

# Lucky Eagle Says Farewell

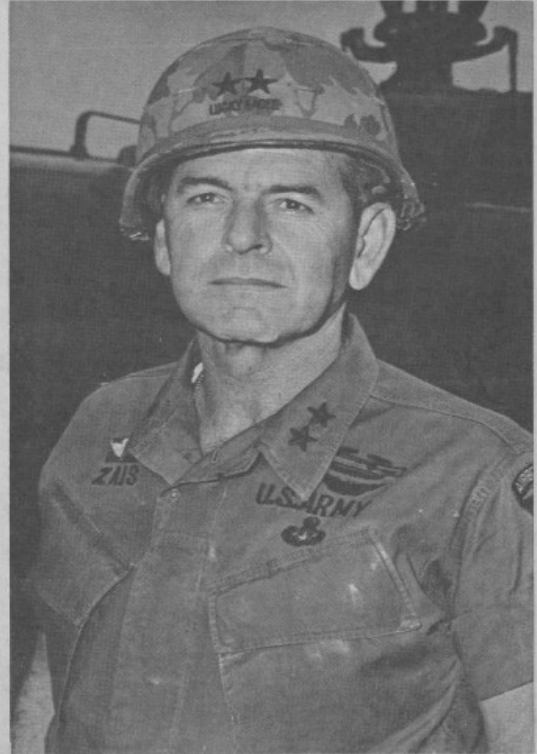
By MAJ. GEN. MELVIN ZAIS  
Division Commander

This is my last letter, my last Lucky Eagle Sez, to the Screaming Eagles. Now is probably the time for emotion packed rhetoric, for well chosen pearls of wisdom, for dramatic utterances. "You Have A Rendezvous With Destiny" our first Division Commander said and with almost heavenly revelation he emblazoned this prophetic statement into the hearts and minds of two generations of Troopers. No longer is it an unfulfilled prophecy, no longer is it a hopeful aspiration. It is in fact a way of life.

The moment the Screaming Eagle patch is sewn on our left shoulder we are branded. Henceforth, each of us is the living symbol of untold thousands of valiant men. Forevermore the patch is with us—now on the left—later on the right—to be worn with fierce pride wherever proud men gather.

This is the thought I take away with me. The feeling deep in my consciousness that I have scaled the summit of my profession. No future assignment, no further promotion, no greater glory, no position of responsibility will ever surpass the gratification of leading my great and beloved "Screaming Eagles."

Take care of each other! All day, All the Way!



Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais



Vol. 2, No. 12

101st Airborne Division

May 25, 1969



Maj. Gen. John M. Wright Jr.

## Zais to Head XXIV Corps

# Division Changes Command

BY SPEC 5 ALAN MAGARY  
CAMP EAGLE — Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, commander of the Division since July 19, 1968, passed the colors of the Screaming Eagles today to Maj. Gen. John M. Wright Jr.

Reviewing the change of command ceremonies on Eagle International Helipad was Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV).

Gen. Zais has been named to succeed Lt. Gen. Richard Stilwell as commander of XXIV Corps, located in Phu Bai only a few miles from Camp Eagle. "Lucky Eagle" has also been nominated by President Nixon for the grade of Lieutenant general, subject of the approval of Congress.

Gen. Wright, the new commanding general of the Screaming Eagles, comes to the 101st from an assignment at Ft. Benning, Ga., as commander of the Infantry Center and commandant of the Infantry School.

Both Gen. Zais and Gen. Wright, who will be the Division's third commander since it arrived in Vietnam in December 1967, addressed short remarks to the assembled troops. Following the remarks, a section of the troops marched past in review while singing "Rendezvous with Destiny," the Division song.

During Gen. Zais' 10 months as commander of the Division, the Screaming Eagles lost their Airborne status but kept their spirit and received many new wings — helicopters. Reconfiguration of the 101st to an Airborne Division began July 1, 1968, and has since been completed.

Gen. Zais oversaw the first test of the Screaming Eagles' new Airborne capability in Operation Somerset Plain, a 17-day raid by the 1st Brigade into the enemy stronghold in the A Shau Valley.

The operation netted 170 enemy dead and 58 weapons.

The Division meanwhile continued Operation Nevada Eagle, aimed at driving the enemy out of the populated coastal plains around Hue and into his refuges in the mountains and jungles, where still the Division's Paratroopers would track him down.

In this effort to pacify the lowlands, soft cordons were found to be highly successful. The enemy was dealt a stunning blow in September 1968 when the 101st participated in a combined cordon of Vinh Loc, a longtime haven for the enemy. With minimal use of artillery and firepower, coupled with surprise, speed and detailed searches, the Screaming Eagles and ARVN allies uncovered a large part of the VC infrastructure.

In the Vinh Loc cordon and similar operations east of Hue, the enemy lost 1,178 men — and the combined forces only 32. The Vinh Loc model was copied by Allied units throughout Vietnam.

At the same time, the enemy was pursued to his rugged hideouts in the western part of Thua Thien province. The new Airborne capability provided by helicopters combined neatly with the Airborne spirit, and the enemy was sent reeling farther west.

By the time Nevada Eagle ended Feb. 28 of this year, the coastal plains were plainly "Eagle Country," and safe for the Vietnamese people. This was

amply proven during the enemy's post-Tet Offensive. The Imperial City of Hue, which was the enemy's symbol of strength and determination in the 1968 Tet Offensive, was almost completely untouched by enemy rockets.

Gen. Zais termed it "the most dangerous occupation in the world" to be a VC in the eastern part of the province.

During the 288 days of Nevada Eagle, Screaming Eagles accounted for 3,299 enemy killed, about half of them soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army. Detained were 798 VC and 55 NVA, while 714 communists rallied to the Government of Vietnam in the Chieu Hoi program. One Hoi Chanh in the village of Truoi told Paratroopers that he had had enough of "the Airborne."

The day after Nevada Eagle ended, March 1, Operation Kentucky Jumper, also employing all three brigades, began. A week later, Gen. Zais sent the Screaming Eagles back to the A Shau Valley, this time as a part

(Continued on Back Page)

### INSIDE

Apache Snow	p. 3
Mass. Striker	p. 3
AFVN	p. 6
Awards	p. 7

## Gen. Wright Brings Vast Experience

CAMP EAGLE — The new commander of the Screaming Eagles, Maj. Gen. John M. Wright Jr., brings a wealth of military experience to the Army's newest Airborne division.

Born in Los Angeles, he enlisted in the Regular Army in July 1935 and graduated from West Point in 1940. His first assignment as a second lieutenant was to the 91st Coast Artillery (Philippine Scouts) on Corregidor, where he served as executive officer of a battery.

In the months prior to World

War II, he participated in the planning and organizing the beach defenses of the island. During the siege of Corregidor, he commanded "Battery Wright," a 155mm roving gun battery which fired the last round in the defense of the beleaguered island. Following the fall of the Philippines, he was a prisoner of war for three and a half years.

After liberation at the end of the war, Gen. Wright was assigned to the Intelligence division, War Department General

(Continued on Back Page)

### 3/5 Cav Gets PUC

# Honors for Division, Zais

**CAMP EAGLE** — The 1st and 2nd Brigades and their assigned and attached units have been awarded the Cross of Gallantry with Palm by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.

