

1 February 1969

For the Well Dressed Soldier to be seen during cold weather without his OD Irv Shirt is a sin without equal in the fashion world of Vietnam. You didn't think we had fashion in Vietnam? Though they're not quite as well known yet as Charlie's Black Pajamas, the Irv shirt and the Boonie hat are gaining on the fashion scene.

The Irv shirt is actually a woolen undershirt, OD in color naturally, which is named after Dustoff 93, WO1 Irving C. Reid. Mr. Reid has worn this type shirt for quite sometime, and so when necessity (cold and dampness) forced others to wear them, his name simply stuck with the shirt. Now, on cold days no one can be caught without their very own Irv shirt.

The Boonie hat, or rain hat if you please, is shaped much like a straw hat though not as stiff, being made of cloth. It is to be worn in bad weather, and may be starched so it does indeed look like a green straw hat, or without starch, so that the effect is after being rain-soaked, much like it is actually warped.

EAGLE DUSTOFF

Commanding Officer: Major Robert R. Cloke
Platoon Sergeant: SFC Thomas L. Ross, Jr.

Air Ambulance Platoon
326th Medical Battalion
101st Airborne Division

One of the major tasks that both pilots and crew members must learn to do well here is to pull hoist missions. Until now, there has been little or no training in the United States. But this month, the PIO men from the 101st Airborne Division have been flying with us taking 16mm movies of hoist missions in all sorts of weather and tactical situations.

The purpose of making this training/documentary film is to make Dustoff pilots somewhat familiar with the techniques used, prior to their arrival in Vietnam. This film will also be used for training at the 101st Replacement Training Center in Bien Hoa and will be shown over the new tv station at Quang Tri, on completion. In addition, we'll get a copy for the unit's historical record.

The cameramen took about 1400 ft. of film and hope to edit a fifteen minute show. They'll use footage of actual missions and staged events. One Sunday, the camera crew almost wore out a flight crew when they "dropped what they were doing and ran for the operations room upon hearing the buzzer." To get the scene right, they had to "run through it" several times.

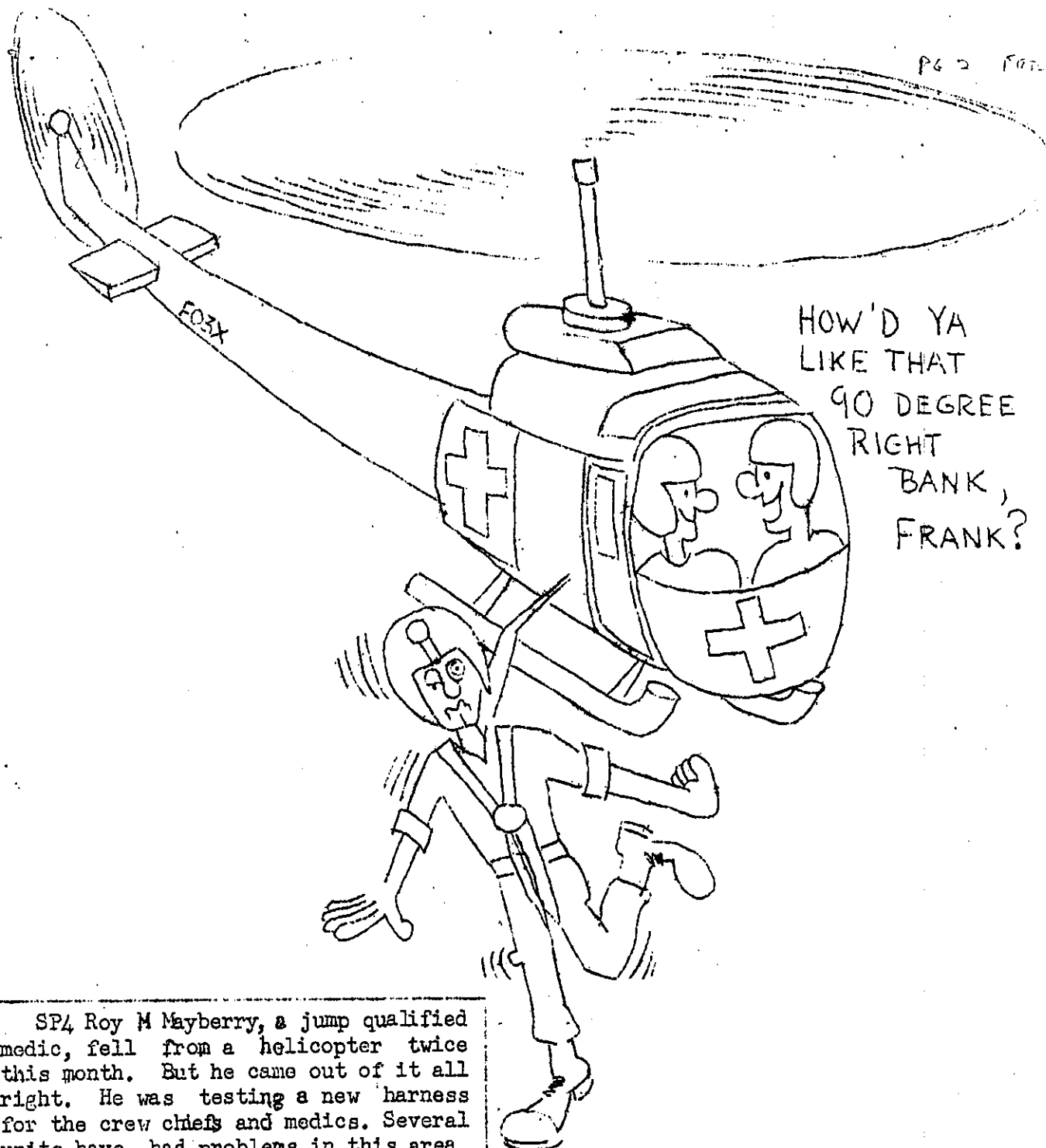
The New Year started with California sunshine but within a week turned to monsoon cold and rain. We hope that's not a hint as to how the rest of the year is going to turn out. Of course, we're all ready to celebrate New Year's again in February with Tet coming up the 17--19th of the month. The Vietnamese traditionally celebrate that holiday with fireworks, so they say. Enough said about that.

