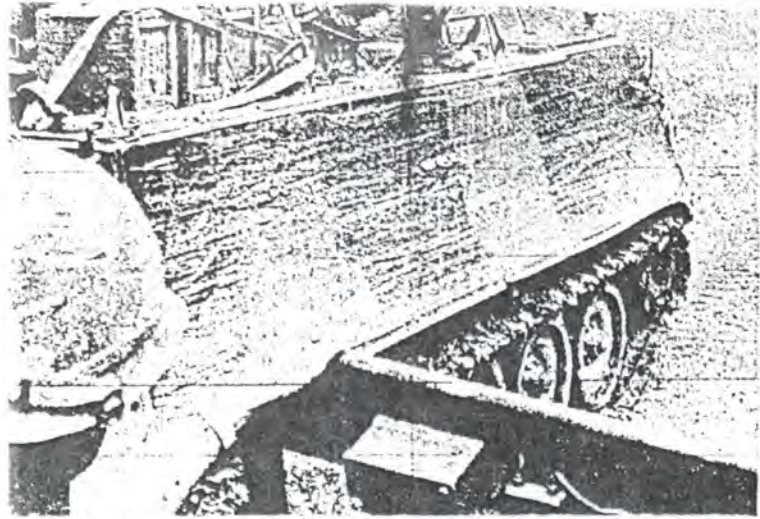




READY—Members of D Co., 16th Armor, 173rd Abn. ride an APC as they search the dense jungle with both eyes and machine gun for infantry assault during Operation Hardhood.
(Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd Abn.-IO)

"Litter Bit" Does Hurt—It Helps

(IO)—Con by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army soldiers and at the opportune time they will come forward to receive the "open arms" treatment of the South Vietnamese government and free world forces.

The campaign is geared to three audiences: The North Vietnamese soldiers; Viet Cong; and VC sympathizers. The leaflets urge the three factions to support

the South Vietnam government, to lay down their arms, and to come to the government side and be welcomed as friends.

However, since the Viet Cong seem to have left many areas of the operation, members of the brigade are keeping their fingers crossed that they won't have to "police" up the area after the operation.

Mortality Rate . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

hospital," Major Bartoloni stated, "both men very likely would have died. One had the highest number of malaria parasites per 100 red blood cells ever seen at the 3d Field."

The doctors indicate that the results of their recent treatment must still be carefully analyzed before any definite conclusions can be drawn. Test samples of fluids used in the treatment are being sent to Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington for further studies. But the doctors think the success here could very possibly lead to better blackwater fever treatment in Vietnam which will effectively curb the disease's mortality rate.

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THE MAILER IS NO MORE—Due to the cost of mailing and our limited circulation (one to every 3 1/2 troops), the ARMY REPORTER has decided to discontinue the use of the "mailer."

WHEN HE SWINGS, EVERYBODY DUCKS—The newest recruit at Bac Lieu is only four feet tall (150 pounds) but when he wants sweet rolls in the morning, he gets them . . . or else. His name is Sam and he is perhaps the only Chinese bear in the Delta.

HEY CHARLIE! THAT'S REAL GAS—Chemical specialists from the Big Red One have examined the plastic bag that the Viet Cong have improvised as gas masks. Their conclusion is that it would be worthless against any agent other than insect repellent. Is that a tear in your eye Charlie?

AFRS UNFAIR TO FIELD TROOPS?—The ARMY REPORTER has received several complaints stating the AFRS announcement that calls home may be made from the Saigon USO is bugging them because they are not stationed in Saigon. Upon checking with the Saigon USO, we have found that over 70 per cent of the calls home have been made by troops stationed outside Saigon. Enough said.

HAIRY FOR A WHILE—When the 5th (Mechanized) Infantry of the 25th Inf. Div. got word they were coming to Vietnam, they immediately "appointed" barbers. Those, in the company, who had experience were "drafted" as well as some who did not have experience. The price is right, but the haircuts . . . GOOD GRIEF!

