

"SMOKEY" DOWN AT AIRFIELD: HIT IN LZ

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

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

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

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



VOL 1

NO 6

1 OCT 67

269TH CBT AVN BN RVN

IN MEMORY OF

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

WO1 James T. Donahue, 188th Aslt Hel Co.
killed in action 22 September 1967.

FOREVER

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

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

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

John Boyle O'Reilly

Breast Plate Protects Black Ace

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

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

The plate stopped the 30 caliber bullet from entering his chest and wounding him.

SIX COMPANY BN CA FINDS "CHARLIE"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

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

DOWN

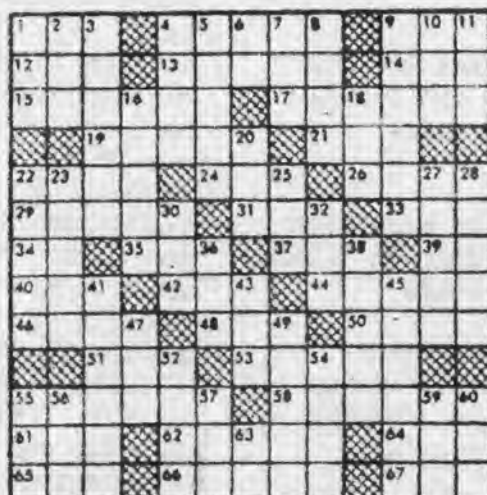
- 1-Possesses
- 2-The self

3-Prison official

- 4-Stalk
- 5-Rise and fall of ocean (sl.)
- 6-Road (abbr.)
- 7-Scotch for "John"
- 8-Real estate map
- 9-Rumor
- 10-Anger
- 11-Article of furniture
- 16-Carried
- 18-Seed container
- 20-Weaken
- 22-Snares
- 23-Revolutionary
- 25-Long, slender fish
- 27-Passageway
- 28-Repairs
- 30-Intellect

- 32-Affirmative
- 36-Stomach
- 38-Keen
- 41-More mournful
- 43-Dance step
- 45-Put in harmony
- 47-Command to horse
- 49-Spar

- 52-Dampens
- 54-Bacteriologist's wire
- 55-Fish eggs
- 56-Silk worm
- 57-Small rug
- 59-Game of sight
- 60-Organ of sight
- 63-Parent (colloq.)



Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

22

SMOKEY DOWNED....

(Continued from page number 1)
PZ for about six minutes.

Company D, 4/9th Infantry Division, was being extracted by the 116th Hornets, and "Smokey" was once again committed to cover while under enemy fire. Mortar rounds began falling in the area, but the exposed smoke ship continued screening the area, cutting the enemy's view of the vulnerable PZ. "Stinger" gunships located the enemy position and destroyed it with rockets and machine gunfire.

The effectiveness of the low lying smoke screen is readily attested to by Captain Dale E. Snell, Fort Riley, Kansas, flight leader of the "Hornet" Company on the mission; "They did an outstanding job. The skill with which they deployed smoke saved the lift ship from being shot up."

"Smokey" was on its way back to Cu Chi but the day was not quite over. A "Hornet" slick, commanded by WO1 Alan E. Humphrey, Laramie, Wyoming, was going into the area north of Trung Lap on a re-supply mission. His ship laden with explosives; Humphrey called for smoke cover. The "Black Baron" craft returned to smoke the area without the protection of a gunship light fire team.

"They (Smokey) were laying smoke in front of me when I heard automatic weapons fire. I could hear their ship take the hits" said WO Humphrey. "The smoke gave me cover. I wasn't hit. It was a good thing they were there", he continued.

Major McKnight and CPT Kambrod elected to try to fly the crippled ship to Cu Chi. Flying low level, anticipating the possibility of an engine failure, the helicopter was fired at again, but was not hit.

"We started losing effective control of the aircraft and the controls became stiff," stated CPT Kambrod.

