

switchboard, located at
MACV Headquarters, is the

Med-Evac Helicopter Hit By VC

May 13, 1967

RACH KIEN, (9th INF-10)—
A UH-1D medical evacuation helicopter with warning lights glaring, limped two miles bringing six 9th Infantry Division casualties out of a fire fight near here recently.

The chopper from the 254th Medical Detachment was on its way to Long Binh with five casualties aboard when it received a request for an emergency evacuation nearby.

As the rescue ship was picking up its sixth wounded man, 10 small arms rounds riddled the helicopter. One round punctured the oil reservoir.

With the oil pressure dropping, the pilot, Maj. Floyd Coddington, and the co-pilot, 1st Lt. William White, coaxed the ship into the air.

The ship skimmed at tree-top level heading for the safety of Rach Kien. Coddington brought the helicopter to a bouncing stop in a rice paddy just inside the perimeter of the 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry headquarters.

The six battlefield casualties were transferred to another helicopter to complete the trip to Long Binh. No one aboard was hit by the enemy ground fire.

damaging climate, fluctuating requirements and heavy volume of calls, as well as occasional Viet Cong interference.

Additional Switchboards operated and maintained by the 593rd include Deer, servicing Free World Military Headquarters in Cholon and Saigon Port, and Saigon L.D., which provides long distance access throughout Vietnam. The telephone equipment at the Saigon U.S.O. through which stateside calls are made by servicemen was supplied and is serviced by the 593rd.

Staffing the company's switchboards are 190 American troops and 40 Vietnamese civilians. Total working strength of the company is 450 men and 7 officers.

100th Engr Comp Bridge Links Blown

CAU MOUNG, (USAECV-10) — When military and civilian traffic was critically delayed after the Viet Cong blew up two Eiffel bridges across the Rach Cay and Rach Muong Chuoi rivers, the 100th Engineer Company (Float Bridge) was immediately called in to restore the link by using float rafts.

At the same time, the 86th Engineer Battalion started work on repairing one of the bridges.

Displaying teamwork gained from extensive practice, the 100th constructed a raft of aluminum decking and pneumatic floats in less than a day. This raft enabled military and civil-

May 13, 1967

Three Are Rescued After Jungle Crash

PLEIKU, (1st AVN-10) — "I saw the ship going down with flames billowing from the engine compartment. Then it hit the trees and fell through the canopy." This is how 1st Lt. Richard Sperling described the crash of a sister Huey helicopter during a combat assault operation near here recently.

Lieutenant Sperling, of the 155th Assault Helicopter Company, was piloting a UH-1D "slick" in support of a 4th Infantry Division assault during Operation Sam Houston. The 155th had deposited the assault troops in a "hot" landing zone and were taking off when the other ship was hit. It managed to fly only about 800 meters before crashing.

"We noticed a small clearing about 200 meters from the downed ship, took a chance and landed," the lieutenant said, describing the rescue that followed. Sperling and his crew chief, PFC Michael Baucom grabbed their weapons and rushed through the jungle to the

crash site.

Remaining behind with the helicopter, WO William Christobal, the copilot, and Sp4 Thomas Desimore, the door gunner, waited, hoping for their safe return.

Lieutenant Sperling described the crash site saying, "One man was dead, two wounded and one uninjured. Mortars, rockets and small arms fire were hitting all around us but we managed to get the three crewmembers back to my ship. We flew them out of the small clearing in a maximum performance takeoff and back to the base for medical help."

"It's things like this that make us all proud to be members of the 155th 'dragons'," said WO Jerry Johns, pilot of the downed chopper, after the day's action was over.

ST
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Arty Withs Men Must

Dentist Treats Children

PLEIKU, (4th INF-10)—Montagnard children from several villages near here are having one of the oddest experiences of their lives — meeting a dentist from the 4th Infantry Division.

Like people world-wide, the Montagnards are subject to dental problems. One homemade remedy used is the betel nut. Chewing the nut releases a mild narcotic which tends to deaden the pain. It also discolors the mouth and teeth.

Now, because of the efforts of the civil affairs officer of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, and Capt. William P. Greene, a dentist with the 4th Medical Battalion assigned here, the children will be spared, to some extent, these discomforts.

Captain Richard Donnelly, S-5 of the "regulars," often brings three or four of the youngsters from villages he has visited for Greene's attention.

