



BEE LINE

SPECIAL EDITION
FAREWELL, MAJOR SMALL

***** THE BEE-LINE 116TH ASLT HEL CO 4 August 67*****

The Bee-Line is an authorized bi-weekly publication under the supervision of the Commanding Officer, 116th Assault Helicopter Company, APO San Francisco 96353. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Major Harold I. Small
 1st Gary L. Salisbury
 WO1 Lempie R. Townsend

Commanding Officer
 Information Officer
 Assistant Information Officer

This special edition of the Bee-Line pays tribute to a man who is admired and respected by the men of his command. The Officers and Enlisted Men of the 116th ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY bid farewell to MAJOR HAROLD I. SMALL (Hornet 6). His devotion to duty and to his men for these past six months is expressed by the numerous outstanding missions flown by the Hornets and the continuous high morale of his men. Though Major Small is leaving the 116th, his methods and policies will continue to make this company as efficient and proud in the future as it has been in the past.

Through this edition of the Bee-Line, the Hornets wish to express their gratitude for having received the finest in leadership, the utmost in concern for their welfare, and the most outstanding lesson in devotion to duty. All of the things the Hornets have gained while serving under the finest combat commander in the military service. It is, then, at inevitable time when the Hornets must say, with one voice, a heartfil Thank You and a reluctant Good-Bye.

*****CITATION FOR THE LEGION OF MERIT*****

What a man does to earn the respect and devotion of a vast body of individuals is a matter of great significance. The elements that make a man a superior leader in combat are the subject of much study.

How Major Small has exemplified the best of all these areas cannot be expressed completely on these pages. There are many intangible aspects that make up leadership. However, there are many ways that these same intangible qualities can be manifested and recorded.

One attempt to summarize the many examples of Major Small's abilities, perhaps the best narrative, is the proposed citation for the Legion of Merit and the supporting narrative. That citation is printed below:

MAJOR HAROLD I. SMALL, 094344, TRANSPORTATION CORPS, UNITED STATES ARMY, DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE DURING THE PERIOD 13 SEPTEMBER 1966 TO 12 SEPTEMBER 1967, WHILE SERVING AS COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 393RD MAINTENANCE DETACHMENT AND LATER AS THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 116TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHILE COMMANDING THE 393RD AT PHU LOI, RVN, MAJOR SMALL REALIZED THAT DRASTIC ACTION WAS REQUIRED TO INCREASE MAINTENANCE SUPPORT TO THE 128TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY. HE INSTIGATED ON-THE-JOB TRAINING THAT BROUGHT A TWENTY PERCENT INCREASE IN AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY THE FIRST MONTH OF HIS COMMAND. DUE TO HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP ABILITIES, MAJOR SMALL WAS PICKED BY THE 11TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION TO COMMAND THE 116TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY AT CU CHI, RVN. MAJOR SMALL MADE AN IMMEDIATE ESTIMATE OF THE TASKS CONFRONTING HIM AND OUTLINED HIS COURSE OF ACTION TO HIS SUBORDINATES. EMPLOYING SOUND LEADERSHIP TECHNIQUES, HE ACTIVELY SUPERVISED HIS SUBORDINATES AND OBTAINED SUPERB RESULTS IN EVERY AREA OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY. ON THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTLESS COMBAT ASSAULTS IN WHICH MAJOR SMALL HAS PARTICIPATED, HE HAS BEEN PERSONALLY SUBJECTED TO INTENSE HOSTILE FIRE. HIS UNDAUNTED BRAVERY AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE DURING THESE PERIODS OF EXTREME PRESSURE SERVED AS AN INSPIRATION TO HIS SUBORDINATES. HE DISPLAYED A FIERCE DETERMINATION TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES WHICH MIGHT HAVE INTERFERED WITH THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HIS MISSION AND HIS BRAVERY AND DARING HAVE EARNED HIM THE SILVER STAR AND THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS. COMBAT UNIT COMMANDERS HAVE EAGERLY SOUGHT THE SERVICES OF UNITS COMMANDED BY MAJOR SMALL. HIS SOUND JUDGMENT, EXTREME

EVOTION TO DUTY, INDOMITABLE COURAGE, AND TENACIOUS DETERMINATION, HAVE INSTILLED A DEEPLY INGRAINED CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE IN ALL PERSONNEL WHO HAVE SERVED UNDER HIS COMMAND. MAJOR SMALL'S PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE VERY HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT EXTREME CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

His first major project, after assuming command of the 116th, was to continue to expand the improvement of the company area. A cement sidewalk was laid in front of the company operations and headquarters building and attractive signs were erected in the company area to identify the "Hornet's Nest". Ditches were deepened to prepare for the impending rainy season and buildings were painted white to make them cooler and neater in appearance. Major Small took particular interest in the completion of the company Officers', NCO, and EM Clubs. His interest in these projects spurred construction and brought the buildings to rapid completion. These clubs were to become the showplaces of the "Hornets", and an example of the outstanding morale and esprit generated by Major Small's leadership.

