

November 4, 1967
1961 A year ago

CRIMSON TIDE II SWEEPS AWAY V.C. CAMP

By JO1 Tom Walton

A Viet Cong base camp in the Mekong Delta was hit hard October 3, for the second time in three weeks, by combined American and Vietnamese Naval forces.

The operation, called Crimson Tide II, was conducted by U.S. Navy SEALs, River Patrol Boats (PBRs), armed "Seawolf" helicopters, the PBR support ship USS

Game Warden PBRs whose job it is to deny the enemy use of the Delta's waterways.

Seldom have these units gone into the area without coming under



SLOGGIN' BACK — A sailor carries a long-shanked sampan motor he captured through the silty mud to his River Patrol Boat after destroying enemy fortifications in the Mekong Delta during Operation Crimson Tide II, (Official U.S. Navy Photo by JO1 Tom Walton)

Garrett County and the Vietnamese River Assault Group (RAG) 25.

Although only light enemy contact was made during the combined attack, the base camp area was demolished. The forces destroyed some 67 structures and fortifications, 9 bunkers, 18 sampans and severely damaged many others.

This is in addition to 153 fortified structures, 120 sampans and 75 bunkers that were destroyed in the first "Crimson Tide" conducted in mid-September.

The enemy area, 70 miles southwest of Saigon, on Tan Dinh Island and the adjacent banks of the Bassac River, has been a constant hazard to the Operation

attack from the many fortified structures and bunkers there. The earlier operation was designed to crush the enemy's hold on the area but it only resulted in stepped up attacks on the boats, indicating that the enemy places considerable importance on retaining absolute control there.

The operation began with the SEALs going into the enemy area before dawn by helicopter for their covert operations. After daylight, PBRs moved in to pick up the SEALs and rake the enemy positions with machine gun fire and grenades.

When the patrol boats cleared the area, the heavily armed and armored RAG boats took the entire



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PBRs Avoid Trap

Navy river patrol boats (PBRs) and Navy armed "Seawolf" helicopters teamed up on the Co Chien River, 50 miles southwest of Saigon to destroy three enemy bunkers, damage two others and prevent a suspected ambush attempt.

While on a routine Game Warden patrol on the river, 20 miles east-southeast of Vinh Long in the Mekong Delta, PBR crewmen spotted a body floating in the water near a heavily bunkered area on the north bank.

When the PBRs closed to investigate, Lieutenant James F. Ryals sighted a man on the riverbank, running alongside the body. The Body, a dead Vietnamese man with hands tied with leather thongs, appeared attached by a light line to the bunker position.

LT. Ryals suspected a possible ambush and called in Navy "Seawolf" helicopters to assist in an attack on the bunkers.

First Class to Warrant in Three Days

On October 15, Warrant Officer-1 G.G. Husted, formerly attached to the Armed Forces Combat Motion Picture Team (Navy), was a First Class Photographers Mate.

On October 16, he was advanced to Chief Photographer's Mate.

Then, on October 18, he received his appointment to Warrant Officer (WO-1), thus terminating one of the shortest Chief Petty Officer careers in the Navy—2 days!!



WHICH HAT SHOULD I WEAR? — WO-1 G.G. Husted holds the three hats that he wore in less than a week's time.

SEAWOLVES BLAST SAMPANS

Two Navy "Seawolf" helicopters blasted five enemy sampans on the Ham Luong River October 17.

The two Operation Game Warden gunships were on routine patrol, 48 miles southwest of Saigon, when they sighted four camouflaged sampans in a known enemy area. Permission from the Giong Trom sub-sector advisor was obtained to take the craft under fire. Rocket and machine gun firing runs were made, killing one enemy, destroying one sampan and damaging the others.

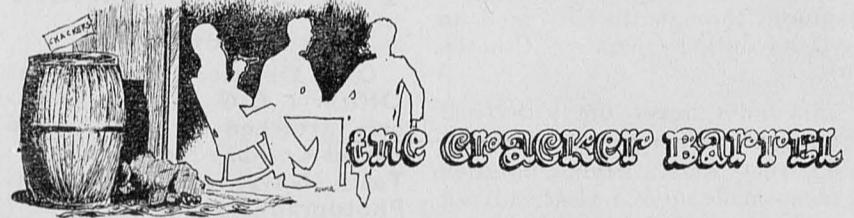
A mile up the river, the two "Seawolves" spotted a large sampan in a known enemy resupply and liaison canal trying to evade detection. The sampan was taken under fire, causing a secondary explosion and fire that burned for 30 minutes, sending heavy black smoke 500 feet into the air.

The extent of enemy personnel casualties in the second action is not known. There were no U.S. casualties in either action.

This time so the area could be blasted with rockets from specially mounted launchers aboard a Navy landing craft, and by rocket and machine gun fire from the "Seawolf" helicopters.

The operation ended with two U.S. Navymen slightly wounded, two Vietnamese men taken off Tan Dinh Island detained, and the base camp a smoldering ruin.

The following morning a boat equipped with a loudspeaker system returned to the canal, broadcasting a message that if the patrol boats were attacked again in that area, the forces would return.



This will be the final article on lamb cookery. By now I'm sure You're wondering what else Charlie knows. I'll be sending you various tid-bits in this column, things for examinations, new items from the Federal Stock System for Food Service, and relaying information from the Navy Subsistence Office as it becomes available. I'll include the latest blurb from NSO at the end of this article. But first, here's what else we can do with lamb.

For everyone whose last name

begins with "O", or for March 17th menus, here is an Irish Stew innovation...

Use Pot Roast recipe J-9 substituting 38 lbs. of diced boneless, lamb leg roast, for the beef. Follow variation 2 on the recipe card. Substitute 3 lbs. sliced potatoes in lieu of celery (ration dense are acceptable and a work saver to boot) then continue on with step 3.

Try serving lamb chops with a fruit sauce. Here is the recipe based on 100 servings...

INGREDIENTS

Lamb chops
Pear Halves canned
Ginger
Nutmeg
Salt
Oranges, peeled and sliced

Brown the lamb chops on each side, then place them in a roasting pan. Drain the pear halves saving the syrup. Mix the syrup with the ginger, nutmeg, and salt, then pour it over the lamb. Add the orange slices in rows on top of the meat, cover and bake 30 minutes with a medium heat (325-350 F.).

AMOUNT

100
7 No. 2½ cans or 2 No. 10 cans
1 oz. or 12½ tsp.
½ oz. or 6½ tsp.
4 oz. or 25 tsp.
25

stirring the syrup occasionally. Add the pear halves and cook 10 minutes more.

The sauce will give a piquant flavor to the lamb, the oranges and pears will supply a ready made garnish as well as a side dish to serve with the lamb.

Eligible personnel are encouraged to select a site for which the quota has not been filled rather

than wait until there are vacancies for a particular site.

There are now 11 out-of-country sites listed: Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Australia, Hawaii, and Guam.

Guam is open only to natives of Guam and they must travel in a space available status. For all other sites personnel are booked as space required and guaranteed a return seat.

Sites that usually have plenty of available seats are Penang, Singapore, Taipei, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur.

For further information contact the R&R Section of NAVSUP-PACT at Tigris 4792.

