

BLACK**BARON**

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**STINGERS TO HONOR
FALLEN FRIEND**

The "Stingers" gunship platoon of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company is making plans to honor a fallen comrade who was killed in action when a single enemy rocket struck the 116th's Company area in Cu Chi. The deceased was SP5 D. (for Dog) "Whiskers", a faithful member-supporter of the "Stingers" since becoming attached to the unit in 1966. SP5 "Whiskers" is to be honored in a graveside ceremony, where he will be presented (posthumously) with a Purple Heart and an Army Commendation Medal, donated by interested friends of the 25th Infantry Division.

SP5 "Whiskers" embodied in the torso of a dog, all the qualities so desired in a good soldier and in a good friend. "Rarely did this Wire-haired "Stinger" miss a formation, always sitting, head erect, ears rigid eyes to the front, until "At Ease" was given when SP5 "Whiskers" would relax slightly, allowing his ears to lose their rigidity.

SP5 "Whiskers" was an honored guest at all "Stinger" parties where the practice of giving out "You Done Good" plaques to departing members originated. But, "Whiskers" was not willing to be a "Stinger" in name only. On his own entirely, SP5 "Whiskers" would attach himself to some gunship, and fly as observer throughout the day's mission.

He continued to fly until shortly after Operation "Junction City", when for reasons of his own, SP5 "Whiskers" (Continued on page 5)

**CA NETS
8 VC KILLS**

"Stinger" gunships from the 116th Assault Helicopter Company killed eight enemy soldiers during combat assault operations with elements of the 25th Infantry Division in an area northwest of Saigon.

Upon receiving fire on the initial insertion, the 116th ships radioed for artillery and air strikes. The supporting elements saturated the landing zone with heavy artillery and air strikes, and the "Stingers" moved in to cut off any enemy who might be attempting to escape.

The 116th gunships spotted and killed two Viet Cong swimming across a canal in an effort to flee the area. Another VC was killed when the "Stingers" destroyed his sampans (Continued on page 4)

SMOKEY PERFORMS NIGHT OP

In conjunction with the 116th Assault Helicopter Company "Hornets", the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion smoke ship, nicknamed "Smokey Baron," was called upon to perform hazardous and difficult night smoking operations in support of infantry elements under heavy enemy fire.

With infantry forces locked in heavy, close contact with the enemy in an area southwest of Saigon, the battalion smoke ship was utilized to provide smoke cover for the 116th "slinks" that were inserting infantry to beef-up (Cont page 3)

**188TH SUPPORTS
"BLACK ADLER"**

The 188th Assault Helicopter Company "Blawk Widows" supported the 308th Aviation Battalion "Black Adler" to the new unit's first battalion operation.

The coordinated effort consisted of Combat Assault operations in the Song Be area. The 188th aided the "Black Adler" Battalion forces in insertions and extractions of elements of the Special Forces.

*spiders smash
vc base camp*

The "Spiders" gunships from the 188th Assault Helicopter Company killed 24 enemy soldiers in an all-out assault against a suspected enemy base camp in an area northeast of Tay Ninh.

In support of elements of the 25th Infantry Division, the "Spiders", lead by WO1 Charles J. Padie (Anchorage, Alaska) surprised the enemy in an open area and poured heavy concentrations of firepower upon a large number of enemy soldiers. The enemy, in a state of confusion, (Continued on page 2)

Celestial Six

LENT

On 28 Feb we began the forty-day (Not counting Sundays) period known as Lent. During this season we concentrate on the sufferings of Christ and the Cross. The purpose of Lent is to show us that there is no degree of suffering, either physical or spiritual which God has not fully shared with us, even in "The valley of the shadow of death". So when we look at Lent from this side of the Resurrection we can be assured that not only has God been in the depths with us, but through the presence of the LIVING Lord, he is with us now also.

Fasting, or "giving up" something, has long been a part of the observance of the Lenten season. The idea being that we go without something that is important to us in order that we might be reminded of and meditate on the suffering of Christ. By "fasting" is also meant our attitude of mind and heart as we observe Lent. Honesty is indicated! And this would surely include facing our own situation and circumstance for what it is and refusing to indulge ourselves in either self-pity or bitterness. Here the example of the Lord as he faced his passion and death can be a great help.