A typical group was from the village of Plei Klung. The trio were Cier, a six-year old girl, and two boys, Hin, seven, and Hyot, twelve.

While the boys accepted the treatment calmly, Cier was somewhat frightened by the whole business. As Greene prepared to extract four teeth, her father stood by nervously. But the operation was successful.

Sharp-Eyed MP Spots Stolen Army Vehicle

LONG BINH, (18th MP-10)—Specialist Four Russell Pierce



FIRING BACK—Specialist Four Raymond Healey of the 17th Cavalry, 173rd Airborne Brigade fires at the enemy as his squad encounters Viet Cong along the Saigon River. The search and destroy mission took place north of Saigon. (Photo by Sp4 L. Paul Epley, 173rd ABN-10)

179th Chopper Company Sets Monthly Flying Hours Record

PLEIKU, (1st AVN-10) — Chinook helicopters from the Army's 179th Assault Support Helicopter Company set a record in Vietnam by flying more than 1000 hours during a one month period.

The record was established while flying missions in support of the 25th and 4th Infantry Divisions and the Republic of Korea Tiger Division in the central

highlands.

Night missions accounted for 41 hours. Artillery and infantry units were supplied with food, ammo, water, howitzers, vehicles and other items which can be carried inside or sling-loaded beneath the big chopper.

Average daily availability for the Chinooks reached a record high of 77 per cent during the month, according to Maj. Karl Brugger, 179th maintenance officer. Backing up the 179th in this area is the 402nd Field Maintenance Detachment commanded by Maj. Joseph Stevenson.

Since becoming operational in Vietnam on Sept. 1, 1965, the unit has averaged close to 900 flying hours monthly. This in

701st Maint Bn Gets Downed Copters Up

PHU LOI, (1st INF-10) — Bending the law of gravity around to "what comes down must again go up" is the mission of Company E, 701st Maintenance Battalion.

Because of the importance of artillery of the light observation helicopter in spotting the enemy, it is frequently necessary for the maintenance men to hurry to the artillery sites to work on a downed chopper.

During a recent operation an artillery battery located north of Suoi Da informed the Company that an observation ship had been grounded inside its compound.

Realizing that the battery's location was in the midst of Charlie's country, Co. E wanted to get the damaged chopper airborne quickly. One of the company's Huey transport helicopters with a team of mechanics

was dispatched to the artillery site.

The transport ship, piloted by Capt. James Raible, arrived at the battery's jungle base site within an hour. There the maintenance men discovered not one disabled aircraft, but three.

Starting with the originally reported ship, Sp5 Charles McCutcheon and Sp4 Norman Chagnon soon discovered that in addition to the reported defects, the fan belt had also snapped. This meant that the ship would have to be air-lifted back to Phu Loi for repair in the shop area. They radioed the 605th Transportation Company and requested that a Chinook helicopter be dispatched to bring the downed chopper here.

While the first craft was being checked out, SSgt. LaVond Mangum and Sp5 Charles Smith Jr. headed for the other two aircraft. A short inspection showed that these choppers could be repaired at the battery site. They both needed replacement parts, but that was not a major problem. Since the first helicopter would have to be hauled out it was possible to borrow the needed parts from it.

As the maintenance team boarded their Huey to head home, the 605th's Chinook arrived. Hooking onto the damaged chopper, the Chinook followed the Co. E men here. That night a repair crew set to work on the remaining bird and in the morning it was watching Charlie from the sky over Suoi Da.

US, Aussies Conduct Xuyen Moc MEDCAP

LONG BINH, (USAECV-10) — A joint team of American and Australian doctors and medics

Portsea, taking place near Xuyen Moc on Route 23 north-east of Vung Tau.

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Sharp-Eyed MP Spots Stolen Army Vehicle

LONG BINH, (18th MP-IO)—Specialist Four Russell Pierce of the 560th Military Police Company, 95th Military Police Battalion, was on a routine patrol in the Delta town of Can Tho when his vigilance led to the recovery of a stolen Army vehicle.

Glancing at a brightly-painted Vietnamese truck being loaded with building supplies, he thought the truck looked familiar, and immediately stopped to investigate.

What he saw was a vehicle that resembled an Army deuce-and-a-half, yet it had a metal roof, a non-military front grill, and a covered wooden bed, as well as Vietnamese markings and what appeared to be civilian nationals as operators.

