfa Company, from Chicago. "Even the most remote village had power lines running into them from main lines."

All of the houses were built on stilts because of rainy season flooding. All had wooden walls and doors and tin roofs as compared to the thatch-roofed and mud-walled hootches that are prevalent in Vietnam.

"The people parked their motor scooters under the houses, not in them as in 'Nam," said Specialist 4 Dan Jacobs, Bravo Company Squad Leader, from Niles, Mich.

The houses were well-built frame-types, employing pegs, nails, interlocking studs and snug-fitting wall boards. Many had push-out windows.

"The houses are built to last and won't tumble down in storms," said Sergeant Gary Huitt, of Bravo Company, from Perry, Iowa. "They're pretty water-tight too."

Inside the houses many of the people use fine chinaware to eat from, and the china cabinet is the prized possession of each family.

"It seemed as though the wealth of the Cambodian family is kept in its china cabinet," said Sergeant Robert Butters, of Bravo Company, from Bradford, Pa.

There were many plantation homes in Cambodia, and all were very elaborate. They were solidly constructed of brick and concrete and had stone roofs.

"One had a room that was air-conditioned and a polished stone floor that I could see my reflection in," said Private First Class Joe Suemegi, of Alfa Company, from Chicago.

"Outside, there was a shiny, black Mercedes Benz. I mean this place was out of sight!"

## Cambodians Take GIs' Medical Aid

By SP4 FRANK R. SALERNO  
NORAM FREE AIR PILOT  
Cambodia -- Twenty-Fifth  
Infantry Division medical of the  
2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry,  
gently expressed surprise at  
the willingness of Cambodian  
people to accept assistance from  
American troops.

"I'm surprised at that the  
Cambodians were willing to  
accept our aid," said Specialist 4  
Jim Deschamps, a medic, from St.  
Louis. "We had thought that the  
NVA had convinced the  
Cambodians not to accept aid  
from us."

On this particular MEDCAP,  
two armed personnel carried  
provided security for the medical.  
The medical traveled in their own  
supply-laden truck.

"From my corner, the medic's  
truck with its big black cross on  
the side, reminded me of the  
mobile Red Cross clinics that  
you see back in the world,"  
recalled Specialist 4 Gerald  
Salvatore, of Delta Company,  
from Collins, N. Va.

While the unit's APC set up  
security, the medical formed a

line for those who wanted  
medical treatment.

"We were surprised to see that  
so many of the people had soap  
readily available to them," said  
Sergeant Douglas Beard, another  
medic, from Chicago. "Soap,  
along with proper bathing,  
prevents many skin diseases,  
scabs and rashes."

During the afternoon, the  
medical treated well over 30  
Cambodians.

"The MEDCAP lasted the  
entire afternoon and it was  
great to see all those whom we  
treated were to us as we headed  
back to our night bunker  
position," Beard added.

## '3-Deuce' Upends Charlie's Ambush

By SP4 HENRY G. ZUKOWSKI  
SOUTH OF THE DORTON  
PATCH, Cambodia -- Reversing  
the result of an enemy ambush,  
men of the 2nd Battalion  
(Mech), 22nd Infantry, Scout  
Platoon recently killed five  
enemy in action, our first.

The morning fight began the  
night rain was still in the air as  
the "Triple Deuce" Scout  
Platoon moved out of the  
battalion night bunker position  
with their armed personnel  
riding on a truck and firing  
machine.

"The element lost the tracked  
formation down a rough trail  
along a heavily wooded area,"  
said Specialist 4 Tim Albright, of  
Lawrenceburg, Ind., a rifleman.

"All of a sudden, a barrage of  
small arms and RPG fire from  
both sides of the trail began to  
crack around us. We turned our  
APCs around and blasted away  
with our 50 caliber and M-60  
machine guns."

Soon, artillery support called  
in from Delta Battery, 1st  
Battalion, 13th Artillery, was  
pouring away with "night  
tacklers" on the estimated  
platoon's enemy positions.

