

Chopper Lands On Sea Craft

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-10)—First Lieutenant Richard A. Sperling, a member of the 155th Assault Helicopter Company, recently showed the versatility of his chopper when he landed on a disabled junk at sea.

Sperling was on a routine flight to Cam Ranh Bay early one evening. As he swung out over the water on his approach to the airfield, he noticed a Vietnamese junk bobbing in the breakers about a mile out from shore. The men on the junk shot a hand flare.

Sperling decided to get some information about the junk's possible mission before plunging to its aid. Orbiting the boat, he contacted the local flight operations center. Minutes later the center called back with word that Navy sources had requested him to check the situation out. Making a low pass over the junk, he noticed a white flag flying. The sailors waved frantically at him and pointed to their engine.

The flat roof of the cabin offered enough room for his skids, but what about the rocking motion of the small craft—and its drift?

Sperling carefully approached the rolling junk. Hovering over it, he gently placed his skids on the cabin floor. A quailing U.S. Navy lieutenant scrambled aboard. The engine was dead, fuel line broken, and the prospect of spending the night alone in these waters was apparently not too pleasing.

Contacting the Navy officer's headquarters, Sperling relayed the request for help. He then flew the lieutenant to port and returned to his home base here.

Inf Aids Refugees

BUNARD, (1st INF-10)—The 1st Infantry Division's Ranger Rehabilitation Program for the Vietnamese refugees in this area of War Zone C includes everything from medical attention to a new reservoir that will be stocked with fish.

Lieutenant Colonel Rufus C. Lazzell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, said, "These people have come out of hiding in the jungle at the risk of being captured by the Viet Cong. They have asked for our help and we'll give it to them."

When a Vietnamese family of six entered the camp recently, they received immediate medical attention from the 1st



WATER CARRIER—A water trailer is harnessed to a Chinook helicopter for movement to a forward element of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment which participated in Operation Manhattan.

(Photo by PFC John Olson, II FFV-10)

Volunteers Used For Diving Team

QUI NHON, (USAECV-10)—"This is topside. Are you on the bottom yet? Circulate, let the air out a little slower. Ready to come up yet?"

Lieutenant Rodney Nickel was speaking to a diver 35 feet down in Qui Nhon's inner harbor. Nickel, diving officer of the 523rd Port Construction Company, 45th Engineer Group, is a graduate of a 16-week course in deep sea diving offered by the Navy at their school in Washington, D.C.

The team, made up of seven ex-cooks and mechanics and one non-commissioned officer, is operating off a 100-foot barge in and around the inner and outer harbor here.

Upon arrival in Vietnam in mid 1966, the 523rd found itself in need of divers. None were available since the Army Diving School at Ft. Eustis, Va., had been closed since the end of the Korean War. In view of these facts, the company had no choice but to call for volunteers.

When a good number of men stepped forward, SFC Frank A. Smith, Jr., a longtime underwater expert, volunteered to help in training and selecting

final seven needed for the team.

The tasks of the team have been interesting and varied. In addition to recovering a 20-ton truck-mounted crane and diving for a pallet load of .50 caliber ammunition boxes, they have performed such tasks as aiding the 1st Cavalry Division in a search for possible underwater storage caves used by the VC.

There are many hazards in the job, ranging from the bends (an accumulation of nitrogen which causes intense pain and stiffness) to hostile fire and even hungry jellyfish.

Montagnards, T Celebrate New H

PLEI RONG HIOT, (4th INF-10)—Seven men from the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, 4th Infantry Division squatted in a dimly lit, large thatched hut. Around them, dressed in an assortment of jungle fatigues and loin cloths squatted most of the men from the Montagnard village here.

Everyone laughed and jostled one another around as the Montagnards conversed in the tribal Bahnar dialect and sipped rice wine from jugs. They were good neighbors joined together in a celebration honoring the

completion of site.

In January, creased Viet Vietnamese A their, immediate lagers here se tive to the Vi ment Le Tron quarters, Pleik a request tha relocated in area.

On Jan. 23, 1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion, rived at the vil five-ton truck personnel carr tribe.

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'Oregon' Continues To Aid

CHU LAI, (OREGON-10)—Units of Task Force Oregon continued with the Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP) in the Chu Lai-Duc Pho area, with more than 4500 members of the local population benefiting from the program in one recent week.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade, based at Chu Lai, gave out soap, clothing, school kits (as well as three hours of English instruction), and a \$30 cash donation to the village of Phuoc Hoa. The brigade is nearing completion of church re-building projects in Phuoc Hoa and Le Thuy.

In nearby Binh Son, the brigade is sponsoring the Chau O Orphanage. The men will provide food, clothing, cooking utensils, and building materials to the orphanage in weeks to come.

In Duc Pho, the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division is assisting in the construction of a rice warehouse. Other projects of the brigade include repair of a water pump at the hospital, digging a well for the First Evangelical Church, and distributing clothing and soap.

The 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery is building a dispensary at Long Phu to care for the civilian population in that area. The project is now 90 per cent complete.

