



SUCCESS—SSgt. Barry Sadler, Vietnam Special Forces veteran, whose hit record "Ballad of the Green Beret" has sold over a half-million copies, knows what he is singing about. Sadler is currently assigned to John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare (Airborne), Ft. Bragg, N.C. (USA Photo)

Knows What He's Singing About:

Sadler's 'Ballad Of The Green Beret' Record Surpasses Half-Million Mark

Ft. Bragg, N. C. (USA)—Barry Sadler, whose hit record "Ballad of the Green Beret" has sold more than a half-million copies, is a song writer and singer who knows his subject.

Barry, a 25-year-old staff sergeant at the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare here, is a Vietnam veteran of the elite Army Special Forces group which made the Green Beret famous.

In Vietnam, the Green Beret, worn only by Special Forces team members, has become symbolic of the courage and abilities of the Special Forces soldier, who operates in the rural areas of Vietnam with small Vietnamese units.

During attacks on their outposts, Special Forces team members have withstood tremendous odds, battling side by side with a few Vietnamese soldiers, making their courage and fighting abilities legend.

Sadler is a Special Forces medic, which means he can handle anything from bug

bites to minor surgery. He has been schooled in nearly every aspect of medical training available to Army enlisted men. Besides his 40 weeks of medical training he is skilled in counterinsurgency warfare, unconventional warfare, psychological operations and intelligence and weapons, both U.S. and foreign. His experiences, which are the subject of his record album

"Ballad of the Green Beret," are not taken from stateside training where soldiers battle soldiers with dummy ammunition.

On New Year's Eve, 1964, Sadler arrived in war-torn Vietnam. Assignment—combat medic with the elite 5th Special Forces Group.

Sadler was taken from the "safe" area near 5th Group headquarters at Nha Trang (Cont'd on P-11, Col. 1)

101st Evacuates Orphanage Under Noses Of Viet Cong

Tuy Hoa (USA) — The 101st Airborne Division was asked to evacuate an orphanage because of impending Viet Cong terrorism.

A Catholic priest, Father Bang, and the province chief of Trung Phan requested that the 101st evacuate the parish of Hoi Tin and its orphanage due to Viet Cong terroristic and harrasing actions which had been taking place.

The 1st Brigade of the Division sent the 10th Aviation Battalion and Company B, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, to begin the evacuation, Company B providing security and surface transportation. They carried children, elderly adults and baggage in their arms to the waiting helicopters. Among

the evacuees was an ARVN soldier who had been hiding from the Viet Cong for three weeks.

During the evacuation, the Viet Cong were observed moving mortars into position in order to shell the helicopter landing zone (LZ). But before the first round could be fired, the LZ was moved 1200 meters and out of the mortars' range. The evacuation was completed without further incident.

A total of 85 children, 21 nuns and 31 elderly men and women were evacuated to a secured area, where they received needed medical aid and food.

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SAIGON, VIETNAM

Feb. 26, 1966

Hospital Ship Serves Vietnam Casualties

Saigon (USN)—A U.S. Navy hospital ship is now operating off the coast of Vietnam to provide medical treatment in support of military operations and offer medical support and training to civilian populations in proximity of the operations.

The sleek, white mercy vessel, USS Repose, with its bright red cross markings is the U.S. Navy's only commissioned hospital ship on duty today. It will receive casualties direct

from the scene of battle via specially equipped helicopter ambulances.

Until the Repose arrived, other ships with the 7th Fleet

were serving as emergency medical treatment ships, among them the amphibious ship USS Valley Forge which has received more than 400 patients since September.

Perhaps the most modern hospital ship ever commissioned, the Repose was recommissioned in October 1965 after a multi-million dollar updating of her medical facilities.

The ship is equipped with helicopter facilities, an artificial heart, neurosurgery sound equipment to diagnose brain damage, a frozen blood bank and a recompression chamber. The recompression chamber is located just below the heliport on the stern of the ship so that

(Cont'd on P-11, Col. 3)

Fleet Admiral Nimitz:

Great Naval Leader Dies

Washington—It is my sad duty to announce to the Armed Forces of the United States the death of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz on Feb. 20, 1966.

The world has lost a distinguished citizen whose energies and vision were devoted without stint to a long lifetime of service to free men everywhere.

In the death of Admiral Nimitz the nation has lost one of our greatest naval leaders. A superb sailor, university regent and dedicated citizen, he served his country and his state with a full measure of devotion. All in the Armed Forces salute his life of achievement with the words "well done."

Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense



EVACUATION—SFC Joseph Winder carries an orphan child from the helicopter which had evacuated her along with 84 other children from their orphanage in Hoi Tin. The orphanage, threatened by Viet Cong terrorists, was evacuated by elements of the 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade. (USA Photo)

Theatre Group Seeks Interested People For Dramatic Production

Saigon — Having produced the first Saigon all-military production in the form of "South Pacific," the cast of that show are not content to rest on their laurels.

They are now forming a Little Theatre Group in Saigon and are asking all interested parties to get in touch with them to begin planning for the next production.

"We are not looking for special talents," says Ronald A. Friend, one of the leaders of the group. "All you need is a willingness to help produce a performance for military men in Vietnam."

Interested persons should contact Friend at ARVN 60042 or 60043, extension 148. In the Cholon area, call William H. King, Ricemill Switch, extension 26, and at Tan Son Nhut, call Gene Thaden at Lynx 875.

EDITORIAL

Red Blueprint For Victory

Nearly six months have elapsed since Lin Piao, defense minister of Red China, published his article, "Long Live the Victory of the People's War." Time, however, has not dulled his message. All over the world, experts on Red China have accepted his words as a blueprint for communist world domination.

This article has been compared to Hitler's "Mein Kampf," in which *der Fuehrer* spelled out his plans for Nazi conquest. Unfortunately, many free people refused to take Hitler seriously. We cannot afford to repeat this mistake as regards Lin Piao's message! The essential points are:

• A weak country (China) defeated a strong one (Japan) because it fought a people's war under communist leadership.

• This led to communist control of China; it breached the imperialist front, changed the world balance of power and accelerated revolution everywhere.

• Today the United States is repeating the past aggressions of Japanese and Nazi imperialists.

• Downtrodden people can free themselves from the imperialists by following the example of Red China.

• First winning control of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the communists will surround and overwhelm the advanced nations of Europe and North America.

Lin Piao has completely misrepresented the role of the United States and other free nations in trying to help the developing nations. He is concocting a witch's brew of hate in areas where we are trying to help people and nations.

No boxer ever won a victory by going into a ring blindfolded. If we are going to defeat Red aggression, we cannot delude ourselves as to Communist aims. Lin Piao's article will be available in most service libraries in the near future. Read it, then reflect on what it means to America and other free nations. (AFPS)

National Defense Medal Awarding Period Extended

Washington (AFNB)— Award of the National Defense Service Medal has been extended to uniformed personnel with service after Dec. 31, 1960, by Executive Order of President Johnson.

The medal may be awarded for certain active duty periods to be designated by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara as meriting special recognition. Further details are expected later this month.

Active service personnel who earned the medal during the previously authorized period, June 27, 1950 - July 27, 1954, may add a bronze star denoting a second award.

Questions & Answers

The War In Vietnam

Editor's Note: Most U.S. personnel know why America is keeping its promise to help the Republic of Vietnam resist communist aggression. Sometimes, however, it is difficult for the serviceman to put into words the answers to questions he encounters at home and abroad. Here is one of 20 questions (one question will be printed each week) most widely asked, with concise, factual answers (Information taken from Headquarters, Field Force Vietnam, Troop Topic "The War In Vietnam.")

Question: Vietnam is a long distance from the United States. Just why is the United States involved in the fighting here?

Answer: The United States has crossed oceans before to help peoples fighting for their freedom and independence—in World War I, World War II and in Korea. President Johnson, in reaffirming the pledges of Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy "to help defend this small and valiant nation," has stressed that American military forces are in South Vietnam because "the United States is determined to use its strength to help those who are defending themselves against terror and aggression."

Support From Home

(Editor's Note— Gen. W. C. Westmoreland receives, daily, hundreds of letters, scrolls, petitions, etc., from the citizens of the United States from every corner of the U.S., backing the U.S. policy in Vietnam. Since it would be impossible to print all the names of individuals and organizations in THE OBSERVER, we will pick at random several and print them in one column each week.)

RESOLUTION

Junior Chamber of Commerce
Albany, Ga.

PETITION

Hundreds of Signatures
University of Kentucky

PETITION

Hundreds of Signatures
Radford College

RESOLUTION

House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pa.

RESOLUTION

National Association of Secretaries
Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii

RESOLUTION

Bay County Bar Association
Bay City, Mich.

