



The boy receives medical treatment for a sore on his arm by the 173rd Abn.'s MEDCAP team in Nhon Hoa village. (Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd ABN-IO)

145th Haunts Charlie

BIEN HOA, (14th AVN-IO) — Keep "Charlie" jumping.

That's the idea behind the tactics of the 197th Aviation Company, the only unit in III Corps that is comprised of only armed helicopters.

The company's three gun platoons, nicknamed Playboys, Raiders, and Dragons, respectively, each employ slightly different tactics.

"It keeps the Viet Cong jumping. They don't know what to expect from us next," says Dragon Platoon Leader, Capt. Glenn A. Smith.

One of Captain Smith's fire teams kept at least three companies of VC jumping in recent action near Saigon.

Lieutenant John W. Dalton led his two-helicopter team to investigate intelligence reports of two VC companies operating south-east of the Capital.

They were greeted by enemy ground fire. When the Dragons began their aerial counter-attack, Charlie dispersed.

While searching for the Viet Cong, Dalton received a radio call that a Vietnamese outpost only a mile from Saigon was under attack. In minutes his team came to the assistance of the outpost.

This time Charlie decided to hightail it without firing a shot.

Darkness had set in, so Dalton, covered by his wing man, made low passes over the area using his searchlight to locate possible escape routes. He then called in artillery on the most likely routes.

The next morning a Vietnamese patrol found one VC body.

Not With Cameras As With Guns

ar," perhaps this is part they are referring to.

Chi alone, the home of the Infantry Division, the cameras and film is According to the assistant officer, 2nd Lt. Norman more than 3500 rolls of sold monthly.

nera is almost standard with a soldier today."

"We have about 12,000 here. I think we could sell cameras if we had them."

"We get our cameras in and within a week every one of them is gone," he added.

Among the 3500 rolls of film is included 450 rolls of 8mm movie film, and over 2000 of color slide film. When multiplied for the whole of Vietnam, the figures become staggering.

One group of camera bugs got a surprise while riding in a division helicopter recently. Just before the UH-1D banked for an approach to Trang Bang, a sniper opened up from the front, the gunner

'Slick' Hueys Pack Big Punches Also

NHA TRANG, (17th AVN GA-10) — Don't let terminology fool you!

The fact that one species of the Army "Huey" is referred to as a "Gunship," or armed helicopter doesn't mean that the rest of the UH-1 fleet in Vietnam is unarmed. From the cargo doors of nearly every other Huey in the combat zone, protrude two M-60 machineguns.

Viet Cong in the vicinity of Danang aren't likely to forget it.

One such "unarmed" chopper recently killed an estimated 10 of them, dispersing a platoon-size VC ambush that had threatened to decimate a full government battalion.

The 39th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion had been surprised in the midst of a river crossing, south of Danang. With nearly half the force pinned down on each side of the river and one platoon caught wading in the middle, the Rangers' U.S. advisor, Capt. Harold Darden reported receiving heavy enemy fire from three directions.

He called for an airstrike. None was available. He asked for artillery support. None was within striking distance.

Then he saw overhead one of the "slick" (no external armament) Hueys of I Corps Aviation Company, northernmost representative of the 17th Aviation Group's 14th Battalion. Darden radioed his plight to the aircraft commander, Capt. Robert E. Harris.

Harris could offer only the firepower of his two gunners, SSgt. Sidney Willoughby, and PFC James L. Bowen, but it turned out to be enough.

One low pass over the scene served to shift the enemy fire

from the Rangers to the helicopter, and enabled Bowen and Willoughby to spot the muzzle flashes and pinpoint the VC positions. A torrent of accurate machinegun rounds erupted from both sides of the Army ship and the apparently startled Cong stopped shooting altogether.

In the lull, Darden asked Harris to land and pick up a wounded Ranger.

The VC resumed fire just as the chopper touched ground, and the ship was hit several times in a cross-fire of small arms and automatic weapons that Harris said seemed to be coming from "at least 20 locations." But the casualty was loaded aboard and Harris gingerly lifted his stricken bird into the air.

Determining the copter was still flyable, Harris resumed his unusual fire support role. On the ground, Darden had fixed two nearby huts as the source of most of the automatic weapons fire, and for the next 30 minutes Bowen and Willoughby poured lead into the huts and around the perimeter.

Blazing tracer spurts set both huts on fire, forcing the enemy into the open to dash for their caves and tunnels with a fire spitting Huey on their tails.

Loss of automatic weapons so weakened the VC-ambush power, the Rangers were able to cross the river, reorganize and blast their way out of the trap.

"But if it hadn't been for the guys in that one, lone 'slick,' Darden said later, "well, I just don't know if we'd have made it."



LOSES FATHER—A young Vietnamese boy, clutching an empty can of C-rations, watches 173rd Abn. Bde. troopers carry away the body of his father who was killed by the Viet Cong.

(Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd Abn.-IO)

'Lightning Bug' Hits Hard

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO) — "We can sink river traffic on a moonless night within two minutes after spotting it without any trouble using the 'Lightning Bug'." Major Ronald C. Vines was talking about the 1,750,000 candles in the sky now being used to halt the flow of VC men and materiel on the waterways of South Vietnam.

Major Vines, gunship section leader of Company B, 25th Aviation Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, is the man primarily responsible for the "Lightning Bug" project here.

"Lightning Bug" is the name of a "combined arms" team of three UH-1B helicopters carrying weapons, flares and bright lights.

The light ship has seven landing lights mounted on an adjustable frame on the ship's side. One of the two gunners in the ship doubles as the light operator.

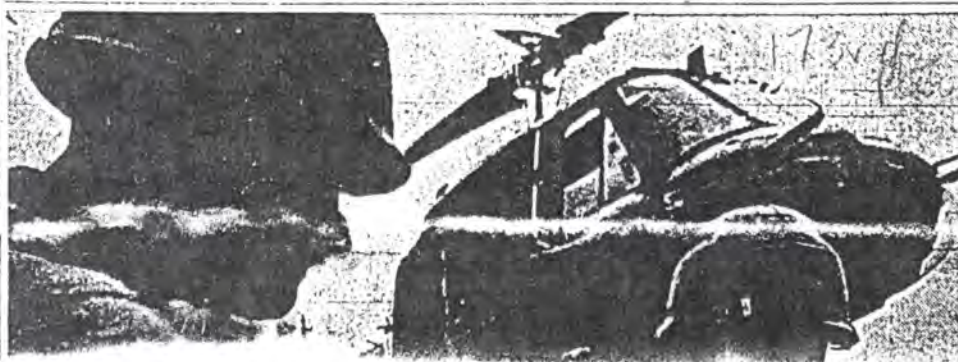
The team's primary mission is to stop river traffic. As the light sweeps along the water, most of it is reflected back; the water looks silvery. But when the light hits a sampan or some other major obstruction, it doesn't reflect the light back. The object appears as a dark shape in sharp contrast against the silvery water.

Now the need for even more light has been established and one of the other ships fires a flare. Then the gunship comes in

blast the Viet Cong. The three ships have a devastating combination of 7.62 mm machine guns, 2.75 inch aerial rockets, 50 caliber machine guns and 40 mm grenade launchers.

Major James R. Vance, Company B commander, is particularly proud of his men and their skill in operating this new addition to his company's equipment. Almost all the men of his unit are involved in operational training to work in coordination with the "Lightning Bug" team.

The Viet Cong now have one less sanctuary as the men of the "Tropic Lightning" Division's air arm pursue them into the shadows of the night with the "Lightning Bug."



NVN T Tells A In Aus

NHON CO, (IO) "I was left to die had no ammunition, no idea where my unit had gone. Vietnamese sold Operation Austin Cambodian border Battalion, 502nd."

Ty was a priv his report and North in December state of confusion and homesickness even sure where Ing.

After four months carrying all his back, he arrived area to rest. He weapons. They would be issued they arrived at.

During the trip, 20 men had and another 20 had every man had cent so seriously walk.

When captured Ty was lost around by him now only 30 men. They set for the American day but on 200 meters away and fled.

Knowing the Army is oriented leaflets, Lt. Edn and Sp4 Harold members of Psyber One, came for a leaflet written soldier's and directed to the 608th.

Realizing the this special leaf home unit, the Company in Nha a steady 17 hour leaflet, which rades in the 60 was without clothing. I was done by my uncle. The American and gave me food ing and medicine my sickness. The me well in all urge all of you, cease this useless only lead to a disaster from the loved ones. Before ally to the ally the main high shirt off and your right shoulder. Wave your shirt. The allied forces Do not fear their harm me."

Completing the the rush project. Air Commandos, mile area radiat point of capture. 140,000 leaflets.

Hello

DI AN, (1st IN participating in Birmingham 50

No Books For Charlie

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO) — What does an American soldier do when he has a few minutes to relax? Usually one of two things. Write letters or read. Paperback books have become as much a part of this war as food, ammunition and cigarettes.

Even during the fierce fighting on Operation Wahlaw in the Boi Lol Woods, members of the 25th Infantry Division's 2d Brigade depended on a book to momentarily get them away from the harsh realities of war.

When a sniper's round cuts through a battalion base camp, an element of the combat battalion is sent out to get the sniper or artillery fire is called in on

the enemy. The sniper usually had only wait.

This waiting time is utilized to the fullest. Books are read and passed around until the covers fall off from almost continuous use.



—MOVE-OUT—Troops of the 173rd Abn. Bde. rush for choppers which will take them out of an area which they have just cleared.

(Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd Abn.)

borne Division threw back a vicious assault by a North Vietnamese Army force in the highlands north of Kontum, last week, killing 85 enemy.

