

THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

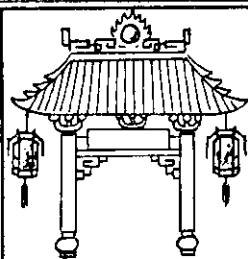
LIFE IN VIETNAM

Nº 79

SEPTEMBER 24, 1966

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TROPIC ACTION

By Sp4 Bill Becker

CU CHI. — Despite the smoke rising from Vietnam's scattered battle fronts, one major objective shines through for Republic of Vietnam and American forces alike — the task of releasing Vietnamese from forced and involuntary allegiance to communism in areas dominated by the Vietcong.

West-northwest of Saigon,

months of effort by the 25th Infantry «Tropic Lightning» Division are starting to pay off. A dynamic tactic called pacification, begun by the division shortly after its arrival in the province early this year, gradually is loosening the Vietcong grip.

An increasing number of Chieu Hoi (Vietcong returning to the Government of South

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Vietnam under the «Open Arms» policy) and captured Vietcong documents attest to the enemy's loss of strength. Vietnamese villagers are showing their true feelings as they cooperate increasingly with government and U. S. officials.

The pacification program carried on by the division's 2nd Brigade under the command of Colonel Thomas M. Tarpley is a three-point operation. The first phase, search and destroy in an area under the influence of the Vietcong, usually encounters initial civilian hostility and a minimum of intelligence information. Often threatened by the Vietcong, villagers are unwilling to jeopardize their lives by giving up information. Although the VC move out as the Americans move in, the Vietnamese fear the return of the guerrillas when U.S. forces leave the area.

Consequently, a 2nd Brigade unit digs into its assigned area to operate until the villagers get used to its presence and know that it will not abandon them to the Vietcong. Key personnel in the unit form Coordination and Planning Committees with local government officials. «In short,» said Colonel Tarpley, «we are there to meet the people, gain their confidence and to show them that we have come to help and to stay.

During the first phase, which usually lasts 30 days or more, results begin to show. District chiefs begin accompanying

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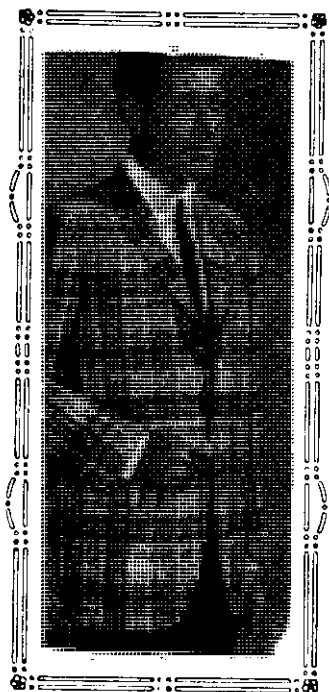
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units on operations and often get to villages that they had not visited since Vietcong moved into the area. Villagers slowly begin giving information, such as the location of booby - traps, tunnels and caches. Army of the Republic of Vietnam and Popular Forces find time to strengthen themselves and their encampments while Vietcong, discouraged by long periods of seperation from their families, living in tunnels and constant harassment, filter back into the «Open Arms» of the Vietnamese Government.

When the Vietnamese gain confidence in the capabilities, intentions and presence of the 25th Division unit, 2nd Brigade begins the second phase of pacification.

During the second stage, called Reaction and Civic Action, the unit operates from the division's base camp while the MEDCAPs, the Tropic Lighting Helping Hand Program and other civic action functions strengthen new ties between villagers and American forces. As civil acceptance increases, intelligence from the people improves and the 2nd Brigade units perform one-day heli-borne operations mixed intermittently with field trips lasting at least a week. ARVN troops start joining the operations and government officials increase their visits to hamlets and villages.

More and more Vietcong fortifications, equipment and

caches fall victim to the snow-balling cooperation and guerrillas returning to the area are often reported. Popular Forces finds itself manned by larger numbers and ARVN capabilities continue to expand.

As the second phase progresses, the third phase eventually falls into place — turning over the province and its districts to the government when it has gained enough support and strength to control and provide security for its people.

So far in Hau Nghia Province, the 25th Division has applied pacification with as much success as the theory promises. In Duc Hue and Duc Hoa Districts (located in the lower part of the province), the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry is well into the second phase. During the recently terminated Operation «Lahaina,» the battalion and ARVN units working in close coordination killed 53 Vietcong, captured 44, took 134 suspects into custody and siezed substantial numbers of weapons and documents. Two actions in the operation were perfect examples of the pacification program in progress.

In one action, a Vietcong informer disclosed the daily meeting place of a guerrilla terrorist platoon. Teaming immediately with ARVNs, the «Wolfhounds» were airlifted to the area and killed or captured 22 terrorists as the government election date approached.

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In the other action, the battalion paired with ARVNs again and, on the basis of a Chieu Hoi report, killed nine Vietcong and captured 22 at the guerrillas' Bao Trai District Headquarters. Dey Vietcong district officials were among the victims and, as one company commander said, «The day's action cut the head off a rattlesnake.»

Further north in the province, the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, is involved in phase one of the program at Trang Bang District. Substituting detective work for intelligence support from the people, the battalion discovered a way-station make up of an intricate

tunnel network along a main Vietcong supply artery.

Confident of support from the Division, ARVN units in the district are resuming their own sweeps. One popular forces commander took gifts to hospitalized «Wolfhounds» and designated his men «D-Troop, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry» for weeks until the battalion pinned the title on them officially during an honor ceremony.

The small successes that are being scored from the 25th Division's pacification program are among the first that Hau Nghia Province has known during its unstable history. In 1962, and 1963, with most of the area under Vietcong con-



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trol, the government concentrated its efforts on a strategic hamlet program. But by the end of 1963, the situation was still considered critical and even the military outposts were being threatened.

