THE HURRICANE

APRIL 1969 NUMBER EIGHTEEN
A PUBLICATION OF II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

Saigon University Co-ed

Color Bearing Units

7th Cavalry

"Garry Owen"

"Garry Owen, Sir," salutes the proud soldier of the 7th Cavalry. Since the days of General George Armstrong Custer, the words "Garry Owen," have marked one of the Army's finest regiments.

To the men of the 7th Cav, it is more than a nickname. "Garry Owen" is a motto, a call to arms and its famous fighting song. Selected by then Lieutenant Colonel Custer, "Garry Owen" owes its origin to the Fifth Royal Irish Lancers. Stationed at Garryowen near Limerick, Ireland, the Lancers used to sing the song at drinking bouts. Garry Owen means Owen's garden.

As a motto, it is found at the top of the symbolic crest of the 7th Cav. The golden horseshoe with seven nailholes signifies the cavalry, while the buckskin gauntlet and fist with cavalry saber recalls the signal to charge. The twisted blue and gold emblem at the bottom alludes to the Indian days.

The various elements of the 7th Cav crest call forth memories of a colorful past that began at Fort Riley, Kansas, September 24, 1866. From then until 1878, the "Garry Owens" fought the Commanches, Cheyenne, Sioux and Nez Perce Indians. One of history's most famous and controversial battles occurred on June 25, 1876, at Little Big Horn, Montana. There, Sioux chief Sitting Bull annihilated General Custer and 264 men. Despite the outcome, the battle distinguished the 7th Cav in setting the pattern for fighting men in courage and devotion to country beyond the call of duty.

After serving from 1878 to 1915 in the Philippines and on the Mexican Punitive Expedition, the 7th Cav became part of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Strains of "Garry Owen" have since struck terror in the hearts of aggressors in the Pacific during WW II and Korea.

Three battalions, the 1st, 2d and 5th of the 7th Cav, are in Vietnam today. From the Ia Drang Valley to the Cambodian Border of III Corps, they charge into airmobile combat as part of the First Team. Although the horse and saber have faded into history, the "Garry Owen" spirit of the 7th Cavalry never wanes.

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SP4 Gary Rausch, a writer/photographer on the HURRICANE Staff, captured the grace and loveliness of Miss Phan Thuy Phuong, a law student at Saigon University, for this month's front cover. Saigon University's campus, like that of many large American universities, spreads throughout downtown Saigon. SP4 Ken Heinrichs has written an informative story on progress at the university beginning on page 31.

The back cover, photographed by SP5 Jerry Cleveland, illustrates the beginning of what may be one of Vietnam's biggest success stories, the new broiler industry. Mr. J.P. Grant has written a comprehensive story on this subject for HURRICANE readers. See page 21.

In an effort to inform new readers, the HURRICANE Staff is taking another look at the provinces in III Corps. SP5 Arnold Braeske journeyed to Hau Nghia and discovered that life is still exciting in this contested province.

The Editor


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HAU NGHIA P. 16


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53D SIGNAL BATTALION *Photo Support*

KATUM

A Nice Place to Visit But . . .

by Specialist 5 Arnold Braeske

CLEVELAND

Special Forces medic treats young CIDG soldier for minor wounds

CLEVELAND

Resupply flights are always a welcome sight landing three times a week at Katum

To aircraft pilots circling down into Katum, the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp stands out as a geometric oddity. The outline of a huge star, made up of sandbagged huts and bunkers, can be seen for miles across northern Tay Ninh's bleak forests. Aside from this starshaped camp, its clearing and its tiny airstrip, there is nothing to see here but endless stretches of timber. Cambodia is four miles away. The sleepy village of Mo Cong, nearest populated area in Vietnam, is 20 miles across the woods to the southwest.

Even though this single, remote, Green Beret-advised CIDG camp is familiar to only a few Americans, the Viet Cong and NVA are well aware of its presence.

Planes and helicopters coming to Katum must spiral down directly above the camp to avoid harassing anti-aircraft and small arms fire from nearby woods.

CLEVELAND

CIDG soldiers man small, isolated camps in the woods near the Cambodian border

Cambodia Is Only Four Miles Away

Since February 1968, when the CIDG soldiers and the .10-man Green Beret "A" Team moved into Katum, more than 10,000 enemy rockets and mortars have been lofted into the camp by enemy troops in the surrounding woods.

"I think they use Katum as a graduation exercise for their artillery school trainees," joked Specialist 4 Richard VanDalinda, light weapons specialist for the Katum "A" Team.

The reason for the continual harassment of Katum is that the camp is a thorn in the enemy's side—exactly what it was intended to be. Katum sits in a forested area of northern War Zone C, a region that has been traditionally used by enemy forces for large, well-established basecamps.

Because it was once a secure sanctuary, the Katum camp's location, its artillery and the CIDG patrols that emanate from it constitute a threat to enemy forces. The camp disrupts a flow of men and messages that once went unmolested.

The camp itself was built at the intersection of two small forest roads. Years ago, the lumber-producing village of Katum was located on this corner. As with this entire region of War Zone C, the inhabitants abandoned their homes for a safer life to the south, near Tay Ninh City.

Built in three months, the final shape of the Katum camp was that of a large star.

"A star is the easiest kind of shape to defend," said one of the team members. "With men out on all the star points you get a good field of fire."

Outside of the camp and its barbed wire perimeter lies a 2,900-foot long resupply airstrip. The camp averages three Caribou resupply flights a week from the 535th Tactical Airlift Squadron in Vung Tau. Katum is also resupplied by fifteen C-123 Provider flights a month from Phan Rang and eight Chinook flights per month from Cu Chi.

If any pilots have misgivings about flying to Katum, it is understandable. In addition to a tricky approach pattern and the danger of anti-aircraft fire, they sometimes run into trouble while on the ground.

"They'll often drop mortars in here when the choppers or planes touch down," explained VanDalinda. "They figure there'll be people running out to meet the aircraft and they drop them in then."

The CIDG soldiers regularly patrol the forest around the camp to discourage the enemy from preparing for ground attacks

CLEVELAND

Every volley of incoming rounds is answered immediately, and usually accurately, by a barrage from the artillery pieces in the camp. The unit stationed there is Battery C, 6th Battalion, 15th Artillery.

Although mortaring is a daily occurrence at Katum, it gets worse as the tactical situation gets more tense. During the month of August 1968, Katum received a total of 1,700 incoming rockets and mortars. On Aug. 19, 150 rounds of 82 mm mortar dropped in within 10 minutes.

The small Green Beret "A" Team, together with the Vietnamese Special Forces Team and several hundred CIDG soldiers, have held off two large scale ground attacks on Katum.

At 1 AM on Aug. 18, a VC battalion charged the camp's barbed wire perimeter following a rocket, mortar and tear gas barrage.

"They were dressed in black shorts and camouflaged jackets and all carried rucksacks," the "A" Team leader said.

The Viet Cong penetrated the camp's outer berm, withdrew and attacked again. Contact finally broke at 10:00 in the morning. Fifty-six VC lay dead in and around the camp. Thirty-one people from the camp had been killed, 15 of them CIDG dependents.

The second attack, on Sept. 25, was shorter and more disastrous for the attackers. The 5th VC Sapper Battalion lost 141 men in three hours of early morning fighting. The Katum camp used flareships, Spooky (minigun-equipped C-47) and small arms, and fired artillery point-blank to break up the attack.

Aside from these attacks and occasional combat losses on operations around Katum, the camp's casualty rate is relatively low. Most of those injured have minor fragment wounds from incoming mortar rounds.

"No one has been killed in the camp since I've been here," said Sergeant Dave Houpe, a Special Forces medic who joined the team in October, 1968.

A typical scene often follows a mortar attack at Katum. Houpe, a 22-year-old from Memphis, Tenn., makes his way to the dispensary-bunker when the firing stops. Within the next few minutes, three or four young CIDG soldiers with small fragment wounds begin straggling in from around the star-shaped camp.

If Houpe recognizes one of them, he smiles and begins shouting, "Medevac! Dustoff!".

The young CIDG grins, "No. Ti ti (very small)." He came in to get a bandage.

Houpe grins, "Medevac! You go Bien Hoa, maybe Vung Tau!"

"Ti ti. No sweat."

If someone is seriously injured, though, a dustoff for the hospital at Tay Ninh is immediately called. Aircraft in the Katum area willingly take injured men out of the camp.

Any of the 10 men on the Katum "A" Team can function as a medic, if necessary.

"Every position on the team is interchangeable," explained the team's leader, Captain Francis Kane. "We're all trained to know everyone else's job."

As a result, the two Green Berets who accompany CIDG companies on sweep operations outside Katum can serve as medics, heavy or light weapons specialists, and radio communications and intelligence specialists.

