

'River
Dragon
That
Talks'

See Pages 4 & 5

The Observer

Published Weekly For The U.S. Forces In Vietnam

Volume III, No 51

SAIGON, VIETNAM

April 24, 1965

Da Nang:
Profile
Of East
And West

★ ★ ★

See Page 6

DATELINE
VIETNAM

VC Lose 321

Saigon (CIB) — The Viet Cong lost 260 killed and 61 captured for the week ending Apr. 17, U.S. military sources revealed.

For the same week, government losses were 90 killed and 29 missing or captured, establishing a kill ratio of 3-to-1 in favor of the friendly forces.

U.S. losses for the period were one killed and 14 wounded, with two Americans listed as missing in action or captured.

Incidents Rise

Saigon (CIB) — Viet Cong initiated incidents increased to 470 during the period Apr. 10-17, according to U.S. military officials.

During the week of Apr. 3-10 the VC initiated 430 such incidents.

IV Corps reported 230 of last weeks incidents, while I Corps had 105, II and III Corps 60 incidents each and 15 incidents in the Capital Military District.

Unit Actions Down

Saigon (CIB) — Small unit actions decreased during the week ending Apr. 17 over the previous week.

There were 16,215 such incidents last week as compared with 17,125 the previous week, according to authorities in Saigon.

Operations involving battalion-size or larger units decreased slightly, from 80 to 75, for the same period.

Navy Missions

Saigon (CIB) — Vietnamese naval forces accounted for about 2,235 missions during the period Apr. 10-17, according to U.S. military spokesmen in Saigon.

Sea forces accounted for about 155 missions, including shore bombardments, while river forces conduct-

(Continued on page 8)



MOVE OUT — Vietnamese soldiers storm out of a UH-34D helicopter into the landing zone near Ang Bac. The Marine heli-lift was supported by several U.S. Army armed "Hueys" and VNAF Skyraiders. (USMC Photos)

Seven Bridges Fall To Strike Aircraft

Saigon (CIB) — U.S. Air Force and Navy jets Friday totalling about 200 aircraft left seven North Vietnamese bridges destroyed in the latest of the

continuing air strikes against military targets north of the 17th Parallel, a U.S. military spokesman said Friday.

The massive combined strike, the most devastating thus far in terms of targets destroyed, unloaded 275 tons of bombs plus Bullpup air-to-ground missiles, rockets and cannon fire on the

seven bridges and scored a bonus when Air Force pilots sunk a ferry near Phu Qui, 90 miles south of Hanoi.

Both bridges plus the ferry at Phu Qui were destroyed by the wave of

F-105, A-1H and support aircraft, the spokesman said.

In the morning mission, Air Force pilots zeroed-in on Phuc Thien highway bridge along Route 7, 120 miles south of Hanoi and Ly Nhan a Route 1 highway bridge 110 miles south of Hanoi.

Both bridges plus the ferry at Phu Qui were destroyed by the wave of

F-105, A-1H and support aircraft, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Navy A-1, A-4 and escort planes from the

carriers USS Midway and Hancock were working over

a bridge at Pho Son, 150

(Continued on page 8)

VC Caught In Marine Vise-Like Maneuver Quiet Ends In Da Nang Area

Da Nang (USMC 10) — The lull in the fighting in the Da Nang Sector was broken as helicopters of the Marine Medium Helicopter Sqdn. lifted off Apr. 20 for a strike against the Viet Cong.

The strike area was in the vicinity of Ang Bac, eight miles southeast of the Da Nang Air Base. The operation was directed against a company of known VC regional forces.

Latest reports had shown the VC massing in the Ang Bac district, forcing the local Vietnamese to dig trenches and supervising the placement of punji stakes.

AIR SUPPORT

The strike was built around 12 UH-34D helicopters carrying 134 ARVN soldiers with six Army UH-1B armed "Hueys" and two Vietnamese Skyraiders flying armed support. The area was divided into northern and southern landing zones (LZ), which were three miles apart. Two companies of Vietnamese troops were already in the area serving

as a blocking force.

Four armed Hueys made a strafing and rocket run on the area surrounding the LZ. Two decoy helicopters followed, flying past the zones and further south. A few minutes later, five choppers dropped into the southern landing zone and unloaded 62 Vietnamese soldiers.

TRAP IS LAID

Two minutes later the remaining five choppers landed in the northern zone unloading their compliment of 72 ARVN fighters.

The two ARVN units quickly closed with each other and continued the attack aided by Vietnamese artillery.

Six Viet Cong and a quantity of small arms were captured in the vise-like pinching maneuver. No friendly casualties had been suffered.



COVER — A bush line serves as temporary cover and concealment for Vietnamese troops in the landing zone near Ang Bac during Apr. 20 operation against Viet Cong in the Da Nang sector. The troops soon met with the other section of assault force and pressed on the attack.

Servicemen Voice Approval Of U.S. Role In Vietnam

Do American soldiers know why they're in Vietnam? A conclusive answer, of course, is impossible to give, but if the letters of a handful of soldiers are indicative, men here know more about the "why" than most Americans, according to *Army Times*, a widely read weekly newspaper for military personnel.

In the Apr. 21 issue, the publication cites 25-year old Lt. Elvis G. Barker. On Jan. 3 he wrote his wife, Virginia, from Vietnam: "I'm here for two reasons. The first is, of course, to defend the U.S., my country and to guarantee a life of freedom for my family. This is our first line of defense..."

