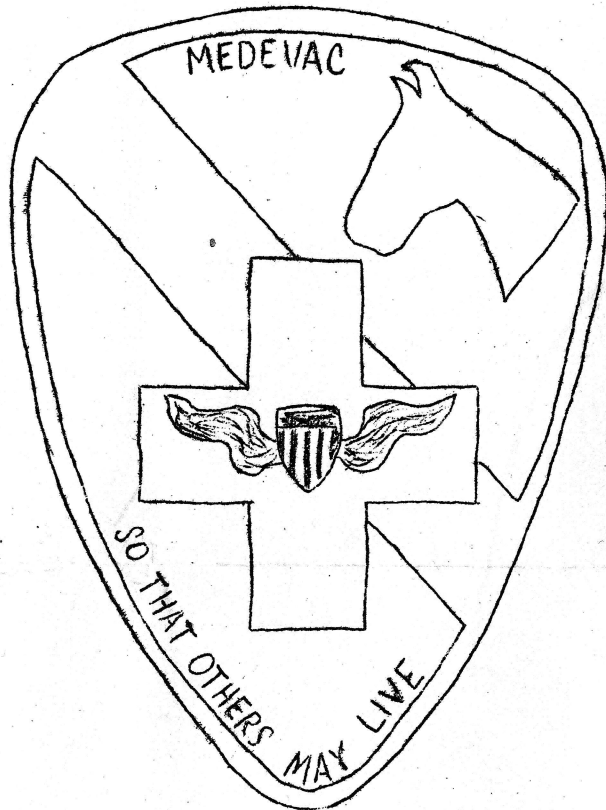


MED EVAC
FIRST IN
CAMBODIA



JAN -- JUN
1970

SEMI ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

AIR AMBULANCE PLATOON
HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT COMPANY, 15TH MEDICAL BATTALION
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96490

EVENTS OF NOTE

January

After taking time to sober up, Medevac rose to meet the challenge of the New Year. A real challenge it was, too; for immediately after heads cleared, four of the old timers either moved back to the "Land of the Big PX and Morning Smog" or took off for the plusher living at 45th Dust Off. This apparently was not enough of a handicap for the First Team because three aircraft were hit by fire, two of them crashed, and the wounded count began to climb. On 5 January, WO1 Rich Leonard and CPT Jerry Rhodes crashed under heavy enemy fire in the Tay Ninh AO while on a hoist operation. Mr. Leonard suffered a fractured wrist and the up and coming newbie CPT Rhodes sustained a compressed fracture of the vertebra in the crash. Crewchief Rodney Wiley and medic Bill Keller both received multiple frag wounds and gunner Dave Parks was badly shaken up. His cherry gone, CPT Rhodes sadly departed for the world muttering something about his three OLC for his Air Medal. So two more dauntless aviators were lost to Medevac. Not to be called a "Chieu Hoi", that same day Mr. Leonard extended for six more months in Medevac.

CW2 Freddie Albright, with a completely cherry crew and peter pilot, came in to pick up Medevac 15 and his people. "Charlie" greeted him with a tremendous volume of fire and Mr. Albright was forced to make a precautionary landing. Many cherries were: 1LT John T. Read, crewchief Richard Dailey, medic Vincent "Doc Dew" Warren, and gunner Dewayne Sparkman.

Operations continued in the routine "Jump thru your alpha" manner until 22 January which found WO1 Thomas R. Hughes and 1LT John T. Read setting up their defensive perimeter in the Tay Ninh AO after being shot down. Mr. Hughes, a seven month cherry, gave up his left patella to a sharp shooting Charlie, and was evacuated to the world after staying on the ground for some twenty hours. Also injured in the crash was 1LT John T. Read - who exclaimed, "I'll never fly again!", crewchief Danny "Diamond" Smith, medic Chris Burgess, and gunner Mike Smith. All sustained multiple cuts and bruises.

All told, January was a rather bleak month for Medevac. Two aircraft were total combat lost and ten Medevac personnel were injured in evacuating 1,913 patients on 752 missions. Medevac also hoisted 71 patients on 38 missions in compiling over 950 hours for the month.