The camp at Katum does not have to rely completely on itself for support

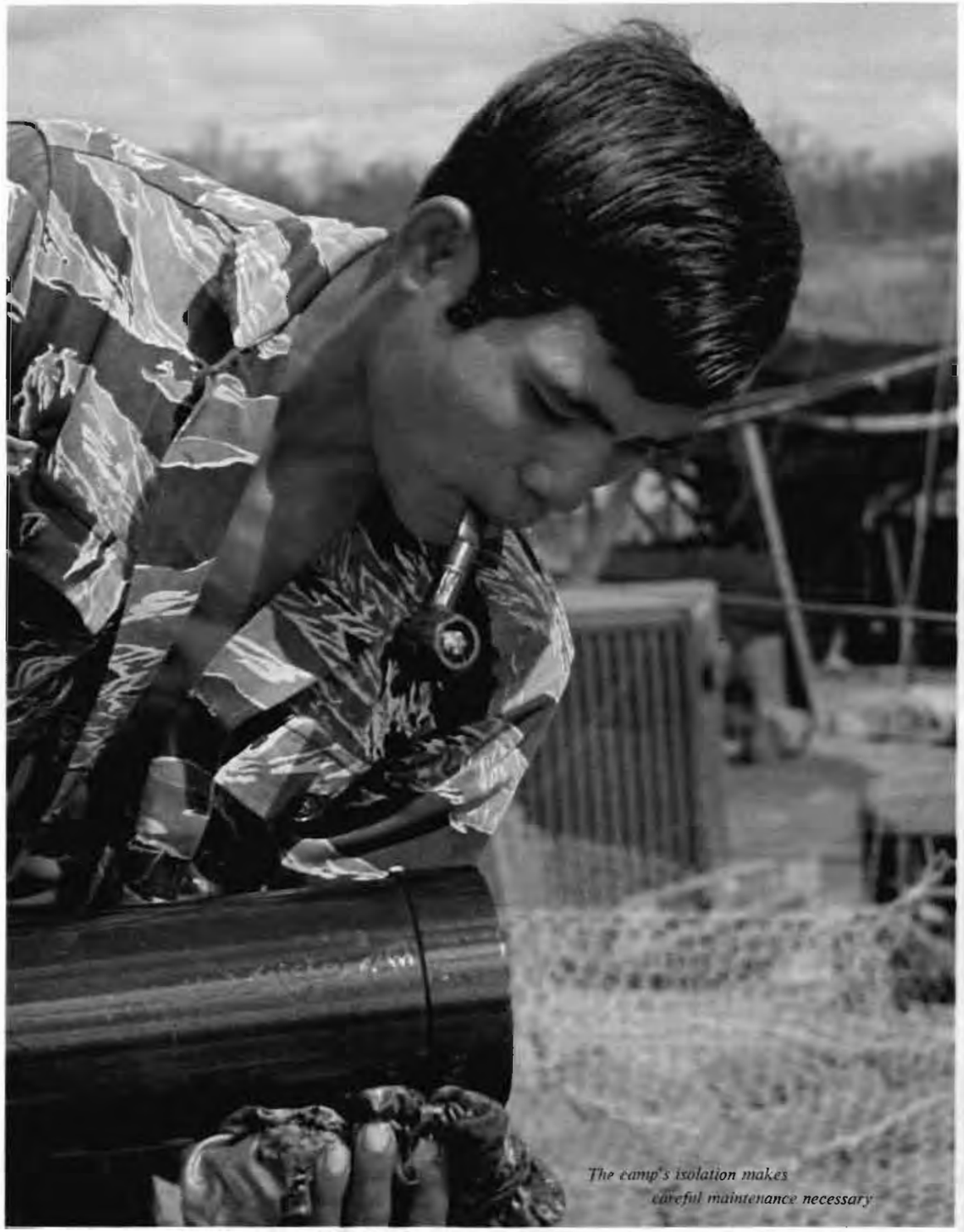
Engineers are sent to Katum periodically to repair its airstrip. All supplies, except for water, come by aircraft from external sources. The 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division has provided defensive support for the camp on occasion. On any given day, Forward Air Control (FAC) spotter planes can be seen circling above the woods around Katum. The camp has also called on jet fighter-bombers for airstrikes just beyond its treeline, and has had B-52 strikes in as close as one mile away.

Although the camp at Katum receives this aid and defensive support from the outside and maintains continual radio contact with other units, it is still very much an isolated camp. The roads on which Katum is built dwindle away into Tay Ninh's forests and the closest friendly population remains 20 miles away.

The camp is completely resupplied by air

CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND



The camp's isolation makes careful maintenance necessary

BOSCARINE

Father Bolton's Parish

Wherever the Action Is . . .

by Sergeant Leonard Boscarine

Last year Father (CPT) Paul Bolton was the assistant pastor of a large suburban parish church in a Rhode Island resort area. This year Father Bolton has a different church, a sandbagged two-man Army tent complete with its own underground bunker.

Chaplain Bolton of Providence, R.I., is chaplain of the First Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, which is fighting north of Saigon. His parish is the field Night Defensive Position (NDP). Manning the Defensive Position are cavalrymen of almost every Christian religion.

"Actually I have a pretty good mixture in my parish this week. The bunker next to mine houses a mortar crew from the 1st Infantry Division. The village across the road has a few Christians, and there are a lot of GIs from supporting units that attend services," Chaplain Bolton said.

"A lot of people ask me why I left civilian life and came here," said Chaplain Bolton. "I really can't say that there was one particular reason for volunteering to come here. I wanted to be with people who need me, and I wanted to do my part over here. It didn't seem fair for me to stay in the States while all these guys are fighting for their country."

"You really can't appreciate the terrific job that these men are doing until you sit down and talk to them. They're the greatest fighting machine the world has ever known, and yet they're nothing more than the guys next door."

Fingering the mosquito netting stretched across the tent's doorway, Chaplain Bolton waved to a young soldier passing by. Then he sat down on his cot. The cot, covered with a poncho to protect it from the dust, was the only item of furniture in the tent.

"Actually life out here is pretty much the same as being a pastor in civilian life," he said. "I'm still dealing with people and their problems, and I'm still trying to help them."

"Out here I have much more personal contact with the soldiers than I ever had with my parishoners in the States," the chaplain commented. "In the States I saw the church members on Sunday and it was a rare occasion if I saw them the rest of the week. Here I live with my parishioners, and it's a big advantage over civilian life. In a year's time I feel that I will get to know the people I'm living with, and they will get to know me as well. I feel I'm able to make a great deal of headway under these circumstances, as opposed to my once-a-week encounter with the parishoners in the States."

Being a Vietnam field chaplain has other benefits.

"Now I appreciate holy days like Easter and Christmas much more. For a civilian priest holy times are a lot of hard work, little sleep, and extra services. Here our celebrations are much simpler. For once, since I became a priest, I have time during a holy day to relax and reflect upon its true meaning.

"My favorite time is the early evening. The men usually sit around in their bunkers then—perhaps sipping a can of soda or smoking a cigarette. They're relaxed and you really get to know them—especially the ones that I can help."

To the soldiers who man the NDP, Chaplain Bolton is more than just a problem solver. To quote a dust-covered cavalryman, "Father Bolton is an unofficial banker, legal advisor, investment counselor, marriage counselor, Dear Abby, and good friend all wrapped up into one cigar-smoking package."

The field troops sometimes find it impossible to leave their work to take care of personal matters such as banking their paychecks. Father Bolton takes care of these matters during his weekly chaplain's meeting at the Regiment's Blackhorse basecamp.

"Since arriving here I've experienced a few surprises," said Chaplain Bolton. "I've found that soldiers who frequently flirt with death during operations don't suddenly become extremely religious. Their religious feelings are about the same as those of the civilians back in the so-called 'Land of the Big PX'. I think this is a sign that most soldiers over here are personally satisfied with their religious beliefs."

For a field chaplain, life has some tender moments.

"When a guy gets killed here, the other soldiers don't really get over it until after our memorial service for the dead soldier. The men go around edgy and nervous. As soon as possible, we hold a memorial service, and it's always crowded because everyone who is not working attends. I guess it's their way of saying goodbye. After the service, the guys put the soldier's memory in the back of their minds and go on like before. No mention is made of him anymore, it's as if nothing happened."

Chaplain Bolton was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in June 1962, and was assigned to St. Francis Church in Wakefield, R.I. In September 1962, he became assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Woonsocket, R.I. Later he was an assistant at St. John's Church, Slaterville, R.I., and St. Lukes Church, West Barrington, R.I.

Father Bolton came on active duty Jan. 10, 1968, and attended the Chaplains School at Ft. Hamilton, N.Y.

Being a field chaplain in Vietnan isn't the most pleasant job in the world but Father Bolton wouldn't trade jobs with the pastor of Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

Besides his duties as Dear Abby, and legal advisor, Father Bolton baptizes a soldier

BOSCARINE

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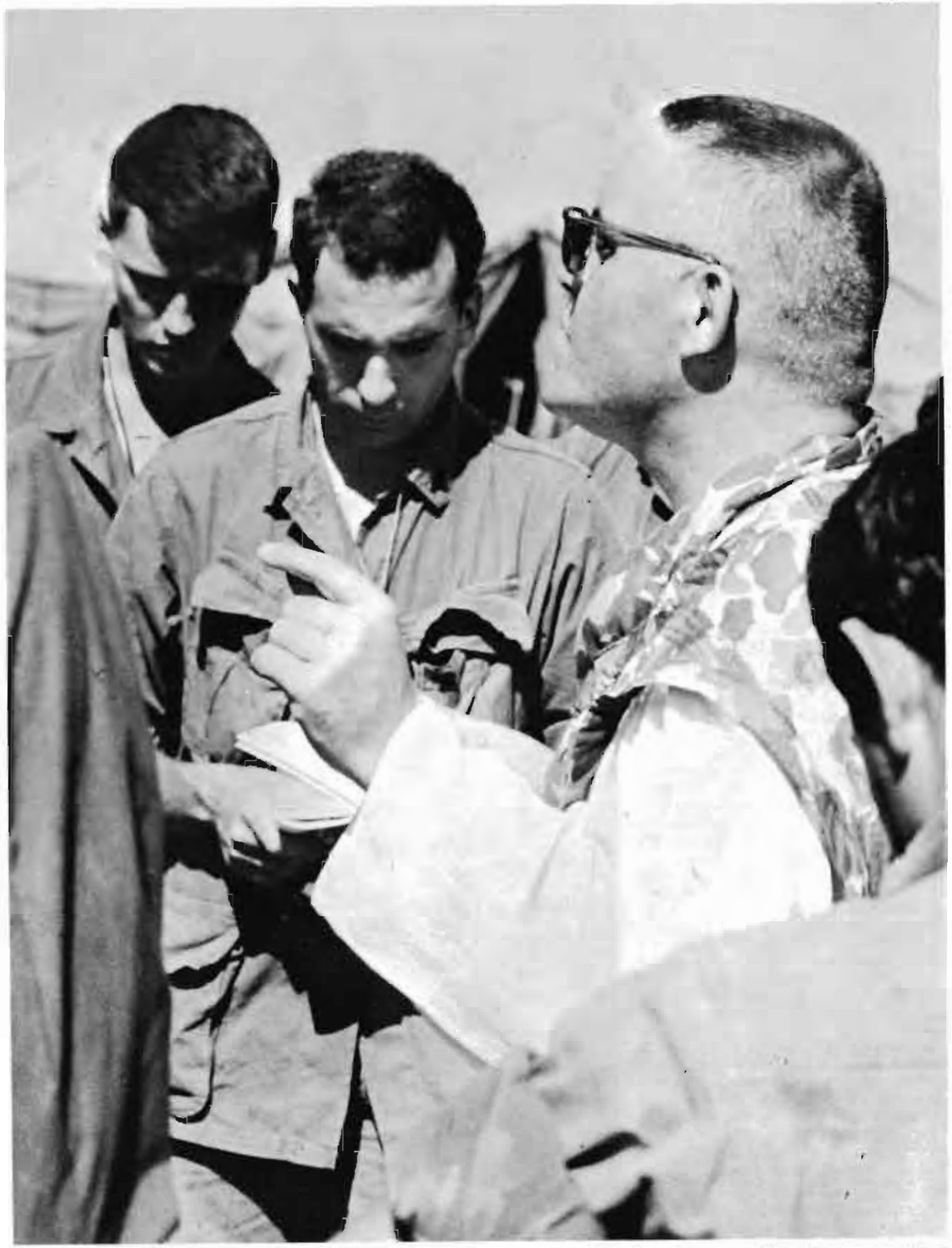


