

# 176th Receives 21 Awards

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Several passes over the crash site revealed nothing, and the gunships temporarily left to provide cover for a ground patrol ambushed while attempting to secure the downed ship.

## Strobe

Hope dwindled when a second gunship search also failed, but one commander, WO1 Richard K. McLean (Miami), suddenly saw a flash of light.

"I thought it was just a muzzle flash," said WO1 McLean. "Then I realized it was actually a strobe light."

Far below on his back in the middle of a rice paddy lay WO1 Lent who had crawled from a hedgerow where the downed fliers were hidden 75 meters from the crash site. WO1 Lent flashed 1LT Bristow's strobe at the gunships.

## Fast Work

Hearing the conversation about the strobe, WO1 Bruce W. Shaffer (Washington),

and WO1 John M. Blair (Spokane) pilot and co-pilot of a slick volunteered to extract the crash victims.

"We quickly organized the three slicks and gunship team," said MAJ Metcalf, "and WO1 Shaffer began a high overhead approach."

As he descended through increasing enemy fire, MAJ Metcalf flew his slick like a gunship and followed WO1 Shaffer to land cover. WO1 Gary L. Williams (Phoenix, Ariz.) swooped in as MAJ Metcalf's wingman.

As WO1 Shaffer landed, WO1 Lent and SP4 Kettle hustled the other five survivors into the rescue ship. Lent then darted for the chopper amid a hail of bullets and SP4 Kettle followed.

"Rounds were hitting all around me," WO1 Lent said. "I thought I was a goner."

WO1 Shaffer lifted safely as gunships hovered nearby.

Two Silver Stars, 11 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and eight Air Medals with

"V" device were presented a week later.

WO1s Shaffer and Blair received the Silver Stars; MAJ Metcalf, WO1 Williams, WO1 McLean, WO1 Herman, and 1LT Bristow received the DFC.

## Winners

Other DFC winners were SP4 Robert O. Allison (St. Helens, Ore.); SP4 Antonio K. Taylor (New York City); 1LT James D. Horton (Troy, Pa.); WO1 Glen E. Goff (Knightstown, Ind.); WO1 Thomas C. Melin (Clyde Park, Mont.); and WO1 Philip S. Lee (Norfolk).

The Air Medal with "V" went to SP4 Steven R. Cundry (Springfield, Mo.); SP4 Phillip R. Varnum (La Crosse, Wis.); SP5 Lawrence J. Silva (San Leandro, Calif.); and SP4 Billy L. Parsons (Trona, Calif.).

Also, SP4 Richard C. Sear (Akron); SP4 Richard R. Conover (Levittown, N.Y.); and SP4 John C. Gruidl (Minneapolis); and SP4 Jerry L. Mitchell (Reading, Pa.) (16th IO).

## Nightclubs, FDC Don't Have a Lot in Common

By SP4 PAUL PALMER  
CHU LAI—A vast difference exists between the flashing life of a nightclub and that of an artillery center—one beams with cigaret smoke and the other brings smoke.

PFC John W. Sutton (Pittsburgh) assigned to the 1st Bn., 82d Arty. Fire Direction Control Center, knows both those lives.

A year ago, Sutton toured the eastern U.S. and a singer, guitarist, and organist in a three-man psychedelic-rock group called the Trifids.

"We got the name from a movie called 'Night of the Trifids,'" the 19-year-old said.

"One of the guys looked up the word and found it meant 'divided into three parts.' That seemed to fit, so we used it."

Since the group started in Pittsburgh four years ago, Sutton and his psych-rock combo have played in many major cities in the East and Midwest, including New York, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Louisville.

"Most often we played one-nighters in the greater Pittsburgh area," Sutton said. "But when we went on the

road, we booked into clubs for a week or two at a time.

"When you put almost \$12,000 in amplifiers, microphones, and psychedelic lighting equipment on the stage, you can't afford one-night stands on the road."

"In Pittsburgh, we worked five teen dance centers. Each held nearly a thousand teenagers."

"We put on our show there and backed up some well-known singers and groups like Brian Hyland, The Drifters, The Rolling Stones, The Animals, The Mamas and Papas, and The Beach Boys.

Sutton recently arrived in Vietnam and works as a chart operator in the 182 FDC which coordinates artillery fire for the battalion.

When his Army tour ends, back to that noisy nightclub life! (Americal IO)

## Fast Job Saves Girl's Life

By SP4 TONY SWINDELL  
LZ BRONCO—"We had only a few moments to start her breathing again, and we were cutting it pretty close."

CPT Milton Dorf (New York City) was explaining the exacting experience he, another doctor, and a medic went through recently at the 23d Med. Bn. Evac. Hosp. here.

A small girl was brought to the hospital with other Vietnamese civilians after a rocket attack on nearby Duc Pho village.

Suffering from multiple shrapnel wounds, the girl was treated and placed in a

ward to await transfer to a Chu Lai hospital. Suddenly she stopped breathing.

## Hidden

The medic, SP5 Jerry Cooper (Charlotte) was making routine rounds when he noticed the girl's chest still. He scooped her up and rushed to a treating room where CPT Dorf and CPT Louis Ellis (Philadelphia) waited.

"At first I couldn't understand what had happened to her," said Dr. Dorf. "Then, when we examined her, we found a small shrapnel wound in her chest which had been hidden by her shirt."



## Fernande

The obvious half of the husband-wife team, Robin and She, Fernande is a Gallic charmer who once modeled Dior fashions. "She" and her husband recently performed in the Chu Lai area where some adventurous Americal types discovered that Fernande answers fluently in French, English, Spanish, Finnish, and German. (Photo by CPT Cary Sklaras, Americal IO).

## Decorated for Some Gunship Mission

## Five Pilots Win DFC

CHU LAI—Five pilots of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for exceptional heroism in suppressing an enemy ground attack last Nov. 17.

Cited were WO1 Robert E. Thomas (Birmingham, Ala.), 1LT Robert R. Gamber Jr. (Philadelphia), 1LT Geoffrey J. Buckley (Alexandria, Va.), CW2 James R. Rawlings, and WO1 Eugene D. Nowak.

## Top Help

The five gunship pilots were called to action when LZ Snoopy and a nearby South Vietnamese Army in-

stallation came under fierce enemy rocket and mortar fire and a ground attack.

The pilots flew through heavy rain and darkness, quickly pinpointed hostile positions on arrival, and engaged a large VC force.

## Beaten

Spotting an enemy mortar emplacement, the gunships made repeated attacks on the position but were repelled by intense hostile fire. On the fourth try, the position was destroyed.

In the continuing engagement, the five pilots placed suppressive fire on the advancing enemy force and inflicted numerous casualties.

The gunships remained in the area for over 3½ hours until the attack was crushed. (Americal IO)

## Milestone for 1/82

CHU LAI—An eight-inch gun section, headed by SGT William Stoneman, fired the 100,000th round in Vietnam for the 1st Bn., 82d Arty. in ceremonies recently at D Btry.

The same piece which fired the 100,000th round had been used to fire first when the 1/82 was reactivated last year at Ft. Lewis, Wash. (Americal IO)