PROCLAMATION

Junior Chamber of Commerce
Plainfield, N.J.

RESOLUTION

Junior Chamber of Commerce
Bronson, Mich.

RESOLUTION

Junior Chamber of Commerce
Comstock Park, Mich.

RESOLUTION

VFW Post 1936
Hagerstown, Md.

RESOLUTION

Senate & House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vt.

LETTER

George McCann School
Visahi, Calif.

Myths And Realities

More misinformation has been spread abroad about Vietnam than probably any other subject in recent years. Vietnam has been the breeding ground for a host of myths which continue to circulate despite, in some cases, their obvious untruth. For the next several weeks THE OBSERVER will print some of the major myths about Vietnam and present their corresponding realities. Information taken from JUSPAO Field Memorandum No. 9. (The Editor)

MYTH

THE U.S. UNILATERALLY SEEKS TO CONTINUE THE FIGHTING IN VIETNAM, REFUSING TO ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT A SETTLEMENT.

REALITY

The United States policy toward conference-table settlement of the Vietnam problem, as stated many times by President Johnson, has been one of "unconditional negotiations." On the other hand, consider some of the official public statements made by North Vietnam and Chinese officials during recent months on the same subject. NHAN DAN, the official communist newspaper in Hanoi, April 11, 1965, dismissed a U.S. offer of a billion-dollar program of economic aid for Southeast Asia as "bait" of "stupid pirates." On the same day, the Chinese communist official newspaper JEN MINH JIH PAO called the aid offer "a big swindle." Earlier, on March 17, the same newspaper declared that U.S. talk about a peaceful settlement in Vietnam was "nothing but the most flagrant, most shameless war blackmail." Communist China's Foreign Minister Chen Yi, Feb. 18, 1965, declared that America's call for negotiations on Vietnam were "sheer drivel." Given this kind of implacable opposition to any sort of negotiations, the U.S. and the Government of Vietnam have had no choice but to pursue the struggle.

Hanoi accuses President Johnson of putting out a smokescreen for several reasons. First and foremost, they are afraid of discussion because they think they can win by military means and therefore do not want to negotiate; they want to continue the war. Hanoi has so thoroughly cut itself off from the outside world that they appear to believe their own propaganda about the inevitability of their victory in the South. Second, Peking exerts considerable influence on Hanoi and as you know, Peking doesn't want the fighting to stop because failure in the South would mean that their pet theories about wars of national liberation had been proved wrong. This factor is especially important these days with Peking suffering setbacks in Indonesia, in their recent foray in the Himalayas against India, at the Afro-Asian conference in Algiers and at many points in Africa. Peking can't stand another defeat and for this reason is telling Hanoi just the kind of thing. Hanoi wants to hear. Ultimately, of course, the Hanoi government will be forced to change its mind, as the losses it suffers in the South continue to mount.

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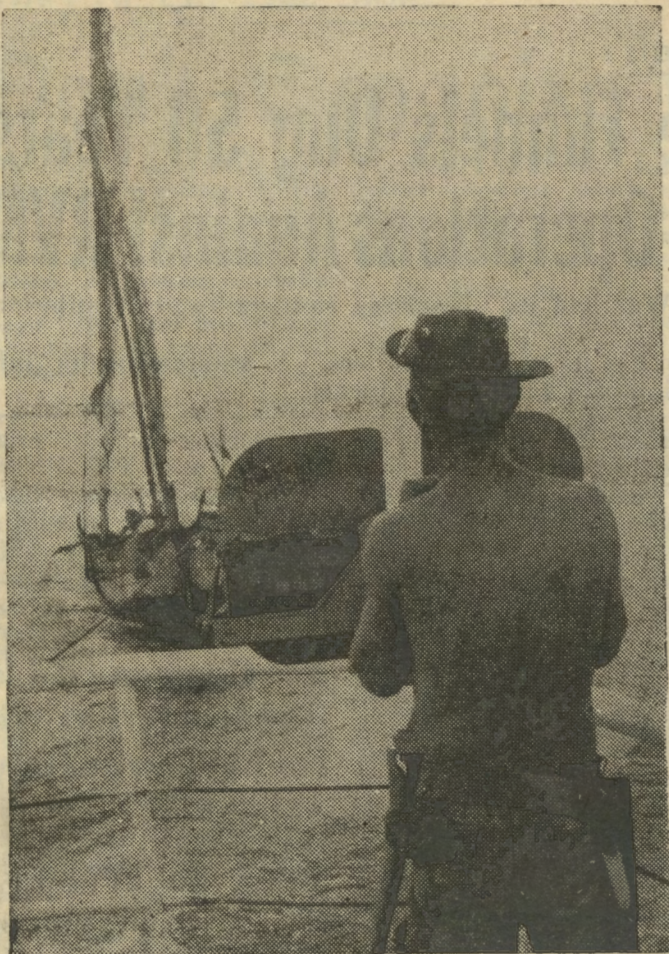
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Search At Sea:**Coast Guard Cutter Plays Vital Role In 'Operation Market Time'***(Story and Photos by C.R. Eggleston, J03, USN)*

VC SUSPECTS— PO2 Ray Christian, a gunner's mate, keeps a watchful eye on 13 Viet Cong suspects being towed to a rendezvous with junk force boats for interrogation.

South China Sea (USN)— The discovery and sinking of an enemy freighter believed to be delivering tons of ammunition and weapons to Viet Cong guerrillas in Vung Ro Bay in February 1965 set off a chain of events creating "Operation Market Time," a massive stop-and-search operation by U.S. Coast Guard, Navy, and Vietnamese patrol craft to halt the flow of arms to the VC by sea.

"The Coast Guard's been doing the same thing for 100 years. The only difference here is the climate and the people being searched," said Ray Christian, a gunner's mate aboard the cutter Point Caution.

The cutter, Point Caution, is one of eight Coast Guard patrol craft operat-

ing with Coast Guard Division 12 out of Da Nang. Its mission in "Operation Market Time" is to stop and search vessels operating along the Vietnam coast in the South China Sea in conjunction with the Vietnamese Coastal Junk Force and U.S. Navy units.

Eighty-two feet long and displacing 60 tons loaded, the Point Caution operates with a crew of 10. It is armed with an 81mm mortar, five .50-caliber machine guns and an assortment of small arms and hand grenades.

Since the Point Caution began operations in July, it and the other ships of Division 12 have stopped and searched over 5,000 Vietnamese junk ships and cargo vessels in support of "Operation Market Time."

On patrol, a Vietnamese

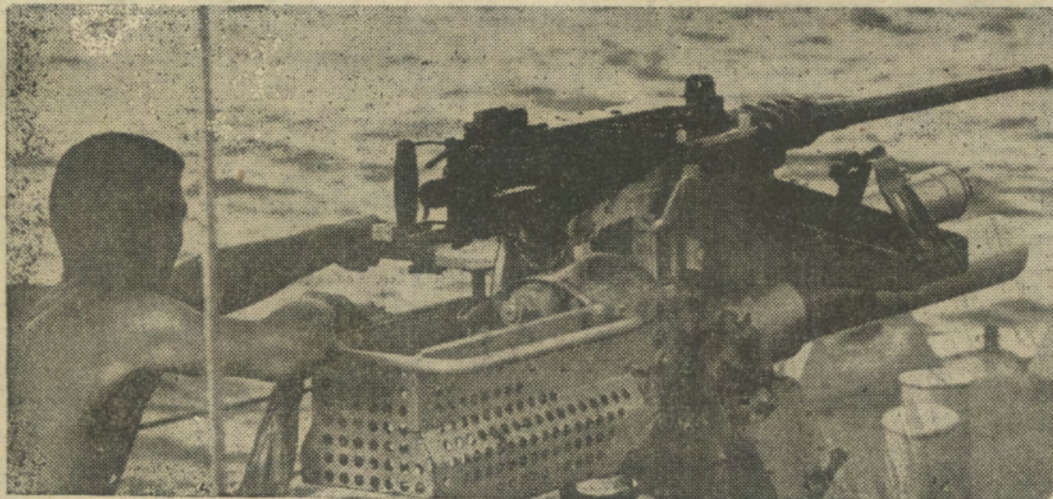
naval officer operates with the ship's crew. His job is to check identification papers, registry and cargo manifests of all boats being searched.

The ship normally remains on patrol for three days, searching as many vessels as possible in that time, then returning to a U.S. Navy "mother ship" for replenishment in readiness for the next patrol one day later.

Operating on a "velvet glove over an iron fist" policy, Point Caution and the other boats in Division 12 turn smugglers of weapons and supplies to Viet Cong units over to the nearest RVN junk force or Navy unit for interrogation. Innocent fishermen and merchants are given cigarettes, soap and candy in return for the inconvenience of the search.



