

Special Huey Brings Smoke On Own Men

CU CHI, (1st AVN-10) — A specially equipped Huey from the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion recently proved its effectiveness during operations with the 25th Infantry Division.

The helicopter is capable of laying dense protective smoke screens for landing and pick-up zones.

Called in to place a smoke screen cover for a Chinook, the chopper received an emergency call for a medical evacuation. Major Jack M. McKnight, commander of the aircraft, called for gunship cover and voluntarily took his craft in to pick up two seriously wounded soldiers from the 25th.

The ship came in low and laid a heavy smoke screen in a circular pattern covering the wounded men. Then they went in behind the screen, made a pick up, and threw another screen down to cover their take off.

After the injured men were flown to a hospital, the smoke snip returned to make smoke runs for the Chinook, enabling it to stay on the ground for six minutes.

Later the Huey was called to provide smoke cover for a sack on a resupply mission of explosives.

"They were laying smoke in front of me when I heard automatic weapons fire. I could hear their ship take the hits," said WO Alan E. Humphrey, com-

mander of the resupply ship.

"The smoke gave me cover so I wasn't hit. It was a good thing they were there," Humphrey stated.

McKnight and his pilot, Capt. Matthew Kambrod, elected to fly the crippled ship to the Cu Chi airfield. Flying low, the chopper was fired at again, but was not hit.

"We started losing effective control of the aircraft and the controls became stiff," said Kambrod.

Specialist Four David L. Mathias, a crew chief with the 116th Assault Helicopter Company, saw the crippled ship approaching the airfield.

"When I first saw the ship, I thought it was making a normal approach, but when it touched down and started to skid, I could see the transmission smoke and knew they were in trouble," Mathias said.

The smoke ship skidded about 180 feet, the main rotor mast snapped, and the blade flew into the air.

"I thought the main rotor blade was going to come down on top of the chopper, but then it veered off toward us. It landed about 12 feet in front of our snip," stated Mathias.

No one on the downed craft was injured, and the rotor blade landed without doing any damage.

Combined Force . . .

(Continued from Page 1) quarters that the Viet Cong were crossing the landing strip. Artillery rained down the length of the strip and turned the attack back.

letter to the effect that there was talk among his comrades that if the VC forces couldn't retake Loc Ninh, many of the VC were planning to respond to the Chieu Hoi program.



SAMPAN FERRY—Members of the 9th Infantry Division use a sampans to cross a Mekong Delta canal during Operation Coronado VII. The soldiers, from Company B, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, found it necessary to convert the sampans to a ferry while sweeping through Can Giuoc District 15 miles south of Saigon.

(Photo by Sp4 Don Cordi, 9th INF-10)

One Letter Brings . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

cloths, soap, instant iced tea, raisins, pillowcases, pens, paperback books, and instant soup.

In the fourth week after Rice wrote his letter, he received mail from every star in the Union and two Canadian airmen.

"This thing has got me out of hand," he said with a weak smile. "I'm a pretty nervous wreck."

At first Rice enlisted one of his group chaplain Cross personnel of the 24th Evacuation Hospital to Long Binh to distribute. This week he sent it to the United States.

saw the handwriting on the wall, I immediately wrote 'Dear Abby' and asked her to turn off the torrent. But the letters are still coming."

Rice was visibly shaken by the 20,000 letters he received Sunday.

Asked his age, he replied, "I forget. Oh, 20, I think."

The avalanche of letters has slowed mail service to the rest of the unit, but no one complains. And the mail room always has enough volunteers to keep it sorted.

"I'm a nervous wreck," he said.

of American soldiers here."

There was only one known crank letter from a war protester in his first 26,000 letters.

"The only bad thing about the project, really, is that I can't find any letters from my fiancée. I know she's writing, but with all these other letters addressed to me, I haven't found hers yet."

At the sunflower Long Binh Sunday, Rice was frantically engaged in clearing out a spare room.

"A buddy told me for a while, 'but if the rate I'll have to stay in the company area.'"

blazed away to keep the enemy in the area. Hodson called in gunships of the 187th Assault Helicopter Company.

On the ground, Lt. Col. David Hughes wheeled his unit westward and engaged the enemy force.

Observers in the air said many of the Viet Cong laid on their backs to fire at the heli-

orphan in South Vietnam.

Steinke is assigned to the Phu Lam Signal Battalion as a shift chief at the Satellite Communications Station at Tan Son Nhut.

As soon as he arrived in Vietnam in February, he took an interest in the battalion-supported Hoi Duc Anh Orphanage which cares for more than 300 children from the Saigon-Cholon

while stationed at Camp Roberts, Calif., and requested their assistance. The Cub Scouts responded by sending clothing, soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

"Those kids from Paso Robles have really pleased me," Steinke commented. "So far I have received more than 425 packages!"