FEBRUARY

CW2 Phillip "Big Okie" Gibbons deroled in February. Whatever else is said of the month would be an anticlimax; however, Medevac did pick up 1584 patients on 614 missions. Also another 71 patients were hoisted on 38 hoist operations.

MARCH

Many, many cherries were lost this month. 1LT Jack "Strack Jack" Roden began the cherry picking season on 2 March by getting shot down Northeast of Song Be while on a hoist mission. Cherry boys were: 1LT John "Plasma Nine" Lonon, medic Mike Bodnar, and gunner Mike Parsons. Crewchief John Hodges thought it was old stuff as he busied himself setting up the perimeter. Getting shot down after being in the AO less than three hours is bad enough; but the men spent 24 hours on the ground before they were evacuated. No wonder they are demanding the CIB.

Ending the month on the same note was CW2 William "Wild Bill" Sallenger. With a complete cherry crew of EM and a peter pilot he had seduced with small arms fire three days earlier, Mr. Sallenger commenced to get his tail shot off after he had made a pickup at LZ Snuffy. WO1 Craig Hollenbeck felt he had been raped this time along with crewchief Bob Gray, medic Dan Hicks, and gunner Chuck Lynch.

1LT Monty Halcomb, medic Tom Campbell, and gunner Richard "Arkie" Goodson round out the list of busted cherries as they were flying with WO1 Dennis "Scarfer" Schmidt when he collided with a bunch of AK rounds in christening "Magnet Butt" Hodges' new ship.

In evacuating 2086 patients on 888 missions, nine aircraft were hit by enemy fire, with two being total combat losses. 101 patients were pulled out of the jungle on 50 hoist missions. The Medevac aviators logged a staggering 1107:25 hours in March.

Worthy of mention is the emergency landing performed by CPT Harry (CPT America) Wisdom at the Phuoc Vinh active after experiencing a hydraulics failure.

Another significant event for the month of March was the adoption of a completely new SOI. Henceforth the Cav will see a new SOI in effect each month with new frequencies and call signs... just another challenge.

APRIL

The outstanding event for the month of April, regretfully, was a tragedy. On 25 April test pilot WO1 Rodney K. Arnold was trst flying a bird from Phu Loi to

thuoc Vinh when he suffered an apparent tail rotor failure and crashed just south of the Song Be Bridge. SFC James H. Brooks and SP6 James T. Conway died along with Mr. Arnold from wounds suffered in the crash. These were three outstanding individuals and the men of Medevac join together in praying that they may "Rest in Peace".

Four days later another Medevac chopper was destroyed when it was hit with a B-40 rocket while on a hoist mission near LZ Joe (Minh Thanh). CW2 Ray "Nitty Gritty" Zepp did an unbelievable job of keeping the bird in the air and limping it over 100 meters to an open field. Wounded in the incident were crewchief Dave "Robbie" Robinson and gunner Dwayne Sparkman. Both sustained multiple frag wounds. Robbie was evacuated further south due to the seriousness of his wounds. Others in the crew were: WO1 Jack L. West and medic James "Mitch" Mitchell. Both of them were Medevac cherry boys.

Medevac hoisted 104 patients on 28 missions for a total of 1831 patients on 825 missions in April.

Not to be forgotten is that angry young man, Filiberto "Mr. Personality" Albino. SGT Albino became the Air Operations RTO this month. His willingness to work and his no-nonsense attitude on the radio has impressed us all in Medevac.

"FIRST INTO CAMBODIA"

MAY - JUNE

On the first of May, the 1st Cavalry Division spearheaded the Allied invasion of Cambodia. The one-time enemy sanctuary became a battle ground and yielded many supplies and ammunition. The first few days were unforgettable. The NVA were on the run suffering many KIA's and WIA's. Caches were being uncovered while Allied casualties were at a minimum. Numerous calls could be heard on guard requesting gun assistance for NVA caught in the open, or on occasion for an NVA convoy caught moving down a road. The Cav was on the roll and had built up a good head of steam. The 11th Armored Cav pushed into Cambodia west of Quan Loi, literally running over the countryside. Cambodian villages used as NVA base camps could be seen burning for as far as the eye could see. For Medevac, May was the beginning of a very busy two month period.