The average man would probably think the resemblance strange, and then go about his business. This is what Pierce did. His business is to be suspicious and to investigate.

51st Air Medal

BIEN HOA, (1st AVN-IO) — Chief Warrant Officer Kent F. Paxton, recently earned his 51st Air Medal after nearly 23 months of combat flying in Vietnam.

Paxton, a member of the 334th Armed Helicopter Company at Bien Hoa, is serving his second tour in the Vietnam as a helicopter gunship pilot.

Paxton's 51 medals represent the equivalent of nearly 1300 hours of combat flying.

River. The search and destroy mission took place north of Saigon. (Photo by Sp4 L. Paul Epley, 173rd ABN-10)

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Since becoming operational in Vietnam on Sept. 1, 1966, the unit has averaged close to 900 flying hours monthly. This in itself is a record for Chinook units operating in Vietnam.

During the last seven and a half months, the 179th has flown close to 7000 hours, more than 21,000 sorties, and lifted more than 27,000 tons of cargo and more than 65,000 passengers.

High on the list of mission priorities is the recovery of

downed aircraft. The most recent successful recovery of a UH-1D Huey helicopter brought the unit's total value of recovered aircraft to over \$15 million.

Serving in the role of medical evacuation, the Chinooks have air-lifted 651 casualties out of enemy territory in the II Corps Tactical Zone.

US, Aussies Conduct Xuyen Moc MEDCAP

LONG BINH, (USAECV-IO)—A joint team of American and Australian doctors and medics conducted the first MEDCAP in six months in Xuyen Moc.

The five-man team, led by Cpt. Paul N. Stewart, a physician from the 27th Engineer Battalion, 79th Engineer Group, and Cpt. Victor G. Bampton, medical officer from the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, is working in Operation

Mangum and Sp5 Charles Smith Jr. headed for the other two aircraft. A snort inspection showed that these choppers could be repaired at the battery site. They both needed replacement parts, but that was not a major problem. Since the first helicopter would have to be hauled out it was possible to borrow the needed parts from it.

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Portsea, taking place near Xuyen Moc on Route 23 north-east of Vung Tau.

Upon their arrival in Xuyen Moc, a friendly village in the heart of Viet Cong-controlled territory, the team set up its dispensary in a small Vietnamese hospital staffed by a Saigon-trained midwife. The villagers, old and young, were treated for numerous ailments, including tuberculosis, mumps, and skin diseases.

25th Inf Div Spoils Meal

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO)—The rice in the underground, company-sized, Viet Cong mess hall was still warm when the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division came swooping in. The camp was found in the Boi-Loi Woods during a search and destroy mission near the Saigon River during Operation Manhattan.

According to a battalion spokesman, the VC fled in such a hurry they left everything behind except their personal firearms.

A search of the immediate area by the 3rd Platoon, Company C turned up documents, training manuals, clothing, medical supplies, printing equipment, and three bicycles.

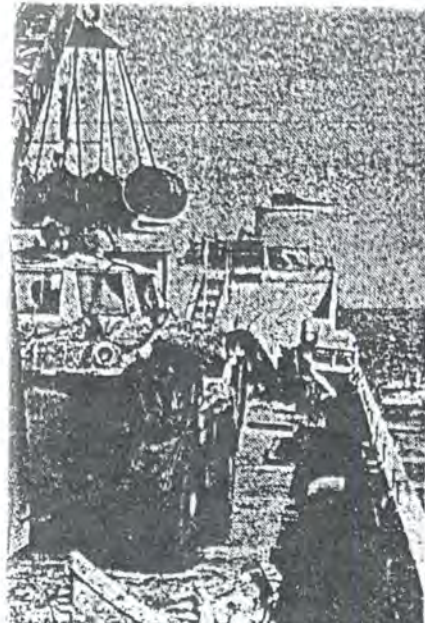
After the platoon returned to their forward base camp, an air-strike was called in to destroy the underground fortifications.



MANHATTAN DINING—Men of the 1st Recon Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment enjoy a hot meal during Operation Manhattan after a day of road patrolling in tanks and armored personnel carriers. The squadron was supporting the 4th Infantry Division by protecting supply routes and convoys.

