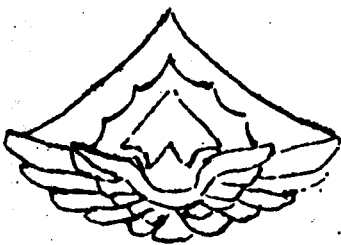


THE FALCON



"ABOVE I CORPS"

VOL 1 NO 14

16TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP, CHU LAI, RVN

DECEMBER 22, 1968

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

CAPE KENNEDY (ABC) Apollo Eight is well on its way toward the moon traveling at 42,000 miles per hour. NASA officials stated the mission is going well so far. Astronaut James Lovell says the view of Earth is beautiful and said he could see Cape Kennedy and Africa at the same time.

SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA (ABC) Police and FBI agents are moving into a mangrove swamp in Southwestern Florida this morning where it is believed Barbara Jane MacKle's kidnappers are cornered. Barbara Jane was released unharmed last night from a casket-like box that was buried about 18 inches below ground. She had been buried for four days.

WASHINGTON (ABC) White House news secretary George Christian said today President Johnson will spend at least one more day in the hospital to recover from his case of the flu.

EDWARDS AFB, CALIF. (ABC) After 198 flights, the experimental X-15 rocketship has been retired. Bad weather scrapped its last scheduled mission that was supposed to take place at Edwards AFB, Calif. The X-15 reached 67 miles above the Earth, earned astronauts wings for pilots who took it over 50 miles up and went 4250 miles per hour or nearly seven times the speed of sound.

SAIGON (ABC) United States officials in Saigon say American planes have hit anti-aircraft placements in the DMZ for the second day in a row. Meanwhile, Peace Talks negotiator Cyrus Vance has flown to Washington to report to President Johnson on the hangup in the talks at Paris, where he left behind a continuing squabble between the South and North Vietnamese according to ABC News.

PORTLAND, OREGON (ABC) Final results of that vote recount in Oregon show Senator Wayne Morse increasing his vote by only 182 votes, still leaving Republican Bob Packwood the winner. Morse says however, he may ask for a ruling by the Senate on what he calls "illegal voting."

16th CAG Goes Americal

(CHU LAI 16th CAG-IO)

Airpower for the Americal!

United States Army Vietnam general order number 5,498 amended the attachment of the 16th Combat Aviation Group effective Dec. 1, 1968 to the Americal Division.

The "Falcon Group", celebrating its first anniversary December 20, at its new location near Headquarters, Americal Division in Chu Lai, will have attached the 123rd Combat Aviation Battalion which has been operating in direct support of the division. Also attached will be the 335th Transportation Company (AM&S) which provides back up maintenance for Division aircraft.

Colonel William C. Tyrrell, commanding officer of the group stated, "The officers and men of the 16th CAG look forward with enthusiasm to becoming members of the Americal Division's fighting team."

The 16th CAG unit crest bearing the phrase "Born in Battle" and the falcon's head symbolizes its combat aviation capabilities. The mountain peaks represent the three-fold effort of the United States, Republic of Vietnam, and free world military forces to win freedom and secure peace.

The Falcon Group comes from the 1st Aviation Brigade and was based at Marble Mountain Air Facility at DaNang when it was responsible for all non-divisional Army Aviation units in I Corps Tactical Zone.

THE FALCON

THE FALCON utilizes news sources as quoted. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Vietnam or the 16th Combat Aviation Group. THE FALCON is an authorized periodic publication, released by the 16th Combat Aviation Group Information Office, Chu Lai, RVN, APO SF 96374. The editor reserves rights to edit and/or shorten all contributions to THE FALCON.

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM CO

I wish every member of the 16th Combat Aviation Group a very Merry Christmas, to Jewish personnel a Happy Chanukah, and to all my best wishes for good health, success and happiness in the coming New Year.

No matter what faith you are, the spirit of this holiday season should suffer no loss in Vietnam. You are only five or six days away from family and friends via the mailbox, and can be as close as your telephone when making a MARS call. We receive Christmas cards and packages from home—we will enjoy the traditional Christmas Day dinner. Most of all we may still revere all of the holiday's true significance, since we may worship as we see fit, as free men fighting to keep a nation free.

Let's all pray on this joyous holiday for peace with honor, with the hope that the soldiers of the U.S. Army might successfully end this conflict before another Christmas.

WILLIAM C. TYRRELL
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

CHANGE IN VETERAN BENEFITS

Veterans' college and training benefits liberalized by law change recently enacted by Congress.

-Educational and training entitlements increased from one for one formula to 1½ months of benefits for each month of service. Thus, vet serving 24 months qualifies for 36 months, or four academic school years.

-Widows of totally disabled veterans or those who die from service-connected injuries now entitled to amount of husband's benefits.

-Limitations on benefits remains 36 months with exceptions: Veterans of Korean War, eligible for 36 months of benefits, can now qualify for 12 additional months based on post-Korean service. Also, children of veterans who are veterans themselves and have used benefits based parent's entitlement, now authorized 12 months' additional benefits based on own service.

-Veterans no longer barred from receiving payments from other federally financed programs.

AVIATOR FLIES BEAUCOUP HOURS

Chief Warrant Officer Two Albert C. Cerullo, 23, of Elmont, N.Y. is completing his tour in Vietnam, having flown 1,405 combat hours in 241 flying days.

CW2 Cerullo came to the 176th Assault Helicopter Company on Nov. 19, 1967 and flew his last day on Nov. 9, 1968. He became aircraft commander after slightly more than two months and 200 hours in-country. Mr. Cerullo, "Minuteman 12", has not had an accident charged against his record since he began flying.

