

Promise Of New Life Given VN Boy By 196th Bde Doctor

TAY NINH, (196th INF-10)—Thanks to the medcap team of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, a 15-month-old Vietnamese boy will soon be able to live a normal life.

Without the doctors, Le Huu Dung would have had to live the life of a mute, disfigured by a cleft lip and palate.

Captain Richard Rose, Jr., and 1st Lt. Michael Kuschera were treating sick Vietnamese in the Ap Cao Na village dispensary when they noticed a baby with a cleft lip crawling about the room.

Examining the child, they found he also had a cleft palate which would prevent him from ever speaking normally.

The doctors learned that the child's mother was in the next room, a maternity ward, where she had just delivered another baby two hours before. Rose and Kuschera talked with the mother about taking the baby to Saigon where plastic surgery could repair the lip and palate.

Since her husband was away with the Vietnamese Army, she discussed the operation with the child's grandfather, who was in

favor. After further talks with the mother, grandfather, and the village chief, Rose flew to Saigon where he interested Lt. Col. Joseph Molloy, commanding officer of the Army's 3rd Field Hospital, and Maj. James F. Peterson, chief of plastic surgery, in the project. They set a date in late November for the operation, and Rose returned to Tay Ninh to make final arrangements with the family.

The day before the operation, Le Huu Dung and his grandfather boarded a helicopter with Rose, and flew to Tan Son Nhut where a waiting ambulance took them to the hospital.

Peterson repaired the lip the next day. Since it was felt the baby's bones needed more time to develop before working on his palate, that operation was not performed. It has been scheduled to take place in eight months.

Saigon River Life Is An Adventure

SAIGON, (1st LOG-10)—Life on the river as depicted by Mark Twain's fabled Huck Finn was a life full of adventure and good times.

Of course, the river was the mighty Mississippi and not the Saigon, but for the men of the

329th Transportation Company who daily travel the twisting Saigon River, adventure is also around the next bend.

While Huck's craft was nothing more than a log raft built with two, the Landing Craft Utility (LCU's) of the company are manned with crews of 10 to 20 men and are soldier-fixed with all the comforts of "home." Modern messing facilities, creative cooks on the boats, only keep the crews well-fed, also keeps the morale high.

Trips back and forth to V. Tau without setting foot on land is part of the everyday river experience by the soldier-sailors who often spend weeks on traveling the river supply route.

Chapel services are conducted weekly on the "floating home" by staff chaplains of the transportation unit to insure a bit in the somewhat routine lives of the men. The weekly services, not always conducted on Sunday because of the busy schedule of the chaplains who hold regular Sunday services ashore.

1st Inf Div Btry Cited

LAI KHE, (1st INF-10) — Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 33rd Artillery has been cited for its meritorious service while supporting elements of the 1st Infantry Division during a recent operation.

Members of the battery received a total of 13 Bronze Stars for meritorious service. Major General W.E. DePuy, Big Red One commanding general, presented the awards and expressed his thanks to the men of the battery for their achievements during the operation.

Delta Advisor Finds Mines, Punji Sticks

VINH LONG, (IV CORPS-10) — Many advisors throughout the Delta encounter mine fields, but Capt. Albert F. Crowder, and SSGT. J.D. Atkins, advisors to the 1st Battalion, 13th Regiment, part of the 9th Army Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division, encountered field after field of punji sticks and trip mines during a recent operation.

The operation was south of here in the Delta.

One of the oldest rules when operating in a strange area is to stay on the trail of the person in front of you. Every infantryman knows this rule is sometimes broken and many times, he gets away with it.

Crowder stated he had never come across anything of this nature during his nine months in-country. Atkins, with two months in-country, had the opportunity to observe the Viet Cong traps early in his tour. The punji sticks were

wooded area stretching into the paddies, some of the traps being covered while many were open. There were none on the immediate trail although a sidestep six inches either way would find a stick.

The trip grenades and other explosive traps were numerous in the area, mostly placed at canal crossings and the most favorable crossing areas. The unit found almost a dozen traps within a 100 to 200 meter area. The traps were set with almost invisible wire that resembled a fishing leader. One of the explosive traps was made of a 20mm cannon shell casing. The unit also found an improvised claymore mine, several documents, two civilian radios, and a radio repair kit.

'Hornblower I' Will Give Charlie Hard Time On Saigon, Soi Rap

SAIGON, (1st LOG-10)—With a sharp blast on a ship's horn and the frightening roar of a howitzer, a team of soldiers from the 1st Logistical Command and 1st Infantry Division launched what is perhaps the most unusual boat in the Army's Vietnam "navy," Hornblower I.

Hornblower is an Army landing craft, mechanized (LCM), operated by the 4th Transportation Command. It has a few slight modifications designed to give

Charlie reason to pause before attacking Big Red One units providing security to vessels that have run aground along the Saigon and Soi Rap Rivers. The modifications, quite simply, made room for a 105mm howitzer.

