71st Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) articles and etc. found in the Americal Division Veteran's Association data base.

71st AVIATION COMPANY

RATTLERS

151st TRANS DET

FIRE BIRDS

71st Aviation Company crests that appeared in the 1967 "14th Aviation Battalion Yearbook".

71st Aviation Company Articles and related materials compiled from the Americal Division Veteran's Association (ADVA) database.

ADVA Historian for 2022 comments. Compilation documents have been made for veterans who might not have computer skills or time to search the extensive files for materials about their unit.

This document was compiled for veterans of the **71st Aviation Company** (Assault Helicopter Company) and other Americal Division Veterans from the ADVA Historical Data Base. A connection will always exist between the veterans who served with Americal Division to the **71st Aviation Company**.

A yearbook for the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion was created in 1967 with a section for the 71st Aviation Company. There is also a yearbook from 1967 for the 14th Aviation Battalion with a section for 71st Aviation Company. And there was a 1970 16th Combat Aviation Group (CAG) that has a small section for the 71st AHC. Electronic or printed copies may be requested from the ADVA Historian. Maps of the Americal AO are available, but not part of the compilation. Other general information that relates to all units of the Americal Division is in the ADVA data base. A number of helicopters have been placed in museums that were restored to the colors of the 71st AHC by 71st Aviation Company veteran Chuck Carlock. One of these resides in a Smithonian Museum in Washington D.C.. Mr. Carlock is well known as a 71st Aviation Company Veteran from his perennial best selling book, "Firebirds".

At least three historical summaries exist for the 71st Aviation Company. Two of these are around 50 pages each and were not placed in this document. I used a seven page summary for this document. The ADVA historian can provide electronic transcriptions of the other summaries upon request.

A group of 14th Combat Aviation Battalion pilots called "Three Majors and a Minor" (A.K.A. "High Priced Help") sang songs at officer clubs in Vietnam. A CD with their songs is for sale on the internet these days.

The 71st came to Vietnam in September 1966 with the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion near Nha Trang. They were moved to the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion in April 1967 just as the 14th Combat Aviation joined Task Force Oregon/Americal Division. Among Americal and especially 196th LIB veterans they are best known for their direct support of the 196th LIB in the Hiep Duc and Que Son Valleys during the bitter fights from 1967-1970. Books that have told this story are "Death Valley" by Keith Nolan and "Through the Valley" by Col. James F. Humphries, and the previously mentioned "Firebirds" book by Chuck Carlock. In 1971 the 71st participated in Operation Lam Son 719. Helicopter units sustained previously unknown losses in Vietnam during this action. Keith Nolan's book "Into Laos" may help explain what this experience was like. Frank Anton's book, "Why Didn't You Get Me Out?" is a heart wrenching story of a 71st AHC pilot who survived terrible conditions as a POW. In 2004 a book by Ron Seabolt and Chuck Carlock "Rattler's and Firebirds" was published. Also in 2004 Chuck Gross wrote "Rattler 17".

In 2020 a book from the 161st AHC entitled "Our Helicopter War" was published. There are many connections to the 71st actions in this over 700 page book. This might help fill in some pieces of the 71st Aviation Company prior to April 1967. The book is available online at the VHPA web-site or a hard copy may be ordered through the 161stAHC web-site.

Many Americal Division Veteran's Association Members still talk about the 1999 reunion in St. Louis, MO as the best reunion ever! This was thanks to **71st AHC** veterans. They brought helicopters and a moving museum to the reunion all the way from Texas. Over 1,200 attended the reunion. Who wouldn't be impressed upon entering the hotel to see an enemy .51 cal. anti-aircraft gun facing you down. A multi-room display of enemy weapons, including boats, and etc. were presented. Better than any museum in the world to the Americal Division veterans as they were collected from the areas that the Americal Division had fought.

Please visit the 71st AHC web-site at:
https://rattler-firebird.org/vietnam

The 71st Aviation Company (AHC) has a very strong veteran community. They hold reunions every other year at different locations around the country. They have a lot of content on their web-site that I will not include in this document. They have links to videos, photos, stories and ways to connect with the veterans of the 71st Aviation Company. They have some great stories that are linked into from their site. Many of these items are under copyright protection, so I can not include items like the Pulitzer winning article from "Life Magazine" 2 July 1965 that has a connection to the 71st AHC. Or great videos made by reporters at reunions or just reporting history.

The 71st Aviation Company was formerly Company A, 501st Aviation Battalion. However, there were only 2 articles found in our data base for this predecessor of the **71st Aviation Company (AHC)**.

Stanton Order of Battle Vietnam reference book documentation on the 71st Aviation.

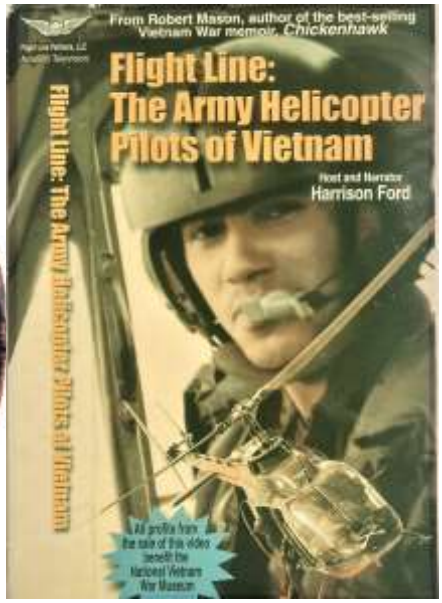
71st AML (Air Mobile Light) /AHC (Assault Helicopter Company)

71st AHC slick section & gunship section patch provided by Chuck Carlock

71st AML/AHC – 2 Sep. 66 – 1 Oct. 71

Unit size	1966	1968	1970
71st Avn Co	195	219	288

The **71st** joined the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion in 2 Sep. 1966 operating in the area around Bien Hoa. The 71st then transferred to the 14th Aviation Battalion in April 1967. On 22 April 1967 the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion was moved to Chu Lai as part of Task Force OREGON. In September 1967 it became part of the FALCON Aviation Group (Provisional) and became part of the 16th Aviation Group in January 1968. It then served with the Americal Division under that group until 1 October 1971.



Doug Womack, a 71st AHC veteran provided the images above: The patch on the upper left is a 71st patch used in Vietnam for slick crews. The patch on the upper right was used in Germany by the 71st. The patch on the lower left was used by the 71st in the Panama Canal Zone. The image on the lower right is of a video that might be of interest to helicopter crews in Vietnam. The video was narrated by Harrison Ford, and features a photo of Douglas Womack on the cover.

In the beginning the 71st Aviation Company began as Company "A", 501st Aviation Battalion. This is excerpted from a July 1965 Monthly history as an example of what the experience was like in 1965:

AVT-TY **31 July 1965**

SUBJECT: Monthly History for Company "A", 501st Aviation Battalion, 1 through 31 July 1965

The mission of **Company "A", 501st Aviation Battalion** is to augment the aviation capabilities of II Corps and the Republic of South Vietnam by providing support for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in combat operations and provide direct tactical and administrative air mobility to combat units in the III Corps area.

Company "A", 501st Aviation Battalion was organized under TOE -177E, dated 15JUL63. The unit consists of a Company Headquarters, two (2) lift platoons, one (1) armed platoon, and one (1) service platoon.

Personnel assigned, consists of 15 officers, 32 warrant officers, and 127 enlisted men.

Company equipment consists of 8 UH-1D's 17 UH-1B's, 27 motor vehicles, and other equipment peculiar to an aviation company.

Attached units include: Twenty-six (26) men from the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry who serve as gunners for all aircraft. The 94th Signal Detachment which provides avionics repair. The 151st Transportation Detachment which provides 3rd echelon maintenance. An 18 Man counter-mortar team from the 25th Infantry Division.

Company "A", 501st Aviation Battalion is capable of providing continuous (day and night) operations during visual weather conditions and limited operations under non-visual weather in support of the forces in the Republic of Vietnam. It can provide in a single lift, airlift for 144 combat equipped ARVNs or 88 combat equipped Americans.

Operations and Training:

Operations statistics for July 1965:

(1) Hours flown	**-**	1,946
(2) Sorties	**-**	5,711
(3) Troops Carried	**-**	6,685
(4) Tons Cargo	**-**	44.3
(5) Passenger miles	-	3,961,000
(6) Cargo miles	-	2,686,000
(7) Aircraft hits	**-**	7
(8) WIA	**-**	2
(9) KIA	**-**	**0**
(10) Total Assaults	**-**	10
(11) Unit size Operations	**-**	4

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) Monthly History for Company "A", 501st Aviation Battalion, 1 through 31 July 1965

a. During the afternoon of 1 July 1965, "A" Company repositioned troops and dependents. The troop movement was a "round robin" affair between Bo La, Don Xoai, Duc Phong and Ben Cat. The movement was started at 1430H and completed by 1805H. There was no enemy fire received throughout the afternoon. The "Rattlers" returned to Bien Hoa at 1930H having flown an aggregate of 49.6 hours.

b. On 2 July 1965, Firebird 97's fire team was supporting Tenth Division. A VC force was holed up north of the village of Phouc An. The fire team was deployed to make a strike on the area. As the aircraft, flown by Lt Jefferies and Lt Carlson, broke from their firing pass, an automatic weapon cut loose. The door gunner of the wing ship, PFC Charles Godwin, was struck in the upper left leg, bursting an artery. Another round went through the main rotor blade. WO "AJ" Brown and WO "Jim" Prendeville broke off from the flight to get their wounded gunner medical attention. Godwin was taken to 3d Army Field Hospital in Saigon for immediate treatment. He was later medevacuated to the states where he is expected to fully recover.

(c) The 173rd Airborne Brigade initiated a five day sweep of a portion of "D" Zone on the morning of 7 July 1965. The 173rd commanded two of their battalions, one battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, and one battalion of the ARVN paratroopers. The 145th Aviation Battalion, and "A" of the 101st Aviation Battalion provided the lift force.

The first day of the operation, the "Rattlers" were the second of six elements. Three landing zones had been selected for troop deployment. "A" Company placed 338 Americans in the first two LZ's and 153 Australians in the third landing zone.

Heavy artillery preparations pounded the area for twenty minutes followed by a strike by VNAF Skyraiders. American B-52s had been pounding the area with large 1,000 pound bombs. he final close-in support was provided by organic company armed ships. The large preparation did not prevent the flight from receiving fire. Automatic weapons fired at the flight on the departure route. WO Harry Davis's aircraft received a .50 caliber round through the tip of the main rotor blade. His aircraft was the only one hit.

The slicks and armed ships suppressed each time fire was received. The large expenditure of ammo was well spent since the VC suffered heavy casualties. "A" Company successfully completed the lift without receiving casualties.

(Continued -2)

(d) Low ceilings and reduced visibility were reported by Air Force weather for the area between Bien Hoa and Xuan Loc. The 3/43 was badly needed at Bien Hoa to be used as a blocking force in the "D" zone operation. At 080300H July 65, Captain Schwem and Captain Watson took off in the lead ship, followed by ten slicks and escorted by six gunships. As the flight turned away from the lights of Saigon, the sky became total blackness. Intermittent weather hampered both lifts but the operation was completed without incident. The last of the 170 troops landed at Bien Hoa at 0300H.

At 0655H, the 170 troops were airlifted across the Song Dong Nai river. They were placed in a large rice field north of the town of Xa Thai Hung. The mission of the ARVN's was to prevent the Viet Cong from coming out of "D" Zone into the town. Both lifts were flown at low level due to poor weather conditions. The flight did not receive hostile fire.

(e) The 173d accomplished their clearing operation and were now ready for Phase III; to extract all troops for return to Bien Hoa. The 145th Aviation Battalion started extracting on the afternoon of 9 July 1965.

Elements to be extracted were the 173d Airborne Brigade, the RAR, and the 3/43 ARVNs. The troops were lined up in three landing zones. "A" Company extracted 450 of the 2500 troop task force. Seven lifts were required. Negative fire was received until the company started extracting troops from the last landing zone. The Firebirds received light automatic weapons fire from the tree line along the north edge of the landing zone. The Firebirds returned fire, inflicting light casualties on the Viet Cong. The "Rattlers" terminated at the "Snakepit" at 1645H. They had flown an aggregate of 32.5 hours without injuries.

(f) A convoy of trucks wee enroute from Long Thanh to Phu My when an unknown number of Viet Cong ambushed them. An A/82d aircraft witnessed the attack, but was helpless to give assistance. The pilot notified the 145th Battalion who in turn relayed the information to III Corps.

Aircraft flying normal missions were recalled by Saigon Center for assembly at Bien Hoa. At 1300H, "A" Company picked up ninety troops of the 1/43d at Tan Uyen. The troops were dropped into a pasture in front of the Phy My compound. Both lifts were flown without incident.

(g) On the afternoon of 14 July 1965, "A" Company was alerted for a ten to fifteen day trip to an unknown destination. At 1700H that same day, Battalion headquarters ordered the "Rattlers" to An Khe in II Corps.

At 0630H, 15 July 1965, Captain Marvin Schwem led the "Esquires" to Qui Nhon for rendezvous with other aircraft from the 145th Aviation Battalion. Captain Clifford Ohlenburger followed with the armed platoon, his first mission as Firebird platoon leader. Major Lewis J. Henderson flew with the guns ships to command the flight element. The flight closed at Qui Nhon at 1330H. At 1530H, the "Rattlers" left Qui Nhon to continue to An Khe.

A full briefing was given at An Khe by the 52d Aviation Battalion, S3. The operation was not impressive from the stand point of aviation, but the ground troops size and role made the exercise the largest ever staged in Viet Nam. Route 19 is the only inland route connecting the coast to the highlands. Without it, the mountain people have to rely on supplies being flown in. During the rainy season in the mountains, flying is drastically reduced.

Viet Cong had blown the main bridges on Highway 19 making the road inaccessible. A division size task force was given the mission of re-building

(Continued -3)

the bridges along the forty mile stretch from Pleiku to Qui Nhon. The highway was divided into three areas of operation: (1) the area between Pleiku to Mang Yang Pass, (2) Mang Yang Pass to An Khe Pass, and (3) An Khe Pass to Qui Nhon.

"A" Company worked from Mang Yang Pass to An Khe Pass. On the morning of the 16th, "A" Company lifted 130 troops of the ARVN 2d Airborne Brigade into an LZ 5,000 meters northwest of An Khe. The "Rattlers" were the third element so they were not allowed free suppression.

For the next three days, the "Rattlers" performed several resupply missions. The Firebirds flew overhead cover for two convoy movements and made airfield recons the first night at the strip. At 1030H of the 19th, "A" Company was released for return to Bien Hoa. The last aircraft touched down at Bien Hoa at 1730H. The highway had been opened, the bridges repaired, and resupply convoys had successfully made the trip from Pleiku to Qui Nhon.

(h) ARVN troops of the 1/43d were repositioned from Xuan Loc to Baria on the morning of 27 July. "A" Company landed at Xuan Loc at 0715H for the first load. Capt. Jesse James led the thirteen ship flight. Enroute to Baria it was necessary to take the flight through a break in the clouds to fly on top. The ceiling was only 800 (feet). Three lifts were flown to move the 317 troops. The aircraft refueled at Vung Tau then proceeded to home station. The remainder of the day was spent flying normal Third Corps missions.

(i) The last day of the month, 2d Brigade executed a dual training and clearing operation southwest of Bien Hoa. The "Rattlers" furnished four bravos, four deltas, and three armed ships. The lift aircraft carried forty-four troops of the 2/42d into an LZ as a diversionary action then proceeded to the actual landing zone. Suppressive fire was used at each LZ, but no enemy casualties were reported. This operation terminated at the month for "A" Company, 501st Aviation Battalion. No aircraft or crewmembers were lost during the month.

b. Training.

(1) Decca Navigation

(2) Aviation Standardization.

(3) UH-1B and UH-1D helicopter transition.

3. Maintenance and Supply.

a. During the period 1 through 31 July 1965, the units aircraft availability was:

(1) Bravos – 95%

(2) Deltas – 89%

b. During the month of July, the 151st Transportation Detachment and "A' Company, 501st Service platoon provided constant maintenance support to the company at Bien Hoa and outlying areas. The following recovery operations were performed during July.

(1) 15 July – While supporting II Corps at An Khe, aircraft #922's irreserviceable valve malfunctioned. Capt Young's crew rebuilt the valve. The same day, aircraft 924 had an engine surge which required inspection. The inspection was performed at An Khe.

(2) 16 July 1965 – Aircraft 563 developed a fuel leak in the fuel control unit. The seal was replaced at An Khe.

(3) While at An Khe, the service platoon repaired two aircraft from "A" Company, 82d Aviation Battalion. Both aircraft had fuel leaks.

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b. Supply – During the month of July, necessary supplies that "A" Company had ordered still had not arrived.

4. Miscellaneous.
   a. Commander's time - 62.00
   b. High aviator - 119.00
   c. Low aviator - 16.7
   d. Average aviator 72.3
   e. No awards were presented during the month of July.

The source document was prepared by Lieutenant Joseph J. Schenke, unit historian. Approved by Major Lewis J. Henderson, Artillery, commanding. Prepared for Headquarters, 145th Aviation battalion, APO San Francisco, CA 96307.

[On the 71st AHC web-site there is a link to view an issue of "Life Magazine" from 2 July 1965. The photographer, Horst Faas, received a "Pulitzer Prize" for the photos with the story of an ARVN heliborne operation that involved "A", 501st Aviation. The connection to the unit is that Faas Horst had flown into the battle of Dong Xai with Captain Marvin "Duke" Scwhem of "A", 501st Aviation. Unfortunately I do not have the report for this action would have been in the month prior to the above report.]

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES – 71st History

The **71st Aviation Company** (Aslt Hel) was activated 15 October 1962 at Ft Kobbe, Canal Zone. The Company was activated by General Order Number 96, Headquarters United States Army Canal Zone, dated 4 October 1962.

The Company was organized under TOE 177 with its assignment to the 193rd Light Infantry Brigade, where it remained until 1 November 1963. The 71st operated with a strength of seven Officers, ten Warrant Officers, and forty three enlisted men. The unit, as organized, consisted of a Company Headquarters, two Lift Platoons, and one service Platoon.

On 1 November 1963, the 71st Aviation Company changed location from Ft Kobbe to Ft Clayton, Canal Zone with operational activities at Albrook Air Force Base.

The colors of the 71st were moved from Fort Clayton, Canal Zone to the Republic of Vietnam on 2 September 1966. At this time, "A" Company, 501st Aviation Battalion's personnel and equipment were transferred to the 71st.

On 1 September 1966, Company A, 501st, Avn Bn was deactivated from service in Vietnam and reactivated as the 71st Aviation Company (AML).

A brief history of "A" Company, 501st, shows the unit was declared operationally ready 26 December 1964, after being organized under TOE 177E dated 15 July 1963. The mission of the Company was to augment the aviation capabilities of III Corps and the Republic of Vietnam by providing support for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in combat operations and provide direct tactical and administrative air mobility support to combat units in III Corps area.

To begin the year 1966, Company "A", 501st Avn Bn (Rattlers), as a part of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, was in support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade as they began Operation Marauder.

During the month of April, the Rattlers gave support to the 1st Infantry Division in connection with Operation Birmingham. This Search and Destroy maneuver was conducted in the Tay Ninh area with the Rattlers working out of the Snake Pit at Bien Hoa Air Base.

Although the name was changed from "A" Co 501st Aviation Battalion to 71st Aviation Company, the nicknames, Rattlers (Lift Ships) and Firebirds (Gunships), remained in use as they had since the 501st came to Vietnam.

The Rattlers have flown many major operations with some of the most noteworthy including Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Attleboro, and Operation Junction City. The Rattlers have flown missions in such note-worthy areas as War Zone, C, the Iron Triangle, and Hobo Woods.

On 14 October 1966, the 71st Aviation Company (Rattlers participated in one of its most remembered operations. Flying into an area South West of Saigon, the flights received heavy fire which resulted in ten aircraft being severely damaged. The Company had 1 KIA and 5 WIA reported. Because of the operation and the fine job by the Rattlers, members of the company received the Air Medal with "V" device and those doing outstanding jobs received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **71st History**

During the months of October, November, and December, the 71st Aviation Company supported the U.S. 25th Infantry Division, U.S. 1st Infantry Division, and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in the Cu Chi, Tay Ninh, Dau Tieng, Ben Cat, and Iron Triangle areas. During this three month period, the 71st flew more than 7500 hours and lifted over 18,000 troops in support of Free World Forces.

Throughout the year of 1966, the Rattlers amassed quite a record of accomplishment in the flying department. Total flying hours entered in the records were 24,578 combat. The number of Sorties performed were 55,437 while lifting 98,255 combat troops. When not lifting troops, the Rattlers hauled cargo for resupply and this amounted to 1,866 Tons or 3,732,000 lbs. The total number of aircraft damaged by enemy fire for the year was 130.

In early 1967, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade moved from Tay Ninh to participated in Task Force Oregon at Chu Lai in I Corps. On 18 April 1967, the 71st Aviation Company departed Bien Hoa for their new home at Chu Lai. the Rattlers came under the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion at this time and continued to give direct support to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

During the days following the Rattlers arrival, they found that the Chu Lai area was almost completely under the control of the Viet Cong. Whenever they flew, sniper was received.

The 71st AHC made a big name for itself during the year 1967 as it completed numerous combat assaults into unfamiliar areas. The Rattlers have executed a very effective offensive as well as defensive destruction on the Viet Cong. the elusive Chu Lai Charlies have taken many destructive blows since the 71st moved into the area and will continue to take the pounding as long as he exists.

In support of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade during the year 1967 the 71st AHC compiled a record that any aviation company could be proud of.

From January 1 - December 31, 1968, the 71st AHC supported the 196th Light Infantry Brigade with Command and Control aircraft for each Battalion and three resupply aircraft for the Brigade. In addition to this, the Rattlers also provided ships for combat assaults in operations against the Viet Cong. The record shows 29,530 aircraft hours for a total number of 129,799 Sorties. In addition to this, 152,200 passengers and 8,777 tons of cargo were carried. The Rattlers made 182 emergency medevacs and were credited with 387 VC KIA.

In 1969, the 71st Aviation Company continued to provide support for the 196th Light Infantry Brigade with its primary mission being to provide aviation support in the form of airlift of personnel, counter insurgency operations in the Republic of Vietnam in general support to the Americal Division as directed by the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion. On 1 April, the Rattlers were re-designated from the 71st Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) to 71st Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter).

(Continued 2)

(Continued 2) **71st History**

On 22 September 1969, the Rattlers participated in an operation that will be long be remembered. Carrying the 3rd Battalion 21st Infantry on a routine combat assault, the flight landed in what turned out to be a large VC stronghold. The Rattlers conducted three combat assaults, one extraction, four dust off missions and one emergency resupply mission. In each of these the aviators received extremely heavy and effective enemy ground fire that resulted in two of their members being killed, eleven wounded, and fourteen helicopters damaged, two beyond recovery. In spite of these adverse conditions, the 71st Assault Helicopter Company performed heroically.

During the year 1969, the Viet Cong managed to damage 95 helicopters with total destruction to only 9. The Rattlers and Firebirds retaliated by destroying 204 structures and achieved a confirmed VC KIA of 115. Total Sorties for the year were 88,638 during which time 135,378 passengers and 6,295 tons of cargo were carried. 110 emergency medevacs were also completed. All this was accomplished with a total of 22,585 aircraft flight hours.

Since January 1970, the 71st Aviation Company has continued to give outstanding support to the Americal Division and its subordinate units. At the completion of the monsoon season in the early part of the year, the Rattlers gave helicopter support to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and attached units as they inserted into the western edges of the area of operations in search of a known North Vietnamese Army rear area and suspected POW camps. Thanks to many unselfish hours of carrying troops and resupply and outstanding gun cover from the Firebirds the operation was highly successful.

From 30 April to 10 June 1970, the Rattlers of the 71st discovered that the war in Vietnam is not yet over. Called the Battle of Hiep Duc, it was one of those operations that just happen as a large force of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were discovered in their preparations to take several fire support bases in the Hiep Duc Valley. Many hours and courageous flying were accomplished as the Rattlers made emergency resupply, extraction, and medevac lifts. With the gun support of the Firebirds, the Rattlers completed all their missions with a loss of only three ships and minor wounds to a few aircrew personnel. An outstanding job considering Charlie had many .51 Caliber and .30 Caliber anti-aircraft positions dug into the area.

The 71st Avn Co (Rattlers) showed that all the good work is not in the area of operations as it came time for the Annual General Inspection on 10 July 1970. The inspecting team descended on the Rattlers to do their worst. True to form, thanks to the Officers, NCO's. and EM's who fly the desks in the rear, the Rattlers came through with an outstanding score.

From 1 January 1970 to the beginning of July 1970, the Rattlers have participated in three large operations and several smaller operations in the Americal area of operations. The Rattlers have amassed 18,422 flight hours in a six month period. 59,445 Sorties have carried 85,201 passengers, 3,626 tons of cargo and 70 medevacs. The Firebirds have destroyed

(Continued 3)

253 structures in this period and received a confirmed 184 Viet Cong killed in action. It appears that the 71st Rattlers are heading for a record breaking year. In the same period, Rattler Maintenance has repaired seventy-nine aircraft damaged and turned in eleven destroyed by Charlie.

Presently the Rattlers are providing combat assault, resupply, and aerial gunships support for troops of the Americal Division and the 6th ARVN Regiment operating in the Kham Duc area.

The 71st Aviation Company (Aslt Hel) continues to provide outstanding support for the Americal Division and subordinate units and looks forward to continuing this policy in the future.

MYRON D. DAVIS
MAJOR IN
Commanding

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES - 71st History Part II

On 24 January 1971, the **71st** received orders to get ready to move on the 29th of January. All Rattler Birds began the first leg of the journey not knowing exactly where they were going. They return to Chu Lai due to inclement weather. On the 30th they were order to start the journey again. Until all the Aircraft were off the ground and the convoy was under way no one was sure of their destination. Finally they were informed they were going to Quang Tri. Upon reaching Phu Bai they again ran into IFR conditions, so they shut down and waited for conditions to improve. At 1400 they all departed again for Quang Tri. At 1500 the last bird landed; only to find no accommodations had been made for their arrival. The 71st again adapted rapidly to the situation and by the end of the next day were fairly well established at their new home.

At their initial briefing the 71st, with several other companies from the 16th Group and the 101st Airborne Div were going to support the largest operations in the history of Viet Nam, Operation Dewey Canyon II and Lam Son 719.

During the month of February, the 71st worked mostly in the area of Khe Sanh on Combat Assaults resupply, and aerial gunship support, learning their new A.O. while flying their missions.

On March 3, 71, the 71st was involved in the first and largest assault in Laos. The LZ was known as Lo Lo. The aircraft received heavy fire on approach into the LZ, and while in the LZ. While on the ground NVA and VC soldiers jumped out of spider holes, only meters from the aircraft and began to fire, causing damage to most of the aircraft.

The 71st was extremely lucky in respect to their losses. No one was killed, only one medevac to the United States was necessary. The aircraft he was in was shot down coming out of Lo Lo, went down in flames, over a cliff. All four crew members were presumed dead. Some how they all managed to survive, and were rescued by an unknown medevac aircraft. During March the 71st was involved in several other assaults where they received extremely heavy enemy fire.

During the entire Lam Son operation the Battalion only had a total of one person medevaced to the States, seven aircraft lost. The 71st AHC was credited with outstanding achievement by all people concerned in operation Lam Son.

The 71st was in the first assault into Laos, but fortunately was not in the last; every member [of] the 71st showed outstanding performance in the highest tradition of the 71st AHC and the United States Army.

During this operations the 71st received 3 Silver Stars numerous Distinguished Flying Crosses and several other medals were awarded. The 71st has an[d] always will carry on in the high standard of performance for all the Rattlers in the past.

On 28 March 1971, the 71st AHC was told it would be going back to Chu Lai. At 0600 on the 2 April, all the aircraft departed at 5 min intervals in flights of two, the last aircraft departed at 0830 due to

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **71st History Part II**

maintenance. Three aircraft remained at Hue Phu Bai due to maintenance problems, and crews were left behind to ferry the aircraft back to Chu Lai. The convoy left at 0600 on the second also. The convoy was in two parts, the second half of the convoy was to remain in police up the area, and return to Chu Lai a day later. On the third of April the 71st was back at Chu Lai resuming its' normal missions with out even a break to get situated. However no complaints were made, it was a welcome relief to be back in the Chu Lai area again.

During the month of April the 71st supported the 11th Bde and 2nd Inf Div (ARVN). Wit h a total of 1495 hrs of flight completed 5520 Sorties, carrying 7807 passengers and 192 tons of cargo. A highly commendable month for the Rattlers and Firebirds.

From May 4, 1971, to 29 June 71, the 71st participated in operation Quyet Thang 20B, 2nd Inf Div (ARVN). Operation Quyet Thang 20B was conducted in the Quang Tri, Quang Ngai, Kontun provinces and the Dak Silo area. 3rd Inf Regiments participated in the operation and achieved considerable results. During the period of time the 71st flew 3881 hrs completing 11,150 Sorties, carrying 17,096 passengers and 410 tons of cargo, they also made 59 medical evacuations during this period of time the firebirds became familiar with the Helix people, Air Force FAC's. This enabled the Firebirds to be able to have an airstrike at almost anytime they deemed necessary. Consequently they called in numerous air-strikes after they had expended all of their armament, for assistance in destroying many enemy rear service structures, hospital, and production areas, also making enemy personnel and weapon losses heavy.

On 8 June 71, the 71st received a letter of commendation from BG Nguyen Van Toan for the instrumental part they played in the successful completion of the operation.

During the month of July the 71st experienced a very slow and rest-ful month. The only accumulated 1,695 hours of flight completing 3,993 sorties, transporting 6,545 passengers, and 177 tons of cargo. The Fire-birds however did manage to kill 12 enemy soldiers and destroy 6 structures and 9 sampans.

The month of August was a record breaking month for the 71st. They accumulated 2,246 flight hours completing 6,261 sorties, transporting 9,691 passengers, 309 tons of cargo, and 7 medevacs. The Firebirds mana-ged to kill a confirmed 20 enemy soldiers and destroy 23 enemy structures.

On 28 August 1971 the 71st AHC received orders to move again. This move, however, will not be as a company. The 71st is on orders to stand down. The high esprit de corps and sense of mission accomplishment of each member of the 71st AHC will be an asset to the units receiving former personnel of the 71st Company.

(Signed)
Robert J. Harman
CPT IN
Commanding

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS 30 March 1970
NUMBER 782

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202rlg(2), AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded to the following named units of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION and its assigned and attached units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 14th Combat Aviation Battalion
348th Aviation Detachment
534th Medical Detachment
14th Security Platoon
71st Assault Helicopter Company
151st Transportation Detachment
94th Signal Detachment
174th Assault Helicopter Company
409th Transportation Detachment
452d Signal Detachment
756th Medical Detachment
176th Assault Helicopter Company
411th Transportation Detachment
454th Signal Detachment
178th Assault Helicopter Company
400th Transportation Detachment

See the Citation on the following page:

The citation reads as follows:

The 14th COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION and its assigned, and attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 12 May 1968 in Quang Tin province, Republic of Vietnam. Demonstrating exceptional bravery and professional competence, the officers and men of the battalion gallantly extracted besieged friendly forces from the Kham Duc Special Forces came while under intense hostile fire. Severely threatened by an estimated two North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong regiments, the camp had suffered heavy mortar, rocket and automatic weapons fire and numerous large-scale ground assaults and was clearly untenable. Although enemy gunnners were well-secured on strategic high ground positions in command of the airfield, aerial extraction of the defenders was necessary and the members of the 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION rapidly responded to the emergency situation. While a devastating rain of hostile mortar and machine gun fire poured into the path of oncoming helicopters, unit personnel expertly maneuvered their ships onto the runway and began evacuating the American forces. As airstrikes bounded enemy positions and gunships agressively supported the lift helicopters, the men of the command effectively completed a vital resupply of ammunition and continued to evacuate the hard-pressed troops. Despite severe damage to numerous aircraft, the determined aviators repeatedly entered the dangerous battlefield, ultimately evacuated the entire battalion and contributed immeasurably to the safety of seven hundred American lives. The extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

FOR THE COMMANDER

GEORGE L. MABRY, JR
Major, General, US Army
Chief of Staff

UNIT CITATIONS AWARDED
TO 71st Aviation Company

SOURCE: Department of the Army Pamphlet 762-3

Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register
(1960-1978) Dated: May 1980

Awards:

VUA13-19 Aug 67 DAGO 37, 1970
VUA12 May 68 DAGO 43, 1970
VUA11-31 Aug 69 DAGO 43, 1972
N-PUC28 Jul 67 - 1 Aug 67 DAGO 32, 1973
RVNGC1 Mar 66 - 26 Mar 67 DAGO 22, 1968
RVNGC27 Mar 67 - 17 May 68 DAGO 21 & 46, 1969
RVNGC24 Aug 69 - 31 Dec 69 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC31 Mar 70 - 30 Jun 70 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC8 Feb 71 - 31 Mar 71 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC1 Apr 71 - 30 Jun 71 DAGO 6, 1974

ABBREVIATIONS:
DAGO: Department of the Army General Order
RVNGC: Republic Of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

Unit Citation
VUA: U.S. Army Valorous Unit Award
N-PUC U.S. Navy Presidential Unit Citation

Comment: I am slightly surprised to see that there was no valorous unit award made for their participation in Operation Lam Son 719.

According to the Coffelt Database, there were 47 soldiers who lost their lives related to their service with the 71st Aviation Company in Vietnam.

This is information found on the 71st AHC web-site. https://rattler-firebird.org/vietnam

71st AHC veteran, Doug Womack, discovered that the 14th Aviation Battalion along with assigned and attached units was supposed to have been submitted for the Valorous Unit Award for actions during the Lam Son 719 operation, but due to an oversight, the submission never took place. In an attempt to rectify this error, he has wrote to Department of the Army and submitted extensive documentation back in 2005. In response to that contact, the award was approved and the VUA was approved for HHC, 14th Aviation Battalion. Only HHC, 14th Avn Bn was listed because the file was limited to active units, and HHC is now 1-14th Avn Regt at Fort Rucker. After again contacting DA, he was informed that the assigned and attached units included in the recommendation were also approved, and that a General Order confirming the award is pending a final review by the Army Center of Military History to insure that the lineage and honors for all units concerned have been properly represented.

Barring any deviations from the recommendation by DA, the 71st AHC earned the Valorous Unit Award, the unit equivalent of a Silver Star, for the period 8 February 1971 to 28 March 1971, during Operation Lam Son 719. Each member assigned and present for duty during that time frame is entitled to the award. Over 1,800 soldiers, veterans of the 14th Avn Bn and current members of 1st Bn, 14th Avn Regt, share in the award.

[Historian Note: Things were pretty hectic during operation Lam Son 719. The 14th Aviation Battalion S2/S3 reporting was suspended due to the intense fighting in progress. It is not surprising that the award documentation was not submitted... I have been advised that the valorous award was approved several years ago now.]

I received the official citation for the "Valorous Unit Award" made to the 14th CAB for their participation in Operation Lamar Plain from 71st AHC veteran, Douglas Womack. See below:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA VA 22332-0400

PERMANENT ORDERS 089-10 30 March 2010

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 14th Aviation Battalion
(8 February 1971 to 7 April 1971)
71st Aviation Company (8 February 1971 to 28 March 1971)
116th Aviation Company (5 March 1971 to 24 March 1971)
174th Aviation Company (8 February 1971 to 7 April 1971)
176th Aviation Company (5 March 1971 to 24 March 1971)
756th Medical Detachment (8 February 1971 to 7 April 1971)
Troop F, 8th Cavalry (8 February 1971 to 7 April 1971)

Announcement is made of the following award:

Award: Valorous Unit Award
Period of service: As listed above
Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-14
Reason: For extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy and in support of military operations against hostile forces. During the period 8 February 1971 to 7 April 1971, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 14th Aviation Battalion and its subordinate units displayed extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy in support of allied combat operations in the Kingdom of Laos and along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Southeast Asia. The unit conducted numerous combat assaults into areas congested with anti-aircraft weapons and armor. Enemy gunners were highly accurate and positioned themselves strategically so as to disrupt the helicopters' flight paths as much as possible. Although harassed by the intense enemy fire, the unit continued to fly mission after mission into the increasingly dangerous combat zone. As the operation neared completion, enemy fire intensified. Displaying unwavering courage and exceptional skill, the unit began to extract the besieged allied troops. The unmerciful enemy inflicted severe damage to numerous aircraft and continually rained a hail of rocket and mortar fire into the pickup zones. Unit personnel were undaunted by enemy fire and expertly maneuvered their aircraft into the pickup zone to extract the beleaguered friendly troops. The determined aviators repeatedly entered the dangerous battlefield and ultimately extracted the entire friendly force. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 14th Aviation Battalion's outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon the unit and the United States Army.
Format: 320

PERMANENT ORDERS 089-10, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332, 30 March 2010

Additional Instructions: This order serves as official notification that a unit award has been approved for the organization(s) listed above and will serve as authority for eligible Soldiers to update their records and wear the award. The will use this permanent order to authorize the manufacture of an appropriate decoration streamer for any organization clearly entitled to display the award, and the completed streamers will be distributed by HRC.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

STEWART L. STEPHENSON, JR.
LTC, AG
Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch

Many of the pilots serving with the 71st AHC received the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross). This is roughly equivalent to the Silver Star Valor award that is typically awarded to a non-aviation action. This is an example of a DFC citation made to a pilot who served with the 71st AHC in 1969:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, 2 July 1926, has awarded the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS to:

WARRANT OFFICER ONE NATHAN J. WILONDEK,
71ST AVIATION COMPANY, 14TH AVIATION BATTALION

For Heroism: while participating in aerial flight on 18 August 1969, as a HU-1 Helicopter Commander with the 71st Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Battalion, 16th Aviation Group, 23d Infantry Division, in the Republic of Vietnam. Warrant Officer One Wilondek voluntarily conducted an ammunition resupply mission in the Song Chang Valley east of Hiep Duc. He knowingly piloted his aircraft into effective enemy fire without gunship cover. Despite his aircraft sustaining multiple hits, Warrant Officer One Wilondek maintained his position until the critical ammunition could be offloaded and be supplied to the Soldiers on the ground. His courageous and timely actions were instrumental to saving a company sized element from being overrun and contributed to the overall success of the mission. Warrant Officer One Wilondek's distinctive accomplishments are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 71st Aviation Company and the United States Army.

Operation participation for 71st Aviation Company:

The 71st Aviation Company supported operations involving the 196th Light Infantry Bde.

Operation Attleboro
Operation Benton
Operation Cedar Falls
Operation Cook
Operation Delaware
Operation Burlington Trail
Operation Elk's Canyon
Operation Fitchburg
Operation Gadsden
Operation Lamar Plain
Operation Iron Mountain
Operation Junction City.
Operation Frederick Hill.
Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.
Operation Golden Valley (Kham Duc).
Operation Caroline Hill
Operation Pennsylvania Square

Additional operations may be missing. Almost every operation that involved the 196th LIB included the 71st AHC.

Combat after action reports and named operation reports as well as Operation Reports and Lessons Learned reports exist in the Americal Division Historical Data Base that can be examined in greater detail. S2/S3 reporting is available online at AmericalFoundation.org and at the Americal Division Portal at the Texas Tech. online - Vietnam Archives web-site.

This section is made up of articles from the Army Reporter.

The largest Army newspaper in the world

THE ARMY REPORTER is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Office. United States Army Vietnam and is an authorized Army publication. The command newspaper has a circulation of 85,000 and is printed by **PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES** in Tokyo, Japan.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. This newspaper utilizes the facilities of the ARMED FORCES NEWS BUREAU and ARMY NEWS FEATURES. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to: THE ARMY REPORTER, USARV-IO, APO 96375 or telephone Long Binh 4204/4311.

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Army Reporter:

11Mar67-**Photo Caption - LET'S GO!-**With two men standing by to provide covering fire, airmobile troops of the 196th Infantry Brigade leap from a UH-1D into the jungles of War Zone C where Operation Junction City is underway. (Photo by PFC Bob Towle, USARV-IO) **(Note: the helicopter nose art identifies the helicopter as a rattler from the 71st AHC).**

Army Reporter:
06May67-**Photo Caption - COMIN' IN -** Heliborne assault elements of a combined Special Forces-**Civilian Irregular Defense Group** task force arrive to reinforce elements already on the ground at Bunard Drop Zone. (Photo by SFC M.L. Crigger, 5th SFG-IO) (The rattler emblems of the **71st AHC** are clearly on the nose of the four helicopters in the photo.

NHA TRANG, (5th SFG-IO) - During the early pre-dawn hours of a recent day, members of Operation Harvest Moon from Special Forces bases scattered throughout Vietnam were going through last minute checks of equipment, personnel and rigging of parachutes.

At 8 a.m. all members of the force departing from the Special Forces camp at Nha Trang were strapped in, the planes lined up waiting for take-off.

The weather was hazy, thick and extremely hot at Bunard Drop Zoje, approximately 65 miles northeast of Saigon. AT 9:45 a.m., a Special Forces pathfinder unit parachuted into the drop zone and began laying the panels for the first U.S. Army Special Forces airborne combat assault.

At 10 a.m. U.S. Air Force C-123 aircraft began the mass parachute jump, dropping the Special Forces advisors and members of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG). Within minutes, the sky over the drop zone was spotted with parachutes. There was no sniper fire directed at the jumpers, but several aircraft reported sniper fire during and immediately following the jump.

The last jumper was on the ground at 10:14 a.m. The drop zone and helicopter landing zones were secured at 11:20 a.m. with prearranged heliborne assault elements arriving at 11:30 a.m. Within 15 minutes, the last heliborne elements had arrived and the helicopters had again taken to the air while other helicopters hovered overhead furnishing air observation, cover and support.

The final objective of the operation was to secure the area selected to construct a new U.S. Army Special Forces "Fighting Camp" at the drop zone. Work is now underway on construction of Camp Bunard. The design stresses the principles of defense with emphasis on mutual support and defense in depth. The layout of the camp is such that it can be defended by one-quarter of the assigned contingent, thereby freeing the remaining personnel for operations.

08Jul67-**Three-Day LRRP Mission Almost Ended On First Day**

CHU LAI, (196th INF-IO) - Sergeant Michael W. Daniels of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's **Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP)** recently led his team on a three-day recon mission which almost ended the first night.

Daniels and his **LRRP** team were flown by helicopter to a hill northwest of here to set up a three-day observation post. As the team began the 72 hours of continuous watching, they heard shots from across the ridge. Another LRRP team, headed by Cpl. William Davis, was on a hill on the other side of the ridge and Daniels thought the men were trying to signal him.

He had his men fire some rounds in the air to acknowledge the signal. More shooting came from the other hill which did not sound like M-16 rifle fire. When the men heard M-79, machinegun and carbine fire join in the chorus, they realized that Davis' team was under attack.

After several minutes of anxious listening, Daniels and his men saw the other LRRP team begin extracted from their hilltop position by helicopter. Daniels wondered if they had given their position away by signaling Davis on the other hill. There was nothing to do but sit it out and hope the Cong attacking Davis had not noticed Daniels' fire.

Soon, though, the worst began to happen. Sniper rounds began zinging into Daniels' exposed hilltop position from a hillside about 800 yards away. The LRRP team quickly called in artillery on the sniper. The first rounds were on target.

Knowing that they were in for a long night, the men put out their trip flares and claymore mines. About 9:15 that night, they saw two flashlights bobbing around where their chopper had landed. Soon the men with the flashlights began following the trail the team had taken to reach its position. "We just watched and held our breath," recalled Daniels. "We didn't want to make contact and could only hope they wouldn't see us in the dark."

The "no contact" rule went out the window in the next few minutes when PFC Mark Brennan heard men moving toward him from less than 50 yards away. Brennan shot a hand illumination flare which exposed two VC both armed. The LRRP killed them instantly.

The rest of the VC, who had remained at the bottom of the hill, opened up on the LRRP with carbines and automatic weapons.

Daniels, meanwhile, was calling for helicopter gunships from Task Force Oregon. Two **Firebirds** from the **161st Aviation Company** (Historian Note- **Firebirds** would be from the **71st AHC,** 161st AHC gunships would have been called the Scorpions. They were sister companies in the **14th Aviation Battalion. It is more likely that these were 71st AHC helicopters as they were assigned direct support for the 196th**) answered the call with machineguns and blazing rockets, working over the sides and bottom of the hill. Enemy fire knocked a machinegun half off its mount. The gun went wild and sprayed a stream of tracers over the hilltop and into the LRRP's position. None of Daniels' men were hit.

The VC, who began to retreat, received a parting shot when Daniels called in artillery. Illumination rounds from the guns enabled the LRRP to direct the deadly explosives on the enemy, who were fleeing into the woods.

The LRRP quickly moved to another side of the hilltop, hoping to prevent more probes. Later in the night the men heard whispered talk on the hillside and on the hilltop. Not wanting another encounter with the large force of VC, each man lay silent. Their silence paid off and the probing element finally decided the Americans had left.

Army Reporter:
05Aug67-**'Fireflys' Mash Enemy Fleet**

CHU LAI, (TF ORE-IO- A firefly team from the **71st Aviation Company Rattlers** recently established a record for sampan and junk fleet kills north of here.

Supporting Task Force Oregon, Maj. William Arnik and Maj. Edward Johnson sighted more than 100 junks and sampans along the Troung Giang River.

As the men switched on their powerful lights, they observed many boats on the river bank being loaded. Many more, laden with ammunition boxes, were moving away from the shore.

Dropping down for a closer look, the Rattlers drew small arms and automatic weapons fire from the shore line and from the boats trying to escape.

Huey gunships flown by Capt. Joe Corothers and WO Ager Davis, Jerry Shirley, and Conrad Howard, directed rocket and machinegun fire into enemy positions, resulting in 148 junks and sampans destroyed and 14 VC killed.

Army Reporter:
19Aug67-**Copter Withstands Sniper Fire; Makes Emergency Evacuation**

CHU LAI, (TFO-IO) - A crew from the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** recently withstood an attack by hidden snipers to perform an emergency Medical Evacuation (MED-EVAC) near here.

While returning from a support mission for the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Capt. Thomas R. Wolf and WO J.D. Stevens received a radio call that an infantryman had stepped on a mine not far from their position.

Landing in a small area marked by a smoke grenade, the crew waited as patrol members carried the injured man to the chopper.

The ship's gunner, PFC Tom Brengle, jumped out of the aircraft to assist.

Approximately five feet from the ship, another mine went off, injuring two more infantrymen and showering Brengle's leg with shrapnel.

Simultaneously, enemy snipers opened up with automatic weapons fire.

The men quickly scrambled aboard the chopper which began spinning when it tried to lift off. An enemy round had severed the tail rotor cable, and the helicopter was forced to land again.

Wolf called company headquarters and advised them of the situation. Another ship was dispatched to the area.

Wary of landing in the minefield, WO. A.J. Sutton and WO Jerry Brantley pilots of the rescue ship, landed one skid on a two foot high boulder. They kept the ship at a slight hover as the stranded men climbed aboard.

The helicopter lifted out of the enemy fire with all the injured safely aboard.

Army Reporter:

14Oct67-**1600 Soldiers Air Assaulted In Operation**

CHU LAI, (1st AVN-IO) - Operation Benton a multi-battalion combat assault force from the Americal Division, placed nearly 1600 fighting men into fierce ground action on the first day of the operation.

Massive airmobile assaults planned and staged by the **14th Combat Aviation Battalion's** five assault helicopter companies (Note: This refers to the **71st AHC**, **161st AHC**, **174th AHC**, **176th AHC**, **& 178th ASHC** who participated) contributed over 60 aircraft during the first day of Benton. That day, 637 hours were flown, lifting the combat troops and 259 tons of cargo.

Assistant S-3 officer of the 1st Aviation Brigade unit, Maj. Derald Smith, called it "by far the most complicated assault operation we've run."

Final figures showed the 14th had lifted 12,256 men and 2046 cargo, flown 2804 hours, and evacuated 48 casualties.

In addition, the battalion's gunships had been credited with 49 Viet Cong killed and 125 enemy structures destroyed.

The initial fleet of heliborne troops touched down in the lading zones (LZs) at 7:30 a.m. Intelligence sources reported the area was "heavily saturated with anti-aircraft positions and .50 cal. automatic weapons."

Another factor which concerned the flight leaders was the extreme care taken to prevent aerial reconnaissance of the LZs by aviation commanders. Only spotter-type airplanes had flown the operational area the day before so as not to arouse enemy suspicion of the assault.

All LZs were picked by map reconnaissance and verified by infantry battalion commanders and mission aviation leaders riding in the same chopper on the day of the assault.

Once on approach to the secreted LZs, conditions proved less than desirable. While a command and control helicopter was marking all LZs for landing, fierce sniper and automatic weapons fire opened up from wood lines.

Later, the LZs were found to be mined - one even had anti-helicopter devices. Another was filled with punji stakes and hostile fire was reported from most of the villages in the well-populated area.

However, ground commanders later said the gunships had drastically cut friendly casualties. Gunships from the **161st and 176th Assault Helicopter Companies** made repeated runs in support of the operation.

***Note: Related information was found in an Aviation ORLL report for the 14th Aviation Battalion. It refers to moving 101st ABN Division troops.

(6) On 13 August 1967, the Battalion committed 52 UH-1D's, 13 UH-1C(gunships), and 10 CH-47's to start operation Benton. This massive operation involved moving 2 Infantry Battalions, two artillery batteries and support elements for a total of more than 1,500 combat troops. The combat assault was conducted in a morning and afternoon phase, however there was no break in pace as indicated by a new Battalion high of 637 hours flown in one day. Nine aircraft of the Battalion were hit by enemy ground fire, however there were no crewmember casualties.

Army Reporter:

16Dec67-**2nd NVA Division Dented By Brigade In Three-Day Battle**

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-IO) - Infantrymen of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade put a dent into the Second North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Division recently when the Americans killed 118 enemy and captured 56 weapons in a three-day battle.

Initial contact with the NVA force was made by **Company D, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry**, when they received sniper fire as they approached several huts.

Hearing gunfire, the second and third platoons of F Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry and Company B, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., moved toward the area of contact.

First Lieutenant James S. Dickey, first platoon leader in Company B, said, "As we approached the area of contact, one of my men saw a weapon pointing out of a hole. He dropped a grenade into it, which resulted in the death of a NVA officer and the capture of an assault machinegun."

"Within 25 yards, my men spotted another hole which contained two more NVA soldiers," Dickey continued. "After an exchange of fire, two more NVA troops were killed and we captured two rifles."

With the contact increasing **Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** and **Company C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.** were combat assaulted into the fighting zone.

Contact continued until the early evening hours. Artillery fire from the **3d Battalion, 82d Artillery** and air strikes and gunships from the **71st Aviation Battalion** ([sic] **71st Assault Helicopter Company**) supported the ground troops in the moderate to heavy contact with NVA forces.

Confirmed body count at the end of the fist day was 40. The following morning, **Company D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.** again started to receive enemy fire.

As the tempo increased, Company **D, 3d Bn., 21st Inf. and Company D, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry** were combat assaulted into the area.

Fighting continued throughout the day by all units until early evening when NVA elements broke contact.

Once again, air strikes and artillery fire supported ground troops. Contact was sporadic the third day as the Americans pressed their hunt for NVA soldiers. By nightfall, 118 enemy bodies covered the battlefield and an assortment of enemy weapons, mostly automatic weapons, had been captured.

Army Reporter:

30Dec67-**Largest Group To Date**

38 Guerrillas Give Up

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-IO) - Helicopters from the Americal Division's 196th Light Infantry Brigade's **71st Aviation Company** Rattlers played a major role in the evacuation of one of the largest single responses to the Chieu Hoi program recently as a 38-member Viet Cong guerilla unit surrendered to government authorities.

The assistant platoon leader, the highest ranking man in the group, told the South Vietnamese government officials that his people were disenchanted with National Liberation Force goals and they wanted to become Hoi Chanhs.

The spokesman said his people were hungry and they wanted help. Four weapons, two automatic weapons, an M1 carbine, and a sub-machine gun, were turned by the group.

The assistant platoon leader turned his rifle bolt in to the authorities. "I was afraid to be seen leaving our hamlet with my weapon, so I took the bolt so it could not be used," he said through an interpreter.

All of the Hoi Chanhs came from the hamlet of Loc An and included all but three members of their local VC platoon.

The former VC ranged in age from 15 to 46 years old. One of them was a 15-year-old girl who had been serving as a nurse.

The choppers carried the people to Phang Binh where they were turned over to district authorities.

Army Reporter: 20Jan68-**Infantry Bde's Find Largest In I Corps**

CHU LAI (AMERICAL-IO) - Elements of Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade uncovered one of the largest weapons and ammunition caches ever found in I Corps area recently 17 miles west of Tam Ky. ***[Historian Note: The weapons cache was located on 26DEC67 at BT037202]***

Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry captured 140 weapons and destroyed tons of enemy ammunition in the brigade's largest discovery since it has been in Vietnam.

The weapons found by the battalion increased the total number of weapons captured by the "Chargers" to 253 in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

This discovery came as a result of information from a former 2nd North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Division non-commissioned officer who turned himself in.

The Hoi Chanh's information was the second of the kind which aided the brigade in finding enemy weapons caches. Earlier in December, he led a company of the **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** to a cache of nine weapons.

After that incident, the former enemy was taken to the brigade's aid station and treated for malaria. While in the station he said he remembered where more weapons were hidden and he was ready to take the Americans to their location.

Captain Paul N. Yurrchak, commander of **Co. A.** received world of the Hoi Chanh's knowledge and alerted his men that the cache was in their area of operation.

The former enemy, along with an interpreter and 2nd Lt. George A Kidney, first platoon leader, boarded a helicopter to make an aerial reconnaissance of the area.

After he spotted terrain familiar to him, they made an air assault into the area with an 18-man force. Upon landing, the force spotted two Viet Cong 50 yards away fleeing from them. They were engaged and killed.

The Hoi Chanh led the unit to a village a short distance away and discovered 15 weapons piled in a heap in thick underbrush. The weapons apparently were being used as a stockpile for parts.

Leaving four men to guard the weapons, the search party pushed on Within a short distance the element came upon two huts approximately 100 yards apart. Weapons were discovered in one hut, an ammunition stockpile in the other.

The captured weapons were taken (by) **71st Aviation Company helicopters** to the battalion's base camp. Some of the weapons included: 60 rifles, five shotguns, 20 light machine guns, five heavy machine guns, 25 sub-machineguns, two 57mm recoilless rifles, eight 60mm mortars, three 81mm mortars, four pistols, two M79s, two M60 machineguns, one 50-cal machine guns and three light anti-tank weapons.

Army Reporter:

18May68-Vietnam Communique

Americal Division

Action by units of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade in Quang Tin Province netted them 36 enemy killed and nine weapons captured.

Heavy fighting broke out 12 miles south of Tam Ky in the Operation Burlington Trail area as infantrymen from the **1st Battalion, 46th Infantry** dismounted from helicopters.

The soldiers immediately formed a defensive perimeter and returned the fire while **helicopter gunship crews** flew close overhead support employing rockets and miniguns. After contact broke a sweep of the area was made revealing 27 enemy killed.

In several skirmishes the same day six more VC were killed.

Infantrymen of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade recorded six enemy kills in contact centered around Duc Pho. They also detained 22 suspects during the day.

1st Avn Bde

Gunship crews of the **71st Aviation Company**, **14th Combat Aviation Battalion** reported killing 20 Viet Cong while flying close overhead armed reconnaissance for infantrymen of the Americal Division's 1st Battalion, 62nd Infantry ([sic] **1/52nd Infantry** of the 198th LIB).

The ground units were conducting a reconnaissance operation seven miles south of Hoi An when they came into heavy contact with an enemy force.

In addition to the 20 reported kills, the chopper gunners destroyed 18 structures, damaged 24 others and sank four sampans.....

[Historian Note: Units of the 14th and 123rd Combat Aviation Battalions were retroactively re-assigned to the Americal Division under the 16th CAG from the 1st Aviation Brigade. This action might or might not have been reported under the 1st Aviation Brigade.]

Army Reporter:

13Jul68-Vietnam Communique

Americal Division

Soldiers of the Americal Division killed 123 enemy soldiers during the week's fighting. Major contacts occurred while conducting operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

Heavy action occurred when the 196th Infantry Brigade's **4th Battalion, 21st Infantry (Opcon to 196th),** encountered a VC force south of Hoi An. The soldiers combined with the 171st ***[sic should be the 71st]*** Assault Helicopter Company killed 21 of the enemy. Later in the week the same battalion engaged the VC and killed 10 enemy and captured their weapons.

Action in the 11th Infantry Brigade area netted seven enemy killed. A battery of the **6th Battalion, 11th Artillery** accounted for the kills when they were called to fire on a group of VC who had been spotted one mile north of Mo Duc.

Army Reporter:

17Aug68-**Americal Communique**

Americal Div

The Americal Division killed 127 enemy during a week of frequent and scattered fighting.

Units of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade killed eight VC and one NVA during scattered action in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. Six of the kills were reported by door gunners of the command and control helicopter from the **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry**. Units of the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** killed three enemy in separate incidents west of Tam Ky.

Elements of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade reported sporadic contacts throughout Wang [sic-Quang] Ngai Province as they killed 10 enemy and detained 10 suspects. Soldiers of the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** killed seven enemy during reconnaissance operations five miles northwest of Duc Pho. Another element of the battalion, sweeping an area 11 miles northwest of Duc Pho, killed two enemy in separate contacts. The battalion's command and control helicopter reported killing one Viet Cong soldier 14 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

1st Avn Bde

Pilots and door gunners this week killed 333 enemy.

While flying a reconnaissance mission near Chu Lai, Captain Herman Castle of the **71st Assault Helicopter Company**, 14th Combat Aviation Battalion noticed that a Marine jet airplane had ditched in the ocean. He quickly proceeded to the area. Though not equipped for rescue operations, Captain Castle and crewmen succeeded in pulling the Marine aviator out by having him hang on to the skids of the gunship. The pilot then flew to a beach where an ambulance was waiting to take the pilot to hospital for treatment.

[Historian Note: Related information from the book, "Vietnam Air Losses, by Chris Hobson] 6August 1968:

F-4B 149449 MAG-13, Chu Lai – Major D I. Carroll and 1LT R.C. Brown survive. Hit by small arms fire making a sixth pass on enemy positions near An Hoa (a Marine Base north of LZ Baldy). Hit in the right wing while dropping napalm from 400 feet. Burning aircraft was flown back to Chu Lai to attempt landing. However, the landing gear failed to extend. The crew ejected a mile off the coast and were recovered by an Army helicopter that was in the vicinity **[This was the 71st AHC helicopter]**.

Army Reporter:

31Aug68-**Vietnam Communique**

Americal Div

Americal Division soldiers killed 281 in heavy fighting with NVA and VC soldiers.

In one day of fighting the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and 16th Combat Aviation Group gunship crews accounted for 65 enemy killed and the capture of 13 enemy weapons. In the days's heaviest contact units from the **4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** under the operational control of the 196th, teamed with the gunship crews for the kills. The **4th Battalion** soldiers were credited with 37 kills and the gunship crews for the kills. The 4th Battalion soldiers were credited with 37 kills and the gunship crews with 28. the action occurred two miles south of Hoi An. [The gunship unit was the **71st AHC**).

Air and ground forces in the 11th Light Infantry Brigade's area of Quang Ngai Province combined to kill 16 VC and capture six weapons. Aero scouts of the **123rd Combat Aviation Battalion (B/123rd Avn)** killed 10 VC and captured 4 weapons south of Quang Ngai. Infantrymen of the battalion were credited with seven of the kills, while gunship crews accounted for three. Other brigade units killed six VC and captured two individual weapons.