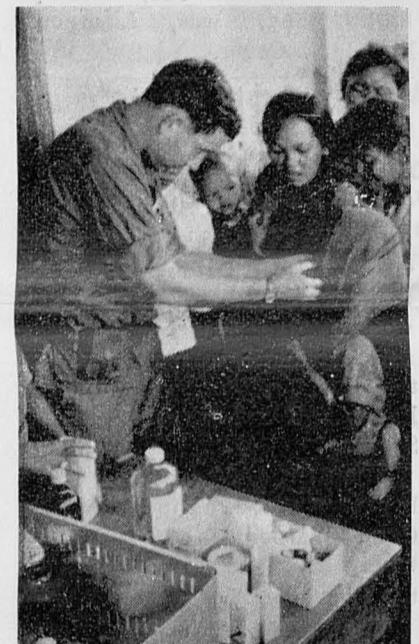
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RESPIRATORY AILMENT — Montagnard R'hade Princess, H'mham and Lt. Cohen examine a child for possible asthma. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 B.W. Wendell)



AWAITING TREATMENT — Residents of the Montagnard Village of Pang-Sim near Gia Nghia, crowd around the MILPHAP team awaiting their turn to see the Doctor.



LANGUAGE PROBLEM — Lt. Cohen prescribes treatment for the hospital patient to a Vietnamese male nurse in French, who then translates it into Vietnamese for the patient.



INTERPRETER — A patient explains his ailment to the R'hade Montagnard Princess H'mham, a registered nurse, who then translates it into English for Lt. Cohen. She speaks Vietnamese, English, French and eight dialects of Montagnard.

No. 32 unit based at Gia Nghia. MILPHAP is an abbreviated term for Military Provincial Health Assistance Program which is administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Assigned to the MILPHAP unit with Dr. Cohen are four Navy hospital corpsmen. They make up the Gia Nghia contingent of the full N-4 Team headquartered at Bao Lac 30 miles away. The full team, altogether, has 3 medical doctors and 12 corpsmen.

Arriving in Gia Nghia in June 21, 1967, the MILPHAP team found a 35 bed hospital which serves the entire Quang Duc Province population of more than 32,000 people. They found that the hospital, while it had a civilian administrative staff, had no trained medical personnel other than the Montagnard Registered Nurse and two practical nurses. This condition had existed since the departure of a MILPHAP unit several months earlier.

While providing direct medical care and health services to civilians, the MILPHAP team also works with the Vietnamese Government's medical and health personnel to develop and expand their capabilities in caring for their own people.

The immediate objective of MILPHAP is an instant increase in the Vietnamese Government-sponsored health services available to civilians in the provinces, both in therapeutic and preventive medicine.

The ultimate objective is to foster an effective government provincial health program.

To do this, Lieutenant Cohen and the team members work on improving the hospital's organization, staffing, reporting procedures and long range health programs. Each day, the team tries to upgrade the medical facilities and records.

At the same time they are providing direct medical assistance, the Navy team also supervises an in-service training pro-

gram for both civilian and local Vietnamese Popular Forces medics in basic first aid and health services.

Only in emergencies does the MILPHAP team treat military personnel. This is because all equipment and supplies are funded by USAID and are not to be used in support of any military operation. The MILPHAP program augments the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP), but is not a part of it.

The MILPHAP unit commander usually has a Vietnamese counterpart, the Provincial Medicine Chief. But, since Quang Duc Province does not have one, Lieutenant Cohen is the only medical doctor in the area.

Beginning at an early hour each morning, the team leaves the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) compound in Gia Nghia for the trip to the hospital. Arriving there, they find that the screening nurse has already interviewed most of the patients and has them segregated according to how seriously ill they seem to be.

On an average day, there are about 25 to 35 new patients awaiting medical attention.

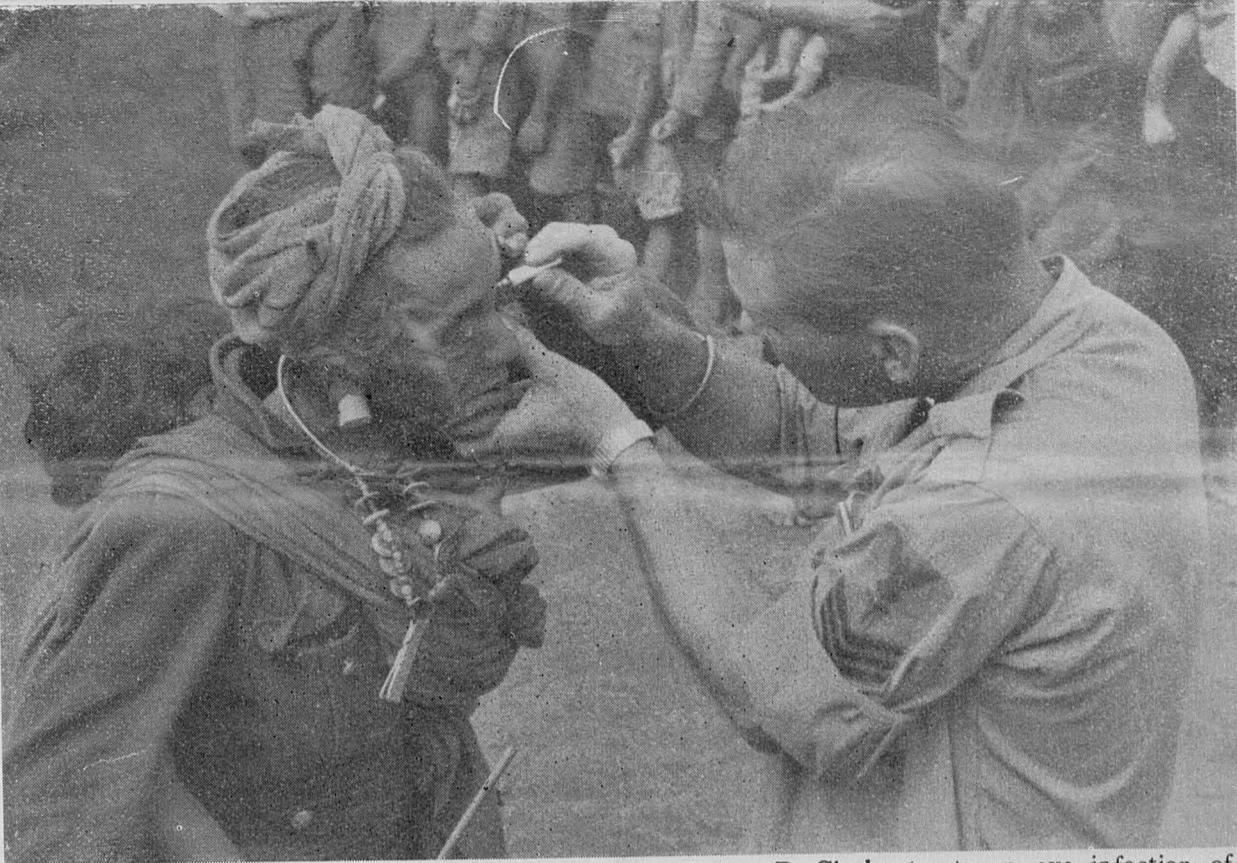
Dr. Cohen attends to any and all emergencies first. Then he begins seeing the other serious cases. Meanwhile, the team's leading Petty Officer, Hospitalman First Class Robert D. Clarke prescribes treatment to these cases of a minor nature.

