

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346)					PAGE NO. 1	NO OF PAGES 1
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION S-3, 9th Avn Bn APO SF 96370		LOCATION DONG TAM, RVN		PERIOD COVERED		
				FROM	TO	
				HOUR DATE	HOUR DATE	
				0001 6 Mar 69	2400	6 Mar 69
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS	
	IN	OUT				
1	0001		JOURNAL OPENED.		ES	
2	0650		Relieved by Sp/4 Tucker.		ES	
3	1730		Reported for duty as S-3 CQ.		ES	
4	1830		Entered DISCOM's Net., and Commo check.		ES	
5	2200		Received B Co IO report.		ES	
6	2250		Received A Co IO report.		ES	
7	2255		Combined A&B Co IO reports.	Called results to ACT. (Sfc Niesen)	ES	
8	2308		Red Alert: Rockets impacting in heliport area.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
9	2400		Received message from DISCOM: Alert status GREY effective 2400	Notified all Companies.	ES	
SUMMARY			During the reporting period the Battalion supported the Division operations; flying 378 Sorties, 133hrs., carrying 332 passengers and 5 tons of cargo. Gunships expended 30,885 rounds of ammo, destroying 3 structures, and 12 sampans, also killing 25 VC. Dong Tam heliport was attacked once with rockets during the period. Results: 3 WIA from D 3/5, 3 LOH's (2 major 1 minor) 3 Cobra's (All major), 1 UH-1H (major): all from D 3/5. 2 9th Avn Bn vehicles were damaged.		JP	
			<i>John Phillips</i> Maj Phillips 9th Avn Bn S-3			
	2400		JOURNAL CLOSED.		ES	
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY Smith, Biddy M. Sp/4				SIGNATURE <i>Buddy M Smith</i>		

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DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG <small>(AR 220-346)</small>					PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES		
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION S-3, 9th Avn Bn APO SF 96370			LOCATION DONG TAM, RVN		PERIOD COVERED			
					FROM		TO	
					HOUR	DATE	HOUR	DATE
					0001	23 Feb 69	2400	23 Feb 69
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS			
	IN	OUT						
1	0001		JOURNAL OPENED.		ES			
2	0200		Red Alert: C pad receiving 82mm mortars, and unknown size rockets. No personnel MIA or KIA. 10 A/C damaged: (minor-flyable) tail numbers 761, 737, 256, 504. (minor-down 1 day) tail numbers 823, 762, 223. (major-down 3-4 days) # 768. (3-5 days) # 783. (7-10 days) # 172.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
3	0300		Received report: Reliable POL burning.		ES			
4	0330		1 Cobra (# 788) received minor damage.		ES			
5	0332		Negative damage at same resupply.		ES			
6	0715		Received message from DISCOM: Alert status YELLOW effective 0715hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
7	0800		Departed DISCOM's Net.		ES			
8	0850		Relieved by Sp/5 Libby.		ES			
9	1050		Red Alert: Heliport receiving incoming mortar rounds.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
10	1127		Message from DISCOM: Alert status GREY effective 1127hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
11	1139		Red alert: Heliport receiving incoming mortar rounds.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
12	1224		Message from Reliable: Alert status GREY effective 1224hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
13	1600		Received message of impending attack from DISCOM.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
14	1635		Received message from G-3: Alert status YELLOW effective 1600hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
15	1700		Reported for duty as S-3 CQ		ES			
16	1900		Entered DISCOM's Net., and Comm check.		ES			
17	1910		Red Alert: C pad receiving mortar rounds.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
18	2055		Message from DISCOM: Alert status YELLOW effective 2055hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
19	2302		Red Alert: C pad receiving mortar rounds.	Notified all Co's	ES			
20	2326		Message from DISCOM: Alert status YELLOW effective 2326hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES			
21	2350		Received A Co IO report.		ES			
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY Smith, Buddy M. Sp/4					SIGNATURE <i>Buddy M. Smith</i>			

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Feb 23 1969

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG
(AR 220-346)

PAGE NO. 2 NO OF PAGES 2

ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION S-3, 9th Avn Bn APO SF 96370	LOCATION DONG TAM, RVN	PERIOD COVERED FROM TO
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0300
0330
037
5
7
8
9
10

ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, WEATHERS, COMMENTS	OTHER
	IN	OUT		
22	2357		Received B Co IO report.	
23	2359		Combined A&B Co IO reports.	Called results to ACT. (Sp5 Matney) BS
SUMMARY			During the reporting period the Battalion supported the Division operations: flying 384 Sorties, 152hrs., carrying 516 passengers, and 3 tons of cargo. Gunships expended 9,237 rounds of ammo. Dong Tam Base was mortared 5 times during the period, and rockets were received in 3 of the attacks. 27 A/C were hit 14 major damage, 13 minor damage, to include: (11) OH-6A, 6 major 5 minor. (11) UH-1H, 4 major, 7 minor. (5) AH-1G, 4 major, 1 minor.	
			<i>Buddy M. Smith</i> Maj Phillips 9th Avn Bn S-3	
	2400		JOURNAL CLOSED.	BS

TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY Smith, Buddy M. Sp/4	SIGNATURE <i>Buddy M. Smith</i>
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DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-546)				PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION Battalion S-3 9th Avn. Bn. 9th Inf. Div.		LOCATION Camp Martin Co., RVN YT 175980 APO SF 94970		PERIOD COVERED	
				FROM HOUR DATE	TO HOUR DATE
				1.	1.
ITEM NO.	TIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS	
1.	0001	Journal Opened.			JFB
2.	0325	A-1 needs CH-53 pilot to be sent to Dong Tay.			JFB
3.	0205	Received Red Rocket message from A-1.	Notified S-1		JFB
4.	0530	Red Rocket message: Davenport down his 31 st. game, despite Mickey Mantle's 595th home run.			JFB
5.	1230	Aircraft 246 is down at south side of Saigon city river, near the docks of Saigon. MS 8600. Pilot reports no injuries, and waiting for maintenance.			CE
6.	1310	Weather: 1201-2201, isolated thunder storms, 300 ft. overcast, 1/2 vis. winds 15 gusty - to 30 knots.			CE
7.	1630	Aircraft 246 recovered by 737.			CE
8.	1750	Aircraft accident: Lightning struck aircraft 003 which caused some of the rockets, which struck 722. Opt. Robinson went to the scene, helping injured crew members to a near by 3/4 ton truck. Operations called the dispensary for an ambulance. Also tried to contact 9th Inf. but unsuccessful. After 20 min called for an additional water truck. The crash happened on the scene immediately. Injured in the accident were Lt. Turner, Sp4 Gebhart, and Sp4 Blain. Lt. Turner was killed. Amount of damage not known at this time. All persons recovered, were notified.			JFB
9.	1850	Opt. Robinson called to inform Lt. Turner, has no reports to submit on the accident.			JFB
10.	2100	Journal Closed.			JFB
		Summary: During the reporting period the Base camp received incoming rockets with negative damage to bn. Lightning struck aircraft resulting in injury to three crewmembers and death to one additional crew member (Lt. Gavin). 9th Inf. Div. Court ops.			
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY				SIGNATURE	
JOHN B. SHOEMAKER, MAJ, CE				John B. Shoemaker	

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Feb was

43W/S2 1LT Douglas James Gavin

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG				PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION		LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED	
Entrenchment S-3 9th Art. Bn. 9th Inf. Div.		Camp Martin Com, RVN IT 174980 APO SF 96370		FROM TO HOUR DATE HOUR DATE	
				0001 21 Sep. 68 2400 21 Sep.	
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS
	IN	OUT			
1.	0901		Journal Closed.		JFB
2.	0925		A-1 needs CH-53 helo to be sent to Dong Tam.		JFB
3.	0905		Received Red Rocket message from A-1.	Notified S-1	JFB
4.	0930		Red Rocket message: Downer's pilot was hit 31 st. game, despite Mickey Mantle's 595th home run.		JFB
5.	1230		Aircraft 246 is down at south side of Saigon city river, near the docks of Saigon. NB 830. Pilot reports no injuries, and waiting for assistance.		DE
6.	1510		Weather: 1401-2200, isolated thunder storms, 300 ft. overcast, 1/2 vis. winds 15 gusty to 30 knots.		DE
7.	1630		Aircraft 246 recovered by 727.		DE
8.	1750		Aircraft accident: Lightning struck aircraft C-1 which fired some of the rockets, which struck 422. Capt. Johnson went to the scene, helping a pair of crew members to a car by 3/4 ton truck. Specialists called to investigate. Air ambulance. Also tried to contact 9th Inf. Div. unsuccessfully. A-1's pilot reports to S-1 an additional white truck. The crash took place on the ground in a field. Debris of in the accident were Mr. Traver, Sgt. Beshart, and Sgt. Smith. In addition, the pilot reports of injuries and uniforms at this time. All weapons accounted for and undamaged.		JFB
9.	1850		Capt. Johnson called to inform it. Status. Has no reports to submit on the accident.		JFB
10.	2400		Journal Closed.		JFB
			Summary: During the reporting period the Base camp received incoming rockets with negative damage to bn. Lightning struck aircraft resulting in injury to three crewmembers and death to one additional crew member (A-1's pilot). One of our div. aircraft was down.		

TYPE NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY

JOHN B. SHOEMAKER, MAJ, DE

SIGNATURE

John B. Shoemaker

DA FORM 1594

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JFB WGS

FORM 1594

'I should have gone on R & R'

Jump out? Heck of a way to run an airline, buddy!

