

The Observer

Published Weekly For The U.S. Forces In Vietnam

Volume IV, No 12

SAIGON, VIETNAM

July 24, 1965

Wounded Sergeant Blasts Bu Dop Invaders, Camp Littered With Dead VC

Bu Dop (CIB)— "The Viet Cong kept coming. They were no more than five or six feet from me and I kept firing as fast as I could to push them back," stated U.S. Army Special Forces SSgt. Willie A. Cheatham.

The sergeant was recuperating at the Saigon Navy Hospital from wounds received during the July 20 Viet Cong attack on Bu

Dop near the Cambodian border.

Shortly after 1 a.m., two Viet Cong battalions had launched a massive assault on the Bu Dop Special Forces camp, 85 miles north of Saigon. The attack began with mortar and recoilless rifle fire.

SSgt. Michael F. Carpenter, communications sergeant, had been relieved from guard duty when the first rounds came in. "I ran to the team house to make sure everyone was up. I started back towards the mess hall when a mortar round hit and the place started to burn."

Cheatham was already in position on the north wall. "There didn't seem to be an end to them," he said. Cheatham had been wounded in the hand but he continued to fire. "The hand hurt but I had to keep firing. They kept coming at us."

"I had to keep moving along the wall because the VC would assault one position and get beaten back, then try another assault. It went on all night."

"I was firing five different weapons. The VC were so close that I picked up a weapon from a dead communist and started firing," Cheatham said.

Carpenter and SSgt. Edward G. Chamberlain were headed for positions on the wall when they found Capt. Richard O. Nugent and moved him to a safer place.

"I was put out of com-
(Continued on page 8)

Seabees Continue Operations Despite Viet Cong Snipers

Chu Lai (USMC-10)— The Chu Lai Seabees are unsung heroes amid brave acts of guerrilla-fighting Marines and jet bomber pilots flying at excessive speeds and heights in Vietnam.

The Seabees of U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 10 have been working on the Chu Lai airstrip every night for the last two months under brilliant lights, and making very inviting targets for night-crawling Viet Cong snipers.

Often during the night

Marines fire flares suspecting the presence of Viet Cong, but suspected snipers aren't enough to shut down the Seabee operation. Only when fire is actually received are lights turned off and weapons manned, and then

(Continued on page 8)

DATELINE VIETNAM

Saigon (CIB)

VC CASUALTIES

Government forces scored 1.7-to-1 kill ratio over the Viet Cong during the week ending July 17, according to U.S. Military authorities, for a total of 419 VC killed. An additional 28 were captured during the reported period.

FRIENDLY LOSSES

Friendly troop losses amounted to 395, with 155 of those being listed as missing in action. Another 340 were wounded during the week. No comparative figure is available on Viet Cong wounded because the VC carry many of their dead and wounded from the battlefields.

VC ACTIVITY

Viet Cong activity generally decreased during the reporting period, with only one battalion size operation at Binh Duong July 15. Other VC actions were restricted to harassing mortar and small arms fire on district towns and outposts.

GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

The most significant action by Government forces was a road-clearing operation on Highway 1 which resulted in heavy Government losses when they encountered an estimated VC battalion. The air support which was provided accounted for almost all enemy losses—174 killed, 16 captured, plus destruction of 36 structures.

U.S. FORCES

Several search and destroy operations were conducted during the period with moderate results. The 173d Airborne Brigade continued its defensive operations around Bien Hoa.

(Continued on page 8)



HEALING NICELY — Navy nurse, Lt. Bonnie J. Green checks Army Special Forces SSgt. Willie A. Cheatham's wounded hand at the Saigon Navy Hospital. Cheatham was shot during the Viet Cong's six-hour attack on the Bu Dop Special Forces camp, July 20, but managed to use five different weapons in stopping the VC after being wounded.

President Johnson Sends "Thank You" Letter To Chau Hiep Hamlet

Chau Hiep (CIB)— The hand of U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson extended across thousands of miles of ocean in gratitude to the people of Chau Hiep, South Vietnam, for a straw rug.

Vietnamese translation of the President's "thank you" letter was read to the villagers by the Vietnamese District Chief, Maj. Tran Trong Nghia, July 20. Dur-

ing the ceremony Army Col. William E. Shedd, senior advisor of the Capital Military Region, presented the hamlet chief with a framed picture of the President.

The President's letter read: "I greatly appreciate this gift and I only wish that I could thank you in person."

"My gratitude for this gift is only surpassed by my admiration for the courage and skill Chau Hiep has shown in defending itself against Viet Cong depredations. As Senator Dodd remarked when he visited your community, your bravery in defense of your homes and freedom is an inspiration to the rest of us engaged in the strug-

Brothers Serve At Same Airfield

Tan Son Nhut (2AD-10)— Two brothers serving in the same military service isn't uncommon, but when two brothers are in the same service, travel overseas on the same plane, and are assigned to the same airfield, the same unit and work in the same office, then it is unusual.

Air Force MSgt. Paul H. Rudd and his brother TSgt. Thomas Rudd are

(Continued on page 8)

Remember The Sabbath Day

By Chaplain (Capt) Waldemar H. Nelson

One of the many wonderful things God did in His creation of the world was to give man a day of rest. The Sabbath day was set aside for man to rest, worship, and do that business or work which was necessary to do. Man, however, has somewhat changed God's intended DAY of rest to something else.