"Having spent a previous year with another MILPHAP team at Bao Lac," says Dr. Cohen, "Clark readily recognizes many of the symptoms of local illnesses, and he helps to keep my patient work load within reason. Of course, all cases that he feels need further medical attention, he refers to me for treatment."

While the doctor and leading corpsman are seeing the latest patients, the other three hospitalmen are busy also. Petty Officer Third Class Gerald Fogle begins the day making various tests in the laboratory. Petty Officer Third Class Billy Finch receives outpatients that have returned to have wounds dressed and bandages changed. Petty Officer Third Class Willard Stull checks the hospital records and patient charts for the latest entries, changes and corrections. When finished with their individual duties, each corpsman goes to the assistance of another, or begins performing other clinical duties.

When the new patients and outpatients have been attended, the MILPHAP team makes the hospital "rounds" to see the inpatients. From ward to ward, bed to bed, they tend to the medical needs of each.

Probably the greatest help in diagnosing and treating the community's sick and afflicted are the interpreters. One, the 25 year old nurse and R'hade Montagnard Princess, speaks fluent Vietnamese, English, French and eight dialects



EYE TREATMENT — U.S. Navy Hospitalman First Class Robert D. Clarke treats an eye infection of a Montagnard villager.

of Montagnard language. Without their assistance the Navy MILPHAP team would be faced with a terrific language barrier.

"Another problem facing the team each day is patients dismissing themselves from the hospital," LT. Cohen continued. "In many cases, when patients believe themselves cured or healed, they just get up and go home. Some eventually recover, but many return in worse shape than when they left," he concluded.

In addition to treating the patients at the hospital, the team reserves two afternoons of each week for visits to outlying villages where they treat many hundreds more. There they provide on-the-



LAB TEST — Hospital Corpsman Third Class Gerald L. Fogle examines a slide containing a sample of a patient's blood.



WALKING UPRIGHT — For the first time in his life, this Montagnard Villager can walk. Prior to having been presented with crutches by the MILPHAP team, he crawled around on his "all fours" because of a deformed and withered left leg.



COMMANDERS — Commander Donald Warthen (right), senior advisor to Vietnamese Navy Lieutenant Commander Nguyen An (left), commander of the Rung Sat Special Zone, studies the map as his counterpart outlines objectives of a joint U.S. and Vietnamese Army and Navy operation.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 C. Williams)

Hide and Seek in the Rung Sat

By JO2 Ray Tills

It is known to many as the Forest of Assassins — to others, the Killer Jungle. The South Vietnamese people named it accordingly — the Rung Sat.

Starting 15 miles southeast of Saigon, the Rung Sat Special Zone is an area of about 400 square miles of dense mangrove swamp. Two main rivers wind their way through the area to

empty into the South China Sea — the Soi Rap and Long Tau Rivers, with the latter being the main shipping channel to Saigon.

A labyrinth of small streams course their way between the two rivers. But at high tide and during the long monsoon summer rains, even the streams disappear as they overflow their banks and flood 80 percent of the area under water and mud.



JOINT OPERATION — A U.S. Navy Seawolf helicopter patrols overhead as boats of the Vietnamese Navy's River Assault Group (RAG) 22 wind their way up a narrow canal in the Rung Sat in search of enemy soldiers.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 C. Williams)



RUNG SAT — Vietnamese Army Regional Force soldiers emerge from the dense mangrove swamp of the Rung Sat to board an attack troop carrier of River Assault Group (RAG) 22 at the conclusion of the operation.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 C. Williams)

jungle growth that snatches at you and must be methodically chopped away for passage.

Maps of the area don't show all of the streams and canals, and you cannot always see them by flying overhead because of the dense jungle cover.

In the Rung Sat long known as an enemy rest and training area, the Viet Cong have established hospitals, base camps and munitions factories. Thick jungle and countless hidden streams have been used for concealment to let the enemy lay dormant in the area.

But not so today. Vietnamese Navy River Assault Group (RAGs) and Vietnamese ground forces, working in conjunction with U.S. Navy Operation Game Warden units, are using search and destroy procedures to track down the elusive enemy and destroy him.

Vietnamese Navy Lieutenant Commander Nguyen An, as Commander of the Rung Sat Special Zone, has control of all ground and river forces operating within the area. It is the only area within South Vietnam where control responsibility has been turned over to the Vietnamese Navy, because of the largely waterborne traffic in the Rung Sat.

Lcdr. Nguyen An's counterpart is U.S. Navy Commander Donald Warthen.

With teams of U.S. Marine and Navy advisors assisting him, Cdr. Warthen's main job is advising on psychological warfare and intelligence, and assisting in maintaining liaison with Free World Forces operating in the area.

"Game Warden forces first started operating in the Rung Sat," explains Cdr. Warthen, "using it as a proving ground for the Game Warden concept. It soon expanded to the Mekong Delta, but we still have a large

Roads are nonexistent — thus, virtually all travel is done by water.

It is a good place for a man to hide, and that's exactly what the Viet Cong have been doing in the Rung Sat. Jungle foliage is so thick, you could pass within four or five feet of a person and never see him. Even traveling along some of the streams is slow and difficult because of the vines and



force operating in the Rung Sat."

U.S. Navy River Patrol Boats (PBRs) are considered the backbone of the Game Warden forces. Heavily armed, the 31-foot boats zip along the inland waterways, patrolling the two main rivers to protect the minesweepers and check sampan and junk traffic to interdict the movement of enemy men and supplies through the area.

"Because of the water jet system of propulsion of the PBRs and their lack of screws and rudder, they can go at good speeds into about nine inches of water without any problem," Cdr. Warthen points out. Since their draft doesn't present any problems, they are perfect for operating in the small canals in this area."

A second Game Warden force in the Rung Sat is the minesweepers. The Long Tau shipping channel is a main target for the Viet Cong, and this is where the minesweepers fit in.

Controlling the Long Tau means controlling some 27 miles of deep-draft channel, running through the dense mangrove swamps. "The Viet Cong want to block the river and interdict shipping," Cdr. Warthen explains. "The minesweepers sweep the channel 20 to 25 times a day, countering the Viet Cong's main weapon used against us — the command detonated water mine."

Seals, the Navy's counter-guerrilla and unconventional warfare specialists, are employed for ambush, intelligence collection and demolition work — stealing their way through Viet Cong base camps, destroying their infrastructure.

The fastest reaction unit in the Rung Sat is the Navy light helicopter fireteam. "We have the 'Seawolves' on five minute standby here, 24 hours a day," Cdr. Warthen points out. "They are by far our fastest and best means of reaction to enemy attack."

All Game Warden units commonly support each other and are tied in with Vietnamese efforts in the area. "Our Vietnamese and U.S. units compliment each other in every operation," Cdr. Warthen goes on to explain. "We currently have a series of joint search and destroy operations — dubbed

"Dong Tam" — going on in the Rung Sat, that combines all of the forces available and are destroying the enemy's base camps and keeping him on the move. We're really taking his sanctuary away from him."

