

THE OBSERVER

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Gen. Westmoreland Decorated

President Visits Cam Ranh Bay

President Lyndon B. Johnson took time out from a busy schedule in Manila on Oct. 26 to make a secret trip to Cam Ranh Bay. The President was to address a U.S. Embassy delegation following a flight from the island of Corregidor. However, speculation flew around Manila when they discovered the Presidential jet had left Manila International Airport. For two hours there was a complete blackout on the President until word was received that the President was at Cam Ranh Bay.

During an address to the officers and airmen at the massive base the President announced he was awarding the Distinguished Service Medal to Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, commander, U.S. Forces Vietnam. He pinned the award on the general while hundreds of servicemen looked on.

During his brief speech the Commander-in-Chief praised General Westmoreland and also praised the American fighting man in Vietnam.

The President said he was proud of the fighting American and he assured the troops that the American people are with him in his feelings.

SILVER STAR, BRONZE STAR, PURPLE HEART

Advisor Earns DSC For Action In Delta

By SFC Ed MacKay USA

Saigon — A soft-spoken Army sergeant has received the nation's second highest award for valor in tribute to his actions last July while assigned as an advisor to a Vietnamese Army Ranger battalion.

SSgt. Rodney J. Wijas of San Antonio, Tex., was presented the Distinguished Service Cross by Gen. W.C.

Westmoreland, commander of U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

Wijas also was awarded the oak leaf cluster (the second award) to the Bronze Star Medal for an earlier act of valor with the unit he has been serving with as an advisor the past 14 months.

The former paratrooper, who volunteered for service in Vietnam from an assignment in Germany, also wears the Silver Star, the Purple Heart — for wounds received in the action that earned him the DSC — and has been awarded the Cross of Gallantry on three occasions by the Vietnamese Army.

The action that earned Wijas the DSC occurred July 5 when his unit, the 43rd Ranger Battalion, was moved by helicopter to attack a Viet Cong position about 20 miles southeast of Vinh Long in the Delta area of Vietnam.

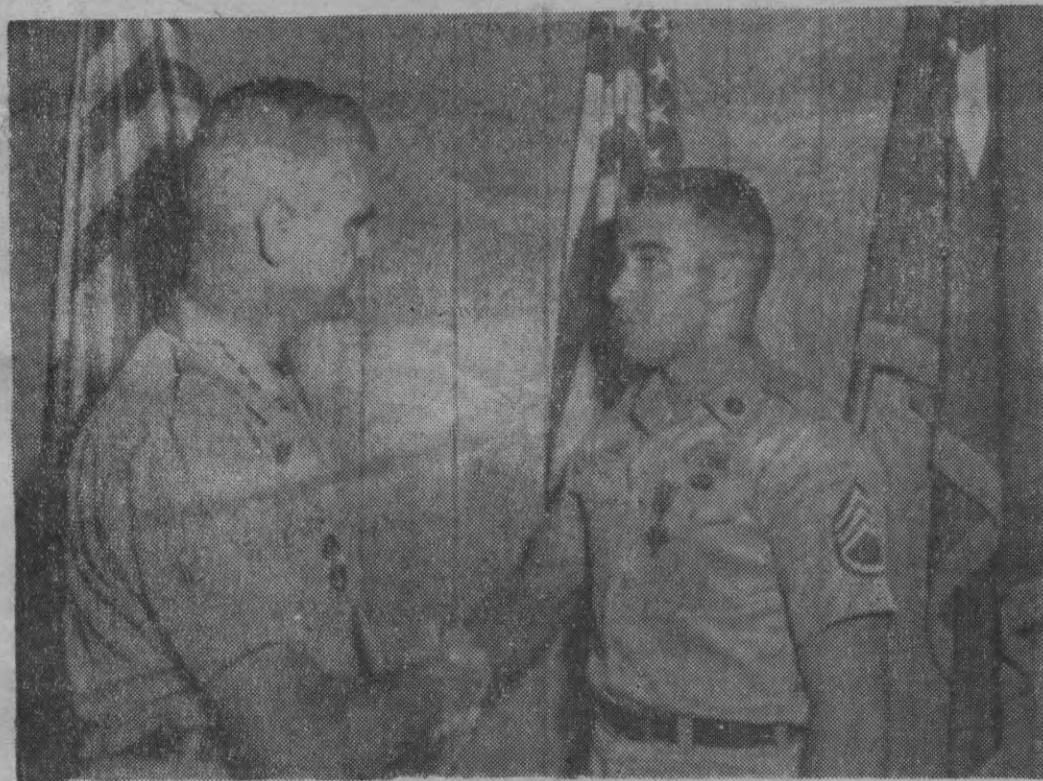
As the Rangers jumped from the helicopters, they were met with heavy machine gun and rifle fire from communist positions. Several Rangers were wounded and Wijas disregarded the enemy fire to give them first aid. Later, after he had advised the Rangers to move to a location that afforded some protection, he returned to make sure all the wounded had also been moved to the position.

Seeing that an attack on the enemy positions was about to falter, Wijas jumped into the lead, personally killing one Viet Cong with his .45 cal. pistol before he was seriously wounded by an enemy grenade.

Fragments from the grenade blast pierced his chest, and collapsed one of his lungs, but Wijas refused medical attention and stayed in a position that exposed him to further enemy fire while he directed air strikes on the enemy positions.

His actions encouraged the Rangers and enabled them to overrun the communist positions, inflicting heavy casualties.

Wijas entered the Army in 1960 and was with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., before going to Germany with an airborne battalion of the 8th Infantry Division. He was in Germany 10 months before he volunteered for Vietnam.



AWARDED — Gen. W. C. Westmoreland congratulates SSgt. Rodney J. Wijas after presenting him with the Distinguished Service Cross. (MACV Photo)

Choppers, Patrol Boats Combine To Uncover Viet Cong In Delta

Cao Lanh (IV Corps 10) — Many areas of the flooded Mekong Delta have made it almost impossible to run ground operations because of the depth of the water. One such area is Kien Phong Province, which was completely flooded and covered with water anywhere from one to 20 feet deep.

