

ican tower-
aid, "Yes,
Edward
preter for
an army
rned Viet-
fantry Di-
ol while
s a team
instructors
d Brigade
Vietnam-
nan teams
veloped by
ion," Cer-
st, the in-
se in En-
eter trans-
to repeat
asses are
nd Thurs-
oolhouse at
lders, civil
of Cu Chi
while the
students at
the ses-
basis.

am
)-A new
vice sup-
Vietnam
Army's
to serve
tions.
-store,
age Area
port, pro-
es to over
from the
n, Korea,
hilippines.
boasts an
erent line
expansion
ar future.
new cen-
Dillard of
, and the
he entire
n A. Wil-

couple of sessions because of operations, the students are here when we show up."
The results of the Wolfhound English classes have already become apparent on the streets of Cu Chi. "We noticed it right after the first session," observed SP4 Charles J. Oliver, Sr. "The people would say 'hello' or 'how are you'—any of the simple phrases we'd taught them. Now, their sentences are getting more complex. The teenagers, especially, have picked up the language."
However, the Wolfhound educa-

WO Benne Should Be Dead

SAIGON, (USARV-IO) — Warrant Officer Larry L. Benne should be dead. He was on the receiving end of a Viet Cong .50 caliber bullet.
—The young Army aviator, fresh out of flight school before coming to Vietnam six months ago, was on a helicopter combat mission with the 114th Aviation Company near Vinh Long when the enemy round came through the cockpit of his UH-1 helicopter. It stopped when it hit a new armored vest that Benne was wearing.
Benne was hit from about 1000 yards away. He was flying at 1200 feet.

The vest was not designed to protect its wearer from a .50 caliber bullet, and, as far as is known, this was the first hit this type of vest took from a .50.
Benne said he felt as though a mule had kicked him in the lower right ribs where the bullet hit. It shattered on the vest and a few small fragments hit Benne in the arm.
The 15-pound bulletproof vest is worn by most helicopter pilots in Vietnam. It replaces the old flak jacket. Armor leggings made of the same combination of materials will soon be provided the Army airmen.

Now in Cu Chi the egg, "number one!" has become almost passe. Instead, the little boy peddling sunglasses or can openers or the dozens of other items small boys sell, may say, "Sergeant this can opener is made of the finest . . ."



LIFESAVING VEST—Warrant Officer Larry L. Benne shows the armored vest that stopped a .50 caliber bullet and saved his life. Benne is an Army aviator assigned to the 114th Aviation Company. In his hand are parts of the shell. (Photo by SP5 Ralph Boatwright, USARV-IO)

11th Avn Bn Gunners Keep Sharp Watch

BIEN HOA, (1st INF-IO)—Ask any Chinook pilot of the 147th Aviation Company, 11th Aviation Battalion how he feels about his gunners, and he will tell you without hesitation that the unit couldn't operate without them.

"There are moments when the safety of the aircraft is entirely dependent on their skill and alertness," says Maj William A. Weimbender, Operation Officer of the 147th.

"Especially during aircraft recovery operations when we are working in unsecured areas. The Viet Cong know we are coming in after downed aircraft so they usually hide and wait, and just as we are lifting out with a load beneath, they cut loose with everything. This is when the gunners go to work returning the fire until the aircraft reaches a safe altitude. Of course, we get a lot of help from the armed helicopter gun teams too, and usually they are guided by smoke thrown by one of the gunners to help pinpoint the enemy location."

Each Chinook has three gunners on board for most flights. Each man is a volunteer, and has completed a company training program on the XM-24 and M-60 machine guns. In flight the gunner may operate one of the two side door guns, or might be utilized as the ramp tail gunner. The latter must be restrained by a safety harness because unexpected turbulence could throw him out the rear of the helicopter.

When not busy watching for Viet Cong, the gunners also assist the flight engineer and crew chief in supervising, loading, unloading, and general maintenance of the Chinook. Each gunner is proficient at lashing, loading, extracting cargo, and refueling.

Cam Ranh Bay was completed here recently.
In less than six weeks, nine and one-half acres of desolate, monsoon-flooded swampland were turned into needed taxi ramps and parking aprons for

officer, 2nd Lt. Phillip M. Gotthold, the engineers work in shifts, 24 hours a day, spreading and grading more than 78,000 tons of fill.

More than 13,000 truck-loads of sand, covered with a six-inch layer of compacted laterite, asphalt and burlap, were needed to provide a stable, well-drained and dust-free base for parking and servicing aircraft.

Lieutenant Gotthold said the men were hampered by lack of practical experience in this type of construction, but had learned quickly and now could be rated with the best.

According to Capt. Mikolja Mezins, Commanding Officer, A Company, the high water table in the Dong Ba Thin area caused serious operational problems right from the start.

He said, "We had to build ourselves right up out of the water and with a shortage of earth-moving equipment it was not easy."

Captain Mezins also stated that close maintenance was required on all levels to keep the hard to replace trucks and equipment from breaking down under the strain of around the clock operation.

The 20th Engineer Battalion arrived in Vietnam just before the project started and the troops, not yet accustomed to the heat and dust, suffered from heat exhaustion and minor eye ailments.

This is the first series of planned expansions to be completed by the 20th Engineer Battalion that will eventually make the sprawling military complex here the largest single Army air base in Vietnam, capable of handling all types of Army aircraft.

Four Hours—A Bridge Goes Up

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) — In four hours of hard work, an Army bridge company, has thrown a span across an 80-foot gap here.

The 27-ton span, called a Bailey bridge, was assembled in sections by the 1st Platoon, 511th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge), and then after adding a 50 foot counterbalance pushed on rollers across the gorge.

Lieutenant John Vaught, the commander of the engineer outfit, said, "That's pretty close to record time. I'd be willing to stack that up against any other bridge outfit."