"A good indication that we are winning out here," the senior U.S. advisor said recently, "is that the V.C. have never been able to block the Long Tau. And remember — in the Rung Sat, this is his main objective."

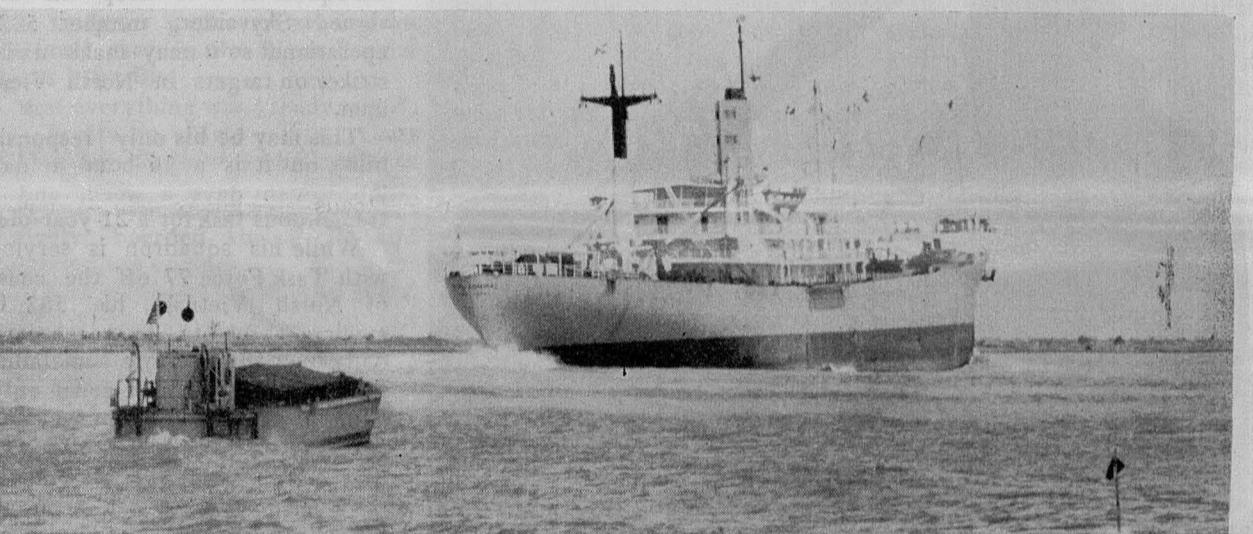
Supporting Cdr. Warthen's statement is a recent incident on the lower Long Tau, where the merchant ship Seatrail Victory, transiting from Vung Tau to Saigon, came under automatic weapons and recoilless rifle attack. Two minutes after the attack started, PBRs in the area were on the scene with .50-caliber machine guns, 40mm grenades and 60mm mortars. Within five minutes, Seawolves arrived overhead and caught the enemy in

NAVY'S ELITE — Members of a U.S. Navy Seal team are put ashore utilizing a Navy landing craft (LCM), to begin a mission in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 L.R. Robinson)

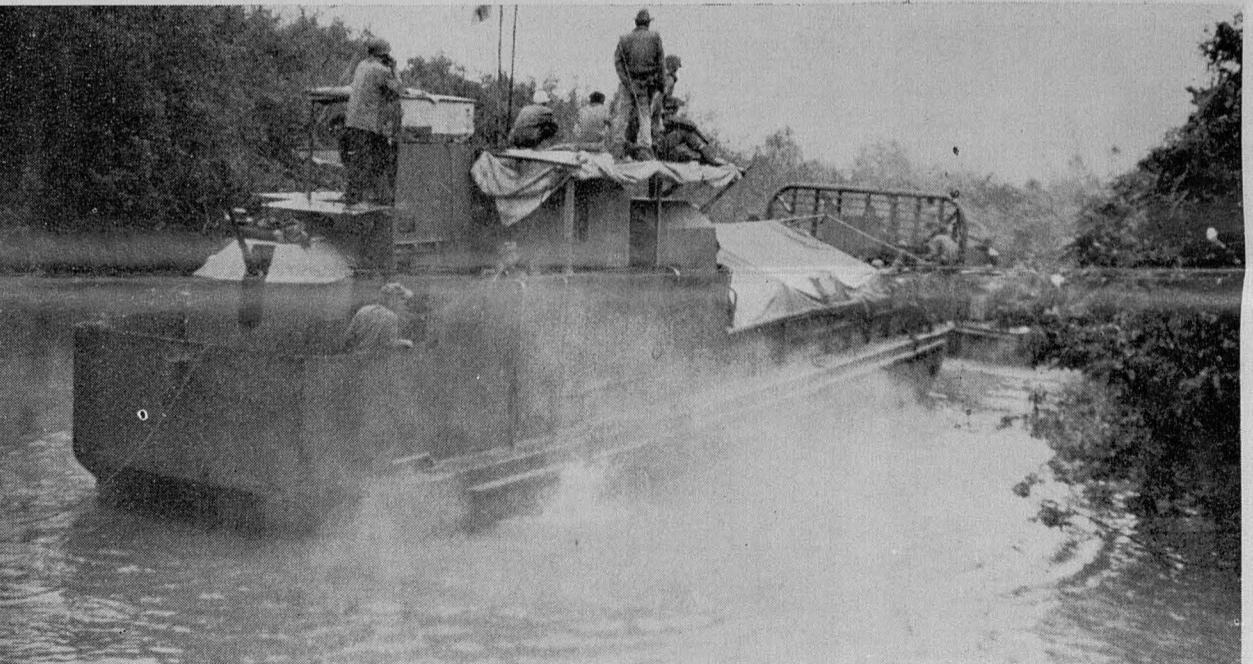
the open as they retreated from their ambush positions. Five of the enemy were killed, with no U.S. or merchant personnel or material casualties resulting from the encounter.

Incidents such as this point out the effectiveness of this joint U.S.-Vietnamese Navy effort. As Cdr. Warthen said: "The mud and water will always remain here, but more every day we're taking the killer out of the jungles in the Rung Sat."



MINESWEEPER — A landing craft (LCM), converted for minesweeping duties, sweeps the Long Tau River as a merchant ship follows an already cleared channel to Saigon.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 T.L. Lawson)



ATC — An attack troop carrier (ATC) of the Vietnamese Navy's River Assault Group (RAG) 22 winds its way up a canal in the Rung Sat Special Zone prior to landing its load of Vietnamese Army Regional Force soldiers.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 C. Williams)



"MOTHER HEN" TO A SPAD

By JO1 Byron Whitehead

A kid's dream has landed Edoch K. Hemby, Jr. "mother's" job.

When Hemby was a youngster he wondered what made an airplane remain in the air so long as they continually flew over his home. Today, fulfilling the dream, he knows what keeps a plane in the air—he is a **Plane Captain**.

Another name for Hemby is "mother hen". The nickname is easily explainable since he wakes the plane in the mornings and puts it to bed each night. If the plane is "sick" he remains with it around-the-clock until she is operational.