By SP5 Michael Renshaw
Staff Writer

(EDITOR'S NOTE: O. R. writer Mike Renshaw was recently invited to witness the effects of an artillery mission from a bird's eye vantage point in the chopper of Lieutenant Colonel Allan S. Flynn, commander of the 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry. Enroute to the impact area, the chopper made an unscheduled stop. This is his account of the trip.)

BINH PHUOC—It all started off so fine.

Some of our men had tripped booby traps in an area of operations near here. Officials decided to pull out the troops and plaster the area with artillery before the sweep operation was resumed.

Lieutenant Colonel Flynn asked me if I wanted to go along to watch the artillery in action. Of course I did.

My difficulties began on the way to the chopper.

"Hey, PIO!" (That's me.) I turned to face a mustachioed soldier holding a portable field radio, "I'm the colonel's RTO (radio-telephone operator)," he explained. "Since you're going up in the chopper there won't be room for me so you'll have to be the RTO."

I muttered my thanks and

took the radio, all the time remembering the trouble I always had making even a local call back in the States.

Specialist 4 David E. Michaels of Dracut, Mass., the RTO for the battalion operations officer, Captain Frank J. Phelan of Rensselaer, N.Y., assured me I wouldn't have to operate it.

"Just carry it to the chopper and back," he said. "If you run into any problems, I'll help you out." (Bless you.)

Michaels and I climbed on the chopper after the three officers.

(Phelan was operating his own radio so Michaels took the headset of mine.)

The rotor of the Jayhawk started batting the air and slowly the craft began to lift off. We had only gone about 15 meters when we stopped our forward motion. We just hovered.

We were over what I thought was a simple green rice paddy pock-marked with water holes.

Through the clatter of the rotor the colonel was speaking with the pilot and excitedly pointing to something on the ground.

Above the noise, the door gunner, looking directly at me, shouted, "JUMP."

I just smiled. (Same to you, Pal.)

Then First Lieutenant Robert A. Gibson, the artillery liaison officer for the 2d Battalion, 4th Artillery, echoed the command. "JUMP."

By this time I figured something must be wrong with the chopper. We couldn't have been more than 20 feet from the ground but when I looked down I was sure we could slip the Empire State Building underneath us with feet to spare.

I jumped.

A syrupy pool of mud and water broke my fall. It also broke a tooth, three pencils and a newly-formed habit of jumping from helicopters in the air.

As I waded through the mud I saw the other passengers doing the airborne bit. Colonel Flynn and all.

To add insult to injury, when all the passengers were out, the chopper flew away.

I made my way to the rest of the group on dry land just in

time to hear Colonel Flynn say, "Take it easy. We're in a mine field."

The mines had been planted by ARVN soldiers as part of the defenses for Binh Phuoc district headquarters.

I followed Lieutenant Gibson out of the mine field and we got back to the chopper pad just in time to greet our chopper as it landed.

No one had any injuries to speak of but no deodorant in the world would take the worry out of being close to me and Michaels (who had also selected a mud hole for his LZ).

One is always told, "If a horse throws you, get right back on." So we got right back on the chopper, took off without trouble and witnessed the artillery firing.

Back on the ground I asked one of the pilots, "Why the sky-diving antics?"

"To put it simply, the rotor was losing RPMs and we were slowly going down," he explained breezily.

"But you people should never have jumped."

2. CAMPAIGN DESIGNATIONS IN VIETNAM - The following campaign designations for service in Vietnam have been announced by the Department of the Army:

<u>Name of Campaign</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>
1st - Vietnam Advisory Campaign	15 Mar 62 - 7 Mar 65
2nd - Vietnam Defense Campaign	8 Mar 65 - 24 Dec 65
3rd - Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase I	25 Dec 65 - 30 Jan 66
4th - Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase II	1 Jul 66 - 31 May 67
5th - Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase III	1 Jun 67 - 29 Jan 68
6th - Tet Counteroffensive	30 Jan 68 - 1 Apr 68
7th - Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase IV	2 Apr 68 - 30 Jun 68
8th - Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase V	1 Jul 68 - 1 Nov 68
9th - Unnamed	1 Nov 68 - To be determined (AVDE-AGX, Dong Tam 2657)

"Old Reliable," designation carried by U.S. 9th Infantry Division since World War II and now in Vietnam, made official by DA for famed fighting unit.

For Valor and Aid

7 JUL 1968

Viets Decorate 'Old Reliables'

S&S Vietnam Bureau

DONG TAM, Vietnam — The 9th Inf. Div. received the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palms, the highest unit valor award, and the Civic Action Honor Medal with Oak Leaf Saturday as many of the "Old Reliables" prepared to leave the country.

The 9th, the only U.S. division to receive a second Gallantry Cross with Palms, was decorated for its "aggressive combat operations" from January

through July 1968 when it killed 12,458 Communists.

The citation for the Civic Action Medal recorded the Old Reliables' programs to "provide medical support, educational assistance, psychological operations, aid to war victims and an active program to repair and construct public facilities."

