

1st Log's 'Dustoff' Choppers Evacuated 60,000 Last Year

SAIGON (1st LOG-IO)—During 1965, the helicopter medical evacuation "dustoff" teams of the 1st Logistical Command air-evacuated nearly 60,000 casualties from the battlefields of Vietnam.

Air ambulance crews began operations in Vietnam during 1952, at which time the 57th Medical Detachment (Helicopter-Ambulance) provided non divisional air-evacuation service to combat

units. The term "dustoff" became the call sign for the helicopter medics as ground units were "dusted off" whenever one of the choppers hovered overhead while picking up casualties.

The 93 "dustoff" pilots of the 498th and 436th Medical Companies (Air-Ambulance) logged over 28,000 hours of flying time during more than 35,000 missions this past year. Some of these men, their crew chiefs and aidmen became casualties themselves, yet their unarmed skyborne ambulances continued to lift out casualties wherever fire fights were hottest.

Air evacuation can be accomplished by two methods. When terrain permits, the choppers land to pick up wounded, but pilots often must hover over tree-tops while a bullet-shaped "forest penetrator" or "stokes litter" is lowered by a hoist cable. The casualty is then hoisted into the hovering helicopter for the ride to the hospital. Although hoisting operations consume more time, no soldier is more than 30 minutes from one of the 44th Medical Brigade's surgical rooms.

According to statistics slightly more than four per cent of all combat casualties died of wounds after reaching hospital facilities during World War II. This figure dropped to two per cent in the Korean Conflict, when helicopter ambulances were first employed on the battlefield.

Lieutenant Colonel John W. Hammett, air advisor to the 44th Med. Bde and a veteran of the first combat air evacuation in Korea, says: "Due to the ability of 'dustoff' to evacuate wounded to our modern hospitals in a minimum of time, a casualty rate of less than one per cent is being maintained in Vietnam."



MOVING OUT—Within minutes after being alerted, the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, moves out in support of units engaged in a recent operation. (Photo by 121st SIG BN)

199th Hitting Charlie

LONG BINH (199th INF-IO)—Significant inroads into previously Viet Cong controlled areas south of Saigon are being made by the "O'd Guard", the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

In four separate air assault operations during an eight day period involving task forces of two companies, the battalion ac-

stated that in a single day, after one operation, residents turned in 120 tons of rice to government control, a record for that particular area.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

STOPS AT ONE

Thon take time for a game of basketball following a rough day on a recon patrol.

(Photo by SSgt. Odell Hacker, 5th SFG-IO)

Mar 4, 1967

145th Cmbt Avn Bn Pools Med Service

BIEN HOA, (145th AVN-IO)—
The "First In Vietnam" Aviation Battalion has scored another first.

The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, located here, has the first prototype consolidated aviation dispensary in the Republic of Vietnam. Because of its successful operation and better medical support other similar consolidated dispensaries are being built throughout Vietnam.

In the past, all the companies of the 145th have had their medical detachments dispersed throughout the Bien Hoa area with the various units. The medical detachments were usually housed in tents and their equipment and facilities were limited. By pooling the detachment resources and personnel, members of the battalion enjoy a much broader, more complete, 24 hour medical support.

The new dispensary is housed in a semi-permanent type building, incorporating a patient waiting room, a laboratory, a pharmacy, audiogram room, flight surgeon's offices, a dentist and dental hygienist, plasma expanders, oxygen resuscitation equipment, and a treatment area complete with emergency life saving drugs.

The 145th Consolidated Dispensary has the capability of performing many laboratory and

visual tests, electro-cardiograms and audiograms, which were previously referred to evacuation hospitals. In the past, flight physical examinations required several days—if not weeks—because many of the tests had to be performed elsewhere.

There is also a definite advantage in having all the flight surgeons in one building. A flight surgeon can now fly on combat assaults with his company's flight. When aviation companies or part of the companies are relocated temporarily for a mission requirement, a flight surgeon and his medics can accompany the men without disrupting the continuity of medical care back at the base dispensary.

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"When everything undamaged is stripped from a vehicle or piece of equipment, the remainder is shipped to a property disposal office holding activity for sale to buyers by disposal personnel," added the lieutenant.

"We accept everything, and about 50 per cent of the 1500 tons of supplies and equipment we handle in an average month is salvageable," he said.

