



Vol. 2, No. 8

Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam

April 29, 1966

Medal Of Honor To PFC Olive

SAIGON, (USARV-IO)—President Lyndon B. Johnson last week awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to a 19-year-old Negro soldier of the 173rd Airborne Brigade for "conspicuous gallantry" in Vietnam.

The award was made to PFC Milton B. Olive III, a member of Co. B, 2nd/503rd Inf. The medal was presented to the soldier's father in ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

Private First Class Olive was killed on Oct. 22, 1965 when he leaped on a Viet Cong grenade and smothered the blast with his body. His action is credited with saving the lives of four companions.

Olive is the third person, and the first Negro, to win the Nation's highest award in Vietnam. The first was Capt. Roger H.C. Donlon, a Special Forces advisor, the second Sgt. Larry S. Pierce, also of the 173rd Abn. Bde.

Donlon received the award for gallantry in the defense of the Nam Dong Special Forces in July, 1964. Pierce was decorated posthumously for shielding his squad from the blast of an enemy mine.

Olive's father, stepmother and 20 other relatives were flown from Chicago to Washington in an Air Force plane. Also present at the ceremony were two of the men whose lives were saved by Olive's heroic action.

Cabinet members, Congressmen, high government officials and military leaders attended the ceremony in the White House.

VC Group Surrenders To 101st

TUY HOA, (101st ABN-IO)—Five Viet Cong hamlet-guerrillas have surrendered to elements of the 101st Airborne Division.

The men identified themselves as the remainder of an eleven man hamlet squad. They surrendered with their weapons, Chinese Communist 7.62mm Mauser rifles, to the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry approximately 15 miles south of the 101st forward area encampment at Tuy Hoa.

The squad signed a statement in which they declared: "We were deep in the forest of unhealthy climate and hardships, with the Communists.

"Thanks to the allied liberation forces and the airborne loudspeakers and leaflets which we picked up, we have returned to the National Government."

This is the first instance of an entire enemy group surrendering to the 101st's 1st Brigade since they began operations in Phu Yen Province.

Fire Victims Aided

QUI NHON, (1st LOG-IO) — More than 100 Vietnamese left homeless by a blaze which gutted their neighborhood here have been provided food and shelter by the 1st Logistical Command.

The fire, which began early last week, swept quickly through the village, more than a mile from the nearest military installation. Fire fighting equipment from the "Log's" 245th Engineer Detachment, Army Support Command, Qui Nhon, was rushed to the scene to assist Vietnamese firemen in battling the blaze, but the inferno was not quelled until 135 persons had their homes destroyed.

Members of the command's civic action office quickly responded to the refugees' needs, putting up two large Army general purpose tents to serve as temporary living quarters. More than 1,500 pounds of canned foods were donated to the fire victims.

The U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing rice, other canned foods, powdered milk, blankets and clothing as a relief measure.

Steps have also been taken by USAID to procure construction materials for rebuilding the destroyed homes.

ROK Tiger Div. Reinforced



TIGERS ASHORE—Korean soldiers of the famed Tiger Division hold a welcoming banner as 3600 of their countrymen swarm ashore at Qui Nhon. The additional troops arrived to beef up the ROK division. (Photo by Dirck Halstead, UPI)



CHIEF OF STAFF HERE—General Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff, is welcomed at Tan Son Nhut by General W.C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV. General Johnson arrived last week to tour Army units in Vietnam. (Photo by USARV-IO)

25th Inf. Troops Awarded Silver Star

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO) — General Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff, presented Silver Star Medals recently to two Tropic Lightning soldiers in ceremonies at the 25th Infantry Division's base camp.

The awards went to SSgt. Hachiro Imae, Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, and Sp4 Keith R. Morris, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery, 25th Infantry Division. The citations were read by Maj. Gen. Fred C. Weyand, 25th Division Commander.

Both were honored for gallantry in action while serving with the 25th Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam. The awards were made before General Johnson's address to officers and noncommissioned officers of the division at Lightning Theatre.

Sergeant Imae distinguished himself on February 18 while serving as patrol leader of a reinforced ambush patrol which became encircled by a Viet Cong company near Cu Chi. Although

pinned down by intense machine gun and small arms fire, Sergeant Imae continuously exposed himself to hostile fire to personally direct the return fire of his men.

During the course of action, he was wounded in the left arm but refused medical aid and evacuation and continued to direct the actions of his patrol. Because of his leadership and devotion to duty, the patrol was successful in breaking contact with a numerically superior Viet Cong force.

Specialist Morris distinguished himself on April 5 while serving as radio-telephone operator for an artillery forward observer team supporting another company in the vicinity of Trung Lap. During a pre-dawn attack by an estimated battalion of hard core Viet Cong, Specialist Morris was wounded, but repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire to call in artillery fire on hostile positions.

During the course of action, Specialist Morris' team leader was seriously wounded and lost consciousness. Specialist Morris assumed the position of team leader and continued to call in artillery fire in support of the beleaguered company.

The citation stated, "His adjustments of artillery fire were so accurate and devastating that the final assault of the Viet Cong was broken and cost the hostile force numerous casualties."

No Dessert For 'Charlie'

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO)—Viet Cong guerrillas are getting no dessert in this area.

During the recently-conducted 25th Infantry Division "Operation Circle Pines," Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Mechanized Infantry, captured two caches containing five tons of rice and five metal tins of brown sugar.

The brown sugar is eaten by guerrillas for quick energy before battle. It also makes a tasty dessert in contrast to the bland daily diet of rice.

Captain James C. Andress, company commander, said the sugar was found in an underground Viet Cong hiding place. One of the rice caches was booby-trapped and the rice was destroyed. The other cache of rice was given to friendly villagers.

In addition to the rice and brown sugar, the 5th Mech. company captured some equipment, including three boxes containing about 90 flashlights.

Editorial:

'Big John' Is Dead

By USARV-PMO

The following story is taken from the files of the Criminal Investigation Division, USARV. The facts occurred as stated. The only changes made are those designed to protect identities.

THE WISE GUY

Well you can't say there isn't a rough sort of justice in this world. It's a shame though that a guy only 24 years old has got to die to prove it. But you've got to admit, he did ask for it. You can't be a wise guy with a deadly weapon and expect to get away clean. Like we always do in these cases, let's call our man John Doe.

John was born on Dec. 5, 1941, in a small town in Illinois. John was like most of us except he had a bad temper and he had a complex. John was a big man in his own eyes you see, and no one was going to put him down.

On a day in 1965 John was driving a 2½-ton truck west out of Qui Nhon on Route 19. He had another man in the vehicle with him. John was doing about 40 miles per hour when a Vietnamese truck passed him. This bothered John. He was too big to be passed, but he was feeling generous so he just swore at the other driver and let him go on.

About two minutes later an American 2½-ton truck started to pass John. Now you know this was too much. John was cool though. Looking straight ahead as if he saw nothing John increased his speed to stop the other driver from getting around him. As the other driver did 45 in an effort to pass, John did 45 also. When the other man did 50, John was right with him.

There was traffic in the oncoming lane and at those speeds it came up fast. All at once the driver trying to pass knew he had to get back to the right, fast—or die. He hit his brakes and cut to the right but when he did he began to fishtail. John's feeling of being the big man didn't last too long. The other truck hit his, just back of the cab and forced him off the road onto the shoulder. John fought the wheel for over 100 feet before the truck left the shoulder and overturned in a field. The truck landed on top of John.

He bled to death under that truck. Somehow his passenger and the other truck driver made it OK, not John though. John had to play dangerous games. This time he got caught.

Chaplain's Corner

Who Is My Neighbor?

Chaplain (Capt.) Danny W. Burtram

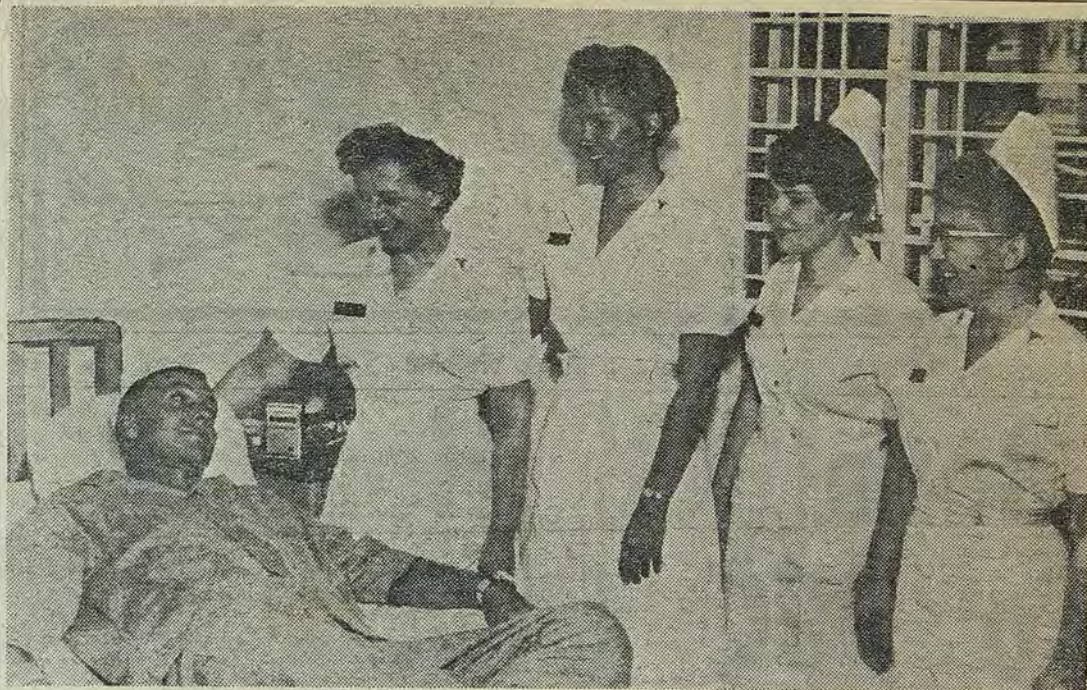
Once there was a man who was more interested in justifying his own actions than he was in assuring that his actions conformed to what he believed to be right. He asked a man he took to be a religious teacher a question: "I know I'm supposed to love my neighbor as myself, but just who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10). The "religious teacher" answered that he was asking the wrong question. The real question with which men should be concerned, is this one: to whom should I be a neighbor? And the answer to that question from the Christian framework is that I am to be a neighbor to whomever needs me. He may not have the same faith I have; he

may be of another culture or walk of life; he may be of another race or nationality. But if he needs me, he is my neighbor.

James Thurber has an unorthodox way of saying we don't always use this principle about our neighbor. He tells a fable of a mongoose who didn't want to fight cobras. Word got out that he was pro-cobra, or antimongoose. His father said he was crazy. His mother said he was sick. His brothers said he was a coward, and his sisters labelled him a "mongoosesexual." Rumors were heard that the mongoose had been seen crawling on his stomach and trying on cobra hoods. Finally he was tried, convicted by a show of paws and sentenced to banishment. Thurber says the moral is: "Ashes to ashes, and clay to clay: if the enemy doesn't get you, your own folks may." But the real moral is that it is strange how difficult we find it when we try to think of someone who is different from us as our neighbor. Yet the Christian faith says he is our neighbor if he needs us. Perhaps he is the noisy guy in the next tent. Perhaps he lives in that refugee hamlet or that orphanage. Who is my neighbor?



I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist.



PLENTY OF CARE—Sergeant Arville M. Hicks wears a smile as (left to right) Maj. Janet A. Bachmeyer, Lt. Judith E. Smith, Lt. Sarah L. Fletcher, and Capt. Myra L. Byars, all Army nurses, gather at his bedside. Sgt. Hicks was one of the first patients received at the 17th Field Hospital after it became an Army installation. (Photo by Sp4 Gabriel A. Saad, 69th Pictorial Det.)