The 50-ton capacity bridge will increase the access to the southern perimeter of the 1st Cavalry's Camp Radcliff here.

It takes a full platoon of 44 men to assemble and begin to move the bridge, but after it has been pushed out over the chasm, it can be maneuvered by one man. After the bridge reaches its center of balance, it falls onto the rollers on the far side of the gap and is bolted into place. Then the counterbalance is removed, the approaches are bolted in place and the bridge is operational.



APONS—Sergeant Major John DeBransky of the 327th Infantry, vision, describes captured Viet Cong weapons to Lt. Col. Joseph B. Harrison, conducted near Tuy Hoa. (Photo by 101st-IO)

Am 1, 1966

Apr 8, 1966

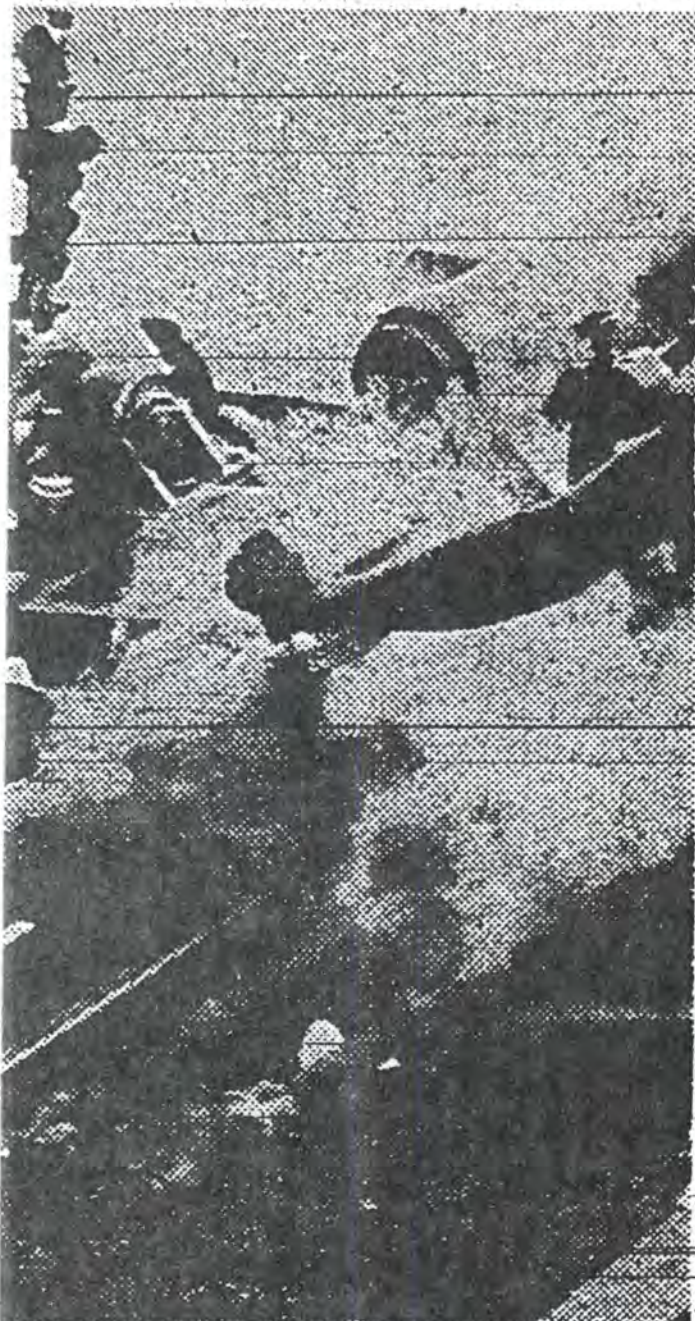
1 Vietnam. The Red Cross provides
1 this service, and the blood, free
3 of charge.

1 Red Cross service to the Fight-
1 ing First in Vietnam started while
1 the unit was still at Fort Riley,
1 Kansas, preparing to depart for
1 combat. The division chapter
1 maintained constant communica-
1 tions channels enroute to Viet-

one of the relay stations in the
Philippines, Guam, or Hawaii.
Red Cross field directors in the
division try to safeguard against
misplaced messages by logging
each in and out, and constantly
checking on them, if they are not
received within 24 hours.

Last month was declared Na-
tional Red Cross Month by Presi-
dent Johnson. *April 1, 1966*

nearby
and 3rd
received
when t
patients
country
fer of
Navy to
The n
assume
out-pati
Hotel w
name
treated
adminis



11th Avn Bn Builds Camp Via 'Self Help'

PHU LOI, (11th AVN-PIO) —
Two more buildings in a growing
"self help" construction program
here have been completed and
opened for troop use.

The new structures, mess
buildings for the 128th and 116th
Aviation Companies, were offi-
cially opened with a ribbon cut-
ting by Lt. Col. John W. Lauter-
bach, commanding officer of the
11th Aviation Battalion.

The 11th's self help program
employs the use of off-duty volun-
teers for the construction pro-
jects.

Presently under construction is
a battalion headquarters build-
ing, troop billets to accommodate
the men of the 116th, 128th and
Headquarters and Headquarters
Detachment, and officer billets.
A battalion brick factory aver-
ages about 400 bricks a day for
the new building.

Appro
erations
Vietnam
Americ
to Maj.
executi
this se
Origin
the 17th
the Sou
World
tivated
Fort L
ber an
March
pital's
ing ove

Alv

Y

RE

Switzer after firing rounds in
gest operation of the war.
photo by Steve Northup, UPI)

Medics Shoot It Out To Evacuate Wounded

SAIGON, (1st LOG-IO)—Army crewmen of a 1st Logistical Command helicopter ambulance unit had to fight it out on the ground with the Viet Cong before they could evacuate seven wounded soldiers from a battlefield north of here.