Specialist Fourth Class David L. Mathias, Denver Colorado, a crew chief with the "Hornets" saw the crippled ship approaching the airfield at Cu Chi. "When I first saw the ship, I thought it was making a normal approach, but when it touched down and started to skid, I could see the transmission smoke and knew they were in trouble."

The smoke ship skidded about 180 feet--the main rotor mast snapped, and the blade soared up and away straight into the air. "I thought

Careful Sir There's Mud Down There!

187th AHC IO...Before the crack of dawn, members of the well known 187th Assault Helicopter Company, "Blackhawks" are working by flashlight, insuring the choppers are ready for a new day's action. But who could imagine a Crew Chief finding time to have the cleanest helicopter in Viet Nam? Somehow, SP5 Robert Kittleson, Renton, Washington has attained this title by his energetic efforts. He is a Crew Chief on a "Blackhawk" slick known as "Old Prophet". Not only does he bathe his aircraft daily, as a car-crazed teenager cares for his shiny new sports car Kittleson also swabs down the cargo compartment after each combat assault mission. Even while waiting in the PZ, between troop lifts he continues to clean his craft.

"Keeping a clean ship is also a part of my maintenance effort," said Kittleson. "I'm real proud of 'Old Prophet'."

Kittleson, a dedicated crew chief checks all of the crafts systems with meticulous care.

"Sometimes we wonder what's on his mind as 'Old Prophet' decends into a muddy LZ" A company spokesman stated. "It's probably 'Careful sir, there's mud in that Rice Paddy.'"

the main rotor blade was going to come down on top of the chopper, but then it veered off toward us. It landed about 15 meters in front of our ship," stated Mathias. No one on the downed craft was injured, and the rotor blade landed without doing any damage.

The aviators praised the crew chief, SP5 Philip I. Busby, (River side, California) and the gunner, SP4 Paul W. Geving (Regford Township Michigan) on the fine job they did during the action. "They constantly placed effective fire on enemy positions" Said Captain Kambrod "They deserve a lot of praise for their professionalism."

A strictly professional crew, Busby and Geving helped the aviators remove equipment from the ship after the emergency landing. No one appeared to be visibly shaken...it was all in a day's work. A few days later the crew of "Smokey Baron" were on another mission.

CONGRESSIONAL COOKIES ANYONE?

269th Cbt Avn Bn IO,... "Dear Senator Kennedy: In the Great Irish American Tradition we draft this letter."

...So began a letter written by Personnel Specialists SP4 Brian J. Mooney, St Paul, Minnesota, and SP4 Thomas J. Gerrity, Fair Haven, New Jersey. The two "Black Baron" soldiers continued their letter... "We are presently serving a tour as enlisted men in Vietnam. We were discussing your general interest in youth, and your specific concern for the war in Vietnam; the two of which we agree are undeniably intertwined.

As two young men among so many our small efforts here in Vietnam are next to invisible.

The letter went on to say: "We know you have a heavy schedule, but if you have a few free minutes we would very much like to hear from you."

The clincher to the entire letter came in the Post Script, as Mooney and Gerrity jotted down a friendly little note... "If its not asking too much could your wife send us some cookies?"

It took a few weeks, but a reply from the Senator arrived along with an enormous box of homemade cookies (Chocolate Chip) and the two men eagerly read what the Senator had to say (while munching on the cookies)

In the reply, Senator Kennedy

stated in part: "I want to say how proud we all are of you and all the other young Americans in Vietnam, and how much we appreciate your courage and the sacrifices you are making..."

...Your request for cookies is a small one indeed. Some of my staff expressed the desire to bake and send them to you."

As a sequel to the event, TIME Magazine (Asia Edition) published the following article in the Sep 22d issue. The information was obtained from an undisclosed source.

"A guy can get hungry whirlybirding around South Vietnam, and Bobby and Ethel Kennedy have all those kids of their own, and—Well it's worth a try, anyway. So Army Specialists Fourth Class Brian Mooney, and Thomas Gerrity sent a wistful note to the Senator: 'Can Ethel make cookies?! Bango! Back across the Pacific came an enormous box of cookies. Bingo! Off went another note, this time to the White House: 'Can Lady Bird make cookies?' They're waiting, and so's the whole 269th Combat Aviation Battalion."