"They're nothing more than the guys next door."

Kit Carson Scouts

by Specialist 4 Gary Rausch

The jungle in Binh Duong Province is thick. Rope-like vines hang from a bushy ceiling, a heavy net of foliage blotting out all but faint traces of the blistering sun above. Though nearly noon, the trail remains a slick carpet, still wet with the night's dew.

Leading a group of American soldiers is a small man, his five-foot, 100-pound frame is dwarfed by the six-footers that follow. He moves silently along the path, cautiously working through the underbrush. Suddenly he stops.

Like a chain of dominoes, his followers freeze in place. The small man signals that a clearing lies ahead. The column moves forward.

Seconds after the last man completes the semi-circle around the clearing, an earth-shaking explosion sends birds scattering. Hundreds of nail-like spikes rip across the clearing and into the jungle. The patrol stands in shock—all but the tiny fellow at the front.

The Kit Carson Scout has again proved his worth. His experienced eyes spotted the claymore mine in the clearing, and he led the patrol around it. Somewhere in the jungle sat the enemy, a wire in each hand. He had observed

This Kit Carson Scout is always on the alert for former friends in the thick jungle

DAVIS

It Takes One To Know One . . .

the group at the edge of the clearing but lost sight of them. Believing the patrol had moved within range, he detonated the mine.

Employed during WW II and the Korean Conflict, scouts first appeared in Vietnam with the Marines during July 1966, in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

A pilot group was organized three months later to live and fight with the 1st Marine Division. They were given the name Kit Carson Scouts after the American trapper and guide who advised John C. Fremont on exploratory trips in the 1840's.

Originally used on tactical psychological operations with the Marines, the scout program was broadened, which aroused interest throughout the country with each successful mission. But who are the Kit Carson Scouts and where do they come from?

They are former Viet Cong and now serve primarily in areas with which they are familiar. To defeat the VC, what better ally could be found than ex-Viet Cong?

The 9th Infantry Division, after enjoying immeasurable success in the Mekong Delta, coined a new name for their guides—Tiger Scouts.

The second largest number of scouts is with the 1st Infantry Division. The

DAVIS

Many long years of combat are reflected in the face of this former Viet Cong soldier

2d Brigade at Di An conducts a two-and-one-half-week training school with a formal graduation. The 25th Infantry Division and 199th Light Infantry Brigade have been in the program since its beginning while the 1st Cavalry Division, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and Long Range Patrol (LRP) units began recruiting during the past few months.

Goals have been set at 200 scouts per division—100 for each separate brigade and another 100 to advisory teams and naval riverine units. All scouts are placed in the Local National Direct Hire Program.

Scout recruiting is conducted in local Chieu Hoi Centers by division commanders and training officers using normal intelligence screening and interrogation. Chieu Hoi advisors have laid the groundwork with a two-month indoctrination period and urged ralliers to volunteer for the scout program.

Like the old U.S. Cavalry employing Indian guides, units realize the importance of using indigenous people. Recruiters are as choosy picking scouts as a housewife buying vegetables.

"I look first for a man with jungle experience," explains Captain Lawson Geiger, intelligence officer with the 2d Battalion, 47th Infantry. "Does he know VC tactics and booby traps? Did he have a position of leadership with the VC?"

Recruits have a variety of backgrounds and occupations. Many were officers or aspirants (equivalent to a warrant officer) who commanded front line units or worked as political leaders or members of political cadre.

"I won't take someone who just drove an oxcart for the VC," states Lieutenant Bruce E. Herczogh, a VMI graduate who heads the 1st Infantry's Scout School at Di An. "We're looking for men with a lot of time in the field."

It's a small war in itself just recruiting scouts. Not only is there fierce competition between divisions but even among brigades within the individual divisions. Of 100 graduates from a Chieu Hoi Center, there are at most 30–40 scout volunteers and of these possibly 20 might qualify within the age, knowledge and physical condition prerequisites.

Fundamentally they are guides, leading US units to known or hidden caches of weapons, supplies and ammunition. Additionally, scouts assist in detection of VC by facial recognition, aid in population control, psychological operations, tracing VC infrastructure, identifying dead and wounded and helping exploit other ralliers and captives for the Chieu Hoi cause.

"They're invaluable in every phase of enemy activity because of their knowledge of VC tactics," claims Captain Jesse Myers, who oversees scout action from the II Field Force G-5 office. "Having personnel who speak the language, are familiar with the terrain and know the enemy's methods of operation gives us a tremendous advantage. Keeping our men alive in the field is half the battle. They're teaching us to avoid deadly booby traps and mines."

A scout's training ranges from understanding the Government of Vietnam (GVN) and the Free World Military Assistance Force (FWMAF) counterinsurgency goal in South Vietnam to care and cleaning of clothing and equipment. Unlike many units, the 1st Infantry's 2d Brigade believes formal scout training should be done before the scout is assigned to a unit.

Lieutenant Herczogh, who recently graduated his fifth class, stresses English in addition to weapons training at his Di An school. "We teach them real basic English– simple short sentences and words they'll be using everyday." They also become accustomed to firing rifles, machineguns and grenade launchers, setting up claymore mines, throwing hand grenades and using flares.

After entering a unit, the scout is assigned an American buddy who explains policies and helps the newcomer get his bearings.

One cannot avoid the fact that acceptance of the scout is often a difficult process. Many GIs believe "once a VC, always a VC." But when the scouts and Americans overcome the thought of being former enemies, they form a cohesive group. The unit becomes a much more effective force and the scout responds to his good treatment with high spirit and outstanding performance.

It doesn't take long to recognize a scout's value. "When they save their first soldier, every man in the unit realizes it. Once a Tiger Scout proves himself—and we've never had a case of one failing to do so—he becomes an indispensable part of the unit," states Captain Stephen Swartz of the 9th Division.

The Viet Cong has shed his sandals, black pajamas, AK-47 rifle and daily bowl of rice for the title Kit Carson Scout, a pair of jungle boots, fatigues, M-16 and three square meals a day. Afforded the same degree of protection and security as any other member of the unit, the scouts receive 5,000 piasters ($42) a month—roughly the same as an unmarried South Vietnamese staff sergeant. The family of a scout killed in action is paid a gratuity equal to 12 months pay.

Since most scouts speak little English, communication presents a small inconvenience. What English classes can't develop, sign language can supply. The 1st Division's Company B, 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, has twice avoided ambushes because Captain Kenneth LeGrice and scout Chau Asnarut both speak French fluently.

Scouts are not draft-exempt from the South Vietnamese Army. Hoi Chanhs are granted a six-month deferment for rallying. Once a scout, extensions of 12 months are given upon request of the respective unit until the scout's last year of eligibility. Then he must be made available for the draft. Draft age is 18 through 43 and service as a scout does not count toward one's service obligation.

Scouts also make excellent instructors. Tranh Tran Trung gave some lessons on penetrating barbed wire obstacles to the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry, in basecamp. In less than a minute Trung crawled through several rolls of concertina and apron wire set up for the demonstration. He then repeated his feat twice for onlookers. During his class on building effective wire barricades, he warned the troops about spreading the concertina too far apart and urged the use of plenty of support stakes and flares.

During his forced service with the VC, Trung became proficient in terror tactics and infiltration. Eventually he escaped. "I want to work for my country and not for the VC. That is why I left."

Le Van Det was a multi-decorated rifleman with the VC. As a Kit Carson Scout, he has often taken on the enemy single-handed, blowing bunkers, spotting mines and booby traps and engaging whole squads.

Vo Van Bom recently spotted five VC just outside the kill zone, engaged them in conversation while hiding in tall grass to draw them in, then rose and leveled his M-16 on them.

Scouts are fearless and think nothing of minor wounds. Huynh Van Be took a deflected AK-47 round through the cheek in a firefight last June. Hardly staggered, Be spit out the slug and kept going. Scouts are authorized all medals of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

"He's saved my life on several occasions," attests Private First Class Christopher Podgus about one scout. "I remember most vividly the time he pointed out the presence of a mine I was about to step on." Words like these are echoed throughout the country.

"Quality not quantity is imperative," concludes Captain Myers. "Thus far, we've been blessed by both."

RAUSCH

Kit Carson Scouts must be well trained

The Latest Fashions From Hanoi

VC and NVA Vie for Best-Dressed

Drawings by Specialist 4 Larry Gouine
II Field Force Combat Art Team

The popular black pajamas worn by Viet Cong guerrillas come in long and short styles. This VC is armed with an SKS Chinese Communist rifle and US hand grenades.