The 1st Brigade was cited for outstanding service during battles at Tomourong in July 1966, and during Operation Pickett near Kontum from Dec. 9, 1966, to Jan. 18, 1967. Units of the brigade destroyed the 24th North Vietnamese Army Regt. and killed 508 Viet Cong, while capturing 230 weapons and 67 tons of rice.

The 2nd Brigade's award was for operations from April 19 to Aug. 15, 1968, in the Hue area. During this portion of Operations Carestan II and Nevada Eagle, Screaming Eagles killed 2,382 enemy and captured 714 weapons.

**CAMP EAGLE** — The Division was awarded the Army of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Unit Citation, and Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, Division commander, received the National Order, Fourth Class and Cross of Gallantry with Palm in ceremonies here May 14. The award covers a period from March 1968, to February 1969.

Gen. Cao Van Vien, chairman of the Joint General Staff, presented the awards after reviewing an honor guard at Eagle International Hellpad. Witnessing the ceremony was Gen. Ralph E. Haines Jr., commander of the United States Army,

**CAMP EVANS** — Six elements of the 3rd Sqdrn., 5th Cav., and an artillery battalion from the 9th Inf. Div. were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation in ceremonies May 8 here. Two troops from the 3/5 also received the Valorous Unit Award.

Lt. Gen. Frank T. Mildren, deputy commanding general, United States Army, Vietnam, attached PUC streamers to the colors of Troops A, 3rd Sqdrn., 5th Cav., and B Try., 7th Bn., 9th Arty.

The 3/5, which now works closely with the 101st in northern I Corps, is commanded by Lt. Col. Thomas E. Carpenter III, and the 7/9 is commanded by Lt. Col. Donald Rhea.

Also sharing in the award were the 1st Platoon, Troop B; 3rd Platoon, Troop C; and Headquarters Section, Ground Surveillance Section and Medical Platoon of Headquarters Troop. All were recognized for their gallantry March 19-20, 1967, in the second battle of Ap Bau Beng.

The Valorous Unit Awards went to Troop A for its defense of the Bien Hoa Air Base Jan. 31, 1968, and to Troop C for heroism Feb. 2-3, 1968, at Xuan Loc.

Pacific, who was on a two-day visit to the Screaming Eagles' area of operations.

Gen. Zais and the 101st were cited for their cooperation with the 1st ARVN Inf. Div. during Operations Somerset Plain, Nevada Eagle, Kentucky Jumper and Massachusetts Striker.

The Screaming Eagles were further cited for keeping the Imperial City of Hue free from enemy attack through cordon operations in Vinh Loc, Phu Loc, Phu Vang and Phu Tu districts. During these operations, the Viet Cong infrastructure throughout Thua Thien province was almost completely destroyed.

After turning over the colors of the 101st to Maj. Gen. John M. Wright Jr. on May 25, Gen. Zais is scheduled to become commanding general of XXIV Corps, with headquarters at Phu Bai. He also has been nominated for the grade of lieutenant general.

Lt. Gen. Frank T. Mildren, deputy commanding general, United States Army, Vietnam, attached PUC streamers to the colors of Troops A, 3rd Sqdrn., 5th Cav., and B Try., 7th Bn., 9th Arty.

The 3/5, which now works closely with the 101st in northern I Corps, is commanded by Lt. Col. Thomas E. Carpenter III, and the 7/9 is commanded by Lt. Col. Donald Rhea.

Also sharing in the award were the 1st Platoon, Troop B; 3rd Platoon, Troop C; and Headquarters Section, Ground Surveillance Section and Medical Platoon of Headquarters Troop. All were recognized for their gallantry March 19-20, 1967, in the second battle of Ap Bau Beng.

The Valorous Unit Awards went to Troop A for its defense of the Bien Hoa Air Base Jan. 31, 1968, and to Troop C for heroism Feb. 2-3, 1968, at Xuan Loc.

## Notes From the Div SGM

By CSM ROBERT A. YOUNG  
Division Sergeant Major

Last November, an article was written in this column encouraging each trooper in the 101st to join the 101st Airborne Division Association. During the past six months, I am pleased to report, the Division has increased its active membership from less than 995 paid-up members to more than 10,500.

The Kangaroo Chapter now has 25 sub-chapters which represent every unit in the Division. One of our battalion size sub-chapters, the "On Time" 2nd Bn., 11th Abn. Arty., sub-chapter, has been presented the Maxwell D. Taylor award for achieving 100 per cent membership. This is an outstanding accomplishment and a job well done!

The 101st Association is available to everyone assigned or attached to the 101st Airborne Division and for a mere \$5.00 per year, it is your link with your buddies in future years. Your tour in Vietnam with the 101st will become more important to you as years move on.

Aside from the tangible benefits: bi-monthly magazine, 101 lapel pins, decal, stateside insurance, many far-reaching future benefits are available to the Association member.

I congratulate those who have worked so hard to establish the 101st Airborne Division Association as an integral part of the active Division; the "On Time" chapter has set the example for all of us to strive for.

Trooper—It's your Association. Let's all join up and make a 101 per cent Association. You'll be glad you did. Airborne All The Way!

# Red Cross Aids 101st Troops Through Variety of Services

**CAMP EAGLE** — The American Red Cross is on the job 24 hours a day at division headquarters and in all the brigades, bringing traditional Red Cross services to troopers in accordance with the organization's Congressional charter. During the month of April, there were 841 Red Cross services extended to 812 Screaming Eagles, exclusive of those at "Rear." The men at "Rear" are covered by another Red Cross office.

Each week more than 150 Red Cross messages are received at

Camp Eagle for men in the forward area, and others come in at "Rear." Some messages don't require an answer — like birth messages — but they are certainly well received.

Getting the word through Red Cross has three advantages. First — the trooper gets the full, accurate information. Second — if there is an emergency in the immediate family, military authorities get the information and are justified in offering emergency leave. And third — if the man needs money for travel within the United States, the Red Cross is aware of the emer-

gency and is justified in advancing funds to the man.

There are many problems not involving life and death with which the Red Cross assists. Its representatives, about half of whom are retired servicemen, spend much time counseling on all sorts of personal and family problems. Such matters are treated as confidential. While Red Cross works closely with Finance, Legal, the I.G., Chaplains and others, it does so only with the permission of the serviceman involved, and only to the extent necessary to assist in solving the problem.

# Col. Picou: Division Artillery Best in Vietnam

Editor's Note: This is the second of a series of articles on major unit commanders in the division.

By Spec. 4 Tom Andrzejewski  
**CAMP EAGLE** — Col. Lloyd J. Picou, Division Artillery commander, does not deal in superlatives. He does not merely point to a body count record and say that Div. Arty. is doing its job. He delves into the subject and tells you exactly why the 101st Div. Arty. is the best in Vietnam.

"This Div. Arty. is just as good as any other unit ever was," he said. "It made the change from Airborne to Airmobile while engaged in combat, and under conditions it had not been accustomed to.

"Our aim is to have every unit here operating under an umbrella of tube artillery, with the traditional mission of all artillery — close and continuous fire support," Picou explained.

The Allied units supported by Div. Arty. include all the elements in the 101st, elements of the U.S. Navy on inland waterways, U.S. Marine ground forces, elements of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and the Regional and Popular Forces.