That doesn't mean his tour went without incident. He has had two engine failures, one while sitting in a landing zone west of Chu Lai, and one at 1600 feet above ground level. On the second occurrence, Mr. Cerullo landed his UH-1H "Huey" in the only partially clear area available. The only damage done was to the rotor blades by trees in the area which could not be avoided because of the small LZ, no one was injured.

Mr. Cerullo mentioned other exciting moments, like west of LZ Center when his helicopter received 32 hits in a LZ on a combat assault. Twelve of the rounds went through the cockpit. With severed tail rotor control cables, two crewmen and two passengers wounded, Mr. Cerullo took off and returned the crippled aircraft to the nearest hospital. He landed in a nearby rice paddy without further damage. The engine had taken a round, and there were powder burns on the bottom of the aircraft, from enemy weapons, where they were dug in on the LZ.

Mr. Cerullo has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with numerous clusters, and the Purple Heart, with several other valor awards pending.

He plans to continue his training at Hunter Army Air Base, Ga., upon his return to "the world" and hopes to earn the rating of instrument instructor, continuing the realization of his childhood dream to be a professional aviator.
(176th AHC-IO)

178th Change of Command

(CHU LAI-178th ASHC-IO)

Ceremonies at Chu Lai, Vietnam marked the departure of Major Morris M. Jessup, Okanogan, Wash., as Commanding Officer of the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company.

"Pride," said Major Jessup, "is the hinge on which a unit must stand or fall, and I'm proud to say I served with the 178th ASHC."

Major Jessup assumed duties as commanding officer on June 28, 1968. Perhaps his tour of duty can best be described by the motto inscribed above his office door—"The only difference between superior and outstanding is meticulous attention to detail." This was not only a motto, but the ground rule by which the former CO commanded.

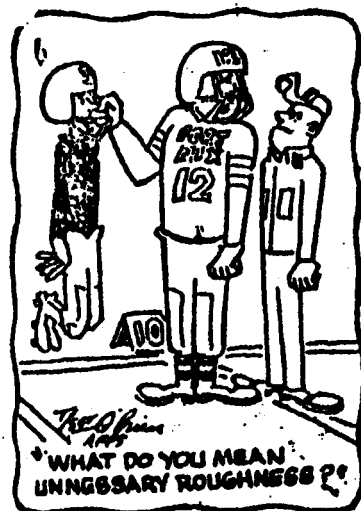
He will now face new challenges as assistant operations officer for the 16th Combat Aviation Group.

The 16th CAG Commander, Colonel William C. Tyrrell attended the ceremony and praised the "Boxcars" enviable record.

He said, "Continue to give the Americal Division the fine support you've provided them in the past."

The command was then turned over to Major Rodney A. Pimental, from Plymouth, Mass.

Major Pimental is not a new-comer to the "Boxcars", he commanded the 400th Transportation Detachment which provides maintenance and avionics support for the 178th. The Major arrived in Vietnam on May 9, 1968, and served with the 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company as service platoon commander, and company maintenance officer.



WEEK'S WEATHER 174th Claims 7 Enemy KIA

REPORT

CHU LAI, RVN (Americal Staff Weather Office)-

Weather in the Chu Lai and surrounding area for the upcoming week (Dec. 22 - Dec. 29) will be mild to cool, with late evening/ early morning rain showers for the first half of the week, a low probability for rain afterward.

The weekly high average temperatures will range from 79 to 85 degrees, the weekly lows will run from 69 to 73.

Humidity range will be from a high of 98% to about 70%, with an expected rainfall of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The cloud cover will remain partly to mostly cloudy throughout the week and the winds will be light and variable in the morning to NE at 5 to 10 knots in the late afternoon. No tropical storms are expected. The tides will be running 6 feet high at about 2400, and 2 feet low at approximately 0800 hours.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 4

- (1) Jeanne d'Arc's name did not come from her native village. There was no such village near Domremy, where she was born. She took her last name, just as every other girl does, from her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacques d'Arc.
- (2) Any answer is correct. All three are parts of the body. The Island of Reil (after physiologist Johann C. Reil) is a point in the brain. McBurney's Point (after surgeon Charles McBurney) is the point where the incision for an appendectomy is made. The Tunnel of Corti (after anatomist Alfonso Corti) is part of the ear.
- (3) The specialist obviously knew the third letter of Rhett's name, since he said it when he asked "E as in what?" He did not need to know what, he only needed to know the letter.
- (4) The average man has one birthday; the average woman also. All the rest are birthday anniversaries.
- (5) It's okay, but ice is better.

(DUC PHO 174th AHC-IO)

Recently on December 14, "Shark" gunships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company reported killing seven enemy soldiers.

Early in the morning while flying a scramble north of the Song Ve River, "Shark 590," commanded by 1st Lieutenant Robert R. Gamber, Collingswood, N.J. was trying to locate the source of hostile fire directed towards a Vietnamese Army camp. The camp had been taking numerous mortar rounds and light weapons fire.

Arriving at the scene, "Shark 590" saw two enemy soldiers situated in a fire position outside the perimeter of the camp, directing a steady stream of fire into it. The 174th AHC gunship made contact and killed the two enemy.

Turning and flying around the perimeter "Shark 590" came upon a river bed that emptied into a small pond, and while flying over the pond, the gunner spotted a head bob to the surface and then submerge again. Going down to investigate, the gunship crew saw four enemy hiding in the pond and killed all of them.

The last kill resulted after the gunner saw still another enemy leaving the area around the pond.

Including the recent seven enemy killed, the 174th has accounted for 1,025 enemy killed since June of 1966.

SEND THE
FALCON
HOME

