

The Screaming Eagle



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Christmas Brings Hope and Girls To Camp Eagle



CAMP EAGLE — Christmas Day dawned wet and foggy in northern I Corps, but there was Hope.

There was also Neil Armstrong, a Chinook-full of great-looking girls, and 18,500 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who thoroughly appreciated it all.

Bob Hope came to Camp Eagle for his sixth successive Christmas Day show in Vietnam, and it marked the point farthest north in Vietnam that he has taken his troupe.

The 101st had long wanted to host the Bob Hope show, and a visit by the show's production team in the autumn resulted in approval, jubilation, and the beginning of a lot of hard work.

An 18,000-seat field-expedient amphitheater was constructed between Eagle International Helipad and the Support Command, a plan to move enough men to fill it — on short notice —

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18,500 at Show

Hope Visits 101st

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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.

Then 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 up and roar.

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.

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 Nippy 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 gaily 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

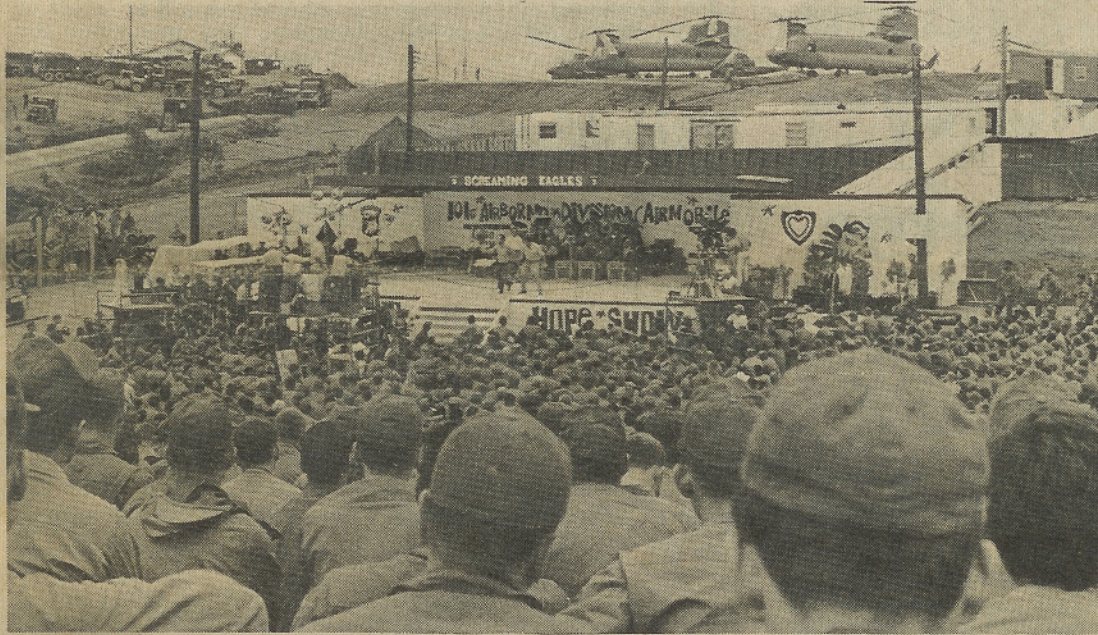
CAMP EAGLE - Soon telephone users at Camp Eagle will be able to pick up their telephones and dial - just like back in the world.

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.

men to fill it -- on short notice --
Vietnam that he has taken his troupe.
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Gen. Wright and Div. CSM Rescue Bn. CO and Co-Pilot

CAMP EVANS — A battalion commander and the pilot of a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) were rescued recently by Maj. Gen. John M. Wright, Jr., commanding general of the 101st, following a forced helicopter landing in rugged

Crowell, commander of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 506th Inf., and the pilot of his command and control LOH were stranded when their helicopter was forced to land after being disabled by an enemy booby trap.

The incident began in mid-afternoon when the battalion commander, from Alexandria, Va., had his LOH land near his reconnaissance

fragmentation injuries, but was able to fly away from the position. A few hundred meters from the scene of the blast, the LOH was forced to land in rough terrain.

Crowell and the pilot evacuated the LOH, taking their weapons with them. Another helicopter arrived, but was unable to land or hover close enough to the ground for an

THE HOPE SHOW -- Bob Hope (above top) brought a star-studded show to Camp Eagle Christmas Day. Among the celebrities were Teresa Graves of "Laugh-In" (upper left) and Miss World (above.) At left is the crowd in the Eagle Entertainment Bowl.

(U.S. Army Photos by Spec. 4 Scott Evans and Pfc. Jack Kaaua)

Scholars Given Aid

CAMP EAGLE — Thanks to the "General Walt Scholarship Fund" and the S5 (civil affairs) office of the 2nd Bn.(Ambl.), 502nd Inf., 36 school children in Phu Loc District, south of Hue, will be able to continue their education

as well. The scholarship provides 400 piasters a month for six months to the parents of the child to relieve the burden of these costs."

The recipients of the awards are children between the ages of 8 and 12 years who were chosen



BONUS TIME--There were just too many candidates for this week's pinup, so you are getting the benefit of the doubt--all of them. In case you're wondering, these six Golddiggers are off to Christmas dinner after performing in the Bob Hope Show. They had

a ladder to help them get into the deuce-and-a-half. Since you probably won't, exercise caution so you can get to your destination intact, just like these lovelies did.

(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jack Kaaua)