This VC soldier is armed with an AK-47 assault rifle, the primary infantry weapon used by Communist forces throughout the world. He also carries a roll of rice across his shoulders—enough food to keep him on the move for many days.

Rocket propelled grenade (RPG) launchers have played an important role in the Vietnam conflict. This North Vietnamese "hard core" soldier looks through the sight of an RPG-7. With a new rocket booster adding extra thrust to the armor-piercing grenade, the RPG-7 is a devastating weapon.

While the Viet Cong guerrilla has only sandals to protect his feet, the North Vietnamese Army soldier wears thick-soled boots. The NVA-issued fatigue uniform and web gear are other advantages he has over his VC ally. Armed with a Chinese Communist 7.62 mm light machinegun the NVA soldier has gained the respect of American soldiers in Vietnam.

CLEVELAND

Life goes on as usual despite the fighting nearby

The market place is always busy in Hau Nghia Province

CLEVELAND

Hau Nghia Revisited

All It Needs Is Peace

by Specialist 5 Arnold Braeske

The sleepy little province capital, 20 miles west of Saigon, is deceptive. Bao Trai, population 5,000, sits warming in the sun like a Kansas town on a Sunday afternoon. The marketplace is busy, but activity elsewhere along its one main street slows its pace to match the heat.

This rustic little town, though, is the capital of Hau Nghia Province, and Hau Nghia may well be, politically and militarily, the most active province in III Corps, for both allied and VC/NVA forces.

For the Viet Cong it is the site of infiltration routes from Cambodia to Saigon, a huge rice supplying area, a place to bury weapons and the scene of main liaison and supply routes between bases in War Zones C, D and the Plain of Reeds.

For U.S. and Vietnamese units, Hau Nghia represents the western entrance to the Gia Dinh-Saigon-Cholon area by VC/NVA forces and an area of great agricultural and industrial promise suffocated hy the war.

Hau Nghia Province owes its birth and importance to geography. The province was formed in 1963 from Duc Hoa and Duc Hue Districts (formerly of Long An Province); Trang Bang District (formerly of Tay Ninh); and Cu Chi District (formerly of Binh Duong).

All of these districts meet around the edges of Kinh Tay Swamp which runs diagonally through Hau Nghia. Previously, VC units operated on either side of the then Long An-Binh Duong provincial boundary (which ran lengthwise through that swamp) and could flee to the other side with the assurance that there would be neither pursuit nor meaningful government response from the other side of the swamp.

A second swamp strongly influences the character of Hau Nghia. It occupies the entire western third of Hau Nghia Province—a marshy bog on the western side of the Vam Co Dong (Oriental River). This huge bog, often 14 miles across, offers refuge and cover to VC/NVA units operating in Hau Nghia and is the northern terminus of the Plain of Reeds. On the western edge of this swamp, Hau Nghia shares the same border with Cambodia for 19 miles.

Hau Nghia has six good sized towns: Khiem Cuong (also called Bao Trai or Hau Nghia), Duc Hoa, Cu Chi, Trang Bang, Trung Lap and Hiep Hoa. Trung Lap and Hiep Hoa are located in the corners of Hau Nghia. Bao Trai is the centrally located capital.

Duc Hoa, the home of the 25th ARVN Division, is closest to Saigon. Cu Chi has historically been a VC stronghold and is the home of the U.S. 25th Division. Trang Bang is the most urban of Hau Nghia's towns, a bustling minor see of the Cao Dai religion located in an area of great infiltration and much fighting.

Many of the large military operations and much of Hau Nhgia's defense is handled by the 2nd Brigade of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division. "The presence of the 2nd Brigade allows us to do much of what we've been able to get done," said Lieutenant Colonel Carl Bernard, Hau Nghia Province senior advisor. The brigade has assigned a battalion to each of Hau Nghia's four districts, provided Medical Civic Action Programs (MEDCAP's) and civic action aid.

Regional and Popular Forces, however, provide the permanent backbone of defense in Hau Nghia. Nearly 4,000 RF/PF soldiers are stationed at 165 small outposts throughout the province.

Since the 1968 Tet Truce Attacks, Hau Nghia's RF/PF soldiers have been more aggressive in initiating contact and ambushes. RF/PF units are also going on more joint operations with Americans including heliborne assaults. Part of the increased confidence of Hau Nghia's Regional Force soldiers can be attributed to the fact that in 1968, they were equipped with the M-16 rifle.

In addition to the established military units, Hau Nghia, like other provinces, is beginning to develop People's Self Defense Groups. This new program consists of arming and training villagers in methods of fighting insurgency and protecting themselves when attacked. The program is too new to evaluate, but it has been successful in the past in strongly pro-government areas.

Hau Nghia's 680 National Police and Field Force members also have functions which go beyond civil police work. "Aside from the Army, the National Police are the only other group actively identifying and eliminating the Viet Cong," explained Chuck Sothan, public safety advisor for Hau Nghia.

The Viet Cong, consequently, have made the police, and police stations, one of their prime targets. "The National Police go after the VC, and the VC, in turn, go after the police. Since 1966, the Viet Cong have killed 125 policemen in Hau Nghia," said Sothan.

Hau Nghia Police Chief Ngo Van Hue, a veteran of 15 years of police work, is currently engaged in registering province residents for the National Identification Card Program. His department's three I.D. teams registered 12,000 Hau Nghians in the first three months of the program.

All of the efforts aimed at eliminating the VC influence in Hau Nghia have not met with complete success. Province officials are the first to admit the strength of the Viet Cong. "It's difficult to get people to come to Hau Nghia," said Colonel Bernard. "No one wants to be killed, and Hau Nghia has that kind of reputation."

Focusing on Hau Nghia, Vietnamese and U.S. units put great pressure on the VC/NVA in 1968 and early 1969. Enemy infiltration through the traditional Hau Nghia routes was greatly reduced in 1968. "At least we've made a good route a little less good for them," said Colonel Bernard.

There are several reasons why Hau Nghia has more than its share of difficulties with the Viet Cong.

First, VC proselytizing and recruiting went unchecked there for a long time. Second, its proximity to the Cambodian border produces better than average supply channels for VC/NVA units. Lastly, since Hau Nghia is a composite of districts from various provinces and people of divergent backgrounds, there is no community conscience to unify people in resisting intimidation and insurgency. Many positive strides, however, are being made in Hau Nghia. During 1968, the number of persons

CLEVELAND

Military security has a direct effect on pacification in all of Hau Nghia Province

It's not the MTA, but the cyclo-cab supplies transportation

who rallied to the government under the Chieu Hoi program, although lower than 1967, kept Hau Nghia in third place, behind Gia Dinh and Long An.

The number of refugee camps for homeless people in Hau Nghia dwindled from 12 in December 1967, to two in December 1968, and refugee advisor Daniel O'Leary expects them to be phased out by mid-1969. "The government and province administration have been very responsive to the needs of refugees and war victims," O'Leary

CLEVELAND

Although primarily agrarian, Hau Nghia's economy has a tremendous industrial potential awaiting the end of the war

CLEVELAND

Aggressive local government supported by constant military pressure is bringing peace to the Vietnamese countryside

said. "If there are not more refugees generated (as during Tet), dependent refugees should disappear within a few months."

Agriculturally, Hau Nghia has been adapting to the war. "A farmer's life is a pastoral one," agricultural advisor William T. Ezzaro explained. "With the tempo of the war as it is now, the people are afraid to plant big crops." As a result, rice acreage is down.

What many people are doing, especially around Cu Chi and Trang Bang, is giving up rice and growing vegetables instead. These are taken to market in Saigon on roads secured by government and U.S. forces. "Saigon is a big market for everything here, and apparently it's going to get bigger," Mr. Ezzaro said.

One other hopeful venture, combining agriculture and industry, is being launched in remote Hiep Hoa, on the bank of the Oriental River. The Hiep Hoa Sugarmill, damaged by the VC during Tet, began limited operations again in February, 1969. Although the mill, largest of its kind in all of Vietnam, will only work at 10 per cent of capacity at first, it is a boom to the small, local sugar farmers who feared they would have no one to buy their crops.

Hau Nghia's school system, hurt badly during Tet, 1968, is now back on its feet. Most of the 25 classrooms destroyed had been rebuilt by the end of 1968.

At the urging of Lieutenant Colonel Ma Sanh Nhon, Hau Nghia's Province Chief, residents of Trang Bang donated money to build eight new classrooms for their high school. At Cu Chi, donations raised were enough for five classrooms.

Colonel Nhon has raised money for good causes a number of times. He calls a town meeting, explains to the people the absence of funds, and then asks people, "How much will you give?" On one occasion, he told an RD Cadre Team they could either have their uniforms given to them by Americans or buy them themselves. They voted and chose to buy them, and all RD Cadre in Hau Nghia now buy their own.

In many aspects, the aggressive governmental attitude in Hau Nghia today is a reflection of the personality of Nhon. The Viet Cong recognize this and have made numerous attempts on Nhon's life.

In an effort to instill a feeling of confidence for the government in the people, both Colonels Nhon and Bernard spend much time in contested villages. Four nights a week they sleep in disputed villages. They also accompany RF/PF soldiers on operations throughout the week.

The war that has raged in Hau Nghia Province since the early 1960's is unlikely to evaporate overnight; the location and the history of the province argue against it.

But the aggressiveness of the allied forces in Hau Nghia is putting a strain on enemy forces that has never been felt before.

HERE A CHICK,

THERE A CHICK,

EVERYWHERE A CHICK, CHICK...