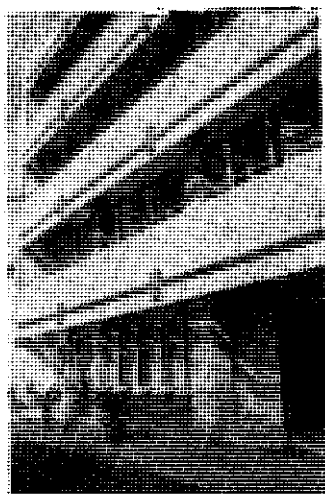
In October, 1964, the military situation improved as the 25th ARVN Division moved into the province. Before long, the Vietcong adjusted their military techniques and the situation slipped again. In the spring of 1965, the VC renewed their pressure throughout the province and gained steadily until the arrival of the 25th Division at Cu Chi, began last January.

With approximately 230,000 people and Vietcong supply routes to War Zones C and D and the Iron Triangle running inside its boundaries, the province holds both decisive political and tactical significance. The pacification program promises the government the most complete and lasting victory in the area.

«Pacification is a big job for both the South Vietnamese Government and the 25th Division,» said Colonel Tarpley, «but the success already resulting from our hard work proves pacification is worth the effort. Our goal is to protect the Vietnamese people in Hau Nghia Province so that they can pursue. Their activities without interference from the Vietcong, and so that they can choose a way of life rather than find themselves forced into one.»

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A WORTH WHILE ANECDOTE

BUYING WILD DUCKS

By Truong Van Binh

Once upon a time there was a good-for-nothing man who indulging in laziness and good food but was lucky enough to have a wife who was not only wise, and a good housekeeper but also a very clever manager of her small shop. She got up every day early at dawn to work hard till sunset and exerted all her skill to carry

out her business. With her income she could provide enough for all her family's needs. But she could not bear up to living with an idle husband who played cards and chess all day long, hung around bars at night and spent most of his holidays at cock-fights. She was ashamed when she looked at her neighbors whose

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husbands were all working in paddy fields or trading at fairs and markets or studying for the literary competitions.

One day she told him to find a job :

«I can't live any longer with so idle a husband as yourself. My neighbors laugh at me and say I am married to a dunce, a lazybones, a good-for-nothing fellow who lives entirely at his wife's expense. Oh! I blushed and felt put to shame when I was told such things. So, find a job, man, do anything you like, but don't stay idle all the time.»

Cut to the quick by her reproving and mocking language he retorted bluntly :

«I don't care a rap about what they told you. What business of their's is it to mind my doing nothing? Go and tell them to hold their tongues and mind their own affairs.»

«But they are right, my dear. How can we live if some day my goods don't sell well and my business runs badly? How shameful if we would run into debt?

«But what do you want me to do now? I don't feel like any study and don't have any turn for literature and poetry. And I don't wish to become a mandarin, either.»

«Suppose I get a piece of land for you to work on?»

«No, I don't feel strong enough to handle a plough and drive a buffalo on your piece of land. Leave me alone and stop such nonsense.»

«Then, people are right to say that you are a good-for-

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nothing fellow.»

«True? And what are they about now?»

«Well, they rear cattle and poultry, they are farmers. They buy small ducks, hens and chickens to breed them and resell them in the market to make money.

«O.K. Give me some money. I'll get a flock of small ducks tomorrow darling.»

And the next day he went out with a good sum in his pocket to buy the small ducks. His wife was very happy and hopeful when she saw him take up this new occupation with alacrity and enthusiasm. He set out very early after a good breakfast and walked through many villages until noon but did not find any ducks ready for sale.

Suddenly he leapt forward with a great joy when he saw a flock of beautiful ducks swimming, bathing and diving eagerly to catch fish and shrimps in a river.

«How nice they are these gentle birds!» he exclaimed. I must prepare a great surprise for my wife and all the damned fellows who said I'm good-for-nothing. I will bring this flock home at once and keep them in my pond. They will have plenty of fish and shrimps there. And in three months they will grow up three times bigger and then I will take them to the market. What a good bargain! A sure-fire way to make money. I shall be second to none of the rich fellows of my village. And my



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little wife must be proud of me at that time when I have made my pile. But who is the owner of all these nice creatures? I've to talk to him first, anyhow,» he asked himself after musing a little while over his good bargain.

He looked all around the river bank but saw nobody except a band of little boys herding their buffaloes and playing in the shade of a big tree. «Ah! Good luck. Sure, the boys must know the happy owner of these little ducks,» he said and ran to ask them. At first the lads were quite astonished but one of them, the oldest and most malicious, stepped out and said that all those ducks belonged to them.

At once our man thought himself very lucky to deal with such a candid gang of buffalo boys and hurried to ask how much they would charge for the whole flock. After just a

few minutes of discussion and evaluation they arrived at a happy agreement upon the price and he paid on the nail.

How happy he was now to look at the nice little ducks of his own who were swimming to and fro and disputing their foods in the river. But the little buffalo boys also warned him to wait until they got far away to herd his ducks home, otherwise they would follow them and go to their villages. He believed them and stayed there to watch his flock with a great delight. He waited and waited patiently until all the boys disappeared and the sun was sinking in the west to approach his cherished nice ducks and chase them home. Alas! They got all frightened and flew up to the sky when they saw him raise his hands and wade knee-deep in the water to call them. In a few seconds they disappeared be-



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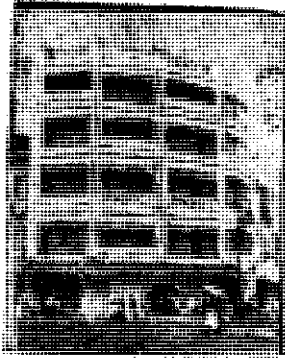
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hind a range of mountains while he continued to call them desperately from the bank of the river until the night closed in.