"As Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, Division commander, has said, the trend here is the decentralization of our artillery even to the fragmentation or splitting of gun batteries," mentioned the 46-year-old graduate of Louisiana State University.

"The greatest single thing about artillery in this war is that

there is no front, no rear. We continuously shoot in a circle, often between converging friendly forces. This is a most difficult task.

"We have 12 tube artillery batteries. They are at 12 different locations. Eleven of these locations can be reached only by air."

The Airborne commander, who himself has made the transition to Airmobile, travels to each of his fire bases at least once a week and meets with his battalion commanders daily.

"I want to know their every need," he pointed out, "as well as if they are complying with directives. And I want to know if they're satisfied.

"If they deserve a pat on the back, I give it to them. If they deserve a chewing-out, I administer that," Picou affirmed.

The colonel, whose home is now Gainesville, Fla., recently decided to conduct a reconnaissance mission himself.

While on the self-assigned reconnaissance mission, enemy fire wounded his pilot and Picou took control of the helicopter, temporarily, while the pilot made repairs. Later, the two returned to the area to mark it for aerial rocket artillery.

Col. Picou became Div. Arty. commander last Nov. 24. He had been in Vietnam four months when assigned to the 101st on his latest tour, and came from the Army Concept Team in Vietnam

— an organization concerned with developing, testing and evaluating equipment and organization in a Vietnam-type environment.

Picou's first assignment to Vietnam, 1962-63, saw him serve as a G-3 advisor. In 1965-66, he served as executive officer and later commander of Div. Arty., 1st Air Cavalry Division.

There is also a long list of commands extending back to World War II, when Picou was a young lieutenant and a platoon leader. He was a battery commander and later S-3 of a 105mm howitzer battalion in the Korean War, and in 1954-57, he commanded an anti-aircraft battery.

Picou also has experience in the Pentagon and was a gunnery instructor at the world's largest Artillery Center at Ft. Sill, Okla.

In addition to regular tube artillery, a battalion of aerial rocket artillery supports 101st troops and is under Picou's command.

"Again, airmobility is of importance. The battalion is scattered in six locations, three of which are accessible only by air."

And how has the 101st Abn. Div. Arty. accepted the challenges of combat support in Vietnam?

"We fire at more than 1,000 targets each day, which adds up to quite a tonnage of ammunition," Picou said. "Div. Arty. has withstood the tests of Airmobile under actual combat conditions, while actually engaging the enemy."

We're carrying on a tradition, of course, which has been set forth by our predecessors here in Vietnam; the officers and men who have seen Div. Arty. through its changes."

Whether publicized or not, the men of the Div. Arty. know the nature of their commander hard-working, professional, dedicated and above all, capable.

mandar and later S-3 of a 105mm howitzer battalion in the Korean War, and in 1954-57, he commanded an anti-aircraft battery.

Picou also has experience in the Pentagon and was a gunnery instructor at the world's largest Artillery Center at Ft. Sill, Okla.

In addition to regular tube artillery, a battalion of aerial rocket artillery supports 101st troops and is under Picou's command.

"Again, airmobility is of importance. The battalion is scattered in six locations, three of which are accessible only by air."

And how has the 101st Abn. Div. Arty. accepted the challenges of combat support in Vietnam?

"We fire at more than 1,000 targets each day, which adds up to quite a tonnage of ammunition," Picou said. "Div. Arty. has withstood the tests of Airmobile under actual combat conditions, while actually engaging the enemy."

We're carrying on a tradition, of course, which has been set forth by our predecessors here in Vietnam; the officers and men who have seen Div. Arty. through its changes."

Whether publicized or not, the men of the Div. Arty. know the nature of their commander hard-working, professional, dedicated and above all, capable.



The Screaming Eagle is an authorized Army newspaper published weekly by the 101st Airborne Division, RVN, for military personnel. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Reproduction of all material other than copyrighted items is authorized. Address all communications to: Editor, Screaming Eagle, Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division, APO San Francisco 9635. Printed in Tokyo, Japan, by Pacific Stars and Stripes.

- Commanding General ..... Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais
- Information Officer ..... Maj. R. L. Horvath
- Editor ..... Spec. 4 Doug Mounce
- Editorial Assistants ..... Spec. 5 Frank G. Kelly Jr.
- ..... Spec. 4 William Van Kirk



Col. Lloyd J. Picou

# Apache Snow Begins, Striker Ends

## A Shau Again Is Target

**CAMP EAGLE**—Screaming Eagles slashed their way into the A Shau Valley for the third time in nine months and the second in 45 days when they launched the air portion of Operation Apache Show. As of May 15, enemy dead numbered 185.

The raid into the northern portion of the valley was one of the largest single Airmobile assaults of the Vietnam war. Troops from the Division's 2nd and 3rd Brigades, with elements of the 9th Marine Regt., 3rd Marine Div., and the 1st ARVN Div. took part in the huge combined XXIV Corps operation.

Two U.S. battalions, using 70 troop-carrying helicopters were simultaneously lifted from marshalling points to two landing zones along the Laotian border in less than 45 minutes. Remaining battalion size units had been inserted within four and one half hours.

"It was an excellent example of an Airmobile operation," commented Col. Joseph P. Conmy Jr., 3rd Brigade commander from Washington, D.C. "We surprised him (the enemy)."

Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, 101st Airborne Division commander, said, "Assaulting several battalions was the ability to mesh everything together without accident or incident — a fantastic achievement."

"Before the battalions made their assault, tactical air jet fighters bombed the landing zones for 50 minutes, followed by a 15-minute artillery barrage and a one-minute ARA strike," said Capt. William Burrier of Uvalde, Tex., 3rd Brigade Air Operation officer. "As preparation fires were lifted and two battalions made their insertion, Cobra gunships flew overhead,



**CHARLIE'S PLACE**—A 3rd Brigade trooper cautiously edges his way out of a vacant enemy bunker discovered during a recon mission. (Photo by Sgt. Wayne Krieger)

ready to silence enemy resistance."

"I didn't move artillery units into place until 36 hours before the operation began because we wanted to surprise the enemy as much as possible," Gen. Zais said. "However, I did move them early enough to provide my units with artillery covering fire."

"I'd rather lose some element of surprise than have the troops go without any supporting fire in case something large broke," the Screaming Eagle commander added.

"Enemy resistance was very light the first day," said Maj. Kenneth H. Montgomery, 3rd Brigade plans and operations officer. "He knew we were in the

area but didn't know exactly where and was unable to organize any type of counterattack."

The operation, larger than "Massachusetts Striker," is a coordinated effort aimed at destroying NVA forces, installations, equipment and supplies, with the added responsibility of preventing exfiltration of the NVA into Laos.

Six B-52 strikes were flown in preparation for the operation. A total of 83 tactical air sorties were flown, 32 in preparation of landing zones, 24 for air cover and 27 in close air support.

NVA soldiers encountered so far have worn uniforms of olive drab or khaki material. They are well-armed, and many of the enemy dead had recent haircuts.

## Nine Week Operation Nets 176 Enemy Dead

**CAMP EAGLE**—Massachusetts Striker, a Division operation in the southern A Shau Valley, ended May 8 after nine weeks, with Screaming Eagles accounting for 176 enemy killed.