During the worst of the flood, however, one of the most successful operations in more than a year in this area was completed and the VC lost 96 killed. Of 111 suspects captured, 103 were confirmed Viet Cong.

"The method and means were rather strange and not conventional, but they sure were effective," said Maj. Charles Chamberlain of San Rafael, Calif., deputy senior advisor for Kien Phong Province.

The "method" was a few armed choppers along with a few slicks (troop carrying choppers) both of the 13th Aviation Battalion, boats of the river assault group, river patrol boats (PBRs), Army and Air Force forward air control planes and "Sea Wolfs," Navy armed choppers.

The "means" consisted of several M-79 grenade laun-

See Choppers...
P. 9, Col. 1



MONITOR? — A Viet Cong armor plated sampan is inspected by SFC James Talley (in sampan) and SSgt. Reginald Patterson. It was captured in Kien Phong Province. (MACV Photo)

EDITORIAL

Financial Fitness

You've been taking part in a "physical fitness" program for some time now and feel pretty good about it. Right? Then how about taking part in another program that will make both you and your savings account feel good. Call it the "financial fitness" program.

Americans are great ones for the use of cliches. When a serviceman meets a buddy and asks "what's doing?" he may get an answer like "don't take any wooden nickels." An empty answer. But if his pal says something like "save your money," he's giving just about the most friendly advice possible.



Benjamin Franklin once wrote in a letter that "nothing is certain but death and taxes." True enough. But there's nothing you can be more certain of than that ten per cent interest you receive in the new Overseas Savings Program which President Johnson put into effect. You don't have to use a slide rule or be a mathematician to know that for every dollar you get ten cents more, for every five, it's fifty cents more, for every ten it's a dollar more, all part of the "financial fitness" program! While you're working for your country, make your dollars work for you. Look into the new Uniformed Services Savings program and get into the habit of "owing the bank" every payday.

Or, make it easy on yourself. Have your dollars deducted before you see them. Each payday, make believe you're paying on a debt. Sort of "owing the bank." That's the way to become financially fit. (AFNB)

THE OBSERVER

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A REMINDER—Deadline for sending air mail Christmas gifts from Vietnam is Dec. 10. Mail now to avoid the rush!

Parades, Games, Music To Mark VN National Day

Saigon (MACV) — South Vietnam will celebrate National Day Nov. 1. The day will be a holiday observed with parades and other festivities throughout the country.

Plans for National Day include a large parade in Saigon in which units of the Armed Forces, the Regional and Popular Forces, the Revolutionary Development cadres and other organizations will participate.

Public entertainment programs including sports, games, fireworks, torchlight processions and musical programs are scheduled for the capital and all the provinces.

The day marks the third anniversary of the downfall of the Diem regime which was overthrown by a military coup in 1963.

Court Metes Life To USARV Soldier In Murder Charge

Tan Son Nhut (USARV) — PFC Wallace E. Frazier, Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV), has been tried by general court-martial and found guilty of murder.

The soldier was convicted of fatally shooting a Vietnamese woman in Saigon Sept. 1. He has been sentenced to dishonorable discharge, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to the lowest enlisted grade and confinement at hard labor for life.

Private Frazier's sentence was adjudged at USARV headquarters Oct. 20.

Free World Military Forces Insignia

The official insignia for the Free World Forces Vietnam is a dark green shield



FREE WORLD FORCES

bordered in white and a light green globe in the center. The upraised white sword bordered in green crosses a yellow strand with red stripes at the top.

Yellow and red are the Vietnam colors and symbolize Vietnamese sovereignty. The dark green alludes to the jungles of Vietnam and the light green to the young rice in the paddies, the primary areas in which the war to preserve the Republic of Vietnam is being waged.

The globe represents the entire free world from whence comes the assistance to repel aggression and the upraised sword is the symbol of military might by which the free world will defend this sovereign nation.

U.S. Personnel Get Warning; Avoid Crowds

Saigon (MACV) — Military Police authorities in Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam have issued new warnings to U.S. personnel to avoid congregating on streets and in other public places.

Military Police have been directed to break up gatherings at bus stops and places where groups may congregate.

Personnel are advised to wait indoors for buses or to spread out.

The reminder to avoid grouping in public came after two separate incidents of explosives were detonated in downtown Saigon. The incidents were blamed on VC terrorists who have directed attacks at similar targets before.

Military Police warned that any regular public gathering place could be the target of an attack.

Two's a crowd — three's a target.

California City Adopts Vung Tau

Vung Tau (USA) — The California city of Eureka, is now united with this city in a common effort to pool national spirit while building democracy and fighting communism.

More than 500 Vietnamese and Americans gathered here to celebrate the adoption of Vung Tau by Eureka as a sister city.

The project, initiated by SFC A.C. Frothingham of Eureka, formerly a member of Vung Tau Sub-Area, was more than a year in the making.

On his return to Eureka from his assignment here, Frothingham and Mayor Fred F. Thevenin began corresponding with Ho Nhut Quan, mayor of Vung Tau. Following the agreement to adopt Vung Tau as a sister city, gifts were collected by Eureka citizens and sent to Vung Tau.

Sister City projects such as that promoted in Eureka, Calif., are no longer considered advisable because of the requirement to meet military transportation needs elsewhere.

Seabee Paymaster Has Rugged Route

Da Nang (USN)—Ask any Seabee, soldier, marine or other military man in Vietnam, what he looks forward to most besides the day to "go home" and his answer will more than likely be, M and M. What is M and M? No, it's not the candy, but mail and money.

Troopers Uncover Viet Cong Cache

Tay Ninh (USA)—On a successful search and destroy mission the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, found and evacuated some 75 tons of rice, 4,750 pounds of salt and destroyed an additional 15 tons of contaminated rice.

