

# THE JACKSTAFF NEWS

VOL. I No. 22

U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon

August 25, 1967

## Swift Boats Trade Blows With Enemy

Navy Swift boats were challenged by the enemy on a number of occasions in the past few weeks but the overall results could hardly be encouraging to the foe.

The heaviest attack was on the evening of Aug. 4 when two Swifts on coastal surveillance patrol came under enemy recoilless rifle attack 105 miles northwest of Danang.

Swift boat 51, patrolling near the DMZ, received four rounds of fire from the enemy recoilless rifles as the action began.

Returning the fire with .50-caliber machine guns, Swift boat 51, joined by Swift boat 80, closed to within 300 yards of the enemy position. Here they bombarded the enemy with machine guns and 81mm mortars.

### Near Misses Received

Both craft were narrowly missed while making passes along the beach near the enemy positions. Four rounds sailed over PCF 51 and one round landed directly astern of 80. Another 15 rounds of recoilless rifle fire were received from the enemy before the engagement was broken off.

There were no friendly casualties. The extent of enemy casualties was not known.

On Aug. 8, Swift boat 80 was hit by enemy automatic weapons fire near the DMZ. The attack began when exploding ordnance was seen detonating fifty yards off the stern and beam of the Swift.

Small arms rounds then splashed near the Swift. As the PCF closed to investigate, a burst of automatic weapons fire raked it, scoring hits. No U.S. Navy personnel were injured.

PCF-80 machine gunners and mortar crew opened fire on the enemy beach position. An air strike was called in and the destroyer USS Dupont pounded the enemy area with five inch shells.

On Aug. 9, a Swift boat on patrol in the South China Sea 15 miles southeast of Chu Lai spotted suspicious activity on the beach.

As PCF-54 closed to investigate, several people carrying supplies

(Cont. on Page 3)



**VIET CONG CHOPPER-UPPER**—The Navy's Seawolf helicopters have been effective weapons against the enemy working in conjunction with surface units. A strike by the Seawolves on Aug. 7 resulted in seven enemy killed.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by Ltjg. R.K. Martin)

## Seawolves, LSTs, PBRs Hit Enemy In Operation Game Warden Action

Variety characterized Operation Game Warden activity during the past few weeks.

Included were attacks on enemy supply facilities, suppression of a mortar attack, rescue of an ambushed merchant ship, blockading river crossing attempts, medical evacuations of friendly civilians and gunfire support against enemy ground troops.

The most successful single action in terms of confirmed enemy killed was a strike by Navy Seawolf helicopters Aug. 7 that killed ten Viet Cong in an ambush position on the Ham Luong River, 45 miles southwest of Saigon.

Two enemy sampans and two bunkers were destroyed by the choppers' rocket and machine gun fire.

The Seawolf attack was coordinated by the Senior Advisor to the Kien Hoa Sector acting on information about enemy activity in the 24-hour curfew area. The location had been the scene of several previous PBR ambushes on the north bank of the Ham Luong River.

### Helos Receive Fire

The Seawolf choppers were fired on by enemy automatic weapons during the attack. None of the helicopter crewmen were injured.

Operation Game Warden sup-

port LSTs continued to play a role far from the intent of their designers as on several occasions they acted as gun batteries against enemy shore positions.

A fireteam of Navy Seawolf helicopters teamed with the USS Hunterdon County (LST 838) in hitting an enemy ammunition and fuel storage area July 30 near the mouth of the Ham Luong River in the Mekong Delta 75 miles south of Saigon.

Seven enemy storage buildings were destroyed and six others damaged in the attack.

### Pass Brings Explosion

On information from the senior U.S. advisor, Thanh Phu subsector, the Seawolves swept in at 7:30 p.m., hitting the cache with rocket and machine gun fire. Their second firing pass brought a large secondary explosion with flames shooting nearly 100 feet into the air.

Their ammunition expended, the helicopters returned to the Hunterdon County, leaving the depot burning fiercely with sporadic secondary explosions continuing for nearly an hour as the flames reached stored ammunition and fuel.

The Hunterdon County then turned her 40mm guns on the

target, touching off another series of secondary explosions and sending black smoke streaming from the area. The enemy cache continued to burn for two hours.

There were no friendly casualties in the attack. The extent of enemy personnel casualties was not known.

### LST Back in Action

The Hunterdon County again went into action Aug. 5 and destroyed a large enemy supply cache near the Ham Luong River in the Mekong Delta 45 miles south of Saigon.

At 3:30 p.m., with permission from the Kien Hoa Sector Advisor, the Hunterdon County took an area of known enemy activity under fire in an attempt to harass and interdict the foe.

The ship's 40mm guns touched off a secondary explosion from which light grey smoke and high flames erupted. The fire burned fiercely for three hours.

The Jennings County (LST 846) also blasted the enemy on two occasions. On the first, Aug. 7, an enemy storage building was destroyed by a secondary explosion and raging fire when gun crews saturated enemy positions

(Cont. on Page 3)



## EDITORIAL

## Facing the Facts

THE best way to save money is not to spend it. This statement appears to present a simple truth, but it is partly false and totally unrealistic. Everyone must spend money for necessities. And it is only human nature for people to seek luxuries in life.

Actually, you can save money through spending. The discriminate shopper, or selective spender, saves money by comparing cost and quality as offered by reputable firms in the same business. The greatest "savings through spending" result when you purchase



an automobile or other items that are usually bought under contractual terms. A careful examination of all facets of the purchase, and exactly how much you will have to pay before it becomes yours, can save you up to several hundred dollars.

It is the indiscriminate, or reckless spender, who usually runs into trouble. This type often contracts for heavy financial obligations. Case histories show that some get in debt so deeply they jeopardize their career.

Should you fall in the selective buyer category you will find that you have more money left to invest in a regular savings program.

You can plant these buyer savings so they will take root and grow even larger. One method is to spend this money for U.S. Savings Bonds. Thus, instead of paying interest on your purchase, you actually receive interest money.

After all, buying savings bonds is only another example of selective buying to get the most for your money. (AFNB)



## The Jackstaff News

Captain B.W. Spore, USN  
Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon  
Lieutenant (junior grade) L.A. Van Rooy, Jr., USNR, Officer in Charge  
C.K. Ferguson, JOC, Editor  
James E. Hummel, AE2 (JO), Art Editor  
Stephen J. Kreher, JO3, Reporter/Circulation  
William Kobler, SN, Reporter—Anthony J. Popowitz, JON, Reporter  
The Jackstaff News is published bi-weekly by the U.S. Naval Support Activity Saigon for Navy personnel in Vietnam's II, III and IV CTZ in accordance with NAVEXOS P-35 and is printed with appropriated funds by the World Press Co., Ltd. AFNB material may be reproduced provided credit is given. Other syndicated material may not be reproduced. Mailing address: Editor, Jackstaff News, Naval Support Activity, Code 03, APO San Francisco 96214.

Chaplain's Corner  
'NEW HORIZONS'

By Chaplain Bealo

"That you may know the way you shall go for you have not passed this way before (Joshua 3:4)."

General Joshua's advice is good for us to heed also. Our time over here is a new adventure for each of us. We had our preconceived ideas as that comfortable jet plane touched down in the Republic of Vietnam. Then came the time to revise our ideas by replacing them with fresh first hand impressions.

The experience of a year's duty over here should have its effect on us. We should leave here a richer person than when we came.

Some of us will have our financial status improved if we take advantage of the wonderful opportunity to save money while here. But all of us should leave having gained greater personal maturity. We will have the opportunity to evaluate ourselves in times of stress and in our lonely hours.

We will have time to think and to plan what we want to accomplish in life. By taking a personal inventory we can match our talents and ability alongside of our ambitions and see where we must invest our energy to make those dreams come true. Our family and friends will play an important role in the realization of our ambitions and so will our faith in God to guide and direct us.

The future will always be filled with uncertainty because we do not know what tomorrow holds for us. Each day is a new adventure and we have not yet passed this way before.

The Book of Proverbs offers this promise from God:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And do not rely on your own insight.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make straight your path.

## Your Career Counselor

Associate Degree Program  
Designed for Career Men

By David Campbell, PNI

In the past most of the career benefits and incentives found in this column have leaned heavily towards the first cruise man. Well, you career types need not feel neglected, we've got one all our own. It's the Associate Degree Completion Program (ADCOP). Career men, and only career men, may apply!