Hemby is mothering one of the Navy's oldest attack bombers, an A1 Skyraider (the Spad) which gained fame in the Korean Con-

flict. In his particular squadron, Attack Squadron 152 embarked in the Seventh Fleet attack aircraft carrier USS *Oriskany*, there are 12 Skyraiders and a like number of plane captains.

Being conscientious, technically responsible and cautious was only a beginning up the long road for Hemby to become the qualified plane captain he is today.

Since the United States was already committed to the Vietnam war when Hemby entered the Navy he is receiving his baptism as a wartime plane captain early in his naval career.

Hemby's only responsibility to his squadron is to keep his assigned Skyraider, number 502, operational so it may make daily strikes on targets in North Vietnam.

This may be his only responsibility but it is a 16-hour a day job, seven days a week, and a tremendous task for a 21-year-old.

While his squadron is serving with Task Force 77 off the coast of North Vietnam, his 502 is making three to four missions daily over the enemy's homeland.

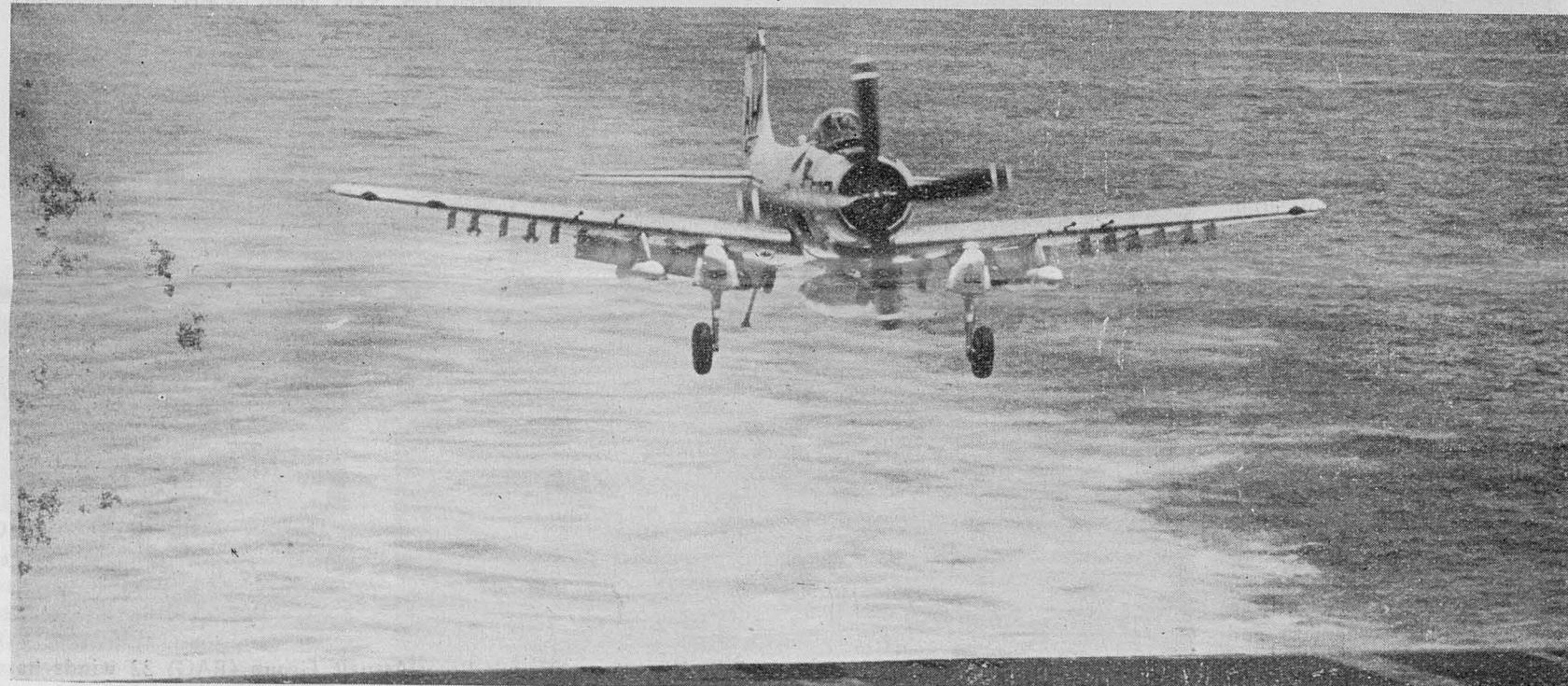
"My plane has been down only once since we arrived on the line two months ago," reported Hamby. "My boss, who is the squadron's executive officer, likes to keep his bird ready."

A routine day begins for Hamby at 5 a.m. on the flight deck where he parked 502 the night before.



SECURED — Hemby secures his Skyraider's folded wings with a locking bar. The wings are locked to prevent damage by strong winds which often blow across the carrier's flight deck.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by JO1 W.B. Bass)



MISSION COMPLETED — With the bomb racks empty, Hemby's Skyraider approaches *Oriskany*'s flight deck for a landing. In two hours 502 will be ready again for another mission.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by JO1 Byron Whitehead, Jr.)

First he takes a fuel sample from 502, checks the hydraulic systems, safety wires, loose connections, cleans the canopy and gives a thorough check to the many cockpit instruments.

About an hour later the pilot arrives and makes a brief check of 502 while chatting with Hemby. After both have checked 502 the pilot is strapped into the cockpit with Hemby's assistance. Then Hemby climbs down and remains by 502 until the cables are hooked up to launch her skyward

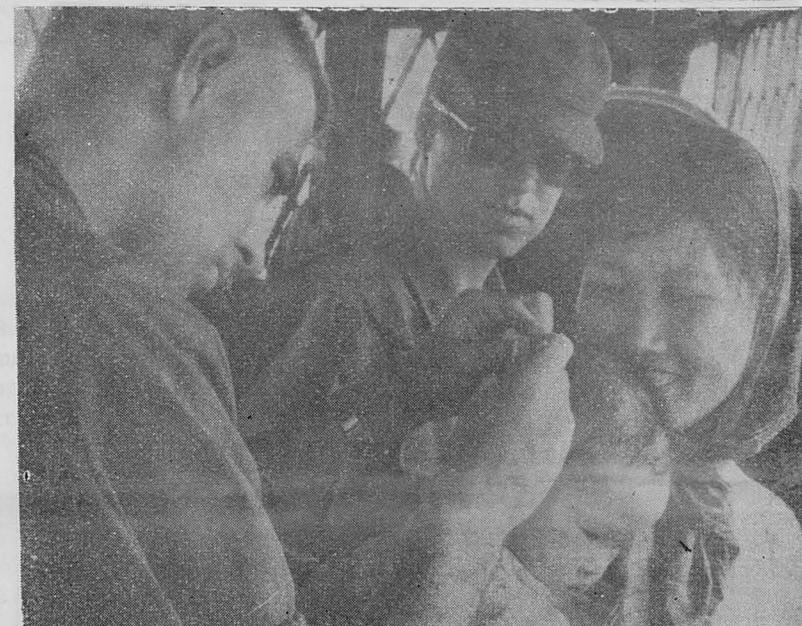
"When 502 takes off I don't like to think that she won't return," said Hemby. "After being with that bird so long it seems like a part of my family -- a dependent."