STAFFER DEPARTS—The ARMY REPORTER has lost one of its most capable staffers. Dick Johnson departed for the States and ETS last week. He will be missed by this humble Editor. Dick was my friend, but more than that, he could be relied upon to always do his best, regardless of the assignment. Good luck Dick, and thanks.

VN Pilot Rescued

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO)—An air strike was in progress over the Ho Bo Woods. "Skyraiders" were strafing and bombing in support of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's Operation "Akron."

Suddenly a stream of smoke burst from one of the planes and it plummeted toward the jungle. The pilot bailed out.

Captain William R. Taylor, a helicopter pilot for the 1st Brigade, got the word that a plane had been shot down and the pilot was in danger and needed rescue. "I looked up and could see the chute in the air," said Captain Taylor. He had his chopper in the air within seconds of the initial alert.

The Vietnamese pilot except for slight burns on his left side, was uninjured.

Four minutes from initial alert to pick-up, Captain Taylor had a satisfied feeling from another successful mission, but the "Sky-raider" pilot was the happiest of the two as they lifted out of the paddy.

Sergeant Finds Friend

DI AN, (1st INF-IO)—Master Sergeant Bobbie E. Loeschner, Assistant Operations NCO, Support Command Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division, will be going home next week, but with a lot more than he brought to Vietnam.

Sergeant Loeschner adopted a son, Bobbie Jr., formerly Nguyen Thi Nuan, shortly after arriving in Vietnam last August.

"I was looking for a fishing partner to take home with me," said the Sergeant. "This little fellow got to me the first time I saw him, and I started adoption proceedings the same day."

Eagerly awaiting the arrival of her son, whom she has met only through numerous pictures, is Sergeant Loeschner's wife, Rosemarie, who resides at their home in Chapman, Kan.

Members of the Support Command who have met Bobbie Jr. find it difficult to say which of the two got the most out of the Sergeant's trip to Vietnam.



THEY'RE SAFE—Vietnamese women, passengers in an APC, are assured of their safety by an officer of the 2nd Bn., 173rd Abn. They are being transported to a non-combat zone during Operation Hardhood near Vung Tau.
(Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd ABN-IO)

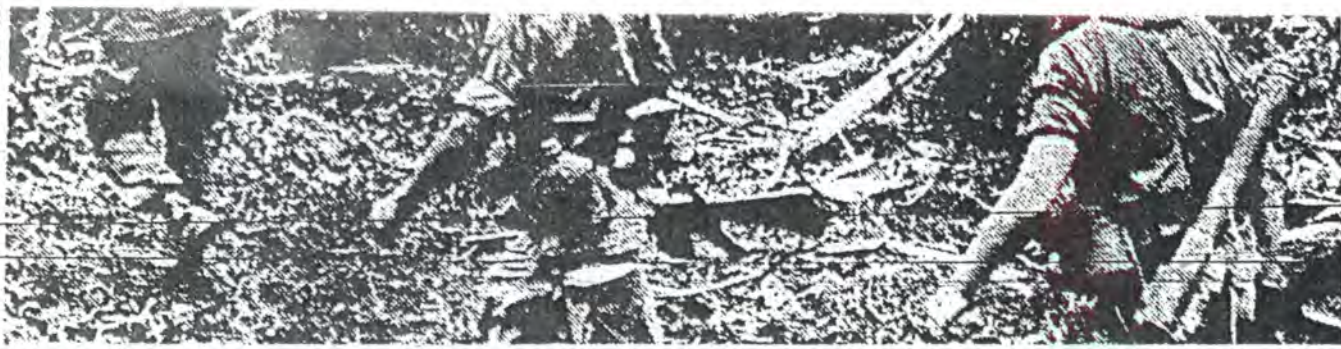
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COMING THROUGH—173rd Abn. Bde. troops, with an APC, move through a VC village after it had been shelled by the brigade artillery. The action took place during Operation Hardihood about 40 miles southeast of Saigon. (Photo by UPI)