* * *

Civilization has finally reached us after being stationed for so long in the darkness of the jungles. Culture has come disguised in the form of the boob tube---television. We have so many antennas now that bird nests might become a problem if we had birds here. Some of the more popular programs appearing regularly from the station in Quang Tri are "Martin and Rowan's Laugh-In," "Bonanza," "Star Trek" and "Mission Impossible."

Mistaking a bride's rightful name is indeed a grievous offense, for which penitence is humbly asked, and apologies are offered to Mrs. Elizabeth Lynn Ross, mentioned last month as Elizabeth Ann.

VHAPAL38



SP4 Roy M Mayberry, a jump qualified medic, fell from a helicopter twice this month. But he came out of it all right. He was testing a new harness for the crew chiefs and medics. Several units have had problems in this area, but we decided to take measures before tragedy forced us to do so.

Using a new harness that wraps you up much like a parachute rig, Mayberry first "fell" feet first, then head first to test it. "There's just about as much shock as jumping from a plane," he said, but added, "it's not as much of a shock as pulling the ripcord after free falling."

Mayberry, as well as every crew chief and medic, is now firmly convinced of the safety of the rig. If ever needed it's there.

We'd like to add a short note of thanks to the 426th S&S Company for cooperating with us in making and supplying our new harnesses for the crew members.

* * *

And then there were twelve.

With the addition of two new helicopters this month, the unit grew to the full TO&E strength of twelve ships. The new babies are 241 crewed by SP5 Richard Oberg and 249 crewed by SP5 Larry Wag-
oner.

On the 17th of January there were quite a few people standing around the maintenance pad shaking their heads in amazement that no one was hurt when 851 and the old maintenance tent met. There wasn't a battle, but if there had been, the tent would have been declared the winner.

While the aircraft was being situated on the pad for maintenance work, the tail rotor hit the tent. It flew off and the aircraft started to spin, but fortunately the pilot used the right emergency procedures and the ship came down to earth promptly and without injury to anyone.

And then there were eleven.

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During the month of January, four of our people took an R&R. Major Robert R. Cloke went to Hawaii, and Captain Charles H. Lewis and SP5's Clement Grillo and Daniel Pugh went to Tokyo.