One of the Ten Commandments says: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; and rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it."

Twentieth Century America says, however: "Remember the WEEKEND, to enjoy it. Five days you shall labor and do all your work; but the weekend is an institution with men; in it you shall not do any worship, you, or your son, or your daughter, your relatives, or your friends, or the guest on your patio; for in five days other men made automobiles, ball parks and all that is in them; therefore men have established WEEKENDS and glamourized them." Let's remember the SABBATH instead!

Man With A Mission

Saigon (CIB) — Military Policeman Sp4 Harry A. Flay's primary duty is the security of BEQ's in the Saigon/Cholon area.

Other duties include special escort to dignitaries as U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and as a guard aboard ships traveling the Saigon River from the South China Sea.

Stalwart and silent at his post, he is watchful to thwart any terrorist acts by the Viet Cong.



Sp4 FLAY

The Observer

THE OBSERVER, an authorized weekly publication, is published by the Command Information Branch, Office of Information, Hq. USMACV, for U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam and printed locally in Saigon by Vietnamese personnel.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or of any of the Service departments. This paper uses the facilities of Armed Forces Press Service and the news services of the Service departments to augment local news. Mailing Address: THE OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO San Francisco 96243. Telephone 60174.

C. G. Gen. W. C. Westmoreland
Info. Off. Col. B. W. Legare
Ch., C. I. B. Col. T. J. Cunningham Jr.

STAFF

O. I. C. Maj. F. P. Schmidt Jr.
EDITOR MSgt. Glenn E. Catt
ASS'T EDITOR JOI J. V. Dorman Jr.
FIELD CORRESPONDENT SFC Carlton R. Brown Jr.
REPORTER Sp5 Lee Antonello

Honor Roll

SILVER STAR (Posthumous)

Capt Christopher J. O'Sullivan
Capt Robert A. Elber

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Sp4 Roy C. Howie
Sp4 Charles M. Livenspargar
Sp4 Michael R. Thompson

BRONZE STAR MEDAL w/V. (Posthumous)

Maj Jack W. Sanford
Capt Rubin F. Bradley

BRONZE STAR MEDAL v/V.

Capt Roger H. Horner
1st Lt Richard J. Pavia
1st Lt Bohdan A. Barylak
1st Lt Robert E. Holeman
MSgt Alvin N. Vere
SSgt Stanley W. Ivosevic
Sgt John D. Schlegel
Sp5 Joseph Morris
Sp5 William L. Dornbergh Jr.
Sp4 Thomas M. Carr

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Posthumous)

Maj Jack W. Sanford
Capt James Johnson Jr.
Capt Herbert F. Hardy Sr.
Sp5 Michael P. Moritz

BRONZE STAR MEDAL 4th Award

Maj Harold F. Hardin Jr.

3rd Award

Col John T. Berry

2nd Award

Lt Col James A. Johnson
Lt Col Robert J. Landseadel
Lt Col Edward A. Partain
Maj James D. Currie
Maj Jack G. Pruett
WO Harvey R. Corr

1st Award

Lt Col Harry T. Stewart
Lt Col Davis O.N. Morris
Lt Col Charles H. Day
Lt Col Harry A. Sommer.
Maj John H. Barnett
Maj Irvin Brobeck Jr.
Maj Ross E. Duncan
Maj Donald J. Bennett
Maj George W. Campbell
Maj James B. Guthrie
Maj Daniel T. McHugh
Maj Guy R. Parkhurst
Maj Theodore M. Small Jr.
Maj Marvin H. Gibbs
Maj Edward H. Hogsten
Maj Glenn W. Lewis
Maj Eugene S. Piazza
Maj Horace M. Sanders Jr.
Maj Kurt G. Schramm
Maj Paul R. Shirk
Maj Louis C. Wagner Jr.
Maj Lee A. Goff
Maj Earl O. McConaha
Maj Edward S. McNulty
Maj James W. Simmons
Maj Marcellus W. Bounds
Maj Edward A. Kelley Jr.
Maj Wallace I. Baker
Capt John J. McCarthy
Capt Don C. English
Capt Harry T. Hall
Capt James R. Johnson
Capt Eugene T. Boyd Sr.
Capt Andrew L. Cooley
Capt Jack B. Cooper
Capt Bernard M. Davall
Capt Rex S. Roper
Capt Phillip T. Yamaguchi
Capt William J. Emacio
Capt Thomas L. Miller
Capt Jimmy D. Ross
Capt Sidney W. Winslow
Capt James T. Grosshans
Capt Lloyd E. Shippey Jr.
Capt Billy C. White
Capt John B. Wilson
1st Lt Anthony J. Juliano
1st Lt Benson F. Landrum
1st Lt Max Lankes
1st Lt Glen A. Overby
1st Lt Antone F. Remich
1st Lt Robert J. Grider
1st Lt Norman E. Zoller
2d Lt Leslie D. Griggs
CWO Marcellus A. Karrigan
MSgt Myron J. Bowser
SFC Amador P. Navarro
SFC Paul E. Repsher
SFC Robert Kipfer
SFC John H. Connell
SFC Robert S. Vann
SFC Paul L. Weitzel
SSgt Donald M. Maeda
Sgt Oscar L. Piersall
Sp6 Leslie Calavan
Sgt Gerald E. Koula
Sgt Herman H. Rush
Sgt Kenneth L. Long
Sgt Thomas D. Pahel
Sp5 John W. Tryon
PFC Roy C. Aslanian

Man Is Many Persons

The military man is many persons. He is the great captain who commands fleets and air forces and armies. He is the dedicated professional in school, on patrol, on guard. He is the draftee taking his turn at freedom's watch. He is the reservist or the guardsman leaving his home to go to summer training. He is also in a sense the civilian who devotes his mind and his energy to public service.