During May, Medevac had fourteen aircraft damaged by hostile fire and four of these aircraft were totally destroyed. Aircraft #465, crewed by SP4 David "Whitey" Morse, was shot down on 16 May. CPT Harry Wisdom and CW2 Jay Tanner were at the controls. SP4 Dan Hicks, medic, and SP4 Mike Smith, gunner were both injured (broken legs) and sent back to the world. On 23 May, aircraft #485, piloted by 1LT Dennis Schmidt and WO1 Craig Hollenbeck, experienced engine failure under night IFR conditions two clicks north of Bu Dop. Due to excellent piloting, the aircraft was landed with only incident damage and no injuries to either crew or patients. On 24 May, Medevac experienced its first mission oriented fatality of the year. SP4 Gary Taylor, gunner, was killed when the aircraft he was aboard was shot down and burned. The aircraft commander, 1LT Steve Modica (Medevac 2) was shot in the leg; and the pilot, 1LT Lee Caubarreaux, suffered a broken arm and a separated shoulder. The medic, SP5 Terry Burdette sustained a broken jaw and moderate burns. Crewchief Pat Martin was only bruised. 1LT's Modica and Caubarreaux and SP5 Burdette were evacuated back to the world. On 25 May, aircraft #157, piloted by CW2 Bill Sallenger and 1LT Howard Elliott was shot down in the same grid as Medevac 2. The crew and pilots were rescued shortly with no resulting injuries. On 26 May, CPT Michael Hagerty, 1LT Steve Modica, and CW2 Ray Zepp received impact Silver Star awards for operations involving the hot extraction of Medevac 2 and his crew on 25 May. CW2 Richard J. Tanner, with one day left in company, piloted the lead rescue aircraft to pick up "The Deuce". He received a DFC for his efforts.

During the month of May, Medevac ran a total of 307 missions into Cambodia, extracting 946 patients. May can best be summed up as hard-hitting, new flight experiences, and a feeling of worthwhile accomplishment.

As the month of June rolled around, the Cav had approached the 21.7 mile limit. Forward momentum gave way to looking for and destroying caches, and uncovering enemy base camps. Many forward LZ's were established as a more defensive involvement replaced the May offensive. The prime means of enemy retaliation was in the form of incoming. Several LZ's experienced ground probes but the results were not favorable for the enemy. Only two Medevac aircraft received hostile fire during the month and none were shot down. Also, there were no casualties experienced by the Air Ambulance Platoon in June. A total of 1056 patients were carried by Medevac in June on 682 missions.

June can best be summed up as a clean-up month. Sweeps were conducted using naval sonar equipment and other advanced means in locating caches and depriving the enemy of his much needed food and munitions. Main routes of supply were cut off and, where possible, destroyed. Selected are certain items captured during the Cambodian operations which are of particular importance to aviators who have come into contact with the same. The following is an approximate count of materials captured and/or destroyed:

82mm mortar rounds	12,000
37mm anti-aircraft rounds	10,000
B-40 rockets	12,000
B-41 rockets	1,000
122mm rockets	1,000
.51 cal ammunition	3 million rounds
AK-47 ammunition	4 million rounds
Enemy KIA	3,000
POW taken	50

The move into Cambodia may not shorten the war, but the maneuver definitely has hindered and logistically hurt the enemy. American casualties overall may be considered light. The months of May and June 1970 will long be remembered by both sides. The deployment of aircraft and personnel most definitely put a strain on the operations and maintenance aspect of the Medevac mission; however, Medevac can be proud of its role in the Cambodia operation and its outcome.

Again the 1st Cav, of which Medevac is an important and vital part, is FIRST... and Medevac is still "STANDING BY!"

