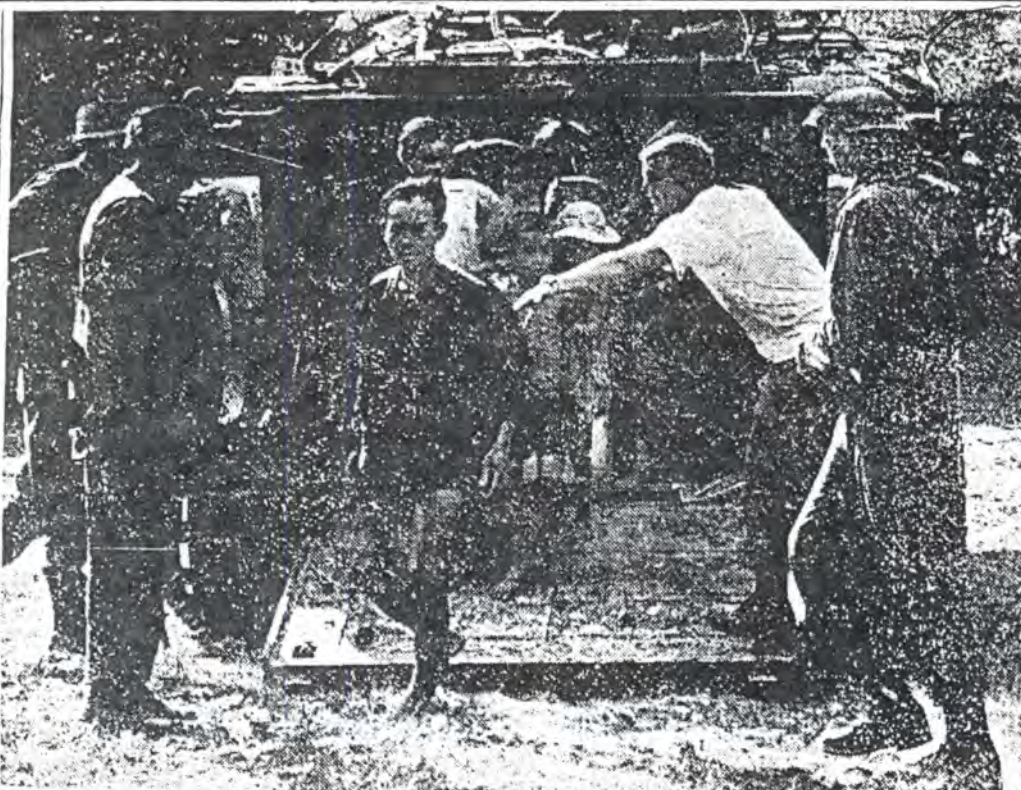




EVACUATION—Civilians are offloaded from an APC after evacuation from a combat zone by men of Co. C, 1st/5th Inf., 25th Inf. Div. during Operation-Kahala, near-Cu Chi. (Photo by 25th INF-10)

'Mayday, Mayday—Ejecting'

SOC TRANG, (101st AVN-10)—"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, this is Silver 11 on fire ten miles west of Soc Trang—I'm ejecting." These words transmitted on UHF guard frequency early one morning last week, stopped all other UHF transmissions in the area. Pilots turned up the volume knob on their radios to find out if they could help whoever was in trouble.

Immediately following the Mayday alert came Capt. Raymond Walker over the air with, "Soc Trang tower, this is Beaver 24, request you direct any helicopters in the area to a point about ten miles west of Soc Trang where a jet pilot has just ejected."

Lieutenant Gary Nelson of Company "A", 101st Aviation Battalion had just taken off from the field in his Huey when the alert came. Even as he turned west and pulled in maximum power he called, "Soc Trang, Warrior 22 is enroute at this time — break—Beaver 24, this is Warrior 22, I am inbound your location request more exact directions." "Warrior 22 this is Beaver 24, the pilot is landing three miles southeast of the outpost, I can see the crash site two miles directly ahead."

The transmission continued rapidly, "Warrior 22, this is Silver 12," (another jet circling over the pilot), "proceed from the crash site five miles on a heading of 210 degrees." "This is Warrior 22; Roger." "Warrior 22, this is Viking 23 (CWO Foster Fort in an armed Huey of the 121st Aviation Company), I'm inbound, three miles north-east of the crash site. If you will orbit when you reach the downed pilot's location, I'll make a quick reconnaissance of the area and escort you in." "Roger Viking, glad to have you around."