Awards & Decorations:

PASS IN REVIEW

SILVER STAR
(Posthumous)

PFC Simmie Bellamy Jr.
Sp4 Michael T. Mulvaney
Sgt. Robert A. Gray

SILVER STAR

Capt. Richard E. Spriggs
Lt. Col. Robert Haldane
Capt. George F. Dailey
Sp4 Keith R. Morris

LEGION OF MERIT

Maj. Edith M. Nuttall
Col. Harold W. Rice

DISTINGUISHED FLYING
CROSS

(Posthumous)
WO Raymond L. Ford

DISTINGUISHED FLYING
CROSS

1st Lt. Eugene H. Hefter
Sp5 Michael W. Schrumph
1st Lt. John W. Rainey
CWO Richard C. Goff
Maj. John W. Dean
Capt. Bobby G. Briggs

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Pvt. William D. Hines
Capt. John L. Dascanio
SSgt. Charles F. Mendat
Sp4 Randy L. Pacheco

BRONZE STAR MEDAL
(Posthumous)

SSgt. Johnson F. Franks
Sp4 Irwin Clarke Jr.
PFC Joseph J. Reilly
PFC Jack L. Himes
PFC Bobby J. Braswell
PFC Lamar D. Frederick
1st Lt. John F. Sanford
SFC William H. Hubbard
PSgt. Eugene F. Robinson
PFC Kenneth A. Bodell

Capt. Edward D. Pierce
SFC Charles L. Davidson
1st Lt. James A. Gardner
Sp4 Eduardo D. Gonzalez
Sgt. Woodrow W. Ham Jr.
Sp4 Dennis W. Malewski
Sp4 Jerry D. Lewis
PFC Dennis R. Bruce
PFC Paul E. Labrecque Jr.
SFC Willis Watson
2nd Lt. David L. Force
Sp4 James L. Fain
Sp4 Bruce L. Marosites
PFC Edward S. Graves
PFC Ronald C. Cavinee

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Capt. Richard R. Sklar II
PFC Humberto Robles
Sgt. Billy A. McKeith
Sgt. Paul D. Shamp
SFC Marcus L. Huston
SFC Earl L. Petty
MSgt. Wiley W. Gray
Sgt. Joseph Schwerdtfeger
Sp5 James W. Wright
SSgt. James R. Powell
PFC David L. Cybulski
SSgt. Elton G. Colvin
PFC Sherrid Griffin
Sp4 Charles Marks



The ARMY REPORTER is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Office, United States Army Vietnam and is an authorized Army publication. The command newspaper has a circulation of 40,000 and is printed in Japan.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. This newspaper utilizes the facilities of the ARMED FORCES PRESS SERVICE and ARMY NEWS FEATURES. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to: THE ARMY REPORTER, USARV-IO, APO U.S. Forces 96307 or telephone ARMY 399.

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Lt. Gen. Jean E. Engler Deputy CG
Col. Robert J. Coakley Information Officer
Capt. William Shirley Officer-In-Charge

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Sp5 Dick Johnson Field Correspondent
Sp4 Mike Kowalczyk Reporter

Unknown As Deadly As VC

SONG BE, (173rd ABN-IO)—Not every day in the battle area means a fight. Just as every operation never guarantees contact with the enemy. Every day the fighting soldier is thrust into danger of one sort or another, and every day he must face the unknown and conquer the fear of it.

So it was with PFC Maurice Halt. His platoon, weapons platoon, of B Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, was conducting a search and destroy operation with other companies of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the jungle of Phuoc Long Province recently. While moving through its area of responsibility the platoon discovered a very deep and elaborate tunnel system.

The platoon leader, 1st Lt. Edward Pleasants, asked for volunteers to enter the tunnel. Halt stepped forward.

As Halt prepared to go into the tunnel, his buddies stepped forward to hand him a pistol and a flashlight. The faces of the men standing near the opening of the tunnel were masks of tension and anxiety.

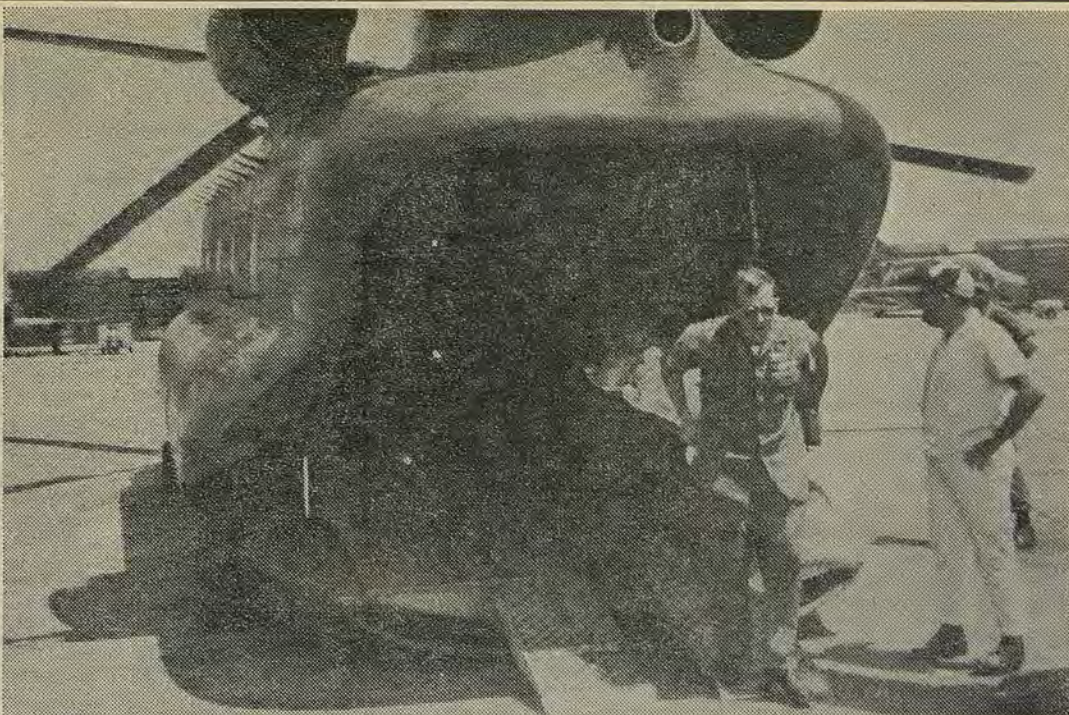
Halt lowered himself into the tunnel. Men braced themselves for the nerve-shattering explosion of Viet Cong rifle fire in the tunnel. They waited.

"It curves to the right, sir," Halt said. "I'm going around."

Halt's head emerged from the other side of the tunnel.

"Nothing sir."

Men sighed almost unnoticeably, relaxed, and moved away. Pleasants handed Halt a cigarette.



MEDEVAC "FIRST"—A wounded soldier is carried from a medevac CH-7 Chinook chopper in Tan Son Nhut. This was the first medical evacuation by Chinook in the III Corps area. This patient was transferred to a USAF aircraft for immediate evacuation to the U.S. (Photo by 178th AVN-IO)

'Lurps' Must Have Nine Lives

PHAN THIET, (17th AVN GP-IO)—At a county fair you can pay up to \$7.00 for a five-minute helicopter ride. But in Vietnam an infantryman on patrol can pay with his life if he doesn't get one.

Five members of the 101st Airborne Division operating near Phan Thiet recently were so anxious to get aboard a 17th Aviation Group chopper flown by Capt. James T. Radford that they created their own landing zone for him in the middle of a forest.

The action occurred as the 10th Avn. Bn. and two battalions of the 101st kicked off operation Austin II here recently. At 7 p.m. two of the Airborne's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP—

or "Lurp" to the sky soldiers) teams had been helilifted into strategic locations northwest of the city to verify a suspected Viet Cong training camp in the mountains.

At about noon on the next day, the team was lying in concealed positions along a trail into the camp, when 20 men in North Vietnamese Army uniforms and five women came single file down the trail. The men carried bolt-action rifles of various makes and the women had one Red Chinese AK-47 automatic rifle and four Thompson sub-machineguns. The first five in line passed by the hidden 101st patrol, but when the sixth came abreast of them he made a sudden motion with his hand and the communists hit the dirt.

They lay on the opposite side of the trail from the Americans and talked among themselves, still apparently unsure of what, if anything, they had seen. The five soldiers, well-trained for this type of encounter, put one enemy each in their rifle sights. Suddenly one of the women pointed directly at the team and raised her Thompson.

Five rifle shots rang as one, and five dead communists rolled into the brush. Heaving two white phosphorous hand grenades to cover their escape, the team scooped up their gear and moved out to the north, covering nearly 300 yards on the run.

"There was just one thought in everybody's mind now," Pop Tomlinson said, "—find a spot for a helicopter to get in. We needed one bad. The first half-way clear area we came to, I didn't have to say anything. Everybody just stopped running, took cover, and right away Joseph A. Nash was on the radio calling for a chopper."

The patrol's frantic plea was relayed by 10th Battalion Operations to its 48th Airmobile Company. Volunteers for an "extraction under fire"—what chopper pilots term one of the riskiest missions in the business—were requested. Getting volunteers was no problem. In fact, as one 17th Group platoon commander commented, "When you tell our crews there's an extraction mission, they're running for those helicopters before you can finish. You have to yell the map coordinates to them as they go."

Within 25 minutes after the initial call, two armed copters and one "slick" ship—no armament other than door machine-guns—were on station overhead. The trapped patrol lobbed

red smoke grenades on the enemy to mark their positions, and the two gunships dived in, pouring rocket and machinegun fire.

Captain Radford, commanding the slick, made a low pass over the scene and looked for a landing site. Clear only in comparison with the surrounding terrain, the area was actually dotted with small trees. Landing would be impossible, he radioed the patrol. So the Lurps dug out their composition four plastic explosives and blasted away two trees. The captain made another pass. "Not big enough," he told them.

Two hours after his arrival, Captain Radford was still circling. It was late afternoon, and he had made four unsuccessful approaches to the area. The troopers had gunned down a fourth tree with their M-16 rifles, but the clearing was still too tight.

When relief arrived, the three fuel-poor Hueys made one low pass each, dropping the ammo from their personal weapons to the patrol below, then headed back to Phan Thiet. In their absence, the three relief guns led by "Joker" platoon leader, Maj. Laverne Bindrup, held the enemy at bay.

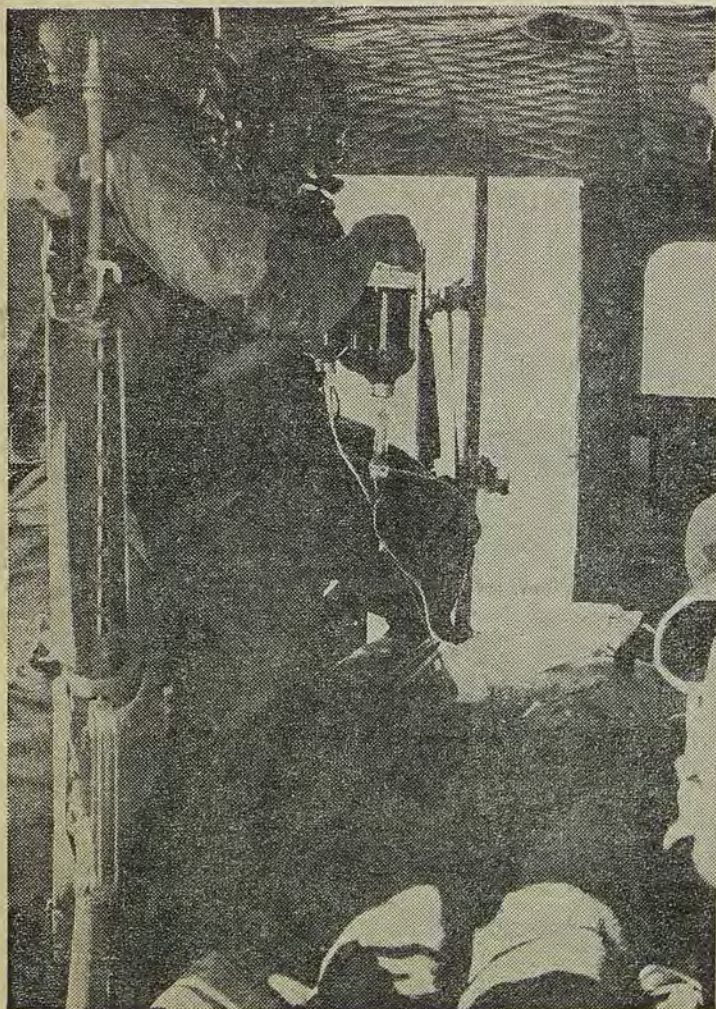
"It was really starting to get dark now," Captain Radford said, "and the weather was no help. The ceiling was coming down, it had started to rain and the visibility was very poor. With the landing zone as small as it was, there was just light enough left for one more try. If that missed,

they'd either have had to blow up an awful lot more trees or wait till next morning, if possible."