NIGHT SEARCH AT SEA — Point Caution and its crew conduct stop-and-search operations around the clock. This boat was stopped at 2 a.m., its papers were found to be in order and it was allowed to continue on its way.



MAIN BATTERY — Chief Ray L. Gray, a boatswain's mate, lines up Point Caution's "main battery," an 81mm mortar with a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on top. The mortar, modified for shipboard use, can be fired by "line of sight" or in regular mortar fashion by dropping the projectiles "down the tube."



SAIL-DRIVEN JUNK — One of the various types of junks Point Caution's crew stops and searches is this large sail-driven fishing junk.



CHECKING TUNNELS—Sp4 Neil Kohl prepares to enter Viet Cong tunnel complex near Cu Chi, one of many such areas uncovered by the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade during the recent "Operation Buckskin." Specialist Kohl, armed with a .32-caliber pistol and carrying a flashlight and telephone equipment, will relay information on significant findings back to the surface for further evaluation. Kohl is a member of the "Big Red One's" Chemical Section. (USA Photo)

173rd 'Old Timer' Elects To Re-Up, Stay With Best Outfit

Bien Hoa (USA)—Twenty-year-veteran SFC Charles E. Daniels, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, raised his right hand and recited the reenlistment oath, obligating himself to stay in the Army for another three years.

MSgt James R. White and SFC Clyde M. Quesenberry, who serve as career counselors for the 'Sky Soldier' Brigade, say that Daniels represents the kind of soldier that has gained for the 173rd a reputation for great competence in counter-guerrilla warfare.

"Every man we reenlist is a combat veteran," White said, "whether he is a first-terminer or a former member of the old brown-boot paratroopers. In less than a year, we've reenlisted enough men to form the nucleus of a full-size airborne brigade, from Sergeants Major right down the line to the youngster who is just eligible for extending his obligation," Quesenberry said.

Asked what he thought motivated members of the 173rd to reenlist, White said: "The general (Ellis W. Williamson, commander of the 173rd) feels that it is simply a demonstration of a desire to stick with the winning team. I think that sums it up pretty well."

Riflemen, artillerymen, cooks, parachute maintenance specialists and clerks form the 173rd team, and each specialty has produced a quota who are going to stick with it.

Enticements such as the quadrupled bonus, while a boon for those qualified, are not the only reason men reenlist, according to White. "Sergeant Daniels could have retired if he wanted to. He, being a twenty-year veteran, could draw no bonus. He reenlisted for his own vacancy."

Many of the soldiers who are qualified for reenlistment options sign up for advanced training in some technical field, such as aircraft mechanical training. Others elect an assignment to Europe or a tour at a particular post in the States.

"Every man has his own reasons for staying in the Army," White said. "Many men in the 173rd reenlist just to stay, with what they consider the best outfit."

Home-Wrecking 'Bobcats':

Viet Cong Use Tunnels Dug 50 Years Ago To Launch Operations Against RVN

Cu Chi (USA)—The Civil War had its "blockade runners" and Prohibition had its "rum runners."

Today, the war in Vietnam has its "tunnel runners," 13 soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry "Bobcats."

Perched atop a network of Viet Cong tunnels that would make the New York subway system resemble mole furrows, the home-wrecking "Bobcats" have been kept busy clearing tunnels which honeycomb their battalion headquarters area.

They have had to use trial and error in learning the nuances of their new Army "specialty," one which finds the men encountering underground hiding places ranging in size from battalion headquarters to spider holes—dents in the ground which offer refuge for hunted snipers.

The Vietnamese built many of the tunnels more than 50 years ago to store food as an Oriental version of the American Indian's caches. It wasn't until the Viet Minh began having trouble with the French 18 years ago that the tunnels became hiding places.

When the communists began fighting as Viet Cong, they improved the tunnels and used the catacombs as both a defense and a base to launch offensive operations on friendly forces.

Years of experience have taught the VC the safety measure of sealing off sections of their tunnels to act as "locks" to guard against hand grenades and tear gas tossed by a clearing force.

Instead of a pipe peering an inch or two above the ground to supply ventilation, the guerrillas use rabbits and moles, digging their way out through harmless-appearing holes, to furnish air passages. Search-and-destroy units looking for hidden enemy troops frequently fail to spot the telltale holes.

Often virtually cities within themselves, the tunnels are as intricate as anything in a motion picture writer's imagination. Winding and twisting below the earth's surface, the chambers are fitted with underground foxholes every 10 or 15 yards. The foxholes not only offer the VC protection but also trap water during the monsoon season to prevent flooding.

But the Viet Cong are ready for unwanted guests: each tunnel contains booby traps running the gamut from bamboo punji stakes driven into the ground to well-placed mines and grenades.

The tunnel runners work in small teams, with a security guard around their base of operation. When a tunnel is found, two men armed with flashlights, .45-caliber pistols, smoke grenades and a portable telephone, crawl through the entrance and into the hole.

When a tunnel and its branches have been searched,

the entrance and all exits are blown with TNT.

The tunnel runners clear from one to four tunnels a day, seven days a week, stopping only to eat and sleep—or return enemy sniper fire.

MP Company Adds 81mm Mortars To Its Inventory

Di An (USA)—The 1st Military Police Company is manning six 81mm mortars at 1st Infantry Division headquarters here. Normally used by infantry units, the mortars were issued to the MP company recently to provide additional support for the division headquarters.

Instructors from the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, provided two days' training before the MPs began firing on their own. Mortar squads are normally given 400 hours of instruction.

The MPs have completed their on-the-job training by firing approximately 600 rounds in the past three weeks. Most of the rounds fired are intended to harass any Viet Cong prowling in the area. Some of the missions, however, have been actual on-target missions fired in support of division elements outside the compound.



DEATH OF AN AIRFIELD—Striking the Dien Bien Phu airfield recently, Air Force pilots cratered a section of runway (left) repaired by North Vietnamese communists during the 37-day lull in air strikes and rendered it unserviceable. On previous strikes, pilots bombed gun position (top left and right) and roads associated with the airfield. (USAF Photo)

They're On Our Side:

Don't Organize Lynching For Postal Workers

Saigon — What! No letter again today? That's three days in a row. My wife writes every day; those blankety-blanks at Frisco or Saigon must be sitting on their hands. Boy, wait 'til I get my hands on one of those postal people — I'll murder 'em...

Wait a minute, fella. Before you go organizing any necktie parties, let's see if you've got your facts straight.

What facts? I know my wife writes every day — that's a fact. And I know I haven't had a letter for three days—that's also a fact. What else do I need to know?

Well, for a starter, how about the fact that there are two possible gateways for your mail coming from the States. Your mail may go either to San Francisco or Seattle for break-down and shipping.

How do they decide where my letters go?

Well, they've got the U.S. divided in half by an east-west line from Washington, D.C. to California. Mail from the northern half usually goes to Seattle, while mail from the southern half goes to San Francisco. BUT, if you drop a letter in a mail box and it gets to the post office 10 minutes after the flight to San Francisco, and there's a plane for Seattle in an hour, the postal people in your home town will put it on the Seattle plane.

You see, they don't want to hold your letter up, so they process it as fast as they can. It's the same thing all the way down the line. Did you know that neither APO at San Francisco or Seattle is holding a backlog of mail for Vietnam?

No, I didn't know that. Then that means my mail is sitting in Saigon. Thanks for narrowing down the field for me; now I know who to get.

Hold on, you're getting ahead of yourself. Now, if your mail goes to Seattle, it may get on an aircraft there which doesn't fly to Saigon. It may stop at Tokyo or at the Philippines, where it will be transferred to a Pan American flight to Saigon. Pan Am is the only airline flying mail into Vietnam. If your aircraft gets to, say, Tokyo a few minutes after the Pan Am flight for the day has left, it may not go out until the next day.

Also, you have to consider engine breakdowns, scheduling and loading problems—a thousand things that can go wrong crossing an ocean. You just can't expect the same reliable mail service here as you get crossing a street in the States.

Okay, I see that. Now, what happens when my letter gets to Saigon. They sending it to me by carrier pigeon or something?

No. At the Air Mail Terminal at Tan Son Nhut near Saigon—which is where all the Stateside air mail arrives—the 140-man staff there unloads the mail, breaks it down into APOs and turns it over to the air transport people within two to four hours after the big plane touches down. That's moving when you find out that the average day brings from one to four jets in, loaded with a total of 75,800 pounds of mail!

Wow, I guess that is moving it. Then if it isn't their fault, it must be the people who fly it from Saigon to this place I'm at.