"Soon after we hit the ground near a mine-shattered truck we came under heavy machine gun fire which raked the area all around the aircraft," stated the pilot, Lt. Robert T. Wood, of the 283rd Helicopter Ambulance Detachment.

"We managed to get three patients aboard before the firing began, but it got so bad that I had to order my crewchief and medic away from the plane into a nearby ditch to defend us." Crewchief Sp4 Thomas L. Harris and medic Sp5 Thomas S. Evans fired back at the VC with M-16 rifles which are carried for such occasions.

After a 10-minute battle, Harris and Evans began to assist the remaining four patients aboard the rescue ship. As the last of the patients were loaded aboard, co-pilot Wilson asked permission from Wood to fire on still another advancing VC. A well-aimed burst stopped the approaching enemy.

As the chopper lifted from the combat zone, Lt. Wood radioed ahead for a doctor to meet the aircraft on landing. Being only a few minutes away from the brigade area, the helicopter arrived before the doctor. Within minutes the doctor arrived, and

another mission was completed by the crewmen of the 283rd, one of five air ambulance units of the 1st Logistical Command.

Advisor Appeals To Minnesotans

TUY HOA, (USARV-IO) — A U.S. Army officer here is appealing to his fellow Minnesotans back home to help ease the suffering of some of Vietnam's war refugees.

Captain Anton Boroski, from Lancaster, Minn., has written to ten newspapers in and around his hometown asking them to publish ads in hope of getting reader response.

His project is already paying off. He has received several letters stating that packages are on the way.

Boroski, an advisor to the Tuy Hoa district, asked for soap and clothing to take precedence over other gifts for the refugees.

W
W
th
D

other effort to locate the pulse nowhere else. Eyes open. Work stops instantly. The medics grin to wash while one pulls aroud over the mortally wounded soldier. They have done everything in their power.

Minutes later, the captain with cut finger, who had been sitting in the back of the tent with a needle pushed halfway through his hand, walked out with wound neatly stitched.

The A&D tent, the nerve center of the brigade's emergency medical treatment, is where the helicopters arrive with wounded from fighting and where the amputees from battalion medical stations take their seriously injured.

King and his staff of three doctors and eight medical corpsmen run the A&D tent, an impromptu hospital-in-the-field. It is equipped to treat the seriously wounded with such immediate help devices as resuscitators and laryngoscope in the front of the tent. The more minor wounds such as the captain's slashed finger—and the walking wounded are routed to the rear of the tent for less immediate aid.

Once a doctor makes his diagnosis, the corpsmen take over and apply treatment, except in the extreme cases where a doctor's knowledge is required.

The A&D men spend from five to 20 minutes on each patient before he is evacuated to one of the rear hospitals for major medical aid or surgery. The walking wounded and others with minor wounds are, of course, treated on the spot. They are kept in the wards until treated until they can return to duty.

toon spotted a VC hiding in the water behind a canoe.

Sergeant Alonzo reached the canoe and started to chase the VC, who was diving and swimming under water to escape detection. He caught the VC. They wrestled and the canoe was overturned putting both men in the water. For the next 30 minutes, Alonzo swam after the enemy while his men cheered him on.

The VC finally tired and Sgt. Alonzo caught the man and emerged dripping on the beach, as the winner of the race. Sergeant Alonzo's only comment was, "He sure was a good swimmer . . ."

Army Pilot Saves Marine

DA NANG, (I Corps AVN-10) —An alert Army test pilot has been credited with saving a young Marine's life at Da Nang.

CWO Kyle Spaulding was performing a test flight in one of I Corps Aviation Company's UH-1B helicopters. The unit, part of the 14th Aviation Battalion, is located at Marble Mountain Airfield.

Flying over the beach, CWO Spaulding noticed a group of people. One man was waving a towel to attract the aircraft. CWO Spaulding immediately landed.

A Marine had been caught in the strong undertow and was completely exhausted and barely breathing. Loaded on the Army chopper, he was in a hospital bed minutes later. Doctors credited his recovery to the quick helicopter pick up.

April 1966

1st Log's Flying Medics Keep Combat Deaths Low

SAIGON. (1st LOG-IO)—From the southern deltas to the northern highlands, air ambulances of the 1st Logistical Command in South Vietnam are helping cut the death rate for wounded to less than one per cent, the lowest combat-fatality figure in history.

Providing the backbone for this life saving effort are two helicopter ambulance companies. The Logistical Command's nearly 200 "flying medics" whirl their 50 unarmed helicopters day and night, week after week, into hostile areas, dodging enemy bullets as they go, risking their own lives to save those of others.

Combat fatalities have been reduced by 250 per cent from the days of the Korean War when air evacuation was introduced. Before helicopter ambulances were used, 4.5 per cent of the combat wounded in World War II died, while World War I saw eight per cent of the wounded succumb.

The helicopter has eliminated the intolerable wait of hours or even days some wounded soldiers had to endure in past wars. Long, rough cross-country movement in tactical ground ambulances has all but vanished. Director of medical service for the 1st Logistical Command, Col. James Weir claims medical evacuation flights in February averaged only 30 minutes each, a speed which meant the difference between life and death for hundreds of patients.

The job is not an easy one. On more than one occasion pilots have had to defend themselves and their patients from enemy fire despite the large red crosses prominently displayed on the helicopters' fuselages. Three pilots have been killed and eight more crewmen have suffered from wounds severe enough to be evacuated back to the United States. Many more have been less seriously wounded.