The 196th troops were aided by ARVN soldiers who were called in to haul the rice out of the Boi Loi Woods, 25 miles from the 196th Brigade's Tay Ninh base camp.

New APO Number For Hq MACV

Saigon—The APO number for Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) will change on Nov. 1 from APO 96243 to APO 96222, the MACV adjutant general announced this week.

The change will affect official and personal mail for MACV Headquarters only.

The new APO will eliminate the need for intermediate sortings of mail addressed to activities and personnel of the headquarters.

Personnel should notify correspondents of the change as soon as possible.

In the days of the "wild west," paymasters travelled through dangerous territory to hold payday. Even though the means of travel have changed, the role of paymasters then and now remains the same.

Once or twice a month, military paymasters, who often double as mailmen, now travel through secured and unsecured areas of Vietnam to deliver the two M's. One of these combination paymaster-mailmen is Navy Lt. (jg) Henry A. Vroman, who is, oddly enough, from Deposit, New York.

Mobile Construction Battalion-6 has detachments in widely-scattered areas, so each payday Vroman packs his bag with money and, supported by Seabee guards, begins his 36-hour trip down dusty, muddy and often sniper infested roads to pay the men. On each trip, he also carries mail.

The area around An Hoa is reportedly heavily infested with Viet Cong, and a few hours before the paymaster arrived on his last trip, marines killed or captured more than 100 of the enemy.

If mail and money, or vice versa are two of the most wanted items by the "fighting man" in Vietnam, then Lieutenant Vroman, and other military paymaster-mailmen like him, are trying to make sure that members of their particular unit get plenty of both.



TWO ARMIES JOIN IN FESTIVAL—Maj. Gen. Le Nguyen Khang (right) commanding general, III Corps Tactical Zone, and his advisor, Col. Arndt L. Mueller, deputy senior advisor for III Corps, look over the tons of food, clothing, candy and toys given to more than 2,000 Vietnamese Army families to help them celebrate Tet Trung Thu, the Mid Autumn Festival. (Photo by Sp5 Daniel Stanton, USA)

III Corps

ARVN Dependents Enjoy Mid-Autumn Festival

Bien Hoa (III Corps IO)—Every year at this time a holiday comes to the Vietnamese children which mixes what Americans think of as Christmas and Halloween. It is called Tet Trung Thu, the Mid-Autumn Festival. This year the festival was made a major event by the participation of the United States Army, the Central Sponsorship Association and Dependents Sponsorship Association, both Vietnamese women's groups.

In a ceremony headed by Mrs. Thieu, wife of the Chief of State of the Republic of Vietnam, more than 2,000 families of Vietnamese soldiers

were given rice, cooking oil, clothing, toothpaste and milk. The soldiers' children were given candy, cookies and traditional festival lanterns.

The origin of the mid-autumn festival dates back to the Doung Dynasty when, according to legend, the king and queen and a party of beautiful harem girls profiting from the good weather and full moon one night, traveled to the moon. There they attended a celestial party given by the queen of the moon. Mooncakes, made of sugar and flower, tea and other delicacies were served. Everyone at the party carried a colorful paper lantern to light the way.

After the party, when the king had returned to earth, he proclaimed that a mid-autumn festival would be celebrated each year to commemorate his visit to the moon. Today, Tet Trung Thu is essentially a children's holiday and all the children are given mooncakes, candy and a lantern.

Once Served As EM Now Commands Unit

Tay Ninh, (USA)— "I don't think too many people can be as lucky as I," says Capt. Antonio Sola of Puerto Rico, a company commander with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

The captain was referring to Company D of the 31st Infantry, a unit he fought with in Korea and now commands.

Following his tour in Korea the then Sergeant Sola was assigned successively to the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division. In 1958, he graduated from Officer Candidate School.

Captain Sola received his first Combat Infantryman Badge in Korea. He has been given the second award at Tay Ninh.

Specialist At Pleiku Hospital 'Repairs' Man's Injured Hand

Pleiku (USA)—More than three hours of surgery meant the difference between a hand he could use and five fingers dangling from his wrist for an Army cook brought to the 18th Surgical Hospital near here.

He had cut his fingers, severing both pairs of nerves and tendons in each. Fortunately for him one of the skilled surgeons at the unique U.S. Army medical facility specializes in surgery of the hand, a relatively new field.

Wearing magnifying glasses, Capt. Sheldon C. Brown of Philadelphia, repaired the fingers. The delicate surgery required sewing the severed nerves—the diameter of a thin lead pencil—with sutures the thickness of a hair.

"Work on the tendons

An Khe in the Central Highlands.

Like the other doctors, he credits the speed of evacuation—by "Dustoff" helicopter—from the battle area to the hospital with increasing the wounded soldier's chance for recovery.

The opportunity to treat the wounded soldier speedily minimizes possibility of infection and need for additional surgery. Most patients are on their way to an evacuation hospital within 48 hours after arrival and surgery at the 18th.



TIN ROOF — USAID supplied materials in the hands of men with a community spirit will provide for the homeless at Dia Loc

**Story By PFC Andy Barylski
Staff Writer, USA**
**Photos By Sp4 Ray Gardner
Staff Photographer, USA**



HARD AT WORK — Given the tools and materials with which to begin, most of the people in refugee centers like Dia Loc will do the rest themselves

'R&R' Has Double Meaning For Troops In Vietnam

Dia Loc — To the average American serviceman in Vietnam, R and R means rest and recuperation—a five-day respite from the rigors of war.

To the men of the 29th Civil Affairs Company, R and R has another meaning, relief and rehabilitation for the thousands of refugees within the northern provinces of this

war-torn country.

It's no five-day vacation, rather it's a round-the-clock task for these experts in resettlement who are using their skills as a liaison force between U.S. and Free World force agencies, the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force and the Government of Vietnam.