There was a short pause while the two Hueys proceeded inbound. During this time, Captain Walker in his O-1 Bird dog was circling the area, ready to call in the other two jets if needed to discourage any Viet Cong which might show up. The two F-100 Supersabres circling helplessly overhead, were the rest of the strike element from the 416th Tactical Squadron that forward air controller, Captain Walker, had been directing into Viet Cong emplacements. Silver 11 had been hit by automatic weapons fire during one of their firing runs.

Shortly after Warrior 22 started orbiting, Viking entered the area low level. "Viking 23 this is Beaver 24, I have looked over the entire area and have seen no enemy activity." "Roger 24 . . . Warrior 22 descend parallel and south of the east-west canal, landing heading will be 90 degrees." "Roger 23, I'm coming in."

As Nelson and WO Garlitz landed fifty feet from the parachute, the Air Force pilot Capt. Bob Oaks came running towards them. "He jumped in and started pumping our hands. He was glad to see us, to say the least."

Take off, which was made immediately, with Viking 23 escorting, proved uneventful. Even as Warrior 22 climbed out, heading for Soc Trang, a light fire team from the Thunderbirds, the armed platoon of Company "A", 101st Aviation Battalion, were searching the jet crash site, making sure nothing was left that would be of value to the Viet Cong.

The entire recovery, from the alert call "Mayday" to the time Captain Oaks was picked up, took only nine minutes.

Dustoff Rescues Ten

TAN CANH, (25th INF-10) — "Dustoff," code word for medical evacuation by helicopter, was heard on a jeep-mounted radio. "Total of ten," the voice said.

At this point, the medics of Company B, 25th Medical Battalion, commanded by Doctor (Capt.) Edward Denison, got the receiving tent at the field hospital prepared for the arrival of the wounded. The extent of the injuries was not known so every piece of equipment that might be needed was readied.

The helicopters landed minutes later and there were several stretcher bearers on hand to give the newly arrived patients help in getting to the admissions tent.

All ten men sustained leg injuries.

"Punji stakes! All over the LZ (landing zone). There were hundreds of them," one of the wounded men said.

The ten soldiers were participating in the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Operation "Longfellow" in the northeastern portion of Pleiku Province.

According to a squad leader, who was one of the walking wounded, "We were going into an LZ to set up security for the next wave of choppers."

"When we landed on the road, everyone moved off the road into the brush. That's when we hit the stakes."

When asked how he happened to step on one of the bamboo stakes, he said, "One of the men in my squad was behind me and I heard him yell 'Medic!' I turned around and started back to see what was wrong with him and I felt a sharp pain in my leg. When I looked down, I saw blood both on my leg and on a dirty piece of bamboo that was sticking up about a foot out of the ground."

The brigade intelligence officer, Capt. Ron Rubin, was at the scene of the incident later and explained, "The stakes were relatively old. They had been put in the area anywhere from two weeks to a year ago."

The soldiers of the "Bronco" Brigade units were in the hospital at the forward command post for less than an hour, then they were evacuated to the rear area for further observation and treatment.

JOIN UP...
JOIN IN

SUPPORT YOUR RED CROSS



May 6, 1966



Thomas receives firing order by phone as
Army artillerymen call the big gun the
belongs to Btry. D, 8th/6th Arty. at Lai Khe.
(Photo by USARV-IO)

Sign Business 5th Infantry

signs posted
perimeter of the
base camp

The job fell to the 246th
Psychological War Detach-
ment. Lt. Lem Fox was put
in charge

Chinook Answers Mayday Call

DI AN, (1st INF-IO)—When the 'MAYDAY' call from a stricken Air Force F-100 crackled in their headsets, Chinook pilots Capt. Leonard R. Wilson and CWO James G. Miner immediately diverted the homeward course of their big helicopter toward the jet pilot's last radioed position.

Some two miles south of Vung Tau the fighter pilot's parachute was spotted blossoming over the South China Sea. Within seconds the Chinook hovered for the rescue.

A malfunction in the aircraft's hoist frustrated the first hook-up attempt. Wilson and Miner, both of the 147th Avn. Co., 11th Avn. Bn., then carefully lowered the helicopter's fuselage directly into the water so the three-man crew could pull in the downed pilot. This attempt also failed—the side door being too high above the water.