Lent is an invitation to trust God, and also serves as an illustration of his trustworthiness. Lent tells us clearly what our Lord does for us, he can also do in us. This he will do, and you can count on it.

Clapham Cole

BLACK BARON RELEASE

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DOC

INJECTS!

PLEASURE IS RELATIVE

FOR SOME
 PLEASURE MUST BE DIRECT
 TO BE DESIRABLE

FOR OTHERS
 THE INDIRECT PLEASURE-
 GIVING -- PROVIDES MORE
 SATISFACTION.

THE QUANTITY OF PLEASURE
 SHOULD BE EQUAL
 TO THAT NUMBER OF TIMES
 ONE IS ABLE TO DIRECT
 PLEASURE TO ANOTHER.

Phillip A. Snodgrass
 PHILLIP A. SNODGRASS
 CPT (MC)

SPIDERS KILL

(Continued from page 1)
 panicked and the "Spiders" were able to make several passes as the enemy scattered in random attempts to escape.

The 188th slicks inserted infantry troops in the area, and the infantry also was highly successful in directing assaults against the armed aggressors. The 188th troop carrying ships were called upon to medevac two of the infantry soldiers.

MESS STEWARD

The old cliché, "An army travels on its stomach" has been true as long as men have marched off to war. Good "chow" is the main stay of the fighting man; often spelling the difference between an effective fighting force and a demoralized mob. Wars throughout the ages have more than proven this fact.

The man directly responsible for keeping a unit fed is the Mess Steward, more commonly called the Mess Sergeant.

Facing a mission that requires knowledge, patience, and understanding, coupled with long hard hours; the Mess Sergeant is invariably a dedicated soldier. His first concern is the men in the unit. He is responsible for the preparation of the hundreds of nourishing meals served daily in the unit mess. He is a master at his trade, knowledgeable not only in the preparation of food, but in administration and the tactful art of handling personnel as well.

In Vietnam, the Mess Sergeant often becomes a direct representative of the American way of life. Local nationals, under his watchful eye, clean the equipment essential to meal preparation. He must have the ability to work with, guide, and convey American standards in a courteous manner to the Vietnamese people.

His task is difficult, complicated, and sometimes thankless; but because of his professional dedication, an army continues to function effectively.

it's not fiction:

BEST SELLER SAVES 187TH PILOT

First Lieutenant Henry L. Wyatt (Danville, Virginia) has good reason to appreciate good literature. 1LT Wyatt, an aviator with the 187th Assault Helicopter Company, escaped serious injury when an enemy round hit his helicopter and stopped when it struck a book beneath 1LT Wyatt's seat.

The Lieutenant's helicopter came under enemy fire while operating on combat assaults in an area three miles north of Saigon. A copy of James A. Michener's "THE SOURCE" stopped one enemy round from striking 1LT Wyatt. This fact was not dis-

SMOKEY PERFORMS

(Continued from page number 1)
the already existing friendly positions. "Smokey Baron", commanded by CW2 Charles E. G. Baird (Ashland, Ohio) and piloted by Major Jerry Martin (Pensacola, Florida), was able to provide a concealing cloud of billowing smoke that hindered the enemy's vision of the insertion operations, as the troop carrying helicopters had met with intense enemy heavy automatic weapons fire from three sides of the landing zone.

As darkness approached, the smoke ship continued its concealing support, as the 116th elements conducted two more infantry insertions. The "Hornets" began emergency resupply missions with the smoke ship placing the vision-hindering curtain of smoke between the enemy and the landing zone.

Since the smoke ship was forced to fly at low level in order to dispense its smoke properly, the danger of striking a tree or another helicopter became more imminent in the darkness. With the aid of ground flares, and the ever-watching crew chief and gunner, the "Smokey Baron" aviators were able to successfully negotiate the trees as they laid their vital blanket of smoke. Commenting on the importance of the crew chief, SP5 Philip Busby (Riverdale, California) and gunner, SP5 Paul Goving (Redford Township, Michigan), Aircraft Commander, CW2 Baird stated: "The most important people in smoke operations, especially at night, are the crew chief and gunner who provide visual clearance on other aircraft, obstacles, the enemy and when and where to maneuver the ship."

covered until later, when 1LT Wyatt and the Aircraft Commander CW2 James H. Bennett, Jr (Screven, Georgia) were inspecting the aircraft for damage.