"We didn't really send a second letter to Lady Bird, that wasn't our intention," stated Mooney. "But it's food for thought" added Gerrity.

"How were the cookies"....came the mutual reply..."Delicious"

MAJOR GEN WILLIAMS PAYS 269TH 1ST VISIT

Major General Robert R. Williams; the new Commanding General of the 1st Aviation Brigade, paid his first official visit to the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion "Black Barons" recently.

The General, accompanied by COL Nicholas G. Panki, Jr.; Commanding Officer of the 12th Combat Aviation Group, was met at the Cu Chi air field by LTC James H. Merryman, Commanding Officer of the 269th.

The General visited the Battalion Headquarters and attended a conference briefing in the newly constructed Battalion conference room.

A 1940 graduate of West Point, General Williams has been with Army Aviation since its inception. He was the first Army Aviator to receive the Master Aviator's Badge, and one of the first instructors of Army pilots from 1942-44 in the Army Aviation Section of the Artillery School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. His previous flight training had been through civilian contractors, making him a

graduate of what is now known as the "Class before One"

General Williams assumed command of the 1st Avn Bde, replacing Major General George P. Seneff, Jr. who is departing for assignment as Commanding General of the 3d Infantry Division, Wuerzburg, Germany.

ARMY AVIATION

"The mission of Army Aviation is to augment the capability of the Army to conduct prompt and sustained combat incident to all operations on land.

Army Aviation accomplishes this mission by increasing the mobility, fire power, and flexibility of our Army combat forces. Army Aviation personnel think and speak the same language as their fellow soldiers.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

WILDFLOWERS

BY PFC DANIEL M JENNINGS

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

DN CA FINDS...

cont from page 2

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

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

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

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

BE
SECURITY
CONCIOUS

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Warrant Officer John McGrady of Lorain, Ohio is a "slick" pilot in the true sense of the word, for he has flown UH1D troop carrying helicopters for ten months in Vietnam without ever receiving a round in his ship. He is a member of the 187th Assault Helicopter Company, located near Tay Ninh. Although the "Blackhawks" have been involved in countless fire fights during combat assault operations, WO McGrady always managed to complete the mission and return without even as much as a single bullet hole on his ship. How does he do it? Who knows? but what ever it was he lost his record on a recent operation with the 25th Infantry Division while descending into a landing zone in the Hobo Woods north of Cu Chi.

"I was on short final with the flight said McGrady, "When a round came through my windshield and out through the top of the helicopter.

No one was injured and the aircraft continued to operate normally as he stormed into the area with the rest of the "Blackhawk" flight.

"My record is shattered", said McGrady afterwards, "I knew it was too good to be true"



AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

WO1 HENRY, JOSEPH C. JR	187TH AHC
WO1 TREADWELL, MELVIN	187TH AHC

BRONZE STAR W/ "V" DEVICE

WO1 SLAICK, JOSEPH C.	187TH AHC
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AIR MEDAL W/ "V" DEVICE

CPT CLARKE, WILLIAM T.	187TH AHC
CPT PARKS, ROBERT R.	187TH AHC
CPT WALTON, JOHN T.	187TH AHC
WO1 ADAMSON, DANIEL	187TH AHC
WO1 SMITH, MELBURN, JR.	187TH AHC
WO1 TOWNSEND, LONNIE R.	187TH AHC
SGT MICKLER, WILLIAM L.	187TH AHC
SP5 BROOKS, JAMES R.	187TH AHC
SP5 HESTER, JAMES A.	187TH AHC
SP5 PINNER, JIMMY R.	187TH AHC
SP5 WILSON, ALBERT I.	187TH AHC
SP4 ANDREWS, ROBERT A.	187TH AHC
SP4 BRAUHER, RICHARD J.	187TH AHC
SP4 CAGLE, JOSEPH F.	187TH AHC
SP4 CELTNIKS, IMANTS	187TH AHC
SP4 CORNMESSER, ROBERT E.	187TH AHC
SP4 HORTMAN, DARREL L.	187TH AHC
SP4 O'NEAL, EDDIE N.	187TH AHC
SP4 PENISKA, JACK L.	187TH AHC
SP4 SHEA, ROBERT L.	187TH AHC
SP4 SIMPSON, PERRY, C.	187TH AHC
PFC LEAKE, HOWARD L.	187TH AHC
PFC MAZEROLLE, CLAUDE L.	187TH AHC