With the new explosives, the team unearthed a fifth tree, and the Captain made his final approach. As the five gunships laid suppressive fire on the perimeter, he came in fast and low. Then, just over the small clearing, he flared the ship violently. The powerful craft stopped its forward motion with a shudder and began to sink, its tail pointed nearly straight down. Captain Radford leveled the ship with a smooth forward movement of the stick and the chopper touched ground, with its big main rotor blades whipping past tree limbs just inches away.

Within five seconds the team was on board. And as the gunships continued their strafing runs and the aircraft door machineguns chattered, the Captain slowly lifted his loaded ship into a maximum performance takeoff. The bushes below were strewn with unknown numbers of VC dead. There had been no time for a body count.

Back in the 101st base camp the following morning, the Lurps, who had taken no casualties, had something to say about 17th Group chopper pilots. Sp5 Richard Clark the team medic, was emphatic: "The helicopter pilots are the only thing that saved our tails. We would never have made it through the night."



AIRBORNE HOSPITAL—Medical Corpsmen from the 1st Log Command give life-saving plasma to a wounded U.S. soldier while a helicopter speeds them to a hospital. In-flight medical assistance has dropped the Vietnam fatality for wounded to less than one percent.

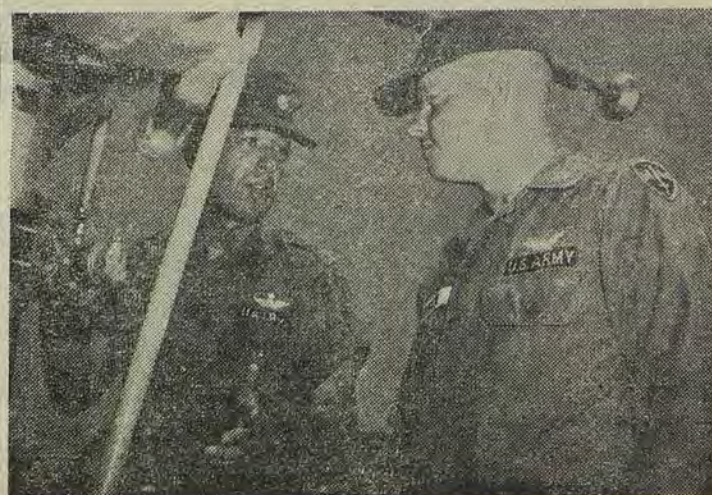
(Photo by 1st LOG-IO)

1st Log's 'Navy Fleet' Expands

SAIGON, (1st LOC-IO)—Seven new LCM-8 "mike" boats with 120,000-pound freight capacities have been added to the "navy" fleet of the Army's 1st Logistical Command to aid in speeding military cargo from the port here to discharge sites along the vital Saigon River water highway.

The new boats bring the total number of marine craft belonging to the command's 1099th Transportation Company to 26.

Since the unit's arrival in Vietnam last October it has moved some 300,000 tons of cargo to eight sub-ports along the river from Saigon to Vung Tau. The 1099th hauls supplies ranging from food and ammunition to complete vehicles.



BROTHERS—Major James E. Hooker (Left) discusses the rotor system of a UH-1D with his brother, WO Charles E. Hooker. The Hooker brothers both fly with the newly formed 17th Aviation Group in Nha Trang. (Photo by 17th AVN-IO)



JUNGLE WAITING ROOM—Vietnamese villagers of Khoa Trung line up for medical treatment from Army medics of the 41st Civil Affairs Company assigned to I Field Force, Vietnam. (Photo by 54th Sig. Bn.)

Avn. Bde. Holds First NCO Confab

SAIGON, (AVN BDE-IO)—Take 226 years of experience in Army Aviation, embodied in 10 senior non-commissioned officers gathered in one room, and the result is an awesome assemblage of military expertise that would gladden the heart of any commander.

Brigadier General George P. Seneff Jr., commander of the U.S. Army Aviation Brigade, faced just such a gathering this week as he addressed the Brigade Sergeants Major Conference here. The Sergeants Major from the Brigade's two Aviation Groups and seven Aviation Battalions were hosted by Bde. Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Kennedy in the two day meeting, which was climaxed by General Seneff's informal talk.

Acknowledging the invaluable position of the sergeant major in the Army command structure, General Seneff spoke of his plans for the newly formed Aviation Brigade, and outlined the steps the senior non-commissioned officers could take to insure the success of the Brigade's mission.

The conference was the first of what Sergeant Major Kennedy plans as a series of quarterly meetings, intended to improve working relationships within the Brigade, to air mutual problems and to improve the operational and administrative functions of all the units of the Brigade.

"I feel this conference was a real success, and that its results will be very beneficial to our commanders," said Sergeant Major Kennedy. "We were able to bring out into the open many things that we senior NCO's can solve before they become problems that require our commanders' attention."

Attending the conference were Sergeants Major Laurice B. McBride, 12th Aviation Group; James R. McLin, 17th Aviation Group; Henry B. Hannum, 10th Aviation Battalion; Lawrence Oakley, 11th Aviation Battalion; John Stepanek, 13th Aviation Battalion; Robert Spears, 52nd Aviation Battalion; Louis Dubrey, 145th Aviation Battalion; Grant J. McBee, of the Brigade Headquarters Company.

25th Inf. Troopers Urged To 'Knock Them All Down'

CU CHI, (25th Inf DIV-IO)—One girl asked if it snowed much in Vietnam, a young boy expressed the minority opinion that Batman is "pretty dumb" and a young lady, 20-years old, wanted someone to write her because she was "lonely."

In all cases, the letters were simply addressed to "Any American soldier in Vietnam" from an American citizen, and, if nothing more, they all sparkled with good cheer and sincerity for those far away.

The avalanche of letters came from all sections of the United States, from eight-year-old boys to an 82-year-old great grandmother, and the men at Cu Chi gobbled them up.

The men of the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division found Easter cards from the 7th grade class of Rittenhouse Junior High in Norristown, Pa. They found letters from those devoutly religious, from those shouting patriotic encouragement, from those who simply wanted to write to a G.I. One even came from a Bronx, N.Y. girl who was against the administration's policy in Vietnam, but she still wanted to say that "even those of us who are anti-war haven't forgotten you."

"I'm involved in so many extracurricular and social activities," she wrote, "that I don't even have time for my school work. Tomorrow, I'm cutting school and going on a protest march to Albany . . . I'm just busy, busy, busy."

Most of the letters begin, "I wish this letter could be a little more personal but it's hard to write to someone whose name you don't know. I don't know you and you don't know me. I find it strange to write someone I don't know . . ." But most of them end, "Please write."

Among the younger set, school seems to predominate in their thinking.

During the transit strike in New York, one girl, a sophomore at Mater Christi High School, wrote that the parochial high schools have been closed today and "probably the rest of the week, I hope."

Sherry Campbell, 13, of Richmond, Va., says she's in the seventh grade. "I hate my English and history teacher. She's so mean. I don't know how she can live with herself. If you see her in the morning before school and say, 'Hi!' she just gives ya a dirty look. And it's not just me—nobody likes her! Oh well, so much for her."

Douglas Crawford, 12, of Richmond, W. Va., was proud of American accomplishments in Vietnam. "I really envy you

guys," he wrote, "because you guys at least get to fight for what you want, but us, we can't fight the school so we have to go."

Johnathan Watson 14 of Gore, Okla., said he'd be doing better in school if he could keep his mind off of girls long enough. Roger Christensen, 11, Alden, Minn., was apparently having problems, too. "I am in the sixth grade at Alden School, hope to go to the seventh this fall."

But a girl from Kenmore, N.Y., seemed to have more trouble than all of them. "I have a ball in gym," she offered, "Once we pushed the gym teacher in the shower (me), knocked over water

barrels, pushed open the gym door (boys and girls take gym separately), let loose snakes, spiders, worms, etc., danced on the lockers (me and my idea) and hid in the locker room after school sports (I don't try this very often)."

Sometimes the younger ones write about home life. One 13-year-old has three sisters and no brothers and he is quite unhappy about it. "About having three sisters and no brothers," he said, "it was a bad deal but my parents couldn't help it. I have two girls I like a lot. Last Friday I went to a dance at school but I got the flu there and had a pretty miserable time."



SWEET TEETH—Sergeant First Class David T. Chilensky, an Army medical advisor at Hieu Xuong village near Tuy Hoa, passes out candy to outstretched hands of Vietnamese children. (Photo by I FFV-IO)

Bonnie Brings Music To 1st Bde. Soldiers

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-IO)—A switch clicks, followed by a brief hum, then a soft and just slightly sexy girl's voice fills the air. She gaily greets her broadcast buddies at Phuoc Vinh, and dedicates 55 minutes of "mostly music for the gallant men of the 1st Brigade, Big Red One."

So Radio Phuoc Vinh broadcasts yet another Bonnie Joyce Brecken—"Mail Call, Vietnam."

The saga of a Spokane girl, her musical tapes, and her interest in the men of Phuoc Vinh, started just after Christmas with a letter and taped program forwarded by the local Chamber of Commerce. The first tape was edited from stereo to monaural, and broadcast over AFRS.

Bonnie agreed to tape other 55-minute programs, and these have been arriving every week or ten days, to be immediately broadcast. AFRS station personnel said she did a near-professional job of announcing, cueing and sound

dubbing. Even the name, Bonnie Brecken, has a professional ring.

Bonnie is a senior at East Washington State College and is majoring in English. Her only radio experience has been as a part-time secretary at her local radio station. She tapes at home, with her own equipment, especially and exclusively for the troopers of Phuoc Vinh, presenting a surprising blend of pop and sentimental strains.

The 1st Brigade Commander has sent a Letter of Appreciation to the Spokane lass, citing her for her outstanding efforts in elevating the morale of the 1st Brigadiers and cementing relations across the Pacific.

The program manager of her radio station is preparing pictures of his broadcasting belle to dispatch to the troops of the Big One at Phuoc Vinh, as proof that she is as attractive as her voice and her program on tape—Mail Call—Vietnam.

USO Opens Club At Cam Ranh Bay

CAM RANH BAY, (1st LOG-IO)—The men of the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy stationed at this major port facility now have a USO club providing off-duty recreation.

The new facility has the first snack bar on the peninsula, plus a lounge and recreation area. Miss Byrdie Lee, director of the new club, expects 1,500 men to use the new facility daily.

Brigadier General Arthur L. Friedman, commanding general of the U.S. Army Depot, Cam Ranh Bay, officially opened the club, and then enjoyed the first milk shake made in the new snack facility.



WAR ZONE "C"—A chopper roars off after dropping Vietnamese "Striker" troops and their American advisors in War Zone C, on the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon. The troops raided VC villages in the area. (Photo by Steve Northup, UPI)

46th Engineers Help Refugees Start Anew

LONG BINH, (18th EB-IO) — The 46th Engineer Battalion is assisting over 2000 refugees to start life anew after being forced by the Viet Cong to flee their homes.

The village of Xuan Tra, located 15 miles east of Bien Hoa, was founded when the refugees were routed from their homes in Tra Co. The 46th, as part of their civic action program adopted this village last December. At that time some of the people were still living in shacks made of cardboard boxes.