"The second reason is that I think we can help these people. Yes, they're appallingly primitive, in some cases, but then so were we at one time..."

"Negotiation, bringing the boys home—and sell our last hope in Southeast Asia down the river? All of us here want to go home, but none of us want to leave because of a 'negotiation'..."

The lieutenant has come home however. On Mar. 11, he was laid to rest at Salem, Ore. The officer was killed when a hand grenade on his belt accidentally exploded as he was going to the aid of a platoon under Viet Cong attack.

LETTER SWAYS MOTHER

Another Soldier, Sp4 Lance R. Hall wrote home: "If we do say 'to hell with Vietnam,' we might as well say to hell with Southeast Asia, then maybe, to hell with Europe, South America, Africa and then, maybe 'to hell with freedom.'

"I say to hell with the courageous Americans back home in the good old U.S.A. who sit around saying 'to hell with Vietnam'."

Hall's letter got more than casual attention. His mother, Mrs. Betty Wason Hall of Pleasantville, N.Y., swayed by the letter, changed her mind about U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

She sent the letter to President Johnson who wrote the soldier:

"It's heartening to me to read of your dedication and your devotion to duty in that distant land."

"You and your comrades there bear the primary burden of our nation's commitment to the people of Vietnam—to help them to help themselves in the preservation of their freedom."

"I just want you to know that your President has not forgotten you and the job you are doing. We are grateful to you and those thousands like you who toil today to bring peace to a troubled world."

A FRUSTRATING PRIVILEGE

Perhaps the most touching letters—and also those exhibiting the most sympathy to the Vietnamese cause—are from Capt. James P. Spruill, a Special Forces soldier killed a year ago in Vietnam.

While not wholly satisfied with the U.S. effort here, he wrote his wife, Barbara, in Nov. 1963 that "it is also a privilege to work with the Vietnamese soldiers. Frustrating at times... he is the most genuine and kind human I have met..."

"It was brought to my attention last night that we were once inadequately equipped and poorly trained and that professional soldiers came from afar to aid the fledgling American army in its fight for freedom and internal order. Two of these 'advisors' are well known—Von Steuben and Lafayette. It is heartwarming to think that we now continue the tradition of sacrifice fostered by those two men when they aided a nation in need."

HONOR ROLL

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Posthumous

Capt Carlton J. Holland

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

3rd Award

MSgt Paul E. Mullen

2nd Award

Maj Charles W. Jones
Capt James F. Morris
Capt Thomas B. Throckmorton
1st Lt John T. Hora
MSgt James H. Grandy
SFC Gene Bell
SFC James H. Smith
SFC Vernon E. Smith

1st Award

Lt Col Matthew W. Busey III
Lt Col Floyd R. Mulvany
Lt Col John F. White
Maj Howard E. Carson
Maj James L. Singleton
Maj Charles W. Brown
Maj Grady A. Culpepper
Maj Richard B. Haskell
Maj Walter Kirkland
Maj William J. Martin
Maj Douglas G. Waters
Maj Martin L. Pitts Jr.
Maj John H. Simpson Jr.
Capt James G. Bayer
Capt James M. Beckworth
Capt Thornton Burns
Capt Eleas A. Cozantis
Capt Leonard E. Hutson
Capt Joseph Orlowski Jr.
Capt Larry D. Piper
Capt Charley E. Barber
Capt Donald L. Perkins
Capt Joseph B. Planche
Capt Roger R. Ransey
Capt Larry F. Sanders
Capt James J. Anderson
Capt Milton B. Halsey Jr.
Capt Thomas J. Hendricks
Capt James B. Johnson
Capt Harry S. Ota
Capt Wesley B. Westfahl
Capt Edward J. Thieben Jr.
Capt Vernon G. Doniphon
Capt Thomas F. Schatzman Jr.
Capt Melford S. Sorenson Jr.
Capt Wilbur T. Whitehead
1st Lt Kazuo Koike
1st Lt John A. Whigham
2nd Lt James L. Rayburn
CWO Eugene W. Klauk
MSgt Felix L. Russo
MSgt Charles F. Johnson
MSgt John J. Feuerbach
MSgt Kenneth E. Penrose
SFC Joseph L. Maloney
SFC Karl F. Barrett Jr.
SFC Donald W. Phillips
SFC Albert L. Mentzer
SFC Charles W. Burbage
SFC Adelle F. Mc Kinney
SSgt George M. Beasley
SSgt John Cullen
SSgt James R. Conde
SSgt Donald J. Fawcett
SSgt Arthur L. Fletcher
Sp6 Richard L. Townsend
Sp6 Felipe Velez-Velez
Sp5 Michael E. Holland
Sp4 Anthony B. Thompson
Sp4 Robert A. Chapman

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/ V

SFC William E. Edge
SFC James T. Gentry
SFC Kenneth G. Wood Jr.
SFC Jesse S. Mendez
SFC Charles F. Kinsley Jr.
SSgt Daniel R. Ballantyne
SSgt Clearence Young
SSgt Andy Markovich
SSgt Gary D. Carter
SSgt William C. Morrow
SSgt Rex B. Patton
SSgt Francis O. Garren Jr.
SSgt Jeff C. Beard
SSgt Theophil L. Rabalaix
Sp6 Lewis J. Green
Sgt Williard L. Necease Jr.
Sgt Laurence R. St Onge
Sgt Edward N. Passmore
Sgt Harry T. Scott
Sp5 Charles E. Stokes
Sp4 Nathaniel A. Mitchell Jr.
Sp4 Alfred H. Abony
Sp4 Benjamin Jackson
Sp4 Earl L. Pickstone
Sp4 Raymond J. Werdann
PFC Joseph V. Perfetti
PFC Jose L. Ssvilla



CAST-OFF—SKC George L. Haneberg (left) and Lt. Charles R. Fike check-out craft of the Junk Force. The two U.S. advisors travel throughout the Republic of Vietnam providing technical advice to the Junk Force.