BRONZE STAR

CPT STEELE, ROWLAND G.	116TH AHC
1LT CONNELLY, THOMAS A.	187TH AHC

PURPLE HEART

WO1 FINCH, GERALD F.	116TH AHC
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Cavalier Capsule

The Pathfinder Det of the 269th Cbt Aviation Battalion, known as the Cavaliers have had quite a busy week, with many varied types of missions.

On September 19th the entire detachment went to Phu Loi for instruction in sling-loading procedures for the CH47 Chinook.

On September 25, the detachment sent 6 mem-

bers to assist the 242d in relocating a 1st Inf Div Artillery battery near Lai Khe.

The last two days of the week were spent with the Cavaliers using their skills on final extraction pick-up zones for elements of the 25th Inf Div. This entailed some long hours and several night missions for the already busy Cavaliers.

CELESTIAL VI

"HOLINESS"

Last issue we talked about SANCTIFICATION the process of becoming Holy as God is Holy. Today we will discuss what this Holiness is about.

The ancient Hebrew word which we today translate as "holy" had the deeper meaning of being "set apart unto God". Thus, when God called Israel his "Holy nation" he referred to that fact that she was "set apart" or "separated" from others for himself.

Holiness is being separated from those things which tend to keep us from being like God. We have previously mentioned that sin separates us FROM God and the life he originally planned for us. Holiness separates us or sets us apart FOR God. To illustrate the use of this idea we notice that monks and nuns take a vow of "Holy Orders", meaning they have set apart their lives for God's work. Or there is an old hymn that says, "Take time to be holy." This hymn reminds us that there must be times in our lives when we separate ourselves from the rest of our activities to be with God. This we do particularly in private devotion and public worship.

When we talk about the holiness of God we also include the concept of his being separate from us because of his perfection. Our becoming holy, then, is living in such a way as to imitate God's perfection. In order to do this we must live according to God's commandments. The Ten Commandments serve as a guide for living in "Holiness". Therefore they are as important to us today as they were to the Israelites to whom they were first given at the time they were set apart to be God's holy people.

Chaplain Pete

THE BLACK BARON RELEASE

THE BLACK BARON RELEASE is an authorized bi-monthly publication of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion, APO San Francisco 96353. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the United States Army. Opinions expressed by authors of articles that appear in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Battalion Commander, Information Officer or the United States Army.

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Information Specialist.....SP4 John J Morrissey Jr
Associate Editor.....SP4 Gerald E Stahlkuppe Jr

PARKINSON
MAKES
GROUP SOM

by Stahlkuppe

Recently a board composed of six battalion Sergeants Major and the 12th Combat Aviation Group SGM, Culver O. Tenbroeck, met to choose the Group Soldier of the Month. Representing the 269th, was SP4 Barry D. Parkinson, of Paradise, California.

A member of the 21st RAC "Black Aces", SP4 Parkinson competed with the best soldiers of the entire six battalions which compose 12th Group. The board chose SP4 Parkinson as Group Soldier of the Month, basing the competition on such topics as; military bearing, appearance, military knowledge, and personal presentation.

Parkinson, when he is not Soldier of the Month, works as an air frame repairman with the 21st. He was inducted into the Army in September 1966, and had both his basic and advanced training at Ft. Lewis, Washington. He joined the 21st in Apr, when they were forming.