Hardly. Mail, in accordance with a letter written recently by Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, receives the highest priority—as high whenever possible as the "beans, bullets and bandages," or what they call tactical requirements. That's the only thing that can bump your mail off an aircraft in Saigon. And, as you know, Tan Son Nhut is one of the world's busiest airports; much of that traffic is carrying good old U.S. mail. From Saigon to your APO, the mail goes by the highest priority on the best and first available aircraft. At your APO, the mail is broken down quickly, with the clerks often working extra-long hours to get a late aircraft of mail ready for distribution.

With all that mail to sort and move, those guys are really doing quite a job then, aren't they?

They sure are. You just can't expect the same service in a foxhole in Vietnam as you get sitting in your living room at home. The problems involved are too much different. But in some respects, your service here is better than that Stateside.

How do you mean?

Well, take free mail, for example. President Johnson has recently directed that mail to and from Vietnam, regardless of class or rate of postage, will travel by air whenever possible. Then, too, most of the APOs stay open longer—including some Sundays—than Stateside post offices can. And then there's the reduced rate on packages.

What's that about?

If you send a package weighing less than five pounds, you can pay the surface mail rate for it and still have it go by air from Vietnam to the States. The same thing is true from the U. S. to Saigon—it goes by

air from either San Francisco or Seattle to Saigon. This can save time and money. Take the example of the guy who buys a couple of souvenirs while he's in Saigon—one weighs three pounds and the other weighs four pounds.

Now, he can wrap them together—in which case he doesn't get the reduced rate for air parcels—and send them air mail for \$5.68 and it will take three or four days to get to its destination. Or, he can wrap them together and send them for \$1.73 by surface—and they'll get there

in 45 to 60 days.

So, he should send them air mail if he's in a hurry, and by surface if he isn't. What's so special about that?

Wait a minute. You're jumping the gun again. He can also wrap them separately and, under the special reduced rate for mail to and from a combat zone, pay \$2.06—only 33 cents more than the surface rate—and they'll reach their destination in about a week. What it boils down to is that for a saving of about \$3.50, he only loses the couple of days it takes to

get across the U.S. by surface transportation.

Hey, that's great. Look at the money I can save sending my souvenirs home. Gee, those guys in the postal department—all the way from my company mail clerk on up—are a great bunch. Say... Let's throw a party for them.

They don't ask for that. All they want is your understanding. They get plenty of criticism and suggestions and sympathy. Just try to understand their problems.

Trade My M-16? Sorry 'Bout That

Bong Son (USA) — Sp6 Lowell Pirkle owes his life to his M-16 rifle.

The 34-year-old crew chief from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, was flying a low-level reconnaissance mission in the An Le Valley when his ship was hit by automatic weapons fire.

As Pirkle returned fire, one of the enemy bullets struck his rifle on the front hand guard, glanced off the barrel and came out just behind where he was holding it. "If it hadn't hit my rifle, it would have probably hit my head and killed me," said Pirkle.

The same bullet, rice—
(Cont'd on P-11 Col. 2)

Corrosion, Like Cancer, Can Kill, Air Force Men Learn

Bien Hoa (USAF)— They call it "cancer" and the analogy is a good one. Like the dreaded disease, this form of "cancer," if not treated early, will spread and destroy all it infects.

This "cancer" infects airplanes. If ignored, it will "kill" a supersonic fighter bomber as surely as a hit from a surface-to-air missile. The process just takes longer.

Those who keep this "cancer" in check are Air Force specialists assigned to the 3rd Field Maintenance Squadron here. They are trained to examine and treat F-100 Supersabres for signs of corrosion, the "cancer" of

aircraft maintenance.

"Corrosion control," says Col. Emmett J. Theisen, director of materiel for the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing, "has only recently been given the attention it deserves."

In the last few years, the Air Force has realized the importance of a kind of preventive medicine called corrosion control.

A man who has studied
(Cont'd on P-11, Col. 1)



CANCER CURE— Air Force TSGT. Harvey C. Vogel (with hose) and A2C Michael J. Anderson lead a Vietnamese crew through the first stages of cleaning the cancer from an F-100 Supersabre. (USAF Photo)



CHOW MARCH—A class of VNMA cadets march to the mess hall for the noon meal. To stress the need for discipline,

much of the movement at the school, including that between classes, is done in marching-order groups.



OOOMPH!—Korean instructors, who make up a large part of the teaching staff, teach the Korean art of self-defense, Tae Kwon Do, to VNMA cadets. This is a technique that being given to other military groups in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Military Academy

Dalat — On the first day of classes, they're given the assignment — run until you drop. And they keep moving the whole time they're there.

"They" are the cadets at the Vietnamese Military Academy (VNMA) here. Nestled in a picturesque little valley not far from the downtown section of the beautiful resort city of Dalat, the Academy is responsible for training second lieutenants for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

It's a big job requiring big ideas and big men to put the ideas across. One of these men at the Academy is Lt. Col. John Hinton Jr., senior American advisor.

One of the big ideas is a conversion of the school from a two-year program to a fully accredited, degree-awarding four-year plan. That idea is about to become a reality. The first four-year class is currently in its first year of instruction.

"The tactical requirements

imposed by the war have made it very difficult to start this four-year program," soft-spoken Colonel Hinton said.

The training staff and advisors at the sprawling school never forget that they are training men for war—a war that is going on in and around their area 24 hours a day. Physical conditioning is a big part of the program as is the tactical combat training phase of the curriculum.

They also never forget that some day this war will be over and Vietnam is going to have a dire need for trained, educated people to do a great many re-construction jobs in the Republic. For this, the four-year program has been designed.

"We are going to be producing qualified combat officers who are professionally educated engineers as well," said Colonel Hinton.

A major portion of the academic part of the curriculum is laboratory work in chemistry, physics and lan-

guage. "Right now, English is the only language offered here," Colonel Hinton continued. "When a cadet graduates from the VNMA, he is fluent in English.

"We know these men are going to be working with American advisors and also that they are going to be asked to prepare themselves further with training at our Stateside schools," said the colonel. "So we aim our English program, complete with laboratory exercises, at making them as proficient as possible."

The academy was first built in 1948 by the French. It was located at Hue, but in 1950 was moved to Dalat at a site near its present location. The French ran the school until 1964, when the Vietnamese took over and the name was changed in 1959 to its present title.

The original two-year program was approved for conversion to a four-year plan in 1961, but the increased

demands of the war forced postponement of the program in 1962.

Presently, the school graduates about 250 second lieutenants annually, most of whom go to the Army for assignment as tactical field officers, Colonel Hinton indicated.

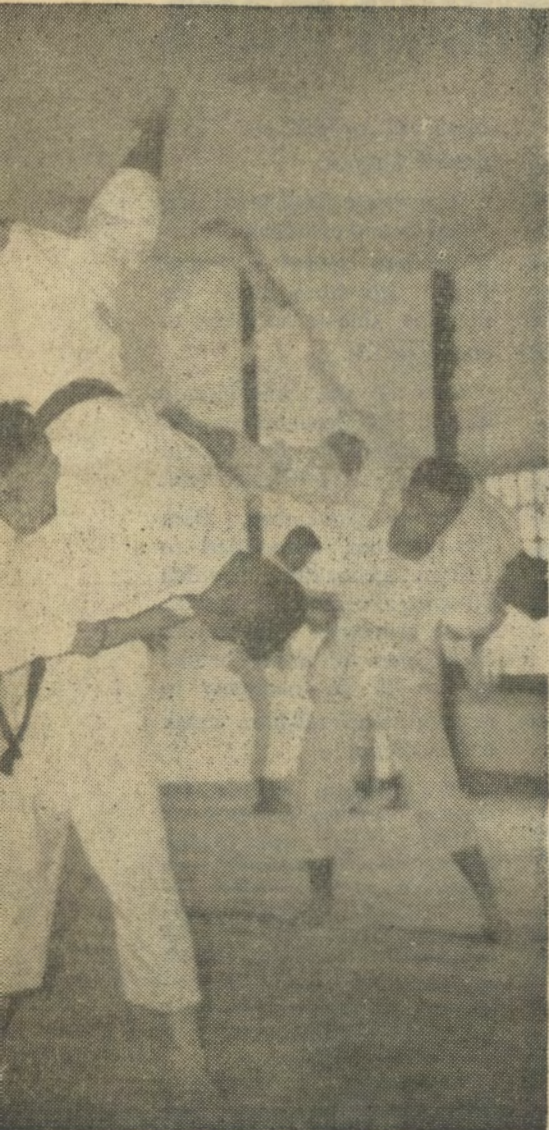
The first four-year graduates will be commissioned in 1969 and will hold engineering degrees. This is in keeping with the "other half" of VNMA's mission: "To contribute to the technical and economic development of the Republic of Vietnam."

That the program at the academy has been successful is indicated by the fact that more than half of the Vietnamese officers currently serving as province chiefs are graduates of the VNMA, according to Colonel Hinton.

