

got their work

Pleiku from An
dangerous Route
he long convoys
highlands bas-
The MP's must
onvoys, protect
ash, keep them

n'

Battalion, 503d
first week of

ion of Operation
a County Fair,
he combined ef-
1 Abn. Bde. MP
Vietnamese Na-
e Brigade's S-5
in, A Company,

pany completely
village of Trung
iet Cong were
iding. They per-
leave the large
ely 1700 people
early morning
infantrymen pro-
force, the police-
heliborne assault
th and south en-
village.

1 National Police
agers from their
ation outside the
where MEDCAP,
food distribution
errogation points

house to house
ie S-5 teams ac-
r own work, the
nearly a squad of
had been unable
any A's complete
town. The cap-
g were flown by
e brigade's inter-
und.

team distributed
ning. MEDCAP
an 200 patients.

their homes with
ing and food, the
g Hieu had forgot-
morning rousting as
cheerful goodbye
who were return-
mp.

this, protect the citizenry from
accident, protect the American
soldier-driver from carelessness.

Bridges must be protected
against sabotage — military po-
lice men must guard them. Enemy
soldiers, captured in distant bat-
tles and transported back to the
base camp for interrogation
must be safeguarded, screened,
searched.

The huge base camp, with its
miles of barrier line, dozens of
guard posts, searchlights and ma-
chine guns — must be guarded
against sabotage.

Road side checkpoints, checks
of incoming Vietnamese vehicles,
are part of the daily routine for
the Cavalry MP's.

Daily liaison with the Vietnam-
ese National Police must be
maintained and a working rela-
tionship with the Army of the Re-
public of Vietnam's military po-

92nd Avn Co— Little Known Life Line

QUI NHON, (92nd AVN-IO) —
The 92nd Aviation Company is
part of the vital life line you
never hear about. It directly sup-
ports Special Forces encamp-
ments throughout Vietnam.

The 92nd provides air resupply,
limited troop movements and
medical evacuations in the I, II,
and III Corps areas. In the last
three months, starting early and
finishing in the dead of night,
these men have flown over 4300
hours in the Army's Caribous.

When the Plei Me Special
Forces Camp was under heavy
fire and needing resupply, the
men of the 92nd precision-dropped
much needed supplies into the
camp. When the Bong Son Special
Forces Camp was besieged, the
men of the 92nd hauled supplies
throughout the night and through
intense enemy ground fire. Both
camps were saved.

After battles, the 92nd evacu-
ates troops, helping to provide the
best medical care U.S. soldiers
have ever received.

check on this.

In exploding, boom town An
Khe, law and order must be kept,
black marketing, vice and out-
right robbery controlled.

The mere presence of an Amer-
ican military policeman goes
a long way towards discouraging
those who would tread on the law.

The 545th has its work cut out
for them.

Donation

Matched By Cardinal

QUI NHON, (1st LOG-IO) — A
\$500 donation to the beautiful 900-
patient Qui Hoa leprosarium here
by troops of the U. S. Army's 1st
Logistical Command has been
matched dollar-for-dollar by
America's Cardinal Spellman.

The cardinal's gift came after
he had received a report from
Brig. Gen. Charles R. "Monk"
Meyer citing the interest of his
Qui Nhon Support Command in
the work performed by the Fran-
ciscan Sisters at the leper colony.

The funds are being used for
construction work at the colony,
located on a white sandy beach
on the South China Sea. The
institution is maintained by dona-
tions received from supporters
throughout the world.

Utilizing materials purchased
through the monetary gifts, pa-
tients construct and maintain the
immaculate grounds studded with
250 multi-hued pastel colored
buildings. Without benefit of
architect, Mother Superior Marie
Charles Antoine draws plans for
each new building to be erected.

The leprosarium, which has
Vietnamese, Montagnard, Chi-
nese, Cambodian and Indian
families living on its grounds, is
administered by 11 foreign-born
Franciscan Sisters. The institu-
tion was modestly launched in
1929 with 150 patients.

American soldiers who have
visited the leprosarium regard it
as one of the most beautiful areas
in all of Vietnam.

Aug 6
1966

Viet Cong Ambush Averted By 173rd

BIEN HOA, (173rd ABN-10)—A flight of HUH-1A helicopters, heavily laden with troops in full combat gear, skimmed the high jungle canopy of Long Khanh Province.

Seconds later the Hueys touched down in a marsh clearing known as Landing Zone Brazil. In the northeast corner of "Brazil", Company A, 2nd Battalion, 303rd Infantry disembarked. The battle-hardened paratroopers charged for the thick green undergrowth surrounding the LZ. Initially, there was no enemy contact.