Whoever he is, wherever he serves, the man is a product of our whole society, and he means more to peace today than he ever meant before.

President Lyndon B. Johnson

Capsule Law

Keep A Record Somewhere!

Good management of personal affairs demands that you keep track of your records.

Many people in service go so far as to keep a copy of everything they receive in connection with their duties.

While this procedure could be impractical, you should maintain a permanent file of all important service records such as orders, shot card, etc., where they are safe and readily available.

You should let your immediate family and at least one relative or friend outside of the family know where your records can be found in the event of your death.

Many people maintain a safe deposit box for important personal papers and a duplicate set of these records in their home with a notation as to the safe deposit box location. To test the adequacy of your records, visualize the situation your dependents would be in if you were to die tomorrow! — (AFNS)

VN Service Medal Established

Washington (AFNS)— President Lyndon B. Johnson last week issued an Executive Order establishing a Vietnam Service Medal for members of the armed forces.

The medal will be awarded to military personnel serving in the Vietnam area after July 3, 1965. Specific criteria for the award will be defined later in regulations.

Personnel who served in the Vietnam area between July 1, 1958 and July 4, 1965 qualify for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, established Dec. 4, 1961. These personnel can now receive the new medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Medal. **NO PERSON, HOWEVER, SHALL BE ENTITLED TO BOTH MEDALS.**

Design and colors for the new award have not been announced.

The Mud-Ball Fort Of Father Hoa

By SFC Carlton R. Brown Jr.

Ca Mau (CIB) — It rained for two days, a hard, steady and monotonous monsoon rain relieved only by the occasional passing of a black, water-heavy cloud that dumped its contents on the earth in huge bucketsful.

Inside a 700 by 300-meter compound on the southern tip of South Vietnam, two companies of hard-eyed, weapon-laden soldiers received an inspection from their non-coms, and then, in silence, moved out at a signal passing an outpost and heading north.

Inside the compound, nearly 2,500 men, women and children did their daily business in the heavy down-pour, walking the muddy paths that cross the compound.

MUD-BALL FORT

Bien Hung is the center of Hai Yen special sector perhaps better known as "The Mud-ball Fort of Father Hoa," home of the legendary Chinese priest's "Sea Swallows."

The "Sea Swallows" were on an operation to seek out the Viet Cong. As they filed through the outpost, a camouflage-suit moved along, its occupant towering head and shoulders above those about him. Behind him, a white face stood out amid the brown ones on each side, and then one more was seen.

SPECIAL FORCES

The Americans, members of Detachment A-411, U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Group marched as advisors to the Civilian Irregular Defense Group at Hai Yen, of which Father Hoa's troops are members.

The tail man — pushing six feet four inches — was SSgt. Herbert B. Spangler, senior medic. Behind him was SSgt. William H. Bruno, heavy weapons, then SSgt. Peter Zaleski, another medic.

The two companies came to a wide canal, running toward the Gulf of Thailand, about four kilometers north of the compound, and they fanned out astride the canal and began a slow,

maddeningly deliberate movement toward the ominous shadows of the tangled mangrove swamp two miles away.

"There's only one way to move in the Delta during this monsoon season," Sgt. Spangler said, "You can go by boat, or walk. We don't have any boats, so here we walk."

The group floundered into the water-covered paddies, sank to their waists, fought the slimy ooze of the muddy bottom that tugged at their legs and made each step a major physical effort.

THREE TROUBLES

"Besides the Viet Cong, we only have three things to worry about," said Sgt.

Bruno as he swatted at the swarms of mosquitoes that buzzed about his head. "These darn malaria carriers, for one. If they don't get you, the leeches may, and if both of these fail, you're going to get eaten alive by bull ants. Believe me, this is a most pleasant area," he added kiddingly.

ALL WAS QUIET

Two hours later, the patrol reached the edge of the mangrove swamp where movement into the tangled mass of roots was impossible. The operation made its torturous way back to the compound.

Not a shot was fired, not a single thing of suspicious nature sighted. All was quiet.

Inside a long, rambling

frame house, astride the main canal through the compound, the rest of the team cleaned already immaculate weapons, played casino with the houseboy, wrote home, or just slept.

RIDICULOUS

Lt. William F. Enright, Jr., executive officer of the team, gazed out the window in sheer boredom. "This is ridiculous," he said.

"Those paddies are under four feet of water, the canals are nine feet deep. We're developing web feet, but Father Hoa says that you can't just sit here and wait for 'Charlie', you've got to move out against him. I agree with him wholeheartedly, but man, I wish it would quit raining."

"Even 'Charlie' stays un-

der cover in weather like this. But with these sweeping operations, he knows we're looking for him, and as a result, this is the quietest area in all Vietnam."

"'Charlie' hasn't hit the Sea Swallows' for weeks, and the last time he did in May, he got mauled badly. We counted 116 dead VC after the last battle."

