

October 6, 1968

Blackhawks Soar With 'Dollies'

By PFC John Uhlar

CAMP ENARI — "Welcome to Blackhawk, home of the 2/1 Cavalry," the high-flying red and white banner announced.

The troopers, sensing an increase in firebase activity, were noticeably anxious.

Such a festive occasion could be reserved only for VIP personnel, but who?

From the west came a chopper which settled down with a cushion-like landing. Four Red Cross, Doughnut Dollies, from Camp Enari, had come to spend the day with the men of the 4th Division's 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

"Shucks, we kind of knew it all the time," said one trooper casually, trying to maintain his cool.

After donning Army jungle fatigues, in place of the more traditional pinstriped blues, the girls were ready for the morning agenda.

After a briefing, given by Captain Curtis Fay of Caldwell, Kansas, a detailed sketch of the cavalrymen's mission along Highways 19 and 14 was explained.

Following the briefing, the girls were taken by Armored Personnel Carriers to the firing range where First Lieutenant William Rollins Jr. of Swampscott, Mass., gave what has to be the shortest AIT course on record — two hours.

Bravely, the young ladies hung on, their hands covering their ears, as the cavalrymen demonstrated every weapon in the armor arsenal, explaining usage and technique as they fired.

After lunch, the guests were taken on a Sunday afternoon drive around the Blackhawk area of operation.

Later, the girls got to visit a Montagnard village, Plei Bong Hiat.

At first, the Montagnard tribesmen were a bit surprised; it's not every day they see the American male counterpart. Soon, their bewildered stares melted into smiles of friendship. Before long, the girls were mothering the village tiny tots.

Jugs of rice wine were brought out of storage by the village chief and, in the true spirit of amity, the young ladies and village dignitaries sipped the drink.

"In my eleven months in Vietnam, I don't think I have spent a more rewarding day," said Patricia Juwatt. "I hope in our own little way we've helped give Blackhawk territory a bit of that homey touch."