The 9th Div. also trained 158 public health personnel, gave medical aid to 708,588 persons, reconstructed and equipped 356 schools, and taught English to

many Vietnamese students.

The division also provided active assistance in repairing 447 bridges, 1,107 kilometers of roads, 27 pagodas, and in repairing and defending National Road 4, which connects Delta provinces to Saigon. The division came to Vietnam in 1966.

The awards were presented by Gen. Cao Van Vien, chairman of the Vietnamese armed forces Joint General Staff, and received by 9th Div. commander Maj. Gen. Harris W. Hollis.

R 081200Z JUL 69
 FM CG 2ND BRIGADE, 9TH INFANTRY DIV.
 TO CG 9TH AVIATION BATTALION
 INFO CG 9TH INF DIV DONG TAM RVN
 UNCLAS F O U O

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF 2ND BRIGADE TACTICAL OPERATIONS
 2ND BRIGADE TACTICAL OPERATIONS HAVE TERMINATED, AND WITH THEM A LARGE MEASURE OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE 9TH AVIATION BATTALION. ALL RIVER RAIDERS SHARE YOUR PRIDE IN THE VALOR AND SKILL OF THE JAYHAWK AVIATORS AND CREW MEMBERS WHO HAVE FLOWN OUR OPERATIONAL AND RESUPPLY MISSIONS, AND IN THE STINGRAYS WHO HAVE PROVIDED THE ESSENTIAL AIR COVER WHICH HAS MADE OUR RIVERINE OPERATIONS POSSIBLE. MY PARTICULAR PERSONAL APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION GO TO THE OUTSTANDINGLY DESIGNATED OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, CREW CHIEFS AND OWNERS, THE CREWS OF THE COMMAND AND CONTROL AIRCRAFT. ALL RECEIVE A HEARTY "WELL DONE". SIGNED RAINVILLE.

R 081200Z JULY 69
 FM CG 2D BDE 9TH INF DIV
 TO CG TROOP D, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY
 INFO CG 9TH INF DIV DONG TAM RVN CG 9TH AVIATION BATTALION
 UNCLAS F O U O

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF 2ND BRIGADE TACTICAL OPERATIONS
 2ND BRIGADE TACTICAL OPERATIONS HAVE TERMINATED, AND WITH THEM THE ACTIVE OPERATIONAL ASSOCIATION WHICH WE HAVE SHARED WITH DELTA TROOP, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY. BUT NO RIVER RAIDER WILL EVER FORGET THE VALOR AND SKILL OF LIGHTHORSE, THE WAR WAGONS, GUNSAVERS AND DOUGHBOTS. YOURS HAS BEEN THE MEASURE OF SUPPORT WHICH HAS MEANT SUCCESS IN MANY BATTLES, AND WHICH HAS ALWAYS MADE EASIER THE JOB OF THE INFANTRYMAN ON THE GROUND. YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS ARE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE RECORD, AND ONE IN WHICH WE SHARE YOUR PRIDE. YOU COULDN'T HAVE "TRIED HARDER", OR SUCCEEDED MORE. SIGNED RAINVILLE.

File 2-05
copy
11 APR 69

Presidential Unit Citation

The 9th Aviation Battalion distinguished itself during the period of 25 January 1969 through 25 March 1969 by consistent extraordinary heroism and valor while under constant hostile fire. Dong Tam base endured 23 mortar/rocket attacks during this period causing damage to 75 aircraft. In spite of this heavy volume of fire which caused aircraft damage, personnel injuries and reduced available maintenance time, the battalion actually increased its flying hours, availability and operational successes. Repeated acts of heroism by Commanders, pilots, crews, maintenance, operations, crash rescue, tower and air traffic control personnel became common. During attacks, pilots and crews raced to standby counter mortar aircraft to accomplish their missions. Maintenance personnel on the airfield and interior guard personnel suffered through attacks without the benefit of covered positions. Fires were numerous and attacked immediately by personnel on the spot and damage assessment teams. Overall coordination and control of activities during the attacks was exemplary. In addition to scheduled maintenance, combat damage was repaired through the night and following days. No mission days were lost to the division due to combat damage.