Dalat—home of the VNMA—is the place where big ideas, big men and a big job meet and merge to fulfill a big need in a war-time nation.



CHEM LAB—Cadets spend part of their academic training in the physics, chemistry and language laboratories, which are part of the VNMA school. Here, a group of students perform a chemical experiment.

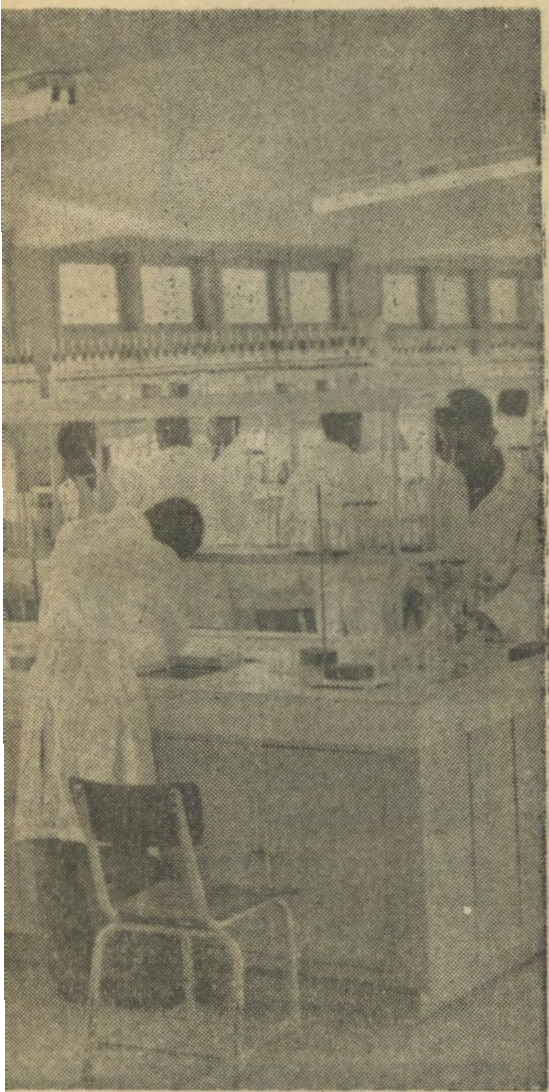


up a portion of the advisory staff at the VNMA, on Do, to cadets. This training is similar to Vietnam by the agile Korean instructors.



MOUNTAIN CLIMB— During the first eight weeks of military training, cadets are organized into companies for a competitive race-climb up the side of Long Bian Mountain,

a very steep precipice just outside the school boundaries. Here, Company B, winner of the 1965 race, nears one of the main plateaus.



ademic year in the modern, fully equipped which are one of the main features of the chemistry experiment.



BAYONET TRAINING— Cadets practice close combat with bayonets during the tactical-training phase of the cadet program. The VNMA curriculum, which began its

first four-year class this year, is divided into academic and tactical training, all aimed at producing second lieutenants for the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

Bien Hoa Engineering Projects Top \$9 Million Mark

Bien Hoa (USAF) — The sound of heavy construction pierces the stillness of hot, tropical days at the big, expanding air base here.

As the U.S. Air Force base civil engineer surveys the number of construction projects underway, sweat drops from his brow.

Below him, hundreds of Vietnamese workers, dressed in peasant clothes, work with the most modern of American heavy equipment.

To his left, the American engineer sees a huge rock quarry, producing stone and aggregate by modern U.S. methods for use in constructing two new aircraft ramp areas.

To his right, he views a low, swampy marshland—soon to become a parking area for Air Force F-100 Supersabres.

And all around him, the base sprawls. New buildings, hangars, ramps and roads have popped up everywhere. In 1965, Bien Hoa's military construction program was \$6.3 million. In 1966, it totals \$9.6 million.

Supervising and coordinating the Air Force construction projects here falls on the 3rd Civil Engineering Squad-

ron and its five officers and 112 airmen.

"We have problems here that I wouldn't have thought possible in the United States," said Lt. Col. Robert E. Maggart, a 25-year Air Force veteran and former combat pilot, now the Bien Hoa base director of civil engineering.

One problem facing Colonel Maggart is a staff of 408 Vietnamese employees, including 30 women laborers.

"Besides the language barrier, we have to train them to understand heavy equipment, plumbing techniques and electrical wiring," said the colonel.

Approximately 200 Vietnamese have been trained at full-time classes, located about five miles from Bien Hoa Air Base in a somewhat insecure area. The school, run by a U.S. civilian, trains the workers in all phases of American equipment and methods. Recently, some American civilian workers and a Vietnamese were kidnapped near the training area.

"Another problem area is the turnover of Vietnamese workers," said Colonel Maggart.

The pay scale for Vietnamese workers is based on

the local economy, but is fixed slightly higher with extra allowances to retain as many employees as possible.

The colonel, former civil engineer at England Air Force Base, La., pointed out that "Costs run about twice as much here as for a comparable project in the U.S."

Factors contributing to the higher costs include shipping expenses, higher overhead, and higher wages for U.S. civilian technical employees.

"Any wartime operation creates additional problems," he said. "The constant increases in personnel strength and equipment cause difficulties in keeping the construction in phase with the buildup."

Assisting Colonel Maggart is Maj. John C. Lane, a veteran of 14 years of military civil engineering and five years of civilian CE work.

Major Lane has found that his experience with the Colorado State Highway Department and Denver Public Schools has been of valuable assistance in Vietnam.

One of Major Lane's tasks is supervising construction projects underway at the base.

They include:

- A \$2-million jet parking ramp, to be constructed over a marshy swampland using sand fill obtained from a dredge and suction pump located in the Dong Nai river, about three miles west of the base.

- A new 10,000-foot parallel jet runway, costing \$6.5 million. Currently, 35,000 landings and takeoffs occur monthly on the base's single east-west runway, more than most major airports in the U.S.

- A new 1,000-man airman's dormitory, valued at \$170,000.

- A \$210,000 diesel generator plant to supply electrical power to the 3,700 USAF personnel here.

- A new \$140,000 base exchange.

- A 100,000-square-yard parking apron for use by the VNAF maintenance depot, responsible for the entire Republic's aircraft maintenance work.

- Two 10,000-barrel petroleum oil and lubrication tanks, to be completed in March 1966.

Helping to oversee base construction projects is a 37-year-old U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Capt. James N. Hicks Jr., now USAF construction engineer here.

A transferree to the Air Force after five years in the Navy, Captain Hicks and his construction personnel are reaping extra assistance from a project nicknamed "Prime Beef".

The current "Beef" team at Bien Hoa consists of 30 construction specialists and is one of several which rotate here on temporary duty from air bases in the U.S. to augment and provide flexibility to base construction programs.

"Beef" stands for base engineering emergency force.

One of the "Prime Beef" team's major projects here was the construction of steel revetments on a jet parking ramp which was mortared Nov. 1, 1964. The attack caused the destruction of many closely parked U.S. planes.

This same ramp was the scene of accidental bomb explosions May 16, 1965, which

destroyed 14 U.S. and Vietnamese aircraft.

The Prime Beef team was called in and protective revetments now guard a fleet of F-100 jets from chain explosions due to accident or enemy attack.

One of the Air Force's busiest fire departments also comes under the operational control of the civil engineers.

During November, Bien Hoa firemen responded to 198 emergency calls, of which 70 were aircraft landing with hung ordnance. The unit's 36 firemen are always armed in case of the necessity to respond to an off-base crash or emergency.

"We handle about 10 times the emergencies of a U.S. air base," said Major Lane. "We also have two firemen aboard each of the 38th Air Rescue Squadron's fleet of HH-43 Huskie helicopters, which respond to each emergency along with our ground equipment."

A former rubber plantation and rice paddy, the Bien Hoa Air Base was used by the French prior to 1954. The first U.S. Air Force units arrived in 1961.



CONSTRUCTION— Air Force Maj. John C. Lane, deputy base civil engineer at Bien Hoa Air Base (left), discusses the new 20,400-square-foot A-1H Skyraider maintenance hangar in the background with Capt. James N. Hicks Jr., construction engineer. The hangar is one of many Air Force facilities under construction at the base.



FUTURE RAMP SITE— Water and mud stand in the field soon to become a 100,000-cubic-yard Air Force F-100 Supersabre jet parking apron. Sand is being dredged from nearby Dong Nai River and pumped to the air base to be used as fill. Here, a Vietnamese surveyor checks dimensions for the big ramp. (USAF Photos).

Task Force Alpha Guards Kontum Province Against VC 'Firebugs'

Kontum (USMC)— Vietnam's war-time facsimile of America's "Smoky the Bear" are Task Force Alpha's fire-fighting Vietnamese Marines who patrol the vast jungles of Kontum province in search of Viet Cong "firebugs."