[Historian Note: This is one of multiple related entries from the Americal Division S2/S3 reporting for 17AUG68: 196th, C/4/21, vic BT136546 at 0900H, 71st Avn obs VC moving across river, He eng'd enemy, res: 25 VC KIA. C/4/21 eng'd , res: 8 VC KIA. Actions continued. Contact broken at 0935H.]

Army Reporter: **14Sep68-Joint Army, AF, Marine effort saves recon patrol**

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL) - Army, Air Force, and Marine units teamed up with a heroic helicopter pilot to save a marine recon patrol surrounded by NVA troops, 20 miles west of Tam Ky.

When the eight-man **Long Range Recon Patrol (LRRP)** from the 1st Recon Battalion, 1st Marine Division became surrounded by an estimated 50 NVA soldiers, the called for support from LZ Baldy, basecamp of the 196th Infantry Brigade. To aid the LRRP, the soldiers dispatched a gunship light fire team **(71st AHC).** A spooky aircraft was also dispatched by the Air Force to provide additional fire support.

"Arriving at the LRRP location we had a difficult time coordinating between us and Spooky due to poor radio communications and the LRRPs lack of familiarity with gunship support," said Warrant Officer James Collins. "We initiated a target strike when we only had ten minutes left in the target area.

Superior force: The Recon Patrol was in close and intense contact with the superior-size NVA force, and requested to be extracted. Warrant Officer Leon Schoenborn volunteered to attempt the rescue.

"While waiting for a reply to Schoenborn's offer, the **gunships** and flare ship returned to the 196th basecamp to re-arm, refuel and replenish flares.

"We kept the time on the ground to a bare minimum," said Mr. Collins.

"We returned to station to find the situation rapidly deteriorating and the authorization for extraction granted by the Marines," he added.

The "gunships" continued close support of the LRRP, pouring heavy suppressive fire on all enemy muzzle flashes they spotted.

"After two cold passes over the Landing Zone, we informed Mr. Schoenborn of the severe obstacles in and around the area, but he said he wanted to give it a try," continued Collins.

Set for pickup: Spooky took over illumination as the three Army choppers set up for the pickup. The two gunships escorted the slick into the "hot" LZ and maintained continuous fire all around it. As Mr. Schoenborn's ship set down about five NVA automatic weapons opened up from all sides of the small perimeter.

"I told Shoenborn to abort the attempted pickup, but he elected to stay and try," said Collins.

Loading was difficult as hostile fire grew more intense. Because of the delay in boarding, Schoenborn's aircraft was forced to leave with only three of the LRRP aboard.

Expend ammunition: Collins and his wingmen expended the remainder of their ammunition covering the departure of the rescue ship. Spooky took over the job when the choppers had to return to Baldy for fuel.

Again, they rearmed and refueled as fast as possible and after a quick meeting to determine the method for the second rescue they were once again in the air.

Once more they returned to the area of contact. This time the LRRP reported the enemy movement had shifted to higher ground. The "gunships" changed their plan and attacked the enemy position under flare illumination.

When the Marines reported the enemy closing in on them from all sides, Schoenborn decided to go in after them.

"We set up and started inbound with all our guns firing," continued Collins. "The rescue ship quickly landed, picked up the Marines and climbed to a safe altitude while the gunships expended their firepower on the enemy positions.

Mr. Shoenborn and his crew, with close Army, Air Force and Marine cooperation, successfully rescued the trapped Recon Patrol and brought back valuable information on enemy activities in the area of contact.

Army Reporter:
19Oct68-**'Miracle Division' Choppers pull two Marines from sea**

CHU LAI (AMERICAL) - Americal Division helicopter crews plucked two downed Marine pilots out of the South China sea recently in a daring display of inter-service cooperation.

The two pilots, Maj. Daniel Carroll and Lt. Ralph C. Brown Jr., were returning from a mission north of Chu Lai when they realized that there was a malfunction in their landing gear.

"I contact Chu Lai and told them to go ahead and 'foam' the runway," Carroll said. After about 10 or 15 minutes the two directed their F-4B Phantom jet towards the runway and the cross deck arresting gear pendent, which will cause the aircraft to come to a complete halt after about 200 to 250 feet.

Out of control

"Our speed was slowed down to about 80 miles per hour, when suddenly the pendant broke, causing our aircraft to go out of control and start to skid sideways," Carroll continued, "My choice at this time was to hit the burners
and attempt to get the aircraft off the ground. I believe we did a first in aviation history, when we got the aircraft off the ground without landing gear."

"While I prepared for our ejection, Brown headed the aircraft out towards the sea. We both ejected about a half mile from shore."

The first chopper to the scene was that of WO1 James M. White from the Americal Division's **176th Aviation Co.** Having spotted the red flare Carroll sent up, he proceeded to begin the rescue of the major.

Carroll commented later on the rescue, "The pilot hovered over me beautifully at about three feet and his crewmen tossed me the rope. White did a fantastic job of holding the chopper steady and his crew really humped in getting me into the chopper. The job was so proficient that it seemed that they had trained for years at air-sea rescues."

Rescue Fails

Brown's rescue was a little more exciting. A Marine CH-34 chopper first appeared to pickup the remaining pilot. The chopper, having Brown all hooked-up, began to pull him up out of the water, but then the craft began to lose power. The downed pilot was dragged by the CH-34 as it sank to the water. He disengaged himself, then the chopper regained its power and moved out of the way.

All this time another Americal chopper, piloted by Capt. Herman Castle from the **71st Aviation Co.,** was circling the area. When he

(Continued 1)

saw that the Marine chopper was unable to make the pick-up he immediately lowered his craft to about two feet above the water.

There was no rope aboard Castle's chopper so the pilot was forced to hold onto the skids. Brown said, "The crew pulled me up and I hooked my elbow over the skid, and locked the other arm to it through my harness. Then we headed for the beach."

Traveling at a speed of 50 knots, the Huey flew just above the surface of the water to carry Brown a mile to land. "Because of an injured ankle, I let go in about three feet of water rather than over solid ground."

Praises Crew

Following his unusual rescue, Brown was quick to praise the professional ability of the pilot and crew of the Army chopper: "He did a beautiful job of fling . . . held it steady as a rock two feet above the water."

But Carroll's and Brown's day was far from over. That night the two "Leathernecks" went down to the **176th Aviation Co.** Officer's Club and bought refreshments for the company and especially for White, Castle and their crews. Carroll concluded by saying, "It was just our way of thanking the Army for helping out two Marines.

[Historian Note: Related information from the book, "Vietnam Air Losses, by Chris Hobson] 6August 1968:

F-4B 149449 MAG-13, Chu Lai – Major D I. Carroll and 1LT R.C. Brown survive. Hit by small arms fire making a sixth pass on enemy positions near An Hoa (a Marine Base north of LZ Baldy). Hit in the right wing while dropping napalm from 400 feet. Burning aircraft was flown back to Chu Lai to attempt landing. However, the landing gear failed to extend. The crew ejected a mile off the coast and were recovered by an Army helicopter that was in the vicinity **[These were helicopters from the 71st AHC and 176th AHC.]**.

Army Reporter:
11Nov68-**Vietnam Communique**

Americal Div

In a week of moderate action Americal Division soldiers reported killing 153 enemy soldiers.

On Oct. 25th infantrymen from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade accounted for 22 enemy and captured 16 individual weapons while operating in the Wheeler/Wallow area.

On the same day elements of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade killed two VC, detained five suspects and captured 21,500 pounds of rice in scattered contacts in the Operation Burlington Trail area. The rice was found in several locations with the largest cache discovered just south of Chu Lai amounting to eight tons.

The next day soldiers of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade found three rice caches totaling 13,900 pounds in areas west of Tam Ky and southwest of Hoi An. In addition they killed eight VC and captured one individual weapon in scattered contact.

1st Avn Bde

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On the same day (Oct 25) a helicopter from the 16th Combat Aviation Group's **71st** ***[71st Aviation Company]*** **Bn.,** 14th Combat Aviation Bn. was summoned to an Operation Burlington Trail area to evacuate a rice cache captured by the 198th Light Infantry Brigade. As the helicopter touched down it came under intense enemy fire.

Door gunners returned the fire killing eight VC. The wounded pilot managed to pilot the chopper back to the base.

Army Reporter: 30Dec68-**Vietnam Communique** Dec. 10-Dec. 15

Fierce contact in all 4 corps

Americal Div

Americal Division forces reported killing 159 enemy in a week of intense fighting.

On Dec. 13 action was heaviest as division forces killed 54. A unit from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade reported killing 22 of the enemy in a series of contacts while other brigade elements killed 16 Viet Cong in scattered contacts.

Brave and Bold soldiers of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade killed nine VC in the Chu Lai and Tam Ky areas. A patrol from the **5th Battalion, 46th Infantry** called in artillery fire on a group of enemy 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, killing five.

The previous day Americal forces reported light and scattered contact as they killed 28 enemy soldiers.

Action for the 196th Light Infantry Brigade resulted in 15 Viet Cong killed. The **71st Assault Helicopter Company**, 14th Aviation Battalion killed seven of the VC in three engagements west of Tam Ky.

Brave and Bold soldiers of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade killed six Viet Cong in the Chu Lai area, while Jungle Warriors of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade reported killing five enemy in scattered encounters. Two more VC were killed in other action.

On Dec. 10 scattered action in the Americal Division's area of southern I Corps netted the division's infantrymen 18 VC killed.

Soldiers from the 11th Light Infantry Brigade killed six VC in southern Quang Ngai Province, while 198th Light Infantry Brigade soldiers killed five in the Chu Lai area.

Army Reporter: 6 October 1969 - **Vietnam communiqué - September 15-21**

Americal Div - A pair of large clashes on Sept. 16 - one offensive and one defensive - accounted for 29 Americal Division enemy kills.

An unknown number of NVA soldiers probed a **3rd Bn., 21st Inf**., night defensive position at LZ Center 16 1/2 miles west of Tam Ky and met heavy defensive fire, backed by artillery, gunships and air strikes. A total of 17 NVA soldiers carrying more than 150 hand grenades were killed.

In the other clash, choppers from the **71st Aviation *[Company]*** Bn. spotted an estimated 20 VC in a rice paddy, 9 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky and killed 12.

A day earlier, the mountainous terrain near LZ Siberia, 24 miles northwest of Tam Ky was the center of fighting for the Americal.

Two companies battled a pair of unknown sized NVA forces within a half mile of each other.

Soldiers of **Co. C and Co. D 4th Bn., 31st** Inf. killed six Reds in battles that ended shortly after night fell.

Elsewhere, Americal soldiers killed 11 enemy including one NVA soldier who returned to pick up a sick buddy.

On Sept. 17 Americal artillery and Air Force jets hit an area 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City to account for 10 NVA deaths.

Troopers from **Co. C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf**. also found 17 Communist bodies hidden 24 miles west of Tam Ky.

Two days earlier, Americal Division soldiers of **Co. B, 3rd Bn., 1st Inf**. locked up with an NVA squad 15 miles west of Duc Pho, killing four of the foe in the largest action of the day in the division's sector.

On the same day, men of **Co. C, 4th Bn., 21st Inf**. two miles south of the city, found the bodies of five NVA soldiers, killed 48 hours earlier in an abortive ambush attempt on an 11th Bde. convoy.

Later in the week, troopers from **Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.,** ambushed three VC soldiers along a heavily-traveled enemy jungle byway 12 miles northwest of Duc Phu, killing all three.

Son Sept. 17, gunships of the **121st Assault Helicopter Co**., under the operational control of the Americal Division, fought an undetermined number of VC soldiers in a four-hour air-to-ground battle killing 28 enemy.

The next day, Americal Division infantrymen killed five VC soldiers in a day of sparse action and found the bodies of two NVA regulars killed by helicopter gunships in earlier fighting.

LZ HAWK HILL - In a week of hard fighting, soldiers of the 196th Inf. Bde. Americal Division killed 128 enemy.

Men of the **1st Bn., 46th Inf**., took the heaviest toll of the enemy, accounting for 68 NVA dead.

The biggest action took place when **Companies B and C**, operating in Hiep Duc Valley, met a large enemy force. **Co. B** became involved in a bitter bunker-to-bunker fight lasting all morning. When the fight was over, **Co. B** had accounted for 33 NVA.

Working the high ground, **Co. C** came under intense mortar fire. The Americans continued to return fire, killing four of the enemy.

Later in the day, **Co. B** spotted another large NVA force in an open area. The Americans called in another gunship from the **71st AHC**, which proceeded to strafe the area. The Americans counted 10 enemy dead there.

In the days that followed, ARVN soldiers sweeping the area of contact found more enemy dead. Eleven of the NVA found were credited to **Btry. C, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty**. Ten more were credited to **Co. C, 1st Bn., 46th Inf**.

In scattered incidents throughout its area of operations, the **2nd Bn., 1st Inf**., killed 28 enemy.

In one day of fighting, **Co. D** killed seven VC, detained six and confiscated two AK47 rifles. Later in the week, the same unit, after killing two more NVA, found an ammunition cache of 20 60mm
mortar rounds and 15 Chinese Communist grenades.

Working with an evening Popular Forces patrol one mortarman from **Co. E** was instrumental in the killing of 10 VC. Serving as a mortar forward observer, the soldier spotted two squads of VC. Helicopter gunships were called in, killing three men in the squads.

The **3rd Bn., 21st Inf**., counted 16 enemy killed for the week. Early in the week, **Co. A**, while searching a recently used base camp, found eight NVA graves. The eight kills were credited to **Btry. B, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty.**

Later action was scattered. **Co. B** found 14 RPGs while operating 20 miles west of Tam Ky. The rounds were lying off a trail under a poncho. Conducting search missions 24 miles west of Tam Ky, **Co D. 4th Bn., 31st Inf**. found the graves of four NVA, which were credited to **Co. A's** earlier
contact. Two NVA had been killed by **Co. A** and two by **Btry, C, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty**.

Operating five miles northwest of Tam Ky, **F Troop, 17th Cav**., killed four VC and captured 4 1/2 tons of rice in sorties at the end of the week.

Army Reporter: **20Jul 70- Rocks help beat NVA**

LZ HAWK HILL - In a rock-throwing, grenade-tossing battle west of Tam Ky, Americal Division infantry, artillery and helicopter gunships combined to kill 53 NVA.

Companies **B** and **C,** 1st Bn., 56th [?46th] Inf., ***[the unit information has a typo, probably 1st Bn. 46th Ijnf.]*** 196th Inf. Bde., were conducting search and clear operations in the rugged jungle terrain of Hiep Duc Valley.

Co. B moved out to sweep the valley floor in the early morning hours and became involved in what proved to be the biggest firefight of the day.

As the company moved across a small, grassy opening, the point platoon began receiving rifle and machine gun fire from a treeline to the front. At the same time, the first platoon, which was still in the night laager waiting for the other platoons to move across, was hit with mortar and automatic weapons fire.

"We spotted some NVA in the woodline and opened up on them," said Staff Sgt. Charlie Hall, the platoon sergeant. "As we were blasting them, someone also noticed two of them attempting to sneak up on our perimeter. We threw hand frags and killed them both."

As the first platoon continued to fire, the third platoon continued to receive sniper fire and incoming mortar rounds.

The second platoon spotted communication wire on the ground and cut it, temporarily stopping the mortar rounds. The second platoon then was ordered to secure a defensive position from which they could assault the NVA.

"We dug in faster than I ever imagined it could be done," said Lt. Drake H. Erby, second platoon leader.

"We moved out by fire and movement and spotted the bunkers," said Hall. "We had no place to go but forward, so that's what we did."

As the bitter struggle progressed, the first platoon found it had used all its hand grenades. A squad from each of the other platoons collected all the available grenades and moved to aid the first platoon. With the arrival of reinforcements and more grenades, the assault continued.

"It was a bunker-to-bunker, hole-to-hole fight," said Erby. "We would toss a grenade into a bunker and it would come flying back out. So we resorted to first throwing in a rock to confuse the enemy and then immediately tossing in a grenade. It worked."

The infantrymen finally knocked out the last bunker. In searching the area, they found a total of 14 fortified bunkers connected by a trenchline. The Americans counted 29 dead NVA.

"Evidently, the NVA had planned to ambush us as we moved out," said Erby, "but we moved before they were ready and caught them flat-footed."

Co. B then moved to the high ground and later spotted a large group of NVA in the open. A Firebird from the **71st [AHC**] was called in and killed 10 of the enemy.

Co. C, clearing the high ground, had received mortar fire the entire morning, but the men of **Co. C** continued to support **Co. B.** As a result, four NVA died from rifle and machine gun fire.

LZ HAWK HILL - Americal Division soldiers recently helped turn back a major NVA offensive in Hiep Duc Valley. In continual heavy action, the Americans decimated elements of the 1st NVA Reg., killing 590 in the span of two months.

"The enemy's primary aim was to set back and, if possible destroy the pacification program in Hiep Duc District," said Lt. John Hunsinger, a member of the 196th Inf. Bde. "They also hoped to harass the surrounding fire bases."

The enemy triggered their offensive by attacking Landing Zone (LZ) Siberia, secured by **Co. D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.,** and **Btry. C, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty**. The Americans drove off the enemy killing 10.

Fighting the first day took place around the area of Hiep Duc District, 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The **4th Bn., 31st Inf**., killed 34 in a series of sharp firefights. One of these firefights began when **Co. D** came under heavy fire in an open rice paddy.

Firebird gunships from the **71st Assault Helicopter Co**. responded to the infantry's call and raked the NVA positions. When the enemy retreated, the 196th soldiers swept across the rice paddy and found seven NVA dead.

In the next few days elements of the **3rd Bn., 21st Inf. and 2nd Bn., 1st Inf**.--both from the 196th Inf Bde.--were airlifted into the battle area as fighting continued to rage.

At the end of six days of fighting, the Americans had killed 255 NVA. Of the ground units, **4th Bn., 31st Inf.,** had inflicted the most damage, killing 62.

"At this stage a comparative lull followed as the NVA began to operate in smaller units," said Hunsinger.

Tension mounted during the next month. The action consisted of isolated skirmishes punctuated by heavy firefights. In one of the bitterest engagements, **Co. D, 1st Bn., 46th Inf**., combined with **A and C Troops, 1st Squadron, 1st Cav**., to kill 15 NVA in one afternoon. Two weeks later, **Co. B, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf**., supported by **Btry, B, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty**., killed 18 NVA.

Then the comparative lull ceased as the NVA launched a second offensive. Elements of the **4th Bn., 31st Inf.**, came into heavy contact near LZ West. Three companies from **1st Bn., 46th Inf.,** were flown into the area in an operation which was to climax 1 1/2 months of combat. For four days the 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers searched for the main NVA force, killing 16 enemy in the process. On the fifth day they found what they were after.

Co. B and Co. C, 1st Bn., 46th Inf., were conducting search and clear missions through the rugged jungle terrain.

"We used fire and movement," said Staff Sgt. Charlie Hall of **Co. B.** "It was a bunker-to-bunker, hole-to-hole fight." In the next four hours**, Co. B** killed 33 NVA.

CHU LAI - Three occupants of a helicopter that crashed near Hiep Duc recently were rescued minutes after impact by a crew chief who leaped weaponless into a ring of fire from his aircraft as it hovered 15 feet above the crash scene.

Spec. 5 Arnold C. Dietrich, crew chief on a **Rattler** UH1H of the **71st Avn. Co**., leaped from his seat to where the burning LOH of the Americal Div. Arty. aviation section lay on a steeply sloping hillside near LZ West.

Dietrich was the first to spot the pilot and artillery observer waving from the ground.

"We saw the fire, and right in the center I saw two people standing there waving. We couldn't set down. There were too many rocks and trees," said Dietrich.

The Rattler aircraft commander Lt. Thomas V. Pratt, acknowledged over the intercom that each man on board knew: "We've got to get in there and help them."

Over the intercom, somebody said, "I'll go."

"Without hesitating, 'D' (Dietrich) grabbed a hand radio and jumped out of the aircraft," said Cpt. R.J. Sienkiewicz, the pilot.

The door gunner, Spec. 4 Harold E. Justice, readied a McGuire rig's leg and torso loops.

Once the first man was in the rig, Pratt ascended vertically, and when the dangling man had cleared all surrounding obstacles, made his first run toward nearby LZ West.

As the helicopter disappeared over the trees, the artillery observer showed Dietrich where a third man lay injured a short distance from the LOH wreckage.

Within minutes the helicopter returned and the second pilot was extracted. Again the chopper left, and Dietrich began to assess the third man's injuries. The other two had sustained minor injuries, but were able to move without help.

Determining that the third couldn't be slung as the others had been, Dietrich decided to extract him using only the torso strap.

"I told him it would be uncomfortable, but it was the only way we could get him out," Dietrich said.

He had reported the man's injuries to the aircraft commander, who relayed it to medical personnel on West. They warmed that the man should not be moved.

Again the chopper, and by then the fiercely burning grass had almost engulfed the two men. As the third man was readied for extraction, the rotor wash from the hovering ship was the only thing saving the two men from the flames.

When the ship left for the third time, Dietrich was alone-really alone. Again, the gunships had stayed with the helicopter, leaving Dietrich without air support.

Weaponless, Dietrich hid between the rocks until he could hear the ship approaching, then he ran into the open and stepped into the dangling loops.

Army Reporter:

21Sep70- Sounds of Muskets fill air following scramble call Page 12

LZ HAWK HILL - "Scramble" was the only word that could be heard echoing through the hootch as Capt. John Wheeler, fire team leader of the **Muskets, 176th Assault Helicopter Co**., answered the telephone call.

The call was from brigade headquarters stating that **Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.,** 196th Bde., Americal Division, was being pinned down by sporadic small arms fire.

Wheeler stayed on the phone to copy down the infantry company's radio frequency, its call sign and the grid coordinates. Meanwhile the rest of the fire team was in hot pursuit of their gunships.

WO Bob Sizemore, lead pilot of Wheeler's craft, was already in the process of cranking up the Musket gunship by the time the officer finished copying down the information and arrived at the aircraft.

As the Muskets arrived on the scene, they were in direct radio contact with the infantry unit on the ground. After making their first run on the expected enemy position, the gunships' radio crackled with the sound of the infantrymen's voice from the ground, "Excellent, excellent, just keep working
out in that area. You're right on target."

The Muskets continued to work out on the suspected enemy position, expending their load of destruction. Rockets, minigun fire, and M60 machine gun fire peppered the entire area.

After firing up their destructive lead, the Muskets returned here to reload for another run. While they were sitting in the hootch, a report came in that the infantrymen of **Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.,** 196th Inf. Bde., had swept the area and found two VC snipers killed by a combination of the infantrymen's and the gunships' fire.

The Muskets and the Firebirds, **71st Assault Helicopter Co**., both fly in support of the 196th.

The gunship fire teams are usually made up of two ships, each carrying a crew of four; aircraft commander, pilot, crew chief and door gunner.

The Musket gunships on this particular fire team were equipped with maximum firepower. The lead ship was equipped with two 159 rocket pods, carrying 24 10-pound rockets in each pod, and two M60 machine guns. The trail ship was equipped with two 158 rocket pods, carrying 19 10-pound rockets in each pod, two miniguns and two M60 machine guns.

The firepower of the gunships is always impressive. The miniguns pour out 4,000 rounds a minute while the two M60 machine guns fire 500 rounds a minute.

All of this firepower combined with the rockets and mobility of the gunships make them one of the most effective weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

The gunships fly three general categories of flights: dustoff flights, gunship escorts of medevacs; contact missions, direct support of Allied ground forces; and general escort mission for aircraft such as the CH54 Flying Crane.

The general feeling of most groups served by the gunships is comparable to
the reply of one of the infantrymen of **Co. C., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf**., when he said, "Thanks a lot, guys. You don't know how we appreciate it." This is the usual final radio message for the gunships as they leave the scene.

The reply from the gunship fire team is frequently the same also. "We are returning to refuel and rearm. If you need us again, just give us a call."

The gunships have a certain way they like to refer to themselves: "Death on Call."

narrow escape

QUANG TRI - A premonition of a tough mission ahead started the day for WO Wendell Freeman, helicopter pilot with the **71st Aviation Co. Rattlers** of the 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division. Freeman, to his discomfort, was to be proved correct.

The young aviator and his crew were assisting in the recovery of a downed helicopter that day.

"We were flying low-level when I told my door gunner to open up over a particularly dangerous area," said Freeman. "Our gunship simultaneously began taking rounds from enemy positions below.

"Suddenly my feet flew up and hit the control board. I didn't feel them come down and I was afraid to look for fear they wouldn't be there," he said.

"At this time Mr. Patrick Riley, the copilot, took control and brought our bird down in a very controlled crash landing," continued Freeman.

Spec. 4 Delferre, the crew chief, and Spec. 4 Betts, the gunner put out a barrage of suppressive fire, but the situation was beginning to look hopeless.

"After a few minutes I heard WO Hubert Collins, who was flying the recover ship, take fire and I assumed that he was shot down too. That's when I really began to worry. I didn't think another recovery ship could get to us in time," Freeman said.

But Collins had landed about 100 yards from Freeman's downed chopper.

Riley, not knowing Collins had landed safely, crawled the 100 yards to the aid of the other "downed" crew. When Riley came within sight of Collins chopper, he saw that Spec. 4 Catalina, Collins' door gunner, was doing an amazing job of covering the crew and the chopper. He also found out that the recover ship
was no severely damaged after all.

Catalina was able to hold the enemy off while Riley returned to his ship and brought the crew back to the recovery ship. Freeman Riley and their crew climbed in and were lifted out.

Army Reporter: 13Dec71- **Americal units complete standdown** **Page 12**

By MSG Bill Pickett

CHU LAI - The actual standdown of the 23d Inf. Div. (Americal) was accomplished Nov. 27, when the division command group escorted the colors to Fort Lewis, Washington for the official deactivation of the unit and retirement of the colors.

The action brought to a close an enormous redeployment task which began in earnest with the announcement of the standdown of the **3d Bn. 18th Arty**. and the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** on Sept. 8.

Planning for the entire operation began much earlier under the supervision of the Keystone Operations Center whose personnel were responsible for the coordination and scheduling of all standdown activities.

A personnel out-processing center was established adjacent to the Chu Lai Airfield, and this operation, although deterred one day when Typhoon Hester leveled the center, averaged 200 persons per day through its doors, destined for reassignment in-country or return to CONUS for further assignment or ETS.

Also in September, units of the **23d Med. Bn**. and maintenance and engineer companies began standdown, many utilizing the facilities of the Division Combat Center of [or?] the former **27th Surgical Hospital** area through which most of the division members would pass during their standdown period. These locations were provided exchange and club facilities to serve Americal soldiers during their standdown.

On Sept. 17 **H Troop, 17th Cav**. began its standdown, and during October most maneuver elements of the division also began their standdown operations.

It was during this period that Task Force Americal began to take shape under the command of Col. Robert J. Malley, former DIS COM commander. Mission of Task Force Americal (TFA) was to prevent the enemy from establishing bases from which to rocket Chu Lai Combat Base and to keep the enemy from massing troops for attack.

Between Oct. 24 and 30, those units of Division Artillery which had not begun standdown were returned to rear areas to begin processing, and on Oct. 30 Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of Division Artillery closed out its mission as it received standdown instructions.

The 1st Bn., 6th Inf.--which had been replaced in the mountains west of Chu Lai by **the 3d Bn., 21st Inf**. -- became the last infantry maneuver element to commence standdown when it was ordered to the rear on the last day of October.

Division support units, including the **23d Supply and Transportation Bn., 26th Engineer Bn, 723d Maintenance Bn**. and **Division Support Command** began standdown during the first week in November.

Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company was the final unit to conduct standdown activities, and as the colors were escorted to COMUS [CONUS?] late in November, only the 196th Inf. Bde., under the command of Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough remains.

The following sections contains articles that were printed in the Pacific Stars and Stripes related to actions of the 71st Aviation Company:

Pacific Stars and Stripes An authorized publication of the U.S. Armed forces in the far east. Price 10 cents.

Field Enterprises
PACIFIC
STARS AND STRIPES

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"Pacific Stars and Stripes" is published in four editions daily at Tokyo, Japan, APO San Francisco, 96503. It is distributed to authorized personnel for 10 cents daily, $2.50 monthly or $30.00 yearly, payable in advance per AR 230-1 and AFR 176-1. Second class postage paid at Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

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4OCT65 page 17 – Pacific Stars & Stripes

Medics of 93rd Endanger Selves to Serve Others.

BIEN HOA, Vietnam (10) — The morning of May 16 started out quietly. Men of the Army's 93d Medical Det. were performing their routine duties handling sick call and checking records.

Suddenly the area shook with explosions. Large pieces of aircraft and shrapnel penetrated the dispensary.

SSgt. Earl R. Janey and PFC James P. Franey ran to the control tower at Bien Hoa AB. This was the day the B-57 ramp became a mass of flames and torn wreckage as aircraft exploded all around.

Running through a hail of flying steel the two 93d medics arrived at the tower and gave medical aid to the three wounded tower operators.

As more wounded were brought in, other medics worked with speed and efficiency, treating the slightly wounded and giving "first aid" to the critically wounded before their trip to Saigon.

The exploding aircraft continued to send red hot steel toward the small Army dispensary building, penetrating it f r o m every angle. Only after the wounded were cared for and the area became unsafe because of unexploded bombs did the 93d medics move out of their place of duty.

This story is a page out of the history of the Army's 118th Aviation Co., to which the 93d Medical Det. is attached.

Commanded by Capt. Joseph F. Altomonte, the 93d Med. Det. is located at the James E. Bailey Compound at Bicn Hoa. Having only eight medics assigned to his detachment, "Doc", as everyone calls him, provided as much medical treatment possible for the two complete aviation Army companies and their five detachments.

"To Aid the Oppressed" is the byword of these Army medics. On many occasions while supporting operations in the field, these medics have treated local civilians. "Doc's" field aid station usually becomes the gathering point for little children. At first these youngsters are reluctant to approach the "men with the red cross" but soon they're playing tag and catch.

Cans of C-rations are passed out to the children but only if they permit a "dab of iodine on that cut" or a "Band-Aid for bruise."

But suddenly this pleasant atmosphere is destroyed when a chopper lands close with a wounded warrior. Such was the case June 10 at Phuoc Vinh.

It had been raining earlier and the ground was muddy and the air damp. Some children were playing nearby when three Army Thunderbird aircraft landed.

Altomonte's medics rushed to the aircraft as crewchiefs and gunners carried the wounded who had just been rescued from the VC-encircled Dong Xoai. Shots of

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) **Medics of 93rd Endanger Selves to Serve Others**

morphine for the pain, a clean bandage for the muddy wounds and a friendly smile were the treatments rendered by the 93d medics as they moved from man to man. Soon their job was finished and the wounded were evacuated to Saigon.

This scene has taken place over and over again in such places as Binh Gia, Due Hoa and Song Be. Many times Altomonte or his medics have occupied a seat in one of the famous Army "Dust Off" aircraft.

But at times a medic finds himself on the receiving end. On Nov. 1 during the first Viet Cong mortar attack, the 93d dispensary became so crowded with wounded that the mess hall was utilized as an emergency aid station.

Enemy rounds found their mark, hitting the mess hall filled with wounded troops and medics. That night every man of the 93d Medical Det. was wounded.

During the award ceremony the men of this Army detachment were honored with such awards as the Bronze Star with V and Purple Hearts. But. their job is to treat the wounds of others and that's where these gallant soldiers could be found the next day.

Doc and his medics find time to assist elsewhere. Each week Altomonte makes a trip to a leper colony 30 miles north of Saigon. Here he assists the Swiss priest and eight Vietnamese nuns in caring for almost 300 patients.

The Army's 93d Medical Det. has sent two medics to the II Corps area in support of the Army's **A Co, 501st Aviation Bn**.

These two soldiers accompanied this unit in operations against the VC around Ban Me Thuot and Pleiku.

20AUG66 page 7- Pacific Stars & Stripes.

Ash Marks the Spot for Pilot

Can Tho, Vietnam IO- A bullet must have hit the half-empty fuel cell. The helicopter exploded, in mid-flight; I saw a place with1 no trees and headed for it. My co-pilot jettisoned his door and the flame was inside the cockpit. The. next thing I remember we were all standing in the elephant grass watching the chopper burn.'"

That's the way it happened I remember it according to "CWO Pat Gwaltney of Indianapolis, Ind., as he relayed the information to his fellow flyers.

They were circling at 1,500 feet over a small patch of green in the dense jungle that Gwaltney calls the spot.

That's the spot that he left his gunship burning when it was hit by sniper fire. Luckily he escaped injury.

Gwaltney serving in **A Company, 501st Aviation Company**, has been here 16 months flying on air operations in support of ground operations over the Republic of Vietnam.

. He was happy to be able to relate to his companions that he was not left in the "spot' the circle of ashes that remained of his burned up helicopter.

Pacific Stars & Stripes: 25May67-
Identical Twins Keep
Copter Pilots in Whirl

BIEN HOA, Vietnam (IO)- "Hey, Benedict, come here a second," the platoon leader called. "Yes, Sir" said the young crew chief stepping from behind the helicopter he was working on. "Yes, Sir", responded a second voice coming from an individual working on top of the helicopter.

Confusing? "You, bet it is," replied the platoon leader, Maj. James Parker, Norfolk, Va.

The two young men named Benedict are Donald and David, 20-year-old identical twins from Jackson, Pa. They not only have the same name and first initial, but also identical voices.

The two PFC's, assigned to the Army's **71st Assault Helicopter Co.**, came into the Army together and went through basic training at Fort Campbell, Ky. After completing basic, they were assigned to Ft. Rucker, Ala., to attend the Primary Helicopter Maintenance School. Signing a waiver the two brothers elected to come to Vietnam together on the same flight.

Subsequently they were assigned to the 12th Combat Aviation Group and wound up in the same battalion, same company and same platoon.

They admitted that there have been many mix-ups in their Army career. Often they receive each other's mail: David gets Donald's pass, while Donald goes on detail.

With two brothers identical in so many respects one might think there would be conflicts with girls" no comment" they said in unison.

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
15Jul67- Monday Page 7

'No Contact' Rule Broken

Patrol Wins an Unwanted Fight

CHU LAI, Vietnam (IO)- Sgt. Michael W. Daniels of the 196th Light Inf. Brigade's Long Range Recon Patrol (LRRP) recently led his team on a three-day recon mission which almost ended the first night.

Daniels and his LRRP team were airlifted to a hill northwest of Chu Lai to set up a three-day observation post. As the team began the 72 hours of cautious watching, they heard shots from across the ridge. Another LRRP team, headed by Cpl. William Davis was on a hill on the other side of the ridge, and Daniels thought they were trying to signal him.

He had his men fire some rounds in the air to acknowledge the signal, and then heard more shooting from the other hill. This time it didn't sound like M16 rifle fire, and when the men heard M79, machine gun and carbine fire join in the chorus, the realized that Davis' team was under attack.

After several minutes of anxious listening, Daniels and his men saw the other LRRP team being lifted from their hilltop position by helicopter, and they breathed a little easier. Daniels' team was on a hilltop and there was very little cover anywhere. The 1st Bn., 14th Inf., attached to the 196th, had previously undertaken a search and destroy operation in the area, and it was known to be heavily populated by Viet Cong. Daniels' observation team depended for their lives on remaining hidden from the VC, and they wondered if they had given their position away by signaling Davis on the other hill. There was nothing to do but sit it out.

Soon, though, the worst began to happen. Sniper rounds began zinging into Daniels' exposed position from a hillside about 800 meters away. The LRRP team quickly called in artillery on the sniper, and the first rounds were on target.

Knowing that they were in for a long night, the team placed trip flares and claymore mines around the position. At about 9:15 that night they observed two flashlights bobbing around where their chopper had landed, and soon the men with the flashlights began following the trail Daniels and the team had taken to reach their OP position, about 400 meters away. "We just watched and held our breath," recalled Daniels. "We didn't want to make contact and could only hope they wouldn't see us in the dark."

The "no contact" rule went out the window in the next few minutes when Pfc. Mark Brennan heard men moving toward him less than 40 meters away. Brennan, figuring they had already been given away and not wanting to risk being seen first, shot off a hand illumination flare which exposed two VC, both armed. The LRRP team fired fast, killing them instantly. Then the rest of the VC, who had remained at the bottom of the hill, opened up on the LRRP with carbines and automatic weapons.

A group of VC was sneaking up a draw to the hilltop, but were spotted by the team's machine gunner, Pfc. William Conner, who ran 50 meters through criss-crossing tracers and blasted the maneuvering Charlies with his M60. Another element was coming up the other side of the hills and the rest of the LRRP men concentrated on that group.

Daniels, meanwhile, was calling for helicopter gunships from Task Force Oregon, and he soon got help. Two **"Firebirds"** from the 161st Aviation Co.

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) # Patrol Wins an Unwanted Fight

(Historian Note: 161st gunships were "Scorpions" and 71st Assault Helicopter Company gunships were "Firebirds" so it is not clear which of the two units supported this action) answered the call with machine guns and blazing rockets., working over the sides and bottom of the hill on repeated passes.

The now-retreating VC received a parting shot when Daniels called in artillery, Illumination rounds from the guns enabled the LRRP team to direct the deadly high explosives on the enemy, which split into small groups of two or three and made frantically for the woods.

The LRRP team quickly moved to another side of the hilltop, hoping to confuse any more probes by Victor Charlie. It was a good move. Later in the night the men heard whispered talk on the hillside and, soon after, on the hilltop itself. Not wanting another encounter with the large force of Charlies, each mane held his breath and lay completely silent. Their silence paid off, and the probing element finally decided the Americans must have left. the VC finally did the same, but none of the Recondos got any sleep that night.

Pacific Stars & Stripes:

20Jul67- Thursday
Copters
Sink 122
Red Boats

By AL FASOLDT

S& Vietnam Bureau Chief
SAIGON – Two Army "Firefly" helicopter teams Monday caught two Viet Cong flotillas and sank 122 junks and sampans.
Helicopters of the **71st "Rattlers" assault helicopter company** sank 71 enemy junks and sampans and killed eight communists along the Truong Giang River 15 miles northeast of Chu Lai.
The attack took place in the same area where 148 sampans and junks were sunk two weeks ago.
.....

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
06Aug68 (page 6)
Hanging On
For Dear Life

SAIGON (UPI) – A helicopter gunship became an emergency rescue craft Saturday when its pilot spotted a Marine F4 jet crashing in the South China Sea.

The jet pilot hung onto one skid of the helicopter, which was not equipped for rescue work, and he was airlifted to a nearby beach and a waiting ambulance.

Capt. Herman C. Castle of Portsmouth, Va., was on a reconnaissance mission with the **71st Assault Helicopter Co.** near Chu Lai when he saw the jet crashing offshore.

Castle and a crewman were able to pull the pilot out of the water by having him hang onto one of the helicopter skids. Castle called for an ambulance which was waiting on the shore and took the pilot to a hospital for treatment.

[Historian Note: Related information from the book, "Vietnam Air Losses, by Chris Hobson] 6August 1968:

F-4B 149449 MAG-13, Chu Lai – Major D I. Carroll and 1LT R.C. Brown survive. Hit by small arms fire making a sixth pass on enemy positions near An Hoa (a Marine Base north of LZ Baldy). Hit in the right wing while dropping napalm from 400 feet. Burning aircraft was flown back to Chu Lai to attempt landing. However, the landing gear failed to extend. The crew ejected a mile off the coast and were recovered by an Army helicopter that was in the vicinity **[These were helicopters from the 71st AHC and 176th AHC.]**.

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
09Aug68 (page 10)

Chopper Crew Fights Way Out of VC Trap

CHU LAI (IO) – A crew from the **71st Assault Helicopter Co.** (Rattlers) withstood an attack by hidden snipers to perform an emergency evacuation near here recently

Capt. Thomas R. Wolf and WO J.D. Stevens were returning to Chu Lai after flying a support mission for the 196th Light Infantry Brigade when they received a radio call for an emergency medevac.... an infantryman had stepped on a mine not far from their position.

Landing in a small area marked by smoke grenades, the crew waited as patrol members carried the injured man to the "Huey." The ship's gunner, PFC- Tom Brengle, jumped out of the chopper to assist them. Then, five feet from the ship, another mine went off, wounding two more infantrymen and showering Brengle's leg with fragments.

Simultaneously, the enemy opened up with automatic weapons fire. The men quickly scrambled aboard the chopper. Attempting to lift off, the chopper began spinning, and the crew was forced to land. An enemy round had severed the tail rotor cable.

Wolfe advised company headquarters of the situation, and another ship was sent to the area.

Wary of landing in the mine field, WO A.J. Sutton and WO Jerry Brantley, pilots of the rescue ship, landed one skid on a two-foot high boulder. They kept the ship at a light hover as the stranded men boarded.

Amid a hail of bullets, the helicopter lifted out of the clutches of the Viet Cong with all the injured safely aboard.

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
17Dec68- (pg 6) Tuesday.

Marines in DMZ Clash

Gunships Blast Reds, Kill 20

By SPEC. 4 JAMES LINN

S&S Staff Correspondent.

SAIGON – Helicopter crews from the 1st Air Cav. Div. killed 20 enemy soldiers late Saturday afternoon.....

(Sunday Morning 15Dec68).....

Meanwhile GIs from the Americal Div. killed 16 Viet Cong and found the bodies of 10 other Saturday during light, scattered fighting in the northern provinces. Gunship crews from the division's 14th Aviation Bn.'s 71st Assault Helicopter Co. scored seven enemy kills after receiving heavy fire eight miles west of Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province. The choppers were flying cover for the 11th Light Inf. Brigade.

[Historian Comments: This action was supporting an ARVN unit. Related information from the Americal Division S2/S3 reporting: 14DEC68: Quang Ngai, 3/4 ARVN, gunships 71st Avn, BS610625 at 0330H, 100 VC attacking 3/4 Bn at BS610625, SA, AW, and 82mm mortars. There is a English speaking advisor on ground, Maroon Labor Delta Up Eyeball, freq 27.35. COL Hutter authorized. Gunships released at 0520H, res: 7 VC KIA by gunships, 18 VC KIA by ARVN SA, 12 IWC, 1 CSWC (B-40 rocket launcher), 1 ARVN WHA (E) evac by flare ship, 1 US WHA (E).]

Pacific Stars & Stripes:

Stars & Stripes Page 6. Tuesday May 13, 1969

Photo Caption: A twin-rotored U.S. Army Chinook lifts off a disabled UH1 Huey at a firebase west of Chu Lai. Red gunners shot down four more U.S. helicopters Saturday, killing 10 Americans, wounding nine and bringing total U.S. copter losses in the war to 1,110. (AP)

[Historian Note: The Huey being lifted out from LZ Center is a 71st AHC helicopter with a tail number ending in 528. I have a photo of the same helicopter rigged for extraction taken within minutes of the photo used for the Stars & Stripes. ADVA Historian: Leslie Hines.].

Pacific Stars & Stripes:

23Aug69- **Army Names 8 Dead Aboard Crashed Helo** (Note:a **71st AHC** helicopter)

SAIGON (S&S) - The Army Thursday released the names of seven military personnel aboard a UH1 helicopter when it was hit by enemy ground fire and reportedly exploded in mid-air 34 miles south of Da Nang. Associated Press photographer Oliver Noonan was also aboard the aircraft.

The crew and passengers included: Lt. Col. Eli P. Howard, commander of the Americal Div.'s **3rd Bn. of the 21st Inf.**, WO1 Johns D. Plummer, WO1 Gerald L. Silverstein, Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin D. Rowell, Spec. 4 Richard A. Doria, Pfc Steven L. Martino and Pfc. Stuart J. Lavigne.

The Army statement listed all eight persons as "missing in action," but U.S. Command spokesmen said Wednesday that the explosion and crash "apparently killed all eight personnel aboard."

[Historian Note: It is believed that Col. Howard directed the aircraft commander to fly over an NVA .51 caliber anti-aircraft position to impress photographer, Oliver Noonan. The helicopter was then blown out of the sky, inverting prior to impact. Later, a portion of A 3/21st Inf. refused to move out to the crash site to recover bodies. This refusal became an international news story.]

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
21Mar70-.....**Headlines**..... ***[Note-The ADVA has a copy of the Accident report]***
Photo caption - MAJ. GEN. LLOYD B. RAMSEY

General Hurt, 2 Die in Copter

By SPEC. 4 JOHN CODY

S&S Staff Correspondent

DA NANG - Americal Div. commander Maj. Gen. Lloyd B. Ramsey was hoisted from thick jungle Wednesday morning seven miles west of Chu Lai where he had been stranded overnight following the crash of his command and control UH1 helicopter in which two men were killed and six injured, according to military spokesmen.

The military spokesmen said the general's left arm was broken.

The copter crashed into brush on the side of a steep mountain at 4 p.m. Tuesday, killing Lt. Col. Robert J. Thomas of Reston, Va., an officer newly assigned to the Americal Div., and Spec. 4 Ray Murhpy of Connersville, Ind., the helicopter crew chief ***(from 3rd Flt. Plt. A/123rd Avn Bn.)***

The cause of the crash was not determined, but officials said it was not from enemy fire.

Army and Air Force rescue units flew to the area and an infantry company was airborne to within two miles of the crash site. It was not until 8 A.M. Wednesday
that the wreckage was sighted through the heavy cloud cover and the survivors were medevaced by Air Force HH53 helicopters of the 37th Air Rescue Det.

Search aircraft picked up a beeper signal one-half hour after the crash. Then
at 5:30 P.M. the helicopters made voice contact with the survivors.

Low clouds, fog and 15-20-foot visibility thwarted attempts to spot the downed aircraft which had landed upside down in 6-foot brush a mid a dense canopy of 50 to 100-foot tall trees.

Radio contact was lost at 4 a.m. Wednesday and was not regained until 8 a.m. when Maj. Tommy P. James, 34, of Bixby, Okla., arrived in the area in a helicopter.

James, commander of the **71st Aviation Co.,** had searched Tuesday until nightfall "walking" his ship up the side of the mountain where the wreckage was thought to be.

He returned Wednesday morning, diving through the clouds into a valley below the mountain, then hovering once again up the side of the slope. The survivors picked up his rotor sound and directed him close to their position.

"We were within 50 to 75-feet of their position before we could see them. The chopper was upside down with the tail boom snapped off," said James.

James lowered battalion surgeon, Capt. Luis A. Oliver, on a jungle penetrator.

"The brush was so thick," said James, "that I had to talk Oliver over to the crash even though he had seen the wreckage from the air and had landed only 20-feet away."

James said it took Oliver 10 minutes to cross he 20 feet.

James then flew down the mountainside to the valley where the Air Force choppers were circling and led them back up to the scene where two paramedics, S. Sgt. Jules Smith and Sgt. Stephen Sano were lowered to aid Oliver.

The survivors were flown to Chu Lai for hospitalization. All were reported in good condition.

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **General Hurt, 2 Die in Copter**

Besides Gen. Ramsey, the injured were his aide, Capt. Thomas Ruffing; Capt. John P. Tucker, of the division G-3 office, from Lima, Ohio; CW-2 Stephen C. Pike, helicopter commander, of Enterprise Ala.; WO-Ronald D. Franson, the pilot, from San Diego, Calif., and Spec. 4 Mickie L. Reed, a door gunner of Brownsville, Ind.

Spokesmen said Ramsey was returning from a series of visits to units in the field at the time of the crash.

[Historian Note: An amazing feet of flying skill by Tommy James to fly at night near the side of a cliff in windy conditions. For 18 hours radio silence was maintained until the Division Commander was rescued. Also on board the rescue helicopter was LTC Norman Schwartzkopf, then commander of the 1/6th Inf. Bn. Major General Ramsey was fortunate that an armored seat had been installed for him just a couple weeks prior. Two near misses struck had near his head which prompted the installation of the armored seat. Without the armored seat Ramsey would have likely died. Major General Ramsey's injuries resulted in a change of command for the Americal Division. MG Ramsey became the Provost Marshall for the U.S. Army in a stateside position. He was retired early from the service because of the back injuries sustained in the crash.

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
04May70-**Allies Slay 128 Enemy in Hand-to-Hand Clash**

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON- In savage hand-to-hand fighting, Vietnamese infantry troops backed by American armed helicopters lunged into Hiep Duc village, 33 miles south of Da Nang, Friday rooting out North Vietnamese army troops who had captured half the village earlier at dawn Saturday.

At least 128 Communists were killed in fighting in and near the village and the
hamlet was in allied hands, an official spokesman said.

According to informed sources, more than 200 troops, believed to be part of an NVA regiment operating in the Hiep Duc Valley, have been killed by Vietnamese and American forces since the start of a combined operation around the village Thursday.

The operation involving infantry troops from the **196th Light Inf. Brigade**, Americal Div., and the **5th Regt., 2nd ARVN Div.**, is intended "To lift enemy pressure in the Hiep Duc area" according to an ARVN spokesman in Saigon.

An official Americal Div. spokesman at Chu Lai Friday was uncertain as to when the NVA troops captured half of the refugee settlement, home for about 4,000 Vietnamese.

The spokesman said he believed it was sometime between Thursday and early Friday ***[01MAY70].*** A small ARVN compound was also captured he said.

At dawn Friday, UH1 and Cobra gunships *[71st AHC and F/8th Cavalry]* from the Americal Div. began pelting the enemy-occupied portions of the strung-out oblong shaped village with a steady barrage of rockets and machine gun fire which lasted until early evening. There were no U.S. casualties in the day-long air-to-ground battle, the U.S. command said.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese foot soldiers combat assaulted to the north of Hiep Duc, moved in to clear the village, meeting resistance from pockets of NVA troops who, according to early field reports killed several civilians and burned more than 50 houses, before fleeing early Friday evening. Many of the village residents, however, had fled to nearby firebase Karen earlier for protection, informed sources said.

Vietnamese losses in Friday's fighting were not immediately known, but 33 Americans were wounded early Friday evening in mortar and ground attacks on two Americal Div. temporary night infantry positions within a mile of Hiep Duc village, according to a spokesman for the U.S. command. Enemy losses in both assaults are unknown, the spokesman said.

[Historian Note: AMCAL DIV Ops Summary 01MAY70. Americal/2nd ARVN Div units report light to heavy contact in their combined TAOR as search, recon in force & pacification support ops continued. TAC air and arty cont to support. In the most significant incident, ***5th ARVN Regt*** *units &* ***71st AHC*** *&* ***F/8th Cav*** *eng UNSEF 1 ½ kms NE of LZ Siberia killing 94 NVA & capturing 11 IW & 2 CSWC. The Gun/Ships were credited with killing 50 of the NVA. ARVN casualties in this contact were 3 KIA & 11 WIA(E). In another incident,* ***A/3-21*** *rec mort, SA, & AWF in their NDP 2 kms N of LZ Siberia wounding19 US who were all evacuated.* ***D/4-31*** *in their NDP 3 kms NE of LZ Siberia, rec 82mm mort fire resulting in 14 US WIA(E). Also today, LZ's Siberia, Karen, West, Center & 411 rec mort fire causing neg cas or dam.]*

Pacific Stars & Stripes:

08May70-**25 GIs Killed, 32 Hurt As Reds Attack Fire Base**

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON-.....

In I Corps' Quang Tin Province early Tuesday afternoon, an element of the Americal Div.'s 196th Brigade killed at least 22 Reds in a firefight in which one American was killed and four wounded, the spokesman said. The enemy bodies were found **Wednesday** ***[06MAY70]*** morning by another element of the brigade sweeping the battleground, he said **[From the Americal Division TOC report summary for 06MAY70:** C/4-31 & 71st Avn found 22 NVA bodies 2 kms NW of LZ Siberia.**].**

Meanwhile the Americal Div.'s base camp headquarters at Chu Lai received less than 25 rounds of 122mm rocket fire resulting in light U.S. casualties and material damage, the U.S. spokesman said.

11Jul70 page 6 Pacific Stars & Stripes Saturday

ARVN RFs Kill 18 Reds

SAIGON (S&S) – South Vietnamese forces saw most of the action Wednesday during scattered fighting across Vietnam, as a 7th ARVN Inf. Div. unit and a regional forces (RF) company killed 18 enemy.

American ground troops reported no enemy dead, but U.S. pilots killed four enemy soldiers in air strikes.

In a morning operation, the RFs scoured an area two miles south of Hoi An city, 18 miles down the coast from Da Nang. They battled an unknown number of enemy, killing 10 Reds, capturing one prisoner, and seizing four AK47 assault rifles. There were no RF casualties in the action.

Elements of the 7th ARVN Inf. Div. made several light and sporadic contacts with the enemy while operating six miles southeast of Cai Be, 48 miles southwest of Saigon.

Before the day ended, the infantrymen, involved in Operation Cuu Long 7/3, killed eight enemy soldiers without suffering any casualties.

In the same area, the 7th Div. found the bodies of 14 Communist soldiers killed by air strikes.

U.S. pilots flew 180 tactical air strikes in Vietnam Wednesday. A military spokesman said that in addition to killing four enemy soldiers, the strikes triggered 53 secondary explosions, ignited 35 fires and destroyed or damaged 38 fortifications, 139 bunkers, six fighting positions, and 395 meters of trench-line.

Downed U.S. helicopters accounted for three U.S. casualties reported Wednesday.

A U.S. Army OH6 helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire, crashed and was destroyed in Binh Dinh Province, wounding one U.S. crewman.

A second helicopter was reported to have crashed Monday after it was hit by enemy ground fire 12 miles west of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province, 38 miles southeast of Da Nang. Two U.S. crewmen aboard the aircraft were wounded.

(ADVA Historian Note: 71st AHC combat assault incident regarding a rocket pod explosion, later determined to have been caused by enemy fire. F/8th Cav aircraft secured the downed aircraft. Operation involving R/3/21st Inf. Bn)

Pacific Stars & Stripes: 22Jul70 page 6
Wednesday

5 Choppers Downed; 4 GIs Die

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON – Five American helicopters were downed by enemy ground fire during the weekend, killing four Americans and wounding 11, the U.S. Command said Monday.

Four Marine airmen died in the crash of a UH1 chopper in Quang Nam Province 25 miles west of Da Nang Sunday afternoon in the most costly crash, command spokesmen said, and five soldiers were wounded when their UH1 helicopter was shot down 77 miles east of Saigon.

The other three crashes, involving two more UH1 "Hueys" and a light observation helicopter, injured six soldiers in Quang Ngai, Long An and Quang Duc Provinces. ***[ADVA historian note: 71st AHC had two wounded on Saturday. Ship continued flying. Saturday B/123rd Avn Bn LOH shot down, 3 crew-members evacuated & helicopter destroyed. 1 D/1/1 Cav Blue team injured by M-79 accident while supporting the recovery. On Sunday 2 116th AHC helicopters supporting C/5/46th were downed by small arms fire. Ships were recovered.]***

A CH53 "Sea Stallion" helicopter from the 1st Marine Air Wing dropped a load of mortar shells and gasoline drums 16 miles south of Da Nang Sunday morning, command spokesmen said, while flying a resupply mission.

Exploding mortar rounds from the accident injured three Vietnamese civilians, destroyed 22 houses and damaged another 24 houses. The accident is under investigation, command spokesmen said.

Operation Pickens Forest, involving two U.S. Marine battalions, has accounted for 15 enemy killed and 40 suspects captured in four days, command spokesmen said, with two Marines wounded in the fighting.

Marines from the operation found a cache with a ton of corn, 1,300 pounds of tobacco and 300 pounds of rice Sunday 32 miles southwest of Da Nang.

One American was killed and nine wounded Sunday afternoon when tankers from the 1st Brigade, 5th Inf. Div. (Mech.) tangled with Reds near the Demilitarized Zone. Enemy losses were unknown.

23 or 24Jul70 page ? Pacific Stars & Stripes

Americal Div. Gets Jump ON NVA, Kills 53 in I Corps

LZ HAWK HILL, Vietnam – (Special) – In a rock-throwing, grenade-tossing battle 23 miles west of Tam Ky, Americal Div. infantry, artillery and helicopter gunships recently combined to kill 53 NVA.

B and C Cos., 1st Bn., 46th Inf., 196th Inf. Brigade, were conducting search and clear operations in the rugged jungle terrain of Hiep Duc Valley.

"We sent one company to clear the high ground to the north and another to clear the valley floor," said Maj. James M. Hallinan, operations officer, 1st Bn., 46th Inf.

B Co moved out to sweep the valley floor in the early morning hours and immediately became in what proved to be the biggest firefight of the day.

"We started moving out of our night laager around 5:30 in the morning," said 1st Lt. Drake H. Erby, 2nd Platoon leader. "The **3rd Platoon was point**, mine was second, and the **1st Platoon** was drag."

As the company moved across a small grassy opening, the point platoon began receiving rifle and machinegun fire from a treeline to the front. At the same time the 1st Platoon, which was still in the night bivouac waiting for the other platoons to move across, began receiving heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire.

"We spotted some NVA in the woodline to the north and opened up on them," said S. Sgt. Charlie Hall, **1st Platoon** sergeant. "As we were blasting them, someone also noticed two attempting to sneak up on our perimeter. We threw hand frags and killed them both."

As the 1st Platoon continued its suppressive fire, the 3rd Platoon continued to receive sniper fire and mortar rounds. The 2nd Platoon spotted some communications wires on the ground and cut them. When the mortar rounds temporarily stopped the **2nd Platoon** moved up to take point and was ordered to secure a defensive position from which an assault on the dug-in NVA could be made.

"We dug in faster than I ever imagined it could be done," said Erby. By this time the 3rd Platoon had joined the 2nd and only the 1st Platoon remained to cross the open area.

Gunships from the **71st Assault Helicopter Co**. and **F Troop, 8th Cav.**, were called in to work over a ridgeline in hopes of destroying the NVA mortar emplacements. The gunships killed three NVA. Artillery was also pounding the enemy position as the 1st Platoon began to move from the old night camp.

We moved out by fire and movement and spotted the bunkers," said Hall. "We had no place to go but forward so that's what we did."

The ensuing battle was a grenade-tossing, bunker to bunker battle, as the infantrymen moved in to destroy the NVA.

As the bitter struggle progressed, the 1st Platoon found they had used all their hand grenades. One squad each from the 2nd and 3rd Platoon collected all the available grenades and moved to aid the 1st Platoon.

With the arrival of reinforcements and more grenades the assault continued.

"It was a bunker to bunker, hole to hole fight," said Erby. "We would toss a grenade into a bunker and it would come flying back out. So we resorted to first throwing in a rock to confuse the enemy and then immediately tossing in a grenade. it worked."

The infantrymen finally knocked out the last bunker in the search of the area that followed, they found that there had been a total of 14 heavily-fortified bunkers connected by a trenchline, and 29 dead NVA were counted by the Americans.

"Evidently the NVA had planned to ambush us as we moved out," said Erby, "but we moved before they were ready and caught them flatfooted."

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
27May71 Page 6
Thursday

S. Viets Kill 37 Reds In A Shau Battle

S&S Vietnam Bureau
SAIGON - .....
.....

In Quang Nam Province, a unit of the 198th Brigade, Americal Div., killed nine enemy without suffering any casualties Monday in a clash 15 miles south of Da Nang, according to spokesmen. ***[Historian Note: Several 198th actions on this day and next, but story was hard to match up with the division TOC information. 198th Bde had credited 2 kills to D/1-1 Cav. and another 2 kills to 71st AHC]***

Another element of the Americal Div.'s 198th Brigade found four and one-half tons of rice stored 13 miles west of Quang Ngai Monday, spokesmen said. ***[Historian Note: 198th Bde units C/1-52nd and A/1-52nd found multiple caches of rice in drums]***

The home of the Americal Div., the U.S. Army base at Chu Lai, was hit with about 10 rounds of 122mm rocket fire, but there were no casualties or damage, spokesmen said.

