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ASIAN ALLIES IN VIET-NAM

Departure of all but 220 of the Philippines' contingent of 1,450 army men still leaves nearly 70,000 from the Asian mainland and Pacific Basin islands deployed on the battlefields of South Vietnam.

More than 10 per cent — 8,900 men — come from the South Pacific island-nations of Australia and New Zealand. The smaller island of Taiwan has sent the smallest military contingent: 31 officers from the Republic of China's army. Largest of the contingents — 48,853 — comes from the Republic of Korea. And Vietnam's neighbor, Thailand, has committed 11,568 army, navy and air force men to the anti-communist struggle.

The Philippines Civic Action Group (PHILCAG) ended 40 months of service as a public works construction and rural development force in the Tay Ninh area 80 kilometers northwest of Saigon. Leaving behind a 220-man PHILCON medical team, it returned to its army bases on the island of Luzon because of the Philippine

government's political and budget problems, compounded by the manpower requirements of its own rural development program and its anti-Huk military campaign.

While PHILCAG did not come to Vietnam primarily to fight, it has lost nine men killed and 64 wounded in clashes with the Viet Cong since it set up its base camp in July 1966. The latest casualty — one man wounded — was suffered last November 29 when Viet Cong gunners mortared PHILCAG headquarters in Tay Ninh for the second time in a week. The Filipino soldiers, engaged solely in civic action work with Vietnamese villagers, included a security battalion as well as medical, engineering and specialist troops, but PHILCAG did not constitute a combat force. The Republic of Korea (ROK) Army sent its 4,000-man Dove unit, a noncombat engineering construction group very similar to PHILCAG, but the great majority of Korean forces are in two combat divisions of 17,000 men each. Thai-

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land, Australia and New Zealand also have sent combat troops. China maintains a contingent of military advisers on political warfare and psychological operations.

PHILCAG troops left in time to get home for the islands' biggest festival, the Christmas season, which Filipinos celebrate from December 24 to January 6. They are being transported to Manila aboard two Philippine Navy LSTs.

For the future, says General Manuel T. Yan, Philippines Armed Forces chief, «other forms of assistance to Vietnam could be considered.» During Congressional debates in Manila, expanded medical teams were proposed as an alternative to PHILCAG.

The philosophy behind Filipino aid to Vietnam was summed up in PHILCAG's motto: «To build, not destroy; to bring happiness, not sorrow; to develop good will, not hatred.»

The Philippines first sent aid to Vietnam in 1953 when a small group of civilian doctors and nurses arrived under the auspices of Operation Brotherhood to treat the ills of villagers. A larger group replaced it in July 1964. Called PHILCON — the Philippines Contingent — it was composed of surgeons, physicians, nurses, psychological experts and rural development workers from the armed forces. PHILCAG replaced PHILCON in mid-1966 after the Vietnamese government requested stepped-up aid. Now PHILCON is revived with the current 220-man team slated to end its tour in June 1970.

First under Major General Gaudencio V. Tobias and then under Brigadier General Ceferino S. Carreon, PHILCAG expanded its operational area from Tay Ninh province to portions of the neighboring provinces of Hau Nghia, Dinh Tuong, Binh Duong and Gia Dinh. Its mission was divided into four categories:

* engineering and civic action (ECAP);

* medical and dental care





Tay Ninh province officials present Brig. Gen. Ceferino S. Carreon (top left) with award at sendoff ceremony for PHILCAG troops (above). Thai soldiers hand out grain captured from the Viet Cong to villagers in the Bear Cat area. Korean troops perform taekwon-do, karate-type of combat.



(MEDCAP);

* miscellaneous environmental improvement (MEIP), and

* PHILCAG-to-people program (PPP).

PHILCAG has built seven schools, including a 26-room high school for 1,200 girls in Tay Ninh city. It has constructed 116 kilometers of roads and 11 bridges, plus a variety of projects including 54 refugee centers, 225 community projects, 10 demonstration farms, 10 towers, 194 culvert lines and 169 assorted buildings. It has donated more than 910,000 pounds of food to villagers, much of it among the 1,065 families resettled in the refugee centers that the Filipinos helped construct and administer. Its medics treated their millionth patient early in December.