Two battalions, 1,600 strong, roam the craggy peaks of Kontum's highlands attired in "tiger-stripe" field gear with six days of supplies strapped to their backs, and nothing but perpendicular kilometers and a restless enemy ahead of them.

Ostensibly, Task Force Alpha is Vietnam's fire department, but until some firemen find themselves with one truck at a 10-truck fire, task force busies itself with fire prevention; searching out and smothering Viet Cong sparks.

Usually, the interlude be-

Army Tanker Keeps Choppers Flying In Mekong Delta

Saigon (USA)— When men of U.S. Army helicopter units in the Mekong Delta hear the call, "the oilman is here," they don't mean a commercial tank truck, but a 180-foot Army ocean-going petroleum tanker which makes regular supply runs up river to keep choppers flying.

The tanker, a Y-100 of World War II vintage, has a 290,000-gallon capacity in its six tanks. Its 22-man crew, commanded by CWO Sheldon G. Held, sails the big tanker through the VC-infested delta waterways, sometimes escorted by gunships, sometimes not. However, the Y-100 packs its own protection in the form of 50-cal. machine guns, and will soon have extra firepower added. Prior to this "inland" petroleum delivery service, the tanker was based at Cam Ranh Bay and refueled the 100 Army water craft performing cargo off-loading duties in the bay.

Chief Warrant Officer Held and his crew sailed the Y-100 from Japan last October where it had been overhauled for its Vietnam duty. The ship is one of an Army fleet of more than 200 vessels serving in Vietnam under the supervision of the 1st Logistics Command's 4th Transportation Command.

tween fire alarms is not long. When the Viet Cong seized An Lao Valley south of Da Nang in December 1964, the task force was ordered from Saigon to Kontum. It conducted a random search-and-clear operation in the vicinity of Bong Son, making the area antiseptic to the Viet Cong vermin.

The task force has never been ambushed—and that is a rarity in a war marked by ambushes. It has been tried, however, much to the regret of the ambushers.

Last March the Viet Cong besieged Hoai An, but the siege was only cheese for the trap. While one element fired on the city, the others crouched along the access route in wait for Task Force Alpha, which was the expected relief force.

Indeed, the task force got the call and drove a long column toward the beleaguered city. However, the relief force undermined enemy intelligence by sending one of its husky battalions on a wide arc at a providential point and struck the ambushers from the flank, killing 63 Viet Cong, wounding uncounted others and effecting the relief of Hoai An.

Since April, the Alpha battalions have been credited with at least 500 dead Viet Cong, who are becoming alarmingly

aware of the invincibility of Alpha's fire-fighting capabilities.

Task Force Alpha has been credited by a senior U.S. Army advisor with having "saved" II Corps, the largest of Vietnam's four corps areas, for the government during the recent monsoon season.

At least part of the credit for the task force's accomplishments must be laid at the doorstep of its American advisory team of five U.S. Marines.

Maj. Bernard V. Gustitis is the senior American advisor, who explains that "my job is to teach U.S. methods of small-unit leadership, troop handling, terrain appreciation, use of supporting arms and staff organization and utilizations."

He accomplishes this goal with the help of his Vietnamese counterpart, Lt. Col. Yen, a fiery task force commander whose French-accented English has made his motto, "We nevalre retreat!"

The 2nd Battalion is advised by two American Army captains, John I. Hopkins and Thomas E. Campbell, who give advice to the troops. Hopkins refers to the men as "aggressive... and courageous people."

Capt. Thomas J. Kennedy Jr., and 1st Lt. William E. Marcantel make up both halves of the advisory staff for the 5th Battalion. Kennedy asserted, "that one of the

most important contributions our being here can offer is to assure the Vietnamese that America is solidly with them."

The enemy's determination

to "burn" access routes to the strategic air fields of the northern sectors and the rich ricelands of the delta may someday smolder to ashes in the path of Task Force Alpha.

Photos by MSgt. Walter Stewart, USMC



TEACHERS LEARN, TOO— Marine Capt. John I. Hopkins and 1st Lt. William E. Marcantel pick up a few pointers on the duties of an artillery forward observer before teaching the same subject to the Vietnamese Marines they advise.



COMPASS— Marine Capt. Thomas E. Campbell reads his compass to verify the findings of the Vietnamese officer he advises. Travel through the jungle terrain, in which the sun and landmarks often are invisible, makes map reading exceptionally difficult. Campbell is assistant advisor to the 2nd Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Task Force Alpha.



TENSE MOMENT— Nerves were taut when 1,500 Vietnamese Marines of Task Force Alpha had to cross a raging stream in the mountains west of Kontum. Nearby bamboo trees were cut and thrown across the frothy waters to permit the crossing. The task force avoids trails and bridges to circumvent Viet Cong ambushes.

- Vietnam News Wrap-Up -

By Sp4 Daniel G. Shafer

Enemy Actions Increase Slightly

Viet Cong actions directed against U.S. and Free World forces during the week of Feb. 12-19 increased slightly over the previous week, U.S. military spokesmen said Feb. 23.

Both the intensity and the number of attacks showed slight increases, but no significant activity occurred as main force VC units continued to avoid contact with U.S. and Free World forces.

VC Ripped by 1,861 Sorties

U.S. Air Force and Navy pilots teamed up to rip enemy positions in the Republic with 1,861 sorties during the week ending Feb. 19. Pilots continued to rip the communists north of the 17th parallel, as well.

Over North Vietnam, the Dien Bien Phu vicinity and the southern panhandle of the North were target areas hit by Air Force strikes, while the Navy concentrated its attacks on transportation routes.

Giant B-52 Stratofortress bombers made five appearances in the Republic during the reporting period.

On Feb. 15, 1st Cav troops tangled with a VC company, resulting in 61 Reds killed. Another engagement on Feb. 17 killed 142 VC and captured 13, according to official U.S. military spokesmen.

Another significant operation in II Corps is "Van Buren," which has protected the harvest of more than 30,000 metric tons of rice in Tuy Hoa area. Some 639 VC have been killed and 47 captured so far in the continuing operation. "White Wing" shows a total of 483 killed, 110 captured; friendly losses in both actions remain light.

'Mallet' Terminates, 'Eagle' Hits New Phase

"Operation Mallet," involving elements of the 1st Infantry Division, terminated Feb. 15, with 47 VC killed and 10 captured, a U.S. military spokesman announced Feb. 23. In addition, 24 enemy base camps were destroyed along with 78 sampans.

Meanwhile, "Operation Double Eagle" ended Phase 1 on Feb. 17 showing a total of 312 enemy soldiers killed and 19 captured. Friendly losses among the Marines who swept a 500-square-mile area were light, the spokesman said.

Enemy Contact Less Frequent, More Intense

Contact with the enemy by U.S. and Free World ground operations during the week ending Feb. 19 declined in numbers over the previous week, but "the intensity reflected a marked increase," according to U.S. military spokesmen.

The previous week's high level of friendly activity continued through the latest reporting period, with 14 U.S. and one Korean operation of battalion-size or larger moving out in search of the enemy.

Small-unit actions also remained at a high level as 3,677 of these movements took place during the week-long period.

1,357 Reds Killed, 122 Captured

During the week of Feb. 12-19 1,357 Viet Cong were killed in action and another 122 captured.

Friendly losses for the period showed 95 men killed (including 83 Americans) and five missing (including four Americans), according to official U.S. military spokesmen in Saigon.

Some 341 enemy weapons were seized during the week, the spokesmen said, and 28 of these were crew-served pieces.

'White Wing' Keeps Smashing Communists

"Operation White Wing," a combined ARVN-U.S.-Free World action involving an ARVN Airborne task force, two brigades of the 1st Cavalry Division and elements of the Capitol ROK Division, met the enemy several times during the week ending Feb. 19, killing large numbers of insurgents. The operation is taking place in Binh Dinh province.

- World News Summary -

By Sp4 Daniel G. Shafer

Rusk Challenges Senate To Vote On VN

After refusing to place any limitations to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war, Secretary of State Dean Rusk Feb. 18 challenged the Senate probers of the situation to take a vote on present American policy in the war-torn land.

Following closely Rusk's challenge, Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) accused the critics of U.S. policy of trying to delay the voting on an Administration request for additional funds for the Vietnam war. He said "those who hold up such a vote could cause the 'defeat of U.S. forces.'"

Russell, chairman of the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee and of that group's defense appropriations subcommittee, said it would be "a sorry state of affairs" for a country as rich as the U.S. to "lose a war for such a reason."

