

"DUST OFF"
AIR AMBULANCE PLATOON
326TH MEDICAL BATTALION
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Platoon Commander: Major Robert R. Cloke
Platoon Sergeant: Thomas L. Ross, Jr.

1 October 1968

Monthly News Letter

September, the first full month of operation for the Air Ambulance Platoon, has been a busy one, with many new faces and the loss of many of the old. With many growing pains (and a little reorganizing) we are seeing a new unit come to life.

Once again the platoon carpenters and electricians are hard at work with much remodeling of living quarters, and a new platoon Command Post. When completed, we will have a CP second to none in the division.

It looks as though everyone has dried out after the typhoon with no serious damage to aircraft or buildings in the area. With much rain and little electrical power all went smoothly with the main concern just trying to stay dry.

We would like to say that SP4 James Martin is recovering nicely in Walter Reed Hospital and would like to hear from everyone. He adds that he hopes to be flying again real soon.

New faces for the month of September are:

CAPTAIN JAMES C. DANBY

1LT OTIS D. EVANS

WO1 JOHN E. BLESSING

WO1 CHARLES W. DILL

WO1 JOHN H. SHIRLEY

SP4 Larry E. Wagoner

SFC THOMAS L. ROSS, JR.

SSG EUGENE A. THOMAS

SP4 STEPHEN P. BEBICH

SP4 GEORGE H. WINANS

SP4 MICHAEL S. OUTWATER

Welcome to all, we are glad to have you with us.

DEPARTURES:

CAPTAIN RONNY E. PORTA

CAPTAIN OTIS G. TURNER

CW2 JOHN LAMA

SFC JAMES T. RATLIFF

SP6 EARL H. MAZE

SP5 B. J. CLARK

SP5 GERALD L. STERNS

SP4 PATRIAMOR AGULLANA

SP4 JIMMIE G. EDWARDS

SP4 PETER GOLDBACK

SP4 EDWARD T. RIEGEL

SP4 NEAL S. STANLEY

TO FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

TO FORT STEWART, GEORGIA

TO FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY

TO FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS

TO FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA

TO FORT STEWART, GEORGIA

TO FORT CARSON, COLORADO

TO FORT EUSTIN, VIRGINIA

TO FORT STEWART, GEORGIA

TO FORT HOOD, TEXAS

TO CIVILIAN LIFE

TO WHITE SANDS, NEW MEXICO

We would like to say good luck to all, it has been a pleasure serving with you.

During September the Air Ambulance Platoon performed the following tasks:

US 318

POWS 46

VIETNAMESE ARMY 22

VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS 76

KILLER/TRACKER DOGS 2

TOTAL 478

AVIATOR TIME FOR THE MONTH 382 HOURS

HOIST MISSIONS 16

10-2 0016

The following is a letter of commendation from Colonel Harold I. HAYWARD, Commanding Officer, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, in recognition of support rendered during Operation Somerset Plain in the A Shau Valley:

- "1. I take this opportunity to commend the officers and men of the 326th Air Ambulance Platoon for the excellent support rendered to the 1st Brigade during Operation Somerset Plain.
2. Frequently exposed to hostile fire and inclement weather conditions, the platoon never the less accomplished its difficult tasks with timeliness and efficiency. Doubtless, some soldiers live today because of the 326th Air Ambulance Platoon and its conscientious devotion to duty.
3. I am confident that the troopers of the 1st Brigade join me as I extend congratulations and appreciation to Major Cloke and his platoon for their significant contribution to the success of Operation Somerset Plain."

On 16 September 1968 the following awards were presented by General Zais, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division.

SP5 GERALD L. STERNS	SILVER STAR
SP4 NEAL A. STANLEY	SILVER STAR
WO1 JOHN LAMA	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
SFC JAMES T. RATLIFF	BRONZE STAR
SP4 PATRIAMOR AGULLANA	PURPLE HEART, 4th thru 7th OLC to the AIR MEDAL
SP5 B. J. CLARK	8th & 9th OLC to the AIR MEDAL

RAA's for the month of September:

WO1 William T. Dillard	Hawaii
SP4 Roger W. Goodwin	Hawaii
SP4 Mario A. Salvatore	Hawaii
SP4 Richard C. Crim	Australia
PFC Richard G. Runion	Singapore

A few words from "Dustoff 96":

Our accomplishments during the month are only stepping stones in our continuing program of unit advancement. We have depended heavily on the knowledge and professionalism provided by our recent departees, and will now count on out new personnel to pick up where they left off.

It is with great pride that I welcome three new aircraft commanders to our ranks: Eagle Dustoff 91, WO1 William Dillard; Eagle Dustoff 99, WO1 Max Tucker; and Eagle Dustoff 95, CPT Robert Sawyer. As expected, high time aviators were the A/C's Dustoff 96, 95, and 92.

For those of you at home, never doubt that our thoughts are with you.

William T. Dillard
WILLIAM T. DILLARD
WO1, AVN
Public Information Officer