PHILCAG will leave behind a number of trained and experienced Vietnamese co-workers. The Filipinos trained 32 **Hoi Chanh** — former Viet Cong who surrendered under the government's **Chieu Hoi** (Open Arms) program of amnesty — in equipment operation and maintenance. They also trained 138 health supervisors and 217 vocational training instructors.

In the PHILCAG-to-people program, a spare-time activity, the Filipino soldiers «adopted» 14 hamlets and helped the people in a variety of ways to raise their standards of living. They also gave assistance to 194 other hamlets.

Korean Contingent

The Korean contingent celebrated the fifth anniversary of its arrival in Vietnam this September. The First ROK Mobile Army Surgical Hospital was established in the coastal resort city of Vung Tau on September 13, 1964. It was followed by the Dove unit — officially, the ROK Construction Support Group — on February 15, 1965. In September of that year the fighting units arrived, including the Tiger and White Horse infantry divisions, the Blue Dragon Marine Brigade (6,238 men), the 100th Logistical Command (part of the



Korean trooper prepares to enter VC underground bunker in Tuy Hoa area.

Army's 41,779 men), the Naval Transportation Group (754 men of Seagull) and the ROK Air Force's Support Group (82 men).

With headquarters in Saigon, the ROKs set up a field command in Nha Trang that directs operations in the provinces of Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa and Ninh Thuan — a tactical area of responsibility covering 6,812 square kilometers.

Lieutenant General Lee Sae Ho, who assumed command of ROK forces in Vietnam from Lieutenant General Chae Myung Shin on May 1, 1969, has vowed a «no truce for us» policy until peace is restored. «Both South Vietnam and South Korea,» he says, «are heading toward the same direction and have the same common enemy, the Communists. I believe that without the achievement of peace in South Vietnam we can never expect peace in South Korea or security of Asian nations.»

Such is the reputation earned by the Koreans on the battlefields in the past four years that Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops, according to captured documents, have been given orders to avoid contact unless victory is certain. The ROKs have averaged a «kill ratio» of 10-to-1 — losing one man for every 10 of the enemy killed. Since 1965 the ROKs have conducted 474 battalion-size operations and 264,335 smaller operations. They have killed 28,566 of the enemy, taken 4,091 prisoners and captured 1,017 crew-served weapons and 13,160 individual weapons. In that time Korean casualties totaled 2,375 killed, 5,633 wounded and three missing.

The Koreans are proud of their combat record, but even prouder of their civic action programs. Each ROK officer, during his one-year tour, adopts a Vietnamese family. Each officer and enlisted man contributes a portion of his daily rice ration to a civic action

In war: peace programs

stock distributed to needy families. Soldiers assist the Vietnamese in their day-to-day chores or in planting or harvesting crops. Because of their common experiences, Koreans and Vietnamese have developed mutual appreciation and friendship, says Major General Yu Chang Hun, the White Horse division commander. «We Koreans had a difficult time rebuilding after our war,» he says, «and the lessons learned then are valuable here.»

Traditional oriental courtesy has been institutionalized as part of the ROKs' civic action program, with soldiers making visits to 72,775 village elders in their «respect for the aged» project. Within the Korean tactical area, 167,274 Vietnamese have taken part in ROK-organized athletic contests, 21,397 mothers and their children have watched uniformed Korean entertainers, and 317,302 people have attended their musical variety shows.

In relief projects, the ROKs have distributed 1,016 tons of rice and 12,233 tons of other foodstuffs to the needy, in addition to 165,206 gallons of salad oil, 117,169 gallons of milk, 224,782 items of clothing, 31,562 blankets and 5,569 sets of tools.

The Koreans believe their civic action work has contributed to the success of the Vietnamese government's revolutionary development program in their tactical area of responsibility, and they point out that in recent local elections voter turnout has ranged from 88.9 to 91.5 per cent of registered electors.

Although all units have strong civic action programs, the Dove unit specializes in that type of work. «We do not have a combat job unless attacked by the enemy,» explains Staff Sergeant Lee Sung-Un, a 14-month veteran of Vietnam service in the Dove unit. «We are interested mainly in helping rebuild the economy and reconstructing bridges, roads, schools and

things like that.»