"The artillery support kept  
the enemy's head down,  
enabling us to gain the  
superiority," added Albright.

Besides the first enemy bodies,  
the 22nd found NVA weapons and  
supplies.

American casualties were  
light.

# GI's Got 6 Hearts and a Lot of Extra Nerve

**CU CHI, Vietnam (AP)** — Staff Sgt. Gilbert Paris got wounded again last week. He now has five Purple Hearts, but he insisted Friday that he'd rather return to the field than stay in the rear.

"I like the bush. I like the challenge," said the muscular veteran of 32 months in Vietnam, all of it as a rifleman. "The rear just doesn't appeal to me."

The 35-year-old Queensboro, Ky., native, a member of the 25th Infantry Division, is on his second war and his third tour in Vietnam. He has three Bronze Stars for valor.

He was wounded by rocket grenade fragments in the forehead and nose last Friday when North Vietnamese troops attacked a platoon of Vietnamese civilian irregulars he was serving

with temporarily. Of the 14 soldiers, 11 were wounded in the attack, less than a mile from the Cambodian border in dense jungle and timberland.

It was an old story for Paris, who got his first Purple Heart in 1953 in Korea, where he fought in the battle of Pork Chop Hill with the 2nd Infantry Division.

He was wounded twice again during his first stay in Vietnam, while with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in 1966-67. After seven months in the States, he returned to Vietnam again as a member of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

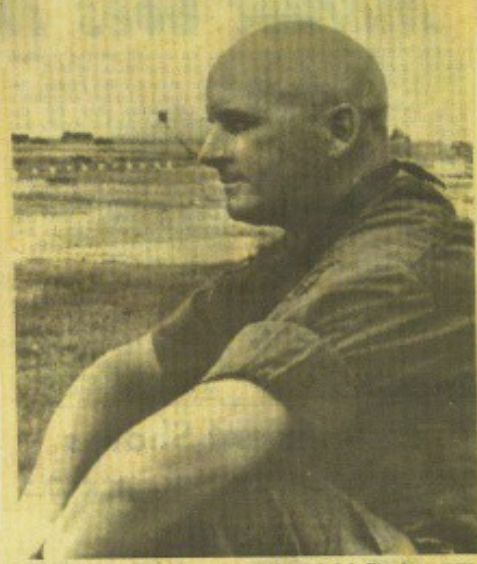
With the Cav, he made an assault into the A Shau Valley near Laos, was hit by shrapnel on the back and neck and was evacuated to the United States, where cut that tour to nine

months. But he returned last September.

All things considered, the Vietnam conflict "is not as bad as the Korean war," the stocky noncom says. The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese rarely make mass attacks as the Chinese Communists did in Korea, he explains.

This round of the war ends for Paris on Sept. 18, when his 12-month tour is over and he returns to America. But he is not going to take it easy for a while at some quiet training camp.

"Well, I've got a 30-day leave and then I'm coming back here for six more months as an adviser in Da Nang," the bachelor sergeant said. "I'm really not interested in leaving this country yet. The living isn't really that tough."



S. Sgt. Gilbert Paris relaxes at the 25th Inf. Div. base camp at Cu Chi. (AP Radiophoto)



**ROLLIN' ACROSS** - Mechanized elements of the 25th Division's 1st Brigade roll across a portable bridge into Cambodia. The bridge, about 3 1/2 miles east of Tennes, was built by the 25th's Echo Company, 65th Engineer Battalion.

## 4,000 GIs lead Cambodia raid

2/22(M)

**KUON** - (UPI) - Approximately 4,000 more American troops spearheaded into Cambodian northwest of Saigon early Wednesday morning in the fourth Allied thrust into the neighboring country in one week.

U.S. military spokesmen said the brigade-sized force of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division crossed the border early

Most U.S. officers favor Cambodia raids but troops opposed/page 21.

Wednesday morning from Tay Ninh province.

The sector is located between the Parrot's Beak and Fatchek regions of Cambodia where 20,000 Allied troops. There were no reports on casualties or fighting.