Advisors Shoot Trouble For Navy's Junk Forces

Vietnam (MACV)—Five years ago Lt. Charles R. Fike was majoring in business administration and accounting never dreaming that one day he would be

quarters is in Saigon.

Combat situations in the field are the rule rather than the exception for Fike and Haneberg. When they

visit places as remote as Phu Quoc Island, chief naval base for the Fourth Coastal District, they eat and sleep with their Vietnamese counterparts in mud huts with thatched roofs.

The junk force has been called everything from "Junkies" to "Black Pajama Navy." Although a few of the crewmen wear uniforms, most wear black pajamas—traditional garb of the Vietnamese working class. The crewmen, para-military sailors, have been recruited from villages and cities.

Fike and Haneberg, like other U.S. advisors, often don black pajamas to keep from being picked off by VC bullets when they are in enemy waters.

Although the two supply

(Continued on page 7)

The Observer

The Observer, an authorized weekly publication, is published by the Information Office, MACV, for U.S. Forces in Vietnam and printed by DONG-NAM-A, Saigon.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or of any of the Service departments. This paper uses the facilities of Armed Forces Press Service and the news services of the Service departments to augment local news. Mailing Address: THE OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO San Francisco 96443. Telephone 60174.

COMMANDING GENERAL
Gen. W.C. Westmoreland
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
MACV. Col. B.W. Legare
CHIEF, COMMAND INFORMATION BRANCH
Col. T.J. Cunningham Jr.

STAFF
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
Maj. F.P. Schmidt Jr.
EDITOR.... Sp4 Terry Shaffer
REPORTER.... Sp4 Lee Antonello
REPORTER.... PFC Daniel G. Shafer



SECURING THE LOAD — SSgt. La Verne F. Kappauf, left, of the 19th Air Commando Sqdn., and SSgt. John R. Dunlap Jr., Detachment 2, 8th Aerial Port Sqdn. at Vinh Long secure load for next step on resupply mission in the Mekong Delta.

19th Air Commandos — "Deeds Not Words"

Tan Son Nhut (CIB) — An outpost under Viet Cong attack calls for flareship support. An American advisory team needs supplies and mail service. The situation calls for "Deeds, Not Words," and this is the motto — and the service — of the 19th Air Commando Sqdn.

Wherever, whenever they can be of service, the men of this newly-formed unit are ready to respond quickly.

Based at Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon, the

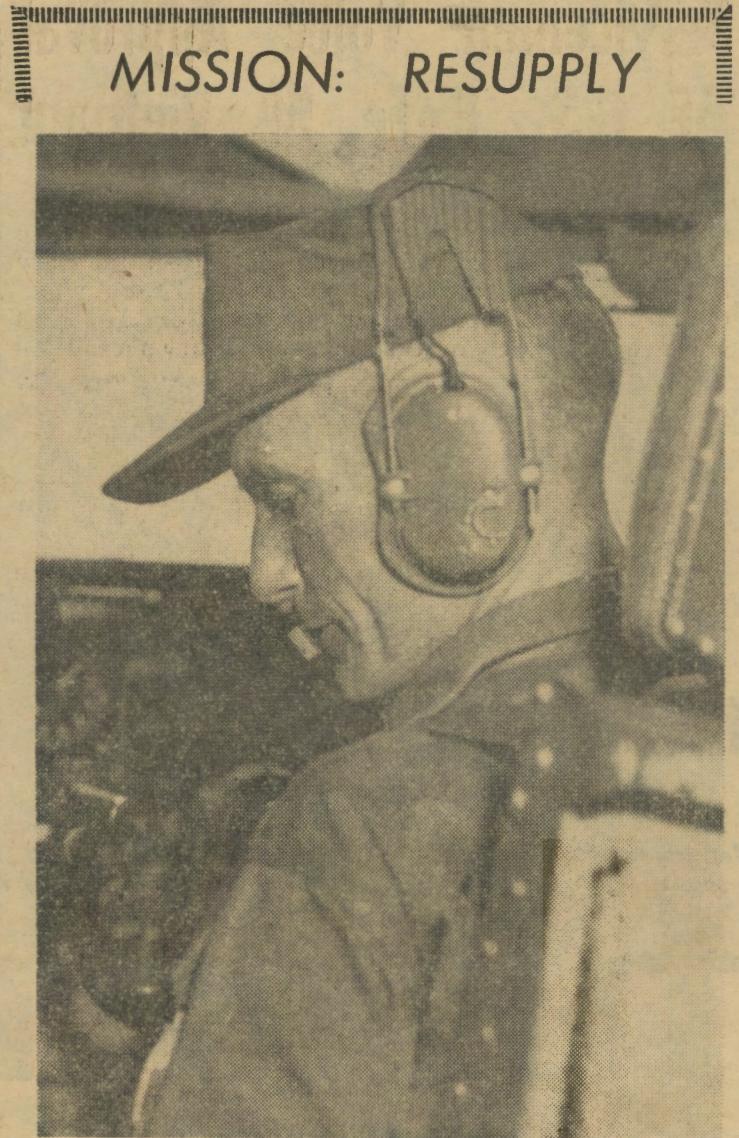
19th Air Commandos was established as a regular unit on Mar. 1. Already they have earned the respect and admiration of the many men they have served.