The First Team's Medical Evacuation pilots were awarded the following decorations during the preceding two quarters:

<u>PILOT</u>	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>PRESENTED</u>
Hagerty, M.	SS	27 May 70
Zepp, R.	SS	27 May 70
Leonard, R.	SS	27 May 70
Modica, S.	SS	27 May 70
Zepp, R.	DFC (2 & 3 cluster)	27 May 70
Hagerty, M.	DFC	5 Jan 70
Albright, F.	DFC	7 Apr 70
Colby	DFC	13 June 70
Modica, S.	DFC	27 May 70
Rhodes, J.	DFC	7 Apr 70
Sallenger, W.	DFC	1 Apr 70
Tanner, J.	DFC (1 OLC)	23 May 70
Wisdom, H.	DFC	18 Apr 70
Wisdom, H.	DFC (1 OLC)	23 May 70
Elliott, H.	DFC	22 Jun 70
Tuell, H.	DFC	22 Jun 70
Adams, D.	SM	1 Jan 70
Adams, D.	BSM	1 Jan 70
Albright, F.	BSM	20 Feb 70
Bayford	BSM	1 Jan 70
Gibbons	BSM	20 Feb 70
Holmes, C.	BSM	2 Feb 70
Leonard, R.	BSM	27 Feb 70
Richards, J.	BSM	22 May 70
Roden, J.	BSM	20 Jun 70
Sallenger, W.	BSM	20 Jun 70
Toothman, D.	BSM	22 May 70
Tanner, J.	BSM	22 May 70
Zepp, R.	BSM	27 May 70
Roden, J.	AM"V"	20 Jun 70
Modica, S.	AM"V"	27 May 70
Adams	AM	23 Jan 70
Albright, F.	AM	11 Mar 70
Baker	AM	8 Feb 70
Bayford	AM	23 Jan 70

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	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>PRESENTED</u>
Colby	AM	8 Feb 70
Hughes	AM	28 Mar 70
Rhodes	AM	23 Jan 70
Tanner	AM	22 May 70
Wisdom	AM	19 May 70
Sallenger, W.	PH	23 Apr 70
Hollenbeck, C.	PH	23 Apr 70
Leonard, R.	PH	27 May 70
Modica, S.	PH	27 May 70
Caubarreaux, L.	PH	27 May 70
Read, J.	PH	7 Feb 70
Tanner, R.	PH	13 Jun 70
Wisdom, H.	PH	10 Jun 70

"The View From the Back Seat"

While the airplane drivers were having their fun, we EM's sat patiently in the "hell hole" and waited the chance to do our thing. It turns out that with the advent of the Cambodia operation, we got our chance and then some. With the increased number of missions, sleeping in or under the aircraft at a field stand-by point became the rule instead of the exception.

Here in Phuoc Vinh the boys at Maintenance, under the gentle bull whip of the Maintenance Officer, Mr. Dyke, were pushing it around the clock trying to keep airplanes under the crews. It seemed that every time they'd get a ship in 1st class condition, some enlightened follower of Ho Chi Minh would try to see just how many bullet holes you can cram into an "H" model. The number of ships lined up for repair resembled a traffic jam at rush hour. Never the less, under the steady hand of SFC Frank Credle and SSG Jack Williamson, we had enough airplanes to keep from handling the missions on foot.

The Crew Chiefs were especially hard pressed. It seemed that as soon as they would get a nick-name painted on the nose of a bird, it would be shot to pieces before the paint would dry. Plus the CE's just couldn't understand how rotor blades seem to attract rounds, tree limbs, and all manner of solid objects with the pull of a magnet. Needless to say, many cherries were lost; both of the aircraft and the crews.

Our gunners got plenty of chance to earn their pay. Led by SGT Tim "Frito Bandito" Kirwan, SGT Mike "of Easy Company" Parsons, and SP5 Dwayne "Sparky" Sparkman, the ranks included stalwarts like SP4 Roger Miner, SP4 Roy Smith, SP5 Chuck Lynch, SP4 Ricky Goodson, and SP4 Bobby Coggins. All of the above are getting very short and their loss will be felt keenly. Newbees include SP4 John "Alphabet" Uebelacker, SP5 Bob Valencia (a transfer from Cav AG at Bien Hoa who got tired of hanging the straps), SP4 Felix "Frank" Aguilar, and PFC Larry Ash. The loss of the old veterans will be keenly felt by everyone but the NVA.

