

Project Name: Vietnam War Stories
Tape/File # WCNAM A15 To Save a Soldier

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INTRODUCTION

[15:01:14.19]

Title screen: "THIS FILM ADOPTED FOR USE BY UNITED STATES AIR FORCE"; "SEP 1763". Soldiers walk through jungle. Soldiers hit the ground. One talks on the radio.

MEDICAL HELICOPTERS

[15:01:43.15]

Soldiers run to a medical helicopter. Helicopter takes off. Helicopter pilot speaking. POV from flying helicopter over jungle. Soldiers lift a soldier on a stretcher.

[15:02:16.04]

Soldiers board helicopter. Line of helicopters. Helicopters flying. POV from helicopter over jungle and landing zone.

CALLING IN THE HELICOPTERS

[15:02:50.15]

Soldiers walk through soaked grass. Soldiers duck and hit the ground. 2 soldiers crouch and watch. Soldier operates radio.

[15:03:19.14]

Soldier in jeep receives radio call. Soldiers get up and grab a map to work on.

PILOTS COME TO HELP

[15:03:49.07]

Soldiers run to helicopter. One soldier puts on a vest. Another prepares to fly. Soldier gets rotor started. Pilots put on additional gear and start the helicopter.

[15:04:20.09]

Helicopter rotors spin. Helicopter takes off. POV from helicopter flying over land. Shots of the soldiers looking out of helicopter.

[15:04:52.06]

Shots of soldiers looking out of helicopter. Medical helicopter flying. 2 soldiers crouching while others lay prone and form a line, ready to fire.

[15:05:20.09]

Pilot's hand on helicopter stick. POV from inside helicopter showing smoke. Soldiers lay prone while 2 others sit. Helicopter flying.

[15:05:50.13]

POV from inside helicopter. Pilots look out and monitor gauges. Soldier throws smoke grenade. Soldiers running. Helicopter flying.

[15:06:19.14]

Pilot looks out. POV from inside helicopter. Pilot's hand on the stick. Helicopter descending. POV from helicopter flying over jungle.

MEDICAL EVACUATIONS

[15:06:49.09]

Helicopter making a turn, while pilots look out. Purple smoke billows in the distance. Medics attend to wounded soldiers. Soldiers get up and carry men on stretchers into helicopter.

[15:07:29.06]

Soldiers continue placing men into the helicopter. Machine gun fires from a jeep. Wounded soldier on stretcher. Helicopter flies past a bridge.

[15:07:58.28]

Soldier mans his gun while they fly past the jungle. A communications radio. Man talks on radio. Soldiers carry men out of the helicopter.

[15:08:35.23]

Soldier helps women and children get off the helicopter. Soldiers carry a wounded girl, her mother cries.

XO DIRECTS EVACUATION

[15:09:03.14]

Her mother talks and cries while holding a baby. An old man and other children are with her. Wounded soldiers talk. The XO walks toward a truck.

[15:09:42.29]

Wounded soldiers smoke. The XO talks to men near a truck. Helicopter lands and men go to retrieve wounded soldiers.

[15:10:15.14]

The XO talks on the radio. Men continue carrying the wounded into trucks. Another helicopter lands. The XO continues using the radio.

[15:10:45.22]

Men carry the wounded into trucks. Dust kicks up and momentarily holds back soldiers. The XO walks to the helicopter where more wounded are carried out. He gives orders.

[15:11:20.23]

Wounded men are carried into trucks.

[15:11:49.00]

A wounded man moves his leg, his face bloodied and bandaged. Other wounded men, healthy enough to walk, board a helicopter. The XO directs the pilot. Medical truck drives off.

ANOTHER FIELD EVACUATION

[15:12:21.11]

Soldier carries a box onto his jeep. Another truck drives off. Helicopter flying. Pilots look out.

[15:13:04.04]

Helicopter flying. Pilots look out. POV from helicopter flying over jungle and farmland.

[15:13:33.07]

The cockpit with both pilots. The helicopter begins landing near a group of soldiers. A soldier throws out a stretcher. Men carry the wounded onto the stretchers.