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
Pacific Stars & Stripes
27May71 Page 7
Thursday

Copter Mechanic Reups for $10,000 Gs

CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special) - The $10,000 Variable Reenlistment Bonus requirements are not often met by personnel wishing to re-up. Spec. 5 John H. Madden is one of the lucky ones.

The lucky MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) that earned Madden his $10,000 is 67N20. Senior Helicopter Mechanic. Now assigned to the **71st Aviation Co.,** he has also worked in almost every phase of aviation from door-gunner to his present mechanic status.

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10Sep71 Page 6
Friday

Americal Unit Stands Down

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON – **The 3rd Bn., 18th Field Arty.**, Americal Div. began stand down Wednesday, creating 565 space reductions, the U.S. command announced.

This was the second Americal unit to be withdrawn from Vietnam. The first – the **5th Bn., 46th Inf.** – stood down last May.

The retiring battalion, which came to Vietnam in October 1965, was awarded a Presidential Unit citation for its service here.

71st Leaving Vietnam

SAIGON (S&S) – The **71st Aviation Co.** began stand down Wednesday, the U.S. command announced. The approximate number of space reductions is 290.

War Brings String of Sorrows to Sgt. Maj.

He Has a Burden of Grief-and Pride

DA NANG, Vietnam (AP) – Jim Meade carries a heavy load of grief. One son died here; another was terribly wounded. His own marriage went awry.

Sgt. Maj. James P. Meade has spent 26 of his 50 years in the U.S. Army. His sons were brought up surrounded by military traditions; "We went along with the old slogan: Duty, honor, country."

When the war got heavy in Vietnam the elder son dropped out of college to volunteer. **James P. Meade Jr., a helicopter pilot**, was shot down while on a medical mission in 1967. He survived the crash, but his legs were shattered, and it tore to pieces a brilliant brain," the father says.

"He was unconscious for seven weeks. Doctors told us that he might not ever wake up and if he did [he] might be nothing more than a vegetable.

"My wife moved into the hospital in Washington and was at his bedside for 36 days. The agony and torture it was to us you cannot imagine. He didn't lie still but fought like an animal. He had to be tied to the bed.

"Jim's back at college now, back on the honor roll, and is continuing for his master's degree. And he's just now learning to run again."

Sgt. Maj. Meade came to Vietnam the first time in January 1968. He spent a year as divisional sergeant major with the Americal Division and then volunteered to stay six months more.

Meade's decision eventually broke up his marriage and turned his teen-age daughter against him.

"For 25 years I had the greatest wife any man could wish for," he said. "But when I stayed in Vietnam she claimed I loved the service more than my family."

Meade had another sorrow to come. His son David volunteered for Vietnam and came here as a lieutenant with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in January 1970. On May 13 he was wounded by a booby trap. He died two days later, at the age of 21.

"My wife blamed me for David's death, and I'm telling you that hurt," Meade says.

"Of course, I wish this war had never happened, but it did, and I served and my boys served because they loved their country. I'm proud I set my boys an example they wanted to follow."

"Nobody hates war any worse than a soldier," he says. "It's the soldier who has to face the rifles and machine guns and booby traps., who has to give his sweat and blood and his limbs and perhaps make the supreme sacrifice.

"And yet there is no profession in which people perform with greater sense of pride and duty.

"I lost a lot and I had my tragedies and heartaches."

"But I'm not bitter at all," he told a reporter. "You are talking to perhaps the loneliest but also the happiest and proudest soldier in the Army. I'd do it all again, wouldn't change a thing."

Photo Caption: Command Sgt. Maj. James P. Meade looks at photo of his two sons, who followed him into the service. One was seriously wounded, the other was killed three years later. (AP)

[Historian Note: A moving story about how James Meade, Jr. was dying was told in the December 1970 issue of "Reader's Digest". His brain injuries left him without a connection to the outside world. Doctors could do nothing more. Then his fellow patients gathered around him, hugged him giving him a connection to hang on life. James P. Meade, Jr. had served with the 71st AHC was shot down hospitalized recovered. He then returned to Vietnam with another aviation unit where he was terribly injured. His father had served as the Command Sergeant Major of the Americal Division.]

Americal Division Daily Newsheets were printed to be shared one to every eight soldiers in the field. For this document I am mostly selecting pieces of articles related to the 71st Aviation Company, but if there is room I will put as much 11th Bde related materials as will fit. For the first item I put in most of a newsheet to show what was normally found in each issue.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG S.W. Koster, Commanding General
MAJ Gerald D. Hill jr., IO
Telephone: Chu Lai 3212 or 2414
This News Sheet is published daily under the supervision of the IO, Americal Division APO96374 as an authorized Army publication. This News Sheet is solely for personnel in the Americal Division and may not be duplicated or released to the news media.

Volume 1 No. 260 Americal Daily New Sheet Friday January 5, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT CLOUDY SATURDAY morning with occasional light rain showers. Becoming partly cloudy Saturday afternoon. Winds will be from the north at 5-10 miles per hour. High Saturday will be 74. Low Saturday night 64.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)-Americal Division forces continued to maintain pressure on the enemy yesterday as they accounted for 72 enemy soldiers killed throughout southern I Corps.

In heavy contact yesterday elements of Americal's 196th "Charger" Brigade killed 32 VC in action west of Tam Ky. Since participating in Operation Wheeler-Wallowa the brigade has killed 452 enemy soldiers.

Early in the morning a unit from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry commanded by LTC Fredrick R. Cully (Fort-Walton Beach, Fla) was in heavy contact with an unknown size VC force. The unit in contact was led by CPT Daniel Mellon (Fairbanks, Alaska) and was receiving heavy automatic and mortar fire. At 1:55 a.m., another unit from the 31st Inf, led by CPT Joseph S. Stringham (Appleton, Wis) was moved in to support CPT Mellon' company.

Gunships from the **71st Aviation Company** were called to support the heavily engaged infantrymen. The **choppers** reported receiving heavy automatic weapons fire, 50 caliber fire and possible RPG fire. Contact lasted until 3:10 a.m. CPT Mellon's unit received approximately 40 rounds of 60mm mortar fire during the initial part of the attack and they continued receiving sporadic fire until day light. During the battle CPT Mellon's unit accounted for 15 kills. CPT Stringham's unit killed four VC. Four infantrymen and one interpreter were killed in the action. In other ground action a company led by CPT Jose Feliciano (Baltimore, Md) killed one VC who was engaged in small arms fire. A unit commanded by CPT John F. Connelly (Saugus, Mass) found a dead VC who had been killed by artillery fire from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery commanded by LTC Wayne H. Elliott (Tacoma, Wash). A unit from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry received 15 rounds of small arms fire from approximately 200 meters west of their position. They engaged and killed one VC and captured his weapon.

Scout and gunships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry accounted for 10 VC killed and the destruction of 37 camouflaged VC sampans. In all cases the VC were engaged as they tried to take evasive action.

Fourteen VC rallied to the government's side in the 196th area yesterday.

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Yesterday, LZ Leslie continued to receive sporadic mortar fire. Five NVA bodies were discovered inside the barbed wire perimeter at LZ Leslie.

Eight of the enemy killed yesterday were a result of helicopter gun fire and tactical air strikes near Hill 270. Several tactical air strikes during the day accounted for three of the kills. Three B-52 strikes were made on Wednesday and Thursday west of LZ Leslie. More than 800 rounds of enemy mortar, recoilless rifle and rockets were fired at the fire base camps of the 3rd Brigade in Wednesday's attacks.

Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion flew 437 sorties, carried 739 combat troops and hauled 420 tons of cargo in support of division units yesterday.

Volume 1 No. 261 Americal Daily New Sheet Saturday January 6, 1968 MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT Sunday partly cloudy to cloudy. Continued occasional showers. Becoming increasingly cloudy by Monday. Surface winds from the north at 10 miles per hour. High Sunday 81. Low Sunday night 65.

AMERICAL ELEMENTS KILL 99 ENEMY YESTERDAY

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – The enemy body count continues to rise in Wednesday's mortar attacks and in addition to other actions units of the Americal Division accounted for 99 enemy soldiers.

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Units of Americal's 196th continued in their pursuit of enemy forces in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa and recorded 16 enemy kills and the capture of three weapons.

A brigade company led by CPT Joseph S. Stringham (Appleton, Wis) spotted seven VC running across a rice paddy into a wood line. Pursuing them they came in contact with an unknown size enemy force. Following an exchange of heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire the enemy broke contact. Seven bodies and three weapons (AK-47 rifles) were captured. An infantry company led by CPT John T. Thompson (Atlanta, Ga) spotted one VC entering a tunnel. He was engaged and killed. Six individuals who were hiding in the tunnel were detained. Six VC wearing khaki uniforms were spotted by a company led by CPT Dennis A. Leach (Fairmount, Minn). They were engaged, resulting in one enemy death. Another enemy death was recorded by a patrol from an infantry company and "A" Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry killed one VC when he failed to halt when challenged.

"C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry in Aerial support of "Charger" ground units engaged and killed two individuals in grey uniforms who were trying to evade detection. Another VC was killed when he attempted to hide in a bunker. The Air Cav detained two suspects and destroyed 11 camouflaged VC sampans, Two other VC deaths were recorded and another nine sampans were destroyed by gunships from the **71st Aviation Company.**

An infantry company led by CPT Jose R. Feliciano (Baltimore, Md.) detained one suspect. The individual had 2,100 piasters in his possession and was believed to be a VC Tax Collector. "F" Troop, 17th Cav detained two suspects for questioning. Another five individuals were detained by a company led by CPT Eugene C. Moor (San Rafael, Calif) after they were discovered hiding in a hut in a village they were searching.

Brigade MEDCAPs treated 150 Vietnamese yesterday.

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Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion flew 835 sorties, carried 1,079 combat troops and hauled 210 tons of cargo in support of division units yesterday.

Volume 1 No. 267 Americal Daily New Sheet Friday January 12, 1968
[Historian Note: Only Americal Division IO materials transcribed.]

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Cloudy to clearing skies Saturday with a few rain showers in the afternoon. High Saturday morning 78. Low Saturday night 65. Winds from the northeast 6-12 miles per hour.

AMERICAL ELEMENTS ACCOUNT FOR 45 KILLS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)—Light combat action accounted for 45 enemy killed by units of the Americal division as gunships recorded 21 of the enemy bodies yesterday.

Americal's 196th Brigade reported 33 enemy kills in action west of Tam Ky yesterday.

Gunships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry engaged 17 VC evading their aircraft in 10 separate incidents, resulting in 17 kills. In addition the Air Cav unit saw four dead NVA soldiers and destroyed four sampans, two of which were camouflaged. Gunships from the **71st Aviation Company** engaged and destroyed 12 camouflaged sampans on the Truong Giang River.

In ground action "C" Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry killed one VC after he failed to halt when challenged. The 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery accounted for two enemy kills. A company searching a tunnel detained one suspect. The unit also found one German Mauser, a hand grenade and 15 blasting caps while searching the area.

Patrols sweeping the area around Americal's 3rd, Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry's LZs Leslie and Ross killed six enemy and detained three suspects.

A company of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry found four tons of rice three miles west of LZ Baldy and a mile further discovered three caches totaling 1,700 pounds. Three were 10 air strikes north and west of LZ Leslie resulting in seven bunkers and 13 fortified structures destroyed with eight camouflaged caves uncovered. One U.S. soldier was killed and four wounded in yesterday's fighting.

"**The show must go on**" even despite intermittent sniper fire. On a stage built of ammunition boxes and four by 10 boxes the "Vamps", a five girl song and dance show, entertained 400 men at LZ Ross Wednesday. Besides being an obvious delight to the men of the "Garry Owen" Brigade the show was the first put on for a forward Landing Zone.

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Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion flew 1,114 sorties, carried 1,350 combat troops and hauled 418 tons of cargo in support of division units yesterday.

Volume 1 No. 277 Americal Daily New Sheet Monday January 22, 1968
Miracle Weather Report: Continued partly cloudy with occasional light rain during the morning and night hours. Winds east north east at 5 to 10 miles an hour. Tuesday morning high of 83, low Tuesday night 70.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Units of the Americal Division reported 39 enemy were killed in yesterday's fighting. Over 11 tons of rice were captured by Americal elements in southern I Corps yesterday. Americal forces suffered one U.S. infantryman killed and three soldiers wounded in ground fighting.

In Operation Wheeler/Wallowa two Americal brigades accounted for 26 enemy kills yesterday. Since Operation Wheeler/Wallowa began in Sept., 4,560 enemy have been killed. US Forces have suffered 379 soldiers killed and 1,308 wounded in the offensive.

The Americal'3rd "Garry Owen" Brigade of the 1st Air Cavalry in operations around LZ Ross yesterday killed 16 enemy and captured 8,400 pounds of rice during Operation Wheeler/Wallow being conducted in Quang Nam Province.

The fighting 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry scored 13 enemy kills in a kilometer square area west of LZ Ross. Aerial rocket artillery accounted for two kills in the same area and the 11th Aviation Battalion killed one more Viet Cong one mile south of LZ Ross after reacting to automatic weapons fire. The 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry continued collecting rice from the enemy storage holes yesterday when they picked up 8,400 pounds of rice in an area two miles north of LZ Ross.

The 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery gave fire support to the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade north of Hoi An yesterday. The Marines were credited with 13 kills during the Americal artillery supported operation.

Units of Americal's 196th Brigade yesterday killed 10 VC in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa being conducted west of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province.

Gunships of Americal's 176th Aviation Company's "**Fire Birds**" sank 25 camouflaged sampans about three miles north of Tam Ky.

[Historian comment: "Fire Birds" are the 71st AHC helicopters; the 176th AHC gunships had the call sign "Muskets" so the unit referenced is in question. This was in the Division S2/S3 reporting: 196th LIB, Firefly, at 2400H – 0100H vic BT2342 –
BT1649 sunk 25 sampans and rec'd SA fire vic BT194471 and BT186475. Had one small secondary explosion vic BT172488
poss HG).].

Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion flew 1,074 sorties, carried 916 combat troops and hauled 235 tons of cargo in support of division units yesterday.
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Volume 1 No. 279 Americal Daily New Sheet Wednesday January 24, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT: No significant weather change Wednesday. Continued partly cloudy with no precipitation foreseen. Winds southeasterly at 5-12 miles per hour. High Wednesday 82. Low Wednesday night 68.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Units of the Americal division continued to pursue and press the enemy yesterday as they reported killing two NVA soldiers and 23 Viet Cong in action in southern I Corps. U.S. forces reported that two Americans were killed and nine wounded in the day's actions.

Americal's 196th Brigade killed 14 VC yesterday in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa being conducted northwest of Tam Ky.

A company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry commanded by CPT James F. Humphries (Pacific Grove, Calif) observed one VC fleeing into a camouflaged hut. He was engaged and killed. Later, Humphries' company observed another VC fleeing their position. they followed him to a camouflaged tunnel, where they killed the enemy by throwing a hand grenade into the tunnel. In two other incidents during the day, Cpt Humphries company continued to hunt the enemy. They followed a blood trail, which took them to a hut. A VC ran out of the hut and tried to throw a hand grenade. The VC was killed before he could cause any damage. Later on, they killed another VC who was running from the infantrymen. He was killed in a valley about two miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The **"Firebirds" of Americal's 71st Aviation Company** observed and engaged two VC who were wearing black pajamas. The enemy was seen fleeing into a wood-line and after a brief chase they were killed.

A scout dog from the 141st Scout Dog Platoon, "Hell on Paws", picked up the scent of the VC and followed it until they saw two VC running into a tunnel. Hand grenades were thrown into the tunnel, and two VC were killed.

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Americal's **14th Aviation Battalion** flew 125 sorties, carried 1,016 combat troops and hauled 290 tons of cargo in support of division units yesterday.

Volume 1 No. 286 Americal Daily New Sheet Wednesday January 31, 1968
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Wednesday partly cloudy with no significant change. Winds east-southeast at 5-12 miles per hour. High Wednesday 82 Low Wednesday night 67.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)— Air and ground fighting increased as Americal's fighting units killed 69 enemy in action throughout southern I Cops.

Elements of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, operating west of Tam Ky and supported by "C" Troop gunships. Thirteen more kills were reported by 17th Cavalry gunships in brief air-to-ground contacts throughout the day. The remaining four enemy kills were recorded by units of the 1st Cavalry in ground fighting.

In contact yesterday 14 enemy were killed by elements of Americal's 196th Brigade in action northwest of Tam Ky in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

In air--to—ground action "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry saw two VC in foxholes. They passed over the area and received small arms fire. They returned the fire and killed the two enemy. Just a short distance away, "Firebirds" of the **71st Aviation Company** sank two heavily loaded sampans ***[at 0430H-0530H at BT266440].*** A platoon from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry engaged four VC resulting in one VC kill and the capture of a pistol belt, one M-26 grenade and one medical kit. Later on, "F" Troop and a scout team from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed five VC. A search of the area revealed a .45 caliber pistol, one M-14 rifle and two SKS rifles.

In ground action, an element from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry engaged seven NVA and killed two enemy. Three enemy were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment and interrogation.

Three tactical air strikes were flown in support of the 196th Brigade resulting in 11 structures and four bunkers destroyed.

Contacts in the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry's area of operation resulted in seven VC and one NVA killed and the capture of two weapons.

At 6 a.m., the base camp of the brigade received approximately 15 rounds of mortar and recoilless rifle fire. There were no friendly casualties.

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Americal Division Daily Newsheet:

Volume 1 No. 325 Americal Daily New Sheet Sunday March 10, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT Continued cloudy to partly cloudy Monday. Occasional rain showers in the morning. Variable winds at 8 knots per hour. High Monday 80. Low Monday night 67.

143 ENEMY KILLED BY THE MIRACLE DIVISION IN ACTION

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Heavy fighting near Tam Ky brought about a sharp increase in the number of enemy killed by Americal Division units yesterday. Operation Wheeler/Wallowa forces from Americal's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry killed 129 of the total 143 enemy killed yesterday. Americal losses were listed at five soldiers killed and 31 wounded and evacuated for treatment in fighting throughout southern I Corps.

Americal's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry a company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, a supporting Air Force Forward Air Controller (FAC), aircraft, and gunships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry were responsible for 129 NVA killed seven miles northwest of Tam Ky in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa yesterday.

The heavy fighting yesterday was a continuation of an off again, on again fight which began on March 4th. Yesterday's 129 kills brought the total enemy kills for the six day operation to 293. Three individual and nine crew-served weapons have been captured in the action centered in an area approximately ten miles northwest of Tam Ky. Americal units have suffered five soldiers killed and 72 wounded and evacuated during the week long fight.

The initial contact with the enemy yesterday was by "C" Troop, 1st Cavalry while on a reconnaissance mission early in the morning. Contact began with scattered sniper fire but as "C" Troop and the company from the 21st Infantry moved west in hilly, wooded terrain the fighting increased. The close-in fighting continued until 6 p.m., when the enemy broke contact. "C" Troop, which saw the most action killed 80 NVA and the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry company killed 20 NVA. "A" Troop killed two NVA and "B' Troop, killed seven NVA as they acted as blocking forces.

"C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry while flying in close support recorded five NVA kills and the FAC aircraft killed five NVA.

In other Operation Wheeler/Wallowa action inland in the mountainous region, units of Americal's 196th killed five VC and captured 24,500 pounds of rice yesterday.

The most significant contact of the day came when a gunship from the 71st Aviation Company killed three VC after receiving automatic weapons fire. Later the gunship killed another enemy soldier and destroyed three fortified structures.

A company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry added another enemy to the body count. The company also captured 3,000 pounds of rice which was hidden in three huts.

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Helicopters from Americal's **14th Aviation Battalion** flew 886 sorties, carried 1,279 combat troops and hauled 298 tons of cargo in support of the division yesterday.

Americal Division Daily Newsheet:

Volume 1 No. 338 Americal Daily New Sheet Saturday March 23, 1968

(Only the Americal Division news was transcribed from this issue)

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Partly cloudy Saturday with little change. Winds variable at 5-10 Knots per hour. High Sunday 95. Low Saturday night 73.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL-IO) – Americal forces reported the tempo of action slackened yesterday as division units killed 18 Viet Cong and captured seven individual and three crew-served weapons. Eight Americal soldiers were wounded and evacuated in the day's fighting throughout southern I Corps.

Americal's Operation Wheeler/Wallowa units of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry continued yesterday to sweep an area approximately seven miles northwest of Thang Binh. Ten VC were reported killed throughout the day's operations.

Supporting gunships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry accounted for seven of the kills. A troop of the 1st Cavalry killed two VC and a company of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** killed one as they reported scattered sniper fire throughout the day.

Operation Wheeler/Wallowa forces of Americal's 196th Brigade discovered the bodies of three more VC that were killed in Thursday's heavy contact northeast of LZ Baldy and captured six individual and three crew-served weapons. The total for the battle now stands at 115 enemy killed by units of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry and supporting APCs from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry.

Units of the "Regulars" discovered the bodies in two locations. The weapons were found near the body of a dead VC in a tunnel. the weapons included three RPG-7s, one machine gun, one BAR, two AK-47s, one M-79 and an M-1 rifle.

Gunships from the **71st Aviation Company, "Firebirds"**, on a fire fly mission sank five loaded VC sampans late Thursday night. ***[196, Fire Fly, rec'd hvy AW at coord BT213442, returned fire w/rockets and M-60, silenced source. Coord: BT150530, sank 3 sampans. BT138504, sank 2 loaded sampans]***

There were two tactical air strikes flown in support of the 196th yesterday resulting in 12 fortified structures destroyed.

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The **14th Aviation Battalion** flew 1,173 sorties, carried 1,354 combat troops and hauled 458 tons of cargo in support of the Americal Division yesterday.

For the week ending 21 March, the Americal Province Emergency Coordinating Committee provided 4,900 gallons of milk and hauled 61,250 pounds of flour to several hamlets in Quang Tin Province. The committee also provided a hamlet in Quang Ngai province with 24,000 pounds of flour.

Americal forces captured 14,000 pounds of enemy rice last week and returned it to the GVN control t be used to feed refugees.

Ninety-five bags of cement were delivered to a refugee hamlet in Quang Tin Province. The cement will be used to repair homes damaged by VC attacks. One thousand board feet of lumber was provided to rebuild the Thang Binh High School which was partially destroyed during the VC attacks. All recovery activities are coordinated with Province authorities.

Americal Division Daily Newsheet:

Volume 1 No. 341 Americal Daily New Sheet Tuesday March 26, 1968

WEATHER REPORT Cloudy Wednesday morning becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon. Winds from the north at 5-10 knots per hour. High Wednesday 88. Low Wednesday night 71.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL-IO) — In yesterday's fighting Americal forces killed 29 enemy soldiers and captured seven individual weapons. Division units reported three soldiers killed and nine wounded and evacuated for treatment.

Elements of Americal's 196th Brigade killed 13 enemy throughout their area of Operation Wheeler/Wallow yesterday.

A 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry company commanded by CPT Dennis A. Leach (Fairmont, Minn.) killed one evading Viet Cong. Another company of the "Gimlets" led by CPT James F. Humphries (Pacific Grove, Calif.) killed one VC.

Members of a company of the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry led by 1LT Douglas J. Greenlaw (Michigan City, Ind.) while on a searching operation killed one VC and captured three packs, three AK-47 magazines, documents and a small amount of medical supplies. The command and control ship of the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry killed three VC.

In other "Charger" action "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry led by CPT Richard N. Davis (San Antonio, Tex.) killed three VC and a unit of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry accounted for one enemy kill.

In air-to-ground action scout ships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed two VC while flying general support of the "Chargers". A **"Firebird" gunship from the 71st Aviation Company killed one VC.**

A combined infantry and air cavalry operation four miles east of Than Ginh paid off for elements of Americal's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry yesterday. The combined forces accounted for nine VC kills in the Operation Wheeler/Wallowa area.

Two scout helicopters from "C" Troop 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry accounted for eight of the kills. CPT George R. Briggs (Freeport, Maine) and WO1 Harold H. Glaze (Miami, Fla.), are commanders of the aircraft.

A platoon of the 1st Cavalry led by SSG John W. Ramsey (Radcliffe, Ky) killed an enemy sniper as the operation began early in the morning.

.....

The **14th Aviation Battalion** flew 1,186 sorties, carried 1,417 combat troops and hauled 201 tons of cargo in support of the Americal Division yesterday.

Americal Division Daily Newsheet:
Vol. 2 No. 126 Friday August 23, 1968
AMERICAL

news | *| sheet
|* *|
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MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Fair to Partly cloudy with isolated late afternoon and evening showers. Winds at 10 knots from the West-Northwest. High Saturday 90. Low Saturday night 80. (B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL - IO)--Action increased in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday as Division forces killed ten VC, captured three individual weapons, one claymore mine, and detained four suspects.

.....

In the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operations "Charger" units killed five VC in light action in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa yesterday.

A command and control helicopter from the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry engaged and killed one VC evading two miles south of Hoi An.

A reconnaissance element of the same unit engaged two VC with small arms fire near Hoi An, resulting in one VC killed.

"Firebird" gunships of the **71st Aviation Company** destroyed two bunkers and killed one VC in support of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry in the same area.

An OP from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry observed three VC 18 miles west of Tam Ky. Artillery was called in, resulting in one VC killed.

Another "Gimlets" company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry engaged and killed one VC 13 miles west of Tam Ky.

.....

In the 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry's Operation Wheeler/Wallowa area "F" Troop, 8th Cavalry accounted for two VC killed and detained one suspect 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Americal Division forces suffered one soldier wounded and evacuated for treatment.

Americal Division Daily Newsheet:
Vol. 2. No. 174 Thursday October 10, 1968
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT for FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy High 95 Low 75 1025-2144--Hours of non-moonlight

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Thirteen VC and two NVA were killed, two individual weapons were captured, and 15 suspects were detained by Americal Division soldiers and supporting units in the southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday.

In the 196th Inf. Bde.'s area of operations "Charger" units killed six VC and two NVA and captured one individual weapon.

A 4th Bn., 31st Inf. company spotted three VC 17 miles west of Tam Ky. The "Gimlets" engaged the enemy, killing one and detaining two VC.

An NVA threw a grenade at troops of a 4th Bn., 21st Inf. company from his concealed position yesterday. The "Gimlets" immediately fired into the position, killing the NVA. One AK-47 rifle was captured in that action. The troops later killed one VC in the same area.

The reconnaissance element of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. engaged and killed two VC with small arms fire five miles south of Hoi An. In the same area another company of the battalion engaged a group of VC, killing one.

Gunships of the **71st Avn. Co.** firing in support of a sniffer mission yesterday killed one NVA 19 miles west of Tam Ky.

A 2d Bn., 1st Inf. company spotted a group of VC running from a hut 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The enemy was engaged, resulting in one VC killed.

.....

Americal Division losses were five wounded and evacuated for medical treatment.

Americal Division Daily Newsheet:
Vol. 2. No. 191 Sunday October 27, 1968
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT for MONDAY Partly to Mostly Cloudy Occasional Showers Tonight High 86 Low 70
No Moon light-2331-1305

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) --Americal Division soldiers accounted for 36 VC killed, 12 suspects detained, and nine weapons captured in southern I Corps yesterday.

*****

In the 196th Inf. Bde. area of operations, "Charger" units killed 22 VC, captured eight individual weapons, detained two suspects, and captured 12,425 pounds of rice.

A total of seven VC were killed in five separate contacts by the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. recon. plt., in an area centered five miles south of Hoi An.

"Gimlets" of a 3d Bn., 21st Inf. company engaged a small group of VC 24 miles west of Tam Ky, killing one.

Another company of the battalion killed a total of two VC in two separate actions in an area centered nine miles west of Tam Ky.

A Long Range Patrol killed a total of four VC in two separate actions in an area centered nine miles west of Tam Ky.

A Long Range Patrol killed a total of four VC in two separate actions in an area centered 26 miles west of Tam Ky. All four of the VC were killed by artillery fire directed by the patrol.

F Trp., 17th Cav. killed five VC in a cave 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky when the enemy refused to come out and surrender.

The troop later killed another VC in the same area when he refused to come out of a cave.

The 71st Avn., Co combined with 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers to kill two VC six miles south of Hoi An.

"Guardians of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf. captured a total of 6,800 pounds of rice in three separate caches 24 miles west of Tam Ky.

"Gimlets" of a 4th Bn., 31st Inf. company found 5,625 pounds of rice in several huts 26 miles west of Tam Ky.

A 2d Bn., 1st Inf. company engaged two VC 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Both VC were wounded and detained. One K-44 rifle was captured in that action.

Under the Voluntary Informant Program (VIP), Vietnamese civilians turned in three M-79 rounds, one Chicom grenade, three smoke grenades, one 60mm mortar round, 1/2 pound of C4, 1/4 pound of Flex-X, and 1/4 pound of C3 to "Gimlets" of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf (?3rd Bn., 21st Inf are Gimlets).

Friday the 3d Bn., 21st Inf. received one .45 cal. pistol and six M-72 LAWs from Vietnamese civilians under the VIP.

****

The Division suffered two soldiers wounded and evacuated for medical treatment.

Americal Division Daily Newsheet:
Vol. 3. No. 26 SUNDAY January 26, 1969
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT Tomorrow's forecast: Mostly cloudy to partly cloudy. Winds southeasterly at 5-10 knots. High temperature of 86' with a low of 70'. Moon will rise at 1331 hours and will se tat 0202 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--keeping up northwest of Quang Ngai City and north of Tam Ky, and getting ready to mop up in Operation Russell Breach--that was the story in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing four NVA and 37 VC, detaining eight VC suspects, and capturing three individual weapons in moderate action.

****

In the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area north of Tam Ky, F Trp., 8th Cav. had its best day in weeks. The "Blue Ghost" gunships killed 13 VC in seven incidents from 12 1/2 - 15 1/2 miles north. F Trp. killed a 14th VC nine miles west of Tam Ky.

The largest encounter came at 1335 when F Trp. engaged and killed five VC 12 1/2 miles north where three more VC were killed later. Four were killed in three actions 14 miles north and one 15 1/2 miles away.

The 3-21 Inf.'s January body count rose to 142 as Co. A killed three VC and Cos. B and C one apiece in the 196th Inf. Bde. area. The kills came within 12-14 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

In other 196th action, the **71st Aslt. Hel. Co**. engaged and killed three VC 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky ***[196th Bde, CC/2/1, BT010390 at 1800H, G/S of 71st Avn escorting CC ship eng'd and killed 3 VC.]***, and Co. A, 1-46 Inf. killed two VC in separate incidents a mile nearer Tam Ky.

Cos. A and B, 4-31 Inf. relocated 26 and 19 refuges, respectively, to Nui Loc Son from areas 24 and 30 miles west of Tam Ky.

****

No Americal Division soldiers were killed, and four were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. Twelve Marines were killed, and 38 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial report.

Americal Division Daily Newsheet:
Vol. 3 No. 104 Monday April 14, 1969
MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER Today is orange pill day.
Guard against malaria. Also remember a salt tablet,
Now that the weather is hot.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Moderate action prevailed in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting eight NVA and 47 VC killed, and three weapons captured in 26 contacts.

FREDERICK HILL--The 196th Inf. Bde. accounted for eight NVA and 19 VC killed as well as one weapon captured in widespread action in its area of operation.

Eleven VC were killed by "Firebirds" of the **71st Aslt. Hel. Co.** in five combat assault missions in a mountainous region 29 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Besides killing one NVA, Co. D, **1-52nd Inf.** observed an 18-20 man NVA and VC force in mountains 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky, and called in air strikes and artillery which killed six NVA.

The recon patrol of the 1-46 Inf. killed one NVA when it engaged three in jungle covered foothills 10 miles southwest of Tam Ky. Earlier the patrol killed two VC when it engaged three in the same vicinity.

Two more VC were killed and an M-1 carbine captured by F Trp., 17th Cav. in mountains 23-1/2 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. A, 4-31 Inf. killed two VC with packs 26 miles west of Tam Ky, and Co. C, 3-21 Inf. killed two in heavy jungle 12 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

*****

GENEVA PARK--The nine VC killed in the 198th Inf. Bde. area were killed by gunships.

Five VC were killed by two "Firebird" gunships of the **71st Aslt. Hel. Co.,** piloted by WO1 Lloyd Gfeller, and WO1 Kelly McHugh, after the VC opened up on the gunships with small arms fire and broke into the open from their hiding places among the thick underbrush 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai.

Four more VC were killed by "Aeroscout" gunships of the 123rd Avn. Bn., when they engaged an unknown size force in triple-canopy jungle 15-1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai.

****

One Americal soldier was killed and 11 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Four Americal soldiers were reported missing in action.

[Historian Note: From 13APR69 Division S2/S3 reporting: 196th Bde, SGT Liporto, 71st Avn, AT838352 at 1015H to 1100H. 1) Obs and eng'd 5 VC w/neg assessment. 2) AT835357, eng'd 3 VC, res: 1 VC KIA. 3) AT834348, eng'd 3 VC, res: 3 VC KIA. 4) AT848350, eng'd 4 VC, res: 3 VC KIA. 5) AT848350, eng'd 2 VC, res: 2 VC KIA. 6) AT848365, eng'd 3 VC, res: 2 VC KIA.]

17APR69 – S2/S3 entry: 196th Bde, SGT Liporto, Tail No. 497, 71st Avn, B/2/1 Inf, BT167493 at 1515H, rec'd 50 rds of SAF fm 2 VC w/13 hits, pilot wounded in foot. Area checked out w/neg findings, res: 1 US WIA (M).

Americal Division Daily Newsheet:
Vol. 3 No. 109 Saturday April 19, 1969

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division units reported 16 NVA and 22 VC killed, and one weapon captured in light action in southern I Corps yesterday.

****

FREDERICK HILL--The 196th Inf. Bde. reported killing seven NVA and 10 VC, and extracting 1-1/2 tons of rice.

Co. B, 1-46 Inf. was on a search and clear mission 18 miles southwest of Tam Ky, when it observed an unknown size enemy force moving through foothills and called air strikes which killed six NVA and eight VC.

Another NVA was killed by Co. D, 4-31 Inf. on a search and clear mission in mountains 21 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky.

Co. B, 3-21 Inf. killed a lone VC in a mountainous region 25-1/2 miles west of Tam Ky.

Another VC was killed by Co. A, 1-46 Inf. six miles southwest of Tam Ky.

It seems as though an intelligence officer from the 2-1 Inf. has suddenly acquired a taste for rice. CPT. Robert Netter (Kingston, N.Y.) was sitting on top of a dozen 100 pound bags of rice that had been unearthed by Co. B, 2-1 Inf. working with local R.F.'s 19 miles northwest of LZ Baldy, 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky, it came under intense automatic weapons fire. The sacks of rice CPT. Netter was sitting on absorbed the rounds.

CPT. Netter said, "I was hugging the rice bags and darn glad they were there." He added, "I'll be happy to eat rice very day from now on!"

Over a ton and a half of rice was extracted from cement crocks buried under hootches.

****

Action was moderate to light in southern I Corps, with Americal Division units accounting for 75 NVA and 187 VC killed, and 55 weapons, five crew-served, captured.

The heaviest action was in the 196th Inf. Bde. area of Operation Frederick Hill, where 38 NVA and 66 VC were killed, and 12 weapons captured, one crew-served.

"**Firebird" gunships of the 71st Aslt. Hel. Co**. killed 11 VC in five combat assault missions in a mountainous region 29 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky, Sunday.

Co. B, 1-46 Inf. accounted for four NVA and six VC killed in its area of Operation Frederick Hill.

Most of the action was on Barrier Island where Trps. A and B, 1st Cav. met well entrenched NVA and VC forces in five days of contact which began last Friday. A Trp., 1st Cav. accounted for five NVA and 10 VC killed, and two weapons captured, B Trp., 1st Cav. killed five more NVA and 32 VC as well as capturing four weapons, and "Blue Ghost" gunships of F Trp., 8th Cav. killed five VC while flying in support of the 1st Cav. on the island.

"Blue Ghost" had a total of 28 VC killed in the area last week.

****

One Americal soldier was killed, and seven wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Twenty Americal soldiers were killed in the fighting last week.

Vol. 3 No. 341 Americal Daily New Sheet Wed. December 10, 1969
(These issues were obtained by James B. Simms and Mike Crutcher from Carlisle Barracks, PA.)

TV PROGRAM SCHEDULE 13
AFVN CHANNEL 13, CHU LAI

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER	THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER	FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER
1200 ED SULLIVAN	1200 LAUGH-IN SPECIAL	1200 HOLLYWOOD PALACE
1300 BONANZA	1300 GUNSMOKE	1300 BIG VALLEY
1400 MISSION IMPOSS.	1400 RINGLING CIRCUS	1400 DEAN MARTIN
1500 MID-AFT-NOON-RPT	1500 MID-AFT-NOON-RPT	1500 MID-AFT-NOON-RPT
1515 MOVIE	1630 JOEY BISHOP SHOW	1515 MOVIE
1700 THE KILLY STYLE	1700 BEV. HILLBILLIES	1630 PERRY MASON
1730 GENTLE BEN	1800 RAWHIDE	1730 NASHVILLE VIETNAM
1800 INFORMATION SPEC.	1840 HONEY WEST	1800 UNTAMED WORLD
1830 BIG VALLEY	1930 THE ROGUES	1830 GENERATION GAP
1930 EVENING NEWS	2000 EVENING NEWS	1900 THE KILLY STYLE
2000 SPORTS	2030 JULIA	1930 EVENING NEWS
2200 HAWAII FIVE-O	2130 PERRY MASON	2000 WILD WILD WEST
2300 11TH HOUR REPORT	2200 RICHARD DIAMOND	2100 STAR TREK
2320 TONIGHT SHOW	2300 DEAN MARTIN	2200 COLISEUM
	2320 MOVIE	2300 11TH HOUR REPORT
		2320 BOXING

Americal Division Daily Newsheet:
Vol. 3 No. 342 Americal Daily New Sheet Thurs. December 11, 1969
These issues were obtained by James B. Simms and Mike Crutcher from Carlisle Barracks, PA.)

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--- Action continued to be light in southern I Corps yesterday with Americal soldiers accounting for three enemy soldiers killed.

* * * * * * * *

FREDERICK HILL—At 1245 hours yesterday, Delta Company 3-21 Inf found two NVA bodies in a grave 13 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Fifteen minutes later in the same area Delta Company engaged and killed one VC.

At 0900 yesterday morning, members of the **71st Aviation,** operating 12 miles south of Tam Ky, found two large graves containing 11 VC soldiers.

* * * * * * *

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, Commanding
MAJ John T. Pauli, IO
SP4 Harry Baumann, Editor
Telephone: Chu Lai 3212

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This New Sheet is published daily under the supervision of the IO, Americal Division, APO 96374, as an authorized Army publication. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Vol. 3 No. 342 Americal Daily New Sheet Thurs. December 11, 1969

TV PROGRAM SCHEDULE 13

AFVN CHANNEL 13, CHU LAI

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER	FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER	SATURDAY, 13 DECEMBER
1200 LAUGH-IN SPECIAL	1200 HOLLYWOOD PALACE	1200 HAWAII FIVE-O
1300 GUNSMOKE	1300 BIG VALLEY	1300 JOHNNY CASH
1400 RINGLING CIRCUS	1400 DEAN MARTIN	1400 SPORTS
1500 MID-AFT-NOON-RPT	1500 MID-AFT-NOON-NEWS	1630 W-FUL WORLD GOLF
1630 JOEY BISHOP SHOW	1515 MOVIE	1730 LAWRENCE WELK
1700 BEV. HILLBILLIES	1630 PERRY MASON	1830 THE KING FAMILY
1800 RAWHIDE	1730 NASHVILLE VIETNAM	1900 GET SMART
1840 HONEY WEST	1800 UNTAMED WORLD	1930 EVENING NEWS
1930 THE ROGUES	1830 GENERATION GAP	2000 HEE HAW
2000 EVENING NEWS	1900 THE KILLY STYLE	2100 HIGH CHAPARRAL
2030 JULIA	1930 EVENING NEWS	2200 THAT'S LIFE
2130 PERRY MASON	2000 WILD WILD WEST	2300 11TH HOUR REPORT
2100 RICHARD DIAMOND	2100 STAR TREK	2320 MOVIE
2200 DEAN MARTIN	2200 COLISEUM	
2300 11th HOUR REPORT	2300 11TH HOUR REPORT	
2320 MOVIE	2320 BOXING	

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
Distributed by United Feature Syndicates, Inc. #4

Graphic: START SAVING TODAY – BUY U.S. SAVING BONDS
Soldier smiling as he set up allotments for Saving Bonds.

Cartoon Graphic: Two G.I.s in a foxhole with bullets going overhead. One G.I. says to the other, "HOW DID GENERAL SHERMAN KNOW THAT WAR IS "XXXXX" HE DIDN'T EVEN GO OVERSEAS!!"

Graphic: A little puppy running along pulling a banner that says "BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS". The dog is thinking, "FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS. (Cartoon by LITTLE FOLKS.

These 71st Aviation Company related articles came from the "Americal Magazine" This was the Americal Division Public Information quarterly publication that began in May 1968 and 12 issues later stopped after the division stood down in November 1971. Except for the first issue, all publications were printed with bright colorful presentations on glossy paper. The Public Information Office of the Americal also produced a book about the Americal Division that had history through the middle of July 1970. It was often referred to as the "Standdown Book" as any copies that remained in the division were handed out when the Americal Division stood down in November 1971.

The excerpts put in this document are not the full article, even though some of these extracts are multi-page excerpts.

Americal Division Magazine - May, 1968

Two combat aviation battalions help the Americal Division carry the war to all parts of its large area of operations.

The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, attached to Task Force Oregon since April of 1967, contains four assault helicopter companies and one assault support helicopter company. Known as the "Fighting Fourteenth," the battalion furnishes aircraft facilities for combat operations.

The 123rd Aviation Battalion was activated as the division's aviation battalion when the 161st Aviation Company was deactivated last December. In a typical week, the "slick" troop ships of the Company A "Pelicans" and the Company B "Scorpions" (note- later renamed to Warlords). will spend some 280 hours in the air carrying about 2,800 soldiers to the enemy's doorstep. The Pelicans fly about 49 tons of cargo a week.

The unique Company B comes equipped with its own airmobile infantry section as well as light observation helicopters and gunships and is equally adept at providing reconnaissance support for infantry elements and at meeting the enemy on its own. It is the only aero scout company in Vietnam.

B&W photo - a flight of at least 12 helicopters appear to be on a combat assault. ***[Nose art appears to be "Rattler's of the 71st AHC.]*** Photo credit - us army

page – 37 of the Americal magazine.

Americal Division Magazine - Fall, 1968

Sav-A-Plane' Insures that

Page 7 NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET

By SP4 Mike Kelsey

Thanks to the efforts of a hard-working crew of Army and Air Force men, the grim story about the aircraft and the artillery shell that happened to meet in a strange airway has never been told here.

Working behind a maze of radios and huge maps, the crew is responsible for guiding aircraft safely through the artillery-filled skies from Quang Ngai to Hoi An.

"We have never had an instance of an airplane checking in with us and then being shot out of the air by our own artillery, and we're pretty proud of this," said 1LT Robert Owens, a former shift leader with the Americal's Air learning Control Center, known to pilots throughout Vietnam as the "Sav-A-Plane" section.

"You might say our job is to keep track of artillery and aircraft and make sure they never meet. Though the natural chances for such an accident are pretty slim, no one wants to be the first pilot to be the exception to the rule, and we have a pretty heavy volume of business," the lieutenant commented.

All artillery fire is plotted on a huge map, and the men at "Sav-A-Plane" must clear proposed fire missions before the big guns are allowed to roar. As a plane approaches the division skies, the pilot contacts the "Sav-A-Plane" section and informs the men at the radios of his proposed route.

"We will then either reroute him around the artillery, or postpone the firing while he is flying through, depending on which mission is the more important," LT Owens said.

Aircraft ranging from helicopters to jet bombers keep in constant touch with the men at "Sav-A-Plane," and with a new airplane checking into the division's 250 square miles of air space nearly every two minutes, added to a constantly changing artillery pattern, the job can get pretty hectic at times. Three enlisted men and one officer man the station at all times.

"You have to stay on your toes. About the most pressing problems occur when there is an immediate priority call for artillery fire, for then we have to be able to get in touch with all planes in the area and get them out fast. I think the hardest part is the continuous activity. There is never any letup, and we can never relax, not even for a minute," said the officer.

[Historian Note: The Sav-a-Plane name may have been changed or been known by another name. My pilots contacted "Salvation" to get cleared of artillery fires. Incidents like that of 3 August 1967 probably made this required. 3AUG67- a USAF C-7 Caribou was hit by friendly fire 155mm howitzer at Duc Pho - 3 USAF KIA]

Americal Division Magazine - Fall, 1968
Excerpts from what will be known as the Americal Log section of the magazine:

.....

Feb. 27-3rd Bde., 4th Inf. Div.'s area of operations in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa is passed to the 196th Inf. Bde.

Feb. 27-28-Units of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., supported by helicopter gunships of Troop C, 7th Sqdn., 17th Cav., defeat NVA Regulars, killing 180, at the battle of the "Pinkville" near Tam Ky as part of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

Feb. 29-3rd Bde., 4th Inf. Div. leaves the Americal.

Mar. 3-9-1 Sqdn., 1st Cav. and elements of the 196th Bde. kill nearly 400 enemy soldiers during Operation Wheeler/Wallowa seven miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Mar. 16-Elements of the 196th Bde [sic]. operating in Task Force Barker kill 128 enemy as they raid a Viet Cong stronghold in the village of My Lai, six miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. (***Note "196th" is a typo that was mentioned in another Americal Division publication. The unit is actually part of the 11th Bde. and this action turns out to be the My Lai massacre.)***

Apr. 8-Operation Burlington Trail, to open the road between Tam Ky and Tien Phuoc, is begun by the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. and elements of the 198th Bde. Operation Norfolk Victory to extend GVN influence to the Song Ve Valley is begun by the 11th Bde.

Apr. 19-Operation Norfolk Victory is terminated, as a major enemy base of operations is destroyed and a huge weapons cache is uncovered by elements of the 11th Bde.

Apr. 20-First anniversary of the formation of Task Force Oregon; GEN William C. Westmoreland speaks at a ceremony in Chu Lai. 198th Bde. assumes control of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa from the 196th Bde., which is temporarily placed under the operational control of the 1st Air Cav. Div.

May 3-12-Elements of the 196th Bde. operating under the 1st Air Cav., kill 579 NVA soldiers in the battle of Nhi Ha, five miles south of the demilitarized zone, as part of Operation Saline.

May 25-196th Bde. forces in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa kill 110 North Vietnamese and 12 VC northwest of Tam Ky.

June 3-BG George H. Young Jr., assumes command of the division from MG Koster.

June 12-27th Surgical Hospital, with more than 140 beds for military and civilian war casualties, is dedicated at Chu Lai.

June 23-MG Charles M. Gettys assumes command of the Americal Division from BG Young in ceremonies at Chu Lai.

July 23-Elements of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. and "F" Troop, 8th Cav., account for 61 NVA soldiers killed, 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Aug 14- "C" Btry., 6th Bn., 11th Arty. fires the 2 millionth round since the organization of Task Force Oregon.

Aug. 17-Elements of the 196th Bde. kill 44 VC and one NVA soldier five miles north of Baldy in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

Aug. 19-Units of the 196th Bde. and gunships from the 71st Avn. Co. kill 140 VC in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa south of Hoi An.

Aug. 24-26-The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., "F" Troop, 8th Cav., a battalion of the 196th Bde. and ARVN units combined forces to kill more than 470 NVA regulars 4 miles west of Tam Ky as part of Operation Burlington Trail. (press time prevents the listing of the highlights during September.)

Americal Division Magazine - May, 1969

B&W photo - **71st assault Helicopter** slick (rattler emblem on the nose) lands as a soldier guides the helicopter in over war ravaged terrain. Photo credit – Longwell (page 18)

Page 24 - B&W photo of a crewchief firing an M-60 machinegun. Soldier is wearing a flight helmet. photo credit - Buzogany

Page 25 Trouble Shooters in The Sky . . .

DOOR GUNNERS By SFC LARRY BABITTS

"It looked as if the ground was coming up to meet us," began the chubby, be-spectacled door gunner, "and for a couple of seconds there I thought it was all over."

SP4 Roger D. Morley (Denver), a one-time medic and former liberal arts major at Casper Jr. College, Casper, Wyo., was relating one of the more exciting moments in what many consider the Americal Division's most glamorous job.

"Then the voice on the intercom said that we had lost tail-rotor power, and I was certain that was it," he continued, "but I noticed that the pilot hadn't lost his cool.

I just hung in there, hoping and praying for the best." The best was good enough as the "Firebird" gunship from the **71st Avn. Co.,** 14th Combat Avn. Bn., landed with "a hell of a jolt," but landed safely with no one seriously injured. They had once again bailed the infantry out of a tight spot by their superior firepower and maneuverability.

(Continued – 1)

(Continued – 1) Trouble Shooters in the Sky

This was by no means the first time in Morley's 28 months as an aerial gunner in Vietnam that his ship was hit by hostile ground fire. "We've been hit often, but each time the skippers brought us back home with only a minimum of difficulty. You've got to trust the chopper pilots... they're good."

And the confidence is mutual. WO1 Alfred Admits (Birmingham, Ala.), a veteran pilot who has flown "Firebird" gunships for more than eight months, said, "Before coming over here it was impossible to imagine how good these gunners are. It's a nice feeling to know that your right and left flanks, as well as your rear, are protected by men who are competent in their trade. As soon as the action begins, they jump into the fight with guns blazing." Volunteers come from all branches of the Army to serve as aerial gunners; many from the non-combat jobs such as bakers, truck drivers, clerks and machine repairmen. They have got to be tough, quick, sharp-witted. It is not a job that can be done by the easily shaken or those with queasy stomachs.

They must learn the complex weaponry of the gunship, which carries as a minimum 14 rockets and 6,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition for its two miniguns. It is not because they fire them, since that's the pilot's or copilot's task, however the care, maintenance, and arming is the gunner's responsibility.

The M-60 machineguns, one on the left and one on the right side, which are used for pinpoint firing, are his "babies." The "**Firebird**" gunners do not fire from fixed post assemblies as is done on other ships, rather they shoot free-hand or from a strap hanging in the doorway in order to increase their mobility and effectiveness.

"It is more difficult to fire this way," said WO2 James Dean (Tampa, Fla.), "but the greater freedom of motion allows the gunner to cover more territory quickly. Timing is the greatest factor in success."

Besides using his skills as a gunner to protect the chopper or in support of ground troops, the gunners are responsible for refueling the ship and giving the pilots oral guidance during the take-off and landing.

Although he is obliged to assist the other enlisted member of the ship, the crew chief, in the maintenance of the helicopter, the assistance is reciprocal. While in flight, the crew chief acts as one of the gunners, and together they form a team capable of devastating an area the size of a football field on a single pass.

But regardless of how good a shot he is or how vast his knowledge of the choppers ordnance, the man at the trigger must display some mechanical ability to keep his guns firing, and help keep the ship in the air.

"It would be impossible for the crew chief to maintain the chopper in such a state of combat readiness without the cooperation of these enthusiastic workers. Every hour in the air requires at least one hour of ground maintenance," stated one of the pilots.

Though these tedious hours are essential, the core of the job is the few minutes when he is at his gun, making life miserable for the enemy.

The love of flying and the excitement of the chase is shared by SP4 David L. Winter (Superior, Wis.). He has been with the 71st Avn. Co. for more than two years and has logged nearly 750 combat hours. During this time, along with the glamour, there was plenty of danger, and close calls were a common occurrence.

"During a mission about 18 months ago," Winter recalled, "our ship was receiving pretty heavy ground fire, yet in spite of it the situation seemed

(Continued – 2)

pretty routine. Then a .30 caliber round slammed into the receiver group of my M-60, shattering it. It was a real eerie feeling having the weapon shot out of my hands. Except for temporarily putting my weapon out of action, no harm was done."

Five months later, while flying a contact mission over the Que Son Valley, the tall, sandy-haired ex-mechanic was shot down and had to "hump all the way back" through hostile territory. "I never realized how hard the 'grunties' have it until then. They sure have a tough case going," noted Winters, who is the holder of two Purple Hearts and two dozen Air Medals.

"There's no hiding place up there," added a former company clerk, SP5 Michael J. Murphy (Missoula, Mont.). "You're vulnerable and present one hell of a target.

"The enemy knows the amount of damage we can do, and they'll willingly expend beaucoup ammunition trying to get us. Often, he'll even give away his position in the attempt, and that's when we can really sock it to him."

Murphy, who was a graduate student at the University of Montana prior to being drafted, holds degrees in both psychology and sociology. He has been in Vietnam for more than 20 months, 15 of which have been served with gun ships.

He, too, has had his hairy experiences as an aerial gunner, the most memorable of which occurred last July near Antenna Valley. "We were low-level flying near LZ O'Connor," the twice-wounded soldier reminisced, "when a .50 cal. hit us with a thunk. It travelled through the seat and demolished the handle of my .38 pistol...which I was wearing at the time."

This was particularly harrowing since three previous choppers on which Murphy had served as door gunner had been shot down. Two of them one month before this incident.

Why do they keep flying? What makes them extend over here in Vietnam?' Murphy replied, "It's really hard to say. I know it isn't for the extra pay we get ($55 monthly), so it's got to be partly for the excitement of flying, and for a new scene every day.

(Continued – 3)

(Continued – 3) Trouble Shooters in the Sky

"But mostly we stay for the satisfaction we get from doing an important job. It's hard to explain," Murphy continued, "the nice feeling you get when we come in to pull the ground troopers out of a tight spot, and they call just after your guns have taken the pressure off...and say "Thanks a lot, guys.'"

Buzogany

"Firebird" gunner, SP4 Roger D. Morley inspects the miniguns during a pre-flight check. The maintenance of the helicopter's complex weapons system is one of the door gunner's responsibilities. Chopper pilot WO1 Alfred Adamitis looks on.

AMERICAL

B&W Photo - Caption "**Firebird**" gunner SP4 Roger D. Morley inspects the miniguns during a pre-flight check. The maintenance of the helicopter's complex weapons system is one of the door gunner's responsibilities. Chopper pilot WO1 Alfred Adamitis looks on.

Americal Division Magazine - January, 1970

16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy

By SP4 CRAIG COUTURE

16th Cbt. Avn Grp.

Nineteen Hueys cast dark silhouettes against the lava-red South China Sea. The early morning sky was blazed scarlet and clouds formed delicate designs that a carefree mind could mold into anything it fancied. But to a number of men of Americal's 16th Combat Aviation Group (CAG) the significance of their mission left little time for such pleasant diversions.

On this particular morning, 500 infantrymen had to be lifted into an area where the Viet Cong were suspected of hiding. The operation was a fairly large one; there would be two assaults. The first involved carrying over 200 men of the **1st Bn., 6th Inf.**, 198th Inf. Bde. into a valley 15 miles west of Chu Lai. The second was an assault involving more than 300 men from the **1st Bn., 6th Regt., 2nd ARVN Div.** into the same general area.

Gunships approached the LZ first, firing their rockets and miniguns at any suspicious areas. The command and control ship dropped down and marked the LZ with smoke grenades. The smoke ship, affectionately called "Smokey" followed and circled the area with a protective ring of heavy smoke to conceal the approaching troop-carrying "slicks."

Despite small arms fire that kept bursting from the bushes of the surrounding hillsides, both assaults flown by the **176th Avn. Co.** were successful in bringing Americal and ARVN soldiers to the enemy's doorstep.

Providing such air mobility and direct air support for the Americal and 2nd ARVN Div. is only one of many services the 16th CAG renders to allied forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

The 16th Group was first activated and organized on Dec. 20, 1967 and became operational on Jan. 23, 1968, at the Marine Marble Mountain Air Facility, Da Nang. This was just one week before the 1968 Tet Offensive exploded throughout Vietnam. The 16th Group, as their motto implies, was truly "Born in Battle."

Originally part of the 1st Avn. Bde., the 16th CAG was attached to the Americal Div. on Dec. 1, 1968. Within a week, the Group relocated from Marble Mountain to its present location at Chu Lai. The unit has the distinction of being the only aviation group in the U.S. Army assigned to an infantry division.

Intent upon carrying out its mission, the **16th CAG**, commanded by COL D. Townsend (Danbury, Neb.), is composed of a Hqs. and Hqs. Co., the 335th Trans. Co., and two battalions: the 14th CAB with units at Duc Pho and Chu Lai, and the 123rd CAB with units in the Chu Lai area.

The 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn. moved to Chu Lai from the Phu Bai Valley in 1967 to support Task Force Oregon. The battalion, commanded by LTC Jerry L. Teague (Alexandria, Va.), is comprised of the [**71st was omitted**] **174th** and **176th** Aslt. Hel. Companies (AHC) and the **132nd** and **178th** Aslt. Spt. Hel. Companies (ASHC).

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy**

The 71st Avn. Co. known as the "Rattlers" arrived in Vietnam in 1964. Three years later, the company moved to Chu Lai with the 196th Inf. Bde. as part of Task Force Oregon and have consistently supported that unit in the Americal's northern area of operations. In recent months, the "Rattlers" have supported the 196th Bde. in numerous operations in the Que Son, Hiep Duc, Phouc Chau, and Phouc Cha Valleys.

Commanded by MAJ William M. Price (Fayetteville, N.C.), the 71st set an envious record of 25 consecutive months of flying and over 50,000 combat hours without an accident in 1968.

Another unit with an envious safety record is the 174th AHC, located at Duc Pho. The company has the best accident free record in the Americal Div. with not a single accident in the current fiscal year. The pilots have a combined total of 10,500 accident free flying hours. In that time, the company has carried 75,000 passengers and 2,500 tons of cargo. To the soldier in the field that means a hot meal everyday and a quick trop to the rear when stand-down comes. While compiling its record the 174th has flown nearly 50,000 sorties, including night combat assaults, "dust-off" missions, and emergency ammo resupply.

Under the leadership of MAJ Virgil E. Blevins (Beeville, Tex.), the 174th has three flight platoons and boasts a motto of "Nothing Impossible" in carrying out its mission to support the 11th Inf. Bde. The troop-carrying aircraft are called "Dolphins" and the gunships called "Sharks."

To the infantrymen, the sight of the "Shark" gunships working out on the enemy while the "Dolphins" bring in the much needed ammunition is a vision long remembered. As one infantry officer said, "The Sharks give a morale boost to us and scare the devil out of the enemy. After the Sharks shoot up an area, you can count on it being quiet the rest of the night.

Another constant source of support for troops on the ground are the "Minutemen" of the **176th AHC** commanded by MAJ O.R. Hite (Staunton, Va.). Since 1967, the **176th** has been supporting the 198th Inf. Bde.

During August 1969, aviators of

Graphics - Two drawings of helicopters with the Americal Division patch nose art on each of the helicopters. The drawings are credited to "Anthony". (Note-the nose art identifies the helicopters as 3rd flight platoon helicopters from A/123rd Cbt Avn Bn.).

the **176th** averaged 94 flying hours and was awarded the Americal Accident Prevention Award for the month.

(Continued 2)

(Continued 2) 16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy

To provide tactical air movement of combat, combat support, and combat service support units in the Americal area of operations is the mission of the **132nd ASHC**. The company, commanded by MAJ William Jones (Glendall, Calif.), started operations with its Boeing-Vertol CH-47B Chinooks in May 1968. Since then the **"Hercules"** Chinooks of the **132nd** fly an average of 1,000 hours a month lifting over 10,000 passengers and over 5,000 tons of supplies. Their motto of "Versatility, Reliability, and Endurance" describes the support the **132nd** gives daily to the Americal.

Invaluable support is also given to the combat soldier by the **178th ASHC** commanded by MAJ Robert W. Parker (Secane, Pa.). The **"Boxcars"** arrived in Vietnam in April 1966 and moved to Chu Lai as part of Task Force Oregon.

