

STIX (C)

FOX = VHCHMA

DUST OFF
AIR AMBULANCE PLATOON
326th MEDICAL BATTALION
101st AIRBORNE DIVISION

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

1 December 1968

Monthly News Letter

The month of November has come and gone. Thanksgiving Day was quite a treat for those that ate in the Seabee Galley. The smell of promotion is in the air. We will have more to cover on this subject next month.

The Air Ambulance Platoon recently acquired 2 new helicopters, numbers 844 and 851. Snakebite, Mr. Nesbitt, was seen crawling all over them, delightedly, as well as the new crews. SP4 Bebich (crew chief) and SP4 Outwater (medic) have 844 and SP4 Wagoner (crew chief) and SP4 Woods (medic) have 851. The Red Crosses have been painted and the new ships are already getting their share of flying time. Both of the ships will have to be wired for hoist use, however, in the near future. Of course, right now the crews are happy with their ships in that condition.

NEW ARRIVALS:

We are just about up to strength now since eight new people joined us in November. The five pilots are new in-country as well as our new fire fighter, but the two medics are transfers from other units that have both been in RVN a year.

1LT GEORGE L. MINER

SP5 JOHN J. FRISCIA

medic

1LT GERALD M. TORBA

SP4 STEPHEN E. FRANCIS

medic

WO1 GEORGE U STAPP All pilots

PFC THOMAS T. LOUNSBERRY

fire

WO1 RICHARD C. MCCORMY

fighter

WO1 RICHARD W. OERECNT

DEPARTURES:

We had two losses in November. We were glad to see them get back to the World, but sad to have them leave us.

SP4 Mario A. Salvatore

to civilian life

SP5 Amador G. Sanchez

to Fort Hood, Texas

Also leaving us this past month, but to return shortly, was WO1 Charles W. Dill, who is hospitalized aboard the USNS Sanctuary in DaNang harbor with infectious mononucleosis. SP4 Jerry Bigelow, who left via medevac last month, is now a patient at Ireland Army Hospital, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In the way of new additions are births to two Dustoff families.

Mr. Dillard became a father for the first time on 23 November of a baby girl, Stephanie Diane. The mother and baby are reported to be doing fine. The father, however, was last seen by your reporter under the weather!

Mr. Blessing also became a father on the same day and also father to a girl. The Sheriff states he will report name and weight at this spot next month.

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Some of the awards submitted to the 101st Since July are beginning to come into our office now. This past month we received 26 different awards, from the Distinguished Flying Cross to the Basic Air Medal, with many of them going to people already back in CONUS after having served their tours.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Major Robert R. Cloke, first Oak Leaf Cluster
Captain Ronny E. Porta, first Oak Leaf Cluster
WOL Woodrow M. Nesbitt, the DFC and the first Oak Leaf Cluster

Bronze Star	Army Commendation Medal
SP5 Neal A Stanley	Major Ronald Jones
SP5 Thomas A. Kelley	Captain Peter M. Hansen, first OLC
SSG Gerald L. Sterns	CW2 Frederick C. Whitney
CW2 John Lama	SFC James T. Ratliff
CPT Ottis G. Turner	SP4 Keith E. Luck

Air Medals

Major Robert R. Cloke, 3L-33 OLC
CW2 John Lama, 9-11 OLC
WOL Francis H. D. Hichens, Basic Air Medal
WOL Michael L. McKenna, Basic Air Medal
WOL Irving C. Reid, Basic Air Medal
WOL Max E. Tucker, Basic Air Medal
SP4 Gary E. Munoz, Basic Air Medal

CW2 John Lama, now at Fort Dix, New Jersey, also received the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

SFC Al Williams, who left in October for Hunter Airfield, Georgia, had a change of orders since his promotion, and can now be located by those so inclined behind the bar at the Fort Polk Officer's Club.

Speaking of Willie, the October rains came and left in their wake part of Willie's bunker. In November, the rains came again and the bunker completely fell in. The Air Ambulance Platoon Seabees are now reconstructing, however.

Everyone likes statistics of some sort or another. Perhaps you are inclined a bit towards the 36-23-36 type, or maybe the \$\$\$ type. But our statistics for the month of November, while falling into neither of those categories, will be of interest to you, we think.

PATIENTS EVACUATED

US	719
FWMAF	0
ARVN	57
VN Civ	106
POW	11
MedCap	33
Dogs	2
TOTAL	909

Night/Day Patients

Day	796
Night	113
TOTAL	909

MISSIONS

DAY	477
NIGHT	83
TOTAL	560

MEDICAL RESUPPLY	2
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HOIST

MISSIONS	32
PATIENTS	52

Hanci Hannah, The North Vietnamese Version of Jokyo Rose, boasted that she would eat Camp Eagle for Thanksgiving. Unless her calendar is different from ours, that is one date she's missed.

A Word from "Dustoff 96"

Thanksgiving away from home and family found each of us counting our blessings in our own particular manner. A typical Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings was served. The only comments heard were, "I can't eat another bite."

WO1 Frank Hichens carried out the festive day by joining the ranks of AG's. Frank used 394 and has picked Eagle Dustoff 94 as his call sign.

The hooches in the area are taking on a more permanent appearance as the Seabees have been traded out of their lumber, generator shed, and even bunks. Running water and sinks are appearing in more hooches all the time. What is next? Why, painting of course.

As the peace talks broadened, more of our missions are evacuations of the old and sick Vietnamese civilians. In our own way this is but one contribution in the people-to-people MadCap program.

Due to the large mailing list each month, it is necessary to cut down on the number of newsletters. Anyone desiring the newsletter please notify us with complete address. Those who do not write will receive the news letter through December 31st. (1st notice)

STRICTLY COINCIDENTAL DEPARTMENT

On 19 November 1968 the Air Ambulance Platoon received a telephone call from the 101st Airborne Division casualty branch notifying us that PFC Brian R. Fox of the platoon was a patient on the USMS Repose, a hospital ship, with a serious head wound. Taking the phone call was in fact PFC Fox, who was visibly shaken at the notification.

Shortly thereafter, the people were notified of the mistaken identification and telegrams were sent to Fox's parents stating that he was not wounded in action and indeed was in fine shape.

After a little detective work, the story was straightened out and the wounded man properly identified and his relatives were notified. On Sunday, 27 November, Fox was flying on one of our ships that made a hoist pickup. Somehow, a letter with Fox's name got into the basket with the patient. The man had no dog tags or ID card and the letter was thus the only means of identifying the unconscious soldier.

Division casualty headquarters got his next of kin through records at Bien Hoa without verifying anything through this unit. They sent a telegram stating Fox had been wounded, but when news of the mistake came through, an officer was sent to Fox's home to straighten out the situation.

Now, Fox has a real war story to tell.

Thomas L. Ross, Jr.
SFC THOMAS L. ROSS, JR.
PIO, N.CIC
Eagle Dustoff