

101st Abn Base Camp Is Usually Deserted



MED-EVAC—Paratroopers in Operation Malheur carry to a ship a man wounded when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine. (Photo by PFC M. A. Willey, 101st ABN-IO)

Men Stay In Field Hunting Enemy

DUC PHO, (101st ABN-IO)—Visit the base camp of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Phan Rang and you will find gentle coastal breezes from the South China Sea blowing dust swirls amid empty barracks, little-used roads, and a deserted command headquarters.

All is quiet except for the buzz of activity surrounding the support battalion area as the "lifeline" of the brigade moves supplies to the forward areas.

The Screaming Eagles seldom see Phan Rang. They have rested in their base camp only about a total of three weeks since they landed at Cam Ranh Bay July 29, 1965. They stay in the field, searching out and destroying the enemy.

18 Operations

The troopers are now on Operation Malheur II. In May they joined Task Force Oregon for this operation, their 18th in the last two years.

Since landing in Vietnam, the 101st has racked up more than 3600 enemy kills.

The first assignment was to secure a base camp area for the 1st Cavalry Division in the central highlands. This mission was a battalion assault into An Ninh Valley where the troops surrounded and killed 226 Viet Cong.

Highlights

Two highlights of the division's list of actions have been Operations Geonim I at Tuy Hoa and Operation Hawthorne in Kontum.

At Tuy Hoa, semi-guerrilla tactics were successfully used

to defeat the 5th Battalion, 95th North Vietnam Army Regiment. Night operations and long range reconnaissance patrols contributed to finding the enemy. When the enemy was found, the 101st hit them with artillery, air strikes, and infantry assaults. In Kontum the paratroopers sealed off a supply route from the border, killing 531 enemy. A classic double envelopment of

the enemy and massive firepower, including a B-52 strike, gave the paratroopers victory.

The 101st moved into its second year in-country, continuing its role as a mobile striking force. The Eagles are hitting hard in the hot, steamy jungles near here. Operation Malheur had accounted for more than 235 enemy dead early this month.



CHINOOK DELIVERS—A helicopter has just dropped off a 105mm howitzer for the 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery during the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division's Operation Malheur. (Photo by PFC Freddie Duncan, 101st ABN-IO)

Hit France Ahead Of Others

Big Red One Organized In 1917; Sprang From Expeditionary Force

DI AN, (1st INF-IO)—A little more than 50 years ago the First United States Infantry Division was organized. The First Expeditionary Force was created in the early spring of 1917 and was reorganized as the 1st Infantry Division in June.

The first unit to arrive in France during World War I was also to lead the Army of Occupation into Germany following the war.

During World War II the division took part in the North African invasion, assaulted the beaches of Sicily, and invaded Western Europe at Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

By May 1945 the division's men had pushed into Czechoslovakia, 17 of its soldiers earning Medals of Honor during the

war. The Big Red One rounded out 15 years of continuous overseas duty as part of the German Occupation Forces before returning to Ft. Riley, Kan., in 1935.

Return To Combat

The first troops of the 1st Infantry Division's main body arrived in Vietnam in July 1965 and deployed to the base camp at Di An.

The division has participated on many of the major opera-

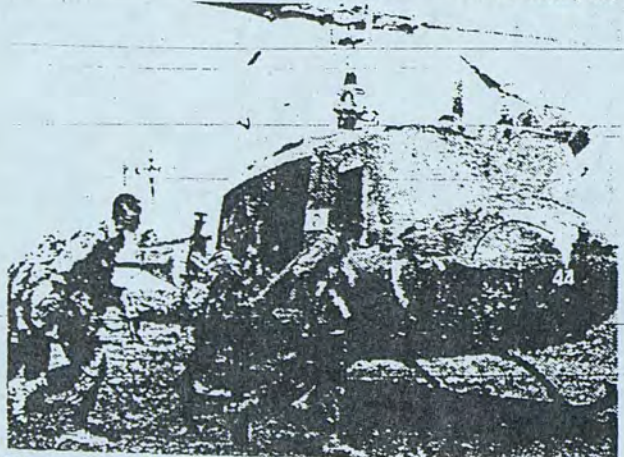
tions in Vietnam, including El Paso, Abilene, Tulsa, Attleboro, Cedar Falls, Junction City, and Manhattan.

After Operation Attleboro was three weeks old, the Big Red One got the call to join the battle, and in a gigantic airlift lasting three days, thousands of soldiers and hundreds of tons of supplies from the division had been deployed, ready for action. Three weeks later, at the operation's conclusion, the division had accounted for 840

enemy killed.