CLEVELAND

by J.P. Grant

On the Vietnamese calendar, February 17, marks the beginning of the "Year of the Rooster." Before it is over, Vietnam should complete a 24-month transition from primary reliance on the centuries-old ways of poultry production to a modern commercial poultry system, netting Vietnamese farmers and entrepreneurs more than $25 million annually. Like the phenomenal growth of vegetable production and the spread of IR-8 miracle rice, the new poultry industry constitutes another step in the agricultural revolution, which is transforming South Vietnam from a nation of poor subsistence peasants to one of enterprising, modern farmers.

Baby chicks are giving former refugees and Vietnamese farmers a chance to regain the independence they had before the war forced many of them from their homes. The chicks can mean the difference between self-sufficiency or government dependence.

During November 1968, a daily average of nearly 30,000 day-old baby chicks was flown into Saigon from such distant places as Singapore, Taiwan and Japan. A year before the daily average was only a few hundred. In one year, some 10,000 Vietnamese families started raising broiler chicks on a modern production basis, averaging a net profit of 100 per cent every nine to 10 weeks.

The price of chickens, which had increased more than 50 per cent since January 1968, to well over a dollar a pound, has now begun to decline. By the end of the "Year of the Rooster" the prices should be down further. In

addition, more than a dozen new modern hatcheries in Vietnam should be supplying most of the baby chicks required to make Vietnam a self-sufficient poultry and egg producer.

Many Vietnamese and Americans have played a significant role in this successful program. In August 1967, a group of Vietnamese and Americans in Binh Duong Province came to the conclusion that commercial chicken raising might be an ideal home industry for some of the newly resettled refugees who had been moved from Ben Suc, a village located deep in the communist base area known as the "Iron Triangle". Many of these families were headed by "war widows", whose husbands were serving with the enemy. They could not readily leave their children and seek jobs outside of their resettlement village.

By November, Walt Begley, Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) agriculture advisor, made it possible for the refugees to start a business. They bought imported baby chicks, vaccine and feed using loans from the Binh Duong Province Agricultural Development Bank (ADB). The next task was to convince refugee families in the resettlement village of Ap Binh Hoa to take the risks involved. One entire day in November 1967, was devoted to trying to convince 10 families to take the plunge into this new industry. At the end of the exhausting day, three had agreed. By Tet, in late January 1968, the original three families had netted well over a 100 per cent return on their entire investment, including the cost of building and equipping sizeable chicken houses.

It was in the midst of the enemy attacks after Tet that Jackie Heggemann, the famed "Chicken Lady" of South Vietnam, arrived to make poultry raising a major business in Ap Binh Hoa. An ex-Peace Corps volunteer, she had been advising Indians on poultry raising before joining the International Rescue Committee (IRC) team working near Ap Binh Hoa.

In October 1967, the villagers were taking a thousand imported baby chicks a week and selling them 10 weeks later at a net profit of more than a dollar each. Not surprisingly, the majority of the remaining village families wanted to raise chickens. In the past year, the groundwork laid by the operation at

Even baby chicks require shot records

Ap Binh Hoa has allowed thousands of families to take on commercial poultry raising as a small business.

One of the major preconditions to this breakthrough was the establishment of a system for manufacturing and distributing the vaccine required by these baby chicks. The National Institute of Bacteriology in Saigon drastically revised its procedure and greatly increased its production. Scores of self-made vaccinators, with syringes in their pockets, now line up at the Institute daily to buy vaccines, which they take from farm to farm on their Lambretta and bicycle-serviced routes.

Another precondition for a poultry breakthrough is availability of a reliable source of low priced feeds. The Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture with USAID assistance has initiated programs to increase the supply of locally produced feed and to meet immediate requirements through the provision of imports of corn and feed supplements. Vietnam's first commercial feed mill is now operating and demonstrating the feasibility of producing a line of complete feeds. Plans for other mills are under way.

USAID consultants laid the foundation for the hatchery stage of the poultry raising cycle. The team recommended that 16 hatcheries be established at key locations throughout the country with parent stock to lay the eggs not only for broiler chicks but also for laying hens. With eggs selling for $1.40 a dozen, there obviously is an equally great potential for expansion of egg production on a commercial basis.

The Agricultural Development Bank of Vietnam has performed a vital role in this effort. The ADB has established a fund of more that $440,000 to provide starter loans to more that 7,000 farmers. Another fund of more than $125,000 has been set up to help in the establishment of the hatchery industry.

This poultry story and the equally improbable successful adoption of the new miracle rice seed by 40,000 farmers in one year, illustrate the agricultural and marketing revolution sweeping Vietnam after many years of war. In part, it is due to the surging force of war-induced demand. Even more, however, it is the result of the work of a handful of dedicated Vietnamese and Americans who are determined to put the benefits of technology to work for the Vietnamese farmer.

Chicks can mean the difference between government dependence or self sufficiency

Troops of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) combat assault into a rice paddy

The First Team

by Lieutenant Mike Harris

On the evening of Nov. 13, 1968, scouts from the 2d Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division were flying their light observation choppers over the jungle near the Cambodian border. In the fading light they spotted a group of North Vietnamese soldiers hiding in the trees near LZ Dot, a firebase manned by the 36th ARVN Ranger Battalion.

The scouts swooped down with machineguns blazing. More NVA appeared, scattering. "Then," said Warrant Officer William Autin, one of the scout pilots, "we directed artillery in on the location and killed about 15."

The enemy soldiers encountered by the scouts were a part of a force estimated at 2,000, poised to attack Fire Support Base Dot. Perhaps, forced by the discovery to hurry their timetable, the NVA assaulted the firebase before dawn on the 14th. The Vietnamese Rangers resisted fiercely and artillery and Air Force bomb strikes ringed the perimeter with steel. Aerial rocket artillery (ARA) helicopter gunships, armed with rockets and miniguns, broke up the attack; the fleeing NVA left 287 dead behind.

When the enemy tried to hit LZ Dot from long range with 120 mm mortars and 107 mm rockets later that day, the airmobile scouts again found them, adjusting artillery fire onto their positions. "The support we received from the 1st Cav was fantastic," said Captain Frederick L. Kuhns, U.S. advisor with the ranger battalion. "We got everything we asked for without hesitation."

This engagement, the first major contribution by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) since it left its old area of operations in I Corps and took up positions 50–70 miles northwest of Saigon, demonstrated the ability of an airmobile unit to control great stretches of countryside.

Rather than physically occupy its areas of responsibility in Binh Long, Phuoc Long, Tay Ninh, and Binh Duong Provinces with ground troops—which would have been impossible—the 1st Cav built a string of firebases along 100 miles of border. It controlled the space in between with artillery, gunships, and patrols inserted quickly from the air. The success of these tactics was shown by the more than 2,600 enemy killed by the Skytroopers during the period Oct. 31 to Jan. 31.

The 1st Cav's denial program has been an overwhelming success, collecting more than 640,000 rounds of small arms ammunition and almost 120 tons of rice.

Remote forest areas previously used by the enemy as bases were penetrated. His infiltration routes from Cambodia were interdicted. Caches of weapons, food, and ammunition were captured. The result of all this was increased security for Saigon.

The 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, which had previously patrolled the border, were able to provide denser coverage closer to the capital. Thus, the overall defense posture of the III Corps Tactical Zone improved.

The 1st Cav made its initial combat assault in III Corps on Oct. 31. The 3rd Brigade operated from Quan Loi in Binh Long Province, while the 1st Brigade set up a base near the city of Tay Ninh. During the division's rapid move, elements of the 2d Brigade remained just south of the Demilitarized Zone, fighting on a front 550 miles away, before flying south on Nov. 7 to occupy positions between the other two brigades. The division's more than 400 helicopters, which helped make this deployment possible, airlifted men and supplies into the jungle outposts. By Nov. 9, the division had already accounted for 109 enemy dead. Charlie was feeling the pinch.

After the battle at Fire Support Base Dot the 1st Cav Division punished the enemy in heavy fighting throughout November. Large bunker complexes stocked with ammunition were uncovered in the areas of contact, principally around Loc Ninh and along the Saigon River.

Major Harold M. Carter, 1st Cav psychological operations officer, commented, "Once they have been hit, and hit badly, they are vulnerable to what we have to say. They've seen the Cobras and felt the artillery and B-52 strikes blowing all around them and they know that they can't just walk in and take over

1ST CAV

the way they were told by Hanoi." He reported that the number of defecting North Vietnamese soldiers has increased sharply.

With major enemy units being driven away from population centers, the situation improved for pacification programs. The 1st Philippine Civic Affairs Group Vietnam (PHILCAGV) in Tay Ninh Province has taken advantage of relative security to build roads, stock a demonstration farm with livestock, and send mobile dental and medical teams throughout the province.

In January, military successes continued. During the period Jan. 5–12, between 30 and 60 enemy were killed daily by the cavalrymen. One of the largest arms caches of the war, estimated at 18 tons, was found near Tay Ninh by the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry on Jan. 23.

1st Brigade elements moved south into Hau Nghia Province to carry out joint "Nav-Cav" operations with the Navy's River Divisions 553 and 554. Using patrol boats and helicopters, they searched out the Bo Bo Canal network and the Vam Co Dong River, curtailing the enemy's infiltration of men and supplies by water.

In all operations, helicopters—ranging from light egg-shaped observation craft to Flying Cranes capable of lifting a 155 mm howitzer—played a major role. Airmobility helped the 1st Cav and ARVN elements beat the Viet Cong in a race for the inhabitants of the Montagnard village of Bu Nho in Phuoe Long Province.

Early one November morning, 15 people from the village walked into the province headquarters. They told the province chief that the enemy was going to draft the men of Bu Nho and take them into the mountains to dig bunkers and haul supplies. "We have only 48 hours to prepare," they said. The province chief asked the 1st Cav for assistance.

Following an artillery and tac air preparation on the jungle around the village, ARVN assault troops, flown in 1st Cavalry Division ships, were inserted. They set up a cordon around the village to secure it and moved in. The Montagnards were waiting in their houses. The province chief directed the loading of families, livestock, and belongings onto big CH-47 Chinooks. More than 1,000 people were transported to a temporary camp near Song Be, province capital, by nightfall. Though saddened at having to leave Bu Nho, they considered it far preferable to the hardships of forced labor.

