

Copter Crew Saves 5

DAK TO, Vietnam (IO) —A fast-acting team from the 335th Assault Helicopter Co., 173d Airborne Brigade, rescued five paratroopers from a disabled helicopter on a rugged hillside in a suspected enemy area.

Shortly after daybreak, Warrent Officers James E. Burke and Fred R. Ungerer picked up a distress signal from the stricken ship. They immediately set out for the area where the chopper had gone down.

Within minutes, they were circling high above the burning wreckage. They swept down in search of survivors, and sighted the small group muddled in the brush dangerously close to their burning ship.

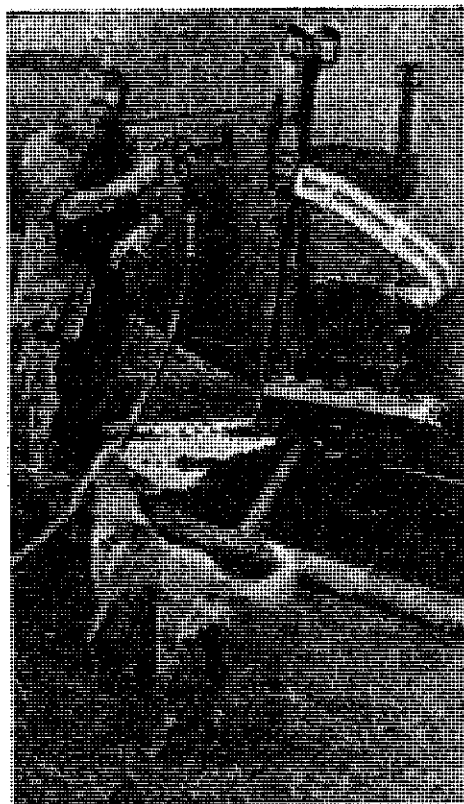
Burke and Ungerer hovered their helicopter a few hundred feet upwind from the downed aircraft only to be rocked by a secondary explosion as the flaming ship's fuel tanks burst.

They moved further upwind from the hazardous flames and set their helicopter on the ground.

They found the ship's commander had been seriously injured. With their assistance, all were aboard the rescue ship in a matter of minutes.

They lifted out of the dense brush and raced towards the 173d Airborne Brigade medical clearing station at Dak To.

Fifteen minutes after they had heard the distress signal, the rescue mission successfully came to an end.



No Riders

"Sorry fella, no hitchhiking," says a crew chief of the 1st Aviation Bn. The dog showed up as the 1st Inf. Div. copter landed to refuel in Phu Loi, 20 miles north of Saigon. (USA)

Enemy Too Close

Destroys Scope, Earns Praise

CAMP CARROLL, Vietnam (ISO)—It isn't every day that a Marine can destroy \$3,100 worth of government property and be praised for his action.

Pfc. Robert G. Pittman, 20, of Ponca City, Okla., a 3rd Reg. scout-sniper was attached to B Co., 1st Bn., 9th Marines during an operation when he found it necessary to destroy his newly acquired \$3,100 night sniper scope.

Pittman reported that he heard enemy forces clattering and yelling along the hillside to his left flank during the night.

"Charlie was screaming challenges in English," he said, "and had pushed much too close for comfort. I didn't see or hear any Marines to my left. It was hairy."

Pittman's partner had been shot in the shoulder earlier and he had carried him to a corpsman at the top of the hill.

From the top of the hill, the Marine was able to use his scope to pinpoint distant mortar flashes and direct machinegun fire to silence the enemy replacements.

He later returned to his position under heavy automatic weapons fire.

"When the fighting became close enough to exchange grenades I thought we might have it," Pittman said. "I couldn't use my scope because of the elephant grass, and a man just doesn't stand up in that kind of fire."

"We're taught to prevent the enemy from obtaining any of our equipment," he said, "so I took the scope off my M-16, put a round through it, and put the pieces in my scope pouch. I hated to do it, because it was the first time I had used the scope, but it was the only safe recourse I had."

The enemy had gotten close to

the Marine positions.

"All up and down the line," Pittman said, "the Marines rallied and decided to 'go for broke.' We shouted at the enemy, yelling, 'Jai dai, lai dai' (come here), and answered their insults with fire."

The Marines maneuvered down the hill. They began sweeping through the enemy territory.

Pittman captured one Chinese Communist AK submachine gun, three grenades, and four banana-shaped ammo magazines.