He went back home at last, empty-handed, hungry and thirsty by the time his wife was about to go to bed. She ran out to meet him and asked anxiously:

«Here you are. And where are your ducks?»

«Well I got a very nice flock just on the bank of the river at a very cheap price. I paid the boys who sold them to me and waited till sunset to herd them home. But, how odd it was! They all flew up to the sky when I called them and disappeared behind the mountains. I ran along the river bank, I whistled, I shouted till the night fell pitchdark but they didn't come back at all. I don't know why.»

«Oh! For goodness sake. I've been waiting for hours to listen to such a crazy story? You silly, stupid, harebrained fellow. Hold your tongue and your nonsense or I'll tear your shirt away. What a noodle you are. Tell me where is your money then?»

«Well I paid the boys who sold me the ducks?»

«And where are your ducks?» She cried and jumped up to grasp him by his shirt.

«But, I tell you all the truth, darling. They are all in the sky now.»

«In the sky? Oh, God! I see now. You bought the wild ducks you saw in the river? Ah! here is your pretty piece of work. How stupid you are,

poor dunce. Those ducks are wild, untamed and belong to nobody on earth. And these damned little scoundrels just played a nasty trick on you to rob you of your money. You believed the ducks belong to them? What a misfortune! You are going to ruin me and your family,» she groaned and sobbed bitterly then jumped to tear his clothes and beat him with her broomstick until he promised to bring her money back as quickly as he could. He waited till very late at night when his wife slept soundly to sneak out and creep into his neighbor's house. He hid under a bed and looked around the room hoping to steal some valuable things or some money within his reach. Suddenly the neighbor took his wife to bed

and they talked gaily before going to sleep. And the husband told his wife:

«I go up to the sky, my darling, up to the blue sky, you know?» and laughed loudly.

Upon these words our man remembered his ducks and jumped out from under the bed to ask eagerly :

«You have been in the sky? Have you seen my ducks there? My nice little ducks you know? They have just flown up there tonight. Tell me, I beg you, where they are now?»

Deeply shocked though a good deal frightened and ashamed the couple jumped down to beat him black and blue. Since that day he became the laughing stock of all the people of his village. And that is what we call a wild duck chase.

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LAD'S LUCKY LIGHTNING

By PFC John Dittmann

CU CHI. — Truong Van Ut, 11 years old, was playing in the Tan An Hoi rice mill about a year ago when he found a Vietcong grenade among the rice bags. He picked it up and it went off.

Truong Van Ut should have been killed, but he was lucky. He only lost his right hand, two inches above the wrist. He was carried to a Vietnamese medic who did the best he could

to patch up the stump and stop the infection.

The wound healed and for the next year Ut walked around with the stump of his right arm hidden inside his pocket, hoping no one would notice.

Then in January of this year, the 25th Infantry Division was deployed to Vietnam. They set up their headquarters less than a mile from Ut's home in Tan An Hoi.



CU CHI. — Truong Van Ut stands at the 25th Infantry Division Helping Hand Operations Center with soldiers of the «Tropic Lightning» Division who helped him get his new hand. They are, left to right, 2nd Lieutenant John K. Swensson, Ut, Master Sergeant Morris M. Jones and Major Glen W. Emery.
(Photo by Sp5 Ron Park, 125th Sig Bn)

Ut's mother opened a laundry for the soldiers and in a short time had a number of regular customers, among them the staff of the Division civil affairs section.

Ut worked around the laundry doing what he could with one hand, still keeping the end of his right arm in his pocket and still hoping no one would notice. But someone did notice.

Second Lieutenant John K. Swensson, 23, of Wichita, Kansas, was wicking up his laundry one day. He stopped to play with some children, as he often did, when he noticed Ut's stump. It had slipped out of his pocket for just a moment.

He did not say anything but when he returned to his office

where he conducts business as civic affairs officer for the 25th Division, he called Doctor Charles Brown, director of the Military Provincial Hospital Assistance Program.

Lieutenant Swensson had once taken a short course from Dr. Brown concerning the kinds of help available for amputees. After checking with Dr. Brown, Swensson called the Vietnamese Red Cross and made tentative arrangements for Ut and his mother to go to Saigon to see a doctor about getting Ut a hook.

Then it was up to Ut. Would he want to get a hook? Would he go to Saigon? Would he believe the Americans only wanted to help him? The

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answers were all yes, so on July 12, Ut and his mother boarded a helicopter at Cu Chi bound for Saigon.

In Saigon the young amputee and his mother were settled in the Saigon chapter of the Vietnamese Red Cross. It was a big day for Ut. In his 11 years he had never been very far from the little village of Tan An Hoi.

The ride through the streets of Saigon was an adventure in itself. Ut held tight to his mother as the Army taxi dashed between cars and trucks and pedi-cabs down the traffic-choked streets. Every building was a wonder and a structure like the Presidential Palace was just not to be believed.

At the Red Cross Center, Ut and his mother were checked in and given a space in a ward with other amputees waiting for new limbs. There were half a dozen other children there, all with missing limbs, waiting to see the doctors. The children from the Saigon area were quite at home and played as they had before, but the children from the little village, like Ut, were quiet and had a cer-

tain look somewhere between fear and amazement.

When the soldiers who brought him left, Ut began to cry just a little, but his mother wiped his tears and assured him they would be back. When they returned in the afternoon, they brought chewing gum and candy and he shared it with the other children and felt a little more at ease. When the soldiers left the second time, he did not cry but he did not want them to go.

The next morning Ut was taken to the National Institute of Rehabilitation for processing. It was a tedious job filling out all the forms but Ut stuck to it, answering the questions as best he could.

The National Institute for Rehabilitation came into being last February as the successor to the old Vietnamese Department of Defense Rehabilitation Center.