12th Cmbt Avn Gp Lifts 30,000 Men A Week

LONG BINH, (II FFV-10)—During a recent week, the 12th Combat Aviation Group with headquarters near here, airlifted more than 30,000 combat troops. Unusual? Definitely not. Nearly every week the number of troops airlifted by this helicopter unit exceeds that figure.

When one considers that these men are usually lifted seven at a time using less than 400 helicopters it is an amazing figure.

The 12th Group, under operational control of II Field Force Vietnam (IFFV), and commanded by Col. Raymond P. Campbell Jr., provides airlift support to combat units in the III Corps Tactical Zone. This zone includes the important Saigon-Bien Hoa locale. In addition to flying soldiers into combat, they airlift three or four thousand tons of cargo per week which includes ammunition, rations, and even artillery howitzers.

Whatever the mission or requirement for a helicopter platoon, company, or battalion, it is coordinated through the Army Aviation Element (AAE) at IFFV. The AAE's job is to receive requests for airlifts from combat units of IFFV and arrange for the request to be filled.

Not only can combat units call on the AAE for aircraft but the pilots themselves, by using their aircraft radio and going through their parent unit may contact the AAE.

The effectiveness of this communications system was demonstrated recently when a pilot of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regi-

ment observed a rice cache of several tons. He reported it to the AAE. Two CH-47A Chinook helicopters were sent immediately to airlift the rice out of the area.

Sergeant Johnson, whose wife and four children, Mitzie, Debora, Yvette, and Tony, live in Tacoma, Wash., received a package from his wife containing a letter and 23 self-portraits from Mitzie and her fellow kindergarten classmates at Sheridan Elementary School.

The pictures and letter were

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By working in the IFFV tactical operation center, the AAE can rapidly determine mission priorities through coordination with the IFFV Aviation and the G3 Air sections. The commanding officer of the 12th Combat Aviation Group and the IFFV Aviation Officer are one and the same.

199th Inf Bde Aids Hamlet

LONG BINH, (199th INF-10)—Gestures of friendship were launched by the Civil Affairs Section of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, in an operation in which two rifle companies, doctors and medics, military police, and Vietnamese soldiers participated.

The objective was the little river hamlet of Nhon Luc, which has been long plagued by the Viet Cong. As the civil affairs team moved into the village with the doctors and medics, the ARVN soldiers searched the hamlet, home by home, looking for signs of the Viet Cong. All that was turned up was the curiosity of the people as the medics set up shop and a MEDCAP was announced.

battery formation and posted the pictures on the unit bulletin board.

The letter from Mitzie's class read "Dear Army Men. How are you? We are fine. Hope you like our pictures. We looked in the mirror and then we colored them. We like our kindergarten room and everything is fine. We like you very much and we like you to fight for us. Please write us soon. Love, The Afternoon Kindergarten, Room 20."

All members of the command autographed the pictures with a personal greeting or message and they were returned to the kindergarten class with a letter of appreciation signed by Col. Joseph F. H. Cutrona, Division Artillery commander, and all of the staff officers and noncommissioned officers.

der enemy fire. The CIDG soldiers immediately went into the assault using fire and movement. Soon, however, they began receiving fire from all sides indicating they were being encircled by a large force.

The Green Beret men advised their Vietnamese Special Forces (LLDB) counterparts to make a concentrated assault in order to break out of the encirclement. Air strikes were called in to assist in disrupting the encirclement, and the breakthrough was accomplished. A second CIDG unit was airlifted from the camp to the action area, and a sweep through the area revealed that 25 NVA were killed by the breakthrough assault and 16 NVA were killed by the air strikes. Also, 14 enemy weapons were captured.

In a second operation, two

NCO IS Minister

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—There are not many battalions, in Vietnam or elsewhere, that have a non-commissioned officer who is also an ordained minister.

On Sundays, SSgt. Claude L. Carroll of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery becomes Reverend Carroll and conducts services for the men of the battalion. All men are invited to his services, regardless of their religion.

Reverend Carroll, a veteran with 17 years service, attended Arkansas Baptist College and graduated in 1949.