This program has been established to provide a career retention incentive to outstanding enlisted personnel. To be considered for this program you must have already completed at least one or more enlistments. It is a program of on-campus study leading to an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science degree. This is your chance to increase your professional proficiency by continuing your formal education in a civilian educational institution.

Here are the eligibility requirements for consideration for the Associate Degree Completion Program:

Citizenship—Must be a citizen of the United States and be able to furnish proof of citizenship.

Status—Must be enlisted in the Regular Navy and have completed at least one or more enlistments. Must agree to extend period of enlistment or reenlist for 6 years at the time of entry into ADCOP. Must be within 18 months of EAOS.

Marital Status—Married or single.

Sex—Male or female.

Age—Net less than 25 nor more than 40 years of age at time of application.

Prior Education and Training:

a. Must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have completed 3 years of high school and possess a GED equivalency certificate or diploma issued by a State Department of Education or an authorized high school with a grade in the 50th percentile or above in each of the test areas.

b. Must be a graduate of a Class "A" School and a Class "B" School. A Class "C" School equivalent may be substituted for a Class "B" School as provided in BuPers Instruction 1133.13C (STAR Program).

c. For those who do not have an "A" School, "B" School, or "C" School equivalent, a minimum of 12 transferable college credits may be substituted for the required Navy schooling. It must be emphasized that satisfactory completion of off-duty courses of higher education will be given prime consideration for an advanced standing.

Disciplinary—The applicant must have no record of conviction by summary, special, or general court martial, conviction by a civic court for any offense other than minor traffic violations, or more than two Commanding Officer's non-judicial punishments during the past two-year period.

Rate—Must be a career petty officer second class or above.

If you would like to learn more about this or any of the other opportunities available to you as a Navyman check with the Naval Support Activity detachment career counselor nearest you—Today!

Cam Ranh Bay Comm Station  
Is Navy Communications Hub

The recently completed U.S. Naval Communications Station at Cam Ranh Bay was formally commissioned August 1, 1967 in ribbon cutting ceremonies by Rear Admiral Kenneth L. Veth, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Vietnam.

Construction of the new station under the supervision of Officer in Charge of Construction, Republic of Vietnam, Captain G.R. Yount, began August 26, 1966.

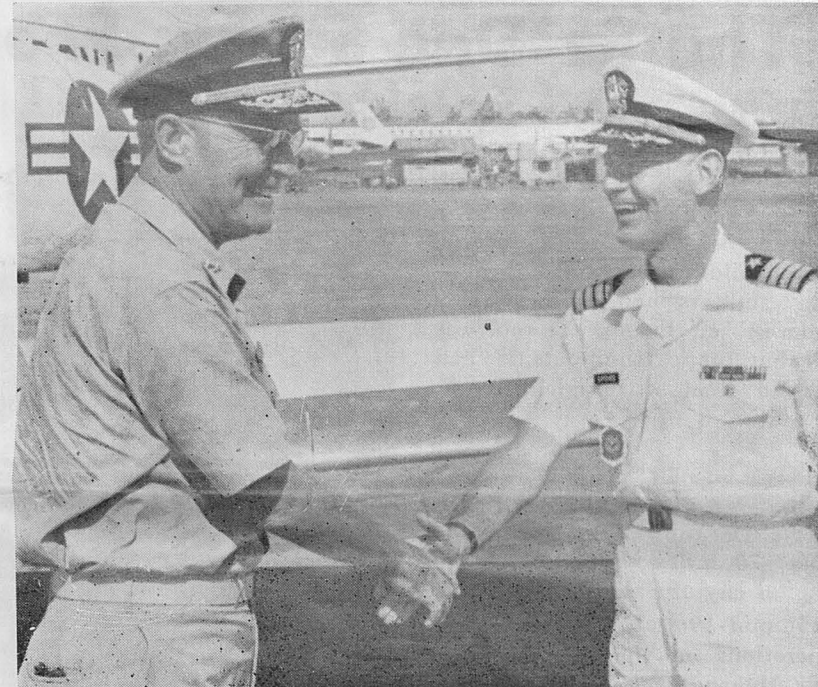
Prime contractor for the station's construction was the RMK-BRJ Construction Company. The subcontractor for electronics installation was Collins Radio Corporation.

The completed station, located on the shores of the South China Sea approximately 186 miles northeast of Saigon, consists of the Communications Center at the Naval Support Activity Saigon, Detachment Cam Ranh Bay, nearby receiver and transmitter units and a message center at the headquarters of the U.S. Navy's Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 115) and Naval Air Facility.

This new Naval Communications Station is now the hub of Naval Communications in Vietnam. It provides major relay for in-country messages, circuits to all major Navy commands in Vietnam, multi-channel fleet broadcasts for ships in the South China Sea and Tonkin Gulf area and naval air communications. It also has a tie-in to the Communications Area Master Station in the Philippines.

Participating in the commissioning ceremonies also were the station's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander J.K. Hensley, and executive officer, Lieutenant Gene R. Will. Others attending included Lieutenant A.B. Hutchinson, communications officer, and Captain G.R. Yount.

More than 100 Navy personnel are attached to the new communications station.



OLD 'VIETNAM HAND' RETURNS—Rear Admiral Norvell G. Ward, former Commander Naval Forces Vietnam, is greeted at Tan Son Nhut airport by Captain B.W. Spore, Commander Naval Support Activity Saigon. Admiral Ward, Commander Service Group Three, arrived to visit units of his command serving in Vietnam waters.

## Game Warden Action

(Continued from Page 1)

with 40mm cannon and 81mm mortar fire 50 miles southwest of Saigon near the Co Chien River.

The supply cache burned to the ground after a secondary explosion sent grey smoke billowing 75 feet into the sky.

Two days later the Jennings County was called upon to fire on enemy ground troops.

Advised by the Huong My Subsector Advisor at 7:40 p.m. that a company-size enemy force was active nearby, the Jennings County was requested to take the position under fire.

The LST hit the area with 40mm cannon and 81mm mortar fire, touching off a secondary explosion with fireball and smoke rising into the air.

Navy "Seawolf" helicopters, Navy River Patrol Boats and an Army light helicopter fire team combined forces Aug. 1 to kill four Viet Cong and rescue a merchant ship from ambush 15 miles southeast of Saigon.

The action commenced at 10:40 a.m. when the merchant ship SS Seatrain Florida received small arms fire while sailing north on the Long Tau River.

The Navy PBRs and the Army helicopter "gunships" rushed to the scene where the helos spotted three enemy in a camouflaged position.

The combined forces received small arms and automatic weapons fire from the enemy. A counter-attack by the helos accounted for three enemy killed.

A half-hour later, some five miles further up the river, the same merchant ship received heavy automatic weapons and re-

coilless rifle fire.

Navy "Seawolf" helicopters and PBRs were called in, pouring rocket and machine gun fire on the enemy. The enemy fire was suppressed.

The Seawolves spotted two enemy in the water trying to evade. The helos swooped in, killing one.

Two Binh Thuy-based PBRs and Navy "Seawolf" helicopters killed three enemy, captured one enemy sampan containing uniforms, ammunition and various documents and destroyed another Aug. 6 on the Bassac River eight miles south of Can Tho.

The PBRs spotted a twin-engine sampan evading to the beach. The boats received enemy fire as they closed to investigate.

A Navy Seawolf fire team was called in from Vinh Long and suppressed the enemy with rocket and machine gun fire as the PBRs moved in and captured the sampan.

The Game Warden support base at Nha Be came under brief enemy recoilless rifle attack Aug. 5 resulting in no U.S. casualties and only light material damage. It was the second enemy attack on Nha Be in three days.

At approximately 2:45 a.m., the enemy fired eight or nine 75 millimeter recoilless rifle rounds, hitting the base with only two. The others landed short in the Long Tau River.

One building received light damage in the attack.

Navy Seawolf helicopters, joined by U.S. Army helicopters and an AC-47 "Spooky" aircraft, countered the attack with rocket and machine gun fire.

## Swift Boats Engage Enemy

(Continued from Page 1)

ran for cover. Upon receiving automatic weapons fire from the enemy, the Swift boat opened up with its .50-caliber machine guns.

Swift 54 was joined by PCF-99 and an air strike was called in to assist. Coordinating the action, the Swift boats and aircraft surprised the enemy fire.

One enemy was reported killed and supplies and one bunker destroyed.

The same day PCF-51 was taken under semi-automatic weapons fire from an enemy position near the DMZ.