A dependent is a good description of Hemby's 502. He gives the \$500,000 Skyraider a bath each night to clean off oil and dirt and then fills her "stomach" with gasoline. The following morning 502 is loaded with ordnance including bombs, rockets and 20mm cannon rounds. This routine is repeated three or four times daily.

His true professionalism and capabilities as a plane captain was recognized by his squadron officers and senior enlisted petty officers as he was selected "Plane Captain of the Month" on two successive occasions -- February and March 1967.

Hemby is far from being the only outstanding plane captain within the Seventh Fleet's Task Force 77, which operates more than 800 aircraft . . . but he is a fine example.

"Working with the Spad you don't have to worry about jet intakes and afterburners which have caused injury to their handlers on several occasions," he continued. "With 502 I just have to keep a sharp eye on her prop in front."



HEALING HANDS — Hospitalman Second Class Brian D. Cullity applies medical treatment to an infection on the head of a baby during the MEDCAP at Tam Thon Hiep village.



WAITING ROOM — An overflow crowd waits their turn to see the "Docs" that are visiting Tam Thon Hiep village on a MEDCAP mission.

River, the crews were alerted to be extra watchful for any sign of enemy activity. Manning the forward machine guns on each of the PBRs were Signalman Third Class James L. Butler and Seaman Glen Neyerhuis. The guns in the after end of the boats were in the hands of the two engineers.

Approaching the village slowly, the boat crews observed that there was very little activity along the river banks. A few men were working on their sampans, but most of the women and children were staying inside their thatched roof huts.

As the two PBRs edged up to the sampan pier a few villagers came, out of curiosity, to see what was going on. Then as soon as the boats were tied up, LT. Guay, LTJG Walker and the Vietnamese interpreter Lin Tri, went ashore to find the village Chief, Tran Van Ngay. This being the first MEDCAP ever made to the village, it kept everyone on guard, as no-one knew exactly what to expect.

Upon learning the purpose of the PBR's visit to his village, the Chief quickly spread the word throughout that "sick call" was being held at the pier, and for all the sick to be brought there.

Hospitalman Chief Petty Officer Windel M. Crawley and Second Class Corpsman Brian D. Cullity, both of which are attached to the Nha Be Dispensary, quickly off-

A Rung Sat Village Has Its First MEDCAP

By JO1 E.T. Tompkins
Photos by PH1 J.T. Luscan

Ten men clad in green combat fatigues gathered around an officer standing in front of a huge wall map in the River Patrol Boat (PBR) headquarters building at Nha Be.

They listened intently as Lieutenant (junior grade) Franklin B. Walker, the Psychological Operations Officer, briefed them on the mission they were about to undertake.

Using their own spare time, these men were volunteers participating in a Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) to a village located 20 miles southeast of Saigon, deep in Viet Cong influenced territory of the Rung Sat Special Zone. All were seasoned veterans of River Patrol Section 543, whose responsibility is that of patrolling the rivers and other inland waterways of the Rung Sat.

Moments after LTJG Walker had concluded the briefing session, the men set about getting the boats ready and the needed supplies loaded aboard.

Under the direction of Lieutenant Paul E. Guay, Officer in Charge, the men soon reported



PIER CLINIC — Nha Be-based PBRs 42 and 48 wait beside the clinic for the conclusion of a MEDCAP held at Tam Thon Hiep.



DIAGNOSIS — Chief Petty Officer Windel M. Crawley examines one of the more than 75 people who attended the MEDCAP at Tam Thon Hiep village.

NHA TRANG HAS SMALL MSTs UNIT

By JO2 Ray Tills

The Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS), a major component of the U.S. Navy, has units spread around the world to provide rapid sea transportation of people and cargo for the Department of Defense.

In the Western Pacific, it is the "Far East's largest shipping company", as MSTS Office, Vietnam personnel refer to their command. An indication of the overall size of the MSTS effort, in Vietnam is the fact that 98 percent of the dry cargo and at least half of the troops that have gone to Vietnam have arrived aboard MSTS Ships. MSTS has concentrated its largest contingent of personnel and equipment in that area. With its main office set up within the waterfront complex in Saigon, MSTS has small units along the 1,000 mile South Vietnamese coastline—at Danang, Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh Bay and Nha Trang—to help speed its shipments to their final destinations.

Today, it's a three-man team operation at the MSTS unit, led by Lieutenant Thomas C. Winant, a 1961 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Working with LT. Winant are Boatswain's Mate First Class Howard W. Stewart, who acts as the boarding assistant and cargo coordinator for the unit, and Storekeeper Third Class John A. Losee, III, who is LT. Winant's administrative assistant and logistics coordinator.

Working together from the fifth floor offices of a newly constructed control tower, the team literally "oversees" all operations along the 1,100 by 300 foot beach front that comprises Nha Trang's port.

The port of Nha Trang is visited monthly by approximately 15 deep draft dry cargo vessels, troop transports and tankers, and some 13 tank landing ships (LSTs) carrying ammunition, food stuff, vehicles, U.S. Army units and other materials of war.

Though small, the Nha Trang MSTS unit, combined with its sister units in South Vietnam, does a big job, accurately reflecting the Navy's longheld view of the importance of sea transport.

Established in early 1965 in preparation for the build-up of U.S. forces in South Vietnam, the Nha Trang MSTS unit



MSTS CONTROL — The three-man team comprising Nha Trang's MSTS unit utilizes the fifth floor offices of the newly constructed control tower to oversee the entire port operation. The inset is LT. Thomas C. Winant, Officer-in-Charge of the three-man unit.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 B.W. Wendell)

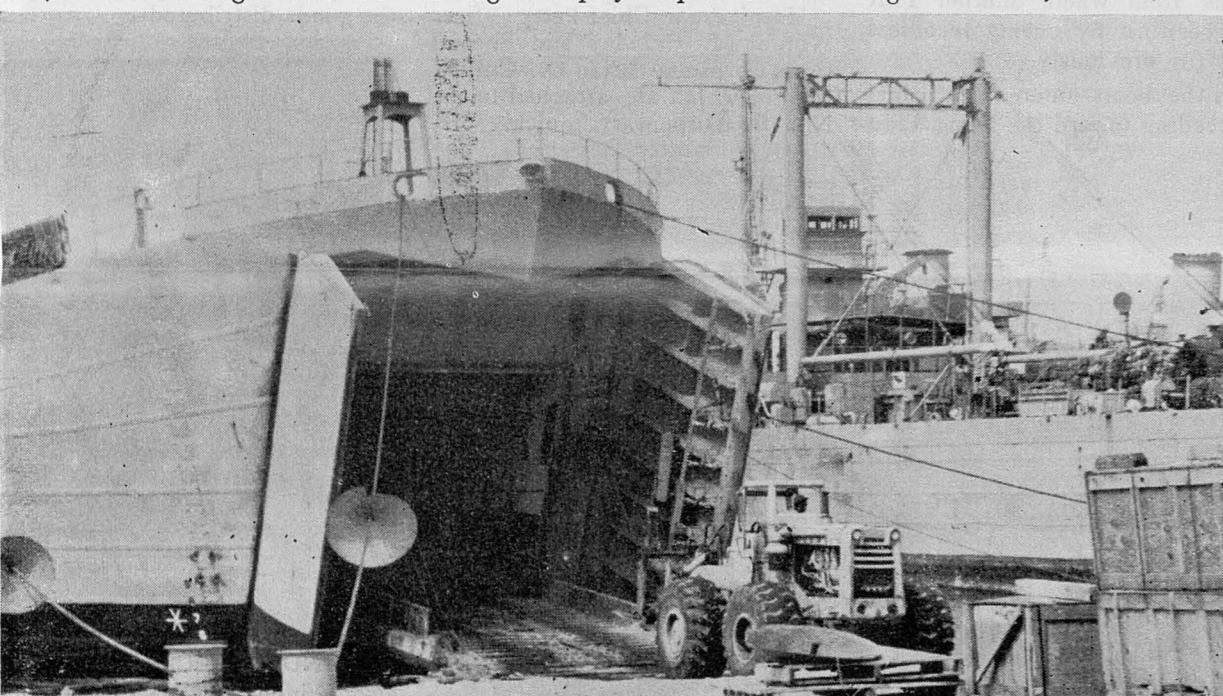
control of each, as well as administering to crew problems, customs clearances, and liberty launch service.