Sergeant Lee, who, like many other Koreans, speaks fluent Vietnamese, says his unit has constructed 117 kilometers of roads, 16 bridges, 59 refugee buildings and 434 refugee homes. Throughout the Koreans' tactical area, all ROK troops have built or repaired 139 bridges, 445.5 kilometers of roads, 269 classrooms, 1,401 houses, 98 temples and churches, 556 public installations and 952 other structures.

The Dove unit's biggest construction project so far is the recently opened Saigon Freeway, a belt road linking Route 1 in the Hoc Mon district with Route 4 in Binh

Chanh district. The 14.3-kilometer road bypasses Saigon, enabling traffic from the Cambodian border area to reach the populous Mekong Delta without entering the city's crowded streets. The highway not only acts as a buffer straddling what used to be a favorite Viet Cong infiltration route into Saigon, but it is expected to attract industrial enterprises to reclaimed land along both sides of the road.

The Dove unit has trained 540 Vietnamese as mechanics, dressmakers and typists. Its doctors and corpsmen have given medical treatment to 639,000 patients at dispensaries and clinics. But the biggest medical project undertaken by the ROKs is the hospital in Vung



Royal Thai Air Force officers with USAF major (center) in supply mission.

Tau, which started receiving patients in October 1964 and has treated more than 1,000 in-patients and 25,000 out-patients every year since then. Starting with 60 beds, the hospital — transferred intact from Seoul — now has 140 beds, of which 100 are reserved for Vietnamese and 40 for Koreans. Specialist treatment offered includes obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, pediatrics and neuro-surgery. The staff comprises 18 surgeons and physicians, 15 officer nurses, 26 corpsmen and 70 other enlisted men who perform various laboratory and administrative work.

The ROK Army also operates four smaller hospitals in Vietnam: the First Clearing Company at Da Nang, the Sixth Evacuation Hospital at Qui Nhon, the Ninth Mobile Army Surgical Hospital at Tuy Hoa and the 102nd Evacuation Hospital at Nha Trang. There are 193 Korean doctors, 29 dentists, four veterinarians, 102 corpsmen, 85 nurses and 2,273 enlisted men at ROK hospitals in Vietnam. Through August 1969, 219,947 Vietnamese had received surgical treatment and 211,299 had received general hospital treatment in Korean facilities.

Even before ROK doctors, construction troops and combat soldiers arrived, there were Koreans engaged in an unusual form of civic action work in Vietnam. Since December 1962 Koreans have been teaching Vietnamese the art of **taekwon-do**, a form of karate-type unarmed combat. Seventy instructors now are working at 187 centers throughout South Vietnam and have trained more than 117,800, of whom 547 have won black belts, the highest grade.

Thai Troops

The Thais' 11,259-man army force in Vietnam is the largest combat group ever to leave Thailand and fight in a foreign country. Like the Koreans, the Thais place equal emphasis on combat tactics and civic action. «We are here to fight Communists and at the same time show the people a better way of life,» says Major General Swasdi Makkaro, 49, commander of the



Soldier paints emblem of Queen's Cobras, first Thai troops in Vietnam.

Black Panther Division. A veteran of fighting against the French, the Japanese, the North Koreans and Communist guerrillas in Thailand, General Swasdi says his men are in Vietnam in the hope of making a contribution toward a lasting peace, «but first we must beat the Viet Cong.»

Thai aid to Vietnam began in October 1964 when the 56-year-old Royal Thai Air Force sent Victory Squadron I to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon. Seven pilots, seven flight engineers and two navigators flew their own C-47 transport and co-manned C-47s of the Vietnamese Air Force and the U.S Air Force. Victory Squadron II in 1966 brought with it 24 men and two C-123 Provider aircraft from Bangkok. Victory Squadron III in 1967 had a contingent of 38 men, Victory Squadron IV had 44 men and the current squadron totals 48 pilots, crew and logistics support personnel. Each month they are flying an average of 3,500 tons of

cargo and 11,000 passengers, dropping 2,500 flares in 1,000 illumination support sorties and logging nearly 1,000 flying hours. The Air Force also has 38 men at the Army's base near Saigon.

A few weeks after the arrival of Victory Squadron II, 185 officers and men of the Royal Thai Navy left Bangkok for Vietnam duty in a coastal patrol boat and an LST (landing ship, tank). Enthusiastic crowds of Thais — whose support for their nation's involvement in Vietnam is almost total — lined the waterfront to cheer the sailors of Operation Sea Horse on their way. Now the naval force totals 223 men.