Returning the fire with .50-caliber machine guns, PCF-51 moved out to a position about a mile offshore where it rendezvoused with the Coast Guard Cutter Point Orient.

Both the Pt. Orient and PCF-51 then made firing runs on the positions using machine guns and 81mm mortars.

Three enemies were killed in an engagement near the DMZ Aug. 10 after they fired at Swift boat 46 with recoilless rifle and small arms.

Swift boat 46 was on a coastal surveillance patrol at 1:30 p.m., 300 yards off the beach near the Demilitarized Zone, when entrenched enemy riflemen opened fire with small arms.

As PCF 46 made several passes on the enemy positions, raking it with .50-caliber machine gun and mortar fire, a spotter aircraft was called in to mark the target for an air strike.

After an air strike battered the enemy position, the spotter pilot reported seeing three enemy dead on the beach.

And Swift boat 68 encountered heavy enemy automatic weapons

PIASTER PETE by Hummel.





# The Sa Dec Story: From Scratch to PBR Base

By Bob Edwards, JOI

It started with a clubhouse of sorts, used as a Vietnamese Youth Center. Adjacent to it were a soccer field and tennis courts. The building was run down — the shutters hung precariously from broken hinges, the roof was all but gone, the outside had turned from its original bright white to a dingy gray — and it had been used occasionally as a shelter for pigs.

Its location was the small town of Sa Dec, on the Mekong River some 70 miles southwest of the capital city of Saigon.

In mid-1966, U.S. Navy patrol operations on the waterways of the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone were on the increase. The patrols, dubbed Operation Game Warden, were planned to curtail Viet Cong movement of men and supplies in the rice-rich Delta area.

It became evident that a base of operations for the newly-introduced River Patrol Boats would have to be set up in the Sa Dec area. Navy representatives approached the District Chief to see what could be done about acquiring the needed land. The local official agreed to lease a small parcel of land in the center of the town which included the run-down clubhouse.

In early June the first segment of personnel from the Naval Support Activity, Saigon arrived in Sa Dec and began clean-up operations. The old building was refurbished with new roofing and other repairs. It became a galley and mess hall.

Tent structures were erected as temporary berthing facilities, later



**YE OLDE CLUBHOUSE**—This old building, which formed the nucleus of the Naval Support Activity Detachment Sa Dec, was in pretty bad shape when Navymen took it over in June 1966.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by Larry Lindberg, PH2)

to be improved with asbestos sheeting. Generators were installed to provide the rapidly-growing base with its own power.

Since the new base site was situated in the middle of town away from the river, another parcel of land on the riverbank had to be acquired for boat berthing and maintenance.

An existing building was converted into a repair shop. A pontoon pier was set in place and a building was erected on the pier for additional storage space. Later a boat slip was added adjacent to the pier area to facilitate hull repairs.

The pier area and the support base became fully operational with the arrival of the PBRs of River Patrol Section 521 in late August. The ten boats were given the

mission of patrolling a 35-mile strip of the Mekong River — 10 miles to the east of Sa Dec and 25 miles to the west.

Permanent construction continued at the support base. Additional barracks were built for the PBR sailors, club facilities were expanded and a cyclone fence was erected around the base perimeter for security.

Today, permanent construction is almost complete although another building is going up to house communications equipment. Plans are underway to remodel the inside of the old clubhouse to improve messing facilities. And additional space is being added to the club as a ping pong/TV lounge.

The three officers and 64 enlisted men of the support detachment, led by Lieutenant Joseph

B. Lehn, work in close cooperation with the PBR personnel. In one instance, a five-man team, consisting of men from both commands, overhauled five PBR engines in a 53-hour period — and not a single patrol was handicapped.

Sa Dec personnel are busy also in the area of civic action. In an 11-month period, the base hospital corpsmen have accomplished 21 MEDCAP missions and treated more than 4,200 Vietnamese civilians.

Starting from scratch, Sa Dec has progressed to what is now a highly-efficient support base for the PBRs patrolling the waters of the Mekong Delta.

And it all started with a clubhouse of sorts...



**WATCHTOWER**—Constant vigilance is maintained against enemy terrorism and sabotage. This tower gives the security guard a vantage point in the pier area.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by Don Bordwell, PH1)



**OPERATING AREA** — PBRs of River Patrol Section 521 nestle alongside the pier at Sa Dec. They'll soon be out on another 12-hour patrol.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by Don Bordwell, PH1)

## Vietnamese Chief of State Decorates Navy Personnel

South Vietnamese Chief of State, Lieutenant General Nguyen Van Thieu, flew to the flagship of the powerful Seventh Fleet force recently to confer decorations upon Navy and Marine Corps personnel for their "efforts and sacrifices made in the pursuit of freedom" in Southeast Asia.

The Chief of State was accompanied to Yankee Station off the coast of North Vietnam by General Cao Van Vien, Chief of the Vietnamese Joint General Staff, and Vietnamese Navy Commander Captain Tran Van Chon.

The party was met on the carrier Constellation by Vice Admiral John J. Hyland, Seventh Fleet Commander, and Rear Admiral Roger W. Mehle, Task Force 77 Commander.

In introducing Gen. Thieu at the ceremony, Admiral Hyland noted that "this is the second formal recognition by the Republic of Vietnam of the contributions made by Seventh Fleet men in the war in which we are engaged; a war for freedom and liberty."

Gen. Thieu likened the Vietnamese War to the American Revolution.

"For many decades the Asian people and especially the Vietnamese people have been greatly inspired by the American revolution. Today, we are fighting for the same ideals: To uphold and defend the inalienable rights of man for freedom and human dignity," he said.

"We are being aided in the

same way that in the early years of the American Revolution the United States had the active support of many men from various nations, crossing the ocean to share your dangers and toils in the struggle against tyranny."

He said his nation was fighting a war "strictly of self-defense". "Our aim is not to destroy North Vietnam, nor to overthrow its regime, no matter how abhorrent such an oppressive regime is to us.

"We are confident, however, that no one would accept to live under tyranny. The history of 1954, when more than one million people left their ancestral homes in North Vietnam to go south, has dramatically proven this fact."

The consequences on the rest of Southeast Asia and the rest of the free world would be incalculable, he said, if freedom is allowed to be engulfed by aggression.

"For the efforts and sacrifices you have made in the pursuit of these goals, you are entitled to the gratitude of freemen everywhere," he concluded.

Sixty-three Navy and Marine officers and enlisted men were decorated at the ceremony held in the carrier's cavernous hangar bay.

## After 22 Years of Service Destroyer Reaches Pacific

By C.H. Nelson, JOC

Twenty-two years of sailing the world's oceans passed before the destroyer USS Charles R. Ware arrived in the Pacific Ocean. This, for a destroyer, is somewhat unusual. But, arrive she did, and today the Mayport, Florida-based Atlantic Fleet destroyer is proudly sailing in company with U.S. Seventh Fleet units in the Tonkin Gulf off the coast of North Vietnam.

The Ware is presently assigned to Task Force 77, the Navy's attack carrier strike force in the South China Sea. Her primary mission is the defense of attack aircraft carriers such as the USS Constellation, USS Kitty Hawk, USS Bon Homme Richard, and others. Operating in the comparatively enclosed waters of the Tonkin Gulf, these attack carriers depend on their escorting destroyers for constant surveillance of the air, surface and sub-surface. The carrier forces must have a safe operating area from which to launch their daily air strikes against North Vietnam.

The Ware is no stranger to this job... her 22 years of commissioned service have seen her operating with carriers in the North and South Atlantic, the Mediterranean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and now, the Pacific.

Escorting a fast attack aircraft carrier back and forth across the Tonkin Gulf is hot, seemingly never-ending work. But the crew of the Ware knows it has a necessary and important job. The pilots who fly the daily missions over North Vietnam are always glad to see the destroyer trailing their carrier when they return from their strikes.

The destroyermen, although traditionally friendly rivals of the "airdales", look after their charges with a particular care. If a plane should go in the "drink", the destroyermen will make every effort to beat the rescue helicopter to the pilot in the water.

Most Seventh Fleet destroyers are moved "off the line" from the carriers at some time or another during their tour and assigned to the "Sea Dragon" operation. This is the Navy's campaign to shell communist military targets in the southern part of North Vietnam within the range of ship's guns.

Soon... if it hasn't happened already... Ware's five-inch Atlantic Fleet guns will add their roar to the already powerful "voice" of the "Sea Dragon" here in Southeast Asia.