In its fledgling days, helicopter evacuation merely gave patients a "ride" to rear area medical facilities. Today the assistance is much more complete. From the external litters carried on the small "bubble" helicopter of a dozen years ago, air evacuation has advanced to today's powerful and spacious "Hueys" which can carry up to nine patients and a crew of four.

The ships resemble small mobile dispensaries when the list of medical equipment and supplies they carry is added up. Splints,

tourniquets, bandages, and tape, drinking water, blankets and a small surgical kit are all included. The medic on board can also give intravenous injections of whole blood, or dextrose and morphine. If given advance notice, the sky medics will also carry oxygen along.

While in emergencies any helicopter can be pressed from its normal activities into evacuation service, it is the every day task for the 1st Logistical Command's two medical aviation companies. The 498th Helicopter Ambulance Company has its headquarters in Nha Trang, with platoons in Qui Nhon and Pleiku. Commanding the unit is Lt. Col. Joseph P. Madrano.

The other company is, in Army terms, "provisional." Commanding its four separate detachments is Maj. Glenn Williams. At Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport, the 57th and 283rd Helicopter Ambulance Detachments make their home, while the 82nd is at Soc Trang and the 254th calls Long Binh its base. (One other unit, the medical battalion of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, also has medical evacuation helicopters.)

The work of these crewmen does not go unrewarded. Walking through hospital wards the men are often greeted by a remembering patient who can sum up a depth of meaning in a "Thanks" to a smiling aviator.



PHOTO HAND-OUT—Lt. Col. Philip R. Feir, XO of the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, passes out photographs to the villagers of Buon Brieng, a Montagnard village in Darlac province. The photos were taken in the village the day before by members of a 3rd Bde. civic action team. (Photo by 25th INF-IO)

equipment with ladder.

Tactical is requested and "Huey" is attached to the party as seeing going to the "trooper" for a night.

The inter available to aid in their location dense that to climb flashlight identifying.

The Chin area, and group. The and the in their prison.

While the made trace from the "Hueys" sprayed the gun fire.

Tactical in and the with bomb.

"We won't it, wasn't ladder," team mem.

Beat Prob Wet

QUI NH U.S. Army any has dust probl the area

Dust cau equipment 1 made, d and uncon

The 362 gallon dru public we mounted trailer. P the compa tion added the necessa nect the b

The hor was nam Douche "Six" com nation, and from the F or bath. T some 30,0 along 15 n Phu Tai-V week, mak valley safe

Cong. The the drivers aden trucks plantation. ined.

amese driv- one: beaten oned. When finally re- their empty ge of Long reported the officials.

as given to he "Big Red the 1st Bat- y-to bring

ds" neared speculated on s the trucks Rations des- garrison at isily be the the memory tions and a t lunch, the

wary of an way through le so as to ion from the d the groves was alert for sh.

truck driv- n, were piled one grove of hastily cov- w. branches. proached the till watching A few of the amined the contents. In eight of their "No wonder ff" cried one er, "there's rations!"

chagrin, the ith their Bat- Omnia Para- prepared) and eting their

stem

ANF) — The shed a new s for assign- areas, includ- res returnees ie maximum NUS or a long being reas-

24-month buf- n-assignments

he nine-month to short tour l long-tour re-

is set forth in Circular 614-8



Men of the 1st Infantry Division carry a wounded member of the 283rd Helicopter Ambulance Detachment. It belongs to the 1st Logistical Command.

(Photo by 1st LOG-IO)

ying Medics bat Deaths Low

rniquets, bandages, and tape, nking water, blankets and a all surgical kit are all includ-

The medic on board can also e intravenous injections of ole blood, or dextrose and orphine. If given advance ice, the sky medics will also ry oxygen along.

While in emergencies any heli-oter can be pressed from its rmal activities into evacuation vice, it is the every day task the 1st Logistical Command's o medical aviation companies. e 498th Helicopter Ambulance mpany has its headquarters in a Tráng, with platoons in Qui on-and-Pleiku. Commanding e unit is Lt. Col. Joseph P. adrano.

The other company is, in Army terms, "provisional." Commanding its four separate detachments is Maj. Glenn Williams. At Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport, the 57th and 283rd Helicopter Ambulance Detachments make their home, while the 82nd is at Soc Trang and the 254th calls Long Binh its base. (One other unit, the medical battalion of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, also has medical evacuation helicopters.)

The work of these crewmen does not go unrewarded. Walking through hospital wards the men are often greeted by a remembering patient who can sum up a depth of meaning in a "Thanks" to a smiling aviator.



Via 'Trooper Ladder'

AN KHE.- (1st CAV-IO) — A "First Team" helicopter made a night pick-up of a Vietnamese Special Intelligence Unit, which was holding three Viet Cong as prisoners during a "Flying Horsemen" operation in the central highlands near Pleiku.

The chopper from the 1st Cavalry Division's 228th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion, responded to a call from the Vietnamese unit, who had been battling a force of insurgents and succeeded in capturing three of them. They were being pursued through the dense jungle by the VC and only an airlift out of the jungle would save them from being overtaken and captured.

The huge CH-47 lifted off and sped towards the pick-up area, equipped with a 130-foot "trooper ladder."

Tactical air support was requested and four armed UH-1B "Huey" helicopters were attached to the search and rescue party as security forces. This was going to be the first time the "trooper ladder" had been used for a night extraction.

The intelligence team had available a radio and flashlight to aid in guiding the Chinook to their location. The jungle was so dense that one of the team had to climb a tree and shine his flashlight to assist the pilots in identifying the area.

The Chinook hovered over the area, and finally located the group. The ladder was put down and the intelligence team and their prisoners climbed aboard.

While the pick-up was being made tracer fire was received from the ground. The armed "Hueys" fired their rockets and sprayed the area with machine gun fire.

Tactical air support was called in and the zone was saturated with bombs from the air.