[15:14:08.09]

Wounded men are boarded onto the helicopter. Soldiers back away from helicopter. The soldier closes the door as the helicopter takes off. The wounded soldier is in a daze.

[15:14:38.25]

The medic checks up on the wounded soldier and makes him comfortable. Another wounded soldier smokes. Pilots look out over the terrain.

[15:15:08.04]

The pilot continues flying while the wounded man gasps for air. The helicopter lands, kicking up sand. Soldiers carry the wounded off the helicopter.

SURGERY

[15:15:32.12]

A surgeon prepares his tools. Medics clean up the wounded soldier for surgery. The XO holds a bag of blood. Doctors operate on him.

[15:16:03.08]

Doctors continue operating. The wounded soldier is awake throughout the operation.

[15:16:35.00]

Doctors continue operating. They use a syringe.

[15:17:05.17]

The wounded soldier wears a mask. Doctors operate while other men help, a few watch.

A VC soldier is operated on. Doctors continue operating on the wounded soldier.

[15:17:35.26]

Doctors continue operating while others help. 2 body bags. Soldiers carry out dead bodies on stretchers.

RELOCATING THE PATIENT

[15:18:02.11]

The wounded soldier is carried out on a stretcher while men hold up fluid bags. They board him onto a helicopter.

[15:18:31.15]

The pilots look back at the wounded man. Helicopter flying.

MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND

[15:18:54.17]

Saigon streets filled with traffic, rickshaw drivers, and people. A tall apartment building. Soldiers working in an office. A man makes marks on a hospital whiteboard. An older man speaks on the phone.

[15:19:38.00]

Hands typing. Dotted paper streams out a machine. "Military Airlift Command" building.

[15:20:05.01]

Officer walks into a room and sits down with others. A conference is held. A man talks in front of a map of the world.

[15:20:34.24]

A man points to the map and continues talking. Officers talk to each other.

[15:21:12.04]

The man continues talking and using the map. Officer talks to another.

[15:21:42.22]

Officer continues talking to the other. The slide is changed to a new map, while the man talks.

[15:22:14.16]

The officers watch on as the man talks and points to the map. The officer talks to the man using the map.

MORE RELOCATION

[15:22:43.17]

A jeep pulls over near a building. A wounded soldier is carried out on a stretcher. Medical trucks parked near an airplane. Soldiers carry the same soldier onto the plane.

[15:23:17.17]

The plane begins take off. A hospital. A doctor gets out of his car. A medical bus and trucks park near the plane.

[15:23:47.02]

The doctor directs the medical bus to back up near the rear opening of the plane. He talks to a wounded soldier.

[15:24:22.06]

A wounded soldier is rolled off. The doctor talks to another wounded soldier.

[15:25:00.11]

The doctor continues talking with the soldier. The wounded soldier is rolled towards the rear.

[15:25:27.02]

The wounded soldier is moved onto the bus. A wounded soldier is driven away in a medical station wagon.

THE HOSPITAL AND MORE SURGERY

[15:25:55.16]

The doctor gets out the car and walks into the hospital. The wounded soldier is rolled into the operating room with doctors. The soldier's x-ray scans.

[15:26:23.09]

Doctors go over the patient's chart and look at his x-ray. They prepare surgical tools and put on their gear. Numerous doctors operate on the soldier.

[15:26:56.16]

Doctors operate on the soldier. Surgical tools are handed to the doctors. Doctor continues operating.

[15:27:36.22]

A clean set of surgical tools. They are handed to the doctor. Nurse wipes sweat from the doctor and hands him more tools. Doctor continues operating. Nurse prepares sutures.

[15:28:03.08]

Doctor sews up the wound. He places the piece of shrapnel on a sheet.

[15:28:29.19]

The doctor undresses his surgical clothes and walks out of the operating room.

[15:28:57.10]

The dawn. Medical jeeps parked outside the hospital. Nurse walks down the hallway. The wounded soldier slowly walks into a room with the nurse.