**RENDEZVOUS**—The heavy cruiser USS Boston loads up with ammunition from the fast combat ship USS Sacramento. This is an almost daily routine for cruisers and destroyers participating in Operation Sea Dragon fire support missions.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by R.D. Moeser, JOC)

## Seabees Dedicate Chapel With Special Significance

On a hilltop in the Hue/Phu Bai area of South Vietnam, Seabees of Mobile Construction Battalion Three recently took time out of their busy schedule to dedicate a new chapel to the worship of God.

It's an attractive little chapel by any standards, but here amid the dust and dirt, its 24-foot steeple, topped by a large white cross, shines like a diamond in the rough. It was built with care by men who wanted to do a little extra in putting up the church.

The dedication was held at 2 p.m. under the hot sun, beneath American and Vietnamese flags and with the assistance of the Third Marine Division Band. The guest of honor was Major General Bruno A. Hochmuth, Commanding General of the Third Marine Division.

The General noted that "the chapel was completed even before the permanent mess hall which says a great deal for the spiritual values of MCB-3."

The chapel was christened "Holy Trinity Chapel", a name that was conceived by one of the members of the battalion and is a good deal more appropriate than is apparent.

The number three or a trinity, always a mystic number in Christian theology, has a special meaning for MCB-3 as well. Of course, it is part of the battalion's name. But in addition, this is the battalion's third consecutive deploy-

ment to Vietnam, it's in its third location and is now building its third new camp.

It is the first mobile construction battalion to have accomplished any of these "threes" and its men are proud of the fact. They wear the Navy "E" as justification of that pride.

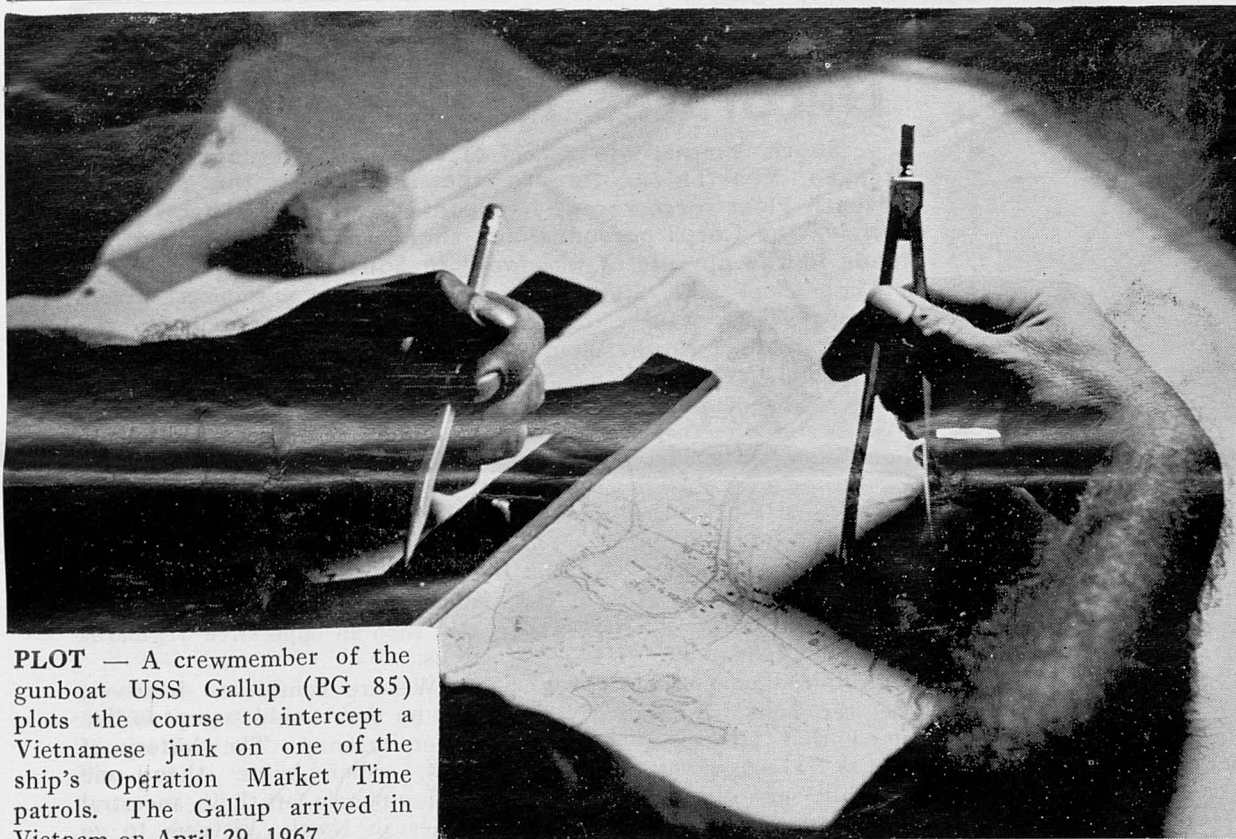
"Trinity Chapel" also houses the chaplain's quarters and his office. Chaplain Richard C. Hunkins prefers living there, away from all the other officers' quarters, so that it will be easier for men to see him at any time of the day or night.

The command received a gift of some stained glass from the States for the chapel before it was even off the drawing board. So now it is one of the few churches in Vietnam with stained glass behind the altar.

The most striking feature of the chapel is the two-foot high cross, which is visible for two miles.

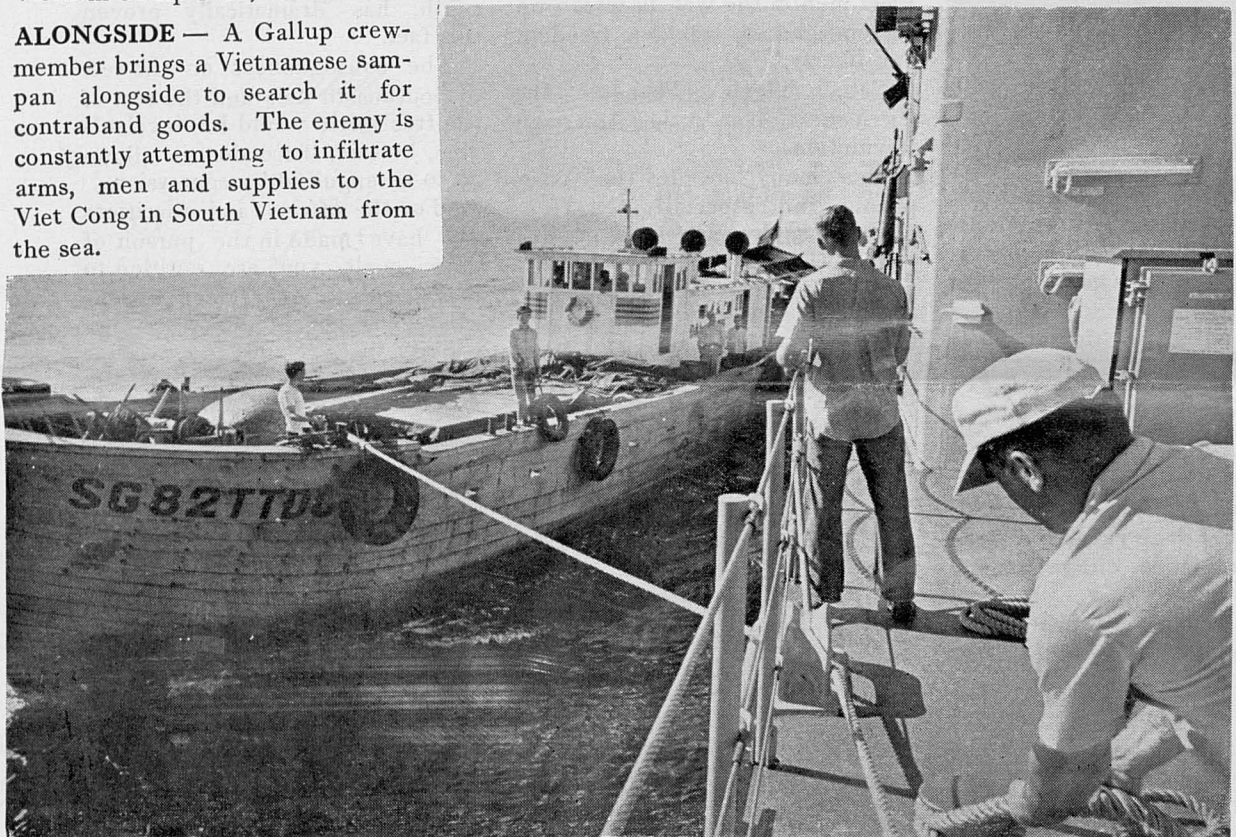
All of these things make "Holy Trinity Chapel" the newest reason that the "Bees of THREE" will look anyone in the eye and state their battalion's motto: "Better than the Best".