"We wouldn't be here now, if it wasn't for that 'trooper ladder,'" said one of the rescued team members.



STILL SMILING—PFC Anson Yeager III, a crew chief with the 197th Armed Helicopter Company, seems to be taking it quite well, even though his ship crashed recently, landing with one of its landing skids across his chest. (Photo by USARV-IO)

197th Crew Chief Describes Being Shot Down... And At

TAN SON NHUT. (USARV-IO) — "Flashes of light and dark were all I could see as the helicopter rolled over and over until it finally came to rest with one of its landing skids across my chest."

This is how PFC Anson Yeager III, a crew chief with the 197th Armed Helicopter Company here described being shot down recently.

Yeager was on an eight-day operation in Tuy Hoa and his helicopter had just made a reconnaissance run when it was ambushed by three VC machineguns.

The helicopter was hit 22 times and the pilot immediately lost control and crashed in a rice paddy.

"For a moment I was in a daze," Yeager commented, "but I soon realized that I was trapped and enemy gunfire was hitting all around me."

Fortunately the ground beneath me was soft mud and I was able to squirm out from under the aircraft," he added.

"I returned fire with my .45 and I checked the aircraft for the pilot and gunner, who were looking for weapons and ammunition," Yeager said.

The men were on the ground for about seven minutes until the lead ship spotted and marked their position. Another helicopter swooped down under heavy fire to pick them up.

On another occasion, the crew chief's helicopter was in Tan An on an emergency evacuation run with a wounded soldier when his ship was hit seven times by enemy fire from less than 100 yards away.

The helicopter was down for

two and one-half hours in the hot combat area while repairs were being made. After repairs were made, the helicopter continued its mission.

They Fly And Teach

CAN THO, (13th AVN-IO) —

Members of the Army's 13th Aviation "Delta" Battalion are devoting their free time to teach classes in conversational English to 61 students at the Vinh Long Normal School, located in the Mekong Delta.

The classes began after the Normal School faculty presented Capt. Jackson E. Todd, S-5, Advisory Team No. 52, with a request for English classes. Captain Todd passed the request to the Vinh Long Installation Coordinator for volunteers to teach English at the Normal School.

Members of Company A, 502nd Aviation Battalion, and the 114th Aviation Company, the 13th Aviation Battalion units stationed at Vinh Long, responded to the call for English instructors.

Each class consists of 15 students and two instructors. To initiate the program, entrance examinations were given to 105 students, 61 of which were chosen for the first classes. As more volunteers join the teaching staff, other classes will be added. There are an additional 115 students waiting to be enrolled.

The brigade consists of seven engineer combat battalions, five engineer construction battalions and 14 separate companies. These units are organized into three engineer groups.

The 35th Engineer Group (Construction) is located at Cam Ranh Bay. It is commanded by Col. William J. Hart, Jr.

In February, the group completed the Phan Rang Expeditionary Airfield, a modern Air Force facility with a 10,000 foot runway. At Cam Ranh, they continued to improve the logistic facilities by building roads, improving drainage and constructing buildings.

The unit's combat capability was proved at Tuy Hoa during this time when, 40 kilometers of road had to be cleared of mines and booby traps each day.

The 937th Engineer Group (Construction), commanded by Col. William W. Watkin is located at Qui Nhon. Its contribution to the record producing brigade included a 15 mile road for the Republic of Korea "Tiger" Division.

Another project completed in February was Vietnam's most modern heliport in the ROK valley near Qui Nhon. The heliport provides two helicopter companies with parking, maintenance, POL and traffic control

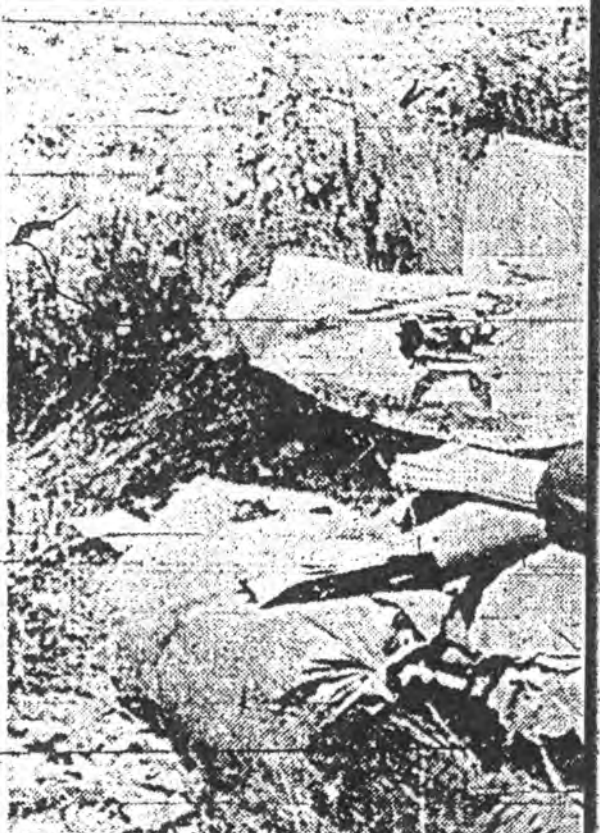
is now a system w from the being un Spec points in to the 1 Ranh an ports th pendent

The in the U port cost major di in Vietn the move as 40 of for the v

On a via a cu the emp loading.

A forward nam ope has used to servic

In on, roll nam was the. 100 "worked



NO MAIL CALL FOR "CHARLIE"
1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division,
ments of the 1st Infantry Division

To Dinner

BIEN HOA, (501st AVN-IO)—The "Rattlers," known to some as Company A, 501st Aviation Battalion, have airlifted their 100,000th soldier in the combat zone.