(Photo by MSgt. Don Perkins, USARV-IO)

May 13, 1967



SEA—A Lighter Amphibious Resupply
boat is loaded with asphalt on the ship,
Page. The unloading, off Phan Thiet,
the Cam Ranh Bay Support Command's
area to supply the 1400-man task force.
by Sp5 J.P. Morgan, 13th SIG-BN)

Unloaded que Way

(CAV-10) s or piers of Phan ent of all lean task sea. operation," Scapleton, Hahn Bay Forward) at Phan d especial- forced but- port Com- three sub- sive 1st -the 50,000- one way or rt to every Vietnam.

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oney ble. Money lformed Sav- am earns 10 without any . It is almost

LAI KHE, (USARV-10)—The land here used to be Viet Cong sanctuary—a resupply depot for regiments of enemy soldiers operating in the area.

But that was before. During the opening phase of Operation Manhattan, the sanctuary was turned into a battlefield aimed at rooting out the remaining enemy forces and capturing his supplies and documents.

The area being exploited is a bleak, abandoned rubber plantation near the edge of the Iron Triangle, where the Viet Cong have constructed a series of intricate, underground base camps and bunkers containing large amounts of food, clothing, documents and medical supplies.

A company of men from the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, came upon one of these base camps while on patrol.

Called the "Black Lions," the company advanced toward the base camp and found the surrounding area had been heavily booby-trapped. Several punji-stake pits were also detected.

As the men drew closer to the camp they were hit by sniper fire from six Viet Cong. A brief firefight followed.

Later the company, led by Capt. Donald Sawtelle, was ordered to withdraw.

Captain Sawtelle immediately called in artillery as a blocking force while his men returned to the forward base camp. That afternoon and the next morning, the enemy base camp was heavily pounded by an air strike that lobbed in 750 pound bombs.

The air strike was successful. "We had the camp pinpointed on the map and the strike couldn't have been more accurate. I would say 90 percent of the base camp was destroyed," the captain said.

Inside the camp, the "Black Lions" found two large bags of documents, four tons of rice, surgical supplies, medicine, and more than 600 enemy uniforms.

The underground enemy refuge was complete with mess hall, sleeping quarters, hospital, operating room, morgue, and a complex of concrete-lined bunkers which had inter-connecting tunnels.

that the snipers could move around the entire base camp without being seen, which is why it was so hard for the men to root them out during initial contact.

"These are hard-core guerrillas, acting as home guards trying to make a last ditch stand," Captain Sawtelle continued. "I don't know how many VC are in this area, but the

them are fantastic. "Destroy his resupply points and you've really hurt Charlie," the captain concluded. "You're taking him out of action for awhile... keeping him from harassing villagers and farmers. It takes Charlie a long time to reestablish himself after one of his base camps has been destroyed."

Two Combat Teams Join 4th Inf Div

PLEIKU, (4th INF-10) — Army Combat Tracker Teams recently joined the 4th Infantry Division, bringing with them a very special talent to perform a highly difficult mission. The two, 10-man teams are anxious to utilize their four Labrador-tracker dogs.

Coming from every branch of the Army, these volunteers were trained at the British Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia. Team Three commander, 1st Lt. James Myrick, a former Special Forces officer, described the school as "one of the most gruelling I've ever seen."

The teams are usually led by an officer and a non-commissioned officer. Two visual trackers, three cover men, two dog handlers and one RTO complement the team. Each must not only know his own job well, but be cross-trained and ready to take over duties of other team members.

In their final phase of training, the teams conducted simulated missions of locating the enemy and calling in fire on targets of opportunity. The teams attempt not to make contact with the enemy. The mission of the tracker is to locate, pinpoint, and relay information about the enemy.

The Gurkas, British mercenaries from Nepal, provided a touch of reality to the training, springing deadly ambushes and using VC hit-and-run tactics. On one occasion, Team Four camped only to have the "Gurka VC" pop out of well concealed holes on all sides. The ensuing "battle" vividly illustrated the importance of their training.

On a mission, the men and their jobs come into clear focus. The visual trackers will identify the enemy by analyzing carefully the terrain, camp sites, routes of escape, equipment left behind and other tell-tale signs.