Meanwhile, the men of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) are busy turning the dense forests and rubber plantations of northern III Corps into "Cav Country", just as they had previously done in the mountains of I Corps and the highland valleys of II Corps.

1ST CAV

(Above) Smoke shrouds the battlefield as 1st Cav troopers fight in a bombscarred area. (Left) Absence of a Landing zone is no problem to man rappeling from helicopter

MARSANN

by Specialist 4 Randy Furtick

Putting the bang back in worn-out 175 mm guns is tricky business, but two members of an artillery maintenance contact team manage this task—and they do it in the middle of enemy-infested War Zone C.

These men keep the big guns firing at a remote fire support base in Tay Ninh Province, 60 miles northwest of Saigon.

Artillery Fire Support Base Saint Barbara is situated four miles north of Nui Ba Den (Black Virgin Mountain) in central Tay Ninh Province only 20 miles from the Cambodian border. The big guns at Saint Barbara keep the enemy from taking over the remote Special Forces advised Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) outposts monitoring the enemy.

Saint Barbara was built on the foundations of an old French fort. The original foundation and parts of old French bunkers can still be seen in the grass around the perimeter.

The small element, referred to in logistical jargon as an Artillery Maintenance Contact Team, keeps the big howitzers of "A" Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery, firing day and night.

Far from their maintenance unit at Tay Ninh, two men, Specialists 4 Charles Dyson and John D. Jones from the 548th Light Maintenance Company, provide the technical assistance needed to keep the guns performing perfectly.

Overlooking the compound, which is surrounded by barbed wire and jungle, sits the mountain—Nui Ba Den. "At night," Dyson said, "you can see flashes of light on the slopes from the Viet Cong. Sometimes, when the eight-inch howitzer is firing at the mountain during the night, we sit and watch the impact of the rounds. It's just like the Fourth of July."

They have little time, however, for watching where the rounds are going. "We're more interested in getting the round out of the tube properly," Jones continued.

Contact Team

Super Gunsmiths Keep the Big Guns Firing

Even on "slow" days the two men visit the gun sections and consult with the gun crew members on maintenance problems. Often they lend a hand in solving difficult repair problems.

One of their major jobs is changing the tubes of "A" Battery's three 175 mm guns stationed at Saint Barbara. Each of the tubes must be changed after 300 rounds have been fired at full powder load. According to "Papasan," Dyson's nickname, "We change between six and nine tubes a month—depending on the number of missions fired."

Until last September, this was a comparatively simple operation. Two wreckers were brought up the road from Tay Ninh to assist in the task. Lately, however, Viet Cong movement in the area has made it impossible to make the trip regularly.

But the tubes have to be changed on schedule. To replace the wreckers, the 548th had two "A" frames fabricated at Long Binh and flown to Saint Barbara by Flying Crane.

Changing tubes with an "A" frame is risky business. The "A" frames have to be aligned perfectly, and the guns have to be maneuvered back and forth to remove the tube. "We can change one of the 14,000-pound tubes in about five hours," Jones said, "as long as no problems develop."

The team's supervisor and armor officer of the 548th, Warrant Officer Calvin D. Patterson said, "This is the only team in Vietnam that is changing tubes with "A" frames, and these men have proven themselves versatile enough to handle the situation.

During a sustained enemy mortar attack in September, Jones noted, "It took us two days to change a tube. We worked during lulls in the mortar barrage because the guns had to be kept firing, we couldn't afford to have any of the guns down."

Both men on the team are specialists in a specific phase of artillery repair. Dyson concentrates on the carriages and tracks while Jones is concerned with the firing mechanisms and tubes, but Dyson added, "We work as a team; when one of us needs help in our particular area, the other is right there."

Each man was trained in his different field and then assigned as a team to provide complete maintenance for the isolated artillery unit. "We take care of many problems that are supposed to be done at the base camp maintenance shop," Dyson said, "but isolated the way we are it's hard to stick by the book all the time." Questions are showered upon them concerning everything from the different problems that can develop in a recoil system to "what in the heck is this washer for?"

"It's hard for them to walk across the compound without being waylaid by someone with a question. "We've been well received here," said Jones. "Whenever we need help—whether on the guns or in our shop—there are always many willing hands."

Normally a team spends only six months away from their parent unit. At Tay Ninh, however, Dyson and Jones volunteered to stay until June, when they will rotate to the States. "I like it out here," Jones said. "The heat doesn't bother me too much, and it's fascinating to work on the big guns."

"And the time seems to pass quicker," Dyson added. "There's plenty to do, so we don't get bored."

With a range of more than 20 miles, the big 175 mm howitzers of "A" Battery provide close support for allied operations in the area. They fire around the clock giving Charlie little rest. Once the guns fired more than 200 rounds in twelve hours providing close support for a Special Forces unit. During one week of heavy support engagements, the team changed one of the 175 mm tubes twice in six days. With an average of 3,000 rounds fired each month, the two-man team works long hours to keep the guns firing. Rarely is a gun down for more than five hours.

All the spare parts and supplies for the contact team have to be flown in from Tay Ninh. Every day the big Chinook can be seen coming and going to Saint Barbara. "If we need a part for the guns," Dyson said, "we can usually get it within a matter of hours." Once a month the road to the base camp is usually opened to bring in 175 mm replacement tubes.

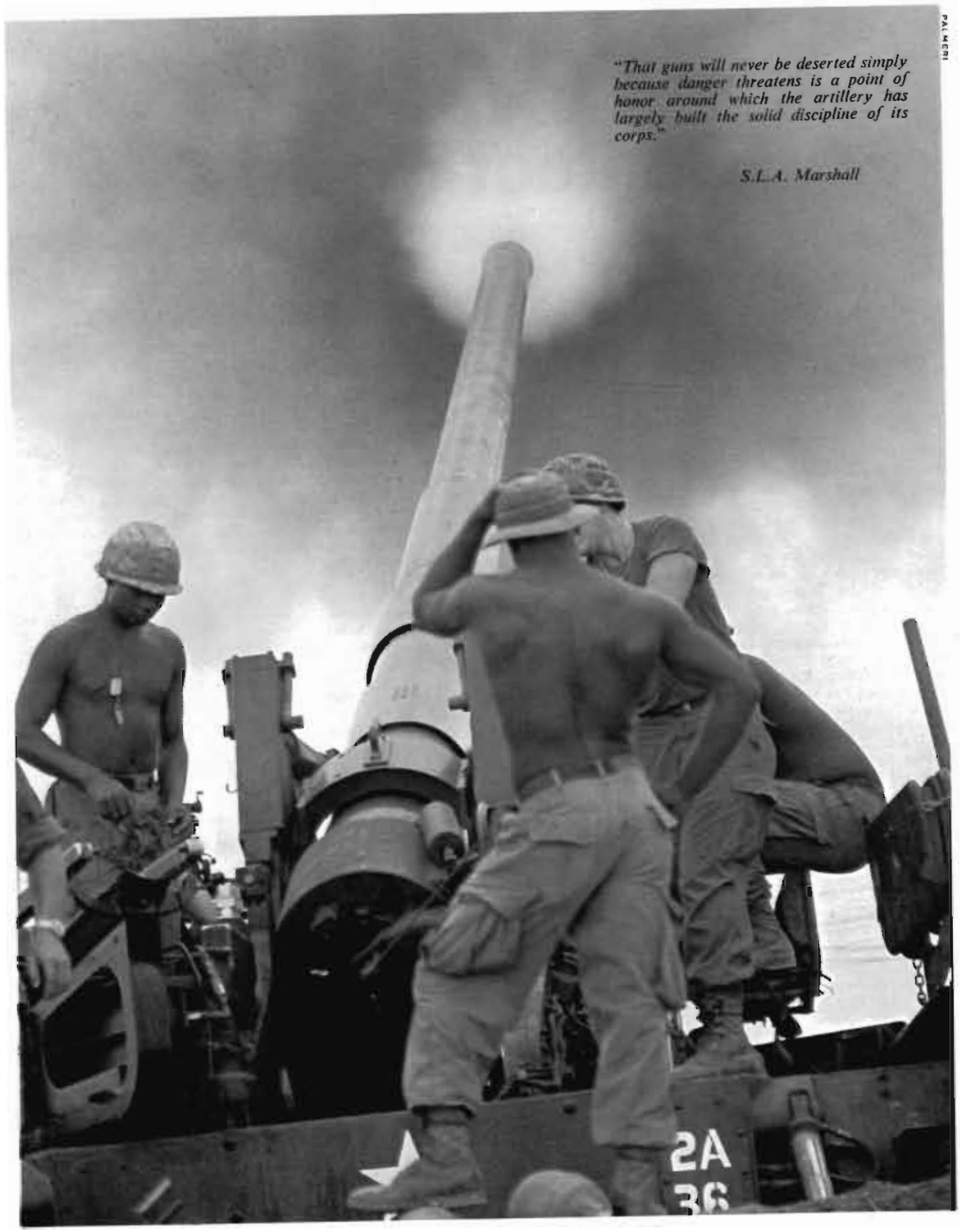
A native of Ohio, Jones worked as a forklift operator before coming into the Army. "The first night I spent here," he said, "I woke up and found a friendly rat had crawled into the sack with me."

The other half of the team, Dyson, was an oil pumper in his hometown of Montgomery, La.

The 548th supports five artillery units, however, "A" Battery at Saint Barbara is the only one with a resident contact team. The others, served by a roving team, don't know what they are missing.

MARSANN

The big guns require constant maintenance




CLEVELAND

Saigon University

Today's Students Are Tomorrow's Leaders

by Specialist 4 Ken Heinrichs

In the ever-changing world, current affairs move with the force and turbulence of a monsoon downpour, and modern students are taking an active part. They are ignoring the ancient adage "children should be seen and not heard"—the university students of Vietnam are no exception.