The medics had a sharp turnover in personnel with only six veterans to teach the FNG's the ropes. They include SP4 Dan "Doc Bra" Brady, SP4 Tom Campbell, SP4 Chris Burgess, SP4 Jim "Mitch" Mitchell, SP5 Don Payne (the old man), and PFC Harry Holton. The medics are the heart of Medevac, and their skill and professionalism were the difference between life and death for a lot of people.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, SGT Filiberto "Big Al" Albino was holding down the commo duties and assaulting one and all with his tongue-lashings. Al is the only man in the Army who can stay mad twenty-four hours a day. And in the next room, Medevac's one and only "Remington Raider", SP4 Mike "Big Red" Burke plowed through the paperwork and flight records and somehow pulled Air Ops through the AGI inspection.

Getting shot at and such wasn't enough, it seems; so at the end of June, they threw us out of our happy home! Gunners and Medics were forced to take up quarters in an old mess hall at HSC; and the resulting crowded conditions were compared to a concentration camp (With the concentration camp getting the nod.) After destroying our old hooch, we were told to move back there about three weeks later, and we still haven't got the old place back to snuff.

One final note of interest: Medevac's only enlisted acting LTC, one Charles E. Dew, has gained the Purple Heart. Our simian (that's a monkey) mascot was wounded in action during some incoming and ended up being the only casualty we had that night. "Charlie" is currently recuperating and staying close to our bunker at all times.

All in all, we're quite content to sit and ride, but when it gets down to business, Medevac EM's become "where it's really at."

OFFICER PERSONNEL

MEDEVAC #

DEROS

6	CPT Michael L. Hagerty	Platoon Leader	12 Oct 70
5	CPT Simon T. Mojica	Operations Officer	7 Jan 71
11	1LT Howard R. Elliott	Asst Operations Officer	7 Jan 71

AIR AMBULANCE SECTION

7	CPT Jack R. Roden	Section Leader	1 Jul 70
4	CPT John A. Chisholm		13 May 71
1	1LT Henry O. Tuell		30 Nov 70
9	1LT John H. Lonon		5 Jan 71
8	1LT Monty Halcomb		21 Feb 71
2	1LT Ronald A. Huether		5 Jun 71

CRASH RESCUE SECTION

12	1LT John T. Read	Section Leader	9 Aug 70
15	CW2 Richard E. Leonard		19 Oct 70
21	CW2 Raymond F. Zepp II		16 Sep 70
25	CW2 William J. Sallenger		1 Jul 70
23	1LT Dennis R. Schmidt		1 Jul 70
13	WO1 David L. Robart		15 Jun 71
16	WO1 Adolph J. FINDER		10 Oct 70
20	WO1 Jack L. West		10 Oct 70
26	WO1 Joel L. Morris		29 Apr 71
18	WO1 Christopher N. Wickland		10 Dec 70
17	WO1 Craig Hollenbeck		18 Feb 71
14	WO1 Thomas W. Trifiro		18 Feb 71
19	WO1 Gregory A. Simpson		26 Apr 71

DEROSED, EVACUATED, TRANSFERRED, OR RELEASED

3	CPT Robert L. Thomas	Transferred to CONUS in January	1970
14	CW2 Fred D. Albright	Derosed in January	1971
4	CPT Howard G. Baker Jr.	Derosed in January	1971
27	WO1 Thomas R. Hughes	Evacuated in January	1971
9	CPT Jerry L. Rhodes	Evacuated In January	1971
26	WO1 Kenneth W. Colby	Transferred to Dust Off in January	1970
16	WO1 George J. Schneider	Transferred to Dust Off in January	1970
17	CW2 Phillip K. Gibbons	Derosed in February	1971
2	1LT Stephen R. Modica	Evacuated in May	1971
3	1LT Leroy G. Caubarreaux	Evacuated in May	1971
24	CW2 Richard J. Tanner	Derosed in May	1971
22	CW2 Jonnie S. Richards	Derosed in June	1971
13	CW2 Charles W. Robinson	Derosed in June	1971
5	CPT Harry A. Wisdom Jr.	Transferred to USARV in June	1971
8	CPT Charles E. Holmes	Released to the WORLD in June	1971

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

NAME

DEROS

SSG Daniel J. Scott	Platoon Sergeant	25 Jan 71
SGT Filiberto Albino	Operations Sergeant	13 Feb 71
SP4 Michael L. Burke	Operations Specialist	19 Apr 71