RADIO OPERATORS

The two members of the team kept busy all the time are Sgt. Jerry Safer and Airman 2nd Class Richard Shiner, the two radio operators. Four times a day they waded through thigh-deep water to the radio shack to maintain contact with radio control stations over the nine different radios the two men operate.

FATHER HOA

That evening, Father Hoa took his place at the head of the table in the team house, and after dinner, the genial priest relaxed over a cup of coffee and a cigar. His brown eyes glistened with intensity as he stated his simple philosophy.

"If you're going to defend freedom, you must understand it. My people know what they are doing here, why they must fight. They understand freedom, want it fiercely, and will fight fanatically to achieve it."

His face softened as he spoke of "my people," then hardened to a diamond-like glitter as he spoke of freedom and communist oppression.

HUMOR

On the way to his quarters, the rotund little priest stopped at the casino game. He bent over the table and picked up the cards, and with a few deft movements of his hands, performed a simple card trick.

With a low chuckle of satisfaction, the "legend in his own time" disappeared into the dark night as the rain continued.



TOUGH PATROL — Mekong Delta soldiers reach edge of mangrove swamp where movement into the tangled mass of roots is impossible. The group floundered into the water, sank to their waists and fought their way through the slimy ooze of the muddy bottom.



REFRESHING DRINK — Army 2nd Lt. Wayne F. Bradford, left, is aided in taking a drink by Army medic Sp5 William J. Winfield at the Army's 3rd Field Hospital. Bradford was wounded during a sweeping operation following the July 18 Viet Cong attack on the 2nd Brigade, 1st U.S. Infantry Division camped near Bien Hoa Air Base.

U.S. Phantom Jets "Team-up" Blasting Viet Cong Troops

Da Nang (USMC-10) — Eight Marine Corps Phantom jets from two squadrons formed a hasty partnership in the sky Thursday and put Viet Cong troops out of business.

A four-bird flight was launched shortly after noon by Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMA)-513 and was streaking toward a predesignated target. Minutes later four more Phantoms from VMFA-542 took off, but were barely airborne when all eight planes were ordered to divert to a concentra-

tion of Viet Cong troops deployed around a hamlet.

"They were dug in," recalled Capt. Karl Foster. "There was a long row of trenches at the edge of a bamboo forest and the Viet Cong were in the trenches, waiting for a ground attack." A Vietnamese Army patrol was a short distance away.

The supersonic Phantoms nosed into bombing dives. "When we started our attack, the VC froze at first," Foster said, then added, "Five of our planes got in on them before they broke and ran."

As one group of planes bombed and strafed the trenches, another flight of Phantoms clobbered the nearby village. On the third pass over the target, one of the buildings disintegrated in a secondary explosion. Viet Cong munitions went up in smoke.

A U.S. Air Force aerial observer flew low over the trenches and village to assess the damage. He counted eight Viet Cong bodies in the trenches; in the village eight buildings were destroyed, and the Viet Cong were completely routed.

Airman Falls From Flight Deck Of Oriskany, Unhurt

7th Fleet (S&S) — "We have your swimmer safe and sound," was the content of a message flashed from the destroyer USS Higbee to the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany cruising in the South China Sea July 15.

The swimmer on the Higbee was U.S. Navy Airman Clifford C. England who accidentally fell into the sea from the flight deck of the carrier Oriskany as the ship was operating with the Seventh Fleet.

England suffered no injuries in the mishap and was retrieved within minutes by the Higbee. He was returned to the aircraft carrier by helicopter the next day.

Wounded Infantrymen Describe Viet Cong Attack On Bien Hoa

Bien Hoa (CIB) — "Then it started to rain. The harder it rained the more Viet Cong fire we received. The longer it rained the closer they seemed to get," described Army Pvt. Bennie L. Davies, U.S. 1st Infantry Division soldier.

From a bed at the Army's 3rd Field Hospital, Davies recalled the Viet Cong night attack July 18 on the new 2nd Brigade positions near Bien Hoa Air Base.

"I was on guard in a two-man foxhole on the outer perimeter," said Davies. "I had been standing guard for about two hours when a close mortar round came in."

"I went to see if my buddy was okay after mortar fragments fell around us. He was all right."

"Small arms fire broke out and continued all night. It kept getting heavier and

heavier, and closer and closer."

Army 2nd Lt. Wayne F. Bradford, Davies' platoon leader, said, "It was one of the longest nights of my life. The platoon was pinned down. I called for reinforcements. We got two squads."

The rains continued throughout the night. The VC took advantage of the downpour to move closer.

"We were running low on ammunition," continued Davies. "We called for more but when we got it, VC fire began to slacken."

"VC were moving around

in front of us so we really opened up. They couldn't move because we laid down a heavy blanket of automatic weapons and 79mm grenade launcher fire."

Davies received a head wound from mortar fragments and was knocked out. "When I woke up," he said, "I knew I was hurt but I was still able to fire the grenade launcher and load magazine clips for my buddy."

As daylight crept in, VC fire began to decrease. The Infantrymen quickly followed up with a sweep of the area.

