

The Screaming Eagle

Vol. IV, No. 6

101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)

March 15, 1971

23 Aviators Honored For Valor

CAMP EVANS - Eleven pilots and copilots from the 4th Bn. (Ambl.), 77th ARA, were presented the Distinguished Flying Cross by MG Thomas M. Tarpley, commanding general, on February 20. The AH-1 Cobra crewmen received their decorations for heroic actions in the skies over the Republic of Vietnam during 1970 and over Laos during the first two months of this year.

WO Jackie Berry, C Btry., 4/77th, Poplar Bluff, Mo., was awarded the DFC for destroying an enemy anti-aircraft position while under intense hostile fire during a visual reconnaissance mission on January 15 of last year.

CPT Richard L. Throckmorton, C Btry., 4/77th, Oxnard, Cal., was awarded the 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to the DFC for successfully supporting an emergency extraction while under intense anti-aircraft fire on June 22, 1970.

1LT Fredrick Bagley and WO Gary Gluth, C Btry., 4/77th, were both awarded the DFC for countering an enemy attack upon troop helicopters preparing to enter an LZ. While under intense enemy fire, both pilots delivered accurate machinegun and grenade fire on the enemy, allowing the troop helicopters to withdraw safely. Their heroic actions occurred on November 4, 1970. 1LT Bagley is from Waterford, N.Y., and WO Gluth resides in New Ulm, Minn.

WOs Henry Aragon from Chino, Cal., Windel Mack, Elbs, Ala., and Lance McElhiney, Jackson Fla., all attached to C Btry., 4/77th, received their DFCs for supporting a besieged ground element during medical evacuation and emergency resupply.

CPT Barry Vincent, A Btry., 4/77th, from Alpine, Tex., WO Dean Góder, B Btry., 4/77th from Minneapolis, WO Errol Cates, B Btry., 4/77th, Key West, Fla., and WO Robert Scheltig, A Btry., 4/77th, of Myack, N.Y., earned their DFCs on February 12, 1971, while supporting ARVN ground units in Laos. Despite intensive enemy fire, the Cobra pilots delivered devastating return fire upon enemy positions, resulting in their destruction and the capture of a high ranking enemy soldier.

In his address after the awards ceremony, MG Tarpley reiterated the praise that the ARVN command had recently expressed to him for the American helicopter pilots who are supporting ARVN troops in the field.



READY TO GO - Helicopters from the division's 158th Avn. Bn. (AH) (Ambl.) pick up ARVN troops at Khe Sanh for a CA to Laos. (U.S. Army Photo by 1LT John Hubbard)

KHE SANH - There was a pause in air actions in support of ARVN ground operations recently for 12 members of Co. C, 158th Avn. Bn. (Ambl.)

The aviation personnel took time out from their duties as pilots, crew chiefs and doorgunners to be presented valorous awards during ceremonies for heroic action in air operations in Laos. The action in which they were cited centered around attempts to rescue a downed American aircraft crew member and to extract wounded South Vietnamese Rangers from a firebase under heavy attack by NVA forces.

One Huey, piloted by Major James W. Lloyd, Clemson, S.C., commanding officer of C/158th, initially went in to effect the rescue and extraction but was downed by intensive enemy fire. Once MAJ Lloyd's aircraft was down, two other Hueys piloted by CPT John A. Bottman, Bozeman, Mont., and CPT Donald C. Davis, Fremont, Calif. picked up MAJ. Lloyd and his crew of three.

The citation reads in part, "these personnel distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroic actions in an emergency extraction of South Vietnamese wounded and an American aircraft crew member from an enemy position deep in enemy territory."

The Silver Star presented by BG Olin B. Smith, ADC was awarded to MAJ. Lloyd, CPT Bottman, CPT Davis, CPT David L. Nelson, Monroe, Wash., WO Raybert H. Doan, Birmingham, Ala. and WO John P. McKeany, Santa Clara, Calif.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was presented to SP5 Ronald D. Merck, San Leandro, Calif. SP4 William D. Starbuck, Salida, Colo. SP4 Brian Fitzgerald, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. SP4 Billie J. Langley, Wasco, Calif. SP4 Clarence D. Davis, Grand Prairie, Tex., and PFC Matthew H. Regner, Springfield, Va.

BG Sidney B. Berry, ADC (O) and COL Edward P. Davis, commanding officer of the 101st Avn. Gp. also attended the ceremony.

54th ARVNs Excel In Combined Operation

FIREBASE PISTOL - Recently the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 501st Inf. and the 2nd Bn., 54th Regt. ARVN conducted a combined operation two miles north of the Ruong Ruong Valley, 25 miles south-southeast of Hue.

The area of operation for the mission was approximately 20 square miles of rugged mountainous terrain located six miles northwest of the southern tip of the A Shau Valley. According to MAJ Jeff Chancey, El Paso, Tex., 2nd Brigade S-3, "This was an area which, in the past, was infested with enemy. However, the extensive and thorough search operation revealed no significant signs of enemy activity."

Even though there were no

signs of enemy activity, LTC Michael Boos, Fayetteville, N.C., 2/501 battalion commander, expressed continued high praise for the 54th ARVN Regiment's ability to grasp the airmobility and search and attack concepts of the 101st.

"I am continually impressed with the calibre of the men of the 54th Regiment," commented LTC Boos. "We have and are still learning from these men. We have definitely proven that American and ARVN soldiers can participate in combined military efforts to produce successful operations. This is the second successful mission we have completed in recent weeks." LTC Boos indicated that mutual respect between the 2/501st and the 54th Regt. continues to grow as operations increase.

Int'l Co-op Strikes

FIREBASE BRICK - When Co. C, 1st Bn. (Ambl.), 502nd Inf. recently came under heavy enemy fire near Firebase Brick, 15 miles south-southeast of Hue, it set off a chain of events demonstrating Allied cooperation in northern MR I.

CPT George Johnson, Salinas, Calif., commanding "First Strike's" C8, C, called for an immediate air strike on the enemy's positions.

Answering the call for the air strike was Squadron Leader Richard Lawry, Wellington, New Zealand, a Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) forward air controller, flying in support of the 2nd Brigade.

Moments after being alerted, Sdrn. Ldr. Lawry directed an air strike on the enemy positions. Conducting the strike were fighter bombers of the Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF).

"It was certainly an international effort," commented CPT Anthony Mirra, King of Prussia, Pa., acting 2nd Brigade S-3 (Air) officer. "The RNZAF directing VNAF pilots in the aid of Americans. I think it's an outstanding example of the cooperation used to rout the enemy."

"The VNAF pilots did an outstanding job," Sqdn. Ldr. Lawry said. "Their bomb strikes were right on target and very effective."



POPCORN - 105mm Howitzers of BtryD, 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 320th Arty. strike out at targets from Firebase Pistol, 20 miles southwest of Hue. (U.S. Army Photo)

Eagle Patrols 'Cache' In 350 Bunkers

In relatively light action during the past week, Screaming Eagles killed seven enemy soldiers and captured more than 350 bunkers and fighting positions. Six individual weapons, two RPG launchers with 10 rounds and 20 boosters, 62 mortar rounds and various amounts of other enemy equipment were also captured. An enemy bulldozer was also destroyed by a 101st air unit.

Alpha Recon Team of Co. E, 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 506th Inf., operating in the foothills 20 miles north-northwest of Hue, sighted enemy soldiers and called for air support in order not to disclose their position. Cobras arrived on the scene and killed two enemy soldiers. Later the recon team discovered an

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