He may be able to differentiate between an irregular Viet Cong element or a squad of NVA Regulars. He is just as likely to say the enemy is finished for the day, or is on the move again, or, if it is a mortar team, moving into a new firing position. The tracker, with help from a tugging,

enger dog, will indicate the direction of the enemy.

The cover men, providing security, will closely flank the visual men and handlers. They will be continually learning the finer points of tracking and handling and if a man is wounded, the cover men are able to take over.

The handlers of course, are moving out with their dogs in search of Charlie. It is their job to "read" the dog—determining the reaction of this very important teammate. The handler is quick to tell you that knowing his dog is something more patiently learned by time and association than by training. Each animal is different. Team 3's "Goldie" once alerted the team 300 meters from the enemy, a distance much greater than the average of 150 meters.

Having located and appraised the enemy, the RTO may, all in air or artillery strikes.

Specialist 4 James Hillard is especially proud of his team's ability to nail the elusive "12-hour soldier," that is the VC who assumes the role of a loyal GVN supporter by day and combatant by night.

The men with the motto "Have Team, Will Track" are about to give "Charlie" a surprise.

New 'Dragon' Missile—27 lbs

WASHINGTON, (ANF) — The Army's new guided missile system, light enough to be fired and carried by one man, has been named "Dragon," the Department of the Army has announced.

Dragon, an anti-tank weapon that can be fired from the shoulder, formerly was known as MAW (Medium Anti-Tank Assault Weapon).

Because of its light weight, about 27 pounds, Dragon is particularly suited for airborne or airmobile operations and for employment in areas where terrain is difficult for vehicles.

Dragon will replace the current medium anti-tank assault weapon, the 90mm recoilless rifle.

Morning Report Change Due

WASHINGTON, (DOD) — Morning report clerks are in for a break.

The Army hopes to have Department of Army Form One completely overhauled by mid-summer. The major innovation in the Army Data Support Command's redesign is the elimination of personnel information traditionally known as supple-

mental data.

This personnel data will flow from the Personnel Office, custodian of individual 201 Files, directly to the Data Processing Activity.

The official announcement said this takes a tremendous administrative work load off the "frequently inexperienced, rapidly rotated, low graded" unit clerk.

Sometimes it's not easy.....BUT



DON'T THROW AWAY PIASTERS!

May 13, 1967

The system was developed by Lt. Col. Fred E. Kahros, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

Pope took charge of the 30 caliber machinegun that was in the position nearest him and fired a warning burst above their heads. Still they failed to surrender.

Having only six rounds left in the weapon, he fired four well aimed shots and dropped each of the fleeing enemy soldiers in their tracks.

Later, as the friendly villagers were questioned, they said the run-aways were members of a communist force, that had been operating in that area for some time.

Savings Deposit

While stationed overseas, check the new Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program. You can draw 10 per cent on your savings.

Saves Abn Patrol

KHANH DUONG, (101st ABN-10) — Being quick on the draw paid off recently for a member of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division's Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon.

As the platoon was maneuvering through thick brush, the point man, Sp4 Patrick Kinser spotted a group of Viet Cong coming toward him. The VC spotted the patrol at the same time. The six-man airborne unit hit the dirt and fired, Kinser getting in the first shot. After the first volley, two VC were dead.

"After I emptied my maga-

zine, I rolled over and tried to reload," said Kinser. "As I put my rifle up to jam in another magazine, it flew out of my hands," he continued. Kinser retrieved his weapon. An enemy bullet had penetrated the barrel.

The rest of the team hit the VC with grenades and small arms fire, then cleared out since they had no idea what size force they were fighting.

An air strike was called in and then the patrol returned. They found discarded packs, rice, and the two dead VC. The enemy again had fled.

Sergeant Derby F. Jones, who was right behind Kinser, said they threw everything at Charlie, but if it had not been for Kinser's quick reactions, the result might have been reversed.

A helicopter delivered a new weapon to Kinser and the reconnaissance patrol went stalking the VC once again.

Captured Sampans

RACH KIEN, (9th INF-10)—Captured enemy sampans were used by a 9th Infantry Division unit recently for a waterborne operation in the Mekong River Delta 20 miles west of here.

Two sampans, powered by small motors, became patrol boats for a platoon from Company A, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry which was placed as a blocking force on the Vam Co Tay River to stop and search passing water traffic.

Sixty sampans were stopped by the Army's "naval force" during the two-day operation. The infantrymen also discovered nine boats hidden in inlets along the river.