ENGINEER SUPPORT—Crew members of a 106mm recoilless rifle jeep prepare to fire a mission in support of engineers operating near Nui Ba Den Mountain. The men (from left), Sp4 Alfred Austin, Sgt. Leroy Buford, and Sp4 Bruce D.A. Smith, are all from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

(Photo by PFC Dennis E. Shutz, 196th INF-10)

mar 4, 1967

cluster of houses about 100 yards from the bridge site. Reacting quickly, the platoon returned the fire and silenced it. Illuminating flares were sent up over suspected enemy positions, but a search of the area revealed nothing.

At nine o'clock the next morning—almost 24 hours after the work had begun—two tanks bound for La Hai rolled over the completed bridge.

Tanks Kid VC After Spies

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—Cradling his rifle in his arms, PFC Armando Lopez, knelt near a clump of bamboo and watched the surrounding jungle as his friends dug foxholes.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, was digging in after a long day's march on a search and

destroy mission north of Saigon. In the middle of the jungle, all the 2nd Brigade soldiers had on their minds was rest and a meal of C-rations, then sleep before the next day would come.

Tired and bedraggled, Lopez watched wearily the mixture of stalks and leaves, not seeing

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Vietnam Communiqué

173rd Airborne Brigade — Operation Big Springs in Bien Hoa and Binh Duong Provinces has terminated. The action accounted for 43 enemy killed and 24 individual weapons captured. Overall friendly casualties during the three-week operation were light.

25th Infantry Division — Elements of the 3rd Brigade Task Force joined with other American units to begin Operation

Pershing in Binh Dinh Province. Friendly casualties are light as the operation continues. The 1st Brigade, terminated Operation Gadsden in Tay Ninh Province. The joint operation accounted for 161 enemy killed.

1st Infantry Division — The 2nd Brigade is continuing Operation Lam Son 67 in Binh Duong and Bien Hoa Provinces. Three hundred and seventy-three

enemy have been detained while friendly casualties are listed as light.

195th Light Infantry Brigade — Operation Gadsden, in which the brigade has been participating, has terminated. Cumulative friendly casualties were light in the action which saw 20 individual weapons seized.

1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division—Elements of the brigade have terminated "Gatling II" in Lam Dong Province. The operation accounted for 25 enemy killed. Friendly casualties were light. Other elements of the brigade participating in Operation Farragut have killed 49 enemy. The operation is continuing with light friendly casualties.

195th Light Infantry Brigade—Operation Rang Dong, a combined pacification action involving the brigade and ARVN units, has accounted for 436 enemy killed. Cumulative friendly casualties are light as the operation continues.

9th Infantry Division — Operation Big Springs, involving the 1st Brigade has terminated with light overall friendly casualties.

4th Infantry Division—The 2nd Brigade is participating in Operation Sam Houston in Pleiku Province. Since the operation began Jan. 1, 229 enemy have been killed. Friendly casualties are light as the action continues. Operation Adams, involving elements of the 1st Brigade, is continuing in Phu Yen Province with light friendly casualties.

1st Cavalry Division — Operation Byrd in Binh Thuan Province has accounted for 356 enemy killed and 88 individual weapons seized. The operation is continuing with cumulative friendly casualties listed as light.

11th Armored Cavalry Regiment—Elements of the regiment have terminated Operation Muncie in Long Khanh and Phouc Tuy Provinces. Nine suspects were detained and 11 crew-served weapons captured. Cumulative friendly casualties during the three-week action were light.



WAITING—Two Republic of Korea (ROK) soldiers of the ROK White Horse Division wait for signs of enemy activity along a riverbank.

(Photo by Mr. Hong Song Chan, AP)

Mar 4, 1967

VC Fail To Stop Engr Bn

TUY HOA, (USAECV-10) — Wind, rain, sniper fire, and explosions plagued two platoons of Company A, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat) as they worked around the clock to complete a 96 foot, M4T6 (aluminum decked) float bridge and repair two 38-foot-dry spans on Highway 6B near here recently.