Lt. Col. John D. Pace, squadron commander, said of the unit's mission "The least glamorous and most important part of our job is that of normal resupply flights. These are flown daily to many different points in Vietnam." The reason these flights are considered so important by the veteran pilot is that "the

men in the field need food and water and mail. These are some of the essentials we carry on our resupply missions."

Whereas resupply missions are important for morale among the American soldiers, flareship missions are of "immediate importance to the saving of life," said Capt. Jack Kohn, one of the crewmen of the 19th. "You can't hit an enemy you can't see." There are three crews on flareship duty every night.

A normal crew on the



READY FOR TAKE OFF — Capt. Edward F. Tyndall, 19th Air Commando Sqdn. pilot makes final checkout prior to take-off for resupply mission. Resupply is one of the prime functions of the newly-formed unit.

unit's C-123s consists of six men: an aircraft commander, a pilot, a co-pilot, a navigator, a loadmaster and a flight mechanic.

"These loadmasters are probably the hardest-working men in the operation," said Col. Pace. "They sometimes handle and move as much as 100,000 pounds of equipment and supplies in one day. They are some of the most important men in resupply missions."

The unit's twelve crews fly all over Vietnam, concentrating in the immediate area surrounding Saigon. "We have at least one flight daily to points north, such as Nha Trang, Da Nang or Quang Ngai however," says Capt. Kohn.

Throughout Vietnam, whenever the situation calls for "Deeds, Not Words," you are apt to find the 19th Air Commando Sqdn. on the job.

Popular Force Program Gains Support At Rice-Roots Level

Long An (CIB) — The four Popular Forces soldiers sit huddled in the shade of a large tree. Standing in front of them is an instructor from a mobile

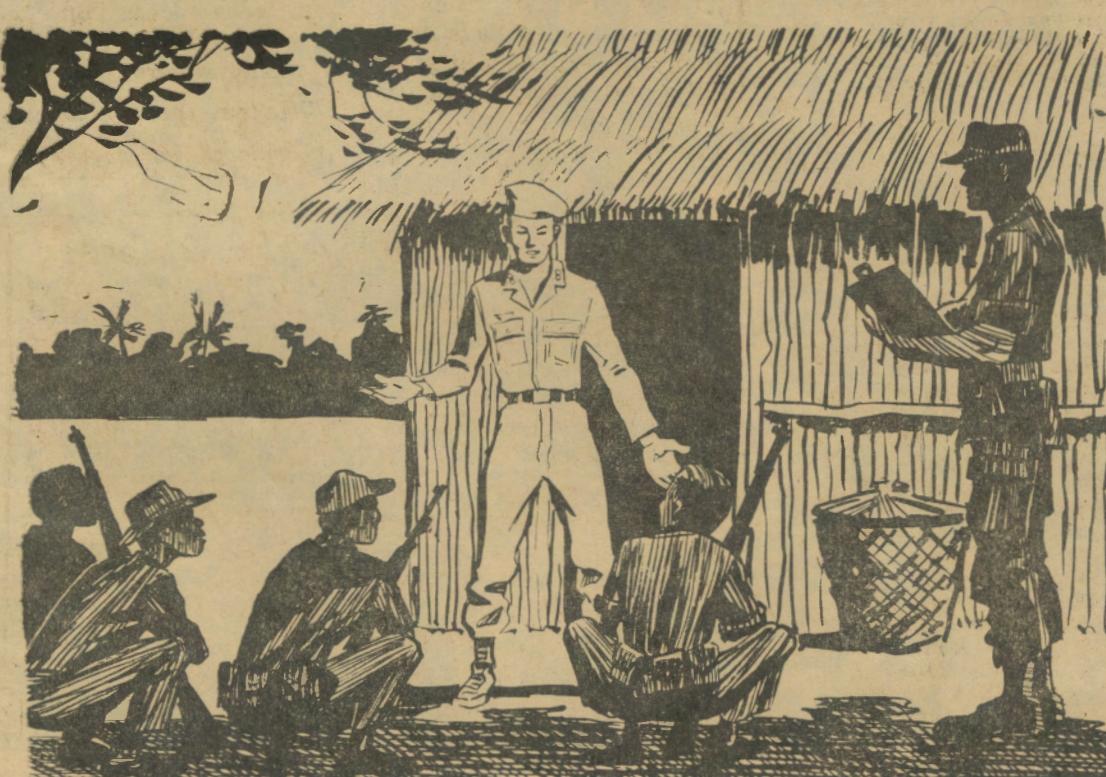
team of national cadre, who speaks in slow, meaningful tones.