Second Lieutenant Lewis McAllister, platoon leader, and PFC James Flower manned the first craft.

The second patrol boat was handled by SSgt. Robert Moore and Sgt. James Swearingen.

the patrols used claymore mines and rifles, killing seven enemy.

This brought the 11th Cav's enemy body count to 21 for the operation.

In civic actions, Chinook helicopters of the 213th Assault Support Helicopter Company became virtual Noah's Arks, lifting Vietnamese and livestock from the enemy controlled area. Many had been trying for years to escape domination by the VC. One old man said he had fought the French during the Indo-China War and had been trying to flee VC control for many years.

In six days, the Chinooks evacuated 268 men, women, and children along with 18 head of cattle, 15 pigs, 50 chickens, and several dogs belonging to the villagers. The families were relocated at Dau Tieng by the Vietnamese government.

The daily monsoon rains drenching the area of operations did not stop the tanks or assault vehicles. A strong resupply and maintenance effort has kept men and machines going, despite continuous field operations since last October.

Resupply Padmen Keep Choppers Full

PLEIKU, (4th INF-10)—"P-69ers" they call themselves and they hold a job of utmost importance to the fighting men of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry. Their job — helicopter resupply padmen.

Working directly with the battalion supply section Sp4 Robert

SSgt Catches Fish With His Bare Hands

CAM RANH BAY, (USAECV-10)—While working on a bridge project recently, SSgt. John T. Gower went fishing in an unusual manner.

"I was standing next to the edge of a float watching one of the men do some welding under a floodlight we had set up," Gower related. "We were wishing we had some fishing gear. We could hear fish jumping all around us. They must have been attracted by the light."

"I happened to look down at the water and saw a fish swimming around in the light from the flood lamp. It was close to where I was standing so I reached down to see if I could catch it. I was as surprised as the fish must have been when I did catch it."

Paz and PFC Ivis Slone begin their day at sun-up readying supplies requested the previous evening. Within minutes the first cargo is ready on the pad for the resupply ship on the way from the 4th Aviation Battalion.

Suddenly the jeep's radio blasts out the padmen's familiar call letters. Returning the call, Paz or Slone relates the type, amount, and destination of the cargo to the pilot. The supply ship soon flies into view and touches down. Quick hands load it for its first sorties of the day. Only a few seconds pass before the chopper is airborne again.

While the padmen are busy loading and unloading helicopters, Sp5 Antonio S. Solis is busy in the battalion S-4 office, talking with the helicopters and receiving additional supply requests from the unit's fire support base. Both he and the padmen must work as a team in order to keep the field unit resupplied.

Working from dawn to dusk, the trio gets little rest between sorties as the next load is made ready and incoming calls are answered. Averaging anywhere from 15 to 20 sorties or more a day, they handle everything from toilet articles to 4.2mm mortar rounds.

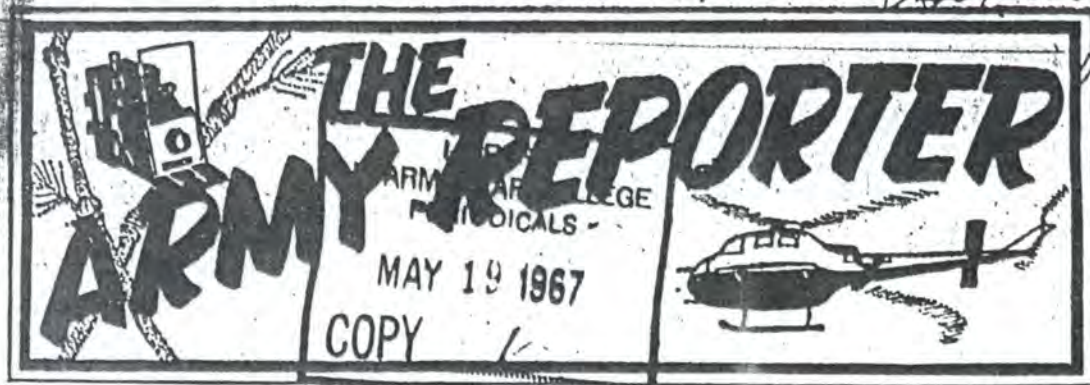
"You name it, we send it," said Paz.



