

A Day in Viet Nam's 'Second War'

PLEIKU, Viet Nam — The "second war" in Viet Nam was advanced a step further when members of a Army Infantry Division, including an area officer, recently moved into a remote Montagnard village.

Armed with gifts of soap and candies, members of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, moved into a tiny village about 65 miles northwest of Pleiku in a column of gun jeeps over unsecure roads. The operation "Longfellow" of the reconnaissance platoon from Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, is based five miles from the village.

Cromwell Man

In one of the jeeps was Captain John F. Fielding, the battalion intelligence officer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fielding, 6 Court St., Cromwell, and husband of Marilyn Fielding, same address.

Capt. Fielding's jeep carried

the cases of soap and candies while an ambulance carried Dr. (Captain) Jack P. Baldwin of Little Rock, Ark., the battalion surgeon, and his medical supplies.

After a 20-minute ride, the group pulled up outside the village. Security guards moved into position and Captain Fielding entered the village.

"Doc" Baldwin and his assistants immediately set up shop. Through interpreters they asked that all the sick villagers come forward for treatment. In an hour the medics had taken care of more than 30 villagers whose ailments ranged from infected sores to mild pneumonia. Treatment ranged from swabbing with soap solution to massive doses of penicillin.

Vitamin Pills

Private First Class Joseph H. Peavey, of Bangor, Maine, and Specialist 5 Alford B. Childres, whose family is in Korea while

he is in Viet Nam, handed out vitamin pills to the crowd.

Meanwhile, Captain Fielding asked his interpreters to have the village chiefs gather the rest of the 352 Montagnards in the village square.

Once this was done, he distributed gifts of soap and candy to the assembled villagers. Their faces lit up with happiness as they tasted the candies and sniffed the soap.

According to Dr. Baldwin, the disease and infection rate in the village would be cut in half if the people had soap and used it regularly.

The gifts Captain Fielding and his men had presented to the Dak Ri Lang Montagnards had been sent to the 1/35 by the Zonta International Club, of Meriden, Conn.

Adopts Unit

The club has more or less adopted the battalion. Many (Continued on Page 14.)



CAPTAIN John F. Fielding of Cromwell, intelligence officer with the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, gives candy

to Montagnard villagers in Viet Nam during Operation "Longfellow." (U.S. Army photo)