

barbed wire-lined passage ways leading to the prison area.

In that span of time nine of them were proven to be Viet Cong.

According to Capt. John L. Mentor, "All of the suspects that we have handled thus far have been very cooperative."

"The suspects are usually divided into the same name groups. They aren't allowed to converse with one another and they've seemed to accept this pretty well."

Prisoners are flown in from all points throughout the division area. When a POW is picked up at a certain point a call is put through to the MP company at Di An.

An armed jeep is driven to the helipad to escort the prisoner or prisoners to the compound area. Once inside the barbed wire compound, the Military Intelligence Section is notified and an interrogation period follows. It is the duty of the MPs at the compound to care for and watch the prisoners which includes feeding them three times a day. Once the interrogation period is over the suspect is turned over to the III Corps Headquarters area for further questioning and confinement.

It may not be a very elaborate set up, but to date, over 50 people have found out just how systematic it is.

'Huey Mule' Assists 299th Engrs

QUI NHON, (18th Engr Bde-IO) — The U.S. Army's 299th Engineer Battalion has turned a UH-1B helicopter into a mule.

Company B, commanded by Captain Richard W. Wylie, is constructing an ammunition depot here. The rough terrain makes travel to and from the site both difficult and dangerous so a plan was worked out for air-lifting materials.

A "Huey" flown by CWO Richard B. Boren and CWO William Findley Jr., from the Aviation Section of the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) was used to perform this mission. Slings made from cables and ropes were utilized to take 8-foot pickets, barbed wire, and concertina wire from the storage area to designated points on the mountain. A total of 46 loads were air-lifted into position.

The Huey did the job in 4 hours. It would have been extremely difficult for the troops and hired local nationals to do the job at all. Doing the job this way, they were able to finish this phase of construction much faster than was originally anticipated.

SOAP FROM THE STATES—First Lieutenant Charles W. Akerlow, of the 41st Civil Affairs Team presents soap donated by a Kansas City, Mo. school to Miss Tran Ky Phuong at the Khanh Hoa Province Hospital in Nha Trang.

(Photo by I FFV-IO)

April 22, 1966

Flying Ambulances Are 'Angels of Mercy' To Soldiers

—DUC CO, (25th INF DIV-IO)—They go by the code name "Dust-off." They are the flying ambulances whose speed and response have carried thousands of wounded Americans from jungle battle-grounds to field hospitals in the Republic of Vietnam.

These UH-1D helicopters are not very attractive in their olive drab coats made even more drab by liberal splatterings of mud and dust. To many men, however, they are the most beautiful choppers in the world. To the badly wounded, Dustoff is often the difference between life and death.

Two of these "Angels of mercy" supported the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade in the recently concluded operations Garfield and Lincoln.

The Dustoff choppers were ready to go at any hour to come to the assistance of any element of the brigade.

In Garfield the "Broncos" killed 124 North Vietnamese and wounded many more. Although brigade casualties for the operation were light, Dustoff was called on a number of times to pull the wounded out from battle areas.

Then, without a break, the brigade began operation Lincoln and the Dustoff air ambulances continued their support.

Captain Ronald F. Hopkins, 2nd Platoon, 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), is the pilot of one of the two ships attached to the 3rd Brigade.

He and his crew of four (copilot, crew chief, door gunner, and medic) are usually based with the rest of the 2nd Platoon at Camp Holloway, near Pleiku.

Captain Hopkins and his crew are on call 24 hours a day in the brigade's field hospital, where the request for medical evacuation comes on either the command radio network or the special Dustoff network.

The radio operator quickly jots down necessary information such as location, number, condition of wounded, condition of the landing zone, weather information, and the need of armed helicopters, if any.

For field work such as this, the chopper is fitted to take three litters against the rear of the compartment. There is room for an additional litter on the floor of the UH-1.

As soon as the captain has all the information needed to locate the wounded personnel, the flight is airborne.

Captain Hopkins and his crew

will fly into an area if conditions are at all acceptable for flying. According to the pilot, "If there's a reasonable chance that we will be able to take off and return with the patient, we will always make an effort to do it."

The Dustoff choppers are often called upon to fly under less than ideal conditions and into less than ideal landing zones. "Sometimes the weather makes the flight absolutely impossible, and sometimes our skill or the mechanical limitations on the helicopter make landings impossible," said Captain Hopkins.

More often than not, Dustoff will respond to a call even when conditions are at their worst, with the crews trying to get to the casualty until they succeed.

Frequently the calls for help come at the height of a firefight with the enemy.

Captain Hopkins said, "We sometimes feel that the VC are aiming particularly at the big red cross on the side of our choppers, but they're probably shooting at any helicopter they see. At any rate, they do not respect the red cross at all."