The new offensive followed

by less than 24 hours a drive launched by American and South Vietnamese forces from the Central Highlands. That operation, aimed at the Communist Sa Son base camp, involved about 8,000 Allied troops.

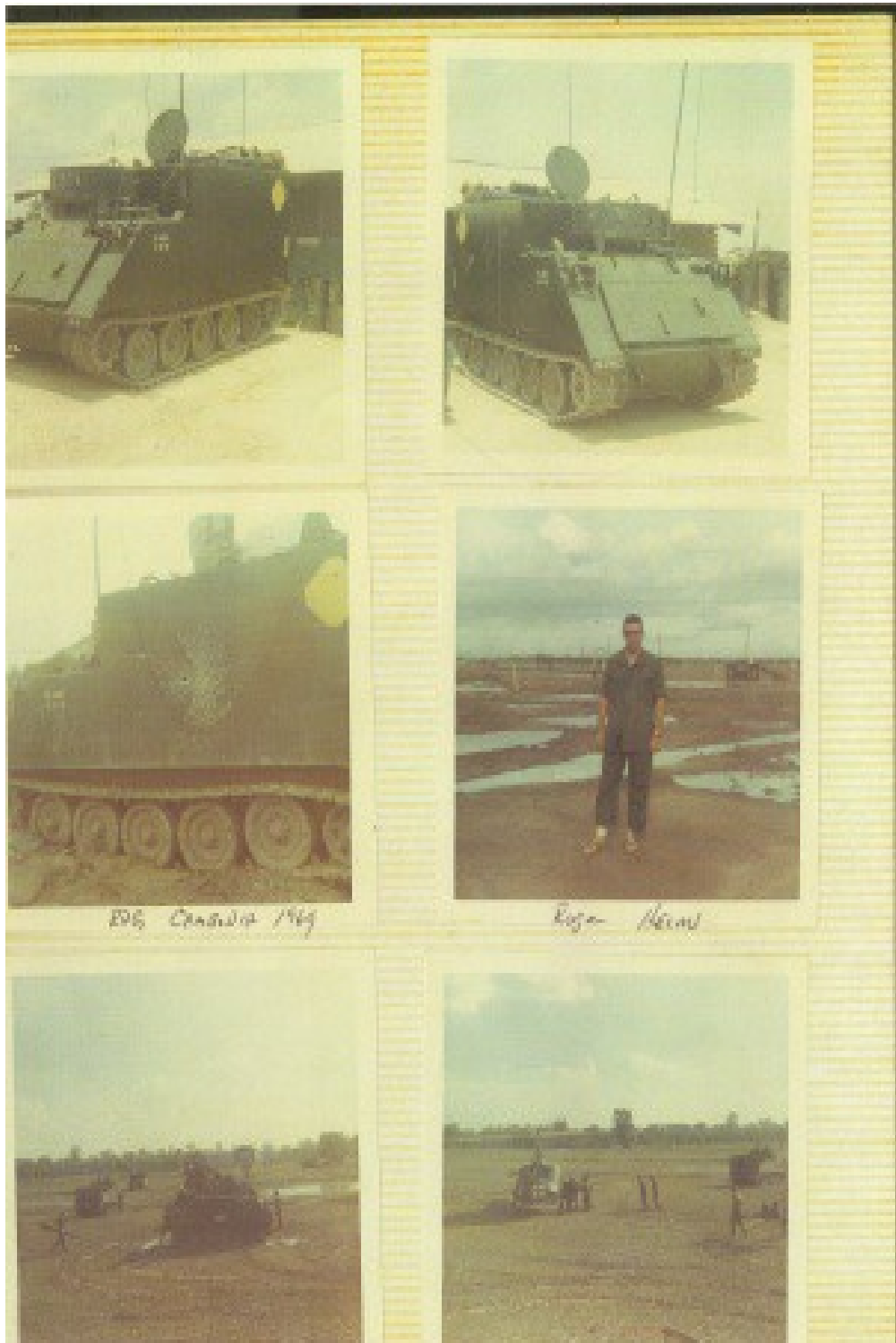
Sources said about 40,000 Allied soldiers now have been committed to campaigns inside Cambodia, which administration officials said are designed to destroy Communist base areas and the Communist nerve center for South Vietnam before the monsoon rains.