Much of the improvement in Vietnam's educational system can be attributed to the teachers and instructional facilities at Saigon University.

The university has come a long way in its quest to establish a sound program of higher education but there is still a lot to be done.

When tracing the history of Saigon University, it is easy to lose track of its development. Like an evasive fugitive, the university has changed its name and location numerous times.

Founded in 1917, under the name of "The Indochinese University", Vietnam's first institution of higher education was located in Hanoi, then the country's capital. For several decades, French and Vietnamese teachers worked together in an effort to establish an efficient educational program at the university.

Relations between French colonists and Vietnamese soon became strained. Under the guise of "Nationalism", Ho Chi Minh and his Communist-led coalition group began a purge of all foreigners in northern Vietnam. The result was the Indochina War.

In 1949, following a cultural agreement between Vietnam and France, the University was converted into a Franco-Vietnamese institution called the "University of Hanoi". The agreement was strictly "cultural", however, and the Indochina War still raged.

The University had its share of problems. War makes it impossible to function with the harmony necessary for the education of youth.

In 1954, after eight years of bitter fighting, the French were defeated at Dien Bien Phu by the Viet Minh. The result was a truce agreement between the French high command and Ho Chi Minh's People's Army high command.

Under the new agreement, a Demarcation Line was drawn between the northern and southern regions of Vietnam, and a free movement period of 300 days gave people the opportunity to make permanent moves from one sector to another.

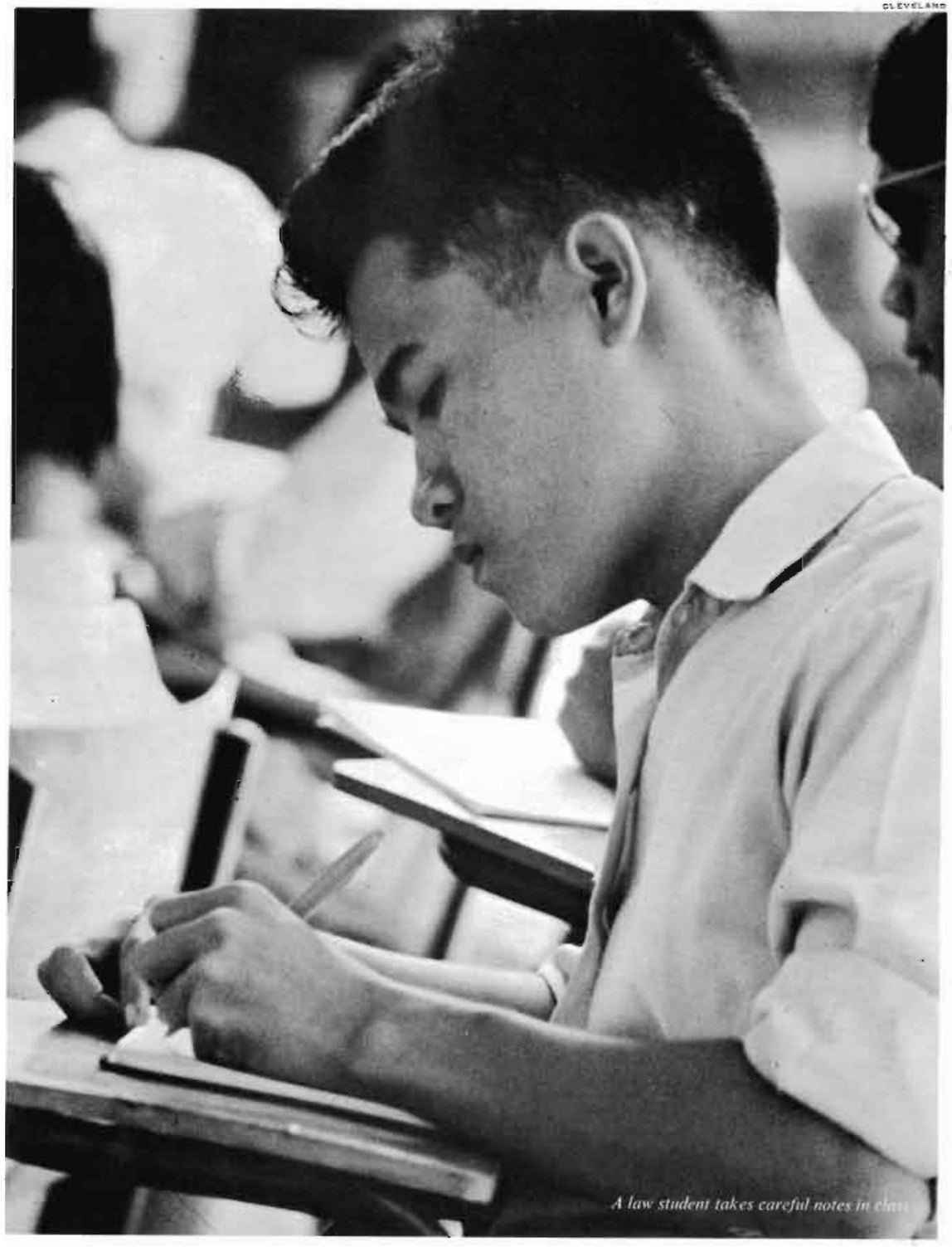
Vietnamese fleeing communist rule poured down into the relatively undeveloped southern half of the country. The mass exodus meant many hardships and disappointments. In the haste of relocation, the fleeing Vietnamese were forced to leave much behind, but they worked to rebuild their lives and to develop the potential of the south.

Like a mixing bowl, South Vietnam awaited the technical ingredients necessary to build a prosperous country.

Among those who migrated south were educators who had filled prominent positions at the University of Hanoi. While these individuals were well-prepared to launch South Vietnam on its way, they realized that Vietnam's future was the responsibility of its youth.

A university was necessary to train young people in the fields of medicine, law, agriculture, architecture, engineer-

Future doctors study in laboratories



A law student takes careful notes in class

CLEVELAND

Age is no barrier to higher education

ing, and industry. Construction began on the new university and in October, 1954, Saigon University opened its doors to the young people of South Vietnam.

Because of lack of space in Saigon, it was impossible to include all the faculties (fields of study) under a single roof. Instead, Saigon University sprawls throughout the capital. With the exception of the Faculty of Medicine, which houses the School of Dentistry, the faculties of Saigon University are located in separate buildings, often miles apart.

The students of Saigon University now have the opportunity to attain degrees in various fields ranging from philosophy to pharmacy. At the Faculty of Letters, for instance, nearly 8,000 students presently receive an education in such courses as history, psychology, foreign languages and literature.

The future education of Vietnam's youth is not ignored. At the Faculty of Pedagogy (Education), approximately 800 students are trained for teaching careers in the secondary schools of Vietnam. Ranging in age from 19 to 29 years, the students receive a well-rounded education in the sciences and humanities.

In addition to the courses offered by the Faculty of Pedagogy, student-teachers are divided into small groups for practice teaching in high schools under the guidance of experienced teachers. After the practical training, the student-teachers are well prepared to handle a class alone.

Since its outset in 1954, there has been a marked improvement in the educational program at Saigon University. Problems never cease, however, and there are still many obstacles to overcome.

One of the major problems stems from the French teaching system used by the University. Under this system, a series of lectures is given on a certain subject, but mandatory attendance is not required. There is no close relationship between the instructor and the student. Since no assignments or tests are administered by the teachers, the only incentive a student has is passing the final exams given annually. Without guidance, the student who must conduct his own study program can easily lose sight of the final goal.

In the effort to help Saigon University update its teaching system, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched a 10-year assistance program.

Dr. Howard Holland, USAID advisor for higher education in Vietnam, says, "The Vietnamese are capable educators but are hamstrung by the old French system. Learning should be an active process, not passive. There should be a lot of discussion and exchanging of ideas between the students."

Before attendance could be made mandatory at the University, building facilities had to be improved to accommodate an increase of students.

Because of the shortage of doctors in Vietnam, a top-priority project was initiated to modernize the Faculty of Medicine. Expansion of the Medical School's laboratory and building facilities, underwritten by a $4.5 million USAID grant, was completed in 1965.

Help came from American medical educators sent to Vietnam by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Dental Association (ADA). The project also called for an updating of the curriculum and teaching practices.

The Faculty of Medicine now boasts spacious laboratories and lecture auditoriums capable of accommodating thousands of students. Attendance is encouraged by a medical library and the modern visual-aid equipment used by instructors to supplement their lectures with movies and slides. There is a self-service cafeteria where students can hold informal discussions, exchange ideas and help each other with problems that may arise in their studies.

While much attention has been given to the Medical School, the other Faculties of Saigon University are making gains in the same direction. In the Faculty of Science, for instance, a modified credit-hour system is gradually phasing out the old French system.

Another problem plaguing Saigon University is what Dr. Tran Anh, the Charge d' Affaires calls the "deadwood problem". "If a student is rejected by the school he really wants, he will accept anything else to avoid being drafted into the Army", explains Dr. Anh. "Their main concern," he adds, "is not with the education they are receiving, but with the Army they are avoiding." The draft-dodgers take up valuable space in the classrooms—space that could be filled by students who are serious about their education.

In an effort to solve the "deadwood problem", the Government of Vietnam revised its draft law. Now a student who fails his final examination is rarely permitted to return the following year. His student deferment is terminated, and he is usually drafted into the Army. In special cases, however, such as those involving illness, he is readmitted to the University for another year.

The draft has affected Saigon University in more ways than one. Since teachers are also subject to Army induction, there is a current shortage of instructors at the University. While some are drafted permanently into the Army, the more indispensable instructors attend a training camp for nine weeks and then return to their teaching duties.

Other countries have expressed concern over the teacher shortage in Vietnam. New Zealand, Canada, Nationalist China, West Germany, and the US have sent professors.

