

1.00 Refugee Reports  
4 January 1955 3-22-55  
Reports  
P. H. J. W.

TO : M.H.B. ADLER  
FROM : Wm.H. COSTER  
SUBJECT : Field trip to Refugee Reception Center and Resettlement village, Province of Cap Saint Jacques (21-22 Dec. 1954)

Field Report No. FS - 3(

Purpose of Trip :

General inspection of Refugee Reception Center, discussion of plans for resettlement villages and determination of existing conditions and problems confronting local authorities.

Officials contacted :

Khim Van Ba	Chef de Province
Hua Van Ngo	Assistant Chef de Province
Tran Van Quynh	Chief, Public Works
Le Van Ky	Chief, Water and Forests.
Lt. Rougetot	Also Administrator, Vung-Tau Refugee Reception Center French Military Doctor in charge of camp Hospital.

General :

One resettlement village at Cam-Gio is in its process of preparation. Arrangements for a visit satisfactory to the Province Officials could not be made at this time due to the remoteness of the site. A detailed inspection is anticipated in the near future. A full report with recommendations will then follow.

The following characteristics of Cam-Gio were obtained from Mr. Quynh:

Location and Site :

Approximately 10 kms northwest of Cap St. Jacques. Access is by boat, a two hour trip across the Baie of Ganh-Rai.

Site is a wooded strip, 60-70 meters wide with water both sides.

No road access at present but a road is contemplated to provide access from the surrounding country.

Rice fields are available but since the surrounding water is salty the quality of the fields is not good.

Planning:

No final plan has been developed as the engineer is awaiting clearing before determination.

Population :

Estimated to reach 500-600 families averaging 6 persons per family - Total : 3,000 persons. To be composed of fishermen and forestmen (wood cutters)

*L. O. Robinson*

Accommodations :

Houses, 8 m x 8 m, will be built by the refugees. The Chef de Province purchases the materials and the French Army supplies boat transportation for the materials and the refugees.

Refugees presently located there are sheltered in 45 small (4.5 m x 4.5 m) United States Army tents that were transported from the Vung-Tau Reception Center, near Cap Saint Jacques.

Wells :

No permanent wells at present.

Pit privies :

Will be built out over water.

Requests and Needs :

None at this time.

Remarks :

From past experience with Mr. Quynh in the development of Vung-Tau Reception Center it is known that he is well equipped professionally to competently develop Cam-Gio village and will not hesitate to request technical advice at the proper time. Follow up of these requisitions will be made.

VUNG - TAU RECEPTION CENTER (Near Cap St. Jacques)

The characteristics of this camp have been discussed in a previous report (to D.C. LAVERGNE, 29 October 1954) and will not be repeated in detail.

However, certain aspects of the camp require notation.

In reviewing these matters it must be borne in mind that the camp was constructed at a rapidly accelerated pace in order to accommodate the refugees assigned there.

The ultimate number of persons to be accommodated at any one time was never clearly defined throughout the entire construction period. Figures varied from 15,000 to 60,000. As of 7 October 1954 the greatest potential of accommodation was approximately 21,000.

It is to be noted that counting the number of persons presently in the camp, a total of 34,085 persons have been accommodated since 29 August 1954 when the first ship load of 2,481 refugees were received, 13 days after clearing and construction of the camp was initiated. Disembarkation of refugees continued until the last ship arrived on 28 November 1954.

Deviations and concessions from good planning design criteria and construction of facilities were permitted in order to provide the minimum requirements for operation of the camp.

The adverse results of these deviations were noted in the initial stages. These conditions now exist.

Population :

On date of visit, 22 December 1954, approximately 8,000 refugees were in the camp. Present potential capacity 15,000 - 18,000 depending upon number of persons to a tent.

Wells :

There was sufficient water in the wells at the time of visit. However, it was estimated by Mr. Quayh that, with the advance of dry season, by February there would be little if any water. The well water is ill-smelling. Impossible to dig shallow wells deeper due to the coquillage encountered at 3 m plus.

The advisability of sinking deep wells was discussed by Sanitation Engineers in the first stages of camp development. Since the duration of operation of the camp was then estimated to be not in excess of 90 days and since shallow wells would suffice for this period, a deep well was not bored.

The water problem has been discussed with Mr. Weiner of Sanitation. A well rig has now been assigned to the camp and is in operation there.

A certain amount of drinking water was formerly supplied in tanker trailers by the Province Public Works. This tank is now out of commission. A tanker trailer for supplying the camp needs for potable water until such time as the deep well becomes operative would alleviate the present potable water scarcity.

SANITARY CONDITIONS :

The sanitary conditions of the camp have deteriorated since the departure of Mission personnel on 7 October 1954.

The camp Administrator was reminded of the need for constant use of the garbage details and the necessity for instructing newcomer refugees in the requirements of helping to maintain the camp in a clean condition.

He was also requested to properly fill local depressions around wells and wash blocks to prevent accumulation of debris and possible well pollution, and to maintain open drainage ditches from these facilities.

Open ends of slit latrines were requested to be filled with earth.

Mr. Alamein, of Sanitation, who was formerly stationed at the camp with me, has returned with the well rig and will presumably continue to supervise the sanitation of the camp operation.

An improvement over present conditions can be expected.

The fly menace is prevalent.

Five boxes of DDT that were sent to the camp by boat (source unknown) was ineffective. 3 sprayers are still available at camp, 1 has been sent to Cam-Gio.

Effective DDT was requested and has since been supplied.

HEALTH :

The 150 men hospital located in the camp, staffed by French and Vietnamese personnel, is well maintained and exceptionally clean.

Dr. Rougetet stated that 10 cases of smallpox had been registered. Of these 8 children have died. The following day 5 additional cases were reported.

50 suspect typhoidal cases, 10 of which were verified, have been registered.

No cholera cases had been reported.

Miss Betty Week, Nursing Consultant, Public Health Division, who is presently assigned to Vung-Tau as Consulting Nurse to a health team at this camp, apprises her Division of developments.

Remarks:

Many of the fishermen refugees who are to be resettled in Cap St. Jacques Province are building their own fishing craft, having pooled their financial resources and established credit to purchase lumber locally. No materials have been requested.

SUPPLEMENT :

Since the date of this field visit the following additional information has been reported by Miss Weeks who returned from Cap St. Jacques on 5 January 1955.

A resettlement village is planned in the area on the opposite side of Route 15 from Vung-Tau Reception Center.

Present plans are for 2,000 people to be resettled there.

1,000 people will be resettled at Cam-Gio instead of 2,000 as originally planned.

The potential capacity for resettlement in Cap St. Jacques is estimated by the Chef de Province to be 3,000 total.

5,000 refugees have refused to move to another province.

5,379 refugees are presently encamped at Vung-Tau.

Three additional cases of smallpox were registered during the week starting 28 December 1954 and one more mild case since then.

Two more children have died of smallpox.

Smallpox is breaking out in Cam-Gio.

The camp Administrator is out of funds for plaster distribution.

Milk is still being distributed by an unknown voluntary agency and without consulting Province Officials.

Monsieur Harnett will be contacted concerning this as he has designated a priest to be responsible for proper distribution of such donations.

V/DK