This is the Popular Force Motivation Indoctrination Program in action. Through this program, the Popular Force (PF) soldier is shown why he is fighting. His role in the big picture of the Vietnamese struggle is illustrated so that he will be better able to do his job.

Capt. Giac P. Modica, a U.S. Army advisor with the program and a team chief,

Education of the PF soldier in the affairs of Vietnam begins with two mobile teams of national cadre, with two American advisors on each team. These teams

(Continued on page 8)



Informal instruction is given during Popular Force class session.

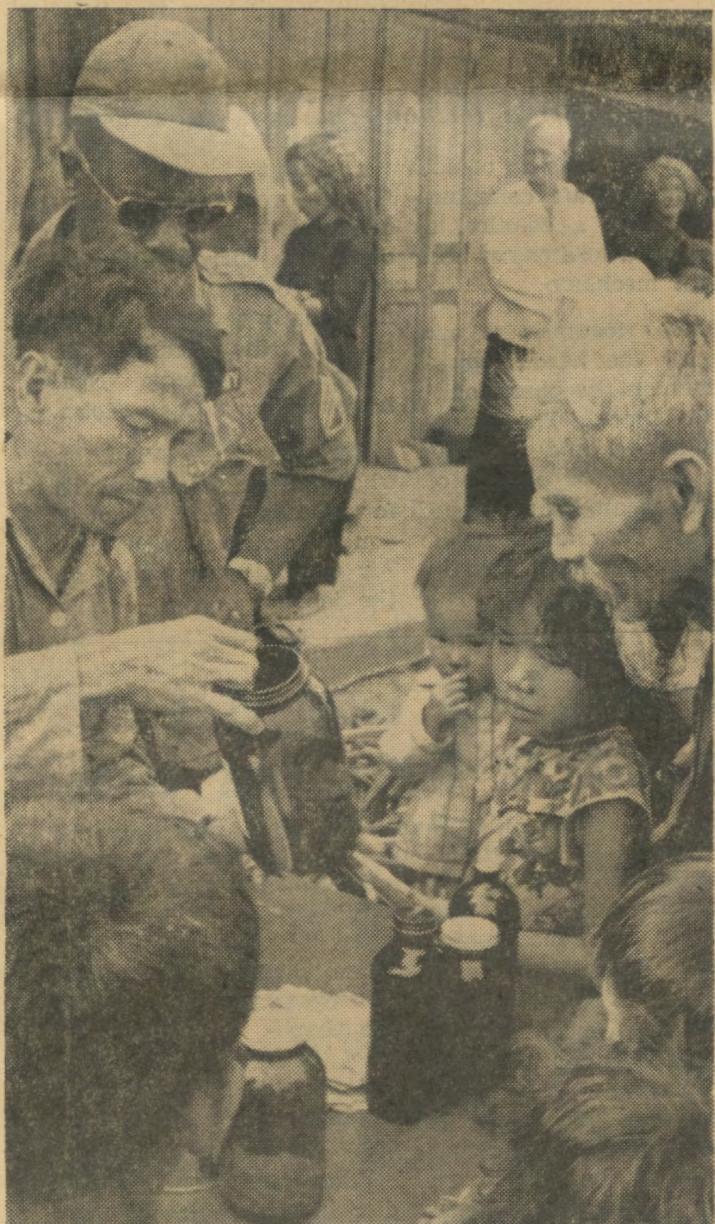


PSYWAR ADVISOR Capt. William I. Weske visits with defectors at the Chieu Hoi "Open Arms" Center in Cao Lanh. Former Viet Cong, these men have returned voluntarily for rehabilitation, training, or resettlement of their families. The Chieu Hoi program appeals to the Viet Cong to defect from the communists and return to the government.



MEDICAL ADVISOR SSgt Cleveland Johnson hands out candy to children again," he said with a broad smile, after being mobbed by the swarm of

'THE RIVER DRAGON TH



DURING HIS FIRST DAY of duty on the River Dragon, Medical Advisor SSgt Cleveland H. Johnson watches one of the showboat's Vietnamese medics prescribe and service an old man in Kien Phong Province.

Cao Lanh (MACOI) — Around Cao Lanh the local folks call it "The River Dragon that Talks." Psy-war personnel call it the "Psywar Showboat." But whatever it is called, the Long Giang (River Dragon) is a radical experiment in psywar activities in Vietnam.

The 35-foot flat-bottomed craft is a new boat work-

ing out of Cao Lanh in Kien Phong Province deep in the rice country of the Mekong Delta.

River Dragon's troupe are Vietnamese musicians and attractive girl singers hired by Vietnamese Information Service (VIS), the agency with over-all responsibility for psywar in Vietnam.

Also accompanying the

showboat is an American-Vietnamese medical team which dispenses free medicines, salves, pills and first-aid treatment.

This free medicine is one of the two features used to attract people to the psy-war show. The other is a give-away package supplied by USOM containing such things as clothing, toothbrushes and matches, along

with a variety of hard-to-get items. These packages are handed out during the show, propaganda leaflets are handed out, bearing a number of various items, drawings and lucky numbers. The River Dragon is the idea of



SMALL BOY shows Capt. Weske the contents of his gift-package. Weske works with the psywar team in Kien Phong Province where the showboat River Dragon is making much



ROOF of the Long Giang (River Dragon) serves as stage for the entertainers. Vietnamese vocalist is a part of the program designed to entertain and inform people in the countryside about the central government's activities.