The 100,000 mark capped for the "Rattlers" 413 days of continuous operation in the Republic of Vietnam. They paused in the routine of war to honor the people who mean most to them, the ground soldier, the troops they haul into battle.

The recognition came to Sgt. James Nelson, a Special Forces advisor, who, along with some 400 other soldiers, was heli-lifted to the edge of War Zone D. Sergeant Nelson, when informed of his record-setting status, only had time to say, "Hey! How about that!" The "Rattlers" equally as busy with preflight checks made by flashlight, quickly informed Nelson and invited him to a steak dinner upon his return from the mission. But that's how it happens when there's a war to be fought. There is no time for pomp and ceremony; all that can come later.

Major Donald J. Haid, ("Jug"), commanding officer of the "Rattlers" said, in reference to the brief handling of the distinction bestowed on Nelson, "Sergeant Nelson knows; the 'Rattlers' know, too. It takes a lot of sweat to lift 100,000 of anything."

A quick look at the 501st flight records shows that since their assignment to the 145th Aviation Battalion on 14 December 1964, they've flown more than 27,500 combat hours, completed more than 65,000 sorties in the combat zone, and carried in excess of 903 tons of cargo. The 501st is assigned to the Army Aviation Brigade.

"You don't chalk up a record like ours without paying," said Tom Theakston, "Rattler" operations specialist. "We've had 35 men wounded since we've been here and the way some of those choppers come back with holes in them . . . well, it's a wonder some of them still fly."

Their mark observed, the "Rattlers" lifted off as the first light broke over the coastal hills to the east and deposited Nelson and his comrades in a swath of jungle clearing not much bigger than a two-car garage.

Specialist Five Ray Jackson, crewchief on the helicopter that carried Nelson, summed up the "Rattler" sentiment when he said, "I guess it's really not Nelson . . . I mean, think of the 99,999 guys that came before him. Too bad we can't invite them all to dinner."

New Quarry Site

CAM RANH BAY, (18th EB-IO)—Engineers of the Army's Company A, 864th Engineer Battalion are opening a new quarry site here. When it is fully operational three months from now it will produce a ten-fold increase in the daily output of vitally needed crushed rock to 4500 cubic yards.

The men working the quarry will be using the new type pneumatic rock drill mounted on crawler tracks, instead of the pneumatic hand operated drills of the past. The bored holes will then be filled with dynamite charges and set off, loosening the rock for work by the dozers and



SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN—Children of the Thu Duc National Orphanage hold a number sheet, one of many gifts to them from the First Graders of Campbell School, Muskegon, Michigan. The gifts were originally sent to the men of the 89th MP Group, who have been supporting the orphanage since November, 1965.

(Photo by 89th MP-IO)

'Headhunters' Celebrate First

PLEIKU, (219th AVN-IO) — Their unit patch is inscribed with "Combat Surveillance", their call sign is "Headhunter". They celebrated the anniversary of their first birthday March 25th, 1966. The 219th is a part of the newly formed U.S. Army Aviation Rde.

Officially recognized as the 219th Aviation Company, 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion, the "Headhunters" were activated at Fort Hood, Texas. They are the largest aviation company by aircraft count in the United States Army, having 48 O-1F surveil-

lance aircraft, more commonly known as "Birddogs".

Arriving in Vietnam June 12th, 1965, the newly trained aviators quickly gained combat experience. After a trip around the traffic pattern, they were turned loose to practice their trade—finding the Viet Cong.

The 219th is assigned the primary mission of visual surveillance of the 84,000 square kilometers which compose Vietnam's II Corps Tactical Zone. With company headquarters at Camp Holloway, Pleiku, the unit is deployed to 13 sites, varying from

improved airfields with control towers and maintenance facilities to dirt strips with no radio facilities at all, a mechanic with a tool box, and 55-gallon fuel drums with hand pump; from sites with eight aircraft to sites with a lonely bird.

Flying at tree top level over the II Corps area, from the coastal lowlands to mountain plateaus and jungles, along the Laotian and Cambodian borders, and along the coastline of the South China Sea, the aviators became veterans.

In addition to visual reconnaissance, which proved exceptionally successful, denying the Viet Cong the free reign of the land they previously enjoyed, the "Headhunters" performed many missions such as forward air control for Air Force fighters, medical evacuation, resupply for Special Forces camps, observation over combat operations, radio relays, artillery and naval gunfire adjustment, and search and rescue.

One of the aviators of the 219th was responsible for the rescue of the survivors of Dak Sut, the overrun Special Forces camp. Flying at tree top level, and receiving heavy Viet Cong fire, he spotted the survivors in the undergrowth, and directed helicopters to them.

The Viet Cong, to their dismay, found that the "Headhunters" are also deadly accurate with the four .75 high explosive rockets slung under their wings. They are designed primarily for the marking of targets, but make excellent aggressive and suppressive ammunition. The "Headhunters" have accounted for a high number of Viet Cong.

The "Headhunters" have also participated in all major operations and engagements in the II Corps area. To name a few: Plei Me, Duc Co, Ia Drang, the Bong Son Operation, operations White Wing, Masher, Garfield, support of the 101st Airborne Division at An Khe, and opening of Route 19 from Qui Nhon to Pleiku. They also support smaller operations on a daily basis.

The "Headhunters" have over 17,500 accident free hours. This, in a combat zone, often flying in marginal weather over treacherous enemy held terrain, day and night, is significant achievement in itself.

The Headhunters were formed, brought to Vietnam, and commanded by Major Robert A. Lust until February 1965. Their new commander is Maj. James L. Wyatt.

69th Signal Battalion Dedicates Compound

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-IO) —An Army compound here has been dedicated to the memory of a non-commissioned officer killed in a Saigon BEQ explosion last January.