Working with four maneuver platoons Capt. Jack Kelley, CO of the 173rd Airborne Brigade company, moved his troops forward to begin the search for the Viet Cong.

Forward movement was painfully slow. The sunlight sifting through the tree-tops 100 feet overhead formed checkerboard patterns over the terrain. Already, it was uncomfortably hot. The air in the jungle was still and the vegetation too thick to allow the passing of even the slightest breeze.

The platoons moved across the terrain. Strangely quiet, the jungle seemed to envelope the cautious troops. The built-in alarm system of combat veterans began sounding in each of the men. Forward movement slowed even more. Hearts began throbbing and each man strained to find the tell-tale clue which would disclose the enemy's deathtrap.

Suddenly, a machine gun backed, the enemy was found. Automatic weapons fire cut into the advancing ranks of A Company's 3rd Platoon, and an entire platoon of paratroopers disappeared in the blessedly concealing high grass. A sheet of lead so thick it literally mowed down everything before it was thrown back at the well-fortified positions of the Viet Cong.

Unknown to SSgt. Thomas Cooney, who was acting as platoon leader, 200 meters behind the position where initial contact was made was a Viet Cong base camp, well fortified with bunkers and trenches. Sergeant Cooney contacted the company CO by radio and requested artillery support. Responding rapidly the artillery poured round after round on the enemy position.

The Viet Cong, alarmed that their base camp had been discovered, quickly deployed a force

to surround Sergeant Cooney's third platoon.

Captain Kelley grabbed the handset from his RTO. And directed all platoons to converge on the 3rd Platoon position.

The trap was sprung. The Viet Cong was falling prey to their own favorite tactic: surround and destroy with a superior force.

The 2nd Platoon, lead by SSgt. Nathaniel Brown, moved in from the west. Still heavily engaged, the 3rd Platoon hammered away at the Viet Cong. Artillery continued to pour on the enemy, blocking his escape. Sighting the Viet Cong, Sergeant Brown's platoon reached the enemy's rear. The paratroopers began methodically chopping away the enemy

resistance.

The enemy was engaged at two positions. Planning an easy victory over what appeared to be a small American force, he had weakened his rear, which was being quickly decimated by the fire and movement of the American paratroopers. His "certain victory" had been replaced with sudden alarm. The easy prize was reinforced with another platoon. Company A's 1st Platoon had reached the third. Typically, Charlie decided to flee.

Leaving a small resistance force he attempted to move to the north. Captain Kelley directed the 4th Platoon to establish a block-in force. The Viet Cong shifts to the south and west, and Cap-

tain Kelley calls in a barrage of artillery to prevent escape.

The small pocket of resistance left by the retreating Viet Cong to fight Sergeant Brown's 2nd Platoon was knocked out by grenades. Charging the machine gun positions, Sgt. Frank R. Perez and Sp4 Ronald Palmer destroyed bunker after bunker with Airborne determination.

The firing stopped. The paratroopers had overrun a Viet Cong main force battalion. The 1st and 3rd platoons consolidated.

Documents and map overlays were found and quickly forwarded to the intelligence section. The rapid translation prevented, by minutes, a planned Viet Cong ambush of an ARVN force.

book of guerrilla warfare tactics, the 25th Infantry Division is organizing sniper teams.

The Tropic Lightning Division feels that snipers will be particularly useful in harassing Viet Cong movements, eliminating their VC counterparts and adding extra protection around the base camp perimeter.

Lieutenant Colonel Truman E. Boudinot, assistant chief of staff for operations, has charge of the project. The proposed organization consists of several two-man teams. All men are to be qualified snipers. One man on each team will be in the sniper position while the other is an observer coach. After a certain period they rotate positions.

The sniper's job is to put immediate fire where the observer tells him to. The observer's duties are to scan the areas under surveillance, select targets and adjust fire if more than one round is needed.

The sniper will use the standard M-14 rifle, fitted with a telescopic sight, while the observer's equipment includes a spotting telescope on a tripod, a radio and an automatic weapon.

Happiness Is A Base Airfield For Big Red One Mechanics

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—As the little OH-13 helicopter with the Big Red One tattooed on its side settles to the ground, two men carrying tool boxes run into the clearing.

The men Sp4 Garland Guffey and Sp4 Daniel Ellis, are helicopter mechanics of the Company B "Longhorns", 1st Aviation Battalion, 1st Infantry Division. Their job is to keep Longhorn 268 and her sister ships flying safely.