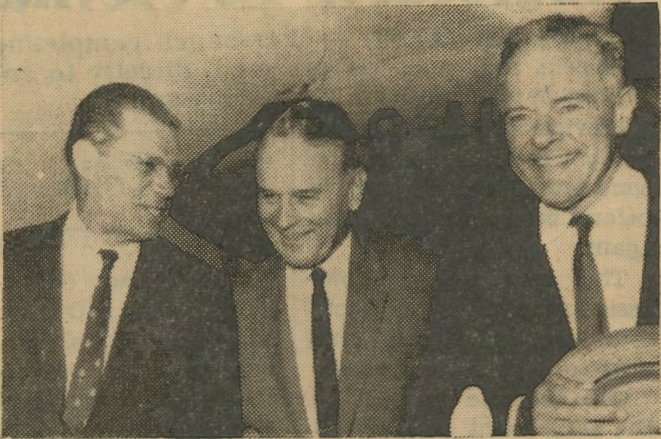


WOUNDED — Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division carry a casualty of the Viet Cong attack on their camp to an aid station following a night of mortar and sniper fire. The 2nd Brigade soldiers had been in Vietnam less than a week when the VC attacked. (UPI Radiophoto)



EVACUATED — A 1st Infantry Division officer is lifted onto an aid truck after being wounded during a Viet Cong attack on the 2nd Brigade positions near Bien Hoa. The communists opened up with a heavy mortar barrage and sniper fire during the night attack some 20 miles from Saigon. (UPI Radiophoto by Stephen Pearson)

U.S. Secretary Of Defense Tours Vietnam



ARRIVAL — Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, left, is all smiles as he is greeted by Ambassador Maxwell Taylor after arriving with Ambassador Designate Henry Cabot Lodge, right, for an inspection visit of Vietnam. (UPI Radiophoto by Nguyen Thanh Tat)



CONFERENCE — Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, left and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara meet with Vietnamese government leaders, Chief of State Nguyen Van Thieu and Premier Nguyen Cao Ky. (UPI Radiophoto by Dirck Halstead)



DECORATION — Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara presents a medal for valor to a wounded American at the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon. McNamara presented a total of ten medals to American wounded servicemen in the 3rd Field Hospital and Navy Station Hospital, Saigon. (AP Radiophoto)



NAVY VISIT — Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, left, tours the hangar deck of the carrier Independence with Vice-Admiral Paul Blackburn, Commander of the Seventh Fleet. (UPI Radiophoto by Dirck Halstead)



PARATROOPS — U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara talks with members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, at their Bien Hoa Camp. The Defense Secretary toured the American and Australian Camps at Bien Hoa during his final day of Vietnam visits. (UPI Radiophoto by Dirck Halstead)



CHEERS — During his many trips to villages and Vietnamese military installations, thousands of cheering and flag-waving people greeted U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. He often was conducted on a tour of villages by the village or district chief. (AP Radiophoto)



SANDWICH MAN— USMC Cpl. Stanley Snyder, right, makes a delivery to night-working maintenance crews busy servicing Marine Phantom jets at Da Nang Air Base. Snyder makes and delivers some 800 sandwiches a night. The night cook, also keeps 18 gallons of hot coffee brewing to feed the hungry crews. Sampling the snacks are Lance Cpl. James L. Ward, left, and Sgt. William T. Crutcher.

Bac Lieu Training Center Built Through U.S. Officer's Initiative

Bac Lieu (CIB) — Deep in Vietnam's Mekong Delta country, a Popular Forces training center is nearing completion. It will stand as a monument to the dedication of one man.

Capt. Joseph W. House of Birmingham, Ala., is the training advisor for the Bac Lieu sector about 120 miles south of Saigon. Since he got the assignment nearly a year ago, his major problem has been a lack of training facilities at Bac Lieu.

House felt that it was costly and bad for morale to recruit Vietnamese for the local Popular Force and send them to Ba Xuyen, many miles away, to be trained.

There was no authorization for a training camp nor any funds to build one, but House was determined. The highest ground in the area was about two miles from town.

He contacted the owner and promised that her ancestors would be honored by having the camp named after her family and that as money was obtained she would be paid.

Over the road into the camp a sign will be raised, "Dung Dang Dao," which means "Big Bright Way."

House recruited Popular Force volunteers and cleared the land, meanwhile writing to get authorization and funds to build a camp.

He heard of some prefabricated units in Saigon and a personal contact brought several of the buildings to Bac Lieu.

Popular Forces candidates began to erect the buildings, starting with a set of barracks, then a mess hall, offices and classrooms. As the barracks were completed, the students moved in, threw sleeping mats on the muddy ground and lived in the camp while constructing the remainder of the buildings.

The captain borrowed a bulldozer and built a road three feet high, eight feet wide and a quarter-mile long. Before he could get a grader to smooth it off, the rains came.