BUDDHIST PRIEST Thich Thien-Tai chats over a cup of tea with Capt. Weske at the Pagoda in Peace in Cao Lanh. A new pagoda is presently under construction at the same location, a few yards away from the grave of Ho Chi Minh's father.

SHOWBOAT TALKS'

ety of other items. Packages are given wings. Prior to propaganda leaflets were handed out, each number. At various times the proceedings are held number holders he packages. Dragon was of Maj. Keith

Meyer, senior advisor to Kien Phong sector. Meyer discussed the idea with Capt. William I. Weske, Psywar/Civic Action advisor. Weske was enthusiastic and, when the idea was brought up to USIS, they latched onto the idea and soon built the boat at a cost of less than \$1,000.

The showboat became operational on Mar. 30 and in its first four days of operation



This Vietnamese mother inspects the contents of her package. Among its many scarce items is a sweater for her child.



SHOWBOAT ENTERTAINMENT appeals to both young and old, as more than 300 people attended this performance in Kien Phong. Larger crowds attend the night shows when movies are shown and spotlights focus on the performers.



12th CENTURY RELIC



RIVER PROVIDES A PRIME METHOD OF TRAVEL



THE CHAM 'GAMESA'



HAVEN FOR WARES — Woman sets up hawking stand for day's business. Easy access to South China Sea makes fish one of the mainstays of Da Nang economy.

'HANDCLASP' Brings Joy To Villagers Of Tam Hiep

Saigon (HSAS 10) — Tam Hiep, a government-built village some 25 miles northwest of Saigon, has a population of more than 2,000 women and children, and two men. It is a place where smiles don't come easily and where gaiety is reserved for the very young.

The people of Tam Hiep are widows and children of Vietnamese soldiers who died fighting the Viet Cong.

One March day, a party of U.S. Navy men and a U.S. Army chaplain called at Tam Hiep. Before they left, there was hardly a face in the village without a broad grin.

The Americans had distributed two and one-half tons of Project Handclasp items to the villagers.

WORLD-WIDE PROGRAM

"Handclasp" is a world-wide Navy-operated people-to-people program. Clothing-



HEARTY LAUGHTER — Navy Chaplain (Commander) Calvin J. Croston causes an explosion of laughter when his command of the Vietnamese language turns into a joke on himself at Tam Hiep. (U.S. Navy Photos)

(Continued on page 8)



BAMBOO RESTAURANT — A scenic view of the Da Nang River accompanies casual dinner at one of the city's many beautiful Oriental "restaurants-on-the-water."

French influence, a mask of leisure betrayed only by the roar of jets and the rumble of troop convoys. Many of the people speak French and the streets are lined with Paris-patterned sidewalk cafes.

"The twain," about which

Rudyard Kipling wrote so many years ago, have met in Da Nang and the result is an odd mixture offering cafe conversations against a backdrop of the life-and-death battle raging beyond the limits of the city's defenses.



HANDCLASP HELPER — Sp4 Wayne Vernon, a member of the group which visited Tam Hiep to distribute Operation Handclasp goods wins a broad smile from one of the children living in the government village.

VIETNAM VIEWS



BALLOON VENDOR — A young Vietnamese lad carries balloons along a Da Nang street. Many youngsters earn money selling wares as street hawkers in Vietnam where the travelling market place is a common convenience.

▲ Junk Forces

(Continued from page 2)

men see that every repair facility is well-stocked with modern tools, some are never used. A few of the older repairmen prefer the familiar and ancient tools which have been used by Oriental carpenters and boatbuilders for centuries.

One "must" for all junks is the set of baleful eyes which appear on the bow. These eyes are sometimes painted on, sometimes made of wood and nailed on. Should one of the wooden eyes come loose and drop off, it is interpreted as an evil omen.

Keeping the junk fleet afloat takes sweat, patience, know-how and American advisors like Lt. Fike and Chief Haneberg and their equally courageous Vietnamese "junkies."

R & R Schedule

April 1965

Passengers check-in at TSN, 0530-0600 for Hong Kong, 0800-0830 for Bangkok.

Depart	Return
HONG KONG	
Apr. 25*	30
27**	2 May
29*	4
BANGKOK	
Apr. 25	30
30	5

* Stop at Danang. Danang personnel report 0830 for 0930 departure.

** Stop at Nha Trang. Nha Trang personnel report 0730 for 0830 departure.

Counterpart Lingo

Private First Class

Sergeant

Warrant Officer

Captain

Major

Lieutenant Colonel

Emphasis is on boldface syllables.

Binh-nhát
(Bin nyut)

Trung-sĩ
(Cung see)

Thương-sĩ
(Thung see)

Đại-úy
(Dye we)

Thiếu-tá
(Teoo ta)

Trung-tá
(Cung ta)

★ ★ ★
The Roving
Photographer

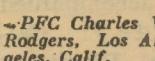
Question:

Why did you volunteer for duty in Vietnam?



SSgt. Oscar L. Nixon, Oakland, Ind.

"I'm after the experience which broadens an Army career. This drew me to take a second look at Vietnam. I was here before on temporary duty and the excitement brought me back again."