[15:29:38.20]

--brief pause in tape--

AIR FORCE NURSES

[15:30:00.13]

2 Air Force nurses pack their suitcases and walk on the balcony. A man walks into the hospital.

[15:30:29.19]

The Air Force nurses walk down the hallway. Nurses work behind the desk while hospital men walk in the background. The wounded soldier talks to the doctor.

[15:31:09.03]

Air Force nurse #1 walks into the patients' room. She talks to a wounded soldier.

[15:31:30.10]

She continues talking to the soldier.

[15:31:59.17]

She continues talking to the soldier. Air Force nurse #2 talks to another wounded soldier.

[15:32:44.25]

She continues talking to the soldier. Air Force nurse #1 talks to a wounded soldier.

[15:33:17.24]

Air Force nurse #2 talks to a wounded soldier.

[15:33:52.20]

She continues talking to the soldier. Plane landing.

CREATING A TEMPORARY HOSPITAL

[15:34:30.01]

U.S. Air Force plane parking. The rear opens up. Machinery hooks up near the rear.

[15:35:03.06]

Cargo is transferred onto the machinery.

[15:35:30.15]

Cargo is still being transferred onto the machinery. They push the last cargo piece out of the plane.

[15:36:00.24]

The cargo is driven away. The empty plane. Soldiers move a giant box onto the plane. They begin converting the box to show hospital equipment.

[15:36:32.07]

They continue converting the box. Soldiers roll over the cargo rollers. They move seats onto the plane.

[15:37:02.27]

They move the seats into upright positions. They load large duffel bags. They put up posts.

[15:37:33.05]

The posts are put into place and they attach a sheet wall. Medication packages are attached to the posts.

[15:38:04.18]

A man tests oxygen pumpers. The Air Force nurses board the plane and unpack.

[15:38:39.09]

The doctor briefs the nurse and 2 other men.

INTAKING PATIENTS ON PLANE

[15:39:16.15]

They finish the meeting. The patients are carried aboard and placed in their area.

[15:39:51.12]

The nurse and other men prepare the patient's in-flight situation. She talks to the patient and makes him more comfortable.

[15:40:26.17]

She intakes more patients while the men carry them off. She talks to different patients.

[15:41:00.27]

The nurses intake and comfort incoming patients.

[15:41:35.04]

The nurses strap down the patients for the flight while making small talk. The rear doors close.

TAKING CARE OF PATIENTS

[15:42:00.06]

A man runs across the asphalt. The plane begins moving and gradually takes off.

[15:42:39.09]

Workers and nurses check on patients. One nurse applies an ointment to a patient.

[15:43:08.06]

A patient sits while the nurse massages his back. A worker checks on a patient. Two

nurses make a patient more comfortable.

[15:43:51.08]

A nurse prepares patients' medicine. A nurse massages the wounded arm of a patient. A nurse injects something into a patient, he grimaces.

[15:44:25.10]

A patient smokes. A nurse hands some water to a patient which he drinks. A nurse talks to a patient and helps with the wound.

[15:45:12.02]

One patient sleeps while another smokes. A nurse helps an anemic patient walk. Some patients stare blankly into space.

[15:45:36.10]

A nurse gives a patient his meal. A nurse helps a patient eat.

[15:46:04.17]

She continues helping him eat and drink. A patient sits up and eats his meal.

[15:46:33.14]

Patients sleep. One patient dresses himself.

[15:47:10.08]

A patient lays back and stares off.

[15:47:37.16]

The same patient continues lying down and staring.

[15:48:06.15]

A patient lying down and speaks to the nurses. They prepare a stretcher for him.

[15:48:31.23]

They set the stretcher on top of him, his nose poking through a gap. They strap the stretcher tight and then flip it. They untie the stretcher and take it off.

[15:49:00.14]

He is now facing the ground. The nurse massages his back.

[15:49:34.18]

She continues massaging his back. POV from the cockpit shows the pilots landing the plane.

[15:50:08.14]

Nurses say goodbye to the patients. They walk off the plane.

PATIENT REUNITES WITH FAMILY

[15:50:35.27]

A suburban house. A mother looks through the window and a car pulls in. A soldier gets out the car.

[15:51:09.04]

The soldier reunites with his family. Credits roll.

--end tape--