Operation totals show 859 and 34 crew-served weapons were captured, more than 320,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 5,256 mortar rounds, more than 400 rockets and huge amounts of foodstuffs were uncovered.

The operation began March 12, after some delay caused by adverse weather conditions in the area. The 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf. combat-assaulted to the edge of the valley as the operation commenced.

Ten days later, No Slack troopers from the 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. air-assaulted into the jungle floor, deep into the heart of the A Shau Valley.

The operation, conducted by the 2nd Brigade, marked the second time in seven months that the Division had penetrated the valley or interdicted its access routes.

Massachusetts Striker was designed to cut the enemy's lines of communication from Laos to Da Nang and Hue, and to disrupt troop and supply movement as well as destroy enemy staging points in the surrounding area. The strike was programmed to destroy and break up the enemy threat to the heavily-populated cities in I Corps.

One of the largest signal equipment caches of the war was uncovered west of Da Nang and contained enough electronic supplies to equip an NVA division for one year.

C Co., 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf., in one day's work, confiscated

more than 100 tons of enemy ordnance, signal and medical supplies along the "Yellow Brick Road." The cache was so large that it took nearly a week to airlift the entire find to Division headquarters at Camp Eagle.

Enemy forces were pushed from their rear staging areas and forced to move toward the Laotian border. All enemy traffic through the A Shau was blocked, and troop concentrations were broken down into many small, ineffective groups and eliminated.

A chain of fire support bases across the valley has eliminated any hopes the North Vietnamese may have had about a major assault against any single area in the I Corps tactical zone.

More than seven months had passed since Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais said the 101st would return to the A Shau, and that is exactly what the operation was all about.

## Captured Documents Predict Light Attacks

**CAMP EAGLE**—Documents captured by the 54th ARVN Regt. 30 km south of Hue during a combined operation with the Division's 1st Brigade indicate that small scale enemy attacks are planned in the area.

However, the Hue City Committee (Viet Cong) believes they will have limited success, because their guerrilla warfare capability is still weak from Allied spoiling operations and lacks momentum.

The Committee reported that Allied forces are mobile; they conduct many operations; their pacification activities are well planned and well executed, and "new tactics" are being used. (The new tactics are thought to be the highly-successful combined forces "soft cordons.")

The effectiveness of the Chieu Hoi and PSYOPS programs was also pointed out in the documents.

## 'Above The Rest' Drives Off Probers

**CAMP EAGLE** — Darkness cloaked the lowlands southeast of Hue and the only audible sound was a soft breeze stroking the rice fields.

The first platoon of A Co., 1st Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. deployed in a half-moon-shaped night position at the intersection of two paths.

Meticulously, Above the Rest troops set up trip flares, dug in and made last minute equipment checks. Sleep was only a luxurious thought, for Viet Cong would soon be coming down from the mountains to snatch freshly harvested rice from the coastal villages.

Spec. 4 James Teer, the left security, listened intently with his hand clutching a claymore mine detonating device. Twenty feet ahead, to his right, a figure

moved slowly up the trail.

Teer released the safety, but paused until the figure reached the intersection. "I wanted to see if he would proceed in front of the main body of our platoon," the Detroit native said.

But suddenly the enemy turned right into Teer's path.

The spray from the claymore killed what turned out to be the flank security of a VC squad and the slack man. Behind the platoon AK-47s and B-40s responded.

Instinctively, the Paratroopers grabbed their weapons, crawled into position and laid down a massive volume of fire. Unable to overpower the Screaming Eagles, the VC fled back to their mountain hide-a-way in the hope that during the next 24 hours they could regain enough strength to return.



**FORWARD SUPPORT** — The Forward Service Support Element (FSSE) respond quickly to the needs of 2nd Brigade soldiers operating in the

A Shau Valley during Massachusetts Striker. The FSSE was established in six days at Fire Base Birmingham. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Frank Rendant)



# Portrait of a Leader: 10 Months U



Accepting the colors from Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti . . .



. . . chatting with a wounded Paratrooper at his hospital bedside



. . . dedicating the Division's forward headquarters . . .



. . . spending Christmas with his troops . . .



. . . greeti



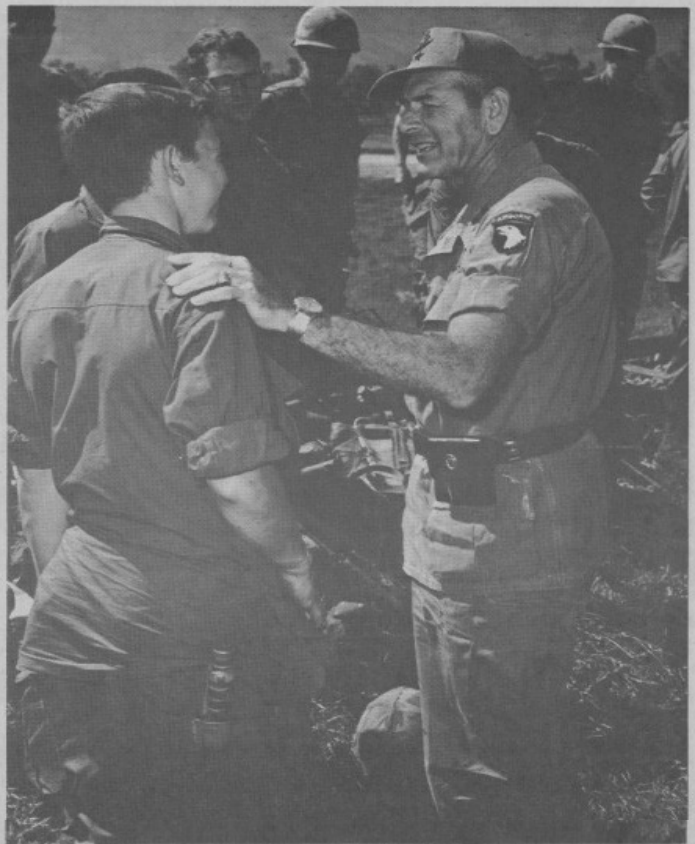
. . . expla

# Under Lucky Eagle



... piloting his command chopper ...

Photos by  
101st Information Office



... paying a routine visit to a line company ...



Gen. Creighton Abrams, MACV commander, at Camp Eagle ...



... and inspecting an SKS rifle at cache site west of Da Nang.



ing Screaming Eagle operations to Vietnamese Pres. Thieu ...



**CHET AND DAVID?**—The Huntley-Brinkley team, AFVN-DaNang style, look over news and sports highlights of the day, just before air time. Spec. 5 Bill Rongstad (left) and Sgt. Joe Rowland are two members of the three-man 101st team at AFVN. (Photo by Sgt. Mike Martin)

### Entertainment For I Corps Troops

## Monkey Mountain Swings With Sounds of Three Eagles

**MONKEY MOUNTAIN** — More than 200,000 troops in the I Corps tactical zone are served by AFVN radio and TV transmitting from high atop Monkey Mountain in Da Nang.

AFVN-Da Nang productions are network programmed over two other stations, Quang Tri and Chu Lai.

Through the efforts of the staff at AFVN, the fighting man is kept abreast of the events of the day throughout the world as well as news from home.

Five minute network news summaries are heard every hour, 24 hours a day.