Actually, in Captain Hopkins' opinion, the VC aren't firing at isolated helicopters as much as they used to. "They know that

there's a distinct danger of air strikes or other retaliation if they give away their positions by taking pot shots at us."

Once the casualties have been recorded, it is Dustoff's job to get them to a medical facility—fast.

Each crew has a trained medic aboard who treats the patients as best he can during the flight to the hospital.

When less seriously wounded casualties are picked up, they are taken to the 3d Brigade's hospital at the forward command post. As the Dustoff chopper approaches the CP, Captain Hopkins radios the hospital to report on the number and condition of the wounded.

By the time the chopper touches down, ambulances and attendants are waiting to take the casualties to the hospital.

It's often a long day for the Dustoff crews. They know the job they are doing is a vital one—both to the Army and to the men whose lives often depend on the time in which Dustoff gets them to the hospital.

It is with nothing but admiration that the "Tropic Lightning" soldiers look at the men who "Dust off."

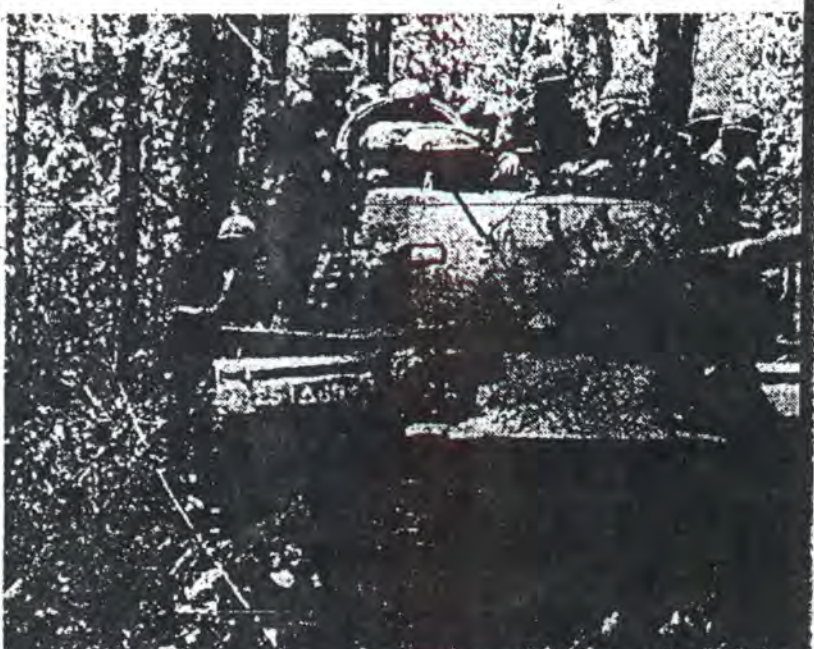
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ARMORED PURSUIT—A tank carrying troops of the 25 crunches through the forest near the Cambodian border in pursuit of the force which had mortared the Americans from across the border.

(Photo by

resupply and for aerial observation.

Now, however, there's a new twist added to aerial observation—the command and control helicopter. From this ship, especially rigged with air-to-ground radios, the unit commander can direct the movement of troops on the ground, communicate with all support units, plan and execute tactical moves and most important, keep a second-by-second surveillance of the entire battle area.

Early one morning recently, the command and control—"C and C"—ship for Operation "Kahuku" took off from the base camp of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Units of the 1st Battalion, 5th Mechanized Infantry and the 69th Armor Battalion were moving to a wooded location about three miles east of the Cu Chi base camp area. They were planning to move around the woods and sweep back toward the headquarters in an operation expected to take about four hours.

Commanding Operation Kahuku was Lt. Col. Thomas Greer, Colonel Greer, 5th Mech Commander, was seated on the left side of the UH-1D aircraft. Next to him, in contact with division artillery, was Capt. John Scattergood, the first support coordinator from the 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery.

Then came the information turning Operation Kahuku into a major effort. A Viet Cong (open arms program) reported a company of 110 VC in the immediate area. The informer told ground troops that the company was equipped with three machine guns, nine BAR's and one 60mm mortar.

In addition, Colonel Greer got the word that the VC had instructions to go into tunnels if they were overrun.

And overrun them the Tropic Lightning soldiers did. Directing his APC's to close off the area, the colonel ordered the men to go into the tunnels after the enemy.

"We've come across a trench, receiving light machine gun fire," the radio cracked.

"Straddle the trench and wait for 'em," replied Colonel Greer.

search.

Meanwhile, Captain Scattergood was checking the colonel's map against his own and directing artillery fire in front of the enemy. The plan, he related, was to trap the enemy between the advancing infantry and the exploding artillery shells.

The plan worked. Twelve weapons, including one East German 7.91mm machinegun, MG34 had been captured, in addition to ammunition, rice and one 250-pound bomb.

The entire operation was directed from an airborne command.

