

# 18,500 at Show

## Hope Visits 101st

Continued from Page 1

from camps and fire bases in all parts of Thua Thien and Quang Tri Provinces was devised, and then the Screaming Eagles sat back, to paraphrase Alexandre Dumas, pere, to "Wait for Hope."

A little after 11 a.m. on Christmas Day he walked on stage and said, "It's great to be here." From the amount of applause, his audience told him they knew exactly what he meant.

The he launched into a monologue. "This is the farthest north we've ever been," he acknowledged. "My tremble factor's up 10 points."

He praised the record of the 101st -- "These guys have seem more action than a Swedish movie director."

And Camp Eagle -- "In my honor, they changed it to Camp Chicken. I'm under the command of Col. Sanders. Hope the enemy doesn't find out I'm fingerlickin' good."

He quipped with the audience, saying to an eager photographer, "What are you going to get? A nostril shot? It'll look like the Holland Tunnel from there."

And he noticed a sign reading, "Where the 101st fights there is Hope," amending it, "Yeah, when the fighting starts, Hope is gone."

But the troops knew he was kidding, and with laughter swelling in spite of the huge open-air, wind-swept site, they urged him to go on.

He did. "What you guys like about the draft lottery, is realizing you're last year's winners."

Or about the Paris peace talks. "I think they're silly. Imagine going to Paris to talk about Vietnam. That's like going to the Vatican to talk about girls."

But jokes weren't all Hope brought, and pretty soon he introduced Suzanne Charny, a dancer in black sequins and silk who made the audience sit

Suddenly, the soldier's time ran out, but as a result of Miss Stevens' blandishments, he decided to reenlist.

It was hilarious, and got the strongest audience reaction of the day. "It's only a play," Mr. Hope shouted, to cheers, hoots, and above all, laughter.

One member of the troupe, Teresa Graves of "Laugh-In," had laryngitis, but she carried on anyway, providing a great moment when Hope asked who her favorite comedians were, and she told him -- "Flip Wilson, Godfrey Cambridge, and Nipsy Russell."

And in spite of her voice, she sang.

The show's finale brought the whole audience to its feet to join the troupe in singing "Silent Night."

As the audience filed out, and for days afterward, the show provided a source of gaiety and conversation.

The troops remembered the girls, and Les Brown and His Band of Renown, and the girls, and the little things that added up to a Merry Christmas.

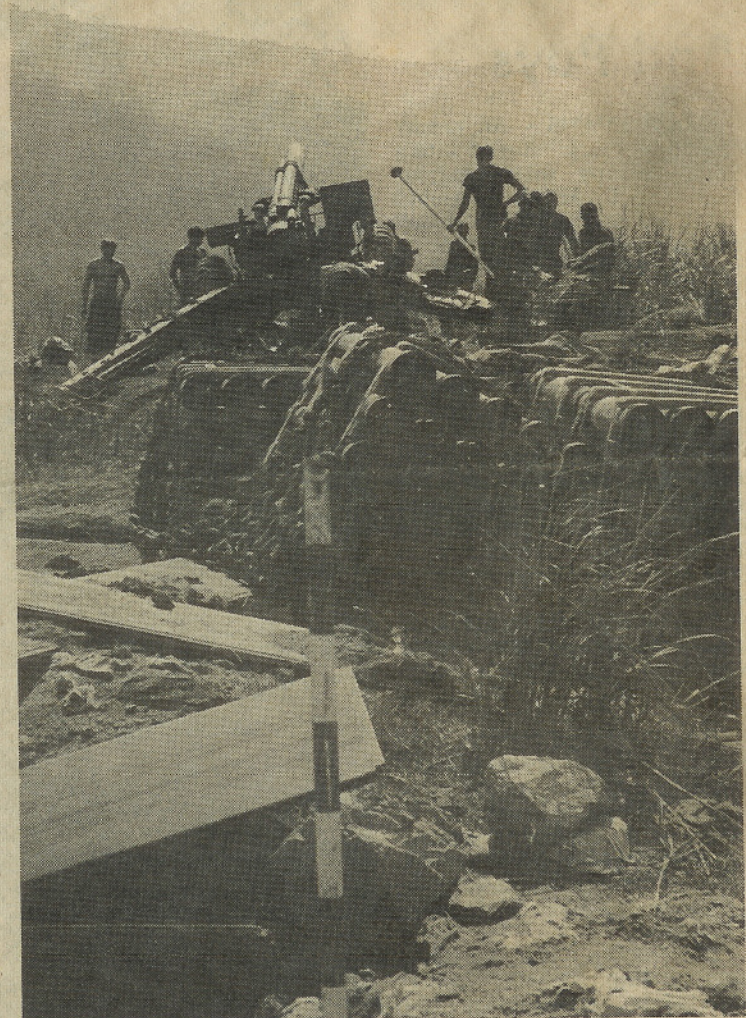
Like the MP sergeant, who, charged with keeping eager troopers from overrunning the Goldiggers, laughed, "I know I'm hardcore, men, but please move back."