Music programs constitute a majority of the air time on the Da Nang station and furnishes easy listening with the most current hits from the U.S.

Sports fans count on AFVN to give the current run down on the latest scores and special broadcast of major events, such as the Super Bowl, the NBA championship game and many others, as well as major league baseball games every weekend.

The 101st, through three Screaming Eagles, plays an important role in the programs produced.

Kirkland, Wash. native, Spec. 5 Bill Rongstad is the television news director and also serves as a newscaster. Prior to Rongstad's assignment with the 101st, he had no radio or television experience, but he is indeed a professional in his knowledge, delivery and presentation of news events on the local, national and international news scene.

Rongstad attended the University of Washington for two years before entering the service and is planning to return to college after his separation in June.

The television production director and co-ordinator, Sgt. Michael Martin, Louisville, Ky., arrived in Vietnam in August 1968. Martin has been one of the chief men behind the scenes at the Da Nang operation and has had his own program on radio.

Martin attended Western Kentucky University and worked with the Educational Broadcasting Authority for two years and was director of the educational television shows for elementary schools in the western Kentucky area.

One of the most popular air personalities, Sgt. Joe Rowland, Winchester, Ky., is the host of

Cavalcade, an hour long program heard every morning.

Rowland is the radio program director and is solely responsible for the production and programming of AFVN radio, Da Nang. He holds a degree in the radio-television field and has an invaluable First Class Federal Communication radio-TV license. He also serves as AFVN's on-camera sportscaster, in addition to his many other duties.

Rowland has 17 months in country, after having served with the Infantry, prior to his assignment for duty at AFVN. He is currently being sought after by several civilian radio stations and plans to continue his career in the radio field after his release from active duty.

Morale can't be measured with a yardstick, but there is no doubt that AFVN-Da Nang plays a large part in the lives of GIs in I Corps.

## Rakkasan Reenlists In Exotic A Shau

**FIRE BASE RAKKASAN**—Members of the U.S. Army have reenlisted in many strange and exotic places around the world, but Spec. 4 Gary L. Green believes he is the first to re-up in the A Shau Valley.

Green, a rifleman with A Co., 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf., decided he wanted to take advantage of one of the Army's training programs for use once he returned to civilian life. With this in mind, he contacted his battalion career counselor for advice.

After hearing Green's problem, Staff Sgt. Jeffery Jones advised him that the Army offered an option for reenlistment for Data Processing Training that would meet his needs. Green agreed and decided to reenlist for that option.

Before his paperwork was completed, however, the 3rd Bn. was called to assault the enemy's stronghold in the A Shau Valley, and Green had to postpone his enlistment. Once Jones received all the forms Green required, he decided to get them signed immediately, and headed for the A Shau.

Jones found his man on a mountain top landing zone that A Co. had landed on two days before, and immediately set to work on completing his mission. Within a few minutes Green had reenlisted on the same LZ where only two days before he had landed under heavy fire.

## Long Way To Beach For 1/501

**LZ SALLY** — Paratroopers looking forward to a swim in the ocean found themselves on a waterless mountain peak near the Laotian border recently.

"Everybody in the 1st platoon was really looking forward to a good stand down," explained Spec. 4 William R. Burks, Aurora, Ill., of D Co., 1st Bn., 501st Abn. Inf. "A Chinook picked us up at Fire Base Pike and was supposed to fly us to Eagle Beach."

"Little did they know . . . We flew for about half an hour," Burks said. "When we got off, everyone was too busy trying to get away from the backwash to look around, and when we did look, oh boy!"

Shouts of "Hey!" "Hold on!" and "Wait a minute!" followed the disappearing helicopter.

The men had been dropped off on the tiny peak of a tall mountain. There was no ocean in sight.

Staff Sgt. Ronald G. Shrie, Rochester, N.Y., found one of the troopers stationed on the hill and popped the question, "Where are we?"

"Eagle's Nest," came the answer.

"Mighta known," Shrie muttered.

The platoon leader made a radio call, and in 45 minutes another CH-47 arrived. This time the helicopter took the platoon to Eagle Beach.

### Promotion

**LZ SALLY**—The 2nd Bn., 501st Abn. Inf. has an entry for the list of "most unusual promotion ceremonies."

Capt. Pierce T. Graine, Memphis, Tenn., B Co. commander, received his captain's bars while overlooking the Vietnamese-Laotian border near the A Shau Valley. They were presented by Col. John A. Hoefling, commander of the 2nd Brigade.

Also present were Lt. Col. Joseph C. Wilson, battalion commander, who presented Graine with subdued bars for his fatigues, and CSM Lewis C. Daniel, battalion sergeant major, who gave the young officer a cap with captain's bars.

## Photog's Trained Eye Focuses on Three AKs

**CAMP EVANS**—A combat photographer generally has his eye to a camera, ready to record what's happening around him. But a cameraman from the 3rd Brigade let his eye wander and ended up capturing three AK-47 assault rifles.

Spec. 4 Jerry L. Lewis, Albuquerque, N.M., was accompanying a patrol from D Co., 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf., when he made his find. The unit was in the middle of an enemy base area in the A Shau Valley and was moving toward a bunker complex spotted earlier. As the troopers moved down a trail, Lewis spotted a green canvas-covered bundle half-hidden beneath a log.

"The first thing that entered my mind was enemy weapons," Lewis recalled later, "but it was hard to believe I could have that kind of luck."

The bundle proved to be three new AK-47s, still in their original wrappings and covered with cosmoline. Apparently, an enemy soldier had been unwilling or unable to carry the weapons further and had hidden them until he could return. Lewis' trained eye, however, spoiled his plans.



**WASH POINT GOING TO DOGS**—When the 801st Maint. Bn., at Camp Evans, built a vehicle wash point, they had a good thing going. But thanks to Lt. Eugene R. Amberson, Beaver Dam, Wis.,

commander of the 58th Scout Dog Platoon, the point has literally gone to the dogs. All the dogs from the 58th Scout Dog Platoon are regular customers at the point.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Frank Randant)





**OPEN WIDE**—Capt. Carroll E. Sinnard, Port Charlotte, Fla., surgeon for the 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf., treats a young Vietnamese girl from the New Life Orphanage for a possible throat infection. The orphanage is near Camp Evans. (Photo by Sgt. Jerry Ghearing)

## Eight Hoi Chanh Rally

# VC Lose to Motherly Love

By SPC-5 ROBERT BORDERS  
**CAMP EAGLE** — Thi Hoa looked like any other young Vietnamese mother as she sat holding her newborn son. But there was a subtle difference, perhaps in the way her eyes darted suspiciously about the room.

Thi Hoa would never again be "just another Vietnamese" because for 12 months, she had been a member of a Viet Cong squad, spending her days underground and nights moving to avoid detection. The baby she now held had been fathered by the leader of the squad, and now she wanted him to surrender as she had done so they could be together again.

The girl's plight had started when her hamlet was relocated to a site that could be more easily defended from attack. Only the family's household goods had been taken along when the move was made, so Thi later returned to the abandoned hamlet for their water buffalo.

A VC squad came through and found her there, and persuaded her to join them. For 12 months, she traveled with them through the mountains and lowlands,

hiding in bunkers and spider-holes during the day, fishing during the night, and avoiding any contact with U.S. or government troops.