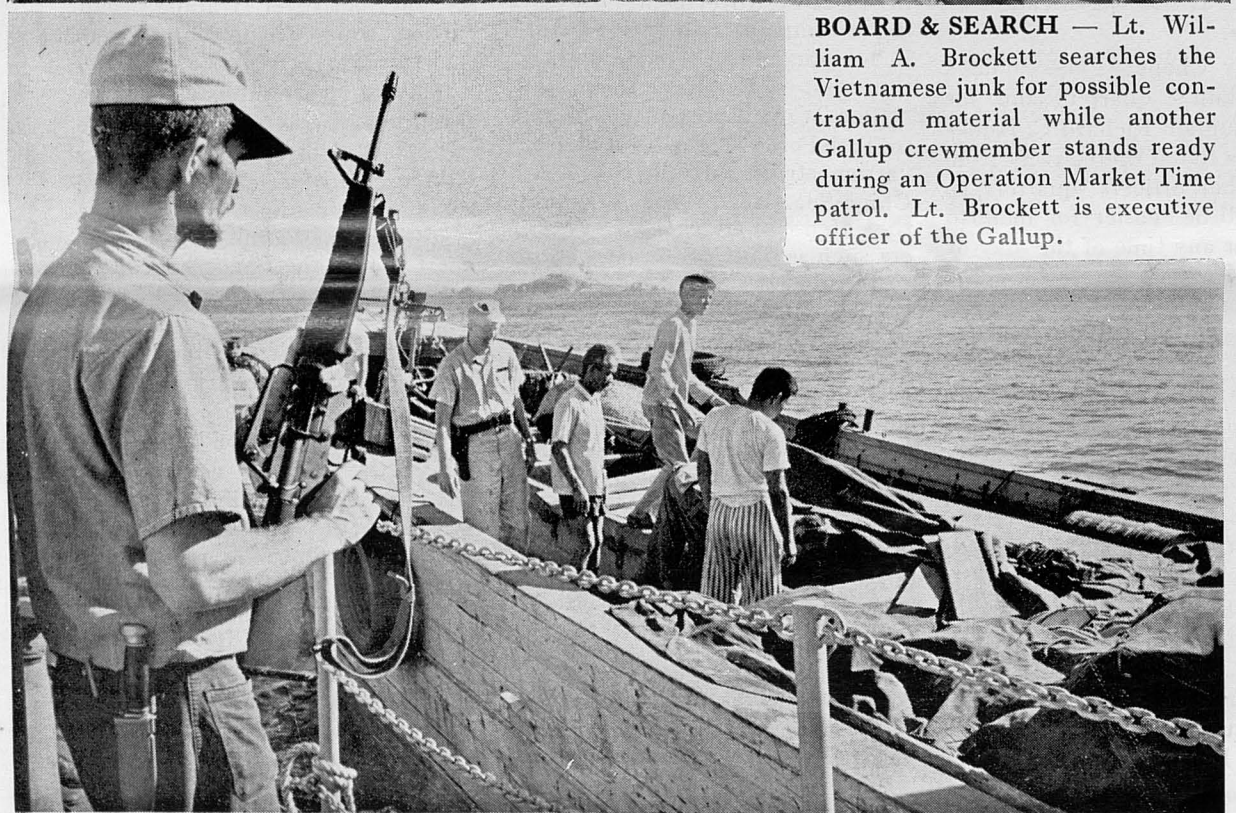


**PLOT** — A crewmember of the gunboat USS Gallup (PG 85) plots the course to intercept a Vietnamese junk on one of the ship's Operation Market Time patrols. The Gallup arrived in Vietnam on April 29, 1967.

**ALONGSIDE** — A Gallup crewmember brings a Vietnamese sampan alongside to search it for contraband goods. The enemy is constantly attempting to infiltrate arms, men and supplies to the Viet Cong in South Vietnam from the sea.



**BOARD & SEARCH** — Lt. William A. Brockett searches the Vietnamese junk for possible contraband material while another Gallup crewmember stands ready during an Operation Market Time patrol. Lt. Brockett is executive officer of the Gallup.



## 'Galloping Gallup' of the South China Sea

**CNFVN** — The deafening scream of a Phantom jet aircraft engine rises above the rhythmic lapping of the South China Sea.

There is a forward jolt and a blast of wind; clothing of men on deck is plastered tight against their bodies.

This is not the deck of an aircraft carrier. The Navy's newest high-speed gunboat, the USS Gallup (PG 85), has just shifted from her conventional twin diesel engines to the 13,500-horsepower jet engine which can propel her from 0 to 40 knots in less than 60 seconds.

The Gallup operates with Operation Market Time patrols along the coast of South Vietnam.

The turbojet engine enables her to quickly close on a sampan or junk which might be trying to infiltrate enemy personnel or supplies.

The 28 officers and enlisted men aboard the Gallup are especially trained to operate this new craft — only two of these 164-foot ships exist. They are both in Vietnam assigned to Market Time.

Every man aboard has a working knowledge of all the diverse skills needed to run the "jet ship" so that each is able to replace any other crewmember should the need arise.

Gallup is armed with a rapid-fire, three-inch gun, a 40mm cannon and .50-caliber machine guns.

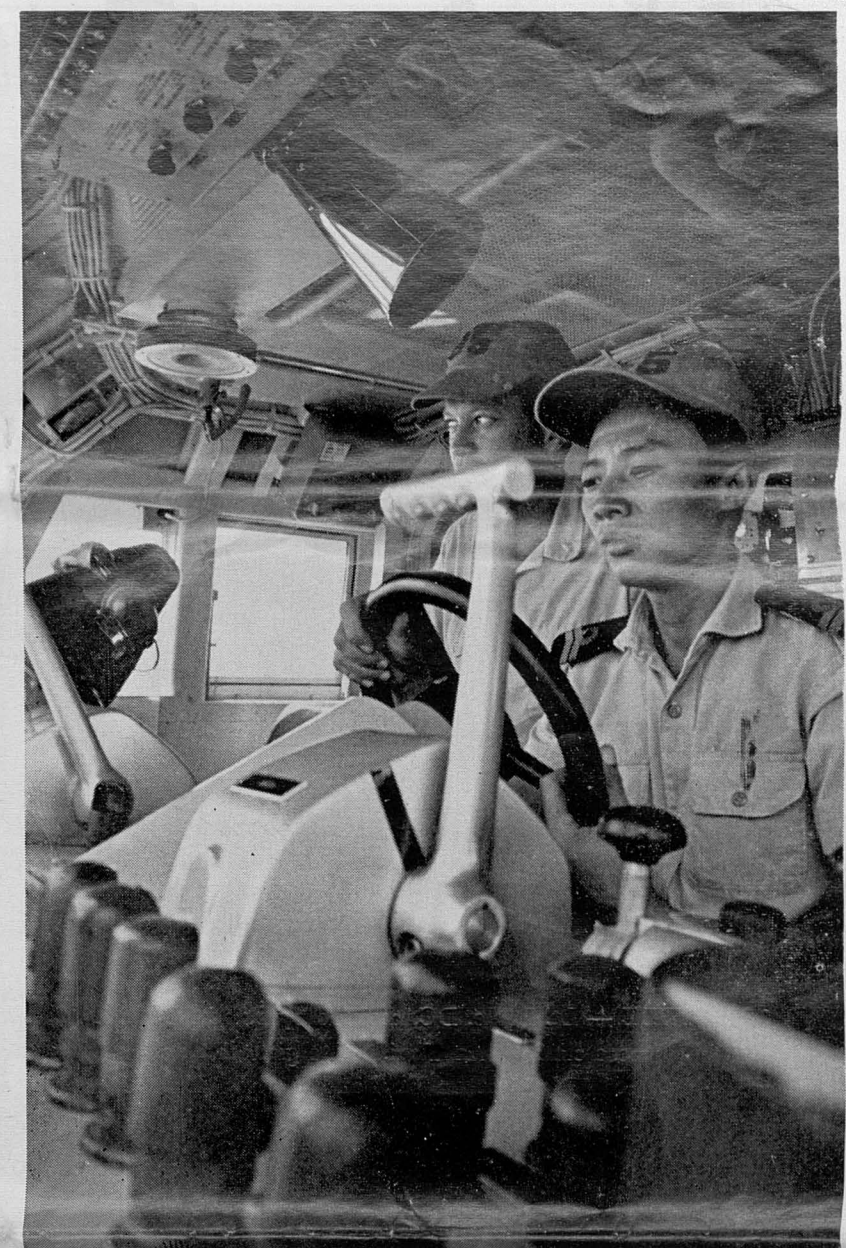
She operates eight days on station, then spends two days in port.