PROPOSED CITATION

BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 203, AR 672-5-1, THE MERITORIOUS UNIT COMBAT AWARD, FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER, IS AWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED UNITS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE DURING THE PERIODS INDICATED:

THE 9TH AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT) AND ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 9TH AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT)
(31 JANUARY 1969 - 31 JULY 1969)
COMPANY A, 9TH AVIATION BATTALION (31 JANUARY 1969 - 31 JULY 1969)
COMPANY B, 9TH AVIATION BATTALION (31 JANUARY 1969 - 31 JULY 1969)
COMPANY B, 709TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION (31 JANUARY 1969 - 31 JULY 1969)
TROOP D, 3RD SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY (17 FEBRUARY 1969 - 31 JULY 1969)
361ST AVIATION DETACHMENT (DIVISIONAL) (31 JANUARY 1969 - 31 JULY 1969)

THE CITATION READS AS FOLLOWS:

THE 9TH AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT) AND ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FROM 31 JANUARY 1969 TO 31 JULY 1969. THE 9TH AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT) HAS PROVIDED DIRECT AVIATION SUPPORT TO THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION OPERATING THREE AIRFIELDS, RELIABLE ARMY AIRFIELD, TAN AN ARMY AIRFIELD, AND DONG TAM HELIPORT, UNDER THE MOST ADVERSE OF CONDITIONS IN THE IV CORPS TACTICAL ZONE. DURING THESE CRITICAL TIMES IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, THE PILOTS OF THE 9TH AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT) DEMONSTRATED INDOMITABLE COURAGE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY, FLYING MORE THAN 72,000 SORTIES FROM THE PULVIN OF REEDS TO THE MOUTHS OF THE MEKONG, AND FROM SACHO TO THE TIP OF THE DELTA. MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND OF THE VIET CONG INSURGENTS DEALT THE FATAL BLOW FROM THE GUNSHIPS OF THE 9TH AVIATION BATTALION. DURING OPERATIONS QUIET THANG, SPEEDY EXPRESS, TOAN THANG III, AND FLAMER. INNOVATORS OF AVIATION TACTICS, THEIR HUNTER-KILLER TEAMS NEVER SLEEPS THEIR ROTORS IN GLORY BEYOND ALL MEASURE TO STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE VIET CONG AND THEIR ALLIES. THE PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND PERSISTENCE OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 9TH AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT) ARE IN KEEP WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REPIBOT IDEAS OF CREDIT UPON THEM AND THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

9TH AVIATION BATTALION MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. During the months of February, March, and April, 9th Aviation Battalion suffered 58 aircraft damaged or destroyed at the hands of the enemy. Its personnel worked endless hours and in the face of mortar attacks to repair damages and to keep the aircraft mission ready. Not one mission was missed during this period as the battalion lived up to its motto of "Anytime - Anywhere."

2. Following the heavy fighting of the post-Tet period, 9th Aviation Battalion began to use night tactics to surprise the enemy and inflict heavy casualties on him. The "Night Hunter-Killer" and "Night Search" proved to be the best type of tactics incorporating aviation. With the combined use of gunships, flare ships, aircraft equipped with night observation devices or search lights and air to ground communication, the enemy was repeatedly surprised by the Argus-eyed aviators of the 9th Aviation Battalion while on night operations. The "Night Hunter-Killer" operations served to cut off the influx of supplies and fresh personnel to the enemy's depleted ranks.

3. The 361st Aviation Detachment operated two Army airfields at Dong Tam, the Reliable Airfield and the Dong Tam Heliport during this period. The men of the Detachment have provided expert air traffic control, have distributed 12,000 rockets; 500,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition; and 10,000 40mm grenades per month from their rearment point. They have refueled aircraft at an average of 40,000 gallons of JP4 per month.

4. During this time period the 9th Aviation Battalion was required to operate a third airfield at Tan An, Long An Province, under frequent enemy mortar attacks. An average of 500 take offs and landings per day occurred from the field in weather fair and foul. Although a prime target for the enemy, the men at the field valiantly withstood the enemy attacks and continued indfatigably to perform the multitudinous tasks involved in their mission.

5. Beginning with the new year, under Division G-3 and then under 9th Aviation Battalion, D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry has provided outstanding support of the Division, mainly in and around Kien Hoa Province. Reconnaissance-in-force missions using the OH-6A aircraft and the AH-1G (Cobra) have resulted in an enemy KIA of 753, 2,010 bunkers destroyed, and over 600 sampans destroyed. To D Troop should go a share of the credit for finding the elusive Viet Cong here in the Mekong Delta.

John DePko
JOHN DEPKO
1LT, Inf
Adjutant

LISTING OF UNITS ATTACHED

Part I. Units attached and recommended for award of Meritorious Unit Commendation.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Previous US Unit Decorations and Dates</u>
1. Co B, 709th Maint Bn	31 Jan 69-31 Jul 69	None
2. D Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 5th Cav	17 Feb 69-31 Jul 69	None
3. 361st Aviation Det (Div)	31 Jan 69-31 Jul 69	None

Part II. Units attached but not recommended for award of Meritorious Unit Commendation.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Previous US Unit Decorations and Dates</u>
None		None

John Depko

JOHN DEPKO
 1LT, Inf
 Adjutant

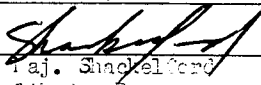

9TH AVIATION BATTALION LETTERS/MESSAGES OF APPRECIATION

R 081200Z JUL 69
 FM CO 2ND BRIGADE, 9TH INFANTRY DIV.
 TO CO 9TH AVIATION BATTALION
 INFO CG 9TH INF DIV DONG TAM RVN
 UNCLAS F O U O