* * *

Four people left us, not to come back, this month. Gone are CW2 Woodrow M. Nesbitt who left on emergency leave. Since he had put in ten months duty here, his tour of duty is considered complete and he will report to Fort Stewart after leave instead of returning.

Also leaving were SP5 Roger W. Goodwin to Fort Sam Houston, SP5 Edward T. Selander (new duty unknown), and SP5 David L. Woods to Fort Carson.

SP4 Anthony T. Burdo left on special leave and will return in February.

AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

CPT Ottis G. Turner, DFC
CW2 Woodrow M. Nesbitt, DFC & 1st OLC

BRONZE STAR

CPT Charles H. Lewis
CPT Ottis G. Turner
CW2 Woodrow M. Nesbitt
CW2 Loren P. Skarie
SP5 Roger W. Goodwin
SP5 Edward T. Selander
SP5 David L. Woods
SP4 Anthony T. Burdo

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

CPT Ronny E. Porta
SFC Allan C. Williams
SP5 Thomas E. Rolls

AIR MEDAL

15-18th OLC	CPT Ronny E. Porta
13-16th OLC	CPT Ottis G. Turner
12-14th OLC	SP5 David L. Woods
9-11th OLC	CW2 Woodrow M. Nesbitt
7-9th OLC	SP5 Amador G. Sanchez
6, 8-9th OLC	SP5 Edward T. Selander
1-4th OLC	SP4 Anthony T. Burdo
3rd OLC	SFC James T. Ratliff
1-2nd OLC	SP5 Richard C. Crin
2nd OLC	WO1 Irving C. Reid
1st OLC	SP5 Gary E. Munoz
1st OLC	SP4 Richard G. Runion
BAM	CPT James C. Danby
BAM	1LT Otis D. Evans
BAM	1LT Kerry L. Little
BAM	SFC Eugene A. Thomas
BAM	SP5 George H. Winans
BAM	SP4 Roger D. Pharris

PATIENTS EVACUATED	DAY/NIGHT	PTS	MEDICAL RESUPPLY	AVIATOR FLIGHT TIME
US	498	DAY 634	TOTAL 4	HIGH 61
FWMAF	0	NIGHT 89		LOW 2
ARVN	38	TOTAL 723		AVERAGE 31
VN Civ	78	MISSIONS		HOIST USAGE
POW	16		FLIGHT TIME	
OTHER	11	DAY 458	DAY 327	MISSIONS 39
MEDCAP	82	NIGHT 66	NIGHT 33	PATIENTS 90
TOTAL:	723	TOTAL 524		

EAGLE DUSTOFF
is a monthly publication of the Air Ambulance Platoon, 326th Medical Battalion.
EDITOR:
SP4 Karl White

A FEW WORDS FROM DUSTOFF 96

With much pride we welcome five new Aircraft Commanders to our ranks. Numerically WO Mike McKenna, Dustoff 92; WO Irving Roid, Dustoff 93; 1LT Otis Evans, Dustoff 97; 1LT Tom McCrary, Dustoff 98, and WO John Shirley, Dustoff 901. The triple digits are necessary due to our ever increasing numbers. Soon we hope to have an AC for each of our twelve aircraft. The "Small but Mighty" is not so small anymore.

Noted improvements in the last few days have our present creek being closed and completely renovated up next to the 1st Artillery on the east. Usable heliport space has been increased 70%, and is called "Sawyer's Ditch" after CPT "Buzz" Sawyer's insistence that the project was feasible.

Congratulations go to SP4 Karl White for redesigning our paper into its new format.

* * *

In the Army, every man must perform many jobs other than his own. So it is that we now have a former dental technician and a former MP (now both pilots) that have opened up a clip joint.

Refusing to take pay for their services, they have volunteered to give the men a "Clean-cut, All-American look that the folks back home expect their sons to have."

Yes, Frank and Fat Albert have joined the ancient and honorable ranks of the blood-letters. As yet they have no barber pole, but a breakthrough is soon expected.

People who have had their hair cut in the shop are cooperating with the boys in keeping it a secret. A terse "No comment" and a tug downward on the boonie hat is the most common reaction to questions about their haircuts.

We would like to welcome to our unit SP4 Lawrence F. Meier, a Crash Rescue Specialist.

CONFIDENTIAL TO 254TH HEL AMB: THIS PAPER WILL SELF-DESTRUCT IN 90 DAYS!