The joint Government of Vietnam, U.S. Agency for International Development, World Rehabilitation Fund project was established through a contract between the three and placed under the directorship

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It used to take as long as a year to get an artificial limb and then the service was restricted to the military and their dependents. With the new assembly line processes, the institute is able to fit over 400 limbs a month. In addition, they offer physical therapy and, when necessary, vocational training. For the most part, the patients adapt easily and go back to their old jobs.

After the hours of filling out forms, Ut moved on to the clinic where a staff of American and Vietnamese doctors examine the patients and prescribe the treatments. Since Ut's arm was completely healed, he was sent directly to the technicians.

In one corner of a long building, four men rushed around like cooks in a short order house. Artificial arms and legs stuck up over the plywood partition. This was the measuring and fitting room.

As the boy entered the building, a man in a blue lab coat caught him by the shoulder and ushered him into the partitioned room. Before Ut quite knew what was happening, his shirt had been removed and

two men with tapes were quickly measuring his arm and rattling off numbers to a third.

A few minutes later he was sitting on a high stool while the technicians made a plaster cast of his arm. The cast would be used to make a plaster model of his forearm and this in turn would be used as a base on which to form the artificial limb.

It would be a week before the new limb was ready so Ut and his mother were taken to Tan Son Nhut Air Base where they boarded another helicopter back to Cu Chi.

On the ride to Saigon, Ut had been scared. He had said he wanted to fly but once the chopper was in the air, he was

not at all sure he had made the right choice.

Now he was flying again but the knowledge that he had made it the first time and the fact that he was going home combined to ease the tension.

The next week was one of many emotions. Ut had a certain fear of Saigon. Everything moved so fast and was so very noisy, and it was so big. He had felt lost. He also had some doubt about his new hand. He wanted one very much, but what would it be like? So for the next week fears and doubts and hopes took turns running through Ut's mind.

By the following Friday, things had reached a feverish pitch. Ut's nine brothers and

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sisters had picked up the excitement from him and the whole house was in confusion by the time the jeep arrived to take his mother and him back to Saigon.

It was only an hour's ride to Saigon by convoy but to Ut it seemed like a week. Once in Saigon the traffic seemed worse than ever and another half hour passed before they reached the rehabilitation institute.

Now the moment had arrived. Ut was taken back to the fitting room and his shirt was removed in preparation for the new limb.

A technician covered the forearm with a cotton pad and then the plastic sleeve was slipped into place. The harness that crossed his back was measured and strapped in place

and then the cable to the hook was measured, cut and attached to the harness.

It was ready to go. One of the technicians held out a book. Ut stretched his arm and the hook opened. He relaxed and it closed on the book. Held firmly in the jaws of the hook, Ut lifted the book up then moved to a table and laid it down. He stretched his arm again and moved away. The pincher opened and the book slipped onto the table.

For several minutes Ut just stared at his new hand. He opened and closed the jaws many times and then he smiled. He picked up the book and laid it down again. Then he turned to his mother and they both stopped, trying hard to hold back the tears.

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Ut is back home in Tan An Hoi now. He helps around the laundry and with the help of his hook there is very little he can't do. He can peel bananas, open packages, button his shirt and even write.

He doesn't keep his hand in his pocket anymore. It is in use now just as much as his left. The boy who was once timid, afraid and a little ashamed is now happy and outgoing and very proud of the handicap he has overcome.

And the 25th Infantry Division soldiers who took time out from fighting a war to help a little boy, what are they doing now? There is a little girl in a village down the road who has a curvature of the spine. She can do very little without a great deal of pain. Maybe there is a doctor somewhere in Vietnam... maybe those same «Tropic Lightning» soldiers will find him...

EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing article was written by Private First Class John Dittmann, 22, of Aurora, Illinois. He is presently serving as a combat correspondent with the 25th Infantry Division out of Cu Chi, Vietnam, 25 miles northwest of Saigon. Just six months ago, when the «Tropic Lightning» Division arrived in Vietnam, Cu Chi was commonly referred to as «Hell's Half Acre.» The village served as a sanctuary for the Vietcong. Vietnamese civilians in the area were completely dominated by the enemy. In the last six months, American soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division have named Ut is typical of the fought with «hand and heart» to bring a new way of life to thousands of villagers formerly under the reign of VC terror. The story of an 11-year-old boy humane achievements being recorded daily on the battlefields of Vietnam.

END

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CU CHI. — With the help of his hook there is very little Ut can't do. He peels bananas, opens packages, buttons his shirt, and has even learned to write.

(Photo by Sp5 Ron Park, 125th Sig Bn)

★ Before we sat down to our Thanks-giving dinner, my wife spoke of our many blessings. First on her list came our six healthy children. An hour later when we were at the table, all was pandemonium. Noticing that my wife's eyes were closed, I asked her what was the matter. «Nothing,» she said, «I am just praying for patience to endure my blessings.»

A.F. PROVIDES TELEPHONE CALLS FOR U.S. COMBAT WOUNDED

SAIGON. — U. S. wounded, hospitalized and still in the war zone are using Air Force communications to place telephone calls to their loved ones in the United States.

Col. Charles Y. Schultz, Jr., 46, a native of Alvarado, Tex., who is responsible for all Air Force communications in Southeast Asia, said, «After many years of communications service, it is the first time to my knowledge that this direct service has ever been provided for our combat wounded.» He commands the 1964th Communications Group.

Conceived early this year by Air Force M.Sgt. Ramiro R. Guerra and endorsed by the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), the idea

spread to other branches of the service throughout Vietnam which have Military Affiliate Radio Systems (MARS) stations.

Guerra, 41, of San Antonio, Tex., is non-commissioned officer in charge of radio operations in the 1876th Communications Squadron.

The first call was placed in February but due to lengthy coordination, difficulty in obtaining and installing equipment, this service became fully operational in the Saigon area about four weeks ago.