Military operations and

communist terrorism have left some 250,000 persons homeless in I Corps. In Dia Loc and in other refugee centers, these people are finding new homes—temporary ones—which will serve until they can rebuild their old homes.

Vietnamese officials, assisted by USAID representatives, give a helping hand to these people, housing them in temporary shelters built in many instances by the refugees themselves, until they can return in safety to their own rebuilt hamlets and villages.

Lumber, nails and tin to fashion these new dwellings are provided by USAID, as is the food they need until they can begin raising their own crops.

Returning these people to the same area they lived in before is the key to resettlement, according to a spokesman for the 29th Civil Affairs Company, assigned to 3rd MAF.

While the 29th does not work with the refugees, the liaison it is providing between U.S. and Vietnamese government agencies is a task equally as important.

As Gen. Wallace Greene, commandant of the Marine Corps, put it, "Unless the people are rehabilitated and reorganized, we will not have settled the problem that brought us here."

Everyone in I Corps concerned is now striving, quite successfully, to accomplish this task.



HAPPY HOME — Temporary though it may be, this dwelling is cause for a happy moment for this refugee family



INSPECTION — The girls are taught to display their clothing and toys in an orderly fashion, which they are proud to show off to visitors at the orphanage



SINGER — Rev. Thai had the girls sing a song for Chaplain Kienitz, prompting him to remark, "I wish I could get my children to sing that well"

Widow's Contribution Goes To Orphanage

Nha Trang (USA) — "I was hungry and you gave me meat; I was thirsty and you gave me drink... I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came unto me."

These might be the words that any one of the children of the Evangelical Orphanage at Honchong, say daily in their prayers. They have all been taught these and many other scriptures by Rev. Le Van Thai, director of the orphanage.

Chaplain (Maj.) John E. Kienitz of the 5th Special

Forces Group at Nha Trang recently presented a monetary contribution to the orphanage from the widow of a Special Forces sergeant killed in action at A Shau in March.

Mrs. Billie A. Hall, widow of the slain sergeant, sent the money in memory of her husband.

The Evangelical Orphan-

age, having celebrated its tenth year in 1963, now cares for 238 children ranging from 18 months to 16 years of age.

**Story And Photos By
5th Special Forces
Group**



DORMITORY — Rev. Le Van Thai shows Chaplain Kienitz one of the six dormitories at the orphanage at Honchong near Nha Trang



DONATION — Chaplain Kienitz donates money contributed by Mrs. Billie A. Hall, widow of SSgt. Billie A. Hall killed in action at A Shau Special Forces Camp in March 1966. Rev. Le Van Thai, director of the Evangelical Orphanage at Honchong near Nha Trang, accepts the donation.



Northstar kicks off. Ammunition for the assault troops is broken out at the B team compound



ARVN Special Forces troops prior to

ARVN, Green

Tay Ninh — There was no mistaking this objective. Thirty two hundred feet high, Nui Ba Den (Black Virgin) Mountain was, with the exception of a friendly stronghold at its very peak, property of the Viet Cong.

With an advisor of Ninh during day operations, star. Artillery come from Light Infantry. With an one company mountain security, and jeep-recoilless 196th peop



Ammunition bound for the mountain-top blocking force is airlifted from Tay Ninh in a matter of minutes



Lt. Col. Newlin Happersett, Ninh Special Forces B team 155mm



swarm atop Nui Ba Den to bolster friendly positions
a sweep from the mountain base

Berets Assault Nui Ba Den

rom nearby Tay
ng a recent two
on dubbed North
ry support would
the U.S. 196th
try Brigade.

lifted elements of
ay in place on the
top for added
55mm howitzers
mounted 106mm
rifles from the
ered likely targets

up and down the jagged
slopes. Airstrikes picked up
the tempo after an hour of
steady bombardment as fur
ther preparation for a com
pany-sized sweep from the
base.

In the meantime, four 106
crews shifted to the east side
of the mountain and continued
their direct-fire onslaught
there.

Left without a direction to
run, the VC could only hope

to bore in a little deeper, to
hide under the rocky skirts of
the Black Virgin.

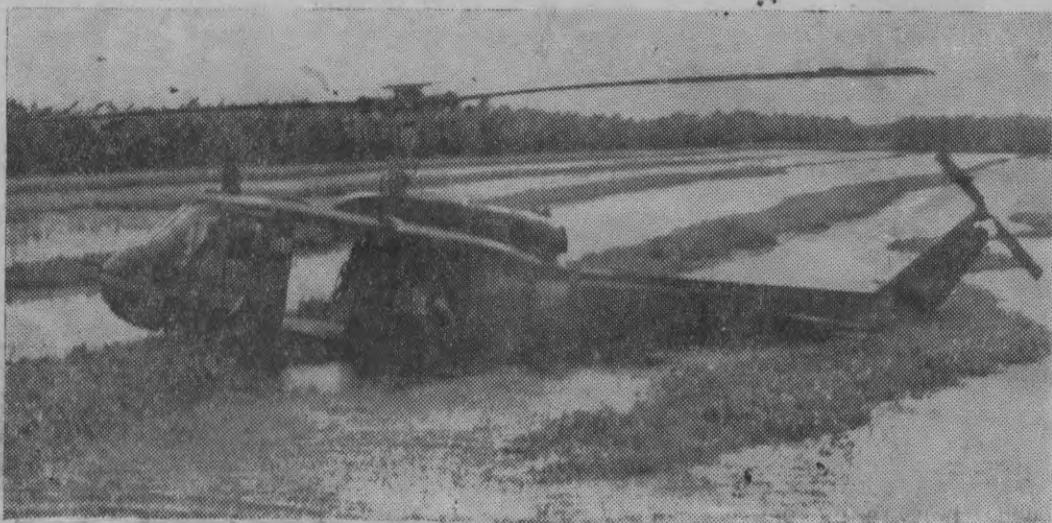
Photos By Sp5 C. Jones, Staff Photographer