In speaking with the villagers through an interpreter, it was discovered that many of them had been carpenters, masons, and blacksmiths before they had been forced to flee. However, all their tools had been left behind.

Through funds from the American Legion, the battalion made available to the people one carpenter's kit for every two carpenters, and mason's and black-

smith's kits for those who possessed these trades. Textile kits were also made available so that women could make clothes for their families. To date, this program of giving the people the opportunity to help themselves has proved highly successful.

Lack of cleanliness was a primary factor in the high rate of infection and disease. The American Legion made funds available through CARE, and a portion of this money was used to purchase soap. At first, some of the villagers thought that the soap was to eat so they were instructed on how to use it by Dr. John Copeland, the Battalion Surgeon, and the village Y Ta (Health woman).

The program of assistance to Xuan Tra hamlet is a continuous project. Because the village is located in an insecure area, men of the 46th must travel in convoy with combat gear when visiting. Despite inherent danger in traveling to Xuan Tra, the men who have been there are quick to volunteer to go there again. Most are amazed and appalled at the poverty they witness at Xuan Tra, but they all want to return to give as much help as they can.

The 46th is assigned to the 159th Engineer Group and the 18th Engineer Brigade.

Engineered Observation Tree House?

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-IO) — Don't call it a tree house, or make snide remarks like "Me Tarzan, where Jane?" — this arboreal retreat is officially and accurately described as an engineered observation post.

The well-camouflaged and well-shaded structure is perched 75 feet up in a tree between the orderly room and mess hall of D Co, 701st Maintenance Battalion at Phuoc Vinh.

The five-by-eight foot platform is cool, comfortable, and practical. It has a definite tactical advantage, especially at night, when infra-red sensor equipment is utilized in conjunction with the .50 cal. machinegun that puts the sting to the operation. They have a field of fire 270 degrees out to the ridge line, and a night observation range of 400 to 500 meters, and daylight coverage of 3/4 mile, limited only by accuracy.

The aerial observatory has all the comforts of home: field phone communications and a cool and shady lounge, complete with refreshments raised aloft by bucket. It has both a swinging rope ladder and slat steps affixed to the tree, with a canvas covered canopy to protect it from rain.

The original construction was a major feat of engineering with the heavier components being hoisted by single snatch-blocks and the sand-bags by hand.

The lofty lounge is manned around the clock by two-man teams, who are now seriously contemplating erection of a crow's-nest, or even a penthouse.

54th Ord. Co. Adopts Orphans

LONG BINH, (1st LOG-IO) — The Dan Mai Catholic Orphanage here has been officially adopted by ordnance soldiers of the 54th Ordnance Company here.

In announcing the "adoption" by the 54th, CWO Lyle E. Van Buskirk and Sp5 Willie J. Williams presented \$VN 41,300 to Sister Maria Rose, of the faculty, to help defray operating costs for the 127 orphans.

Members of the company previously donated clothing and toys to the children, and building materials for a new school building.

Downed 3 Times In 4 Days Army Pilot Vows To Return

NHA TRANG, (1 FFV-IO)—First Lieutenant George T. Beckett didn't stay long in this country—but he saw plenty of the war.

Wounded in the left arm by a Viet Cong sniper, the helicopter pilot found himself in the 8th Field Hospital here just 29 days after his arrival in Vietnam.

He signed into his unit, the 17th Aviation Group's 129th Airmobile Company, 10th Battalion, on March 11, and began flying his "Huey" on combat missions three days later. Three of the missions he flew in March were combat assaults. Beckett flew one of the troop carriers during these assaults, yet compared to what lay ahead, March was relatively dull.

April was more eventful.

On April 3, Lieutenant Beckett and WO Ronnie D. Griggs, were sent on a rescue mission to pick up a patrol sent out by the 101st Airborne Division. The patrol had been discovered and hit hard. One of its members had been cut off from the rest and stood alone in the middle of a field of elephant grass. The smoke grenade he had thrown to mark his position for the rescue aircraft had set fire to the grass and drawn the attention of VC gunners who were now zeroing in on his position.

"We knew we were going to get shot up if we went in after him," Lieutenant Beckett recalled from his hospital bed, "but there was no decision to make; we just went in. He was going to get killed if we didn't."

As their chopper approached the paratrooper's position, a sudden burst of enemy fire caught the tail rotor. The ship spun suddenly and fell. The four crew members scrambled out, unhurt, and signaling for the 101st soldier to join them, ran and crawled under fire through the dense grass to another helicopter whose pilots had also braved enemy bullets to make the rescue. This one was successful and all five, including Lieutenant Beckett, were returned to their units unharmed.

Back to duty the next day, the lieutenant was flying co-pilot on a combat assault with Capt. Philip A. Saunders. On an approach into the LZ the ship had a mechanical failure 50 feet in the air, and "fell through," as pilots say, crashing and overturning on impact. In addition to the crew, there were eight infantrymen aboard the helicopter, but again there were no injuries.

So Lieutenant Beckett after losing two aircraft in two days, was given the next day off.

But on April 6 he was back in the air. The flight that day was

considered administrative—a battalion commander of the 101st needed to visit his companies in the field, and Lieutenant Beckett, along with CWO Dale Swafford, was to provide helicopter transportation. The landing zones were considered relatively secure, as combat areas in Vietnam go. In one of the company areas, however, a VC sniper opened up when the chopper landed and the battalion commander and his staff stepped out.

Lieutenant Beckett said he thought the sniper's bullet that ripped into his arm, was probably intended for the commander. But instead, the round fired from

directly in front of the ship had missed the commander and his party, torn through the windshield, smashed the instrument panel and hit him.

"My arm exploded in blood," he said. "Mister Swafford pulled pitch the instant I said I was hit and we were back in the air before I knew what was happening. Our crew chief, PFC Cesar Guerra, immediately started patching me up and was able to at least get the bleeding slowed down. An hour after it happened I was on an operating table in the hospital. Those guys saved my life."

Hit & Run

TUY HOA, (101st ABN-IO) — Hit and run is a crime and when the culprit gets caught he pays dearly.

Ten miles northwest of Tuy Hoa, in central-coastal Vietnam, stands an old dead tree. Until today, the tree had a vine growing up and through its branches. A Viet Cong sniper used that vine to get topside of the tree.

The 101st Airborne deployed its 17th Cavalry along the infamous Highway One and from his vantage point, the sniper waited for the troopers to get well within range before he fired a few quick, well placed shots and then ran.

After a few days of chasing the elusive VC, the Cav. troopers went to the tree and booby-trapped the vine with a grenade. The following day the paratroopers found a very bloody bandage at the base of the tree.

The sniper had made his last run.



VILLAGE RAIDED—A Vietnamese Striker soldier sets fire to a house with a flame thrower during a 30-minute raid on a Viet Cong village in War Zone C, near the Cambodian border. Three such raids were carried out on the same day.

(Photo by Steve Northup, UPI)

82nd Aviation Battalion Performs 100 Miracles A Day

BIEN HOA, (173rd IO)—Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade can attest to the fact that the success of most ground combat operations depend on reliability of air support. This was the case with the brigade's recently completed, and highly successful, "Operation Silver City." The men and choppers of Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion, provided tactical and logistical support whenever and wherever needed.

Using the airstrip at Phuoc Vinh as a forward base, the men of Co. A flew a total of 3051 sorties to the paratroopers sweeping through the jungles of "D" zone. Their ships logged a total of 876 flight hours, carried 2983 passengers and 461 tons of cargo. Flying under the most adverse conditions and employing the crude landing zones, the 82nd accomplished 101 minor miracles a day, not the least of which was their ammunition resupply of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry during a five-hour fire fight with a VC regiment.

Warrant Officer Harold Richardson was flying resupply on the morning of March 16th when he heard that a Huey flown by Warrant Officer Joseph McHenry had been shot down over the 2nd Battalion LZ. Richardson returned to Phuoc Vinh, picked up a sling load of ammunition, and accompanied by a gun ship, proceeded to the LZ. His ship immediately came under heavy automatic weapons fire and by the time he dropped his sling of ammo, had taken 6 hits. Limping to a secure LZ for an inspection, he saw that his craft was too seriously damaged to fly another sortie.

In the meantime, Maj. Daniel Addiss and Maj. William McPhail Jr. had received word by radio of the attack and loss of a chopper. Unable to obtain an accurate account of the downed crew's fate, they decided to fly their ammunition directly into the LZ. Making their approach from the northeast in the midst of a combined artillery and air strike, their vision was impaired by the dense smoke below. Despite the heavy VC fire and the possibility of running into friendly artillery, they hovered over the LZ long enough to drop their cargo. Returning to Phuoc Vinh the two officers shut down their craft, and after assessing damage, decided that they could make another sortie. They returned to the heavily engaged 2nd Battalion with a gunship running interference. As the gunship broke off over the LZ, Major McPhail radioed his thanks to 1st Lt Jerry West, commander of the ship, who grunted, "Think nothing of it."

In spite of the many hits taken by their own craft, Majors Addiss and McPhail completed two more sorties, dropping much needed ammunition to the heavily engaged paratroopers. By late morning, the VC forces had been decimated and evacuation of wounded could begin.

'Donut Dollies' Are Girlfriends For 20,000 Cav Troops

AN KHE, (1st CAV DIV-IO) — Two enthusiastic American girls here are setting about the task of being "girlfriends" to 20,000 hard-fighting U.S. Cavalrymen. The young ladies, Sandra Fos-

selman of Harrisburg, Penn. and Elizabeth Miller of Atlanta, Georgia, are recreation directors for the American Red Cross. They arrived at the 1st Cavalry Division camp with their bags full of games, their heads full of plans and boundless drive to make the best of what they call "a wonderful challenge."

Men embroiled in the business of fighting a war might be expected to be a little gruff at times, but the girls were treated like visiting princesses as they made their first rounds of the sprawling camp.

Setting up headquarters in a tent at the division's surgical hospital, they told of their plans to open what they call a "Clubmobile Center" that will visit division units bringing a little bit of home and a distraction from the doldrums of camp life.

"It's important," said Miss Miller, "that we have girls of varied backgrounds and training as well as from different parts of the country. Sometimes," she continued, "the fellows don't even remember your name. You're just the Red Cross girl from Atlanta."

Marine Pilot...

Navy Pilot...

Army Chaplain...

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) — What do you call a former marine pilot who flew in the Navy, then joined the Army Reserve while he went to school?

If his name is Captain Edwin York, you call him chaplain. He is the chaplain of the 34th Quartermaster Battalion, one of the support units attached to the 1st Cavalry Division.

York started flying in 1953 as a Marine helicopter pilot, but when he came on active duty some months later, he was commissioned in the Navy.

In those days he flew what the Army now calls H-19 helicopters, and after four years of flying, York returned to civilian life to study for the ministry.

While going to school, he maintained his contact with the military by remaining in the Army Reserve, and in January, 1965 returned to active duty, this time as a chaplain.

"They grounded me when I became a chaplain" he said, "but one of these days when I'm richer I'll get my own plane and take to the skies again."



DIAGNOSIS—A Vietnamese woman shields her child with her hat as SFC William DeLima, of the 173rd Abn. Bde. examines the child for a throat ailment. The brigade's MEDCAP team is treating refugees in Phuoc Long province. (Photo by 173rd-IO)

Kaye Keeps Them Laughing

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-IO) — Pandemonium reigned in the ranks of the 1st Brigade, when Vicki Carr skipped out on the canvas-canopied stage here, posed for a split second, and burst into song.

She charmed over 800 troopers of the Big Red One's Zone D outpost, and acted as a perfect foil for the wry humor and jovial wit of Danny Kaye. Together and individually, they brought down the house, during an hour-long smash performance punctuated by occasional cannon blasts.

Miss Carr wore a simple white

blouse and well-fitted baby-blue slacks, and as she shook out her short blonde tresses and switched from haunting sentimental ballads to frantic rock music, she made an impression that will linger long at Phuoc Vinh.