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TAN SON N (10)—The 9th M here has been ing the time specimen—res days to sever

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The unit is mobile labs a at the base on 528th Medical Qui Nhon and Detachment at

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PREVENT INFLATION



commissary officer for the U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command, described the facilities, commissary management, and warehousing operations to the

ries here and four elsewhere in Vietnam to serve Vietnamese military and government personnel.

open for enemy activity. These men are with the 3rd Platoon, 8th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, taking part in Operation (Photo by Sp5 Jerry C)

Vietnam Communique

1st Cavalry Division — Operation Pershing has accounted for more than 1500 enemy killed since it began in mid-February. U.S. casualties stand at 212 dead. Cavalrymen have captured 316 individual and 17 crew-served weapons. Two elements found two enemy arms caches. The 7th Cavalry found one 9 miles southwest of Duc Pho. It contained 10 Bangalore torpedoes, 6000 rounds of small arms ammunition, eight individual weapons, and 500 pounds of explosives. The other cache was uncovered by the 2nd Brigade 11 miles west-southwest of Duc Pho. It had 4500 rounds of small arms ammunition, 105 rounds of recoilless rifle ammunition, 600 pounds of explosives, and two cases of electrical blasting caps.

25th Infantry Division — The 3rd Brigade and the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade, part of Task Force Oregon, supported by air strikes, gunships, and artillery killed 23 enemy during two engagements. Ten

enemy were killed four miles southeast of Duc Pho during the first battle. Six Americans were killed and 10 were wounded. Meanwhile, 13 miles northwest of Duc Pho, 13 enemy were killed by a company from the 3rd Brigade. There were no friendly casualties.

4th Infantry Division — North Vietnamese Army soldiers attempted to pierce the perimeter of a division company 30 miles west of Pleiku. The company, participating in Operation Francis Marion, called in artillery and air strikes, which forced the attackers to withdraw. Eighteen NVA soldiers were killed. Six individual weapons and 31 grenades were captured. Seventeen Americans were killed and 63 wounded. Two other companies were attacked by NVA forces 10 miles west of New Plei Djereng. Artillery and air strikes were called in again. After three hours of intense fighting the enemy withdrew, leaving 61 dead. Four

suspects were detained while 17 rifles, two rocket launchers, grenades, and mortar rounds were captured. Ten Americans were killed and 74 wounded.

9th Infantry Division — During Operation Palm Beach a company of the 2nd Brigade overran an enemy position 11 miles west of Dong Ta. Three enemy were killed and one individual weapon captured. Seven Americans were wounded. About an hour later the company met an unknown-sized enemy force in the same area. Reports indicate 70 enemy killed. In Operation Enterprise a company of the 3rd Brigade killed nine enemy five miles south of Tan An. There were no U.S. casualties.

11th Armored Cavalry Regiment — A Cavalry convoy was ambushed six miles east of Xuan Loc on Highway 1. During the battle 16 cavalrymen were killed and 21 wounded. Thirty enemy were killed and 16 suspects detained.

5th Special Forces Group — During a three-day period 49 contacts with enemy forces were reported. A total of 78 enemy were killed, 39 suspects detained, 17 individual weapons and one 60mm mortar captured. Reports indicate Green Beret casualties were light. At least eight civilian Irregular Defense Group (IDG) soldiers were killed and 31 others wounded.

1st Infantry Division — The 1st Brigade has begun Operation Dallas north of Bien Hoa. Elsewhere, a mechanized infantry unit discovered an enemy base camp 25 miles north of Saigon in the dense Ong Dong jungle. Found in the heavily-booby-trapped camp were one ton of rice, rifles, and mortar and artillery rounds.

101st Airborne Division — The 1st Brigade, part of Operation Malheur's Task Force Oregon, engaged an unknown-sized enemy force eight miles west-northwest of Duc Pho. Four paratroopers and six enemy were killed. Another unit made contact with an enemy force the same day 10 miles west-southwest of Duc Pho. Artillery and gunships were called in and forced the enemy to withdraw. Twenty enemy and three paratroopers were killed. During the truce caused by the celebration of the birth of Buddha, the 1st Brigade was fired upon by an estimated enemy company 14 miles north-northeast of Quang Ngai. The enemy hit the paratroopers with small arms fire, grenades, and claymore mines. The troops were supported by gunships and Dragonships. Enemy casualties were unknown. Six Americans were killed and nine wounded.

Cong Test B One's Seal;

PHU LOI, (1st INF-10) — A dozen Viet Cong recently tested the 1st Infantry Division's seal around a village near here and all were killed during the effort.

The seal and search action, during Operation Manhattan by C Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, took the hamlet by surprise and threw it into turmoil, resulting in the 12 VC killed, plus 14 suspects detained. Also during the search, ammunition, equipment, documents, and weapons were uncovered.

Captain W.G. Yarborough, commanding officer of the troop, received word to move to a village which, according to intelligence information, contained many VC, arms, and ammunition. Since the troop was already located within four miles of the village, they were given the mission of reconnaissance in force, then sealing and search-

VC Show No Love For Land

LE THANH, (4th INF-10) — Once again the Viet Cong has shown he has no love for his native land or his fellow Vietnamese.

One night recently more than 149 mortar rounds were fired by the VC on three targets: two Montagnard villages and one American artillery fire base.

Team 9 of the 41st Civil Affairs Company, headed by Capt. Richard E. Jones and Capt. John A. Rerecich, assistant S-5 of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, visited the two mortared villages, Plei Kun and Plei Ban, the following day. Two mortar rounds had landed in each village, killing poultry and one goat in the first village, and wounding an elderly couple in the second village.

According to Mr. Lu, the village chief of Plei Kun, this was the first time the village had been fired on since it was built about a year ago.

The couple injured by shrapnel, received treatment from SSgt. Edward V. Labell, III, a medic with Team 9.

Captain Jones explained that "in war innocent people get hurt," and in fighting against American soldiers, the VC do not care who they hit with their weapons, Americans or innocent civilians.