"We have the facilities and can carry the provisions to stay on

station much longer," said Lieutenant Commander William T. Spane, Jr., Commanding Officer of PG 85.

Gallup is capable of high speed, but she is also powered by twin diesels providing 1,650-horsepower for normal cruising at 17 to 18 knots.

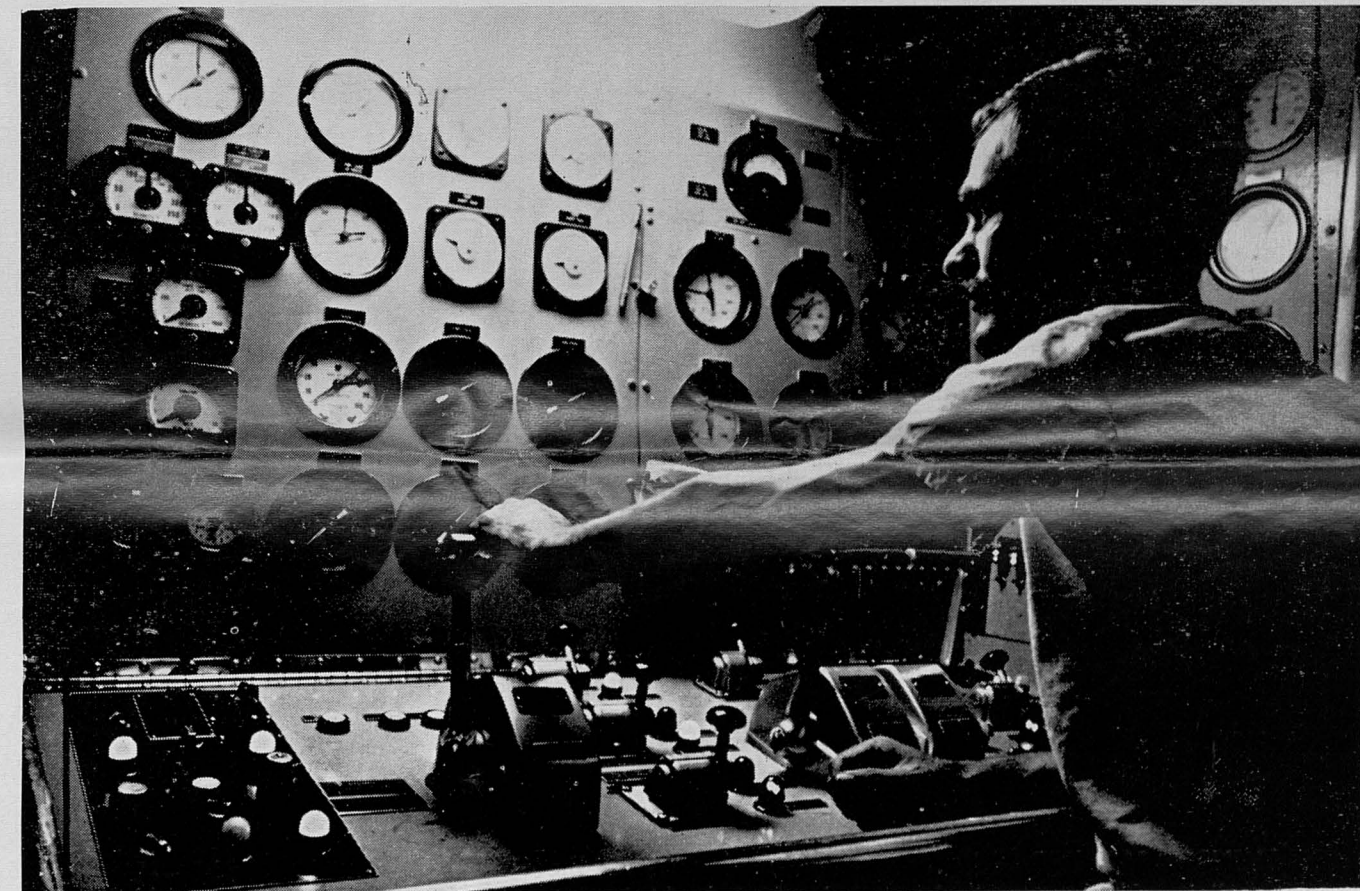
On April 29, 1967, Gallup and her sister ship, USS Ashville (PG 84), arrived in Vietnam.



**WHEEL** — Vietnamese Navy Petty Officer Second Class Pham Trung Quan steers the USS Gallup (PG 85) on an Operation Market Time patrol off the coast of Vietnam. Pham is the Vietnamese interpreter aboard the high-speed gunboat. Keeping a watchful eye forward is the Gallup's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander William T. Spane, Jr.



**40 KNOTS** — The USS Gallup knives through the quiet South China Sea along the coast of South Vietnam on an Operation Market Time patrol. Gallup's 13,500-horsepower turbojet engine is capable of accelerating the ship from 0 to 40 knots in less than 60 seconds.



**CONTROL PANEL** — The Gallup's many dials, knobs and control levers give the impression of an aircraft cockpit as Petty Officer First Class Forrest R. Bain prepares to shift the high-speed gunboat from her normal cruising diesels to the Phantom jet aircraft engine which will take her to 40 knots in a matter of seconds.



# Navy Dentist 'Fights' on Psychological Front



**OPEN WIDE** — Lt. Poole, DC, assisted by Robert Lisle, DT2, removes a loose baby tooth from a brave girl at a Vietnamese clinic at An Thoi. The girl didn't cry during the whole proceeding. Lt. Poole and Lisle are attached to APL 55 at An Thoi and perform the free dental service for the Vietnamese in addition to providing dental care to An Thoi-based Operation Market Time personnel.

(All photos pages 4-5 courtesy Naval Support Activity Detachment An Thoi)

It has long been recognized that the war in Vietnam will not be won on the battlefield alone. There is a parallel struggle for men's minds that must be won before the communist grip on South Vietnam is broken for good.

There are many facets to this psychological battle but the idea basically is to convince the Vietnamese people that their future will be better under the government of the Republic of Vietnam than under the communists' so-called "National Liberation Front of South Vietnam".

Efforts of men like Navy Dentist Lieutenant James Poole to improve the health standards of people who in many cases have never been able to afford dental care are an important part of this endeavor.

The work is accomplished through local government officials so that the psychological benefits will accrue to the government of the Republic of South Vietnam.

The goal of the total effort, as one official in Saigon explained, is to give the people of this country something to live for—but also something they will fight and die for. Something which will enliven their aspirations instead of inciting their opposition.



**ANXIOUS MOTHER** — A young patient's mother waits at the door to the clinic. She has utensils for preparing food should the patient have to spend the night.



**'WAITING ROOM'** — The room for persons waiting for dental treatment is rather spartan but for persons who in many cases have never before received dental care this is a small inconvenience.



**DENTIST'S NIGHTMARE** — The betel-nut chewing old woman's mouth seemed a hopeless case, but the dentist did what he could.



**SKEPTICS** — Following the regular weekly clinic Lt. Poole and Lisle hold informal sessions on dental hygiene with groups of children. Before "school" starts these children seem to be taking an "I'm from Missouri" attitude.