Perched on the bow of the boat, skippered by Sp4 David L. Miller of the 1099th Medium Boat Company, the gun stands ready and able to place effective artillery fire on Viet Cong anywhere along the brush wastelands that border

the main shipping channel between Saigon and the South China Sea. The gun is manned by Red Legs of the 1st Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry.

The boat, which regularly carries vehicles and general cargo up and down the crowded waterway, been "shored up" with him and sandbags to accommodate a gun. A fire direction center where fire missions are received and computed, was also constructed. After its "baptism fire," artillery Capt. Patrick Hosman, officer in charge of direction center, said the boat was "highly successful and beyond our expectations."

The next step, according to members of the Log-Red team, is to add another "float howitzer," giving the 1st Infantry artillerymen a virtual shore howitzer section. Charlie a king-sized headache.

Cav Sergeant Sees Crash, Saves Two

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — A Sky Trooper of the 1st Cavalry Division saved the lives of two men recently after their observation chopper had been shot down by enemy fire.

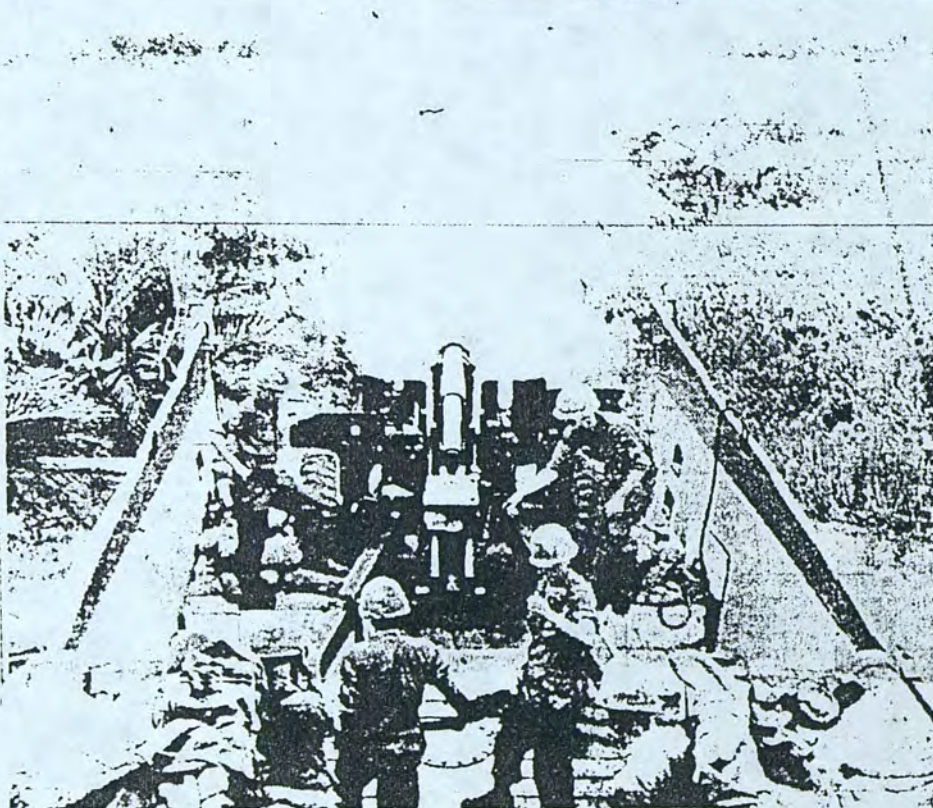
The small "hobby" chopper had observed enemy firing from bunkers and called in fire from the aerial rocket artillery (ARA) gunships of Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery.

As the small chopper circled the area, it was caught in violent enemy automatic fire. The chopper spun, hit a tree, and crashed into a rice paddy.

An ARA ship spotted movement in the wreckage and landed in a rice paddy near the downed ship. Sergeant Phillip Muldrow, door gunner on the chopper, jumped out into the waist-deep mud and started moving toward the wounded men, stopping every few steps to return the enemy fire.

When he reached the crew, the pilot, though wounded, was able to help him, and together they carried the observer back to the waiting aircraft.

Within another 30 minutes the wounded crew was receiving treatment at a field hospital and the rocket-firing helicopters had silenced the enemy guns.



WATERBORNE HOWITZER—A team of soldiers from the 1st Logistical Command and the 1st Infantry Division man the landing craft, mechanized (LCM) which was modified to accommodate a 105mm howitzer. (Photo by 1st LOG-10)

Duck, Yet?

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10)—The Sky Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade chas Charlie from his food recent.

Running a routine ambush patrol in the hills bordering coastal plains 40 miles north Qui Nhon, three Sky Troopers across VC positions so fresh the fire was still burning. A closer look revealed not only fire, but two ducks, cooked, and ready to eat.

The three, PSgt. Harvey Webber, Sgt. Thomas P. Geay and PFC Gerry E. Jordan, down to enjoy a roast duck dinner.

All three paratroopers are members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry.

As dusk was falling and the bones were piled together, a Sky Trooper remarked wishfully, "Geez, I wish 'Charlie' pizza!"

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