The men of Alaska Barge and Transport Inc. handle all stevedoring for the unit, which amounts to

nearly 32,000 short tons a month, that team has taken on the added responsibility of serving as a contracting representative for MSTS. To do this, they must monitor and report on the quality of service, efficiency of performance, cost reduction efforts and overall effectiveness of management of the Alaska Barge and Transport operation in Nha Trang.

The team is working with extremely limited shipping facilities. A new pier is being constructed by the U.S. Army for the port but until its completion, all deep draft vessels, except tankers, must continue to discharge their cargo to harbor lighters and barges, for further transfer to the beaches. LSTs must beach on two sand ramps improvised by the unit.

All cargo operations are conducted "over the beach". Although the methods may be a little primitive, the unit record to date has been one of success. All through-put tonnage commitments imposed upon the unit have always been met.



SAND RAMPS — Tank landing ships arriving at the MSTS Unit at Nha Trang beach on improvised sand ramps, where fork lifts unload the ammunition, food stuffs, vehicles and materials of war from their holds.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 B.W. Wendell)

DELTA FIRE FIGHTERS

By Josn Anthony G. Popowitz

Risking their lives to protect others from fire at sea or on land is the job of Nha Be's Fireboat Team.

In the Mekong Delta just 13 miles southeast of Saigon is Naval Support Activity Saigon's Detachment Nha Be. Here the fireboat protects the ships and small river craft on the Long Tau and Soi Rap

atop the bow platform and six hand searchlights along the side of the craft.

On board, the four main water-pumps can force 250 gallons of water per minute from the two top

Fire Director. The enlisted man in charge of repair and maintenance is ENFN William Worthy.

Two emergencies arose recently that proved the necessity of this type of fire craft in the Mekong Delta.

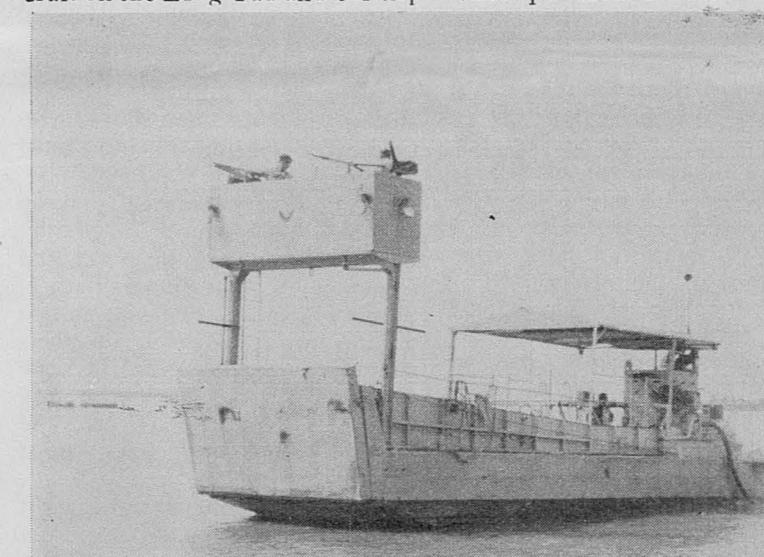
A Shell Oil Tanker steaming up the Long Tau River caught fire 2 miles from Nha Be. The crew quickly answered the tanker's call for help. Combating the fire and giving medical assistance to the injured men aboard the tanker, the crew fought bravely until an explosion ripped through the tanker. The explosion also inflicted heavy damage upon the nearby fireboat. With a flooded engine compartment and considerable structural damage, the fireboat returned to base.

On call to another emergency, a Vietnamese fuel barge caught fire while traveling along one of the local rivers, the fireboat passed under a low bridge to reach the barge. A sudden explosion blew the barge apart—scattering drums

of burning fuel on the river. The crew manned the 30 caliber machine-guns—sinking the fuel laden barrels to prevent damage to other ship traveling the river. By the time the fire was extinguished, the tide had come in—preventing the fireboat from passing under the bridge to return to base. All night the crew stood watch over the fireboat in the heart of VC infested territory until the tide went out.

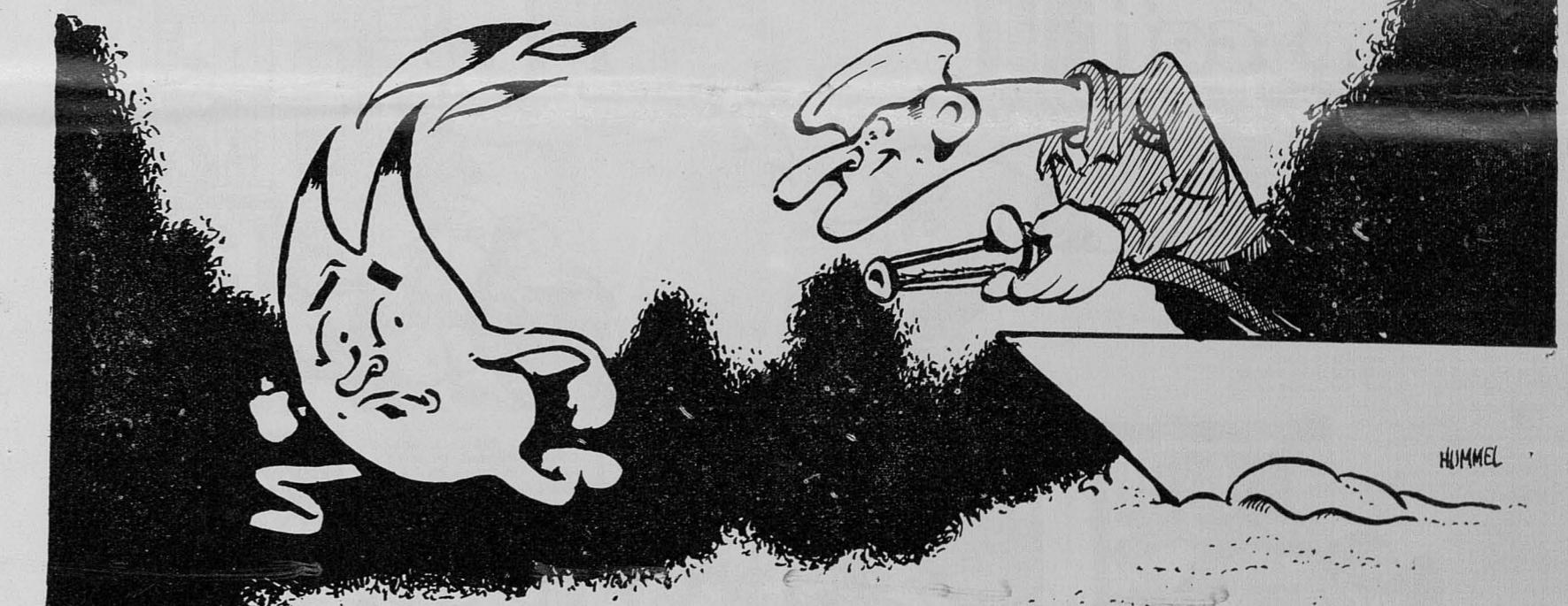
No drastic changes are planned for the craft even though it is a proto-type for future models that all riverine bases will one day build. This craft has proven itself useful on PBR salvage missions, rescue and fire-fighting.