In special ceremonies, the 69th Signal Battalion compound was renamed Camp Gaylor in honor of SSgt. Gerald H. Gaylor, a former member of the 593rd Signal Company.

Gaylor was killed January 22 when a Viet Cong terrorist parked his bicycle loaded with

explosives against the wall of his BEQ. One other soldier was wounded.

At the memorial dedication, Gaylor was praised for his exemplary performance of duty as non-commissioned officer during his 16 months with the 69th.

Brig. Gen. Richard J. Seitz, U.S. Army, Vietnam, chief of staff, placed a wreath of flowers at the base of a memorial plaque. Traditional taps followed as the officers and men of the 69th saluted their fallen comrade.



NEVER HAPPENS A THIRD TIME?—Staff Sergeant Franklin D. Strong of 1st Infantry's Company B shows where three Viet Cong bullets came out of his helmet. The three rounds entered the front of the helmet and came out of the back, but Sgt. Strong was only knocked out from the bullets striking his helmet.

(Photo by 1st INF-IO)

Druggis

DARLAC, (25th INF) are mornings when it pay to crawl out of y Take, for instance, Cong in northern Da ince, where the 25th Division's 3rd Brigade conducting "Operation

When advancing from 1st Battalion, 35 found a communist fle they discovered it evacuated so quickly quantities of medic were left behind. T

Lightning" soldiers doctors and medical with the newly acquire into the Viet Cong-har lets to begin treatin lagers.

Armed with the cap cine, Brigade Surge William R. Gardner, launched an extensiv care program for villagers around the Buon Brieng comman

Amazed by the high the-captured—dru Gardner said, "The p not as neat as our quality and purity zood."

Among the quantiti cillin, streptomycin, sulfa and morphine, discovered large amo feine and strichnif, lants used by the V drive their fighters l normal capacities

Some drugs bore la ing they were made North Vietnam and J others were from Rec the Soviet Union.

As if the drugs were the brigade also captu ber of surgical which, of course, haved to the medics' d ing "arsenal."

With the medical program in full swi lagers of Darlac P thank their unfriendl hood terrorist for b friendly, neighborhood

New Dufi LOG Troo

SAIGON, (1st LOG U.S. Army's 1st Logi mand assumes 10 new duties here on April

All hospitals, disper tor transportation, u lets, commissary messes, and public w administration within area will be administ 1st Logistical Comma

In addition, the 1s Command will soon to troop education and s lees activities in the IV Corps areas.

A spokesman for the cal Command said it that additional recrui ties will soon be ay include expanded o for swimming, golf an In the troop educat ment, plans are being to establish University land extension course lieemen.



STANDERS—A terrified Vietnamese mother clutches her daughter while her seemingly petrified older child stands behind her as Korean troops of the "Tiger" Division sweep through the cane field.
(Photo by UPI, Steve Northup)

t Log Comd

...d year as the logistical in Vietnam. "Speed and ...sted to welcome tens of aids of supplies, opened ... points, bakeries, laun- ...-battlefield and tended ... provide — when it was ... you were here before me. ...nnel. Your enemies were ... and the heat. To get ... time, and substituted in- ...hat wasn't there. ...w you'll rise to measure. ...done to create a truly ...all equipment and train ...to do it.

Command

Miracles Do Happen

BIEN HOA, (1st INF-10) — When a soldier's steel helmet is hit by a bullet and he lives to talk about the experience, he considers himself lucky.

When the helmet is ripped open twice without scratching his scalp, he considers himself unusually lucky. And when it is blown apart by three rounds, as in the case of one "Big Red One" infantryman, SSgt. Franklin D. R. Strong, and he emerges unscathed—all one can do is just thank God and consider the longevity of one's life nothing short of miraculous.

During "Operation Mastiff", Company B, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry acted as security for the 2nd Brigade forward base camp at Dau Tieng, 40 miles northeast of Saigon with Strong's squad, security for the aid station.

When the generator was shut

Hueys Pull Big Load

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10)—"I'm going to have to ditch her," radioed the "First Team" helicopter pilot as his chopper was riddled with Viet Cong automatic weapons fire on a recent Cavalry operation.

The three aircraft of the First Team's 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, were on a routine mission extracting troops approximately 20 miles northwest of Qui Nhon when the lead ship was blasted by the enemy shortly after the pickup.

Automatic weapons fire slammed into the engine oil cooler and the pilot was forced to bring his ship down in a small rice paddy surrounded by tall coconut trees and brush.

The pilots of the other two choppers hovered above, and then swooped down landing next to the crippled aircraft.

As the enemy saturated the area with fire, the crew members and infantry troopers crammed into the two waiting helicopters.

The first ship off barely cleared the trees in its path. The second aircraft with its 13 soldiers was not as fortunate. The main rotor blade struck the tops of the trees and the chopper lost altitude. There were several more trees looming ominously ahead. The pilot pulled all the power available and the aircraft lifted over, just clearing the treetops.

off temporarily to refuel it one night, Sergeant Strong heard definite sounds of movement in the black groves of trees. He alerted his squad and strained his eyes, attempting to pierce the darkness. The generator was restarted; immediately afterward three shots from an automatic rifle cracked the night air. The first shot pierced the top of the squad leader's helmet and lifted it slightly; the second ripped it in midcenter, further lifting it from his head; and the third caught his helmet at the front visor as it lifted off his head.

Strong, momentarily stunned, quickly regained his senses and joined his squad's return fire at the fleeing guerilla.

April 1, 1966

April 1, 1966

Silver Star Awarded To 116th Crew Chief— Pfc John P. Naylor

266

SAIGON, (USARV-IO).—PFC John P. Naylor of the 116th Avn Co, 11th Avn. Bn., has been awarded the Silver Star for his actions while serving as crew chief of a UH-1D helicopter during combat operations on January 30, 1966.