The 18-day long Operation Cedar Falls, which took place 30 miles north of Saigon in the Iron Triangle area, resulted in the division capturing over 3300 tons of enemy rice and killing 390 VC. The division was also responsible for the resettlement of 6000 villagers taken out of the battle area.

Photos by 1st INF-IO



IN A HURRY—Troops race to choppers which will take them to where Charlie is.



CALL FOR HELP—A Big Red One soldier has just called for artillery and air strike support in a recent operation.

1st Aviation Brigade Flies Over All Of VN

Since its formation more than a year ago, the 1st Aviation Brigade has demonstrated the versatility, mobility, and firepower of Army aviation in Vietnam.

The mission of the 1st Aviation Brigade is to provide command, staff planning, and administrative supervision for assigned aviation groups and battalions.

Headquartered at Tan Son Nhut, the 1st Aviation Brigade is the Army's largest operational aviation command.

Organized on March 1, 1966, as the U.S. Army Aviation Brigade (Provisional), the brigade joined the ranks of the Army's official force structure on May 23, 1966.

More than 50 combat aviation companies make up the brigade, and they are scattered throughout Vietnam, from the Demilitarized Zone to deep in the Mekong Delta. The brigade is

composed of two combat aviation groups and two separate combat aviation battalions.

Brigade Units

The 12th Combat Aviation Group, headquartered at Long Binh, provides aviation support to U.S., Vietnamese, and Free Forces (FVMAF) in the III World Military Assistance Corps area north of Saigon.

The 17th Combat Aviation Group supports I Field Force Vietnam in the II Corps area. Headquartered at Nha Trang, the group flies in support of all allied forces in the area.

The 13th Combat Aviation Battalion provides direct aviation support in the Mekong Delta. The battalion is headquartered at Can Tho.

The 210th Combat Aviation Battalion supports the Capital Military Region as well as Military Assistance Command Vietnam and USARV Headquarters. The 210th has headquarters at Tan Son Nhut.

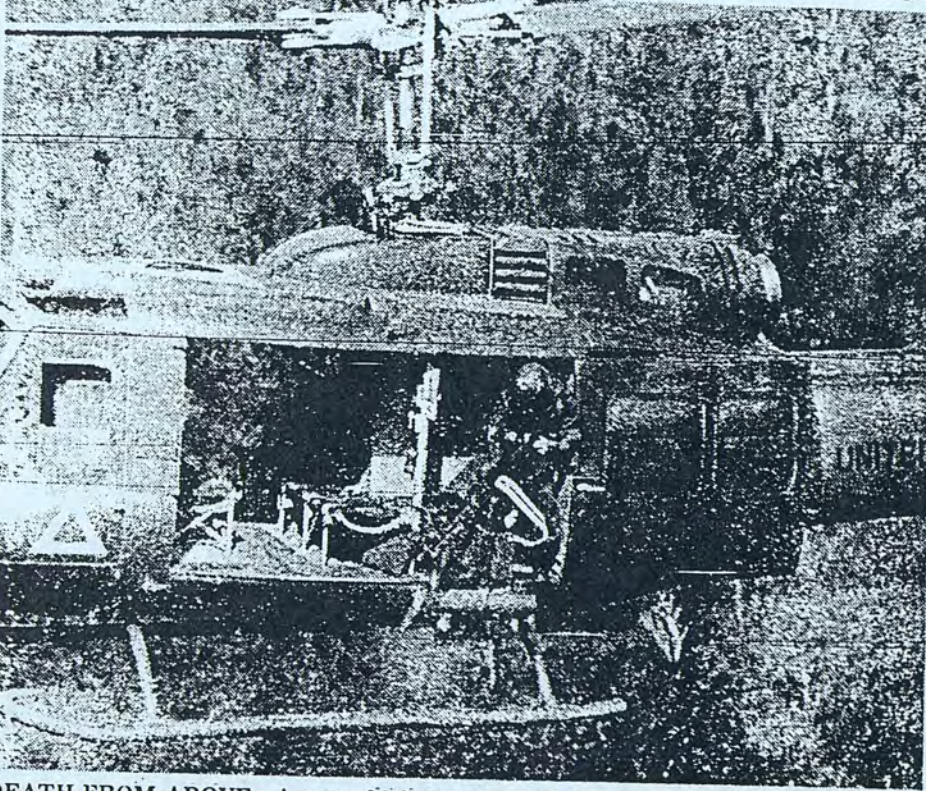
The 1st Avn. Bde. has more than 16,000 officers and men to fly and maintain its more than 1100 helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. Most non-divisional aviation units in Vietnam wear the brigade's distinctive "Golden Hawk" shoulder patch.