The **178th** have to their credit the distinction of being the first unit to move a complete 155mm howitzer battery in one lift. Once the troops are safely in a combat area, it is up to the "Hercules" Chinooks to keep them supplied and combat ready.

123rd Cbt. Avn. Bn., like its sister battalion, provides air mobility and direct air support to elements of the Americal Div. The battalion, led by LTC Richard K. Dietsch (Manchester, N.H.), prides itself on the professionalism and consciousness in supporting the division. The battalion is comprised of **A and B Companies; Hqs. and Hqs. Co. E Co., 723rd Maint. Bn; F Trp. 8th Cav; and D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.**

Providing the Americal with general aviation support is the primary mission of A Co., 123rd CAB. While B Co. essentially has the role of an air cavalry troop. Man of **B Co.'s** missions are visual reconnaissance operations in which a team of four aircraft, one Light Observation Helicopter (LOH), two Cobra gunships, and one Huey "slick" with five infantrymen aboard search an assigned area for signs of enemy activity. During the past year, B Co. accounted for 429 enemy kills.

Known as the "Blue Ghost," F Trp. 8th Cav. arrived in Vietnam in October, 1967. Commanded by MAJ Charles E. Ivey (Urbana, Ill.), F Trp. has the primary mission of gathering intelligence. The unit accomplishes this by means of aerial and ground reconnaissance making maximum use of its firepower, communications, and mobility.

An organic infantry platoon, nicknamed the "Blues," is used for insertions to perform detailed searches of an area. Normally with the insertion of the "Blues" the aerial recon teams consisting of two Cobras and a LOH, screen in the immediate vicinity and provide armed escort for the platoon.

A newcomer to the 16th Group is **D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.**, who arrived in Vietnam on May 1, 1969. D Trp., called the **"Sabres,"** extends the reconnaissance and security capabilities of ground units by aerial means. To find the enemy, fix his position, and then annihilate him is the mission of the **"Sabres."**

Providing the Americal with aircraft direct support maintenance is **E Co., 723rd Maint. Bn.** The job of this unit like that of the **335th Trans. Co.** is to support and help maintain the aviation units assigned to the Americal.

The officers and men of the **16th CAG** pride themselves on the ability to do their jobs well regardless of any difficulties. With courage and determination and the professional competence of its subordinate units, the **16th CAG** supports the Americal in I Corps.

Graphic black ink drawing of a helicopter being pre-flight inspected.
(Nose art identifies it as a 3rd Flt. Plt **A/123rd Avn Bn** helicopter.)

AMERICAL LOG - Prologue

Combat activity in Southern I Corps increased considerably in the quarter of March, April and May. Major battalion and company-sized contacts again centered around Tam Ky and the resettlement village of Hiep Duc.

More than 2,000 enemy soldiers were killed by Americal Division units during the three-month period, while 503 weapons were captured, 28 of which were crew-served.

In March, combat action was quite heavy, though sporadic throughout the division as Americal units accounted for more than 680 enemy soldiers killed.

In the month of April, fewer enemy were killed, but and increase in the size of unit contacts was noted.

In May, a sharp rise in enemy activity was noted with several rocket attacks on Chu Lai and a flare up of fighting in the resettlement village of Hiep Duc, 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

By SP4 DENNIS SELBY

MARCH

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On March 19, Major General Lloyd Ramsey, commanding general of the Americal Division was hoisted from the thick jungle where he had been stranded overnight following the crash of his command and control UH1 helicopter in which two men were killed and six injured (One of the men killed was Ray Murphy **A/123rd Avn Bn**).

Army and Air Force rescue units flew to the area and an infantry element of the **1st Bn., 6th Inf.** was airborne to within two miles of the crash sight.

Radio contact was lost at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 and was not regained until 8 a.m. when Major Tommy P. James (unit-**71st AHC**)(Bixby, Okla.) arrived in the area in a helicopter.

Major James was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his outstanding actions in the successful rescuing of the downed personnel.

On March 22, following the injury of General Ramsey, Major General A.E. Milloy (Fayetteville, N.C.) assumed command of the Americal Division.

MG Milloy, a distinguished combat veteran of three wars and a master parachutist, assumed command of the Americal following seven months as the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division.

MAY

Ninety NVA/VC were killed Friday, May 1 by the **2nd ARVN Division** supported by an **aero-scout company** of the Americal's **123rd Avn Bn.**

After fierce fighting for two days, the ARVN unit re-claimed the re-settlement village of Hiep Duc from the NVA, killing 44 of the enemy. According to an ARVN report, approximately 15% of the village had been destroyed by fire and several civilians had been killed by the enemy.

The Americal ~~**aero-scout company**~~ [71st AHC] supporting the ARVN attack accounted for **46 enemy kills**. ***[From the Division S2/S3 reporting: 196th Bde, vic AT9124 at 010600H-011930H May 70. Totals of contact: 94xVC/NVA KIA, 4xARVN KIA, 14xARVN WIA, 9xAK-47 CIA, 1xM2 Cbn CIA, 1xM-1 CIA, 1x.75mm RR CIA, 1x50 cal MG CIA. 44xKIA credited to 5th ARVN, 46xKIA credited to 71st AHC, 4xKIA credited to Troop F, 8th Cav.]***

"We came in hot with rockets on a .51 caliber machinegun position and knocked it out," explained the **aero-scout** commander, MAJ Stalker (Enterprise, Ala.), "there were four large secondary explosions after the attack."

At mid-afternoon the same day, the **1st Co., 1st Bn., 5th ARVN Regt.** waged a fierce battle with an unknown number of NVA. The fight resulted in 18 NVA killed. A search of the area exposed six enemy weapons including two AK-44s and one MAS-36. Also found were a Chicom submachinegun 2,000 rounds of ammunition and 60 Chicom grenades.

May 13 proved to be an unlucky day for an NVA Company in the 196th Inf. Bde's area of operation as **Alpha Battery, 3rd Bn., 82 Artillery** reported killing 25 enemy soldiers.

While cutting their way through thick vegetation nine miles north west of Tam Ky on May 23, the point element of the recon platoon of the **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** decided to attend a VC garden party even though they were not invited, after they heard voices in the jungle.

"the voices were coming from about 10 meters on the other side of a hedgerow," said SP4 Larry Hardin (Steger, Ill.) pointman for the recon element. "Our Kit Carson Scout could tell they were Viet Cong by what they were saying. Their weapons were lying on the ground."

The VC were working in a large garden that apparently supplied a battalion of enemy soldiers.

The "Legionaries" crashed into the hedgerow and came face to face with 15 enemy soldiers. "We killed two before they even knew what hit them," said Hardin. "And we dropped five more as they scattered."

Americal Division Magazine - Fall, 1970

AMERICAL LOG

(Photo of helicopter in left quarter of page.)

Prologue

Action in Southern First Military Region decreased slightly in the second quarter of the year as soldiers of the Americal collected a long overdue debt from the NVA at Kham Duc. Over two years since the Kham Duc operation was lost to the 2d NVA Division, the remote **Special Forces** advised **CIDG** camp was retaken by the same Division units that played a central role in the harrowing evacuation of allied forces in May of 1968.

During June, July and August units of the Division accounted for more than 1700 enemy killed and denied the enemy of his much needed food supply by capturing over 133 tons of rice. The enemy also lost 534 weapons, of which 32 were crew served.

The month of June saw Division soldiers quell a major NVA offensive in the secluded Hiep Duc Valley. In heavy company-sized contacts, the Americans defeated elements of the 1st NVA Regiment, killing 590 of the enemy soldiers. The month of July saw a decrease in action throughout the area of operations.

The month of August saw a rise in activity resulting in the deaths of 593 of the enemy in many small vicious firefights.

By SP4 Gary Jensen

June

The heaviest action of the quarter took place in the first two weeks of June as "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade were stopping the last efforts of the NVA's drive into the Hiep Duc Valley.

Early in the month elements of the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** had a very successful and profitable day as the infantrymen killed 12 enemy soldiers and suffered no friendly casualties. **Bravo Company** accounted for 11 of the enemy in three separate firefights. The heaviest contact of the three resulted in six of the enemy being killed.

During his next to last week in Vietnam, Sergeant Richard Anderson, Tacoma, Wash., was much too busy to count days. Within a seventy-two hour period the soldier was instrumental in killing 17 enemy soldiers. Sergeant Anderson, a **FO**, was stationed with a PF outpost nine miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The first night while on a evening patrol Sergeant Anderson and the PF spotted 35 VC. He immediately called in mortar fire, killing seven of the enemy. Two nights later the unit spotted a VC company and called in **gunships** which accounted for three killed. Not more than twenty minutes later the PF patrol discovered 11 VC in a clearing and in the firefight that followed seven of the enemy were killed.

Action flared on June 13 as **Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry** killed 33 NVA in close fighting for eight hours.

Company B began taking fire as they neared an enemy basecamp in the Hiep Duc area. The infantrymen retaliated with organic weapons fire killing six NVA. The Americans received a barrage of 82mm mortar rounds. The men of Company B dug in and called in an air strike. Gunships from the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** strafed the NVA positions as the enemy tried to encircle the Americans.

(Continued -1)

Blue Ghost gunships from **F Troop, 8th Cavalry** spotted another large group of NVA moving towards the company. the choppers raked the area killing three more enemy as another airstrike silenced the enemy mortars. When the fire subsided Company B swept the area finding 23 enemy killed by small arms fire.

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July

July was marked by light sporadic contacts with the enemy, resulting in the quietest month of the quarter despite the mass Allied assault into the Kham Duc area.

Stepped up psychological operations paid off in numerous ways in the first couple weeks of July for the 198th Infantry Brigade. The results being Vietnamese children turning over 220 mortar rounds, 12 artillery rounds and 22 anti-personal mines to **H Troop, 17th Cavalry** among other smaller amounts of arms and munitions.

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The 12th of July saw a mass Allied combat assault into Kham Duc to reclaim the Kham Duc Special Forces advised CIDG camp only 14 miles from the Laotian border.

The camp was overrun in the culmination of a siege by some 5,000 troops of the NVA's Second Division, and hundreds of South Vietnamese soldiers and their dependents were rescued in one of the most dramatic evacuation efforts of the Vietnam war ***[on 12MAY68].***

The object of the operation was the destruction of rear base areas and interdiction on supply routes of the Second NVA Division. The operation's success brought an enormous slow down in the pre-monsoon supply build-up of the NVA forward elements further in the interior of Vietnam. This should bring a welcome relief to such exposed locations as Hiep Duc and other population centers to the northeast of Kham Duc.

The Americans involved in the operations were the same units which

Page 36 (Center photo spread -helicopter being marshalled in by radio operator holding M-16 over his head.)

were instrumental in the evacuation. The units, **Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery** and the **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** played a supporting role for the over 6,000 ARVNs put into the region.

The **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** was inserted in one of the initial lifts to the airstrip where they quickly cleared the lowland area. Cannoneers from **Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82d Artillery** and **Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery** were next, and within twenty minutes of their arrival the two batteries were ready to deliver their devastating support.

AUGUST

Action started out slow for the month of August, the heaviest action in the first few days came when the "G**imlets**" of the **3d Battalion, 21st Infantry** killed seven of the enemy in three separate incidents. Three wee killed in the biggest action of the day by Delta Company when they discovered a hootch complex northwest of Tam Ky.

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(Continued -2)

The 4th ARVN Regiment's first test of the newly opened Kham Duc came the next day as sappers were spotted in the wire and inside the perimeter. The artillerymen opened up on the sappers with everything they had. During the firefight the Americal soldiers were receiving an attack of an estimated 60 mortar rounds and unknown amount of B-40 rocket fire.

At day break a sweep of the area was made, 18 sappers were found killed by the artillerymen's fire. All of the sappers were wearing black shorts. Fifty CHICOM grenades, nine RPG rounds, five RPG launchers and 32 satchel charges were found on the bodies.

Later in the morning **Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** swept the suspected area of the enemy mortar location and found six bunkers, nineteen 82 mm mortar rounds and four cases of charges.

Allied forces working in the Kham Duc area also found an NVA hospital, complete with operating facilities. Also found in the same area was a half a ton of medical supplies, large quantities of rice and NVA rations. While in the process of searching the area, five VC were spotted.

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Gunships were busy on the 12th of the month when the **Nighthawk** ships from the **71st Aviation Company** were engaged by an undetermined enemy force as they flew along a river. Braving small arms and .30 caliber machinegun fire, the gunships accounted for seven NVA killed.

While flying over a heavily vegetated area west of Quang Ngai, gunships from **F Troop, 8th Cavalry** received small arms and .30 caliber fire from the ground below. The pilots saturated the area with automatic weapons fire, killing 33 NVA in the ensuing five hour ground to air battle.

As the end of August drew near the American support units at Kham Duc were evacuated after successfully supporting the ARVNs and getting them settled into the job of stopping the enemy's supplies. (Small Americal patch)

AMERICAL LOG
By SP4 MARK A SCHULZ

Action in the 23d Infantry Division's (Americal) area of operations (AO) slacked off slightly between June, 1970 and June 1971 except for action during certain periods, as more emphasis was placed on pacification and Vietnamization, especially toward the end of this period.

During this 12-month period, five long-standing operations were ended and three new operations were initiated.

Operations Frederick Hill, Pennsylvania Square, Geneva Park, Nantucket Beach, and Iron Mountain, all ending in April, accounted for 15,208 enemy killed, 3,812 weapons captured and 342 crew-served weapons captured.

These operations were replaced on March 1 with Operations Middlesex Peak, Finney Hill and Caroline Hill

JANUARY 1971

The new year was characterized by light to moderate action, but the year started off with heavy activity when **LAMSON 719** began.

Operation LAMSON 719 was a large, complex operation designed to sever the enemy's supply lines and destroy the stockpiles along his supply routes in Laos. American forces were to reopen QL-9 through Khe Sanh to the Laotian border. ARVN forces would then attack into Laos to interdict the enemy's supply routes.

Logistical and airmobile support would be provided by the United States. To insure the security of QL-9, a shifting of American forces westward toward the Laotian border had to occur.

The 23d Infantry Division was called upon to place forces under operational control, and augment those of the **101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)** and the **1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division**. Elements of the 23d Infantry Division began moving north on January 29-the date of movement depending upon the unit. **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** moved north on January 29, 1st Squadron, **1st Cavalry** arrived at Tam Ky on January 30. **F Troop, 8th Cavalry** moved north on January 29, as did the 116th Assault Helicopter Company, 176th Assault Helicopter Company and the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company.

Headquarters Company, **71st and 174th** Assault Helicopter Companies moved north at the same time, and formed the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Also, **1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery** was moved north to support operations for Jefferson Glen and LAMSON 719.

This is from the only issue known to exist of the 14th Aviation Battalion Newsletter, "The Roadrunner".

14th AVN BN IN OPERATION COOK

Flight after flight of UH-1D helicopters swept down into a landing zone southwest of Quang Ngai to mark the start of Operation Cook, 4 September.

535 Troopers from the 1st Bn, 327 Infantry, 101st Airborne Division were airlifted
into battle by the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion in what was to prove to be another successful Combat Assault.

Airstrikes, artillery, and gunships peppered the pre-selected landing zones prior to the arrival of 32 UH-1D Hueys. Eight gunships provided additional support to the troop laden ships and enabled Chinooks from the 178th Avn Co to bring in more troopers and much needed supplies throughout the day.

Working like precision clockwork, the **71st Avn Co**, 161st Avn Co, **174th Avn Co**, 176th Avn Co, and the 178th Avn Co. were able to carry out the day's mission without the loss of a single aircraft.

The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion has been providing Task Force Oregon's ground elements with air support since April, 1967. The 14th is under the command of LTC Carroll Isaacs, 37, Louisville, Ky.

This is from the only issue known to exist of the 14th Aviation Battalion Newsletter, "The Roadrunner".

CLIMB PAST TEN FOR AUGUST (1967)

(17th GP IO) ... Nine to ten thousand hours is a lot of flying time and a well-earned monthly total for most Army aviation battalions in Vietnam.

Far exceeding their July totals of a mere 10,750 hours, pilots and crew chiefs of the 14th Aviation Battalion (17th Cbt Avn Gp) set their sights high and climbed to 11,691 hours in August.

Its four assault helicopter companies and one Chinook outfit in combat support of Task Force Oregon in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin Provinces, the 14th Battalion averaged an overall 81 per cent of its aircraft available to all August operations of the American ground forces.

One company, the **174th Assault Helicopter Company**, in operational support of the 3rd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division, contributed over 3,000 hours to the month's total time.

In addition, 14th Battalion helicopters recorded some very impressive statistics in support of the August 13 – September 1 Operation Benton, which combined the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Div. and the 196th Light Inf. Bde. in fierce VC encounters 11 miles west of Tam Ky.

Totals of enemy captured and killed ran high, as did the number of VC weapons reaped from the intense search and destroy operations. Flying totals also soared to modest highs.

During all August combat support of Task Force Oregon the 14th Battalion accounted for:

-- 71,446 troops lifted (12,256 or 20 per cent of those were credited to Operation Benton)

-- 7,745 tons of cargo hauled (compared to 2,046 tons or 26 per cent in Benton).

-- 93 confirmed VC killed by air for the 14th's gunships and 362 enemy structures destroyed (compared to Benton's 49 KIA's and 125 structures destroyed).

During August operations 14th Battalion "Arab" Commander LTC Carroll C. Isaacs (Louisville, Kentucky) could report that not one combat soldier was injured or killed aboard any of his fleet's helicopters.

This means that every infantryman lifted by the Army choppers arrived speedily and ready to fight when dropped off in the combat zone.

Several helicopter crew members were casualties, however, and one pilot aid the ultimate price in contributing to the August aviation support given by the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion. *(Note: WO Robert Scott from the 176th AHC died 08/25/67 in helicopter 65-10058 at grid location BT201099).*

In this case, the cost of sacrifice meant much more to the men on the ground, being supported by their counterparts in the air—combat Army aviators.

The following section will include articles from the Americal Division's weekly newspaper, "The Southern Cross" that reference the 71st Aviation Company. The first issue was published in May 1968 and the final issue was in the fall of 1971. The newspapers were usually eight pages with cartoons and world events included. Approximately 120 issues have been located with perhaps 40 that are still missing. Nearly 30 of these newspapers had a photo or article referencing the 71st AHC.

17Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 5. Page 1

Heavy Enemy Fire

Daring Pilot Saves Marines

LZ BALDY--Teamwork by Army, Air Force and Marine aviation units combined recently with a daring individual effort by an Americal Div. helicopter pilot to pull eight Marines from the jaws of a trap being closed by 50 North Vietnamese regulars.

WO Leon Schoenborn, of Columbus, Ga., made two runs under intense enemy fire to pick up the leathernecks from the 1st Recon. Bn of the 1st Marine Div.

The fighting was so heavy that the rescue was delayed twice while the supporting gunships from the **71st Avn. Co.** returned to LZ Baldy to rearm and refuel.

Schoenborn is also a part of the **71st Avn. Co.,** and had been flying a flareship helicopter in support of the 196th Inf. Bde. when the emergency call was sounded by the Marines.

Heavy Fire

An Air Force "Spooky" flareship took over the illumination chores for Schoenborn as he prepared to move in for the pickup. As his ship went down, enemy automatic weapons began blasting away from all sides.

"I told him to abort the mission but he elected to stay and try," said WO James M. Collins, Jr., of San Antonio, Tex., the commander of the gunships.

The delay in boarding caused by the hostile fire forced Schoenborn back into the air after only three of the Marines had boarded.

Used Ammo

The gunships used up all their ammunition covering the first attempt, and were forced back to Baldy for more. They had already rearmed once.

When the aircraft returned to the scene, the men on the ground reported that the majority of enemy movement had shifted to higher ground. The gunships attacked under Air Force illumination.

As the enemy force began closing in on the leathernecks, Schoenborn once again made the trip down.

"We moved in with all our guns firing, and the rescue came off fast. We used up all our ammo protecting them on the second run, too," Collins said.

30Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 6. Page 1

Army Choppers Pull 2 Marines From Sea

By SP4 CHARLES A. GORDON Staff Writer

CHU LAI--A Marine pilot took a harrowing, one-mile ride on the skids of an Army helicopter recently after ejecting from his crippled jet over the South China Sea.

The Marine, 1LT Ralph C. Brown Jr., and fellow pilot MAJ Daniel Carroll, had completed a bombing mission north of here when the landing gear of their F-4B Phantom malfunctioned and forced them to eject.

Both were rescued by members of the 14th Avn. B., an aviation unit attached to the Americal Div. MAJ Carroll was pulled out of the water in a more conventional manner.

Attempt Landing: The two pilots had attempted to land their plane on a "foamed" runway ---specially prepared to aid the wheel-less craft--but more problems arose when the cross deck arresting gear pendant broke and caused the jet to skid sideways.

"My choice was to hit the burners and try to get the aircraft back off the ground," MAJ Carroll said. "I think we did a first in aviation when we got the aircraft off the ground without landing gear.

"While I prepared for our ejection, LT Brown headed towards sea. We both ejected about a half-mile from shore."

First At Scene: The first rescue helicopter at the scene was that of WO1 James M. White, with the 176th Avn Co.

"The crew tossed a rope to me, as the pilot hovered the craft at about three feet, Mr. White did a fantastic job of holding the chopper steady," MAJ Carroll said later.

LT Brown's rescue, however, was more exciting.

A Marine UH-34 tried to pick him up, but as it began to pull him out of the water, it started to lose power. LT Brown disengaged himself and quickly moved clear of the aircraft.

Hangs From Skids: When CPT Herman Castle, a member of the **71st Avn. Co**. who had been observing the attempted rescue, saw that the Marine aircraft could not make the pickup, he lowered his chopper to about two feet above the water.

There was no rope aboard, and LT Brown was forced to hold on to the skids.

"The crew pulled me up, and I hooked my arms over the skid. Then we headed for the beach," the lieutenant said.

The Huey sped off at 50 knots to the shore. LT Brown let go in about three feet of water to cushion his fall.

But the day was far from over for the two pilots, as they bought champagne for the men of both aviation companies.

"It was just our way of thanking the Army for helping two Marines," MAJ Carroll said.

[Historian Note: Related information from the book, "Vietnam Air Losses, by Chris Hobson]

6August 1968: F-4B 149449 MAG-13, Chu Lai - Major D I. Carroll and 1LT R.C. Brown survive. Hit by small arms fire making a sixth pass on enemy positions near An Hoa (a Marine Base north of LZ Baldy). Hit in the right wing while dropping napalm from 400 feet. Burning aircraft was flown back to Chu Lai to attempt landing. However, the landing gear failed to extend. The crew ejected a mile off the coast and were recovered by an Army helicopter that was in the vicinity **[Rescue helicopters were from the 71st AHC and 176th AHC.]**.

Enemy Encircled On River Island

LZ BALDY--A modern-day combat assault combined with a classic encircling movement were the tactics used recently by a battalion of the 196th Inf. Bde. and gunships of the **71st Avn. Co.** to kill 140 Viet Cong.

The action, in which 18 individual weapons also were captured, occurred south of Hoi An as part of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

The setting for the operation was an island in the middle of a fast-flowing river which the VC had considered their private domain.

Artillery Softens Landing

A landing zone on the island was the first prepped by artillery fire from D Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty, "Gimlets" of the **4th Bn., 21st Inf.** were then carried to the island by choppers. They began their assault at a secondary LZ to catch the VC fleeing from the artillery rounds hitting the primary zone.

C Co. was the first to spot the evading enemy.

"We saw 33 VC with packs and weapons preparing to cross the river to safety," said CPT James D. Smith, C Co. CO. "The gunships were on them instantly. Only eight escaped the "Firebirds", and we got them when they turned to run back."

The following night, "slicks" from the **71st Avn. Co.** transported pneumatic boats to the area to enable the "Gimlets" to prepare yet another surprise for "Charlie".

VC Trapped

While a security force remained behind, men of B and C Cos. silently paddled across the river, landing on two of the three sides of the triangular-shaped land mass. They then proceeded inland, as the VC retreated towards the one remaining avenue of escape.

LTC James E. Armstrong, the battalion commander, explained what happened next. "Our D Co. immediately executed a combat assault under the protective fire from the 'Firebirds' on the remaining side of the island. We had the VC surrounded and they knew it."

The main body then began to split up, running in every direction, but "Charger" infantrymen were everywhere.

B Co. commander CPT David O. Treadwell described the action that followed. "As each platoon swept forward, a squad would trail behind and pick off the VC as they tried to sneak behind the advancing elements. Their only hope was to get into a hole, but most of them never made it."

No Escape

Some did manage to elude the trap, however, and get to the river. But as they tried to escape, the "Gimlet" security force, which was controlling the pneumatic boats, went into action. They cast off and pursued the fleeing VC through the maze of small islets and tributaries.

As a result of this one night's action, 64 VC were killed and numerous sampans filled with packs and weapons were either captured or sunk.

In summing up the combined operation of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf., and the **71st Avn. Co.**, LTC Armstrong concluded, "We were pulling out all the stops and using every trick in the book, but we got them where they thought we couldn't go--and we got them all."

10Nov68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 11 Centerfold Page 4-5
The Fighting 14th
Busy 'Birds'

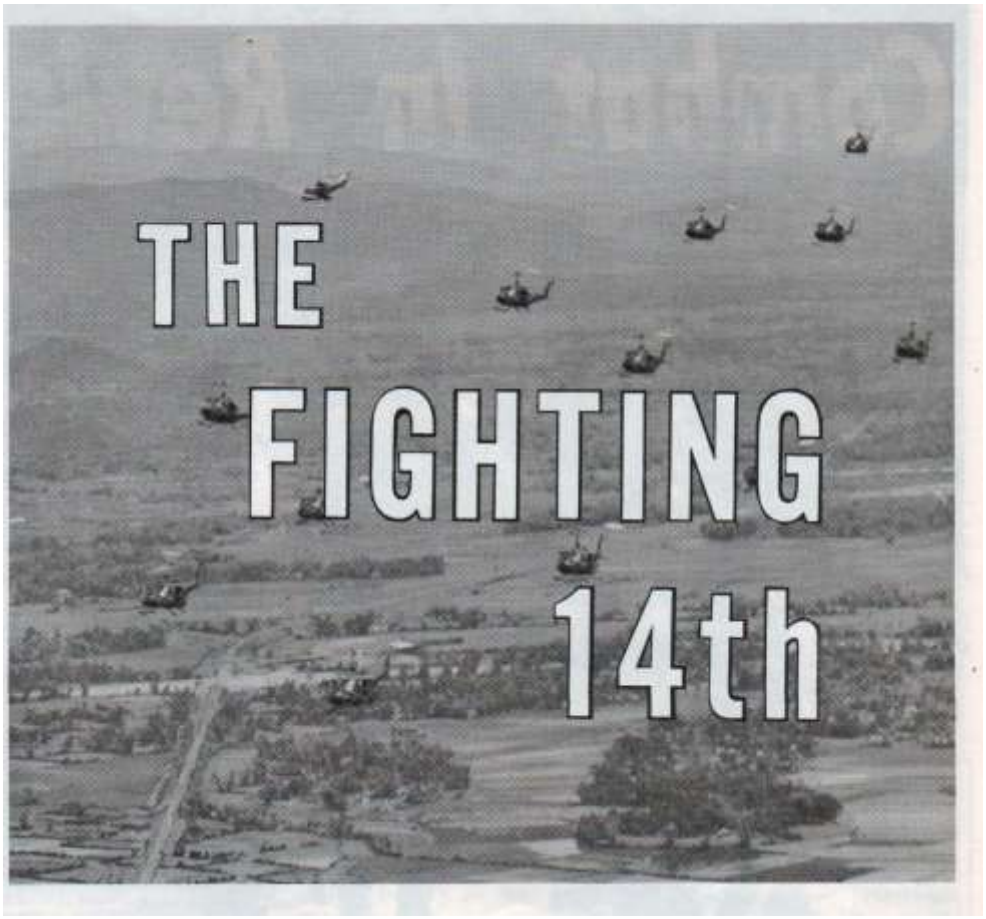
Photo Captions-
1 - (Chinook from the, "Boxcars", 178th ASHC carrying a water trailer to an LZ) **Photo credit - SP5 John Stanton, 3d Bn., 16th Arty.**
2 - After a 'hook's' rotor is repaired it carries cargo to the field. (Photos 1-2 must share the caption.) Three men are working on a "Boxcars", 178th ASHC Chinook" back at their base at Chu Lai.
3 - (Three Slicks coming in to land over a treeline. A gunship is following them much higher up.) **Photo Credit - SP4 Patrick F. Doyle, 14th Avn. Bn.**
4 - (A SP4 in flight helmet looks anxiously out of a helicopter with his M-16 at the ready.)

SP5 David L. Tyler, 523d Sig. Bn.
From a flight engineer's aerial observation to resupply in supporting ground troops.

5 - (Photo of a "Rattler" **71st AHC helicopter** being marshalled into a landing in an open area.) **Photo Credit - SP5 David L. Tyler, 523rd Sig. Bn. Caption- From a flight engineer's aerial observation to resupply to LRP extraction, the 'fighting 14th' runs the gamut in supporting ground troops.** (Photos 4 & 5 & 6 share the caption).

(Continued - 1)

6 - (Photo of a LRP being extracted on a McGuire rig? Perspective is looking up. from the ground)
7 - Caption - 'Slicks' constantly undergo checks and rechecks before taking off for combat support missions. Photo credit - SP4 Patrick F. Doyle, 14th Avn. Bn. (Appears that a P.E. maintenance team is working on the main rotor head of a 'slick'. The helicopter's tail is part way in
a tent hanger.)
8 - (A flight of three slicks) Photo credit: SP5 David L. Tyler, 523rd Sig. Bn.
9 - A flight of twelve slicks with one gunship flying in formation. The angle is looking back at the flight that is following from a little bit higher altitude.



(Continued) The Fighting 14th Combat Aviation Battalion.

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(Continued)

The Fighting 14th

Busy 'Birds'

By SP4 PATRICK F. DOYLE
14th Avn. Bn.

Throughout the skies above the I Corps Tactical Zone aircraft of the 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn. are giving direct and general combat support to the Americal Div. and other select units.

Under the command of both the 1st Avn. Bde. at Long Binh and the 16th Cbt. Avn. Grp. at Da Nang, the "Fighting 14th" is composed of three assault helicopter companies: the **71st,** 174th and 176th; and two assault support helicopter companies: the 132nd and 178th.

The "Arab Battalion" came to Vietnam in 1964 to provide primarily fixed wing aviation support, but evolved into a strictly helicopter battalion while engaged in activities near Qui Nhon in 1966.

In April, 1967, the unit was sent to southern I Corps to support the newly formed Task Force Oregon. It immediately occupied unprepared tactical sites in the Chu Lai area and sent its craft skyward in aerial support.

In carrying out their mission the men of the 14th, under the command of LTC Charles A. Klopp, have established an outstanding record for fast, reliable response to any situation that calls them to action.

The majority of the 14th's support activities consist of resupply missions which carry food, water, ammunition and various types of equipment to the men in the field. These are the "birds" that bring out beer, soda, ice cream, and the mail from home. They also give that ride to Chu Lai everyone dreams about for the long awaited trip back to the world.

Direct combat support can be considered an everyday mission at the 14th--but seldom routine. Each combat assault, emergency resupply under fire, or medical evacuation presents a dangerous challenge. In addition to the constant threat of enemy ground fire and anti-aircraft positions, the pilots must be prepared to overcome the hazards of terrain here in the southern I Corps.

The **71st Assault Helicopter Co.,** under the command of MAJ Dehne W. McGinnis, has established the highest safety record of any helicopter company in Vietnam. In addition to their outstanding safety record the "Firebird" gunships and "Rattler" slicks of the 71st have accounted for the capture of numerous enemy weapons and supplies being transported by sampans on the waterways which lace the area of operations.

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **Busy 'Birds'**

The 174th Assault Helicopter Co., commanded by MAJ Richard A. Brown, bears the responsibility of supporting the 11th Inf. Bde. in the Duc Pho area. The "Jungle Warriors" rely on the 174th for safe and timely insertions and extractions and for the potent firepower of the "Shark" gunships when they need instantaneous close combat support.

The 238 enemy body count recorded by the "Sharks" on Jan. 30, 1968, is proof of their savage capability. The number of extractions, medevacs and resupply missions accomplished by the men of the 174th under intense enemy fire gives life to their unit's motto, "Nothing Impossible."

MAJ Richard G. Adamski, commanding officer of the 176th Assault Helicopter Co., pilots one of the finest aviation units in Vietnam. The "Musket" gunships and "Minutemen" slicks are known throughout the I Corps for their outstanding combat support.

The recent conflict near Quang Ngai and the action in the Hue-Phu Bai area were marked by countless examples of the courage and professionalism of the pilots and crew members of the 176th and their "Can Do" attitude.

The 132nd Assault Spt. Helicopter Co. arrived in Vietnam in May, 1968, becoming the battalion's newest unit. Under the command of MAJ Carl O. Johnson, the men of the "Hercules" unit have been quick to adapt to the demands of the tactical situation. In this short period of time they have established a record of excellent service with the units they support.

The 178th Assault Spt. Helicopter Co., commanded by MAJ Morris M. Jessup has the distinction of being the first fully operational CH-47B "Chinook" helicopter unit in Vietnam. Since their arrival in Chu Lai in April, 1967, the men of the 178th have earned both the Presidential and the Meritorious Unit Citations in recognition of their achievements.

LARGEST COMPANY MEDCAP VISIT,

2-1 TREATS OVER 1,000 VIETNAMESE

LZ BALDY--Medical personnel of the 196th Inf. Bde. in one hectic day treated more than 1,050 Vietnamese civilians during the latest company size MEDCAP in the history of the Americal Division in Vietnam.

"Legionnaires" of B Co., **2nd Bn., 1st. Inf.**, set the stage for the new mark during a joint cordon and search operation through Hien Luong Village, 10 miles south of De Nang.

The operation also netted 12 VC kills, four VC suspects detained, and more than 5,000 pounds of polished rice unearthed from buried caches.

It was 0200 hours when the men on guard began waking the rest of B CO. from their night laager on a white, sandy plain off the South China Sea.

Move Out

Dawn found the **2-1** troops drawn up in a modified "L" outside Hien Luong. CPT Richard D. Heroux (Waltertown. Conn.) gave the command to move into the village.

A few hundred meters away, Popular Forces (PFs) from Huong Xuan Village began their advance from the opposite direction.

Suddenly pointman PFC Michael Fox (Brooklyn) spotted a man racing away along one of the many dikes surrounding the Village. Ignoring shouts of "Dung Lai! Dung Lai" the man kept running.

Rifles cracked and the operation claimed its first kill of the day. Documents on the body later proved the man a top local leader visiting from a nearby village.

Flush VC

The two Allied forces continued their sweep through the outlying hamlets moving toward the village center and rooting out 11 more VC from hootches and underground bunkers.

In a short time more than a thousand excited Vietnamese had gathered, milling about in the central street as whispers of "Bac si, Bac si" (doctor) passed through the crowd.

As soon as the village was secured, **2-1** battalion surgeon, CPT Kirk Hilliard Pleasantville, N.J.) and a Medical Assistance Team that took over to diagnose and treat villagers ills.

Find Rice

GIs and PFs continued their search, unearthing rice caches buried in graves, under hootches, and hidden in the woodline around the village. While the record MEDCAP continued, logbird [firebird] pilots of the 71st Avn., [Company] Bn., "Rattlers" extracted the rice to government storehouses.

Four children slightly wounded in an exchange with VC snipers were dusted off and treated at an aid station on LZ Baldy.

With late afternoon, s group of justifiably tired and satisfied infantrymen and medics packed up their gear and prepared to withdraw again to their night laagers and fire support base. **(196th IO)**

RICE BAGS PROVE HEALTHY
AS CHOPPER CUSHION SEAT

LZ BALDY--CPT Robert E.Netter has acquired a sudden taste for rice. A thousand pounds of the grain probably saved the 196th Inf. Bde. officer's life.

CPT Netter, an intelligence officer from the **2nd Bn. 1st Inf.,** and his Vietnamese interpreter. SGT Cao, were seated atop a dozen 100 pound bags of rice being extracted from caches found 20 miles north of Tam Ky.

Suddenly 13 rounds of enemy automatic weapons fire ripped into the belly of their Huey. Luckily, their rice-padded perch absorbed all the hits.

The "Rattlers" logbird from the **71st Avn. Co**. had been lifting out the first load of 3,000 pounds of rice unearthed by **B Co., 2-1,** and Regional Force (RF) soldiers when the enemy gunner zeroed in.

Suddenly the air was a whirl with the crack of ground fire and the doorgunner's answering burst.

The co-pilot was slightly wounded by shrapnel in the foot, hut the chopper returned safely to the battalion's base at LZ Baldy in spite of a ruptured fuel line.

"I was hugging those rice bags and darned glad they were there," said the captain from Kingston, N.Y. "Ill be happy to eat rice every day from now on." **(196th IO)**

Combat In Review

LIFT DOWNED CREW FROM NVA HORDE

LZ EAST-- "Mayday!" "Mayday!!" sounded through all radios in the area of LZ East. Everyone receiving the call was eager to answer because a fellow pilot was in trouble.

WO1 Robert Combs (Huntington Beach, Calif.) was just departing with a load of passengers when the words hit his ears. He immediately dropped back to East and left the riders.

"Firebird 97" of the **71st AVN. Co**. had crashed into a hillside after enemy rounds hit the fuel tanks.

Another Mayday

By the time Combs took off, another helicopter tried to help and was shot down, and now was sending a Mayday signal also. Combs headed for the second ship, which was closer, but was directed off by WO1 James Leach (San Diego, Calif.), who was even nearer. Leach, also of the **71st**, was able to direct Combs to the first ship.

"Firebird 97" was going to be a toughie to rescue as they had crashed in deep elephant grass," Combs said. "Coming up the east side of the hill perhaps not a 100 meters away were an estimated 40 NVA. The doorgunners opened up as they neared the ground, and were met with heavy return fire,"

Just as Combs' helicopter reached the ground, and the downed crew came hurrying up, two .50 cal. rounds burst through the windshield, and Combs was struck in the face with flying plexiglass.

Rotor Hit

As the crew started its ascent, the main rotor stabilizer was nearly blown off with a round. Had this occurred the craft would have gone out of control and been unable to fly.

Every available weapon was firing on the charging NVA and several were cut down.

After the choppers evacuated the area, artillery was called in on the location.

When asked about the incident later Combs said, "Thank God the doorgunners were good shots, and I had my flight helmet lens down when the round came through the windshield.

"I'm glad we were able to help the other fellows. They would have done the same for us."

Stork Stats

PFC VICTORY W. HOWELL, 723rd Maint. Bn., son born June 11, Savannah, Ga. SP4 STEVEN SAVAGE, 4-21 Inf., daughter born June 16, Quincy Mass. SP5 ROBERT WARNER, 723rd Maint. Bn. daughter born June 18, Northhampton, Mass, 1LT TED M. KELLY, 2-1 Inf., daughter born June 18. SP4 STEVEN MOODY, 5-46 Inf., daughter born June 18, Everett, Washington, SP4 RONALD D. DUNNING, **5-46** Inf., daughter born June 18, Seattle, Wash. SP4 REGINALD ASPLT, HHC 11th Bde., son born June 18, Sayer AFB, Michigan, PFC WILLIAM M. JONES, HHC, son born June 19, Flat River, Mo. 1LT KIRK SWENSON, HHC, son born June 19, Trenton, Neb. SP4 MICHAEL MANNING, Cbt. Center, son born June 19, Spencer, Iowa. PVT LEWIS WILSON, 26th Engr. Bn., daughter born June 19, Jacksonville, Fla. SGT THEODORE H. ROSOVICH, **3-1 Inf.**, daughter born June 20, Tuscon, Ariz. SP4 JUNIOR HELTON, **5-46** Inf., son born June 20, Savannah, Ga. PVT JOHN G. ONOFRYTON, **F Trp.**, **17th Cav.**, daughter born June 20, Detroit, Mich. PFC ALVIN CORNELIUS, 39th Engr. Bn., daughter born June 20, New York, N.Y. SP4 TERRY E. GODFREY, 1-52nd Inf., daughter born June 21, Tulsa, Okla. SGT CECIL G. SPENCER, **3-18 Arty.**, son born June 21, Jackson, Tenn. SGT DONALD M. MONTGOMERY, 523rd Sgn. Bn., daughter born June 21, Long Beach, Calif. SFC LARRY B. MARTIN, **723rd Maint. Bn.**, son born June 21, Ft. Polk, La. PFC PETER M. MORFOID, **1-52nd Inf** Inf., son born June 22, Amsterdam, N.Y. SP4 ARTHUR S. PERKINS, 335th Trans. Co., daughter born June 22, Tuscon, Ariz. MAJ GEORGE A. INGLERIGHT, **4-3 Inf.** daughter born June 23, Florance, Ala. SP4 EUGENE P. BECK, **295th Ord. Co.**, daughter born June 23, Columbus, Neb. SP4 RAYMOND L. NETTLES, **4-21** Inf., son born June 23, Palestine, Tex. SP4 JAMES W. THEFORD, **4-31** Inf., son born June 24, Hamilton, Tex. SP4 JAMES L. FINEFROCK, **174 Avn. Bn.**, son born June 24, Canton Ohio, 1LT D. JOHNSON, **4-31 Inf.**, son born June 24, Dothan, Ala. SP4 BRUCE NOENNICH, 2-1 Inf., son born June 24, China Lake, Calif. PFC SCOTT A. BROMAN, **3-82 Arty.**, son born June 25, Rockford, Ill. SSGT LARRY STIPE, **1-1 Cav.**, daughter born June 25, Temple, Tex. SP4 FREDDIE LEONARD. Cbt. Center, daughter born June 25, Altus, Okla. PVT LEE S. SCARBOROUGH, **59th IPSD**, 11th Bde., daughter born June 27, Janesville, Wisc. SSG THURMAN VINCENT, 123rd Avn. Bn., son born June 27, Hopkinsville, Ky. SP4 RONALD F. LABRIE, **75th Inf.**, daughter born June 27, Beverly, Mass. PFC ELMER J. KELLY, **3-21 Inf.**, son born June 27, Kewanee, Ill. PFC LEONARD CLARK, **178th Aslt.** Hel. Co., daughter born June 27, Chicago, Ill. SP4 STEPHEN K. HOENER, **126th S&S Co.**, daughter born June 29, Quincy, Ill. SGT DONALD R. RAHM, **55th Arty.**, daughter born June 30, Seattle, Wash. SP4 GLEN MCBEIGH, **14th Avn. Bn.**, son born June 30, Elyria, Ohio. **PFC BARRY C. SMITH, 71st Avn. Bn., daughter born June 30, Beaumont, Tex.** SP4 Richard Haskins, 1-4 [1-14?] Arty., daughter born July, Onawa, Iowa.

Combat In Review

A DUTY BEYOND DANGER

CHU LAI-It seemed as though the day would be a normal one for members of the 71st Avn. Co. resupply helicopter.

The crew had been re-supplying units of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., four miles west of LZ Ross, when they were asked for emergency replenishment of medical supplies and ammunition.

With the supplies on board, the chopper was forced to circle the drop area for half an hour because of enemy mortar fire slamming into the proposed landing zone.

The gunship pilots leaving the area to replenish their supply of ammunition told the aircraft commander, WO1 James A. Waterbury (Mt. Kisco, N.Y.) and pilot WO1 Frederick T. Morreall (Oakridge, Ind.) that the situation on the ground was too "hot" to attempt a landing without gunship support.

Then, the report of casualties came to the crew. Waterbury decided that, "gunships or no gunships," the casualties had to be evacuated.

Upon landing, the emergency supplies were quickly unloaded and the wounded men were helped aboard the chopper.

Rising through a wall of enemy fire, the resupply turned-medevac roared to the nearest medical aid facility and dropped the casualties off for treatment. (Americal IO)

Proudly Serving Our
Action
Army

Photo Caption: CPT Domingo A. Monlinelli Reenlistment Officer Amcal. Div.

By MSG H.A. BONESIO

Forty-four of the 54 soldiers reenlisting during a one-week period in the division were "first termers." Of these , 40 chose guaranteed enlistment options while the others remain on their present duty assignment.

Division Troops was represented by two "Topkicks" from the **23rd M.P. Co.**, 1SG Dillard Cannon Jr. and 1SG Collins J. Orebo; SP4 Frank E. O'Brien, PFC Robert E. Cowles, PFC Wayne A. Stromely, PFC James Lindsay, all with A Trp., 1-1st Cav.; and PFC Luins M. Morgan Jr, **C Co.**, **523rd Sig. Bn.**

Support Command had SSG Robert G. Beal and SP6 Harold Cornett, **23rd Admin. Co.**

Division Artillery keeps CSM Jerrold A. Wirig and PFC Thomas S. Hill, **HHB, 1-14th Arty.**; SSG Lonnie R. Webb, HHB, and PFC Earl Jones, A Btry., **3-82nd Arty.**

The 16th Combat Aviation Group retains SFC Billy J. Stephens and SP5 Michael Hallman, **HHC, 123rd Avn.** B.; **SSG Jimmie Green and SSG Darrell A. Snuffer, 71st Avn. Co., 14th Avn Bn.**

The 11th Infantry Brigade was represented by **4-21st Inf.**, PFC Jennings Q. Parker, HHC, SGT James E. Turnbow, C Co., and PFC N. Montgomery, E Co.; **1-20th Inf.** SP4 Raymond R. Jansky, C. Co., PFC Clarence Wallace, HHC; **4-3rd Inf.**, PFC Michael P. Collins and PFC Robert F. Ernest, both with C Co., and PVT Kenneth Hafford, A Co.; **3-1st Inf.**, PFC Ronald Wess, D Co.

The 196th Infantry Brigade re-enlistees were from **1-46th Inf.**, PFC Ray H. Cox, B Co., PFC Wendell C. Mahan, C Co., PFC Dennis R. Murphy and PFC Bruce G. Ganey, D Co., PFC Gary L. Griffin and PFC Bobby L. Cunningham, E Co.; from **3-21st Inf.** were PFC Gary D. Coffman, A Co., SP4 Henry Maestas, PFC Tony C. Deason and PFC Daniel K. Holifield, B Co., PFC James E. Peoples, C Co., PFC Ronald J. Wagman, PFC Donald B. Meehan, PFC Joseph B. Wright, PFC John P. Tucker, and PFC Richard P. Choenour, D Co.; from **4-31st.** were PFC Everett Templeton and PFC Richard W. Harrison B Co., PFC George W. Camp Jr.
PFC Rodney Sautter and SP4 Kenneth Albright, C Co.

The 198th Infantry Brigade re-upped at the **5-46th** Inf., SGT Randolph Hall, and PFC Kenneth L. Dickerson, B Co., PFC Walter Griffin, HHC; from 1-52nd Inf., PFC Richard T. Cavanaugh, B Co., PFC Gerald E. Paulin, C Co.; while **1-6th Inf.** had SSG Manis L. Caudil, HHC, and PFC Robert E. Stryker, A Co.

Proud Men Serving
Our
Action
Army
Photo SSG Ronnie A. Hodges
Career Counselor
Americal Hqs.
By MSG H.A. Bonesio

Sixty-six soldiers reenlisted in the AMERICAL Division during a two-week period. More than 68 percent of the reenlistees were formerly First Termers.

Division Troops were represented by SP5 James D. Fletcher, **23rd MP Co.**; from the **523rd Sig. Bn.**, SSG Virgil Bennett, HHC, and SSG Raymond Burns, A Co.; from the **26th Engr. Bn.**, MSG David Heidt, HHC, and SP4 Blanchard Olivis, E Co.

Support Command had PFC Michael Meehan and SSG. James Young, 23rd Admin. Co.; SP4 Thomas Gilbert, **63rd Inf.** Plt. (CT); SFC James F. Guttierrez, HQ & A Co., **23rd Med. Bn.**; SP4 Walter Chisolm and PFC John Sullivan, HHC, 23rd S & T Bn; PSC Paul Ikeda, Cbt Ctr.

Division Artillery retains PFC Vernon Brown, HHB, **1-14th Arty.**; SSG James Smith, A Btry., **3-82nd Arty.**; from **3-16th.**, SFC Frank Roulette, Svc. Btry., SSG Isaac Hart, A Btry., SGT Robert Snow, C Btry.

The 16th Combat Aviation Group keeps SFC Ronnie D. Hodges, HHC; SSG Richard Lampman, **71st Avn. Co.**; SFC Joseph Barnett, 174th Avn. Co.; from the **723rd Maint. Bn.**, SP6 John J. Hehn and SSG Peter Farrin, E Co.

The 196th Infantry Brigade re-upped SFC Carl Higginbotham, HHC; from **4-31st Inf.**, SGM Antonio Guterrez, HHC, PFC Charles Wilson, A Co., PFC Steven Chapman, D Co., 1SG Robert McDermott, E Co.; from **1-46th Inf.**, PFC Daniel Koch, B Co., SP4 Frank White, PFC Jimmie Davis, PFC Stanley Bradley, PFC Dan Farmer, all from D Co.; from **2-1st Inf.**, SP4 Jimmie Ogden, HHC, SP4 Larry Sidebottom, PFC Michael Shaffer, SP4 Carlos Reed, PFC Alan Turner, PFC Robert Brady, PFC Barry Mogil, PFC Gerald Albracht, PFC Eugene Williams, PFC Walter Dembowski, PFC Joseph Seid, PS4 [SP4] Donald Evans, all form A Company, PFC Larry L. Laurenzana and PFC Ernest Harris, C Co., SP4 Howard Walter, D Co.

SOUTHERN CROSS
Vol. 3, No. 10 CHU LAI, VIETNAM April 10, 1970

DFC Awarded For Dramatic Rescue

CHU LAI – In a highly dramatic rescue mission, former Americal Div. commander, MG Lloyd B. Ramsey was hoisted from thick jungle seven miles west of Chu Lai. The general and his crew had been downed overnight following the crash of his command and control UH-1 helicopter.

Readily the Army and Air Force rescue units flew to the area and a company-size infantry element of the 1st Bn., 6th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde., was airborne to within two miles of the crash site on Tuesday.

However, it was not until 8 a.m. Wednesday that the wreckage was sighted through the heavy cloud cover and the survivors were medevaced by Air Force HH53 helicopters of the 37th Air Rescue Det.

The search aircraft caught a beeper signal one-half hour after the crash. Then at 5:30 p.m. the helicopter made voice contact with the survivors.

The ceiling of low clouds, fog and 15-20 foot visibility thwarted attempts to spot the downed aircraft, which had landed upside down in 6-foot brush amid a dense canopy of 50 to 100-foot tall trees.

Abruptly radio contact broke at 4 a.m. Wednesday and was not reestablished until 8 p.m. when MAJ Tommy P. James (Bisby, Okla.) arrived in the area in a helicopter.

MAJ James, commander of the **71st Aviation Co**. had searched Tuesday until nightfall, methodically and breathtakingly "walking" his ship up the side of the mountain where the wreckage was thought to be.

The major returned early Wednesday morning, diving through the cloud-ceiling into a valley below the mountain, then hovering once again up the steep side of the slope. The survivors picked up on his rotor-sound and directed him closer to their position.

MAJ James lowered 1st Inf. battalion surgeon, CPT Luis A. Oliver, on a jungle penetrator.

"The brush was so thick," said MAJ James, "that I had to talk Oliver over the crash even though he had seen the wreckage from the air and had landed only 20-feet away."

The major related that it took CPT Oliver 10 minutes to cross the 20 feet of thick brush.

The survivors were immediately flown to Chu Lai for treatment and hospitalization.

For his heroic and outstanding actions in the successful rescuing of the downed personnel, MAJ James was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. (Americal IO)

(Continued – 1)

MAJ James

Photo Captions: (1) MG Ramsey (2) MAJ James

15 Soldiers Complete Safety Course

Fifteen men representing the Americal Division, MAG-13 and NSAD, recently completed the first Water Safety Instructor's Course ever offered in Chu Lai.

The intensive nine-day program was designed to enable Special Service to man the 13 beaches in the area with better qualified lifeguards. Ten beaches are used exclusively for swimming.

The 45 hours of instruction was conducted by Mr. Jon Ekstrand, USARV Director of Safety Programs.

Those receiving water safety instructor's badges and certificates were **Sgt. Peter E. Arsenault, 71st Aviation Co.;** SP5 Joseph J. Cahours, 26th Engineer Bn.; PFC Jack H. Caldwell, 444th Transportation Co.; SP4 Dennis R. Clark, 178th ASHC; PFC Chester Crabtree III, 23rd Administration company; SP4 Larry J. Dedeaux, 176th AHC; Cpl John W. Fagan, MAG-13; Sp4 Dennis E. Kearns, 196th Brigade; Sp4 Jeffry McClintock, 23rd Administration Co.; Seaman Michael W. McQuade, NSAD

Div. Recap: 5-46th nets 43 rockets

During the first week of May Americal Division soldiers accounted for 120 enemy killed in the Southern I Corps. Highlight of the week was the capture of 43 122mm rockets intended for use against Chu Lai.

Geneva Park - Omitted

Iron Mountain – Omitted...

Frederick Hill

Ninety NVA/VC were killed by the 2nd ARVN Division supported by an aero-scout company of the Americal Division **123rd Aviation Battalion.**

After fighting for two days, the ARVN unit reclaimed the village of Hiep Duc from the NVA, killing 44 of the enemy according to the ARVN report. Approximately 15 percent of the village had been destroyed by fire and several civilians had been killed by the enemy.

The American aero-scout company supporting the ARVN attack accounted for 46 enemy kills. The aero scouts also silenced two crew-served weapons and recoilless rifle positions.

There had been 42 of the enemy killed during the previous day's activity.

Clearing an area struck hard by division gunships **Co. Co.,[sic] 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** found three NVA killed by **F Troop, 8th Cavalry,** Blue Ghost gunships. Later they found two more NVA loaded with ordnance also accredited to F Troop gunships. The finds were made 23 miles west of Tam Ky. On the bodies were 150 rounds of machinegun ammunition and 35 CHICOM grenades.

Combined operations of **A Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** and a **Popular Forces platoon** brought down six VC and captured two AK-47s seven miles northwest of Tam Ky. A Co. swept the area as the PFs set up a blocking force 400 meters away.

Action continued 18 miles southwest of Tam Ky as soldiers of the **1st Battalion, 46th Infantry** killed three VC in two separate incidents. The recon platoon while approaching a suspected VC command post, engaged four VC resulting in one enemy killed, while the others successfully evaded. A search of the area revealed 35 pounds of rice and 30 pounds of potatoes.

In other action, elements of the 1st platoon, **C Co., 1st Battalion 46th Infantry,** while conducting a saturation patrol surprised two VC near a shelter nestled in thick underbrush.

One VC darted out and was dropped immediately by weapons fire. The first squad then surrounded the shelter. Several members of the squad heard movement from an opening of the tunnel. They threw a grenade inside and killed the hiding communist.

Elements of the **4th Bn., 31st Inf.** while searching an area near Hiep Duc, 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky, found the bodies of seven NVA killed by an earlier artillery-strike.

An infantry company, while in their night defensive positions two miles northwest of Tam Ky, observed a lone enemy moving in the brush near their perimeter. M-60 fire brought the enemy down and soldiers later retrieved the AK-47 he was carrying.

Units on patrol in the bushy hills near Hiep Duc discovered the bodies of three more NVA killed by an air strike in earlier fighting.

The **1st Bn., 46 Inf.,** while on a search and clear mission 20 miles southwest of Tam Ky, located a concealed enemy hootch area. In one of the shelters an alert "professional" located a new SKS rifle.

C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery slammed artillery into an enemy mortar position near LZ Siberia, 25 miles west of Tam Ky. Four NVA were killed and the mortar setup was destroyed.

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) **Recap:**

Eight miles southwest of Tam Ky, **B Co., 1st Bn., 46th Inf.**, found four VC graves that were about three months old. The kills were attributed to **Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery.**

The recon element of **1st Bn., 46th Inf.** with the aid of a Kit Carson Scout, surrounded a group of hootches and brought six suspects under government control.

Hearing movement outside their night defensive position, 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky, alert **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** blew their claymores and opened up with small arms fire.

A check of the area in the morning found the bodies of two NVA, a partially constructed litter, and numerous blood trails.

Men of the **4th Bn., 31st Inf.**, moved in to check an area they had been in contact in the day before. The company had taken small arms fire and was aided by firebird gunships from the **71st Aviation Company** in repelling an attack near Hiep Duc, 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

16th Avn Bn cited

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -- The **16th Combat Aviation Group's 14th Aviation Battalion** and its subordinate units received the Valorous Unit Award at Chu Lai.

Major General A.E. Milloy, Commanding General, affixed streamers to the guidons of the **71st, 174th, 176th, and 178th Helicopter Companies as well as the Headquarters Detachment, Medical Detachment and the 14th Security Platoon.**

It is the second Valorous Unit Award for the **178th ASHC.**

General Milloy remarked at the presentation ceremony, "I would say, without taking anything away from this award, that an account of any seven day period for this unit would read the same as the citation."

The unit was given the award for its performance during the period August 13 to August 19, 1967 during Operation Benton. During the operation, the unit successfully lifted artillery and infantry personnel over rugged mountain terrain and inserted the troops in an unfamiliar area west of Chu Lai.

The unit continued, often under heavy enemy fire, to provide fire support with gunships, fly numerous-resupply missions and perform emergency medical evacuations.

Southern Cross Newspaper:
Vol. 3, No. 21 CHU LAI, VIETNAM June 12, 1970

Touch and go in Hiep Duc Rescue By SP4 William J. Hayes

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – A helicopter crew and three infantrymen were rescued minutes after they were shot down during recent action near besieged Hiep Duc.

The downed UH-1H and the rescue ship were both from the Americal Division's 71st Assault ~~Support~~ Helicopter Company, based at Chu Lai. The "Rattler" helicopters of the **71st** AHC were part of an extraction of infantry from a pickup zone surrounded by the enemy. It was the first time the company had successfully completed an extraction from a pickup zone taking enemy fire from all sides.

The downed ship was originally sent from Hawk Hill, where its combat assault mission was postponed to attempt the first extraction.

As the aircraft commander, Lieutenant Richard G. Lohman, Rock Rapids, Iowa, nosed the aircraft toward the pickup zone, enemy rounds stabbed upward at the ship from concealed gun positions. The Huey touched down briefly as the three infantrymen piled aboard. Within seconds the ship was airborne again.

"The infantrymen were elated to be taken out," said Captain R. J. Sienkiewiez, pilot.

"We were taking fire going in, on the ground, and coming out," said Lieutenant Lohman.

Door gunner Specialist Four Thomas W. Kellogg, Albia, Iowa and crew chief Private First Class Donald C. Deshazer, Coos Bay, Ore., laid down suppressive machinegun fie to the blanks as the ship climbed out.

Then things started to go wrong.

"My gun stopped firing because of a double feed," said PFC Deshazer. He tapped one of the infantrymen on the helmet. The footsoldier immediately swung his own machine gun out and began firing.

Enemy rounds hit the bird hard.

"We were climbing out when they shot our engine out and the aircraft started going down," said Captain Sienkiewicz.

They were at low altitude, and the rounds also damaged the hydraulic control assist system. The aircraft commander had to fight the dead hydraulic system.

"We didn't have much choice of where we went. We were heading southwest and hit slightly to the left of our original heading," said Lieutenant Lohman.

Captain Sienkiewicz praised Lieutenant Lohman's handling of the crippled ship.

"He did a fine job bringing it in," said Captain Sienkiewicz.

He was able to drop the ship in a relatively clear area, but the ground was not level. The chopper rested on its right side, one end of the main rotor dug deep into the ground.

PFC Deshazer ran along the left landing skid, more than five feet above the round.