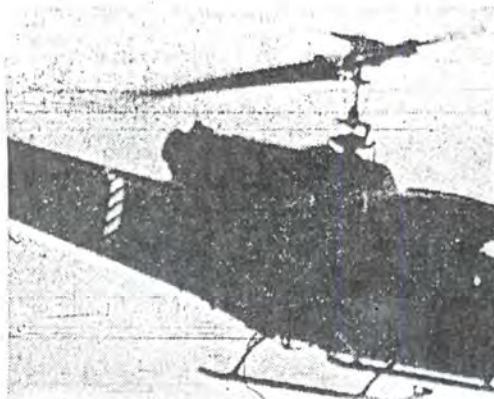
A few moments later, after what seemed to be an eternity, the broken hoist was put back into operation. The aircraft, brought back to a hover, lowered its hoist cable and a successful hook-up was accomplished. As soon as the tired but uninjured jet pilot was safely raised through the cargo hook door, the CH-47 sped back to its home base at Vung Tau where medical personnel waited.

Story & Photos

The 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion is comm

by Sp5 Dick Johnson

Tiger. In its latest operation, the battalion supported the 1st Infantry Division in the capture of Pleiku.





BELL TRIO—Three choppers manufactured by the Bell Helicopter Co. fly in formation. From top the UH-1D, UH-1B and new UH-1H "Huey Cobra," to be introduced eventually in Vietnam. (Photo by ANF)

Infantryman's Friend—M-79

CU CHI, (25th INF-10)—The M-79 grenade launcher is fast becoming one of the most valuable weapons of the infantryman.

In previous wars, most rifle teams were accompanied by at least one man with a grenade launching device for his rifle, but something was needed to provide a little more speed, distance and accuracy.

The M-79 grenade launcher, sometimes referred to as a portable, short range mortar weapon, was developed in the early 1960s. It is designed to hit the enemy at distances too short for conventional mortar fire and too long for a hand grenade.

Private First Class James War-

ren, a member of Company B, 1st/5th Inf., can attest to the weapon's performance.

Warren learned how to fire the weapon at Fort Jackson, S.C., and has used it the last three months at Cu Chi. It has come in handy on more than one occasion.

"It's really an easy weapon to fire," Warren said. "It doesn't have many moving parts, and I've never had a misfire with it. I've had a squad leader ask me to come into his squad as a machine gunner, but I'd never give up the M-79."

The M-79 is accurate up to its maximum effective range of 400 meters. Private Warren says if

he sets his sights at a target 200 meters distance, the grenade will hit it. Its bursting radius is three meters.

The grenade automatically arms itself after 15 to 30 meters in flight. There has been cases where the grenade has hit a close object and not exploded. This provides the grenadier with built in protection in case of an accidental discharge or if he is forced to fire from a clump of bushes.



VIET CONG WEAPONS—Colonel Lynwood M. Johnson Jr., 2nd Brigade ing Officer, 25th Infantry Division, and his executive officer, Lt. Col. Milton, examine part of the Viet Cong arsenal that had been used against the soldiers on Operation Circle Pines. (Photo by 25t

That is the way Capt. Neil S. Shore of the 20th Engineer Battalion, refers to his weekly sick call clinic for the civilian residents of Ba-Ngoi, a medium sized town along the southern arm of Cam Ranh Bay.

Ba-Ngoi has a brick factory, saw mills, a movie theater and even a large hotel but there is not a single doctor among the more than five thousand inhabitants. There is a government operated dispensary with two

in Ba-Ngoi was in the local herb "doctors" who treat their patients by playing affected parts of the concoctions of leaves "secret ingredients."

In one of the room Shore makes his diagnosis in a French, Vietnamese slang. He is assisted by a medic Sp4 M. son, and a Vietnamese nurse. Patients waiting doctor gather on the around the screen do the informality of the poor, try to help w translations. In the room next door as in a dozen patients ma process of being care one time. SFC Melv NCOIC of the 20th Battalion Medical Sec sure that the right the right treatment with the minor crise every few minutes. cal aidman, Sp5 Jam has developed a get pert touch with frigl ren and clinical te Vandell W. Brooke badly infected cyst hypodermic syringe painless skill and James R. Lucia des handages injuries a patients outside to for others.

There is never en real specialization. more patients crow ment room the whol on a first-come-first washing down and widespread forms tions, cutting, ba soothing. In the th temperature rises fi ly hot to the swelt steady pace of the slackens until the l cared for or prepar ation.

