

### News Of Our Servicemen



MELVIN J. NORRIS

### Gets Bronze Star

"For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force," Pfc. E-5 Melvin J. Norris has been awarded the Bronze Star for valorous action in the Republic of Viet Nam.

His wife received notification of the honor last week.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Norris, Route 1, Boone, Pfc. Norris is married to the former Linda Gaye Fox, an employee of IRC. He attended Appalachian High School.

The decoration was accompanied by a certificate signed by Maj. Gen. John C.F. Tillson III and Stanley R. Reson, Secretary of the Army.

The citation said Norris distinguished himself by heroic actions on June 15, 1967, while serving as a rifleman, Private Norris' company was pinned down by a heavy volume of enemy fire coming from three bunkers to the right front. Realizing that the fire being returned by the company was having little effect on the well fortified bunkers, Private Norris, with two other men, volunteered to move forward with several light anti-tank weapons and try to destroy the lead bunker.

The citation continues: "After receiving permission to move forward, he and the other two men, with complete disregard for their safety, crawled through intense enemy fire to a position where they could effectively fire the weapon and destroy the bunker.

"As a result the Viet Cong fire was slackened enough to allow the company to move forward and overrun the enemy positions. Through Private Norris' courage he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission....Private Norris' personal bravery and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, the 25th Infantry Division, and the United States Army."



PFC. LEO FRANK ALDRIDGE

### Takes Part In Big Viet Nam Operation

Army Private First Class Leo Frank Aldridge, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Clubs Aldridge of Route 1, Banner Elk, is stationed in Plave Vlineh, South Vietnam.

Pfc. Aldridge has been in service since Aug. 23, 1966. He completed eight weeks basic training at Ft. Bragg and eight weeks advanced individual training at Ft. Eustis, Va. He has been in Vietnam since January.

His parents have received a report that their son is participating in "Operation Junction City", the largest military operation to date in Vietnam.

The operation was launched on the theory that national Viet Cong political and military headquarters might be located in the area along the Cambodian Border.

The finding of the largest enemy encampments in the war tend to support the theory. Meeting little VC resistance, the operation has been successful in the confiscation of large quantities of food and arms. Pfc. Aldridge is a rifleman in Company B, 1st Supply and Transport Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division.

### Sgt. Hodges Given Decoration

U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Russell G. Hodges, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hodges of Valle Crucis, N. C., has been decorated with the Bronze Star Medal at Shaw AFB, S.C., for his meritorious service while engaged in military operations against Viet Cong forces.

Sergeant Hodges was cited for his performance as an administrative supervisor at Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam.

He is now at Shaw with the Tactical Air Command which provides combat reconnaissance, aerial firepower and assault airlift for U.S. Army forces.

His wife, Florence, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Smith of Rt. 1, Hampton, Tenn.

### Received First Air Force Assignment

Airman Donald W. Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dallas P. Richardson of Rt. 1, Vilas, N. C., has received his first U.S. Air Force duty assignment after completing basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex.

He has been assigned to Antigo Air Force Station, Wis., for training and duty as an administrative specialist. He

### Finishes At Ft. Knox

Private Roby G. Kaufman, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Kaufman, Route 1, Blowing Rock, N.C., completed reconnaissance training Aug. 18 at

becomes a member of the Air Defense Command which protects the U.S. against enemy air attack.

Airman Richardson is a 1966 graduate of Watauga High School, Boone.

the Army Armor Center, Ft. Knox, Ky.

He received eight weeks of training in the methods of scouting and patrolling, with emphasis on the operation of Army jeeps on rugged terrain. Instruction was also given in camouflage techniques, concealment in natural terrain and handling of weapons.

His wife, Patricia, lives at 820 Glendale Ave., South Charleston, W. Va.

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