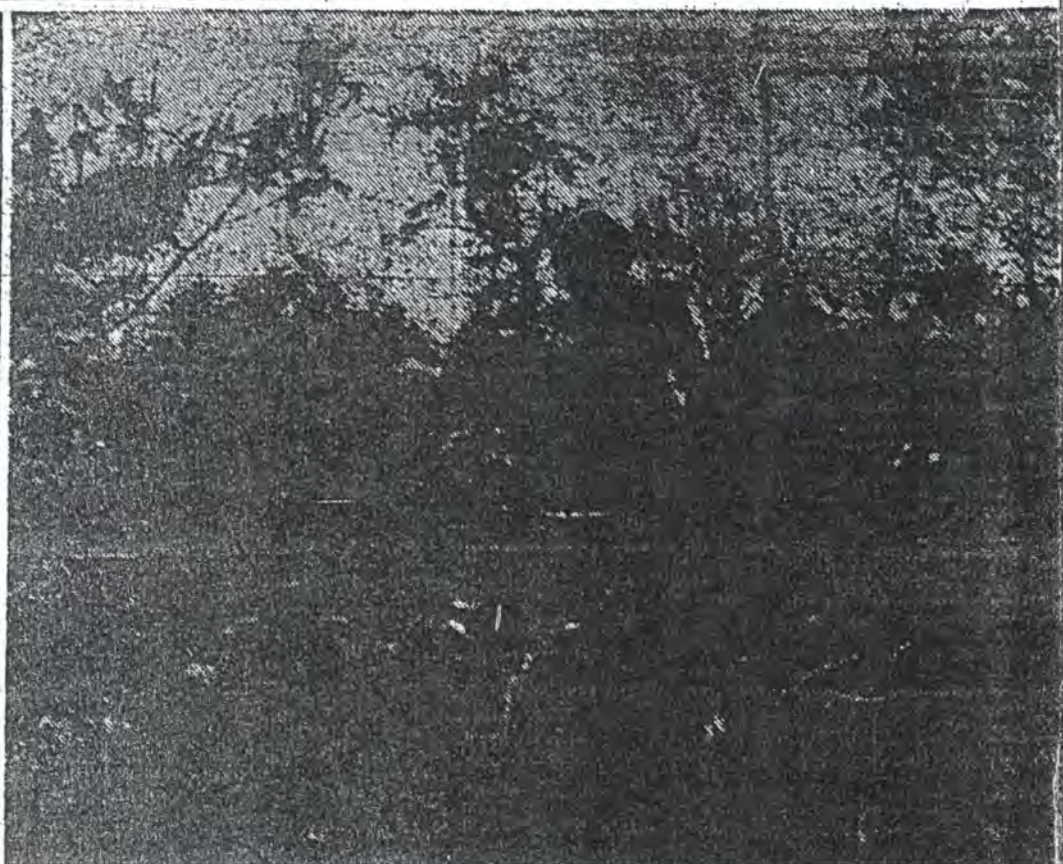
Engineers built and repaired the bridges to upgrade the road so that tanks could be brought in for combat operations in the area.

The 3rd Platoon of Co. A, after finishing its work on the dry spans, joined the 2d Platoon at the float bridge site and set up security for the bridge-builders.

Construction moved slowly at first because both approaches had to be built on marshy ground, requiring a large amount of fill.

Several hours after nightfall, the 3rd Plat. security forces received small arms fire from a cluster of houses about 100 yards from the bridge site. Reacting quickly, the platoon returned the fire and silenced it. Illuminating flares were sent up over suspected enemy positions, but a search of the area revealed nothing.

At nine o'clock the next morning—almost 24 hours after the work had begun—two tanks bound for La Hai rolled over the completed bridge.



REST BREAK—Two soldiers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment awaiting orders to move out during a jungle clearing operation.

(Photo by 1)

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Mar 4, 1967

Begins On Improvement Ninh Logistics Complex

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HEAVE HO!—Four men from the 553rd Engineer Detachment raise a section of a prefabricated building being constructed to serve as a ration breakdown center for the 196th Infantry Brigade. (Photo by 1st LOG-10)

eer Civilians Battle Areas

ABN-10) n of mili- nese Field mpanying providing tection of e path of t Brigade, during tions.

When entering a village complex in the field the policemen can identify landmarks and explain any unusual findings. Should the need arise they can be used for interrogation purposes. On one occasion a field force policeman saved a unit from an ambush by extracting information from a prisoner of war.