In her scintillating change of pace, she personified each infantryman's dream girl, whether it was Hollywood sex symbol or the girl next door.

Danny Kaye never fails to enthrall an audience with his ineffable manner, total relaxation and infectious humor. He was a French general one moment, the next a shy British clerk, a mo-

ment later a bumbling GI rear rank private.

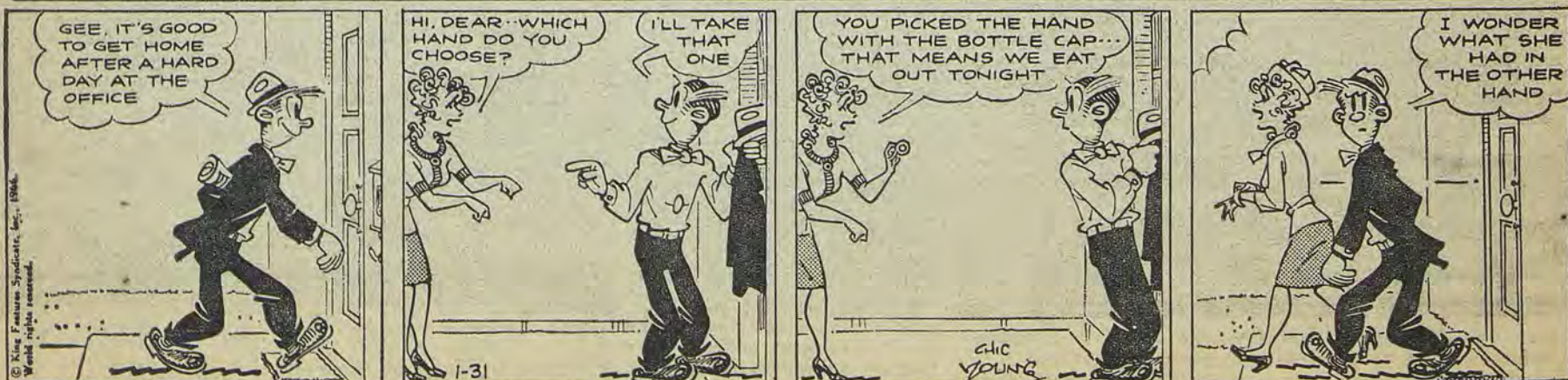
He presented his older (but ageless) routines, complete with double-talk, pseudo-foreign language, and pointed puns. He, too, capitalized on change-of-pace, as he gained the group's attention with an old love song, before he moved into one of his timeless "git-gat-gittle" bursts of music.

The hour was over all too soon, and as the pair of songsters clambered into their Huey air-limousine, the shutter-bugs continued to focus and snap them to preserve the occasion in their photographic memory-books.

Blondie

®

By Chic Young



Oldest Completes Largest

DI AN, (1st INF-10) — The Army's oldest engineer unit, the 1st Engineer Battalion, has finished one of the largest civic action projects of the war in Vietnam, an eleven mile stretch of road connecting the infamous Iron Triangle and War Zone D.

Almost 500 men of the engineer battalion worked from dawn to dark in building a broad, two-lane road through jungle, rice paddies and rubber plantations. When completed, the road connected Routes 13 and 16 and two forward brigades of the 1st Infantry Division. A total of over 48,000 yards of laterite, a red-colored local gravel, was placed on the roadbed daily to provide a wearing surface.

The engineers constructed the wide road, expecting it to become a major highway in Vietnam. The road opens a large region for pacification and economic contact with the Saigon area.

The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Brigade provided security for the engineers, who were constantly harassed by Viet Cong attacks. One of the major 1st Infantry Division battles of the war was fought during construction when elements of the 1st Brigade fought the battle of Tam Binh in which over 150 Viet Cong were killed and 15 captured.

The Republic of Vietnam's Ministry of Public Works supported the project by loaning tractors, graders, rotozers, water tankers and water pumps to the engineers.



NEW ENGINE ALMOST IN—Service platoon members of the 121st Aviation Company near completion of a new for old engine swap in a Huey. The gunship had a functioning power plant after only 40 minutes, usually a two-hour job.

(Photo by 121st-10)

Soc Trang 'Tigers' May Go Down—But Not For Long

Story By 1st Lt. James Wilson

SOC TRANG, (USARV-10)—In the days of the horse cavalry, "maintenance" meant little more than the care and feeding of "Old Charger," and a new set of horse shoes now and then.

But horses aren't utilized any more: helicopters—1600 of them—are here and they're more demanding than the Army's hayburners ever were. Maintenance has taken on a 24-hour meaning and importance, and to the 121st Aviation Company, based here, it's their life's blood.

The 121st, a combat-wise outfit that recently won a Distinguished Unit Citation, is kept in the air by its service platoon. Responsible for 25 HU-1B's and D's, the platoon sometimes works around the clock to support 121st operations in the Mekong Delta.

Under the supervision of 1st Lt. Ralph Riddle, a veteran helicopter pilot, the service platoon is broken down into four teams, each led by team chief. Although some of the mechanics are undergoing on-the-job training, the platoon keeps 87 per cent of the company's 25 Hueys on the flight line and ready to support the ARVN 21st Division. The 121st which logs an average of 2000 flying hours a month throughout the IV Corps area, is commanded by Maj. Teddy Nolloway.

Hueys are shot up; some are unavoidably lost, but the majority are recovered to fly again. Sometimes, repairs take place under the noses of the Viet Cong as did a recent recovery operation of three choppers brought down by heavy enemy fire. Two were repaired from parts cannibalized from the third; it, in turn, was extracted by a CH-47 Chinook. All three are flying again.

"The members of the service platoon do a terrific job," Riddle said, because they know what they are doing is important. Their record speaks for itself."

Maintenance of the Hueys, while not as complex as older models of helicopters, is still demanding in skill and perfection. For every hour of flight time, approximately 8 hours of maintenance are required. To insure that each ship is airworthy, the platoon follows a rigid inspection check list.

After each flight, the crew chief makes a thorough visual inspection of the aircraft; every 25 hours, he performs an extensive check after 100 hours, the Huey gets a "major tune-up." A complete over-haul is in order after 1100 hours.

For work beyond the capabilities of the 121st's integral service platoon, the 80th Transportation Detachment provides heavy-duty maintenance support. Cooperation between the two is extensive and close-knit.

How fast can the "back shop boys" take care of a "paddy pit-stop?" The record so far at Soc Trang is 40 minutes for a complete engine change in a downed

Huey gunship belonging to the 121st's armed platoon, the "Vikings." Charlie just doesn't have much luck keeping the "Vikings" and "Tigers" down for the count. The men who support them make sure of that.

Soldiers Assume New Duties

SAIGON, (1st LOG-10) — The newly-formed U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command has taken over the Saigon-Cholon area administrative, logistical and support service activities and functions formerly administered by the U.S. Navy's Headquarters Support Activity, Saigon (HED-SUPACT).

Under the command of Brig. Gen. Robert L. Ashworth the Army will operate such functions as billets, clubs and messes, commissary and clothing sales, provost marshal activities, special services, military commuter transportation, and post engineer duties, among others, in support of the nearly 20,000 American and other Free World forces stationed in the capital city area.

War On Nature

AN KHE, (18th EB-10)—A company of Engineers here is fighting 24 hours a day. But the battle is not against the Viet Cong. It is waged against nature—dust, heat, mud, humidity and other elements uncommon to combat engineers in other geographic locations.

The mission assigned to Company A, 70th Engineer Battalion is to construct a suitable heliport for the 1st Cavalry Division.

The project includes the construction of five kilometers of two-lane road through a series of rice paddies. In addition, 60 helipads must be constructed for the CH47A Chinook helicopters.



OLD ENGINE COMES OUT—121st Aviation Company mechanics start to pull the bad engine out of a UH-1B armed Huey.

(Photo by 121st-10)



NEW ENGINE READY TO GO IN PLACE—Mechanics of the 121st Aviation Company position the new engine for the Huey.

(Photo by 121st-10)

Even The Bees Are Viet Cong

LONG KHANH, (1st INF-10)—Classic Viet Cong ambush tactics were employed successfully recently against Company C, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry, "Vanguards" . . . but by bees.

On a search and destroy mission in Long Khanh province as part of Operation Abilene, the "Vanguards" were moving through the jungle when they were suddenly attacked by an estimated reinforced regiment of extremely hostile bees. The bees, holding true to guerrilla tactics, allowed the point men to pass and swarmed down upon the main element of the company.

When it became apparent that the bees would not be dispersed by slapping, protective masks were donned and smoke grenades thrown. The yellow smoke effectively drove the hostile force away and Company C continued its mission. When a Viet Cong base camp was discovered shortly thereafter, the seemingly innocent bees were revealed as a VC delaying force.

Private McKinley Howard was among the friendly casualties of the encounter with the bee regiment. As he put lotion on his wounds, Howard said, "I'd rather tangle with the VC than get attacked by those bees again. They were the biggest bees I've ever seen."

Nearly 50 percent of the "Vanguards" were stung by the bees, but all the wounded continued their mission. There was no accurate report of bee casualties.



A SUBSTITUTE DADDY—SFC Donald Wawczyk enjoys making friends with the children during one of his many visits to the orphanage.
(Photo by 101st Avn Bn.-IO)

Company 'A' Has 90 Babies

SOC TRANG, (101st AVN.-IO)—American soldiers in every war have performed humanitarian acts and Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion is no exception. For the last four months Co. A has been donating its services, spare time, and money to support the Co-Nhi-Vien children's orphanage which is administered by the Sisters of Providence in Soc Trang.

Last October, Chaplain Harold Paul approached the NCO's of the company and said, "The six sisters at this orphanage have taken on a seemingly insurmountable

task. They have an average of 90 babies to raise between the ages of one day and two years. Some of the babies are taken from villages in the area which have been overrun by the Viet Cong and left to die. Others are left by peasant families unable to feed and clothe them. Many are dehydrated, anemic and near death when they get to the orphanage. The sisters do a wonderful job but they need help."

Acting promptly, the small group of NCOs began telling the story of the orphanage throughout the company. The informally nominated project officer, SFC Kenneth Johnson, began accepting contributions on the next payday. So far, the voluntary contributions of the company men have averaged 150 dollars a month. The men soon found out, however, that monetary aid wasn't the only type they could provide. Around Christmas, many letters were sent to friends and relatives asking for used clothing, toys, and medicine. The response was gratifying.

With the many gifts, the company had a party on Christmas Eve for the children of the orphanage, which was a booming success. Each girl was given a doll, which had been donated by the employees of Providence Mutual Life Insurance Company. Each boy received a ball, truck, or car. As Sp4 Hillary Bergman recalled, "For about five minutes the party looked like it was going to flop, the children had never seen toys before and didn't know what to do with them. However, with demonstrations from the men, the children were soon playing and laughing like children the world over do with toys."

Perhaps the most needed help has come from the company's associated medical detachments; specifically Specialist Thomas and Doctor Bartecchi. Even before the company became interested in the orphanage, Sp5 Ronald Thomas was making routine trips on off-duty time to the orphanage. With first aid kit in hand, he did what he was able to do to relieve the suffering of the infants. When Captain Carl Bartecchi arrived in October, the two began making visits to the orphanage together.

The nuns were skeptical at first of the weird powders, lotions, and pills. As they continued to come back through and the skin rashes and head sores cleared up, the nuns became eager to learn how to administer these things. Now they look forward to the visits and are quick to speak up if the vitamins or powder have run out. Specialist Thomas has found an avid supporter in Indianapolis.

"This lady is leading a campaign throughout the city to supply the orphanage with critical needs."

Specialist Five James Patterson has enlisted the aid of his hometown people, Royal Oak, Mich., and has received some 200 packages containing clothes, food, toys, and medicine. His high school also is sending two washing machines to the orphanage. "As in all civic actions," says Chaplain Paul, "our aim is to help them to help themselves. The nuns have been taught to administer modern powders, lotions, and pills; they have been given diapers and baby bottles and the necessary equipment to maintain cleanliness."