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF 2ND BRIGADE TACTICAL OPERATIONS
 2ND BRIGADE TACTICAL OPERATIONS HAVE TERMINATED, AND WITH THEM A LARGE MEASURE OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE 9TH AVIATION BATTALION. ALL RIVER RAIDERS SHARE YOUR PRIDE IN THE VALOR AND SKILL OF THE JAYHAWK AVIATORS AND CREW MEMBERS WHO HAVE FLOWN OUR OPERATIONAL AND RESUPPLY MISSIONS, AND IN THE STINGRAYS WHO HAVE PROVIDED THE ESSENTIAL AIR COVER WHICH HAS MADE OUR RIVERINE OPERATIONS POSSIBLE. MY PARTICULAR PERSONAL APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION GO TO THE OUTSTANDINGLY DEDICATED OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, CREW CHIEFS AND GUNNERS, THE CREWS OF THE COMMAND AND CONTROL AIRCRAFT. ALL DESERVE A HEARTY "WELL DONE." SIGNED RAINVILLE.

R 081200Z JULY 69
 FM CO 2D BDE 9th INF DIV
 TO CO TROOP D, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY
 INFO CG 9TH INF DIV DONG TAM RVN
 CO 9TH AVIATION BATTALION

UNCLAS F O U O
 SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF 2ND BRIGADE TACTICAL OPERATIONS
 2ND BRIGADE TACTICAL OPERATIONS HAVE TERMINATED, AND WITH THEM THE ACTIVE OPERATIONAL ASSOCIATION WHICH WE HAVE SHARED WITH ONE TROOP, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY. BUT NO RIVER RAIDER WILL EVER FORGET THE VALOR AND SKILL OF LIGHTHORSE, THE WAR WAGONS, THE SARNS AND DOUGHOYS. YOURS HAS BEEN THE MEASURE OF SUPPORT WHICH HAS BRING SUCCESS IN MANY BATTLES, AND WHICH HAS ALWAYS MADE EASIER THE JOB OF THE INFANTRYMAN ON THE GROUND. YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS ARE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE RECORD, AND ONE IN WHICH WE SHARE YOUR PRIDE. YOU COULDN'T HAVE "TRIED HARDER", OR SUCCEEDED MORE. SIGNED RAINVILLE.

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346)						PAGE NO 1	NO. OF PAGES 1	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION 3-3 9th Avn Co 100 3rd St 1950			LOCATION DIA 3001		PERIOD COVERED			
					FROM		TO	
					HOUR	DATE	HOUR	DATE
			0001	12 Jan 59	2400	12 Jan 59		
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS
	IN	OUT						
1	0001		JOURNAL OPENED					BS
2		0600	Departed DIA 3001 lot.					BS
3	0700		Relieved by Sp 5 Johnson					BS
4	1130		Phone call from DIA 3001; ASD T. SWIFT'S call, effective 0700 hrs.					BS
5	1820		Reported for duty on 3-3 01					BS
6	1930		Entered DIA 3001 lot and garage area.					BS
7	1930		Relieved to prevent 3-3 01					BS
8	2025		Received report from 3-3 01					BS
9		2025	Consolidated 17 to 19 reports and reported results to 101 (Sp 101)					BS
10	2240		Electrical fire reported in B truck 2nd of the 5th; power had to be turned off until the fire was under control.				DJF	BS
11	2345		3-3 has not been informed of auxiliary power source for the burner, but had no radios are available (one WTR 16 on vehicle 11-2, and one 100 25 in Comm) to continue normal operations.				DJF	BS
12	2400		During the reporting period the Battalion supported the Division operations; flying 250 sorties, 90 hrs., and carrying 412 passengers. Gunships expended 3904 rounds of ammo.					WS
			 Maj. Shackelford 9th Avn Co 3-3					
	2400		JOURNAL CLOSED					BS
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY Smith, Buddy W. Sp 4						SIGNATURE 		