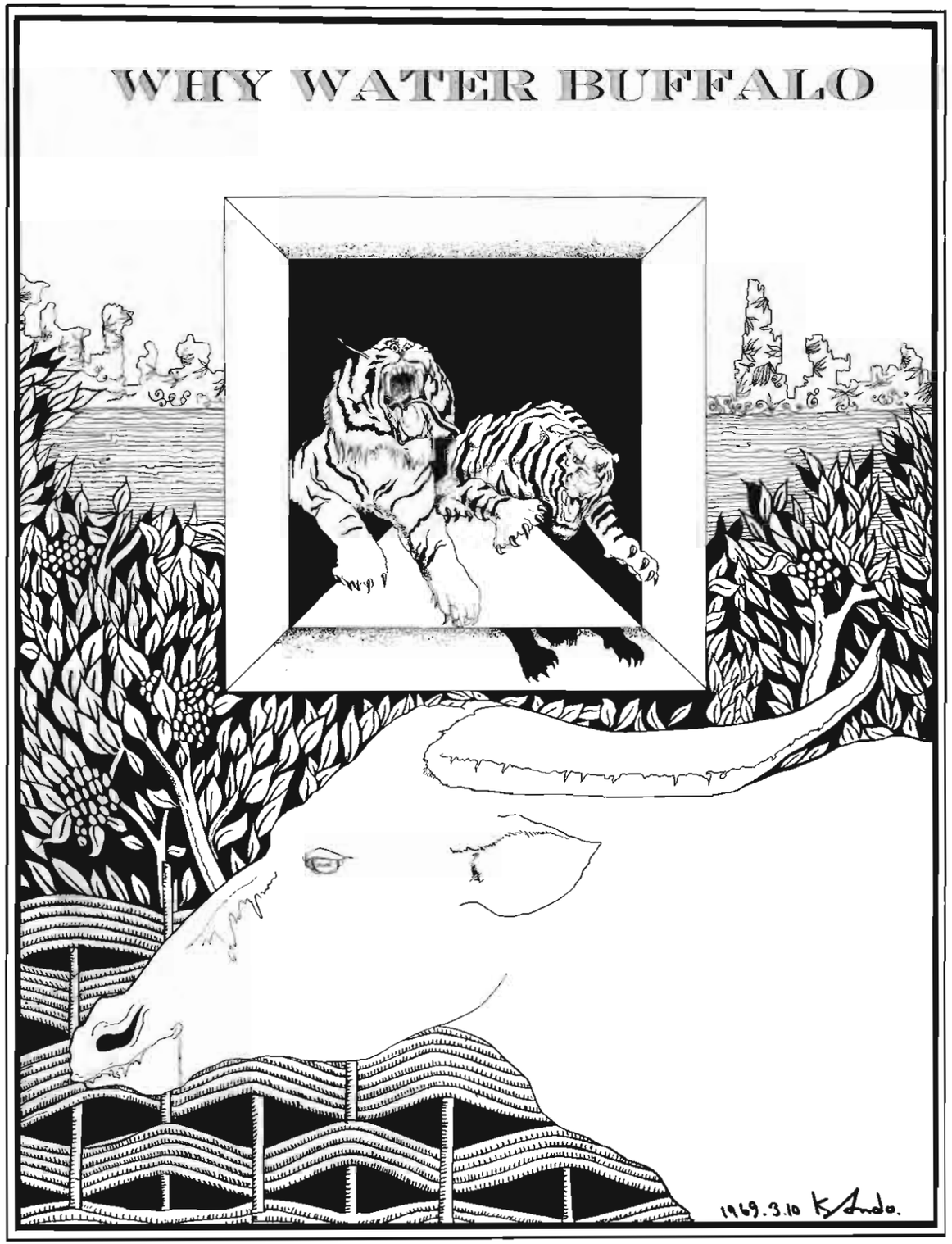
In addition to visiting professors, other forms of aid are provided by foreign countries. Dr. Earle Hoshall, USAID's deputy assistant director for higher education in Vietnam, reports that "Many other countries, foundations, and agencies have given various types of assistance, such as buildings, equipment, scholarships, and technical assistance. There is little doubt that this assistance will continue in the future. Both Korea and Japan," Dr. Hoshall continues, "have expressed interest in extending additional technical assistance to Vietnam."

Expressing his concern for the educational program at Saigon University, Dr. Hoshall concludes, "The capstone of an educational structure is the university; it's possibly the greatest force in shaping the life of a nation. At the same time it is the most durable —the most long lasting—of all the constantly changing forces."

CLEVELAND

Expert training at the School of Dentistry will improve health standards in Vietnam

WHY WATER BUFFALO HAVE CURVED HORNS



A Vietnamese Legend

Carabao or water buffalo, their skin a dark bluish-gray with large, flat horns curving back along their necks, have not always been the hump-backed work animal of Vietnam.

Many years ago, the carabao were beautiful, their horns long and sharp but they were shiftless, stole from the other animals and never bathed, causing a terrible odor.

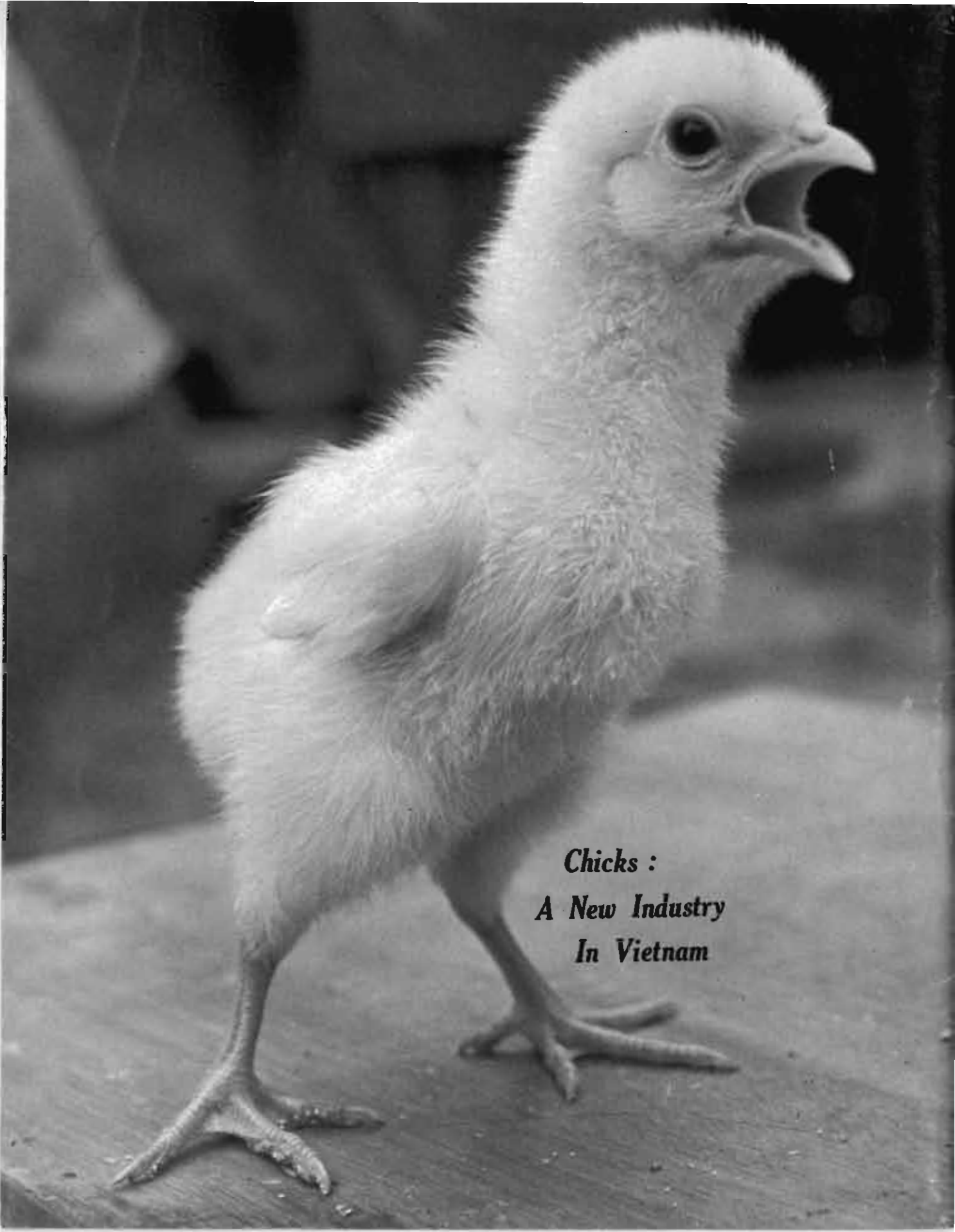
The other animals remained apart from the carabao because of their brute strength and offensive odor. At a monthly meeting of all the animals, the elephant, who was chairman, commissioned the tiger to tell the carabao to "stop eating our food, drinking our water and start helping us with some of the work."

The tiger relayed the elephant's message and told the carabao they were "a disgrace to the animal kingdom." To this the great bull replied, "Begone with you! Go tell your friends if they do not like it here to go somewhere else. We are not common animals, we are mighty beasts. No one tells us what to do. If you or your friends bother us again, we shall destroy you all."

The tiger returned and all the animals prayed to the Divine One for guidance. A gentle voice from the heavens told them, "Animals, you are right. The carabao have lived in disgrace for too long. They have made no effort to change their ways and must be punished. All the tigers will attack the carabao herd."

The carabao were a sorry looking sight after the battle. Their beautiful horns had been flattened and bent backwards. While they were recovering, the Divine One spoke to them. "Carabao, you have been punished for your miserable ways. From this time on you shall be beasts of burden as a punishment for your laziness. You shall be ugly because you boasted of your beauty and you shall wallow in the mud and water because of your uncleanliness. Go give yourselves to the nearby farmers and pull their plows through the muddy rice fields forever."

And so the water buffalo or carabao have humped shoulders, flat useless horns and have been wallowing about in mud and pulling plows in rice paddies ever since.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