Lines have been installed at the Third Field Hospital in Saigon and at the casualty staging area at the Tan Son Nhut air base. A staging area is a temporary hospital facility where

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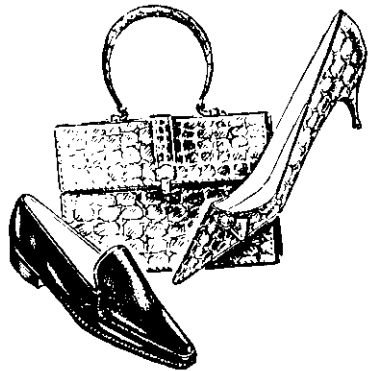
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patients await aerial evacuation to the U. S. for treatment and recovery.

John W. Baker, a 19-year old U. S. Army sergeant, was wounded in action last week when his unit, the 27th Infantry «Wolfhounds» of the 25th Division was on a search and destroy mission. The «Wolfhounds» were hit by enemy grenades and Baker suffered fragment wounds in both legs, arm and chest.

Shortly after admission to the field hospital, the nine-month Vietnam veteran called his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William N. Keene of Grand Ridge, Fla., easing much of their fear and anxiety.

«We've made more than 14,000 routine calls for service members in Vietnam this year, and now have expanded our service to include the wounded who could use it to even greater advantage as shown in the Baker case,» Guerra said.

«By letting those back home hear them directly, the family quickly learns the details of the hospitalization, how the patient is improving and how long he expects to be confined,» concluded the sergeant.

«One call is often the best dose of medication in the world and it works magic in assisting the patient's recovery,» was the comment of 1st Lt. Marlene C. Lohmiller, a nurse at the field hospital.

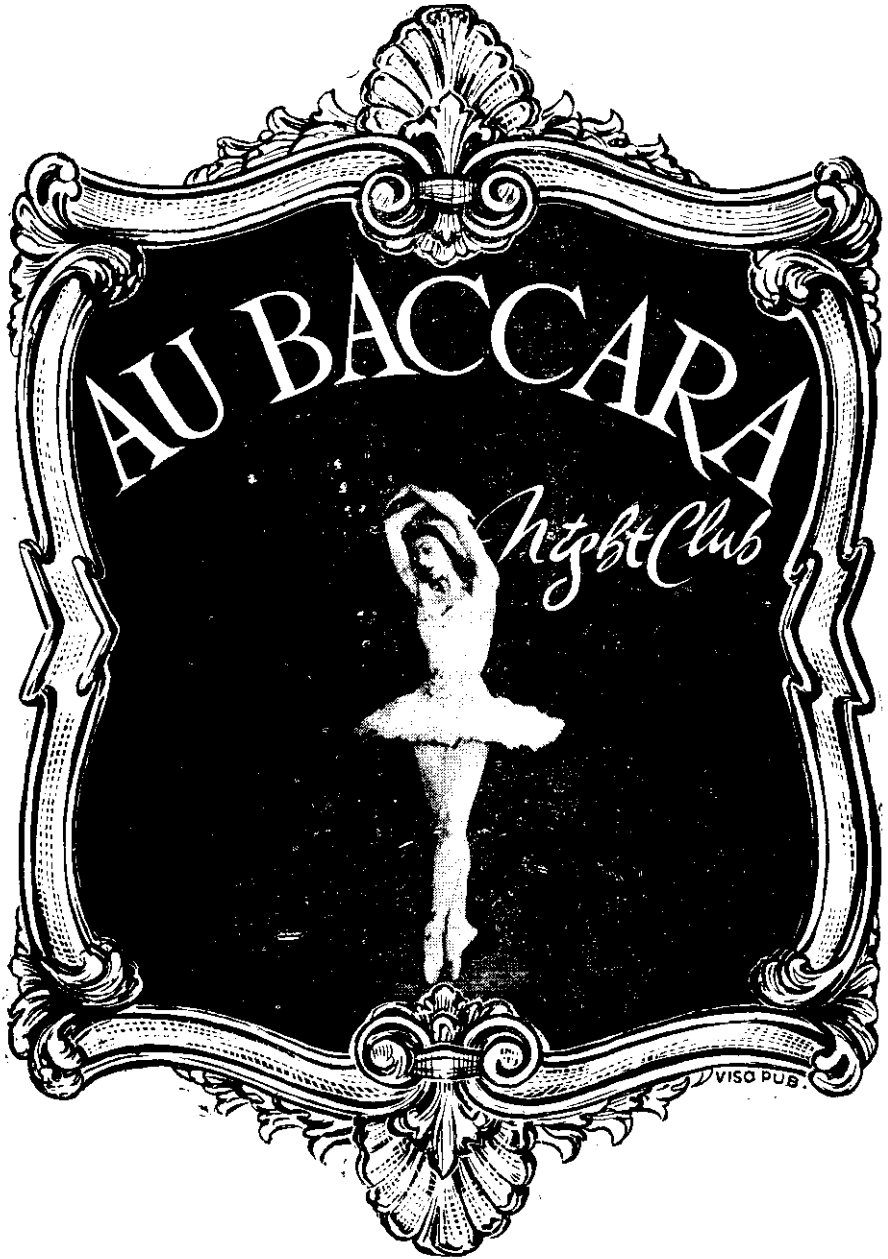
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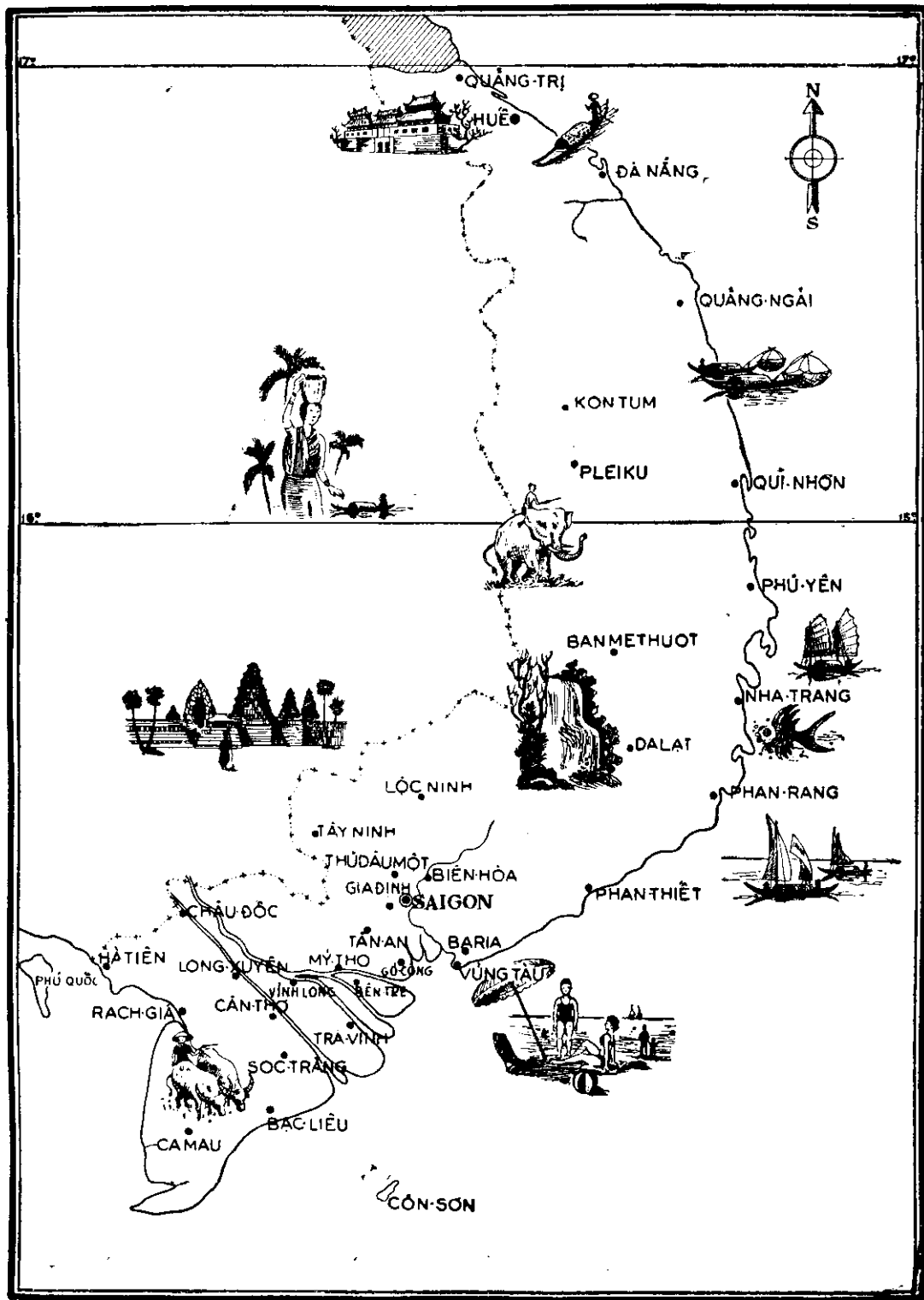
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MAP OF VIETNAM