Steinke also is giving his time to the Saigon Boy Scouts. He is attending the Scout meetings and is giving assistance to the supervisors of various programs and activities of the organization.

"I have been trying to get in touch with the International Boy Scout Chairman since I have been here. I might be able to start my own pack here in Vietnam," Steinke said.

Australian Unit Joins Helicopter Company

VUNG TAU, (1st AVN-IO) — With the introduction of 13 officers and 42 enlisted men of the Royal Australian Navy, the 135th Combat Assault Helicopter Company became one of the first fully integrated units in Vietnam. The Australian element is headed by Lt. Cdr. Niel Ralph, who will be the company's executive officer.

Viet Cong Ambush Blasted With 1st Cavalry Artillery

LANDING ZONE BALDY, (1st CAV-IO)—Two Viet Cong platoons hoping to ambush American soldiers were blown out of hiding by artillery and gunships of the 1st Cavalry Division's "Garry Owen" Brigade during the third week of Operation Wallowa.

The would-be ambushers broke ranks and ran, and by the time day light ran out on gunships and infantrymen, 75 VC had been killed in the heaviest fighting of the operation.

The day-long action, in a sandy area east of Highway 1 in Quang Tin Province, brought the total of enemy killed in the operation's first 20 days to 302.

On the previous day, gunships of B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry made heavy contact in an area of sand dunes and rice paddies about 7 miles east of the brigade's headquarters here.

Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, and A Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry also made continuous contact

Returning Servicemen May Use PXs To Buy Stateside Reservations

SAIGON, (VRX-IO) — Servicemen returning to the States from duty in Vietnam can now purchase reserved seats for CONUS flights before leaving the country.

Travel service desks at Vietnam Regional Exchange (RVNR) outlets can make "positive space" reservations for customers for their trip from west coast to their ultimate destination.

In addition to saving time by not being forced to wait in line upon arrival at CONUS air terminals, returnees will save one third the total fare by purchasing their "positive space" tickets in Vietnam at their PX service.

They also save an extra 5 per cent, because all tickets purchased overseas are tax free.

Ordinary standby fare offered servicemen (valid for travel anywhere in the U.S.), is a 50 per cent saving on tickets purchased in Vietnam. The 5 per cent tax fee is also saved on

these tickets. Waiting for a space on an airline is the one disadvantage of the standby method.

Having a sound reservation, as offered by all U.S. air lines through the PX service then eliminates the chance of protracted waits once a serviceman is back on American soil. This makes positive arrangements possible for those meeting him at the end of his trip.

Mascot Hit, But Warns Of Ambush

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-IO)—Sam was hit recently after he had alerted and saved the lives of several men of the Americal Division's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry when he barked out a warning of an enemy ambush only yards away.

Sam is a mixed Vietnamese dog, but to the men of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry he is a point-man, companion, and morale builder.

One man was slightly wounded in the brief fire fight, but Sam lay unconscious with a bullet wound in the fleshy part of the neck.

Several minutes passed as the medic worked over him. Then Sam stirred, jumped to his feet, and dashed to the med-evac chopper that had just landed to evacuate the wounded man.

As if knowing that care would be administered, Sam jumped aboard the helicopter much to the medic's surprise. "What's going on?"—the medic asked. "Get that dog off my ship."

"You take that dog to the hospital," the medic was told.

After minor surgery, minus a little fur and sporting several stitches, Sam was back on the job in two days.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

Practice makes the beginner into a master



NOT AFTER DOVES—Specialist Four Charles Hair fires an M-79 grenade in an arcing trajectory over trees to hit a Viet Cong base camp 100 yards into the woods. Hair, from the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, was participating in the 1st Infantry Division's Operation Shenandoah II. (Photo by Sp4 George Pawlaczky, 1st INF-IO)

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wide adoption agency.

There were three basic steps involved.

First, six copies of all documents dealing with the major's personal affairs had to be collected.

Second, the approval of the agency was required. This approval was based upon interviews with the prospective parents.

The final step was finding the child.

"We wanted a girl younger than our boy," Terzopoulos said.