Capt. Walter Zaremba, Hazlet, N. J., S3 of the Special Forces
B team at Tay Ninh, briefs participants in operation



Gainesville, Ga., CO of the Tay
l, views accuracy of supporting
howitzer fire

Direct-fire 106mm recoilless rifle fire hammers the face of Nui Ba Den



Helicopter is temporarily bogged down in a rice paddy near Ca Mau



With one ship on the ground to handle emergencies, a second remains aloft over the operational area



Caught in the prop wash from a dustoff helicopter, ARVN soldiers help evacuate Mekong River flood victims



Dustoff arrives moments later but there were no injuries

'Ships Of Mercy' Take Enemy Hits

Soc Trang — Ships on missions of mercy, according to the Geneva Convention, are not to be fired upon by either fighting side. Perhaps no one is more painfully aware of North Vietnam's complete disregard for those rules than the pilots and medics who fly daily with the 82nd Medevac Detachment "dustoff" ships in IV Corps.

Called on for a variety of missions, a dustoff may in a single day land under fire in a rice paddy to bring out wounded ARVN soldiers and American advisors, then later pick up a sick child or pregnant woman to be rushed to the nearest hospital and

then perhaps transport the battlefield dead back to their homes.

Mixed with the endless variety of assignments is the ever-present danger from enemy fire and since the first of the year, the dustoff fleet has taken more than 50 hits from the enemy.

"It's something different each day," remarked an 82nd medic. "You never know what to expect."

Pointing to a bullet hole in the center of the International Red Cross emblem on his ship, he added, "I guess Charlie doesn't know what this stands for. Maybe he thinks it's a bullseye."

Story & Photos By Sp4 B. Halton, Staff Writer



Downed chopper cranks up and, with pieces of paddy hanging from its skids, makes its way home



NEW HOME — Vietnamese family at Hoa Buong prepares to move into home built by Seabees. Lumber in front of house will furnish home's interior. (USN Photo)

Villagers' New Homes Built By Seabee Unit

Da Nang (USN) — Seabees of the Mobile Construction Battalion 11 considered rebuilding 66 homes in Hoa Buong a small project, but some jobs cannot be measured by board feet or the number of tons of cement that go into a job.

The homes were destroyed when a plane crashed in the village, and the one-acre area was still smouldering when the Seabees, with the aid of a group of marines, began clearing the site.

Now the village has been rebuilt. The Seabees poured concrete for the floors, erected frames from "two-by-fours" and "one-by-sixes" for siding. The roofs are of corrugated aluminum.

The 40 men on the project split in two groups. One

group poured the slabs for the floors while the other group pre-fabricated the structures at Camp Adenir in Da Nang.

The Seabees worked seven days a week for three weeks to complete the task. They did the outside work in building the new homes for the villagers and then gave the Vietnamese lumber and other materials to furnish and partition the interiors themselves.

After all, a man's home is his castle.

Choppers, Patrol Boats Combine...

(Cont'd from P-1, Col. 4)

chers, several pair of handcuffs, rope ladders and huge handmade sheep herders hooks, plus a couple of good swimmers to man each slick.

The choppers flew over the flooded area 50 to 75 feet above the water, looking for camouflaged sampans or brush areas that might conceal a sampan, then hovered over the water to check it out. In a brush or reed-covered area, the down-draft of the choppers blew back the reeds that might be hiding a sampan.

"I pulled back the camouflaged cover on one sampan," recalled SFC James Talley of Carthage, Mo.,

"and we hauled in a VC tax collector and his family, with documents showing every VC in the area, every enemy sampan, and the VC village and hamlet chiefs."

Another effective means used for finding Viet Cong hiding under the water and breathing through bamboo reeds was simply spotting the reeds they were breathing through.

"If an area looked good," said SFC Samuel Parrisher of Tarboro, N.C., "we would throw in a few rounds from our grenade launchers and they would come up to the surface shaking their heads and holding their ears. We

Dragon-Ships Help Keep Outpost Alive

Thanh An (USAF) — "Leave the fort. Leave now and you will live. Stay until the next dark of the moon and you will be killed. No one will be spared."

The Vietnamese Popular Force men who defend this key outpost eight miles south-southeast of Binh Thuy Air Base in the Mekong Delta have heard that threat often during the past three months. At night it is blared through a bullhorn by communist forces surrounding their fort.

But more often they've seen Air Force AC-47 Dragon-ships come over at night to drive the attackers back into their holes.

When the next no-moon period comes the defenders of Thanh An will man their little triangular fort with special alertness, ready if the insurgents try another attack.

The men have their wives and children to protect, with them in the fort at night. The threat is directed at all. But all will see the next dark of the moon with more confidence than in the past. Three moonless periods have gone by since the communists outside first set a deadline to massacre Thanh An.

The fort still stands and the people still live.

They know the Dragon-ships are responsible for their survival, and the planes are a welcome sight each night.

On the other hand, Nguyen Van Xuyen probably doesn't care to see any more of them. The Dragon-ships made him lose his job. Nguyen Van Xuyen was a leader of the local communist force who rashly promised to destroy the outpost and kill the people. He was fired because he didn't make good his promise.

Thanh An is under fire

every night of the week. Every night, the 4th Air Commando Squadron sends one or more Dragon-ships to defend the fort. Among pilots, Thanh An is known as the only tiny village in Vietnam with its own private air force.

The first communist push occurred in July. The bullhorns issued the threats at night and the firing on the fort grew more intense as the no-moon period approached.

Four communist-built trenches snaked a little closer to the fort each night. These trenches are narrow and zig-zag sharply. A man can't fight in it too effectively, but it gets him to where the fight will occur. When completed, the four had been advanced from jungle-like banana and coconut tree groves to within 250 yards of the fort. They were about 200 to 400 yards long and eight feet deep.