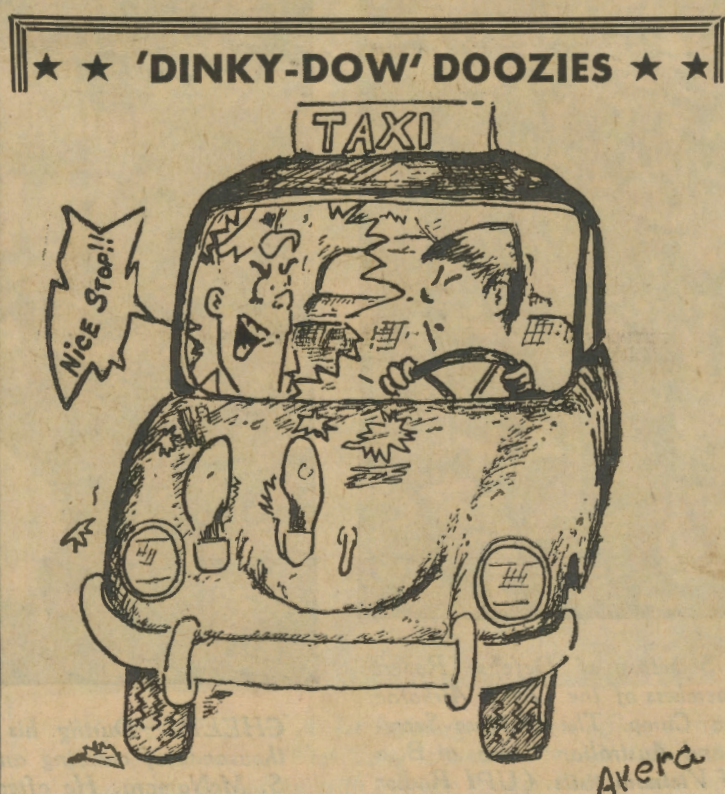
As he looks at the stretch of road, he grins wryly and says, "I certainly won't have to build a confidence course as long as the road stays like that."

House finally received authorization from the Vietnamese government to build the camp, with funds following.

"We'll use the money to improve the facilities," the tall, soft-spoken advisor says as he watches his fu-

ture students string two rows of double apron fence around the camp.

As he looks around the nearly-completed installation, he says in his soft drawl, "I've sawed, pounded, nailed, dug and sweated over this place, but the satisfaction comes from the faces of the people when they realize they have their own training center... one they have built themselves."



Army Lifts Policy On 'No Return' To Vietnam

Washington (AFPS) — Personnel completing an overseas tour may be assigned directly to another overseas tour under a new Army policy.

Previously, personnel normally were returned to the continental United States before being sent overseas again.

The new policy allows assignment from a short tour area to a long tour area to a short tour area.

One example would be the assignment of a person from Alaska or the Republic of Korea — both short tours — to Panama or the Federal Republic of Germany, which are long tours.

Individuals who returned from the Republic of Vietnam since Jan. 1, 1961, were previously exempt from further assignment here. There is now a 24-month guarantee before personnel are eligible for return.

Personnel assigned to a unit scheduled for overseas deployment will accompany the unit even if they have no more than 60 days remaining on their service obligation from date of departure from the port of embarkation, an official said.

The deployment phase represents a critical period, he added, and experienced personnel are needed, even though they may rotate back to CONUS within a month or two after arrival overseas.

A person may also be levied for RVN assignment before completing a stabilized tour, provided a replacement is readily available to the losing command.

Tail Tells Tale Of Duty Hazards

Vinh Long (IO) — A bullet-riddled O1F reconnaissance airplane tail mounted over the door of the Army 74th Aviation Company's 4th Platoon quarters in Vinh Long is grim testimonial to danger — flying low altitude support missions in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

The Platoon flies, O1F light observation planes, well known in Vietnam for poking its little propeller-tipped nose into Viet Cong affairs.

Duties involve flying more than 100 hours per month for each pilot, including dropping flares, firing rockets, making visual reconnaissance flights, spotting for artillery, and serving as airborne radio-relay stations.

In addition to normal duties, the Platoon pilots are often called to air drop mail to far-flung outposts in the delta area, and on occasion have air dropped cartons of cigarettes to jungle-bound soldiers.

Sam Came Through With Six Mascots

Chu Lai (USMC-IO) — The Marines of Marine Attack Squadron (VMA)-311 are a "tough as nails" crew and danger is commonplace to them. But when Sam disappeared recently, the whole squadron acted more like frustrated mothers until their friend was found.

Hours later a search party discovered Sam (short for Samantha) the squadron mascot beneath a tent floor. With her were six newborn puppies. Then, the hard-bitten Marines began acting like doting fathers for the rest of the day.

Squadron pilots, operations Marines and flight crews forgot the war for a short time to visit Sam and pet her puppies.

The puppies were divided up among squadron sections for mascots. Only one has been named so far... Chu Lai was named after the airfield.

★ ★ ★ The Roving Photographer

Question:

"How do you feel about free postage privileges for U.S. personnel in Vietnam?"

PH1 Louis F. Jones, Oxnard, Calif.

"It gives me a good feeling when I see the people back in the States trying to do so much for the American serviceman in Vietnam. During a hardship tour, when men are away from their families, every little benefit will make them happier."

Sgt. Harlo L. Hirschi, Pozzocello, Idaho.

"Many times it's hard for a man in the field to get stamps, then when he does he usually gets two or three books. The climate being what it is, almost always the stamps stick together. Then he has to get glue to use them, which is hard to come by in the field. I am 100 percent for free mail."

Capt. Adward W. Colquhoun, Palm Beach, Fla.

"I would like to see proposed bill passed. Getting mail is such a big morale booster. Most people just answer a letter when they receive one. With free postage, the men would send more letters and therefore receive more mail in return."

PFC Arthur S. Marder, New York.

"This a hardship tour with Americans getting killed all the time and they are entitled to as many benefits as possible. The big things like tax exemption and hostile fire pay are really great, but other things like free postage are just as great a morale booster."

