

"SMOKEY" DOWN AT AIRFIELD: HIT IN LZ

On Chi, Vietnam.....269th Cbt Avn Bn IO...Low level flying and constant exposure to enemy fire is almost an everyday occurrence for the crew of "Smokey Baron", a specially equipped UH-1B Huey helicopter of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion. Capable of laying dense protective smoke screens in Landing or Pick-up Zones, the "Black Baron" craft proved its' effectiveness during operations in an area three to four miles north of Trung Lap.

Aircraft Commander Major Jack M. McKnight, Lockhart, South Carolina, and

Captain Matthew Kambrod, Port Chester, New York, (Pilot) took the craft out on what could be described as a "routine" mission; to place a smoke screen cover for a Chinook helicopter from the 242nd Assault Support Helicopter Company on an extraction mission. When "Smokey" arrived in the area, an emergency call for a medical evacuation was received. Major McKnight called for gunship cover, and voluntarily took the craft in to pick up the two seriously wounded 25th Infantry Division soldiers. "Stinger" gunships from the 116th Assault Helicopter Company began receiving intense automatic weapons fire. The smoke ship came in at low level, laid a heavy smoke screen in a circular pattern covering the wounded men went in behind the smoke made a pick up, and smoked their way out of the hot Pick-up Zone. The injured men were flown to the 12th Medical Evacuation Hospital at Cu Chi.

The 242nd "Muleskinner" Chinook was ready to land and extract detainees. The 269th craft flew a smoke run around the area, enabling the Chinook to remain on the ground in the (Continued on page number 3)

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269TH CBT AVN BN RVN

IN MEMORY OF

CPT Billie T. Presson, 187th Aslt Hel Co.
killed in action 20 September 1967.

WOL James T. Donahue, 188th Aslt Hel Co.
killed in action 22 September 1967.

FOREVER

"Those we love truly never die,
Though year by year the sad memorial wreath,
A ring and flowers, types of life and death,
Are laid upon their graves.

For death the pure life saves,
And life all pure is love; and love can reach
From heaven to earth, and nobler lessons teach
Than those by mortals read.

Well blest is he who has a dear one dead;
A friend he has whose face will never change
A dear communion that will not grow strange;
The anchor of love is death."

Breast Plate Protects Black Ace

A "Bird Dog Pilot with the 21st Reconnaissance Airplane Company, Captain Charles Welsh of Portland, Oregon, was on a recon mission 15 miles north of Tay Ninh City when he received enemy sniper fire.

One of the sniper rounds smashed through the right side of the craft, hitting Captain Welsh's protective breast plate, but not injuring him.

The plate stopped the 30 caliber bullet



OCTOBER HERALD—Christina Kormanski reminds us that October has arrived. The 35-25-36 is a sophomore at Mary Washington College in Virginia.

SIX COMPANY BN CA FINDS "CHARLIE"

The 269th Combat Aviation Battalion conducted Combat Assaults along with three companies of the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion. The area of operations was three miles south west of Trang Bang.

The two flights of three companies each lifted the 1/27th and the 2/27th "Wolfhound" Infantry Battalions of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division into multiple Landing Zones to conduct a Massive search and destroy operation against known and suspected Viet Cong concentrations.

The six Assault Helicopter companies involved along with gunship teams from each of the respective units were: the 116th Hornets, the 187th "Blackhawks", the 188th "Blackwidows", and from the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion; the 128th "Tomahawks", the 162nd "Vultures" and the 173rd "Robinhoods".

The first flight of 30 slicks going into the LZ was delayed when a "Stinger" gunship from the 116th AHC encountered heavy automatic weapons fire during preping action. The craft sustained several hits, and was forced down in the area. Infantrymen on board the 1st lift were inserted to protect the downed crew. A slick from the "Hornet" Company commanded by CPT David Summerfeldt, Trenton, N.J. and piloted by WO Peter Bull, West Kingston, RI, flew in at low level, and extracted the crew. The ship was later destroyed. A second lift by the air armada also encountered heavy fire while approaching the LZ in the same area. Three more slicks were hit in the morning actions, one of which was forced down during the heavy action.