PFC Charles W. Rodgers, Los Angeles, Calif.

"Wanting to see what war was like and hoping to help in some way brought me to Vietnam. I speak the language and being able to communicate with the people enhances my ability to help."



Capt. Robin Mangum, Lancaster, Pa.

"I'm an infantryman and the only place for an inexperienced infantryman is right here in Vietnam. As an officer assisting to train Vietnamese, this will in turn help me to train my own men."



Sgt. Millard L. Doty, Shreveport, La.

"I wanted to do my part in assisting the Vietnamese. I believe wholeheartedly in the American effort here and felt qualified to help. The important element for success of the effort is wanting to help."



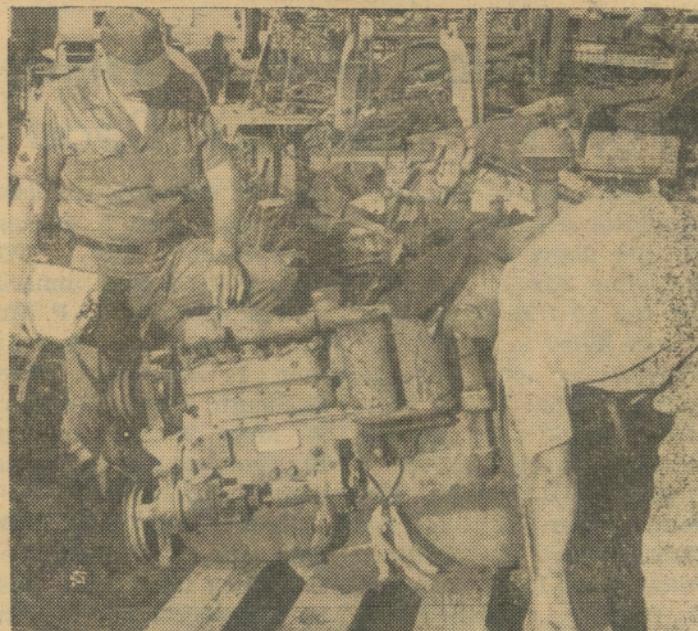
Ensign Bruce L. Runberg, Annandale, Minn.

"I had a choice of going to either Great Lakes or Vietnam. I chose Vietnam because here I can put into use what I've been trained for. I also wanted a first hand look at the situation and what was going on."



SSgt. Fabian Hernandez, Houston, Tex.

"Duty in Vietnam is a challenge and much can be learned that is not available anywhere else. Assisting a country at war gives a man combat experience which is valuable to his career."



RESALE VALUE — SSgt. Donald G. Corp, left, and Maj. Wilfred L. Sterzik inspect a piece of equipment for its resale value at the Property Disposal point at Go Vap. When items cannot be used by the military they are sold through sealed bids from buyers throughout the world.

Go Vap 'Junkyard' Saves U.S. Government Dollars

Go Vap (CIB) — A brisk breeze whipped up clouds of dust over the silent empty hulls. Tanks, washing machines and oil drums await reutilization at the Property Disposal's "Saigon Junkyard" located at Go Vap, just outside the capital city.

Property Disposal is one of many agencies saving the United States Government thousands of dollars annually. It is a collection center for unwanted supplies and equipment.

Scattered and stacked throughout the various warehouses of Property Disposal are a staggering variety of items waiting for a new "home."

Although a piece of equipment may no longer have any use in one office, that very object might well be

what someone else is looking for. Property Disposal, watching over its collection of old generators, shell casings and radios, tries to find a "home" or use for each.

Currently there are four collection points for scrap and reusable equipment in Vietnam. Sixty-five percent of the goods are handled at the main collection point in Go Vap.

Maj. Wilfred L. Sterzik, Property Disposal officer at Go Vap, says that he has been dubbed by fellow officers as the "Junkman" and

(Continued on page 8)



ASSESSMENT — Inventory checks are made by SSgt. Donald G. Corp, left, and Maj. Wilfred L. Sterzik of all equipment on hand. During these checks, an assessment is made of an item's reusability or resale value.

Memorial Services Held For 11 American Dead

Saigon (CIB) — Planeside memorial services were held on the flight line at Tan Son Nhut Air Base Apr. 22 for the 10 U.S. Army personnel killed in Binh Dinh Province on Apr. 19 and 20 and a civilian USOM engineer killed in a VC ambush near Saigon on Apr. 19.

The ten U.S. Army personnel were identified as: Capt. Robert D. Walker, Dallas, Tex.; 1st Lt. Kenneth L. Dean, Jr., Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.; 1st Lt. Josef L. Thorne, Ozark, Ala.; 2d Lt. Pa-

trick P. Calhoun, Augusta, Ga.; WC Daniel E. Bishop, Carmichael, Calif.; WO Douglas D. Mack, Ammarillo, Tex.; Sp5 Charles F. Millay, Philpot, Ky.; Sp4 Arthur F. Hennessey, West Falmouth, Mass.; Sp4 Terry W. Mills, Western Springs, Ill.; and Sp4 Gilbert Oliver, Kurtistown, Hawaii.

John Cone, Jr., of Parkdale, Ark., was killed when Viet Cong terrorists attacked the vehicle in which he was riding some five miles from downtown Saigon.

▲ Seven Bridges Fall...