Introducing

VIETNAM

Viet-Nam is situated in the South East corner of Asia, and occupies the Eastern coastal strip of what was previously known as the Indochinese peninsula. The Republic is bounded on the East by the South China Sea, the Gulf of Thailand on the Southwest, and to the West are the two former French Colonies of Laos and Cambodia.

The Free Republic of South Vietnam is separated from the Communist Peoples Democracy of North-Vietnam by the seventeenth parallel along which runs a demilitarized zone formed by the Geneva Armistice of 1954.

The Republic of South-Vietnam is freely accessible to the Western World, and encompasses an area of some 65,000 square miles. The total population is approximately twelve million, of which one million are refugees who fled from Communist North-Vietnam. In the metropolitan area of Saigon, the Capital, there are over two million people.

Viet-Nam has always been known as a beautiful and scenic land, and the people are famous for their courtesy and hospitality. Viet-Nam is a land endowed with some of the world's richest natural resources, and in times of peace the land can produce a great abundance of rice, rubber, coffee, tea, and other agricultural products. The population of Vietnam is a very

varied one, one sees besides the Vietnamese people themselves a great number of minorities such as the Thai, Mu'o'ng, Man and Mèo, in the high mountains of North-Vietnam. The Chàm, Moi, — now named «*Dông bào Thu'o'ng*», or Inhabitants of the High Lands, in the center of Vietnam, and there are Hindus, Moslems and Chinese in the South.

After many centuries of evolution in which the Vietnamese people developed their own culture and mode of life, Vietnam became subjected to French domination in 1862. Viet-Nam remained a French Colony for almost 100 years. Today in the capital city of Saigon the visitor can readily see the effects of French culture on the Vietnamese way of life. In no other Asian country can one find all that is best in two ways of life. Even though Viet-Nam still maintains its own national characteristics and traditions, it is easy to find absorbed into the daily life those French customs and habits that suit the Vietnamese people and the nation. The visitor is immediately enchanted with the gay atmosphere of the Capital's streets, the Continental cafes, excellent French restaurants serving fine wines, and of course the widespread use of the French language.

Vietnamese men now wear Western clothes, but we can still see in the country men with their long hair tied up, wearing the traditional « Ao Dài », generally black, reaching to their knees. Ordinarily they wear black pyjamas to work in the rice-fields.

Vietnamese women are generally small, and they still keep the traditional dress, or « Ao Dài » with its close fitting bodice, and long flowing slit-sided tunic, worn with the pantaloons (white or black only,) — which today are getting tighter in the leg.

Where to go, what to see...