"When I got to the front of the ship to open Lieutenant Lohman's door, I saw him and Captain Sienkiewicz being very polite to each other," he said.

Each was insisting that the other should leave the craft first. The etiquette session didn't last long, however, and soon all seven men were on the ground.

The aircraft crew members began removing the machine guns from their mountings.

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) **Touch and go in Hiep Duc Rescue**

Specialist Kellogg couldn't take his ammo box along. It had been shot out from under him just before the helicopter hit the ground.

Heavy small arms fire was still crackling all around the downed men. The infantrymen who had just been picked up returned fire with their machine gun and M-16 rifles.

Gunships still in the air tore at the surrounding terrain with rockets and machine guns. The "Snake Doctor", the company's repair and recovery ship flying above the other ships on the mission, came in with four machine guns blazing.

"We didn't have much chance to set up on the ground around the aircraft," said Lieutenant Lohman. "The first time I looked up, I saw the belly of the "Snake Doctor" right above us," he said.

The rescue ship landed about 50 meters from the downed slick. All seven men piled on fast.

"A few years ago I rant the file in five and a half minutes, and I was one of the last ones aboard," said PFC Deshazer.

"Lieutenant Lohman low-crawled, and he was one of the first ones in," said Captain Sienkiewicz.

With a total of thirteen men aboard, "Snake Doctor" lifted off. This time, they made it all the way out.

"As we climbed out, I glanced over at the infantrymen. They were smiling again," said Captain Sienkiewicz.

Vol. 3, No. 22 CHU LAI, VIETNAM June 19, 1970

DIV RECAP: ACTION LIGHT THROUGHOUT AMERICAL AO

In sporadic fighting in the beginning of June in Southern I Corps 175 enemy soldiers lost their lives to Americal soldiers. In the heaviest action of Operation Geneva Park **Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry**, killed 3 NVA and found 1,000 pounds of rice. Elsewhere in Operation Fredrick Hill the 3rd Battalion [**3-21**] encountered the heaviest action in the Division area of operation which resulted in the death of 12 enemy soldiers in a day's fighting. The lightest action in the Division occurred in Operation Iron Mountain which accounted for 5 enemy killed in the past week.

GENEVA PARK – Omitted.....

FREDRICK HILL

The 196th Infantry Brigade encountered the heaviest enemy activity in the Division's area of operation.

A squad of VC strolled into view of an Echo Recon platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry mortar team set up on an observation post northwest of Tam Ky recently. "We could see at least 15 of them," said Private First Class Charles Boswell, Omaha, Neb. "We opened up and saw the rounds drop right on top of them." Five were confirmed killed in the brief action.

B Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, while on a search and clear mission 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky recently found 300 pounds of rice and 100 pounds of corn in an empty hooch.

Late one afternoon, a team of Firebird gunships from the **71st Aviation Company**, working nine miles northwest of Tam Ky, fired on twenty to thirty VC. The gunship's action brought death to five of the enemy.

Alpha Co., **1st Battalion, 46th** Infantry while on a recon-in-force mission 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky, recently uncovered a substantial ammo cache while checking a tunnel complex in the dense highlands.

The find included 155 CHICOM grenades, 9 RPG rounds, 600 AK-47 rounds, six unknown-type Communist explosives, one carbine, four flares and one box of detonating fuses.

A Viet Cong grenade factory was uncovered recently by **Alpha Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** while they were on a sweep in an area 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Found in the area were 60 pounds of explosive, six blasting caps and a diagram explaining how a grenade is made. Later, small arms fire killed one VC in the area. He was carrying two packs of rice and personal items when killed.

For the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry**, one day was profitable and busy as the infantrymen killed 12 enemy soldiers, and suffered no friendly casualties.

Early morning found Delta Company, **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** operating 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Gimlets" encountered a lone NVA with a pack. Engaging him with small arms fire, Delta killed him and confiscated the pack.

In a late morning action, **Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** operating in the same area, engaged and killed one VC. A short time later, the infantrymen observed and engaged 10-12 NVA soldiers. The NVA fled into the thick vegetation.

B Company, not to be out-maneuvered, quickly surrounded and pinned down the enemy. Soon, however, the "Bushmasters" received five to six incoming mortar rounds and small arms fire. Undaunted, they held their ground and directed artillery fire mission from **B Battery, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty.**, along with gunships on the location. Four NVA were confirmed killed in the action. Meanwhile Bravo Company received two more incoming mortar rounds from the new enemy position. Six more NVA were confirmed in the action.

IRON MOUNTAIN – Omitted....

"POLAR BEARS" UNDER HEAVY FIRE
71ST AHC LENDS A HELPING HAND

CHU LAI (16th CAG IO) - 196th Infantry Brigade troops from **Delta Company, 4th Battalion 31st Infantry** were under a massive ground attack near LZ Siberia and called for an immediate combat extraction. Minutes later the **71st Assault Helicopter Company Rattlers (slicks) and Firebirds (gunships),** commanded by Major Tommie James, were airborne and headed toward the hot LZ. As the Rattlers and Firebirds began their approach into the area they began receiving small arms and .50 caliber machinegun fire from the surrounding tree line.

"One of the Firebirds spotted the .50 caliber machinegun's position and immediately showered the area with large volumes of suppressive fire.

During the intense action, one **Rattler** was hit and went down in a small depression surrounded by the enemy.

Captain James E. Duke, Ft. Worth, Texas and Warrant Officer William M. Ellis, Downey, Calif., flew immediately to the wreckage and started a high overhead approach.

Unable to land at the crash site due to high trees and bushes, Captain Duke was forced to remain at a hover while the four crew members and three passengers of the downed craft were hoisted aboard.

Due to the heavy loaded condition of Captain Duke's helicopter, he was unable to hover high enough to turn his ship and was forced to take an uphill departure and fly over the known enemy positions.

As the rescue team cleared the enemy infested area, they received intense small arms and 50 caliber machinegun fire.

The seven soldiers were evacuated to the medical aid station at LZ West and were checked for any injuries. With greater concern for their fellow man than their own personal safety, the crew of **Rattler 219** acted courageously in the life saving extraction. With cool heads and professional competence, these brave men of the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** brought great credit upon themselves and their company.

Div Recap: Heavy action near Tam Ky

By SP4 Stephen Frazier

CHU LAI (AMERICAN [AMERICAL] IO) - The soaring temperatures of Southern I Corps in June did not stop regulars from the Division's three brigades as they accounted for 184 soldiers killed.

Heaviest action remained in the area 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky in Operation Fredrick Hill. Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade operating in that area were accredited with 60 enemy soldiers killed. In operation Geneva Park the **5th Battalion, 46th Infantry** was lead to a sizeable ordnance cache by a rallier. Elsewhere in Operation Iron Mountain action was sporadic as the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** and the **123rd Aviation Battalion** teamed up for 7 enemy killed in a single action.

Fredrick Hill

Friday found elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade in areas nine miles and twenty-one miles west of Tam Ky where they killed 3 NVA who sprang from a basecamp leaving a considerable cache behind, and uncovered an abandoned enemy basecamp in which 8 NVA were buried. **Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery was** credited with the 8 NVA killed.

Saturday morning lasted a long eight hours for elements of the **1st Battalion, 46th Infantry** as they found an enemy base camp 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The infantrymen began taking fire as they neared the jungle-hidden complex, immediately retaliating with their own small arms fire. Six NVA were killed before it was decided support was needed. Helicopter gunships from the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** strafed the enemy positions who in the meantime had unloaded a barrage of 25-30 mortar rounds on the exposed Americans.

The enemy throwing caution to the wind sprang from their entrenched positions and tried to encircle the Americans while the strafing continued. A Sabre gunship from **Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry** killed one NVA during this more. Blue Ghost gunship also in on the action spotted another large group of NVA moving towards the Americans. The choppers raked the area killing three more enemy as another airstrike silenced the mortars.

Meanwhile a sister element from the **1st Battalion, 46th Infantry** who was in the area was called on. They moved forward placing heavy fire on the area. Finally the NVA were silent. The sister element assaulted the camp finding 23 enemy soldiers killed. Three-fourths had been killed by small-arms fire. Twelve bunkers had been destroyed.

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) Division Recap

A PF patrol and an American advisor got together on Sunday evening to kill ten VC.

Sergeant Richard Anderson, Tacoma, Wash., from **Echo Recon, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** played an instrumental part, serving as a forward observer he spotted two squads of VC. His reaction was to call in gunships, killing three. Later Sergeant Anderson and the PF were to come face to face with two other squads of VC.

"I am sure they were sappers said Sergeant Anderson, because we discovered satchel charges, explosives and a CHICOM grenade after they fled our fire.

Later in the day a forward element of the **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** found a cave full of rice yielding a total of one tone. Another one hundred pounds of polished rice was found nearby.

Later in the week an element of the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry,** found a cache of fifteen RPG warheads and boosters 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky. They were found in a poncho off the trail.

As the week closed an element of the **1st Battalion, 46th Infantry,** was credited with ten NVA killed from a fire-fight earlier in the week. An element (continued on page 6) **Recap: Rallier gives 198th supplies** (continued from page 1) of ARVN soldiers found the bodies and accredited the kills to the Americans. The action took place 23 miles west of Tam Ky.

Iron Mountain- Omitted....

Geneva Park- Omitted ....

A line of Dolphins and choppers from the 71st Aviation Company as they prepare to set down on the landing zone. A thousand men from the 4th ARVN Division were deliveried to 24 landing zones. High above the LZ, a Shark provides security.

Photo Captions:

2) A line of Dolphins and choppers from the **71st Aviation Company** as they prepare to set down on the landing zone. A thousand men from the 4th ARVN Division were delivered to 24 landing zones. High above the LZ, a Shark provides security.

A rest for 4th-31st

By SP4 William Hayes

LZ WEST (AMERICAL IO) - High above the floor of Que Son Valley, **Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** of the 196th Infantry Brigade walked into the perimeter of this fire support base after nearly a week of fighting their way through an enemy battalion headquarters.

Company C, along with Company A of the same battalion, had walked into the enemy position as they headed toward the valley floor with this 445 yard high home of the "Polar Bear" battalion.

Meeting stiff resistance from the surprised enemy, the companies moved in under fire, with forward observers directing mortar and artillery fire on the NVA strong points. Tactical air strikes slammed into the camouflaged enemy bunkers ringing the area.

Throughout the contact, **Firebird gunships of the 71st Aviation Company** provided massive close support for the ground units.

With enemy-contact still substantial, C Company was relieved by Company D and climbed the hill to rest on the bunker line.

Sporadic enemy fire near the perimeter had awakened the men who slept while other stood guard, but during the day men began to get their rest and treat their sores they'd picked up on the operations they'd been on in recent weeks.

During the day, the mail helicopter brought newspapers and magazines along with letters from home. One or two of the men received color slides they'd sent to the States for processing, and showed them around as each one was taken from the box.

"here's one for you, Doc," one said as he offered a slide to the medic sitting across the ammo box from him.

One of the other riflemen cast a critical eye over the medic's shoulder. "Jesse Doc," he winced, "I didn't think you were that ugly."

"I wasn't ugly, I was funky and tired," Doc countered.

"Ugly and funky and tired are all the same thing," Shorty pointed out.

During the course of the day, some of the men of Charlie Company could be seen shaving, using water sparingly to be sure there would always be enough to drink on "the hill."

They couldn't look forward to a long time on West, but each day they spend on "the hill" they become a little less funky, a little less ugly.

Air, arty, infantry combine to get 53

By 1LT. Michael Simmons

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - In a rock-throwing grenade tossing battle 23 miles west of Tam Ky, infantry artillery and helicopter gunships recently combined to kill 53 NVA. **Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry**, 196th Infantry Brigade, were conducting search and clear operations in the rugged jungle terrain of Hiep Duc Valley.

"We sent on company to clear the high ground to the north and another to clear the valley floor," said Major James M. Hallinan, Akron, Ohio, operations officer, **1st Battalion 46th Infantry.**

Company B moved out to sweep the valley floor in the early morning hours and immediately became involved in what proved to be the biggest fire fight of the day.

"We started moving out of our night laager around 5:30 in the morning," said First Lieutenant Drake H. Erby, Milton, Wis., 2nd platoon leader. "The 3rd platoon was point, mine was second, and the 1st platoon was drag."

As the company moved across a small grassy opening, the point platoon began receiving rifle and machinegun fire from a treeline to the front. At the same time the 1st platoon, which was still in the night laager waiting for the other platoons to move across, began receiving heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire.

"We spotted some NVA in the woodline to the north and opened up on them," said Staff Sergeant Charlie Hall, Hookerton, N.C., 1st Platoon Sergeant. "as we were blasting them, someone also noticed two attempting to sneak up on our perimeter. We threw frags and killed them both."

As the 1st platoon continued to fire suppressive fire, the 3rd platoon continued to receive sniper fire and incoming mortar rounds. The 2nd platoon spotted some communication wires on the ground and cut them. The mortar rounds temporarily stopped. The 2nd platoon then moved up to take point and was ordered to secure a defensive position from which an assault on the dug in NVA could be made.

"We dug in faster than I ever imagined it could be done," said Lieutenant Erby. By this time the 3rd platoon had joined the 2nd and only the 1st platoon remained to cross the open area.

Gunships from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company and F Troop, 8th Cavalry, were called in to work out on a ridgeline in hopes of destroying the NVA mortar emplacements. The Cavalry gunships killed three NVA, Artillery was also pounding the enemy position

(Continued -1)

as the 1st platoon began to move from the old night laager.

"We moved out by fire and movement and spotted the bunkers." said Sergeant Hall.

The ensuing battle was a grenade-tossing, bunker to bunker battle, as the infantrymen moved into destroy the NVA.

As the bitter struggle progressed, the 1st platoon found they had expended all there hand grenades. One squad each from the 2nd platoon and 3rd platoons collected all the available grenades and moved to the aid of the 1st platoon.

With the arrival of reinforcements and more grenades the "Professionals" continued the assault.

"It was a bunker to bunker, hole to hole fight," said Lieutenant Erby. "We would toss a grenade into a bunker and it would come flying back out. So we resorted to first throwing in a rock to confuse the enemy and then immediately tossing in a grenade. It worked."

The infantrymen finally knocked out the last bunker. In the search of the area that followed, they found that there had been a total of 14 heavily fortified bunkers connected by a trenchline. Twenty-nine dead NVA were counted by the Americans.

"Evidently the NVA had planned to ambush us as we moved out," said Lieutenant Erby, "but we moved before they were ready and caught them flat-footed."

Company B then moved to the high ground and later spotted a large number of NVA in the open. A Firebird from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company was called in and killed 10 of the enemy.

Charlie Company, clearing the high ground, had received heavy mortar fire the entire morning. However, the men continued to support Company B. As a result four NVA died from Charlie Company's intense barrage of rifle and machinegun fire.

Two days later soldiers of the **6th Regiment, 2nd ARVN Division** swept the site of Company B's contact. The ARVN soldiers found six additional NVA killed by artillery from **Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery.**

There were several reasons for the success of the operation, but one in particular stood out.

"It was an all-out effort on everyone's part," said Sergeant Dale Phelps, Van Neuys[sic], Calif., Company B, "It was really fantastic how everyone worked together."

CAV CHARGE ROUTS ENEMY

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - A lightning-like charge through tangled jungle and dry rice paddies into the midst of an NVA mortar platoon recently netted a 196th Infantry Brigade cavalry troop 16 enemy killed, four prisoners and numerous weapons and ammunition.

Reacting to intelligence reports on the location of an estimated NVA mortar platoon, **F Troop, 17th Cavalry,** received orders to move to a sandy, brush covered coastal area five miles north of Tam Ky.

"We moved 16 miles in barely over an hour," said Captain Roscoe Cartwright, Cincinnati, F Troop commander.

Working with helicopter gunships from the **71st Assault Helicopter Company,** F Troop approached the suspected enemy location and as they deployed into assault position immediately began receiving rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire.

"We saw two NVA trying to escape as we entered the woodline and opened up on them," said Sergeant William Liggio, Queens, N.Y. As the two enemy soldiers fell the cavalry continued the charge.

The enemy had tried to fight from the low level sand dunes and brushed jungle but the intensive fire from the gunships and cavalry troop had cut them down.

As the tracks entered the woodline the second time they encountered little enemy resistance and began counting dead enemy soldiers.

Confiscated weapons included nine Ak-47 rifles, 300 rounds of small arms ammunition, a Soviet pistol, five packs, and 25 CHICOM grenades.

Vol. 3 No. 29 CHU LAI, VIETNAM August 07, 1970

LOHs turn 'dust-off'; rescue 15

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - It was an occasion for field expediency, turning a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) into a "dust-off" chopper.

During a series of heavy firefights in Hiep Duc Valley, two pilots flew their small craft into landing zones too small for Huey Medevacs and evacuated more than 15 American soldiers.

Chief Warrant Officer Carlos Quintero, Tampa, Fla., was flying the command and control helicopter for Lieutenant Colonel Richard Carvell, Virginia Beach, Va., commanding officer of **1st Battalion, 46th Infantry**, 196th Infantry Brigade, off Landing Zone West, overlooking Hiep Duc Valley, 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

In the valley an infantry company needed help. Private First Class Kenneth Lyon, Tulsa, Okla., a crew chief flying his first mission, explained the situation. "We went in seven or eight times to the company. They were set up on a small hill covered with waist-high grass and huge boulders. We picked up three heat casualties and ran some resupply-ammo, cigarettes, and food."

In mid-afternoon, the company came under heavy fire from an NVA unit. Two Americans were wounded and a "dust-off" medical evacuation helicopter was called.

"The dust-off couldn't get in," explained Chief Warrant Officer Quintero. "The landing zone was too small for the huey to maneuver into and it was hot-the bird took at least three hits."

Chief Warrant Officer Quintero thought the smaller, more maneuverable LOH cold get in. It did.

"We went in and they were shooting everything," he said, "30 caliber, automatic, small arms fire, but no hits."

Hovering three to four feet above the high grass and rocks, Chief Warrant Officer Quintero held the chopper steady while Colonel Carvell and Private Lyon helped the wounded get on board.

"I don't know how he held it, "recalled Private Lyon. "People jumping on and throwing packs, it's hard."

Safely gaining altitude, the patients were extracted to Landing Zone West. The LOH was soon back to the action.

This time for another wounded-an NVA. Again he hovered precariously over the tiny LZ, secured the load and returned to the fire support base.

Chief Warrant Officer Quintero then took the craft up for a final time.

"When we finished getting the people out, we went out to spot NVA and mark their positions for **Blue Ghost** and **Firebird** gunships to fire up."

Three days later, another LOH pilot, First Lieutenant Patrick Hadfield, Honolulu, also turned his craft into a medical evacuation chopper in Hiep Duc Valley. Lieutenant Hadfield explained, "I was going out to LZ West to fly the command and control chopper for Colonel Carvell, but when I got out there I heard there were some wounded where a dust-off couldn't get in."

Lieutenant Hadfield and another LOH flying as an artillery observer volunteered to fly the medevac mission.

A string of **Blue Ghost Cobra gunships, F Troop 8th Cavalry**, flew along to provide overhead security.

Alone in his craft, Lieutenant Hadfield flew into the tiny landing zone five times to pick up the wounded.

"There was some incoming," he recalled with considerable understatement. "They'd put on two or three wounded at a time while I was hovering. I guess I picked up 10 or 15 men altogether."

SOUTHERN CROSS

Vol. 3 No. 32 CHU LAI, VIETNAM August 28, 1970

Infantrymen prepare to board waiting helicopters. Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, were being airlifted into a suspected enemy position northwest of Tam Ky. (Photo by PFC Richard Campbell)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3 No. 32 Chu Lai, Vietnam August 28, 1970

Hiep Duc offensive

Thrust costs NVA 590

Division Recap

Sharp increase enemy loses 154

In sporadic but heavy action the 'Chargers" in Operation Frederick Hill saw increased action as they killed 77 enemy soldiers and confiscated several weapons. Elsewhere in Operation Iron Mountain action also increased for the 'Jungle Warriors" as they tallied 39 of the enemy. Action for the "Brave and Bold" in Operation Geneva Park continued light and scattered as they accounted for nine enemy killed.

Frederick Hill

C, during a sweep and clear operation west of Tam Ky

Photo Caption: Infantrymen prepare to board waiting helicopters. Soldiers of the **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry,** were being airlifted into a suspected enemy position northwest of Tam Ky. (Photo by PFC Richard Campbell) ***(Note: Nose art on the helicopters is a "Rattler" of the 71st AHC)***

Hiep Duc offensive

Thrust costs NVA 590

By 1Lt David Coffman

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - Division soldiers recently helped turn back a major NVA offensive in Hiep Duc Valley. In continual heavy action the Americans decimated elements of the 1st NVA Regiment, killing 590 in the span of two months.

"The enemy's primary aim was to set back and if possible destroy the pacification program in Hiep Duc District" said First Lieutenant John Hunsinger, St. Louis, a member of the 196th Infantry Brigade. "They also hoped to harass the surrounding firebases."

The enemy triggered their offensive by attacking LZ Siberia, secured by **Company D, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, and Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery.** The Americans drove off the enemy, killing 10.

Fighting the first day took place around the area of Hiep Duc District, 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The **"Polar Bears"** of the **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry,** killed 34 in a series of sharp firefights.

One of these firefights began when Company D came under heavy fire in an open rice paddy.

"They were well-entrenched in bunkers," said Sergeant Larry Griffin, Chicago, squad leader for **Company D.** "For a while we were pinned down."

"**Firebird**" gunship from the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** responded to the infantry's call and raked the NVA positions. When the enemy retreated, the "Chargers" swept across the rice paddy and found seven NVA dead.

In the next few days elements of the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry,** and 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry--both from the 196th Infantry Brigade--were airlifted into the battle area as fighting continued to rage. In a major ground action, **Company A, 3rd Battalion,** repulsed an attack on its night laager, killing an NVA battalion commander and 18 of his men.

U.S. Air Force jets and Division helicopter gunships played havoc with the enemy. In two days the gunships of **F Troop, 8th Cavalry,** accounted for 61 enemy dead. In the two days following ARVN soldiers operating in the area found 76 more NVA killed by gunships and airstrikes.

At the end of six days of fighting the Americans had killed 255 NVA. Of the ground units the 4th Battalion 31st Infantry, had inflicted the most damage, killing 62.

"At this stage a comparative lull followed as the NVA began to operate in smaller units," said Lieutenant Hunsinger.

Tension mounted during the next month. The action consisted of isolated skirmishes punctuated by heavy firefights. In one of the bitterest engagements, Company D, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, combined with **Troops A and C, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry,** to kill 15 NVA in an afternoon of firefighting. Two weeks later, **Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry,** supported by Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, killed 18 NVA.

Then the "lull" ceased as the NVA launched a second offensive. Elements of the **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry,** came into heavy contact near LZ West. Three companies from the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, were flown into the area in an operation which was to climax one and one half months of fierce combat. For four days the "Chargers" searched for the main NVA force, killing 16 enemy in the process. On the fifth day they found what they were after.

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) **Thrust costs NVA 590**

Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, were conducting search and clear missions through the rugged jungle terrain. Company C was moving along the high ground while **Company B** searched the valley floor.

As **Company B** moved across a small, grassy opening, the point platoon began receiving heavy fire from an enemy bunker complex. The infantrymen fired back while **gunships** strafed the NVA from above. Then **Company B** assaulted.

"We used fire and movement," said Staff Sergeant Charlie Hall, Hookertown, N.C., Company B. "It was a bunker to bunker, hole to hole fight." In the next four hours, Company B killed 33 NVA.

On the same day, **Company C** hit another NVA force well entrenched in bunkers and spider holes. In the fight that followed Company C laid down a heavy barrage of fire and called in **gunships**, artillery and airstrikes.

In the following weeks the action lessened. The allies continued to take a toll of the enemy, but it was evident that the main NVA forces had withdrawn. The enemy had paid a high price for its entry into Hiep Duc Valley. The Refugee Center was still very much in existence, and the Vietnamese had already rebuilt the position previously destroyed by the enemy.

NIGHT HAWK NET 49 IN HEAVY ACTION

CHU LAI (AMERICAL 10) -- Action increased sharply in Southern I Military Region as Division units accounted for 193 enemy killed. Highlighting the week's action in Operation Geneva Park, **"Night Hawk"** and gunships from **F Troop, 8th Cavalry** killed 16 NVA north of the Quang Ngai River. Despite a week of light action, soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade In Operation Frederick Hill tallied 33 enemy dead and discovered an enemy hospital. Elsewhere gunships of the **71st Aviation Battalion** were kept busy the past week as the **"Night Hawks"** accounted For 23 enemy killed in Operation Iron Mountain.

Geneva Park

In mid-week, **"Night Hawk"** ships accompanied by gunships from **F Troop 8th Cavalry** conducting aerial patrols over the southern section of the 198th Infantry Brigade's AO with their powerful search lights, spotted a large number of NVA congregated on the ground below near the Quang Ngai River. After taking light machinegun fire, the pilots and gunners from **F Troop** went to work killing 26 enemy. The kills were credited to Operation Geneva Park.

Early in the week, **H Troop, 17th Cavalry,** working south of Chu Lai, moved out early in the morning to cordon and search a village. The cavalrymen, using textbook-like tactics, trapped several Viet Cong killing three of them. Captured in the action were six CHICOM grenades two AK-47 rifles, three AK-47 magazines and a carbine with two magazines.

Early the next day incoming mortars, rocket propelled grenades and satchel charges erupted the early morning calm at LZ Fat City west of Chu Lai, as sappers firing automatic weapons, attempted to assault the firebase. The artillerymen located at the LZ and infantrymen from **C Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry** returned the fire with automatic weapons and mortars and called in gunships and flareships. At first light the defenders swept the area to find one VC dead, four satchel charges, and nine CHICOM grenades.

Along the coast northeast of Quang Ngai, naval guns fired on an undetermined number of Viet Cong. Aerial observers from Division Artillery later flew over the area to confirm eight VC had been killed by the fire originating from the ships in the South China Sea.

The next day, **Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry,** picked up a rallier and killed two VC in two separate incidents. The **"Ready Rifles"** engaged several VC evading southwest of Chu Lai and brought down one VC as another rallied. About thirty minutes later, Recon killed another VC and captured an AK-47, two banana clips, two CHICOM grenades and a poncho.

Later in the week while working northwest of Quang Ngai, **Delta Company** killed one VC and later found a hooch. The hooch contained 350 pounds of rice and 350 pounds of potatoes.

Delta Company of the **1st Battalion, 6th Infantry** also found a small cache of 1000 pounds of rice hidden in crocks and metal containers, southeast of Chu Lai Frederick Hill. In mid-week activity the "Gimlets" of the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** killed six enemy in a single day as a result of four contacts in a thickly vegetated area west of Tam Ky. Four of the kills resulted when the enemy walked into well camouflaged defensive positions set up by the "Gimlets."

Company C received credit for the first of these four kills. The Reconnaissance platoon scored in a similar manner when they struck down three more NVA a short time later.

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NIGHT HAWK NET 49 IN HEAVY ACTION

The fifth and sixth dead NVA for that day was credited to **Company A.** In that engagement the enemy was spotted trying to escape into a woodline west of Tam Ky, when the company blanketed him with small arms fire.

"Gimlets" momentum continued to increase. Near the week's end **Company A** found a large enemy structure west of Tam Ky with a tunnel system, shortly after killing an NVA in the same area. The tunnels which were used as a hospital, contained a large quantity of medical supplies plus 750 pounds of rice.

Success again marked **Recon platoon** when they wrapped up a busy week three NVA killed. The incident occurred when the enemy walked into Recon's defensive position set up west of Tam Ky.

The **"Legionnaires"** of **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** registered several enemy dead. Two of the kills resulted cleverly placed defensive position set up in the triple canopy jungles west of Tam Ky. "Charlie" lost once to the Recon platoon, and again that afternoon to **Company B.** A search of the area by **Company B** revealed six enemy bunkers.

Company D concluded a week of enemy contact when they fired on several VC who were walking down a trail in the dense jungles near Kham Duc. **Firebird gunships** flew in to assist in the firefight which resulted in four VC killed.

The **"Polar Bears"** of the **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry,** proved themselves homebreakers when **Company A** found an enemy bunker complex large enough to accommodate two platoons. The approximately seven week old complex contained seven bunkers.

Also in that area **Company D** found eight Viet Cong suspects--four female adults and four children hiding in their hooch. The infantrymen caught two of the females as they were attempting to hide a small amount of military equipment.

Iron Mountain

Early in the week while working in a river valley northwest of Duc Pho. "Night Hawks" of the **71st Aviation Battalion** received fire from two NVA in a sampan. Return fire from the gunships accounted for both enemy killed. The sampan was destroyed following the action. Later in the evening the **"Night Hawks"** received small arms and .51 caliber fire from two directions. Fourteen NVA were found dead following the action which saw two hooches destroyed.

Later in the week while working in the same area **"Night Hawks"** engaged by an undetermined size enemy force as they moved along the river. Braving small arms and .30 caliber machinegun fire, the gunships accounted for seven enemy.

While conducting a search and clear mission in the lowlands south of Duc Pho, **Company A, 4th Battalion, 21st** Infantry discovered a rice and potato cache near two huts. The rice was in 11-55 gallon drums and the potatoes were in four 55 gallon drums. An intensified search of the area turned up eight more tons of rice.

SOUTHERN CROSS

Vol. 3 No. 35 CHU LAI, VIETNAM September 18, 1970

Yo-Yo rescue saves downed chopper crew

By SP4 William Hayes

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Three occupants of a helicopter that crashed near Hiep Duc recently were rescued minutes after impact by a crew chief who leaped weaponless into a ring of fire from his aircraft as it hovered 15 feet above the crash scene.

Specialist Five Arnold C. Dietrich, of Nortonville, Kan., crew chief on a **"Rattler"** UH-1H of the **71st Aviation company** (Assault Helicopter) leaped from his seat to where the burning LOH Division Artillery aviation section lay on a steeply sloping hillside near LZ West.

The unarmed LOH had been attempting to extract wounded infantrymen from an LZ too small for a normal medevac helicopter. Heavy small arms fire tore into the ship as its pilot tried to gain altitude as he left the LZ. Fuel spilling from its ruptured fuel cells ignited, turning the aircraft into a ball of flames which quickly spread to the surrounding seven-foot high elephant grass.

Specialist Dietrich was the first to spot the pilot and artillery observer waving from the ground.

"We saw the fire, and right in the center I saw two people standing there waving. We couldn't set down-there were too many rocks and trees," said Specialist Dietrich.

The "Rattler" aircraft commander, Lieutenant Thomas V. Pratt, Ontario, Calif., acknowledged over the intercom what each man on board knew: "We've got to get in there and help them."

Over the intercom, somebody said, "I'll go."

"Without hesitating, Specialist Dietrich grabbed a hand radio and jumped out of the aircraft," said Captain R.J. Sienkiewicz of Gilbertsville, N.Y., the pilot.

The door gunner, Specialist Four Harold E. Justice, Sylva, N.C., readied a McGuire rig the crew had used on a previous mission that day.

On the ground, Specialist Dietrich had already made contact with the pilot and helped him into the McGuire rig's leg and torso loops.

Once the first man was in the rig, Lieutenant Pratt ascended vertically, and when the dangling man had cleared all surrounding obstacles, made his first run toward nearby LZ West.

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(Continued -1) **Yo-Yo rescue saves downed chopper crew**

As the helicopter disappeared over the trees, the artillery observer showed Specialist Dietrich where a third man lay injured a short distance from the LOH wreckage.

Within minutes the helicopter returned and the second pilot was extracted. Again the chopper left, and Specialist Dietrich began to assess the third man's injuries. The other two had sustained minor injuries, but were able to move without help. Determining that he couldn't be slung as the others had been Specialist Dietrich decided to extract the third man using only the torso strap.

"I told him it would be uncomfortable, but it was the only way we could get him out," Specialist Dietrich said.

He had reported the extent of the man's injuries to the aircraft commander, who relayed to medical personnel on West. They warned that the man should not be moved. A ground rescue party was sent down toward the crash site but ran into heavy small arms fire from enemy positions between them and Specialist Dietrich.

Again the chopper returned, and by now the fiercely burning grass had almost engulfed the two men. As the third man was readied for extraction, the rotor was from the hovering ship was the only thing saving the two men from the flames.

"Lieutenant Pratt did a fantastic job, keeping the aircraft aloft in all the turbulence from the fire. We had numerous blade strikes, but he kept his cool and stayed with it," Captain Sienkiewicz said.

Then the ship left for the third time, Specialist Dietrich was alone-really alone. Again, the gunships had stayed with the helicopter leaving him without air support. Uphill from the crash, the rescue group from West was still in enemy contact, and to the downhill side were the enemy gunners who shot down the LOH.

Weaponless, he hid between the rocks until he could hear the ship approaching, then he ran into the open and stepped into the dangling loops.

"All that was left of the LOH by this time was ashes and a four-foot section of the tail," Specialist Dietrich said.

Within minutes, Specialist Dietrich was back on West, rejoining his ship and crew after his half hour among the flames.

Weekly recap, 92 killed

Decrease in Division action

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Action was light for the week as units of the Americal killed 92 of the enemy in numerous small engagements. The "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade, in Operation Geneva Park killed 17 enemy soldiers and confiscated several weapons and munitions. The "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade, in Operation Frederick Hill claimed 41 of the enemy. Elsewhere in Operation Iron Mountain the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade had a light week as they inflicted 10 casualties on the enemy.

Geneva Park – Omitted....

Frederick Hill

The "Gimlets" of the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** maintained their productive pace for the week, beginning with **Company A** finding a grave with one VC killed. The kill was credited to **C Company** in a contact they had two [days?] earlier.

By mid-week most **"Gimlet"** units had made their mark on the enemy. With small arms fire **Company B** engaged a lone VC while on sweep northwest of Tam Ky. The wounded VC was evacuated to Chu Lai for medical attention.

After being fired on by **Company B** an NVA quickly surrendered and was extracted for questioning.

Taking their share of action the **Recon platoon** killed three NVA with small arms fire in the triple canopy jungle northwest of Tam Ky.

Also that day a "Charger" light observation helicopter while on a visual reconnaissance mission called in fire on an NVA who was trying to hide in a spider hole. **Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion,** 72 Artillery completed the mission.

Elsewhere in the 196th Infantry Brigade AO infantrymen from **Company C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry** showed their concern to keep Charlie slim and trim when they confiscated 800 pounds of rice and 500 pounds of corn in a shelter southwest of Tam Ky.

While on a visual reconnaissance mission **Helix 17** observed 3 enemy soldiers trying to hide in a bomb crater southwest of Tam Ky. Rockets were fired into the crater killing two of the VC while the third escaped into a nearby woodline.

Operating west of Tam Ky **Recon platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry** found two NVA bodies that were credited to the gunships of the 71st Aviation Company.

Iron Mountain – Omitted---

Musket gunships answer leg soldiers' call

by SP4 Robert A. Spangler

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) - "Scramble" was the only word that could be heard echoing through the hootch as Captain John Wheeler, Canoga, Park, Calif., fire team leader of the **Muskets, 176th Assault Helicopter Company**, answered the telephone call.

The call was from brigade headquarters stating that **Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry**, was pinned down by sporadic small arms fire.

Captain Wheeler stayed on the phone to copy down the infantry company's radio frequency, their call sign and the grid coordinates. Meanwhile the rest of the fire team had hastily exited the hootch in hot pursuit of their gunships.

Warrant Officer Bob Sizemore, Panama City, Fla., lead pilot of Captain Wheeler's aircraft, was already in the process of cranking up the Musket gunship by the time Wheeler arrived.

As the Muskets arrived on the scene they were in direct radio contact with the infantry unit. After making their first run on the suspected enemy position, the gunship's radio crackled with the sound of the infantrymen's voice. "Excellent, excellent, just keep working out in that area. You're right on target."

The Muskets continued to work out on the enemy position, expending their load of destruction.

After firing up their load, the Muskets returned to Hawk Hill to reload for another run. While sitting in the hootch came a report that Company C had swept the area and found two VC snipers killed by a combination of the infantrymen's and gunships' fire.

The 176th and **71st** Assault Helicopter Companies both fly in support of the 196th Infantry Brigade (**Note: the 71st AHC is normally recognized as Direct Support for the 196th Bde. and the 176th as Direct Support for the 198th Bde.)**

The gunship fire teams are usually made up of two ships, each carrying a crew of four: aircraft commander, pilot, crew chief and door gunner.

The Muskets of this particular fire team were equipped with maximum firepower. The lead ship had two 159 rocket pods with 24 10-pound rockets in each pod; two mini-guns and two M-60 machine guns.

The fire power of the gunships is astonishing. The mini-guns pour out 4,000 rounds per minute while the two M-60 machine guns knock out 500 rounds per minute. All of this combined with the rockets and mobility of the gunships make them one of the most effective weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

The gunships fly three general categories of flights: dust off, escort for medevacs; contact missions, direct support of allied ground forces; and general escort missions for aircraft such as the Flying Crane, CH-54.

The general feeling of most groups served by the gunships is comparable to the reply of the infantrymen of Company C when the[y] said, "Thanks a lot guys. You don't know how we appreciate it." this is the usual final radio message for the gunships as they leave the scene.

The reply from the gunship fire team is usually the same also. "We are returning to refuel and re-arm. If you need us again, just give us a call."

The gunship crews have a certain way in which they like to refer to themselves, "Death on Call!" Any infantryman will agree with that.

Division recap Action was 'moderate'

Action was moderate this week as the men of the Americal Division accounted for 84 enemy kills, with heaviest action concentrated in the Frederick Hill area of operations manned by the 196th Infantry Brigade

Frederick Hill

During the week, the men of the 196th Infantry Brigade killed 36 enemy soldiers and captured 3,800 pounds of rice, 200 pounds of corn and 500 pounds of tobacco.

Early this week **Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** engaged five Viet Cong with small arms fire while on patrol northwest of Tam Ky, killing five.

Also this week, **Company B** of the **"Gimlets"** killed two VC while on patrol northwest of Tam Ky.

Company B observed movement around their night defensive position and fired the area up. A sweep of the area at first light revealed three NVA killed by the night firing.

Upon observing three VC, **Company A** opened up with M-16s, killing one and wounding another that was then captured.

Rounding out the Gimlet action for the week, **Company A** on patrol saw three VC which they killed. As they moved forward they spotted another VC and opened up with small arms fire, killing him.

Company D of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry while on a search and clear mission observed three NVA to their front. They called in artillery, searched the area and found one enemy dead.

Company C of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry discovered a hootch area northwest of Tam Ky containing 500 pounds of tobacco, 200 pounds of corn and three sampans.

Earlier in the week, **Company C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry** found two VC graves, with the kills being credited to them for earlier actions in the area.

The **company** killed two other VC southwest of Tam Ky as the enemy walked into the **"Professionals"** day defensive position. Two AK-47s were captured in the action.

Company D also found two VC killed by artillery and later while working southwest of Da Nang found 1,450 pounds of rice.

Company A of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry discovered 2,150 pounds of rice and 100 pounds of corn while working the same area.

The **"Firebirds"** gunships of the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** were credited with eight kills this week as they supported Regional Forces southwest of Tam Ky.

Iron Mountain - Omitted

Geneva Park – Omitted -

Pennsylvania Square – Omitted -

14th Aviation sets the pace for division

The **14th Combat Aviation Battalion**, only a little over five years old, has a short but diverse history, having served all but two months of its existence in Vietnam.

The unit was constituted September 2, 1964 and activated the following day at Fort Benning, Georgia for ultimate assignment to Vietnam.

The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion moved to its present location in Chu Lai in mid April 1967 to support Task Force Oregon. At that time the 282nd and 196th Aviation Companies were replaced by the **71st Assault Helicopter** company and the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company respectively.

1967 found the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion supporting operations for armies of three nations: the US forces, the Korean 9th (White Horse) Division and the 22nd ARVN Division. With the addition of the 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company in 1969 the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion now holds the distinction of being the largest aviation battalion operating in Vietnam with close to 1,600 personnel and 129 aircraft.

Re-ups for $10,000

By Sp/4 Ron Cryderman

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) - Ten thousand dollar Variable Re-Enlistment Bonus requirements are not often met by personnel wishing to re-up. Specialist Five John H. Madden (Cohokie, Ill.) is one of the lucky ones.

The lucky MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) that earned Madden his $10,000 is 67N20 Senior Helicopter Mechanic. Now assigned to the **71st Aviation Company**, he has also worked in almost every phase of aviation from door-gunner to his present mechanic status.

When asked for the reason of his re-enlisting Madden very calmly and coolly said, "I just decided I wasn't ready to get out yet, and with the money as another attraction I just decided to stay in for a while."

Madden has no immediate plans for his bonus. "I don't have anything to spend it on right now, so I guess I'll just put it in the bank and let it draw interest, I'm greedy that way."

The 19-year-old graduate of Beaument High School in St. Louis, Missouri, attended basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. and went the Helicopter Maintenance school at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Photo Caption: Captain Joseph Petrovich, El Paso, Tex., 23rd Infantry Division Re-Enlistment Officer, right, presents Specialist Five John H. Madden, Cohokie, Ill., with his discharge papers. The procedure was necessary prior to Madden's re-enlisting for another six years and a $10,000 Variable Re-Enlistment Bonus.

Rattler receives Silver Star

By PFC Fred Abatemarco

QUANG TRI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) -- Along with the outstanding job done by the entire **71st Aviation Company**, 23rd Infantry Division there were some tremendous personal efforts by individual "Rattlers" throughout Lam Son 719.

WO1 Gary Arne (Farebault, Minn.) received the Silver Star for his actions during one particularly trying incident. On March 3rd, Arme was piloting a "slick" into Landing Zone (LZ Lolo, approximately 15 miles inside Laos.

"I was coming in low-level on a combat assault with the 1st Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN Division)" he explained. "As we set down on LZ Lolo, we began to take heavy enemy fire form 30 caliber and 51 caliber machine guns."

Arne's chopper lost its tail rotor and hydraulics as it tried to lift off and went into a spin at about 200 feet. He managed to set the bird down some 300 meters outside the LZ, where his crew was subsequently pinned down by enemy fire.

"We stayed low during the 45 minutes of intense fire," said Arne. "But things weren't getting any better and my crew chief had taken a 30 caliber round in his foot.

So on Arne's decision the crew began to crawl what seemed like miles to the ARVN position. It was uphill all the way and Arne was dragging his wounded crew chief. When they finally succeeded in reaching the LZ, Arne directed U.S. airstrikes on the enemy positions for another six hours before he and his crew were "dusted-off to safety.

In a related incident at LZ Lolo during the insertion of ARVN troops, WO1 Kent Garrett, (Kersey, Colo.) also found himself in a rather trying situation.

"As soon as we set down on the pad, we took fire from all sides. It was so intense," said Garrett, "that we couldn't hear the rounds being fired. All we could hear was the rounds impacting on the chopper."

Although wounded by a 30 caliber round in the leg, Garrett managed to lift off quickly enough to save his crew and the wounded ARVN, who was receiving first-aid from the crew chief, Randy Newcomb, (Honolulu, Hawaii).

The **71st Aviation Company** has redeployed to Chu Lai after completing their mission. Better than returning, however, is the fact that every "**Rattler**" pilot has returned to tell about it. And they have a lot to tell.

Pilot reveals chopper crash

By PFC Fred Abatemarco

QUANG TRI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) -- A premonition of a tough mission ahead started the day for WO1 Wendell Freeman, Tifton, Ga.) a helicopter pilot with the **71st Aviation Company "Rattlers"** of the 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division. Freeman to his chagrin and discomfort was to be proven correct.

The young aviator and his crew wee assisting in the recovery of a downed helicopter inside the Laotian border later that day.

"We were flying low-level at about 125 knots when I told my door gunner to open up over a particularly dangerous area," said Freeman. "Our gunship simultaneously began taking 30 caliber rounds from enemy positions below."

"Suddenly my feet flew up and hit the control board. I didn't feel them come down and I was afraid to look for fear they wouldn't be there," he said.

He was to find out later that an enemy RPG (rocket propelled grenade) round had blown a hole in the chopper's belly, but luckily failed to explode.

"At this time Mr. Patrick Riley, the co-pilot, took command and brought our bird down in a very controlled crash landing," continued Freeman.

WO1 Riley (Stillwater, Minn.) had jettisoned the rocket pods and landed amongst some high grass and bamboo. The crew was pinned down immediately by hostile fire from a distance of 20 meters.

Specialist Four Delferre, the crew chief and Specialist Four Betts, the gunner put out a barrage of suppressive fire, but the situation was beginning to look hopeless.

"After a few minutes I heard WO1 Hubert Collins, who was flying the recovery ship, take fire and I assumed that he was shot down, too. That's when I really began to worry. I didn't think another recovery ship could get to us in time," Freeman said.

Riley, not knowing Collins had landed safely, crawled the 100 meters to aid the other "downed" crew. When Riley came within sight of Collin's chopper, he saw that Specialist Four Catalina, Collins' door gunner, was doing an amazing job of covering the crew and the chopper. He also found out that the recovery ship was not severely damaged after all.

Catalina was able to hold the enemy off while Riley returned to his ship and brought the crew back to the recovery ship. Freeman, Riley and their crew climbed in and were lifted out.

"We weren't down more than 15 or 20 minutes, but I doubt if we could have lasted much longer," Freeman concluded.

These infantrymen with Charlie Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., waste no time in unloading supplies from this UH-1H (Huey) helicopter while operating on Command Post Shirley near Hiep Duc. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/4 Brad Mandel)

Vol. 4, No. 22 Chu Lai, Vietnam June 04, 1971 Page 6

Photo Caption: These infantrymen with **Charlie Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.,** waste no time in unloading supplies from this UH-1H (Huey) helicopter while operating on Command Post Shirley near Hiep Duc. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/4 Brad Mandel) (**Note: Rattler nose art on the helicopter indicates that this is a 71st AHC unit helicopter who provided direct support for the 196th Inf. Bde**.)

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C R I M E
DOESN'T PAY

Case 1

Private First Class Charles T. Kinnaman, 17th [**71st Aviation Company**?] Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Group [14th Avn Bn?], 23d Infantry Division, was convicted by special court-martial on July 2 for wrongfully communicating a threat and two specifications of escaping from lawful confinement. He was sentenced to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge and to be confined at hard labor for four months

MOVING S YMBOL -- Stacks and stacks of crates and crates are piled high with the equipment and supplies of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) ready to be moved. Crates such as these have become an increasingly familiar sight to men of the Americal, many of whom have been packing their bags in recent weeks to be transferred to other units or to go home. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Photo Caption - MOVING SYMBOL -- Stacks and stacks of crates and crates are piled high with the equipment and supplies of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) ready to be moved. Crates such as these have become an increasingly familiar sight to men of the Americal, many of whom have been packing their bags in recent weeks to be transferred to other units or to go home. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Final division standdown scheduled at Ft. Lewis

By MSG Bill Pickett

CHU LAI (Special) -- The actual standdown of the 23d Infantry Division will not be accomplished until the last days of this month when the division command group will accompany the colors to Ft. Lewis, Wash., for the official deactivation of the unit and the retirement of the colors.

That action will bring to a close an enormous redeployment task which began in earnest with the announcement of the standdown of the **3d Battalion, 18th Artillery and the 71st Assault Helicopter Company on Sept. 8.**

Planning for the entire operation began much earlier under the supervision of the Keystone Operations Center, whose personnel were responsible for the coordination and scheduling of all standdown activities.

A personnel out-processing center was established adjacent to the Chu Lai Airfield, and this operation, although deterred one day when Typhoon Hester leveled the center, averaged 200 persons per day through its doors, destined for reassignment in-country or return to CONUS for further assignment or ETS.

Also in September, units of the **23d Medical Battalion,** and **maintenance and engineer companies** began standdown, many utilizing the facilities of the Division Combat Center or the former 27th Surgical Hospital area through which most of the division members would pass during their standdown period. These locations were provided [to] exchange and club facilities to serve Americal soldiers during their standdown.

On Sept. **17, H Troop, 17th Cavalry** began its standdown, and during October most maneuver elements of the division also began their standdown operations.

It was during this period that Task Force Americal began to take shape under the command of Colonel Robert J. Malloy, former DISCOM commander. Mission of Task Force Americal (TFA) was to prevent the enemy from establishing bases from which to rocket Chu Lai Combat Base and to keep the enemy from massing troops for attack.

Major units standing down during October included **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** and **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** on Oct. 5, and **3d Battalion, 1st Infantry and the 123d Assault Support Helicopter Company** [Note this must be a typo. 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company (Hercules) is likely the correct unit.] Oct 7.

The 11th Brigade and its **1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry** began standdown on Oct. 10. Two aviation battalions, the **14th Combat Aviation Battalion** and **123d Aviation Battalion,** went into standdown on Oct. 14.

Between Oct. 15 and 18, the **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry; 174th Assault Helicopter Company and 23d Medical Battalion,** minus, commenced standdown.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 198th Infantry Brigade began standdown Oct. 19, followed on Oct. 22 by 23d Administrative Company and on Oct. 23 by the 16th Combat Aviation Group.

Between Oct. 24 and 30, those units of **Division Artillery** which had not begun standdown were returned to rear areas to begin processing and on Oct 30, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of Division Artillery closed out its mission as it received standdown instructions.

The **1st Battalion, 6th Infantry**--which had been replaced in the mountains west of Chu Lai by the **3d Battalion, 21st infantry** maneuver element to commence standdown. When it was ordered to the rear on the last day of October.

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) **Final Division Stand Down.**

Division support units, including **the 23d Supply and Transportation Battalion, 26th Engineer Battalion, 723d Maintenance Battalion and Division Support Command** began standdown during the first week in November.

Division **Headquarters and Headquarters Company was the final unit** to conduct standdown activities, and as the colors are escorted to CONUS last this month, only the 196th Infantry Brigade, under the command of Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough, remains.

Sources available, but not acted on:

Available information of interest:

1) The Pilot's guidebook. There are guidebooks for 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1973 available from the ADVA historian. These have descriptions of bases that were capable of supporting the Caribou fixed wing cargo planes or greater. Each base is described and usually there is a photo of the base. Interesting comments are found, like "do not use the approach on the west or you will receive enemy fire".

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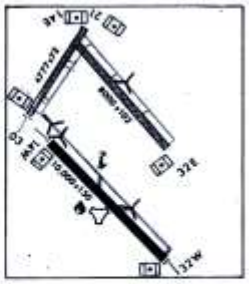


°CHU LAI AB, VIETM BT537062 15°25'N 108°42'E (YVCI)
MC 25 B@, L4, 5, 7@, 10@ 80(AM-2) 102 14E-32E (SWL-27, PSI-400)
H100(CON) 150 14W-32W
48(AM-2) 72 08-21 (SWL-27, PSI-400)

JASU - (NC-5), (NC-10A), (GTC-85), (NCPP-105)
FUEL - A-1, J4, O-156, SP@, PRESAIR, LOX
A-GEAR

RWY 14E M-21(B)@ (3500') RWY 32E
RWY 14W E-28(B), M-21(B) (1300') (3500') M-21(B), E-28(B) (3500') (1300') RWY 32W
RWY 03 M-21(B) (700') M-21(B) (700') RWY 21

AERODROME REMARKS - CAUTION: Due to obst ajo to 14W-32W, C-141/B707 acft advs not to touchdown prior to 750' fr thld and to avoid ldg left or rgt of centerline. U. S. controllers on duty 24 hrs dly. Ltd trsn maint and prkg. Catapult installed on Rwy 03-21. OLS oval all rwy. C-130 and larger acft use W rwy only. 4 engine acft taxi with outboard engines off. Extv vehicular tfc on rwys. No ovrns Rwys 14E-32E and 03-21. Extv heli and lt acft tfc E rwy, extreme ctn advs. CAUTION: unlgtd 30' power poles and lines 1750' S of Rwy 14E-32E. SEE VIETNAM SPECIAL NOTICES. @ 800' short of thlds Rwys 14W-32W, extreme ctn adv to avoid short ldgs. @ Aval 15 min ntc. @ Ltd SP and A-4 probe hot refueling aval to trsn acft O/R to Twr. @ Opr SR-SS IFR cond only. @ Rwy 14W-32W only.

COMMUNICATIONS (SFA)
A/G/INVOICE: Call RASPBERRY CHU LAI - 6723 USB @ 3109 USB @
@APP CON - 383.1 118.3 (U) **@DEP CON** - 316.0
TOWER@ - 340.2 360.2 118.3 (E) **GND CON** - 360.2
ALCE @ - 281.8 140.4 8134 USB **PFSV: METRO** -

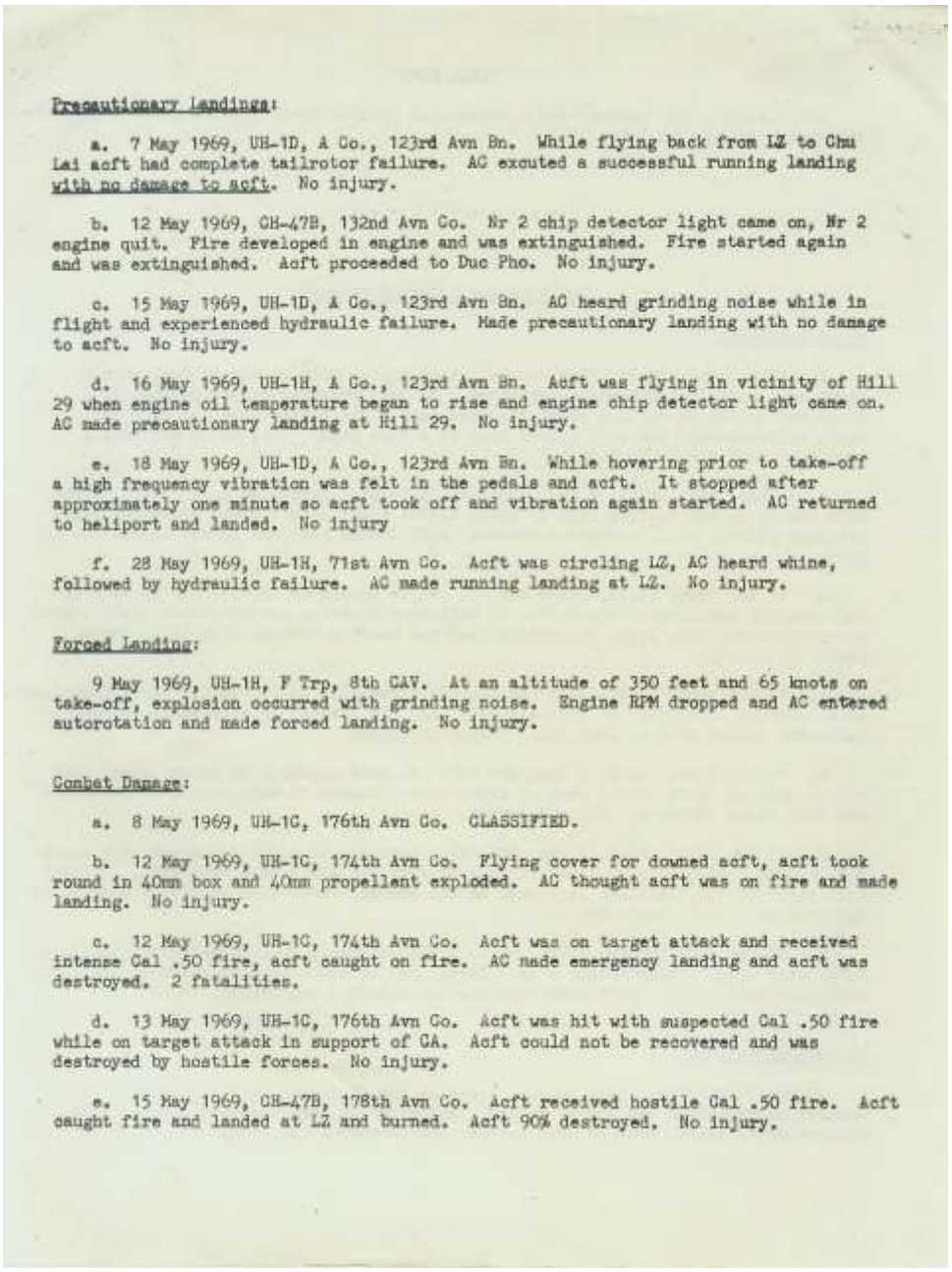
RADIO AIDS TO NAVIGATION
(HITACAN@ CHU Chan 50 At Field
RBn CHU 277.2 At Field

RADAR @ - Call APP CON 375.2 329.4 316.0 260.5 230.6 119.2 118.3 (E)

	RWY	CATEGORY	MDA	RVR	HAA	CEIL-VIS
ASR	14W, 32W	A, B, C	540		515	(600-1)
	14W, 32W	D, E	540		515	(600-1¼)
	RWY	CATEGORY	DH	RVR	HAT	CEIL-VIS
PAR	14W, 32W	A, B, C, D, E,	225		200	(200-½) G. S. 3°

RADIO/NAV REMARKS - @ Circle to E, mountainous terrain to W. IFF/SIF svc oval. @ Unusable below 9,000' 155-215 Rad, below 20,000' 215-240 Rad, below 12,000' 240-310 Rad. @ Airlift acft ctc 15 min prior to landing. All inbound transport acft ctc and give inbound/outbound load report. @ 2200-1000Z. @ 1000-2200Z. @ Inbd acft ctc prior to 15 NM for tfc advsys and App Con radar separation. All tfc Rwy 14W-32W use 340.2 primary, 360.2 secondary. All tfc Rwy 14E-32E use 360.2.

2) The Americal Division Safety Newsletter. It lists incidents by date and unit with a short description. Only one example is available. It covers the quarterly period ending in June 1969.



Precautionary Landings:

a. 7 May 1969, UH-1D, A Co., 123rd Avn Bn. While flying back from LZ to Chu Lai acft had complete tailrotor failure. AC excuted a successful running landing with no damage to acft. No injury.

b. 12 May 1969, CH-47B, 132nd Avn Co. Nr 2 chip detector light came on, Nr 2 engine quit. Fire developed in engine and was extinguished. Fire started again and was extinguished. Acft proceeded to Duc Pho. No injury.

c. 15 May 1969, UH-1D, A Co., 123rd Avn Bn. AC heard grinding noise while in flight and experienced hydraulic failure. Made precautionary landing with no damage to acft. No injury.

d. 16 May 1969, UH-1H, A Co., 123rd Avn Bn. Acft was flying in vicinity of Hill 29 when engine oil temperature began to rise and engine chip detector light came on. AC made precautionary landing at Hill 29. No injury.

e. 18 May 1969, UH-1D, A Co., 123rd Avn Bn. While hovering prior to take-off a high frequency vibration was felt in the pedals and acft. It stopped after approximately one minute so acft took off and vibration again started. AC returned to heliport and landed. No injury

f. 28 May 1969, UH-1H, 71st Avn Co. Acft was circling LZ, AC heard whine, followed by hydraulic failure. AC made running landing at LZ. No injury.

Forced Landing:

9 May 1969, UH-1H, F Trp, 8th CAV. At an altitude of 350 feet and 65 knots on take-off, explosion occurred with grinding noise. Engine RPM dropped and AC entered autorotation and made forced landing. No injury.

Combat Damage:

a. 8 May 1969, UH-1C, 176th Avn Co. CLASSIFIED.

b. 12 May 1969, UH-1C, 174th Avn Co. Flying cover for downed acft, acft took round in 40mm box and 40mm propellant exploded. AC thought acft was on fire and made landing. No injury.

c. 12 May 1969, UH-1C, 174th Avn Co. Acft was on target attack and received intense Cal .50 fire, acft caught on fire. AC made emergency landing and acft was destroyed. 2 fatalities.

d. 13 May 1969, UH-1C, 176th Avn Co. Acft was hit with suspected Cal .50 fire while on target attack in support of CA. Acft could not be recovered and was destroyed by hostile forces. No injury.

e. 15 May 1969, CH-47B, 178th Avn Co. Acft received hostile Cal .50 fire. Acft caught fire and landed at LZ and burned. Acft 90% destroyed. No injury.