SSgt. Angus Macleod, Irvine, Scotland.

"The men deriving the most benefit from free postage will be the troops in the field. For them stamps aren't always easy to come by. This way, stamps or not, they can always send a letter home. He just hands the letter to a guy going near a mail box."

Army Receives Portable Dental Kits For Field

Tan Son Nhut (USAV-10)

— Two new revolutionary portable dental kits for field use arrived in Vietnam and will provide U.S. Army 36th Medical Detachment dental officers the latest in modern field dental equipment.

Dr. (Lt. Col.) George F. Mayer, 36th Medical Detachment commander, said the U.S. Army Vietnam is the first military service to try the new portable dental kits.

The kits feature high-speed capabilities similar to fixed dental equipment in the U.S.; a built-in water system; and a vacuum to remove saliva from patient's mouths. It also is equipped with a three-way syringe to direct an air stream into a cavity, wash with water and spray heat for relief of pain.

Additional dental kits are due to arrive in Vietnam soon, according to Dr. Mayer. The unit has seven dental officers and 11 enlisted men and offers services for all U.S. Army personnel in Vietnam.

Injured Chopper Co-Pilot Dies Putting Others Before Himself

Ba Gia (CIB) — The Army helicopter co-pilot was fatally wounded from ground fire, smoke filled the cockpit, emergency lights blinked red on the instrument panel, and the pilot was gradually losing control of his bullet-riddled chopper—over Viet Cong troops 70 miles south of Da Nang.

"It was amazing how calm and dedicated he was in spite of his wounds," said Maj. Irwin K. Cockett, Jr., about CWO Allen L. Holt. "He helped me fly the damaged ship to the moment of crash, thinking only of the rest of us."

Maj. Cockett and his crew were escorting four Marine helicopters to besiege Ba Gia outpost near Quang Ngai to evacuate eight trapped Americans.

He met the Marine choppers near Ba Gia and went into the regular orbit pattern used in hostile territory. A fire team leader in another chopper began receiving heavy small arms fire. He flew on, marking the spot with a red smoke flare.

Major Cockett's ship

Huey Crew Braves Sea Storm To Save Vietnamese Seaman

Vung Tau (USAV-10) — "It was a hell of a way to become naval aviators," said Army Capt. Gordon M. Hunt, "but a man's life was at stake." The pilot had just returned from a medevac mission requiring the Army helicopter to land on a storm-tossed, pitching ship deck in a thunderstorm.

The medical evacuation took place when the USS Epping Forest steaming in the South China Sea 100 miles south of Vung Tau radioed that a critically wounded Vietnamese seaman on board needed immediate medical attention.

Assistance was not available in the Vung Tau area and "The Dallas Cowboys," 82nd Aviation Battalion's A Company at Tan Son Nhut Airfield took the job.

Capt. Hunt, pilot, and CWO Bennet J. Locke, co-pilot took off in a UH-1D "Huey" helicopter, but on the way lost radio contact with the Epping Forest in a darkening thunderstorm.

"It was so black we couldn't see anything except occasional lightning flashes," said Locke. "We flew on instruments all the way."

At the Epping Forest's approximate position, Hunt began flying a search pattern. "It took a long time. We were just about to give up when Locke spotted a light in the darkness and the ship," said Hunt.

It took two tries to get

the chopper down on the pitching deck, but the wounded man was put on board.

Soon the 'naval aviators'

had the wounded charge at Tan Son Nhut where a waiting ambulance rushed him to the hospital.

95% USAF Vietnam Returnees Receive Choice Assignments

Washington (PAFNS)— More than 95 percent of the airmen returning from Vietnam in the first quarter of fiscal 1966 will receive base or state-of-choice assignments.

A check with PACAF Airman Assignment Branch, revealed that 90 percent of the airmen serving in Vietnam are under control of this command.

The forecast shows that almost half will receive their first base of choice while the bulk of remaining returnees will get second base or state of choice assignments.

In July alone, 57 percent of the Vietnam veterans are slated for their first base or choice. Another 20.8 percent their second base and 17.2 percent their state of choice.

The small percentage re-

turning from Vietnam picking locations without a requirement for their specialties will be assigned to an alternate base of choice closest to their original preference.

R & R Schedule

August 1965

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

Depart	Return
HONG KONG	
Aug. 1 st	6 Aug.
2 nd	7
3 rd	8
5 th	10
6 th	11
7 th	12
9 th	14
10 th	15
11 th	16
13 th	18
14 th	19
15 th	20
17 th	22
18 th	23
19 th	24
21 st	26
22 nd	28
23 rd	29
25 th	30
27 th	1 Sept
28 th	2
29 th	3
31 st	5

BANGKOK	
Aug. 3	8 Aug
8	13
13	18
18	23
23	28
28	2 Sept

* Stop at Da Nang. Da Nang personnel report 0830 for 0930 departure.

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

swung over and blasted the enemy nest with machine guns and rockets. The Viet Cong answered with intense machine gun fire.

"I heard the deep, throbbing sputter of a .50 caliber," said Cockett. "I turned to Holt and shouted that we were receiving fire and at the same time felt the impact of heavy slugs. Holt yelled that he had been hit..."

My gunners, PFC David and PFC Montoya returned the fire below us," he continued. "Their quick action probably saved us."