When the Bangkok government agreed to the Saigon government's request for ground troops, more than 20,000 young Thais volunteered. Some 2,600 were selected for training in the jungles of Kanchanaburi province near the famous bridge spanning the River Kwai.

Sustained pressure on enemy reaps results

The regimental-sized unit was named the Queen's Cobras. Arriving in the summer of 1967, they set up camp at Bearcat, 36 kilometers southeast of Saigon, and went into action under the tactical plans of the Ninth U.S. Infantry Division.

The Cobras' first encounter with their now traditional foe, the 274th Regiment of the Fifth Viet Cong Division, was on October 29, 1967. Fifteen Thais, ambushed by a VC platoon four kilometers from Bearcat, lost eight men, but the survivors fixed bayonets and drove off the enemy in hand-to-hand fighting. They refused artillery support because of the proximity of friendly Vietnamese homes.

Like the Black Panther Division that followed them, the Cobras developed a strong civic action program. During their one-year tour they constructed 38 kilometers of roads, two bridges, a schoolhouse, a children's playground, a dispensary and an outpost for Vietnamese Regional Forces and Popular Forces militiamen. Thai doctors and corpsmen treated more than 8,000 Vietnamese patients, and the troops donated 10,000 pounds of food from their own stocks to aid needy families in the area.

The 11,259-man Black Panther Division took over from the Cobras at Bearcat in July 1968 as the Ninth U.S. Infantry Division vacated the area to move into the Mekong Delta. The Thai division includes two infantry brigades, one armored cavalry battalion with 48 APCs (armored personnel carriers), one long-range Special Forces reconnaissance unit of 100 men, an engineering unit, three artillery battalions (two equipped with 105mm howitzers and the other with 155mm howitzers), a signals battalion and logistic support elements. The Panthers also have their own Forward Air Controllers

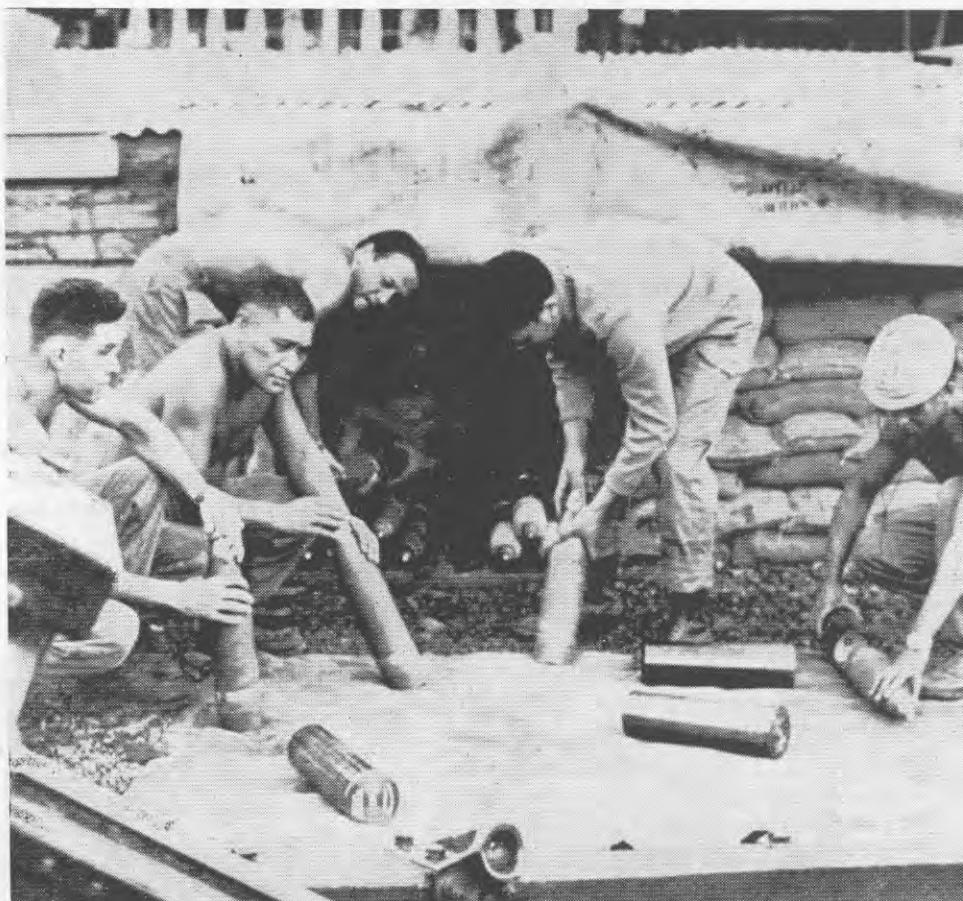
(FACs), the Sky Cobras, to pinpoint targets for tactical support aircraft.