(Continued from page 1) miles south of Hanoi, and two others on the Dim River at Zom Phuong just north of the 17th Parallel.

All three of the highway spans were battered out of commission. One was destroyed by a direct hit by a Bullpup missile.

The spokesman reported anti-aircraft fire ranging from light to moderate from ground positions at the far-flung targets.

No enemy aircraft were sighted during any of the flights and all aircraft returned safely to land or sea bases.

U.S. Navy and Air Force and VNAF attack and supporting aircraft spent another busy week flying armed reconnaissance, leaflet drops or strike missions every day beginning with last Saturday's strike that claimed six bridges.

In action over North Vietnam during the week three U.S. pilots were lost.

The pilot of a Navy A-4 Skyhawk was missing after the aircraft went down from unknown causes while on a Wednesday morning strike mission.

On Tuesday, another Navy pilot went down in a propeller-driven A-1H aircraft while making a low-level pass at a military convoy. The report listed the pilot as killed.

An F-105 slammed into a hill Saturday while attacking a convoy, killing the pilot.

In a related development, U.S. military spokesmen announced Tuesday that the F-104 Starfighter had been added to the Air Force inventory in the Republic

of Vietnam with the Monday arrival at Da Nang of the swift jet interceptor.

The move was expected to provide increased security against attack by enemy aircraft during raids on the North.

▲ Popular Forces

(Continued from page 3)

train provincial cadre who, in turn, provide in-province training for one PF platoon per district.

After dividing the platoon into squads, an instructor guides discussion in each of the squads. Throughout the discussions, individuals are encouraged to express personal opinions.

Each trainee is helped to understand the struggle for freedom and the anti-communist effort in the country and is shown the inherent dangers of communism. The national government's ability to provide freedom and security is stressed.

No special camps are used for the training; various hamlets of the unit's district serve as informal classrooms. Instructors live, eat, work and sleep with the trainees as equals.

"Living right with the people has a tremendous effect on them," says Army Capt. James L. Drinkwater, a team member. "They are more apt to be friendly when you are sitting at the same table, sharing the same meal."

The role of the American advisor in the program is that of observer and guide. He stands by as the instruction is being given, a living symbol of the rewards of a free nation.

▲ Handclasp...

(Continued from page 6)

medicine, food, books and toys, donated by American individuals, religious and civic organizations and industry are shipped to needy areas of the world from Handclasp centers at Norfolk, Va., and San Diego, Calif. Navy men, usually chaplains, direct distribution in the field.

In Vietnam, the goods are distributed based upon requests from field commanders and military advisors.

Capt. Archie C. Kuntze, commanding officer of Headquarters Support Activity, Saigon (HSAS) accompanied Chaplain (Cdr.) Calvin J. Croston, Project Handclasp Officer for Vietnam, to the village of Tam Hiep. Three Navy enlisted men, CS1 Wesley L. Cope, YNSN Stephen P. Howell, and LTSN Marvin E. Souba, volunteered to help deliver the goods.

U.S. Army Chaplain (Capt.) James E. Hansen met the Navy group at Tam Hiep. The chaplain, attached to the U.S. advisory staff's III Corps headquarters at Bien Hoa, had submitted the initial request for Handclasp aid to the village.

The Americans began by passing out chewing gum to the shy children. That broke the ice and the Americans were swiftly engulfed in a sea of delighted youngsters.

GUM BRINGS CHILDREN

The Americans had their hands full in selecting the correct sizes of clothing — there were six cases and seven bales of assorted clothing.

The rest of the delivery to Tam Hiep, typical of most Handclasp deliveries, included 18 cases of wheat germ, eight cases of multipurpose food base, aspirin, a case of basketballs and two cases of dolls.

As the Americans left, the children clapped and shouted "OK, OK, OK" while mothers began sorting and fitting the welcome mountain of clothing.

Operation Handclasp had scored another success in the people-to-people program. A village of sorrow now had something to smile about.

**THE OBSERVER'S
PHONE NUMBER:
60174**

Can Tho Advisors Claim Unusual Gun Collection

Can Tho (IV Corps IO) — Many avid gun collectors have large and expensive collections, but the IV Corps G-2 advisory section at Can Tho has an

fice can be found the heavier weapons. Standing in separate corners are two different launch type bombs. Little is known about the system used to fire these bombs, but they are usually used as anti-personnel devices.

The collection was acquired through routine work of the G-2 section. One of its functions is to collect, analyze and disseminate information on enemy weapons.

Some of the pieces on the rifle rack are antiquated, but most are types still user by the Viet Cong. The obsolete items are a homemade shotgun and rifle and a crude copy of an American Thompson submachine gun.

The newer guns include a Cines Communist 7.62 Mosin Nagant carbine; a Chinese Communist 7.62 submachine gun; and, a French Lebel (Indochina) rifle.

In other parts of the of-

DATELINE

(Continued from page 1)

ed about 630 missions, including participation in five combat missions. Coastal forces were most active with about 1,450 missions reported, including action in one operation.

Air Actions Drop

Saigon (CIB) — Air activities in the Republic of Vietnam decreased during the week ending Apr. 17, according to U.S. military authorities in Saigon.

The previous week had seen 18,230 sorties, whereas the number declined to 17,675 last week.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

From :

Place Stamp
Here
(8 cents Airmail)
(5 cents 1st class)

TO :