3) Ron "Too Tall", Seabolt helped supply a set of home videos made by crews from the 71st AHC. There are over 15 DVDs in this set. Copies can be requested from the ADVA Historian.

4) Maps. Maps of the area from Chu Lai to LZ Charlie Brown have been pieced together. A map of the Kham Duc, Da Nang area, Nhi Ha, Lam Son 719, Hiep Duc Valley, Chu Lai areas and any place the Americal Division units served are available. Maps could be made for any location in Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia if a grid coordinate or with the name of a FSB or landing zone can be provided. Major LZs have been marked and then the maps have been printed. The color maps have been provided to hundreds of veterans at this point. The maps are usually done in a size that is around 35" inches in width so they fit in a mailing tube. Custom maps are often done to show the location of incidents. These are done on a local printer at a "13 x 19" size.

5) Some 21"x21" size **3D maps** of Vietnam have been done for the Americal Division Veterans' Association. Set up work has been done so that reasonably priced copies can be made. The ones that might be of most interest to the 71st AHC are LZ Mary Ann, Hiep Duc Valley, LZ Professional-East, LZ West and Kham Duc. A copy might be made for under $150.00. A map can literally be made of any location in the world. The maps are great if the AO has steep terrain, but are not much of an improvement over 2D maps if the terrain is flat. 3D Maps have been loaned or given to support reunions and we are looking to place some maps in military museums.

A yearbook was created for the men of the 16th Combat Aviation Group in 1970. In the yearbook is a section for the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion which includes some information regarding the 174th Aviation Company. (This history did not include anything past the publish date in 1970.)

14th COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION (1970 16th Combat Aviation Group Album)

UNIT - HISTORY

The 14th Aviation Battalion (Combat), only a little over five years old, has a short but diverse history, having served all but two months of its existence in Vietnam.

The unit was constituted 2 September 1964 and activated the following day at Fort Benning, Georgia for ultimate assignment to Vietnam in October.

Upon arrival in Vietnam the battalion set up headquarters in Nha Trang and was completely operational by 1 November as a fixed wing unit.

Torrential rains hit Vietnam soon thereafter causing one of the worst floods in Vietnamese history. 5000 Vietnamese perished in the floods and hundreds of thousands were left homeless and stranded. The 14th's 18th and 92d Aviation Companies (Fixed Wing), just getting their feet wet in Vietnam, spent the first two weeks of November 1964 flying evacuation and food and medical relief supply missions for the displaced and homeless in I and II Corps.

As a fixed wing unit, with nine companies dispersed throughout Vietnam, from Hue in northern I Corps to Can Tho in the Mekong Delta, the 14th's missions consisted of general aviation support to U.S. and ARVN forces. This support was provided in the form of reconnaissance, airborne communications, aerial surveillance and the airlift of personnel, material and supplies.

Throughout 1965 and into early 1966 the 14th Battalion continued its responsibility of long distance cargo hauling, regular VIP and passenger flights and increased reconnaissance and resupply for the many Special Forces camps throughout I and II Corps.

In April 1966 the 14th entered a transition period exchanging its fixed wing companies for assault helicopter companies and being redesignated a combat aviation battalion.

The 14th left Nha Trang shortly thereafter for new headquarters at Lane Army Heliport west of Qui Nhon with three new assault helicopter companies: The 161st, 174th and 282d. In September 1966 the remaining fixed wing companies were detached.

(Continued)

(Continued) 14th Combat Aviation Battalion History from the 1970 16th Combat Aviation Group yearbook.

The 14th's obligation were dispersed from Phan/Thiet to the DMZ and from the Cambodia/Laos border to the coast in support of Korean, MACV and various U.S. Army Units.

Both the 161st and the 174th supported Special Forces projects on numerous occasions from June 1966 to late fall of the same year.

In the spring of 1967 the 176th Assault Helicopter Company and the 196th Assault Support Helicopter Company joined the Battalion. The 196th afforded the 14th its first organic CH-47 Chinooks.

The 14th moved to its present location in Chu Lai in mid April 1967 to support Task Force Oregon. At the time the 282d and the 196th Aviation Companies were replaced by the 71st AHC and the 178th ASHC aviation companies respectively.

The year found the 14th supporting operations for armies of three nations. The U.S. forces included separate brigades of the 101st Airborne, 1st Air Cav, composing the newly formed Americal Division. The 14th also supported many operations for the Korean 9th ROK (White Horse) Division, and the 22d ARVN Division. With the addition of the distinction of being the largest aviation battalion operating in Vietnam with close to 1600 personnel and 129 aircraft assigned.

Operations during 1969 and up to the present have centered around the support of the Americal's 196th, 198th and 11th Infantry Brigades and the 2d ARVN Division with the main obligations being; resupply, combat assaults and gunship support.

The following articles come from the 16th Combat Aviation Group's Newsletter:

BEST ACTION OF 1968

A N I G H T O F T E R R O R

EDITOR'S NOTE: "I was pulling back on the cyclic the co-pilot was calling 'Mayday' and we crashed".....8 p.m.

These are the words of Warrant Officer Frank L. Carson, Coral Gables, Fla., a gunship commander with the Americal Division's **71st Assault Helicopter Company** "Firebirds," after spending 18 hours escaping and evading a North Vietnamese and Viet Cong force near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

On Jan. 5, 1968, at approximately 3 p.m., Warrant Officer Carson and his crew were flying an armed helicopter mission in support of Company "C", 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade in Que Son Valley, 40 miles north of Chu Lai. Company "C's" position was in imminent danger of being overrun by the 3rd Regiment, 2nd North Vietnamese Infantry Division.

As Warrant Officer Carson and his crew were placing deadly fire on the enemy's position they came under intense enemy fire taking numerous hits resulting in loss of controls, causing the aircraft to crash in the middle of the enemy's position. The following is a recount of the ordeal that Warrant Officer Carson experienced in the tense 18 hours that followed.

By Warrant Officer Frank L. Carson

I was the first one out of the aircraft and as I got out I realized that we were being fired at from four sides. My wing man in the second helicopter flew overhead and all the fire that was directed as us was diverted to him; the remainder of the crew scrambled out with the break in the fire.

We huddled in the mud--a rice paddy against a dike--near the aircraft and talked. Adhering strictly to standard procedures, the co-pilot advised the crew to remain near the aircraft until pick-up.

At this time an AK-47 automatic weapon began shooting directly at us from across the rice paddy--only 40 yards away--there was no conceivable way to escape from this fire. Realizing this, my wing man rolled in and placed four rockets directly on top of this weapon, saving our lives.

As additional aircraft arrived at the scene, the intense ground fire made me realize that pick-up was, in my opinion, out of the question. At this point we had a hasty meeting and decided that under the circumstances, it would be safer to split up and work our way out individually.

Low crawling as each flare died, I made 30 or 40 yards progress to the North when I heard voices in the distance. My shoulder ached from the crash, but I could still move my arm. I began burrowing in a five-foot rice paddy dike, and as I completed my concealment four NVA walked past my position. they all had AK-47's and packs on their hips--side arms or ammunition. A flare ignited to the west, and concealed me in shadow, and revealed them completely.

I waited for one hour and began sliding along the dikes again. I removed my shirt so bubbles wouldn't collect in the sleeves and make additional noise. Only when a flare went out would I chance sliding over each dike. AK-47, 50 caliber machine gun, and rocket fire was intense at the searching aircraft.

I heard moving water to my front and saw foliage. I realized I was coming to a creek or river. Just as I was coming upon the edge of the creek, still behind a dike, the NVA started shooting through the rice paddy dike I was on--a foot in front of my face--and then they stopped.

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) Night of Terror

I didn't move--they started firing over my head and to my rear. They were trying to flush me out but I didn't move...I heard their voices closer and as the flare died out, I rolled into the river. It made a big splash---I went under and was moving with the current.

I came up once and saw a bend in the stream and heard the frantic enemy soldiers yelling.

I went under again and around the bend.

A wall of artillery was falling on the opposite bank and I left the river and began low crawling toward the sound--at this time hundreds of tracers on the ground lit up the area across the river in the direction of the aircraft. Some of the crew must have been putting up a heck of a fight in that area.

I thought if I stayed in the river, moving with the current, it would take me east--but with the NVA so close I elected to crawl through the friendly artillery. The concussions battered me, a few pieces of shrapnel hit me, the fumes engulfed me...but it worked; the NVA didn't follow---artillery had saved my life.

About three or four hours had gone by since I had left the aircraft. It was painful to move so I elected to sleep. I checked directions with the constellation Cassiopia before sleeping and drew and arrow toward east in the dirt. Before I slept I was careful to remove all the leeches I could find, as they were draining my energy--they covered my face and arms.

I awoke with the sound of intense fire. It was early morning and everything was obscured with ground fog. I realized that the battering of what seemed like a thousand automatic weapons was directed upwards into the fog toward the returning helicopters--they were continuing their search.

Visibility was about 10-15 meters and I decided it was an excellent time to move. I removed my clothing except for my white boxer trunks and sweatshirt and buried them. I could not remove my college ring to bury it even through I tried.

I headed toward the brighter haze indicating east and skirted any trees and villages. I hoped that I looked somewhat like a native. I elected to move in the day because I was becoming extremely weak. As I was passing a mound of dirt I noticed a trench and a hole in the mound. Inside, was a stack of AK-47s. I decided they were concealed here to be utilized only at night. Only 20-30 yards ahead an identical hole revealed ammunition in green rectangular boxes, very similar to the U.S. Army ammo boxes.

As the light increased I noticed I was walking parallel to what appeared to be a main trail or road, because many natives were already traversing that route.

A native, with a pole and two baskets, was coming in my direction. I hid in the leaves and as he passed by I considered killing him for his baskets. My existence depended on me looking like a native, but I had no weapon and I felt I didn't have the strength.

As the fog lifted I continued walking parallel to the trail and stayed far enough away to obscure my facial features from natives on the trail. I walked thusly for hours. Finally I realized I was in a valley directly between American fire-support bases.

I decided not to climb up the mountains for I understood the walls were likely to be heavily mined. Instead, since it appeared I might be in friendly territory, I elected to walk down the main trail.

Immediately I was recognized as being American, and a Popular Forces officer took me up an un-mined trail to the top of the mountain, where an American sergeant called for a medevac chopper.

I learned later that I had traveled only five and a half kilometers in a period of 18 hours--a long way through my night of terror.

The following article comes from the 196th LIB "Charger" Newsletter:

Resupply Turns MEDEVAC

LZ BALDY**It seemed as thought the day would be normal one for the crew of the **71st Aviation Company** resupply helicopter.

The crew had been resupplying units of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, four miles west of Landing Zone (LZ) Ross, when they were asked for emergency resupply of supplies and ammunition.

With the material on board, the chopper was forced to circle the drop area for half an hour because of enemy mortar fire slamming into the proposed LZ.

The gunship pilots leaving the area to replenish their supply of ammunition, told the aircraft commander, Warrant Officer (WO) James A. Waterbury (Mt. Kisco, N.Y.) and pilot, WO Frederick T. *T*orreall (Oakridge, Ind.) that the situation on the ground was too "hot" to attempt a landing without gunship support.

Then the report of casualties came to the crew. WO Waterbury decided that "gunships or no gunships" the casualties had to be evacuated.

During the landing, the AMERICAL Division chopper came under heavy enemy machinegun fire which was returned by crew chief SP4 Charles Newell (Blemore, OH) and door gunner PFC Douglas Chisholm (Mineral, Va.).

Upon landing, the emergency supply was quickly unloaded and the wounded men were helped aboard the helicopter.

Rising through a wall of enemy fire, the supply-turned-MEDEVAC roared to the nearest medical aid facility and dropped the casualties for treatment.

In summing up the change in mission, gunner, PFC Chisholm said, "Today wasn't really unusual. It was all part of a day's work for a helicopter crew."

The following article comes from the 196th LIB "Charger" Newsletter:

F-Troop Kills 16 NVA

SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL**Reacting to intelligence reports on the location of an estimated NVA mortar platoon, F Troop, 17th Cavalry; received orders; Move to a sandy, brush covered coastal area five miles north of Tam Ky. The Cav chalked up 16 enemy dead; four prisoners and numerous weapons in the heavy fighting that followed.

Working with Firebird gunships from the **71st Assault Helicopter Company**, F Troop approached the suspected enemy location and deployed into assault position. They immediately began receiving rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire.

"We saw two NVA trying to escape as we entered the woodline and opened up on them," said Sergeant William Liggio, (Queens, N.Y.). As the two enemy soldiers fell, the cavalrymen continued the charge.

"We entered the woodline and swept through the area from east to west, then turned, moved down about 300 meters and swept through from west to east," said Sergeant First Class Harry Anderson, (Phoenix, Ariz.)

The enemy had tried to fight from the low level sand dunes and brushy jungle, but the intensive fire from the gunships and the cavalry troop had cut them down.

"They weren't expecting us and so they weren't dug in," said Sgt. Liggio.

As the tracks entered the woodline the second time, they encountered little enemy resistance.

Confiscated weapons included nine AK-47 rifles, 300 rounds of small arms ammunition, a Soviet pistol, five packs, and 25 Chinese Communist grenades.

The following article comes from the 196th LIB "Charger" Newsletter:

Vol 2, No. 8 CHARGER AUGUST 1, 1970

1-46 MIX ROCKS AND FRAGS – KILL 53 NVA

1LT Michael Simmons

LZ Hawk Hill**In a rock-throwing, grenade tossing battle west of Tam Ky, Americal Division infantry, artillery and helicopter gunships recently combined to kill 53 NVA.

Companies B and C, 1-46, were conducting search and clear operations in the rugged jungle terrain of Hiep Duc Valley.

"We sent one company to clear the high ground to the north and another to clear the valley floor, said MAJ James M. Hallinan, (Akron, Ohio), operations officer, 1-46.

Co. B moved out to sweep the valley floor in the early morning hours and immediately became involved in what proved to be the biggest firefight of the day.

"We started moving out of our night laager around 5:30 in the morning, "said 1LT Drake H. Erby, (Milton, Wis.), 2nd platoon leader. "The 3rd platoon was point, mine was second and the 1st platoon was drag."

As the company moved across a small grassy opening, the point platoon began receiving rifle fire from a tree-line to the front. At the same time the 1st platoon, which was still in the night laager waiting for the other platoons to move across, began receiving heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire.

"We spotted some NVA in the woodline to the north and opened up on them, "said SSG Charlie Hall, (Hookertown, N.C.), 1st platoon sergeant. "As we were blasting them, someone also noticed two attempting to sneak up on our perimeter. We threw hand frags and killed them both."

As the 1st platoon continued to fire suppressive fire, the 3rd platoon continued to receive sniper fire and incoming mortar rounds. The 2nd platoon spotted some communication wires on the ground and cut them. The mortar rounds temporarily stopped. The 2nd platoon then moved up to take point and was ordered to secure a defensive position from which an assault on the dug in NVA could be made.

"We dug in faster than I ever imagined it could be done," said Lt. Erby. By this time the 3rd platoon had joined the second – only the first platoon remained to cross the open area.

Gunships from the **71st Assault Helicopter Co**. and F Trp., 8th Cav., killed three NVA. Artillery was also pounding the enemy positions as the 1st platoon began to move from the old night laager.

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) **1-46 MIX ROCKS AND FRAGS – KILL 53 NVA**

"We moved out by fire and movement and spotted the bunkers, "said SSG Hall. "We had no place to go but forward so that's what we did."

The ensuing battle was a grenade-tossing, bunker to bunker battle, as the infantrymen moved in to destroy the NVA.

As the bitter struggle progressed, the 1st platoon found they had used all their hand grenades. One squad each from the 2nd and 3rd platoons collected all the available grenades and moved to aid the 1st platoon.

With the arrival of reinforcements and more grenades the "Professionals" continued the assault.

It was a bunker to bunker, hole to hole fight," said Lt. Erby. "We would toss a grenade into a bunker and it would come flying back out. So we resorted to throwing in a rock to confuse the enemy and then immediately tossing in a grenade. It worked."

The infantrymen finally knocked out the last bunker. In the area search that followed, they found that there had been a total of 14 heavily fortified bunkers connected by a trench-line. Twenty-nine dead NVA were counted by the Americans.

"Evidently the NVA had planned to ambush as we moved out," said Lt. Erby, "but we moved before they were ready and caught them flatfooted."

Co. B then moved to the high ground and later spotted a large number of NVA in the open. A firebird from 71st Assault Helicopter Co. was called in and killed 10 of the enemy.

Co. C, clearing the high ground, had received heavy mortar fire and the entire morning. However, the men of Co. C continued to support Co. B. As a result four NVA died from Co. C's intense barrage of rifle and machinegun fire.

Two days later soldiers of the 6th Reg., 2nd ARVN Div., swept the site of Co. B's contact. The ARVN soldiers found six additional NVA killed by artillery from Btry. C, 3-82.

There were several reasons for the success of the Americal Div. soldiers, but one in particular stood out.

"It was an all-out effort on everyone's part," said Sgt. Dale Phelps, Van Nuys, Calif.), Co. B, 1-46. "It was fantastic how everyone worked together."

This article was printed in the 3/21st Gimlet Newsletter:

The "GIMLET NEWS"
VOLUME 1, No. 4, 3d BATTALION, 21st INFANTRY Sept. 15, 1969

Killing over 130 NVA and 15 VC, the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry successfully stopped the 2nd NVA Division in a ten day operation some 18 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Making heavy contact in this area first, A Co. 4/31, asked for assistance from 3/21. The Gimlets responded by Combat Assaulting A Co. and walking Bravo Co. into the area; both met heavy resistance immediately.

While returning from Alpha's location where they extracted reporter Ollie Noonan, LTC Eli Howard's chopper was hit by .51 cal machinegun fire. The bird caught fire& burned all the way to the ground, exploding on impact.

Included in the crash with LTC Howard and Noonan was CSM Frank D. Rowell of Lexington, N.C.; The Colonel's RTO, SP4 Rick Doria of White Plains, N.Y. and the four crew members of the chopper. ***[Historian note: The crewmen lost from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company were: WO1 Gerald Silverstein, WO1 John Plummer, CPL Stewart Lavigne, and CPL Stephen Martino]*** All 8 were listed as MIA at the time.

The following morning, Charlie Company humped off of LZ Center to the "hot zone" to lend their fellow companies a hand.

"The NVA were well dug in with steel reinforced bunkers," said SSG Fred Salerno of Syracuse, N.Y. "They were all well equipped and positioned at the strategic locations in the area."

With Bravo Co. walking point, the united Gimlet force attempted to move toward the crash site. But they withdrew for supplies back to their laager sites due to the very heavy firepower of the enemy's machinegun positions.

The key terrain feature is hill 102," remarked Cpt. Donald Cooper, of Oklahoma City. The enemy has .30 and .51 cal machinegun positions along with numerous bunker complexes.

Helix 15 took the honors for the day, accounting for 15 dead NVA while B Battery 3/82 Artillery, firing in support of our ground forces, contributed five more to the day's body count.

They were able to spot our every move. We couldn't even start to move out without getting mortared or ambushed."

On the 22nd B&C linked up and tried to take hill 1st from the east. After heavy close-in fighting, the Gimlets were forced to withdraw and call in air-strikes. The Bushmasters killed eight in this encounter.

The following day, after 12 hours of air strikes, B&C changed their tactics and started taking the hill from the north hoping to avoid the Communists strongpoints.

Much to everyone's surprise the enemy had quit and left the area. The Gimlets rushed the top of hill 102 at seven that night. They secured the hill and pushed out at sunrise towards the crash site.

Although only 1,000 meters away, the B&C were forced to move very cautiously and didn't reach the first remnants till 9 A.M.

C Co. first came across a tool chest from the chopper letting them know they were on the right track. Next they found one of the missing bodies some 300 meters from the crash area. Continuing their search, B&C finally reached the crash site at 9:50, recovering 5 more of the bodies.

(Continued -1)

"It was just horrible," observed Joe Pasternack of Jamaica, N.Y. "But at least now we can throw out any doubts that they might still be alive."

Four hours later, while searching the area thoroughly, B Co. discovered the other two bodies about 175 meters from the chopper site.

With the search completed, a sweep of the area was begun by the Bushmasters. "There were bodies hidden all over the place," reported Oscar Donn of Detroit.

"They must have left in a hurry to have all their dead laying around," said PFC Bob Boyd of Lake Charles, LA. Both Bushmasters were right as B Co. uncovered 39 dead NVA bodies in the area.

But it is no wonder why they left in such a hurry, 37 Airstrikes and over 1,000 rounds of Artillery were fired at Mr. Charles in this battle.

It is true-as of 10 Sept. 69, the Amaz'in Mets of New York have streaked into first place over the Chicago Cubs.

reenlistments accomplished during the month of october 1969, with option and reassignment shown after each name, were as follows:

D CO:

8. FULLERTON, Jay G. – Aircraft Maint – **71st Avn Co, APO 96374**

E CO:

3. HOAG, Davey V. – Supply – **71st Avn Co, 14th Avn Bn**

RECAPITULATION:	OBJECTIVE	REENLISTMENTS	PCT. ATT.
	4	28 + 2 RA Career	720%

RAYMOND C. STICE, SFC; Bn Reenlistment NCO; 4th Bn 31st Inf 196th Inf Bde; APO San Francisco 96374;

West of West
LTC Cecil M. Henry CO
SP4 William Crawford Reporter

This newsheet is published monthly by the 4/31 Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade APO 96374, as an authorized publication. Views and opinions herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army. AFPS material used.

comic: Soldier presents himself to the First Sergeant. The First Sergeant is not pleased to hear his line of crap, "I'd like to volunteer for the draft cut."

ADVA Historian Comments: Operation Lamar Plain was the result of NVA forces being able to mass large forces and equipment near LZ Professional. Attacks throughout Vietnam began May 12, 1969. In the Americal AO many large firebases were hit by mortar, rocket, and ground attacks. The 1/46th Inf. Bn. was hit by large forces that had ringed LZ Professional with nineteen (19) .51 anti-aircraft guns. Air Strikes were not able to stop a large NVA mass pushing to the east. By 14 May 1969, the III Marine Amphibious Force had determined that NVA forces had a good chance of capturing the Quang Tin Province of Tam Ky and also getting large numbers of rockets within range of Chu Lai. Helicopters at Chu Lai were put on notice to evacuate to Cu Le Re islands within a one hour notice. The Americal Division declared a tactical emergency and the 1/501st Inf. Bde of the 101st Airmobile Division was brought into Tam Ky (S airfield) by May 15, 1969. All of this background was provided so you understand what follows:

This is information found on a web-site documenting Operation Lamar Plain ***http://www.vietnamproject.ttu.edu/banshee/lap1.htm***:

By noon on May 15, 1969, elements of the 101st Airborne were in combat west of Tam Ky; B Troop 2/17 Cav was operating pink teams to verify the briefing they had received from Americal personnel. First Brigade pilots were briefed by pilots of the 71st Assault Helicopter Company - the "Rattlers" (the lift crew) and the "Firebirds" (the gun crew).

Many Americal Division helicopter pilots have chuckled when they told me this about this briefing. Basically the 101st Airborne helicopter crews ignored the briefings. They had already been in severe battles in the Ashau Valley. However, they had not seen anything like the air defenses set up near LZ Professional. They had gone out with 62 flyable aircraft. By the next day they only had between 2-4 helicopters that were flyable. The NVA anti-aircraft guns were taking a toll. They were ordered to take the briefings over. This time they listened. Perhaps the most important recommendation was using one additional trailing wingman in their gunship daisy chains to better cover each other.

Operation Lamar Plain lasted from 15 May 69 – August 14, 1969. Five CMOH awards were awarded to men fighting in the contested areas west of Tam Ky from 13 May 69 – 2 June 1969. The future Secretary of State, Maj. Colin Powell, was the G3 Officer for the Americal Division. He was only a major and was directing officers who were 1-2 two grades senior to him during the operation. The 1/501st Inf. Bn. was in charge of the operation over the 2/501st Inf. Bn. and the 1/46th Inf. Bn. which was then under the command of the Americal Division.

A book was released in 2021 by Ed Sherwood titled "Courage Under Fire". It helps explain the operation from the 1/501st Inf. Bde point of view. It is available on Amazon.

The ADVA Historian has combat after action reports and etc. that can be provided upon request.

Comments by ADVA Historian: I was a helicopter crewchief for one year and observed a few things in two years with an Americal Division Aviation Battalion. Pilots had to be highly skilled, but there were things that were really pushing the edge.

1. Gunships. Crazy how the Charlie models had to bounce and slide down the active to get airspeed up to transition to fly off. Spraying sparks from the skids, they would eventually stagger into the air.
2. Slicks. UH-1Ds were underpowered. On hot days we had to slide out over the edge of hilltops and basically free fall to make transition airspeed. The UH-1H helicopters with 300 more horsepower were a lot more tolerant especially for center of balance issues.
3. Night time flare missions and monsoon weather made difficult flying situations. Vertigo issues and getting lost over the South China Sea added a lot of stress.
4. There were issues with ground control systems that we trusted when we were lost in IFR situations. These resulted in pilots being guided into mountains or out to sea. The high number of incidents that occurred made me feel that the enemy had something affecting our systems that we were not aware of.
5. It was dangerous to be in the air after a couple weeks of our units not taking fire. The pilots would become careless and fly like they were stateside. Then after a flare up in action with helicopters in their unit shot up, the pilots were a bit more careful. Something like birds that are more careful following an attack on their flock.
6. I often have heard from pilots that the 105mm howitzers were not as effective as the 2.75 inch rockets. The 105mm rounds we were using were made in WWII with an old type of explosive. The 2.75 inch rockets had an explosive material that was 1,000 times more powerful as from WWII. Initially I had read an article that stated the 2.75 inch rockets were equivalent to a much larger 105mm round. It didn’t make sense until I found that the explosive was much more powerful.
7. I have seen more than one 2.75 inch rocket accidently fired off from parked helicopters in their revetments. I remember being told that the rockets only needed 1.5 volts to fire. Each time the rockets hit and penetrated a 55 gallon barrel filled with sand. It was a little amazing how the rocket accelerated right through the barrels. The barrels were mainly there to protect our helicopters from mortar and rocket atttacks. The impact with the barrel at least stopped the warhead from arming. On a couple of these incidents that was very fortunate. This was because the rockets landed very close to an open door leading to ammo dump for my Battalion.

The following section will contain selected information from Operation Reports and Lessons Learned reporting related to the 71st Aviation Company:

AVDF-CG Task Force OREGON 6 August 1967
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967. (RCS-CSFOR-65 (U)

h. (U) The 161st Assault Helicopter Company arrived 18 April to assume the general aviation support of the Task Force and the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** arrived as the direct aviation support of the 196th Inf. Bde.

i. (U) The medium support helicopter company arrived at Chu Lai on 21 April.

j. (U) When aviation units arrived in the Task Force TAOR, many problems involving the aviation unit's locations had to be resolved. The insecure and unprepared area at Duc Pho prevented the 174th Assault Helicopter Company from basing all their aircraft at this position and prevented their direct support maintenance detachment from moving with them. Due to a late change in plans when USMC aviation units were not able to vacate the Chu Lai area, the home base operating room of the 161st and **71st Assault Helicopter Companies was restricted.**

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(3) Mobile Construction Battalion 71 (Seabee) at Chu Lai:

(a) Expansion of facilities at the Chu Lai Airfield to accommodate the **71st Airmobile Co (Lt)** and the 178th Airmobile Co (Med).

HEADQUARTERS, 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96374

AVGD_BC
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period 31 July 1967 (RCS_CS FOR 65)

Section I: Significant Organizational Activities

1. (C) General

a. The mission of the **14th CAB** is to provide timely direct and general aviation support to the elements of Task Force Oregon and selected units within I CTZ and to maintain a Provisional Aviation Battalion Headquarters to provide command, control, administration and logistics for separate aviation units assigned to the Task Force.

b. Major organizational changes during this quarter were:

(1) The permanent attachment of the **71st** and 178th Aviation Companies per G.O. 15, Headquarters 17th CAG, dated 20 Jun 67, effective 21 April 1967.

(2) The attachment of the **14th CAB** with assigned units to Task Force Oregon per C.O.'s 3209 dated 27 June 1967, and 3568 dated 15 July 1967, Headquarters, USARV, effective 1 July 1967.

(3) The 534th Medical Detachment was assigned to the 14th CAB 1 July 1967.

c. The 534th Medical Detachment closed at Chu Lai on 1 July 1967, and began immediate operations under control of the Battalion Surgeon.

d. Aircraft assets and their location at the close of this reporting period are as follows:

UNIT	NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT	HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
HHD, 14TH CAB	1 U6A	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 572 035)
71st Avn Co	21 UH1D, 7 UH-1C	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 541 064)
161st Avn Co	21 UH-1D, 7 UH-1B	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 575 033)
174th Avn Co	20 UH-1D, 8 UH-1C	Duc Pho, RVN (BS 812 382)
176th Avn Co	20 UH-1D, 8 UH-1C	Duc Pho, RVN (BS 845 370)
178th Avn Co	16 CH-47A, 1 UH-1C,	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 547 057)
400 TC Det	2 OH-23G	

.....

(3) In order to give the best possible combat support, units of the battalion were dispersed as follows:

AVN UNIT	UNIT SUPPORTED
71st Aviation Company	DS to 196th Light Infantry Brigade
161st Aviation Company	GS to Task Force Oregon
174th Aviation Company	DS to 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne
178th Aviation Company	GS to Task Force Oregon

HEADQUARTERS, 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96374

AVGD_BC
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period 31 July 1967 (RCS_CS FOR 65)

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(12) During most of May, the Task Force Oregon Psyops section conducted extensive operations in the Northern sections of the TAOR to inform RVN nationals that a curfew had been imposed on all waterways between the hours of 2100 - 0500. On 29 May the **71st Aviation Company** launched the first Firefly mission in the AO. Section advisors and/or Province Chiefs rode in the C&C ship of the team. The team has been very successful. In one night alone they destroyed 148 sampans, 13 structures and were credited with 14 VC killed.

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(15) On 150020 July, two gunships and a flareship from the **71st Aviation Company** were scrambled to attack a North Vietnamese Trawler driven shoreward by the Navy near the mouth of the RIVIERE DE SA KY (BS 7882). They were relieved on station at 0130 by ships of the 161st Aviation Company. At 0300 coordination was effected with the ROK MC Brigade to air assault 492 ROK Marines into LZ's to secure and capture the ship. By 0930 all troops were on the ground and the ship and cargo of arms and ammunition were in friendly hands.

...

d. Class III:

(2) 18 May 67 - The multi-point refueling facility for the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** was moved from the East-West runway to the West parking ramp at Chu Lai. The elements of the system, consisting of two 10,000 gallon bladders and a 350 GPM pump, were moved by the 94th S & S Bn in two days. The 1200 gallon tankers organic to the 71st provided JP-4 to the helicopters during the move.

HEADQUARTERS, 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96374

AVGD_BC
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period 31 July 1967 (RCS_CS FOR 65)

f. Base Development:

(1) Chu Lai Area: Construction of cantonment areas, parking ramps, heliports, and improvement of unit roads was accomplished by assigned engineer support or by self-help. In April 1967 a letter was forwarded to Task Force Oregon Engineer requesting a heliport, cantonment areas, and parking ramps be constructed. This request was approved and a work order was given to MCB 71, Seabees, for execution or the programmed construction. The 161st Aviation Company's heliport contains 32 parking pads, an 8 point refueling area, and 140,000 square feet of M8A1 matting for the maintenance ramp. The parking ramps for the **71st** and 178th Aviation Companies required more than 140,000 square feet of M8A1 matting. The cantonment areas of the 161st Aviation Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment were constructed by the 9th Marine Engineer Battalion.

A total of 89 "strong backs" (tent frames with floors - 16' x 32') were built of which 26 were covered with corrugated tin roofs. The Marine Engineers constructed required latrines, showers, water towers, and service roads in the cantonment area. Approximately 15 buildings (formally occupied by Marine units) were assigned to each the 178th and the **71st Aviation Companies**. The remainder of each company is housed in floored tents without frames. A letter request was submitted to secure lumber, screenwire, nails and fixtures to construct frames on the existing tent floors for both companies prior to monsoon season. The request is under study at this time.

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p. Item: "Firefly" Operations:

Discussion: The **71st Aviation Company** introduced "Firefly" operations into the Central Highlands during this reporting period. The terrain and waterways formations are such that a revision of techniques was desirable. An aerial flare capability was added to the team. Missions were highly successful.

Observation: The additional aerial flare capability to the light ship of the "Firefly" team allowed minute search capability over water, islands, intersecting valley passes and parallel streams and strips of land. Combinations of two flare drops from 2500 feet absolute, has proven to be the best application. High and low ship techniques remain the same.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Task Division, Force OREGON (Americal Division) Period Ending 31 July 1967 (U)

ITEM: (C) Effectiveness of Fire-Fly Mission.

DISCUSSION: (C) It has been known in the past that VC activity increases during the hours of darkness. **The 71st Aviation Company** conducted several Fire-Fly missions between the hours of 2100 and 0400 with very significant results. On two of the more successful missions, the VC were caught openly shipping supplies up and down inland waterways. The first incident accounted for 78 sampans destroyed.

OBSERVATION: (C) It has been evident that the VC have been conducting extensive resupply operations after the hours of darkness. Fire-fly operations have denied the enemy complete freedom of movement and disrupted resupply and troop movements. With further development of night-lighting devices, the cover of darkness will no longer be an advantage to the enemy.

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AS OF 31 JULY 1967

TASK FORCE OREGON TROOPS

14th Avn Bn
71st Aslt Heptr Co
161st Aslt Heptr Co
174th Aslt Heptr Co
176th Aslt Heptr Co
178th Aslt Heptr Co

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1967 (U)

g. Command.

(1) LTC Carroll C. Isaacs, OF 100 091, Armor, assumed command of the battalion **(14th Combat Aviation Battalion)** on 7 August 1967.

(2) **Major Joe K. Bell**, 04 031 035, Armor, assumed command of the **71st Aviation Company** on 8 September 1967.

(3) The 161st Aviation Company was commanded by Major Donald S Galla, 04 031 301, Infantry.

(4) The 174th Aviation Company was commanded by Major Thomas W. Wheat Jr., 04 009 596, Artillery.

(5) The 176th Aviation Company was commanded by Major Donald W. Phillips, 08 425 40, Artillery.

(6) Major John M. Kalina, 01 936 675, Infantry assumed command of the 178th Aviation Company on 19 October 1967.

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(3) In order to give the best possible combat support, units of the battalion were dispersed as follows:

AVN UNIT	UNIT SUPPORTED
71st Aviation Company	Direct Support to 196th Light Infantry Brigade
161st Aviation Company	General Support to Americal Division
174th Aviation Company	Direct Support to 3rd Brigade, 4th Inf Div
Aviation Company	Direct support to 1st Bde, 101st Abn Inf Div
178th Aviation Company	General support to Americal Division

.....

(5) On 10 August one gunship from the **71st Aviation Company** and one gunship from the 161st Aviation Company scrambled to the vicinity of BS7578 to assist two Navy Swift Boats that were being fired on. The gunships made repeated runs on the enemy position until all ground fire had ceased. Only one enemy KBA was confirmed, however friendly forces did not move into the area and therefore no body count was made. (It is felt however that there were many more enemy casualties).

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4. (C) Logistics

c. Class II and IV: No significant problems encountered during the quarter. On 15 September 1967 cargo sling equipment was obtained from the 221st depot and reissued to units of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and 101st Airborne in support logistical projects. Also during the quarter 4 each trucks, forklift were obtained through personal liaison from Cam Ranh Depot for all units except **71st Aviation Company**.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 October 1967 (U)

A. Command

1. (U) General Officer Assignments and Promotions.

a. Brigadier General S. H. Matheson assumed command of Task Force Oregon on 22 September 1967 vice Major General Richard T. Knowles.

b. Brigadier General S. W. Koster assumed command of Task Force Oregon on 22 September 1967 vice Brigadier General S. H. Matheson. BG Matheson resumed command of the 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div.

c. Brigadier General Charles W. Ryder was assigned as Assistant Division Commander on 5 October 1967.

d. **Brigadier General S. W. Koster assumed command of the 23d Infantry (Americal) Division on 25 October 1967 on the activation of the Americal Division.**

e. Brigadier General S. W. Koster was promoted to Major General (Brevet) on 26 October 1967.

AMERICAL DIVISION TROOP LIST
AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1967

1. (C) HQ AMERICAL DIVISION TROOPS

HHC, Americal Division
1st Sqdn, 1st Cav (OPCON 196th Lt Inf Bde)
14th Cbt Avn Bn
71st Aslt Hcptr Co
161st Aslt Hcptr Co
174th Aslt Hcptr Co
176th Aslt Hcptr Co
39th Engr Bn (Cbt)
544th Engr Co (-)
509th Sig Bn (-)
Co A, 36th Sig Bn (Spt Opns)
Co C, 459th Sig Bn (Cmd Opns)
4th Plt (+), 167th Radio Relay Co
4th Plt (-), Co B, 3d AMTRAC Bn (USMC)(OPCON 196th Lt Inf Bde)
148th MP Plt
Div MI Det (Prov)
O/L6, Det 31, 5th Weather Sqdn (USAF)
Tactical Air Control Party (USAF)(Prov)
4th Plt, 29th CA Co
6th Plt, 29th CA Co

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 October 1967 (U)

[Historian Note: At this time the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion was still part of the 1st Aviation Bde. Later in 1968 was a retroactive order that transferred the unit into the Americal Division along with the 123rd Combat Aviation Battalion. Personnel there were allowed to wear the 1st Aviation Bde patch to show their prior service with the 1st Aviation Bde, but the active unit patch was required to be the Americal Division.]

c. Non-brigade division units are listed below according to whether or not they have organic unit personnel sections:

WITH ORGANIC UPS	WITHOUT ORGANIC UPS
39th Engr Bn	HHC (P), TFO
2d Bn, 11th Arty	HHC, 15th Spt Bde, Co C, 25th Med
3d Bn, 16th Arty	HHC, 94th S&S Bn, 163d Trans Co
3d Bn, 18th Arty	3d Plt, 10th Trans Co
2d Sqdn, 11th Armd Cav	221st S&S Bn
509th Sig Bn	HMSC, 188th Maint Bn
14th Avn Bn	335th Avn Trans Co
	148th MP Plt, Hq TFO
	3d Mil Hist Det, Hq TFO
	1st Sqdn, 1st Armd Cav
	258th PSC
	MI Det

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

Section I: Significant Organizational Activities

1. (C) General

a. The mission of the **14th CAB** is to provide timely direct and general aviation support to the elements of the Americal Division and selected units within I Corps Tactical Zone.

b. Major organizational changes during this quarter were:

(1) The 161st Aviation Company was redesignated A Company 123d Aviation Battalion and released from assignment to 14th Combat Aviation Battalion and assigned to the Americal Division effective 15 January 1968 per General order #300 Hq USARPAC, dtd 2 December 1967.

(2) Troop C, 7 Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry was attached to 14th Combat Aviation Battalion and OPCON to the Americal Division effective 3 December 1967 per General Order #30, Hq 17th Aviation Group, dated 30 November 1967.

c. Aircraft assets and their location at the close of this reporting period are as follows:

UNIT	NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT	HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
HHD, 14TH CAB 14th Sec Plt 348th Avn Det 534th Med Det	1 U6A	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 572 035)
71st Avn Co **94th Sig Det** **151st TC Det**	**18 UH1D, 7 UH-1C**	**Chu Lai, RVN (BT 541 064)**
174th Avn Co 409th TC Det 452nd Sig Det 756th Med Det	17 UH-1D, 8 UH-1C	Duc Pho, RVN (BS 812 382)
176th Avn Co 411th TC Det 454th Sig Det	17 UH-1D, 8 UH-1C	Chu Lai. RVN (BT 527 116)
178th Avn Co 400 TC Det	14 CH-47A, 1 UH-1C,	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 547 057)
Trp C, 7th Sqdn, 17th Air Cav	5 UH-1H, 10 UH-1C 10 OH-6A	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 527 116)

d. Transportation and Signal Detachments continue to remain attached to each Aviation Company to facilitate aircraft and avionics maintenance support.

e. Medical support assets have been divided to afford aviation medical support at both Chu Lai and Duc Pho.

f. Command.

(1) The **14th Combat Aviation Battalion** was commanded by LTC Carroll C. Isaacs, OF 100 091, Armor.

(2) Major Robert D. Fitzgerald, 05 930 052, Infantry, assumed command of the **71st Aviation Company** on 18 January 1968.

(3) The 174th Aviation Company was commanded by Major Thomas W. Wheat Jr., 04 009 596, Artillery.

(4) Major Paul E. Jackson, 04 025 832, Artillery, assumed command of the 176th Aviation Company on 3 November 1967.

(5) Major Ernest M. Wood Jr., 04 010 688, Artillery, assumed command of the 178th Aviation Company on 19 December 1967.

(6) Troop C, 7th Sqdn, 17th Air Cavalry was commanded by Major James D. Marett, 04 023 646, Armor.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

2. (C) Intelligence and Counterintelligence.

a. During the period 1 November 1967 - 31 January 1968 the **14th Combat Aviation Battalion** had 142 aircraft hit by hostile fire. This represents a decrease of 24% from the total of the preceding quarter.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

AMERICAL DIVISION TROOP LIST
(AS OF 31 Jan 68)

1. HQ AMERICAL DIVISION

14th Cbt Avn Bn (Attached)
71st Aslt Hel Co
174th Aslt Hel Co
176th Aslt Hel Co
178th Aslt Hel Co
123 Avn Bn
496th Trans Det (Attached)
449th Sig Det (Attached)
Trp C, 7th Sqdn, 17th Cav (Attached)

.....

(12) USARV General Order 102, 9 Jan 68, attached the **14th Avn Bn** to the Americal Div, effective 1 Jan 68.

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b. Since 1 November 1967, Americal Division elements have performed the following MEDCAP activities:

UNIT	NO OF VISITS	PATIENTS
Division Artillery	64	2,798
Division Surgeon	2	950
196th Inf Bde	101	6,743
*198th Inf Bde	278	25,591
**11th Inf Bde	14	2,706
3d Bde 4th Inf Div	49	6,085
3d Bde 1st Air Cav	120	14,748
1st Bde 101st Abn Div	15	3,537
15th SPT Bde	5	635
14th AVN Bn	18	1,614

* 198th Inf Bde joined the Division on 21 October 1967.
** 11th Inf Bde joined the Division on 17 December 1967.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 16th Combat Aviation Group, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

1. (C) SECTION I, OPERATIONS: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

a. (C) GENERAL

(1) The quarter commenced with the 16th Group's two battalions, the 14th **Combat Aviation Battalion** and the 212th Combat Support Battalion heavily engaged in providing aviation support to suppress the enemy's Tet Offensive in the I Corps Tactical Zone. The heaviest fighting was concentrated in and near the City of Hue, which was one of the main objectives of the VC and NVA forces. The gunships of the 212th Combat Support Aviation Battalion were extensively instrumental in providing support to the ground forces during this battle.

(2) In addition to the many extra flying hours required, each unit was required to increase its internal security to protect their assets against enemy ground and stand off fire attacks. Additionally, concurrent effort was applied to improving the defensive posture and alert procedures of all units.

(3) A warning order attaching the 308th Combat Aviation Battalion was received on 9 March 1968. The order called for the 308th Battalion to be attached to the 16th Combat Aviation Group effective 15 March 68, with operational control invested to the 101st Airborne Division. Attachment became effective as the units passed North of 14 degrees 30 minutes North latitude. The 308th Combat Aviation Battalion completed its move from the III Corps area to the vicinity of Hue Phu Bai in the I Corps area and was declared fully operational on 12 April 1968.

(4) C Troop 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry was redesignated F Troop, 8th Cavalry on 1 April 68. With the change of designation, the unit became organic to the Americal Division.

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(b) Unit Commanders

14th CAB	LTC Carroll C. Issacs OF100091 from 7 Aug 67 to 6 Feb 1968
	LTC Ray M. Carson OF106541 from 7 Feb 1968 to present

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 16th Combat Aviation Group, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

STATION LIST
16th COMBAT AVIATION GROUP

Chu Lai	
14th CAB	**APO 96374**
21st RAC (212th CSAB)	APO 96374
71st AHC	**APO 96374**
176th AHC	APO 96374
178th ASHC	APO 96374
Duc Pho:	
174th AHC	APO 96374
Da Nang	
16th CAG	**APO 96337**
212th CSAB	APO 96337
245th SAC	APO 96337
282nd AHC	APO 96337
Hue-Phu Bai	
131st SAC (212th CSAB)	APO 96308
220th RAC (212th CSAB)	APO 96308
Corps Prov Avn Co (212th CSAB)	APO 96308
308th CAB	APO 96383
17th AHC	APO 96383
188th AHC	APO 96383
200th ASHC	APO 96383

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LESSONS LEARNED - VC/NVA TET OFFENSIVE

SECTION I - Planning and Preparation Which Affected the Command's Readiness Posture upon Initiation of the TET Offensive.

a. Item: Physical Security Plans

b. Discussion: This command was at any increased condition of readiness upon the start of enemy activities. The group was engaged in routine operational and administrative functions. **The only significant enemy activity prior to 29 January in any area occupied by elements of this group was at Chu Lai on 27 January when an enemy mortar attack was conducted at 2300 hours on the cantonment area of Headquarters, 14th CAB.** There were no casualties and no significant damage was reported. Each unit of the group is tenant at a U.S. installation except for one O-1 platoon located at Quang Ngai and one O-1 platoon located at Hue Citadel. All units had standing operation procedures to be taken in event of alert. All units had defensive plans integrated into area defense plans. Most areas had been exposed to enemy mortar and rocket attacks in the past so when the TET offensive commenced the units had sound, workable plans and procedures to guide their actions. It should be noted; however, that there was no indication on the evening of 29 January that an increased readiness posture was necessary. When the first rounds landed that evening the alert conditions went from normal to attack in progress. Although the attack was sudden, personnel responded in a calm manner and within minutes after the mortar attack, the interior perimeter was manned. Exterior perimeters are always manned so defense against ground attack is always present.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

1. HQ, AMERICAL DIVISION

HHC, Americal Div
1st Sqdn, 1st Cav
26th Engr Bn
123d Avn Bn
406th TC Det
449th Sig Det
F Troop 8th Cav
523d Sig Bn
23d MP Co
258th Pers Svc Co (Attached)
Co E, 51st Inf (LRP)
63d Inf Plat (Combat Tracker Team)
3d Mil Hist Det
Americal Combat Center (PROV)
408th RR Det
415th RR Det
601st RR Det
14th Avn Bn (OPCON)
71st Aslt Hel Co (OPCON)
174th Aslt Hel Co (OPCON)
176th Aslt Hel Co (OPCON)
178th Aslt Hel Co (OPCON)

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(12) USARV General Order 951, 1 Mar 68, as amended by General Order 1257, detached the 14th Avn Bn and companies, effective 1 Mar 68. Operational control remained with the Division.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

Americal Division Troop List
(As of 1 Apr 68)

1. **HQ, AMERICAL DIVISION**
HHC, Americal Div
1st Sqdn, 1st Cav
26th Engr Bn
123d Avn Bn
406th TC Det
449th Sig Det
F Troop 8th Cav
523d Sig Bn
23d MP Co
258th Pers Svc Co (Attached)
Co E, 51st Inf (LRP)
63d Inf Plat (Combat Tracker Team)
3d Mil Hist Det
Americal Combat Center (PROV)
408th RR Det
415th RR Det
601st RR Det
14th Avn Bn (OPCON)
71st Aslt Hel Co (OPCON)
174th Aslt Hel Co (OPCON)
176th Aslt Hel Co (OPCON)
178th Aslt Hel Co (OPCON)
Americal CA Co, PROV (OPCON)
4th Plat, CA Co (OPCON)
6th Plat, CA CO (OPCON)
9th Plat., CA CO (OPCON)
O/L6, Det 31, 5th Weather Sqdn (USAF) OPCON)
Tactical Air Control Party, Americal (OPCON)
39th Engr Bn (Area Support)
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(12) USARV General Order 951, 1 Mar 68, as amended by General Order 1257, detached the **14th Avn Bn** and companies, effective 1 Mar 68. Operational control remained with the Division.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

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c. Significant data for the **14th Avn Bn,** which is OPCON to the Division, for the reporting period are:

ITEM	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL	
Hours	8,221	9,351	7,652	25,224	
Troops	37,326	50,585	49,277	137,188	
Cargo Tons	8,490	7,648	8,406	24,544	
Sorties	29,379	36,374	32,659	98,385	(?bal)
Medical Evacuation	76	14	39	129	
VC KBA	546	293	83	922	
Structures destroyed	399	205	476	1,080	
Sampans Destroyed	107	99	125	331	
Ordinance expended:					
7.62mm	881,135	1,060,525	921,347	2,863,007	
40mm	13,910	11,142	14,040	38,892	
2.75" rockets	6,515	6,128	5,635	18,278	

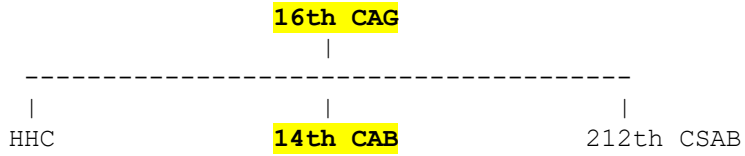
d. Training.

(1) A standardization program for all aviators was initiated.

(2) The battalion continues to utilize quotas for AAMTAP and NETT courses.

AVGM_SC
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 16th CAG for period 31 July 1968, (RCS, CSFOR 65 (RI) (U)

c. (U) Organization:
(1) Structure:



(2) Organizational Changes:
(a) **The 132nd ASHC was assigned to the 14th CAB on 23 May 68.**
(b) The 272nd ASHC was assigned to the 308th CAB on 6 June 68.
(c) the 308th CAB was released from attachment to 16th CAG on 1July 68, and assigned to the 101st Air Cav Div.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 October 1968 (U)

(1) Quang Tin and Quang Nam.

(a) Enemy initiated activity consisted primarily of small arms, AW, mortar and rocket fires in scattered attacks against NDPs, fire bases and district and provincial towns. In late August and late September the 1st MF Regt, 2d NVA Division, deployed to attack Tam Ky City from staging areas in the piedmont to the west and southwest. During October the 1st MF Regt was not identified in a major engagement, probably indicative of reduced combat effectiveness. The 3d NVA Regt was identified in an attack on the RF/PF outpost at Hau Duc. In this action the 3d NVA Regt suffered losses sufficient to render one battalion combat ineffective. During October enemy initiated activity dropped to an extremely low level, as MF/NVA and LF units engaged in supply and replacement activities. The enemy continued periodic ambushes and interdiction of QL-1.

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5. On 17 Aug, vic BT 136 546, elements of the **71st Avn Co** observed and engaged an unidentified number of VC moving across the Song The Bon. The ensuing engagement resulted in 2 VC KIA. C-4/21 Inf moved into the area of contact and killed an additional 33 VC and captured 1xM-1 rifle and 1 CAR 15.

..... **7. NON DIVISIONAL UNITS (Non-Americal)**

14th Combat Avn Bn
71st Aslt Spt Hel Co
132d Aslt Spt Hel Co
174th Aslt Hel Co
176th Aslt Hel Co
178th Aslt Hel Co
16th TC Det
94th Sign Det
151st TC Det
348th A. S. Det
400th TC Det
39th Engr Bn
4th CA Plt
6th CA Plt
51st CA Plt
Americal RR co (PROV)
408th RR Det
415th RR Det
601st RR Det
O/I6, Det 31, 5th Weather Sqdn USAF
USASSG, ACSI, DA
160th Engr Det
506th Engr Det
548th Engr Det
600th Engr Det
603d Engr Det

(3) Key Personnel:

(a) 16th Combat Aviation Group Headquarters:

CO: COL HANZ K. DRUENER, 065310 thru 29 Jun 69.

COL Delbert L. TOWNSEND, 0510-16-8980 30 Jun 69 to present.

AVDF-ABSC
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (16th Combat Aviation Group) Period Ending (31 July 1969) RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

(b) Unit Commanders:
14th CAB: LTC ROBERT E. WILSON thru 30 Jun 69.
LTC JERRY I. TEAGUE 30 Jun 69 to present.
123rd Avn Bn: LTC RAYMOND V. BROWN thru 17 Jul 69.
LTC RICHARD K. DIETSCH 18 Jul 69 to present.
335th Trans Co: MAJ WALTER E. BASS present.

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(4) Current Organization:

(a) Organization Chart and Station List at Incl 1.

(b) On 15 May 69, F Troop 8th Cavalry was attached to the 123rd Aviation Battalion by Americal Division G.O. 3390, TC-D15, dated 13 May 69.

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(2) During this quarter the **16th Combat Aviation Group** had 227 aircraft hit by enemy ground fire. This figure represents a decrease of 16% from the preceding quarter. An analysis of these hits by altitude and mission is given below.

ALTITUDE		**MISSION**	
0 - 100	105	C & C	34
100 - 500	49	CA	20
500 - 1000	33	VR	48
1000 - 1500	25	CBT CGO	56
1500 - HIGHER	15	ARMED ESC	28
		CLOSE AIR SPT	21
		MED EVAC	9
		MISC	7

(3) Summary of enemy anti-aircraft activity:

TYPE FIRE	SHOT AT	HIT	DOWNED
SA/AW	403	195	11
.50 Cal	40	25	7
Mortar	3	1	0
Airburst	8	6	2
TOTALS	454	227	20

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g. **Inspector General:** The 123rd Avn Bn received their Annual General Inspection on 8 July 1969 and received an overall rating of satisfactory. In addition the **14th CAB** received their Annual General Inspection on July 1969 and received an overall rating of satisfactory.

b. Operations.

(1) Placement of mines along LZ perimeter.

(a) Observation: Aircraft have received damage caused by un-intentional detonation of mines installed by friendly forces.

(b) Evaluation: This quarter three aircraft have received damage from unintentional detonation of mines placed along LZ perimeters by friendly forces.

(c) Recommendation: Upon initial radio contact with aircraft, ground commanders should inform the aviator if mines are employed in the vicinity of the landing area. Mines should not be placed where they will be a hazard to aircraft landing or taking off, and they should not be so sensitive as to be detonated by helicopter down draft.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

UNIT	HOURS	SORTIES	TROOPS CARRIED	TONS CARGO	MED EVAC	A/C RECOVERIES
HHC, 16th CAG	97	87	102	0	0	0
14th CAB	24,082	105,049	161,926	7,071	478	0
123rd Avn Bn	17,501	50,016	105,544	33,502	40	82
335th Trans Co	372	307	302	37	0	6
	42,052	155,459	267,874	40,610	518	88

UNIT	ENEMY KIA	SAMPANS	STRUCTURES	A/C LOST	A/C DAM
HHC, 16th CAG	0	0	0	0	0
14TH CAB	131	2	488	16	157
123rd Avn Bn	395	0	360	9	69
335th Trans Co	0	0	0	0	0
	526	2	848	25	226

AMMUNITION EXPENDED

UNIT	7.62	40MM	2.75
HHC, 16th CAG	0	0	0
14th CAB	2,758,000	18,000	18,600
123d Avn Bn	915,280	44,149	21,823
335th Trans Co	0	0	0
TOTAL	3,673,280	62,149	40,423

Incl 2, Operational Statistics, ORLL of 16th CAG for period ending 31 July 1969, RCS ACFOR-65 (RI) (C)

AVDF-GCLO 10 August 1969
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969.

4. 16TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP
HHC, 16th CAG (Cbt)
14th Combat Avn Bn
71st Avn Co (Aslt Hel)
174th Avn Co (Aslt Hel)
176th Avn Co (Aslt Hel)
534th Med Det
756th Med Det
14th Security Plt

123d Avn Bn (Cbt) (Inf Div)
132d Avn Co (Aslt Spt Hel) - This was only temporary
178th Avn Co (Aslt Spt Hel) – This was only temporary
E Co, 723d Maint Bn
F Troop, 8th Cav
415th Sig Det
570th Trans Det

335th Trans Co

[Historian Comment: The 71st Assault Helicopter Company is no longer listed as attached or OPCON. The 16th CAG is part of the Americal Division. Therefore we might find that the 14th Aviation Battalion is officially part of the Americal Division.]

(17) **14th CAB**. LTC Jerry L. Teague assumed command from LTC Robert E. Wilson on 30 June 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 16th Combat Aviation Group, Period Ending 31 October 1969 (U)

d. Plans, Operations, and Training

(1) Plans:

(a) The 16th CAG continues to provide Army Aviation support to the Americal Division.

(b) The Aero Scout concept will continue to be the primary method of employment for B Company, 123d Avn Bn. **With the attachment of D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry to the 123d Avn Bn on 1 October 1969**, the Battalion in essence becomes an Air Cavalry Squadron. The Battalion will remain in general support of the Division and direct support of the Brigades on a mission basis. A Company provides general support lift aircraft for the Division. B Company, 123d Avn Bn will normally support the 11th Inf Bde; D Troop, 1st Cavalry on the 198th Inf Bde; and F Troop, 8th Cavalry the 196th Inf Bde.

(c) The assignment of the 132nd and 178th Assault Support Helicopter Companies to the 14th CAB on 1 October 1969, increased the responsiveness of these aircraft to follow up combat assault requirements. They are frequently used to rapidly build up troop concentrations in LZs after they LZ has been secured and the enemy situation permits the use of CH-47 helicopters.

(d) **The 71st AHC**, 174th AHC and the 176th AHC will continue to support the 196th Inf Bde, 11th Inf Bde and 198th Inf Bde, respectively.

(e) The **132nd** and **178th Assault Support Helicopter Companies** assigned to the 14th CAB will remain in general support of the Division.

(f) The 14th CAB has been given the responsibility to operate a refuel point at Tien Phuoc, BT1114. Basic construction is completed and the point is expected to be operational during the second week of November 1969.

(g) A briefing team was formed to provide instruction on external load activities and CH-47 operations to all units within the Americal Division. It is too early to evaluate the results, however, there should be a notable improvement in the quality and efficiency of sling load operations.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 16th Combat Aviation Group, Period Ending 31 October 1969 (U)

(2) During the reporting period 182 aircraft of the 16th CAG were hit by enemy ground fire. An analysis of these hits by altitude (in feet) is reflected below:

ALT	O/G	T/O	LNDG	ENROUTE	TGT ATTACK	TOTAL BY ALT
0-100	11	14	24	31	11	91
100-200		2	6	1	4	13
200-300		2		1	2	5
300-400		3	2	3		8
400-500		1	2	1	1	5
500-600		3	3	2	2	10
600-700		1			1	2
700-800		1			1	2
800-900		1		1	3	5
900-1000					2	2
1000-1100			2	4	1	7
1100-1200				2	1	3
1200-1300			1	1		2
1300-1400						0
1400-1500				1		1
1500-1600		3	1	4	2	10
1600-1700				1		1
1700-1800						0
1800-1900		1		3		4
1900-2000					1	1
Over 2000		1	1	8		10
TOTAL	11	33	42	64	32	182

(3) Summary of antiaircraft activities by type of fire:

	.30	.50	AIRBURST	MORTAR	TOTAL
Shot At	186	29	2	3	220
Hit	118	22	5	5	150
Downed	18	12	2		32
TOTAL	332	63	9	8	402

16TH CAG AIRCRAFT STATUS AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1969

UNIT	OH-6		UH-1B/C		UH-1D/H		AH-1G		CH-47B	
	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
HHC, 16th CAG	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14th CAG	3	0	24	24	69	67			0	1
123d Avn Bn	17	17	4	4	33	31	15	15	32	32
335th Trans Co	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Total	23	17	28	26	104	100	15	15	32	32

UNIT	U-6A		U-1A	
	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
HHC, 16th CAG	0	0	0	1*
14th CAG	0	1*	0	0
123d Avn Bn	0	1*	0	0
335th Trans Co	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2*	0	1*

*Special Authorization

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 16th Combat Aviation Group, Period Ending 31 October 1969 (U)

(f) Examples of significant actions during the reporting period are as follows:

1 On 19 August 1969 the **71st AHC** was in support of the Que Son Valley Operation. Intense enemy activity south of LZ West in the vicinity of BT00122, to include .51 caliber anti-aircraft weapons resulted in the loss of two UH-1H aircraft. All aircraft operating in this vicinity were forced to fly contour flight to avoid the heavy enemy fire. Using this technique the normal support of the 196th Inf Bde was successfully accomplished.