INFATUATION—This parentless girl is more fascinated by Capt. Carl Bartecchi than the doll which he is holding.
(Photo by 101st Avn. Bn.-IO)

Cold Beer For All Via Caribou

DA NANG, (14th Avn-IO) — Pilots of the 1st Platoon, 92nd Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Battalion, flying the CV-2 Caribou out of Da Nang have airdropped many tons of cargo to Special Forces camps throughout the I Corps tactical zone.

These supplies range from ammunition to cows, and the 92nd pilots have established a reputation for accuracy utilizing this method of aerial resupply.

Recently they were called upon by Special Forces to deliver a very important piece of equipment. The supply officer received a refrigerator for the "A" team located at Ha Thanh, Vietnam. Since the airstrip at this location was not suitable for landing, the CV-2 pilots were asked if they could airdrop the refrigerator without damaging it.

Their reputation was at stake, but they willingly undertook the task.

Staff Sergeant Joel Parrot, the famed "Rebel Rigger" of the Special Forces "C" Detachment at Da Nang, prepared the refrigerator for airdrop, using special insulation and three parachutes to insure a soft landing.

With the refrigerator strapped down in their Caribou, Maj. Ray Trouve and Capt. Benny Himes departed Da Nang for Ha Thanh, some 70 miles to the south in mountainous terrain. To insure safe delivery the refrigerator had to be dropped from an altitude of 700 feet to an airstrip only 100 feet in width. With a perfectly executed airdrop the 92nd pilots put the refrigerator right in the middle of the strip.

Back at Da Nang two hours later the following message was received from the "A" team at Ha Thanh, "Refrigerator plugged in and working fine—beer getting cold—score another first for the Caribou pilots."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Vessels
- Vehicles
- More
- consecrated
- Friendly
- Four (Roman number)
- Ingredient
- Conjunction
- Arbiter (slang)
- Dim
- Unit of Siamese currency
- Cloth measure (pl.)
- Allow
- Class of vertebrates
- Ceremonial
- Hurried
- Emerges victorious
- District in Germany
- Communists
- Helix
- Withered
- Hawaiian wreath
- Matures
- Dance step
- Wild hogs
- Superlative ending
- Paid notice
- Plagues
- Compass point
- Lower
- Seesaw
- Wipe out
- Smooth the feathers of

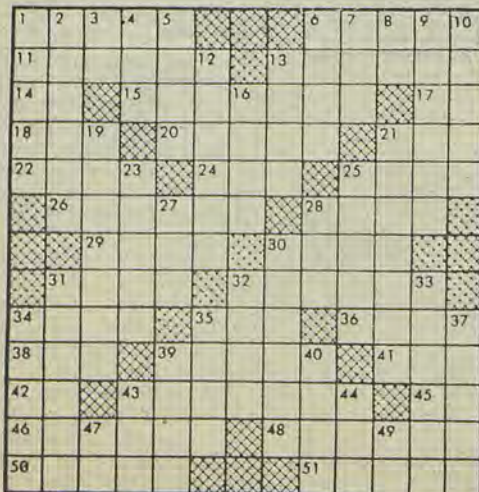
DOWN

- County in England
- Rude huts
- Prefix: not
- Baker's product
- Entire person of an individual
- Coin

- Emmet
- A state (abbr.)
- Experienced
- Narrow openings
- Domains
- Polished person (slang)
- Attitude
- Blossoms
- Mean
- Skid
- Three-banded armadillo
- Abstract being
- Capuchin monkey
- Enthusiasm
- Schoolbook
- Scorch
- One who holds lease

HER GRASP JAM
ATA LIANE ARA
TAGGED EERIER
LEE REPEL
MOAT FE SEEPS
AWN MILE FRET
IN SPRINGS DO
NEAT METE PAN
ERROR VE HALE
ERASE KID
RENEGE RIDDEN
IRA EASEL LEI
MSS SLAIN ELL

- Shovel
- Learning
- Strict
- Foundation
- Leak through
- Possesses
- Weight of India
- College degree (abbr.)
- Symbol for tellurium



Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

A First At Cu Chi

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO)—The whistles and cheers of the men of the 25th Infantry Division echoed through Hau Nghia Province this week as Danny Kaye, on a tour of Vietnam, became the first entertainer to appear for the "Tropic Lightning" troops since their arrival at Cu Chi.

Greeted by Maj. Gen. Fred C. Weyand, 25th Division commander, Kaye and his troupe staged two performances at the newly built division amphitheater.

Kaye, who was accompanied by popular singer Vikkie Carr, visited wounded soldiers at the 25th Medical Battalion's field hospital to take the show to the men unable to attend.

Lunching with the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry "Wolfhounds," Kaye and his troupe were entertained with songs of the islands from the men who were based in Hawaii before being sent to Vietnam. It was, said one soldier, one way of saying thanks to the performers for going to Cu Chi.

All members of the troupe were presented with honorary memberships to the division by General Weyand.

1st Cav. 'Divining Rod'

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) — A group of high-flying 1st Cavalry Division pilots got down to earth recently in their quest for a water source.

Helicopter pilots of the division's 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion had decided that they needed a shower after flying all day but finding a water source in the area promised to be a stumbling block.

With only one water point, located at the nearby Song Ba river, to serve all of the more than 20,000 troops at this central highlands base, the aviators in Company A decided to dig a well.

One of the pilots, Capt. Edward (Big Ed) Freeman produced an old-fashioned forked stick, proclaimed it to be a divining rod, and set about a water search of the company area.

According to a witness, the stick clearly seemed to be wrenched from the captain's hands over a particular spot of ground.

The pilots organized digging shifts and started to dig in the selected location—and ran into the hardest ground conceivable.

Not without misgivings, the pilots continued to dig for eight hours, the first day, the only result being a shallow depression in the unyielding earth.

For eight days, work continued on the well but it was not until the digging approached the 20 foot mark that any sign of moisture appeared.

At 19 feet, 4 inches, cool, clear water bubbled into the pit and the soldiers had water for their showers.

"Divine" murmured Freeman later, standing under the flow of the newly built shower.



DANNY KAYE — Comedian Danny Kaye rides with Maj. Gen. Fred C. Weyand, CG, 25th Inf. Div. from the heliport to the division's base camp at Cu Chi. Danny recently performed for the Tropic Lightning soldiers. (Photo by 25th INF-IO)

This Time The Rescuer Got Rescued

QUI NHON, (USARV-IO) — When the U.S. Army sets out to recover a crashed Air Force plane, it gets the job done. Sometimes, though, the rescuer winds up being the rescued.

When Air Force Capt. Gail Wilson's Bird Dog lost its engine during a night mission directing air strikes in support of the La Hai Special Forces camp 25 miles south of here, he made a deadstick landing by light of a flare.

A May Day call before the crash brought an Army Huey helicopter. It flew Wilson and Bird Dog passenger Army Maj. Clifford Allison back to Qui Nhon.

The next morning, Major Allison and CWO Warren Custis of the 79th Transportation Company flew another Huey to the crash site to recover the Bird Dog.

Knowing that the weight of the plane would place the Huey at maximum gross weight, the Army pilots drained the Huey's

tanks to the minimum. They picked up the sling-loaded Bird Dog in gusty winds and took off.

It wasn't long before the luckless pilots found out they couldn't make it home on the remaining fuel.

They headed for an impromptu landing, asked for fighter cover, and set up a perimeter of defense.

Twenty minutes later another 79th Huey arrived with 50 gallons of much needed fuel. Dropping the cans, the Huey hooked up to the Air Force plane and completed the recovery flight to Qui Nhon. The original rescue ship followed.



Some Days It Just Does Not Pay To Wake Up

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-IO)—A 22-year-old soldier in the 1st Infantry Division found his first day on a mission against the Viet Cong "one of the worst in his life."

Private First Class Randall Sheline was participating in Operation "Abilene" when his unit was being ferried from Vung Tau

airfield to a blocking position northeast of Saigon. He had a rash between his legs.

While being airlifted by helicopter, a bottle of mosquito repellent he carried in his hip pocket accidentally broke, causing a miserable 20-minute ride for the young soldier.

Debarking the chopper later, he lost his combat rations of three meals and did not have time to look for it.

His company was given a search and destroy mission in front of the battalion perimeter, and while the young soldier shared rations with a fellow soldier, a Viet Cong sniper opened up at the group. Sheline, heading for cover, lost his only meal in the dirt.

The next day, the company was on a major sweep when a radio operator from the command group brushed against a beehive. Several dozen bees swarmed after the fleeing company. "I saw several men running and then heard someone yell, 'They're all around us,'" he exclaimed. "I thought we were surrounded by the Viet Cong and started to move back at high speed."

Unfortunately, Sheline was not quick enough because the bees bit him on the neck and lip.

On the return trip, Capt. Frederick Foley, Sheline's commanding officer, decided to camp out in the dense jungle. He called for resupply of rations and water. Two choppers hovered at tree-top level to drop the supplies. Several water cartons had to be retrieved from the treetops and PFC Sheline was one of the ones detailed to accomplish the task.

"After the worst experiences to happen to me in a single day," he said, "I spent the most comfortable evening sleeping. Even the hard ground felt comforting."

Education Is The Key To Freedom

TUY HOA, (101st-IO)—"Education is the key to the Vietnamese nation's lasting freedom, and it will help our two countries to better understand one another."

This was a statement by Sp4 David C. Frappier, a paratrooper working in the Civic Action Section of the 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade.

Three nights a week, Frappier and Sgt. Vernon Thomas make a trip to Tuy Hoa, a small town in central-coastal Vietnam, from the base camp of the forward elements of the 1st Brigade which is near Tuy Hoa. They make the trip to teach the townspeople, from six through sixty, the English language and its pronunciation.

"The Vietnamese have a great desire to speak our language correctly," said Sergeant Thomas. Thomas and Frappier pronounce English sentences which are written on a blackboard. Under the English is a Vietnamese translation. When the students have difficulty with a certain word, the two instructors do their best to provide an example of the correct pronunciation.

"The class," said Frappier, "was having trouble saying 'WHO.' I wrote down 'HOO,' but they still didn't say the word correctly. I thought a moment and then went to the far end of the blackboard and wrote 'HOOOOOOOOOOO.' The class all aughed, ... but their pronunciation was finally correct."

Book Review

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-IO)—How the Army Medical Service is striking back at malaria is told in the May issue of ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST by Maj. Robert I. Cutting, Chief, Preventive Medicine Research Branch. Included is a brief description of the many diseases, their symptoms, and preventive measures that individuals can take.

How artillery meteorological sections help cannoneers and missilemen apply "Kentucky windage" to their projectiles is described in "On Target With the Weather" by Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Hampton.

Simulators are taking the place of expensive drones in air defense firing practice as described by Majors Edward A. Sparrow and John C. Mann in "Air Defense's Sparring Partner."

The "New Look in Audio-Visual Aids" is discussed by Dr. Joseph H. Kanner, Pictorial Audio-Visual Division, Office of the Chief of Communications and Electronics.

Enlisted promotion policies since 1946, culminating in the latest revised Chapter 7 to AR 600-200, are reviewed by SFC Warren Le Mon in "Steps Toward Stripes."



CHOW LINE—Danny Kaye and Vikkie Carr go through the chow line at Hq Co, 1st/27th Inf. at the 25th Infantry Division's base camp in Cu Chi. The mess sergeant watches critically. (Photo by 25th INF-IO)



SEEING THE SIGHTS—Soldiers on Rest and Recreation at the Vung Tau Rest and Recreation Center enjoy an afternoon of sightseeing from a pony cart.

(Photo by SSgt. Russell L. Anderson, USARV-IO)

Lost & Found In Long Khanh Province

LONG KHANH, (1st INF-IO)—When SP4 Charles W. Powell lost his wallet while riding in a convoy through Long Khanh province recently, he thought he'd never see it again.

