

April 8, 1967

Hoist Is Hope For Wounded

LONG BINH, (1st LOG-10)—In the thick, humid jungles, where the sky is barely visible through the dense canopy of vegetation, a wounded infantryman's life often hinges on immediate evacuation to a hospital.

Carrying him out by stretcher would take too long, as would trying to clear a landing zone large enough to accommodate a dustoff helicopter ambulance.

Until a few months ago the wounded trooper in such a plight might have died. Now, some of the 44th Medical Brigade's dustoff choppers, such as the one flown by Capt. James A. Williamson, of the 254th Helicopter Ambulance Detachment, have been equipped with a sling which can be lowered through jungle trees from a hovering chopper. The wounded man is strapped in and hoisted back to the aircraft within minutes.

The new addition to the chopper is an electric motor-driven hoist with an attached collapsible seat.

Pilots at the 254th near here, who were the first to use the hoist, have racked up more than 60 saves with the jungle penetrator. Top pilot on the list is Williamson, who has more than 40 saves to his credit since becoming an aircraft commander last December.

According to Williamson, "Each day we have two ships that we call 'first up' ships. These are used to fly missions while the others are being repaired or serviced by the mechanics. We install a hoist and jungle penetrator in one of the 'first up' ships. When we receive a call for a pick-up in the field, we are told if a suitable landing zone is available. If not, we send the ship with the hoist."

A hoist operation requires teamwork by the four-man crew during the operation, which may take 10 or more minutes.



NO ONE HERE—Sky Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division's 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry conduct a house to house search of a village during Operation Pershing in the Bong Son area.

(Photo by Sp4 Bruce Montoya, 13th SIG BN)

Lt Wins Action

TAN SON NHUT, (1st LOG-10)—Two armored cavalry repelled an overwhelm of attacking Viet Cong the leadership and det of a 1st Infantry Div lieutenant who has been the Distinguished Serv for his actions.

First Lieutenant Johnston, Troop C, 1st Squ Cavalry was comma armored cavalry plato a search and destroy near Lai Khe last Au he was ordered to rel other cavalry unit v under attack.

While maneuvering, he to bring fire upon the recoilless rifle shells he ele, wounding several bers. Johnston admini aid and directed the tion.

Unable to commu the rest of the plato his radio was knocke ran through small arm exploding mortar rou other armored vehicle

The radio in the v knocked out also. He le ele and ran among his ing orders and enco

9th Inf Div Cav Units Kill 228 VC In 'Junction City'

LAI KHE, (9th INF-10)—The final tally of Viet Cong killed in Operation Junction City, was 228 as 9th Infantry Division armored cavalry units completed a sweep of an area where they fought a furious six-hour battle with two battalions of VC recently.

The fight erupted in the pre-dawn hours when a VC force, part of the 273rd VC regiment, attacked A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry five miles north of here in Binh Duong province.

The cavalry unit, participating in Operation Junction City, was providing security for a battery of the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery.

The VC attacked with mortars, rockets, automatic weapons, and small arms fire. Three cavalry platoons of A, B, and C Troops immediately moved in to reinforce the two platoons of A Troop in the defense of the artillery position.

When the initial enemy assault was beaten back, the VC launched

a second desperate were repulsed again.

Artillery batteries from the base of the 1st 3rd Brigade kept the VC pinned down and in morning hours, Army gunships and F-100 jets struck the enemy.

Shortly before dawn tempted to break contact, and ground forces pursued fleeing enemy and cut it.

Friendly forces had 3 and five killed.

25th Inf Div Bn Meets,