It may only be a ocean," but for injured citizens of a very big and very

Nobody Will Believe It!

DI AN, (1st INF-10) — Last week while the Vanguards were in the jungles of Long Thanh Province during Operation Abilene, SSgt. James L. Carrio, of the 2nd/18th Inf. was given a new title: NCO in charge of defeating burning rice paddies.

Several hundred feet of nearby rice paddies were set ablaze by an accidental fire one afternoon. Carrio grabbed a leafy tree branch and his entrenching tool and led a frontal assault on the fire.

When this proved only partially effective, he directed two squads to move in from the flanks and within an hour the fire had been soundly defeated.

Later in the day, an observation helicopter landed briefly in the unit's area and re-kindled the fire.

With the efficiency born of exhausting prior experience, Sergeant Carrio again led the Vanguards against the fire, which by this time covered more than

three acres.

There was added urgency when re-supply ships with badly needed water were unable to land in the area because of the fire.

With branches and entrenching tools the men worked frantically until the fire was put out and the choppers could land.

Carrio, sooty and perspiring, had only one comment about the incident. "My wife will never believe this."

RE-UP!
ARMY

is accompanies war, can never...
lf "Let us never exult over war. time and patience and freedom tain or the course too steep, or



Vol. 2, No. 9

Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam

May 6, 1966

DFCs Awarded To Three Pilots

DI AN (1st INF-10)—By order of the President, Distinguished Flying Crosses were presented by the 1st Division's Artillery Commander, Col. Marlin W. Camp, to Maj. Charles A. Edwards, Lt.

Charles S. Bickford and Lt. Gary L. Arnold.

The three officers were involved in repulsing a heavy mortar and small arms attack by Viet Cong forces on the Army airfield at Phu Loi, January 30, 1966.

Major Edwards, and Lieutenants Bickford and Arnold were cited for heroism while participating in aerial flight. All three voluntarily ran to the flight line through the intense mortar barrage.

Edwards located a helicopter and assisted in getting the pilot, Lieutenant Bickford, and his observer, Lieutenant Arnold, in

the air. The craft took off to locate the mortar positions and call in friendly fire. The mortar fire increased during and immediately after take-off. The aircraft received intense hostile automatic ground fire.

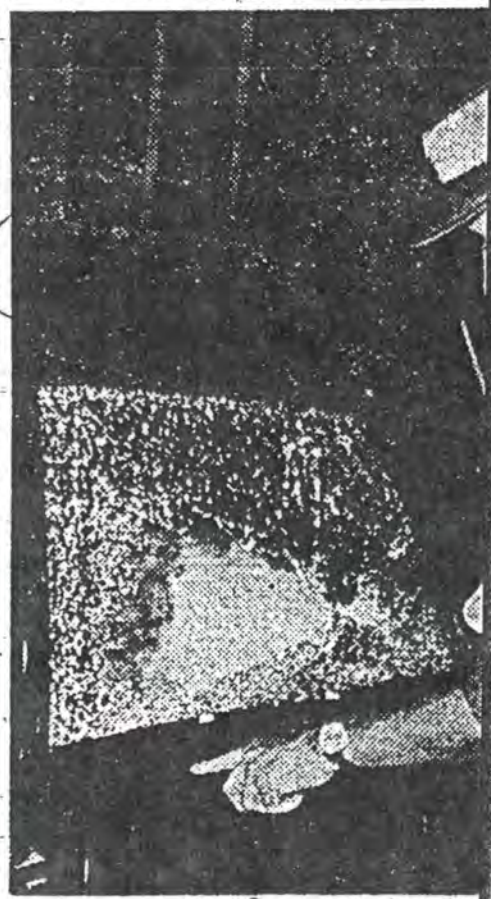
(Continued on Back Page)



Medic Bde. Activated

SAIGON, (1st LOG-10) — The first fully operational medical brigade in the history of the U. S. Army has arrived in Vietnam and begun operations under the 1st Logistical Command.

The 44th Medical Brigade was activated at Fort Sam Houston, Tex., in January. Its mission is to coordinate and control all the 1st Logistical Command's medical activities, a task which embraces all Army hospitals, medical and dental dispensaries, veterinary and preventive medicine units.



BLAST—An ROK officer MP to shattered window

sersby examine result of a VC

by Col. James A.