The thick best seller still held the expended enemy round, which had ripped a hole from page 923 to page 1088. After realizing that the novel had kept an enemy round from hitting him, 1LT Wyatt vowed to write the author and remarked: "I wish I had turned the book over, because now I'm going to have to read around the hole."

SAVING TO HELP 'UNCLE'

CA NETS

President Johnson has appealed to all U.S. citizens for help in solving a problem "of vital concern to the economic health and well-being of this Nation and the Free World."

The problem is not a new one. It concerns the "international balance of payments" and affects every U.S. serviceman and his family--now serving or about to serve abroad.

But how does this international balance of payments situation touch a serviceman and his family? What can he do to help?

The answer is simple: "Buy" and "Save" American.



Every dollar a serviceman spends for goods produced by Uncle Sam helps; every American dollar he invests in U.S. Savings Bonds, Freedom Shares or the Uniformed Service Savings Deposit Program also helps.

And in the "savings" programs you get paid for the privilege. U.S. Savings Bonds will pay you 4.15 percent interest; Freedom Shares pay 4.74 percent interest in only 4 1/2 years; and at over seas stations the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program pays 10 percent interest.

Saving your money in one of these programs is not only a service to your country, but is added insurance that you won't return home empty handed.

Also, as President Johnson said: "The time has now come for decisive action designed to bring our balance of payments to--or close to--equilibrium in the year ahead. The need is a national and international responsibility of the highest priority." AFPS

"Hornets" KILL TWO VC: "MACHETE"

In support of 4/39th "Machete" of the 9th Infantry, the "Hornets" of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company, aided by their "Stinger" gunships killed two enemy soldiers during combat assaults southwest of Saigon.

Utilizing all the firepower at their disposal, the "Hornets"

inserted the infantry elements into landing zones in an area heavily fortified with bunkers and structures.

With the aid of air strikes and artillery, the 116th was able to insert the infantry successfully. Each insertion brought the helicopters under intense automatic weapons

(Continued from page 1) with rockets, and still another was killed when the gunships fired into the structure in which he was hiding. Two others fell under the "Stinger" fire power while hiding in spider holes, and an additional two enemy soldiers were cut down when the "Stingers" fired into the bushes they were behind.

NUMBER 1000

A helicopter belonging to the 187th Assault Helicopter Company holds the dubious honor of being the 1,000 damaged or inoperable ship to be conveyed to maintenance by the "Pipesmoke" CH-47s.

The downed aircraft had been piloted by 1LT Arthur McLaurin (Arlington, Virginia) until enemy fire caused damage extensive enough to warrant utilization of "Pipesmoke" aircraft-recovery facilities.

The 1,000 "Pipesmokes" operation was heralded by smoke grenades of every color thrown to mark where the damaged aircraft was to be placed. The multi-colored smoke was caught up in the rotor wash of the "Pipesmoke" CH-47 and was pulled high into the air amid cheers from the ground crew.

fire. On several occasions it became necessary to call in air-strikes and artillery within one hundred meters of friendly positions.

Several "Hornet" craft took hits during the days operation, and four crewmembers were injured.

Whiskers

kers" chose to discontinue flying. He did however, maintain as his official duty, the seeing off of the gunships, and the greeting of them on their return. By some system, known only to him, SP5 "Whiskers" could distinguish by sound alone, the "Stinger" aircraft from any other helicopters that might be in the area. The daily greet-

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ing by "Whiskers" became a real morale-builder for the "Stinger" crews and aviators. Upon returning to their base after a long day which had left them tired, hungry, battle-sore, the "Stingers" could always look forward to being welcomed by one of their own, SP5 "Whiskers".

Repeated enemy mortar attacks made "Whiskers" extremely cautious, and at the start of a siren, he would dash to a bunker or in-

to one of two spider holes that he had dug in the area. On February 2d, there was no siren, a single enemy rocket landed in the area, and the only appreciable damage that it did was to take the life of the "Stingers" closest friend, SP5 "Whiskers".

A small grave was dug for him with a view of the flight line. A marker was placed there that bore this brief inscription: "Whiskers" ---You Done Good.

BARON BEAUTY.....Gloria Nakea, This issue's selection was last seen at a film location in Hawaii with Warner Brothers Studios.

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BONDS