2 On 22 September 1969, at 1000 hours, the **71st AHC** began the insertion of one company of the 3/21 Infantry, 196th Inf Bde, in the vicinity of BT0423. The initial lift into the LZ received intense fire and one aircraft was shot down on the LZ, with both the aircraft commander and crew chief being killed. During the ensuing action the **71st AHC** was reinforced with aircraft from the 176th AHC. The operation was successfully completed at 1800 hours with the battalion suffering 2 KIA, 13 WIA, 2 helicopters destroyed and 14 damaged, of which 6 were shot down and later recovered.

(2) **Operations by AO:**

(a) Operation Frederick Hill: Operation Frederick Hill, conducted by the 196th Infantry Brigade in conjunction with the 5th ARVN Regiment continued throughout the reporting period with contact varying from moderate to heavy through the first half of September, and declined to light and sporadic during the remainder of the reporting period. The reporting period opened with elements of 2-1 Infantry and F Troop 17th Cavalry concluding operations on Northern Barrier Island while Regional and Popular forces with elements from the US Marine Corps established blocking positions. Contact with the enemy remained extremely light as the deployment of allied forces into the area caused the enemy to exfiltrate the area avoiding contact. Several staging and harvest areas were destroyed and the northern portion of Barrier Island was neutralized as the operation concluded on 16 August. A two month lull in enemy activity ceased on the evening of 11 August 1969 as the enemy launched a series of coordinated attacks upon US forces, installations and GVN population centers. The focal point of the offensive was in the Frederick Hill AO. Several of the Fire Support Bases and sapper attacks. US casualties were moderate to heavy as they successfully repelled the ground probes and sapper attacks; inflicting heavy casualties upon the enemy. On the evening of 11 August 1969 D/3-21 Infantry vicinity AT973100 received small arms fire followed by a ground probe. They successfully repelled the ground probe employing organic weapons, artillery and gunships resulting in 5 US WIA(E), 50 NVA KIA, 5 NVA CIA, 5 IWC and 7 CSWC. At 0230H the same morning, the GVN population center of Tam Ky received six B-40 rockets and six 82MM mortar rounds scattered throughout the city resulting in 1 PF KIA, 5 civilians WIA, 1 VC KIA and 1 IWC. A half hour later, C/1-1 Cavalry and A/3-16 Artillery, while defending FSB Hawk Hill (BT231315), came under heavy mortar fire as they received approximately 100 rounds followed by a sapper attack that penetrated the perimeter before the attack was repelled by organic weapons fire, artillery and gunships. Results of the encounter were 13 NVA KIA, 4 IWC and 2 CSWC with 7 US KIA, 51 US WIA(E). At 0400H, F Troop 8th Cavalry (Air) vicinity BT228402 engaged and killed 15 NVA. On 13 August 1969 at 0847H, 3-21 Infantry while securing FSB Center (BT052253) received six 82mm mortar rounds resulting in 5 US WIA(E). During the following four day lull in enemy activity, the 1st Marine Division assumed the Quang Nam Province portion of the Americal Division TAOI, establishing a new northern boundary. By 18 August 1969, the first reactive operation of the period was initiated by elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade and the 5th ARVN Regiment as they engaged an NVA Regimental size force in the largest battle during the reporting period. This battle continued to the end of the month (Reference paragraph B(1)). From 1 to September, only scattered enemy contact was made. During the same time period, elements of 2-1 Infantry, 9th Engineers (USMC) and F Troop 17th Cavalry and Regional forces from Tam Ky conducted a land clearing operation northwest of Tam Ky (vic BT2524) targeting VCLF/VCI. Allied forces met little resistance as they moved into the area. Contact throughout this operation was scattered and light. On 16 September at 1100H, D/3-21 Infantry vicinity BT082206 engaged 10 NVA and killed 6 with negative friendly casualties. At 0001H on 8 September, a three day cease fire was initiated during which time all elements went into a defensive posture. The

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) **Operation Frederick Hill:**

day following the end of the cease fire, the enemy launched an attack at 0210H on FSB Siberia (AT901232) and Hiep Duc which initiated the second reactive operation within the Americal Division TAOI (reference paragraph B(2)) in which B/4-31 Infantry, Popular and Regional Forces and 2/5 ARVN Battalion, still operating around Hiep Duc, engaged and killed 29 NVA while suffering only light casualties. On 16 September at 1330H, the **71st Aviation Company,** flying in support of the 196th Infantry Brigade, engaged 120 VC vicinity BT280380 killing 12 VC. At 1735H on 17 September, A/3-82 Artillery vicinity BT262371 engaged 100 VC and killed 12. On 22 September at 0945H, B/3-21 Infantry combat air assaulted into a hot landing zone (BT043227). They engaged and killed 15 NVA and captured 1 crew-served weapon. Three UH-1 helicopters were shot down as they left the landing zone. Friendly casualties were 5 US KIA and 15 US WIA(E). At 1725H, 176th Aviation near the same area, engaged and killed 10 NVA. Light and sporadic enemy contact continued through the end of September. The monsoon season started at the beginning of October. Continued rainfall throughout the month, with heavy downpours during the first half of the month and scattered showers for the remainder of the month, resulted in limited combat operations. The enemy activity which continued through the end of the reporting period. Only three significant enemy contacts were recorded during the month of October. On 7 October 1868 at 1852H, A/4-31 Infantry vicinity AT940273 received twenty 82mm mortar rounds resulting in 1 US KIA and 6 US WIA(E). On 21 October, C/3-21 Infantry at 0800H engaged an unknown size NVA force vicinity BT090327 resulting in 5 NVA KIA and 2 US WIA(E). On 27 October at 1415H vicinity BT220149, D/2-1 Infantry detonated a booby trapped 105mm artillery round killing 4 US personnel, 7 US were wounded (evac). The reporting period closed with no further significant enemy contacts. Results of operations during the reporting period in the Frederick Hill AO are as follows:

	FRND		**ENEMY**
112	US KIA	417	VC KIA
598	US WIA(E)	1039	NVA KIA
123	US WIA(M)	215	DET
		4	PW/VC
		5	PW/NVA
		16	CH/VC
		43	CIV DEF
		141	IN CIV
		140	IWC
		35	CSWC

AVDF-HL 10 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 January 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

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(9) On 25 Jan, CLDC received 8 122mm rockets. Counter-battery from hills 76 and 270, was fired and C/1-6 Inf, engaged the enemy vic BT453022 resulting in 3 VC KIA and 3 IWC. Documents taken from one of the KIA identified the 78th MF Rocket Bn as the unit in contact. Also on 25 Jan the 39th ARVN Rangers engaged an UNSEF vic BT198502 resulting in 43 VC K??, 1 VC, 2 IW, and 55 ChiCom H/Grenades CIA. B/1-46 Inf, vic BT271021, found and destroyed 15 RPG rounds, 400 ChiCom H/Grenades, 700 ChiCom H/Grenade charges, 100 feet of fuze, 20 electric blasting caps, 6 RPG propellent sticks and evacuated 1 IW and 1 US protective mask on 26 Jan. On the 27th, CIDG from Tien Phuoc engaged an estimated platoon believed to be from the 72d LF Bn, vic BT133013, resulting in 2 NVA KIA, 1 NVA, 2 IW, 12 82mmm mortar rounds, and 2 packs CIA. LZ Young received 4 82mm mortar rounds, with NCD. B/3-21 Inf, vic BT091259, on 29 Jan, engaged an estimated 45 NVA, probably from the 2d Bn, 3d Regt, resulting in 6 NVA KIA, 1 NVA, 1 IW, 9 packs, and 450 lbs of rice CIA. On 30 Jan, B/1-1 Cav, vic BT219169, received 6 RPG rounds and SA fire from an unidentified UNSEF. Fire was returned resulting in 5 VC KIA and minor US casualties. F/8th Cav and **71st Avn**, in support of 4-5 ARVN, vic BT2047, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 18 NVA KIA. 4-5 ARVN, that contact, accounted for 7 NVA KIA, 2 VC KIA, 3 NVA, 9 VC, 6 IW, 1 compass and documents CIA and 2 Hoi Chanhs. During January, Americal Forces accounted for 414 VC/NVA KIA. Enemy units expended 163 mixed mortar and rocket rounds against US installations and NDP's.

AVDF-HL **10 May 1970**

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 January 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

c. Operations by AO:

(1) **Operation Frederick Hill**, conducted by the 196th Infantry Brigade in close cooperation and coordination with the 5th ARVN Regiment, continued throughout the reporting period, concentrating on combat operations to increase the level of security of the pacification operations near the coastal area. Contact varied from light and sporadic during the first two months to moderate during the last month. The reporting period opened with the 196th Infantry Brigade conducting 2 preemptive operations with the 5th and 6th ARVN Regiments to further secure the population centers of Que Son and Thang Binh. The ARVN forces deployed units into two areas in the vicinity of BT1845 and BT1032 while the Americal Division supplemented those ARVN forces with one infantry company and one cavalry troop. The operation terminated with only light and sporadic contact reported except for one major contact by the ARVN units. Only a few significant contacts were made during the month of November. At 1525 hours on the 9th of November, C/2-1st Infantry, while on a search and clear mission, engaged and killed 5 VC in a brief skirmish. Several days later a command and control helicopter flying over the 196th, ARVN operation west of Thang Binh received a heavy volume of small arms fire plus some RPG rounds and crashed, killing 2 and wounding 5 of the 9 occupants. On 22 November, B/3-21st Infantry, engaged an unknown size VC force, killing 6 in a short but fierce battle and suffering 5 killed and 6 wounded. On the last day of the month D Troop, 1-1st Air Cavalry engaged an estimated company of VC in the vicinity of BS041965 killing 12 of the enemy. The only significant contact during the month of December involved F Troop, 8th Air Cavalry, as they engaged and killed 6 VC in a brief skirmish in the vicinity of BT1230. The month of January 1970 began with moderate fighting in the area west of Tam Ky and then dwindled to light and sporadic as the reporting period came to a close. On the 4th of January at 1405 hours in the vicinity of BT097328 B/3-21st Infantry, engaged and killed 6 VC in a brief battle. Two days later a two day battle began in the area west of Tam Ky (reference paragraph b(2)). On the 9th and 10th of January, F Troop, 8th Air Cavalry, engaged an unknown size force west of Tam Ky and killed 14. On 11 January, Recon Platoon, 3-21st Infantry, at 0215 hours ambushed an estimated platoon of NVA in the vicinity of BT077276 killing 8 NVA and capturing one individual weapon. Two Americal soldiers were killed and two were wounded. At 1020 hours on the same day, C/3-21st Infantry, about 4 kilometers south east of their recon platoon, engaged 12 NVA in a brief battle, killing 5 and capturing one individual weapon. On 12 January, at 0945 hours, C/2-1st Infantry, in the vicinity of BT210224, engaged a VC squad and killed 5. At 1500 hours on the same day in the same location as the contact on the 6th and 7th of January, two teams of cavalry and infantry engaged an unknown size NVA force in a two hour battle. Thirty-nine NVA were killed and 6 individual and 5 crew-served weapons were captured. Two Americal soldiers were killed and 11 wounded. The remainder of the month passed with only three other significant contacts. F Troop, 8th Air Cavalry, at 1150 hours on 21 January, eng**aged and killed 6 VC in the area west of Tam Ky. On 30 January, F Troop, 8th Cavalry and 71st Aviation Company**, flying in support of a 5th ARVN Regiment made contact north of Thang Binh,

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) Operation Frederick Hill

killing 8 and 10 NVA respectively. At 1205 hours on the same day, B Troop, 1-1st Cavalry engaged an UNSEF in a three hour long battle which resulted in 5 VC KIA and 6 US WIA(E). Results of operations during the reporting period for the Frederick Hill area of operation are as follows:

FRND	ENEMY
57 US KIA	497 VC KIA
315 US WIA(E)	317 NVA KIA
67 US WIA(M)	273 DET
	3 PW/VC
	5 PW/NVA
	32 CH/VC
	0 CH/NVA
	145 CIV DEF
	83 IN CIV
	163 IWC
	19 CSWC

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division, Period Ending 30 April 1970 (U)

(6) The first two weeks of March were characterized by an increase in contacts and attacks by fire in Quang Ngai (P). On 2 Mar, D/4-3 Inf, vic BS 618496 and BS 620501, in two separate attacks by fire received 13 60mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF with NCD. On 4 Mar, D/1-14 Arty, vic BS 576758, engaged an IOS sighting of 46 NVA resulting in 22 NVA KBA. On 5 Mar, 2-4 ARVN accounted for a total of 17 VC KIA in three separate contacts vic BS774549, BS 773548 and BS764856. On the same day, Tu Nghia PF's at the La Ha Bridge, vic BS674678, received 20 RPG rounds and SA fire from an unidentified UNSEF. This contact resulted in 1 VC KIA and 10 RPG rounds CIA. On 6 Mar, C/4-3 Inf, vic BS 608476, received 7 82mm mortar rounds, 2 RPG rounds, H/Grens and SA fire from an UNSEF. Fire was returned resulting in 1 VC KIA. Quang Ngai City, vic BS 651733, received 2 140mm rockets on 6 Mar. On 7 Mar, B/26 Engr, vic BS 702806, received 5 unknown type mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF resulting in NCD. On 7 Mar, Quang Ngai City received a 140 mm rocket from an unidentified UNSEF. On 8 Mar, 4-4 ARVN, while on operations north of Base Area 128, vic BS 408580, found an enemy base camp with 12 structures. The structures wee destroyed and 2200 lbs of rice, 1000 rounds of SA ammo and 3 RPG-2 rounds were evacuated. On 8 Mar, OP #1, vic BS 517779, received 4 60mm mortar rounds and SA fire from an unidentified UNSEF. The IOS at OP#1 sighted the suspected mortar position and D/1-14 Arty engaged the area resulting in 11 VC KBA. On 9 Mar, C/5-46 Inf, vic BS 681844, received 12 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF with NCD. On 10 Mar, Ha Thanh SF Camp received 4 82mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF. On 11 Mar, 3-6 ARVN, vic BS304561, engaged and killed 4 VC; 3 IW, 18 82mm mortar rounds, 500 rounds of SA ammo and 600 rounds of AW ammo were evacuated and 5400 lbs of rice was destroyed. On 11 Mar, D/4-3 Inf, vic BS 525513, received 15 60mm mortar rounds, 5 RPG rounds, and SA/AW fire from an unidentified UNSEF. Fire was returned resulting in 2 NVA KIA. On 12 Mar, D/1-14 Arty B/1-82 Arty, and D/6-11 Arty engaged an IOS sighting of an UNSEF vic BS 451762 resulting in 34 VC KBA. D/1-14 Arty later engaged two more IOS sightings, vic BS 471767 and BS 451762, accounting for 12 more KBA. On 14 Mar, D/3-1 Inf, vic BS 415404, found a hospital complex. Ten structures were destroyed and morphine, glucose, vitamin B-1 and 30 white uniforms were counted?. Three aircraft were forced to land during the second week of March. A UH-1H of the **71st Assault Helicopter Co** crashed vic BS 468608 and was not recoverable. A UH-1H from the 68th Med, vic BS 625515, was forced to land but later recovered. A UH-1H from the 176th Assault Helicopter Co, vic BS 445695, was forced to land but later recovered.

AVDF-HL **10 May 1970**

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 30 April 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

D. Operations.

1. (C) Operations Summary:

a. General: Americal Division Forces continued to conduct combat operations throughout the Division Tactical Area of Interest during the period 1 February 1970 to 30 April 1970 with contact continuing to be moderate in **Operation Frederick Hill** and light to moderate throughout the rest of the Americal Division's AO. The main area of enemy activity was in the Frederick Hill area of operation. **Operations Frederick Hill**, Geneva Park, Nantucket Beach, and Iron Mountain were conducted in conjunction and close coordination with the 2nd ARVN Division and continued throughout the period.

b. Major Engagements: During the three month reporting period, Americal forces were included in only one major engagement with enemy forces. This engagement was reactive in nature and took place in the Hiep Duc area of operation Frederick Hill on the last day of April. LZ's Siberia and Center were attacked as part of an expected major enemy offensive. There were 39 NVA and 4 VC KIA while US forces suffered 4 KIA, 10 WIA(E) and 1 WIA(M).

(1) **Operation Frederick Hill**, conducted by the 196th Infantry Brigade in close cooperation and coordination with the 5th ARVN Regiment, continued throughout the reporting period, concentrating on combat operations to increase the level of security of pacification operations near the coastal area. Contact remained moderate. The reporting period included a joint operation conducted by 1-46 Infantry and 5th ARVN Regiment in the vicinity of AT9700, AT9705 from 18 Feb to 27 Feb. Contact was light and sporadic during the operation with one significant exception. This was the capture of the enemy's main Quang Tin Province Hospital by 5th ARVN Regiment. Significant contacts were frequent throughout the rest of the Frederick Hill operation. On 1 Feb, C/1-46 engaged 16 NVA, killing 4 and capturing 2 in the vicinity of BT135001. That same day F/17 Cav engaged an unknown size enemy force, killing 1 NVA and capturing 4 individual weapons. Friendly losses were 4 WIA(E) and 3 WIA(M). US losses, when A/1-1 Cav detonated an unknown type mine, were 2 US KIA and 5 WIA(E). The next day F/17 Cav engaged an unknown size enemy force vicinity BT187330, killing 5 NVA at a cost of 2 minor injuries. The 71st AVN continued the action killing 5 more NVA without a loss. An enemy mortar attack against A/2-1 resulted in 10 WIA(E). Action remained sporadic until 10 Feb, when the NVA launched an attack on A/2-1's night defensive position at BT185241 with mortars, recoilless rifles, small arms fire and hand grenades. The enemy lost 7 killed and 2 weapons captured; US losses were 1 killed and 8 (WIA(E). On 116 Feb, B/1-1 Cav detonated a 25 pound mine at BT233288, resulting in 5 US WIA(E). R/2-1 Inf on 18 Feb at BT140230, engaged 15 VC, killing 5. The next day F/8 Cav, vicinity BT121225 suffered 1 US KIA and 9 US WIA(E) from enemy small arms fire. On 20 Feb, F/17 Cav engaged an unknown sized enemy force vicinity BT120323. Casualties were 7 US KIA and 12 WIA(E). Enemy losses wee unknown. Later that same evening A/2-1 engaged an unknown sized enemy force at the same location and suffered 5 killed and 10 wounded and evacuated. Enemy losses were again unknown, F/17 Cav later detonated an unknown type of mine and suffered 2 KIA and 5 WIA(E) at BT130320. On the morning of 22 Feb, D/1-46 and A/25 Engr at LZ Mary Ann received mortar, recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire, killing 1 US and wounding 11 who were evacuated. B/3-21 engaged and killed 6 NVA the same day. On 25 Feb, vicinity BT093340, A/1-1 Cav engaged an enemy force, kill 11 NVA at a cost of 5 US WIA(E). The enemy struck LZ Mary Ann again that evening. D/1-46 and A/26 Engr sustained 1 US KIA and 9 US WIA(E).

Contact tapered off until 5 Mar 70. A/3-82 Arty engaged 5 VC at BT156278, killing all 5. D/4-31 engaged 11 VC vicinity AT926268, killing 9. The Aero Rifle Platoon from F/8 Cav engaged an known size enemy force at BT084340 and killed 7 NVA at a cost of 2 US killed and 9 wounded and evacuated. F/8 Cav (Night Hawk) continued the action at BT085335, engaging and killing 6 more NVA. C/1-45 closed the day's fighting in an engagement at BT164032 in which they had 2 US KIA and 8 US WIA(E). Enemy losses were unknown. Action continued the next day as D/3-21 sought to develop F/8's contact and killed 7 NVA at BT085339 while suffering 1 US WIA(E) and 5 US WIA(M). B/3-16 Arty killed 8 NVA at BT176145. On 8 Mar, D/3-21, still seeking the enemy, found 5 additional NVA KIA at BT097510. The next day B/123 engaged and killed 6 NVA at BS822286. A/3-82 Arty added 5 more VC KIA at AT153334 on 11 Mar. On 12 Mar, D/4-31 suffered 1 US KIA, 4 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M) from a booby trap at AT897182. F/8 Cav killed 4 NVA at AT830240 while suffering 1 KIA and 1 WIA(M). That evening A/3-16 Arty engaged and killed 5 VC at BT247453. Artillery continued to punish the enemy on 15 Mar 70 as A/3-82 again engaged and killed 5 NVA. On 19 Mar B/1-1 Cav, working with A/3-21 at BT1001313, detonated a 250 pound bomb

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) Operation Frederick Hill.

rigged as a mine. Nine US were killed and 1 was evacuated with wounds. On 27 Mar the enemy struck at two US units with booby traps. A/1-46 had 6 WIA(E) at BT230094 and C/3-21 suffered 2 KIA, 15 WIA(E) and 4 WIA(M) from a 105mm round which was tripped inside their night defensive position. D/4-31 suffered 8 US WIA(E) at AT982294 in a heavy fire fight with the enemy on 24 Mar. Enemy losses were unknown. During the last days of the month, the enemy was generally able to avoid contact although several serious booby trap incidents were reported. On 30 Mar, however, A/4-31 engaged 9-10 VC, killing 7 at AT840245. A/3-82 killed at total of 9 VC in two separate engagements the same day. On 3 Apr F/8 Cav engaged an enemy unit, killing 14 VC at BT2766403. Two days later D/2-1 ambushed an unknown sized enemy force at BT196272, killing 4 VC. On 6 Apr, A/3-82 Arty fired on a large enemy force in the open at BT226164, killing 20 VC before they could scatter. The next day R/4-31 eliminated a 4 man VC patrol at AT830237. On 9 Apr, C/5-46 at BS283998, killed 7 NVA and captured 3 weapons without loss to themselves. Mines and booby traps continued to take their toll as D/26 Engr and F/17 Cav lost 1 KIA and 8 WIA(E) in two such incidents in the vicinity of BT216167. On 14 Apr, A/3-82 Arty again surprised an enemy force, killing 8 VC of the 20 engaged at BT184309. The next day C/2-1 killed 4 VC at BT110310. On 17 Apr R/1-46 killed 4 NVA and captured their weapons in a sharp fire fight at BT171000 while suffering 4 US WIA(E). D/4-31 accounted for 5 VC KIA in 2 actions in the vicinity of AT996287. The next day A/4-31 suffered 5 WIA(E) from a booby trapped hand grenade at AT899229. On 19 Apr, 5 more US were wounded and evacuated when a UH-1H from **71st Avn** crashed at BS148996. C/1-46 detonated 2 81mm mortar round booby traps at BT191125. Results were 7 US WIA(E). On 24 Apr B/3-16 Arty killed 6 VC at AT965084. Two days later R/2-1 sustained 6 WIA(E) when they detonated an 81mm mortar round booby trap. The enemy raised the level of fighting sharply on the last day of April. At 215H an unknown size force of NVA attacked LZ Siberia resulting in 3 US KIA and 3 WIA(E)). There were 10 NVA KIA. Contact continued throughout the day with no further casualties at Siberia. Sharp fire fights took place throughout the day. D/4-31 killed 4 NVA and 2 VC in four contacts without a friendly loss. R/4-31 suffered 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA(E) at AT867233. Later they killed 4 NVA 300 meters north of this location. At AT86233 they found 9 NVA KBA. B/4-31 engaged 5 NVA at AT871203, killing 3. C/4-31 killed 4 NVA in two contacts at AT929227. 1 US suffered minor injuries. At 1445H LZ Center received 20 81mm mortar rounds, resulting in 3 US WIA(E). Total US casualties for the day were 4 US KIA, 10 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). Enemy losses were 39 NVA and 4 VC KIA, 2 IWC, 3 CSWC and 3 VN detained. Results for operation Frederick Hill for the reporting period were:

FRND	Enemy
69 US KIA	543 VC KIA
398 US WIA (E)	220 NVA KIA
54 US WIA(M)	245 DET
2 US MIA	10 PW/VC
	3 PW/NVA
	3 CH/VC
	0 CH/NVA
	182 CIV DEF
	103 IN CIV
	206 IWC
	15 CSWC

(e) Examples of significant actions during the reporting period are as follows:

1 1 May: AH-1G's of the 123d Aviation Battalion while providing close air support and dustoff escort for units in the Hiep Duc area were credited with 28 VC/NVA killed, one .51 Cal machinegun, and one recoilless rifle and several AK-47's destroyed.

AVDF-ABSC
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (16th Combat Aviation Group (Combat)) Period Ending (30 April 1970) RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

(b) Unit Commanders:

14th Avn Bn (Cbt): LTC Jerry I. Teague, 30 Jun 69 to 30 Dec 69.
LTC Kenneth I. Ketzler, 30 Dec to present.
123d Avn Bn (Cbt): LTC Richard K. Dietsch, 18 Jul 69 to 8 Jan 70.
LTC John F. Brosnan 9 Jan 70 to present.

335th TC: MAJ Ronald B. Baker 13 Sep 69 to present.

HHC, 16th Avn Gp (CBT): CPT Marvin E. Mitchiner, Jr. 17 Sep 69 to present.

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(h) **The 14th Avn Bn** (Cbt) stands ready to support the Division on any of several contingency plans with up to 12 UH-1H lift ships, six UH-1C gunships and four CH-47 helicopters. The required reaction time varies from one to twelve hours depending upon the type reaction force required.

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f. Civil Affairs and Civic action: The 16th Aviation Group (Combat) continues to support the Tabitha Orphanage in An Ton. The 16th Avn Gp (Cbt) contributes money each month and during this quarter the 123d Avn Bn (Cbt) installed screen doors and windows in the dining area and kitchen of the orphanage. The **14th Avn Bn (Cbt**) has procured materials to construct latrine facilities, but high water conditions have temporarily halted construction.

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2. **(C) SECTION II, LESSONS LEARNED: COMMANDERS OBSERVATIONS, EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

a. Personnel.

(1) Observation: **The 14th Avn Bn (Cbt)** is under strength in helicopter maintenance personnel.

(2) Evaluation: The shortage of helicopter mechanics and associated MOSs requires a continuing OJT program for non related MOS personnel in order to accomplish the mission and thereby reduces the quality of aircraft maintenance.

(3) Recommendation: That emphasis be placed on procuring qualified aircraft maintenance personnel.

AVDF-ABSC
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (16th Combat Aviation Group (Combat)) Period Ending (30 April 1970) RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

(b) Americal Operations supported.

OPERATION	SUPPORTED UNIT	DATES
Nantucket Beach	198th Inf Bde	23 Jul 69, continuing
Frederick Hill	196th Inf Bde	18 Mar 69, continuing
Geneva Park	198th Inf Bde	18 Mar 69, continuing
Iron Mountain	11th Inf Bde	18 May 69, continuing

(c) Aircraft status at end of reporting period - Inclosure 3.
(d) No damage was done to any of the units of the 16th Avn Gp (Cbt) during the rocket attack on 30 April 1970.

(e) Examples of significant actions during the reporting period are as follows:
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3 12 February: **The 71st AHC** conducted its largest combat assault of the reporting period. The series of assaults were for the 196th Infantry Brigade and the 5th ARVN Regiment. The combat assaults were executed over a five day period with ten lift ships and gunship support. During the five days of assault operations, 1500 troops were inserted into a five grid square location around coordinates BS9996. The 71st AHC conducted the complete operation with assistance from the CH-47 aircraft organic to the 14th Aviation Battalion. This operation was carried out without incident and combined ARVN-American operation was a complete success.

AVDF-ABSC
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (16th Combat Aviation Group (Combat)) Period Ending 31 July 1970) RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

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3 3 May: On this date the 14th Aviation Battalion (Combat) was supporting the 196th Infantry Brigade and the 5th ARVN Regiment in an operation to encircle and destroy an estimated regimental size NVA force which held strong positions around the village of Hiep Duc despite numerous tactical air strikes and almost constant artillery fire. Six known .51 Cal positions had been located and were so well entrenched that air strikes had not been able to neutralize them. An element of the 5th ARVN Regiment was halted in the vicinity of AT 945265 by stubborn enemy resistance and at 1645 hours, the 14th Aviation Battalion (Combat) was alerted to assemble aircraft at Tam Ky Airfield for an assault operation. At 1735, nine aircraft from the 7**1st Assault Helicopter Company**, five aircraft from the 174th Assault Helicopter Company, eight aircraft from the 176th Assault Helicopter Company of the **14th Aviation Battalion (Combat)** and two aircraft from A Company, 123d Aviation Battalion had assembled at Tam Ky where they awaited the arrival of two battalions of the 5th ARVN Regiment. The first lift departed Tam Ky at 1830 hours and combat assaulted the first Battalion into an LZ at AT971264. At 1945 the second battalion lift departed the PZ. As the flare ship approached the landing zone, it was engaged by .51 Cal fire from position along the high ground to the north of the LZ (from AT 940290 to AT 970290). The flight started receiving small arms and automatic weapons fire while on a two mile final to the LZ. The second assault was completed at 2015 hours. The night assault was successful and the ARVN battalions were able to link up early the following morning and continue the attack. The rapid reaction of the **14th Aviation Battalion (Combat)** contributed significantly to the success of the operation and aided in the destruction of the NVA forces holding Hiep Duc.

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f. Civil Affairs and Civic action: The 16th Aviation Group (Combat) continues to support the Tabitha Orphanage in An Tan. Support is rendered by a fixed monthly contribution of several hundred dollars as well as construction projects as needed. The **14th Aviation Battalion (Combat)** has arranged for captured rice to be distributed at the rate of 300 pounds per week to insure an abundant food supply for the children. Weekly visits by
medical personnel of the 16th Aviation Group (Combat) are made to insure the health of the children.

g. Inspector General: The Headquarters, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, **14th Aviation Battalion and the 71st Assault Helicopter Company** were inspected during the period 6-11 July 1970 as part of the USARV Annual General Inspection FY71, of the Americal Division. Of one hundred and sixteen (116) areas inspected, two (2) were outstanding, ninety (95) excellent, thirteen (13) satisfactory, and six (6) unsatisfactory. No overall ratings were given.

h. Information: The 14th Aviation Battalion (Combat) was awarded the Valorous Unit Award by MG A.E. Milloy on 25 May 1970. The award was for Valorous actions during Operation Benton from 13 August 1967 through 19 August 1967.

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AVDF-HL **10 August 1970**

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 July 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

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(9) On 8 June, Thang Binh PF's, vic BT 175475, received 22 82mm mortar rounds and 21 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. The following day, vic BT185347, Thang Binh PF's received 20 82mm mortar rounds, an unknown number of RPG rounds, AW fire and a ground attack from an UNSEF resulting in 2 VC KIA. PF #5, vic BT149334, received 20 82mm mortar rounds. Also on 9 June, Thang Binh PF's, vic BT 245375, received 75 82mm mortar rounds, and a ground attack from an UNSEF. LZ Siberia received 32 82mm mortar rounds and 3 75mm RR rounds. On 10 June there were 4 significant attacks by fire: LZ Siberia received 24 82mm mortar rounds; A&C/1-46 Inf, vic AT 949244, received 30 82mm mortar rounds, R/1-46 Inf, vic AT 960254, received 35 82mm mortar rounds, 30 60mm mortar rounds and an unknown number 82mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. LZ Siberia received 69 82mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. LZ West received 39 82mm mortar rounds, 15 of which contained a C/S agent. On 12 June, LZ Siberia received 25 60mm mortar rounds and 42 82mm mortar rounds in 5 separate attacks by fire. On the same day, B/1-46 Inf, vic AT 965246, received 79 82mm mortar rounds, 10 60mm rounds, heavy M-79 fire, and AW/SA fire from an UNSEF. Fire was returned resulting in 29 NVA KIA, 5 IWC and 1 CSWC. Also on 12 June, C/1-46 Inf, received 45 82mm mortar rounds and 4/5 ARVN received 40 82mm mortar rounds, vic AT 959249 and AT981259 respectively. **71st Avn** engaged an estimated 40 NVA, vic 938230, in support of C/1-46 Inf; **71st Avn** accounted for 10 NVA KIA in this action. A/3-21 Inf, vic AT 913238, received 15 75mm RR rounds and 10 82mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. On 13 June, LZ Siberia received 25 82mm mortar rounds and 10 75mm RR rounds.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 July 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

c. Operations by AO:

(1) **Operation Frederick Hill**, conducted by the 196th Infantry Brigade in close cooperation and coordination with the 5th ARVN Regiment, continued throughout the reporting period. Emphasis was on combat operations to increase the level of security of pacification operation near the coastal area and the destruction of Main Force and NVA units in the western portion of the combined TAOR. Contact was heavy at the beginning of the May 1970, but action lessened towards the end of the month and remained light thereafter. The enemy opened an offensive in the Hiep Duc area with a ground attack against C/4-31st Inf, in the vicinity of AT933227, early on the morning of 1 May. The enemy lost 5 NVA KIA and one individual weapon at a cost of 1 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M). Throughout the rest of the day the enemy conducted attacks by fire against various American units. D/1-1st Cav suffered 5 US WIA(E) at BT253190, D/4-31st Inf had 14 US WIA(E) at AT910268, and A/3-21st Inf lost 19 US WIA(E) in the vicinity of AT896250. Americal Aviation struck back that evening as F/8th Cav killed 46 NVA from an unknown sized enemy force in the vicinity of AT9124. Gunships from the **71st Avn Co** added 4 more NVA KIA in the same area. The action continued on 2 May, with an enemy attack on A/3-21st Inf and R/4-31st Inf at AT896250. A/3-21st Inf and 9 US WIA(E) and R?/4-31st Inf lost 4 US WIA(E). D/4-31st Inf received fire at AT912263 and lost 6 US WIA(E). 123d Avn engaged an unknown sized enemy force at AT912246 and killed 15 NVA. B/4-31 lost 3 US KIA and 2 US WIA(E) in a fire fight at AT892235. The next day F/8 Cav found 5 NVA KIA at AT940228. B/1-1 Cav had 3 US WIA(E) in an engagement that cost the VC 6 KIA, 1 IWC and 2 CSWC. D/1-1 Cav killed 14 NVA from a force of unknown size at AT928258. On 4 May B/1-46 Inf detonated an 81mm mortar round boobytrap resulting in 16 US WIA(E) at BT250107. On 6 May C/4-31 Inf, searching in the vicinity of AT895253, found 22 NVA KIA from previous fighting. The next day LZ Siberia received enemy mortar fire resulting in 2 US KIA and 12 US WIA(E) from C/3-82d Arty. On 8 May the artillery struck back as A/3-82 Arty caught an NVA Company in the open and killed 25 of the enemy before they could scatter. The enemy replied with a mortar attack on B/4-31 Inf in which there were 5 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). Two days later, F/17 Cav was attacked and a total of 15 RPG rounds in the vicinity of BT298333. Results of the engagement were 14 NVA KIA and 9 IWC with no friendly casualties. Later that afternoon the NVA launched a heavy mortar attack on A/4-31 Inf at AT868239. US losses were 5 WIA(E) and 5 WIA(M). The NVA lost 3 KIA in the abortive ground probe that followed. US artillery struck back on 11 May as A/3-82 engaged 25 to 30 NVA at BT231074, killing 9 NVA and capturing 2

(Continued -1)

(Continued -1) Operation Frederick Hill.

individual weapons without loss to themselves. On 14 May C/1-1 Cav suffered 5 US WIA(E) in a fire fight at AT923250. Enemy losses were unknown at the time, but the next day A Company found 6 NVA KBA at the same location. On 16 May F/17 Cav engaged 20 to 30 NVA in the vicinity of BT094362. Results were 8 NVA KIA, 5 detainees and 4 IWC, with no US casualties. On 17 May B/2-1 Inf killed 5 NVA in ambush at BT084323. Boobytraps continued to take their toll as A/3-21 Inf had 6 US WIA(E) on 18 May at BT095225. Action flared on 20 May as C/1-1 Cav killed 3 VC and captured 1 individual weapon at AT947262. US casualties were 5 US WIA(E). That afternoon C/1-1 Cav and elements from D/1-46 Inf came under heavy enemy fire and sustained 4 US KIA and 12 US WIA(E) at AT942270. A/1-1 Cav with elements from D/1-46 Inf reacted, killing 10 NVA and capturing 1 individual weapon in the same area. There were no further US casualties. Two days later R/2-1 engaged 15 VC at BT298146 and killed 7 of the enemy and captured 2 individual weapons without friendly loss. Two days after that B/1-46 found 15 enemy individual weapons at BT276107. On 25 May C/3-21 Inf had 7 US WIA(E) and 1 US MIA in an engagement at AT958229. Enemy losses were unknown. A short time later at BT033209 R/3-21 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force at AT903222, killing 8 NVA while suffering 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA(E). In a 7 hour engagement at AT987278, D/1-46 lost 2 US KIA, 1 US MIA, 1 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). Enemy losses were again unknown. On 27 May D/3-21 Inf received mortar and heavy small arms fire at AT955228 and suffered 2 KIA, 4 US MIA and 7 US WIA(E). A/1-1 Cav lost 3 US KIA and 4 US WIA to small arms fire and RPG rounds at AT973273. On 28 May B/3-16 Arty pounded 2 VC companies in the vicinity of BT011126, killing 20 of the enemy. On 29 May E? and D/3-21 Inf found the bodies of 5 US MIA at AT955230. At almost the same location, AT955229, C/3-21 Inf found a like number of NVA KIA. A/3-82 Arty killed 5 VC from a 15 to 20 man enemy force at BT135328. US fire power closed out the month's significant contacts on 30 May. C/3-82 Arty engaged an NVA platoon at AT900246 and killed 5 of the enemy, B/3-16 added 8 VC KBA at AT989989, and the **71st Avn Co** killed 5 VC from a 20 to 30 man force at BT119261. On 2 June F/17 Cav detonated a 155mm round boobytrap with 2 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M) at BT255159. B/2-1 Inf lost 1 KIA and 8 WIA at BT198181 from another boobytrapped 155mm round. R/2-1 Inf caught a mixed NVA-VC force in an ambush that same night and killed 5 NVA and 2 VC at BT131272. The next evening C/3-16 Arty on LZ Siberia had 9 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M) as the result of an enemy mortar attack. A short time later B/3-21 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force at AT976220 and killed 4 NVA. B/3-82 Arty fired in support of the infantrymen and killed 6 more NVA.

(Continued -2)

(Continued -2) Operation Frederick Hill.

Early on the morning of 4 June A/4-31 at AT963217 had 9 US WIA(E) in an enemy mortar and hand grenade attack. One enemy crewserved weapon was captured. A/3-82 Arty engaged a suspected enemy location at BT241221 and killed 15 VC. B/3-21 Inf suffered 5 US WIA(E) in a fire fight at AT970230. On 5 June B/2-1 Inf eliminated a 4 man NVA patrol at BT164174 at a cost of 1 US WIA(E). One individual weapon was captured. On 6 June A/4-31 was engaged by an unknown sized enemy force at AT963254. Results of the four hour conflict were 1 NVA KIA, 3 US MIA, and 5 US WIA(E). At the same time, D/4-31 Inf was engaged in a sharp fire fight a short distance away at AT967749. Enemy losses were unknown; US losses were 1 KIA and 3 WIA(E). The next day B/3-21 Inf suffered 1 US MIA and 6 US WIA(E) in a day long battle in the vicinity of AT972221. Enemy losses were 6 NVA KIA. Riflemen from 1-46 Inf on an observation post engaged 10 NVA at BT236114. Results were 7 NVA KIA. A few minutes later they engaged and killed 1 VC at BT236117. C/3-82 Arty eliminated a 7 man VC detachment at AT894220. Later that day A/1-46 suffered 7 US WIA(E) at AT934240 in an engagement with an unknown sized enemy force. Enemy losses were unknown. On 8 June LZ West received recoilless rifle fire. US casualties from E/4-31 Inf were 5 WIA(E) and 3 WIA(M). Mortar crews from E/2-1 engaged 8 VC at BT175355, killing 7. B/1-46 Inf killed 6 NVA at AT953225 and captured 5 individual weapons. Friendly casualties were 4 NVA KIA, 2 US KIA and 7 US WIA(E). B/3-16 Arty caught an enemy force at BT 111266, resulting in 10 VC KBA. Artillery continued to pound the enemy the next day as A/3-82 Arty killed six VC at BT185347 and 5 more at BT 187347 in two early morning fire missions. B/3-82 Arty continued the action, adding 6 VC KBA at BT245370. An enemy attack on C/1-46 Inf at AT958243 left 2 US KIA and 8 WIA(E). Enemy losses were 5 NVA KIA. The enemy attacked again that evening, this time mortaring C Company at AT954245. US losses were 1 US KIA and 5 US WIA(E). Air Force aircraft added their fire power in an air strike at BT170304. The Forward Air Controller, Helix 02, counted 6 VC killed in the attack. On 11 June
A/3-21 Inf found 8 NVA KBA from a previous mission fired by B/3-82 Arty at AT972227. That night the enemy struck at C/3-21 Inf ???? recoilless rifles at AT987221. Results were 1 US KIA and 4 US WIA(E). B/1-46 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force early on 12 June in the vicinity of AT965246. Results of this morning long contact were 1 US KIA, 15 US WIA(E), 33 NVA KIA, 5 IWC and 1 CSWC. C/1-46 Inf accounted for 4 more VC KIA at AT960252. The enemy retaliated that afternoon with 9 US WIA(E) in a mortar attack on C Company at AT959249. 14th Avn Bn gunships flying in support killed 10 NVA from a 40 man enemy force in the same vicinity. A few hours later C/1-46 lost 5 more US WIA(E) in another mortar attack at AT955243. *[from S2/3 report: 71st Avn, AT959249 at 1610H. Extracted 4xUS WIA(E) fr C/1-46.]* F/17 Cav engaged 6 or 7 VC at BT200204, killing 4 and detaining 2 others. An unknown

(Continued -3)

(Continued -3) Operation Frederick Hill.

type of booty trap cost the cavalrymen 5 US WIA(E) later that day at BT253178. D/2-1 Inf engaged an enemy force at BT102238 and killed 6 VC without a loss. On 13 June C/3-21 Inf had 1 US KIA and 16 US WIA(E) in an attack by fire at AT980223. The next day C/3-82 Arty caught an enemy force at AT954253 and killed 6 NVA. On 16 June D/2-1 lost 5 US WIA(E) to a boobytrap at BT147227. C/3-82 Arty continued to punish the enemy, killing 5 NVA in an artillery preparation for 1/6 ARVN near AT951240. On 17 June C/1-1 Cav had 5 US WIA(E) from a large mine at BT236210. A similar incident cost A/1-1 Cav 5 US WIA(E) and A/2-1 Inf 1 US WIA(E) at BT210245. D/2-1 Inf was able to kill 5 VC of the 6 VC engaged at BT149048. On 19 June 3-1 Inf was moved by C-130 aircraft from Quang Ngai to Tam Ky and by CH-47 helicopters from Tam Ky to Tien Phuoc to reinforce 196th Inf Bde elements. The next day C/3-1 Inf seized hill 482 (AT875175) for the establishment of a fire support base for B/1-14 Arty. The rest of the battalion made a combat assault into the vicinity of AT857125. On 23 June E/2-1 Inf killed 6 VC from an unknown sized enemy force they engaged at BT182488. Two days later B/3-1 Inf found a cache of 5 individual weapons at AT836130. The company received small arms fire while in the area and suffered 4 US WIA(E). On 26 June D/1-1 Cav inserted the aero rifle platoon at AT962017. One UH-1H helicopter received ground fire and crashed. Casualties were 22 US WIA(E) and 1 US MIA who was later recovered with minor injuries. In the same incident F/8 Cav lost 1 US WIA(E) and a UH-1H. The next day F/8 Cav engaged an unknown sized enemy force at BT168183 and killed 5 NVA. Action continued at a slower pace through the month of July. On 1 July B/3-1 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force at AT853089. The enemy escaped with only 1 NVA KIA but left 5 individual weapons behind. On 2 July 3-1 Inf returned to the 11th Bde and the Iron Mountain area of operation. On 6 July C/1-46 Inf engaged and killed 3 NVA at AS935989. 2 individual weapons were captured while 7 US soldiers suffered minor injuries. A short time later B/1-46 Inf killed 5 NVA and captured 3 individual weapons at AS942988. The next day B/1-46 Inf received 5 Hoi Chanhs in the vicinity of AS961998. More of the enemy surrendered two days later to C/4-31 Inf as seven Hoi Chanhs rallied with 2 individual weapons near AT970131 and six more rallied at AT991113. On 12 July C/3-21 Inf tripped 2 boobytrapped 82mm mortar rounds in the vicinity of BT162179. Total US losses in the twin incidents were 4 US KIA and 12 US WIA(E). Late the next night F/8 Cav nighthawk killed 6 VC in 2 engagements at ZC208150. On 14 July R/3-21 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force at BT138228, with 1 VC KIA, 4 NVA KIA, and 2 IWC. The next evening B/3-21 In received small arms fire and M-79 fire at BT148289, resulting in 8 US WIA(M). On 26 July A/1-46 Inf engaged an unknown sized

(Continued -4)

(Continued -4) Operation Frederick Hill.

enemy force in a day long contact at AT900958. US casualties were 4 US MIA and 8 US WIA(E). The bodies of the missing were recovered the next day with their weapons. Enemy losses were unknown. The next day R/1-46 Inf found 6 individual weapons at AS924992. In an incident starting on 20 July in an area east of FSB Center, vicinity BT104284, gunships from the 116th Avn Co observed 10-15 NVA, resulting in 3 NVA KIA. A short time later, B/3-82 Arty fired on the same area, resulting in 2 NVA KIA. Total enemy losses for the operation were reported as 9 NVA KIA. Results for Operation Frederick Hill for the reporting period were:

FRND	ENEMY
47 KIA	1166 KIA
587 WIA(E)	1 DET
91 WIA(M)	20 PW/VC
	6 PW/NVA
	13 RTNEE/VC
	2 RTNEE/NVA
	188 CIV DEF
	107 IN CIV
	270 IWC
	20 CSWC

AVDF-HL 10 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 July 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

(5) **Operation Pennsylvania Square** commenced 291200 hours June 1970 as 1-1 Cav, with F/17 Cav attached, assumed responsibility for the open terrain in the northeastern portion of the Americal Division AO. That afternoon A/1-1 Cav engaged 8 VC at BT216246, killing 5 of the enemy and detaining one. Two individual and 1 crew served weapons were captured. On 2 July mortars from E/2-1 Inf, firing in support of PF platoon 135, eliminated a 6 man VC unit at BT170470. The PF's reported 1 IWC. Later that morning an ACAV from F/17 Cav detonated a 250 lb bomb at BT220161. The vehicle was destroyed and there were 5 US KIA and 1 US WIA(E). On 8 July the **71st Avn Co** killed 3 NVA at BT210171 shortly after first light. They returned to the area that afternoon and accounted for 9 more NVA. A/1-1 Cav captured 3 NVA wounded by 71st Avn at BT113322. 3 individual weapons were also captured. On 15 July B/1-1 Cav received 1 RPG round and small arms fire. The cavalrymen returned fire, killing 2 VC and capturing 1 individual weapon and 1 crew served weapon. US losses were 2 WIA(E). On 22 July A/1-1 Cav detonated a nitro starch mine at BT209200 and suffered 5 US WIA(E). Results for Operation Pennsylvania Square during the reporting period were:

FRND	ENEMY
8 KIA	48 KIA
42 WIA(E)	1 DET
	1 PW/VC
	6 CIV DET
	11 IN CIV
	18 IWC
	2 CSWC

AVDF-HL 10 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 July 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

(6) **Operation Elk Canyon** was initiated at 121200 hours July 1970 with the mission of interdicting enemy lines of communication and supply lines to disrupt his logistics system. The initial phases of the operation began when the 6th ARVN Regiment and 2-1 Inf Bn seized the old Special Forces camp at Kham Duc as a logistics and fire support base. Contact has been light and scattered. On 18 July, B/2-1 Inf found 4 VC killed by gunships from **71st Avn Co.** The infantrymen captured 2 individual weapons and 1 crew served weapon. On 30 July A/2-1 Inf engaged an unknown sized enemy force at 2B078998. The results of the contact were 4 VC KIA, 1 US KIA, and 1 US WIA(E). Total results for Operation Elk Canyon for the reporting period were:

FRND	ENEMY
1 KIA	29 KIA
29 WIA(E)	17 IWC
3 WIA(M)	6 CSWC

(5) Operation Pennsylvania Square continued throughout the reporting period, concentrating on security of major lines of communication and supply as well as combat operations to increase the level of security of the pacification operations being conducted along the coast. Enemy activity continued to be light throughout the reporting period as the 1-1 Cavalry continued its operations. On 6 Aug, A/1-1 Cav made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in 4 VC KIA and 2 individual weapons captured at BT 083328. In the early evening of the next day, F/17 Cav detonated a 40 lb nitro starch mine resulting in 7 US WIA (E) in the vicinity of BT 232229. B/1-1 Cav on the morning of the 8th, engaged 8 NVA killing 6 and capturing 6 individual weapons. The next morning at BT 109305, A/1-1 Cav detonated a nitro starch mines resulting in 4 US KIA and 5 US WIA (E) Operation Pennsylvania Square saw light action until 17 Aug when C/1-1 Cav engaged an unknown size enemy force at BT 147287 which resulted in 1 NVA and 2 VC KIA, 2 individual weapons captured and 4 detainees. They also received 1 Hoi Chanh in the action. On the morning of the 21st, F/17 Cav detonated a 30 lb mine at BT 206236 resulting in 5 US WIA (E). On the 27th, B/1-1 Cav detained 3 VN received 4 Hoi Chanhs and captured 1 individual weapon. On 30 Aug, A, D/1-1 Cav in the vicinity of BT 272126 engaged 17 NVA. The action resulted in 14 NVA KIA, 3 detainees and 3 individual weapons captured. The first day of September witnessed D/1-1 Cav kill 2 NVA and detain 7 individuals in the vicinity of BT 246145. The following afternoon, D/1-1 Blues engaged an unknown size enemy force at BT 080336, killing 9 of the enemy detaining 4 wounded VN and capturing 3 individual weapons. On the 14th of Sep, B/1-1 Cav detonated a boobytrap hand grenade wounding 5 US at BT 1755274. At midday on the 17th, **71st Avn** engaged an unknown size enemy force killing 7 VC and capturing 3 individual weapons and 1 crew served weapons in the action. On 25 Sep F/17 Cav detonated a mine at BT 130320. Casualties sustained were 4 US WIA (E) and 6 US WIA (M). On the first day of Oct, in the vicinity of BT 1383238, F/17 Cav detonated a mine resulting in 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA (E). On 4 Oct., a combined 1-1 Cav/RF outpost received a ground attack from an estimated VC Company in which 3 US were killed and 4 wounded. The next morning an ACAV from E/1 Cav hit a 65 lb petna mine resulting in 5 US WIA (E) at BT 255187. On 9 Oct D/1-1 observed and engaged 5 VC. Four of the enemy were killed by gunships and 3 individual weapons were captured. Two US were wounded. There were no significant activities until the morning of 24 Oct around 1120 H near BT 206206 when a Sheridan from E/1 Cav detonated an 80 lb mine resulting in four soldiers WIA (E) and 1 Kit Carson Scout WIA (E). The Sheridan was a combat loss. Later at 1155H, at the same location, another Sheridan detonated an 80 lb nitro starch mine. Two US were wounded and again the Sheridan was a combat loss. On 27 Oct, Task Force Burnett was organized as follows: HQ/1-1 Cav; A Troop, 1-1 Cav and D/2-1 Infantry. The Task Force is under operation control of the 5th Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. B/1-1 Cavalry and E/1 Cavalry continue operations in Pennsylvania Square. Both

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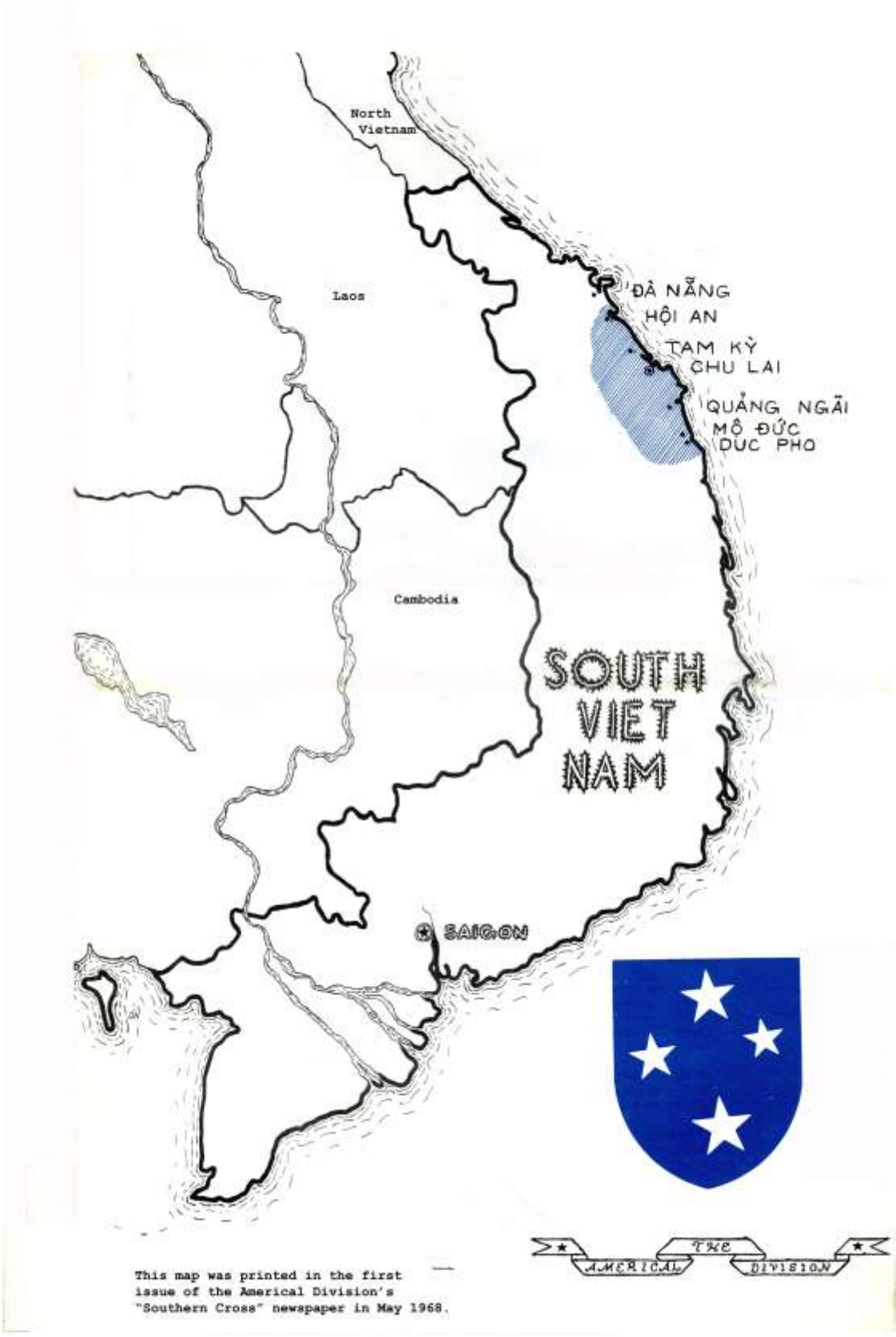
Troops are under operational control of the 196th Infantry Brigade. There were no further significant activities for the remainder of the reporting period. results for Operation Pennsylvania Square were:

US	ENEMY
10 KIA	143 KIA (CONF)
126 WIA (E)	3 KIA (PROB)
13 WIA (M)	0 DET
0 MIA	5 PW/VC
	2 PW/NVA
	7 RTNEE/VC
	1 RTNEE/NVA
	66 CIV DEF
	71 IN CIV
	47 IWC
	1 CSWC

The Americal AO

After September 1969 the Marine boundary was shifted south to give the Marines LZ Baldy and LZ Ross. Then After April 1971 the Marines left I Corps, leaving the Americal to defend Da Nang and areas in Thua Thien and Quang Tri provinces.



This map was printed in the first issue of the Americal Division's "Southern Cross" newspaper in May 1968.

This is a bad photo of a 21″x21″ 3D Map made of Kham Duc. May 12, 1968 the base was evacuated. This became the site of the largest number of missing in action for a one day battle in Vietnam. The 14th Aviation battalion received honors for their participation in this battle that resulted in an estimated 1,200 NVA soldiers KIA.