Only a heavy air strike could root out the insurgents when they moved into their trenches at night

and there were people living too close to allow a heavy strike to proceed safely.

The Popular Force men tried filling in the trenches during the day. At night, the communists shoveled out the fill and booby trapped the mounds of earth. Some of the defenders lost their lives as their shovels struck the mines when they tried to refill the trenches.

It seemed the trenches had to be lived with. On routine nights of terrorist attack, the Air Commando unit could keep the communists pretty close to their trenches with one Dragon-ship.

Tonight, as every night, the defenders of Thanh An will man rifles in the little fort while the neighbors watch the Dragon-ship overhead spit red tracers at the trenches. For people at Thanh An, it takes the place of television. And everybody is waiting for the next dark of the moon, to see if the communists will try again.



Jill Burton volunteered to help move supplies at Cam Ranh Bay

— Vietnam News Wrap-Up —**U.S. Sailors Donate Blood**

U.S. Navy river patrol boats evacuated 49 Vietnamese who had been wounded by the blast of an enemy claymore in the market place at Tra On District. The victims were taken to Can Tho hospital and crews from three of the six Navy patrol craft and other Navy men assigned to the Can Tho navy base volunteered blood for the victims.

Eight patrol boats returned to their bases at Vinh Long and My Tho Oct. 18 after a special operation in areas no other U.S. troops had previously been.

They took advantage of the flood-swollen canals and submerged rice paddies of Kien Tuong Province to hunt the Viet Cong. Contact with the enemy was light, but more than a ton and a half of VC rice was captured and turned over to flood victims of the area.

U.S. Strength Increases

U.S. strength in country increased to 336,000 and Free World force strength was upped to 53,000 during the week ending Oct. 22. Estimated enemy strength has reportedly decreased to 279,000 from the figure of 284,000 reported last week.

Combat losses to U.S. forces at week's end was 64 killed and 396 wounded, while Free World forces had 11 killed and 42 wounded. The number of enemy killed during the week (1,229) increased from the previous week, but the number of enemy captured (606) decreased.

Slain Newsman's Camera Found

A camera that belonged to Sam Casten, senior editor of Look Magazine, who was killed in May during Operation Crazy Horse, was found by troops of the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Operation Irving.

During the week ending Oct. 22, the Air Cav. troopers killed 132 enemy, captured 98 and seized 119 tons of salt, more than 11 tons of rice and more than 170,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Troops of the ROK Capital Division in Operation Maeng Ho 6 reported 125 enemy killed and 65 captured during the week.

173rd Airborne Command Post Hit

An enemy unit attacked the command post of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Oct. 18, using claymores, small arms and grenades. In the 15-minute attack, there was light damage to aircraft and equipment, and there were light friendly casualties.

Barges Prime Target In North

Air Force pilots, striking through heavy overcast skies and around thunderstorms, destroyed more than 40 barges and damaged 79 along the coast and inland waterways in the Dong Hoi area of North Vietnam.

One of the barges had a large mechanical crane lashed to its deck. Nearby docking facilities also were destroyed.

Navy pilots also hit water-borne cargo traffic. Planes attacked some 500 barges and destroyed or damaged more than 200. Navy planes also tore up highways, bridge approaches and railway lines.

Terrorist Activity Up

Viet Cong terrorists detonated a claymore mine near the Ky Son enlisted men's quarters in Saigon Oct. 17, killing one American serviceman and one Vietnamese civilian. Seven U.S. servicemen and two Vietnamese were wounded. Earlier the same day, terrorists threw several grenades into the Phan Rang Beach pumping station, causing light American casualties.

A Viet Cong grenade explosion Oct. 18 in the vicinity of Tien BOQ near Tan Son Nhut air base wounded five Americans.

**— World News Summary —****U.S. Scores Double In Space**

★ The U.S. scored a double-header in the space race Oct. 27 by stopping and then restarting the engines of an Atlas Centaur rocket and blasting into orbit a Comsat communications satellite.

★ The Centaur test was a critical one, preceding the sending of astronauts to the moon. The new communications satellite will help pave the way to a communications link in space high above the Pacific Ocean.

Italy Has 'Peace Corps'

★ The Italian parliament has approved a bill that allows young men to join a type of Italian Peace Corps, rather than serve in the armed forces.

★ Under the program, a draftee may serve in a developing country outside Europe, without pay.

Cancer Detection Test Claimed

★ An American researcher claims to have developed a simple test for the detection of lung cancer.

★ Speaking in Tokyo at a meeting of the Ninth International Cancer Congress, the doctor, who is on the staff of the Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute of Houston, said his tests can detect the cancer at a much earlier stage than ever before.

More Rats, More Plague Seen

★ The World Health Organization has issued a warning that the rat population is increasing and so is the menace of new outbreaks of the plague.

★ So far this year, says the U.N. group, 406 cases of plague have been reported, with 22 deaths, in areas of Vietnam not controlled by the Viet Cong. Nearly 3,000 cases were reported throughout the world.

New York-Moscow Air Link Sought

★ The long-stalled U.S.-Soviet Russia agreement for a New York to Moscow air line linkup is expected to be revived this week barring any last minute diplomatic hitches in the proposed plan.

★ The U.S. State Department said that no definite date has been set as yet for the signing of the pact which has been a continuing casualty of the Cold War freezes since 1960.

★ Under the proposed agreement Pan American would operate direct New York to Moscow service for the U.S. and in return the Soviet Union would provide Moscow to New York service.

Vice President Calls Conference 'Helpful'

★ Speaking at Pennsylvania University Museum in Philadelphia, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey called the Manila summit conference a "helpful one" and said statements by Vietnam's

★ Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky were particularly reassuring because he demonstrated he is not inflexible.