New DCO For Avn. Brigade

SAIGON (AVN BDE-10)—Colonel John B. Stockton has been named Deputy Commander of the US Army Aviation Brigade, the Army's newest and largest operational aviation command.

Colonel Stockton, a 1943 graduate of the US Military Academy, West Point, commanded the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division prior to joining the Aviation Brigade.

The Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General George P. Seneff Jr., is the first such organization in Army aviation history, and is comprised of more than forty-five Army aviation units in Vietnam.

He won his wings as an Army Aviator in 1955 and is currently a Senior Army Aviator. After attending the Army War College in 1961, Colonel Stockton was assigned to Korea. During that tour he spent 5 months in Vietnam on temporary duty with MAAG Headquarters.

Colonel Stockton was one of the original pioneers of the Airmobile concept, having commanded the 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion in the 11th Aviation Group of the 11th Air Assault Division. His 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry was one of the most heavily committed aviation units in the 1st Cavalry Division, and figured prominently in the Plei Me and Bong Son campaigns.

Clerks In The Daytime— Guards During The Night

AN KHE (1st CAV-10) — Each evening the clerks of the 1st Cavalry's 15th Admin. Co. put down their pencils, pick up their rifles and after a hasty meal are transported to the perimeter where they'll spend the night guarding the cavalry base.

The unit, consisting of more than 400 soldiers, is split into two provisional rifle companies who guard the camp when the flying horsemen's infantry brigades are deployed in the field.

"Morale is surprisingly high," said Capt. Wayne Halpern. "Taking care of the men's administrative needs isn't enough for these soldiers, they want to go out on the line and do their share."

"The provisional companies have two major functions. To guard the division perimeter and act as a reactionary force in case of an emergency or routine alert."

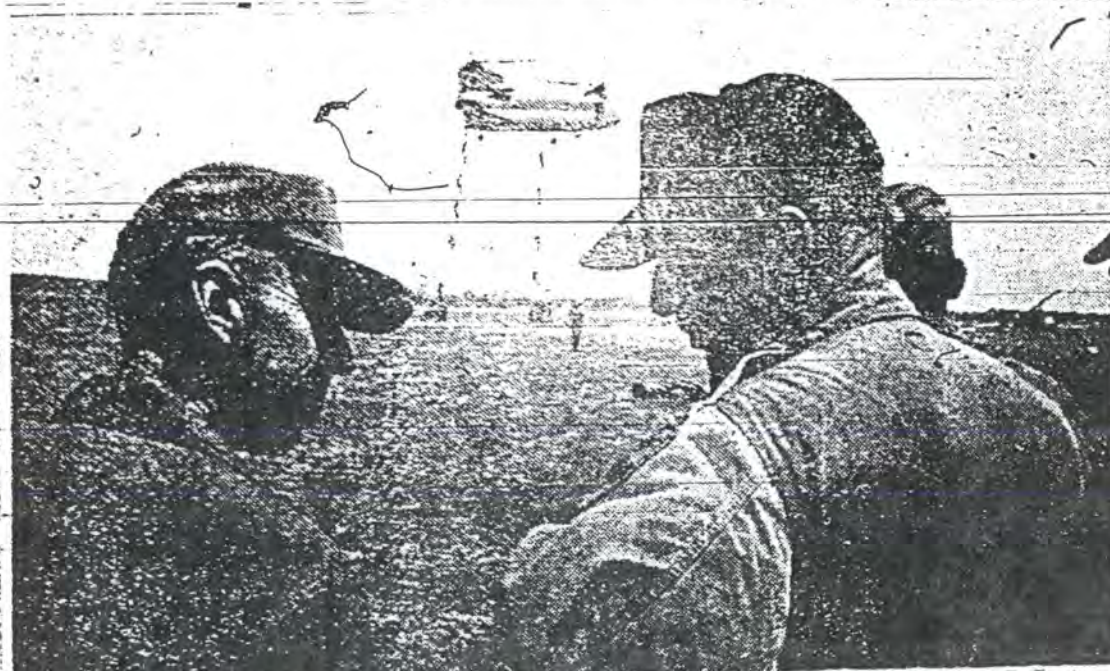
"Beltn" Bravo, half of the admin power punch is headed by Capt. Forest D. Haynes. Captain Haynes commands the division awards and decoration section.

The "Admin Rangers", as they're jokingly called, by the soldiers of the Infantry and each other, never know where they're going to be deployed from week to week.

When they go to a new area, the first order of business is get-

ting out their entrenching tools and improving their positions. This lasts until darkness blankets the area, but then adequate cover has been carved out of the jungle and an observation post set up. The men then settle down to the serious business of a long night of listening, watching, and waiting.

As the first rays of sunshine fill the sky in the morning, the soldiers begin packing their gear. When they return to their company there is usually time for a little breakfast, a quick shave, and change of clothes, and then back to their desks to handle the many administrative duties covering an Army division.