When the division replaced the regiment, the Thai area of tactical responsibility was expanded to cover 900 square kilometers, including the Bien Hoa districts of Duc Tu, Xuan Loc, Long Thanh and Nhon Trach. Viet Cong are numerous in the jungle-covered area, which long served the enemy as an infiltration route to Saigon from the South China Sea coast. The Fifth Viet Cong Division has its headquarters hidden somewhere in those jungles.

The Thais exerted sustained pressure on the enemy, helping to

pacify populated areas and root out the VCI, the Viet Cong infrastructure cadre who seek to control the population by terror tactics. And they sought out and engaged the main-force guerrilla troops at every opportunity. «The Viet Cong move in small units and try to avoid us now,» says General Swasdi.

The biggest battles fought by the Thais were on March 16 and June 17, 1969, and both were at the Thai fire support base of Loc An, 28 kilometers east of Saigon. In the first attack much of the fighting was hand-to-hand because sappers penetrated the Thai perimeter. The 400 defenders killed 168 Viet Cong and saved the base, losing two dead and 19 wounded. In the return engagement three months later, the Viet Cong used human wave tactics, but again failed, leaving 212 dead on the battlefield. The Thais suffered nine dead and 16 wounded. Captured documents revealed that the Viet Cong regimental commander was sacked be-



New Zealand battery men support Australian troops in Phuoc Tuy province.

cause his force, superior in numbers and firepower to the Thai defenders, had failed to overrun the Loc An base.

The original Black Panther Division began rotating home in July 1969 and was replaced by a new division bearing the same name. By September 1969 Thai forces had conducted 943 company-size operations, made 327 significant contacts with the enemy, killed 1,034 Viet Cong, taken 20 prisoners and captured 284 weapons. Thai casualties were 169 killed and 891 wounded.

First Lieutenant Pricha C., a West Point Military Academy graduate now a liaison officer attached to division headquarters, says Thai troops have a natural advantage in dealing with the Vietnamese. «We are both Asian,» he says. «We have a similar history and culture, and most of us are Buddhists. We can communicate more easily because our language is also tonal.»

Captain Supit Iemchuen, a psychological warfare officer, says that every hamlet in the area is visited at least once a day. «All face-to-face work,» he says, «is done by Vietnamese-speaking Thais.» Psychological operations also include the distribution of 355,000 leaflets so far, and aerial or ground broadcasts totaling seven hours and 35 minutes a week.

Black Panther doctors and medics treat more than 100 Vietnamese every day. The Panthers have cleared 354 hectares of land for agricultural purposes, and they have constructed US\$ 1,500,000 worth of buildings and other facilities. Projects have included 89 kilometers of roads, six schools, nine public buildings, two children's playgrounds, two police stations, two Buddhist temples and four wells.

Says Lieutenant General Chalong Young Chareon, 48, commander of Royal Thai Volunteer Forces/Vietnam, «We are getting experience in carrying out operations with other nations' forces and the lessons learned will help us prevent communist aggression in Thailand. Our aim is to repel Communist

With victory our thanks

aggression here in Vietnam and to restore peace and security to the area.» Asked by the newsmen on December 4 whether Thailand planned to withdraw its troops, the general replied: «We can't afford to withdraw from Vietnam because Thailand and the Republic of Vietnam are good friends. We are also fighting in order to prevent the war from coming to our own doorstep.»