"Stinger" accounted for three enemy killed in the morning action while preping landing zone areas.

In the afternoon, the 116th "Hornets", and the 187th "Blackhawks" made a joint extraction of the ground elements. The two "Black Baron" companies inserted the 25th Infantry Division soldiers into an LZ near the Cambodian border. The first insertion of troops drew extremely heavy fire from the LZ. Several slicks took hits.

The 269th Combat Aviation Battalion smoke ship
(Continued on page no. 5)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1-Cut
4-Denude
9-Son of body
12-Mohammedan leader
13-Pertaining to tides
14-Before
15-Classified
17-Had a short sleep
19-Cupolas
21-Also
22-Allowance for waste
24-Sink in middle
26-Apothecary's weight
29-Renovate
31-Remuneration
33-Cravat
34-Hebrew month
35-Obscure
37-Things, in law
39-A continent (abbr.)
40-Footlike part
42-Hit lightly
44-Auxiliary verb
46-Waste metal
48-Existed
50-The sweetsop
51-Condensed moisture
53-Pastime
55-Buy back
58-Character
61-Native metal
62-Tapestry
64-Negative vote
65-Goddess of healing
66-Declare
67-Female sheep

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NEW VN VET'S BILL IS OK'D BY PRESIDENT

Commanders Digest Sep 67...President Johnson has signed legislation that extends the GI Bill to Vietnam veterans and increases educational and other benefits.

In August 31st White House ceremonies, the President signed the "Veterans Pension and Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967" which increases educational entitlements from \$100 to \$130 a month for single men, \$125 to \$155 for those with one dependent, \$150 to \$175 for those with two dependents, with \$10 monthly for each dependent over two.



The educational section of the law also includes lesser rates for part-time higher education and a provision allowing high school to be completed without losing credit earned for college.

The direct home loan mortgage level for VA loans when private lending is not available has been raised from \$17,500 to \$25,000.

A Vietnam veteran is defined as one having served at least 180 days on or after the Aug 5 Gulf of Tonkin incident or one discharged for a service-connected disability.

The cut-off date has yet to be determined. Either a Presidential proclamation or a concurrent Congressional resolution can terminate the benefits at some future date.

The law also increased all pensions for disabled veterans, widows and children.

WILDFLOWERS

BY PFC DANIEL M JENNINGS

Let us put aside our tasks for a moment, to ponder and admire the wildflowers. For we as men sometimes overlook the simple beauty which lies at our very feet, in a world grown suddenly small and complex. Yet they are everywhere for us to admire: and man, for all his knowledge and skill has not yet been able to approach the matchless beauty which they possess so casually. Too, the simplicity of their very existance is noteworthy for however harsh this earth may be, they appear, through the cracked sidewalks of harlem as on our vast praries: tenacious in their growth, and beautiful in their flowering, and somehow gracious as they turn, and wither and fall to dust.

BN CA FINDS... cont from page 2

"Smokey Baron II" flew in at low level to give a smoke screen cover for the incoming slicks. The ship took several hits and was forced to return to Cu Chi for repair.

Ground troops encountered stiff enemy resistance in the area almost immediately after insertion.

A "Blackhawk" slick commanded by WO Eric Mercer, Washington, D.C. and piloted by WO Jack Ruby, Paloalto, California, received hits in the engine compartment while inserting the ground troops in to the hot LZ. In route to the Pick-up Zone for the second lift, the AC called in an emergency stating he was going down. The flight leader, Major William F. Bauman, Lincoln, Nebraska, Commanding Officer of the 187th took his craft into the insecure area and rescued the crew. The ship was later extracted by a 242nd ASH Company Chinook. The Muleskinners led by LTC Paul Stansel, Columbus, Georgia, Commanding Officer of the 242nd ASH committed five Chinooks to the action. Sporadic small arms fire was reported during re-supply. Major Richard Auth, Aberdeen, Md, and his pilot CPT James T. Owens MEDEVACED a badly wounded 25th Infantry Division soldier to the 12th Evacuation Hospital at Cu Chi.

Air mission commander for the entire operation was LTC James H. Merryman Hot Springs, Arkansas, Commanding Officer of the 269th "Black Barons".

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