Like Neil Armstrong's poignant accuracy in complimenting the audience -- "I'm a man who knows how it feels to be a long way from home."

Like Bob Hope's statement, reflecting the sentiment of every trooper present when the weather did clear up in time for the show: "Somebody up there must like us."

All in all, it was a Christmas with Hope.

### Dial Phones Due at Eagle



READY: AIM -- An aiming stick and the muzzle of a 155mm howitzer are lined up as men of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 11th Arty., conduct an artillery raid west of Hue.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec. 4 Thomas Andrezsjewski)



Then came the Goldiggers of 1970, twelve young ladies who sing and dance in the Thirties style but who are definitely under 30 themselves.

And as he has done in the past, Hope had signed Miss World for his around-the-world tour. Miss Eva Reuber-Staier, of Vienna, Austria, looked positively world-class whether she appeared in evening dress, mini-sarong, or after the show, in slacks and sweater.

The Piero Brothers, a juggling act, provided tense moments with their skill, as well as a running, funny, commentary.

And Connie Stevens made a hit with several songs, and her selection of four lucky soldiers to help her out with her numbers.

The Bob Hope Show wasn't all entertainment though. Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, also came to Camp Eagle, and the audience showed its admiration for his feat with a standing ovation.

He gave a short talk, paying gracious tribute to the Screaming Eagles by recalling the command craft during his moonwalk had been named "The Eagle."

His talk stressed the importance of education, and he told of the benefits he had received from Veteran's schoolings. He urged his audience to take advantage of the opportunities service in the Armed Forces had opened - an appeal that had been foreshadowed by a team of educators that had canvassed the audience before the show.

Finally, Mr. Armstrong said, "It is my privilege to represent millions of Americans in thanking you for what you're doing."

As he left, he received another standing ovation - this time a tribute to the man as well as the deed.

The show returned, with a funny skit featuring Connie Stevens as a WAVE lieutenant and Bob Hope as a soldier, both stranded on a desert island.

Eagle will be able to pick up their telephones and dial - just like back in the world.

The 501st Signal Bn. (Ambl.) and a company from the 63rd Signal Bn. are currently installing equipment which will link all telephone sets at Camp Eagle and at Phu Bai into a direct-dialing net.

The net will be centralized, at Camp Eagle, in two semi-trailers. Depending on weather, the installation will be finished in "the near future," says Sfc. Floyd F. Barnett of the 63rd.

Besides installing the trailer and its attendant lines, Sgt. Barnett's men will switch over all telephone sets at Camp Eagle to accept the direct dialing service.



**QUICK HELP** -- Spec. 5 Arthur R. DeWolf of Pittsburgh gives first aid to a Vietnamese soldier injured in a traffic accident along QL1. DeWolf is a medic with the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 327th Inf.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec. 4 Robert Stuart)

# A Co. Is 'F' Trp.

**CAMP EAGLE** -- When is an Alpha Company not an Alpha Company? When it's an F Troop, of course. At least that holds true for A Co., 101st Avn. Bn. (Aslt. Hel.).

Unlike the F Troop of television fame, this one is a highly mobile and modern unit. Although there is no "uptight, out of sight" captain or Sgt. O'Rourke, the pseudonym's are being adopted within the unit.

The troop, commanded by Maj. Charles D. James, Salem, Ore., is augmented with air cavalry-trained officers of the 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav. whose operational control they are under.

According to Capt. Nathan K. Reed of Centreville, Miss., executive officer, "the increase in the division area of operation was too much for an organic squadron with three troops. So to increase visual reconnaissance capability of the division, Co. A was selected for conversion to a provisional air cavalry troop."

Employing heavily armed Huey helicopters, the troop "will work in small elements to seek out, engage and determine the size of enemy units." According to Reed, "we can find him and fix him, or we can harass or slow him down."

With elements of an aerial rifle platoon provided on a daily basis from D Troop, the troop will be performing aerial and limited armed reconnaissance.

They will also provide security for designated major combat elements, in addition to engaging in combat as an economy-in-force unit.

Capt. Reed defined an economy-in-force unit as being "a unit comprised of the least amount of men and resource to accomplish the mission."

"Use of air rifle platoon personnel from Delta troop, is to facilitate and shorten training time and at the same time provide qualified and trained personnel for cavalry reaction, without taxing division assets."