File 100

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346)						PAGE NO.	NO OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION S-3, 9th Avn Bn APO SF 96370			LOCATION DONG TAM, RVN		PERIOD COVERED			
					FROM		TO	
					HOUR	DATE	HOUR	DATE
				0001	31 Jan 69	2400	31 Jan 69	
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS			
	IN	OUT						
1	0001		JOURNAL OPENED.		BS			
2	0530		REPORT: Location; XS 111488, Incident; approx 3 (2.75, 10lb.) rockets hit friendly troops. Casualties; Approx 3 killed, and 17 wounded. The exact number is speculation due to casualties from contact. (C 2/39). Co B, 9th Avn Bn fired 3 short 2.75 rocket rounds. Events leading to occurrence: LFT expended once in the area, rearmed and returned. Unit requested fire on tree line 30-50 meters to the North. 1st run, LFT fired 8 pair of rockets at tree line. After each gun run contact was established with the ground commander, to determine if rounds were on target. Ground unit confirmed that rockets were on target. 2nd run-1st A/C fired 3 pair on target, which were on target. 2nd A/C fired 3 pair of which 3 rockets were short. NOTE: LFT had to make runs at 45 degree angle to target in order to engage, due to spread out friendly disposition. Unit Commander notified LFT that unit had been hit, and to stop firing. Weather: During 2nd suppression weather deteriorated to ceiling of 800 broken, ground fog, haze, and smoke. Visibility restricted LFT's last pass. Smoke from firing passes were used to identify target. Smoke drift caused sighting error, plus troop disposition (within 50 meters) contributed to the error.		BS			
3	0630		Departed DISCOM's Net.		BS			
4	0650		Relieved by Sfc Proctor.		BS			
5	1800		Reported for duty as S-3 CQ.		BS			
6	1830		Entered DISCOM's Net., and ran Commo check.		BS			
7	2000		Received Co B IO report.		BS			
8	2130		Received Co A IO report.		BS			
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY				SIGNATURE				

DA FORM 1594
1 NOV 62

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PPC-Japan
File waf

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346)						PAGE NO.	NO OF PAGES		
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION S-3, 9th Avn Bn APO SF 96370			LOCATION DONG TAM, RVN			PERIOD COVERED			
						FROM		TO	
						HOUR	DATE	HOUR	DATE
						0001	5 Feb 69	2400	5 Feb 69
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS				
	IN	OUT							
1	0001		JOURNAL OPENED.		BS				
2		0630	Departed DISCOM's Net.		BS				
3	0650		Relieved by Sfc Proctor.		BS				
4	1730		LOH departed DT for Muc Hoa, mission bridge recon; Pilot Burkhart, with 3 passengers.		BS				
5	1745		A/C South of Moc Hoa position reported working in vicinity of XS 075852 position.		BS				
6	1800		Reported for duty as S-3 CC.		BS				
7	1815		Position report was due; none recieved. ACT tried to make contact, unable to do so. Lt Clay notified at 1840 no contact with A/C. ACT contacted Delta center who started search and rescue operations. LNO ship diverted to last known location for search and rescue mission. Scrambled one more search and rescue ship to area of operations. Reports came in 2 of the crew were OK. WO Burkhart and Sgt Osteen were missing. The A/C had landed in the river which was app. 30' deep. Search and rescue continues.		BS				
8	1832		Entered DISCOM's Net., and ran Commo check.		BS				
9	2030		Recieved Co B IO report.		BS				
10	2150		Recieved Co A IO report.		BS				
11	2200		Combined A&B Co IO reports.	Called results to ACT. (Sfc Nissen)	BS				
SUMMARY			During the reporting period the Battalion supported the Division operations; flying 322 Sorties, 78hrs., and carrying 382 passengers. Gunships expended 2,331 rounds of ammo.		WS				
			<i>Kenny J. Kunstl, 1LT</i> for Maj Shackelford 9th Avn Bn S-3						
	2400		JOURNAL CLOSED.		BS				
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY						SIGNATURE			
Smith, Buddy M. Sp/4						<i>Buddy M. Smith</i>			

DA FORM 1594
1 NOV 62

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File 2011

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
 DATE 23 Feb 69
 ACTION TAKEN
 INITIALS
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DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG
 (AR 220-346)

PAGE NO. 2
 NO. OF PAGES 2

ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION		LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED			
S-3, 9th Avn Bn APO SF 96370		DONG TAM, RVN		FROM		TO	
				HOUR	DATE	HOUR	DATE
				0001	23 Feb 69	2400	23 Feb 69
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS		
	IN	OUT					
22	2357		Received B Co IO report.		BS		
23	2359		Combined A&B Co IO reports.	Called results to ACT. (Sp5 Matney)	BS		
SUMMARY			During the reporting period the Battalion supported the Division operations; flying 384 Sorties, 152hrs., carrying 516 passengers, and 3 tons of cargo. Gunships expended 9,237 rounds of ammo. Dong Tam Base was mortared 5 times during the period, and rockets were received in 3 of the attacks. 27 A/C were hit 14 major damage, 13 minor damage, to include: (11) OH-6A, 6 major 5 minor. (11) UH-1H, 4 major, 7 minor. (5) AH-1G, 4 major, 1 minor.		JP		
			<i>Buddy M. Smith</i> Maj, Phillips 9th Avn Bn S-3				
	2400		JOURNAL CLOSED.		BS		
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY			SIGNATURE				
Smith, Buddy M. Sp/4			<i>Buddy M. Smith</i>				