Cockett and Holt with the chopper capable of flight despite alarming instrument readings, tried to fly into the Ba Gia com-

pound where they would be out of direct Viet Cong fire. They didn't make it.

Cockett thought before hitting the ground that the tail section separated from the chopper. The ship fell in a backward slide to the ground, landing on its side.

The two crewmen were thrown clear of the burning chopper and Cockett barely managed to escape the craft, burned on his arm and leg. CWO Holt, who had so valiantly given his life, died in the burning ship July 5.

A nearby Marine Corps helicopter came to the aid of the stricken crew a quarter mile from Ba Gia and flew them to safety.



MEDAL OF HONOR — Lt. Col. Lloyd L. "Scooter" Burke, Medal of Honor holder, left, and Maj. Gen. Ben Sternberg, MACV Assistant Chief of Staff of Personnel, view elements of the 1st Infantry Division arriving Bien Hoa Air Base on July 14. Burke was wounded by Viet Cong on July 22.

▲ Wounded Sergeant Blasts

(Continued from page 1)

mission in the beginning," stated the captain. "I was coming out of the team house when I felt a concussion in front of me that ripped at my legs."

"I took a few more steps and a second blast got my arms. I still kept going but a third knocked me down. I couldn't walk or stand so I crawled into a bunker."

Communications with the camp were broken. "When it all started," said Carpenter, "I contacted the Black Virgin Mountain radio station and shouted, 'We're being hit! We're being hit!'"

"When the air strikes

came in," said Carpenter, "They had trouble finding us. Visibility was about 100 feet but I directed the aircraft by radio."

The pilots began strafing the walls to keep the VC from climbing into the camp. "We had to move back to the inner perimeter when the strafing started," said Cheatham.

"As we pulled back, I saw stacks of VC dead where they were cut down."

Contact was broken in the early morning. The attempt to overrun the camp failed and the VC sustained heavy losses. Some 150 of their dead lay strewn around the camp.



Viet Cong-Launched Grenade Injures Medal Of Honor Holder In Chopper

Saigon (CIB)— U.S. Army Lt. Col. Lloyd L. "Scooter" Burke, a hero of the Korean Conflict and a Medal of Honor holder with the 1st Division's 2nd Brigade encamped near Bien Hoa Airfield was one of six Americans injured in a Viet Cong incident July 22.

A passenger in a UH-1B helicopter observing 2nd Brigade operations, Col. Burke was injured when the helicopter engaged Viet Cong troops that had been hidden in a secret tunnel which caved in under the weight of an Army bulldozer.

A Viet Cong fired grenade exploded just outside the chopper co-pilot's window inflicting shrapnel wounds on Burke and two others in

the helicopter. The pilot was forced to make a controlled emergency landing. Burke also suffered a fractured left leg.

One of two communists captured during the melee was carrying an M-79 grenade launcher, believed to be the weapon that put the chopper out of commission.

Col. Burke, of Stuttgart, Ark., not only holds the Medal of Honor but also the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters.

DATELINE

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. AIR ACTIVITY

USAF activity decreased slightly for the reporting period except for visual reconnaissance. U.S. Army aviation units continued to support U.S. Army, USMC and RVN ground forces with airmobile operations and suppressive fire. Marine jets flew 430 sorties, Navy flew 189. This was a record for Navy in-country sorties, but it was exceeded July 15 when 216 Navy sorties were flown in IV Corps.

▲ Brothers Serve

(Continued from page 1)

with the Second Air Division Directorate of Intelligence at Tan Son Nhut Airfield.

Paul, who has 24 years service, is the NCOIC of the Intelligence Capabilities Section. Thomas, who has 20 years service, is NCOIC of the Intelligence Targets Material Section.

This is the first time the brothers have been assigned together, even though their careers have been almost identical.

The Rudd brothers are on a temporary duty in Vietnam and will return to different stateside bases upon completion of duties.

▲ Seabees...

(Continued from page 1)

only until the danger is past.

Working in this manner, the Seabees at Chu Lai have recently completed an 8,000 foot taxiway and an 8,000 foot main runway.

There is still much to do at Chu Lai — enough to keep the Seabees working until next year. And despite darkness and frequent interruptions from snipers, they continue to work on more taxiways, freight and passenger terminals and pier and harbor facilities.

▲ President Johnson's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

Hiep were among thousands fleeing communist rule in the North in 1954. They resettled in a hamlet some 10 miles south of Saigon.

Farming proved difficult for the new settlers. A proper crop yield could not be insured. The soil's acid content was too high. The United States Operations Mission (USOM), under the self-help development program, gave the people 51 looms to weave goods.

The people were industrious and increased the number of looms. They used

the money from the sale of mats and materials to buy more equipment. Today, they have 260 looms.

The Viet Cong threat is constant. Repeated attacks have been launched on the hamlet to destroy what the people had painstakingly built. The VC try to suppress initiative and industry.

U.S. Senator Thomas J. Dodd visited the hamlet three months ago when the people presented him with a woven straw rug for President Johnson.



PRESENTATION — Chau Hiep hamlet chief, Doan Quy Lieu, left, receives a picture of U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson presented to the people of Chau Hiep by Army Col. William E. Shedd, senior advisor to the Capital Military Region. Behind them hangs the framed "letter of thanks" from the President to the residents.

**THE OBSERVER'S
PHONE NUMBER:**

60174