Using their proto-type fireboat, the Delta fire-fighters of NAVSUP-PACT Detachment Nha Be are continuing to carry out the vital missions of rescue, salvage and fire-fighting on the Long Tau and Soi Rap Rivers in the Mekong Delta Region.



UNDERWAY — Crewmen of Nha Be's fireboat are getting underway on a practice fire drill.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by JOSN A.G. Popowitz)

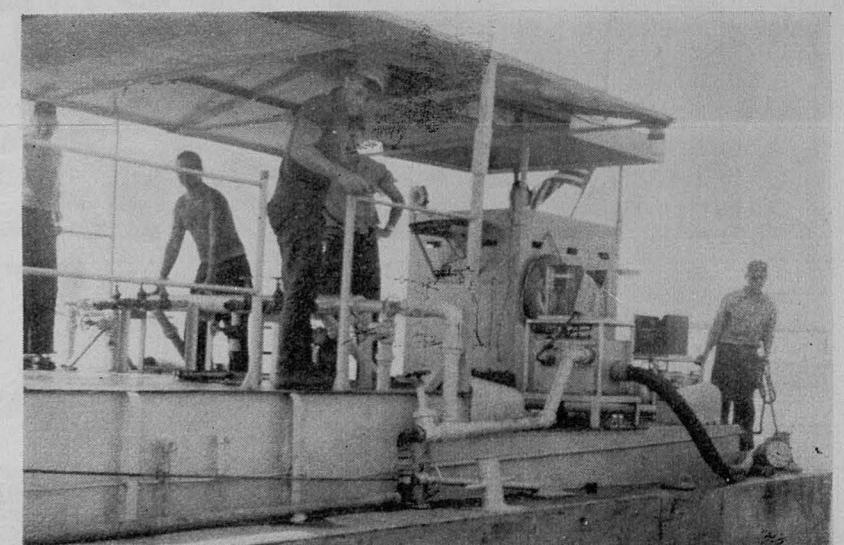


Rivers against destruction by fire.

This unique proto-type craft is the only one of its kind in Vietnam. The craft was built at the Nha Be support base by modifying the hull of a Landing Craft (LCM 6). Plans for the construction of the fireboat were started seven months ago by UTW-2 John Church of Nha Be's Repair Division, with ideas and suggestions from SFC-3 Bill Rossfield, SFC-3 B. Pawloski and SFC-3 Russ Beard.

After three months of construction and numerous changes the fireboat was completed and placed in operation.

The craft is manned by a ten man crew, including a corpsman, all serving on a volunteer basis. The Officer in Charge is Warrant Officer (WO1) L.D. Countryman, with Lieutenant M.U. Pallerin as



MONITORS READY! — ETR3 J. Buyerley (left) and ETRSN P. Hill (right) are preparing to open the water monitors atop the bow platform.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by JOSN A.G. Popowitz)

SWALLOW'S NEST--A VIETNAMESE DELICACY

By Cdr R.L. Mole, CHC, USN

Some Vietnamese claim that their civilization is a spiritual culture as opposed to the material culture of the West. This may be! However, their practical sense and the gifts of tropical climate and geography allow them to enjoy the earthly pleasure of an abundant variety of foods also. For rich or poor, most South Vietnamese have enough to eat, and, under peaceful conditions, their diet could be fairly adequate and varied.

Most of the Vietnamese who live in the large towns and cities eat at least three times a day. An adult may eat as much as a kilo (2 1/5 lbs.) of rice per day as a basic food.

Rice, in some form, is normally found at all three meals when foreign aid foods are not utilized.

Although foods vary according to season and economic class, standard items of food for a Vietnamese businessman include rice, fried shrimp, fish or vegetable soup, scented leaves (ran song), bean sprouts (gia) and fish stewed in a fish sauce (ca' kho). When this becomes tiresome, substitu-

tions such as salt fish (mam), red pepper, or shredded banana stalk mixed with scented leaves and cucumber can be obtained most of the time.

The most popular vegetables among all classes of Vietnamese are the germinated bean sprouts (gia), and the vine-like vegetable which grows in rivers and waterways called bindweed (rau muong). Both are reasonably priced and may be eaten raw or cooked by the Vietnamese, but until an American's resistance is high, the cooked may leave him in a happier state of health.

Along the coast and delta, fruit also forms an important part of the diet. Pineapples, watermelons, oranges, tangerines, bananas, mangos, and mangosteens seem to be on the market most of the year.

The poor man of the large towns and cities does not fare quite so well in spite of the so-called "luxury of city living". Since the average family of six has no more than about 70 cents a day for food, the housewife's problem is not variety and quality, but quantity!

At home the laborer's food, in addition to rice, consists of bind-

weed, shrimp, pork fat, hard-boiled duck eggs seasoned in nuoc-mam. The amounts are quite small since they are used basically as condiments, and not as Americans use meats or vegetables.

While at work in the cities and towns, the laborer can buy food from a "sidewalk mobile Howard Johnson". For about a dime he can get a good sized bowl of rice, some fried omelet, a bit of fried fish or shrimp, perhaps some dura mam (preserved cucumber), and a bowl of hot tea to settle the meal.

Should a between-meal pick-up be needed, and funds available, bowls of soup can be purchased from women "Hot Shoppe" attendants who move their businesses around town balanced on their shoulders. Among the favorite soups are a rice soup with hog intestines, liver, stomach, etc., and rice noodles with a clear meat consomme.

Perhaps the day is not far off when the Vietnamese can fully enjoy their abundant variety of foodstuffs without the restrictions and insufficiencies which are the consequences of war.

Mail Home

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APO 96214, S.F.

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