DA FORM 1594
 1 NOV 62

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FFC-Japan

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346)					PAGE NO. 1	NO. OF PAGES 2
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION S-3, 9th Avn Bn APO SF 96370		LOCATION DONG TAM, RVN		PERIOD COVERED		
				FROM	TO	
				HOUR	DATE	HOUR
				0001	23 Feb 69	2400
						23 Feb 69
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS	
	IN	OUT				
1	0001		JOURNAL OPENED.		ES	
2	0200		Red Alert: C pad receiving 82mm mortars, and unknown size rockets. No personal MIA or KIA. 10 A/C damaged: (minor-flyable) tail numbers 761, 737, 256, 504. (minor-down 1 day) tail numbers 823, 762, 223. (major-down 3-4 days) # 768. (3-5 days) # 783. (7-10 days) # 172.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
3	0300		Received report: Reliable POL burning.		ES	
4	0330		1 Cobra (# 788) received minor damage.		ES	
5	0332		Negative damage at ammo resupply.		ES	
6	0715		Received message from DISCOM: Alert status YELLOW effective 0715hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
7	0800		Departed DISCOM's Net.		ES	
8	0850		Relieved by Sp/5 Libby.		ES	
9	1050		Red Alert: Heliport receiving incoming mortar rounds.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
10	1127		Message from DISCOM: Alert status GREY effective 1127hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
11	1139		Red alert: Heliport receiving incoming mortar rounds.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
12	1224		Message from Reliable: Alert status GREY effective 1224hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
13	1600		Received message of impending attack from DISCOM.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
14	1635		Received message from G-3: Alert status YELLOW effective 1600hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
15	1700		Reported for duty as S-3 CQ		ES	
16	1900		Entered DISCOM's Net., and Commo check.		ES	
17	1910		Red Alert: C pad receiving mortar rounds.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
18	2055		Message from DISCOM: Alert status YELLOW effective 2055hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
19	2302		Red Alert: C pad receiving mortar rounds.	Notified all Co's	ES	
20	2326		Message from DISCOM: Alert status YELLOW effective 2326hrs.	Notified all Companies.	ES	
21	2350		Received A Co IO report.		ES	

TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY
Smith, Buddy M. Sp/4

SIGNATURE

Buddy M. Smith

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NOV 62

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PPC-1000
Feb 28

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 7/1st AIR CAVALRY SQUADRON
APO San Francisco 96347
CONFIDENTIAL

AVBAWY-A

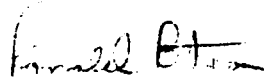
17 November 1971

SUBJECT: OR-LL

Commanding Officer
164th Combat Aviation Group
ATTN: AVBAWS-A
APO S.F. 96215

In compliance with AR 525-15 the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the 7/1st Air Cavalry Squadron for the period 1 May - 31 October is submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


RONALD B. TRAVIS
CPT, FA.
Asst. Adj.

CONFIDENTIAL

AVIATION
 SUBJECT: (OR-LL) (Cont'd)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

November 1971

E. Unit Strength as of 30 Oct 1971

(1) Military:

UNIT	OFFICERS		WO		EM		TOTAL	
	AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH	
HHT	24	28	7	10	181	175	212	213
A Troop	18	22	31	22	162	150	231	194
B Troop	18	26	31	16	182	136	231	178
C Troop	18	23	31	22	182	142	231	187
D Troop	5	7	0	0	127	55	132	62
C 3/17th	18	13	31	23	182	137	231	173
83rd Med	1	1	0	0	7	5	8	6
261st Radar	0	1	1	0	8	6	9	7
TOTAL	102	121	141	93	1051	806	1285	1020

(2) Civilians:

UNIT	TECH REPS		US CIV		VN CIV		3rd MAW	
	AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH	
HHT	0	0	0	0	24	24	0	0
A Troop	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
B Troop	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
C Troop	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
D Troop	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C 3/17th	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
83rd Med	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
261st Radar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	8	6	26	26	0	0

(3)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APR 1969

Presidential Unit Citation

The 90th Aviation Battalion distinguished itself during the period of 25 January 1969 through 25 March 1969 by consistent extraordinary heroism and valor while under constant hostile fire. Dong Tam base endured 23 mortar/rocket attacks during this period causing damage to 75 aircraft. In spite of this heavy volume of fire which caused aircraft damage, personnel injuries and reduced available maintenance time, the battalion actually increased its flying hours, availability and operational successes. Repeated acts of heroism by Commanders, pilots, crews, maintenance, operations, crash rescue, tower and air traffic control personnel became common. During attacks, pilots and crews raced to standby counter mortar aircraft to accomplish their missions. Maintenance personnel on the airfield and interior guard personnel suffered through attacks without the benefit of covered positions. Fires were numerous and attacked immediately by personnel on the spot and damage assessment teams. Overall coordination and control of activities during the attacks was exemplary. In addition to scheduled maintenance, combat damage was repaired through the night and following days. No mission days were lost to the division due to combat damage.