LADDER LANDING—Brigadier General William E. DePuy, CG of the 1st Infantry Division, and Capt. Richard D. Gillem, right, CO of the 11th Pathfinder Company, discuss the demonstration of ladder landings being executed in the background.

(Photo by Capt. H. Rilling, 1st INF-10)

APR 22, 1966



—Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division, one sporting a
of Chu Pong Mountain after the section was devastated by
ently.
(Photo by Steve Northup-UPI)

Feel 'Eagles' Claws

gade, referred to Operation Harrison's Air Force fighter support as "magnificent." Tactical air support dropped over one million pounds of bombs in support of the 101st's actions. Additionally, the 1st Brigade own 320th Artillery fired over 22,000 rounds.

—The Eagles' talons drew blood again as the 2nd Battalion, 502d Infantry led patrols in the southern mountainous jungles of the Tuy Hoa area, and overran a

Viet Cong hospital belonging to the 95th North Vietnamese Army Regiment. The 502nd seized four wounded VC patients who provided valuable intelligence.

Operation Harrison ended with enemy troops in full flight high into the mountains south and west of Tuy Hoa, where the 101st is now conducting "Operation Fillmore."

The 1st Brigade's casualties for Operation Harrison were light.

Water, Water Everywhere, But Not in IV Corps

AN LONG, (IV Corps-10) — "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink." This old adage really strikes home with the five million inhabitants of the IV Corps area, the Delta Region of South Vietnam.

These people have an overwhelming supply of salt water and nonpotable fresh water, but not nearly enough to drink. This is the problem the United States Aid for International Development (USAID) is trying to remedy by installing potable water systems in various towns and villages of that region.

Most of the people in the area take part in the program as SSgt. Joseph Cogburn of the 393rd Engineer Detachment explained. "Here in An Long when the trench passes in front of a house, that family then has the responsibility to see that it dug over to the next family's house and so on down the line."

These water systems are being installed in thirty towns in the Delta under the Rural Water Branch of USAID. The 539th Engineer Detachment, TDY from Okinawa, has the job of planning the various systems and seeing that they are properly installed by the local workmen.

The town of An Long, which has a population of 3000, will have a 1200 meter-system with twenty community water outlets set up throughout the town. The school and small village hospital will have their own outlets. The water will be pumped from the river into two settling tanks and then into a 3000-gallon, eighth-meter-tower.

Seventeen miles from An Long, in the town of Hong Ngu, another system is being installed which will have about 35 outlets. The crew chief for this job, SFC Rubin Haupt, said he planned to run three outlets into the school and one into the town dispensary. This town of 10,000 will be able to receive about 3000 gallons an hour.

Installing these complicated water systems causes quite a logistics problem considering the uncooperative countryside and ever-present Viet Cong. Therefore, the supplies are brought in by plane, helicopter, boat, convoy, and any other means available. Seventeen of the thirty systems planned have already been completed. It will take the people awhile to get used to the purified water, but it will be best for them in the end.

Tomahawk Adds to 128th Power

PHU LOI (1st INF-10)—The 128th Aviation Company of the 11th Aviation Battalion at Phu Loi, referred to as the "Tomahawks," now have a most unique weapon of the past. In comparison to the 128th's M-60 machine guns, rocket pods and grenade launchers, a brass-headed tomahawk seems a bit obsolete, however the 128th feels "If it's good enough for the Indians, it's certainly good enough for us."

The idea of acquiring a tomahawk symbolic of the 128th's own namesake was that of Captain George Crofoot, who wrote to his uncle, Mr. Carl W. Naessig of Webster, South Dakota. The letter inquired whether any tomahawks were in the area. Mr. Naessig searched, but found only stone-headed mashers that could never stand up to the "rigors of war."

The Flandreau Indian School in Flandreau, South Dakota, after hearing of Mr. Naessig's plight, volunteered their services and donated a handmade brass-headed tomahawk that is not only a weapon of war, but also a peace pipe.

The tomahawk was presented to the commanding officer of the 128th, Major Gene Reed, at a ceremony March 26th. After receiving the weapon, Major Reed gave a small speech, which he concluded by saying, "Peace we seek, and fight we give, seeking a peaceful end." Lt. Col. John Lauterbach, the Commanding Officer of the 11th Aviation Battalion, was on hand for the ceremony, along with all members of the 128th. The tomahawk, 16 inches of wooden pipe and molded brass, was displayed after the ceremony.

The 128th Aviation Company first landed in Phu Loi on October 27th, 1965 and was on combat status by December 7th. The 25 helicopters assigned to the 128th have the responsibility of air mobile combat assault missions, tactical resupply, and reconnaissance. Since the 1st of January the Tomahawks have participated in Operations Crimp, Mallot, Rolling Stone, Mastiff, Honolulu, and Silver City.