Admiral Nimitz (Ret) Dies Following Stroke

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, 80, died Feb. 20 in his home at Yerba Buena Island, Calif. The admiral, who commanded U.S. naval forces in the Pacific in World War II, died of complications following a stroke, a U.S. Navy spokesman said.

Nimitz suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on Jan. 3 and had been hospitalized at Oakland for about two weeks, during which time he received a telegram of praise from President Johnson for his "indomitable courage."

Aussies To Augment VN Forces

Australia may increase its troop commitment to Vietnam, according to Prime Minister Harold Holt. Holt made the announcement in Canberra following a series of talks with U.S. Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey on the Vietnam situation.

No definite decision has been made, Holt said, but he told a press conference "we hope to announce soon what Australia can do to supplement our present forces in South Vietnam."

Dock Workers Hit Nation's Shipping To Hanoi

Noting that "trade with North Vietnam puts blood money in the pocket of shipowners and other profiteers of so-called allied nations," the AFL-CIO Feb. 18 told President Johnson it will boycott ships of all nations shipping and trading with Hanoi.

The boycott, which will be imposed by refusing to load ships from such nations when they enter U.S. ports, will affect such nations as Britain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy and Egypt.

Ann-Margaret To Visit Vietnam

Swedish-born actress Ann-Margaret has announced she is leaving Hollywood Mar. 8 for a tour of "actual combat areas," places bigger troupes can't reach, in the Republic of Vietnam.

The beauty plans to do two or three shows a day, wearing black tights, boots and what she called "transparent" tops. Then, she stopped for a minute and said, "That does sound funny, doesn't it?" The tops are actually low-scooped neckline affairs with a netting and a flesh-covered bikini underneath.

Kentucky Keeps Death Penalty

The Kentucky House voted overwhelmingly Feb. 17 to defeat a bill to abolish capital punishment in that state. The 76 to 20 vote came after three hours of debate.

Governor Edward T. Breathitt had endorsed the repeal attempt but did not throw the weight of the Administration behind it.

Loch Ness Monster May Be Real

Experts at the British Defense Ministry analyzed a film and determined that something is very definitely alive in Loch Ness, a "monster" which has sparked 30 years of controversy.

The arguing will probably start again due to the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Center's finding that the object which was pictured in the 1959 movie film is nearly 100 feet long, not less than six feet wide and five feet high. Its estimated speed was 10 miles per hour.

Soviet Jetliner Crash Kills 50

Some 50 people died in the blizzard crash of a Russian TU-114 Feb. 17. The jetliner is the largest in the world.

The death toll was estimated by experts at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport, who said there were about 60 persons aboard and that "most" of those aboard were probably killed.

▲ Corrosion Like Cancer

(Continued from P-5, Col. 4)

the problem of aircraft corrosion is Maj. John I. Ruble. He is presently the commander of the 3rd Organizational Maintenance Squadron.

"Corrosion, of course, is a problem everywhere," the major began, "but here in Vietnam we have some special causes to consider. For example, the acidic gasses and powder burns from the 20mm cannon under the nose of the F-100 are highly corrosive to the aircraft's skin. You can see this form of 'cancer' in the blackened areas around the gun barrels.

"Since these planes are attacking targets every day, we must work continuously to keep their noses clean. If we miss one tiny speck in the cleaning process, the corrosion will spread just like dry rot in wood."

Hundred-degree temperatures under a tropic sun plus the high humidity in pre-dawn hours have the effect of a pressure cooker on the F-100. The same sun which tans pilots tarnishes aluminum and crystallizes plastic canopies.

Enlisted specialists in corrosion control attend a three-week course at the Air Force Technical Training Center at Amarillo AFB, Tex. With their experience in aircraft repair and the training from Amarillo, they are given a new Air Force specialty rating and sent into the field.

TSgt. Harvey C. Vogel is one of those. As a leader of Bien Hoa's corrosion control section, he keeps 18 people

▲ Ballad Of The Green Beret

(Continued from P-1, Col. 5)

and sent to Pleiku province in the central highlands near the Cambodian border.

Sadler was shot at — not once, but many times. When he wasn't on patrol in the communist-infested jungle, he was teaching the Vietnamese medical treatment techniques — which occasionally was interrupted by sniper fire.

When he left the camp and went on patrol with a Vietnamese Special Forces unit, he became a tactical advisor. He combined his medical training with his basic infantry training. The result was a hardened combat infantryman with a dual role—kill the enemy and, after the battle, treat the wounded.

When he wasn't on patrol or teaching medicine, he was the "village doctor." As such, he treated every conceivable type of gunshot wound, grenade wounds, and even wounds from a tiger suffered by a Montagnard tribesman.

Then, in May, 1965, Sadler was injured by a punji stake, a sharpened bamboo stake smeared

busy around the clock.

The aircraft have to be cleaned thoroughly every 30 days. The washing process takes a minimum of four hours. If the planes have to be stripped, treated with a neutralizing solution and then cleaned, the job can take up to four days.

Corrosion, like cancer, is a killer. Keeping it from "killing" Air Force combat aircraft is these men's mission.

▲ Trade My M-16?

(Cont'd from P-5, Col. 5)

cheted off the left side of the helmet of Lt. Col. Bob Shoemaker, commander of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, who was flying the helicopter, and out through the front plexiglass.

Pirkle had just returned to Bong Son from An Khe where he had spent two days repairing the holes shot in his ship during the first day of "Operation White Wing."

Since arriving in Vietnam in September last year, Pirkle has flown more than 300 combat hours. "My ship has been hit 28 times and we have been forced to return to An Khe for repairs four times," says Pirkle.

When asked if he wanted a replacement for his damaged weapon, he laughed and said, "It's killed 16 Viet Cong and I fired two magazines after it was hit, so I guess I'll just keep this one. It's good enough for me."

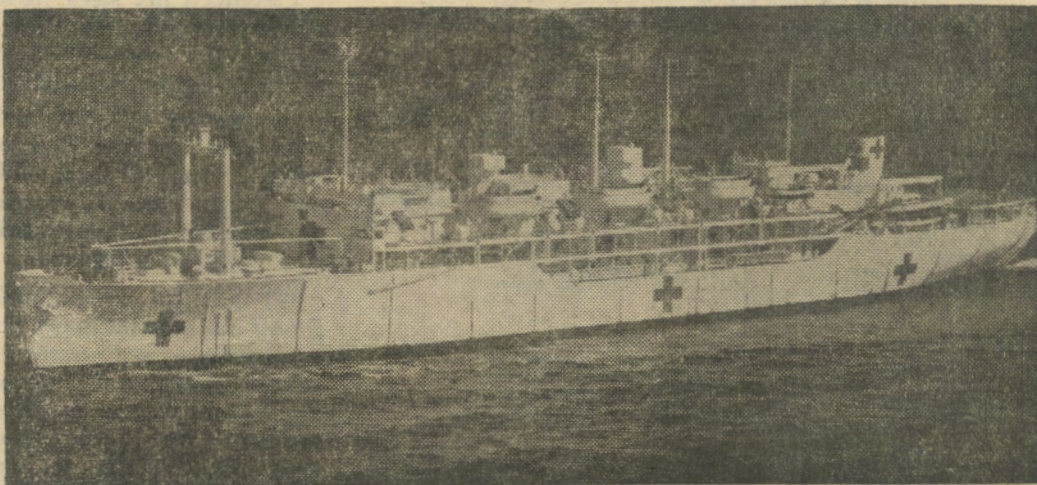
with a disease agent. The infection became serious enough to require evacuation and major surgery to drain the infection.

He was released from the hospital in August, 1965, and is now the chief medical clerk in the surgeon's office of the Special Warfare Center. He is not yet fully recovered and is not permitted to run, crawl or participate in parachute jumps. The 18-inch stake left a 10-inch scar on his left leg.

Sadler has added to his skills the black belt in Judo and has a working knowledge of the deadly art of Karate. He served a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Air Force before joining the Army in 1962 and is a graduate of the U.S. and Vietnamese jump schools.

When Sadler sings he knows what he is singing about. The realistic thought and idea behind each lyric adds to the growing popularity of his first record, "Ballad of the Green Beret."

Only U.S. Navy Hospital Ship Afloat



MEDICAL AID— The U.S. Navy hospital ship, USS *Repose*, steams in the South China Sea off Vietnam where it is now serving in support of military operations. (USN Photo)

▲ Navy Hospital Ship Serves Vietnam Casualties

(Continued from P-1, Col. 3)

no time is wasted in rushing the victim to relief and aid.

In addition, the ship's laboratory is equipped to identify organisms that cause diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria. Called the Fluorescent Anti-body Staining Tech-

nique, it involves a special fluorescent dye used to stain specimens so doctors can see the culprit organism under a microscope to determine its type. It used to take several days to identify organisms because specimens had to be

cultured to promote growth before identification could be effected.