As the light fades the two crew chiefs begin their work. Since the observation helicopters are often flying from dawn to dusk, the task of performing the required maintenance and post-flight inspection is not easy.

Without the aid of a well lighted, well equipped maintenance hangar the men go about their task with grease gun, oil can, and flashlight, keeping a keen eye for discrepancies.

Every 100 flying hours, each helicopter must undergo a detailed inspection involving some disassembly and other maintenance at the permanent airfield facility. In a few days, Longhorn 268 and her sister ships will be rotated to the base airfield for maintenance, while others will be

brought to the forward area to replace them.

For a few days, Guffey and

Ellis will enjoy the luxury of working on their aircraft at the base airfield.



A HELPING HAND—Paratroopers of the Recon Platoon, 2nd Bn., 503rd Inf., 173rd Airborne Brigade assist each other out of a deep ravine—one of several obstacles designed to delay invaders in a VC-controlled village. The village was surrounded by the platoon and then searched. Nineteen suspects were detained for questioning.

(Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd ABN-10)

99316-906
A 466, 1966

New Minigun Mows Charlie Down

LAI KHE, (12th AVN-10)—The Army's first Minigun-equipped UH-1B helicopter has gone into action against the Viet Cong as part of a gun team of the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company, a subordinate unit of the 12th Aviation Group.

Operating from their jungle airstrip here, the pilots enthusiastically claim it is a complete success. In its first engagement, a combat attack on the southern edge of the Iron Triangle, Maj. Harold Farmer silenced a VC automatic weapon with one burst from the extremely high-rate-of-fire weapon.

The action occurred as ARVN troops began a sweep into a suspected VC battalion bivouac area south of Ben Cat. Ground fire was received from a nearby village by the 173rd pilots, but after a short attack with the Minigun, the VC either could not or would not continue the engagement.

Praise has been quick to come from infantrymen and pilots after subsequent engagements against the VC. An American advisor in danger of being overrun by VC in the jungle northwest of Minh Thanh radioed that all hostile fire ceased after one pass by the Minigun-equipped helicopter.

The Minigun with its six barrels has three times the firepower of two M60 machineguns increasing firepower 300 per cent over the M16 system now used on armed helicopters. Also installed with the Minigun is the M5 grenade launcher system.

Operating on the principle of rotating gun barrels, the 7.62mm Minigun fires up to 6000 rounds per minute from the six barrels in each pod. The unit is entirely self-contained in a streamlined pod, cutting down drag and allowing quick installation or removal from brackets which are standard on all armed UH-1Bs. Reloading of the weapon is done by one man.

After returning from one mission, Capt. Bruce Moore said, "I've never seen anything like it. It cuts down trees or anything else in its path of fire."

Whoops! Wrong Side

PLEIKU, (25th INF-10) — Ponchos are a useful item in Vietnam, especially during the monsoon season, and it's not too hard to understand a soldier's reluctance to give his up.

Specialist Four Benjamin Scott of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, is particularly determined when it comes to holding onto his equipment. Recently he was on a two-man security team, part of an ambush, and almost didn't see his poncho again.

One man slept while the other kept watch. Scott was sleeping underneath his poncho when suddenly he woke as someone attempted to pull it off him.

The someone turned out to be an enemy soldier who was searching the area for the bodies of dead North Vietnamese. Thinking that a dead NVA might be under the poncho, he started to remove it.

Both of them let out a scream and Scott, unable to reach his weapon, jumped up and grabbed the enemy soldier. Several moments of hand-to-hand combat followed until the other American came up and shot the NVA.

The enemy force in the area was an estimated reinforced platoon and it was soon in a fire fight with the ambush patrol. During the action, Specialist Scott was evacuated. With him when he boarded the "Dustoff" chopper, however, was his poncho.

or the 25th Infantry Division during a search and clear of its base camp.

(Eric Mooney, 25th INF-10)

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n.

demonstrated its Chinook helicopters the last day of training. The importance of continuous radio contact from ground to helicopter when it is coming into a landing zone was stressed.

Afterwards two Chinooks hovered and two ladders were dropped from each chopper. The 5th Battalion men climbed up one ladder and back down the other.

Lieutenant Colonel Trevor W. Swett Jr., the battalion commander, said the morale of the men was "sky-high, which is quite appropriate for sky troopers, and we are ready."

"The caliber of my officers and NCOs is exceptionally high. The majority of my troops, who are the sharpest I have had the privilege of leading, have been together for nearly a year," he added.