Upon hearing a radio message that another UH-1D helicopter had just been shot down by Viet Cong ground fire and immediate assistance was needed, Private Naylor volunteered for the mission. He had complete knowledge that the downed aircraft was in an insecure area and that the area was receiving heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire.

V

Immediately after landing, Naylor ran through a continuous barrage of hostile ground fire to the ship, ripped away the engine cowling, and disconnected the main fuel line. He then discovered that the radios and M-60 machine guns had been left in the helicopter after the injured crew and passengers had been evacuated.

All-
and
er-
ler,
1-15

After removing the machine guns and placing them on both sides of the helicopter, he directed two nearby ground troopers to man one of the guns. He then climbed on top of the helicopter and disconnected the battery. Although several rounds struck the downed ship, and three or four mortars landed less than 30 meters away, and despite the fact that his helicopter was forced to temporarily leave the area, Private Naylor remained at the site. He started to remove the radios from the downed ship. For the next 10 minutes he alternated between removing radio equipment and directing fire at the Viet Cong.

He remained by the crashed helicopter until additional ground troops secured the area.



MEETING—Brig. Gen. Seitz, Chief of Staff, USARV, and Sgt. Maj. Valentine F. Frankie look over a series of greeting cards sent to the soldiers of USARV by the 5th Ordnance Battalion stationed in Germany. (Photo by USARV-IO)

were attributed to and his mortar pl Knowing that L men in his platoon

All Records Shattered By Avn Units

CAN SON NHUT, (USARV-IO)

Army aviation units have surpassed all records in their support military operations in the Republic. Figures for the month of January, this year, indicate that all sorties, hours flown, total number of troops carried and total pounds of cargo lifted were almost 10 times the amounts of a year ago.

Flying six types of helicopters and six types of fixed-wing aircraft, the Army pilots and their crews flew a total of 50,000 sorties in February, 1965 and over 190,000 during February of this year. Of these, almost 24,000 were armed sorties by helicopters. Total hours flown rose sharply—over 27,000 in February of last year and over 270,000 the past month.

Troop carry increased from 70,000 to 279,000, an increase of almost 400 percent. This includes not only troops lifted in combat operations, but also persons traveling as passengers within the command.

Cargo hauling showed the greatest increase, almost 1,000 percent, from a total of only 2,594 tons in February a year ago. Army aircraft moved over 21,000 tons last month.

Armed with 2.75 inch rockets, 62 machineguns and 40mm grenade launchers, the flyers picked up a total of over 11,000 VC killed during the past year. The figure for the past month—1,600 indicates this will be equalled or surpassed in 1966.

The tremendous increase in the number of aircraft in Vietnam from 500 a year ago to over 1600, as necessitated the formation of several new headquarters. These are the 12th and 17th Groups, the 4th Aircraft and Maintenance Supply Group and the Aviation Brigade. The latter, the only aviation brigade in the Army, is commanded by Brigadier General George P. Senoff and controls all non-divisional aviation units in the country.

VC Lose Friends Exposed

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO)—The Viet Cong short course in how to lose antagonize people has been winning droves of villagers in Hau Nghia troops of the 25th Infantry "Tropic Lightning" Division's 2nd Brigade.

When the brigade arrived at its base camp, 20 miles northwest of Saigon in January, they encountered hostility and misgivings among the natives, a village of Vinh Cu, where the Americans were regarded as just more soldier

them. The distrust of villagers in the area is being redirected from the Americans to the Viet Cong because of the guerrillas' recent terrorist activities against the citizens.

Recently, members of B Company, 65th Engineer Battalion, were working to remove dirt fill from a quarry not far from the brigade's cantonment. A group of children had gathered, sidewalk superintendent style, to watch the American men and machines at work.

Unnoticed, two Viet Cong stole up behind the children and tossed a grenade into their midst. The resulting explosion seriously injured two of the youngsters, who were immediately hospitalized at the Americans' medical aid station.

Members of A Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, who were safeguarding the engineers' operations, reacted and shot one Viet Cong, while the other escaped. When a pursuit force went to locate the downed terrorist, they found only a trail of blood leading to a tunnel. Searching the tunnel proved fruitless when the telltale blood trail faded.

Such tactics have worked to the Viet Cong's disadvantage. The villagers have ignored warnings to stop selling soft drinks to the Americans in spite of VC threats to mine their marketplace and plant grenades around Vinh Cu.

It is a marked contrast to the animosity "Tropic Lightning" soldiers encountered when they first moved to Cu Chi.

When agents crept into the village several nights ago and erected posters warning they would kidnap 2d Brigade's Medical Care Aid Program team, the medics, ignoring the threat, set up their dispensary as usual the following morning. Over 85 villagers were treated without incident.

And when the soldiers noticed villagers were forced to wade

across a stream to go to their rice fields, the engineers got busy and built a 15-foot long timber trestle bridge.

Improving Vietnamese-American

relations, in proving to be a brigade. With Vietnam, their effort easier.

1st LOG Claims All Time

SAIGON, (1st LOG-IO) — Approximately 9000 short tons of cargoes destined for American and Free World forces in Vietnam are being unloaded daily, representing a new all-time high in tonnage handled by the Army's 1st Logistical Command.

During February, an average of under 9000 tons per day was unloaded in this country, with Cam Ranh and Saigon receiving large shares of the military imports.

A spokesman command creditment, better facilities and favor being instrumental in the flow of into the II, III areas. The logistical command are loading and moving troops in the To the north, in similar response the U. S. Navy



ASSAULT BOAT—Engineers of the 173d boat after it was delivered by helicopter in search for an underwater VC bridge.