Before coming into the Army, he was a student at Chico State College, Chico, California, where he majored in Political Science.

Besides the honor of being chosen to represent the 12th Group as Soldier of the Month Specialist Parkinson, received, for his efforts, two \$25 U.S. Savings Bonds, one from 12th Group and one from the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion.

buy U. S.
BONDS

"Muleskinners' Hit Hard: Cpt Stevens Aided By

242nd ASH IO... Within a minute after lifting out of a pick up zone with a heavy load of troops and equipment, the aircraft commanded by CPT Jackson C. Stevens, of Columbus, Ohio, was hit by intense automatic weapons and small arms fire. Two

rounds slammed into the cockpit, one round lodged in the hydraulic brake cylinder, damaging the utility hydraulic system, and spreading shrapnel throughout the cockpit. CPT Stevens received shrapnel wounds in the right leg and the pilot, CW3 George R. Krivensky, of Chicago, Ill., was slightly wounded on the face and neck.

The second round came through the chin bubble and instrument panel, was deflected by CPT Stevens' chest protector, passed through his shirt pocket and SOI and lodged in his shoulder. The aircraft was hit at least nine more times. A passenger was wounded, a fuel tank was damaged, and two tires were ruptured.

Despite the wounds and aircraft damage, "Muleskinner" 008 continued through the enemy fire to complete its mission. "Mr Krivensky was at the controls, and I was working the radios, when the aircraft was hit,"

CW3 Krivensky

Pull's Chinook

Through

said CPT Stevens. "I was pretty busy, and didn't realize I had been hit for a second. Mr Krivensky seemed indifferent to the enemy fire. He is truly an outstanding pilot. Our passengers got excited when the fire came in, but my enlisted crewmen, SP6 Thomas B. Perkins, SP4 Paul A. Taylor, and SP4 John M. Monaghan, quickly checked the aircraft for damage and re-stored order."

1LT Frederick W Weise, who was on board as Liaison Officer, did a fine job of treating the wounded passenger, and assisting the crew

According to "Muleskinner" Commanding Officer, LTC Paul L. Stansel, of Columbus, Georgia, "The determination of CPT Stevens, and the magnificent performance of his crew under fire, saved the aircraft accomplished the mission, and set an example of courage and devotion to duty."

116th officer upped one

SGM GEEDMAN ASSUMES POST

SGM Leonard W. Geedman assumed the post of Sergeant Major of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion from SGM Eugene Bantugan in a recent ceremony held at Battalion Headquarters.

SGM Bantugan left the "Black Barons" to join the 22nd Avn Bn at Vung Tau.

LTC James H. Merryman, Commanding Officer of the 269th, presented the new top NCO with the Battalion Crest and green epulet tabs.

Born in Forest Hills (Long Island) New York, SGM Geedman began his military career nearly 22 years ago.

He has served in Austria, twice in Germany, Formosa, and in several stateside posts prior to being assigned to VN

CPT Michael Adkinson Daleville, Alabama was recently promoted to his present rank at an informal ceremony at the 116th Assault Helicopter Company. Major Charles Franklin, Commanding Officer of the

Asked what he felt was essential for a man to have a successful tour in the service, SGM stated: "A soldier must evaluate himself, and his ability to follow orders. He must then strive for motivation towards the ultimate goal of becoming a leader."

Queried further on the subject, the 39 year old "Black Baron" said: "Leadership is something not born in an individual, it is something he makes of himself."

116th AHC officiated at the ceremony.

CPT Adkinson is presently serving as a fire team leader and a assistant Platoon leader for the 116th Stinger gunship platoon.

Since his arrival in Vietnam, the "Hornet" officer has logged more than 1000 (aerial) combat hours.

Entering the Army as an enlisted man in May 1963, the hornet officer completed basic training at Fort Polk, La. After 13 months of enlisted service he attended OCS, and was commissioned an Infantry Officer. He completed Helicopter Flight School in November 1966 and arrived in Vietnam in December 66.