Aussie Troops

Australian forces in Vietnam are practically self-contained. Their three infantry battalions can be supported by Australian tanks and APCs, by Australian helicopters and jet bombers and by Australian naval gunfire. Casualties are treated in Australian hospitals. All logistics support is Australian provided. And like the New Zealanders, they pay for every bullet and every bandage used. Aside from the United States, no other allied nation in Vietnam can boast a similarly broad-based component.

This represents a massive buildup of strength since Australia first committed 30 military advisers to Vietnam seven years ago.

The Canberra government sent ground troops to Vietnam in 1965 to join other Australian elements, which then included an Air Force «Caribou» transport squadron. The ground troops were first deployed in Bien Hoa province with the 101st U.S. Airborne Division. But in early 1966, with the arrival of a third infantry battalion, the Australians were given their own tactical area of responsibility in Phuoc Tuy province and a task force base was carved out of an old rubber plantation at Nui Dat, 46 kilometers southeast of Saigon.

Units which followed included Iroquois Helicopter Squadron No. 9 with 31 «Huey» choppers and 50 pilots, Squadron No. 2 flying eight

twin-jet Canberra bombers, a Daring-class destroyer, artillery and armored units, a team of Navy divers and a complex logistics support system with headquarters at Vung Tau. A former aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney, is the Australians' principal troopship, and each year she makes frequent trips from Sydney transporting men, supplies and equipment to Vietnam.

About 40 per cent of the 7,000-man Royal Australian Army contingent in Vietnam are conscripted National Servicemen and the rest either volunteers or regulars. The strength of the other two services remains constant at 300 for the Navy, excluding the 350-man crew of the destroyer **HMAS Vendetta**, and 700 for the Air Force.

«This is the first time since World War II we have had a large professional force fighting overseas,» says Major General R.A. Hay, commander of the Australian Task Force. «I say professional because the National Servicemen are indistinguishable in appearance or ability from regular soldiers.»

The most significant battle fought by the Aussies was on August 18-19, 1966, at Long Tan, seven kilometers south of Nui Dat. Delta Company of the Sixth Royal Australian Regiment came into contact with a large communist force believed massing for an attack on Australian Task Force headquarters. The enemy included the D-445th Viet Cong Regiment, an unidentified North Vietnamese Army regiment and a local-force VC battalion. The battle was fought from late afternoon until early morning in continual driving rain. Delta Company was surrounded but held out until relieved in the morning. At one stage the Aussies almost ran out of ammunition but were resupplied by helicopter. Tanks, APCs, artillery and helicopter gunships mopped up



As Operation «Quyet Thang» (We Strive for Victory) jumps off in Phuoc Tuy province, Australian troops attached to a South Vietnamese battalion ford a stream with guns ready. There are 8,000 Aussie troops in South Vietnam.

in the morning after the Communists were routed, Australian casualties were 18 dead and 22 wounded. The action produced the largest number of enemy casualties in a single engagement up to that time — 245 dead — and earned Delta Company the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation.

Elite among the Australian forces are the 100 warrant and commissioned officers who work as advisers to Vietnamese Army units and Montagnard mountain tribesmen. Their war is a very personal

one and they have paid dearly for their reputations: 26 have been killed and 61 wounded. Four have won the Victoria Cross, two posthumously.

Warrant Officer (Class 2) Kevin «Dasher» Wheatley, 28, was the first Australian to win the British Commonwealth's highest decoration. He earned his posthumous Victoria Cross when he refused to abandon a seriously wounded American adviser. He was seen moments before his death holding grenades in each hand as the

Viet Cong squad he had been holding off single-handedly at last closed in. Other winners were Major Peter Badcoe, 33, who received the Cross posthumously, and Warrant Officers (Class 2) Rayene Stewart Simpson, 42, and Keith Payne, 36.

Since 1962 the Australians have lost 303 men killed and 1,629 wounded. They do not pay too much attention to body counts and keep few figures on enemy casualties, but it is estimated that they have accounted for more than

2,800 enemy troops.

Like the other allied nations in Vietnam, the Australians devote considerable time to pacification work and civic action programs in the villages within their tactical area of responsibility. Earlier this year General Hay ordered that henceforth these activities rate higher priorities than combat missions. As a result two engineering units, the 17th Construction Squadron and the First Field Engineering Squadron, were detached from combat units and joined the enlarged civic action program. Now more than 800 troops have been added to the 54-man First Civic Action Group and are permanently engaged in helping Vietnamese villagers.