MEDICS

SP5 Donald Payne		5 Mar 71
SP4 Joseph F. Kelly		12 Nov 70
SP4 Erniw R. Lasiter		9 Jan 71
SP4 Christopher Burgess		20 Nov 70
SP4 Daniel J. Brady		11 Jan 71
SP4 Robert T. Campbell		5 Dec 70
SP4 Harry R. Holton		11 Jan 71
SP4 James D. Mitchell		6 Dec 70
SP4 John E. Dukes		19 Mar 71
PFC Roger G. Harwood		3 Dec 70
SP4 William E. Vincent		6 Dec 70
1LT Starckel, Richard	Evacuated in May	30 Nov 70
1LT Leroy G. Caubarreaux	Evacuated in May	5 Jan 71
CPT Richard J. Tanner	Derosed in May	21 Feb 71
CPT Jonnie S. Richards	Derosed in June	6 Jan 71

GUNNERS

SGT Timothy Kirwan	30 Aug 70
SGT Michael R. Parsons	1 Sep 70
SP5 Dewayne Sparkman	26 Oct 70
SP5 Robert Valencia	26 Oct 70
SP4 James V. Belair	12 Jul 71
SP4 Felix Aguilar	9 Feb 71
SP4 John J. Uebelacker	28 Jan 71
SP4 Roy M. Smith	6 Aug 70
SP4 Bobby Coggins	11 Oct 70
SP4 Roger F. Miner	18 Sep 70
SP4 Charles Lynch	21 Sep 70
SP4 Richard Goodson	1 Oct 70

CREW CHIEFS

SP4 John D. Hodges	23 Dec 70
SP4 Douglas L. Curtis	29 Nov 70
SP4 David L. Morse	28 Dec 70
SP5 Lawrence M. Moss	22 Sep 70
SP4 James R. Fortenberry	27 Mar 71
SP4 James B. Payton	29 Nov 70
SP4 Norvell E. Godsie	27 Aug 70
SP4 Sherman L. Breeden	23 Aug 70
SP4 Jimmy M. Odum	22 Jan 71
SP4 Michael L. Vinyard	2 Feb 71
SP4 Daniel L. Smith	13 Aug 70
SP4 Randall J. Koinzan	11 Apr 71
SSG Jack R. Williamson	2 Sep 70

DEROSED, EVACUATED, TRANSFERRED, OR RELEASED

SP5 Vincent Warren (Medic) Transferred to 3rd Field Hos. in June
SP4 Daniel E. Hicks (Medic) Evacuated in May
SP4 Michael Smith (Gunner) Evacuated in May
SP4 Gary L. Taylor (Gunner) KIA in May
SP4 Franklin Davis (Gunner) Derosed in June
SP4 Randy Bell (Gunner) Derosed in June
SP5 Terry T. Burdette (Medic) Evacuated in May
SGT Joe E. Armstrong (Medic) Derosed in June
SP5 Michael Bodnar (Medic) Derosed in June
SP5 Joseph N. Dennison (Medic) Derosed in June
SP4 Clarence Elliott (Medic) Derosed in May
SP5 Rodney Wiley (Crew Chief) Derosed in April
SP5 Tom Neidringhaus (Crew Chief) Derosed in April
SP4 Stewart Ducey (Crew Chief) Derosed in April
SP4 Butch McKittrick (Crew Chief) Derosed in April
SP5 David Robinson (Crew Chief) Derosed in June

ENLISTED AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>DATE</u>
SGT Richard Hampshire	AM (1-100LC)	8 Jan 70
SP4 Dan E. Hicks	PH	23 Apr 70
SP4 Dan E. Hicks	ARCOM	1 Jun 70
SP4 Harry R. Holton	AM"V"	13 May 70
SP4 Kenzy O. Joyner	AM (1-40LC)	22 Jan 70
SGT Timothy J. Kirwan	AM"V", BSM	22 Jun 70
SP4 William Keller	ARCOM, AM"V", SS	16 Feb 70
SP4 Charles T. Lynch	PH, AM"V", ARCOM	19 May 70
SP5 Mededith McKittrick	AM"V"	17 Jan 70
SP4 Patrick Martin	DFC	13 Jul 70
SP5 Gary Orris	AM	18 Feb 70
SP5 Bobby R. Poole	AM"V"	28 Feb 70
SP5 David L. Parks	PH	26 Jan 70
SP5 Donald Payne	PH	13 Jun 70
SP5 David L. Robinson	AM, BSM	20 May 70
SP5 Dewayne Sparkman	AM"V"	8 Feb 70
SP4 Roy Smith	ARCOM	20 Jun 70

A RAZORBACK IN MEDEVAC

Yes, that is about the size of it: I didn't even get Dust-Off... that bunch of shammers!

