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179th Assault Support Chopper Company Has Record Month

PLEIKU, (IFFV-10) — The 179th Assault Support Helicopter Company, of the 52nd Aviation Battalion flew 1400 sorties during its first 30 days of operations.

Forty two hundred passengers and 2200 tons of cargo were transported as the company supported the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade, and the Special Forces units.

The company is the Chinook company. The Chinook is the largest Army chopper, capable of hauling 7000 pounds. Three of them can move a five-gun battery, including men and ammunition, from Site A to Site B, 10 miles away, in 10 minutes.

A Chinook can carry as many as 33 combat-loaded soldiers or a three-quarter-ton truck and trailer. Major Turner J. Trapp, commander of the unit, said the pilots prefer to carry cargo by the sling method for tactical reasons. Loading and unloading is faster than inside loading.

One of the Chinook's most important jobs is extending the range of American artillery by picking up a gun, its crew and ammunition, and in a matter of minutes, moving the entire operation to a new firing site. When the chopper deposits the gun, the tube is already pointed to the target.

Keeping 16 Chinooks in the air is a big job for the 260 officers and men of the company. Besides the pilots and flight crews, the

company has its own maintenance detachment, cooks, supply and armament personnel, and other supporting troops.

Because of the weather or type of mission, the Chinooks sometimes must fly at low altitudes. Then the gunships of other battalion companies fly protection cover. So far, Viet Cong ground fire has failed to down a Chinook.

Smile Well Worth It To 5th Bn Men

QUI NHON, (1st LOG-10)—A smile was well worth more than \$100 to the men of the 1st Logistical Command's 5th Maintenance Battalion when they helped a twelve-year-old Vietnamese boy overcome a handicap.

Ho Van Bien, from the village of Trun Gia, near the Qui Nhon Support Command, had been without teeth since birth until soldiers of the 5th Maintenance Battalion contributed over \$100 to pay for a new set of pearly white teeth.

With Bien's new teeth, he has become the pride of his village and is now leading a normal life which was impossible for him to do before.

As an added token of friendship, the Log's 5th Battalion gave Bien a brand new bicycle. When Bien saw his new bike, he did something he had always been too bashful to do before — he smiled.

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AIRLIFT—Members of Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Manchu, are ferried into landing zones by Huey helicopters from the 118th Aviation Battalion Thunderbirds as part of a search and clear mission in the Filhol Plantation.

(Photo by PFC Vern Shidla, 25th INF-IO)

Fifteen Viet Cong Taken By Aviation Company Chopper

NHA TRANG, (1st AVN-IO) — Fifteen Viet Cong prisoners were nabbed near Tuy Hoa last month in five incidents spanning two hours of police and coast guard work by the occupants of one helicopter.

In an unarmed Huey, four officers and two enlisted men fished one VC out of the ocean, captured three on the ground, corralled six for capture by an infantry

squad, and foiled the escape of another five by pushing their sampan to shore with ocean wash caused by the chopper's blade.

Effecting the capture were a pair of majors from the 101st Airborne's 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, and a four-man crew from the 48th Assault Helicopter Company, 10th Battalion, 17th Aviation Group.

Paratrooper squads had been probing southeast of Tuy Hoa along the Song Da Rang River. Captain Art Moen, the Huey commander, and his co-pilot, WO Ted Ryder had carried the two majors—John Gilboux and Richard G. Hinkle—above the operations scene during the day.

Moen was ready to fly back to home base when the events began. The majors had one more mission after an already full day. A prisoner taken earlier in the day had agreed to show the troopers where 12 friends were hiding.

Carrying the prisoner and a small search force, Moen steered his helicopter down the Song Da Rang and landed on the river bank near an area indicated by the prisoner as his comrades' lair. The troops fanned out while Moen flew back to pick up the two majors.

Upon returning, Moen spotted an armed VC fleeing from the search force into one of a small group of huts. He marked the hut with colored smoke and called for an armed helicopter strike. In minutes, two of the 48th's gunships were raking the shack with machinegun fire.

Another armed VC charged from a different hut and dashed down the river bank. Moen plopped his chopper down in the man's path. Wielding 45-cal. pistols, Gilboux and Hinkle stepped from the helicopter, caught the VC and ordered him aboard.

Airborne again, crew chief Sp4 Raymond Sobosinski saw eight more armed VC run out of the huts. Moen made a low pass over them and directed his machinegunners to fire. The VC dove for cover and Moen wheeled into a tight orbit around their position while Sobosinski leveled his machinegun at them.