★ The Vice President said the most important product of the conference was its general agreement, but emphasized there was nothing concrete to justify optimism for a peace settlement in Vietnam.

Harriman To Bring Results Of Meet To Other Nations

★ Roving U.S. Ambassador W. Averell Harriman has stopped at Jakarta on the first leg of a long mission to inform interested nations of the results of the Manila conference.

★ His travels are expected to take him to numerous capitals, including NATO headquarters in Paris, as well as London, Bonn and other cities.

Oriskany To Philippines For Repairs

★ The carrier USS Oriskany, crippled by a fire that killed 43 crew members, is sailing under its own power for the Philippines where she will be repaired.

★ The Navy said the carrier will be replaced at Yankee Station either by the Intrepid or the Coral Sea.

SPOTLITE ON SPORTS

EDITOR'S NOTE—Army Sp5 Bob Vail is running the Sports Desk at AFRT for Bob Kinsman while the "Gunny" is in Bangkok making arrangements for coverage of the upcoming Asian Games.

Sports of All Sorts

During this time of the year, just about every sport is being played. College football, pro football, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, and Professional Golfers Association.

You can even see in Vietnam five little lads on the sidewalk throwing a rock to see who comes closest to the line. This, for maybe 5 "P". Anywhere it's a sport.

The fall and winter seasons back in the States bring about the largest attendance of sports fans to all events. The attendance at one football game, whether it be pro or college, outnumbers the attendance at three baseball games in a row.

Last Sunday, some 83,000 people witnessed the Cleveland Browns, Dallas Cowboys game in Cleveland. This is a record attendance for one game in the NFL.

People are becoming avid sports fans.

Some pro clubs back in the States are forming instructional classes for housewives. My wife witnessed one such show on television, and by the end of the show, she knew which way the play was going to go. She ended up with a 95 on the test.

A week later, we saw the Denver Broncos play the New York Jets. She and I sat in

the stands, and got in a helluva argument with the guy in front of us on which play was coming up next.

Well, due to the course on TV, she outguessed the guy every time. Women too are becoming sports fans, and some can tell you the score.

Back in Kansas City, the Chiefs ran classes two nights a week for eight weeks, on offense, defense, plays, formations, split T's, end arounds, traps, and you name it.

We're in favor of this. Everyone should at least be interested in a sport, even if they don't play it.

Some sports in short: A tennis exhibition match will be held at the Saigon Tennis Club, between American and Vietnamese tennis players at 4 p.m. Nov. 1. No admission will be charged. Featured are two singles and one doubles matches. The Vietnamese players in the matches will be those going to the Asian Games, so if you're a tennis fan, check into the tennis matches.

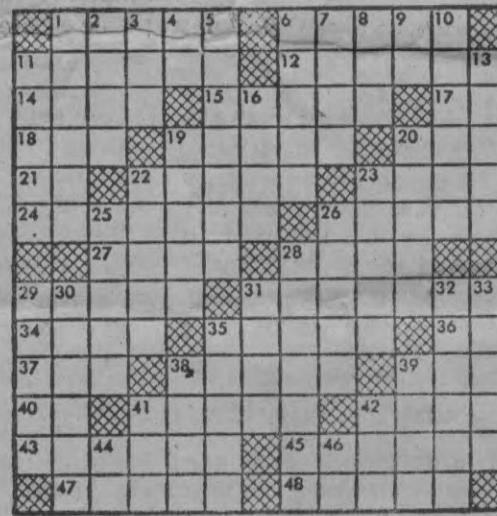
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Flowers
- 6-Surgical thread
- 11-Buy back
- 12-Beginning
- 14-Century plant
- 15-Weird
- 17-Pronoun
- 18-Equality
- 19-Separates
- 20-Man's nickname
- 21-Pronoun
- 22-Mountain lakes
- 23-Feral
- 24-Disparages
- 26-Country of British Isles
- 27-Difficult
- 28-Father
- 29-Wire nalle
- 31-Mixed
- 34-Unusual
- 35-Senses
- 36-Behold
- 37-Skill
- 38-Stamp
- 39-Large truck
- 40-Symbol for cerium
- 41-Demon
- 42-Yugoslav leader
- 43-Ancient Jewish ascetic
- 44-Rubber m pencil
- 45-Fork prongs
- 46-Ranted
- 47-Tell
- 48-Areana

DOWN

- 3-Bishopric
- 4-College degree (abbr.)
- 5-Besmirched
- 6-Classifies
- 7-Goddess of discord
- 8-Cravat
- 9-King of Bashan
- 10-Aggie
- 11-Swift
- 13-Wants
- 16-Sea eagles
- 19-Couples
- 20-Was ill
- 22-Barter
- 23-Notifies in advance
- 25-Map
- 26-Handle
- 28-Slim
- 29-Pair
- 30-Most unusual
- 31-Edible seed
- 32-Puffed up
- 33-Giver of gift
- 35-Liberates
- 38-Climbing plant
- 39-Clamping device
- 41-Marsh
- 42-Label
- 44-Spanish for "yes"
- 45-Liberates
- 46-Sun god



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BEETLE BAILEY



PEANUTS

By Cartoonist-Of-The-Year Charles M. Schulz



'Golden Dragon' Unit Adopts Montagnards

Pleiku (USA)—The 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, has adopted the Montagnard village of Plei Yt.

When the 14th Infantry "Golden Dragons" moved into an area of operations near the village, Lt. Col. Gilbert Procter Jr., battalion commander, decided it would be a good idea to show the villagers that the Americans were better friends than the Viet Cong.

Providing an adequate water system was the "number one" project for the 25th Inf. Div. unit. The villagers were building one but work on the purification system was going slow because the sand had to be carried in small baskets by the people.

The men of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, volunteered the use of a truck for hauling the sand.

The villagers pitched in,

using the sand to fill in a swampy area near their water point.

Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Filip arrived one morning with several boxes of clothes, soap and other useful items. These items were taken into the village and distributed.