During the month of March, the Hornets set a new USARV record for Assault Helicopter Companies by flying 3646 hours in that month. What was particularly interesting about this feat was that it was the 4th month in a row that the Hornet organization averaged more than 100 hours per day as a company. This fantastic record of achievement was a result of the training program instituted by Major Small and was a tribute to the emphasis that he placed on his maintenance activities. The Hornets invariably had extra aircraft flyable whenever an emergency arose.

In March of 1967, the 116th was reassigned from the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion to the newly formed 269th Combat Aviation Battalion. This reassignment involved no physical move for the 116th, but it did require a large administrative change over. Major Small had made advance plans regarding this shift. Due to these plans, the transfer was accomplished with no curtailment of normal operational requirements. In making this transition, Major Small utilized his experienced personnel.

nel as a training base for all newly assigned units of the battalion. This training was directly responsible for the rapid assimilation of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion into the ranks of seasoned combat units in the III Corps area.

Major Small assumed command during an extremely critical period. The conduct of combat operations was steadily increasing in intensity requiring maximum utilization of all assets. In January, February, and March 1967, the 116th participated in every major operation in the III Corps areas, including Operations Cedar Falls, Junction City, and Gadsden. Many letters of commendation and words of praise were received from all units supported, proving that the Hornet's reputation was built on deeds.

Among other recognition, the 116th was recommended for the Presidential Unit Citation for its work during the "Battle of Soui Tre". The performance of the unit under fire during this engagement was an outstanding example of the discipline and morale instilled in the men of the 116th by Major Small's courage and leadership.

Operational commitments continued to increase during the months of April and May. On 2 May the unit was involved in the largest battle in the Delta to date. It was fought about 10 miles north of Dong Tam, and the Hornets, led by Major Small, were magnificent. Logging more than 220 hours flying time for the day, and led by Major Small who flew more than 15 hours himself, the Hornets proved themselves, under fire, to be a most aggressive, seasoned, and professional unit. On this one day the 116th expended 40,000 rounds of 7.62MM, 1000 rounds of 40MM, 150 rounds of 2.75 FFAR'S, and 500 rounds of 20MM cannon ammunition. 15VC were killed with another 20 possible. 381 sorties were flown, moving 355 troops, 41 medevacs and 7.6 tons of critically needed supplies. Major Small's leadership and heroism on this day brought him the Silver Star decoration.

His actions on the second of May were only typical of his daily performance.

duty. On the majority of the countless combat assaults in which Major Small has participated, he has been personally subjected to intense hostile fire, as were his officers and men. His undaunted bravery and indomitable courage during these periods of extreme pressure served as an inspiration to his subordinates.

Combat unit commanders have consistently praised Major Small's efforts and have eagerly sought the services of the "Hornets" when a difficult mission was in the offing. Major Small's leadership has been the driving force responsible for the courageous efforts of the officers and men of the 116th. His sound judgment, extreme devotion to duty, indomitable courage, and tenacious determination, have instilled a deeply ingrained confidence and pride in all personnel of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company. Major Small's performance as a commander is a tribute to his abilities as a soldier and aviator.

***** LETTERS OF APPRECIATION*****

Major Small's outstanding leadership has not gone unnoticed by men other than those in the 116th. The following section contains just a few copies of the numerous letters of appreciation and commendation for jobs well done by Major Small and the 116th.

HEADQUARTERS 3D BRIGADE
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96286

AVDDC-CO

30 March 1967

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO: Commanding Officer
116th Combat Support Helicopter Company
APO 96225 US Forces

1. Members of the 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division wish to express their sincere thanks for the outstanding support and heroic actions by the 116th Combat Assault Helicopter Company on 21 March 1967.

2. As a result of early morning attack by 2500 VC against 450 U. S. troops at Fire Support Base Gold the Hornets routine resupply mission became a tactical emergency. In meeting this emergency the Hornets performed magnificently. Time after time under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire and mortar attacks your men flew into the battle area resupplying the critically needed ammunition. On the way out the wounded were evacuated. To expedite and save lives the aircraft commanders demanded that the helicopters be overloaded taking 9 or 10 evacuees on each trip. So went the Hornets until all emergencies were completed. Then they began resupply of food essential items to the troops at the battle site. This continued until all was accomplished. In addition the light fire team demonstrated a high degree of tactical proficiency in providing armed helicopter support to aircraft in the area as well as ground troops.