In the Fatchek sector of Cambodia, American troops

Please see Ailes/page 13













## Aerial Resupply Crucial in Jungle

By SP4 HENRY G. ZUKOWSKI

CU CHI - Aerial resupply has been crucial to the fighting man of the 25th Division since he arrived in Vietnam five years ago.

The task of resupplying grunts in hard-to-reach places is the responsibility of men like those in Delta Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry.

Thick jungle vegetation, however, has placed severe limitations on the use of ground transportation in the resupply mission. Consequently, with the assistance of Chinook from Cu Chi base camp, the majority of supplies are flown to men in the field.

Food, water, ammunition, clothing, and - probably most important to the man in the field - mail is carried by nets attached to the undersides

of Chinooks, thus saving valuable time and space. Personnel are transported inside the chopper. The entire operation is fast and dependable.

Staff Sergeant Gilbert Paris, of Owensboro, Ky., the man in charge of the Triple Deuce resupply mission, explained that because of the thick jungle in Hau Nghia Province, it would be impossible to resupply the men by convoy.

"Roads which are available for transporting supplies simply cannot be swept for enemy mines and booby traps every day," he said.

Specialist 5 Jerry Dyers, of Troy, Miss., who prepares all equipment before pick-up added, "We can air-lift more supplies by Chinook faster and with more effectiveness than we ever could transport with tracks."



**DASH** - A trooper from the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry dashes for a Chinook resupply chopper which is on its way to his company's night laager position near Cu Chi.





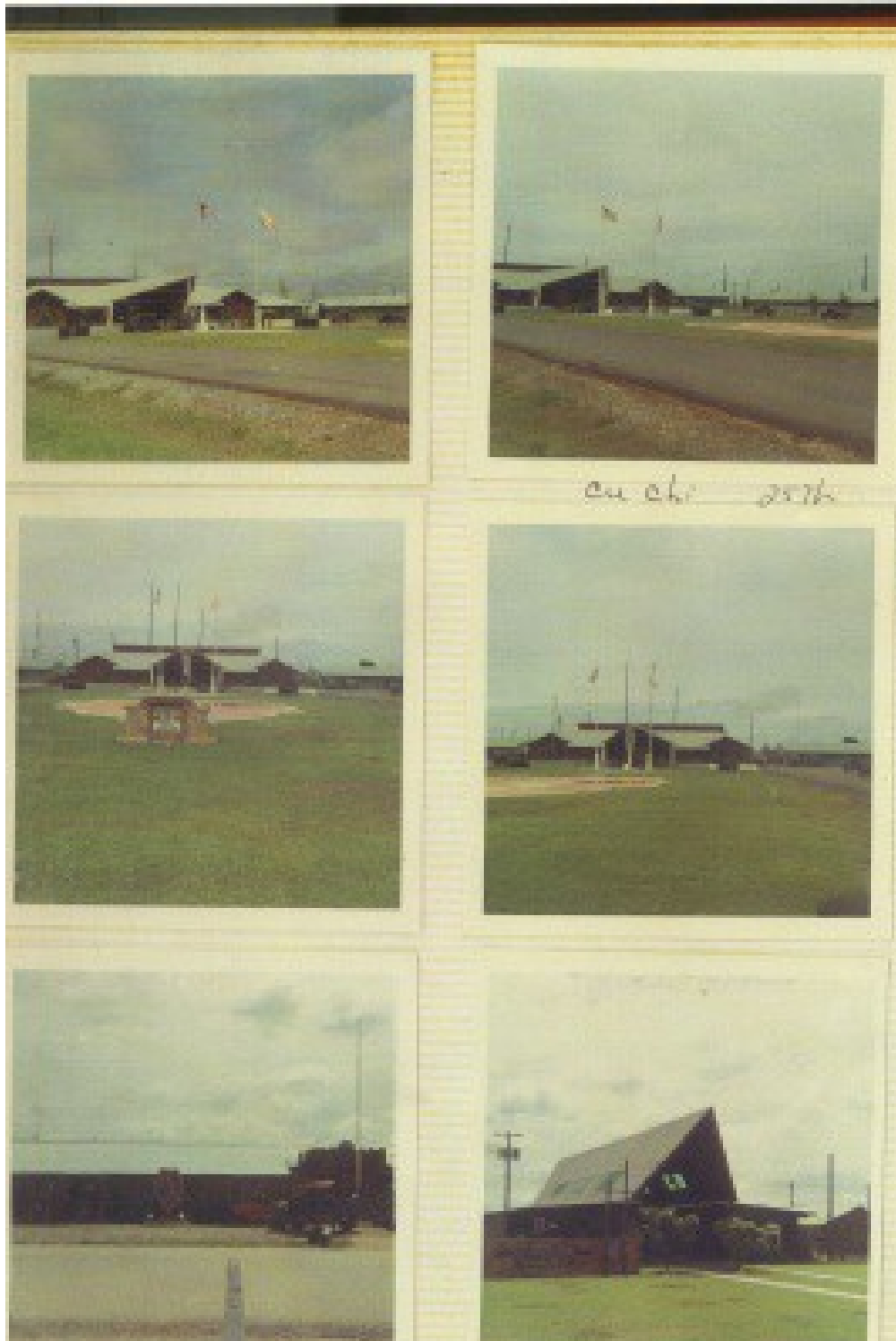
TRACK PROTECTION - Members of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, set up an RPG screen in front of their carrier as added protection from possible incoming rounds.