In the skies over Vietnam, 24

hours a day, brigade aircraft provide direct fire support, aerial troop and artillery lift capability, surveillance, reconnaissance, and administrative and liaison support for the ground forces.

During one recent month, brigade aircraft flew more than

83,000 hours, transporting nearly 400,000 passengers in 219,000 sorties, and moved almost 36,000 tons of cargo. In the same month, 1st Aviation Brigade aircraft accounted for 700 Viet Cong killed, 710 structures destroyed or damaged, and almost 600 sampans sunk or damaged.



DEATH FROM ABOVE—A crew chief aboard a 13th Combat Aviation Battalion helicopter fires his machinegun at enemy positions below.

(Photo by Sp5 Lawrence J. Sullivan, 1st AVN-IO)

First Such Army Unit

196th Sees Plenty Of Action

The requirements for a highly mobile force capable of independence counterinsurgency operations for extended periods in Vietnam was met in August, 1966, with the arrival of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

The Chargers of the Army's first independent light infantry brigade built their first base camp at Tay Ninh, 65 miles northwest of Saigon, amid the rice paddies, rubber plantations, and jungles of War Zone C. During the next eight months, the brigade saw continuous action in such operations as Attleboro, Cedar Falls, Gadsden, and Junction City. The brigade was also given the task of driving the Viet Cong from the area around Tay Ninh.

Operation Attleboro

Operation Attleboro was drawing to a close when elements of the brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry walked into a VC supply dump and captured over 2000 tons of rice, enough to feed a Viet Cong regiment for a year. Sweeping further into the jungle, the Chargers found the enemy entrenched in row after row of camouflaged, reinforced bunkers. In five days of fighting, the soldiers killed more than 183 VC.

During Operation Cedar Falls, the brigade swept the Ho Bo and Boi Loi Woods. Elements attached to the brigade discovered a huge tunnel complex which proved to be a major command center for Viet Cong operations in the Saigon area.

Ambushes and fire fights netted the brigade a total of more than 220 VC dead for the operation. Huge quantities of rice, ammunition and supplies, and several pounds of valuable enemy documents were captured.

During Operation Junction City, the Chargers ranged over a large area near the Cambodian border in the northwestern corner of Tay Ninh Province, putting the "mobile brigade" concept to the test by setting up temporary bases for limited periods and then moving

to new areas.

Midway through the operation the brigade was called back to their base camp. Boarding aircraft, the brigade was taken to Chu Lai, in Quang Ngai Province, to take over partial responsibility for the defense of the large Marine airbase there. The Chargers were the first element of Task Force Oregon to move into the northern provinces, and the first Army ground combat to conduct operations in the I Corps area.



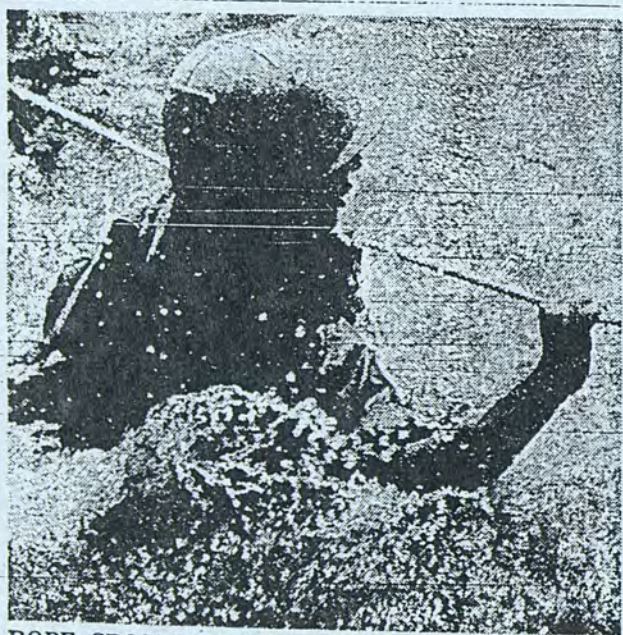
SLOSH, SLOSH—A patrol from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry walks through a stream in search of the Viet Cong.

(Photo by PFC Chris Perales, 196th INF-IO)



BIG LIFT—A Flying Crane provides mobility for an artillery unit as it transports an artillery piece from one place to another.

(Photo by 101st ABN-IO)



ROPE CROSSING—Using a rope stretched across the Soui Ben Da River, a member of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade finds the going safe but wet.

(Photo by Sp4 Robert S. Brown, 196th INF-IO)