New troops were called in, and

as Moen continued to circle, two American forces began to converge. Suddenly two VC bolted. Moen landed in their path and the two majors bounded from the chopper and captured them.

Moen's passengers now included three sullen guerrillas.

Returning to where the remaining VC had been surrounded, the crew found all six had surrendered to the infantrymen without a fight. Moen turned his prisoners over to the infantrymen.

The gunships, still watching the enemy huts near the river, then reported another group had fled the huts, boarded a sampan, and were headed into the bay. When Moen reached the scene, the sampan was about 150 yards at sea and nearing a fleet of fishing boats. He hovered to within 20 feet of the small craft and Sobosinski motioned with his machinegun for the VC to return to shore. They turned the sampan around and Ryder spotted a rifle lying partially concealed on the deck.

Gilboux was certain the boat crew were not innocent fishermen and ordered a search force to stand by for pickup. Moen's ship would drop them on the beach to await the sampan's return.

Sobosinski then saw an apparently empty rowboat 200 yards offshore. A man was underneath it trying to hide. On Moen's command, Sobosinski shot the boat and it sank. Moen hovered low and Hinkle extended a hand to the swimmer, but he doggedly dived underwater and tried to swim away.

Noting the man was in no apparent danger of either drowning or escaping, Moen picked up the search force and left it on the beach. He returned to find the swimmer heading across the bay to freedom.

He planted one skid on the swimmer's back, holding him under until the struggling and choking had taken the fight out of him. Hinkle, a burly ex-Special Forces major, stepped out on the skid and pulled the man aboard.

Moen then fell behind the sampan and gradually shoved it and the five boatmen to the beach with wash from the blade.



AWAY—Sergeant Rodney K. Namauu, of Command Battalion, 14th Infantry, prepares to throw grenade at a squad of Viet Cong who were attacking on a recent 25th Infantry Division operation. (Photo by PFC Vern Shidla, 25th INF-IO)

Oct 15, 1966

quickly neutralized. Once on landing, the primary elements have reported no significant contact with the Viet Cong.

moving approximately about two miles from the tactical command post, lead elements discovered a trench line. While com-

dismounted search of the area and turned up several enemy weapons, ammunition, and intelligence data.

Vietnam Communique

1st Infantry Division—Operation Montgomery carried on by the 3rd Brigade ended after four days of operations. Nine Viet Cong were killed, ten captured, and 153 suspects detained. Fifteen tons of rice and other assorted foods and supplies were taken in one capture. "Little Rock" is a search and destroy operation of the 1st Brigade's in Bien Hoa Province. Friendly casualties are light. In the 2nd Brigade's "Baton Rouge," a company-sized unit located two small base camps in the Rung Sat Special Zone. One of them contained a mine factory which was destroyed by the infantrymen. Six enemy were also killed. Casualties are 53 killed, one captured.

173rd Airborne Brigade—An element operating 32 miles north-northwest of Saigon, in Operation Sioux City, has uncovered a heavily mined enemy maintenance area. Tools, tires, batteries, and 50-gallon drums of fuel and lubricants were found. A cache of more than five tons of rice has also been found. Five enemy have been killed in the operation. Friendly casualties are light.

1st Cavalry Division—Operation Irving, the newest action in the division, has met moderate contact for the first three days. Casualties: 291 enemy killed, 131 captured, 255 suspects detained. It is a search and clear operation coordinated with ARVN forces and the Capitol Korean Division in Operation Meng Ho 6. Friendly casualties are light. Operation Thayer has accounted for 230 enemy killed, 66 captured, 681 suspects detained. One element uncovered fire to 10 tons of rice, enemy documents, and a weapon in one capture. There have been 383 sorties flown in support of the operation. Friendly casualties remain light.

25th Infantry Division — Two operations are going on in the division. In "Kamucla," five ene-

my have been killed, one captured, and 13 suspects detained. Scattered small unit actions are responsible for the casualties. Friendly casualties remain light. Operation Paul Revere III continues. In one action, a company from the 14th Infantry, 3rd Brigade Task Force ambushed an unknown sized enemy and killed four. Thirty-five enemy have been killed, 20 captured, and 115 suspects detained in the operation.

Strike pilots have flown 426 sorties in support. Friendly casualties remain light.

1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division—One unit killed five VC 11 miles south of Tuy Hoa in one fight. Artillery was used. In another fight, this one 60 miles north of Tuy Hoa, four enemy were killed in a one-hour fight. Casualties: 179 killed, 49 captured, 649 suspects detained. Friendly casualties remain light.

