

"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:

SP4 Larry E. Wagoner

CAPTAIN JAMES C. DANBY  
1LT OTIS D. EVANS  
WCO JOHN E. BLESSING  
WCO CHARLES W. DILL  
WCO JOHN H. SHIRLEY

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	TO FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS
CAPTAIN OTIS G. TURNER	TO FORT STEWART, GEORGIA
CW2 JOHN LAMA	TO FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY
SFC JAMES T. RATLIFF	TO FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS
SP6 EARL H. MAZE	TO FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA
SP5 B. J. CLARK	TO FORT STEWART, GEORGIA
SP5 GERALD L. STERNS	TO FORT CARSON, COLORADO
SP4 PATRIAMOR AGULLANA	TO FORT EUSTIN, VIRGINIA
SP4 JIMMIE G. EDWARDS	TO FORT STEWART, GEORGIA
SP4 PETER GOLDBACK	TO FORT HOOD, TEXAS
SP4 EDWARD T. RIEGEL	TO CIVILIAN LIFE
SP4 NEAL S. STANLEY	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

AVIATOR TIME FOR THE MONTH 382 HOURS  
HOIST MISSIONS 16

VIETNAMESE ARMY 22  
VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS 76  
KILLER/TRACKER DOGS 2

TOTAL 478

M-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

R&R'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 our 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