3. The "Battle of Suoi Tre" has gone down in history as the greatest victory of the Vietnam war effort in terms of enemy killed in a single action. A total of 647 VC were killed by U. S. troops with a probability of 200 additional VC killed. 33 U. S. troops were killed and 137 wounded. Of these the Hornets evacuated 70. Your aircraft flew a total of 114.7 hours and 202 sorties while hauling 105 passengers and 36 tons of cargo.

4. It is at a time such as this that training and hard work pays such gratifying dividends. Not to be forgotten are the personnel of your company that work together in accomplishing your overall mission and enabling support such as we received.

30 March 1967

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation (Con't)

5. Without the outstanding support and heroic action by the men of the 116th the badly needed small arms ammunition and the demand for medical evacuation could not have been accomplished. This action alone contributed immeasurably to the success of the battle and saving of lives.

6. I would also like to add my personal thanks for a job well done.

/s/ Marshall B. Garth
/t/ MARSHALL B. GARTH
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
3d BATTALION 47TH INFANTRY
APO San Francisco 96372

AVDE-IE

11 May 1967

SUBJECT: Outstanding Performance of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company

THRU: Commanding Officer
2d Brigade
9th Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96370

TO: Commanding General
1st Aviation Brigade
APO San Francisco 96307

1. With an outstanding display of airmanship and leadership, Major Harold I. Small distinguished himself while in support of my unit, the Third Battalion, 47th Infantry, on 2 May 1967, during operation HOPTOC XVI, in the AP BAC area vicinity XS3152. As air mission commander, he flew continuously over the battle area, controlling lift ship for troop lift, MEDEVACS from "hot" landing zones, evacuation of detainees, emergency resupply, and resupply of my Battalion after dark. He marked "hot" targets for the gunships during daylight. After dark he guided MEDEVAC ships and resupply ships by marking low level runs between VC positions while didging parachute flares.

2. Special recognition is to be given to the officers and men of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company for their support of our operation. The company distinguished itself by the courage, endurance, and professionalism, of men like Major Harold I. Small, their Commanding Officer.

AVDE-IE

11 May 1967

SUBJECT: Outstanding Performance of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company

Their devotion to duty is symbolized by his statement, who after nearly 12 continuous hours of flying, said, "as long as your fighting, we're staying". His unit continued support until ordered from the field two hours later. Their company deserves special recognition for their outstanding accomplishment.

/s/ Lucien E. Bolduc Jr.

/t/ LUCIEN E. BOLDUC JR.
LTC, Infantry
Commanding

AVDE-BB-C (11 May 67)

1st TAD

SUBJECT: Outstanding Performance of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company

Headquarters, 2d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division APO 96372 16 May 67

THRU: Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division, APO 96370

TO: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96307

1. Major Small, displayed true leadership and courage during operation HOPTOC XVI, while supporting this Brigade. The tireless efforts of Major Small and the members of the 116th enabled this operation to become highly successful.

2. Again, outstanding support as rendered by the 116th is always remembered and appreciated. Their devotion to duty was depicted when they refused to leave as long as there was a battle going. It is gratifying to have an outstanding unit like this supporting you in combat.

/s/ William B. Fulton
/t/ WILLIAM B. FULTON
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

AIR LIAISON OFFICER
Headquarters, 9th Infantry Division (G-3)
APO San Francisco, 96370

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: Major William A. Smith, 3rd Bde ALO, 9th Inf. Div. 10 May 1967

SUBJECT: Rescue of Downed B-57 Crew Member

TO: Commanding Officer
1st Aviation Brigade
APO 96307

During Operation Doi Ma Creek II on 22 April 1967, a B-57 twin jet bomber was shot down by hostile gunfire while supporting American Ground Forces who were pinned down by heavy Viet Cong automatic weapons fire.

As the survivor's parachute blossomed, three helicopters immediately diverted to aid the downed crew. Two of the helicopters were the light fire team Stinger of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company. They provided intense protection with machine guns, rockets, and automatic grenade fire that smothered surrounding treelines, bunkers, and avenues of approach with a withering stream of fire.

The Airmobile Commander of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company, Hornet 6, swooped down almost before the observer spilled his parachute, and evacuated him unharmed to the Tan An Airstrip. From the time that the parachute opened until the rescue was completed, only four (4) minutes had elapsed. Throughout this time, the gunships continued their effective suppressive fire on every target.