HEADING FOR FREEDOM—After her husband was killed by the Viet Cong the day before, the woman behind the man at the chopper's door asked that she and her family be evacuated from the enemy-infested area in Vinh Binh Province. Here she, her family, and a few villagers, a small part of the 2000 persons who were evacuated, board a chopper for the ride to freedom.

(Photo by IV CORPS-10)

May 13, 1967



Vol. 3, No. 18

Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam

May 13, 1967

Cav Co Kills 50 NV Troops In 10-Hour Freedom Battle

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) — Company A of the 1st Cavalry Division, surrounded by a battalion of North Vietnamese army soldiers, entrenched in concrete bunkers, successfully fought its way from death in a 10-hour battle resulting in 50 communist deaths.

More than 200 enemy mortar rounds exploded among the cavalymen as the communists blasted the Americans with grenades and automatic weapons fire.

The enemy ambush occurred shortly after noon as Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry was attempting to enter a village. The company had been airlifted into the area to assist a battalion which had made heavy contact during Operation Pershing.

Captain Wallace Stauffer, commander of the force, said he knew immediately that they had been surrounded by no ordinary communist force. Enemy weapons had been strategically placed in elevated positions.

Part of the American success was due, according to Stauffer,

to the misdirection of the communist weapons. "They had their muzzles too high," he said, "and most of the shells flew over our heads."

After the action, it was found that 60 back-packs had been torn open by enemy bullets as the men crawled on the ground.

Shortly after midnight, the

communists retreated, leaving a rear guard to fire harassing sniper shots. The battle had lasted more than 10 hours.

Two days after the battle, four men were awarded Silver Stars by Maj. Gen John Norton, recently departed commander of the 1st Cav.

VN Pulls Gunner From Fiery Craft

BAN ME THUOT, (1st AVN-IO) — A Vietnamese civilian helped save the lives of four Americans from the burning wreckage of an Army helicopter here recently.

The helicopter mishap occurred when a UH-1C gunship was attempting a takeoff from Ban Me Thuot City Airfield. It lost power and crashed in a sparsely populated area. No civilians were hurt.

Phan Van Ngong, an employee of Pacific Architects and Engineers, was the first to arrive at the crash scene. A few moments later the crash rescue unit from nearby Camp Coryell arrived and started to put out the fire.

Ignoring the flames from the burning chopper, two members of the crash rescue team, Sp4 Douglas Ellis and Sp4 Leonard Jones started to pull the crew members to safety. Mr. Ngong joined them and rescued the gunner just as the intense heat of the fire detonated the chopper's ammunition.

Major Charlie P. Fleming, company commander of the

155th Assault Helicopter Company, forwarded a letter of appreciation to Mr. Ngong through the Pacific Architects and Engineers manager at Ban Me Thuot. It read in part:

"I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you my deepest gratitude for your heroic efforts on behalf of the crew of the helicopter that crashed at Ban Me Thuot. Your valiant display of courage while rescuing the crew members from the burning wreckage was a source of admiration to myself and to the many friends of these men."

VC Loses In Grenade Exchange

PHU LOI, (1st INF-IO) — On one side of the door was an American Soldier and on the other side a Viet Cong.

Private First Class Lance A. Diesthorst spotted a trap door

Division soldier struggles in Plain of Reeds during entry operation. (Millaire, 9th INF-IO)

Freed Unit

Vietnamese who was not later admitted that he a VC charged with guarding the prisoners.

looked like he was trying to make us think he was a VC, too," Manniz commented.

After searching found two captives lying in a ditch, bound and blindfolded.

MPs Keep Alert

NG BINH, (18th MP-IO) — alert members of Company B 720th Military Police Battalion recently saved a Tay Long Binh convoy from serious damage and loss of life. Specialist four Frank C. Waljeep commander for the vehicle, spotted a mine in the road. He notified the convoy support team which in turn alerted SSgt. Kenneth McClain, company B convoy NCOIC. The escort leaders promptly

established measures to safeguard the convoy in the mine area, and a few minutes later traffic was able to proceed at normal speed.

Later the same day, Sp4 Gary L. Staelgraeve, commander of the lead jeep, radioed McClain that he had spotted a hand grenade in the center of the road. A roadblock was quickly formed in the area until the grenade was turned over to the 25th EOD Team.