SAND BAGGING - Members of the mortar platoon of Triple Deuce fill sand bags as they build a blast wall for their 81mm mortar track.







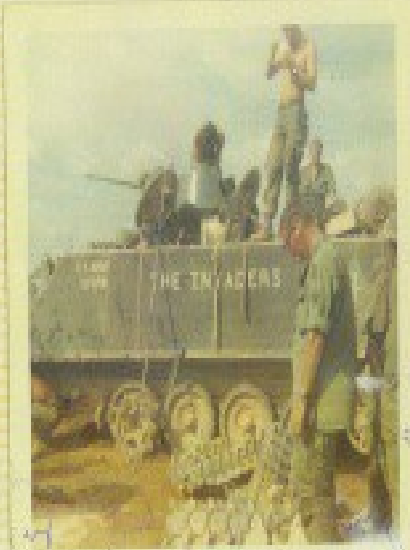





western union
Telegram

V581A CST MAR 31 70 NSA127 AA072  
 NS A WA060 HL XY GOVT POB 12 EXTRA FAX WASHINGTON  
 DO-31 306A EST  
 MRS SONORA E HELMS, DONT PHONE CHECK OLY CHGS ABOVE 75 CTS  
 REPORT DELIVERY  
 3700 WAKEFOREST HOU  
 THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR  
 HUSBAND, SPECIALIST ROGER L HELMS WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED IN  
 ACTION IN VIETNAM ON 30 MARCH 1970 WHILE ON A MILITARY VEHICLE  
 ON A COMBAT OPERATION WHEN A MINE DETONATED. HE RECEIVED A  
 BLUNT TRAUMA TO BOTH EARS. THERE IS NO PERMANENT HEARING LOSS.  
 HE WAS TREATED AND RETURNED TO DUTY. SINCE HE IS NOT REPEAT  
 NOT SERIOUSLY WOUNDED NO FURTHER REPORTS WILL BE FURNISHED  
 KENNETH G VICKHAM MAJOR GENERAL USA 0090-88/89 THE ADJUTANT  
 GENERAL DEPT OF THE ARMY WASHINGTON DC  
 (600).

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