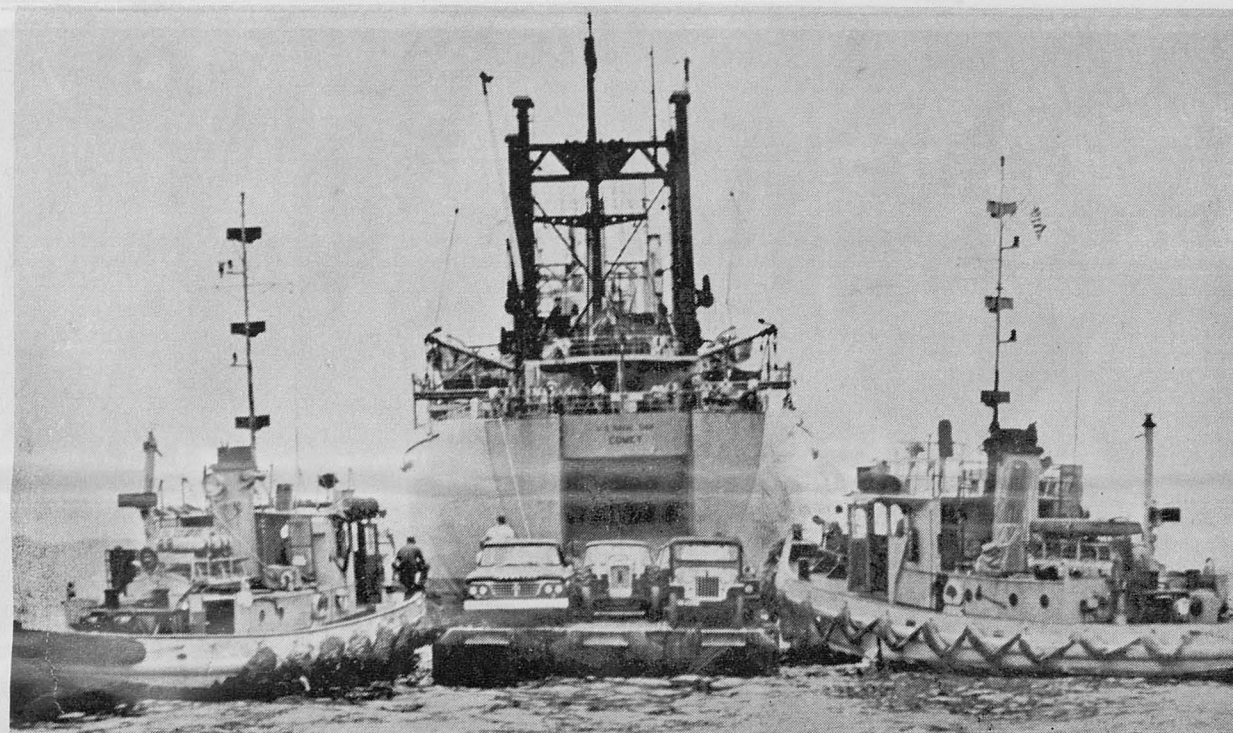
**GATHER AROUND** — Lt. Poole gets a small group of the children around him for a demonstration on dental hygiene.

**LIKE SO** — The proper method of toothbrush manipulation is shown.

**REWARD** — The boy who made such a willing subject for the toothbrush demonstration is rewarded with a gift of a toothbrush. Brushes and tubes of toothpaste were passed out to many of the children.







## In-Country Cargo Movements Major Part of MSTSO's Task

By Ted Jorgenson, JOC

CNFVN—A civilian tug tows a string of barges along the snake-like waterway system of Vietnam's Mekong Delta or north up the coast to ports on the South China Sea.

A tank landing ship (LST) with the familiar blue and yellow stripe markings on its stack lets its ramp down at an inland port deep in the Delta.

A deep draft, ocean-going vessel back-loads cargo for off-loading at another Vietnamese port.

These movements of Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS) ships, long associated with transiting the high seas, are part of the in-country operations of MSTSO's Vietnam office.

Besides bringing into the country 98% of all the cargo destined to support the war effort, Military Sea Transportation Service Office, Vietnam moves a high percentage of all the in-country military cargo.

Through its shallow draft division, MSTSO, Vietnam uses tugs and barges belonging to the Alaska Barge and Transport Company of Seattle, Wash., a prime MSTSO contractor; civilian-manned LSTs; and from one deep draft port to another, ocean-going ships to move in-country cargo.

Vietnam is ideally suited for shallow draft operations because of the country's excellent waterway system, especially in the Delta. The poor and insecure con-

dition of much of the nation's railroad and highway systems make these operations vital.

The AB&T tugs and barges and the MSTSO LSTs go deep into the Delta to support the Free World Forces there and up the coast as far north as the ancient city of Hue.

The AB&T's contract calls for the company to move cargo anywhere at anytime on orders from MSTSO, Vietnam. The company has 18 ocean going tugs, six smaller tugs and numerous barges to meet its obligations.

Besides towing its own barges, AB&T tugs tow other civilian barges and U.S. Army barges. In addition to towing cargo-laden barges, AB&T tugs engage in salvage operations, terminal operations, surveying, firefighting and, on occasion, support combat operations.

Many times the tugs with their tows have transited the rivers of the Delta unescorted with only a small contingent of Military Police on board for security. Only occasionally have they been fired upon by the enemy.

The LSTs move about half of the in-country cargo.

Approximately 20 LSTs are

continuously under MSTSO, Vietnam operational control. The LSTs have 38 berths, ramps and beaching sites at Vietnamese ports at which to off-load their cargo.

During 1966, MSTSO, Vietnam LSTs made on an average of four port calls a day and carried a total of 817,499 tons of cargo.

It is expected the LSTs will move over a million tons of in-country cargo during 1967.

Some ports, such as Chu Lai on the South China Sea, are supported only by LSTs.

According to MSTSO, Vietnam's commanding officer, Captain G.F. Pfeifer, deep draft vessels will continue to be used to move some of the in-country cargo so the barges and LSTs can be more effectively utilized in exclusively shallow draft operations.

Most of the back-loading of deep draft vessels for in-country movement of cargo is done at Saigon, still the nation's biggest and busiest port.

The MSTSO Vietnam office is the only MSTSO command to have the responsibility of moving such amount of in-country cargo.

"Clearly," Captain Pfeifer said, "when you look at our total picture, our mission doesn't end at the land's edge!"

## Cutter's Doctor Is Kept Busy

CNFVN — Though comparatively new to Market Time Operations, the United States Coast Guard Cutter Gresham is rapidly gaining the distinction of being a platform for medical services for her area.

During the present patrol period, the ship's Medical Officer, Lieutenant John H. Kiernan, has been called on to care for Vietnamese civilians as well as Navy and Coast Guard personnel assigned to other coastal surveillance units in addition to providing medical care for 161 men aboard Gresham.

The medical log for a recent brief period includes Dr. Kiernan's treatment of the following assorted cases: setting a crewmember's fractured wrist; cleaning and treating a severe infection of the entire lower arm on an injured Vietnamese fisherman; and X-raying and treating a U.S. Navy officer assigned to the coastal junk force, who had been caught between two small patrol boats when transferred at sea.

### Two Operations Performed

In a span of less than one week two emergency appendectomies were performed aboard. Early in the week a crewmember, Engineer Third Class Michael P. Statham, experienced nausea and abdominal cramps in his lower right side and was admitted to sick bay.

His case was diagnosed as acute appendicitis and the doctor recommended immediate surgery.

Commander Norman L. Scherer, Gresham Commanding Officer, maneuvered the ship to the lee of an offshore island to provide some protection from heavy seas accompanying monsoon weather.

Once in the lee, roll of operating room was minimized and the doctor was directed to proceed with the operation.

The appendectomy lasted one hour and forty five minutes and was a complete success. Gresham then continued normal Market Time patrol duties.

Before the first appendicitis case was discharged from sick bay, the Coast Guard patrol boat Point Clear, operating on patrol in the vicinity of Gresham, contacted her stating it had a suspected appendicitis case onboard. The two units rendezvoused and Gunner's Mate Third Class James R. Keyes was transferred for examination.

A duplicate of the first performance followed: diagnosed acute appendicitis and the ship maneuvered to the lee of an island; operation performed successfully; Reeves resting quietly.

As the squadron commander put it when informed of the operations, "congratulations, Dr. Kiernan on your grand opening."

At the present time Gresham is continuing on her assigned Market Time mission patrolling the waters off Vietnam.

## Corpsman Becomes 'Doc' For Vietnam Villages

"My primary responsibility is the health of the team but the bulk of my time is spent giving medical attention to the people of Dien Khanh."

These are the words of Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class Lawrence J. Semon, who is now serving his second tour in Vietnam. Semon is a member of 13-man Seabee Team 0807.

It is these small, tailored teams that support the Vietnamese government's Revolutionary Development effort. The program is designed to benefit the Vietnamese people by teaching the skills and supplying the tools for a better way of life.

