

Heroes All....Editorial

The Dragon News staff is proud to bring you the story of the men of the 52nd during the early morning hours of 7 Jan 1967.

The men's names that will appear are heroes. As a direct result of their valiant actions, lives and untold dollars worth of valuable equipment were saved. We may not have recognized all of the soldier's who so selfishly risked their lives. to those men we also offer our sincere appreciation.

When the first enemy mortar rounds started falling on the Holloway complex, flare and gunship crew were in the air immediately and within minutes the area was illuminated. With their sights aimed at the the blazing enemy mortar muzzle flashes, the gunships started their firing runs. Three tubes had been silenced and 16 VC were dead, when the smoke had cleared.

Credit for this outstanding response under enemy fire goes to the following crews of the 155th AHC and to the 119th AHC:

1st Flare ship-WO Doyle F. Courts, WO Nelson F. Perez, PFC John Poston, and PFC Harold Hobi

#1 Gunship-1st Team-1LT George B. Harrison, WO Albert W. Fitzgerald, SP4 Roger Brewer, and SP4 Elvin Allen

2nd Flare Ship-1LT Richard H. Silva, WO Tom M. Marsh, PFC Robert Loutzenhiser and PFC Donald A. Corry

#1 Gunship-2nd Team-CPT William B. Terwilliger, WO Anthony Rosa, SP5 Wayne F. Murray Jr. and CPL Albert Prevost

#3 Gunship-2nd Team (119th AHC) WO Jimmie West, WO Lyman Gaude, SP4 Dwight Strahan and PFC Pete Forchini

#2 Gunship-1st Team-WO David Ware, WO Reld McQuinn, SP4 Leonard Jonas and SGT Frank Sweeney.

#2 Gunship-2nd Team- WO Emery C. Fisher, WO John Heath, SP4 John Mayfield, and SP4 Francis Tiner

How do you fight fire when you are under fire? It is doubtful that Camp Holloway Fire Department even asked the question. Initial blasts in the supply center from enemy satchel charges set off many large fires throughout the area. Although continuously exposed to enemy mortar and small arms fire, these men moved their fire-fighting equipment into position and were successful in saving huge amounts of supplies and material from further destruction.

Initial enemy mortar rounds resulted in numerous friendly casualties. The Camp Holloway

Dispensary was not only charged with the responsibility of treating the wounded, but also operated the ambulance which were sent to pick up these men. Although completely vulnerable to the falling mortar rounds, the ambulance unhesitatingly came to the aid of the stricken soldiers throughout the attack. Seeing that medics were needed desperately in the Dispensary, the battalion chaplain (CPT William Sampson) took over the duties of ambulance driver on one of the vehicles and plunged into the night with an aidman to gather wounded soldiers.

One enemy mortar round could have wrought destruction, but the dispensary continued to function until each patient had been treated.

Racing to their mortar positions, men of the 52nd Security Detachment aided in the task of illuminating the surrounding country side and placing effective counter-mortar fire on enemy positions. Wounded by an enemy mortar round, PFC Howard Hart continued to run to his mortar position and perform his duties rather than seek medical aid. Continuously exposed during the attack, the mortar section aided tremendously in halting the VC attack on Holloway.

To all these men the Dragon News wishes simply to say "Thanks" for an outstanding job.

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