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Bronze Bell Given To 161st Aviation Company

June 14, 1966

PLEIKU. (17th AVN-10)—The 1st Aviation Brigade's 161st Air-mobile Company, 52nd Aviation Battalion, has received a big bronze bell from the citizens of Wyoming, Penn. Their unusual donation will soon be ringing for the men of the 161st, and other units scheduled to make their homes at the newly constructed Lane Heliport complex in Phu Tai, near the central coastal city of Qui Nhon. Shortly after the arrival of his

chopper company in Vietnam, the 161st commander, Maj. Michael R. Thomas, began corresponding with his hometown mayor, Irving Hughes, of Wyoming, Pa. He described the unit, its location, and mission, and asked if the people of Wyoming would consider "adopting" the company and its members.

His request was met with enthusiasm, and Mayor Hughes soon had a resolution before the borough council. On Jan. 7, 1966, the resolution adopting the 161st was signed. It made each member an honorary citizen of the Borough of Wyoming.

Not satisfied with this alone, however, Mayor Hughes contacted the mayors of several neighboring cities and asked them to join in the adoption of the 161st. They in turn pledged their full support in the adoption of the company and the idea soon snowballed. Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton was contacted and plans are being made for the adoption of the 161st by the entire state of Pennsylvania.

One of the projects undertaken by the people of Wyoming was to secure a bell for a chapel-planned for construction by the 161st. A 1930 vintage bell was purchased by several Pennsylvania clergymen. Mayor Hughes arranged transportation of the war-bound bell via Eastern Airlines to Philadelphia, to be transferred to United Airlines for shipment to Oakland, Calif., and further transferred to World Airlines for movement to Saigon.

Shortly after the unit's adop-

tion by Wyoming, and while plans were being made to ship the bell, Major Thomas was reassigned to another unit and Major James N. Hembree, Knoxville, Tenn. assumed command of the company.

As a result of this change-of-command, Bob Kirchner, the president of the Wyoming committee responsible for shipping the bell, contacted Lt. Col. Robert L. Cody, 52nd Battalion Commander, to insure that the gift would get to the 161st once it arrived at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airfield.

Placed aboard an Air Force C-130, and flown the 300 miles to Qui Nhon, the bell was then trucked to the 161st site at Camp Lane.

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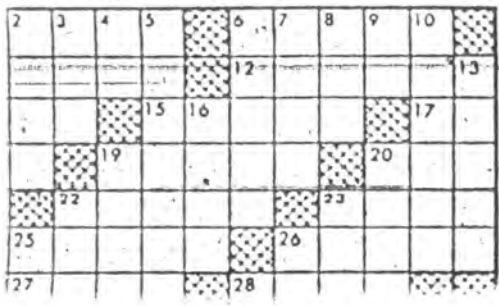
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- 41. Exclamation
- 42. Number
- 44. Initials of 26th President
- 46. Above



Flying Send-Off From Italy

GARDONE VAL TROMPIA, ITALY. (SETF-10) — If three helicopter pilots of the Southern European Task Force Aviation Company have their way, a whirlbird flying combat missions in Vietnam will soon bear the name of this northern Italian town.

That, at least, was the promise of Capt. Frederick Daniloff as he and CWOs Harley N. Johnstone and Marlin E. Watts were feted by civic leaders and newsmen here on the eve of their departure for Vietnam.

The aviators were participating in a huge airlift project here in which almost a million tons of building supplies were carried to the top of nearby Mt. San Guglielmo.

The Americans were aiding in the reconstruction of a shrine refuge at the top of the 8,000-foot peak.

The three fliers received orders to Vietnam in the midst of the three-week civic assistance and training project. As the trio arrived at Gardone Val Trompia for their last day on the project, the town's leaders were informed that they would be leaving in a few days.

They were whisked away from the improvised airfield at the edge of the town by Monsignor Francisco Bertoli, president of the reconstruction committee for the mountain shrine, and other committee members as well as a number of Italian reporters covering the airlift.