TV Actor Tours 25th

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO)—James Drury, TV's Virginian, and his troupe of entertainers, currently on tour in Vietnam, treated more than 4,000 troops of the 25th Infantry Division to more than an hour of comic western ballads and dancing "a la GO-GO" this week at the division's new amphitheatre.

Arranged by the 25th Division Special Services Office, the U.S.O. show featured in addition to Drury, the South Hollywood Buffalo Hunters and dancers Lori Bigley and Joni Lyman.

Drury and his troupe were greeted by Maj. Gen. Fred C. Weyand, 25th Infantry Division commander. After the afternoon performance, General Weyand presented the troupe with honorary memberships in the Tropic Lightning Division.

The wallet contained a little money, numerous identification cards and other personal items. Powell, a squad leader in the Mortar Platoon, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry "Vanguards", resigned himself to his loss and continued with his company on Operation Abilene.

But the wallet was not lost permanently. A Roman Catholic priest, Father Francis, found the wallet in the village of Xa Binh Gia, through which the convoy had passed. Recognizing the wallet as an American soldier's, he stopped the first American vehicle passing through the village and returned the wallet.

A day later, Powell had his wallet safely in his pocket.

Specialist Powell and Maj. Robert B. McJilton Jr., the "Vanguard" Executive Officer, visited the village to personally thank the priest. To show his appreciation for the wallet's return, Powell presented the Vietnamese priest a small sum of money, to be used for the benefit of the parish's children.

Broncos Return To Base After Weeks In Field

PLEIKU, (25th INF DIV-IO) — After almost seven continuous, dusty weeks of combat operations, the "Broncos," 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, have returned to their Pleiku base camp.

Following a massive airlift of most of the brigade south to Ban Me Thuot on February 25th, the men of the brigade fought to the north and west on operation Garfield.

Garfield ended on March 24th. At that point the brigade's base was located at Buon Brieng, a small Montagnard outpost 60 miles north of Ban Me Thuot.

52nd Avn. Supports Tropic Lightning

DUC CO, (25th INF-IO)—Sitting on the apron of this small Special Forces camp are many UH-1 "Huey" helicopters of the 52nd Aviation Battalion which are being used to support the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade.

The 52nd Battalion's choppers heli-lift units ranging from sections to a battalion of infantry or more.

On combat assaults, the infantry unit boards the choppers and heads for a landing zone (LZ) which has been "prepped" by Air Force strafing or bombing, artillery fire, or by armed "gun" helicopters.

The "prepping of an LZ is usually done by the Air Force jets or by 105mm howitzer fire from the "Bronco" Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery. However, the proposed LZ might be out of artillery range and there might not be any aircraft available from the Air Force. In this case, the battalion's "gun ships" are called upon to prepare the zone for the infantry element.

Once the choppers set down and the troops are off-loaded, the "Hueys" head for home.

Meanwhile, the word "dustoff" might be heard on one of the radios. This means someone has been wounded and must be evacuated to the hospital at the brigade's command post. This type of mission often means that the time taken in retrieving the wounded man could mean the difference between life and death.

Using a different type of helicopter, the CH-47 "Chinook," the 52nd has heli-lifted the 105mm

howitzers of the "Mighty Ninth" Artillery into inaccessible terrain on several occasions so that they could readily support the infantry elements on the operation.

Another mission the aviation battalion is called upon to do is aerial observation.

Using small, single-engine planes of the "Piper Cub" variety, the pilot and one passenger head for the wild blue yonder to see if they can spot any enemy troops or emplacements. Many times they do, and almost always these sightings are taken under fire by artillery, Air Force jets, or by friendly troops on the ground. These small aircraft provide an "eye in the sky" for the brigade commander and the battalion commanders.

At the forward command post of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, there is now a landing zone.

When the helicopter pilots were given the job of resupplying the forward company of the "Cacti Green" Battalion, they would have to take the supplies in by slinging them in nets and dropping them in, literally, from a height of 80 to 100 feet, because of the tall trees that covered the area. The answer was to cut down some of the trees.

The infantry company, along with some engineers from D Company, 65th Engineer Battalion, cut down trees and used explosives to blow up the tree stumps.

Then they built a "crib" out of logs to allow the helicopters to land. The landing is still a bit tricky.

Without a break, the "Broncos" linked up with the 1st Cavalry Division for operation Lincoln on March 25th. The "Tropic Lightning" soldiers continued to strike at the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese.

On March 31st, the brigade again shifted its base north. The new base of operations was a Special Forces camp, 100 miles northwest of Buon Brieng, at Duc Co, five miles from the Cambodian border.

The moves from Ban Me Thuot to Buong Brieng to Duc Co were made by road. This was the first time highway 14, the north-south route through central Vietnam, had been opened by US Forces.

During the two consecutive operations the "Broncos" posted an impressive record of communist harassment.

On operation Garfield the brigade accounted for 103 North Vietnamese and eight Viet Cong killed. Air and artillery strikes in support of brigade operations accounted for another twenty North Vietnamese killed.

Twelve Viet Cong were captured and 78 suspects were also detained by the brigade.

The brigade posted one of the highest captured weapons-to-enemy killed ratios to date in the war. A total of 65 weapons were taken, including 47 small arms, 16 automatic weapons, one American M-79 grenade launcher, and one 75mm recoilless rifle.

Large quantities of ammunition were captured during Garfield. This included 102 hand grenades, 38 B-40 rockets, 1200 12.7mm rounds, 27,300 small arms rounds, and 3 Claymore-type mines.

A complete field hospital was also captured by an element of the brigade. The find resulted in over 100 pounds of drugs and a large assortment of surgical instruments captured.

A total of 400 uniforms, 234 rucksacks, 11 telephones, a switchboard, and 150 pounds of documents and photographs were also captured. Three hundred enemy structures were destroyed.

After Lincoln, Colonel Everette A. Stoutner, the 3rd Brigade Commander said, "I think the greatest benefit to us on this operation was the fine experience we gained working with the battle-tested 1st Cavalry Division."

101st Library Dedicated

PHAN RANG, (101st ABN-IO)—The first project of the 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade Memorialization Program, the George Burkheart Library, has been dedicated here.

The library is named in honor of the late Lt. George W. Burkheart, the first man from the "Screaming Eagle" Division to be killed in action in Vietnam.

Lieutenant Burkheart was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his heroic action in September.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies were officiated by Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson C.G. 1st Bde. and 1st Lt. Edward Fernandez, the officer in charge of the library.



WHAT A LIFE!—Men of U.S. combat units enjoy a three-day break from the war at Vung Tau Rest and Relaxation Center.

(Photo by SSgt. Russell L. Anderson, USARV-IO)

A Day In The Field—'Wolfhound' Style

By PFC John Dittmann

CU CHI, (25th INF-10)—The operation was called "Makaha," a search and destroy operation, the old story of "seek out and engage the enemy." But today most of the enemy did not want to be engaged.

At 6 a.m. I joined the 3rd Platoon of B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry commanded by 2nd Lt. G. K. Wood. We were assigned to the third wave of a three-wave heliborne phase of Operation "Makaha."

The landing zone was an area of rice paddies and small hamlets 25 miles north of Saigon. The Viet Cong had staged a number of ambushes in this area over the past several days and now it was our turn to do a little ambushing.

When we landed the first two waves had already been under light sniper fire for about half an hour but no real contact had been made. As the chopper landed, the men leaped out of both sides and dove for cover behind dikes and bushes as if they had never done anything but make helicopter landings all their lives. They moved out in unison to the next dike.

There was sniper fire on our right. Suddenly a bullet whizzed past and I dived for the nearest ditch. I landed on top of a private and he said, "Are you all right Sir?" I said I was not a sir and then he told me what I was. Two more shots from the sniper were answered by the pop of M-16 rifles on both sides. Then all was quiet, so we stood up—very slowly. My ditch partner was covered with mud from his knees down. I was covered with mud from my knees up.

The platoon moved through a heavily wooded area and then across 400 yards of open fields. By now the heat of the Vietnamese sun was beginning to show in the streaks of sweat that crisscrossed the foot soldiers' shirts. As we approached the outskirts of a large village, the lieutenant and a Vietnamese interpreter were questioning two of the very few young men we came across during the operation.

As we approached, again there

was sniper fire. This time I landed on top of a sergeant and he wasn't anywhere near as nice as the private. The fire up ahead was getting heavy so we moved up to have a look. The plodding foot soldiers of a few minutes ago were moving from building to building with amazing agility.

I watched a sergeant as he slid along the side of a house, kicked open the door and twisted into a position covering the entire room—nothing. Across the road four men assaulted a large stone building. This time they found several bags of rice, possibly VC. The units that followed would find out for sure.

It was quiet on the street now. I followed SSgt. Alfred Batungbacal, a 125th Signal Corps photographer out into the street. As we walked towards a machine gunner kneeling behind a stone marker, a shot cracked and a bullet ricocheted just in front of us. This time I was in the hole first. Sergeant Batungbacal, although laden with heavy equipment, followed with amazing rapidity. "Hey, you mind if I rest this camera on your back while I take this shot?"

"Go right ahead Sarge, I'm not going anywhere."

This time it looked like we might have something. The platoon, now in positions on both sides of the street, cut loose with withering rifle and automatic weapons fire. Still the bullets were coming our way. A rifle grenade was launched from the left and then it was all over. "Charlie" was dead or gone or both. We had one casualty. A private had been shot through the hip, not a serious wound but a very painful one.

A litter was made from a poncho and a couple of bamboo stalks. Four men carried the wounded GI back toward the rear until they came to a Medical Battalion APC. Medics from the APC redressed the wound, loaded the man on their vehicle and sped him back to the landing area. A few minutes later he was aboard a helicopter on his way back to the field hospital at Cu Chi.

It was noon and the shirts that had been streaked with sweat an

hour ago were soaked through. What had been beads of perspiration were now rivers of sweat. We stopped for chow; tired feet moved swiftly to the coveted shade of the few trees that separated the hamlet from the scorched rice paddies all around. If the C rations had been as hot as the water and the water as cold as the C rations, it might have been a good meal.

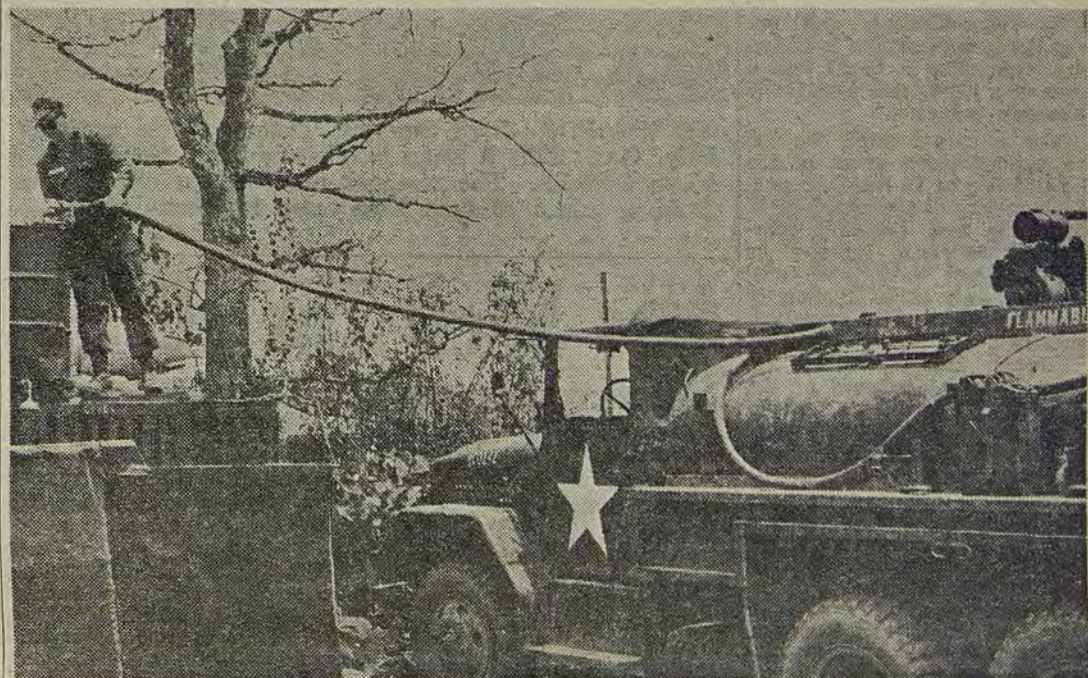
All afternoon we pushed from hamlet to hamlet, searching for "Charlie" but finding nothing but women and children and an occasional young man who for some reason had not run off to hide.