The Repose is one of 18 hospital ships used in World War II. It was a Haven class ship, designed as a modern 800-bed hospital.

PEANUTS

By Cartoonist-Of-The-Year Charles M. Schulz



SCHEDULE

AJR, Vietnam

RADIO

(News on the hour and at 0630 and 0730 daily)

MONDAY—THROUGH—FRIDAY

0005	Be Still and Know	1830	Bandstand USA
0010	Night Train	1905	Jim Ameche
0505	Country Corner	2000	To 2200 Monday Only
0605	Dawnbaster		Pro Football or Basketball
0635	Devotions	2005	Tues.—Footlights and Sound Tracks
0705	Devotions		Wed.—Jazzbook, Vol. 11
0830	Ira Cook		Thur.—George Shearing
0905	Destination Noon		Fri.—Folk Music of the World
1205	Johnny Magnus	2105	Australian News
1315	Focus	2110	Night Beat
1320	Siesta Time	2200	News Thirty
1405	Monitor	2230	Night Beat
1505	Country Corner	2330	Tonight Show
1605	Swinging Sixties		

SATURDAY

0008	Be Still and Know	1320	Swing Serenade
0010	Spotlight on Jazz	1405	C&W Waxworks
0105	Night Train	1605	Swinging Sixties
0505	Big Band	1805	Shindig
0530	American Popular Music	1830	Bandstand USA
0605	Dawnbaster	1905	Sammy Davis Jr.
0905	Destination Noon	2005	Grand Ole Opry
1205	Swing Serenade	2105	Australian News
1315	Focus	2110	Night Beat

SUNDAY

0008	Be Still and Know	0830	Protestant Hour
0010	Spotlight on Jazz	0905	Destination Noon
0105	Night Train	1205	Silver Platter
0505	Sounds of the 60's	1230	Folk Music of the World
0530	Catholic Hour	1315	Panorama
0605	Navy Hour	1600	College Football
0635	Moods in Melody	1835	Meet the Press
0705	Army Hour	1905	Small World
0735	Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir	2005	Till Midnight
0805	Navy Swings	2105	Australian News/Sports
0820	Myron J. Bennett	2115	Till Midnight

TELEVISION

MONDAY

2000	I've Got A Secret
2030	Information Feature
2100	News
2105	Combat
2200	Ben Casey
2300	News
2305	Sign Off

WEDNESDAY

2000	Voyage To the Bottom of the Sea
2100	News
2105	What's The Action Is
2130	The Tonight Show
2300	News
2305	Sign Off

FRIDAY

2000	To Tell The Truth
2030	Armed Forces Feature
2100	News
2105	Gun Smoke
2200	Danny Kaye Show
2300	News
2305	Sign Off

TUESDAY

2000	CBS Golf Classic
2100	News
2105	Rawhide
2200	Red Skeleton
2300	News
2305	Sign Off

THURSDAY

2000	G. E. College Bowl
2030	NFL Highlights
2100	News
2105	My Mason
2200	The Jimmy Dean Show
2300	News
2305	Sign Off

SATURDAY

2000	Sports Special
2130	News Headlines
2200	Hollywood Palace
2300	News
2305	Sign Off

SUNDAY

2000	Weekly Newscast	2200	Ed Sullivan
2030	Ted Mack	2300	News
2100	News	2305	Sign Off
2105	Bonanza		

ALL PROGRAMS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

★★ IN-COUNTRY ★★



Tell me MAC... are you on the meal plan or do you pay as you eat?

STATESIDE SPORTS SCENE

By Dan Shafer

Cassius Clay says he's going to appeal his new draft classification of 1-A, which doesn't come as any great shock. Clay claims his religious affiliation makes him a conscientious objector, but the Selective Service people say the religion does not hold such recognition.

But the fact that the self-proclaimed "greatest" is now facing a two-year stint with the Army hasn't watered plans for his up-coming title bout with Ernie Terrell.

•The UCLA Bruins, their almost non-existent hopes for an unprecedented third straight national championship growing dimmer by the day, lost to Oregon State of their own conference Feb. 18, by the humiliating tally of 64-51. The Bruins now trail the first-place Oregon State Beavers in the Pacific Athletic Conference by two games, with UCLA sporting a disappointing 6-3 record in the league.

•Orlando Cepeda took a pay cut. That doesn't sound like much of a hot item, but the way he took it makes it worthy of note. The Giant outfielder who spent most of his time on the San Francisco bench last season—collecting a cool \$50,000 for his "efforts"—signed a new contract that might be called a sort of "if he plays, we'll pay" pact.

The contract calls for a pay cut, if Cepeda follows last year's form. But, if the formerly stunning outfielder can play in a certain number of games, he'll receive last year's salary. It's a better break than he probably deserves after his dismal 1965 record.

•In the world of ice hockey, things are so hot they're melting the playing surface. The National Hockey League, expanding like mad, is also the proud owner of one of the hottest league championship races to happen to ice hockey in years. The Detroit Red Wings, amazingly fast and brilliant behind the old pro Gordie Howe, are neck-and-neck with the great Chicago Black Hawks, who are led by Bobby Hull, the hat-trick artist, with Montreal and Toronto close behind.

•Loyola of Illinois romped to its 19th straight win, making Dayton its latest victim, as the Loyolans continued to prove that they're probably the hottest, most exciting small-college basketball team around. The 1966 squad looks and plays amazingly like the 1963 team that put the national championship on ice before the basketball courts had even got warmed up. And they show no signs at all of diminishing. Prediction? One more loss for UCLA and one more win by Loyola and we get a "used year" with Loyola as national champs.

•Heartening news for tennis fans broke last week as Jack Kramer, the poor guy who's

been trying to get a decent pro tour going in the U.S. for years, announced he's made a big breakthrough. He'll sponsor a tourney in Madison Square Garden from Mar. 22 through 26, with a

\$25,000 purse—the highest of the tour. Noting that "everything good that happens to pro sports starts in Madison Square Garden," Kramer was almost sinfully happy at the news.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

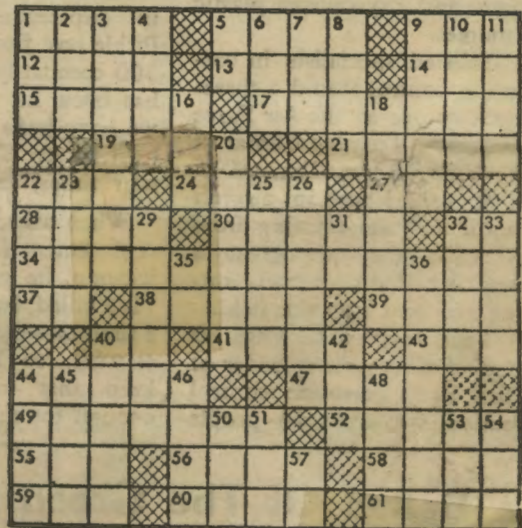
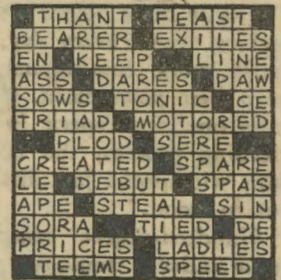
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Seeds
- 5-Army meal
- 9-Small rug
- 12-Soldier's absence (abbr.)
- 13-Metal
- 14-Man's nickname
- 15-Sadness
- 17-Ceased
- 19-Hard of hearing
- 21-Fortifications
- 22-Man's nickname
- 24-Heavy blow (colloq.)
- 27-Symbol for cerium
- 28-Word of sorrow
- 30-A state
- 32-Symbol for copper
- 34-Makers
- 37-Printer's measure
- 38-Cooking term
- 39-Pintail duck
- 40-Preposition
- 41-Paradise
- 43-Footlike part
- 44-Higher
- 47-Remainder
- 49-Nobility
- 52-Blouse
- 55-Swiss river
- 56-Gull-like bird
- 58-Condensing look
- 59-Music: as written
- 60-Sicilian volcano
- 61-Server

DOWN

- 8-Winter precipitation
- 9-Shade tree
- 10-Son of Adam
- 11-Spreads for drying
- 16-Stomach
- 18-Kind of race horses
- 20-Feminine
- 22-Identical
- 23-Wolfhound
- 25-Intertwined
- 26-Snicker
- 29-Tolerate
- 31-Greek letter
- 32-Algonquian Indian
- 33-Employs
- 35-Fiji Islands (abbr.)
- 36-Vaguer
- 40-Musical drama
- 42-Recent
- 44-Japanese tree
- 45-Fuel
- 46-Evaluate
- 48-Seasoning
- 50-Obtain
- 51-Sea eagle
- 53-Ocean
- 54-Attempt
- 57-A continent (abbr.)



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