First stop was the Beretta arms factory where they were guests of honor on an extensive tour of the world-famous plant. Then to the Milena Hotel and a luncheon feast where they were toasted and wished a safe return at a sumptuous luncheon feast. It was here that Daniloff promised to name his helicopter for the town.

It was the busiest day of the airlift for the Vietnam volunteers, though they never got off the ground.



A TOUGH LESSON—Members of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 23rd Inf., 25th Inf. Div. teach the VC a hard lesson when they invade his sanctuary during Operation Wahiaawa recently—sweltering heat and all. (Photo by Sp4 Vill Vickery-25th Inf.-10)

"Olive-Drab Highway Patrol" (219th Avn Co) Strikes Again

PLEIKU, (219th AVN-10) — "Ricehunter" may leave something to be desired as a monicker, if you normally answer to "Headhunter," but if you're an Army O-1 pilot of the 4th Platoon, 219th Aviation Company, you'll probably just smile when you hear it.

Because you're also being fitted with handles like "the Olive-Drab Highway Patrol" these days.

Members of that platoon, whose parent unit, the 219th, has been dubbed the "Headhunters" for its pilots' relentless aerial pursuit of the Viet Cong in Vietnam's II Corps area, garnered the new title in an unusual afternoon's work recently.

Charging out of the sky in their little Bird Dogs, three 4th Platoon pilots stopped a convoy of rice-laden South Vietnamese trucks that had been hijacked by the VC.

First Lieutenant Harvey Perry

was flying a routine visual reconnaissance mission when he was puzzled by the sight of a friendly convoy moving down a road deep in enemy territory. He returned and reported to headquarters, requesting clarification of this unexpected find.

Instead, he received the urgent message that the trucks had been stolen two hours earlier, along with a precious 33 tons of government rice.

Perry hustled back to his aircraft and once airborne, headed for the area where the trucks had been calling en route for help from other Headhunters in his platoon who were working in the vicinity.

Operation Wahiaawa

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — Com-

Viet Cong Donate Supplies?

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—Viet Cong in Phuoc Tuy Province (assisted by the 1st Infantry Division) recently donated 40 pounds of medical supplies to the Hospital of the Brothers of St. John at Ho-Nai village, 25 miles northeast of Saigon.

This generous gesture was made possible by the Big Red One's Company B, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry.

During a recent operation, the unit discovered a base camp with an intricate tunnel complex. When the camp was secured, volunteers entered the tunnels with .45 caliber pistols and flashlights to search for Viet Cong.

Sergeant/Thomas F. Delano, a mortar forward observer, squeezed into one of the tunnels, crawled 25 meters and found an underground compartment.

Inside the compartment he found 40 pounds of medical supplies, including strychnine, morphine, quinine, and bottles of vitamins.

As the camp was not near a clearing, Delano volunteered to carry the 40 pounds of medicine to a resupply point 2000 meters away where it was evacuated by helicopter.

When the operation terminated, 1st Lt. Joseph F. Wichlow, civil affairs officer of the 18th Infantry, contacted Brother Bernard Samuel at Ho-Nai to ask if he wanted the VC medicine.

Brother Samuel from Montreal, Canada, who has been helping in Vietnam for 12 years, said that his hospital would gladly accept the medicine regardless of its source.

Sergeant Delano accompanied Lieutenant Wichlow when he presented the medicine to the hospital.

Platoon leader Capt. Charles Quattlebaum and Capt. David Forte converged on the scene in minutes, and by low-level passes the three soon found the convoy parked beneath the dense branches of trees along the road.

A pair of well-placed target-marking rockets by Perry sent the VC to cover, but as the Bird Dogs directed a reaction force toward the rice, they were greeted by heavy enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire.

The Headhunters responded with a devastating rocket attack, immobilizing the guerrilla force and enabling trucks and rice to be recovered without a single friendly casualty.

"I don't care what people call us, as long as they smile," said Captain Quattlebaum. "Hell, we're proud to represent the law in II Corps."