Capt. Richard H. Beal mixed a large vat of strawberry and cherry flavored kool-aid for the villagers. He got several weird looks, but the villagers soon discovered the strange drink mix tasted good.

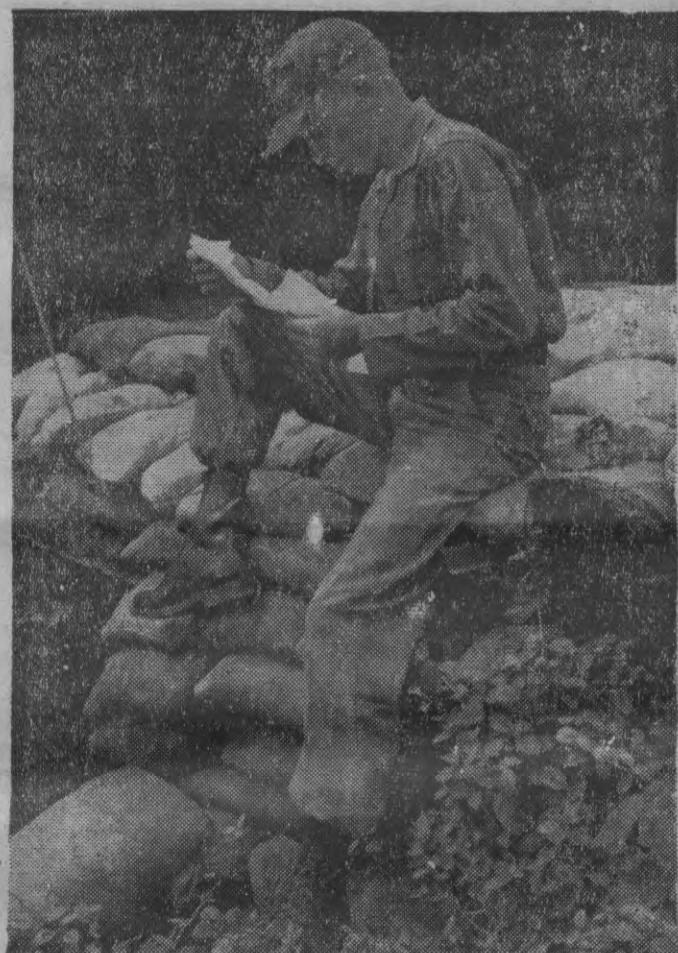
The men of the "Golden Dragons" also procured several 100-pound bags of wheat, three rolls of blanket material, several cases of soybean oil and a large bundle of hand

tools for the villagers.

Every day for two weeks a team of medics treated the villagers and the effects began to show. Soap was curing skin sores and the other medications were clearing up numerous other infections.

The day before the "Golden Dragons" left the area, the village chief and three of his men were invited to have supper with the American officers.

As they moved to another landing zone, they saw that their civic action had done some good. The villagers were at work erecting a sign at the entrance to Plei Yt which read "Friends of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry."



EYE DROPS — Lt. Larry A. Castigneto, a civil affairs officer with the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, applies eye drops to treat an eye infection during a recent sick call conducted in a Montagnard village in the central highlands. (USA Photo)

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

★ (Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.)

From:

Place Stamp
Here
(16 cents Airmail)
(10 cents 1st class)

To:

PX Stocks More Goods

Saigon (MACV)—A 50 per cent increase in the amount of foreign-made merchandise on sale in Post and Base Exchanges here was announced this week by Col. Jack C. Ice, Vietnam Regional Exchange commander.

The off-shore procurement authorization of \$10 per man per month has been increased to \$15. This means that the PX now can buy half again as many of such items as electronic equipment, cameras and watches.

"We had a lot of snakes recently," says Arens, "the rivers were rising and flushing them out of the low places. Our nice, dry bunkers looked real tempting to them. Some were cobras, but we got all types. Found this one big blue kind of snake — we're not sure what it is."

He usually gives the snakes to the Binh Thuy dispensary, where they are displayed to instruct airmen to identify the poisonous ones. If they are found by the Vietnamese workmen, who repair and rebuild the bunkers under his direction, the snakes disappear.

The poisonous ones are chopped up and hurriedly buried. Nonpoisonous, edible snakes are pocketed and taken home, a sort

of fringe benefit for the men on the job, Arens points out.

The spiders, rats and snakes are part of a local balance of nature Arens breaks up to make the bunkers safe. The rats enter the bunkers to eat spiders. The snakes come in to dine on rats.

Arens sprays poison on the spider webs which kills the eggs. It also makes the spider a poisonous item of rat diet. At the same time, Arens has developed a terrier-like understanding of rat and snake holes and the latter get dug up and their occupants routed toward the pickle jar in the dispensary.

Considering their nature, Arens pursues his duties with remarkable cheerfulness. He does draw a line, though. In the nearby city of Can Tho there is a 30-foot python on display. "If I ever walk into a bunker and find his big brother waiting for me," says Arens. "I might just go over to personnel office and ask to be trained into some other line of work."

TAKES A BREAK — Mail never comes often enough for an American soldier in Vietnam. Mail call offers a brief escape from war to the things at home, for Sp4 James R. Bethel of Holland, Ohio. (USA Photo)

USAF Sgt. Keeps Snakes Cleared Out Of Bunkers

Binh Thuy (USA)—Air Force TSgt. Adrien H. Arens, of Appleton, Wis., is a disaster control technician, who ordinarily is concerned with weapon accidents and building bunkers. The disaster Arens is most anxious to control, or better yet, avoid, is the possibility of stepping on a cobra.

Part of his responsibility is cleaning out various Vietnamese wildlife from the bunkers. "It does no good to leap into a bunker to escape a communist attack and land right on top of a deadly cobra or krait," he says. Evicting them keeps Arens busy, poking around with a flashlight in cramped areas.

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