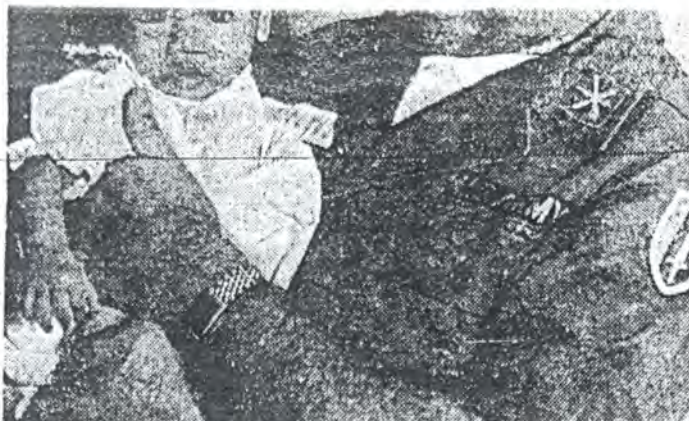
For Terzopoulos, the adoption process took almost a year. Most of the time was devoted to paper work.

The initial paperwork was begun in September. The adoption was approved by the agency in December.

In March, the baby was found. Her Vietnamese name — Hong Tuyet, which means Pink Snow — was changed to Jane Ann. A medical examination disclosed that she was physically fit.

The major was forced to extend his tour of duty in order to complete the adoption process.

He was required to get permission from the Vietnamese government to take the child out of the country, and he also needed permission from the U.S. government to bring Jane Ann into the States.



HOLDING PINK SNOW—Major Nicholas Terzopoulos holds the Vietnamese baby that he and his wife recently adopted. The baby's name, Hong Tuyet, which means Pink Snow, has been changed to Jane Ann. The adoption process took almost a year. (Photo by USARV-IO)

4th Infantry Companies Called 'Fast Reacting'

VUNG DAT AM, (4th INF-IO)—"Fast reacting" is the most apt phrase used to describe the companies of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.

When the battalion's Company B was sent recently to assist another division unit, their APCs were on the road just 20 minutes after they received the

first call.

"I was in the company command post when I got a call that the 3rd of the 8th was in heavy contact," stated 1st Lt. Richard Eaton. "They told me to call battalion when we were ready to go. I called them back 12 minutes later."

The mechanized company raced west on Highway 19 and soon came into the battle area.

"Contact had been broken an hour and a half before we reached them and our side had killed a lot of NVA," commented Eaton.

The quick dash to the assistance was not wasted, though, as Eaton explained later. "We made them a much stronger force. The enemy would have had a hell of a time if they tried again."

tion box and a hand grenade consisting of a piece of C-4 explosive, an empty cigarette carton, and 25 rounds of rifle ammunition.

The village of Phu Hoa Dong, located at the edge of the notorious Fil Hol Plantation, 25 miles northwest of Saigon, has long been a haven for the Viet Cong operating in that area as well as a suspected vital link in the VC's supply line into Saigon.

Its population of approximate-

Lt. Col. In 'Bubble' Kills VC

TAN TRU, (9th INF-IO)—The Army's unarmed OH-23 bubble helicopters were designed for observation missions.

Most of the time they stick to supporting combat operations.

But when Lt. Col. Richard Zastrow, commander of the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, goes aloft in his bubble, it often becomes a miniature gunship.

During the past four months, he has killed five enemy soldiers from his observation chopper using an M-16 rifle.

Zastrow recently spotted two enemy cutting across a Mekong Delta field near here.

The reconnaissance flight turned into a combat mission as the colonel directed his pilot to dive at the armed pair.

The enemy fired first at the hovering craft, then decided to run. A burst from the commander's M-16 downed one of the pair.

The second sprinted across the field and leaped into a flooded paddy covered with foot-high swamp grass.

Zastrow sprayed the area with M-16 rounds and scored a hit.

Viet Munitions Expert Teaches Infantrymen

CHU LAI, (196th INF-IO)—A member of a Vietnamese Popular Forces reconnaissance team, Phung Kuan Cau, was recently a guest instructor for an advanced Viet Cong mines and booby traps class at the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's Charger Academy.

Cau has spent over 22 years making and using explosive anti-personnel devices.

After fighting with the Viet Minh against the French, Cau became a technician working in a Hanol factory which produced anti-personnel mines and booby traps.

When the Geneva Convention divided Vietnam, Cau left Hanoi and became an intelligence agent for the Diem government.

In 1962, he joined the Popular Forces which are advised by teams of U.S. Special Forces. His present duty with the PF reconnaissance platoon brings him into close contact with all the latest VC booby traps.

Since Cau speaks no English, his classes were taught by the Academy's regular instructor, SSgt. Edwin Beck.

Cau made various types of ingenious booby traps and detonators for classroom demonstration, including a claymore-type mine made from an ammuni-



SACK-OUT CASUALTY—Finding a comfortable place to rest is not always an easy task, but Steinke, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, was able to find one while waiting for incoming cargo plane at the Quang Loi airstrip. Steinke bedded down on crates of time fuses for artillery.

(Photo by Sp4 Charles W.)

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