As the only woman in the squad, Thi cooked the fish, occasionally went into villages to trade for rice to supplement the fish, and entertained other members of the squad by singing to them.

Soon, the girl's mother, who had been keeping track of her daughter's whereabouts through various informants, learned that Thi was pregnant. She was concerned about the welfare of both the girl and the unborn child, and on the advice of a village elder, she went to district headquarters at Phong Dien to ask for help.

The district chief advised the mother to persuade the girl to surrender under the Chieu Hoi, or Open Arms program, and he would make sure appropriate medical care would be available when the time came.

Eventually the time did come, and when Thi came down from the mountains, all was ready at the Phong Dien hospital. After

giving birth, she was moved to the Chieu Hoi center at Hue, and a psychological operations team from the Division solicited her assistance in persuading other members of the squad to surrender.

Because of her efforts, four other members of her husband's squad turned themselves in. Then, soon after, three members of neighboring squad came in.

Thi Hoa's husband still remains at large. Other members of his squad confide that he is a hard core communist and probably will never surrender, but Thi has other ideas.

## A New Life

# Hoi Chanh Does Well on 1st Test

**CAMP EAGLE**—A frightened Hoi Chanh sat motionless, almost inert, as strange voices awaited arrival of a broadcast helicopter from the Division's G-5.

His view was blackened by a thatched mask. Soon, the Hoi Chanh would fly above familiar terrain—rugged and pock-marked by artillery—where he had lived and fought. Winged voices had preached amnesty many times during his 12 months of suffering with the Viet Cong. Finally, Nguyen Hoa, a frail youth from Loc Tu, laid down his arms and defied the communists.

Occasionally, a hand would slide from his lap to nurse multiple cuts and mosquito bites, incurred while burrowed in the coastal highlands southeast of Hue. A legacy of indoctrination, Nguyen still feared American brutality and was confused as the truth began to emerge.

Moments after arrival at the 1st Brigade chopper pad, the veil covering his eyes was lifted, a rush of light made him squint, but gradually he adjusted. Lt. William R. Lazarus, Hyattsville, Md., Assistant S-5 officer, presented the shabbily-clad raller with hot food.

When the helicopter arrived, Staff Sgt. T.T. Ron, a G-5 interpreter, sprang from the back seat and greeted Nguyen with a comforting smile and a few words in Vietnamese — the same language he had spoken in the hills. But this time, the tone and purpose were different.

Gradually, frigid resistance melted in the presence of sincerity. The process of reorientation had begun.

The Hoi Chanh hesitated at first to board the chopper, for he remembered how they had swooped down with machine guns blazing, sounding a different message. Encouragement from Ron countered the barrier. Within moments, the bird softly ascended, and the raller peered cautiously at the countryside.

The chopper swung wide of its original target, which was being

pounded with artillery, and proceeded to another series of coastal crags. Boxes of Chieu Hoi leaflets flanked a mass of electronic equipment, which would carry the words of Nguyen Hoa to his former comrades below.

Capt. Jimmy P. Ashworth, officer in charge of the Screaming Eagles' Chieu Hoi program, turned up the speaker and handed the microphone to Ron. "Come NVA and VC, come in and join the Chieu Hoi program," he began. "ARVN and Allied forces will take care of you, and they will give you freedom, a good life and happiness with your families."

Reluctantly, but again heeding the advice of Ron, the Hoi Chanh spoke. Hidden ears below him heard him tell of how the Americans and ARVNs had taken care of him, given him food, clothing, shelter and medical care. There was no mistreatment or torture as the Viet Cong had said there would be. "I am proud and happy to have surrendered under the Chieu Hoi program," Nguyen said.

A strong breeze from the South China sea carried his message and leaflets to the mountainside. Nguyen Hoa had completed and passed his first test. And more important, the former Viet Cong had made the biggest decision of his young life, changing his existence in a bid for freedom.

# AWARDS and DECORATIONS

**SILVER STAR**  
 Lt. Col. Donald F. Davis, 1/32nd Inf. (1st O.L.C.); Lt. Col. Gene T. Sherron, 2/56th Inf.; Lt. Col. Joseph C. Wilson, 2/501st Inf.; Capt. Gerald S. Horkins, 3/187th Inf.; Capt. Lyle J. Thompson, 2/132nd Arty. (posthumous); Lt. Earle J. Cooper, 2/501st Inf.; Lt. Patrick J. Cushing, 2/501st Inf.; Lt. Douglas A. Dugger, 2/187th Inf. (posthumous); Lt. Dale E. Duncon, 3/187th Inf.; Lt. Arthur W. Herbert, 1/506th Inf.; Lt. Charles W. Newhall, 1/227th Inf.; Lt. Byron C. Pilgrys, 2/506th Inf.; Lt. Michael B. Sherfield, 1/506th Inf.; Lt. John D. Sorge, 1/502nd Inf.; CW2 Patrick B. Brooks, 1/1st Cav.; WO1 David W. Peley, 101st Avn. Bn. (posthumous); SFC James M. Johnson, 75th Inf.; Pfc. Sgt. James D. Kizer, 2/501st Inf.; Pfc. Sgt. Maurice A. Passale, 2/506th Inf.; Staff Sgt. Glen A. DiPasquale, 3/187th Inf.; Staff Sgt. Teddy K. Seiser, 3/506th Inf.; Sgt. Dale E. Kronenberg, 2/501st Inf.; Spec. 4 Jerry Rutz, 3/187th Inf.; Sgt. Robert E. Sonnabend, 1/502nd Inf.; Sgt. Peter Windfeldt, 1/506th Inf.; Spec. 4 Clarence Bobin, 3/187th Inf. (posthumous); Spec. 4 Charles L. King, 1/501st Inf. (posthumous); Spec. 4 George Korzhak, 3/187th Inf.; Spec. 4 Oliver H. Pettengill, 3/187th Inf.; Spec. 4 Robert W. Roka, 3/187th Inf.; Spec. 4 James Schmidt, 2/501st Inf.; Spec. 4 Jerry A. Schuettler, 3/187th Inf.; Pfc. Charles E. Bowman, 1/227th Inf.; Pfc. Ebrahim De Jesus, 1/227th Inf.; Pfc. Joseph R. Eddins, 1/231st Arty. (posthumous); Pfc. William O. Long, 3/187th Inf. (posthumous); Pfc. Oren Nicholson, 2/506th Inf.; Pfc. Donald R. Rigney, 3/187th Inf.; Pfc. Jesse D. Short, 1/1st Cav.

**DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**  
 Col. Lloyd J. Picou, Hqs., Div. Arty.; Lt. Col. Charles J. Bauer, 1/506th Inf.; Lt. Col. W. R. Harrell, 2/519th Arty.; Lt. Col. Samuel J. Hubbard, 199th Avn. Bn.; Maj. Martin W. Shuey, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; Capt. Alfred P. Dreeves, Jr., 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; Capt. Jon M. Gresson, 478th Avn. Co. (1st O.L.C.); Capt. Charles H. Lewis, 325th Med. Bn. (1st O.L.C.);

Capt. William C. Meacham, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn. (1st O.L.C.); Capt. Hossard R. Murphy, 478th Avn. Co. (1st O.L.C.); Lt. Donald J. Brown, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; Alvie J. Ledford, 1/1st Cav. (1st O.L.C.); Lt. John H. Michaels, 4/77th Arty.; Lt. Paul N. Phillips, 4/77th Arty.; Lt. Eric V. Pulliam, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn. (posthumous); Lt. Billy R. Sosin, 4/77th Arty.; CW4 James R. Oden, 478th Avn. Co.; CW4 Eugene R. Price, 478th Avn. Co.; CW2 Loran G. Bryant, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; CW2 Cyril J. Carr, 2/1st Cav.; CW2 Ricky G. Coelen, 1/1st Cav.; CW2 Jerry L. Sunley, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; WO1 Victor W. Anderson, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; WO1 John L. Bendarz, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; WO1 Albert F. Brizendine, 1/1st Cav.; WO1 Paul F. Edger, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; WO1 Jerold J. Greene, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; WO1 George E. Hayward, Hqs., 2nd Bde. (posthumous); WO1 Henry W. Schwartz, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; WO1 George Seibold, Hqs., 2nd Bde.; WO1 John L. Tobey, 4/77th Arty.; WO1 Andre D. Thomas, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; Spec. 5 William C. Rimmer, 478th Avn. Co.; Spec. 5 Michael A. Thoroughgood, 325th Med. Bn.; Spec. 4 Kenneth Christol, 1/1st Cav.; Spec. 4 Timothy Harrington, Hqs., 2nd Bde. (posthumous); WO1 Henry W. Nordel, Hqs., 2nd Bde. (posthumous); Spec. 4 Robert E. Prescott, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; Pfc. Fred J. Keeley, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; Pfc. Terry H. Lawson, 1/1st Cav.

**SOLDIER'S MEDAL**  
 Capt. Lester D. Wolkeky, 2/327th Inf.; Lt. Grovin F. Broke, 2/327th Inf.; Lt. Wallace P. Brown, 5ERTS; Staff Sgt. Stuart L. Loving, 325th Eng. Bn.; Spec. 4 John Sherrid, 1/501st Inf.

**AIR MEDAL WITH "V"**  
 Maj. Paul F. Voder, 2/506th Inf. (5th O.L.C.); Capt. William C. Meacham, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn.; CW2 Cyril J. Carr, 1/1st Cav. (4th O.L.C.); CW2 Claude D. Hessler, 1/1st Cav. (4th O.L.C.); CW2 Douglas D. Houser, 1/1st Cav.; WO1 John M. Rucker, 101st Aslt. Hel. Bn. (1st O.L.C.); 1st Sgt. James G. Harrington, 79th Inf.

**BRONZE STAR WITH "V"**  
 Lt. Shoun C. Hills, HMC; Spec. 4 Daniel D. Glatthorn, 2/320th Arty.; Spec. 4 Ralph Parsinger, 1/1st Cav.; James E. Fisher, E. Rogers, 163rd Avn. Co.; Spec. 4 Mark L. Stewart, HMC; Pfc. Terry Lewellen, 325th Eng. Bn.

**1st Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.**  
 Staff Sgt. Michael K. Goshorn (2nd O.L.C.); Staff Sgt. Willie C. Hooker Sr.; SFC Allen Scott; Spec. 4 Daniel J. Pollett; Spec. 4 William D. Griffin; Spec. 4 Thomas L. Michelson; Spec. 4 Robert McCurdy.

**2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.**  
 Lt. Frederick Robinson; Spec. 4 Leonard E. Dillard; Spec. 4 Fred H. Fritz; Spec. 4 Ronnie Kenney; Spec. 4 Terry E. Saunders; Spec. 4 Charles L. Zepher.

**3rd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.**  
 Staff Sgt. Hesel G. Higgins; Sgt. Robert A. Burfield; Spec. 4 James E. Fisher; Pfc. Charles Gray; Pfc. Edward Lowe; Pfc. Marcus J. Salmons.

**2nd Bn., 506th Abn. Inf.**  
 Sgt. Carl L. Luff; Spec. 4 Wilbur R. Fink.

**1st Bn., 501st Abn. Inf.**  
 SFC Robert S. McLean; Spec. 4 Brian S. Lisk.

**2nd Bn., 501st Abn. Inf.**  
 Lt. Leo B. Sullivan Jr.; Pfc. Staff Sgt. William D. Block; Pfc. Sgt. Paul A. Frederic; Sgt. Michael F. Christensen; Sgt. Darryl F. Dilger; Sgt. Thomas L. Reehm; Sgt. Richard T. Smith; Sgt. John R. Thompson; Spec. 4 Dennis J. Huff; Spec. 4 Francis E. Hughes; Spec. 4 Patrick W. Murray; Pfc. Patrick E. Bradley; Pfc. Gerald W. Coburn; Pfc. Cleveland L. Hows; Pfc. Gory F. Horkness.

**1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf.**  
 Lt. John H. Hayes III; Lt. Joseph P. Melanson; Lt. Donald C. Murnock; Staff Sgt. Clifton H. Colgan Jr.; Staff Sgt. Charles B. Payne Jr.; Staff Sgt. Jay D. Reeves; Staff Sgt. Frank L. Davis; Sgt. James D. Harrison; Sgt. Dennis E. Harrell; Sgt. Tony McCoy; Sgt. Reginald P. Schrier; Sgt. Richard L. Van Alstine; Sgt. Allan B. Ziegler; Spec. 4 Peter K. Crosson; Spec. 4 David R. Debus.

## Artillerymen Supervise Opening of Orphanage

**CAMP EAGLE** — The Tin Lanh Orphanage, just outside Hue's Citadel, has officially opened its facilities with help from Division artillerymen.

Brief ceremonies were held in an upstairs room in the school-dormitory complex, designed to someday house 150 children.

Construction of the new building was judged along by Chaplain (Capt.) Vahan Sipantzi, Div. Arty. Protestant Chaplain. Due to his efforts, materials were obtained and construction started on the new facility.

The orphanage presently houses 15 children. Half is completed and ready for use. The other half will be finished soon. According to Chaplain Sipantzi,

it is a Vietnamese custom to build things a half at a time, so part of the new structure can be utilized before the whole is completed.

"Christ said it is better to give than to receive — and we give with pleasure," the chaplain said, addressing a group gathered for the ceremonies. His comments were translated into Vietnamese as he spoke.

Chaplain Sipantzi expressed particular appreciation to Col. Lloyd J. Picou Div. Arty. commander, Lt. Col. Richard W. Jensen, Div. Arty. Executive Officer, and Lt. (Jr.) Roger B. Bickel, Naval Gunfire officer attached to Div. Arty., who helped get cement and other materials for the orphanage.

## Outside Fire Base Rakkasan

# Pilot Rescues Downed Marines

**FIRE BASE RAKKASAN** — It was a routine mission for WO1 Edward Earles, Pampa, Tex., until he received a call from two downed Marine F4 jet fighter pilots.

"We were putting in a strike near Tiger Mountain," said Capt. Joseph Garzik, Southern Pines, N.C., the pilot, "when our aircraft was hit by ground fire."

"We had made one run at the target but aborted it," said Capt. Floyd Massey, Havelock, N.C. "We were rolling out of our dive after dropping four bombs on the second run when I heard an explosion and saw smoke coming from the rear of my seat."