SAIGON

Saigon, the sophisticated capital of the Free Republic of Vietnam, is in the center of a geographical diamond formed by Hongkong, Manila, Bangkok and Singapore. This cosmopolitan city of two million inhabitants *may be reached by jet service at practically no extra cost*

if one travels around the world or to any of the above cities.

The Saigon-Tan Son Nhut Airport, first opened to jet service in 1961, is among the world's busiest terminal.

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thousands of passengers, civilians included, every day.

Commercial jets such as Air France, U.T.A., Pan American, land there regularly.

Other major important regional carriers are Cathay Pacific Airways, Thai International and Air Vietnam. In addition to this civilian traffic, there is a daily average of eight commercial jet airliners under contract to the Air Force's Military Airlift command (MAC), each of which carry as many as 165 american fighting men. The military passengers are met and assisted by representatives of their respective services, while the civilians are greeted by gracious hostesses dressed in the traditional « Ao Dai ».

Shopping in Saigon is fasci-

nating, particularly for ladies. Perhaps the best known article of local interest is the «Ao Dai» or Vietnamese dress. Ready-to-wear dresses can be purchased in most good dress-making or material shops or tailors. A made-to-measure dress can be obtained at a very reasonable price in 48 hours.

The main shopping areas in Saigon are the rue Tu Do (Catinat), and Le Loi, as well as the Nguyen Hue Boulevard and Le Thanh Ton Street, and of course the Saigon Central Market.

Articles of great interest and of traditional design are to be found in the Vietnam Handicraft Development Centre at 86, Rue Tu Do, and it is here that there is always available a brilliant display of the finest ornaments and articles of interest to be found in Viet Nam that are



SAIGON SHOPPING AREA

representative of the culture of the country. Treasures that are always in great demand, because of their renowned beauty and workmanship in Saigon, are the finely lacquered screens and paintings produced by skilled craftsmen, as well as silks of unique and beautiful designs, which are hand-painted in the traditions of the Vietnamese people. Pottery and finely worked ceramic articles can be found here in Saigon which are available nowhere else in Asia. In addition to all this, tortoise-shell jewellery, comprising ear-rings, bracelets, etc, as well as ladies' purses and cigarette cases, can be found here which are unique to this part of South East Asia. Finally, nobody should leave this land without acquiring a

few examples of the Vietnamese hand-painted silk pictures which are available on the sidewalks of Saigon but which are better purchased in the handicraft and antique shops of Rue Tu Do.

Dazzling silks, brocades, and materials, at prices that are competitive with any shopping centre in the world, are available here in Saigon. Articles cunningly and intricately woven from rattan and bamboo; brassware, and bronzes, including antiques, both rare and unique; lacquers, paintings, ceramics, all these are to be found in Saigon, — and it is all this that makes Saigon a shopping centre that is little known, and rich in bargains.

(see page 40)

SOMEWHERE THERE IS

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SHOPPING IN SAIGON...

(continued from page 37)

The restaurants of the capital can provide an amazing variety of dishes, ranging from the plain and simple, to the ornate and exotic. Here in Saigon and Cholon you can find everything from the hometown snack-bar or soda-fountain, to the palatial Chinese restaurant modeled on the past glories of the Chinese empire.

Saigon is indeed fortunate in the supply of fresh vegetables that are easily obtainable from the rich mountain resort, and garden area, of Dalat. There is also an abundance of fresh meat, fish, and sea food, in Saigon. The surrounding countryside is rich in fish and shrimps which abound in the rivers and canals of the area, whilest fresh sea-food is readily available from Vung Tau on the coast.

The restaurants themselves in the capital city serve an excellent variety of foods.

Favorites that are recommended are :

French :

Guillaume Tell, 32, Trinh Minh The, Khanh Hoi, Tel. 22.836, Mme Leccia.

Caruso, 125, Vo Di Nguy, Tel. 22.169, Mme Lucette.

La Cigale, 18, Dinh Tien Hoang, Tel. 21.431, Mr. Poli.

Kontiki, 20, Phan Thanh Gian.

Vietnamese :

Le Calypso, 67, Pasteur St.

Chinese :

Van Canh, 184, Calmette, Tel. 20.963. Near Saigon's central market, is modelled on a famous Tai Wan restaurant and gives first class value.

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Italian :

Pizzeria, 76-C, Le Thanh Ton,
Saigon.

Spanish :

Paprika, 136 Bis, Building
«A» Yen Do, Tel. Saigon 682.

Japanese :

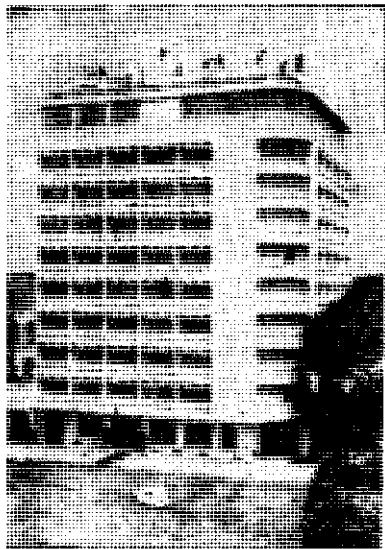
Fuji, 96, Hung Vuong, Cho-
lon, Tel. 36.368.

Entertainment

Vietnamese theater :

a) The «Hat-Boi», or classic-
al theater, is essentially tragic,
and is always steeped in the
great dramas of the history of
China and Vietnam. The richly
dressed actors have to limit
themselves to a certain number
of exacting rules and symbols,

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and their make-up is conventional.

b) The « Cai-Luong » which combines tragedy and comedy, is essentially of a more comic nature and provides a popular counterpart to the « Hat-Boi ».

HUNG-DAO theater :
130, Tran-Hung Dao, Saigon.

NGUYEN VAN HAO theater :
30, Tran Hung Dao, Saigon.

QUOC THANH theater :
271, Vo Tanh, Saigon.