Seabee Team 0807 has been assigned to the village of Dien Khanh, just west of the port city of Nha Trang.

Semon says the general health of the team has been good. "Just minor things; colds, sore muscles and cuts. I was the first casualty. I broke my finger pulling our water buffalo." (The "buffalo" is a wheeled trailer used to transport and store potable water.)

When he is not treating team members, Semon holds "sick call" among the surrounding villages and hamlets. During one month the Navy corpsman treated nearly 1,300 Vietnamese.

The greatest percentage of Semon's Vietnamese patients are small children and the elderly. "The majority of the older people have eye trouble," he said. "They are plagued with cataracts and eye fungus . . . probably 90 percent need glasses."

Frequent ailments among the children are flesh burns. "The villagers do not have electricity and therefore use kerosene lamps," Semon explained, "and the children frequently pull the lamps over on themselves."



DOC'S GENTLE TOUCH — is applied each day to the villagers at Dien Khanh. This child was burned when he tipped over a kerosene lamp. Many of the people had never received medical attention before the Seabees arrived and the work of Hospital Corpsman Lawrence Semon is never finished. Semon tries to make four sick calls a week in the village and sees 20 to 80 people each visit. A short time ago, Semon went to a village that until recently was controlled by Viet Cong. "We were the first Americans to go in there in a long time, the medic said. "The response the people gave us was outstanding." He treated 365 persons that visit.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by Bob Veeder, PHC)

Sanitation was a problem from the beginning with nearly the entire village suffering from skin disease. Many had clothing which was filthy and infectious.

Semon wrote his mother-in-law in Dayton, Ohio and told her of the need for soap, toothpaste and clothing.

"She took my letter to the Dayton Daily News and they published it," he explained. Thus far Semon has received ten packages of soap, clothing and toys and has been told that more were on the way.

"Bac Si", as the villagers call him, lets the packages collect until he has enough to supply an entire village. "I want to be able to give something to everyone in the village so no one is left out."

"The civic action concept is the whole idea behind the Seabee Team's work," Larry says. "We promote good will and get along with the people. The better you are to the people, the better the team can operate."

### Check that Shot Card!

Is your shot card up to date?

If you are being transferred to a new duty station or going on R&R, leave or TAD you must have a properly authenticated and documented immunization certificate in your possession.

Here are the required shots and their time limits: smallpox, typhoid and typhus once a year; cholera and plague once every six months; tetanus and yellow fever every six years.



"JUST A TRIM PLEASE" — Using a portable generator, Lt. James C. Russell, cuts the hair of a young orphan lad at the Thanh Mau Orphanage and Refugee Center on the outskirts of Saigon. Lieutenant Russell spent much of his spare time during his year-long tour in Vietnam trying to improve conditions for Vietnamese orphans and refugee children. He passed out gifts donated by friends in the United States, provided entertainment for the children and cut hair.

(Official U.S. Navy Photograph By B.W. Wendell, PH2)

## One Officer's Crusade VS Poverty, Loneliness

U.S. Navy Lieutenant James S. Russell spent a year in Vietnam fighting a second merciless enemy.

The Lieutenant in his spare time battled the effects of poverty and loneliness on Vietnamese war orphans and under-privileged children.

Shortly after arriving in Vietnam in July 1966, Lt. Russell took an interest in several Vietnamese orphanages in the Saigon

area. He immediately began coordinating work to improve the lives of the impoverished youngsters.

With the help of friends in Fairfax and Prince George County school systems in Virginia, where he taught before coming to Vietnam, Lt. Russell solicited gifts of clothing, personal items and money for the children.

A steady flow of the much-needed supplies began to arrive in Saigon and Lt. Russell, with the cooperation of the Vietnamese-American Association in Saigon, distributed the gifts to selected orphanages during his off-duty, week-end hours.

He also procured a portable electric generator so that he could entertain the children with movies and to enable him to trim their hair.

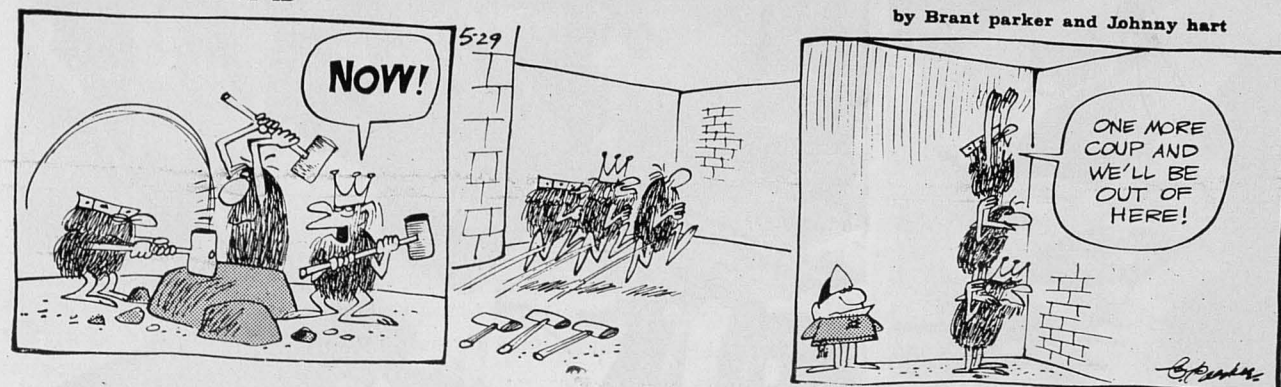
Lt. Russell completed his tour of duty in Vietnam as a U.S. Naval Forces historian in July and will report to the Office of Naval Intelligence in the Pentagon for his next duty assignment.

### Tuition Limit Removed

A recent Department of Defense directive authorizes the removal of the dollar limitation on Tuition Aid.

Seventy-five percent of tuition costs may now be paid for courses begun on or after July 1, 1967. All other provisions contained in BUPERSINST 1560.10C remain in effect.

THE WIZARD OF ID





# Tropical Paradise Available for R & R

Would you enjoy an R&R to a tropical island paradise?

Moderate hotel rates, low-priced and excellent food, an ideal climate, and above all, a duty free port. All this is available in Penang, Malaysia.

You can buy goods from all corners of the world and at prices that compare favorably with those anywhere.

In all but the large one-price shops, the shopkeeper expects you to bargain for what you buy—in fact, he will be disappointed if you don't. The rule to remember when shopping in Penang is, "don't buy until you shop around and compare prices".

Some of the better buys are cameras, tape recorders, watches and jewelry.

The British have been in Malaysia for centuries so English is spoken everywhere.

Light, summer clothing is the order of the day in Malaysia. A coat and tie is useful in the evening for a visit to a night club or hotel restaurant. There are plenty of places to go, however, where they're not needed.

Downtown Penang is very compact and one can walk to any place in a matter of minutes.

For recreation there is the beach, golf or sightseeing. Transportation facilities are good and the cost is low.

The food in Malaysian restaurants is excellent, well-prepared and safe to eat. You will be able to find a restaurant that will satisfy any taste, from American dishes to Chinese and Malaysian delicacies.

The main entertainment attractions of Penang are the night clubs of the larger hotels. Here you can wine, dine and dance in surroundings equal to the world's best at comparatively low prices.

Showing common courtesy and consideration to the Chinese and Malaysians will win friends for you since they place special importance on these traits.

Your R&R center in Penang is in the International Hotel. Use it as your base of operations.

Paradise, anyone?

## Private Transportation Reimbursement Limited

Servicemen returning to the States on Special Leave should use government or government-procured transportation to the fullest extent possible upon their return to CONUS. Payment of mileage (six cents per mile) for travel in private vehicles to and from leave address is not authorized.

If travel by private vehicle is necessary for a portion of the distance to and from leave address, servicemen may be reimbursed for the actual cost of such travel. Receipts for such costs as gas, oil, official telephone calls, tolls, etc., should be obtained and presented to finance officers for collection.

In the event that such receipts are not obtained, a statement signed by the serviceman indicating expenditure, type of purchase, place and date of purchase, is required.

Special leaves are granted to personnel who voluntarily extend their tour in Vietnam by at least six months.

### Mail Home

FROM:

L.T. Cowperthwaite  
USNA V.F.O.W. Box 3, Hingham, MA

APO

TO:

MR Ellery Cowperthwaite  
Kents Hill  
MAINE

Postage

1st Class 10cents

Airmail 16cents