Each district in Phuoc Tuy province has a resident Australian, fluent in Vietnamese, who mixes with the people to determine their needs and advises civic action teams on projects. All combat units now include such teams. Each team consists of four to six men, with at least two of them skilled in trades useful to local villagers.

«These teams usually stay overnight in a particular village, and this helps to establish rapport,» says Major M.J. Flanagan, a civic affairs officer. «So far the scheme has worked exceedingly well. Many of our National Servicemen were skilled tradesmen before entering the army and they perform very useful functions.»

Twenty-eight dispensaries have been built by the Australians, including one on Long Son island off the coast near Vung Tau. The people of Long Son soon will join with the Australians in building a large water storage lake and piping system valued at close to US\$ 500,000. The island's people will supply the labor and the Australians will import the materials.

Other projects constructed in Australian civic action projects include 342 kilometers of roads, 19 bridges, 103 classrooms, 13 refugee centers, 36 wells, four police stations and 12 windmills for pumping irrigation water into paddies. Local community programs in Vung Tau and Phan Rang also are

supported by Australian Air Force personnel stationed nearby.

New Zealand

New Zealand, a peaceful nation of 2,740,000 men, women and children — fewer than Saigon's population — first sent military aid to Vietnam in August 1965. It dispatched a 135-man artillery battery to support Australian troops. Now two New Zealand infantry companies totaling 294 men also are integrated with the Sixth Royal Australian Regiment/New Zealand (ANZAC). The ANZAC designation — Australia-New Zealand Army Corps — goes back to World War II when Australian and New Zealand troops fought together on African and Mediterranean fronts.

Other New Zealand contributions include a 27-man Special Air Service (SAS) troop which forms part of the First Australian SAS Squadron; a logistics support group at Vung Tau; a 16-man Army, Navy and Air Force medical team at Bong Son in Binh Dinh province, and six Royal New Zealand Air Force pilots (four helicopter pilots and two Forward Air Controllers). Altogether there now are in Vietnam 548 Kiwis, as they are known — a name derived from their national symbol of a flightless bird the size of a chicken.

A high percentage of these New Zealanders who have volunteered for service in Vietnam are Maoris. Descended from the Polynesians, in earlier times they were a warrior race and even today young Maoris have a love of action that is uncommon in most societies. Says Captain Michael Farland, 27, a Sandhurst graduate and New Zealand company executive officer: «Field Marshal Rommel had enormous respect for Maori soldiers in the desert campaigns of the 1940s. They are what I call naturals.»

The Kiwi medical team at Bong Son is commanded by a reserve Air Force officer well known in New Zealand as a pioneer flying doctor. Wing Commander Allen White says his team has treated 41,600 Vietnamese patients and performed 1,207 dental operations

since August 1966.

Kiwis have suffered 23 dead and 116 wounded in Vietnam — figures higher than New Zealand's losses in the Korea war. But the nation is determined to stand by its commitment to Vietnam. Says Prime Minister Keith Holyoake: «My Government has no proposals whatever for any change in the size or shape of our military forces in Vietnam.»

Nationalist China

Smallest and least publicized of the Asian military participants in the Vietnam war is the Republic of China. Since October 1964 the Chinese Nationalist Army has maintained a contingent of high-ranking advisers in Vietnam. At present there are 31 in the contingent under Lieutenant General Hsu Yu-jih.

China's mission is to establish and maintain a political warfare system (POLWAR). In the last five years its advisers have assisted in promoting an anticommunist ideology in the Vietnamese armed forces, set up POLWAR cadre training centers and given advice on psychological operations, the «Open Arms» amnesty campaign and rural development programs.

«The modern war,» says General Hsu, «is what is known as a revolutionary war, a war of ideology, a war between two parties with different thoughts. Political warfare must be employed to match the military operations in order to win the war. The leaders of the Vietnamese armed forces are convinced of the need to employ the political warfare system. Should they succeed in developing such a system, final victory will draw much nearer.»

The chairman of the Free World Armed Forces Advisory Committee, Lieutenant General Tran Ngoc Tam, 43, said the contributions of Vietnam's allies have been of inestimable value to his country's fight against aggression.

«How can we say thanks?» he asks. «We will repay them first by winning this war.»

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