The Field Force Police men are part of the Vietnamese National Police and work with the brigade military police during their stay in any area.

emen are which has e brigade e. Working 327th In- ish of the atoon, and have been ting civil- y interfer- es during ons in re-

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1st To Land, 1st To Serve

SAIGON, (1st LOG-10) — The 567th Transportation Company (Terminal Service) recently had the distinction of being the first 4th Transportation Command unit to land and operate the 1st Logistical Command's newest port—Dong Tam.

Dong Tam, located 60 miles south of Saigon, is a key support base for combat operations in the Mekong Delta. The Log unit, part of the 71st Transportation Battalion (Terminal) and primarily a stevedore unit, disembarked and immediately began discharge operations at the new port facility.

330th Avn Makes Choppers Flyable

VUNG TAU, (USARJ-10)—The first flight for new Army helicopters arriving in Vietnam is across the shallow, muddy waters of Vung Tau's harbor. The first place they touch ground in Vietnam is the helipad of the 330th Aviation Company at Vung Tau's busy airfield.

The 330th receives all new helicopters destined for use by the Army in Vietnam. The choppers arrive from Sharpe Army Depot at Alameda, Cal., aboard a general purpose aircraft carrier which drops anchor a few miles off Vung Tau.

When helicopters arrive, they are unglamorously wrapped in a protective coating or "cocoon" to protect them on the ocean trip. They are minus rotor blades and their motors are coated with preservative.

The 330th's Office of Production Control is in charge of putting new helicopters into flyable condition.

"We receive a six-hour notice before each carrier drops anchor," said Capt. Daniel T. Madish, who is in charge of the operation. "As soon as the ship comes in, we send out our 35-man crew to begin preparing the aircraft for delivery to shore."

The maintenance crew, led by Staff Sergeants Faustino Gomez and Philip Butcher, live on the carrier until the re-assembly job is finished. "Usually we can de-cocoon 60 aircraft and have them ready to fly in about four days," Butcher said.

As soon as the helicopters' wrappings are removed, crews work on an assembly line basis to attach main rotor blades, tail rotors and stabilizer bars.

When the choppers are ready for the hop to Vung Tau, Madish flies a crew of pilots to the ship. Most helicopters have about 15 hours of flying time in the United States, but on the flight from the carrier to Vung Tau, the pilots perform another functional test flight before delivery to the 330th.

Once the aircraft are in Vietnam, the 330th arranges with the U.S. Army Vietnam's (USARV) 58th Transportation Battalion in Saigon for delivery of the aircraft to their new homes. Each unit receiving new helicopters sends its pilots to Vung Tau to pick up the choppers.

"With fixed wing aircraft, our

work is more complicated," said Madish. The 330th processes about three-fourths of all new OV-1 Mohawks and UH-1 Apaches arriving in Vietnam.

"Most of the Mohawks and Apaches are delivered in crates," the captain continued. "We unload them from the carrier onto barges, and bring them to our compound to be reassembled, so the process takes a bit longer."

For the men of the 330th, putting aircraft together and preparing them for use in Vietnam is really a sideline. Their main job is to provide general maintenance support for the III and IV Corps areas—the southern half of the country.

"If aircraft cannot be repaired at Vung Tau, we send them to the United States," Madish said. "In a way, our operations see an aircraft from start to finish. Most of the aircraft that come to us for repair were unloaded by our men many months ago."

Schooling For Engrs

PHU CUONG, (USAECV-10)—Three officers and 27 enlisted men of the United States Army Engineer Command, Vietnam recently received a two day course of instruction on Eiffel Bridging at the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Engineer School here.

Captain De of the ARVN Engineers presented the classes to 2 officers and 15 enlisted men of the 86th Engineer Battalion (Combat) and 1 officer and 12 enlisted men of the 500th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge).

Eiffel bridges were conceived by Gustav Eiffel, a French engineer, and are located extensively throughout Vietnam. Since combat and combat support missions often depend on maintenance and repair of existing bridges it is essential that American engineers be familiar with them.

The Eiffel bridge is similar to our Bailey Bridge in appearance and construction. However, the Eiffel is usually built without a launching nose and is constructed wholly on the near shore. During the class, the component parts and complete construction of the Eiffel bridge was taught. The training culminated in an erection of one of the bridges by the American engineers.

SS Awarded To Objector

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — A conscientious objector serving as a medic with the 25th Infantry Division has been awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award for valor in com-