The USAF Tactical Air Control Party of the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, wishes to extend its warmest appreciation for a job well done. In recognition of their professional and courageous action and for their disregard of personal danger, we recommend that Major Harold I. Small, pilot of the rescue helicopter, Cpt Terrance Henry and 1/Lt Michael H. Adkinson, pilots of the gunships, be awarded an appropriate decoration for their display of valor.

/s/ William A. Smith
/t/ WILLIAM A. SMITH
Major, USAF
ALO, 3rd Bde, 9th Inf. Div.

AIR LIAISON OFFICER
Headquarters, 9th Infantry Division (G-3)
APO San Francisco, 96370

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/s/ William A. Smith
/t/ WILLIAM A. SMITH
Major, USAF
ALO, 3rd Bde, 9th Inf. Div.

*****FAREWELL FROM FRIENDS*****

The commanders and men in the units directly supported by the 116th Aslt Hel Co wish to extend their farewells and best wishes to Major Small.

*****BLACK BARON 6*****

I I wish to extend my congratulation to the Hornets on a job very well done during the period under the command of Major Harold I Small.

The 116th Assault Helicopter Company has repeatedly shown the highest professional level of flying. Regardless of the many hazardous obstacles you have encountered, The Hornets' primary goal was always the completion of your assigned mission.

I am very proud to have the Hornets as a member of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion. Your performance is an example for all aviation companies to follow. The leadership of Major Small has been one of the major factors for the outstanding performance of the Hornets. I am sure you will continue to perform in the same professional manner under the leadership of your new commander.

LTC JAMES W. MERRYMAN

*****THE WOLF WOUNDS*****

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2D BATTALION 27TH INFANTRY
APO 9625

In appreciation of your fine leadership and outstanding cooperation in the conduct of numerous combat assaults and eagle flights, the 2d Bn, 27th Inf expresses their sincere wish for continued success throughout your military career. The officers and men of this command recognize your true professionalism and great contribution to the success of our operations. Your efforts reflect great credit upon your unit, the 25th Inf Div. and the United States Army.

EDWARD C. PETER
LTC INF
Commanding

*****1/27 WOLFHOOUNDS*****

The war in Vietnam has led to many new concepts, but the most unique is the link formed between the infantryman and the men that man the helicopters. The 116th Aviation Company has more than lived up to its nickname of "HORNETS", for they stung Charlie where it hurt the most.

On the eve of Hornet 6's departure we of the First Wolfhounds would like to join in saying "Till the next LZ". Thanks for getting us to Charlie, resupplying us, evacuating our wounded, giving us air cover, and then getting us out when Charlie has had enough.

Have a good trip and take care.

MUSTANG "6"

*****BOBCAT 6*****

HEADQUARTERS
1ST BATTALION (MECH) 5TH INFANTRY
APO San Francisco 96225

Dear Major Small,

On the occasion of your departure and on the behalf of all the "Bobcats", I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the many missions in which you have supported the 5th Mech. In War Zone C, the Boi Loi Woods, the Ho Bo Woo and the Oriental River, the Hornet call sign always insured our men on the ground that the pilots above were dedicated, tireless, and superbly skilled. The fine reputation your unit enjoys is a personal tribute to you, and as you leave, you take with you the gratitude of the fighting Bobcats for the innumerable dust-offs, twilight resupply sorties and command and control flights you performed.

In your future assignments we wish you the best of luck. Keep up the RPM.

CHANDLER GOODNOW
LTC INF
Bobcat 6

***** THE HORNETS *****

Last, but most definitely not the least, are the farewells from the platoons and sections within the 116th.

***** 1ST FLIGHT PLATOON *****

ALOHA, HORNET 6

The 1st Platoon (Yellowjackets) bid you Aloha, Major Small. Reminiscent of the primary division you have supported, the 25th Tropic Lightning, Aloha will again be appropriate on your first stop on U.S. soil in a year. Aloha also wishes you farewell and Godspeed from those who have served with you.

The Yellowjackets, as is true of the entire Hornet organization, have been blessed with some memorable characters during your 6 months tenure, such as Jake Keefer, Marvin Baker, Rolla Breed, Dick Gray, and yes, even Mr. Cheney was once a Yellowjacket. There have been a few dozen other pluggers who, though not as colorful perhaps, kept turning in 120, 130, 140 hours per month. As Hornets, we enjoy good morale because we have been given plenty of work to do, and have been well led in doing it. If there is ever a better "C" and "C", his title will no doubt be "Hornet 6" too.

We are proud that the command ship has been 990, a Yellowtail, and it's crew has been Yellowjackets. But we are prouder of being Hornets, and no amount of dismantling of signs in the company area will change that. Also, we will wager that if in the past six months, the Hornets have "done good" at some time or other, there were Warps, Yellowjackets, and Stingers there, and you were running the show like it should be run. We simply say "Thank You Sir". If you want to rebut any of the above, "there's no hurry, just so it's done within the next five minutes".