While the men were being interrogated by the interpreter, someone spotted some blood on the ground, possibly from a wounded VC. He called for Lieutenant Wood and together they followed the trail.

In the back room of a house nearby they found a woman and her two children. All three had been wounded by a Viet Cong mine that had been intended for us. Wood called for a medic to give first aid. A doctor would be following close behind with the mechanized units. He would examine the three and give further aid if necessary.

For the rest of the afternoon we followed the same procedure of search and destroy, doing a lot of searching and finding very little to destroy.

I grabbed the first resupply helicopter back to Cu Chi, leaving the foot sloggers to spend the night on the ground. Tomorrow they would have more of the same. They would make a house to house search of the six mile walk back to Cu Chi. They would walk the same tired miles, drink the same hot water, eat the same cold food and choke on the same dry dust as they had today.



WATER FOR THE TROOPS' SHOWERS—Private First Class Robert A. Ashley, a member of the "Big Red One", fills one of the 21 homemade showers in the Di An area that he is responsible for. Ashley delivers roughly 2,500 gallons of water a day, seven days a week. (Photo by 1st INF-10)

Grand Ole Opry—With Artillery Blasts Added!

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-10)—As a person walks past one of the buildings housing the mortar

platoon of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry at night, he might wonder if the

Grand Ole Opry's cast had been transported to Vietnam. The country and western music which he hears from inside the building is not the work of a professional group, but the off-duty hobby of four of the platoon's NCOs.

Platoon Sergeant Roy E. Bailey, the leader of the group, says, "We play mainly country and western music, and occasionally a little rock and roll."

Sergeant Bailey and PSgt. James Spence are the lead guitarists in the combo. SSgt. Douglas Loomis and Sgt. Bobby R. Whedbee play the rhythm guitar parts.

As their favorite numbers, the group listed "Love's Gonna Live Here", "Wildwood Flower", and "Under the Double Eagle". They often make tape recordings of their performances. However, the tapes are often punctuated at inopportune times by the loud explosions of artillery pieces being fired outside. So far they have been unable to think of a remedy for this "small" problem.

The four NCOs have been playing as a group for about one year, having first performed together at Fort Riley, Kansas. When asked if they had adopted a distinctive name for their group, Sergeant Bailey answered, "No." Then he smiled. "We figure that those who like our music know who we are anyway."

Luckiest Person Alive

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-10)—A squad leader in Company B, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, 1st Infantry Division considers himself the luckiest person alive. And undoubtedly, he will tell about

this experience with death for years to come.

Staff Sergeant Richard Fernandes arrived in Vietnam four weeks ago and was on his first major operation against the Viet Cong.

The operation was Operation "Abilene", and his unit had been flown to a blocking position by helicopters a few hours earlier. He dug a foxhole, completing it near supper time. Laying his combat gear in the freshly dug hole, he moved about 20 meters away to heat his combat rations when an artillery round bore down on his position.

After the dust cleared, the sergeant stood up to observe how close the round had hit. His foxhole was now a crater some seven feet in diameter and his gear torn to pieces. His poncho liner was found in shreds hanging in a nearby tree, his rifle and steel pot were destroyed, his grenades were chopped at the top, his canteen cup bore several holes and his web equipment was scattered about a 15-meter radius.

A veteran of 11 years of service, Sergeant Fernandes was shook up but otherwise unhurt. He said, "I was never so close to death."

War On Malaria

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10)—Medical evacuation helicopters of the 1st Cavalry Division's 15th Medical Battalion are making short work of the clouds of malaria-carrying mosquitoes that breed in marshy areas around and near the camp.

Fitted with sprayer booms that extend from the sides of the craft 20 feet from tip to tip the helicopters fly low over the camp dispensing insecticide at the rate of 8 gallons a minute.

Mosquitoes flying or resting in brush and grass below the spray copter are enveloped by the spray and killed immediately.

The present sprayer craft carries 125 gallons of spray and a crew of pilot and co-pilot. The spray is regulated by the co-pilot.



WHY DON'T YOU GET IN LINE LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE?

A Method In Their Madness

DI AN, (1st INF-IO) — The American soldier is renowned for his innate ability to scrounge, fabricate, adapt, or liberate any item that will aid in satisfaction of his native comforts.

Turn loose any Army trooper on a barren plateau, steaming jungle, or desolate island—his imagination and ingenuity become super-efficient, and ere long the transformation is underway, converting a hovel into a home or a pigsty into a veritable Solomon's palace.

Take a casual stroll through the various troop areas of the Big Red One at Di An. Take note of the variety of showers, built-in cupboards and paneling, parquet flooring, tapestry or screen draped walls, and especially the truly fantastic array of cooling devices for troop-type beverages.

Although the usual billet appears to be a junkyard or the aftermath of a Kansas tornado to the casual observer, a closer scrutiny shows method in madness and comfort in disorder.

Among the countless architectural gems worthy of notice are patios, French-sidewalk-cafe adaptations, and numerous August Moon tea-houses, as each industrious occupant erects his dream house from debris and dunnage. Sic Transit hammer and saw...

Costner Road

CAM RANH BAY, (1st LOG-IO) — Army SSgt. Harold M. Costner has no trouble remembering his hometown street address. When the road commissioner learned the sergeant, now serving here with the Army's 1st Logistical Command at Cam Ranh's busy port, had purchased a home on an unnamed street, he promptly christened the thoroughfare Costner Road.



VC WEAPON—Staff Sergeant Thomas Oliver explains a captured VC weapon to Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, Commanding General of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. The weapons are used to orient new replacements at the 101st training school at their base camp in Phan Rang.

(Photo by PFC Jerome-101st Abn. Div.-IO)

All's Well That Ends Well

PLEIKU, (25th INF-IO)—All's well that ends well.

That's what they're saying at 35th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, here at Pleiku. Shortly after the unit's arrival in the Republic of Vietnam as part of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, Tropic Lightning soldiers in the company discovered there just wasn't enough water to enjoy a good long shower. Two men came up with the solution.

Staff Sergeant Raymond D. Shablik and Cpl. Donald L. Maxwell figured the best thing to do was to dig a well.

After talking their proposal over with Lt. Col. George A. Scott, the "Cacti Blue" battalion commander, he recommended immediate action.

"We made a map study of the surrounding streams and came to the conclusion that we could hit the water table between 30 and 50 feet," Sergeant Schablik said.

A crew of six men started working on the well with picks and shovels. They got their desired diameter—eight feet — and dug, and dug, and dug.

Every so often they would come across a shelf of hard dirt with moisture in it. "Sometimes you could even squeeze the water out

of some of it with your hands. That kept up the enthusiasm that we all had in the success of our project," Schablik said.

And succeed they did. When the water started seeping into the deep, dark well, Chaplain Donald Williams, the battalion chaplain who provided daily moral support, thought it was the greatest thing that could possibly happen.

Of course, the problems were still not completely solved.

A pump was needed to get the water from the well to the storage drums. The company got together and purchased an electric pump in Qui Nhon which arrived last week on a convoy with supplies for the brigade.

"Now all we need is electricity to run the pump," Sergeant Schablik said.

That problem will be solved, however, once the Repair and Utilities Unit for the brigade completes the installation of a 100-kilowatt generator.

The men of Company B will

soon have all the water they can use. There does remain one problem. When the pipe gets clogged up, what plumber will the men call? Judging from the ingenuity of the men of Company B, there is undoubtedly a plumber in the crowd.

VN Youth In School

QUI NHON, (1st LOG-IO) — Army SFC Bobby G. Broome, father of three sons in the United States, is now also providing financial support to another man's son, 16-year-old Dao My Duc, whose Vietnamese father was killed by the Viet Cong.

When the youngster's father was killed, he went to work for Sergeant Broome's unit, the 972nd Signal Battalion, as a payroll clerk. Sergeant Broome learned the youth had quit school because he had no funds to continue his education.

Due to depart Vietnam at the end of April, the 1st Logistical Command sergeant has established a \$500 trust fund to provide Duc's tuition, food clothing and board for the two years of school the youth has remaining.

Viet Cong Propaganda Exposed

NHA TRANG, (1 FEB-IO)—Today in Vietnam, more than in any previous armed conflict, the American Army is attempting to help those who, through no fault of their own, are innocently caught in the middle of a shooting war.

"Civic Action" is the name given to the Army's efforts to utilize its skills, men and equipment in Vietnam to help the people. Although the government of Vietnam has numerous aid programs for its people, the pressure and cost of their long struggle against communism have drastically cut into their ability to continue the programs on a large scale.

Every American serviceman who enters Vietnam is told of the importance of his personal conduct and of the importance of his assisting the needy people of South Vietnam. Military units, such as I Field Force's 41st Civil Affairs Company have been organized to fulfill this mission on a daily basis.

An excellent example of how the unit works was found in Khoa Trung village on the coastal plains of Binh Dinh Province during Operation White Wing.

Binh Dinh had long been considered a Viet Cong stronghold and the Americans didn't expect a warm welcome.

As the combat troops moved forward, medical teams from the 41st Civil Affairs Company followed. A crude aid station was set up and men, women and children were given treatment. Young and old alike, many of whom had never before had the opportunity of receiving trained medical treatment, were examined and treated.

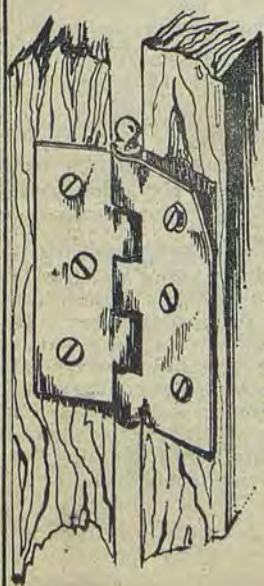
Some of the children were apprehensive at first when Capt. Robert Klein examined them with the strange looking stethoscope. And like their American counterparts, many cried when their condition required a "shot."

But the people kept coming to the wooden tabled doctor's office under the jungle palms. Cut and scratched hands were expertly bandaged by Sp6 Melvin Murrell, working with Doctor Klein.

In the end, smiles replaced the apprehension. If the people had believed Communist propaganda which accuses American troops of being sadistic killers, the villagers of Khoa Trung didn't show it. These Americans were thanked and asked to come again.

FIX IT YOURSELF

LOOSE HINGES & BRACKETS



STEPS:

1. REMOVE LOOSE SCREW.
2. USE NEW LONGER SCREW OR:
A USE A MALLEABLE FILLER SUCH AS OLD TOOTH PASTE TUBE, SPLINTER OF WOOD, LEAD OR ZINC PLATE, ETC. TO PACK HOLE.
3. PLACE SCREW AND TIGHTEN.

PAE

Chinook Medivac?

LONG VINH, (178th AVN-IO)—A new concept in airmobile medical evacuation was initiated March 31, when a CH-47 "Chinook" of the 178th Aviation Company, 11th Aviation Battalion, transported nine seriously wounded servicemen from the 93rd Evac Hospital to Tan Son Nhut Air Field. Upon arrival they were transferred directly into a U.S. Air Force aircraft enroute to the United States.

Until now, all medical evacuations in the III Corps Area were conducted by UH-1D and B model "Huey" aircraft. Utilizing special internal rigging, the Chinook can carry 24 stretcher patients, where the "D" model "Huey" can carry only 6.

Within its huge cargo compartment medical personnel are able to move around with complete ease while caring for the needs of their patients.

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