During the battle, the Marines accounted for 150 confirmed enemy killed.

Afterwards, Gunnery Sgt. B. F. Shell, scout-sniper platoon sergeant, praised Pittman's actions, saying, "It was real good thinking on his part. . . I'd just as soon pay for a new scope out of my own pocket as let the North Vietnamese Army have it."

DOD Approves \$37 Million for Building in Asia

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department has approved housing construction programs on Okinawa through 1971, despite preliminary talks between Japan and the United States on the future status of the strategic Ryukyu Islands.

In testimony released by the House Appropriations subcommittee on military construction, Maj. Gen. R. H.

Curtin, director of civil engineering, asked approval of \$37.8 million for U.S. Air Force facilities in Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, the Philippines and Korea.

Curtin said the bulk of the construction would provide \$24.2 million for facilities in South Vietnam, \$9.8 million for Thailand's Kampaen Sam Air Base.

Two projects on Okinawa amounting to \$2,255,000 will provide school facilities for military dependents at Kadena Air Base, 10 miles north of Naha and at Naha Air Base.

Curtin said new school facilities are being programmed for 725 elementary students. There will be a requirement for 150 classrooms to provide facilities for 3,755 students.

"You have for the next four years a large construction program for family housing which is planned," McFall noted.

Curtin replied that estimates by the Air Force now approved by the Defense Department call for 400 houses in fiscal 1969, 300 in fiscal 1970, 100 in fiscal 1971.

The new school facilities on Okinawa, he said, would be typhoon-resistant and will include air conditioning.

The other U.S. Air Force construction projects include \$85,000 for a liquid fuel pipeline at Iwo Jima Air Base to improve sea unloading operations.

At Clark Air Base in the Philippines, \$720,000 was asked to build a hazardous cargo pad to accommodate cargo-type aircraft transporting explosives and for a new milk processing plant to furnish all U.S. Armed Forces and civilian agencies in the Philippines with recombined milk and other dairy products.

At Kunsan Air Base, Korea, the Air Force asked \$190,000 for a new base operations terminal.

Creel to 1st Div. Post

SAIGON (IO)—Col. Buckner M. Creel III, Bel Air, Md., has assumed command of the 1st Inf. Div. Support Command, as the former commander, Col. George E. Newman, Guntersville, Ala., became the division's 1st Brigade CO.

Candy Bar Foils VC Bomb Trap

CU CHI, Vietnam (IO) — A candy bar proved an effective weapon against the Viet Cong during a 25th Inf. Div. operation.

A Co. of the 1st Bn., 5th Inf. had been providing security for a road building project by the 65th Combat Eng. Bn. As the armored personnel carriers moved into their positions near the small town of Loc Thanh, in Huet Nghia Province, a group of children converged on the vehicles.

"I was sitting on my APC when a small boy came up to me and wanted gun," said Pfc. John McCabe, a rifleman. "I couldn't resist the look on his face, so I gave him a candy bar instead."

With the candy in his pocket, the boy and four of his friends motioned to McCabe to follow them.

"When we got there," continued McCabe, "my little friends pointed out three butterfly bombs that were hooked up with trip wires and one 105mm artillery shell hidden in a hole."

Late that afternoon the boys left for home, each with chocolate on their hands and a 100 piastre reward in their pockets.

Ammo Team Earns Praise

DONG TAM, Vietnam (IO)—Support for the 5th Inf. Div.'s recent Operation Coronado V took many forms, but one of the most backbreaking jobs was handled by a 12-man team from the 1st Bn., 84th Arty., who loaded and transported 133 tons of 155mm ammunition in three days.

The ammunition resupply mission was conducted for six self-propelled 155mm howitzers of the non-divisional 1st Bn., 27th Arty., which had been called in to provide long range fire support for Old Reliable ground troops.

Sgt. Harrison Carter, a 1st/84th firing battery chief, said 2,800 95-pound shells were loaded by the 12 artillerymen.

"I really got to give those guys credit," he said. "They worked for hours loading the trucks here. Then they took a several-hour ride to the fire support base, unloaded the ammo, helped the men in the field at night, drove back here in the morning, and started loading ammo again. That went on for three days."

Nguyen Charlie

SARGE! CALL GHQ! CALL FOR HELICOPTERS!



WHAT'S THE MATTER NOW?



WE FORGOT THE MOSQUITO REPELLENT.



MY KID WARNED ME THAT IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR.