The battle took place in the dark of early morning as Operation Hawthorne entered its fifth day. An intelligence officer from the B-1 Brigade stated that "... a battalion of North Vietnamese soldiers launched a full scale attack on two elements of the B-1 Brigade, a battery of the 320th Artillery and Company A of the 592d Infantry.

"The charge," he continued, "was preceded by a heavy mortar attack, but failed to do much damage because the troopers

to overrun a 105mm he were all killed by grenade thrown by the enemy. Other enemy attempted to retrieve their dead and by point blank fire from their guns.

The VC tried every possible to infiltrate the but they were repulsed. Some snipers to swing from tree to vain attempt to silence our guns.

Contact was broken soon rains engulfed field.

At publication time Hawthorne has accounted 220 Viet Cong killed.

Silver Star Awarded Two EM

FT. BRAGG, (JFK CNTR-10) — Two 3rd Special Forces Group soldiers received our nation's third highest medal for heroism, the Silver Star, during ceremonies here recently.

Master Sergeant Charles J. Minnieks and SSgt. Daniel F. Crabtree, both of Company A, received the decorations from Col. Leroy S. Stanley, for gallantry in action while serving with the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam.

Sergeant Minnieks was decorated for gallantry while serving as a Special Forces advisor to a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) in Vietnam. In January, 1966, a patrol from the unit the sergeant was advisor to, was ambushed by a large Viet Cong force.

Minnieks rushed to the area with five CIDG soldiers in an attempt to give support to the ambushed patrol. When he arrived the Viet Cong had overrun the position and their automatic weapons fire pinned down the five CIDG soldiers accompanying the sergeant.

The Special Forces soldier repelled the attacking Viet Cong single-handedly, firing his rifle.

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Col. Marr CO Of 17th

NHA TRANG, (1st AVN BDE-10) — Colonel John W. Marr assumed command of the 17th Aviation Group in ceremonies here recently. He succeeds Col. Gerald H. Shen, who will return to the United States for an assignment with the U.S. Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.

The 17th Aviation Group, a major subordinate command of the 1st Aviation Brigade, commands all nondivisional Army aviation units in the I and II ARVN Corps areas, and furnishes aviation support to U.S., ARVN and Free World forces.

Colonel Marr, who is a rated Army aviator as well as a master parachutist, last served in the Office of the Director of Army Aviation in the Pentagon, prior to his arrival in Vietnam.



Vol. 2, No. 15

Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam

June 25, 1966

SF Troop Awarded DSC

FT. BRAGG, (JFK CNTR-10) — The Distinguished Service Cross was presented last week to SFC Michael F. Carpenter, Company B, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), for extraordinary heroism in Vietnam.

Sergeant Carpenter was decorated for his actions during the defense of a Special Forces camp at Bu Dop, Vietnam, July 20, 1965.

The camp was besieged shortly after midnight by two heavily reinforced Viet Cong battalions, supported by artillery and mortar fire. Carpenter rushed through the murderous barrage and positioned himself in the camp mess hall where he began calling for immediate air support to repel the attacking forces.

Within minutes the mess hall and radio equipment were destroyed by Viet Cong artillery. Carpenter, with the aid of a wounded comrade, headed for the camp communications bunker to reestablish radio contact with higher headquarters but was unable to enter because exploding mortar rounds had ignited supplies stored in the bunker.

The camp was completely without communications so Carpenter and his companion entered the fire fight which raged about them. Carpenter shot down a five-man Viet Cong force that had entered the compound, then rushed to a nearby machinegun and began mowing down the waves of attacking Viet Cong.

Upon hearing that a Special Forces officer had been wounded, Carpenter ran through an intense hail of fire and successfully carried the officer to the camp commander's bunker.

Though painfully wounded in the side, Carpenter attempted to reestablish communications with headquarters, halting his work briefly during the attack to kill Viet Cong who had neared his position.

After the Viet Cong attack was repulsed, helicopters arrived at the camp to evacuate the wounded, but Carpenter refused immediate air evacuation, choosing to stay at the site to reestablish firm communications channels.

Sergeant Carpenter, a veteran of four years in Special Forces and two tours in Vietnam, also holds the Silver Star, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Vietnam Service

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BLASTING CHARLIE—Part of D Co., 16th Armor, 173rd Abn. fires a SPAT while supporting infantrymen during Operation Hardihood near Vung Tau.

(Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd Abn.)

New C For 35 Engr

CAM RANH BAY, (10) — Colonel William assumed command of Engineer Group at a command ceremony here.

He replaces Col. Hart, who was awarded Legion of Merit by Lt. Engler, DCG, USAR, outstanding performance of the group, arrived here last June received a new assignment in Washington, D.C.

Prior to his assignment in Vietnam, Colonel Starr was District Engineer, Contract, Cape Kennedy, in charge of all space construction at the Cape Navy and NASA projects.