ALOHA!!!!!!

2ND ELICO PLATOON *****

116TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
2ND AIRLIFT PLATOON
APO San Francisco 96353

SUBJECT: Farewell

TO: Commanding Officer (Hornet 6)
116th Assault Helicopter Company
APO San Francisco 96353

The officers and enlisted men of the 2nd Platoon take this opportunity to give a few words of farewell to our departing leader.

In the past, soldiers have written tributes to men far greater than themselves. We know now the problems they must have encountered. What can we say that has not already been said? What can we add to your seemingly endless list of achievements? So, we simply say, "We would follow you no matter the risk or sacrifice involved to accomplish the mission".

We have felt your wrath, either privately or in mass. For example: The rock fight on July 4th, the Bunker 6 program, and pep talks on aviation safety, to mention a few. We have also witnessed your outstanding leadership at My Tho, Tay Ninh, Duc Hoa, and scores of other places where the going got rough.

Major Small, the only thing we, the Wasps, can say is, "We would, indeed, follow you no matter the risk or sacrifice involved." Rest assured that we will serve our new Hornet 6 just as we have served you.

Wherever you go, Sir, the Wasps wish you Godspeed and the best in every assignment.

Respectfully,
Wasps

***** 4TH ARMED PLATOON *****

It sure is a tough thing for the Stingers to bid you farewell, Hornet 6. We do so with the fondest memories of the days spent in your command. Your leadership in combat, your guidance and example, both in and out of the battle area, have been rewarding to each of us.

As we recount our time spent together, we are reminded of the "T" squares and pie shaped LZ's which you so amply used to keep us on our toes. Your individual help in our pacification program has made it one of the finest in the 3rd Corps area. We likewise can't fail to remember your never ending ability to cheerfully accept our "Pagodas" whether they were shot in an LZ or sung in the BeeHive.

Thanks Major Small, for allowing us to be a part of the page you wrote in Hornet History. The officers and enlisted men join in extending our best wishes for your future tours and sincerely say - "Sir, it has been our extreme pleasure to serve in your command."

THE STINGERS

*****OPERATIONS*****

We of operations would like to express our feelings on your leaving the Hornets Major Small. We are sorry to lose your leadership and guidance as Commanding Officer of the Hornets. We will always strive to attain the degree of professionalism you have set forth for the Hornets.

All seriousness aside, though, we'll kinda miss your presence in operations, taking over the show just when we really get the feel of running it. We never know when, where, or how you'll pop up. Usually you come in right in the middle of something and then all hell breaks loose, phones, BOC, the radios, not to mention some "eight ball" asking a dozen questions.

Operations will be like a haunted house without a ghost. You're just "Big Brother", always watching, asking, and telling us how low our ER's will be.

Really, Sir, we all hope you will enjoy your month with Brigade.

From all of operations, "Thank You, Sir, it was great serving under you".

*****SERVICE PLATOON*****

We know a smile that assumes understanding, fairness, and justice. A voice that encourages, praises, and is never raised in anger. We know a hand that guide leads, corrects and protects. A presence always near and ready to help or just give confidence and urge us on. We know a heart, big enough for all of us, full of devotion and loyalty. We know them all, respect and admire them all, for they belong to "Hornet 6".

Our thanks for a job well-done and best wishes for continued success. We are proud to have been a part of your Hornets.

Beekkeepers

*****283D SIGNAL ATTACHMENT*****

The Static Chaser wish to take this last opportunity to bid farewell to the departing Hornet 6. We will all miss him and his write-ups. The entire Detachment looks forward to, perhaps, sometime in the future having another opportunity of serving under Major Small.

So, with departing, we all want to wish you, Hornet 6, Good Luck and the best of everything for a fine and well deserving Hornet leader. Here's hoping that all of you transmissions in the future are "Lima Charlies" -Static Chaser - out.

*****392ND TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT*****

Upon your departure from the Hornets, we take this brief opportunity to congratulate you on a job well done, and wish you success in your future assignments.

Your untiring devotion has been an inspiration to the personnel of the 392d during many occasions when numerous aircraft were down for maintenance and repairs. There have been, of course, times when you exercised your prerogative as the Commander, and through outstanding leadership, inspired personnel to exert themselves far beyond their known capabilities. This has allowed the unit to perform its mission the next day, when on the night before, the outlook for sufficient mission ready aircraft was dim.

Again we wish you luck, and although you are departing the Hornets, you will always be considered a member.