71 AHC – list of helicopters used by the 71st AHC in Vietnam

(UIC Code = WARTAA)

List of ALL Helicopters used in Vietnam -

Model	Tail Number	Purch. Date MMYY	Begin in Unit YYMM	Begin Hours	Finish in Unit YYMM	Finish Hours	Total Hours in Unit
UH-1D	63-12999	1164	1967	1414	1967	1602	188
UH-1D	64-13528	0165	1966	1377	1967	2031	654
UH-1D	64-13560	0265	1966	1383	1967	1848	465
UH-1D	64-13563	0265	1966	1312	1967	1726	414
UH-1D	64-13564	0265	1966	891	1967	1280	389
UH-1D	64-13565	0265	1966	1386	1966	1449	63
UH-1D	64-13568	0265	1966	1112	1967	1728	616
UH-1D	64-13593	0365	1966	1342	1967	1446	104
UH-1D	64-13611	0465	1968	1390	1968	1595	205
UH-1D	64-13654	0565	1967	1214	1968	2088	874
UH-1D	64-13667	0665	1966	1253	1967	2230	977
UH-1D	64-13668	0665	1966	943	1967	1883	940
UH-1D	64-13669	0665	1966	746	1966	918	172
UH-1D	64-13678	0665	1966	1252	1966	1414	162
UH-1D	64-13683	0665	1966	1100	1966	1194	94
UH-1D	64-13684	0665	1966	1078	1967	2121	1043
UH-1D	64-13690	0665	1966	1200	1967	2035	835
UH-1D	64-13715	0765	1966	1162	1967	1829	667
UH-1D	64-13796	0965	1966	897	1967	2027	1130
UH-1H	64-13875	1165	1969	1283	1970	3313	2030
UH-1M	64-14117	0965	1971	1795	1971	2331	536
UH-1C	64-14165	1165	1968	317	1969	333	16
UH-1C	65-09434	0166	1968	654	1969	835	181
UH-1C	65-09440	0166	1970	1647	1971	2050	403
UH-1C	65-09492	0366	1970	1521	1971	1783	262
UH-1M	65-09510	0466	1970	1688	1971	2779	1091
UH-1C	65-09534	0466	1968	1126	1970	1801	675
UH-1C	65-09554	0566	1968	1155	1968	1330	175
UH-1C	65-09557	0566	1969	995	1970	1409	414
UH-1M	65-09559	0566	1970	1555	1971	2302	747
UH-1D	65-09685	0266	1967	1425	1968	2038	613
UH-1H	65-09791	0466	1974	4255	1975	4607	352
UH-1D	65-09835	0466	1966	261	1967	740	479
UH-1D	65-09840	0466	1966	250	1968	2070	1820
UH-1D	65-09859	0566	1966	285	1968	2365	2080
UH-1D	65-09889	0566	1966	249	1968	2157	1908
UH-1D	65-09890	0566	1966	285	1967	1292	1007
UH-1D	65-10021	0766	1966	38	1968	2107	2069
UH-1D	65-10042	0766	1968	1161	1968	1662	501
UH-1D	65-10068	0866	1966	0	1967	1142	1142
UH-1D	65-10070	0866	1967	1003	1968	1905	902
UH-1H	65-10120	0866	1974	2973	1975	3206	233
UH-1C	65-12772	0666	1969	870	1970	1359	489
UH-1D	65-12865	0966	1967	865	1967	1180	315
UH-1H	65-15762		1971	0	1971	0	0
UH-1C	66-00492	0666	1966	3	1968	728	725
UH-1B	66-00496	0666	1966	54	1966	54	0

UH-1C	66-00497	0666	1966	44	1968	1066	1022
UH-1C	66-00498	0666	1966	141	1968	985	844
UH-1C	66-00503	0666	1966	0	1967	85	85
UH-1C	66-00504	0666	1966	67	1967	706	639
UH-1C	66-00508	0666	1966	56	1968	1147	1091
UH-1B	66-00509	0666	1966	116	1966	280	164
UH-1C	66-00510	0666	1966	114	1968	1099	985
UH-1C	66-00544	0766	1969	1772	1970	2444	672
UH-1C	66-00588	0966	1968	1011	1970	2121	1110
UH-1M	66-00625	1066	1970	1957	1971	2453	496
UH-1C	66-00643	1066	1968	690	1968	972	282
UH-1C	66-00650	1066	1967	9	1967	319	310
UH-1C	66-00652	1066	1967	0	1968	679	679
UH-1M	66-00678	1166	1970	1468	1971	2520	1052
UH-1C	66-00713	1266	1969	526	1970	904	378
UH-1C	66-00738	0167	1969	903	1969	1318	415
UH-1C	66-00739	0167	1969	904	1969	1156	252
UH-1D	66-00803	1066	1967	782	1968	1901	1119
UH-1D	66-00989	1166	1967	62	1968	2026	1964
UH-1D	66-01001	1266	1968	574	1968	1092	518
UH-1D	66-01030	1266	1967	20	1968	603	583
UH-1D	66-01031	1266	1967	68	1968	1775	1707
UH-1H	66-01085	0167	1969	1074	1969	1585	511
UH-1D	66-01086	0167	1967	8	1968	1036	1028
UH-1H	66-01097	0167	1973	619	1975	1137	518
UH-1H	66-01134	0167	1973	1545	1974	1795	250
UH-1D	66-01145	0167	1967	9	1967	638	629
UH-1D	66-01173	0167	1967	53	1968	1061	1008
UH-1D	66-01189	0167	1967	8	1968	1139	1131
UH-1M	66-01625		1971	0	1971	0	0
UH-1C	66-06643		1968	0	1968	0	0
UH-1C	66-09534		1969	0	1969	0	0
UH-1C	66-15006	0167	1968	449	1969	732	283
UH-1C	66-15012	0267	1968	686	1969	935	249
UH-1M	66-15060	0367	1969	912	1971	2135	1223
UH-1C	66-15080	0467	1970	1300	1970	1926	626
UH-1C	66-15088	0467	1968	293	1969	554	261
UH-1M	66-15128	0567	1971	1950	1971	2433	483
UH-1C	66-15141	0567	1967	0	1968	823	823
UH-1C	66-15142	0567	1968	197	1968	319	122
UH-1H	66-16004	0267	1970	1695	1971	2998	1303
UH-1H	66-16024	0267	1970	1860	1971	2926	1066
UH-1D	66-16086	0267	1967	0	1968	1202	1202
UH-1H	66-16122	0367	1971	1132	1971	1671	539
UH-1D	66-16145	0367	1967	0	1968	992	992
UH-1H	66-16210	0367	1969	29	1971	2791	2762
UH-1D	66-16231	0467	1967	0	1968	1276	1276
UH-1H	66-16260	0467	1968	3	1969	1886	1883
UH-1H	66-16303	0467	1968	2	1969	1564	1562
UH-1H	66-16312	0467	1968	2	1970	3140	3138
UH-1H	66-16332	0467	1968	2	1969	1641	1639
UH-1H	66-16353	0567	1970	2169	1970	2209	40
UH-1H	66-16440	0567	1973	2501	1974	2727	226
UH-1H	66-16453	0567	1969	473	1970	2119	1646
UH-1H	66-16491	0667	1971	2101	1971	2828	727
UH-1H	66-16498	0667	1974	3386	1975	3466	80
UH-1H	66-16538	0667	1973	2987	1974	3339	352

UH-1H	66-16584	0667	1973	2044	1974	2296	252
UH-1H	66-16638	0767	1973	2572	1975	3138	566
UH-1H	66-16639	0767	1973	2961	1974	3185	224
UH-1H	66-16663	0767	1969	840	1969	1354	514
UH-1H	66-16750	0867	1974	2844	1975	3210	366
UH-1H	66-16798	0967	1975	3237	1975	3395	158
UH-1H	66-16810	0967	1974	4483	1975	4747	264
UH-1H	66-16817	0967	1970	1928	1970	1942	14
UH-1H	66-16827	0967	1973	2462	1974	2664	202
UH-1H	66-16830	0967	1968	9	1968	627	618
UH-1D	66-16850	0967	1968	11	1968	521	510
UH-1H	66-16863	0967	1973	2953	1974	3348	395
UH-1H	66-16875	0967	1973	2904	1974	3342	438
UH-1H	66-17024	1167	1973	2590	1974	2871	281
UH-1H	66-17066	1167	1973	2624	1973	2769	145
UH-1H	66-17133	1267	1968	138	1969	1683	1545
AH-1G	67-15577	0468	1973	2427	1975	2637	210
UH-1H	67-16210		1969	0	1969	0	0
UH-1H	67-17200	0168	1974	3446	1975	3725	279
UH-1H	67-17243	0268	1973	1474	1975	2162	688
UH-1H	67-17269	0268	1970	1541	1971	2377	836
UH-1H	67-17313	0368	1968	128	1969	689	561
UH-1H	67-17355	0368	1973	2144	1974	2437	293
UH-1H	67-17364	0368	1969	749	1970	2398	1649
UH-1H	67-17408	0468	1968	0	1970	2446	2446
UH-1H	67-17413	0468	1968	2	1970	3003	3001
UH-1H	67-17414	0468	1968	1	1970	3072	3071
UH-1H	67-17416	0468	1968	2	1969	1011	1009
UH-1H	67-17418	0468	1968	0	1968	576	576
UH-1H	67-17494	0568	1968	0	1969	886	886
UH-1H	67-17497	0568	1968	0	1970	2274	2274
UH-1H	67-17517	0568	1968	0	1968	839	839
UH-1H	67-17520	0568	1968	0	1970	3071	3071
UH-1H	67-17522	0568	1968	2	1969	1796	1794
UH-1H	67-17523	0568	1973	1984	1974	2188	204
UH-1H	67-17528	0568	1968	0	1970	2788	2788
UH-1H	67-17539	0568	1973	1846	1974	2097	251
UH-1H	67-17546	0568	1968	0	1970	3144	3144
UH-1H	67-17567	0668	1973	2155	1975	2851	696
UH-1H	67-17728	0868	1968	0	1969	694	694
UH-1H	67-17764	0968	1974	3230	1975	3557	327
UH-1H	67-17783	0968	1969	871	1970	2714	1843
UH-1H	67-17850	1068	1974	2166	1975	2409	243
UH-1H	68-15225	1268	1969	0	1970	1245	1245
UH-1H	68-15227	1268	1969	0	1971	2637	2637
UH-1H	68-15238	1268	1974	2930	1975	3322	392
UH-1H	68-15264	1268	1969	0	1969	910	910
UH-1H	68-15298	0169	1969	0	1969	899	899
UH-1H	68-15322	0169	1971	1325	1971	1622	297
UH-1H	68-15470	0369	1974	3144	1975	3460	316
UH-1H	68-15530	0469	1973	1263	1975	1813	550
UH-1H	68-15588	0469	1973	1013	1975	1444	431
UH-1H	68-15626	0569	1970	1378	1971	2028	650
UH-1H	68-15629	0569	1970	615	1970	875	260
UH-1H	68-15630	0569	1975	2965	1975	3136	171
UH-1H	68-15683	0569	1973	713	1975	1290	577
UH-1H	68-15742	0669	1971	1336	1971	1920	584

UH-1H	68-16100	0769	1969	0	1970	957	957
UH-1H	68-16201	0869	1969	0	1970	866	866
UH-1H	68-16212	0969	1969	0	1970	1020	1020
UH-1H	68-16219	0869	1969	0	1971	1996	1996
UH-1H	68-16284	0969	1969	0	1970	451	451
UH-1H	68-16383	1069	1969	0	1971	1813	1813
UH-1H	68-16405	1069	1969	0	1971	1955	1955
UH-1H	68-16412	1069	1970	173	1970	463	290
UH-1H	68-16426	1169	1969	0	1971	2226	2226
UH-1H	68-16496	1169	1971	692	1971	1352	660
UH-1H	68-16544	1269	1971	897	1971	1190	293
UH-1H	69-15301	0470	1971	299	1971	884	585
UH-1H	69-15357	0570	1970	0	1971	554	554
UH-1H	69-15358	0570	1970	0	1971	1021	1021
UH-1H	69-15375	0570	1970	0	1970	48	48
UH-1H	69-15376	0570	1970	0	1971	837	837
UH-1H	69-15501	0770	1970	0	1971	1497	1497
UH-1H	69-15568	0770	1970	0	1971	1037	1037
UH-1H	69-15746	1070	1971	575	1971	828	253
UH-1H	69-15759	1070	1971	158	1971	505	347
UH-1H	69-15761	1070	1970	0	1971	869	869
UH-1H	69-15762	1070	1970	0	1971	675	675
UH-1H	69-15770	1070	1970	0	1971	902	902
UH-1H	69-15826	1170	1971	60	1971	162	102
UH-1H	69-16723	0271	1971	94	1971	270	176
UH-1H	70-15870	0571	1971	23	1971	161	138

Total helicopters = 187 Total number of hours = 148754

Note: This list only includes helicopters that were in this unit after September 1966. The primary source of this information is the U.S. Army Goldbook. Accuracy is estimated to be about 80% to 95%. Air Force, Navy and USMC helicopter information comes primarily from the AVDAC database and first person accounts. Their dates and times should be ignored.

Please send additions or corrections to:

Gary Roush

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The Americal Division Veteran's Association obtained the 50 months of Americal Division S2/S3 Daily Tactical Operations Center reports from the National Archives in a five year effort. An additional five years was spent transcribing the documents so they are computer searchable. These documents are currently being shared with many veterans. Copies reside online at the AmericalFoundation.ORG web-site and also at the Americal Division portal at the online Vietnam Archives maintained by Texas Tech. University. Although the information is there it takes a minimal computer skill to successfully search entries for the **71st Aviation Company.** One problem is that the helicopter units are often not identified in the reporting. If they are identified they might be identified by the unit name, the call sign, or whatever. There is more detailed information from S2/S3 reporting from the infantry battalions, when it is available. This can be determined by contacting the ADVA Historian.

The extraction of entries from May 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971 follow:

These are the Americal Division S2/S3 entries for May 1968:

sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
71AHC	680501	74	198th, C-1-6, BT090296 at 2230H receiving SA and M-79 fire in NDP. harassing type fire Only. NCD at this time. Gunships scrambled; recd fire while on loc. Firebird 91 – 2 hits in main rotor blade. Still flyable.
71AHC	680505	179	Delayed Entry: 198th, 1 slick from 176th Avn down at BT080249 and 1 gun from 71st Avn down at BT075248. F/8 sent one hvy tm to area and rec'd fire and hits. both ships burned. 3 KHA and 7 MHA from slick, 1 WHA (E) and 3 WHA (M) from gun – WHA's evac SEE ENTRY 171
71AHC	680510	5	198th, Gunships – rec'd hit in plexiglass, 1 gunship down –rd severed hydalic line. Other gun lost rkt pod while covering dust off in R-1-20. 198th has ½ of its gunship capability. passed to AVN – MAJ Rector. 2 Muskets were sent to LZ Baldy. Fire birds will come back to Chu Lai for repairs.
71AHC	680511	67	2-1, S3 vic ZC005081 at 1230H Radio message from S3, 2-1 Inf: this loc under mort attack. At least 2 WHA from 2-1, majority from 3/82 (cont) Arty. Total Cas: Slick from 71st evac 5 WHA to LZ Baldy 1242H. Another slick, 71st evac 2 litter patients to Baldy. Gunship of 176th evac 2 ambulatory and 1 litter, 176th gunship evac 2 litter and 1 ambulatroy. Total Cas: 13 WHA (E). 1525H change to read 2 KHA, 11 WHA (E), 6 WHA(M)
71AHC	680515	44	196th CC-1-20, vic AT974317, at 1445H recd 30 rds of AW fire, Neg hits
71AHC	680515	50	196th, A-1-6, Rcn 1-6, vic BT065226 at 1430H came under fire fm 3 AW positions 1 WHA (E), Arty being fired, Gunship on Stat, A-1-20 & A-1-6 Recd 2x60mm Rd at coord BT065226; 1130: A-1-6 AT BT064226 Recd 3x60mm at 900 meter 2400 mills. Arty called was on target. 1140: Airstrike Recd fir from BT069225; 1145: All mortar fire stopped; 1146: A-1-6 started receiving sniper fire; 1158: A-1-6 Recd 1xmortar Rd Res: 3 WHA 1400: Rcn-1-6, at BT072225 Recd AW fire from 3 positions; 1407: A-6 was wounded from AW fire ;1407: Rcn-1-6, obsd 2 bunkers 400'200 meters from their location.; 1435: Rcn-1-6 had 12 WHA
71AHC	680515	51	196, 1-6, vic BT048226 at 1635H resupply ship starting to leave Center received burst of A/W fire recd no hits, and no action taken
71AHC	680517	63	III MAF, COL Ripple Request a pr of gunships to relieve Marine gunships vic BT0657. 51st ARVN Regt in contact. Gen Young contacted and approved, Gunships sent from LZ Baldy
71AHC	680518	12	196 D-1-6; 1st lift 0829; 2d lift 0831; 3d lift 0833; 4 & 5th lift 0836; 6th lift 0847; move completed 0847
71AHC	680518	35	196th S-3 the 2 guns from 71st were down for armament and the 196th requested to keep the aero Scouts guns until the 71st's are back up. G-3 approved 196th notified
71AHC	680518	48	196th CC-1-20 vic BT035308 at 1230H recd SA fire neg hits neg action taken
71AHC	680518	57	196th A-4-31 1102: tried to get dust off in unit starting receiving heavy fire. 1104: dustoff acft & CC ship extracted 8 WHA 1107: CC Ship took resupplies into A-4-31 location, acft recd heavy RR, mortar an AW fire neg hits. 1 WHA CC ship extracted all WHA's 1115: A-4-31 had 3 more WHA act in area continued to receive ground fire. 1149: Dustoff for 3 WHA was complete 1320: still receiving fire. Most of the fire is coming from the south. Some fire was from the north,
71AHC	680518	71	196th A-4-31 vic BT504840; 1535: still incoming mortar fire; 1600: receiving mtr fire from west; 1609: 2x mtr rds received; 1610: Helix on station; 1625: 015214 Suspected mtr location; 1634: recd another mortar; 1650: received another mortar; 1704: Obs 4-5 NVA on top of hill where contact was made early today, engaged, think they had four probable; 1706: Obs six NVA evading, waiting on gunships; 1713: Obs 4-5 NVA (more) w/packs & wpns; 1715: A-4-31 engaged w/LAWs & M79s they were effective because they are not receiving return fire
71AHC	680519	26	196th vic BT052253 gunship south of Center was hit. Made forced landing at FSB Center All crew members OK. Ship will be evacuated to Chu Lai (See Entry #48)

71AHC	680519	48	Reference entry #26 196th vic BT098246 at 1131H Gunship rcd AW fire, 1 acft was hit and had to make a force landing, at D-1-6 location vic BT075226 neg cas, crew was extracted
71AHC	680519	62	196th, A-1-52, BT093238 at 1720H gunship took some grd fire fm above coord. Neg hits; retd fire w/unk res.
71AHC	680520	32	196th Lt Campbell vic AT990250 approx 1130H slick down at FSB West due to poncho being pulled into the tail rotor
71AHC	680522	62	196th CC-4-31 vic BT024198 at 1620H recd 2 rds AK-47 fire from above coord neg hits, arty called, unk results
71AHC	680524	2	198th, BT305190 at 0110H F4 – MAG 13 – went down, picked up 1 pilot; looking for the other one. 0120H: Resupply ship for 1-46 has both pilots and will return to Chu Lai. Plane crashed at BT4218. Picked up pilots at BT4220. Retd to MAG 13.
71AHC	680524	58	196th Gunship-3-21 vic BT103363 at 1500H Recd 10 to 15 rds of AW fire from South to SW. 500 meters, neg hits, continued mission
71AHC	680524	81	196th, Gunship-3-21, BT155382 at 1645H C&C ship recd 9 rds SA fire 100m N of their loc. Neg hits, continued mission.
71AHC	680525	60	196th TOC vic BT035215 C-3-211st PZ BT080300 1400 1st LZ BT035215 1412 LZ Secure Receiving fire on PZ 1440 firing ceased 1445 lift complete
71AHC	680525	71	196th 3-21 vic BT059298 at 1745H CC supply ship at 059298 recd 20 rds A/W fire, recd no hits, neg actions taken, continued mission
71AHC	680525	89	196th, 71 Avn Gunships (1-6), BT0821 at 1500H recd .50 cal hit while on dust-off mission. Neg cas, A/C returned to Chu Lai.
71AHC	680528	61	196th C&C Acft 3-21 vic BT058298 at 1703H recd 25 rds AW (Ak-47) fire. 100 kt speed/alt 10, took no hits, cont'd mission. did not fire arty.
71AHC	680530	5	FSE at 1703H vic BT4215, BT4214 recd rpt fm FSE that gunships are firing in a friendly village at coord BT4215 and BT4214. passed to Avn. Avn said that 2 gunships fm 71st Avn had received 30 rds S/A fire fm above coord. Tail #'s are 414 & 498, Passed info to FSE

These are the Americal Division S2/S3 entries for May 1969:

sub_unit	Date	**Entry**	Text
71AHC	690501	**38**	(U) 196th Bde, Sgt Laporto, CC/4-31, AT937201, AT942202, AT945201 at 1545H dest 3xSam Pans.
71AHC	690502	**50**	(C) 196th Bde, Sgt Liporto, D/1-46 Inf, BS165995 at 1710H. Rec 10-15 rds AK fire. Rtn fire, also called arty w/unk en res. Res: 1 US KIA, CC ship D/O KIA at 1755H.
71AHC	690502	**53**	(C) 196th Bde, Sgt Liporto, C/4-31 Inf. AT902272 at 1915H. Det 1 MAM, neg wpn or ID. Will be extracted to LZ Baldy in morning. CC/4-31, AT938200 at 1755H eng and dest 1 sampan.
71AHC	690503	**15**	(U) 196th Bde, Sgt Neroes. A/2-1, BT089372 at 0830H. PF's engaging VC accidently shot 1xVC female. She was evac by CC/2-1 to LZ Baldy. (Info only)
71AHC	690503	**40**	(C) 196th Bde, MAJ Brice. Request A/C. Purpose CA. PZ: LZ Professional. PZT: 040645H, LZ: BT008148, A/C: 9xslicks, 1xCC/S, 4xG/S. 108 PAX. Unit: D/3-21 Inf. Call sign: Rimmed Grouse, Freq: 40.40. Approved G-3 by MAJ Wagner. Passed to AAE, LT Lyons. Passed to 196th Bde, Sgt Neroes.
71AHC	690503	**56**	(U) 196th Bde, SP Reese. CC/1-46, BS176997 at 1715H while departing D Cos location rec'd 20-25 rds SAF w/neg hits or cas. Rtn fire w/M-60 w/neg sightings.
71AHC	690504	**25**	(C) 196th Bde, SP Reese. 3d Co, 4/5 ARVN/1-46 BT104025 (EN), BT117023 at 0930H rec'd incoming mort rds and hvy AWF fm above en grid. Res: 3xARVN KIA, 12xARVN WIA & 3xUS WIA. D/O compl 1058H. 4xARVN WIA taken to 312th & 7xwere taken to 27th surg. 3xARVN KIA & 1xUS WIA were extracted by CC/1-46. 3xG/S worked over area. 1xG/S had a wing man WIA(M). Broke station at 1142H. Helix 11 put in A/S at 1010H. Area being checked at this time. US WIA were Advisors. (Info only)
71AHC	690505	**66**	(C) 14th CAB, LT Palmer, 71st Avn Co. BT217315 at 1935H. Hel ran out of fuel, dam to hel unk. Neg injuries to crew. Hel is being secured by 3B/1-1 Cav and will be picked up in the morning.
71AHC	690505	**67**	(C) 196th Bde, Sp Reese, 1,3/4-5 ARVN, B/1-46 Inf, BT102024 at 1300 – 1730H. At 1300H, coord BT108024 1,3/4-5 ARVN rec 2-3 rds 60mm mort and scattereed mg fire, called G/S and proceeded to sweep south. At 1500H, 4-5 ARVN at BT099025 re hvy AWF, AK-47 and .50 cal fire. Res: (Info Only) 1 ARVN (Bn CO) KIA, 8 ARVN WIA(E), D/O at 1825H. At 1700H, B/1-46 joined, 4-5 ARVN and started sweeping south. At 1730H rec hvy AWF from BT102024, 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA(E), D/O 1840H. At BT102024 B/1-46 obsr heavily fortified enemy bunkers vic BT102024 4-5 ARVN and B/1-46 have moved back approx 800 meters and set up NDPs, arty had been called. En cass: 1 NVA KIA by B/1-46, 3 NVA KIA (KBA). 6 NVA killed by 4-5 ARVN. (Info Only).
71AHC	690506	**27**	(U) 196th Bde, Sgt Neroes. 1-46, 1050H 1xARVN moved down by river while an A/S was going in at BT100022 and he recd slight shrapnel wounds in the right leg. Extracted to LZ Professional by CC/1-46. (Info only).
71AHC	690510	**52**	(U) 196th Bde, Sgt Neroes, CC/2-1, BT055455 at 1435H. Obsr & eng 5xVC w/SAF w/unk res.
71AHC	690511	**18**	(U) 196th Bde, Sgt Neroes, 71st AVN, BT145062 at 0800H. Rec 10-15 rds SAF. Alt: 1500'. Speed: 72 knots. NCD.
71AHC	690513	**119**	(C) Div AVN SEC, CPT Pat, 71st AVN, BT132075 at 1845H. Rec hv .30 cal and .50 cal AWF. Res: 1xUS KIA (pilot).

71AHC	690514	**49**	(U) 196th Bde, Sgt Liporto, CC/4-31, AT812252 at 1155H. Rec AWF. Res: NCD. Arty was called. Res: 1xhut dest. Dest 1xsampan at AT816253.
71AHC	690515	**16**	(U) 196th Bde, SP Reese, S-3/1-46, LZ Professional, (en) BT187051 at 0700H. (1) LZ Professional rec 4x57mm RR rds, neg cas. (2) 0800H, CC/1-46, rec 50 cal fire fr 200m NW of LZ Professional, NVD. (3) 0816H, CC/1-46, rec fire fr 100m NW of LZ Professional, NCD. (4) 0825H, CH-47 (TN 728), rec 50 cal fire enroute to LZ Professional 600-700m SE of LZ Professional, neg hits od cas. (5) 0840H, CH-47 (TN 721) rec 50 cal fire on resupply w/external trailer, delivered load w/neg hits. Msn compl.
71AHC	690518	**35**	(U) 196th Bde, SP Reese, cc/4-31, AT835216 at 0900H. Eng & dest 1xsampan.
71AHC	690520	**36**	(C) 196th Bde, SP Reese, A/2-1, BT242167 at 1030H. Det M-26 H/gren rigged as BT. Res: 1xUS WIA (E). Evac by resupply hel at 1045H.
71AHC	690520	**62**	(C) 196th Bde, Sgt Liporto, 71st Avn, BT2712 at 1600H. Rec hv AWF, 30-50 cal. Res: 2xhits w/neg cas. Rtn to Chu Lai for repair. Passed to AAE: CPT McCreary.
71AHC	690521	**50**	(U) 196th Bde, Sgt Liporto, 2-1, BT037398 at 1325H. CC obsr 3xMAM moving S along trail, eng w/M-60 w/neg res.
71AHC	690530	**14**	(U) 196th Bde, SP Reese, UH-1 Resupply, BT195455 at 0645H. Rec 6xrds fr 2xAK-47. Res: 3 or 4 hits, neg cas & minor dam. Altitude 700'; speed 80 knots. Notified: Sgt Pachnieski, III MAF.
71AHC	690530	**34**	(U) 196th Bde, Sgt Liporto, CC/4-31, AT800295, (en) AT810280 at 1645H. Obsr 20xsampans along banks of river, 1xsampan was in river moving N, neg action taken.

These are the Americal Division S2/S3 entries for May 1970:

sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
71AHC	700501	81	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, vic AT9124 at 010600H-011930H May 70. Totals of contact: 94xVC/NVA KIA, 4xARVN KIA, 14xARVN WIA, 9xAK-47 CIA, 1xM2 Cbn CIA, 1xM-1 CIA, 1x.75mm RR CIA, 1x50 cal MG CIA. 44xKIA credited to 5th ARVN, 46xKIA credited to 71st AHC, 4xKIA credited to F/8th.
71AHC	700501	103	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st AHC, AT917273 at 011915H May 70, Firebirds obsr & eng UNSEF w/unk res.
71AHC	700502	61	196th Bde, CPT Russell, 71st Avn, AT901251 at 1610H. Acft bringing in first lift of C/2-1 CA rec 51xcal fire. On the second pass, rec 51xcal & HV SAF. CA was cancelled. Neg eng due to proximity of frd. Ntfy Salvation, Sp Fetterman.
71AHC	700502	80	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, AT884221 at 1623H, obsr 3x.51 cal pos in triangular config, they are active. G/S eng the area. Res: Dest 1xMG pos, dam 2xMG pos.
71AHC	700502	103	1910 AMCAL Div, CPT Mikesell, AAE, AT909245 at 1910H, a UH-1H fr DaNang rec SAF & AWF, .30 & .51 cal, w/unk number hits. Both pilots were hit. They flew acft to LZ West. An acft fr 71st Avn flew pilots to Hawk Hill. The UH-1H is on West w/the gunners. Res: 2xUS WIA(E). Col Hickson, Corps Arty CO was on board. The acft was a maintenance ship checking out area where D/O went down yesterday.
71AHC	700502	111	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, BT2923 at 2330H, rec SAF at 2500'. NCD.
71AHC	700503	5	(DELAYED) 196th Bde, Sp Fox, 71st AHC, AT985257 at 022315H May 70. Rec 15-30xrds of SAF while on resupply msn to LZ Siberia w/neg hits. Eng en grid w/mort w/unk res.
71AHC	700503	89	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, BT194997 at 1800H rtn fr resupply msn, obsr 15xVC/NVA mov S to N, across stream. Eng w/arty w/unk res. VR was not flown.
71AHC	700504	20	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, AT940280 at 0915H. UH-1H rec 51xcal fire w/unk amt of hits in the transmission, 6xhits in the left elevator. Acft landed on LZ West. Res: 1xUS WIA(M). UH-1C rec 51xcal fire w/dam to both blades w/neg cas. Acft landed on LZ West. Ntfy: AAE, CPT Mikesell.
71AHC	700504	39	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st AHC, BT131292 at 1030H. Obsr 10xVC/NVA evading W. Neg engagement due to delay in clnc of area.
71AHC	700504	117	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, LZ Center at 2100H. Rec hv SAF while landing & taking off at LZ Center w/NCD.
71AHC	700505	29	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, AT905267 at 1234H. UH-1C rec 30xrds of 30xcal fire w/neg hits. Eng w/arty w/unk res. Ntfy AAE, CPT Sturdevant.
71AHC	700505	33	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st AHC, AT891258 at 1230H. Rec AWF while on resupply msn w/neg hits. Arty fired w/unk res. Ntfy AAE, CPT Mikesell.

71AHC	700505	36	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st AHC, AT954245 at 1410H. Rec 50xcal fire w/2xhits. However there was little dam & the acft is still flying. Arty fired w/unk res. Ntfy AAE, CPT MIkesell.
71AHC	700505	78	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, C/4-31, AT895243 at 1755H, obsr & eng w/SAF & 81mm mort, 20xVC/NVA w/packs & wpns mov N on a trail 500-600m fr their loc. 71st Avn G/S eng the area w/unk res. Arty eng the area, G/S back on station 1830H expended in area w/unk res. Will check at first light. (See Entry #21 for 06May70).
71AHC	700506	21	196th Bde, LT Hunsinger, C/4-31, AT895253 at 1015H. Ref DJF entry #78, 5 May 70. Swept the area of yesterday's contact & fnd 22xNVA wearing green unif KIA. 12xKIA credited to C/4-31 & 10xKIA credited to 71st Avn. Ntfy: C/S, Sp Galvan; G-3, LTC Stottle; XXIV Corps, MAJ Hof at 1100H.
71AHC	700507	35	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, BT255070 at 1200H. Obsr 1xen shelter camouflaged & 3xVC. Arty fired w/unk res.
71AHC	700507	84	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, BT296251 at 1545H rec unk cal & unk origin w/neg while trying to reach B/4-31 loc; 1600H, tried again to get into loc & again rec fire (unk type) w/neg hits; 1615H, called G/S which worked the area resulting in 1xVC KIA.
71AHC	700508	130	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, AT948228 at 1828H, on resupply, UH-1H rec 20xrds SAF. Res: 1xhit on SP Pack, cont msn. Alt 2500', spd 90k.
71AHC	700509	32	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, AT891245 at 0825H. Rec Hv SAF. Res: Neg hits. Ntfy AAE, CPT Sturdevant.
71AHC	700510	34	196th Bde, Sgt Lescault, 71st AHC, AT867232 at 1050H. Rattler 19, while on gnd at A/4-31 night laager, rec SA & AWF w/neg hits. Rtn fire w/unk res. (Ntfy AAE, CPT Mikesell)
71AHC	700510	55	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, AT944246 at 1550H. UH-1H rec 30-50xrds of 30xcal fire w/neg hits. Alt: 100xft. Speed: 90xknots. Eng suspected en loc w/mort w/unk res. Ntfy: AAE, CPT Mikesell.
71AHC	700510	101	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, A/4-31, AT868239, (en) AT873228 & AT897254, 1745H, rec 40-45x82mm mort rds. Res: 5xUS WIA(E), 5xUS WIA(M). D/O compl 1915H. Rec SAF fr S, SE & SW. 71st Avn & Arty eng the area w/unk res. Obsr 3xNVA w/AK-47 200m NW of loc, eng w/SAF. Res: 3xNVA KIA, could not capture wpns due to incoming mort. Ntfy: XXIV Corps, Sgt Harnon, 2045H May 70.
71AHC	700511	48	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, AT856244 at 1155H. UH-1H rec SAF while leaving A/4-31 loc. Acft took 4xhits in the lifts & is down at LZ West. Res: 1xUS WIA(E). D/O compl at 1200H. Arty fired w/unk res. Acft flew back to Chu Lai. Ntfy AAE, CPT Fisher.

71AHC	700512	25	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, B/4-31, AT908229 at 0940H May 70. Fnd crash site of 1xUH-1C, tail #772 belonging to 71st Avn. Radios and seats were missing. Both mini guns were in place. 1xmini gun was dest on impact. Both rkt pods were in good condition w/5xrkts still in 1xpod. All will be dest. Pass to AAE, CPT Mikesell.
71AHC	700512	30	DIV AVN, CPT Mikesell, AAE at 140700H May 70. EOD Tm Req. Reason: check downed helicopter for B/T for 71st Avn. Pick Up: Admin Pad at 0700H. Ntfy: EOD, Sp Manice. App by G-3 MAJ Hillier. Ntfy: AAE, CPT Mikesell.
71AHC	700512	54	196th Bde, Sgt Morrow, Rattler 22, AT952238 at 1530H. Rec 15-20xrds of SAF w/NCD. Alt: 1500xft. Speed: 90xknots.
71AHC	700512	60	196thBde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, BT173255 at 1640H. Rattler 20 rec 20xrds of SAF fr 250m N of LZ w/NCD. At 1735H: Rec 20-30xrds of SAF fr 50-75m NE while landing into LZ. Alt: 50xft. Speed: 35xknots. Res: NCD.
71AHC	700513	49	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, AT884224 at 1010H. UH-1H rec 4xrds of SAF w/neg hits. Ntfy AAE, CPT Fisher.
71AHC	700514	25	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, 71st Avn, AT945239 at 1100H. Rec 75-100xrds of AWF w/NCD. Alt: 1500xft. Speed: 90xknots heading W. A/S has been requested.
71AHC	700514	41	196th Bde, Sp Lescault, 71st Avn, AT963238 at 1100H. Rec 25-30xrds of SAF w/NCD. Alt: 1200xft. Speed: 70xknots. Neg counter battery fired. Ntfy AAE, CPT Fisher.
71AHC	700514	54	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, BT199281 at 1650H. Rec 3xrds of SAF while enroute to OP 74 w/neg hits or cas. Alt: 300xft. Speed: 60xknots. Fired mort w/unk res.
71AHC	700514	57	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, AT917273 at 1630H. Rec 20-30x51 cal fire w/neg hits or cas. Alt: 1500xft. Speed: 90xknots. A/S is being processed.
71AHC	700514	70	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, A/4-31, AT923250 at 1645H May 70. Rec 1-2 rds of unk size mort. Rec hvy SAF fr UNSEF. Res: 1xUS KIA & 4xUS WIA(E). D/O compl 1800H. Rtn SA & AWF, G/S on stat but had to break sta due to weather. UH-1C from 71st Avn rec SAF. Res: 1xhit in front windshield, neg cas.
71AHC	700515	67	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, AT886264 at 1620H. Rec 15-20xrds of 30xcal fire. Alt: 25xft. Res: Neg cas.
71AHC	700516	20	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, 71st Avn, BT217074 at 1015H. 1-46th CC rec 10-20xrds of SAF fr a structure. Rtn AWF. Res: Neg hits. Eng the area w/arty w/unk res. Alt: 2000xft. Speed: 70xknots. Ntfy AAE, LT Tomlin.
71AHC	700516	28	196th Bde, Sgt Lescault, 71st Avn, BT088368 at 0900H. Obsr 1xVC evading N. Door gunner eng w/M-60 MG. Res: 1xVC KIA.

71AHC	700516	58	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, A/4-31, AT940247 at 1400H: Rec SAF fr an est Co of NVA. Res: 1xUS WIA. Req G/S, 71st Avn G/S eng the area & rec SAF w/neg hits. At 1450H: D/O on station but no LZ. At 1505H: D/1-1 Cav G/S eng the area. At 1508H: WIA was moved to the LZ but he was DOA. Hd to withdraw. Res: 1xUS KIA. At 1520H: Helix processed A/S. At 1525H: D/1-1 G/S eng the area. At 1530H: A/S processed. At 1535H: D/O compl for 1xheat cas. At 1548: D/1-1 G/S eng the area, obsr 2xsecondary explos. (See DSJ Entry# 77)
71AHC	700516	77	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, A/4-31. Ref DJF entry #58, 16 May 70. Add: Swept the area of contact & fnd 3xVC KIA, 2xVC KBG/S (credit given to D/1-1 Cav), 3xAK-47 & 10xChicom H/gren CIA. Extracted wpn to LZ West.
71AHC	700517	34	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, 71st Avn, AT880260 at 0930H. UH-1C rec unk amt of 51xcal fire while at 700xft & 90xknots. Rec 1xhit in the tail boom w/neg cas. Eng the area w/M-60 MG w/unk res. Acft rtn to Hawk Hill.
71AHC	700517	52	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, R/2-1, BT285133 at 1050H. Obsr & eng 10xNVA. Res: 1xNVA KIA. (See DSJ #83)
71AHC	700517	53	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, 4/6 ARVN, AT903267 at 1230H. Rec unk amt of unk type mort rds & SAF. Res: 8xARVN WIA(E). (Info only) (See DSJ #78)
71AHC	700517	57	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, 71st AHC, AT285133 at 1050H. Rec hv SA & AWF fr both sides of a river w/NCD. Arty fired w/unk res. Ntfy AAE, CPT Sturdevant.
71AHC	700517	71	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, 71st Avn, AT950237 at 1435H. UH-1H rec SA & AWF w/neg hits. Alt: 1400xft. Speed: 70xknots. Eng w/AWF w/unk res.
71AHC	700517	78	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, 4/6 ARVN, Ref DJF entry #53, 16 May 70. Add: 4xVC KIA & 1xAK-47 CIA. At 1415H: 71st Avn G/S & 545th Med D/O rec 51xcal fire & SAF. Res: 1xUS WIA(E) (fr 545th Med/Info only). Arty eng sus en loc w/unk res. There were neg hits on 71st Avn acft. (Info only). Ntfy AAE, CPT Mikesell.
71AHC	700517	83	196th Bde, Sgt Boquard, R/2-1, ref DJF entry #52, 17 May 70. Credit KIA to 71st Avn G/S.
71AHC	700517	115	196th Bde, CPT Russell, 71st Avn, Time: 1600H. At AT883200, 1xUH-1H on resupply msn rec hvy SAF fr 800m NW of loc. Ship went down. Crew & bird secure. Chopper AC says ship is flyable. Tried to lift off but didn't succeed. Snake doctors working. Res: 1xUS WIA(E). EXT complete 1645H, w/rest of crew. D/1-1 on station eng the area w/suppressive fire. G/S working the area. G/S rec fire w/neg hits.
71AHc	700517	118	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn at 1735H. 1xUH-H rec hvy 30 cal fire fr AT866268. The aircraft crashed & burned. The crew was extracted w/neg cas, ship was total loss. 1xUH-1H rec hvy 51xcal fire frAT894275. Rec several hits w/neg cas. Aircraft rtn to Chu Lai. 3xUH-1H rec hvy 51xcal fire fr AT874263. All 3xships took several hits w/neg cas, rtn to Chu Lai. A/S & arty fired on en loc w/unk res.
71AHC	700517	120	196th Bde, Sgt Yockey, 71st Avn, BT224076 at 1745H. Rec 30xrds SAF, alt 1300', spd 100xknots. 1xhit in main rotor, neg cas. Cont msn.

71AHC	700518	51	196th Bde, Sgt Lescault, 71st Avn, AT902295 at 1130H. While on resupply msn on the gnd, rec SA, AW & mort fire w/2xhits. Res: 2xUS WIA(M). (Pilot & Co-pilot). Loc of AW: AT905264 & 906263. 71st Avn rtn fire w/unk res. Ntfy AAE, CPT Fisher.
71AHC	700518	56	196th Bde, Sgt Lescault, 71st Avn, AT883220 at 1420H. TRUCE VIOLATION. Rec hv AWF w/NCD. Res: Neg hits. Alt: 1500xft. Speed: 70xknots. G/S eng the area w/unk res. Ntfy: XXIV Corps, Sgt Mitchell at 1546H; AAE, CPT Fisher.
71AHC	700519	71	196th Bde, Sgt Fox, 4-6 ARVN, AT898252 & AT901253 at 1920H, C-123 Acft rec hvy .51 cal fire fr 2xpositions. 71st Avn, as escort, suppressed the area. Alt: 400xft at 100xknots. Res: Rec unk no. of hits, 2xUS WIA(E). Was conducting air drop for 2-5 ARVNS. (Info only)
71AHC	700520	73	196th Bde, Sp Fahnstock, 71st Avn, BT208072 at 1435H. One UH-1H rec 8xrds SAF w/1xhit. The pilot was wounded in the foot. Alt: 75xft. Speed: 100xknots. Rtn AWF & arty w/unk res. Res: 1xUS WIA(E). D/O compl at 1455H.
71AHC	700521	67	(DELAYED) 196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, AT894277 at 201500H May 70. UH-1H rotor was on approach to B/4-31 resupply LZ, picked up a loose poncho which caught in the tail rotor causing the acft to crash w/neg cas. Acft is unable to fly. Crew was extracted to LZ West. Ntfy AAE, CPT Fisher.
71AHC	700521	74	196th Bde, Sp Fahnstock, 71st Avn, AT940234 at 1312H. Rec SAF w/NCD. Alt: 1200xft. Speed: 70xknots.
71AHC	700521	120	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 3-6 ARVN, AT910263 at 1405H, rec hvy SAF & 82mm mort fire fr Co size NVA force. 71st Avn G/S on station. Res: Neg cas or dam. G/S expended w/unk res. (Info only)
71AHC	700522	73	196th Bde, Sgt Fox, 71st Avn (Rattler #13), AT931236 at 1700H. While flying at 1000xft at 50xknots, rec 15-20xrds of SAF w/NCD. Did not rtn fire.
71AHC	700523	41	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, AT886221 at 1030H. UH-1C rec lt 30xcal fire w/neg hits. Ntfy AAE, CPT Fisher.
71AHC	700524	71	196th Bde, Sp Fahnstock, 71st Avn, AT950233 at 1710H. While on a resupply msn, UH-1H rec SAF w/1xhit, minor dam & neg cas. Cont msn. Alt: 100xft. Speed: 60xknots. Ntfy AAE, LT Tomlin.
71AHC	700526	17	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, BT1926 at 0045H. During PSYOPS msn, rec SAF. Res: 1xhit w/neg cas, cont to fly & msn not compl.
71AHC	700526	19	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn at 0200H-0240H. PSYOPS acft rec hv SAF fr BT198252 & 178267 w/neg hits. Eng w/arty & mort w/unk res.
71AHC	700526	106	196th Bde, Sp Fahnstock, 71st Avn, AT994254 at 1705H. UH-1H on resupply rec SAF w/neg hits. Alt: 1600xft. Speed: 40xknots.
71AHC	700527	65	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, D/3-21, AT955228 at 1125H. While cutting a trail, rec hv SA, AWF & 6-8x60mm mort rds fr 200m NE of their loc. Res: 7xUS WIA(E), 2xUS KIA & 4xUS MIA. At 1150H, D/O rec 2xhits in the belly. At 1250H, D/O w/G/S eng the area w/unk res. D/O compl at 1344H. Ntfy XXIV Corps, PFC Brownson. (See DSJ# 105)

71AHC	700527	105	196th Bde, Sp Fahnstock, D/3-21, (en) AT955228 at 1715H. Ref DJF entry #65, 27 May 70. Obsr 4xNVA approx 800m W of loc collecting equip & 2xUS MIA were dragged into woodline. (Info not confirmed to date, 272200H May 70). 71st Avn G/S on station & eng area w/1xsec explo. Res: 1xNVA KIA. (See DSJ# 50 29MAY70)
71AHC	700528	31	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, AT962232 at 1035H. Rattle acft rec 51xcal fire w/neg hits. Alt: 300xft. Speed: 60xknots. Arty fired w/unk res.
71AHC	700528	75	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, AT957228 at 1445H. While on a resupply msn, UH-1H rec 10xrds of 30xcal fire w/neg hits. Alt: 800xft. Speed: 60xknots. Ntfy AAE, CPT Sturdevant.
71AHC	700528	107	(DELAYED) 196th Bde, Sp Fahnstock, D/3-21, AT955228 at 271845H, obsr 15xNVA mov S 700m N of loc. 71st Avn eng area. Res: 1xNVA KIA.
71AHC	700529	50	(DELAYED) Div Arty, MAJ Minnich, FSE, BT011126 at 281925H May 70. Tien Phuoc CIDG, while on search & clr msn, obsr est 2xCo's of VC. CIDG called for & rec arty fr B/3-16. Res: 20xVC KBA. Confirmed by CIDG & credited to B/3-16. Ntfy XXIV Corps, Sp McMillan at 1320H. Update DJF #105 27 May 70. Note change of time & grid.
71AHC	700529	99	196th Bde, Sp Fahnstock, 71st Avn, BT165032 at 1615H. Obsr 5xVC/NVA. Eng w/arty w/unk res.
71AHC	700530	68	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 71st Avn, BT119261 at 1640H. Obsr 20-30xVC in the open. Firebirds 92 & 95 eng the area. Res: 5xVC KIA. Ntfy XXIV Corps, Sgt Bolthouse at 1705H.
71AHC	700530	71	196th Bde, Sp Fahnstock, 71st Avn, BT116253 at 1650H. Obsr 10xVC/NVA w/packs & wpns moving N. G/S eng w/AWF & rkts w/neg res.
71AHC	700531	55	196th Bde, Sgt Fox, 71st Avn, BT204083 at 1130H. UH-1H lifting off LZ rec 5-10xrds SAF fr 500m W. Alt: 50'. Speed: 80k. Neg hits. Eng w/arty w/unk res.
71AHC	700531	73	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, B/2-1, BT191188 at 1240H. While on a recon in force op, rec SAF fr 300-500m S of their loc f rest 15-20xVC w/NCD. Rtn SAF, G/S on station & eng the area. Res: 9xprobable VC KBG/S (Rattler 23/71st Avn) & 3xVC KBG/S (conf & credited to the 176th Avn/Musket). B/2-1 swept the area and fnd 10xbnkrs. Also at BT192185, fnd 1x60mm mort rd B/T w/trip wire. Dest all. Ntfy AAE, CPT Mikesell.

These are the Americal Division S2/S3 entries for May 1971:

sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
71AHC	710504	23	196th Bde, LT Lajoie, 71 AHC, AT918378 at 1300H. UH-1H rec 15-20 rds SAF at 1500' and 80k w/NCD. Rtn fire w/unk res.
71AHC	710505	7	196th Bde, LT LaJoie, 71 AHC, AT940730 at 0815H. On R/S UH-1H rec SAF at 1500' and 80k w/2xhits and neg cas. Acft rtn to CHL after compl mission. Neg en loc.
71AHC	710510	34	196th Bde, LT Lajoie, 71 AHC, AT893398 at 1105H. Rec 5-10xrds SAF w/NCD at 1400' and 80k. Rtn w/AWF w/unk res.
71AHC	710511	5	198th Bde, LT Haslett, E/1-6, BT421046, (en) BT427039 at 110435H. Fr Hill 270 obsr 39xpax w/wpns, mov W, prox 400m to SW. Arty presently being fired. D/1-1 on station at 0507H. Hill 270 eng en w/quad .50 cal fire w/approx 2000-3000 rds. (Grid was cleared for fire by Ly Tin). D/1-1 recon by fire. Checked area w/neg res. D/1-1 broke station at 0523H. 71 Avn on sta at 0517H, checked area w/neg res. Hill 270 obsr 4-5xmuzzle flashes but acft did not obsr. Air Cav has been requested.
71AHC	710511	20	198th Bde, Sp Small, 71 Avn, BS350808 at 111022H. While leaving the 4th PZ on a CA for D/1-52, a UH-1H rec unk amt SAF w/NCD or hits. Speed 70k, alt 200'. Arty fired w/unk res.
71AHC	710511	52	198th Bde, Sp Small, D/1-6, BS375932 at 111512H. 71st Avn, the last two helicopters on last PZ rec lt SAF w/possible 1xhit. G/S eng & 4.2" mort fired fr Hill 848 w/unk res.
71AHC	710514	18	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, RF190, Unit cond a CA fr PZ at BS923225 at 140945H to LZ at BS905180, compl 140955H (Hot). UH-1H fr 71st AHC rec mod SAF over LZ. G/S eng SAF w/unk res. Neg hits.
71AHC	710517	2	198th Bde, Sgt Morozoff, 71st Avn, BT585027 at 0030H. Flareship at 200', 80k, rec SAF while flying over SE corner of CHL. At 0035H obsr 10-15xVN mov fr 3-4xboats into a hamlet. Broke sta & rtn to area at 0110H & obsr mov in and around hamlet. At 0135H N/H on sta, checked coast w/neg obsr. Broke station at 0205H.
71AHC	710518	2	(DELAYED) 2d ARVN LNO, CPT Wooford, R/5 ARVN, AS843883 at 171400H. Unit had captured docu so 5th ARVN CC bird w/LTC went in to pick them up. A/C rec SAF while on ground. Res: 2xARVN WIA(E) to HH by CC ship. At 1530H unit reestablished contact w/the enemy. The LTC in 71st AHC had pilot tell ARVN (FAC) that his unit was surrounded and gave clearance for 71 AHC G/S to eng target. Eng w/rkts and miniguns. The advisor said it was right on. G/S expended & left. Unit got back into contact, ARVN (FAC) said he had rkts. The LTC cleared him to fire same enemy loc but the ARVN LTC didn't have friendlies plotted right. Res: 3xARVN KNB, 8xARVN WNB(E). Six W/B evac tomorrow by VNAF assets.

71AHC	710524	7	198th Bde, Sp Small. At 240615H, at BT177214, PF 162 on an OP rec hvy amt SAF. OP rtn SAF & arty at 240755H. RF102 is mov W to E, RF19 is mov S to N & 3/4 Cav is mov W in reaction to attack of the OP. F/17 Cav & RF Co 115 are on standby in Tam Ky. At 241310H 102 obsr UNSEF vic BT180212. G/S eng w/AWF & rkts. Res: 4xVC KIA, 2xAK47 CIA. D/1-1 credited w/2x & 71 Avn cred w/2x. RF 102 took wpns.
71AHC	710529	6	198th Bde, Sp Small, Tam Ky Advisor, BT227227, 282320H. Binh Lop OP rec mort & SAF fr est VC Co. G/S appr 0006H and will proceed to MACV Compound to pick up Advisor & Interpreter (contact Q on freq 58.75). Rattler #17 on sta at 0020H, eng area around OP. Did not rec any SAF & broke sta 0215H. ARVN Arty fired, res: 1xVN Civ KIA, 2xVN Civ WIA, 10xstruc dest, all unconfirmed by US Advisor. VC evad NW w/unk cas. Will sweep first light. Ntfy: G3, LTC Saint.
71AHC	710531	46	198th Bde, Sgt Basner, 71 Avn, BS565941-630940, 310835H. Mini gun malfunctioned firing 30xrds between above grids. Binh Son, 1-6 Inf ntfy. Neg report of cas or dam.

Men who lost their lives in service with the 71st Aviation Company in Vietnam.

lname	fname	suf	rank	mos	age	incident	casdate	event
ALEXANDER	BARRY		CWO	062B	22	09/22/1969	22-Sep-69	UH-1D 66-16332-CBT ASLT ON NUI LAM MOUNTAIN 12 KM SOUTH OF QUE SON 19690922 - BT035225
ALLEN	WAYNE		SFC	68B20	30	01/10/1970	14-Aug-78	UH-1C 66-00739 DISAPPEARED ENROUTE TIEN PHUOC ==> CHU LAI - BT107143
ANTON	FRANCIS		CWO	062B		01/05/1968	- -	UH-1C 66-00504 6 KM E-NE OF HIEP DUC VILLAGE, 1 P/U, 3 POW AT967265
BECKER	JAMES		1LT	1981	26	08/15/1970	15-Aug-70	UH-1H 69-15375-HOUAY PAKOU RIVER VALLEY 7 KM E-SE OF BAN VAY, LAOS 19700815 - YC509163
BIRD	MICHAEL		SP4	11B2F	19		14-Oct-67	
BROOKSHIRE	GEORGE		PFC	67N20	19	09/01/1969	01-Sep-69	
CORNELL	DONALD		SP5	71K20	22	11/23/1968	23-Nov-68	UH-1C 66-15142-TEST FLIGHT, CRASHED IN WATER 4 KM NORTH OF CHU LAI AFLD 19681123 - BT542088
COTTON	CHARLES		CWO	062B	21	06/19/1968	19-Jun-68	HIT IN FLIGHT, AIRCRAFT DOWNED 10 KM SW OF TAM KY AFLD 19680619 - Op Burlington Trail. - BT236115
CROSBY	HERBERT		CPT	1981	27	01/10/1970	05-Nov-74	UH-1C 66-00739 DISAPPEARED ENROUTE TIEN PHUOC ==> CHU LAI - BT107143
GARCIA	ROBERT		SP4	67N20	19	09/12/1967	14-Sep-67	MINED LZ, REPORTEDLY "MILLION DOLLAR HILL" 3 KM N-NE HIEP DUC 19670912 - AT925270
HARRIS	HARRY	JR	1SG	67Z50	39		26-Jul-71	DIED AT CHU LAI HOSPITAL 19710726 - BT535078
HOWES	GEORGE		CWO	062B	28	01/10/1970	06-Nov-78	UH-1C 66-00739 DISAPPEARED ENROUTE TIEN PHUOC ==> CHU LAI - BT107143

HURSE	KENNETH		SGT	11B20	22	06/12/1967	12-Jun-67	UH-1C 66-00650
JACKSON	DAVID		WO	100B	26	09/25/1969	25-Sep-69	UH-1H 68-16100-S/A FIRE IN FLIGHT, UH-1H 68-16100 10 KM NORTH OF TIEN PHUOC 19690925 - BT106240
JAMES	PAUL		WO	100B	21	03/07/1970	07-Mar-70	UH-1H 68-16284 DURING CBT ASLT 12 KM SE OF HA THANH AFLD
KIRBY	RANCE		CPT	1982	28	03/26/1967	26-Mar-67	UH-1D 64-13609 DRIVE SHAFT FAILURE, LOCATION UNKNOWN
LANE	STEPHEN		WO	100B	25	03/07/1970	07-Mar-70	UH-1H 68-16284 DURING CBT ASLT 12 KM SE OF HA THANH AFLD
LAVIGNE	STEWART		CPL	67N20	18	08/19/1969	19-Aug-69	UH-1D 66-16303-NEAR AN LAM (3) 10 KM EAST OF HIEP DUC 1969AUG19 - BT005255
LEWIS	ROBERT		SP4	-----		01/05/1968	- -	UH-1C 66-00504 6 KM E-NE OF HIEP DUC VILLAGE, 1 P/U, 3 POW – AT867265
LO FORTI	PAUL		WO	062B	22	11/23/1968	23-Nov-68	UH-1C 66-15142-TEST FLIGHT, CRASHED IN WATER 4 KM NORTH OF CHU LAI AFLD 19681123 – BT542088
LUKINS	PAUL		CPT	1981	25	05/13/1969	13-May-69	HIT IN LZ 7 KM S-SE OF TIEN PHUOC (FSB SCRATCH?) 19690513 – BT132075
MACK	LARRY		SP5	67N20	23	04/20/1968	20-Apr-68	MINE DURING HELO RETRIEVAL 11 KM E-NE OF BINH SON 19680420 – BS698963
MARTINO	STEPHEN		CPL	67N1F	19	08/19/1969	19-Aug-69	UH-1D 66-16303-NEAR AN LAM (3) 10 KM EAST OF HIEP DUC 1969AUG19 – BT005255
MC DANIEL	ROBERT		WO	062B	21	07/05/1967	05-Jul-67	UH-1D 64-13568- CRASHED AFTER T/O FROM HILL 54, 10 KM E-SE OF TAM KY AFLD 19670705 – BT401145
MORRISON	JAMES		SP4	67N20	20	09/12/1967	12-Sep-67	MINED LZ, REPORTEDLY "MILLION DOLLAR HILL" 3 KM N-NE HIEP DUC 19670912 – AT925270

MOSES	LESLIE		SP4	67N20	20	11/04/1966	04-Nov-66	UH-1D 64-13715 MEDEVAC 15 KM NORTH OF DAU TIENG BASE - OP Attleboro – XT485622
NOWACK	THOMAS		PFC	11B20	20	02/06/1967	06-Feb-67	UH-1D 64-13563-AIRFRAME FAILURE DURING LANDING AT PHU LOI AFLD 19670206 – XT862158
PALMIERI	ERNEST		SP4	67N20	20	12/08/1966	08-Dec-66	UH-1D 65-10068
PFISTER	JAMES	JR	PFC	-----		01/05/1968	- -	UH-1C 66-00504 6 KM E-NE OF HIEP DUC VILLAGE, 1 P/U, 3 POW – AT967265
PLUMMER	JOHN		WO	100B	19	08/19/1969	19-Aug-69	UH-1D 66-16303-NEAR AN LAM (3) 10 KM EAST OF HIEP DUC 1969AUG19 – BT005255
PRUHS	ROBERT		WO	062B	21	10/14/1966	14-Oct-66	UH-1D 64-13796-HIT IN LZ WHILE INSERTING ARVN RANGERS NEAR BINH CHANH 19661014 – XS720790
RANKIN	JOHN		SP4	67N20	21	11/15/1969	15-Nov-69	UH-1H 66-16260 VICINITY AN THANH (2), 11 KM S-SE OF HOI AN
ROBBINS	RUSSELL		1LT	0215	25	05/02/1967	02-May-67	UH-1D 64-13715-ENGINE FAILURE AT LZ 3 KM E-NE OF BINH SON AFLD 19670502 at BS641951
ROBBINS	WILLIAM		WO	062B	24	02/06/1967	06-Feb-67	UH-1D 64-13563-AIRFRAME FAILURE DURING LANDING AT PHU LOI AFLD 19670206 – XT862158
ROBLEDO	EFRAIN		SP4	71B20	20	09/12/1967	12-Sep-67	MINED LZ, REPORTEDLY "MILLION DOLLAR HILL" 3 KM N-NE HIEP DUC 19670912 – AT925270
RODGERS	JOHN		SP4	67N20	25	04/20/1968	20-Apr-68	MINE DURING HELO RETRIEVAL 11 KM E-NE OF BINH SON 19680420 – BS698963
ROMERO	WALTER		1LT	1981	23	11/15/1969	15-Nov-69	UH-1H 66-16260 VICINITY AN THANH (2), 11 KM S-SE OF HOI AN

SCHMIDT	JAMES		SGT	67N2F	21	07/17/1970	17-Jul-70	UH-1H RCVD HEAVY 30 CAL FIRE 3 KM W-NW OF NGOK TAVAK AFLD 19700717 at YC940030.
SCHMIDT	PETER		SP4	67A1F	20	08/15/1970	15-Aug-70	UH-1H 69-15375-HOUAY PAKOU RIVER VALLEY 7 KM E-SE OF BAN VAY, LAOS 19700815
SHERIN	JOHN	3RD	WO	062B	27	10/02/1968	02-Oct-68	UH-1D 66-16830 8 KM NW OF CHU LAI AFLD at BT485118
SILVERSTEIN	GERALD		WO	100B	26	08/19/1969	19-Aug-69	UH-1D 66-16303-NEAR AN LAM (3) 10 KM EAST OF HIEP DUC 1969AUG19 at BT005255
SUMNER	BUFORD		SP4	67A1F	21	03/07/1970	21-Mar-70	UH-1H 68-16284 DURING CBT ASLT 12 KM SE OF HA THANH AFLD
TAYLOR	GARY		SP5	67N20	21	06/12/1967	12-Jun-67	UH-1C 66-00650
WALSH	ALLAN		SP4	67A1F	23	10/02/1968	02-Oct-68	UH-1D 66-16830 8 KM NW OF CHU LAI AFLD at BT485118
WASHBURN	FRED		1LT	1980	23	10/02/1968	02-Oct-68	UH-1D 66-16830 8 KM NW OF CHU LAI AFLD at BT485118
WESTER	DONALD		SP4	67N2F	20	10/02/1968	02-Oct-68	UH-1D 66-16830 8 KM NW OF CHU LAI AFLD at BT485118
WILLIAMS	JOHNNIE	JR	SP5	67N30	24	09/22/1969	22-Sep-69	UH-1D 66-16332-CBT ASLT ON NUI LAM MOUNTAIN 12 KM SOUTH OF QUE SON 19690922 at BT035225

I added three photos taken from the 71st AHC web-site https://rattler-firebird.org/vietnam
There are many more photos like this that can be viewed at their web-site.