When I got my orders to come to Vietnam, I really didn't know what was in store for my body. As I reached the 90th Replacement, I was handed a little piece of paper which contained a list of units and outfits that I could possibly be a member of. I checked off about five that were listed and none of those I checked was the Cav. Of course, within a couple of days I was over at FTA with all the other lucky 1st Team FNG's.

After spending my couple of days at "Charm School", a Chinook picked me up and I found myself at Phuoc Vinh. After meeting all the pilots in Medevac, I proceeded to set up in my room. Being from Arkansas, I thought I had seen some run down and dusty places. I guess I cleaned enough dirt out of that room to fill a gallon bucket!

Within a day or so they had me flying backhaul. I thought I was really doing the good work. I enjoyed flying back and forth from Quan Loi to Saigon for the first three or four weeks. Then I began to wonder when I would get to go to the field. They told us that they didn't want to send us newbies to the field until Tet was past. So after Tet they finally let me go to the field and, boy, did I ever enjoy it. I didn't get shot at that whole week, so naturally I didn't get scared out of my pants. I was ready for anything.

I came back to Phuoc Vinh to fly more backhaul and was later sent back to the field at Song Be. Being a country fellow from the hills and hollers of Arkansas, I was anxious to get to the wild AO of Sierra Bravo.

Within three hours of my arrival at Song Be, I had been shot down! I just couldn't believe it. There I was, down in the jungle two clicks east of Lolita, and man, I ain't never seen no jungle like this before! After 24 hours of nightmare with the ground unit that so warmly welcomed us to their LZ, we finally got out on some LOH's.

When I got back to Phuoc Vinh everybody was standing out to meet us. They just didn't know that this was a Razorback that had just been raped! Within a few weeks I had just begun to get over my scare and was just sent to the field again only to get shot up one more time. I stuck with it this time, and so here I am still struggling along so that others may live.

STATISTICS

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>SEMI-ANNUAL TOTAL</u>
AIRCRAFT COMBAT DAMAGED	4	0	9	2	12	2	29
AIRCRAFT COMBAT LOSS	2	0	2	1	4	0	9
CREWMEN KILLED	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
CREWMEN WOUNDED	10	0	0	2	9	0	21
PATIENTS KILLED	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
PATIENTS WOUNDED	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
MISSIONS FLOWN	752	614	888	825	1042	682	4,803
FLIGHT HOURS	978	847	1107	940	923	860	5,655
NO. OF HOIST MISSIONS	38	38	50	28	80	91	325
NO. OF HOIST PATIENTS	71	71	101	104	182	185	714
TOTAL PATIENTS EVACED	1,923	1,584	2,086	1,831	1,600	1,056	10,080
U.S. Patients	1,002	963	1,284	1,209	845	752	6,055
Freeworld Patients	67	63	32	56	70	27	315
RVNAF, RVN, VNC, VC/NVA Patients	854	558	770	566	685	227	3,710

A MAN TO REMEMBER

There are those whom we remember by their constant presence; then there are those we remember for their accomplishments. Bill Sallenger was one of these latter individuals.

Although a non-conformist in his military manner, he was a professional soldier in his performance. The one thing that you could always count on with Bill was that when he started a job, he would finish it. The mission of Medical Evacuation was always foremost in Bill's mind and to save a life was always his first objective. Bill was one of the best.

It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to a man and a friend. Chief Warrant Officer William J. Sallenger was killed in a traffic accident after returning home. We of Medevac take this time to express our deepest regret and sorrow: he was a good man and there will always be a deep felt respect and admiration for him in the hearts of the men of Medevac.