Earles was on his way to Fire Base Rakkasan when he heard the distress call. He changed his radio to the emergency frequency and soon saw two parachutes floating in the distance.

"We were trying to make it to the coast before ditching, but after both engines flamed out we started looking for a place to bail out. When we saw the fire base, we decided it was time to go," Massey continued.

"Shortly after bailing out I looked up and saw my chute fully open. I worked my risers a couple of times and managed to miss all but three trees before hitting the ground."

He landed some 800 feet from

Fire Base Rakkasan, home of the 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf.

"All I could think of after hitting the ground was to get away from the chute, because I didn't know how hospitable the people in the area were," Massey re-

## Currahees Have Last Laugh on Joking VC

**PHAN THIET** — Paratroopers of the 3rd Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. had the last laugh on some joking Viet Cong near this coastal city recently.

"We were in a defensive ambush position along a well-used trail," explained Pfc. Brian E. Stallard, Jersey City, N.J., "when we heard movement and the sound of laughing voices!"

While the members of the reconnaissance platoon waited in silence, an estimated enemy platoon supply column approached their position. Unaware of their impending danger, they laughed their way into the Currahees'

claymores. The night erupted with explosive violence as the ambush felled five enemy soldiers.

"They continued to shout and move around out there," added Sgt. John N. Ferreira. "One of them was shouting commands. Then we heard movement to our left flank."

The Paratroopers of the short-range recon team hurried grenades into the enemy force and radioed for gunship support. The Viet Cong kept moving outside their perimeter until early morning.

Dawn finally broke for the Currahees under the cover of overhead light from the rockets of the gunships.

A sweep of the area yielded the body count and disclosed large amounts of food and documents.

called. "It was only a couple of minutes until I saw the chopper circling overhead."

Tall grass, scrub and a large stump prevented Earles from landing. Massey was able to reach the skids, but he was too weak to pull himself up into the chopper, so he wrapped his arms around the skids, grabbed ahold of his survival vest and cried out, "Let's go!"

He made the 800-meter ride to safety dangling beneath the light observation helicopter.

"It was transportation," Massey said. "That's all I wanted. Besides, I was too weak and scared to let go."

After putting Massey down at the fire base, Earles landed and asked where the other pilot went down. "But when I got over the area, there were so many flare parachutes, I couldn't see the downed pilot's," Earles reported.

Garzik, in the midst of 30-foot trees, realized the chopper couldn't get to him, so he ran down a hill and up an opposite slope to pop smoke in a clearing for the pilot.

"When he saw me, he and the other choppers flying cover for me were like great big beautiful angels," Garzik recalled.

Fifteen minutes after the first plea went out, both pilots had been rescued. Neither one was injured.



**COOL WATER** — An M-60 machine gunner from C Co., 1st Bn., 501st Abn. Inf. wades across a swift stream after a long day of bumping the boonies in Operation Kentucky Jumper.

(Photo by 501st Signal Bn.)



**LETTER COMPLETES LOAD**—A combat load that includes a full rucksack and an M-60 machine gun are incomplete without mail, so Pfc. Lee Turner, Aneo, Ky., brings it along. He was with the recon platoon of the 1st Bn., 501st Abn. Inf.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Don Kelson)

### Mail The Screaming Eagle Home

★ (Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.)

From:

---



---



---

Place Stamp Here

(12 cents 1st class)  
(20 cents Airmail)

TO:

---



---



---

## New CG Brings Experience

(Continued From Page 1)  
Staff. In 1947 he attended Airborne School at Ft. Benning, qualifying as a parachutist and gliderman.

The next year he attended the Strategic Intelligence School and then served as military attache in the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Upon returning to the United States in 1950, he served as executive officer of the 30th Infantry, then attended the advanced course at the Infantry School. His next assignment was as battalion commander in the 506th Regimental Combat Team, Ft. Benning.

After graduating from the Command and General Staff College, he served with the 7th Inf. Div. as executive officer of the 32nd Inf. Regt., then as G-1 and later as G-4 of the division.

Following the Korean War, he attended the University of Southern California, graduating in 1956 with a master of business administration degree.

Moving to the Pentagon, Gen. Wright served in a variety of positions. They included chief of the Program Analysis Branch in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, assistant to the Director of Financial Operations, and assistant chief of the Budget Division. During this

tour of duty, he graduated from the Army Logistics Management Center at Ft. Lee, Va.

Gen. Wright then served in the office of the Army Chief of Staff as chief of the Programs Branch of the Programs and Analysis Group, secretary of the Program Advisory Committee, and chief of the Congressional Affairs Branch.

During this tour, from 1958 to 1960, he graduated from the advanced executive management course at the University of Pittsburgh.

After graduation in 1961 from the National War College, he was ordered to Germany, where he served, consecutively as Chief of Staff of the 8th Inf. Div., G-3 of VII Corps, and G-3 of 7th Army.

He returned to Ft. Benning in 1964 as Assistant Division Commander of the 11th Air Assault Division, an experimental division testing the Army's new Air-mobility concept. During this tour, he graduated from the Aviation School at Ft. Rucker, Ala., qualifying as an Army Aviator.

Upon successful completion of tests, the 11th Air Assault Division was reorganized as the 1st Cav. Div. (Airmobile) on July 1, 1965, and ordered to Vietnam. Gen. Wright led the advance

party and continued to serve as ADC during the 1st Cav.'s first year of counterinsurgency operations.

He returned to the U.S. in September 1966 and was appointed director of a study group charged with developing the aviation requirements for the combat structure of the Army.

Prior to coming to the 101st, Gen. Wright served as commander of the Infantry Center and commandant of the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, from July 1967 to May of this year.

His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with 12 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Gen. Wright also holds the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Army Aviator Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge.

He has been active in Boy Scout activities since 1928 and now serves as a member of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. Gen. Wright is also a licensed radio operator.

He is married to the former Helene Tribit of Los Angeles. They have two sons, John III and Richard. Gen. Wright's parents reside in Van Nuys, Calif.

## Eagle Colors Passed to New CG

(Continued From Page 1)  
of a completely reconfigured Division. The 101st was now fully Airmobile — and the enemy felt it.

During the operation in the southern half of the valley — an operation named Massachusetts Striker in honor of the general's homestate — 2nd Brigade Paratroopers accounted for 218 enemy killed and 911 weapons seized. More than 300,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 5,000 mortar rounds, 400 rockets and huge amounts of food and signal equipment were uncovered.

Enemy forces were pushed from their staging areas and forced to move toward the Laotian border, and enemy traffic through the valley toward the populated cities of I Corps — Hue and Da Nang — was halted.

Gen. Zais pronounced himself extraordinarily pleased with Massachusetts Striker, and highly praised the men who had taken part. The operation ended May 8, and soon after, the Division again hit the valley floor, this time in a 3rd Brigade operation dubbed Apache Snow. During the first day, no helicopters

were lost — unlike the other A-119 thrusts into the valley. The 101st was growing mature as an Airmobile Division.

Gen. Zais adopted the nickname "Lucky Eagle" when he first assumed command of the Division, and the name stuck. He earned his wings as a helicopter pilot last fall, and the name "Lucky Eagle" on his chopper soon became familiar to most troopers as the general constantly flew to the field to check on the welfare of his men and the success of the operations he planned.