Movies :

In Saigon there are numerous first class air-conditioned cinemas showing the latest American, European, Asian and Vietnamese films. Most of the films have French or English soundtracks, with Vietnamese subtitles. Vietnamese films are very popular and provide a modern expression of the classical Vietnamese theater.

EDEN Cinema :

183, Tu Do Street
(Eden Arcade), Tel: 23.376

REX Cinema :

147, Nguyen Hue
(REX Building), Tel: 20.772

DAI-NAM Cinema :

79-91, Tran Hung Dao
Saigon, Tel: SG-096

Night Clubs :

Night Clubs are frequented by well-to-do and the middle classes. They vary greatly and all provide something different. Travellers should really make the rounds to savor the different flavours, and atmospheres of each. The night clubs of Saigon and Cholon are justly world-famous, and it is impossible to list them all, or to list the attractions of them all. Suffice it to say that the names of the better known are contained in this Magazine, and the editors are actively engaged in visiting them all.

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CHOLON

Only three miles from the center of Saigon is the city of Cholon, a separate city, but forming part of the Metropolitan area of Saigon. One is hardly aware of the subtle changes as you ride along the main street, Tran Hung Dao, into Cholon. It is only when you reach the center of Cholon that you realize you are truly in the center of «chinatown». The residents of Cholon are primarily from Southern China, and the primary dialect used is Cantonese, although Mandarin, the official Chinese dialect, is usually un-

derstood, as are the Fukkien, Hokien and Hakka dialects.

Cantonese style cooking is famous throughout China, and excellent samples of this cooking can be found in Cholon's many restaurants. It is in Cholon also where one will find the better known nightclubs, which are excellent. Cholon is also a good example of the Chinese people's liking for neon signs. As you stroll along the street at night it will seem that each proprietor has tried to build a bigger and brighter Neon sign.

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R & R CENTER VUNG TAU



HOLD TIGHT — A vacationer at Vung Tau Skims over the warm waters off the beach at this rest and relaxation center. Water skiing is only one of the many sports available for the military man seeking relaxation from the grimness of war.

(Photo by SSgt. B. W. Cook)

This recreational spot preserves a certain continental charm on its picturesque streets, in its restaurants, and on its beautiful beaches. While in Vung Tau, you are sure to be impressed by the natural beauty of Cape St Jacques and no doubt will want to return.

An R & R Center for US Forces, located near the center of Vung Tau, has been established for the use of enlisted personnel on a quota basis.

The R & R Center consists of a new, modern villa with a capability of accommodating 134 person-

nel. Billeting and maid services are provided free of charge. Facilities available at the center include a mess, small PX, library, free movies, chapel and recreation equipment. The beach area, which has been likened to the Riviera, offers swimming, fishing, boating and surfboarding. The R&R beach is reserved for US and Free World Forces personnel. Transportation to and from the beach is provided by the R&R Center.

Personnel utilizing the R & R Center must provide their own towels and swim wear. Swimming

suits are sold in the Center PX.

Cost of meals is nominal and mess hours have been established for the convenience of personnel

on R & R.

Curfew hours are in effect which have been established by the local command.



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For out-of-country R & R leave in such delightful places as **BANGKOK, HONGKONG, SINGAPORE, KUALA-LUMPUR, PENANG, TOKYO, TAIPEI, MANILA, and HONOLULU.** Contact your Special Services Officer, or apply through your command channels.

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NHA TRANG



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Any body wanting a change from the masses of bicycles and scooters, traffic jams and the hustle and bustle of the city of Saigon can lounge on sandy beaches comparable to the Riviera, at Nha Trang, the popular resort city less than 90 minutes by plane from Saigon. It's all yours to enjoy without using up precious time as it is within easy reach of Saigon.

Nha Trang possesses a broad beach of fine white sand which stretches for two-and-a-half miles along a calm and very blue sea, lined with coconut trees and backed by mountains, and is considered one of world's

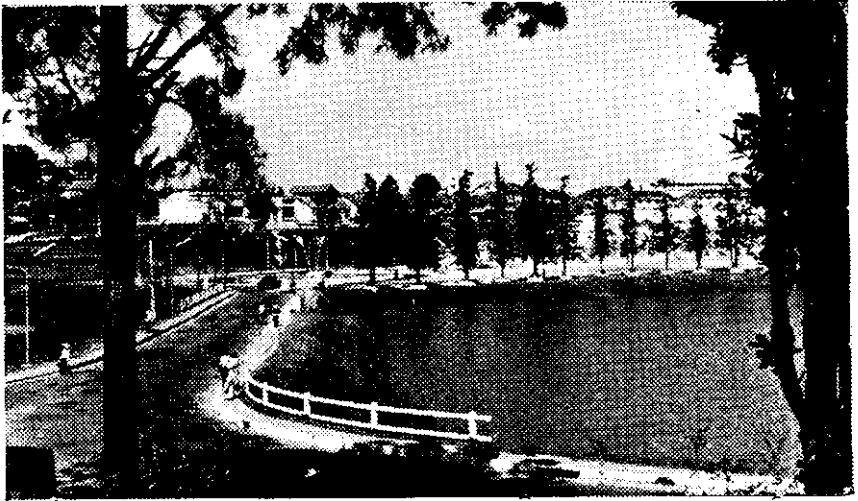
finest beaches. Visitors discover the clear water is ideal for swimming and little glass-bottomed boats give a lovely view of the tropical gardens of the sea floor. Or one may simply sit and watch the fishermen hauling in their nets.

In Nha Trang dinner must, of course, be sea-food lobsters, shrimp, clams, or just plain fresh white fish. A visit to the Oceanographic Institute is also a «must». An hour or so here is well spent browsing through the Institute to see the great variety of specimens of sea life imprisoned in miniature replicas of their natural habitat.

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DALAT



DALAT — Xuân Hương Lake

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